

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2223

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007

PRIME MINISTER VISITS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

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Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of countries visited by the Prime Minister during the last six months;
- (b) the details of agreements signed with these countries, country-wise;
- (c) the details of the foreign dignitaries visited India during the said period;
- (d) the details of issues discussed with each of these dignitaries and the bilateral agreements signed with them;
- (e) whether the Government has set up a separate cell to monitor the progress made after signing of bilateral agreements with these countries;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the benefits which are likely to accrue due to signing of these agreements?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

- (a) Prime Minister visited seven countries (Brazil, Cuba, South Africa, United Kingdom, Finland, Japan and Philippines) during the last six months.
- (b) Details of agreements signed during the above visits are given in Annexure I.
- (c)&(d) During the same period, 17 foreign Heads of State/Government, 5 Vice Presidents/Deputy President/Crown Prince, 9 Deputy Prime Ministers, and 31 Foreign Ministers and other dignitaries visited India. Details of issues discussed with them, bilateral agreements signed and the benefits likely to accrue from these are given in Annexure II.
- (e)-(g) The bilateral agreements promote mutually beneficial cooperation in their respective fields with the country concerned and provide a framework for further intensification of our relations. The progress in implementation of these agreements is followed up and monitored by Ministry of External Affairs and other concerned Ministries/Departments/Organisations of the Government of India.

ANNEXURE-I REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2223 REGARDING 'PRIME MINISTER VISITS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES' FOR ANSWER ON 14.03.2007

1. Prime Minister's visit to Brazil (September 10-14, 2006) – Documents signed in Brazil on the occasion of India, Brazil, South Africa (IBSA) Summit

- (a) Trilateral Agreement concerning Merchant Shipping and other Maritime Transport Related Matters.
- (b) Framework for Cooperation on the Information Society.
- (c) Action Plan on Trade Facilitation for Standards, Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment.
- (d) Memorandum of Understanding on Establishing a Trilateral Task Team on Biofuels.
- (e) Memorandum of Understanding on Trilateral Cooperation in Agriculture and Allied Fields.

2. Documents signed during the bilateral part of Prime Minister's visit to Brazil (September 10-14, 2006)

- (a) Bilateral Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation.
- (b) Air Services Agreement.
- (c) Memorandum of Understanding between Bureau of Indian Standards & ABNT.

- (d) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Human settlements.
 - (e) Memorandum of Understanding on Plant Health Protection.
 - (f) Memorandum of Understanding on Conduct of Weeks of Indian Culture in Brazil & Weeks of Brazilian Culture in India.
 - (g) Memorandum of Understanding between Bharat Earth Movers Limited and CCCE, a Brazilian company, for manufacture of railway wagons.
 - (h) Memorandum of Understanding between ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) and Petrobras of Brazil.
 - (i) Work Plan for Cooperation in Agricultural Research.
3. Prime Minister's visit to Cuba (September 14-18, 2006) – Documents adopted at XIV NAM Summit
- (a) Final Document.
 - (b) Declaration on the Purposes and Principles and the role of the Non-Aligned Movement in the Present International Juncture.
 - (c) Document on the Methodology of the Non Aligned Movement.
 - (d) Plan of Action for Non Aligned Movement.
 - (e) Statement on the Islamic Republic of Iran's Nuclear Issue.
 - (f) Declaration on Palestine.
4. Documents signed during the visit of Prime Minister to South Africa (September 30-October 3, 2006)
- (a) Agreement on Co-operation in the Field of Education.
 - (b) Memorandum of Understanding between Spoornet and Ministry of Railways of India.
5. Documents signed/issued during the visit of Prime Minister to Japan (October 13-16, 2006)
- (a) Joint Statement: Towards India Japan Strategic and Global Partnership.
 - (b) Memorandum of Cooperation between Japan Coast Guard and Indian Coast Guard.
 - (c) Memorandum of Understanding on Scientific Cooperation Programme between Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, and the Japan Science & Technology Agency.
 - (d) Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in Science & Technology between Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India and RIKEN, Japan.
 - (e) Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Cultural for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the Japan Foundation.
 - (f) Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Government of Japan for Establishment of the "Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor".
 - (g) Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Government of Japan and Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India for the establishment of the Japan-India Policy Dialogue at the Ministerial level.
 - (h) Joint Statement on the promotion of India-Japan tourism exchanges.
 - (i) Joint Ministerial Statement on the launching of a Joint Task Force (JTF) to develop an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)/Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and Japan.

(j) Cooperation Agreement between the Government of India and Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

(k) Memorandum of Understanding on the development of Indian Institute of Information Technology for Design and Manufacturing (IITDM) with Japanese assistance at Jabalpur.

6. Prime Minister's visit to Philippines for the India-ASEAN and East Asia Summits (January 13-15, 2007) - Documents signed at Cebu

(a) Cebu Declaration on East Asian Energy Security.

ANNEXURE-II REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2223 REGARDING 'PRIME MINISTER VISITS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES' FOR ANSWER ON 14.03.2007

Afghanistan

1. H.E. President Karzai visited India from November 15-19, 2006 to inaugurate the 2nd Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan. The two sides had useful discussions on various aspects of bilateral relations, including progress achieved in the various bilateral assistance projects. Issues relating to regional security and cooperation, increased violence and terrorism in Afghanistan and the ways to reduce and combat terrorism also came up for discussion.

African Union

2. Prof. Alpha Oumar Konare, Chairperson of the Commission of the Africa Union paid an official visit to India from 19-21 December 2006. During the visit, he called on the President and EAM. During his meeting with EAM & MOS

(AS), Prof. Konare conveyed the desire of the AU to expand Africa's relations with India and proposed an AU-India Summit. The need for a high level political dialogue with a Group of 12 African heads of State/Government was discussed and to realize this objective it was felt that a Working Group be set up to draw up an Agenda and ensure follow up action. EAM conveyed India's desire to cooperate further with the AU and assist it in realizing its vision of Africa unitedly building Africa. The two sides also discussed historical and cultural ties between India and Africa, the importance of democratic values, and implementation of the Pan Africa e-network.

Armenia

3. A Parliamentary delegation from Armenia, led by H.E. Mr. Tigran Torosyan, President of the Armenian National Assembly, visited India from December 13-17, 2006. The delegation held meetings with the Vice President, Speaker

(Lok Sabha), the External Affairs Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and the Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs to discuss bilateral relations and parliamentary exchanges between the two countries.

Belarus

4. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus, Mr. Sergei Martynov visited India on February 22-23, 2007. He met the Minister of External Affairs, the Minister of Commerce and Industry and the Minister of State for External Affairs to discuss further strengthening of India-Belarus relations and forthcoming visit of the President of Belarus to India.

Belgium

5. H.E. Mr. Guy Verhofstadt, Prime Minister of Belgium visited India from November 2-7, 2006. Bilateral, regional and global issues were discussed. Following agreements were signed during the visit:

(a) Agreement on Social Security

(b) Agreement on Cooperation in S&T

Bhutan 6. Crown Prince of Bhutan visited India from November 26-30, 2006 on a private visit.

7. Prime Minister of Bhutan H.E. Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuck, and Foreign Minister of Bhutan visited India from January 28-February 1, 2007 to participate in the 'Conference on Peace, Non-Violence and Empowerment'

(Satyagraha Conference) held in Delhi from January 29-30, 2007.

8. His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the King of Bhutan, paid an official visit to India from February 7-12, 2007. His Excellency Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister and senior officials of the Royal Government of Bhutan accompanied His Majesty the King. During the visit, both sides exchanged views on bilateral, regional and international issues. The Government of India reaffirmed its full support to Bhutan during its period of transition to a democratic constitutional monarchy, including for the forthcoming elections. India reiterated its commitment to provide all possible assistance within its resources to the Royal Government of Bhutan in its socio-economic development programme, including the on-going Ninth Five Year Plan and the forthcoming Tenth Five Year Plan. The updated India-Bhutan Friendship Treaty was signed on February 08, 2007 in New Delhi.

Botswana

9. President of the Republic of Botswana, H.E. Mr. Festus G. Mogae, paid a State visit to India from December 7-13, 2006. The two countries discussed cooperation in health and education sectors, setting up of a science and technology institute in Botswana, mining including exploration for diamonds in Botswana, rural development and international & regional issues. PM offered Botswana a line of credit of US\$20m and grant assistance of \$ 11m. Botswana President committed support to India on India – SACU PTA, India – SADC Forum and Permanent Membership in the UN Security Council. The following Agreements/MOUs were signed during the visit:

- (a) Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement.
- (b) General Agreement on Bilateral Cooperation.
- (c) Cultural Exchange Programme for the period 2007-2010.
- (d) Country Agreement with the Government of Botswana for Pan-African e-Network.

Brunei Darussalam 10. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade-II of Brunei Darussalam visited India from October 10 – 13, 2006. During his visit, the Brunei Minister had meetings with Defence Minister, MOS for Communication and Information Technology and MOS for External Affairs (EA). Bilateral, regional and international issues were discussed.

Burundi 11. The 2nd Vice President of the Republic of Burundi, Madame Marine Barampama paid an official visit to India from October 6-11, 2006. She attended the COMESA-India Ministerial level Talks held in New Delhi and participated in the India-Africa Partnership Conclave organized by CII at New Delhi from October 9 to 11, 2006. She also had meeting with the MOS for Agriculture, Shri Kantilal Bhuria and discussed bilateral cooperation in the agriculture area.

China 12. The President of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Mr. Hu Jintao visited India from November 20-23, 2006. During the visit, the two sides reviewed the bilateral relations, including the boundary question, and discussed regional and international issues of mutual interest. The two sides agreed to a 10-pronged strategy to upgrade India-China relations to a qualitatively new level and to further substantiate their strategic and cooperative partnership. Following Agreements/Documents were signed during the visit:

- (a) Protocol on the Establishment of Consulates-General at Guangzhou and Kolkata
- (b) Protocol on Cooperation between the Ministry of External Affairs of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China
- (c) Agreement on the Issue of Property of the Consulate General of India in Shanghai
- (d) Agreement on Bilateral Investment Protection and Promotion
- (e) Memorandum of Understanding on Inspection of Export Cargo (Iron Ore)
- (f) Protocol on Phytosanitary Requirements for Exporting Rice from India to China
- (g) Memorandum of Understanding between Forward Markets Commission of India and China Securities Regulatory Commission regarding Commodity Futures Regulatory Cooperation
- (h) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Indian Institute of Public Administration and the Central Party School of the Communist Party of China
- (i) Agreement on Forestry Cooperation
- (j) Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences
- (k) Exchange Programme on Cooperation in the field of Education
- (l) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Conservation of Cultural Heritage
- (m) Agreement on Preventing Theft, Clandestine Excavation and Illicit Import and Export of Cultural Property

13. Mr. Li Zahoxing, Foreign Minister of China visited India from February 13-14, 2007. The visit of the Chinese Foreign Minister provided an opportunity to take stock of the implementation of the understandings reached during the visit of the Chinese President to India. He also attended the Trilateral Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of India, China and Russia.

COMESA 14. A delegation from the Common Market for the Eastern & Southern Africa (COMESA) led by Hon Mitali Kabanda Protais, Minister of Trade and Industry of Rwanda and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of COMESA, visited New Delhi from October 4-11, 2006 for the India-COMESA Ministerial Meeting. Among others, the delegation also included Hon. Madan Dulloo, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Cooperation of Mauritius. The Vice President of Burundi, Mrs. Marina Barampama who was in New Delhi on a bilateral visit, also joined the COMESA Meet.

15. The delegation paid a courtesy call on Rashtrapatiji who outlined his vision for increased India-Africa trade and investment

cooperation. Delegation level talks were held with MOS for External Affairs, Shri Anand Sharma on October 6, 2006. At the end of official talks, a joint communiqué was signed, wherein it was agreed to intensify efforts for the development of infrastructure in COMESA countries; advance Institutional Capacity Building; explore the possibility of Government of India's participation in the PTA Bank and the African Trade Insurance Agency; cooperate in production of agro-inputs etc.

Congo 16. Mr. Rodophe Adada, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Congo visited India from October 24-29, 2006. In his meeting with EAM, issues pertaining to bilateral cooperation and mutual interest, and international affairs were discussed. EAM offered to extend cooperation to the Republic of Congo in capacity building, specialised training and consider providing assistance in Agriculture, Railways and Technical Areas.

Egypt 17. The Egyptian Foreign Minister Mr. Aboul Gheit visited India from December 15-16, 2006 to co-Chair the 5th Session of India-Egypt Joint Commission meeting in New Delhi. He had detailed talks with EAM on various bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. The 5th session of the India-Egypt Joint Commission, co-chaired by EAM and the Egyptian Foreign Minister, was held on December 16. The Joint Commission discussions focused on strengthening cooperation in economic, commercial, science and technology, agriculture, IT, and cultural fields. Following Agreements/Documents were signed during the visit:

(a) The Partnership Agreement; the Executive Programme of Cultural, Educational and Scientific Cooperation for the years 2007-2009.

(b) the Executive Programme of Science and Technological Cooperation for the years 2007-2009.

(c) the Work Plan under the Agreement on Cooperation in Agriculture for the years 2007-2008.

(d) Memorandum of Understanding on Bilateral Air Services.

European Union 18. Dr (Ms) Benita Ferrero Waldner, EU Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy visited India from February 16-20, 2007. India-EU, regional and global issues were discussed.

Fiji 19. A 12-member Investment and Trade Delegation from Fiji led by Mr. Kaliopate Tavola, Minister for External Affairs & Trade visited India from 20-29 November, 2006. During stay in Delhi from November 20-22, 2006, the Fijian Minister called on EAM, Commerce and Industry Minister, Tourism and Culture Minister and MOS for External Affairs

(EA). Bilateral, regional and international issues were discussed.

20. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, Interim Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Fiji paid an official visit to India from March 3-6, 2007. During the visit, he had meetings with Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Tourism and Culture. Bilateral, regional and international issues were discussed.

Finland 21. H.E. Ms. Tarja Halonen, President of Finland visited Delhi from January 20-24, 2007 in connection with the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit from January 22-24, 2007 organized by TERI. She was accompanied by Minister of Trade & Industry Mauri Pekkarinen and a business delegation. The Finnish President met with Rashtrapati, PM, and Chairperson, UPA. Bilateral relations including political and economic issues were discussed. This was a private visit.

France 22. Mr. Philippe Douste-Blazy, Foreign Minister of France visited India from November 30-December 1, 2006. Bilateral, regional and global issues were discussed.

Hungary 22. The Hungarian Foreign Minister Dr. Kinga Góncz visited India from November 2-6, 2006. Bilateral relations including political and economic issues were discussed.

Iceland 24. H.E. Dr. Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, President of Iceland, visited India from January 20-25, 2007 in connection with the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit from January 22-24, 2007 organized by TERI. He had meetings with President, PM, Chairperson, UPA, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas Shri Murlidhar Deora, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports and Panchayati Raj Shri Mani Shanker Iyer, and Minister of Civil Aviation Shri Praful Patel. Bilateral relations including political and economic issues were discussed. This was a private visit.

Indonesia 25. Mr. Jusuf Kalla, Vice President of Indonesia, visited India from January 28-31, 2007 for participation in the Satyagraha Conference. During his visit, the Indonesian Vice President called on the Prime Minister and Vice President. Bilateral, regional and international issues were discussed.

Iran 26. Mr Manouchehr Mottaki, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran visited India on 16-17 November 2006. Bilateral and regional issues were discussed. On the IPI Gas Pipeline project, India reaffirmed its commitment while noting that regular official level talks were taking place to resolve all outstanding issues. The importance of Iran to India as a transit point for access to Afghanistan and Central Asia was mentioned. India stated that IAEA should play the central role in resolving issues related to Iran's nuclear programme. The situation in Afghanistan and Iraq was also discussed.

Italy 27. H.E. Dr Romano Prodi, Prime Minister of Italy, accompanied by Minister for International Trade and European Affairs, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for Family Policies visited India from February 10-15, 2007. Bilateral, regional and global issues were discussed. Following documents were signed during the visit:

(a) Memorandum of Understanding on setting up a Joint Working Group on Combating International Terrorism & Trans-National Crime

(b) Memorandum of Understanding on Renewable Energy Cooperation

(c) Cultural Exchange Programme 2007-09

28. Mr. Francesco Rutelli, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Welfare and Cultural Activities visited India from January 27-31, 2007. Bilateral, regional and global issues were discussed.

Jordan 29. H.M. King Abdullah-II Bin Al Hussein and H.M. Queen Rania Al-Abdullah accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Talal Bin Mohammed, Minister of Industry and Trade Salem Khazaale, Minister of Information & Communication Technology Bassem Roussan and other senior officials including a business delegation visited India from November 30-December 2, 2006. During the visit, the King held discussions with President and Prime Minister on the bilateral relations and the regional situation. Chairperson of UPA Smt. Sonia Gandhi, External Affairs Minister Shri Pranab Mukerjee and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Shri Lal Krishna Advani also called on the King. Following Agreements/Documents were signed:

(a) Cooperation in Agriculture

(b) Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection

(c) Cooperation in Tourism; and

(d) Culture Exchange Programme.

30. As a result of bilateral talks, M/s IFFCO signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. Ltd. (JPMC) on January 31, 2007 to set up a state of art phosphoric acid plant with a capacity of 1500MT P205 per day. IFFCO and its associates will hold 52% equity and JPMC and its associates will hold the remaining 48% in the joint venture.

Luxembourg 31. Mr. Jean Asselborn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs & Immigration visited India from February 19-23, 2007. Bilateral, regional and global issues were discussed.

Malaysia 32. Dato' Seri Syed Hamid Albar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia visited India on February 15-16, 2007 in connection with the 4th India-Malaysia Joint Commission Meeting held in New Delhi on February 16, 2007. During the visit, the Malaysian Foreign Minister called on the Prime Minister and had meeting with EAM. Bilateral, regional and international issues were discussed.

Maldives 33. H.E. Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, President of Maldives, accompanied by his Foreign Minister, visited India from January 27-February 1, 2007 to lead the Maldivian delegation to participate in the Satyagraha Conference.

34. Dr. Ahmed Shaheed, Foreign Minister of Maldives, paid an official visit to India from October 23-28, 2006. He called on Prime Minister and also met Raksha Mantri. The discussions focused on bilateral relations and matters of mutual interest.

Mauritius 35. H.E. Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius, visited India from January 28-February 1, 2007 to attend the Satyagraha Conference held in New Delhi.

36. Mr. Madan Dulloo, Foreign Minister of Mauritius visited India to participate in the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

(PBD) celebrations held in New Delhi from January 7-9, 2007. He chaired the Africa Session at the PBD.

Myanmar 37. General Thura Shwe Mann, Chief of Joint Staff of the Union of Myanmar, visited India. He met with Air Chief Marshal S.P. Tyagi, Chief of Air Staff, Chief of Army Staff, Raksha Mantri, External Affairs Minister and had an audience with the President. During these meetings, bilateral relations and other issues of mutual interest were discussed.

Namibia 38. Dr. Marco Hausiku, Namibian Foreign Minister paid an official visit to India from October 26-30, 2006. During the visit, the Indian and Namibian sides discussed international, regional issues and bilateral cooperation in areas like education, agriculture, trade, mines and energy, technical training and defence including training for the Namibian diplomats on WTO issues. The visiting

Minister also met Shri Sis Ram Ola, Minister of Mines and discussed possible cooperation in mining, including survey and exploration of mineral resources in Namibia and training of its personnel.

Nepal 39. The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Government of Nepal, Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli paid an official visit to India from November 5-8, 2006. During the visit, Mr. Oli held talks with External Affairs Minister and also called on the Prime Minister besides holding other meetings. The visit provided an opportunity to review the entire gamut of bilateral relationship, and other issues of mutual interest.

Netherlands 40. Dr Bernard Bot, Foreign Minister of Netherlands, visited India from November 5-6, 2006. Bilateral, regional and global issues were discussed.

Norway 41. The Norwegian Crown Prince Haakon and Princess Mette-Marit visited India on six days official visit from October 29-November 4, 2006. He was accompanied by a high-level delegation including Ministers of Petroleum & Energy, Trade & Industry, and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and businessmen. The Crown Prince called on Rashtrapatiiji and met the EAM. Bilateral relations including political and economic issues were discussed.

42. The Norwegian Foreign Minister Mr. Jonas Gahr Store paid an official visit to India from December 14-15, 2006 in connection with the Second Session of the Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) between India and Norway. Apart from bilateral meeting with EAM, the visiting Foreign Minister also had meetings with Hon'ble Minister of Science & Technology and Minister of Environment and Forests where bilateral relations including political and economic issues were discussed. During the JCM, the following were signed:

(a) An Arrangement between the Government of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway on Gainful Occupation for Family Members of a Diplomatic Mission or Consular Posts;

(b) A Terms of Reference (TOR) for establishing the Indo-Norwegian Joint Working Group on Environment.

Pakistan 43. The Pakistan Foreign Minister Mr. Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri visited India on February 20-22, 2007 leading the Pakistani delegation to attend the 5th India- Pak Joint Commission meeting held on February 21. EAM and FM of Pakistan reviewed progress of 8 Technical Level Working Groups formed during the 4th Joint Commission meeting held in Islamabad in October 2005. Eight Working Groups cover areas such as environment, Science & Technology, Tourism, Agriculture, Health, IT& Communication, Education and Information. An agreement on "Reducing the Risk from Accidents relating to Nuclear Weapons" was signed between the two countries on 21 February 2007 in the presence of EAM and FM of Pakistan.

Portugal 44. H.E. Mr. Anibal Cavaco Silva, President of Portugal, accompanied by Minister of Culture, Minister for Economy and Innovation, MOS for Foreign Affairs, and MOS for Science & Technology & Higher Education visited India from January 11-17, 2007. Bilateral, regional and global issues were discussed. Following agreements/ documents were signed during the visit:

(a) Extradition Treaty.

(b) Cultural Exchange Programme 2007-09.

(c) Education Exchange Programme 2007-09.

Qatar 45. Mr. Abdulla Bin Hamad Al-Attayah, Second Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy and Industry of the State of Qatar visited India during November 23-25, 2006 along with a 12-member strong delegation. The visiting dignitary called on the Prime Minister, EAM and Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas with whom he held discussions on bilateral cooperation especially in the oil and gas sectors.

Romania 46. H.E. Mr. Traian Basescu, President of Romania, paid a State Visit to India from October 22-24, 2006. He was accompanied by a high-level delegation which included Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Economy and Commerce, and Minister of Telecommunications and IT. During his visit, he had meetings with President, Prime Minister, Vice-President and Chairperson of UPA, Smt. Sonia Gandhi. Bilateral relations including political and economic issues were discussed. The following bilateral agreements/understandings were signed:

(a) Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) between India and Romania for the year 2007-09.

(b) Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation between India and Romania.

(c) Agreement between Small Scale Industries of India and Romania, and

(d) MOU between Foreign Service Institute of India and Romanian Diplomatic Institute.

Russia 47. H.E. Mr. Vladimir V. Putin, President of the Russian Federation, paid an official visit to India from January 25-26, 2007 for the annual Summit meeting. He was the Chief Guest at the Republic Day celebrations. He was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Alexander Zhukov, Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Mr. Sergei Ivanov and Foreign Minister Mr. Sergei Lavrov apart from other senior functionaries. During the visit, President Putin met the President, Prime Minister and Chairperson of the UPA. Both sides discussed bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest and concern. During the visit, following documents were signed between the two governments:

- (a) Joint Statement on the outcome of the official visit of the President of the Russian Federation to India;
- (b) Programme of Cultural Exchanges for the years 2007-09;
- (c) Protocol on holding "Year of Russia in India" in the year 2008 and "Year of India in Russia" in the Year 2009;
- (d) Memorandum of Intent on development of cooperation in the construction of additional nuclear power plant units at the Kudankulam site as well as in the construction of Russian design nuclear power plants at new sites in the Republic of India;
- (e) Agreement on access of the Indian Party to navigation signals of the Russian Global Navigation Satellite System GLONASS for peaceful purposes;
- (f) Agreement on access of the Indian Party to a part of the Russian Global Navigation Satellite System GLONASS Radio Frequency Spectrum;
- (g) Agreement on cooperation in the joint satellite project 'YOUTHSAT'; and
- (h) Protocol on exchange of information between the two customs on the movement of goods and conveyances between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation.
- (i) A Joint Statement by President Putin and the Prime Minister on the peaceful uses of atomic energy was also issued.

48. The Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, Mr. Alexander Zhukov visited India from December 7-10, 2006. He co-chaired the 12th Session of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission (IRIGC) on trade, economic, scientific, technological and cultural cooperation on 8th December in Delhi. The two sides discussed ways of enhancing bilateral trade and investment, economic cooperation in areas such as energy, metallurgy, commercialization of new and innovative technologies and links between the financial sectors. A Protocol on the deliberations of the IRIGC was signed at the end of the meeting.

49. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia Mr Sergei Lavrov visited India on February 14, 2007 for the India-Russia-China Trilateral Foreign Ministers Meeting. The three countries discussed trilateral cooperation, current global situation and recent developments on regional and international issues of mutual concern. A Joint Communiqué was issued at the end of the meeting.

50. The Russian Deputy Prime Minister & Defence Minister, Mr. Sergei Ivanov visited India from 23-26 January 2007. He co-chaired the Sixth Meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission for Military Technical Cooperation (IGC-MTC) and joined the delegation of President Putin to India. During the visit, agreements on licensed production of RD-33 aero engines in India, Protocol of Intent on joint design, development and production of multi-role transport aircraft and Protocol on the Sixth Meeting of IGC-MTC were signed between the two sides.

Singapore 51. The Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore, Prof. S. Jayakumar, visited India from January 6-8, 2007. He was the Chief Guest at the Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas 2007 celebrations. During his stay, Prof. Jayakumar called on Prime Minister, Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs. Bilateral, regional and international issues were discussed.

52. Mr. George Yeo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore visited India from January 16-23, 2007. During the visit, he called on Prime Minister, Minister of External Affairs, Minister of Human resource Development, Minister of Finance, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Bilateral, regional and international issues were discussed.

53. Dr. Balaji Sadasivan, Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Singapore visited India from September 24 – October 5, 2006. During his visit, he held discussions with Minister of Culture and Tourism and Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. Dr. Sadasivan also visited Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and had meetings with the Chief Ministers of the three States. Bilateral, regional and international issues were discussed.

Slovenia 54. H.E. Mr. Janez Dmrovsek, President of Slovenia, visited India in connection with the Satyagraha Conference. He had meetings with PM, UPA Chairperson, and EAM, wherein he discussed matters of mutual interest

South Africa 55. Mrs. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa paid a visit to India from September 10-13, 2006. During her visit the South African Deputy President met President, Vice-President, and discussed issues of mutual interest mainly relating to skills development, capacity building and training of South Africans in the areas of education, ICT, management, vocational training and local governance.

Sweden 56. The Deputy PM and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden Ms. Maud Olofsson, visited India in connection with the Satyagraha Conference. She had meetings with Chairperson, UPA, EAM and Urban Development Minister. She also visited Chennai to receive the Swedish East India ship "Gotheborg" which embarked on two-year voyage repeating epic journeys first made over 250 years ago.

Sri Lanka 57. H.E. Mr. Mahinda Rajapakse, President of Sri Lanka, visited India on November 25-29, 2006. Sri Lankan Prime

Minister, H.E. Mr. Wickremanayake visited India on January 28-30, 2007. Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Mr. Rohitha Bogollagama visited India on January 30-31, 2007. During these meetings, bilateral relations and other issues of mutual interest were discussed.

Tanzania 58. Dr. Ms. Asha-Rose Migiro, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tanzania paid a working visit to India from 19th – 26th November, 2006. During the visit of the Tanzanian Foreign Minister, discussions focused on the need to strengthen bilateral cooperation mechanisms, such as the early convening of the Bilateral Joint Commission and the Joint Trade Committee. It was agreed to enhance cooperation in agriculture, SMEs, ICT, education and training, mining, science and technology etc.

Thailand 59. HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand is paying official visit to India from March 5-9, 2007. During the New Delhi part of the visit on March 6, 2007, the Princess called on the Vice President and had a meeting with the Minister of External Affairs. Bilateral, regional and international issues were discussed.

UK 60. Ms. Margaret Beckett, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of UK visited India from November 1-9, 2006. Bilateral, regional and global issues were discussed. Duke of York visited India from October 20-November 4, 2006. She met representatives of FICCI and CII and discussed matters of economic cooperation.

Uganda 61. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda, Mr. Sam Kutesa paid an official visit to India from October 29-November 2, 2006. During the visit, the two sides discussed bilateral cooperation in areas like human resource development, energy, Pan-African e-network, technical training and transport. Mr. Kutesa sought GOI assistance for a hydro-power project of 200-300 MW for which Government of Uganda has signed an MoU with BHEL. He also sought assistance for training of young Ugandans in the fields of IT and entrepreneurship. The visiting Minister invited Prime Minister and EAM to visit Uganda for the next CHOGM Summit to be held in Kampala in November 2007.

Vietnam 62. Mr. Pham Gia Khiem, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Vietnam visited India from February 25 to March 1, 2007 in connection with the 13th India-Vietnam Joint Commission Meeting held in New Delhi on February 27, 2007. During the visit, he called on Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs. Bilateral, regional and international issues were discussed.