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INTRODUCTION

The external relations of the country continued to be guided by the well established principles which have characterised the foreign policy. In a period of constant change in the global political, economic and security environment there was need for constant monitoring and assessment of the emerging situation, with a view to protecting India's vital national interests. The changing scenario also offered many opportunities. It has been the Government's endeavour to fully utilise these opportunities to promote and safeguard our interests. Changes in the global economic situation necessitated a reassessment and strengthening of our economic diplomacy.

In the international fora, the Government continued to project India's principled stand on various issues. We worked closely with Non-Aligned countries and G-77 to ensure that the views of the developing world were fully taken into account on all major political and economic issues. India contributed effectively to mobilising support for its views and in building consensus among the countries of the South on major economic issues.

Among the most important of the Government's priorities during the year was to strengthen relations with neighbouring countries so as to provide a stable and peaceful environment for the socioeconomic progress of the people. Particular attention was paid to regional cooperation which would bring economic benefits to the population of the entire region. As Chairman of SAARC, India initiated a number of moves in this direction.

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India continued to maintain traditionally warm and friendly relations with the Royal Government of Bhutan. Our commitment to deepening our close links with Bhutan was underlined through decisions on expanding economic cooperation during Bhutan's Eighth Five Year Plan period (1997-2002).

The conclusion of the "Treaty between His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the Government of India concerning the integrated development of the Mahakali River including Sarda Barrage, Tanakpul Barrage and Pancheshwar Project" envisages joint exploitation of the water resources and has the potential to open up tremendous possibilities for economic cooperation between the two countries. The bilateral Trade Treaty was modified and renewed for a further period of five years. Nepalese manufactured goods can now enter India free of customs duty and quantitative restrictions. These developments symbolise the commitment of India and Nepal to strengthen economic cooperation.

(India's relations with Bangladesh were significantly enhanced. During the visit to India by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in December 1996, the long outstanding issue relating to the sharing of water resources was resolved through the signing of a landmark Treaty on Sharing of the Ganga Waters at Farakka. The Treaty will run for thirty years and will meet minimum needs of both sides. The visit by the Prime Minister to Bangladesh in January 1997 consolidated the enhanced bilateral relationship between India and

Bangladesh. Fresh impetus has been given to economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries. The Government of India decided to extend tariff concessions and remove quantitative restrictions on the import of goods in 14 sectors of interest to Bangladesh.

Relations with Sri Lanka continued to be close and cooperative and there were conscious efforts to strengthen cooperation in diverse fields. President Chandrika Kumaratunga came to India on a private visit when she met the Prime Minister. India extended food assistance for rehabilitation of the civilian population of Jaffna.

Regular and cordial interaction was kept up with Maldives during the year. The Maldives Institute of Technical Education, a project established with Indian assistance, was successfully completed and handed over to the Government of Maldives.

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India's relations with Myanmar remained friendly. A regular and constructive interaction was maintained with the Myanmar authorities in areas relevant to India's security interests, such as improved border management, security dialogue and checking of trafficking in drugs and arms. In order to improve communications and to facilitate border trade, the Government of India finalised plans for construction and development of a border road to Myanmar.

The adversarial and confrontationist approach of Pakistan towards India continued during the year, thus impeding the normalisation of relations. Pakistan's support and promotion of crossborder terrorism continued unabated. Pakistan persisted with efforts to acquire sophisticated arms and technology in excess of its legitimate requirement, and with clandestine acquisitions for its weapon-oriented nuclear and missile programmes. Government closely monitors these developments and their bearing on the security environment in the subcontinent. All measures were taken to safeguard national interest and security. India remains committed to building a relationship of trust, friendship and cooperation with Pakistan and seeks to resolve all outstanding issues through bilateral negotiations, as envisaged in the Simla Agreement. To create a positive atmosphere and promote people-to-people relations, government took a number of unilateral steps, including issuing greater number of visas to nationals of Pakistan and enhancing interaction between intellectuals, scholars, journalists and academicians. We believe that development of people-to-people contacts and enhancement of trade and commercial ties would contribute to laying the foundation on which constructive relations between the two could be built and which remains our objective.

India attaches highest importance to strengthening economic cooperation among South Asian countries under the SAARC framework. As Chairman of SAARC during the year, India played an active role in strengthening the Association and enlarging its activities to collective benefit and enrichment of the work of the Association. India believes in the centrality of SAARC in advancing collective regional effort, as envisaged in the Association's Charter, to enable the South Asian region to assume its rightful place in the world. The December 1996 SAARC Council of Ministers meeting in New Delhi gave

significant impetus to growing cooperation amongst South Asian countries in economic, social, technical and cultural areas. Particularly.

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noteworthy were advances within the SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA).

India's relations with China showed steady improvement. The visit of President Jiang Zemin to India was an important milestone in bilateral relations. A significant outcome of the visit was the signing of an Agreement on Confidence Building Measures in the military field along the Line of Actual Control. During the discussions, the importance of paying adequate attention to each other's concerns on vital issues affecting unity, territorial integrity and security were underlined. The two sides agreed to work towards a cooperative and constructive relationship into the 21st century.

We are saddened at the continuance of the fratricidal conflict in Afghanistan. We have called for the cessation of foreign interference in Afghanistan and for peaceful discussions and negotiations between Afghan parties. India supports the efforts of the UN Secretary General and his Special Representative to bring peace to Afghanistan. India continued her traditional policy of cooperation and friendship with the Afghan people. India's contacts with the Government of Professor Rabbani, whom it continues to recognise as the legitimate Government of Afghanistan, have continued.

The close contacts with Iran were further strengthened by exchange of high level visits. The year witnessed growth in bilateral economic and commercial interactions.

Central Asian Republics occupy an important place in our foreign policy. The proximity of India and Central Asia, shared history and sentiments of deep friendship on both sides, create a common stake in the furtherance of peace, stability and security in the region. India's relations with these Republics, which have just marked the fifth anniversary of their independence, are based on long-standing historical contacts, people-to-people empathy and a high degree of political understanding. Economic contacts and exchanges in science and technology and technical cooperation have been growing. Regular exchange of high level visits with the countries of the region provided the catalyst for revitalised and expanded relations in all fields.

The growth of friendly and mutually beneficial relationship with ASEAN countries in economic, political and security related areas has been striking. Consequent to becoming a Full Dialogue Partner

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of ASEAN, India for the first time participated in the Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) of ASEAN in Jakarta and also in the meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). The Prime Minister of Malaysia Dr Mahathir bin Mohammad, visited India in December 1996 to accept the prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding. The Government of Singapore took the initiative in holding the first ever Global Indian

Entrepreneurs Conference in June, bringing together businessmen from India and of Indian origin from around the globe. Ways to build and expand bilateral relations between India and Indonesia were discussed during the meeting of the Prime Minister with President Soeharto in Rome. Both Indonesia and Brunei have agreed to India's proposal for setting up a Telemetry and Tracking ground station for continuous monitoring of ISRO's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle. Two Royal visits from Thailand also took place during this period. India's relations with Vietnam continue to be marked with traditional friendship and warmth.

Exchange of visits including those of business delegations consolidated relations with other countries in the region namely Laos, Cambodia, Philippines, New Zealand and Australia. Five Cabinet Ministers including the Deputy Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister of Australia, visited India in connection with a major business and cultural promotion initiative, the 'New Horizons'.

India continued efforts to forge closer ties with countries of East Asia. The exchange of high level visits made a significant contribution to development of our relations with these countries. Humanitarian relief assistance was extended to the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, with which we have friendly relations, to tide over the adverse effect of floods.

Relations with Japan continued to be characterised by friendship and understanding. We greatly value Japan's continued support for our economic development, both as the leading partner in development cooperation and as the major investor in India. Japan was the Partner Country in the India Engineering Trade Fair organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry in February 1997.

We have close historical association with the Arab countries and our relations with them continue to be marked by traditional friendship, mutual understanding and growing cooperation. The

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President was extended a warm welcome when he visited the Sultanate of Oman. India has supported the peace process to bring to an end the conflict situation in the Middle East. India shared the widely-felt concern at the developments affecting the peace process. We urged all parties to intensify efforts to build upon the interim agreements towards a speedy conclusion of the process, and later welcomed the Hebron accords.

India remained committed to build upon its close and friendly relations with Africa, which has deep roots in history. The Government's approach has been to consolidate the gains of almost five decades of close ties of friendship with States of Africa; to intensify bilateral economic and commercial linkages for mutual benefit; to share developmental experience and promote technical cooperation as part of India's commitment to South-South cooperation; and to foster institutional linkages with regional and sub-regional groups in Africa. Several high level exchanges during the year served to reinforce the traditional bonds of friendship and cooperation between India and the countries of Africa.

During the visit of the Prime Minister to Harare in November 1996 to attend the G_ 15 Summit the focus on regional cooperation with Africa was enhanced. At the Summit, the Prime Minister announced the creation of a revolving fund of Rs 100 crores towards such cooperation with Africa.

Based on continuity, trust and confidence, relations with the Russian Federation have traditionally been warm and friendly and are an important foreign policy priority for India. Indo-Russian relations are progressing well in all areas of bilateral cooperation, including trade and economy, science and technology, culture and defence. Prime Minister's visit to the Russian Federation contributed to a further intensification of the close and friendly ties between India and Russia.

India continues to maintain close ties with countries of East and Central Europe. Particular impetus was given to ties with Poland and the Slovak and Czech Republics as a result of the State visits of the President of India to these countries. These visits were marked by great warmth and goodwill for India at all levels.

India's relations with countries of Western Europe expanded on the basis of complementarity of interests and mutual benefit.

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Exchange of visits helped to enhance the level and content of India's relations with these countries. With the expansion of the European Union (EU) and its move towards a common foreign and security policy, India's political dialogue with countries of EU has assumed added significance. Sustained efforts were made to strengthen EU's understanding on issues of importance to India. The EU, en bloc, is our largest trading partner and is the largest foreign investor in India.

We look forward to the continued growth of Indo-US relations ,during the second term of the Administration of President Clinton. As two mature and friendly democracies, both India and the US recognise the importance of developing and expanding the base for mutually beneficial relations. Regular consultations were held with the US on bilateral, regional and international issues. While India and the US do not share a common approach to all issues, both are interested in not allowing differences in perspectives on some issues to stand. in the way of working together in the many areas where our approaches converge and which are mutually beneficial.

A number of high level exchanges with Canada have laid the ground for revitalised and expanded relations with Canada. During the visit of the Foreign Minister of Canada in January 1997, it was decided to establish a joint Ministerial Committee to promote cooperation in diverse areas.

The thrust of India's policy towards Central and South America and the Caribbean is to strengthen and widen existing relations and to give it more economic content. Major Indian exhibitions were organised in Argentina and Brazil and visits of trade delegations were promoted. India sought to promote institutional relations with the Rio Group and the

Central American States and to develop similar arrangements with the regional groupings MERCOSUR, CARICOM, ACS and the Andean Community.

Fundamental changes in international relations following the end of bloc confrontation have contributed to increased focus on the role of international organisations, particularly the United Nations. India strongly believes that multilateral cooperation needs to be strengthened in order to face the common global challenges of the present and the future. We, therefore, played an active and participative role in the debates and activities shaping the global .

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agenda and in articulating the concerns of the developing countries, with a view to developing a constructive and equitable global consensus. India continued to support the reform and restructuring of the United Nations, including the expansion of both permanent and non-permanent membership of the Security Council. We actively worked as co-Chairman of the Open Ended High Level Group on the strengthening of the UN and as participant in other Working Groups. India maintains that the reforms of the United Nations must take into account the legitimate concerns of the developing countries, in all its organs and activities. As in the past, India extended steadfast support to UN Peace-Keeping Operations and contributed actively to the debate and decisions of the Special Committee on Peace-Keeping Operations.

India remains strongly committed to the Non-Aligned Movement and its objectives and principles, which continue to have relevance in a world marked by unequal powers and privileges. The offer of India to host the next Ministerial Conference of Non-Aligned countries in New Delhi in April 1997, was welcomed by Member States of NAM.

India played a prominent role in various multilateral disarmament fora. In the First Committee of the United Nations, the Indian resolution on Convention on Prohibition of Use of Nuclear Weapons was adopted. India participated actively in the negotiations on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in a positive and constructive manner. The linkage of the CTBT to the goal of complete elimination of all nuclear weapons within a time bound framework was a central requirement for us, in keeping with our consistent and principled stand in support of global nuclear disarmament and opposition to unequal treaties. In keeping with its commitment to the elimination of all chemical weapons, India deposited the instruments of ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) on 3 September 1996. It is a matter of concern that despite the overwhelming support for the CWC, a large number of countries from our region and other CW possessor states have yet to complete their ratification. India supported moves towards the objective of complete ban on anti-personnel land mines.

India played an active role in multilateral economic fora. This included initiatives on South-South cooperation in the G-77 as well as in the G-15. The Prime Minister participated in the 6th G-15

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Summit in Harare. Trade and investment promotion and giving practical content to South-South cooperation was pursued, including through our participation in G-77. India will coordinate the business component of G-77 programmes. The identification by OECD of India as a Dynamic Non-Member Economy, with whom a policy dialogue was commenced, led to deepened interaction and the formulation of a plan for dialogue and cooperation between the two. Preparations were made for India joining the Development Centre of the OECD. India joined the Working Group on Regional Energy Cooperation of APEC.

India participated actively in the launching of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) in March 1997 and was closely involved in the formulation of its Charter and the work to give the Association substantive content and practical effect through specific projects. This marks a new era in realising the objectives of Afro-Asian solidarity and cooperation set by our leaders, in the 50th year of India's independence.

Technical cooperation offered by India is our primary contribution to South-South cooperation. During the year, more than 600 trainees utilised courses in civilian institutions under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme and Special Commonwealth African Assistance Programme (SCAAP). Additionally, training was provided to more than 200 personnel in defence institutions. Under the ITEC programme, three major projects were executed and feasibility studies for several projects were prepared. Presently 25 Indian experts are deployed abroad in a broad range of technical and development sectors. Relief supplies were sent to sixteen countries.

India participated in the Fifth World Hindi Conference held in Trinidad and Tobago. To mark this occasion, the government brought out a souvenir containing the works of eminent scholars and writers in Hindi.

In the sphere of external publicity, new initiatives were taken to explain and project India's foreign policy objectives. These included the setting up of the Ministry's home page on the Internet, use of modern publicity techniques and augmentation of channels of communication. Audio-visual and printed material was commissioned or procured to cater to the publicity requirements of

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our Missions abroad. The effective and forceful projection of government's programme and policies enhanced India's image in the media and amongst the public abroad.

The Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) continued its activities effectively under the guidance of the Vice President of India, Shri K R Narayanan, who took over as President of the Council. The Council offered over 1000 new scholarships to students from 60 countries. The major cultural programmes organised abroad by the Council during the year were 'The Days of India Culture' in Russia and Vietnam and 'Utsav-The Indian Festival' in Bangladesh. Among cultural delegations hosted by the Council were the visit of eminent American folk singer Pete Seeger and renowned Spanish flamenco

dancer Blanca del Rey. The ICCR actively encouraged exchange of artists, writers and eminent intellectuals and published material of contemporary importance.

The Ministry's efforts have been directed at simplification of passport procedures and streamlining of the working of Passport Offices to ensure that pendency does not build up. During 1996 a number of changes were introduced to provide prompt and efficient passport services to the public. Steps were initiated to open four new Passport Offices. A monitoring cell has been established in the Central Passport Organisation at headquarters for speedy redressal of complaints. Visa stickers are being introduced to ensure greater security. Ultimately, machine printing of visas is foreseen.

The government remained fully alive to the problems of Indian nationals living and working abroad and took speedy steps to settle their grievances. The Ministry made arrangements for the safe repatriation of about 60,000 Indian nationals from UAE.

The Ministry continued to make arrangements for the Haj pilgrimage and the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra.

The Policy Planning Division completed the compilation of the compendium of India's bilateral treaties for the period 1971-1980 and 1991 and commenced work on the compendium for the period 1981-1990 and 1992. The documentation Services of the library are now available on-line to users in the Ministry's headquarters in South Block.

The Foreign Service institute held 15 courses during the year,
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the most important of which was the year long professional course in Diplomacy and International Relations for Indian Foreign Service probationers. Five of the courses were for foreign diplomats, in which 108 were trained in diplomatic theory and practice. Two of these courses were devoted solely to South African diplomats. In tune with its evolving role as a think tank on important issues, the Institute is also planning a number of activities relating to 'India's Foreign Policy Agenda for the 21st Century'.

New Missions were opened in Croatia and Papua New Guinea and a Post in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The Mission in Kabul was temporarily closed in September 1996 due to the disturbed security environment.

During the year a major construction project in Riyadh was successfully completed. Properties were purchased in Johannesburg, Brussels, Houston and Bangkok. These measures will save the Ministry considerable rental on offices and residences in these expensive cities. A plot of land was also purchased in Berlin for construction of the Chancery complex.

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To facilitate speedy communications, E-mail connectivity was provided to individual officers in Ministry's headquarters at South Block and to a large number of Missions and Posts abroad.

1. India's Neighbours

Relations between India and Nepal have been traditionally close and reflected the links of history, culture, language and religion. During the year under review, these relations continued to strengthen, symbolised by exchange of high-level official visits.

A 11 -member delegation from the Nepalese Election Commission visited India from 5-11 May 1996, aimed at acquiring first-hand knowledge of the election process in the world's largest democracy. This was followed by the visit of Nepalese Foreign Secretary Kedar Bhakta Shrestha from 17-19 June 1996 for Foreign Secretary level talks.

Commerce Secretary level talks were held at Kathmandu from 4-7 July 1996 and on 3 December 1996 letters were exchanged between the Government of India and the Government of Nepal for renewing the India-Nepal Trade Treaty for a period of five years upto 5 December 2001. Articles of Nepalese manufacture can now enter the Indian market free of customs duty and quantity restrictions. It has also been agreed to accord parity to Nepalese products in the levy of countervailing duty, which would be equal to the treatment provided to Indian products, on the basis of a certificate issued by the Government of Nepal.

The Third Session of the High Level Task Force (HLTF) was held in New Delhi on 9 August 1996, co-chaired by the Chief Secretary (Cabinet Secretary) from the Nepalese side and the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister from the Indian side. During this meeting,

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progress achieved in projects of Indo-Nepal cooperation was reviewed. This was followed by the official visit of Nepalese Foreign Minister Dr Prakash Chander Lohani from 12-14 August 1996 at the invitation of the Minister of External Affairs. During the course of his stay, apart from official talks with the Minister of External Affairs, he called on the Prime Minister, the Home Minister and Leader of the Opposition Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee. During this visit, all major aspects of bilateral relations were comprehensively reviewed.

Minister of Water Resources of the Government of Nepal, Pashupati Rana paid an official visit to India from 18-20 November 1996. During the visit, the status of various water resources and power projects of bilateral cooperation was reviewed. A detailed exchange of views was held on the follow-up steps to be implemented on the Mahakali Treaty.

The Foreign Minister of Nepal visited India in December 1996 to attend the SAARC Ministerial Meeting.

India accounts for almost 40 per cent of the total investments in Nepal. During 1995-96,

Indian imports from Nepal were IRs 166.95 crores while Indian exports to Nepal were at IRs 536.45 crores. From April till September 1996, exports to Nepal were IRs 305-33 crores while imports from Nepal were IRs 92.57 crores.

As in earlier years, India continued to play an active role in Nepal's developmental efforts. Work is proceeding apace on the setting up of a medical college and an institute at Dharan. Another major project for the construction of 22 bridges on the East-West highway in Western Nepal has commenced. Additional rail coaches have been supplied to strengthen the service on the Jayanagar-Janakpur railway sector. Work on the outer ring road project at Janakpur, construction of broad gauge rail links between Raxaul and Sirsa, as well as other projects, were initiated.

A large number of Nepalese students study in India, many of whom are being offered scholarships by the Government of India. On the auspicious occasion of the Silver jubilee of the accession to the throne of King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev in 1996, the Government of India announced a Silver jubilee Scholarship Scheme. Under this scheme, 25 Nepalese students were selected for award of scholarships for pursuing post graduate studies in professional courses at Indian colleges/universities. Some other sports and cultural

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projects are under active consideration of the Government of India.

India and Bhutan have traditionally enjoyed a warm and cordial relationship marked by a strong resolve to ensure welfare of people of both the countries by extensive economic cooperation.

The existing friendly relationship between the two countries was further nurtured by significant exchange of views at various levels. During the year, the Minister of External Affairs visited Bhutan from 10-12 August 1996 and the Cabinet Secretary from 21- 25 May 1996. From the Bhutanese side, His Majesty the King came on a private visit from 6-9 January 1997. The Foreign Minister of Bhutan visited India in December 1996 to attend the SAARC Ministerial Meeting. The Minister for Planning and the Minister for Trade and industry of Bhutan also visited India.

Bilateral Plan Talks between the two countries were held from 26- 30 August 1996 to review the on-going projects in Bhutan undertaken with Indian assistance during Bhutan's VII Five Year Plan (1992-97). Major infrastructure' and welfare related projects such as hospitals, schools, roads, bridges, transmission lines, rural electrification and survey projects are underway. Indian assistance to Bhutan during the VIII Five Year Plan (1997-2002) of Bhutan was also discussed in detail during the visit of the Planning Minister of Bhutan. The proposed assistance will include execution of three major projects in Bhutan i.e. Tala Hydro-electric Project with 1020 MW capacity, Dungsum Cement Plant with 1500 tonnes per day capacity and Kurichu Hydro- electric Project with 45 MW capacity. The Tala project is the biggest bilateral cooperation project ever undertaken by India. The Deputy Chairman Planning Commission led an inter-Ministerial delegation on visit to

Thimpu from 30 January-2 February 1997.

The Minister of External Affairs visited Dhaka from 6-9 September 1996 and held detailed discussions with the Bangladesh

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Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister and other leading members of the Government. All issues in bilateral relations were reviewed. In regard to the issue of the sharing of the Ganga Waters, it was agreed to continue discussions both at political level and in a joint committee of experts. Both sides reiterated their intention to arrive at an agreement on the issue before the onset of the next lean season in January 1997. Subsequently the Bangladesh Minister for Water Resources came to India for discussion in October and the Foreign Minister paid a visit to India in November.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid an official visit to India from 10-12 December 1996, during which a landmark Treaty on Sharing of the Ganga Waters at Farakka was signed by the Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh. The Treaty runs for 30 years and is renewable at mutual consent. It also provides for a review at the end of five years or after two years, if requested by either party. The sharing agreement takes into account the basic requirements and minimum needs of both sides. Therefore, during the critical period within the lean season i.e. from 1 March-10 May, India and Bangladesh each shall receive a guaranteed flow of 35,000, cusecs of water in an alternating sequence of three 10 day periods each.

The Treaty on Sharing of the Ganga Waters has been acclaimed both in India and Bangladesh. It has also received widespread international notice. The UN Secretary-General also welcomed the conclusion of the Treaty signed by the two countries.

The Foreign Minister of Bangladesh visited India in December 1996 to attend the SAARC Ministerial Meeting.

The Prime Minister undertook a visit to Bangladesh on 6 & 7 January 1997. The visit consolidated the greatly enhanced bilateral relationship between India and Bangladesh.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited India from 14-16 February 1997 to participate in the Inter-Parliamentary Specialised Conference on "Towards Partnership Between Men and Women in Politics". During her stay in India, she called on the President and held discussion with the Prime Minister.

The Fifth meeting of the India-Bangladesh joint Economic Commission (JEC) chaired by the Minister of External Affairs and the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh was convened on 12 March 1997.

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The Commission agreed to step up the pace and scope of cooperation in the fields of economy and finance, trade and commerce and transport and communications. Both sides

agreed to restore the Petrapole-Benapole railway link. The meeting of the JEC after a period of three years marked an important stage in enhancement of bilateral relations.

Indian exports to Bangladesh continued to show a growing trend and reached Rs 3470 crores in 1995-96 making Bangladesh one of India's most dynamic markets. Imports from Bangladesh have also grown to about Rs 280 crores. The Government of India decided to extend tariff concessions and remove quantitative restrictions on the import of goods in 14 sectors of interest to Bangladesh. This was announced by the Minister of External Affairs while in Dhaka and the concessions are to be made effective from 1997.

Discussions on security related issues also yielded positive results with both sides reiterating their determination not to permit their territory to be used by insurgents and undesirable elements. India was assured by Bangladesh on this score. Bangladesh accepted the proposal to send a high level team, including the Members of Parliament from the Chittagong Hill Tracts area, to interact with Chakma refugees in Tripura and to encourage them to return to their homes.

Bilateral relations with Sri Lanka continued to be close, friendly and cooperative. High level contacts were regularly maintained to strengthen bilateral cooperation in all fields of mutual interest. As a close neighbour India has been watching developments in Sri Lanka with interest. Peace and stability in Sri Lanka are of relevance for the region and are in India's larger interest.

A spirit of mutual understanding and desire to cooperate marked the visit of Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar to India from 19-21 June 1996. During his visit, Foreign Minister Kadirgamar had meetings with the Prime Minister, the Finance Minister, the Industry Minister and the Leader of the Opposition in addition to wide-ranging discussions with the Minister of External Affairs covering all subjects of mutual interest. He briefed the Indian leadership on the security situation in Sri Lanka and also on the ongoing debate on the proposed devolution of powers to regional councils. It was reiterated that India has always stood for a peaceful

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political settlement of the ethnic issues. The Sri Lankan President came to India on a private visit in December 1996. During her visit, she called on the President and had detailed exchange of views on bilateral issues with the Prime Minister.

The Government of India sent 1750 tonnes of rice to assist Sri Lankan efforts for rehabilitation of civilian population of Jaffna. The problems relating to fishermen of both the countries were kept under constant consultation. The Government of India took steps to streamline the procedure for the early release of Sri Lankan fishermen innocently straying into the Indian waters. The need for humane treatment of Indian fishermen straying into Sri Lankan waters was impressed upon the Sri Lankan authorities.

On the economic side, bilateral trade continued to record substantial growth as in the last few years. Both countries agreed on the need to further expand trade and investment both

in the bilateral as well as the regional context. India extended a fresh line of credit worth Rs 105 crores through an agreement signed in January 1996. The Sub-Commissions on Science and Technology and on Social, Cultural and Educational Affairs met in Colombo in September 1996. The Minister of External Affairs visited Sri Lanka from 19-22 January 1997 and co-chaired the third session of the Indo-Sri Lankan joint Commission.

The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister visited India in December 1996 to attend the SAARC Ministerial Meeting.

India continues to maintain very close and friendly relations with Maldives, which is an important maritime neighbour. A regular and cordial interaction was kept up during the year. Deputy Foreign Minister Salah Shihab inaugurated a seminar on Indo-Maldives ties at the Institute of Asian Studies in Hyderabad in June 1996. Maldivian Minister of Transport and Communication Ahmed Zaki visited India in connection with the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure held on 28 & 29 October 1996. Speaker of Citizens' Majlis Dr Abdulla Hameed paid a private visit to India in October 1996. Foreign Minister Fathulla Jameel visited Delhi for the SAARC Ministerial Meeting in December 1996.

Indian assistance to Maldives focussed mainly on human resource development schemes. India and Maldives agreed to cooperate in developing a distance education programme for

Maldives. A delegation from the Indira Gandhi National Open University, led by Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Janardan jha, visited Maldives to assess the Maldivian requirements and preparation of the scheme to be launched shortly.

The Maldives Institute of Technical Education, a Government of India funded project, was successfully completed and the complex was handed over to the Government of Maldives on 16 September 1996. This institute, a symbol of Indo-Maldives cooperation, would satisfy the long felt demand of facility for imparting vocational training to the youth of Maldives.

India continued providing technical training to students, including medical and para-medical students, from Maldives under the ITEC programme.

India's relations with Myanmar remained cooperative and cordial. A regular and constructive interaction was maintained with the Myanmar authorities in areas relevant to India's strategic interests such as improved border management, border trade, security dialogue and checking traffic in narcotics and arms.

Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal S K Sareen paid a goodwill visit to Myanmar from 30 April-2 May 1996. In December 1996, the Commander in Chief (Air) of Myanmar Lieutenant General Tin Ngwe led a defence delegation to India. Further cooperation between the defence forces was discussed during these visits.

The Government of India approved the construction/ development of Tamu-Kyigone-Kalewa and Kyigone-Kalemyo roads in Myanmar. The project will be executed by the Border Roads Organization and is expected to be completed in three years. Once completed the road would significantly improve the infrastructure in an area close to Indian borders and would provide an impetus to border trade and also improved communications.

India facilitated the visit of Buddhist monks from Myanmar to places of religious interest in UP and Bihar.

The Myanmar Deputy Minister for Home visited India for the Fourth National Level meeting which took place in New Delhi in October 1996. Issues such as checking illegal trade, insurgent activities and overall border management were discussed. The Fourth Indo- Myanmar meeting of Heads of Nodal Agencies under the Indo-
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Myanmar Agreement on Reducing Demand and Preventing Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances was held in August 1996. During this meeting both sides reviewed steps for checking traffic in narcotics etc.

The bilateral trade with Myanmar showed appreciable improvement. As compared to Rs 497 crores in 1993-94, the volume of trade reached around Rs 612 crores.

The Government desire to build a relationship of trust, friendship and cooperation with Pakistan. During the year, the Government continued their efforts to resume the bilateral dialogue with Pakistan. The Prime Minister, in his letter of 8 June 1996 to the then Prime Minister of Pakistan, put forward the concrete proposal of resuming Foreign Secretary level talks, which have remained suspended at Pakistan's choosing since January 1994. After the victory of the Pakistan Muslim League led by Nawaz Sharif in the February 1997 elections, the Prime Minister sent a letter to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif reiterating India's desire to resume the bilateral dialogue as a measure to improve the relations. On receipt of a positive response from Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, the Minister of External Affairs, in his felicitation letter to Foreign Minister of Pakistan Gohar Ayub Khan, reiterated India's desire to convene bilateral talks at an early date. Bilateral talks at the level of Foreign Secretaries of both the countries from 28-31 March 1997 represent official talks for the first time since January 1994. To create a positive environment and foster people -to-people relations, the Government took several measures to increase the number of visas being issued to Pakistani nationals and to encourage increased interaction between the intellectuals, scholars, journalists and academicians of the two countries. The Government also exercised restraint in responding to the polemical statements of the Pakistani leaders. Pakistan's response to these measures was not encouraging.

Pakistan's support to cross-border terrorism directed against India, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir, continued unabated. Concerted efforts were made to disrupt the political

process in the State. Pakistan attempted, unsuccessfully, to question the credibility of elections, which were widely welcomed by the international community. Pakistan persisted with its propaganda on Kashmir in the international fora. The Government took steps to apprise the international community of Pakistan's continued support to cross-

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border terrorism. The Government also took up this issue with Pakistan on several occasions.

Pakistan continued its efforts to acquire sophisticated arms and technology, in excess of its legitimate requirements, from various sources. During the year several reports surfaced about illegal and clandestine acquisitions by Pakistan for its weapons oriented nuclear and missile programmes. The Government continued to closely monitor these developments and their bearing on the security environment in the sub-continent. The Government remain committed to taking all measures to safeguard national interest and security.

The Foreign Minister of Pakistan visited India in December 1996 to attend the SAARC Ministerial Meeting.

The situation in Afghanistan remains unstable, with the various factions still in conflict with each other. The situation has been further exacerbated by the interference of Pakistan directly and more so through its creation, the Taliban. With the take over of Kabul by the Taliban militia on 27 September 1996 a new dimension has been added to the unstable condition in Afghanistan. The Taliban militia, reportedly with the support of Pakistan regulars, in quick succession captured Jalalabad, Surobi and ultimately Kabul. Realising that the fall of Kabul was imminent, President Rabbani and Commander Masood with their forces and other leaders retreated from Kabul to the north. Within a few hours of their capture of Kabul, the Taliban brutally murdered the former Afghan President Najibullah and his brother.

On the military front, the Taliban made significant advances during January 1997 against the combined forces of the Northern Alliance consisting of General Abdul Rashid Dostum, Commander Ahmad Shah Masood and Hizb-e-Wahdat leader Karim Khalili. Taliban are now in control of two-thirds of the country. However, since February there has been no significant forward movement by them. The forces of Northern Alliance have been able to keep them in check in the two main battle-fronts-Ghorband Valley and Badghis.

The Taliban continue the pursuit of obscurantist doctrine and the consequent denial of human rights, especially the rights of women. The human rights violations by the Taliban regime have been universally condemned.

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India maintained her traditional policy of friendship and cooperation with Afghanistan, with the Government of Professor Rabbani, whom it has continued to support as the

legitimate Government of Afghanistan. Contacts with Rabbani Government continue at various levels. Though a regular programme of cooperation could not be sustained due to the unstable condition there, India has continued extension of humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan. During the period, items despatched were medicines, tea and cooking oil worth Rs 7 lakhs. In addition, India set up a month-long camp for providing artificial limbs to Afghan amputees in Kabul during August-September. The camp benefited about 1100 Afghans. India will continue the policy of humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan.

India supports the unity, independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Afghanistan. India has called for the cessation of foreign interference in Afghanistan and for peaceful discussions and negotiations between Afghan parties. India also supported the efforts of the UN Secretary General and his Special Representative in bringing peace to Afghanistan.

India has been in the formal international peace processes on Afghanistan. India attended the Tehran conference on Afghanistan on 29 & 30 October 1996. In recognition of India's ability to contribute to the United Nations efforts aimed at ending the crisis in Afghanistan, India was among the 19 countries invited by the UN Secretary General to a meeting in New York on 18 November 1996 of regional states and other states with influence in Afghanistan. India was invited, despite the attempts of some countries to scuttle the invitation, to the meeting of the International Forum on Assistance to Afghanistan held on 21 & 22 January 1996 in Ashkabad, Turkmenistan.

India's Mission in Kabul, which was reopened on 3 May 1996, had to be closed down again on 26 September 1996 in view of the insecurity posed by the imminent Taliban take over of Kabul.

In recent years, India-China relations have acquired maturity and substance. While continuing to address outstanding issues, including the boundary question, both sides have sought to expand mutually beneficial cooperation in all areas, particularly in the economic and technological fields. Both sides agree that a long-term, good neighbourly, friendly, constructive and cooperative relationship should be established.

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Political contacts between India and China continued through high level exchanges and consultations at other levels. President Jiang Zemin's visit to India from 28 November-1 December 1996 was part of the process of dialogue at the highest level. Other high level exchanges included the visits by the Chief justice and the Ministers of Commerce, Personnel and Law & justice to China and the Chinese Minister of Communications to India.

A significant outcome of the visit of the Chinese President has been the signing of the Agreement on Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) in the Military Field along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas. This agreement is built on the foundation of the Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the India- China Border Areas, signed in September 1993,

and provides for a number of important CBMs which will help in preserving peace and tranquility in border areas. The importance of paying adequate attention to each other's concerns on vital issues affecting unity, territorial integrity and security, was underlined in discussion's with the Chinese side during President Zemin's visit.

The India-China border has been generally peaceful in recent years. Both sides have agreed that, as part of the implementation of Border Peace and Tranquility Agreement and the Agreement on CBMs, it is necessary to accelerate the process of clarification of the alignment of the entire LAC, including through an exchange of maps. Both sides have also agreed to work out details of force reduction or limitation along the LAC and put into place additional confidence building measures. Discussions on these issues are held within the framework of the India-China Joint Working Group and India-China Expert Group.

The ninth meeting of the India-China Joint Working Group (JWG) was held in Beijing in October 1996. The JWG continued discussions aimed at arriving at a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question and on the implementation of the Border Peace and Tranquility Agreement. The fifth meeting of the India-China Expert Group was held in New Delhi from 3-5 March 1997. The meeting discussed ways and means of following up on the implementation of the Agreement on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas signed during President Jiang Zemin's

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visit. The Sixth Meeting of the joint Economic Group is expected to be held in Beijing in the second quarter of 1997.

The two countries agreed to impart a much greater economic and technological content to bilateral relations. The volume of trade in 1995 was Rs 4160 crores, representing an increase of 30 per cent over the previous year. In 1996, the total volume of trade is expected to increase further., Over fifty joint ventures between India and China have been set up. Minerals, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, machinery and marine products are some of the areas in which the two countries have expanded cooperation. Given the size and strength of Indian and the Chinese economies, the potential for economic and technological cooperation remains vast.

Four hundred and thirty five pilgrims performed the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra in fourteen batches between June-September 1996. This is the largest number since the pilgrimage began in 1981. In order to reduce the burden on the individual pilgrims, the Government agreed, in May 1996, to pay to the Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN) Rs 3250 per pilgrim for logistical support on the Indian side of the pilgrimage route. In response to the Government's request, the Chinese Government indicated. diat the fee payable to the Chinese side would be maintained at US\$ 500 per pilgrim till the year 2000 for Indian pilgrims going for the Yatra from India to China.

India's Chairmanship of SAARC continued through the year 1996-97, coinciding with the

beginning of SAARC's second decade of existence. The period witnessed an intensification of activity in all sectors and the launching of several new initiatives for SAARC action, aimed at widening and enriching its agenda over the coming years, in keeping with the global trend towards consolidation of regional organisations.

in the core area of regional economic cooperation, the momentum that had been generated by the First SMRC Trade Fair and the first meeting of SAARC Commerce Ministers at New Delhi in January 1996 continued and quickened. Substantial progress was made in the liberalisation of intra-regional trade under the South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA). The Second Round of Negotiations launched by the Sixteenth Session of the Council of Ministers at New Delhi in December 1995 was successfully concluded

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during the year after four meetings. As a result, nearly 2000 additional tariff lines have now been covered under preferential tariffs for intra-regional trade, over and above the 484 lines which had been offered under concessional tariffs during the First Round. Of this consolidated figure, India has granted the highest number of tariff concessions on 911 lines.

The Committee on Economic Cooperation (CEC) met in New Delhi in October 1996 and reviewed the implementation of SAPTA and the progress towards creating a South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) preferably by the year 2000 and latest by the year 2005, as agreed by the Council of Ministers in December 1995. Other highlights of the Committee's report include:

- Special treatment urged to be granted, in the process of trade liberalisation, to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).
- An Inter-Governmental Expert Group on Transition to SAFTA created to prepare an action plan 'with timeframes for movement towards a South Asian Free Trade Area within the mandated timeframe of the year 2000-2005.
- Agreement that regional conventions may be concluded by Member States for promotion and protection of investments, avoidance of double taxation and share market and portfolio investment.
- Emphasis was placed on speedy conclusion of the currently ongoing Tripartite Studies being conducted with joint participation of the governmental, business and academic sectors for expansion of economic cooperation in all its aspects.

Reflecting the interest of the business communities in all SAARC countries, the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) organised a pioneering multi-dimensional SAARC Economic Cooperation Conference (SECC) in New Delhi on 19-21 November 1996. The Conference was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri H D Deve Gowda. Minister of External Affairs Shri I K Gujral delivered the key-note address. Businessmen,

academics and journalists from all SAARC countries participated actively in this Conference. A series of far reaching recommendations were made by the ten Working Groups of the SECC, in a wide and diversified range of areas holding possibilities for economic cooperation, including trade, investment,

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energy, communications, travel and tourism, science and technology, business data dissemination, human resource development, women entrepreneurs and social dimensions of business development. The Report of the Conference, which is of particular value as it reflects the views and expectations of the business communities themselves, will be examined in detail by the SAARC Committee on Economic Cooperation. The Conference has recommended that the SECC should be organised by the SCCI on an annual basis, preferably coinciding with the SAARC Trade Fairs and the Meetings of the SAARC Commerce Ministers. In recognition of the impetus that such simultaneous interaction at various levels can give to the process of economic cooperation in the region, this recommendation has been welcomed by the Seventeenth Session of the SAARC Council of Ministers (New Delhi, December 1996).

The social sector, another priority area for SAARC, witnessed several important SAARC events. The present decade has been declared as the SAARC Decade of the Girl Child. A Mid-Decade Review of the Status of the Girl Child was conducted at a Workshop held in New Delhi in October 1996. The Technical Committee on Women in Development, in its meeting at New Delhi in December 1996, conducted a detailed appraisal of Girl Children in Exceptionally Difficult Circumstances (GCEDC) based on the findings of an expert workshop which had studied the matter. The set of recommendations emanating from this appraisal has been accepted.

The Third SAARC Ministerial Conference on Children of South Asia was held in Rawalpindi in August 1996, to which an Indian inter-ministerial delegation was led by Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism Shri Srikant Kumar Jena. In addition to conducting an evaluation of progress towards the mid-decade goals contained in the National Plans of Action of SAARC countries within the overall framework of the World Summit Declaration on Children, and setting targets for the year 2000 to achieve agreed goals relating to the survival, protection, development and participation of children in society, the Conference also adopted the "Rawalpindi Resolution on Children of South Asia". The Resolution includes a "Vision beyond the Year 2000" embodying certain long term goals, strategies and a series of organised steps leading up to the year 2010, aimed at reducing child mortality, disability and malnutrition, promotion of primary education, elimination of child labour and the development

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of community based social support systems responding to children in need. The Ministers have recommended through the Resolution that the years 2001-2010 be declared as the "SAARC Decade of the Rights of the Child", reflecting SAARC's common resolve to build a secure future for the children of South Asia.

The Eighth SAARC Summit held in New Delhi had noted that illiteracy is one of the major causes of poverty, backwardness and social injustice and had called on the Member States to initiate more concrete programmes aimed at eradication of illiteracy in the region by the year 2000. 1996 was declared the "SAARC Year of Literacy". Recognising the valuable contributions made by non-governmental organisations in this sector, India organised a SAARC Conference of Voluntary Agencies working in the Field of Adult Literacy and Continuing Education Programmes in New Delhi from 14-16 October 1996. The Conference, designed as a purely non-governmental interaction and attended by NGOs from SAARC countries, adopted a Declaration containing specific recommendations for promotion of collaboration among South Asian NGOs and voluntary organisations, aimed at convergent action to integrate education with other socio-economic development initiatives. A Working Committee has been formed.

SAARC has been increasingly adopting common positions on important economic and social issues before international fora. This trend continued during the year 1996-97. A SAARC Housing Ministers Conference was held in Colombo from 28 February-1 March 1996 to formulate a SAARC collective position preparatory to the second UN Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT-II). The Ministers adopted the "Colombo Resolution on Human Settlements", which was subsequently circulated as a document of the UN Conference in Istanbul in June 1996 as collective input of SAARC member states. Minister for Food Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav led the Indian delegation to the SAARC Meeting of Food/Agriculture Ministers in Islamabad on 8 & 9 October 1996, which drew up a SAARC collective position preparatory to the World Food Summit in Rome in November 1996. Prime Minister Shri H D Deve Gowda, as the current SAARC Chairman, highlighted the main elements of the collective SAARC position in his address at the Summit. The SAARC position was also circulated as a working document of the Summit Conference.

The Seventeenth Session of the SAARC Council of Ministers,
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consisting of Foreign Ministers of Member States was hosted by India at New Delhi in December 1996. The main decisions of the Council of Ministers' Meeting include:

- Approval of the results of the Second Round of Trade Negotiations .
- The Eighth Meeting of the Committee on Economic Cooperation to be held in New Delhi in April 1997 to, inter alia, monitor progress of intra-SAARC trade flows under SAPTA on products covered in the First and Second Rounds of Trade Negotiations, to examine the Report of the Tripartite Study by the SAARC Expert Group, and to examine the recommendations emanating from the First SAARC Economic Cooperation Conference which can be implemented for SAARC action at the Governmental level.
- Endorsement of the recommendations of the First Meeting of Commerce Ministers for facilitation of intra-SAARC trade and for holding such meetings annually, preferably simultaneously with the SAARC Trade Fairs and SAARC Economic Cooperation

Conferences; the second such set of events to be held in Pakistan in 1997.

- Endorsement of the Reports of the Third SAARC Ministerial Conference on Children of South Asia and of the Meeting of SAARC Finance/Planning Ministers on Poverty Eradication held in New Delhi in January 1996. Recommendation to the Ninth SAARC Summit that 1997 be declared as the "SAARC Year of Participatory Governance".

- Endorsement of the mid-decade review of the implementation of the "SAARC Decade of the Girl Child-1991-2000" and an indepth appraisal of the situation of Girl Children in Exceptionally Difficult Circumstances, for submission to the Ninth Summit.

- Encouragement to be given to proposals from groupings of professional bodies, voluntary organisations and community groups to form SAARC regional bodies. Modalities to be evolved to enable selected groupings in the SAARC region to come together for coordinated action.

- Decision to hold a Meeting of SAARC Information Ministers to promote cooperation in media related matters.

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- Decision to hold a Meeting of SAARC Environment Ministers to evolve a collective SAARC position on issues before the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly to be held in June 1997 and to recommend other SAARC initiatives in this field.

- Establishment of a Human Resource Development Centre in Pakistan.

- Several initiatives for tourism promotion and improvement of air and telecommunication links between SAARC countries.

- Consideration to be given to expansion of the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme.

- Facilitation of educational interaction between SAARC countries through additional scholarships and fellowships.

- Recommendation for the holding of SAARC Film and TV festivals to intensify cooperation in the cultural arena.

- Approval of the SAARC Youth Awards Scheme; Organisation of Youth Camps to facilitate interaction amongst youth of SAARC countries.

- Approval for signing a Memorandum of Cooperation between SAARC and the International Telecommunications Union; guidelines for the implementation of proposals of cooperation between SAARC and the European Community under the SAARCEC Cooperation Agreement signed in July 1996.

- Several administrative decisions for the improved functioning and strengthening of the SAARC Secretariat, to enable it to handle the increased responsibilities during SAARC's second decade.

The Third Annual Meeting of Liaison Officers to Exchange information on the Implementation of the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism was held in New Delhi in May 1996. It was unanimously agreed to operationalise the SAARC Terrorist Offences Monitoring Desk (STOMD) in Colombo at the earliest and supply it with relevant data on terroristic activities, tactics, strategies, methodologies and profiles.

The First Meeting of the Governing Board of the South Asian Development Fund (SADF) was held in Dhaka in June 1996. With
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this meeting, the Fund is now operational; the recommendations made by the Board on the terms of reference and operational modalities of the three windows of the fund were approved.

A SAARC Conference on Cooperation in Police Matters was held in Colombo in July, 1996. The Conference undertook an indepth consideration of several matters of regional interest, including suppression of terrorism, combating organised crime, drug trafficking and drug abuse, as well as extradition of offenders. Such meetings will be held regularly.

A number of events and activities were organised by India in commemoration of SAARC's first decade of existence. These included a commemorative postage stamp issued on SAARC Charter Day (8 December 1996); special Radio/TV programmes; painting competition; TV/Radio quiz competition and an essay writing competition.

India held the Chairmanships of two of the eleven SAARC Technical Committees, on Health, Population Activities and Child Welfare, and Women in Development. Both Committees met in New Delhi. India participated actively in other Technical Committee Meetings in other SAARC countries, in the fields of Agriculture, Communications, Environment and Meteorology, Prevention of Drug Trafficking and Drug Abuse, Rural Development, Science and Technology, Tourism and Transport, as well as in a number of workshops/seminars organised by these Committees. India will take over the Chairmanships of the Technical Committees on Agriculture and Science and Technology for the years 1997 and 1998.

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2. South East Asia and the Pacific

During the year, India relations with the countries of the South East Asian region and the South Pacific region continued to improve. As a validation of a conscious adoption of a "Look East" Policy, India became a Full Dialogue Partner of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and participated for the first time at the Post Ministerial Conference (PMQ of ASEAN in Jakarta in July 1996. India also participated for the first time in the meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) which deliberates on the

security and political concerns of the Asia Pacific region. Prime Minister of Malaysia Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad visited India in December 1996 to accept the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding for the year 1994. President of Philippines Fidel V Ramos and Prime Minister of Vietnam Vo Van Kiet visited India from 3-5 March and 7-9 March 1997 respectively. Minister of External Affairs Shri I K Gujral visited Jakarta, Malaysia and Singapore. Chief Minister of Goa Shri Pratap Singh R Rane also visited Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia from 10-24 February 1997. Finance Minister Shri P Chidambaram visited Singapore for the Global Indian Entrepreneurs' Conference. In the field of Civil Aviation, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Australia was signed in October 1996 and Qantas national airline of Australia maiden flight from Sydney to Mumbai.

Bilateral relations with Thailand were further strengthened when Princess Dr Chulabhorn Mahidol, the youngest daughter of the King of Thailand, visited India from 29 November-I December 1996 in connection with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
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Awards Ceremony. Another Royal guest from Thailand was the second daughter of the King, Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, who visited Andaman & Nicobar islands from 21-26 December 1996. The Festival of Thailand in India, timed to coincide with 50th Anniversary of Indian independence was inaugurated by Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

Mr Suresh P Prabhu, Minister of Environment and Forests attended the Seventh Session of the Governing Council of the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) in Male from April 20-23, 1998. An expert team from India visited Maldives from July 4-9, 1998 to study the feasibility of setting up in Maldives an Institute of Hotel and Catering Services. India provided technical training to a large number of Maldivian candidates in diverse fields including medicine, engineering, computer science and agriculture under its technical assistance and scholarships scheme.

Vice-President Shri K R Narayanan transited through Bangkok on his way to Mongolia. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Amnuay Viravan received and saw off the Vice- President as a special gesture.

Other important visits included those of a delegation of senior Officers from Thailand's National Defence College from 20-23 May 1996 and that of Secretary (East) Shri K Raghunath on 25 June 1996 for Senior Official level dialogue with the Thai Foreign Office.

Commercial and economic relations with Thailand have steadily improved. Bilateral trade during the year 1995-96 was Rs 2149 crores with imports amounting to Rs 563 crores and exports amounting to Rs 1586 crores marking a 24 per cent increase over 1994-95. investments from Thailand also registered an increase in fields such as fisheries, telecommunications, food processing, real estate, financial and banking sectors and

tourism.

The Singapore Government took the initiative in holding the first-ever Global Indian Entrepreneurs Conference (GIEC) from 19- 21 June 1996 bringing together Indian and Indian origin businessmen from around the globe. The Government of India extended all help in making the Conference a success and Finance Minister Shri P Chidambaram was the key-note speaker. During the visit, the Finance Minister also called on Singapore's Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and held discussions with the Finance Minister and the Information Minister.

The Minister of External Affairs paid an official visit to Singapore on 20 & 21 August 1996. Besides his counterpart, he met Singapore's Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister. During discussions with Singapore's leadership, a review of projects involving Singapore was undertaken. Regional and international issues of mutual interest were also taken up.

Other important visits included those by Minister for Steel & -20>

Mines Shri B P Baishya along with a 3 member official delegation on 4 & 5 October 1996 and that of Chief justice of India justice Shri A M Ahmadi accompanied by justice Shri B P Jeevan Reddy and justice Shri B L Hansaria to Singapore on 23 & 24 May 1996.

India and Singapore held week long (3-13 March 1996) Anti Submarine Warfare Exercises off Visakhapatnam. Chief of Naval Staff of Singapore Rear Admiral Kwek Siew Jin participated in the concluding function of the exercises.

Bilateral trade and investment relations with Singapore continued to grow. The private sector in both the countries spearheaded these efforts. Bilateral trade with Singapore for the year 1995- 96 stood at Rs 6740 crores with imports amounting to Rs 3692 crores and exports amounting to Rs 3048 crores.

Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad accompanied by his wife and the Ministers of Transport, Works and Science and Technology and Environment as well as the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs was on a state visit to India from 19-22 December 1996. The primary purpose was to receive the 1994 Jawaharlal Nehru Award for international Understanding. Dr Mahathir called on the President, the Vice President and held delegation level talks with the Prime Minister. During discussions the whole gamut of Indo-Malaysian relations were reviewed and possibilities of further cooperation in the fields of science, technology and human resource development amongst others were discussed. India's investment priorities in infrastructure were highlighted. Need for activating the existing instrumentalities for cooperation such as the joint Commission and the Malaysian-India Defence Committee (MIDCOM) was projected.

Dr Mahathir delivered the First India-ASEAN Lecture instituted under the Full Dialogue Partnership with ASEAN. Apart from New Delhi, Prime Minister Mahathir visited

Bangalore and the facilities of HAL, BHEL, ISRO and Aeronautics Development Establishment (ADE).

The Minister of External Affairs paid an official visit to Malaysia on 18 & 19 August 1996. Apart from holding extensive bilateral talks with his counterpart, he called on Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Anwar Ibrahim. During his visit, ports, power and highways were identified as three areas where Malaysian expertise

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can be beneficial to India. As a part of regular contacts between the Foreign Offices of India and Malaysia, Secretary (East) Shri K Raghunath visited Kuala Lumpur on 3 & 4 May 1996 during which he called on Foreign Minister Dato Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Trade between the two countries increased satisfactorily with figures for financial year 1995-96 amounting to Rs 4273 crores (exports: Rs 1311 crores and imports: Rs 2962 crores) marking a 46 per cent increase over the previous financial year.

With a view to maintaining contacts at Senior Officials' level, Secretary (East) Shri K Raghunath visited Brunei Darussalam on 1 & 2 May 1996. During the visit, the Second Meeting of the Indo- Brunei joint Committee at Secretary's level set up in 1995 was held. He also called on the Acting Foreign Minister. Though bilateral trade between the two countries is limited, the two countries are seeking ways to expand it.

President of Philippines Fidel V Ramos paid a State visit to India from 3-5 March 1997. He was accompanied by leaders of the business community in Philippines and senior officials. Earlier Under Secretary for Policy in the Department of Foreign Affairs Rodolfo C Severino visited India from 7-10 February 1997 for foreign office consultations. 6

Important visits to Philippines included separate visits by the Hon'ble Speakers of the Legislative Assemblies of Orissa and Nagaland in the month of August 1996. The Chairman of the Indian Railway Board visited Manila from 15-19 September 1996 to discuss possible cooperation in the railway sector.

Three children's films from India were screened in the International Children Film Festival held in Manila from 19-26 May 1996.

To further acquaint Philippines' commerce and industry with reforms in India, the Indian Embassy and the State Bank of India organised a Business Seminar in April 1996 on the emerging opportunities in India in the new economic environment which attracted more than 60 business personalities. Another Trade Workshop on India jointly organised by the Indian Embassy and the Filipino-India Chamber of Commerce in June 1996 was attended by prominent businessmen.

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Indo-Philippine trade grew at a steady pace with bilateral trade continuing its upswing

with overall value reaching Rs 554 crores (imports: Rs 72 crores and exports: Rs 482 crores) a 54 per cent increase over the previous financial year. To further expand trade and business, the second Meeting of the India-Philippines Joint Business Council was held in New Delhi on 12 & 13 September 1996 to identify potential items of exports to Philippines.

India continued to have friendly and close relations with Indonesia during the year. Bilateral economic relations improved considerably. Bilateral trade in 1995-96 went up to Rs 3777 crores from Rs 1884 crores in 1994-95. An exclusive Indian Trade Exhibition was held in Jakarta in March 1996 and simultaneously, a meeting of the joint Business Council (JBQ) was also held and an office of FICCI was opened in Jakarta. Minister of External Affairs Shri I K Gujral visited Indonesia in July 1996 to attend the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and ASEAN-PMC meetings in Jakarta where India was formally admitted as member of the ARF and Full Dialogue Partner of ASEAN. Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs also visited Jakarta in June 1996 for bilateral talks. Chief of Naval Staff Admiral V S Shekhawat and Air Marshal K B Singh attended the inauguration of the Indonesia Air Show held in Jakarta on 20 June 1996. During the World Food Summit held in Rome, Prime Minister Shri H D Deve Gowda had a meeting with the Indonesian President Soeharto on 16 November 1996. The two leaders discussed means to build and expand bilateral relations and the need to strengthen India's relations with ASEAN countries in general.

Indonesia agreed to India's proposal for setting up a Telemetry Tracking ground station at Biak (Kalimantan) for continuous monitoring of the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV). An agreement for cooperation in the field of space science is in the final stages of negotiation.

In December 1996, India and Indonesia signed a Cultural Exchange Programme for the years 1997-1999 under the aegis of the India- Indonesia Cultural Agreement with a view to promoting further understanding and closer cooperation in the field of culture and education.

India maintained very close and friendly relations with Vietnam.

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Prime Minister of Vietnam Vo Van Kiet made an official visit to India from 7-9 March 1997. He held extensive discussions with the Indian leadership reiterating the continued support of Vietnam on regional and global issues. The Third Meeting of the India-Vietnam joint Working Group (JWG) was held in New Delhi on 16 & 17 January 1997 to review progress on various bilateral cooperation programmes. A Work Plan for Agricultural Cooperation was signed between India and Vietnam during the JWG meeting. Chief of Naval Staff Admiral V S Shekhawat visited Vietnam in May 1996. Bilateral trade increased to Rs 46387 lakhs in 1995-96 from Rs 32227 lakhs in the previous year. Another Rupee credit of Rs 90 crores on soft terms was extended to Vietnam this year which is being utilised for capital goods imports from India. The number of ITEC slots for Vietnam was increased to 120 during the year from 100 last

year.

India continued to have very close and warm relations with Laos. An MOU for cooperation in the field of agriculture was negotiated in August 1996. Government of India have pledged to provide medicines worth Rs. 15 lakhs to Laos as flood relief. It is proposed to sign an agreement with Laos for setting up an India- Laos joint Commission with a view to further strengthening the friendly relations between the two countries.

Relations with Cambodia remained very friendly and. warm. An agreement to set up an India-Cambodia joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation has been finalised and will be signed shortly. First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh visited Bodh Gaya, Patna on 16 December 1996 on a pilgrimage.

Relations between India and Australia continued to grow in diverse fields. Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer visited India from 19-23 October 1996 to launch the Australia- India New Horizons Promotion to raise Australia's profile in India. He called On the Prime Minister and exchanged views on bilateral economic and political relations and regional issues such as Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM), Indian Ocean Rim Initiative (IORI) and Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). He also had meetings with the Industry Minister, the Finance Minister and the Minister of State for Commerce. The other prominent Australian leaders who visited India to participate in the New Horizons Programme during the core period of the programme (22 October-8 November 1996) were Deputy

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Prime Minister and Minister for Trade Tim Fischer, Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs Senator Amanda Vanstone, Minister for Communications and Arts Senator Richard Alston, Minister for Resources and Energy Senator Warwick Parer, and three Deputy Premiers from Tasmania, New South Wales and Western Australia. Leader of Opposition in the Australian House of Representatives Kim Beazley and Shadow Foreign Minister Laurie Brereton, also visited India during the Programme.

An Australian Parliamentary delegation led by Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, Senator Nicholas Hugh Minchin, visited India from 25-31 August 1996.

The Chairman, India Australia Council Lieutenant General (Retd) A M Sethna visited Australia from 13-21 April 1996. Minister for Steel and Mines Shri B P Baishya visited Australia from 4-12 October 1996 at the invitation of the Minister for Resources and Energy Senator Warwick Parer. Minister of Railways Shri Ram Vilas Paswan visited Australia at the invitation of Australian Government from 2-7 February 1997. Minister for Textiles Shri R L jalappa visited Australia from 9-15 February 1997.

On the economic front, India-Australia relations expanded. During 1995-96, the total bilateral trade reached Rs 459223 lakhs which is about 10 per cent more than the bilateral trade during the year 1994-95.

India-New Zealand relations continued to be friendly and cordial. Overall bilateral trade remained at a modest level. Minister for Textiles Shri R L Jalappa visited New Zealand from 15-19 February 1997. He inaugurated the Buyer-Seller-Meet (BSM) organised by Apparels Export Promotion Council in Auckland and attended a meeting of the India-New Zealand joint Business Council on Wool in Wellington. Chief of Naval Staff Admiral V S Shekhawat paid a four-day goodwill visit to New Zealand from 9-12 July 1996. Additional Secretary Shri Sushil Dubey visited New Zealand on 25 & 26 August 1996 in order to obtain a regional perspective. He met New Zealand Foreign Office officials.

India opened a resident Mission in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (PNG), on 12 April 1996 and the first resident High Commissioner to PNG Shri V S Verma presented his credentials on 14 May 1996.

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Government of India have closely followed developments in Fiji as well as the process of constitutional reforms that has been set in motion. It has also expressed the hope that the implementation of the Constitution Review Commission's recommendations will be done in a manner that meets the expectations of the Fijians of Indian origin. Government of India have consistently taken the stand that the 1990 racially biased constitution should be reviewed to arrive at a constitutional arrangement that is democratic, just, non-discriminatory and acceptable to all the communities living in Fiji.

Efforts were made to strengthen and maintain India's friendly relations with other Pacific Island countries.

Government of India established diplomatic relations with Micronesia on 29 November 1996 and also decided to establish diplomatic relations with Marshall Islands.

Additional Secretary Shri Sushil * Dubey visited Papua New Guinea, Marshall Islands, Palau, Solomon Islands, Western Samoa, Vanuatu and Micronesia as Special Envoy of the Minister of External Affairs to canvass support for India's candidature for the non-permanent seat of the UN Security Council.

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3. East Asia

India's relations with countries of East Asia region continued to expand during the year. Exchange of views between the governments continued at a high political level. Trade and economic cooperation showed a sharp increase.

Minister of External Affairs Shri I K Gujral held talks on bilateral relations and international issues with Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda in July 1996 during the ASEAN- Post Ministerial Conference/ASEAN Regional Forum meetings. Finance Minister Shri P Chidambaram visited Japan from 23-28 November 1996 during which he met his Japanese counterpart Hiroshi Mitsuzaka and Minister of International Trade and Industry (MITI) Shinji Sato. He inaugurated two important investment seminars, one

organised by Nihon Keizai Shimbun (Nikkei), the largest economic newspaper, and the other by the Nagoya Chamber of Commerce and industry.

A MITI commissioned study group on Indian economy and investments in India gave a favourable and positive projection of economic opportunities in India. India-Japan Trade Talks were held on 7 & 8 November 1996. The 27th meeting of the India-Japan Business Cooperation Committees was held in New Delhi on 13 & 14 November 1996. The 4th meeting of the joint Committee on the Japan-India Cooperation in Science and Technology took place in Tokyo on 10 & 11 June 1996. Interaction between the two countries in the cultural sphere continued with exchanges of scholars, students and cultural delegations.

In September 1996, the Government of Japan announced Official
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Development Assistance (ODA), to India of approximately Rs 4745 crores for 1996-97 covering, inter alia, infrastructure projects in power, transport, water supply system, irrigation and environment sectors.

India's two-way trade with Japan in 1995 was Rs 19110 crores with exports to Japan amounting to Rs 8900.50 crores. During January- June 1996 India's exports and imports to Japan were Rs 5516 crores and Rs 4616.50 crores respectively. According to the Secretariat of industrial Approvals, Japanese investment approvals from 1991 to August 1996 amounted to Rs 3600 crores making Japan the fourth largest investor.

The momentum for the expansion and strengthening of cooperation between India and the Republic of Korea (ROK) was maintained during the year.

The volume of trade between India and ROK during 1995 was Rs 6671 crores, India's exports to ROK being Rs 2786 crores and imports Rs 3885 crores. According to the Secretariat of Industrial Approvals ROK investments in India upto August 1996 are Rs 2632 crores.

The 14th meeting of the India-ROK joint Business Council (JBQ) was held in Seoul on 8 October 1996. Cooperation between the two countries in the field of science and technology continued to expand. Exchanges of students, scholars and cultural delegations under the India-ROK Cultural Exchange Programme continued. Pusan city hosted "Asian Week 96", a sports and cultural event, from 13-21 September 1996 in which an Indian delegation led by the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi participated. The Tagore Society of Korea organised a week of Tagore events from 20-26 May 1996 to commemorate the poet's 135th birth anniversary. ICCR sponsored a 5-member Tagore Music Group from Calcutta for the occasion.

India's relations with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) continued to be friendly and cordial during the year. An Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha visited the DPRK from 21-25 September 1996 at the invitation

of the Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) of the DPRK. The delegation met the SPA Chairman, the Vice Chairman of the DPRK State External Economic Affairs Committee, the DPRK Vice- President, the VicePremier and Foreign Minister and the Minister of Labour.

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The Government of India sent relief assistance of 1000 MT of wheat to the DPRK in April 1996 in response to the DPRK's appeal in the wake of heavy damage and food shortage on account of devastating floods in 1995-96. (India had earlier supplied 3500 blankets to DPRK in October 1995.) An ICCR-sponsored 10 member' Rajasthani folk-dance and music troupe participated in the April Spring Friendship Art Festival held in Pyongyang from 7-17 April 1996. An Indian National Junior Volley Ball team consisting of 14 players including coaches, visited Pyongyang from 15-25 June 1996 and played friendly matches with various DPRK teams.

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4. Central Asia

Five years after their independence, India's relations with each country of Central Asia and Azerbaijan have developed in a unique and specific way. The dynamics of these individual relationships is, however, influenced by some common concerns and challenges faced by the region as a whole. The continuing conflicts in Afghanistan, Tajikistan and in the Transcaucasian region pose a threat to peace, stability and development of the region. The strategic geopolitical location of the Central Asian countries and their rich hydro-carbon resources makes them the theatre of efforts by competing international interests to enhance their political and economic influence.

One of the most significant developments in the Central Asian region was the threat to their stability and security by the northward movement of extremist and sectarian Taliban forces and their seizing of Kabul. Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan joined Russia in a meeting in Almaty on 4 October 1996 at the conclusion of which a joint Statement was issued by the participants. The Statement noted that the flames of war were moving closer to the borders of the member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), posing a direct threat to their national interests and security besides destabilising the regional and international situation. The Statement pointed out that destroying stability on the borders of Afghanistan and the CIS countries "will be regarded as a threat to their own interests" and "will get an adequate response". They appealed to all the conflicting Afghan parties, primarily the Taliban movement to cease military activities

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immediately. The Statement indicated that the binding condition for an end to the war had to be the non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign Afghanistan from outside, and defence of its territorial integrity. The Central Asian Republics, with the exception of Uzbekistan, participated in the Regional Conference on Afghanistan held in Tehran on 29 & 30 October 1996. All countries of Central Asia participated in the UN Conference on Afghanistan on 18 November 1996. India's interaction with countries of

the region underscored a common commitment to the stability, unity, independence and territorial integrity of Afghanistan as well as a shared approach that the violation of these principles would adversely affect the entire region. Developments in Afghanistan have a direct bearing on the situation within Tajikistan and its efforts to achieve political stability.

Relations between India and Kazakhstan have been marked by significant high level visits during which far-reaching decisions -were taken for cooperation in science and technology, trade and economic contacts, the energy sector and culture apart from a wideranging exchange of views. Vice-President Shri K R Narayanan visited Kazakhstan at the invitation of President Nursultan Nazarbaev from 20-22 September 1996 and President Nazarbaev visited India from 9-11 December 1996. As a result of decisions taken during these visits, Working Groups for focussed cooperation in medium and small scale industries, peaceful uses of nuclear energy and defence were set up. It was also decided that Indo-Kazakh cooperation in the hydro-carbon sector would involve not only exploration and developmental activities but also investment for upgradation and modernisation of existing infrastructural facilities such as refineries and pipelines as well as training programmes. The Indo-Kazakh joint Sub-Committee on Science and Technology met on 22 & 23 November 1996 in New Delhi and concrete areas were identified for future cooperation including space, bio-technology, pharmaceuticals, ecology and solar energy. A commemorative postage stamp on the national poet of Kazakhstan, Abai Konunbaev, was released during President Nazarbaev's visit to India.

At the invitation of President Askar Akaev, Vice-President Shri K R Narayanan visited the Kyrgyz Republic from 18-20 September 1996. He held discussions with President Askar Akaev and Prime Minister Apas jumagulov on matters of bilateral, regional and -31>

international interest of mutual concern. The Vice-President inaugurated jointly with President Akaev the Gandhi Studies Centre at the Bishkek Humanities University where he was also conferred the highest honorary degree by the University. The Vice-President also addressed members of the Kyrgyz Parliament during the visit. India has offered training slots for Kyrgyz nominees under the ITEC programme.

The highlight of India's relations with Turkmenistan was the State visit of President of Turkmenistan Saparmurat A Niyazov to India on 25 & 26 February 1997. During the visit, he had wide ranging talks with the President, the Vice President and had delegation level discussions with the Prime Minister. Discussions during the visit revealed once again a close political understanding between India and Turkmenistan on key regional and international issues. The discussions focussed on measures to promote bilateral cooperation in diverse areas and strengthening of bilateral relations. They also exchanged views on regional and international issues of common interest. During the visit, the Prime Minister and President Niyazov signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the celebration of the 500th anniversary of Bairam Kham Turkmen in India and in Turkmenistan. A Convention on the Avoidance of Double Taxation, an Agreement on Cooperation in the Fields of Health and Medicine, a Memorandum of Understanding for

Cooperation in Environmental Protection and Forest and a Protocol on Cultural Exchange Programme for 1997-98 were also signed.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Boris Shikmuradov visited India from 10-14 July 1996. He held extensive discussions with Minister of External Affairs Shri I K, Gujral and called on the President and the Prime Minister.

During the visit of the Minister of External Affairs to Iran in February 1997, India, Iran and Turkmenistan signed a trilateral agreement on international transit of goods between India, Iran and Turkmenistan at the level of Foreign Ministers. The Agreement provides a legal framework for the multi-modal movement of goods from India to Iran and Turkmenistan and other CIS Member States that join the arrangement in future and vice versa.

A pharmaceutical joint venture financed under the Indian credit line to Turkmenistan became operational during the year.

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Cooperation in human resource development continued through the offer of training programmes for Turkmenistan experts under the ITEC programme.

Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov visited India from 19-23 August 1996. He held wide ranging discussions on bilateral and regional issues with Minister of External Affairs Shri I K Gujral and called on the President and the Prime Minister. People-to-people contacts and cooperation in human resource development were further intensified with the inauguration of the India chair at the University of World Economics in Tashkent. It was also agreed that an exclusive course for upto 25 Uzbek diplomats will be organised by the Foreign Service Training Institute of India. The utilisation of Rs 35 crores credit line extended by India has proceeded satisfactorily.

India and Tajikistan maintained the tradition of close political understanding and mutual cooperation. India offered Tajikistan several slots for training under the ITEC programme for the fiscal year 1996-97. A pharmaceutical plant, in Dushanbe constructed with the use of the Indian credit line became operational during the year. India views with close interest and sympathy the efforts being made to normalise the political situation within the country through peaceful dialogue and negotiations.

India's relations with Azerbaijan have been further activated through consultations on bilateral and multilateral issues. Secretary (East) Shri K Raghunath visited Baku on 12 March 1997 where he held wide-ranging talks with President Haidar Aliyev, Foreign Minister Hassan Hasanov and the Minister for Foreign Economic Relations. A joint delegation of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the CIS Chamber of Commerce and Industry visited Baku from 15-19 December 1996. The delegation had meetings with Azeri Foreign Minister Hassan Hasanov and the Minister for Trade. The visit highlighted the potential for bilateral cooperation in trade and joint ventures in areas such as cotton yarn, food processing, pharmaceuticals, hotel

development and the oil and gas sectors.

In January 1996, a coalition government was formed in Turkey under the leadership of Prime Minister N Erbakan of the Refah Party and the True Party led by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign

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Minister Tansu Ciller. India has made a determined effort to impart greater content and substance to relations with Turkey in trade, culture and the energy sectors. A 14-member delegation of FICCI visited Turkey from 11-13 December 1996 for the first meeting of the Indo-Turkish joint Business Council (JBQ). An agreement was signed between FICCI and its counterpart body in Turkey on establishing the JBC and defining its scope and functioning. The FICCI delegation called on President Demirel and had meetings with other dignitaries. Rajya Sabha Vice Chairperson Smt Najma Heptulla visited Ankara for the General Assembly of the International Parliamentary Union in April 1996. Two ships of the Indian Navy visited Turkey in November 1996. Under Secretary in Turkish Foreign Ministry Ambassador Onur Oymen visited India from 2-4 February 1997 for foreign office consultations. He met Foreign Secretary Shri Salman Haidar and had delegation level talks with Secretary (East) Shri K Raghunath. During the discussions, views were exchanged on bilateral cooperation and regional and international issues of common interest.

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5. The Gulf, West Asia & North Africa

The Gulf region with its geographical propinquity is important to India from the economic and security viewpoints. Centuries old interaction between India and the region and the region's centrality in the Islamic world makes the Gulf also, politically important. Gulf countries together account for 15 per cent of India's total foreign trade. Nearly two-thirds of the country's energy requirements are met from this region. An estimated 25 lakhs Indians live in the area and their annual remittances to India are of the order of a few hundred crores of rupees.

For the Gulf countries, India is a source of manpower and an avenue for their investments. The Gulf countries also utilise India's educational and health facilities. India is also seen as a source of science and technology and a centre for training in civilian and non-civilian areas. This mutuality of interests is reinforced by the economic reforms in India and the rapid growth and development in the Gulf countries. India's policy towards the Gulf continues to be guided by a desire for peace, stability and security in the region.

India's relations with countries of West Asia and North Africa (WANA) region continued to gain further momentum and substance. While political and economic linkages were consolidated through exchange of high level visits and conclusion of bilateral cooperation agreements, India's gestures of humanitarian assistance to Lebanon and Sudan, apart from ongoing cooperation programmes under ITEC

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with several of the countries, engendered further mutual goodwill with them.

India maintained its support for the Arab and Palestinian causes, as well as for the Middle East Peace Process (MEPP). Developments in the region and lack of progress in the peace process in recent months however gave rise to growing concern. India urged all parties concerned to persevere resolutely for expeditious and successful conclusion of the peace process, and offered to contribute towards this objective in every feasible manner. The opening of India's Representative Office to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) was an important measure to maintain close and regular contacts with the Palestinian leadership and people.

Bilateral consultations at different levels with leaders of the region were maintained through exchange of visits, as well as on occasions of the United Nations General Assembly and other international meetings.

A more effective projection to these countries of India's principled stand on Kashmir remained a distinguishing feature. This was reflected in Pakistan's continuing failure to gather support from them to internationalise the issue in the UN and other multilateral fora. Government's efforts to restore normalcy in the State by reactivating the political process and the successful holding of the elections contributed to a more positive appreciation of the situation in these countries.

The traditionally friendly relations between India and Bahrain were marked by exchange of visits and close interaction between the private sectors of the two countries. Foreign Secretary Shri Salman Haidar visited Bahrain on 15 April 1996 for bilateral consultations with the Bahraini Foreign Office. He called on the Amir of Bahrain and met the Foreign Minister. Minister of State for Commerce Dr B B Ramaiah visited Bahrain on 2 & 3 November 1996 to participate in the 13th International Congress of Non- Resident Indians. A delegation from the Indian Merchants Chamber (IMC) visited Bahrain on 2 & 3 March 1996 and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cooperation with the Bahrain Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Other important exchanges in the economic sphere include the first meeting of the Indo-Bahrain joint Business Council held in Bahrain on 8 & 9 October 1996, and the joint Seminar on "Doing Business With Bahrain" held in Delhi on

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11 December 1996. The Bahrain Marketing and Promotion Board (BMPB) opened an office in Mumbai to promote trade and investment between the two countries.

India continues to be concerned at the economic hardships faced by the Iraqi people due to the UN sanctions and has gifted sugar, baby food, wheat and rice. India favours a phased withdrawal of the UN sanctions in tandem with the Iraqi compliance of the UN Security Council requirements. In the wake of the US missile attack against Iraq on 3 September 1996, the official spokesman issued a statement expressing grave concern at the development. After the second missile attack that took place on 4 September 1996, the Minister of External Affairs made identical statements in both the Houses of

Parliament calling upon the US to refrain from further attacks and respect Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity. At the World Food Summit in Rome in November 1996, a meeting took place between Iraqi Vice-President Taha Mohiuddin Marouf and the Prime Minister.

Efforts were made to strengthen the relations with Iraq while conforming to the requirements under the UN sanctions. Expert teams from the oil industry and the railways have been in touch with their Iraqi counterparts for future cooperation after the UN sanctions end. A four-member Agricultural Advisory Team visited Iraq in November 1996. Some Iraqi students availed of scholarships available in India for foreign students. India participated in the Babylon International Festival for the fourth consecutive year. As regards the deferred payments due from Iraq, there has been no progress due to the UN sanctions.

Relations with Kuwait have been cordial and marked by warmth and goodwill. The Foreign Secretary visited Kuwait in April 1996 and called on the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister and held discussions with his counterpart, Sulaiman Majid At-Shaheen. The Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs sent their felicitations to the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad At Abdullah and the Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-jaber Al-Sabah on their re-appointment to the National Assembly after the elections. A number of business delegations were exchanged between the two countries. Kuwait has evinced interest in investment opportunities in India. The strength of the Indian community in Kuwait is estimated at 2,40,000, exceeding the number prior to August 1990.

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The Government continued to follow the compensation claims of Indian nationals and Indian companies who sustained losses during the Gulf crisis following Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait in August 1990.

A supplementary government claim under category "F" for US\$ 6,122,688 was submitted to the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) in December 1996.

The UNCC released US\$ 57,500 for additional 16 category "B" claims, thus bringing the number of successful category "B" claimants to 183. The remaining 75 category "B" claims out of a total 258 claims submitted to the UNCC have been either rejected or transferred to "C" category. Disbursement of category "B" claims is being done through the four designated banks viz. the Central Bank of India, the Indian Overseas Bank, the Syndicate Bank and the Union Bank of India.

During the year under review the UNCC approved 79,454 category "A" claims and 5,869 category "C" claims. The amount of these approved claims comes to US\$ 308,559,500 and US\$ 44,834,752.51, respectively. No funds have been released by the UNCC towards settlement of category "A" and "C" claims approved so far.

It is the exclusive responsibility of the UNCC to evaluate and scrutinise the claims,

evolve a payments procedure and deliver the awarded compensation to eligible claimants for payment through national governments. It is not, therefore, possible to estimate the timing or the quantum of the payment which may eventually be made by it.

There was a significant increase in high level exchanges of visits with Oman contributing to further expansion and diversification of bilateral cooperation in several areas. The President's State visit to Oman from 3-6 October 1996 was a landmark event. The visit underscored the deep-rooted historical relations and efforts by the leaders of the two countries to reinforce these ties in the interest of the peoples of the two countries. The delegation accompanying the President included the Minister of Agriculture, the Governors of Madhya Pradesh and Meghalaya, the Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha, the Minister of State for Home Affairs and six Members of Parliament. The President and Ruler of Oman His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin
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Said Al-Said had extensive exchange of views on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. During the visit, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Combating Crime, an MOU on Cooperation in Agriculture and Allied Sectors and an Agreement on Cooperation in Science & Technology were signed. The President extended an invitation to Ruler of Oman His Majesty Sultan. Qaboos to visit India, which was accepted .

Other significant exchanges with Oman during the year were Foreign Secretary Shri Salman Haidar's visit to Muscat on 7 May 1996; the visit of Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Oman Yousuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah to India in July 1996 when he called on the Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs and discussed bilateral issues and cooperation in the Indian Ocean Rim Area for Regional Cooperation and the visit of Minister of Commerce and industry and Chairman of the Board of Oman Oil Company Maqbool bin Ali bin Sultan to India from 10-12 August 1996 for discussions on the joint venture hydrocarbon projects between India and Oman. Other important events include the visit of a 24-member delegation to Muscat from 12-14 April 1996 when an MOU with the, Oman Chambers of Commerce and industry for promoting bilateral trade and investment was signed, the holding of the first meeting of the Indo-Oman joint Business Council in Muscat on 5 October 1996 and the goodwill visit of three Indian ships, INS Godavari, INS Suvarna and INS Shankush (submarine) to Omani ports in November 1996.

India's friendly relations with Qatar remained on an even keel. Secretary (East) Shri K Raghunath visited Qatar in April 1996 and called on the Qatari Foreign Minister. The first ever flight by Indian Airlines between Calicut and Doha was inaugurated on 6 March 1996. Indian Airlines now flies three times between Calicut and Doha thereby meeting the considerable demand from the Indian community in Qatar. India participated in the defence exhibition in Milipol Qatar 1996 in Doha from 9-12 November 1996. Two Indian naval ships INS Godavari and INS Suvarna paid a goodwill visit to Doha from 16-19 November 1996.

The traditional ties with Saudi Arabia were further strengthened during the year with exchange of significant visits. Foreign Secretary Shri Salman Haidar visited Saudi Arabia in April 1996. A trade and investment delegation led by Assistant Deputy Minister for Industrial

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Affairs in the Ministry of Industry and Electricity Dr Asim Y Bokhari visited India in May 1996 and held detailed discussions on investment opportunities in India. A member of the Saudi Royal Family and joint Commander of the Allied Forces in the Operation Desert Storm, Prince Khalid bin Sultan, visited India from 7-13 October 1996. He delivered a lecture at the National Defence College, New Delhi, and called on the Vice-President, the Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs and met senior defence officials. A six-member Parliamentary delegation led by Lok Sabha Speaker Shri P A Sangma visited Saudi Arabia at the invitation of the Chairman of the Majlis 'Asshoura. The visit marked the first-ever contact between parliamentarians of the two countries. Saudi Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Ali Al-Naimi and Deputy Minister of Oil Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Salman visited New Delhi from 3-5 December 1996 and held discussions with Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas and also called on the Prime Minister. Saudi Haj Minister Dr Mahmoud bin Mohammad Al-Safar visited India on 25 & 26 December 1996. He delivered a written message from King Fahd to the Prime Minister and also called on the Minister of External Affairs.

The Ministry facilitated arrangements for the Haj pilgrimage for 56,000 pilgrims during Haj '96. In coordination with Ministries of Finance, Civil Aviation, Health and Family Welfare and Central and State Haj Committees, arrangements were made for the transportation, stay, medical attendance and other needs of pilgrims. A high-level Haj Goodwill Delegation also paid a visit in April 1996 to Saudi Arabia and called on the King of Saudi Arabia, the Saudi Minister of Haj Affairs and the Governor of Makkah.

Bilateral relations between India and United Arab Emirates (UAE) continued to be strengthened and diversified. Chief of Staff of UAE Armed Forces Lieutenant General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zaycd al- Nahyan accompanied by a large delegation of UAE military experts and officers paid an official visit to India from 5-8 March 1996. Sheikh Mohammed called on the President, the Prime Minister, the minister of External Affairs, the Minister of State for Defence and met the Chiefs of Armed Forces. The visit was aimed at strengthening the bilateral cooperation between the two countries in general and defence cooperation in particular.

Minister of Civil Aviation and Information and Broadcasting Shri C M Ibrahim visited UAE from 31 October-7 November 1996

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and called on the Crown Prince of Dubai, the Defence Minister of UAE, the Deputy Prime Minister of UAE and the Ruler of Sharjah. Minister of Labour Shri M Arunachalarn visited UAE as a Special Representative of the President of India from 30 November-3 December 1996 to participate in the 25th anniversary celebrations of the

foundation of UAE and the 30th anniversary of accession of President Sheikh Zayed as the Ruler of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. Shri Arunachalam delivered messages of felicitations from the President and the Prime Minister of India to President of UAE Sheikh Zayed. The Minister of External Affairs visited Abu Dhabi on 23 February 1997 and met Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Sultan bin Zayed Al-Nahyan and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al-Nahyan.

Keeping in view the high volume of trade with UAE, a number of high level business delegations visited UAE during the year. These included delegations from the Indian Merchants Chamber (March 1996), the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and industry (May 1996) and the Confederation of Indian Industries (October 1996). The Indian Trade Promotion Organisation held an exclusive Indian exhibition "EXPO India" in Dubai from 7-11 December 1996 in which 183 Indian companies participated. The exhibition was inaugurated in the presence of Minister of State for Commerce Dr B B Ramaiah. In late June, the Government of UAE announced amnesty for overstaying illegal immigrants of all nationalities allowing them to leave without penalties by 30 September 1996. Subsequently the amnesty period was extended upto 31 October 1996. The Ministry took all possible steps to ensure safe and orderly return of Indians granted amnesty in a humane manner. The Indian Mission in Abu Dhabi and the Consulate in Dubai issued more than 45000 Emergency Certificates to ensure that all the Indians granted amnesty could leave UAE before the stipulated deadline. An estimated 60,000 Indians returned to India during the amnesty period.

Relations with Yemen have been warm and friendly, which are now marked by a growing awareness in both countries of the potential for mutually beneficial economic cooperation. Foreign Secretary Shri Salman Haidar visited Yemen on 15 & 16 March 1996 and held discussions with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Abdul Karim Al-Iryani and Deputy Foreign Minister

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Ghalib Ali Jameel. The second meeting of the Indo-Yemen joint Committee was held in New Delhi on 6 & 7 December 1996. The Indian delegation was led by Secretary (East) Shri K Raghunath and the Yemeni delegation by Vice Minister for Planning and Development Dr Muttahar Al-Saidi. The joint Committee took note of the healthy growth in bilateral trade and cooperation in other economic sectors, and agreed to further extend the cooperation to sectors like hydrocarbon, civil aviation, construction, telecommunications, water resource management, power generation, agriculture, small scale industry, transfer of technology and human resource development. It was also agreed to cooperate actively towards realising the objectives set out in the Charter of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation. At the conclusion of the joint Committee Meeting, the two sides signed an Agreement on Cooperation in Scientific and Technical Fields and a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors. An Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Health and Medicines was also finalised and initialled. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the Federation of Yemen Chambers of Commerce and industry signed an Agreement for establishing a joint Business Council to stimulate

and develop business contacts between the business sector growth centres.

Bilateral relations with Iran retained their positive trend of increased understanding and cooperation. The high-level exchange of visits between the two countries continued. Vice-President Shri K R Narayanan paid an official visit to Iran from 22-27 October 1996. During his stay in Iran, he met President Rafsanjani, Speaker of the Majlis Nateq Nouri, his host First Vice-President Hassan Habibi and Foreign Minister Dr Velayati. During these meetings, issues of bilateral, regional and international importance relating to political economic and cultural fields were discussed. Minister of Agriculture Shri Chaturanan Misra visited Tehran to attend a regional conference on Afghanistan called by Iran on 29 & 30 October 1996. The invitation to India to attend the conference was amidst strong Pakistani protest and the decision to refrain from attending the conference which in turn signified closer understanding between India and Iran on a crucial regional issue. Governor of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh Shri Mohammad Shafi Qureshi visited Iran from 11-14 May 1996 as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister to attend the inauguration

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ceremony of Iran-Turkmenistan railway line which has economic and commercial significance not only for Iran and Turkmenistan but also for India and Central Asian countries.

From the Iranian side, Speaker of Majlis Nateq Nouri paid an official visit to India from 25-29 November 1996. During his stay in India, he had meetings with the President, the Vice-President, the Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs among others. During the visit, an Agreement on the formation of a joint Business Council (UBC) was signed between the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and Iranian Chamber of Commerce. Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Ali Akbar Velayati and Deputy Foreign Minister A Broujerdi also visited India for bilateral consultations on various issues on 17 October 1996 and from 3-5 September 1996 respectively.

The Ninth session of the India-Iran joint Commission was held in Tehran on 21 & 22 February 1997 under the co-chairmanship of the Minister of External Affairs and the Foreign Minister of Iran. Important issues discussed were the establishment of a joint venture fertilizer project, a pipeline project for transportation of natural gas to India, proposals on Trade Agreement, Double Tax Avoidance Agreement, Agreement for Promotion and Protection of Foreign Investment and co-operation in the fields of agriculture, health and education .

These interactions together with the regular contacts between the two foreign offices resulted in further cementing of bilateral cooperation on various issues.

A supplementary Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Qeshm island Fertiliser Project under discussion between the two countries was signed on 26 November 1996. This MOU is an addition to the MOU signed on the subject on 6 March 1994. The present MOU inter alia spells out the prices of various inputs for the project and the

escalation formula.

The continuing process towards political pluralism and democracy, along with Government's efforts to contain violence and terrorism in Algeria were noted with interest and encouragement. India's diplomatic representation to Algeria was upgraded again, with the appointment of an Ambassador in Algiers. This would facilitate imparting a stronger impetus to bilateral cooperation and

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promotion of mutual understanding. Both India and Algeria initiated several steps to continue exchange of high level visits and to expand bilateral economic and commercial cooperation. During the visit of the Chief justice of India to Algeria in December 1996, an agreement was reached for active cooperation in the field of judiciary. The 6th meeting of the bilateral joint Commission was held in New Delhi in March 1997.

Bilateral ties of friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation with Egypt were further strengthened by building upon the momentum imparted by the Prime Ministerial visit to Egypt in October 1995. The meetings between the Prime Minister and President Hosni Mubarak at the G- 15 Summit in Harare, and between the Minister of External Affairs and Egypt's Foreign Minister Amre Moussa at the UNGA in New York, sustained the ongoing high level dialogue, prior to further high level visits in the coming months between the two countries. A significant landmark was the visit of the Grand Sheikh of Al Azhar (Cairo)- the pre-eminent institution of Islamic learning-in October 1996, which served to add a new dimension of mutual understanding at intellectual, academic and cultural levels. The visit of Minister of State for Planning and Science & Technology Shri Y K Alagh to Cairo for the Middle East and North Africa Economic Conference in November 1996 also afforded opportunities to explore additional measures of cooperation in economic and technological fields. The two countries signed a new agreement to continue their cultural exchange programme. They also concluded an Agreement on Promotion and Protection of investment, and plan to soon finalise another Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation. Cooperation proposals are being actively pursued in several other fields including small scale sector, information technology, banking, civil aviation, shipping, industry, and information, as well as judiciary.

Bilateral relations with Israel continued to develop satisfactorily, particularly in areas of trade, economic and technological cooperation. The high point was the visit of President Ezer Weizman from 29 December 1996-5 January 1997. Agreements were signed during the visit for cooperation in the fields of science & technology, culture, and for exchange of technical experts. President Weizman laid the foundation stone of an agricultural demonstration farm in New Delhi being set up with Israeli collaboration for exchange of

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technologies and training of personnel. Earlier, in May 1996, the AGRITECH exhibition in Israel was attended by a large number of people from the Indian farming community led by the Ministers and officials from several State Governments. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra led dignitaries and others to participate in the Global Marathi Conference

organised in Israel in October 1996 by Israelis of Indian origin having migrated from Marathi speaking areas. The joint Business Council was upgraded to India-Israel Business Alliance. A large number of senior business representatives accompanying President Weizman provided a useful opportunity for forging new trade and business cooperation linkages.

Traditional friendly relations with Jordan were bolstered with regular contacts at various levels. Minister of Supply of Jordan led a delegation to India in October 1996 to explore purchase of bulk commodities from India and other measures to promote bilateral trade. The visits by a Jordanian defence delegation and from the University of Jordan were reflective of the multi- dimensional nature of bilateral cooperation and mutual 'understanding.

The bilateral relations with Lebanon were further strengthened. Secretary General in the Lebanese Foreign Office Zafer Al-Hassan visited India in February 1997 as part of the continuing bilateral consultations. During the Israeli military offences against Lebanon in April 1996, India extended political support, calling for an immediate cease-fire and the implementation of Security Council resolution 425. India dispatched humanitarian assistance for the displaced Lebanese by way of 13 tonnes of medicines and babyfood. The Prime Minister sent a message of congratulations to Prime Minister Rafik El Hariri on his re- appointment in November 1996 following the national elections in Lebanon. Steps were initiated to revive high level political contacts and exchange of visits. To promote bilateral commercial exchanges and economic cooperation, IndiaLebanon Business Forum was launched in New Delhi in November 1996, following a counterpart Forum set up in Lebanon the previous year. India appointed an honorary Consul General in Tripoli, a major commercial city of Lebanon.

India's relations with Libya have been cordial and friendly, characterised by mutual understanding and economic cooperation. Besides sustaining their bilateral dialogue and consultations on matters of mutual interest, the two countries also continued their

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efforts to further strengthen economic cooperation, including the implementation of the agreements in the last joint Commission meeting held in April 1995.

While both India and Morocco continued their efforts to upgrade their growing bilateral relations and understanding. The organisation of an exclusive "Indian Trade Expo" in Casablanca, Morocco, in April 1996, was a major initiative to promote bilateral commercial exchanges building on the basis of the joint Commission meeting held in June 1995. Deputy Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha Dr Najma "eptulla visited Morocco on this occasion and jointly inaugurated the Expo alongwith Moroccan dignitaries. Her talks in Rabat, especially with Prime Minister Abdellatif Filali, consolidated the mutual understanding underpinning the bilateral relations. The visit of Morocco's External Commerce Minister to India in December 1996 ensured that the momentum of growing bilateral trade would be maintained.

India's traditional friendly relations with Palestine were given a major boost with the opening of India's Representative Office to the Palestine National Authority, in Gaza, on 24 June 1996. This also gave impetus to contacts and cooperation with Palestinian people in other fields such as culture and education. India's diplomatic representation to the State of Palestine continues simultaneously through the accreditation of the Ambassador of India in Tunis. India maintained its support for Palestinian national aspirations, as well as to the MEPP. India shared the wide-felt concern at the developments affecting the peace process, and urged all parties concerned to re-intensify their efforts so as to ensure successful conclusion of the peace process within agreed time schedules, building on the interim agreements and understandings which should be fully implemented. India continued its moral, material and technical assistance to Palestinians through the Representative Office in Gaza. While the disbursement of India's earlier pledged contribution of Rs 350 lakhs continued, bilateral consultations were held with the Palestinian authorities for utilisation of the second pledge of a like amount. On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, the Prime Minister addressed a message reiterating India's commitment and support for the Palestinian people and their legitimate aspirations, and a special function was held in New Delhi to commemorate the Day. An

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invitation extended by the Prime Minister to President Arafat was accepted, and the visit is expected to take place in 1997.

Friendly relations with Sudan were strengthened during the year through expansion and diversification of bilateral economic cooperation. Cooperation agreements were signed in the fields of health and culture. As a token of India's sympathy and support, a consignment of essential drugs and medicines was dispatched to Sudan in November 1996 for the flood victims. Bilateral consultations were initiated to explore possibilities of cooperation in new areas such as oil exploration, civil aviation, and specific industrial sectors.

Progress was similarly made in strengthening bilateral relations with Syria. Vice Minister in the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Raslan Alloush visited India in March 1997 as part of the continuing bilateral consultations. India organised a successful trade exhibition in Aleppo. The Minister of Civil Aviation and Information and Broadcasting led a delegation to Syria for talks aimed at reinvigorating the implementation of a bilateral cooperation agreement in the field of information and broadcasting. Syrian delegations visited India for cooperation in the fields of education and scientific research and a bilateral work plan was concluded in the area of science & technology. A cooperation agreement in the field of remote sensing was also signed.

Bilateral relations with Tunisia retained their positive trends of increasing understanding and cooperation. These were given a major fillip with exchange of delegations between the two countries in several fields, including trade, agriculture, science & technology, and environment. A bilateral agreement to renew the cultural exchange programme was signed, and agreements were also concluded for cooperation in the fields of tourism and

for avoidance of double taxation. Active consultations were held for holding of the next meeting of the bilateral joint Commission soon, and for exchange of high level political visits.

Foreign Minister of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic Malainine Sadek paid an unofficial visit to India in September 1996 and held talks with the Minister of External Affairs on matters of mutual interest.

India maintained traditional cordial relations and cooperation with the regional organisations, namely, League of Arab States (LAS),
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Union of Arab Maghreb (UAM) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Consultations were held with them as required on matters of common interest. The Minister of External Affairs congratulated new Secretary General of Gulf Cooperation Council Jameel AlHujailan, on his appointment and extended him an invitation to visit India. The invitation was accepted and the visit will take place at a mutually convenient time.

The 24th session of Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers took place in Jakarta from 11-13 December 1996. The Middle East Peace Process, Bosnia, Afghanistan and Somalia dominated the deliberations. The Conference passed a resolution at the behest of Pakistan on Kashmir, identical to the one passed at the 23rd session in Conakry in December 1995. However, the inaugural address by the President of the host country contained no references to Kashmir unlike the case with the Conakry Conference. Prior to the Jakarta Conference, the Ministry took up with members of OIC the draft resolution on Kashmir which had been circulated; and received assurances of support from many members. A number of OIC members articulated support in India's favour during the deliberations.

OIC condemned the kidnapping of the western hostages in Kashmir by Al-Faran and asked for their release.

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6. Africa(South Of Sahara)

The Government have extended the hand of friendship and cooperation to all the countries of Africa. The Government's approach has been to consolidate the gains of almost five decades of close ties of friendship; to intensify bilateral economic and commercial links for mutual benefit; to share developmental experiences as part of India's commitment to South-South Cooperation; and to strengthen institutional linkages with regional and sub-regional groups in Africa in recognition of the trend towards regional and global economic integration.

The visits to India of President of Senegal Abdou Diouf, Deputy President of South Africa Thabo Mbeki, Prime Minister of Ethiopia Meles Zenawi and Prime Minister of Mauritius Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam and the visits of Prime Minister Shri H D Deve Gowda to Mauritius and Zimbabwe have further strengthened and diversified India's relations with Africa. India's traditionally friendly ties with the countries of Africa were

further reinforced through bilateral contacts at the highest levels on the margins of major multilateral events such as the 51st UNGA in New York, Sixth G-15 Summit at Harare, and the World Food Summit in Rome, and through the visits of several Special Envoys. The presence of Prime Minister Shri H D Deve Gowda at Harare for the G-15 Summit, and India's participation at the Summit and Ministerial Meetings of the Organisation of African Unity, Southern African Development Community, and Economic Community of West African States, were reflective of India's desire to play a meaningful role in regional initiatives for development in Africa.

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India's engagement in economic, industrial and technological cooperation with the countries of Africa, continues to grow steadily. Bilateral trade between India and the countries of Africa has virtually doubled from Rs 5372 crores in 1994-95 to Rs 9600 crores in 1995-96. India also continued to strengthen cooperation in the field of human resource development-Africa through the provision of training slots, deputation of experts and supply of equipment under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme and the Special Commonwealth African Assistance Plan (SCAAP).

The traditionally close and privileged relations with Mauritius were further enhanced with the visit to India in August 1996 of Prime Minister Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam and that of Prime Minister Shri H D Deve Gowda to Mauritius in February 1997. A parliamentary delegation from Mauritius visited India in November 1996 and one from India visited Mauritius in January 1997. The eighth meeting of the Indian Mauritius joint Commission took place in Mauritius in February 1997. As a special gesture, the Government of India agreed to an additional weekly service of Air Mauritius to Delhi on the same terms as the flights already operating between Mauritius and Bombay. Both countries concluded a new Credit Agreement of Rs 10.50 crore (US\$ 3 million) to finance import by Mauritius of capital goods, consultancy services and consumer durables from India. A Cultural Exchange Programme for the period 1996-98 was concluded during the visit of Mauritius' Minister for Arts, Culture and Leisure in August 1996. As in the past, Mauritius continued to show solidarity with and understanding of India's positions on various international issues. The two countries remained committed to working closely together to impart content and vigour to the emerging Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation.

Relations with Seychelles took a significant step forward with the conclusion of a Tourism Agreement on 3 October 1996. The Government of India gifted a consignment of rice and medicines as a gesture of support to the people of Seychelles. Emergency relief assistance in the form of rice was also provided to the Comoros. A comprehensive bilateral protocol on political, trade, economic, cultural, scientific and technical cooperation was concluded with Comoros on 24 July 1996. India welcomed the Presidential elections in Comoros in April 1996 and in Madagascar in December 1996 as

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reaffirmation of the democratic will of the peoples of these countries.

India continued to value and build upon its historically close relations with Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. The visits of Prime Minister of Ethiopia Meles Zenawi to India in March 1997 and earlier of the Ethiopian Minister for Education Genet Zewdie in June 1996 provided opportunities for strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two countries, especially in the fields of education and technical training, water resources management and development of small industries. The private visit to Delhi in December 1996 of the Foreign Minister of Uganda Eriya Kategaya provided a useful opportunity for both countries to review developments in their relations. The revival of the East African Community, following an agreement concluded between Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania in April 1996, held out the prospects of increased trade and economic exchanges with these countries. Bilateral trade with Kenya increased by 114 per cent in 1995-96, and that with Tanzania by 33 per cent in comparison with the previous year. The participation of the Minister of State for Commerce Dr B B Ramaiah, and a team of leading Indian businessmen at the "Made in India" Show organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry in Nairobi in August 1996, the visit to India of a delegation of the Ugandan Manufacturers' Association in November 1996, and the visit of Tanzanian Minister for Communication and Transport William J Kusila in December 1996 were reflective of the heightened interest in and potential for economic and commercial cooperation between India and the countries of East Africa.

India remained concerned at developments in the Great Lakes region and at the threat that continuing civil conflict posed to peace and stability in the region. India has commended the efforts of regional countries and of the international community to establish durable peace in the region based on a democratic order and respect for human rights.

India's relations with South Africa were placed on a new footing with the visit of South African Deputy President Thabo Mbeki in December 1996. The visit was preceded by the second meeting of the India-South Africa joint Commission and by other exchanges at ministerial and official levels. South Africa has rapidly emerged as one of India's main trading partner in Africa. The conclusion, during the visit, of an Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation,

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a Cultural Cooperation Agreement and a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Defence Equipment have added a significant new dimension to an already dynamic and multi-faceted relationship. The South African Deputy President's call for a strategic partnership between India and South Africa to resist the imposition of a world order that sought the disempowerment of the developing nations, was reflective of the close identity of views between the two countries on issues that vitally affect the collective interests of developing countries. President of South Africa Dr Nelson Mandela will be visiting India from 27-29 March 1997, reflecting once again the intensity of friendship between the two countries.

India continued to build upon its close and friendly relations with Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The

Minister of External Affairs deputed Special Envoys to each of these countries during the year as a reaffirmation of India's commitment to strengthening cooperation with these countries in a spirit of South-South partnership. During the visit of Prime Minister Shri H D Deve Gowda to Harare for the Summit of the G-15 group in November 1996, a Memorandum of Understanding was concluded on cooperation for the development of small-scale industries in Zimbabwe. The Prime Minister also gifted to the President of Zimbabwe a rural automatic telephone exchange manufactured in India. India welcomed the re-election of President Frederick Chiluba of Zambia in the elections held in November 1996. There was steady progress in India's cooperation with Zambia, Botswana and Namibia in the area of defence training. The visit to India of President of Namibia Sam Nujoma in February 1997 served to further reinforce the traditional ties of friendship with that country. During the visit, India and Namibia concluded a Convention on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and Capital Gains. It was preceded by the visit of Namibian Deputy Minister for Trade and Industry Wilfred Emvula to India in April 1996. The high level Indian participation at the International Trade Fair in Zimbabwe in November 1996, and the award to Indian companies of two major contracts in Botswana for the upgradation of airports and of the telecommunication network, were indicative of the growing economic and commercial ties between India and the countries of Southern Africa. India's interest in the establishment of a durable

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peace in Angola was demonstrated by the continuing presence of over 1000 Indian military personnel in Angola as part of the United Nations Angolan Verification Mission (UNAVEM III).

India's recent opening to the countries of West Africa was further consolidated during the year with the visits of Special Envoys of the Minister of External Affairs to various West African countries, and progress in bilateral agricultural and rural development projects being undertaken in Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal. India is now categorised among the major assistance partners in cooperation programmes being undertaken in Ghana, and its contribution to human resource development is recognised at the highest levels. A team of agriculture experts visited Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo in August and September 1996 with a view to formulating specific programmes of agricultural cooperation with these countries. Relations with Senegal moved significantly forward with the State visit to India of President of Senegal Abdou Diouf in February 1997. During the visit an Agreement on * the Establishment of a joint Commission for Economic, Technical, Political & Cultural Cooperation and a Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of an Agricultural Development Project in Senegal were concluded. Earlier in August 1996, a project for the computerisation of the office of the Prime Minister of Senegal was successfully commissioned with Indian assistance. The Prime Ministers of India and Senegal also concluded an agreement during the G-15 Summit at Harare for the setting up of a vocational training centre for entrepreneurship development and small scale industries training in Senegal. India participated in the Dakar International Trade Fair in December 1996. The conclusion of a bilateral agreement on 16 May 1996 to establish a joint Commission with the Central African

Republic was demonstrative of India's desire to reach out in a spirit of partnership to hitherto distant countries with whom India shared a common historical experience.

India viewed the Presidential elections in Benin, Chad, the Gambia, Ghana and Niger, and arrangements to bring the peace processes in Liberia and Sierra Leone back on course, as positive developments contributing to political stability and economic development of the region. India was also encouraged by the Government of Nigeria's reiteration of its intention to faithfully implement its programme of transition to civilian democratic rule.

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Nigeria regained its status in 1995-96 as India's largest trading partner in Africa. India provided emergency relief assistance in the form of rice and medicines to Burkina Faso, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Niger. There was an enhancement of ITEC cooperation programmes with the countries of West Africa in line with India's commitment to help build up indigenous capacities and promote self-reliance in those countries.

India has viewed the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) as embodying the spirit of resurgent Africa and has been fully supportive of the programmes and objectives of the OAU since its inception over three decades ago. India was represented as a guest at the 32nd Summit meeting of the OAU in Yaounde, Cameroon in July 1996 by a delegation led by Minister of Steel and Mines Shri B P Baishya. The Prime Minister of India also addressed a special message to the Summit, in which, as an expression of India's solidarity, he committed India's assistance to the OAU's Peace Fund and to the technical upgradation of the OAU Secretariat. At the G-15 Summit at Harare, the Prime Minister also announced a Fund of Rs 100 crores to assist the developing countries of Africa. During the year, India was engaged in constructing relations of partnership and cooperation with regional organisations like the Common Market for Eastern & Southern Africa (COMESA), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and African Development Bank. India was an active participant at the partnership meeting of the UNECA at Addis Ababa in April 1996. Special Envoys of the Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs were also deputed to represent India at the Summit and ministerial meetings of the SADC in Lesotho in August 1996 and of the ECOWAS in Abuja in July 1996 respectively. India also participated in the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) at Abidjan in July 1996. Cooperation between India and the countries of Africa within the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation has constituted a positive example of South-South cooperation with the aim of harnessing the rich natural resources and abundant productive capacities of the region for common benefit.

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7. Europe

Eastern Europe

India's relations with the countries of East and Central Europe have been traditionally warm and friendly. There is considerable goodwill for India in these countries at all levels and our ties with them are multi-faceted, encompassing most areas of bilateral cooperation. New commonalities of approach and outlook have emerged. High level exchanges with these countries testify to the importance attached to the relationship by both sides and have contributed to an intensification of bilateral ties. There has been a consensus in India on maintaining good relations with most of these countries and this has not been subject to political changes. In turn, these countries acknowledge the importance of their traditional ties with India. Viewing India as a large emergent market, they have also been keen to build upon existing business and institutional linkages with it.

Based on continuity, trust and confidence relations with the Russian Federation are an important foreign policy priority for India. Both countries have emphasised the importance which they attach to bilateral relations and consider them not to be subject to political vicissitudes. With post Cold War transitional difficulties now left well behind, India's relations with Russia are progressing well in almost all areas of bilateral cooperation, including trade and economy, science and technology, culture and defence.

There is recognition both in India and Russia of the strategic dimension of Indo-Russian relations. Both countries share similar

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perceptions on many international issues. Interactions on developments in the region lying between the borders of India and Russia have been found to be beneficial and contacts are being maintained on the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

A major event during the year was the landmark official visit to the Russian Federation undertaken by the Prime Minister from 24- 26 March 1997, which provided a new impetus to the traditionally close, friendly and multi-faceted ties between India and Russia. While in Russia, the Prime Minister had meetings with President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin during which the high priority accorded to bilateral relations and the importance of intensifying these further to mutual benefit was reaffirmed by both sides. Opinions and assessments on a wide range of international and regional issues were also shared. Several important bilateral documents were signed during the visit.

There have been many frequent high level exchanges between India and Russia during 1996-97, effectively contributing to the further strengthening of bilateral links in a very wide range of areas of mutual interest.

A delegation of young Russian Parliamentarians from the State Duma (Lower House of the Russian Parliament) visited India from 12-17 September 1996.

Mayor of Moscow Yuri Luzhkov visited India from 16-19 September 1996 at the

invitation of the Chief Minister of Delhi. Apart from his host, he called on the Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs.

Russian Defence Minister Igor Rodionov visited India from 21-23 October 1996. This was the first visit by the Russian Defence Minister to India following the breakup of the Soviet Union. During the visit, an agreement providing for cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries was signed.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Davydov visited India from 26- 30 October 1996 to participate in the India Economic Summit organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry. He called on the Prime Minister and held discussions with the Minister of External Affairs, the Finance Minister and the Minister of State for Commerce.

Russian Railway Minister Anatoly Zaitsev visited India from
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28-31 October 1996 in connection with an ESCAP meeting and met the Minister for Railways in New Delhi.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Fortov visited India from 9-13 November 1996 for attending a Conference on high pressure physics at Mumbai. He met the Minister of External Affairs and the Minister of State for Science and Technology while in New Delhi.

A seven-member delegation of the Russian State Duma Committee on Nationalities Affairs visited India from 25-30 November 1996 at the invitation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs.

Russian Minister for Fuel and Energy Pyotr Rodionov visited India from 6-9 December 1996 in connection with the Fifth International Conference on Energy held in Goa. While in Delhi, he held discussions with the Minister of State for Power.

From the Indian side, the Minister for Human Resource Development Shri S R Bommai represented the Government of India at the inauguration of the "Days of Indian Culture" in Russia from 16-28 September 1996. During his stay in Moscow, he met Prime Minister Chernomyrdin and other high level Russian dignitaries.

A Parliamentary delegation, led by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha Shri P A Sangma visited Russia from 20-26 October 1996 and met Prime Minister Chernomyrdin apart from the Chairmen of both Houses of the Russian Parliament.

Home Minister Shri Indrajit Gupta visited Russia from 4-8 November 1996 at the invitation of Russian Minister for Interior Anatoly Kulikov. Apart from his host, he met the Secretary of the Security Council Ivan Rybkin and other senior Russian dignitaries.

The Defence Secretary visited Russia from 26 November 2 December 1996 during which

a contract for the supply to India of SU-30 MKI aircraft was signed.

The Seventh Review Meeting of the Integrated Long Term Programme of Cooperation in Science and Technology (ILTP) joint Council between India and Russia was held in New Delhi on 8 & 9 January 1997 under the co-chairmanship of Director General of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Prof C N R Rao, and Member of the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences

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Academician Guriy Marchuk. Meetings of the concerned Working Groups under the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission were held as follows-0) Working Group on Pharmaceuticals met in New Delhi from 1-5 April 1996; GO Working Group on Coal met in New Delhi from 10-13 July 1996; (iii) Working Group on Metallurgy met in New Delhi from 23-28 September 1996; Ov) Working Group on Science and Technology met in Moscow from 24-28 December 1996; (v) Working Group on Power met in Moscow from 13-15 January 1997; (vi) Working Group on Culture met in New Delhi from 15-17 January 1997; (vii) Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation met in Moscow from 23-27 January 1997, while its Sub-Group on Transport met in Moscow from 22-24 January 1997; (viii) Working Group on Information Technology met in New Delhi from 23-25 January 1997; and Gx) Working Group on Petroleum met in Moscow on 24 & 25 January 1997.

Minister of External Affairs Shri I K Gujral visited Russia from 9-13 February 1997 as a guest of the Government of the Russian Federation. During the visit, he met Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, First Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Ilyushin, Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, Speaker of the State Duma Gennady Seleznyev, Mayor of Moscow Yuri Luzhkov, Secretary of the Security Council Ivan Rybkin and other senior Russian dignitaries. He also co-chaired the Third Session of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation. Besides the Protocol of the Third IGC Session, an Agreement on the Establishment of a joint Shipping Service between India and Russia and a Memorandum of Understanding on Certification in the field of information Technology were signed during the visit.

The Chairman of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation Sergei Dubinin visited India from 10-16 February 1997 at the invitation of the Governor of the RBI. Chief Justice of India justice Shri A M Ahmadi visited Russia from 15-23 February 1997 at the invitation of the Chairman of the Russian Constitutional Court Vladimir Tumanov.

India's relations with other CIS countries-Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine as well as the three Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania-continued to develop satisfactorily. An Armenian Parliamentary delegation led by the Speaker of the

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Armenian National Assembly Babken Ararktsian visited India from 4-7 December 1996

and called on the President, the Vice-President and the Prime Minister.

India's relations with all the countries of Central Europe have progressed satisfactorily. There was a particular impetus given to bilateral ties with Poland, the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic as a result of the State visit of the President of India to these countries. These visits were marked by great warmth and goodwill for India at all levels. The leaders of all these countries confirmed the importance and priority they attached to relations with India.

President of India Dr S D Sharma accompanied by a high level delegation paid a State visit to Poland from 6-9 October 1996 and met President Alexander Kwasniewski and Prime Minister Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz. A Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement, a Cultural Exchange Programme and a Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations were signed with Poland during the visit.

Earlier, Chief justice of India justice Shri A M Ahmadi led a three-member delegation to Poland from 21-28 June 1996. Minister of State for Coal Smt Kanti Singh visited Poland from 12-14 November 1996 for discussions on cooperation in the field of mining. Polish Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Jan Czaja visited India from 9-13 November 1996. First President (Chief justice) of the Supreme Court of Poland Adam Strzembrosz visited India from 20-26 January 1997 at the invitation of the Chief justice of India. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Poland Grzegorz Kolodko visited India from 8-12 January 1997 at the invitation of the Finance Minister. He also called on the President and the Prime Minister.

The President of India paid a State visit to the Slovak Republic on 9 & 10 October 1996 and had meetings with President Michal Kovac and Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar. An Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Science & Technology and an Air Services Agreement were signed during the visit. Earlier, the Defence Secretary visited the Slovak Republic on 16 & 17 April 1996 for discussions with his Slovak counterpart Jozef Gajdos.

Slovak Minister of Economy Karol Cesnik visited India from 14-17 December 1996 soon after the conclusion of the Second Session of the Indo-Slovak joint Committee in New Delhi on 12 &
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13 December 1996. The joint Committee Session was co-chaired by Slovak Deputy Minister of Economy Dusan Gutan and the Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce.

The President of India paid a State visit to the Czech Republic from 10-13 October 1996 and had meetings with President Vaclav Havel and Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus. A Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement, a Cultural Agreement and a Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations were signed during the visit. In August 1996, the Czech Republic opened an Honorary Consulate in Calcutta. A meeting of the Indo-Czech joint

Committee was held on 5 & 6 February 1997.

The Home Minister visited Bulgaria from 31 October-4 November 1996 at the invitation of the Bulgarian Minister of Interior Nikolay Dobrev and had several meetings with high level Bulgarian dignitaries. Bulgarian Minister for Trade and Foreign Economic Cooperation Atanas Paparizov visited India from 2-6 December 1996 for the Eleventh Session of the Indo-Bulgarian joint Commission.

A Hungarian Parliamentary delegation led by Gyorgy Csoti visited India from 20-27 January 1997. Chairman of the Hungarian Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights, Minorities and Religious Affairs Gabor Gellert Kis visited India in the first half of February 1997.

A meeting of the Indo-Romanian joint Commission was held in New Delhi on 10 & 11 February 1997.

India welcomed the signing of the Agreement on normalisation of relations between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Croatia in August 1996
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Assistant Foreign Minister of Croatia Frane Krnic visited India from 14-16 September 1996 for bilateral political consultations and called on the Minister of External Affairs. An Agreement on Maritime Transport between India and Croatia was signed in New Delhi on 3 January 1997.

Minister of Trade of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Djordje Siradovic visited India from 1-4 December 1996. This was the first such visit after UN sanctions against FRY were lifted on 1 October 1996. Secretary (West) in the Ministry visited Slovenia from 22-24 August 1996 and signed a Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations between India and Slovenia. State Secretary in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Slovenia Ignac Golob visited India from 15-17 December 1997 and signed an Agreement on Cultural Cooperation with the Secretary in the Department of Culture.

Western Europe

India's relations with the countries of Western Europe have continued to be close and productive. The end of the Cold War era, the increasing political and economic integration of West European nations into the European Union and India's deregulation and opening up of the economy created the basis for further development of bilateral relations based on a complementarity of interests and mutual benefit.

With the expansion of the European Union (EU) and its move towards a common foreign and security policy, India's political dialogue with the countries of the EU has assumed added significance. Sustained efforts have been made to strengthen the EU's understanding on issues of vital concern to India, both regional and global.

The EU is the single largest economic entity of the world. It is also India's largest trading partner and foreign investor. With the introduction of economic liberalisation in India, special efforts have been made to develop and expand India's economic ties with this part of the world. India's exports to EU countries in the year 1995-96 increased by 27 per cent over the previous year to reach approximately Rs 29,104 crores. From the beginning of the liberalisation period upto December 1995, actual investment inflows from West European countries amounted to Rs 2760 crores. West European countries also continued to be a leading source of development assistance, technology and joint ventures.

Trade and investment ties with the European Union (EU) continued to grow at a satisfactory pace. It had been agreed that high-level contacts between India and the EU, EC and the European Council, would increase. The decision of the European Commission (EC) to bring out a "Communication" on India (special study on long-term relations) was a positive development and enabled focus on the means of fully tapping the potential for cooperation with

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India. A Memorandum of Understanding on the Indo-EC Economic Cross Cultural Programme, a scheme funded by the EC to develop a greater understanding of the EU in India and vice-versa, was signed.

Periodic meetings of India's Heads of Missions (HOMs) in Germany, France, UK, Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands, Austria, Sweden and Ireland continued during the year. The meetings serve a very useful purpose in enabling the HOMs to have a better understanding and to respond effectively to the challenges and opportunities arising from the common approaches of EU countries on foreign and security policies, as well as on economic issues. It was also decided to hold these meetings in the country holding the Presidency of the EU at the time to enable HOMs to be briefed by senior members of the country concerned on their priorities within the EU.

The Prime Minister visited Davos (Switzerland) and addressed the World Economic Forum in February 1997. He informed the participating corporate leaders and others of the economic reforms initiated in India and called upon the captains of industry and finance to play a valuable and mutually beneficial role in the economy to accelerate economic growth.

During his stay in Davos, the Prime Minister had separate bilateral meetings with Heads of States/Governments and other dignitaries from several countries, corporate leaders and media personalities. The discussions were productive and focussed mainly on furthering bilateral economic relations and foreign investments.

Indo-British relations based on complementarity of interests continued to develop satisfactorily. These ties were reinforced by high-level visits. From the British side visitors this year consisted of Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Dr Liam Fox and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Trade & Industry Ian Taylor. Shadow Foreign

Secretary Robin Cook also visited India in October-November 1996. A delegation of Members of Parliament from the House of Commons Select Committee of Trade and Industry visited India in May 1996.

Prime Minister John Major visited India on 9 & 10 January 1997. He met the Prime Minister at both cities (Calcutta and Bangalore)

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he visited in India. In Calcutta, the British Prime Minister attended the Confederation of Indian Industry Conference. He was accompanied by the President of the Board of Trade of UK Ian Lang and an exceptionally strong business delegation.

From the Indian side, Minister of Finance Shri P Chidambaram, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs & Tourism Shri Srikanta Kumar Jena and Minister of Steel & Mines Shri B P Baishya as well as Minister of State for Defence Shri N V N Somu, Minister of State for Power Dr S Venugopalachari and Minister of State for Urban Affairs Dr U Venkateswarlu visited the UK. At the invitation of the UK branch of the Commonwealth Association, a Parliamentary delegation led by the Speaker, Lok Sabha Shri P A Sangma visited the UK from 1-8 November 1996.

There has been a spurt of economic activity between the two countries in recent years. Bilateral trade has increased by 70 per cent over the last three years and Britain continues to be the second largest foreign investor in India, with * actual investments from 1991 to November 1996 amounting to Rs 1374.7 crores.

Regular Foreign Office consultations and specialist level talks with the UK on United Nations and arms. control issues have continued and contributed to a better understanding of each others' positions.

Indo-German relations have continued to make rapid strides buttressed by high level visits and progress in economic relations between the two countries.

German Defence Minister Volker Ruhe visited India from 23-25 October 1996. His visit was followed by that of Minister of Economics Gunther Rexrodt from 30 October-4 November 1996. Rexrodt's visit coincided with the holding of the Asia-Pacific Conference of German industries in New Delhi for which a very large number of German industrialists visited India. The Vice Chancellor and Foreign Minister of Germany Dr Klaus Kinkel visited India from 23-25 January 1997. This was his second visit to India as Foreign Minister. During his stay, Dr Kinkel called on the President and the Prime Minister. He had two rounds of discussions and held a joint press conference with the Minister of External Affairs. Dr Kinkel also gave an address at the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation on Foreign Affairs and Security Issues.

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From the Indian side, Chief Minister of Kerala Shri E K Nayanar visited Germany from 15-19 November 1996 to attract investments and to promote Kerala as a tourist

destination.

The 5th Meeting of the Indo-German Consultative Group took place in Berlin in August-September 1996. The recommendations of the Group were submitted to the two Heads of Government.

Relations with France continued to develop satisfactorily. Special Envoy of the French President Michel Rouge visited India from 21-25 May 1996 to discuss the G-7 Summit which was then scheduled to be held in France in June 1996. Special Envoy of the French Foreign Minister Jean Francois Deniau also visited India from 11-14 November 1996. French Minister for Research Francois d'Aubert visited India from 31 January-3 February 1997.

Relations with Italy received a boost with the visit of the President to that country from 13-16 October 1996. The President was received by Italian President Dr. Oscar Luigi Scalfaro with whom he held discussions on bilateral and international issues of mutual interest. During his stay in Italy, Italian Prime Minister Prof Romano Prodi and other dignitaries also called on the President.

The Prime Minister visited Italy to attend the World Food Summit from 15-17 November 1996. During his stay, the Prime Minister also had a meeting with Italian Prime Minister Prof Romano Prodi.

Chief Minister of Maharashtra Shri Manohar Joshi visited Italy from 6-13 October 1996. Italian Minister of Foreign Trade Dr Augusto Fantozzi visited India from 4-7 December 1996 to attend the Indo-Italian joint Commission Meeting.

A number of high-level visits from Austria to India contributed to the acceleration of bilateral ties. Austrian Minister of Finance Viktor Klima accompanied by a delegation of Austrian businessmen, visited India from 4-7 August 1996. Austrian State Secretary Benita Ferrero-Waldner visited India from 16-20 October 1996. Her visit was followed by that of President of the Federal Economic Chamber of Austria Leopold Maderthaner and accompanying Austrian Businessmen from 16-20 November 1996.

With Ireland assuming the Presidency of the European Union for the second half of 1996, the process of dialogue and consultations with the country increased. It was in this context that Secretary

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(West) in the Ministry visited Dublin in July 1996 and held discussions with the Irish Foreign Office.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal Dr Jaime Gama visited India from 6-11 February 1997. During the visit he called on the President, the Prime Minister and the Minister for Human Resource Development Shri S R Bommai. He also had extensive discussions with the Minister of External Affairs. An Air Services agreement was signed between the two

countries.

A delegation of the Walloon Parliament (Belgium) visited India from 17-25 September 1996. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium Erik Derycke visited India from 16-19 February 1997. During the visit, he had discussions with the Minister of External Affairs and he also called on the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister.

The Dutch Minister for Development Cooperation J P Pronk visited India from 8-14 August 1996. This was followed by a visit by Minister for Foreign Trade A van Dok-van Waele to India from 12- 19 October 1996. An economic package worth Rs 100 crores for promoting investments, exports and transfer of technology was announced during her visit.

Relations with Luxembourg received further impetus with the visit of Deputy Prime Minister of Luxembourg Jacques Poos to India from 9-13 September 1996. State Secretary of Luxembourg George Wohlfart also visited India from 29 April-1 May 1996.

Minister for Surface Transport Shri T G Venkatraman visited Greece from 25-27 June 1996, to attend the funeral service of former Prime Minister of Greece Andreas Papandreu. During his stay in Greece, the Minister was received by the Greek Prime Minister.

Indo-Finland relations were given specific orientation and direction when President of Finland Martti Ahtisaari visited India from 25-28 November 1996. The President's delegation also included Minister of Foreign Affairs Tarja Halonen, Minister for Foreign Trade Ole Norrback and a large business delegation. During his stay in India the Finnish President called on the President and held talks with the Prime Minister. He also interacted with members of the Indian industry.

Danish Minister for Development Cooperation Poul Nielson visited India from 25 November-4 December 1996. Foreign Minister of Denmark Niels Helveg Petersen visited India from 17-19 February 1997. He briefed the Minister of External Affairs on NATO expansion and the ASEM Foreign Minister meeting in Singapore where he was returning from.

The Foreign Affairs Committee of the Norwegian Parliament visited, India from 8-14 January 1997. The delegation included the Speaker of the Norwegian Parliament.

President of Cyprus Glafcos Clerides paid a state visit to India from 10-15 February 1997. A large business delegation came with him. The President held wide-ranging discussions with the Indian leaders, focussing on the resolution of the Cyprus issue and other multilateral, regional and bilateral issues. An Agreement on Merchant Shipping was signed during this visit.

EC Commissioner Emma Bonino visited India from 7-10 August 1996.

8. The Americas

North America

The US elections which were held on 5 November 1996 marked the culmination of a year long electoral activity. US President Bill Clinton defeated Republican challenger Bob Dole by securing 49 per cent of the votes cast as against 42 per cent secured by Dole. The Republicans have meanwhile maintained their control over both Houses of the US Congress. In the Senate, their margin increased by 2 seats to 55 versus 45. In the House, the Republican majority was reduced by 8 seats, but is still comfortable.

Indo-US relations continued to see steady diversification during 1996-97. The expansion of the pace and scope of exchanges between the two countries continued on a full range of political, scientific, technological and social issues. Trade and investment, however, continued to be the cornerstone of bilateral relations.

US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs, Robin Raphel, held discussions in September 1996 with senior officials of the Ministry of External Affairs on wide-ranging issues concerning Indo-US relations. The visit of Ms Raphel was part of the periodic consultations between India and US on the entire gamut of Indo-US relations. Deputy US Trade Representative Jeffery Lang and Deputy Assistant US Trade Representative Rick Ruzicka visited India from 7-10 October to hold bilateral discussions. US Coordinator for counter-terrorism Phillip C Wilcox was in India on 14 & 15 October.

The year also witnessed greater interaction with US Congressmen and Senators. The visits included those of Congressman

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Jim McDermott and Congresswoman C Maloney (1-11 April 1996), Chairman Senate Sub-Committee for Near Eastern and South-Asian Affairs Hank Brown (4-7 August 1996), Congressmen S Levin, N Abercrombie and A Hastings & Congresswoman Connie Morella (1-8 December 1996).

Bilateral defence relations with the US continued to develop satisfactorily during the year. The 2nd meeting of the Indo-US Defence Policy Group (DPG) took place in Delhi on 23 & 24 October 1996. The two sides had a detailed exchange of views on security perceptions in the Asia-Pacific and on issues of mutual concern. In the field of defence research and production cooperation, they agreed on a programme of immediate cooperation on high priority areas as well as additional areas for possible future joint ventures. Prior to the DPG meeting, meetings of the joint Technical Group related to joint research and development in defence cooperation also took place in Bangalore and New Delhi in September 1996. Chief of Army Staff General Shankar Roychowdhury visited the US in September 1996. The Commander-in-Chief of the US Pacific Command Admiral Joseph W Prusher led a delegation to India from 9-12 January 1997.

As a part of Indo-US defence cooperation, the joint Indo-US Naval exercise Flash Iroquoise/Sangam '96 was held in September 1996.

Expansion of trade and investment continued during the year. Bilateral trade turnover rose to around Rs 33,477 crores with Indian exports reaching Rs 19,764 crores. Approved investments from US for the period April-November 1996 amounted to around Rs 8,947.8 crores as against Rs 7,054 crores during the whole of 1995.

Several business related visits took place during the year. Governor of Ohio State George Voinovich led a 14 member Business Mission from 9-20 April 1996 and Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky Dr Stephen Henry was accompanied by a 4 member commercial delegation from 4-15 April. Congressman Jim McDermott led a 20- member Greater Seattle Business and Trade Mission from 3-13 December 1996.

The private sector alliance between the US and Indian business, the Indo-US Commercial Alliance, has been working well in areas of common interest. The 2nd joint Board meeting was held in

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Washington on 16 & 17 October 1996. The 19th meeting of Indo-US joint Business Council was held in New Delhi on 6 December 1996.

The meeting of the Indo-US Economic and Commercial Sub-Commission and its Working Group on Finance and Investment was held in Washington on 11 & 12 December 1996. The Revenue Secretary visited the US for a meeting of the joint Working Group on Narcotics on 8 October 1996.

India and the US continued to have a different perception and approach to nuclear and missile non-proliferation issues, as was reflected in the CTBT negotiations during the year.

In April 1996, the US Administration decided to proceed with the one time transfer to Pakistan of military equipment worth US\$ 368 million. The military package did not include the F-16 aircraft.

An Amendment to the US Foreign Operations Bill to restrict US bilateral aid to India to the last year's initial allocation was defeated in the House of Representatives on 5 June 1996 by a decisive 296 votes to 127. The amendment was proposed by the Republican Senator Dan Burton for alleged human rights violations in Punjab and Kashmir.

India-Canada relations have seen remarkable expansion in the last four years. The visit of the Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien to India in January 1996 with 7 Provincial Premiers marked a definitive commitment on both Sides to reinvigorate India-Canada relations and to return to it the warmth of its earlier relationship.

The Minister of External Affairs visited Canada from 29 September-1 October 1996 at the invitation of the Canadian Foreign Minister. Apart from the official discussions with his counterpart, the Minister called on the Canadian Prime Minister and also met the Premier of the Province of Ontario. Other engagements included a dinner-meeting with the Indo-Canadian community, a meeting with captains of industry and commerce, and a round table discussion with academics and foreign policy experts.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada Llyod Axworthy accompanied by a high level delegation of Members of the Canadian Parliament and senior officials visited India from 7-15 January 1997 at the invitation of the Minister of External Affairs. Foreign Minister -69>

Axworthy called on the President and the Prime Minister and had discussions with the Minister of External Affairs on a wide range of bilateral issues and regional and international matters of mutual interest. Minister Axworthy also met the Minister of Communication, the Minister of State (MOS) for Planning and Programme Implementation and Science and Technology and the MOS for Power and Non-Conventional Energy. The Minister of External Affairs and the visiting Minister exchanged notes establishing a joint Ministerial Committee headed by the two Ministers for intensifying cooperation and consultations between the two countries in the political as well as in the economic and commercial fields. Memoranda of Understanding for economic assistance by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) of Rs 76 crores for three projects relating to Capacity Development of Revenue Administration, Energy Infrastructure Services and Facilitation of Private Sector Development in India were signed. The Canadian Minister also visited Calcutta and Chandigarh. At Calcutta, he participated in the "Canada Day" programme of the CII Partnership Summit. At Chandigarh, an office of the Canadian High Commission was jointly inaugurated by the Minister of External Affairs and the Canadian Foreign Minister. The two Ministers agreed to intensify cooperation between the two governments to combat terrorism in all its forms, regardless of its motives. The two Ministers also reiterated the strong interest of both governments in revitalising India-Canada relations and sustaining the momentum in the expansion and diversification of bilateral cooperation and consultations that had already been established.

Member of Parliament and member of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade in the Canadian Parliament, Michel Dupuy, visited India from 19-22 November as a special representative of the Canadian Prime Minister to explore new and innovative ways of expanding India-Canada interaction and cooperation.

Canadian Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Lucienne Robillard visited India from 10-13 April 1996 primarily to inspect the Canadian High Commission's Consular Section in New Delhi, which is one of Canada's largest visa issuing outlet in the world. During the visit, the Minister called on the Minister of External Affairs and discussed issues Of Mutual interest.

Civil aviation talks were held between senior Indian and

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Canadian officials in Ottawa on 14 August 1996. An agreement was reached for increased seat allotment between Air India and Air Canada.

In the period January-July 1996 Canada was the 17th largest investor country in India with an investment of Rs 110.4 crores. Bilateral trade from January to September 1996 amounted to Rs 2435.62 crores. A 35 member Confederation of Indian Industry delegation led by CII President visited Canada from 13-19 June 1996.

In October 1996, President of the Canadian Space Agency William M Evans visited India to hold bilateral discussions with ISRO.

Central and South America and the Caribbean

India's relations with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean continued to be close and cordial. The thrust of India's policy has been to strengthen and widen relations with the region and to put more economic content into it. The 51st United Nations General Assembly, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Summit, the G-15 Summit, and the World Food Summit provided opportunities for interaction with the leadership of these countries at the highest levels. Exchange of visits served to reinforce the traditional bonds of friendship with these countries. Economic and commercial ties were enhanced, major Indian exhibitions were organised in Argentina and Brazil and visits of trade delegations were promoted. A thrust is being maintained to project India and Indian culture in the region especially in the Caribbean where there is a substantial population of Indian origin.

The region consists of 33 independent countries. India has 13 Missions in the region, while countries of this region maintain ten Missions in India. India has a number of honorary consuls in the region and there are many honorary consuls in India of the countries of the region.

A general consensus has built up in the region for promotion of democracy and economic liberalisation. Presidential and general elections were held in the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Surinam. The countries of the region are promoting regional groupings to promote regional strengths. There has also been a tendency of coming to a common resolution to express a Pan-

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American attitude and independent viewpoint. A case in point has been the criticism voiced from the region against the Helms- Burton Bill.

Recognising this, India has put in place institutional relations with the Rio Group and the Central American States. Efforts were made this year to develop similar arrangements with the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Association of Caribbean States (ACS) and the ANDEAN Community.

The first ever Indian Trade Exhibition "Indian Products Fair" organised by India Trade

Promotion Organisation (ITPO) was inaugurated in Buenos Aires by the Acting President Dr Carlos Ruckauf on 12 June 1996. Sixty-four Indian Companies participated in the Fair.

The Sixth Conference of International Ombudsmen institute was held in Buenos Aires from 20-24 October 1996. Lokayukt (Himachal Pradesh) justice Shri P C Balakrishna Menon, Lokayukt (Punjab) justice Shri S S Sodhi, Lokayukt (Maharashtra) justice Shri H H Kantharia, and Upalokayukt (Karnataka) justice Shri Kamaleshwar Nath participated in this conference.

Minister of State for Environment & Forests Captain Jai Narain Prasad Nishad visited Buenos Aires to participate in the Third Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held at Buenos Aires from 4-15 November 1996.

A concerted effort was made during the year to operationalise the bilateral cooperative arrangements identified during tile visit of President Cardoso of Brazil in January 1996.

India's new Consulate General started functioning in Sao Paulo (Brazil) with effect from 12 April 1996.

Minister of State for Commerce Dr B B Ramaiah and the Secretary Department of Science and Technology visited Sao Paulo on the eve of the first-ever Indian Trade Fair held in Sao Paulo from 6-10 November 1996 in which 104 Indian companies participated.

A Chile-India Chamber of Commerce was inaugurated in Santiago, capital of Chile, ewith the aim of promoting bilateral trade.

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Colombia, as the Chairman of The Non Aligned Movement (NAM), gave lead and coordinated its activities during the year.

Foreign Minister of Costa Rica Fernando E. Naranjo paid an official visits to India from 28 February-5 March 1997.

President of the People's National Assembly of Cuba Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada visited India as a Special Emissary of the Government of the Republic of Cuba from 22-26 September 1996. Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Isabel Allende visited New Delhi from 18-22 October 1996 for bilateral consultations. Vice-Minister for Foreign Investment and Economic Cooperation of Cuba Noemi Benitez y de Mendoza visited India as the leader of the Cuban delegation to the Third Session of the Indo-Cuba joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, which was held in New Delhi from 20-22 November 1996. This was preceded by a meeting of the Trade Revival Committee on 18 & 19 November 1996. The meeting identified means to revive and strengthen economic, commercial and scientific cooperation.

A bust of Mahatma Gandhi was unveiled and the Plaza de la India was inaugurated in San Salvador, capital of El Salvador, on 18 April 1996.

The thirty-six year old civil war in Guatemala ended with the signing of the final peace accord between the Government of Guatemala and the leftist guerillas on 29 December 1996. The signing ceremony was attended by India's Ambassador accredited to Guatemala as Special Envoy of the President of India.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Minister of External Affairs with the Foreign Minister of Haiti during UNGA session at New York in September 1996 for the establishment of Diplomatic Relations between India and Haiti.

Tupac Amaru (MRTA), a leftist guerilla organisation of Peru, attacked the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima on 17 December 1996 and seized around 500 hostages who were attending a reception at the residence. The guerillas, who are demanding release of hundreds of their fellow activists from Peruvian prisons, have by now released all but 83 hostages. The remaining hostages include the brother of the President, the Foreign and the Agriculture Minister and other senior Peruvian officers. The

negotiations are continuing to resolve the impasse. India views the developments in Lima with concern and strongly condemns all acts of terrorism.

Prime Minister of Trinidad & Tobago Basdeo Panday paid an official visit to India from 23 January-4 February 1997. He was the Chief Guest at the Republic Day Celebrations on 26 January 1997. During his visit a number of bilateral arrangements and Memoranda of Understanding were signed.

The 5th World Hindi Conference was held in Trinidad and Tobago from 4-8 April 1996.

Foreign Minister of Venezuela Dr Miguel Angel Burelli-Rivas paid an official visit to India from 2-5 March 1997. During his visit an Agreement on Bilateral Annual Consultations between the Foreign Offices was signed.

The Minister of External Affairs held meetings with Foreign Ministers of the Rio Group and the Foreign Ministers of the Central American group during the UNGA in September 1996 in New York. Relations with MERCOSUR were initiated with Minister of External Affairs's meeting with the Foreign Ministers of MERCOSUR at the UNGA. India's request for observer status has been accepted by the Association of Caribbean States (ACS). An Indian delegation was present at the ACS Ministerial Council Meeting held in Havana in December 1996. The ANDEAN Community and India have agreed to set up an institutional relationship. Secretary (East) in the Ministry visited Barbados as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister in connection with the Summit of CARICOM Heads of States and Governments. Efforts are continuing towards establishing institutional relations with CARICOM .

An Indian Observer Delegation participated in the 26th General Assembly of the Organisation of American States (OAS) held in Panama from 3-7 June 1996. Indian representatives also participated in some specialised regional meetings held under the auspices of the OAS. India was granted Observer Status by the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) during the 2nd Session of the ACS Foreign Ministers held in Havana from 9-13 December 1996.

The 5th International Energy Conference was held in Goa from 6-8 December 1996. Among the foreign participants were Vice
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Minister of Mines & Energy of Brazil Dr Jose Juiz Perez Garrido, Vice Minister for Energy Policy and Development of Mexico Jorge Eduardo Navarrete, Minister of Energy and Energy Industries of Trinidad & Tobago Finbar K Gangar, and Minister for Energy & Mines of Venezuela Dr Erwin Arrieta Valera.
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9. United Nations and international Organisations

Fundamental changes in international relations following the end of bloc-confrontation have contributed to an increased focus on international organisations and particularly the United Nations. The commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations also served to highlight the need to reform, restructure, strengthen and revitalise the UN to enable it to respond fully to the needs and aspirations of the Member States in the 21st century and beyond. India has been actively and constructively participating in the process, influencing the debate on the proposed reforms, in accordance with her world view and her perceptions of the role of the United Nations and India's place within it. India's effort have been to ensure that the UN is rendered more responsive to the concerns of the vast majority of its members-the developing countries. India supports a strengthened and revitalised UN with various UN organs and programmes working strictly within their mandates and in accordance with the UN Charter. India actively participated in the Open Ended Working Groups of the UN on Strengthening of the UN, Agenda for Development, Agenda for Peace, Financial Reforms, and on Reforms and Expansion of the UN Security Council. India is the co-Chairman of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the UN.

India continued her active participation in the UN Peace Keeping Operations across the globe. Constructive contributions were made by India in a series of major conferences held during the year, namely,
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the World Solar Summit, World Food Summit and HABITAT 11.

India's strong support to the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and to its objectives and principles was reflected in her active participation in the work of NAM.

India's close involvement with the Commonwealth continued, mainly by way of

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in 1995. India actively participated in the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) held in London in October 1996 and other meetings of the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth Secretary General Chief Emeka Anyaoku visited India from 16-20 March 1997.

The 51st session of the UN General Assembly was held in the backdrop of the adoption of the Comprehensive Treaty to Ban Testing of Nuclear Weapons (CTBT), by the resumed session of the 50th General Assembly, despite the absence of a consensus on the treaty draft in the Conference on Disarmament. The elections to the nonpermanent seats on the UN Security Council from three regions, Latin American Group, Western European and Others Group, and the Asian Group, were held on 21 October 1996. India and Japan were competitors for the single Asian seat. Despite strong efforts made to project India's case and although there were indications that arguments favouring India's candidacy were understood and appreciated by a number of developing countries and many developed countries as well, in the secret ballot, Japan was elected to serve on the Security Council as a non-permanent member for the term 1997-98.

The regular session of the 51st General Assembly concluded on 17 December 1996, with the appointment of Kofi Annan of Ghana as the next Secretary General of the United Nations. The appointment of Kofi Annan, an acclaimed international civil servant, who was also the Under Secretary General of the UN in charge of Department of Peace Keeping Operations, has been welcomed by India.

Political Issues

India continued to participate actively in the UN Peace Keeping Operations. Indian contingent to the UN Angola Verification Mission-Phase III (UNAVEM-III) consists of one infantry battalion group and one engineering company. In addition, military observers and staff officers were also deputed to Angola. During the year, around 100-77>

Indian troops staff officers and military observers were stationed in Angola. India provided military observers to the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM) as well as to the UN Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL). There are at present 5 military observers deputed to UNIKOM and 6 military observers to UNOMIL. Indian police observers were also deputed to UN International Task Force (UNIPTF) in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Indian peace-keepers are also deployed in the UN Special Mission in Haiti (UNSMIH).

India actively contributed to the debate and decisions of the Special Committee on Peace Keeping Operations. A major outcome of this year's deliberations was the agreement to increase the membership of the Committee to include all troop contributing countries. This would significantly enhance the participation of developing countries and their representation in the Special Committee on Peace Keeping Operations

The Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) of the UN General Assembly on the "Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security

Council" continued its deliberations in 1996. Its mandate has been extended upto the end of the 51st session of the UN General Assembly. While a convergence of views emerged on some issues important differences persist on many other crucial aspects. The OEWG has been asked to submit agreed recommendations before the end of the 51st session of the UN General Assembly i.e. mid-September 1997.

India has consistently called for expansion in both nonpermanent and permanent members' categories and for objective criteria for the selection of new permanent members. This was reiterated by the Minister of External Affairs in his address at the Plenary Debate of the 51st session of the UN General Assembly. India is opposed to a selective expansion of the UN Security Council and believes that any piece-meal or temporary solution that does not provide for adequate representation of developing countries in both permanent and non-permanent members category may lead to a weakening of the UN itself.

India reiterated its call in support of an International Convention to Combat Terrorism. The resolution on Terrorism adopted in the 51st session of the UN General Assembly includes the consideration of the elaboration of such a Convention. it was also decided to

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establish an Ad hoc Committee of the Sixth Committee which would elaborate a Convention on Terrorist Bombings, to begin with, and thereafter a Convention on the Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and then to address means of further developing a Comprehensive Legal Framework of Conventions dealing with International Terrorism. A new Declaration to supplement the 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism was also adopted along with the resolution. The new Declaration is aimed at governing the abuse of right to asylum of refugees turned terrorists.

Disarmament and International Security

In 1996, India continued to play a leading role in various multilateral disarmament fora- the Conference on Disarmament (CD) at Geneva, the UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC) and the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). In the Conference on Disarmament, India followed its consistent and principled stand on the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

India had visualised the CTBT as part of a step by step process of global nuclear disarmament, leading to the complete elimination of all nuclear weapons within a time bound framework. India also believed that the objective of CTBT was not merely to end test explosions but to end the qualitative development and refinement of nuclear weapons whether through explosive or other means. Based on India's position on CTBT, concrete Indian textual proposals on amendments were tabled on 26 January 1996. The Indian proposals served to link the CTBT to the objective of elimination of nuclear weapons within an agreed time frame. As the Indian proposals were not taken on board, India made a definitive statement on 20 June 1996 that it could not subscribe to the CTBT in its

existing form as it was not conceived as a measure towards universal nuclear disarmament and was not in India's national security interest. India's nuclear option is part of vital national security and India will not accept any constraints on this option as long as other countries remain unwilling to accept the obligation to eliminate their nuclear weapons within a time bound framework. The article pertaining to "Entry Into Force", conditional upon ratification of the treaty by 44 countries including India, was an unprecedented step in international law and practice of multilateral treaty negotiation. India made it clear that such a requirement, despite India's clearly stated

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position, would oblige India to oppose the adoption of the CTBT text. Following the assessment of the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee that his draft was the best attainable text, India opposed the adoption of the draft Treaty by the Ad hoc Committee and its submission to the CD Plenary. Subsequently, India also opposed the transmission of the Special Report by the CID to the 50th UNGA as there was no consensus on the draft treaty text

In the resumed session of the 50th UNGA, Australia moved a resolution seeking adoption of a draft treaty text identical to the non-consensus draft treaty being negotiated in Geneva. In the voting on the Australian resolution on 10 September 1996, India, along with Bhutan and Libya voted against the resolution, while Cuba, Tanzania, Lebanon, Syria and Mauritius abstained. 158 countries voted in favour of the resolution. The vote was preceded by a general debate where a large number of countries addressed the issue of nuclear disarmament. Several NAM countries stressed the need for elimination of nuclear weapons within a time bound framework. In a suo moto statement made in Parliament on 11 September 1996, the Minister of External Affairs reiterated that India would maintain its opposition to the treaty and not sign it in its present form. He also stated that India would continue to take initiatives in the UN and other fora in keeping with India's consistent and principled policy of achieving progress towards the goal of a nuclear weapon free world which will enhance India's security as also global security.

On 3 September 1996, India deposited its instruments of ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). India maintains that the CWC is a significant milestone in multilateral disarmament negotiations in both its negotiating process and its non-discriminatory character and provides a valid model for future disarmament agreements. With the fulfilment of the requirement of 65 ratifications, the CWC will enter into force on 29 April 1997 and India will now set up a National Authority and take steps towards domestic legislation for implementation of the activities prescribed under CWC. Non-ratification of the CWC by the US and Russia-the world's principal chemical weapon arsenals- is a cause of concern. In India's view this may lead to CWC becoming a non-proliferation treaty rather than a disarmament treaty. In case of non-ratification of the CWC by major countries and countries of the region, India reserves the right to review the situation for an appropriate response.

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India, as a State Party to the Biological Weapon Convention (BWC), participated actively

in the deliberations of the Ad hoc Group meetings of the State Parties. The Indian delegation continued to support strengthening of the Convention and the unimpeded transfer and exchange of bio-technology for peaceful purposes for creating a non-discriminatory and transparent regime. India participated in the fourth Review Conference of the BWC in November-December 1996. A strengthened BWC would serve to ensure that this class of weapons of mass destruction is also effectively eradicated.

As a State Party, India participated in the Review Conference of the Convention on prohibition or restrictions on the use of certain conventional weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects. The Review Conference adopted a revised Protocol 11 on Land Mines and Protocol IV on Blinding Laser Weapons. India's efforts in the Review Conference were governed by the belief that the true focus should remain the civilian whose life and livelihood must be protected from the menace of land mines. Despite the strengthened Protocol, grave areas of concern remained as transfers of land mines were not banned and the use and transfer of 'smart mines' may have been encouraged. However, India supports the move towards complete ban on anti-personnel land mines, which should be universal and non-discriminatory. This needs to be carried out in a phased manner since many countries use mines as weapons of defence along long borders.

In the First Committee of the United Nations, the Indian Resolution on "Convention on Prohibition of Use of Nuclear Weapons" was adopted with 83 votes in favour, 27 against with 24 abstentions. Another Indian Resolution on "The Role of Science and Technology in the context of International Security and Disarmament" was adopted with 81 votes in favour, 38 against with 24 abstentions. Based on the NAM Cartagena Summit, India continued to co-sponsor the Resolution on "Nuclear Disarmament", which was adopted with 87 votes in favour, 39 against with 20 abstentions. This Resolution, inter-alia, calls on the Conference on Disarmament (CD) to establish on priority basis an Ad hoc Committee on Nuclear Disarmament and for the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons within a time bound framework. This Resolution also endorsed the paper of twenty eight countries from the Group

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of 21 (neutral & NAM Countries), including India, on the proposed programme of elimination of nuclear weapons in three phases (1996-2010) submitted by them in CD in August 1996.

India continued to submit its data to the UN Register of Conventional Weapons. In the UN Disarmament Commission, it welcomed the adoption of the paper entitled "Guidelines for International Arms Transfers in the context of GA Resolution 46/36 # of 6 December 1991". India had expressed concern at the continued transfer of small arms and light weapons especially where illicit trade in such weapons leads to their diversion to non-state entities. International cooperation in curbing illicit arms traffic and condemning it will be an important factor in combating this phenomenon.

At various international fora, India continued its principled opposition to the various Ad hoc export control regimes and called for their conversion into universal, transparent, non-discriminatory treaties.

As designated member of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), India actively participated in its meetings and all activities of the IAEA.

In activities relating to technical cooperation, India underlined the importance of promotional activities as stated in the Status of the IAEA. India also trained nationals from different countries, selected by IAEA, at several R&D facilities. India also participated in various specialist meetings and conferences of the Agency.

As a member of the Board of Governors, India has been emphasising that the issue of strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of the Safeguards System needs to be carefully considered. India took part in Nuclear, Radiation and Radioactive Waste Safety Activities of the Agency.

India participated actively in the meetings of UN Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUS) and its two sub-committees viz. Scientific and Technical Sub-committee and the Legal Subcommittee.

Economic, Social and Humanitarian Issues

India continued to play an active role in the Economic and Social Council, the Second Committee of the UN, the Governing
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Boards of the specialised agencies and international meetings on economic, social and environmental issues. India sought to ensure that development issues remained high on the agenda of the United Nations. It also attempted to project the concerns and aspirations of the developing countries highlighting the importance of attaching priority to the eradication of poverty, and stressing the need for new and additional resources, technology and promotion of an open, fair and equitable international economic environment conducive to sustained economic growth in developing countries.

The challenge before India has been to arrive, along with others, at consolidated common positions on behalf of the developing countries at a time when the traditional parameters of the North-South relationship have been undergoing a significant transformation. Many developing countries have undertaken structural economic reforms and market liberalisation measures. Official Development Assistance remains stagnant and developing countries are being advised to target the private sector as a source of capital. The traditional norms of South-South 'cooperation in the face of infrastructure and resource constraints are in the process of transformation.

India has been participating actively in the field of reforms of the UN in the economic and social sectors. It has, however, stressed that reforms should not be undertaken as a purely budget reduction exercise, but as a means to ensure that more resources are available for the needs of the developing countries.

India participated constructively in the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD IX) held in Midrand, South Africa, in April-May 1996. UNCTAD has been under pressure from developed countries as an institution. Developing countries, including India, emphasised the need to strengthen the development agenda of the United Nations, and UNCTAD's position as the sole organisation in the UN system, which can comprehensively examine trade and development, in an integrated fashion. India played a prominent role in ensuring that the reforms of the UNCTAD did not impair its ability to assist the developing countries. A detailed programme of work for UNCTAD for 1996-2000 was adopted in trade in goods and services, investment, enterprise development, technology and finance. It was also decided that UNCTAD X will be held in 2000 in Thailand.

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The Indian delegation to the World Food Summit held in Rome, from 13-17 November 1996, was led by Prime Minister Shri H D Deve Gowda. The Conference adopted the Rome Declaration and Plan of Action. This included an international commitment to reduce by half the number of those malnourished by 2010. As a developing country, with a remarkable record of achieving food self-sufficiency, India was at the forefront of efforts to promote South-South cooperation in this area.

India made a significant contribution to the success of HABITAT II held in Istanbul in June 1996 which adopted an Istanbul Declaration and a Habitat Agenda to ensure adequate shelter for all and for sustainable human settlements development. As the spokesman of G-77 & China in the crucial Working Group on International Cooperation India effectively articulated the concerns of the developing countries and secured agreements on many key issues. As a result, HABITAT II not only designated UN Commission on Human Settlements (UNCHS) as the focal point for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, it also called for its strengthening by the General Assembly.

India also participated in the First World Solar Summit held in Harare in September 1996. India's expertise in the development and utilisation of solar energy is one of the best among developing countries. India has also initiated solar projects within the context of G-15. The Summit finalised a decade long programme of activities to promote the utilisation of solar energy.

An important resolution on action against bribery and corruption in international commercial transactions was adopted first in the Economic and Social Council and thereafter by the 51st session of the General Assembly. The resolution and the accompanying declaration call for action against private companies and public servants involved in corruption in international commercial transactions, while reiterating national sovereignty and paramountcy of national judicial processes in actions against the erring public servants. It also calls for action to ensure that bank secrecy provisions do not impede or hinder criminal investigations or other legal proceedings.

India maintained its position in support of advancement and empowerment of women in

the Commission on Status of Women and in the General Assembly.
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India played a significant role in the revitalisation of the Commission on Social Development, in particular in ensuring that its meetings are held on a regular annual basis and expansion of its membership is undertaken for adequate and effective follow-up of the decisions reached at the World Summit on Social Development held in Copenhagen in March 1995.

India supported the decision that a special session of the UNGA on the question of drugs would be held in June 1998.

India participated actively in various conferences and discussions on environmental issues aimed at the implementation of the agreements reached at United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and Agenda 21. The specific areas of activities are as follows:

(a) The fourth Session of the Commission of Sustainable Development (CSD), including a High Level Segment, was held in New York during April/May 1996. The Session reviewed in detail the follow up at national and global levels of Chapters 9 and 17 of Agenda 21 relating to Atmosphere and Oceans. The Session itself being the last one before the Summit Session in 1997 when the General Assembly would review the achievements of UNCED, there was an underlying emphasis on the achievements and future goals of CSD. In addition the cross sectoral issues of financial resources, trade and environment, transfer of technology, capacity building, education, poverty alleviation and population, etc. were taken up for detailed discussions. The participants at the High Level segment stressed the importance of the Special Session in 1997 when UNGA would review the overall progress of UNCED and discuss appropriate strategies for future implementation. There was broad consensus that the Special Session should not attempt to renegotiate Agenda 21, or other inter-governmental agreements in the field of sustainable development.

(b) The Second Conference of Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC) was held in Geneva in July 1996. A Ministerial Declaration adopted during the Conference strongly endorsed the findings of the Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) confirming that the continued rise in green house gases has a direct impact

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on the global climate system leading to global warming, and therefore required remedial action in the form of legally binding objectives for limitation of emissions on the part of developed countries. The Indian delegation supported efforts of Group of 77, aimed at highlighting the commitments under the FCCC made by developed countries towards transfer of technology and financial resources to developing countries. The guidelines for national communications of developing countries in line with their commitments under the FCCC were finalised. The Global Environment Facility (GEF), the interim

financial mechanism, was provided guidelines in accordance with provisions of the FCCC.

(c) The 9th Session of the Inter-Governmental Negotiating Committee on Desertification (INCD) was held in New York in September 1996. The Indian delegation made efforts to ensure that, while countries in Africa received due priority, the problem of desertification in Asia was also adequately addressed. The question of provision of resources through international development cooperation, technology transfer to meet the challenge of land degradation and cooperation among the developing countries to share their expertise were among the issues stressed. Besides participating in the international conferences on desertification held at Rome in June 1996, and at Beijing in August 1996, India hosted a Regional Conference on the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification in Asia at New Delhi in August 1996. During the year, India ratified the Desertification Convention.

(d) The Third Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity was held in Buenos Aires in November 1996. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) was finalised to enable the GEF to continue to function as an interim mechanism. India, along with G-77 and China, stressed the need for providing financial resources in a timely and predictable manner and facilitating transfer of technology. Indian delegation called for the principle of sovereign rights over biological resources to be reflected in the revised International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources and for the concept of farmers' rights to be included in benefit

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sharing. Access to genetic resources, intellectual property rights, bio-safety and in-situ conservation of bio-diversity were some of the important issues discussed during the meeting.

Human Rights

India continued her active and constructive participation in the debates on human rights issues in the UN Commission on Human Rights, the Economic and Social Council, the specialised sub Commissions and the General Assembly. The basic position of India has been a constructive engagement in favour of a balanced, holistic, non-selective, impartial and cooperative approach to human rights issues in keeping with the spirit of the Vienna Declaration and bearing in mind the principle of "universality, indivisibility and interrelatedness" of all human rights. India has also emphasised the need for depoliticisation of human rights issues and a preference for thematic rather than country-specific approaches. India highlighted the development aspect of human rights, as well as the fact that the "development" aspect of the triad, "democracy, development and human rights" was the weakest link. It was India's endeavour to place the Right to Development in the context of the Working Group of the Third Committee on the adaptation of the human rights machinery and in the context of restructuring of the office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights/Center for Human Rights.

The 52nd session of the Commission on Human Rights was held in Geneva from 18 March-26 April 1996. India participated actively in the deliberations of the Commission. Along with likeminded countries, India also urged the Commission to consider appropriate steps to end politicisation and confrontation in human rights fora. India highlighted the importance of pluralism and tolerance as essential adjuncts to democracy for the promotion of human rights, and initiated a thematic resolution on the subject, which was finally co-sponsored by 31 countries and adopted by consensus. India effectively thwarted attempts by Pakistan to politicise and internationalise the Jammu and Kashmir issue in the Commission on Human Rights.

The 48th session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities met in Geneva from 5- 30 August 1996. India is represented on the Sub-Commission.

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As a signatory to more than sixteen human rights conventions, India attaches the highest importance to fulfilling its reporting obligations. During the year, India submitted its tenth to fourteenth reports to the Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination. India's third periodic report under the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights was also finalised and submitted to the Human Rights Committee.

A number of eminent Indians continued to serve with distinction as members of important human rights bodies. These included Member and Vice Chairman of the Human Rights Committee, former Chief justice of India Shri P N Bhagwati; Member and Vice Chairman of the Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities Smt Shanti Sadiq Ali; Special Rapporteur on the Freedom of Opinion and Expression Shri Abid Hussain and Member of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions Shri Kapil Sibal.

In pursuance of its policy of transparency in the promotion and protection of human rights, India hosted the visit of UN Special Rapporteur on Religious Intolerance Abdelfattah Amor from 1-15 December 1996. In addition to having high-level dialogue in New Delhi, the Special Rapporteur and his team visited Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, as part of their Mission. This is the second visit of a high ranking UN Human Rights functionary to India, after the visit of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Jose Ayala Lasso to India during 1995.

Administrative Financial and Budgetary Issues

The United Nations is faced with a financial crisis of unparalleled magnitude. The arrears of Member States are estimated at over Rs 11,550 crores. It is essentially a cash flow problem on account of non-payment of arrears by Member States. An Open Ended High Level Working Group was constituted in 1994 to deal with the Financial Situation of the United Nations. The Group submitted a report in June this year, essentially recommending that its mandate be extended by one more year. It was unable to make any significant progress on any of the issues relating to the current financial crisis. Discussions on draft texts for addressing the question of payment of arrears and measures

to ensure that future payments are made in full and on time, did not lead to results due to various objections,

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essentially by those Member States who were in arrears. On the questions of changes in the methodology for the calculation of assessed contributions, the positions of developing and developed countries remained far apart.

In this scenario the focus of the Fifth Committee was on continued reform and budgetary management within the limit of resources provided for in 1996-97. It is likely that some efforts would be made by a select group of countries to control budgetary expenditure through a prioritisation of the UN's activities, generally away from those of concern to the developing countries, through demands for greater efficiency in the use of available resources.

The General Assembly adopted the Medium Term Plan for 1998-2001, the Budget Outline for 1998-99 and the Revised Estimates for 1996-97. For the first time, at the initiative of India, "combating of international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations" was included as a priority in the Medium Term Plan. The concept of "promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development" which some developed countries have resisted was also accepted as a priority.

India continued its efforts to seek reimbursements for its participation in UN Peace keeping Operations and for equal death and disability benefits for the peace-keepers in UN service, irrespective of their nationality.

Elections and Appointments

During the year, India was elected or nominated by acclamation/ consensus to the following bodies:

1. Commission on Sustainable Development for the period 1997-99.
2. Commission on Social Development for the period 1997-2000.
3. UN Statistical Commission for the period 1997-2000.
4. The Commission on Elimination of Racial Discrimination for a term of four years (Smt Shanti Sadiq Ali).
5. The International Narcotics Control Board for a term of three years (Shri C Chakrabarty).
6. The International Centre for Public Enterprises for a term of four years (Shri C K Modi).

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7. Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy for a term of four years (Dr E V R Shastri).
8. The International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea for a term of three years (Dr P C Rao).
9. The Executive Committee of the International Criminal Police Organisation (ICPO)-Interpol for a term of three years (Shri J Singh).
10. The International Law Commission for a term of five years (Dr T S Rao).

Special Agencies

India continued to participate actively in all the activities of ESCAP which is the regional arm of the United Nations for the Asia and Pacific. India hosted the UN-ESCAP Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure in New Delhi from 23-29 October 1996. India participated in the Symposium hosted by China in Shanghai in March 1997 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the founding of ESCAP.

The unprecedented financial crisis of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) on account of the failure of some states to honour the commitments made during the 18th Governing Council meeting eroded the ability of the Programme to fulfil its mandate. India's efforts were aimed at retaining the priorities established by the Governing Council in this financial climate, to ensure that UNEP continued to play its catalytic role in the environmental field. Executive Director of UNEP Elizabeth Dowdswell, whose term was to expire on 31 December 1996, was given a year's extension by the General Assembly at the recommendation of the Secretary General of the UN.

United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) was also plagued with financial crisis, following the withdrawal of the United States from the organisation, announced during the General Conference in December 1995. This meant a budgetary reduction of 25 per cent and the emergence of Japan as the largest donor to UNIDO. United Kingdom has also given notice of withdrawal from UNIDO and Germany has frozen its decision to

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withdraw. These developments have Created institutional pressure on UNIDO.

Non-Aligned Movement

NAM commemorated its 35th anniversary during the year. The Commemorative Resolution adopted at the NAM Ministerial meeting in New York on 23 September 1996 highlighted the need for solidarity in thought and action amongst the NAM countries. India also participated in the meeting of the NAM Methodology Committee in Colombia in May 1996. India also actively contributed to the meeting of Experts in Science and Technology of Non-Aligned countries held in Colombia on 16-18 March 1997.

The Ministerial Meeting of NAM held in New York on 25 September 1996 unanimously

welcomed India's offer to host the next Conference of the Foreign Ministers of NAM in New Delhi from 4-8 April 1997.

India's commitment to the principles and objectives of NAM, implying freedom of choice and autonomy and independence of action, remains strongest. The Movement was a response to the inequalities and severe imbalances in the distribution of economic and political power in the world, which persist in new forms. The Non-Aligned Movement gives a sharper profile to thematic concerns of developing countries in keeping with the evolving times. Revitalisation of the role of NAM is an issue which has engaged the attention of the Movement in recent times. NAM has been particularly conscious of the need to promote and safeguard the interests of the developing countries in the present rapidly changing international economic environment and to articulate its perspectives on a variety of issues. It is responsive to the increasing importance of economic issues in the World agenda. Global nuclear disarmament to attain a nuclear weapon free world through a universal Nuclear Weapons Convention is a priority objective. NAM is playing a constructive role in promoting both South-South cooperation and interaction with the North. These issues are expected to be a focus of attention at the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of NAM Member States in New Delhi.

Commonwealth

India continued to play an important role in the Commonwealth and participated in the Commonwealth Senior Officials Meeting
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(SOM) held in London on 29 & 30 October 1996. A number of new ideas for the Edinburgh CHOGM (October 1997) were discussed. It was decided that the theme of the Edinburgh CHOGM would be "Trade, Investment and Development: the Road to Commonwealth Prosperity".

India participated in the Inter-governmental Group on Refugees and Displaced Persons, set up at CHOGM '95, which met in October 1996 and February 1997 and in the Inter-governmental Group on Criteria for Commonwealth Membership, which met in September, 1996 and February 1997.

India will continue to foster its ties with the Commonwealth where its position as the largest country gives it a special place. India will continue to advance the interests of developing countries in the Commonwealth, stressing the importance of technical cooperation and developmental activities and promotion of South-South cooperation.

International Law: Developments and Activities

The 48th Session of the International Law Commission (ILC) was held at Geneva from 6 May-26 July 1996. The Commission adopted a set of 20 articles on the draft code of crimes against peace and security of mankind and commentaries on those articles and recommended that the General Assembly select the most appropriate form that the draft code could take which would ensure its widest possible acceptance. On State responsibility the Commission completed on first reading a set of sixty draft articles (with

annexes) and decided to transmit the draft articles to Governments for their comments. The topic of international liability for injurious consequences arising out of acts not prohibited by international law was considered in a Working Group of the Commission. The report of the Working Group consisting of 22 draft articles and commentaries were transmitted to the General Assembly for comments. Regarding the topic of State succession and its impact on the nationality of natural and legal persons, the Commission set out its recommendations to the General Assembly regarding its plan and approach to be followed on the topic.

The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) held its 29th session from 28 May-14 June 1996 at New York. The adoption of a set of rules in the form of "Model Law on
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Legal Aspects of Electronic Data Interchange" in international trade practices was the main outcome of this session. The proposed Model Law is designed to assist States in modernising legislation to accommodate the increasing use of Electronic Data Interchange in commercial transactions. Existing laws tend to govern only "paper-based" commerce which relies on signatures and original hard copies of documents. The new Model Law is expected to mainly remedy such situations. The Commission also approved the substance of draft notes on organising arbitral proceedings and decided that the text adopted by the Commission be entitled "UNCITRAL Notes on Organising Arbitral Proceedings" with a view to making arbitral proceedings more practicable and efficient. The Commission also considered the report of the Working Group on International Contract Practices and approved its request to the Secretariat to prepare a revised version of draft uniform rules on receivable financing. The report of the Working Group on Insolvency Law, working on draft provisions on judicial cooperation, also considered such areas as access and recognition.

The 51st session of the United Nations General Assembly at its Sixth Committee (Legal) considered the following agenda items: Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism; Establishment of an International Criminal Court; Framework Convention on international Water-courses; Report of the Charter Committee; Report of the International Law Commission; Report of the UNCITRAL; United Nations Decade of International Law; New International Economic Order; Status of Additional Protocols of 1977; Protection and Security of Diplomatic and Consular Missions; Host Country Relations and Internal System of justice in the United Nations Secretariat. On the agenda item entitled "Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism", a draft Convention on the Prevention and Suppression of International Terrorism prepared by the Legal & Treaties Division (L&T Division) was circulated as an official document of the General Assembly.

On the recommendation of the Sixth Committee the General Assembly at this session adopted the following important resolutions:

(a) The resolution on Terrorism indicated the possibility of considering in future the

elaboration of a comprehensive convention on International Terrorism. It decided to establish an Ad hoc Committee of the Sixth Committee which would elaborate a Convention on Suppression of Terrorist Bombings,

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thereafter a Convention on the Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and then to address means of further developing a Comprehensive Legal Framework of Conventions dealing with International Terrorism. Annexed to the resolution on Terrorism is a new Declaration to supplement the 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism.

(b) The resolution on International Criminal Court (ICC) renews the mandate of the PREPCOM to meet four times between February 1997 and April 1998, before the Diplomatic Conference to be convened in mid-1998.

(c) A resolution renewing the mandate of the Working Group of the Whole to elaborate a Framework Convention on the Law of the Non- navigational Uses of International Watercourses, which met from 7-25 October 1996, to meet again in 1997 to consider the ILC draft articles and other issues.

(d) Resolutions on the Charter Committee decided that at its next session the Committee should consider on priority basis the question of the implementation of the provisions of the Charter relating to Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter. On the specific subject of the assistance to third States affected by sanctions, the resolution invited the Security Council to consider the establishment of further mechanisms or procedures as appropriate towards a solution to this problem.

(e) The resolution on the International Law Commission authorised the ILC to undertake a substantive study of the topic on Nationality in Succession of States and recommended two new topics relating to diplomatic protection and unilateral acts of States; requested comments of governments on the topic of international liability, and drew the attention of States participating in ICC PREPCOM to the relevance of the Draft Code of Crimes Against Peace and Security of Mankind; decided to hold during the 52nd session of the Sixth Committee a colloquium on progressive development and codification of international law to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of ILC.

(f) The resolution on UNCITRAL approved the recommendations made by the UNCITRAL in its 29th session and recommended

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separately to States the UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Commerce.

(g), The resolution on the United Nations Decade of International Law outlined the programme of activities for the final term of the Decade 1997-99 and considered it desirable to draft a programme of action on the centennial of the first Peace Conference initiated by Russia and the Netherlands, and adopted a specific resolution on Electronic

Treaty Data Base.

The 35th Session of the Legal Sub-Committee of the UN Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), held at Vienna from 18 March-4 April 1996, considered the following agenda items:-

- (a) Question of review and possible revision of the principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources (NPS) in outer space;
- (b) Definition and delimitation of outer space;
- (c) Character and utilisation of geostationary orbit (GSO); and
- (d) Legal aspects related to outer space benefits, particularly taking into account the needs of the developing countries.

On the question of outer space benefits, the Legal Sub-Committee made substantial progress on a declaration on international cooperation in exploration and use of outer space for the benefit of and in the interests of all states taking into account in particular the needs of developing countries. The Sub-Committee also considered the question of new agenda items that could be taken up for consideration. These were:

- (a) commercial aspects of space activities (e.g. property rights, insurance and liability);
- (b) review of existing norms of international law relating to space debris;
- (c) legal aspects of space debris;
- (d) comparative review of the principles of international space law and international environmental law.

The Legal and Treaties Division has prepared the Draft Periodic Report under Article 19 of the Convention on the Elimination of All
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Forms of Racial Discrimination and participated in the presentation of the Report to the Committee on Racial Discrimination.

The Division participated in the Meeting of Experts on the Committee for the National Implementation of International Humanitarian Law held in Geneva in October 1996. The meeting recommended setting up of a mechanism, whether formal or informal, depending on national situations, comprising of high level officials of the relevant Ministries, as useful for implementing international humanitarian law.

The 35th Annual Session of the Asian African Legal Consultative Committee was held in Manila from 4-9 March 1996. Apart from a two day Special Meeting on the

establishment of an International Criminal Court, other subjects considered included the Report of the international Law Commission, Law of the Sea, United Nations Conference on Environment and Development Follow Up, UN Decade of International Law, Law Relating to Status and Treatment of Refugees, Deportation of Palestinians in Violation of International Law, Trade Law Matters and Mutual Cooperation in judicial Assistance.

The Division also participated in the bilateral negotiations on protection and promotion of investments with Austria, BelgoLuxemberg Union, Czech and Slovak Republics, Uzbekistan, Spain, Oman, China and Egypt.

On extradition matters consultations and exchange of drafts took place with Oman, Bulgaria, Romania, Greece, Switzerland, Ukraine, France, Bhutan and Belgium.

Further negotiations for conclusion of treaties on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters were held with France; consultations and exchange of drafts took place with UAE, Greece, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation and Malaysia. Negotiations for conclusion of agreements on transfer of prisoners were held with the UK, Canada and France, while consultations and exchange of drafts took place with South Africa.

The Division participated in bilateral negotiations for the conclusion of Air Services and Mutual judicial Assistance Agreements. The Division forwarded a number of bilateral, agreements for registration with the UN. The Division prepared and processed for -96>

signature of the President, Instruments of Full Powers, Ratifications and Accessions for several multilateral and bilateral treaties/ agreements involving India.

India became a party to several Multilateral Conventions including: the Chemical Weapons Convention; the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa; Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, 1959; ILO Convention No. 147 concerning Minimum Standards in Merchant Ships; and the international Tropical Timber Agreement. India also ratified the Amendments to Articles 6 and 22 of the International Telecommunications Satellite Organisation (INTELSAT) Operating Agreement.

India has signed many bilateral agreements in various fields during the year. A list of treaties/agreements entered into by India during the year is at Appendix V. A list of Instruments of Full Powers issued during 1996 for signing Agreements on behalf of India is at Appendix VI and a list of Instruments of Ratification is at Appendix VII. -97>

10. Foreign Economic Relations

The Economic Division (ED) and the Multilateral Economic relations Division (MER) followed developments relating to regional, sub-regional and trans-regional economic groupings and preferential and free trade areas.

India's regional and Multilateral diplomacy has registered a number of successes in the field of economic cooperation in recent times. The fifth Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in December 1995 upgraded India to the status of a full Dialogue Partner of ASEAN "reflecting the growing ties between the two sides that have developed in recent years". This was a major positive development in India's evolving relationship with ASEAN. It is a vindication of India's 'look-East' policy and a tribute to the intense and high level diplomatic effort Mounted by it, as well as a manifestation of the success of the Sectoral Dialogue Partnership. India has since successfully participated at the ASEAN-Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) in Jakarta in July 1996 as a full Dialogue Partner for the first time. The long term vision, overall strategy and future agenda of cooperation with ASEAN were chalked out. The first ASEAN-India Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) has since been held in November 1996 in New Delhi, signalling the operationalisation of the main mechanism for Dialogue Partnership and economic cooperation in the agreed areas of trade, investment, science and technology, tourism, infrastructure, human resource development and people-to-people interaction. The first India-ASEAN Lecture was delivered by the Prime Minister of Malaysia in December 1996 marking the beginning of the India-ASEAN Lecture Series.

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G-15, a Summit level group of 15 developing countries for South- South Consultation and Cooperation, organised its Sixth Summit in Harare during November 1996. Prime Minister Shri H D Deve Gowda led the Indian delegation to the Sixth Summit. The G-15 Summit affirmed the viability of the Group as a forum for South-South Cooperation and North-South Dialogue. Indian techno-economic projects in G-15 are in an advanced stage of implementation. These encompass South-South Cooperation in Solar Energy Applications, Gene Banks of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Computer Training Programmes, Small Scale Industries Cooperation and an Entrepreneur and Technical Development Centre for vocational training. On North-South issues, India played an active role at the Summit by drawing attention to concerns and prospects of developing countries in the evolving international trading system with special reference to WTO issues. The Summit helped achieve a broad convergence of views on a number of key areas. The Summit also provided a sharper focus to India's political and economic relations with Africa. A special initiative of a revolving fund for Africa of Rs. 100 crores was announced. India will also be establishing an Informatics Training Centre for Africa in Zimbabwe. Memoranda of Understanding have been concluded with Zimbabwe and Senegal for small scale industries cooperation.

The Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR- ARC) was launched formally in Mauritius on 6 March 1997 at a ministerial level meeting, in which Minister of External Affairs Shri I K Gujral participated. The IOR-ARC consists of 14-members, viz., Australia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Tanzania and Yemen. India was one of the most active participants in the two years it took to develop and realise IOR-ARC and coordinated the preparation of the Association's Charter. IOR-ARC is tripartite in nature involving officials, academics and the business community. The focus of IOR-ARC is on

the large canvas of economic cooperation with special emphasis on trade and investment liberalisation, promotion and facilitation; collaboration in human resources development; science and technology and tourism. Cooperation within IOR-ARC is given effect through projects within the Work Programme of IOR-ARC. India is coordinator for the creation of the Indian Ocean Rim Business Centre and IOR-NET electronic data network, the first IOR-ARC Trade Fair in India in
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1999, undertaking of studies on investment facilitation and promotion and trade-creating joint ventures and the establishment of an IOR Chair in Indian Ocean Studies and Associate Fellowship Programme. The successful establishment and institutionalisation of IOR-ARC is a development of historic significance and a matter of particular satisfaction for India as the creation of a community of Afro-Asian nations amongst the littoral States of the Indian Ocean Rim including Australia, was a cherished Nehruvian ideal. It is appropriate that this vision could be realised during the 50th anniversary of Indian Independence.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) had decided in 1993 to impose a moratorium of three years on admission of new members. India had formally conveyed to members of APEC its interest in associating with APEC and participating in its activities. This has been taken up on a sustained basis with APEC member economies both directly as well as through Indian Missions in these countries. The subject of India's membership has also been raised with individual APEC member economies during high level bilateral interactions. This was taken up at the Foreign Ministers level during the ASEAN-Post Ministerial Conference in Jakarta in July 1996. It has also been discussed bilaterally during other ministerial meetings. The APEC Economic Leaders Meeting in Philippines during November 1996 did not admit any new member, but decided to evolve criteria for admission of new members to be finalised at the next APEC Summit Scheduled at Vancouver in 1997. India will continue to reiterate its interest in membership of APEC on the basis of its geographical location, degree of trade and investment interaction and potential, size of the economy, and ability to contribute to larger Asia-Pacific economic cooperation. In addition, a sustained diplomatic campaign conveying India's interest in participation in three APEC Working Groups on Regional Energy Cooperation, Industrial Science & Technology, and Trade Promotion has been maintained. India participated in the Working Group on Regional Energy Cooperation in October 1996.

The first Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in Thailand in 1996 took steps towards institutionalisation by agreeing to have biennial Summits, the next one being in London in 1998. India had taken up the issue of its participation with EU and Asian members of ASEM through Indian Missions as well as in bilateral meetings. India feels
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that being a "dynamic regional economy", no ASEM would be complete without India's participation.

India's economic interaction with the developed countries through the 29-member

Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) made good progress. The OECD's Policy Dialogue relationship with India continued through India's participation in policy dialogue workshops on investment, trade, transfer pricing and steel. OECD will hold a special symposium with India in order to further enhance and strengthen the dialogue relationship.

India continued to play an important role in the Group of 77 (G- 77), a grouping of developing countries active in the field of South-South Cooperation. The G-77 Foreign Ministers met in New York in September 1996. The Minister of External Affairs attended the meeting which focussed both on issues of South-South Cooperation and North-South Dialogue of interest to developing countries. A South-South Conference on Trade, Finance and investment was held in San Jose, Costa Rica from 13-15 January 1997. The three-day Conference adopted the San Jose Declaration' and accepted in principle the San Jose Plan of Action'. These are aimed at accelerating and updating the Caracas Plan of Action (CPA) of 1981 on South-South Cooperation in the light of changes in the international economic environment due to globalisation and liberalisation. The Conference reiterated the commitment of the developing countries to South-South Cooperation and suggested specific measures in this direction. The San Jose Declaration and San Jose Plan of Action constitute important reference points for South-South Cooperation through Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (ECDC/TCDC).

In terms of India's economic diplomacy, 1996-97 was a watershed. Between 1991 and 1995, economic reforms were underway in India and their projection in the international community was a major task. This was accomplished successfully and India effectively conveyed the distance travelled in trade and investment policy liberalisation and their irreversibility. This was substantiated by robust increases in trade and investment flows. During 1996, the expectations of the international community were much more focussed on results achieved and the success rate of trade and investment transactions attempted. Thus, whilst continuing with promotion work in this area, economic diplomacy was increasingly

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geared with ground level and transactional problems and facilitation, particularly with a view to meeting export and investment targets-bilaterally, regionally and globally. Specific political initiatives served to reinforce economic objectives towards India's neighbourhood, ASEAN and East Asia region, Central Asia and Commonwealth of independent States (CIS) countries, Europe, Africa, Latin America and North America. In turn, growing economic engagements in these countries and regions were sought to be used to develop a fund of political goodwill.

The Economic Division continued to provide a standard backstopping arrangement and a nodal point for addressing the concerns of Indian exporters and industry by constantly providing and seeking timely inputs to and from Indian Missions. The information dissemination role assumed crucial significance particularly in terms of responding to enquiries from Indian Missions and providing them the informational wherewithal to

carry out their economic and commercial functions effectively. Ranging from simple trade enquiries from Indian exporters and Indian Missions to details about policy, legislation and procedures on various aspects of trade and investment, the Economic Division provided a regular and quick response service. It actively engaged in enhanced interactions with the Indian business community, apex chambers of commerce and industry, various ministries and trade promotion agencies as well as the local foreign Missions in order to evolve a holistic approach and ongoing examination of export promotion efforts and further improvements in Country's trade promotion strategies. The Missions were continuously urged to improve upon their response time in addressing the concerns and interests of the Indian business and exporting community. They were advised from time to time to evolve the requisite data bases and develop promotional strategies and undertake large scale information dissemination campaigns on India's liberalised economic policies and concomitant opportunities to reach out to the largest cross-section of the local businesses. While exhorting the Missions to accord the highest priority to economic and commercial work, greater emphasis was placed on building India's image and creating an Indian Brand Equity SO that a major export thrust could be sustained. With the India Brand Equity Fund and the Quality Council of India coming into existence, project identification has begun.

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The Economic Division rendered valuable assistance in trade promotion efforts of Government bodies and industry as well as associations in promoting the participation of foreign business in Indian Trade Fairs and Indian business in foreign Trade Fairs, Seminars, road shows, buyer-seller meets etc. Ministry was actively associated with the "Made in India" shows in Mauritius, South Africa and Nairobi and FIEO's India EXPO in Morocco, which were specifically aimed at promotion of Indian brand image abroad. Similarly the Economic Division facilitated through direct contacts with foreign Missions in India and Indian Missions abroad and in collaboration with apex chambers, business to business exchanges to and from India. The Division also played a supportive role in meeting the special and additional facilitation needs of the Small Scale Industry (SSI) sector particularly. The Economic Division has also stimulated private sector initiative for SSI cooperation with countries in Africa and South East Asia.

The Economic Division has been contributing to crisis management as well as crisis prevention on a number of trade related problems and issues affecting exports and imports. Thus for example the problems on account of perceptions about some of the export sectors using child labour, export of infected Indian wheat, pharmaceuticals, anti-dumping measures on Indian Basmati Rice and other textile products etc. were sought to be countered through speedy despatch of information and advice on approaches to be followed by Indian Missions and briefing concerned foreign delegations and Ambassadors in India. Target country and issue specific publicity brochures for use by select Indian Missions are being regularly Updated and brought out. Similarly, on issues such as the problem of azo-dyes in India's textiles exports, policy regarding handling, export and import of hazardous waste, attempts to use environmental and phyto-sanitary and other regulations to restrict India's exports, the issue of dual use technology, relevant inputs are obtained, analysed and provided to the concerned. Similarly emerging patterns

with regard to restrictive and protectionist policies of some target countries and trade blocs are monitored and strategies devised to best cope with non-tariff barriers of various kind.

As part of the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of the Indian independence, the Economic Division in consultation with Indian Missions, identified a large number of projects including seminars,

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exhibitions, product specific roving expos, bringing out of publicity brochures etc. in order to project India's economic and industrial achievements and potential.

The Economic Division was actively associated in providing inputs and international perspectives as well as politico-economic assessments in deliberations of various joint Business Councils/Joint Commission Meetings. It was also actively involved in finalising the establishment of Indo-Israel Business Alliance.

The activities of the Technical Cooperation (TC) Division include administration of: (a) India Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme, (b) Special Commonwealth African Assistance Plan (SCAAP), (c) Small Scale industries Cooperation Programme under G-15, (d) Technical Cooperation amongst Developing Countries (TCDC), (e) disaster relief Supplies, and (f) the Special Volunteer Programme (SVP).

The ITEC Programme handles cooperation with developing countries, other than with India's immediate neighbours with whom there are individual bilateral Technical Assistance Programmer. The ITEC Programme is administered on a Government to Government and bilateral basis and covers around 100 countries. These include countries in Africa, South-East Asia, Central Asia, West Asia, Latin America as well as in Eastern Europe including Russia. The ITEC Programme has five major components training (both Civilian and military); preparation of feasibility studies and provision of consultancy services; implementation of projects; deputation of experts abroad and study tours to India. Basic data pertaining to ITEC is at Appendices VIII to XV.

The SCAAP covers only the provision of technical training in India exclusively for Commonwealth African countries (numbering 17). Both the SCAAP and ITEC Programmes have identical norms.

During 1996-97, 1305 slots were allocated for training of foreign nominees in civilian institutions spread over 68 regular courses under ITEC and SCAAP. Out of them 603 slots were utilised in areas such as audit and accounts banking, diplomacy, manpower planning, parliamentary studies, poultry, rural development, small scale industries, standardisation etc. There has been increasing demand for high-tech courses in fields such as computers, software, maintenance of biomedical equipment, flow process technology etc.

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Major beneficiaries of ITEC/SCAAP Programmes have been African countries. Now East European and Central Asian countries have also started participating in increasing numbers.

The TC Division also acts as the nodal point for organising training for nominees of friendly countries in defence institutions in India. These slots are offered either under ITEC programme reciprocal or on a self-financing basis. On an average 250 slots are offered under ITEC programme and 100 under the Self-Financing Scheme. Courses range from prestigious ones at the National Defence College, Defence Services Staff College and the Indian Military Academy to short term technical ones in the Army, Navy and Air Force Training Centres.

Under the ITEC Programme, India collaborates with partner countries for undertaking industrial projects. Such projects are focussed to share India's developmental experience and expertise acquired in the past five decades in critical areas like agriculture, small scale industries, dairy farming, vocational training, solar energy, information technology etc. Among major projects executed during the year were the computerisation of Senegalese Prime Minister's office and setting up of solar photovoltaic plants in Syria and Oman. India also organised artificial limb fitment camp in Uzbekistan and supplied containerised hot water boilers to Kazakhstan, ten thousand bicycles and agricultural machinery to Surinam and mud block and tile manufacturing equipment to Egypt. Projects under execution include solar photovoltaic plants in Mali and Costa Rica.

The execution of feasibility studies and offer of consultancy services to partner countries fall within the ambit of ITEC Programme. Such activities help identify areas for expanding economic and commercial relations between India and the partner countries. During the year, a pre-feasibility study in Sierra Leone for reconstruction of the railways was undertaken. At Mali's request, a feasibility study for setting up of a poultry vaccine laboratory in Mali has been completed and the necessary follow up action for setting up of the project is under consideration. Feasibility studies for computerising the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Secretariat in Ethiopia and for cooperation in the field of agriculture with five West African countries viz. Ghana, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Togo and Central African Republic were also completed. Feasibility studies for rehabilitation of major roads and for setting up Bal Bhavan in Mauritius are under preparation.

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At the specific request of partner countries, Indian experts are sent on deputation abroad under ITEC Programme to assist in a broad range of technical and developmental sectors. At present, 25 Indian experts from various disciplines such as agriculture, planning, engineering, medical teaching, management, small scale industries, geology, telecommunication etc. are working in Cambodia, Ghana, Guyana, the Kyrgyz Republic, Laos, Mauritius, Seychelles and Uzbekistan.

During 1996-97, India continued extending help to the countries afflicted with natural

calamities like floods, droughts hurricane etc. Relief supplies were sent to Cuba, Niger, Laos, Sudan, Seychelles, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Comoros, Guinea, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Iraq, Uzbekistan etc.

Under the auspices of G-15 and the South-South Cooperation framework, India has offered at the level of the Prime Minister and at the request of African Heads of State/Government to develop small scale industries in identified developing countries. In this context Memoranda of Understanding were signed with Senegal and Zimbabwe during the G-15 Summit in November 1996. Each of these major projects entails an expenditure of Rs 18 crores.

The TC Division has also been involved in a new Umbrella Programme involving technical cooperation among developing countries being coordinated by the Council of Scientific and industrial Research and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation.

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11.Trade and Investment Promotion

The Ministry of External Affairs has since the 1980s accorded priority in its diplomatic efforts to projecting India's economic and commercial interests with foreign countries. Initially, these efforts were focussed primarily on promoting and attracting investments from the Indian diaspora. However, with the announcement of the country's economic liberalisation programme increased emphasis was placed on attracting global foreign direct investment while progressively integrating India's economy with the global economy. The Ministry of External Affairs' economic promotional efforts, both through its network of Missions and Posts abroad as well as at Headquarters, has been increasingly focussed on trade and investment promotion.

Following Government's decision to entrust the work of investment promotion to Indian Missions/Posts, a nodal officer was designated in each Mission. The Ministry has translated the need for making persistent efforts for mobilising and promoting foreign investments into India into a charter of ditties and responsibilities for these designated officials both at Headquarters and its Missions. A manual of instructions for such officers had been brought out as early as 1978. After considerable in-house research and in consultation with the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade guidelines for efficient functioning of these officers, in the changing environment, were revised and updated.

For promoting investments, the Missions continued to play a multi-dimensional role: image building, investment promotion, dissemination of information, investment support services, investment

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related services and publicity. All these efforts are effectively coordinated and form major inputs. The shifting emphasis of each particular function differed from country to country depending upon nature of exchanges, contacts, interactions and the extent of the local Government's role in the economic and commercial sector. Interaction was

maintained with related key Ministries of the local Government such as Industry, Commerce, Finance and Foreign Affairs as well as sector specific Ministries such as Agriculture, Petroleum, Mines, Science and Technology, Environment, Electronics and Telecommunications, to name a few. Contacts were maintained with the apex chambers of commerce, trade associations, export promotion councils and commodity boards.

The special emphasis on the sector specific approach was continued in collaboration with the concerned Ministries and industry associations. Close coordination with the apex chambers of commerce and co-opting the private sector in such forums were the key components of investment promotion efforts. The Ministry was represented on the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) by the Secretary (Economic Relations). It played its due role in supplying the FIPB with global feedback and information pertaining to expeditious decision-making.

The Ministry played a positive and participatory role assisting in the efforts of the Foreign Investment Promotion Council (FIPC) in organising seminars, meetings, conferences and one to one interactions abroad. The aim was to make India's foreign policy regime as competitive and effective as that of other competitive and emerging economies.

Investment promotion seminars in important business centres in Europe such as Germany, Belgium, Japan, USA and the Gulf were organised by the concerned Missions and Posts. In the latest such seminar organised in Brussels on 25 & 26 November 1996, Minister of State for Commerce led a 39-member delegation comprising of the Chairmen of Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) and of Foreign Investment Promotion Council (FIPC), senior Government officials conversant with the sectors of interest to European investors and important CEOs from the private sector.

The Ministry interacted with all the apex trade and industry associations in India and with the state governments in its efforts to

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energise and synergise interaction of the States and the Central Governments and specific industries with interested foreign investors.

The Ministry was also closely involved, along with Missions and Posts abroad ' in various investment promotion seminars organised in India by other Ministries, as well as apex chambers and other economic organisations. Prominent among these were:

(a) "Destination India" Summit organised by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board, Ministry of Industry in conjunction with the Federation of India ' n Chambers of Commerce and industry in New Delhi in September 1996.

(b) UN-ESCAP Ministerial Conference on infrastructure and the World Infrastructure Forum, organised by the Ministry of Surface Transport in New Delhi in October 1996.

(c) The World Economic Forum Meeting organised by Confederation of Indian Industry in October 1996.

(d) The Vth International Energy 'Conference organised by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in Goa in December 1996.

(e) Aero-India-96 organised by the Ministry of Defence in Bangalore in December 1996.

(f) INDIA INTECHMART for the Southern Region organised by the Ministry of Industry in collaboration with UNIDO from 19-22 March 1997 in Bangalore.

(g) Asia Society's VIIIth Annual Corporate Conference organised by Confederation of Indian Industry in New Delhi in March 1997.

External Economic Publicity

The Ministry, in conjunction with the Indian Mission in Brussels, coordinated Government of India's participation in a two-day seminar organised in Brussels by the European Union in November 1996. In addition to the general presentation on the new business environment in India, sectors chosen for, special focus were Food Processing, Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Light Engineering and Electronics.

In September 1996, the Investment Promotion Unit (IPU) published, in collaboration with a professional management
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consultant, 500 copies of an updated brochure, "India Means Business-Perspectives " for distribution at the "Destination India" Summit inaugurated by the Prime Minister. This brochure was extremely well received and in November 1996 IPU published an additional 19,500 copies for distribution through Indian Missions and Posts abroad.

In addition to information on the economic profile of the Indian economy, these brochures contained the very latest information on trade, investment, the financial sector, the size of the market, opportunities in specific sectors, regulatory environment, incentives for foreign investment, banking and finance, the Indian tax system, company law and accounting.

Considering the extremely positive response to the flier, "Opportunity India", presenting the salient features of India's economic reforms programme and various advantages as a country to invest in, IPU produced a German version. Other country-specific fliers for USA, UK, France and Japan are under preparation.

A set of 8 sector specific brochures and 4 region specific brochures are being prepared in collaboration with a reputed economic consultancy organisation. The sectors to be covered are agro-processing and packaging, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, textiles, electronics and electronic components, automobile ancillaries and tourism-related infrastructure.

information on the Indian economy and the business environment was made available on floppy diskette with the IPU linking up with the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), one of India's premier economic research organisations. The material was constantly updated.

All this material was produced with a view to distributing it to targeted audiences of foreign businessmen through Indian Missions and Posts abroad, economic ministries and apex chambers of commerce. They incorporated inputs received from virtually every single ministry in the Government of India involved in investment promotion.

Special efforts were made in coordination with the External Publicity Division and Missions abroad to reach out to business journalists in target countries and arrange their visits to India in

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order to enable them to see at first hand the changes in the business environment and report on it in the local media of these countries. The visit in November 1996 by a team of Japanese journalists, representing one of the most prestigious financial dailies, was a case in point.

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12. Policy Planning and Research

The Policy Planning and Research Division of the Ministry performed its role of preparing briefs and background papers on important topics and issues on the evolving international situation. These covered issues of longer term relevance to broad foreign policy objectives. The Division prepared analytical position papers for Ministry's interaction with other agencies.

The Division continued to serve as a nodal point for interaction with the joint Intelligence Committee (JIC), the University Grants Commission (UGC) and its affiliates and the Area Study Centres (ASC) located in various universities and Specialising in research on various regions of the world.

The Division made funds available to scholars and institutions in different parts of the country for conducting seminars and conferences on topical foreign policy issues, participation in conferences abroad and undertaking studies and research projects.

The subject of these seminars and conferences covered the Indo- ASEAN Dialogue, bilateral relations with Australia, polity and economy in West Asian countries and their interaction with the South Asian states in the post Cold War period, emerging trends in Indo-Latin American relations, Indo-Turkmenistan strategic dialogue, recent developments in Afghanistan and their regional implications, Indo-German dialogue on security issues, emerging conflicts and tensions in the development process in Asia and causation and suggested remedies, need for new perspectives, in Indo-Maldivian relations, fifty years of Indian Foreign Policy and the road ahead,

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Indo-Egypt dialogue and emerging conflict & tension of development process in Asia. The studies covered regional strategic and defence subjects. Support was provided to Indian scholars and experts for attending meetings of the Working Groups and Steering Committee of CSCAP, the second track in the ASEAN Regional Forum.

The Centre for Advanced Study of India at the University of Pennsylvania, USA is also given an annual recurring grant by the Division. As part of its interactive function, the Division took the initiative in promoting exchanges with official and non-official visiting experts and projected India's views and perceptions on important issues.

The Division continued to edit and publish the Annual Report of the Ministry. The Report served as a compendium of India's interaction with the rest of the world in the political, economic and Cultural fields, including the views of the government on various facets of international relations.

The Division rendered all possible assistance to the territorial divisions as well as Indian Missions abroad whenever any specific information or document on international relations was required. The Research Wing examined the depiction of India's international boundaries in foreign publications. Cases of incorrect depiction were taken up with the concerned government or the publisher through Indian Missions abroad for necessary corrective measures. The Division also scrutinised foreign publications containing maps depicting India's external boundaries before these were imported into the country and offered its views to the Ministries dealing with such matters. It coordinated the supply of mapsheets to various Government and semi-Government agencies for use in their official work with the Survey of India and the Ministry of Defence. The Research Wing dealt with requests from research scholars for access to the records of the Ministry.

in support of research, the Policy Planning Division's Library has modern information technology equipment and rich resource material, with over one hundred thousand books and a large selection of maps, microforms and official documents. The Library subscribes to 600 periodical titles. It has an in-house computer system with twelve terminals, two of which support data entry and retrieval. It has CD-ROM databases on foreign affairs and Current affairs. The

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Library is also equipped with a CD-ROM drive, a microfilm/fiche reader printer, a plain paper photocopier, a VTR and colour monitor and a laser printer with Desk Top Publishing (DTP) software. This has enabled better presentation of publications and documents of the Division. Documentation/Bibliographic Services as well as other library operations and services have been computerised, using an integrated library software package. Information on all books, maps, documents and selected periodical articles received in the Library since 1986, as well as publications pertaining to pre-1986 period and in active use, are available on-line through each terminal in the main Library as well as in the Ministry's headquarters in South Block. Library information can also be

accessed on-line through remote 'login' via dial-up mode. All new documents received in the Library-books, maps microforms, selected articles from periodicals-are being fed into the in-house computer system to create a database on foreign affairs. Using this database and CD- ROM Databases, the Library provides Current Awareness Service and Bibliographical and Reference Services. In addition, the Library regularly puts out the monthly publication the Chronicle of Events, an abstract of selected periodical articles, Foreign Affairs Documentation Bulletin and Recent Additions, an annotated list of publications added to the Library. Library users including research scholars are welcome to access the on-line computer-based information in the Library in different databases, including CD-ROM Databases, and the Foreign Affairs Information Retrieval System (FAIRS). Photocopying and Computer Print-out facilities are also available to all Library users including research scholars.

During 1996-97 the Division completed work on the compilation of a Compendium of India's Bilateral Treaties and Agreements for the period 1971-80 and 1991, within the project of compiling a comprehensive compendium of India's Bilateral Treaties and Agreements.

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13. External Publicity

During the year, the External Publicity Division (XP Division) projected India's views and concerns on national and international issues and acquainted public opinion abroad with developments in India in all spheres, particularly those which have a bearing on India's foreign policy and security. In addition to countering negative trends, the External Publicity Division and Missions and Posts abroad worked in unison to enlarge areas of positive perception about the country while attempting to build up greater awareness of and understanding for its policies and values. Some focus areas included: India's millennial history and its rich Civilisation; its diverse and profound religious and philosophical traditions; its democratic and secular political culture and institutions, its pluralistic, tolerant and accommodative social ethos; its wide experience in nation building; its impressive economic and technological achievements and its colossal market potential. Audio-visual and print material was used to reinforce the country's positive image and the media was regularly kept informed about issues that impinge on India's national interests.

In its key function as the office of the official spokesman of the Government of India on all matters pertaining to India's external affairs, the External Publicity Division strove to orient the domestic and international media on India's foreign policy perspectives and on topical issues through regular briefings and public relations efforts. 160 Press Releases and Statements were issued by the Division in 1996. The "Foreign Affairs Record", a compilation of visits, agreements and significant diplomatic developments, is being brought

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out on a monthly basis. The Division's news dissemination function also included news bulletins sent out to India's Missions and Posts abroad on a twice-daily basis and a newspaper clipping service on external affairs coverage from the national media for

Indian missions and for senior officials of the Ministry.

The Division commissioned or procured articles, publications, feature films and documentaries, transparencies, photographs, floppies and other publicity material for distribution to the Missions and Posts on a regular basis and on special commemorative occasions such as independence Day 1996 and Republic Day 1997. Eleven new documentary programmes were acquired from the Government and independent sources and were telecast on foreign television networks through Indian Missions. Over 40 Missions arranged telecasts on the occasion of independence Day 1996. Indian Missions also brought out special supplements in local newspapers on the occasion. Documentaries on "Buddhism", "Ritwik Ghatak-The Name of a River", "Qawwali", "INDIA 5555", "Paintings by Tagore" and "Museums of India" have been commissioned and are at various stages of completion. Ten documentary films commissioned by the XP Division, "Magic in the Making" "Nauka Charitramu (Trinity of Carnatic Music) "100 Years of Cinema", "Vibrant Stage", "Contemporary Indian Art", "Pop Music Scene", "India Business Overview", "Our Music, Our Instruments", "Kuchipudi Revisited" and "Our Novels in English" in Betacam were completed and received for circulation. A special educational documentary for children consisting of six episodes entitled "Across India" was completed and would be circulated next year. This covers some general aspects of India. The documentary "Magic in the Making" was recognised as an outstanding entry at the Pusan Film Festival in South Korea.

The XP Division extended its support to festivals organised abroad such as the New York Film Festival, "India Week Celebrations" in Khartoum and Baghdad, the Sydney Film Festival, Shyam Benegal Films Festival in Toronto, and "A Tribute to Satyajit Ray's work" in Cape Town and in Gaza. In addition approximately 33 Film Festivals were organised by various Missions for which films were supplied from the Division's Library. The Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF) was also assisted in organising Film Festivals abroad. A number of commercially successful Hindi films and a few regional films by renowned directors such as Mani Ratnam and Arvindan were

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acquired. Approximately 500 audio cassettes of Hindustani Classical Music (vocal as well as instrumental) brought out by "Music Today" were sent to various Missions on request. The audio-visual equipment requirements of Missions/Posts were processed in respect of video projectors, satellite dish antennae, TV/VCRs and other sundry items. To augment the Mission's efforts in the area of photo publicity work 4700 duplicates, photographs and transparencies were despatched to various Missions and more than 6700 prints were acquired from the Press Information Bureau. The Division also acquired 285 new transparencies for publicity purposes.

Books, magazines, journals, newspapers and periodicals in different languages for use in the Missions' libraries and for distribution to local dignitaries, opinion makers as well as academic institutions were supplied to Indian Missions and Posts abroad. Seventy-seven new titles were purchased. A revised and updated version of "India: Continuity in Change" was brought out while "India: A Dynamic Democracy", which is in great

demand for its utility, was revised and is under print. A Turkish version of this publication was printed for distribution by the Mission in Turkey. Booklets on Prime Minister's speeches at the 11th Non- Aligned Summit at Cartagena and the Sixth G-15 Summit at Harare, Minister of External Affairs's speeches at the 51st Session of the UNGA and on India's Foreign Policy Objectives were printed for distribution to our Missions. Statements by India on CTBT (1993-96) and India's Role in the UN (English and French versions) were also published.

Foreign journalists based in India were assisted by the XP Division in getting accreditation and visas. XP Division also coordinated with other Government Ministries, Departments and State Governments to process and facilitate proposals for making documentary programmes by foreign producers in India. Approximately 300 such proposals were approved and cleared during 1996. As part of the annual exercise of inviting foreign journalists to acquaint themselves first-hand with India, XP Division hosted the visit of 36 journalists from Sri Lanka, New Zealand, Indonesia, Namibia, Poland, Oman, Czech Republic, Latvia, Romania, Ireland, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan and China. Assistance was also extended to a number of foreign journalists who visited India on their own. These visits generated goodwill and facilitated the projection of a balanced of India abroad. As the nodal agency

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responsible for media arrangements for incoming visits of Heads of State and Government, the XP Division facilitated Coverage of events in India by the accompanying media teams. Similarly, the XP Division was involved in making arrangements for Indian journalists during visits by the President, the Vice-President, the Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs to foreign countries. Media centres were set and manned by the Division during VVIP visits abroad and at Summit meetings such as the G-15 Summit at Harare and the FAO Food Summit in Rome held in 1996. The XP Division assisted in setting up Media Centres during various international conferences held in India.

The demand for the Ministry's publication, "India Perspectives", printed in ten international languages (including Hindi) continued to grow. Fifty-three thousand copies of this monthly magazine containing a lively mix of articles on all facets of life in India accompanied by colourful illustrations and visuals were distributed through Indian Missions and Posts abroad. This journal also sought to highlight the impressive strides India has made in the fields of science and technology and the steps being taken to globalise the country's economy. Two special issues of this journal were brought out in the months of March and October 1996. While the first commemorated the 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi-the Father of the Nation, the latter emphasised India's commitment to UN ideals.

The Division continued to monitor, with the help of the information wings of Indian Missions abroad, international media coverage on India and issues of special interest, to enable it to respond appropriately to recognisable trends and distortions in the shape of suitable corrective action. Of special importance in this Connection were the international

perceptions and reportage on the progress of India's economic reform process, developments relating to India's relations with neighbouring countries, human rights, Kashmir, the future of the UN, the Non-Aligned Movement, disarmament issues and bilateral relations with individual countries. Promotion of Doordarshan's new international service and monitoring of All India Radio's External Service were followed Lip.

Several new publicity and promotional steps were taken by the XP Division to explain, interpret and project India's foreign policy objectives. These included the setting LIP of MEA's Home Page on

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INTERNET which contains a wealth of information on the country; use of modern publicity techniques and professional public relations; lobbying and advertising agencies; diversification and augmentation of channels of communications and mass media including projection through satellite television; and broad basing of publicity by involvement of non-governmental and professional agencies. India's foreign and economic policies and specific initiatives in both areas were well received. The policy of transparency combined with new initiatives on Kashmir, regional cooperation and human rights issues enhanced India's international image in the media and amongst the public abroad.

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14. Protocol

During the period, Heads of the Diplomatic Missions of the following twenty two countries presented their credentials to the President of India:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. United Kingdom | 2. Ethiopia |
| 3. Kuwait | 4. Mauritius |
| 5. Russian Federation | 6. Indonesia |
| 7. Kyrgyz Republic | 8. France |
| 9. Uganda | 10. Singapore |
| 11. Sudan | 12. Burkina Faso |
| 13. Hungary | 14. Peru |
| 15. Malaysia | 16. Republic of Korea |
| 17. European Commission | 18. Poland |
| 19. Laos | 20. Philippines |
| 21. DPR of Korea | 22. Pakistan |

During the period from 1 April 1996-31 March 1997, Heads of the Diplomatic Missions of the following twenty one countries left India on completion of their assignment:

1. Kuwait
2. Indonesia
3. Mauritius
4. Russian Federation
5. Hungary
6. Singapore
7. France
8. Sudan
9. Malaysia
10. Peru
11. Morocco
12. Republic of Korea
13. Laos
14. Saudi Arabia
15. Philippines
16. Czech Republic
17. Uzbekistan
18. DPR of Korea
19. Pakistan
20. Nigeria
21. Tanzania

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During the same period, there were numerous visits by VVIPs to India at the level of Head of State/Government, Deputy Head of State, Foreign Minister and other distinguished personalities. Details are at Appendix XVI. During the period, there were outgoing visits by the President, the Vice-President and the Prime Minister of India. Details are at Appendix XVII

The Conference Cell in the Protocol Division of the Ministry is also responsible for organising international conferences. The Conference Cell also extends logistic support and provides consultancy services to other Ministries/Departments of the Government of India in organising international conferences. A list of conferences/meetings organized by the Conference Cell and conferences organised by other Ministries/Departments, where the Cell extended assistance is at Appendix XVIII.

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15. Passport and Consular Services and Indians Overseas

During 1996, twentythree Regional Passport Offices/Passport Offices in India issued 1,912,785 passports. Miscellaneous services like renewal, change of name, additional pages, inclusion of child's name, emigration clearance not required (ECNR) stamps amounted to 422,730. Detailed figures of receipts and passports issued/services provided for the year are at Appendix XIX. The statement showing the revenue and expenditure figures of the Regional Passport Offices and Passport Offices during the year is at Appendix XX.

The Ministry's efforts have been directed at simplification of passport procedures and streamlining of the working of Passport Offices so that prompt and efficient passport services are expeditiously provided to the public. Working of Passport Offices is regularly monitored to assess their working and remedial action taken immediately to ensure that they function smoothly and pendency does not build up.

During the year 1996, a number of changes were introduced in procedures to provide

quicker and better services to the public. These were: (i) option to have passports valid for either 10 years or 20 years, (ii) automatic re-issue of full validity passports without prior police verification after expiry of 10 year/20 year validity, (iii) automatic issue of full validity passports to Indian nationals residing abroad by Indian Embassies/consulates after expiry of 10 year validity of their current passports, (iv) photocopies of passport

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application forms to be henceforth accepted to eliminate long queues and consequent harassment to the public and (v) expansion of the list of officers authorised to issue Verification Certificates to include General Managers and above in Public Sector Undertakings of the Government of India and officers of the rank of Colonel and above in the Army and their equivalents in the Navy and Air Force.

Steps were initiated to open new Passport Offices at Ghaziabad, Pune, Thane and Vishakhapatnam. A number of Passport Collection Centres were also planned, particularly in the North-Eastern States i.e. Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura. A Monitoring Cell has been set up in the Central Passport Organisation headquarters for speedy redressal of complaints. This cell has been provided with two telephones and two fax machines, operative during working hours and supervised by a Public Relations Officer, directly under the charge of the Chief Passport Officer. Passport Advisory Committees are being set up.

in order to improve the productivity of Passport Offices care is taken to ensure that the working environment and space available is conducive to their smooth functioning. The Ministry has been pursuing proposals for the purchase of land and completed buildings with a view to providing adequate space for Passport Offices.

Visa stickers have been introduced to ensure security of the visa stamp.

The Ministry places great emphasis on consular work in Indian Missions abroad. The Missions are sensitive to the problems of Indian nationals living and working abroad. Assistance is provided to Indian nationals in settling disputes with their sponsors, arranging repatriation of destitute Indians and maintaining contact with Indian nationals who are jailed in foreign countries for violation of local laws. There is a large Indian community in the Gulf whose problems relate essentially to non-fulfilment of contractual obligations, poor working conditions, ill treatment and arrest for illegal stay. Indian Missions regularly take up these grievances with the governments in the countries of their accreditation for an amicable solution of the problems.

About 60,000 Indian nationals returned to India from UAE under an amnesty scheme of the UAE Government which expired on 31 October 1996 for foreigners residing illegally in that country.

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Indian Missions in Abu Dhabi and Dubai issued over 45,844 Emergency Certificates to these persons in a very short period of time to enable them to leave UAE before the

expiry of the amnesty period. The Government also arranged for additional flights through Air India and Indian Airlines to facilitate the return of Indian nationals.

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16. Administration and Organisation

Minister of External Affairs Shri Pranab Mukherjee, and both Ministers of State Shri R L Bhatia and Shri Salman Khurshid, relinquished charge of their offices on 16 May 1996. Shri Sikander Bakht took over as Minister of External Affairs on 16 May 1996 and relinquished his office on 1 June 1996. Shri I K Gujral took over as Minister of External Affairs on 1 June 1996.

During the year 1996-97, new Missions have been opened in Zagreb (Croatia) and Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea). A Consulate General in Sao Paulo (Brazil) has also been opened. The Mission in Kabul was temporarily closed in September 1996 due to the disturbed security environment.

Presently Government of India have 157 resident Diplomatic Missions/Posts and other offices abroad. The total strength of the Indian Foreign Service, the IFS(B), interpreters and the Legal & Treaties cadre is 3581. This includes some posts on the budget of Ministry of Commerce as well as those posts which are temporarily held in abeyance or ex-cadred. The details are at Appendix XXII. The details of officers qualified in different foreign languages is at Appendix XXIII. A statement showing appointments in various groups in the Ministry and data on reservations during the year 1996 may be seen at Appendix XXIV.

A list of Heads of Missions who took over charge from April 1996 to January 1997 can be seen at Appendix XXV.

The Establishment Division is responsible for non-personnel administration of the Ministry including properties both moveable

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and immovable, in the offices of the Ministry and its subordinate offices in India and in Missions and Posts abroad.

Over the last few years, the Ministry has been vigorously pursuing a policy to acquire and construct more properties in India and abroad with a view to minimising its rental liabilities and to situating its offices and residences in permanent locations. Properties were purchased in Johannesburg (Chancery complex), Wellington (Chancery complex), Houston (Consul General's residence) and Bangkok (officers' apartments).

The existing condition of the government owned properties in Singapore and Tokyo were assessed and proposals were considered to redevelop these obsolete and under-utilised properties on a self-financing basis.

The Riyadh Construction Project (Chancery, Embassy Residence and 44 residences) was successfully completed, enabling the Mission to move to the newly constructed buildings

in June 1996. A plot of land was purchased in the prestigious Tiergarten Strasse in Berlin for construction of a Chancery complex. Necessary planning and approvals were processed to enable timely construction of the Mission's building upon shifting of the capital to Berlin. The contract for the Indira Gandhi Centre for Culture in Mauritius was awarded and construction work started on the project. Other projects of the Ministry have completed the planning and approval process. These are at Moscow, Beijing, Abu Dhabi, Doha, Gaborone, Islamabad, Kathmandu, Dhaka, Muscat, Minsk and Brasilia. Projects in India under active consideration included the projects for Videsh Bhawan in New Delhi, ICCR in Calcutta, and apartments in Papankala and the Foreign Service Institute in New Delhi.

in pursuance of the Ministry's policy to house Regional Passport Offices (RPOs) in Government owned buildings, active efforts were made to complete necessary formalities to acquire land and start construction of the buildings for Passport Offices as well as staff residences within the Constraints of availability of funds for the purpose. In this regard, land has already been acquired for Passport Offices at Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Kozhikode, Bhubaneswar, Trichy, Goa (Panaji), Hyderabad, Chandigarh, Cochin, Chennai, Bangalore and Jaipur. In Ahmedabad, construction has already begun. in Chennai, the construction is at an advanced stage. For construction

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of the RPO office at Calcutta, action is underway for de- requisitioning of the property offered to the Ministry by the State Government. The Jammu Development Authority is being approached for offering some sites for the construction of the Passport Office and staff residences in Jammu. Preliminary estimates for the Goa project have been received in the Ministry.

During this financial year, first phase of the pilot project of computer networking was implemented with E-mail addresses being allotted to individual officers in South Block. The Indian Missions abroad were also authorised to go in for local E-mail connectivity. The E-mail facility is currently operational in South Block in all the Divisions of the Ministry, thereby facilitating quicker and cheaper exchange of communications. Additional hardware was purchased and installed in various offices of the Ministry and almost all the work in various Divisions relating to word processing/data-base is now being done on computers. Proposals for Computerisation received from Indian missions abroad, including those from newly opened Missions during the current financial year, were also processed and Clearances conveyed.

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17. Foreign Service Institute

The Foreign Service Institute (FSI) greatly expanded its activities during 1996-97. While all the regular programmes were held, there was a significant increase in the scope and content of each course as well as in the actual number of courses held.

The courses held during the year included: (i) Professional Course in Diplomacy and International Relations for Indian Foreign Service Probationers (1995 and 1996 batches);

(ii) Basic Professional Course for IFS(B) personnel posted abroad; (iii) Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats; (iv) Familiarisation Programme for Resident Foreign Diplomats; (v) Induction Course for Freshly Recruited Personal Assistants; (vi) Computer Course; (vii) Language Courses; (viii) Hindi Typing Course for MEA officials; and (ix) Orientation Course for Non-MEA Officers.

The most important part of FSI's work is the basic Course on Diplomacy and International Relations conducted for the Probationers of the Indian Foreign Service. The training programme for the 1995 batch of IFS Probationers, which started in January 1996, culminated with a valedictory function on 6 January 1997. The training programme for the 1996 batch of IFS Probationers started from 7 January 1997. The basic objective of this course is to provide comprehensive training to the newly recruited IFS officers, not only in traditional areas of diplomacy, international relations, political reporting and protocol but also in several related fields that are growing in importance such as national and international security, the international economic environment, management of challenges in the changing global scenario and investment promotion.

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The training programme for the 1995 batch of IFS Probationers comprised of 25 modules. Each of the 25 modules dealt with an important area of work related to foreign policy and diplomacy. The most comprehensive module related to India's foreign policy, with 31 sections covering almost every aspect of our external relations. Details are at Appendix XXVIII.

In keeping with the special emphasis in recent years on economic diplomacy, the module on "International Economic Relations and Commercial Diplomacy" was strengthened, with 16 separate sections focusing on India's economic reforms, the international economic environment, the role of Embassies in trade and investment promotion, techniques of commercial negotiations, management challenges in the changing global scenario and international finance and Capital markets.

A new module entitled "New Areas of International Relations" highlighted some non-traditional areas of diplomacy, such as Environment, Energy, Refugees, Narcotics, Terrorism and Human Rights.

The module on "Defence and Security", apart from focusing on vital security issues like NPT, CTBT and MTCR, also covered India's defence policy, the state of the armed forces, developments in defence technology and the security of the border areas.

An additional module on "Special Diplomatic Skills" emphasised negotiating skills, communication skills, use of information Technology, development of leadership skills and "esprit de corps".

Another new module called "Diplomatic Exercises" introduced the latest techniques of training. These included management concepts applicable to MEA and the conduct of Foreign Policy; Crisis Management; Lateral Thinking and Simulation Exercises.

Apart from these additional modules, there was a good deal of emphasis on field visits to acquaint Probationers with different areas of the Country.

Another feature introduced for the first time in the year under review was the "SAARC Darshan" comprising visits to Member States of SAARC. The 3 SAARC Countries visited this year were Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, for a period of around one week each. The visits were useful and would be included in future training
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programmes as well. The initiative has also led to other countries looking at ways and means of reciprocating the gesture and to having constructive contacts with officer trainees of the various countries visited.

The intensive programme and the increased emphasis on various emerging aspects of international diplomacy has seen forging of new linkages with other training institutions in the country such as the College of Defence Management and the Administrative Staff College of India, both in Hyderabad.

FSI is attempting to build further on these linkages with the objective of developing mid-career training programmes for IFS officers serving at Headquarters.

Three Basic Professional Courses (BPCs) were held. Officials in the Ministry of External Affairs up to the rank of Section Officers under orders of posting abroad attend this Course. The emphasis is on a Mission's administration, establishment and finance, accounts, passport, visa and consular work. Officials are also familiarised with the use of computers and given a basic course in the foreign language of the country of posting. This year, the BPC also included for the first time lectures on Indian foreign policy, external publicity, trade and investment promotion so that all officials posted in Missions abroad have the larger picture in view and work towards contributing towards the total team effort.

The Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) has been organised by the FSI from 1992 onwards. During 1996-97, a total of 5 PCFDs were held, of which two were devoted solely to middle level and senior South African diplomats. Each course is designed to cover areas which are most relevant to the training needs of the foreign diplomats. Some of the areas covered relate to diplomacy, international relations, regional focus on specific regions, international law and international organisations, international economic relations and commercial diplomacy, defence and security, diplomatic practice and protocol, representational skills and cultural diplomacy. There is a special focus on India and on taking the foreign diplomats to various centres of economic, industrial and cultural importance in the country so that they get to understand something of India's achievements in various fields and its heritage. Participation in the PCFDs has been growing. In 1996-97,
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the PCFDs saw participation by foreign diplomats from 58 countries.

An Induction Course for newly recruited Personal Assistants was conducted in September-October 1996. It covered areas such as administration, establishment and finance as well as Computer appreciation.

There was a special focus in 1996-97 on computer skills and making training facilities available not just as part of regular training programmes for probationers and officials proceeding abroad, but also for officers and personnel serving at Headquarters at all levels. These courses were organised in the Computer Laboratory at the Foreign Service Institute as well as at recognised professional institutes .

In addition, orientation programmes were organised for non-MEA officers proceeding on posting abroad. During 1996-97, FSI strengthened contacts with other Foreign Service Training Institutions abroad and exchanged its experiences in training programmes and techniques. There were visits to FSI by Director of the Bandarnaika Diplomatic Training Institute (BDTI), Sri Lanka and Director of the Institute of Foreign Affairs, Thailand. Both visits were useful in exchanging experiences and strengthening ties. FSI also deputed 2 lecturers to BDTI at its request to give lectures to participants in training programmes there.

The Foreign Service Institute is a member of the Association of Directors and Deans of Diplomatic Academies and Institutes of international Relations (ADDAIR). Dean (FSI) participated in the annual ADDAIR meeting at Ankara in September 1996. The meeting is an important mechanism for maintaining and intensifying contacts with other diplomatic training institutes abroad.

The Foreign Service Institute also functioned as a think tank on important issues relating to India's external relations. During 1996-97, there were several "interface" meetings organised by FSI, where the Foreign Secretary, Dean (FSI) and other senior officials in MEA exchanged views on a regular basis with leading specialists on important foreign policy issues.

FSI has plans to hold a series of seminars on "Indian Foreign Policy: Agenda for the 21st Century" and will be publishing several papers on the subject.

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18. Implementation of Official Language Policy and Propagation of Hindi Abroad

The Ministry continued to be actively engaged in propagation of Hindi abroad through Indian Missions/Posts. Standard Hindi literature, comprising books in Hindi on Indian art, history, literature, language, religion and philosophy were sent to Indian Missions/Posts abroad for their use in the libraries and to be used as gifts to educational and voluntary organisations engaged in teaching of Hindi. Besides, the Missions/Posts abroad have been promoting Hindi literature through organising special Hindi classes, Hindi film shows, seminars and competitions in various schools, Colleges, institutions

and organisations. Hindi text books, audio Cassettes and Hindi dictionaries were sent to selected Missions/Posts.

The most significant event of the year was the organisation of the Fifth World Hindi Conference from 4-8 April 1996 in Trinidad and Tobago. The Government of India were represented by a high level delegation. On this occasion, India organised various cultural activities, book-Cum-photo and computer exhibitions and sent Cultural troupes. To mark the occasion, a souvenir was brought out containing the works of eminent Hindi scholars and writers from all over the world. At this conference, 17 Hindi scholars were honoured, of which 5 were from India.

During the year, various competitions in Hindi were organised at Delhi as well as in Indian Missions abroad.

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19. Cultural Relations

Administration

The Vice-President of India assumed Presidentship of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) with effect from 8 August 1996. The Statutory Bodies of the Council, viz., the General Assembly, the Governing Body, the Finance Committee Have also been reconstituted for a period of 3 years from 23 December 1996.

Scholarships and Welfare of International Students

one of the important activities of ICCR was the continued implementation of its scholarship programme. The Council administers about 1000 scholarships annually under its various scholarship schemes for studies in graduate, post-graduate and doctoral programmes as well as for pursuing professional Courses such as medicine, engineering, pharmacy and accountancy. The thrust of the scholarship programme is towards developing nations, with Special focus on neighbours in South Asia. A total of 1026 new scholarships were offered this year to students from 60 different countries.

Last year the Council enhanced the stipend and other allowances of international students under the various scholarship schemes offered by it to bring them on par with scholarships offered by the University Grants Commission. The Ministry also revised the terms and conditions of scholarships under the TCS Colombo Plan and Aid-Nepal Scheme respectively.

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As part of the general welfare of international students, the ICCR organised various activities throughout the year to familiarise international students with the political, economic, social and cultural milieu of India, besides helping them to make friends through shared experiences. These activities included Organisation of the Annual Meeting of Students' Advisors, holding Of Summer camps, Organisation of orientation programmer and launching of a news letter "At Home in India".

Visitors Programme

As part of its effort to foster and strengthen cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries the Council facilitated exchanges of scholars, intellectuals, academicians and artistes. The details are at Appendices XXIX to XXXII.

Performing Arts

The major highlights of the programmes organised abroad by the Council during the year include the "Days of Indian Culture" in Russia during September 1996, the "Days of Indian Culture" in Vietnam during October 1996 and a major manifestation of Indian Culture in Bangladesh during November 1996.

The "Days of Indian Culture" in Russia organised from 16-28 September 1996 in Moscow and eleven other cities of Russia were inaugurated by Russian Prime Minister V C Chernomyrdin and Indian Human Resource Development Minister Shri S R Bommai on 16 September 1996 at the prestigious Maly Theatre in Moscow. They featured cultural performances involving 106 artistes, an exhibition of Indian contemporary art, an exhibition of Indian handicrafts, a book exhibition, a writers workshop, a festival of Indian films and a seminar on "Perspectives of Social Changes in Russia and India".

The "Days of Indian Culture" held in Vietnam from 7-17 October 1996 were inaugurated by Vietnam Deputy Minister of Culture and Information Nguyen Trung Kien. The programme included performances of classical music and dance involving 21 artistes, an exhibition of Indian saris and a festival of Indian films.

A major manifestation of Indian Culture in Bangladesh titled "Utsav-The India Festival" was organised from 18-30 November 1996. The Utsav featured cultural performances involving nearly 140 Indian artistes, an exhibition of contemporary women painters,
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an exhibition of Indian handicrafts and a writers workshop. The festival was inaugurated by Bangladesh Minister for Post & Telecommunications Mohammed Nasim and the Indian Human Resource Development Minister Shri S R Bommai on 18 November 1996 at the Osmani Memorial Hall in Dhaka. Besides Dhaka, cultural performances were also arranged in Chittagong, Rajshahi and Jessore.

During the period from April 1996 to March 1997, the ICCR received 17 cultural troupes from abroad (Appendix XXXIII) and sponsored the visit of 55 cultural troupes to countries in Asia, Europe, South America, North America and Africa (Appendix XXXIV). In addition, special programmes for VIPs were arranged (Appendix XXXV).

Exhibitions

During April-December 1996 the ICCR organised 6 exhibitions in its Ajanta Art Gallery.

These included an exhibition of paintings by Mexican Artist Eduard Nunez Valbuena and an exhibition entitled "Vision of the World Egg" by well known Swedish Artist Violet Tengberg. A list of these exhibitions is at Appendix XXXVI. The ICCR organised India's participation in the 6th International Children's Art Exhibition in the Republic of Korea and an art exhibition in Athens. Details are at Appendix XXXVII.

Seminars

in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the ICCR organised a SAARC Economic Cooperation Conference of experts from the SAARC countries from 19-21 November 1996.

The ICCR also provided limited support to the following conferences: G) International Seminar "The Muse and the Minorities" held at India International Centre from 20-22 September 1996, GO International Conference on "Cultural Diversity and Indigenous Knowledge Systems" organised by the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya in Bhopal from 27-30 September 1996, (iii) International Seminar on "Study of Persian Language and Literature in India" organised by the Department of Persian Studies, Delhi University from 21-23 December 1996, (iv) XVIIth Indian Folklore Congress held in Trivandrum from 23-25 December 1996, (v) 7th International
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Conference on "Maharashtra: Society and Culture" from 2-6 January 1997 at Pune.

Jawaharlal Nehru Award

As before, the ICCR provides the secretariat for the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding. The 1994 Jawaharlal Nehru Award was conferred on Prime Minister of Malaysia Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad for his forthright enunciation of the views of the developing nations and his tireless campaign for a more equitable, humane and just world.

Maulana Azad Memorial Lecture

Since 1958, the Council has been organising an annual lecture series in the memory of ICCR's Founder Presidents Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. The 31st Maulana Azad Memorial Lecture was delivered by a distinguished diplomat, writer and thinker Shri P N Haksar, on 4 January 1997. The subject of the lecture was "Looking Towards the 21st Century".

Maulana Azad Essay Competition

The ICCR annually organises an essay competition for citizens of SAARC countries below the age of 30 years. The essay competition is held in three languages namely, Hindi, Urdu and English. The first prize winners for the year 1994-95 competition were given a certificate and cash award of Rs 25,000 at a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan on

11 November 1996 by the President of India.

The topics for the 1995-96 Essay Competition were "Maulana Azad: Dharam Ki Avdharana" (Hindi), "Maulana Azad Ka Tasavi-ir-e-Din" (Maulana Azad's Interpretation of Religion) (Urdu), "Globalisation: Economic, Social and Political Challenges for South Asia" (English).

Indian Cultural Centres Abroad

To strengthen cultural ties and promote greater awareness of India's culture abroad, the Council has established cultural centres in Georgetown (Guyana), Jakarta (Indonesia), Moscow (Russia), Port Louis (Mauritius), Paramaribo (Surinam), Cairo (ARE), Berlin (Germany), London (UK), Johannesburg and Durban (South Africa), Tashkent (Uzbekistan) and Almaty (Kazakhstan). These centres have libraries, reading rooms and organise lectures, symposia, exhibitions,

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dance and music performances, screening of films and publication of news bulletins. Some of the centres also run classes for Indian music, dance, yoga and languages. For this purpose teachers are deputed by the Council. The centres develop and maintain contacts with a wide cross-section of local citizens, particularly students, teachers, academicians, policy makers and cultural personalities.

During the current financial year, a new cultural centre in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago was made operational.

Visiting Professors and Chairs of Indian Studies Abroad

The ICCR deputes visiting Professors abroad to teach Indology, Indian languages and other related subjects. The deputation of Professors is principally done under the bilateral cultural exchange programmes and where specific institutional arrangements exist with ICCR. ICCR presently has on deputation 15 Professors as in the list at Appendix XXXIX.

Library

An annotated catalogue of Maulana Azad's personal collection of rare books and manuscripts, which are housed in the ICCR, was prepared and printed in book form in three volumes for the use of scholars and researchers.

Publications

As before, the ICCR brought out seven quarterly journals in different languages-" Indian Horizons" and "Africa Quarterly" (English), " Gagananchal" (Hindi), "Papeles de la India" (Spanish), "Rencontre avec l' Inde" (French), " Thaqaafat-ul- Hind" (Arabic). A new German Quarterly "Indien in der Gegenwart" commenced publication this year.

On the occasion of the Fifth World Hindi Conference held in Trinidad and Tobago in April 1996 the Council brought out a special issue of the Hindi quarterly "Gagananchal".

The following were the other publications brought out by the ICCR:-(i) "Satya Ki Khoj", a Hindi translation of selected speeches and writings of Czech President Vaclav Havel and "Mulakat", a translation of his play, (ii) " The Perennial Tree", a compilation of select papers presented at the international Symposium on Indian Studies organised at Kovalam in December 1994, (iii) "Directory of
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Cultural Organisations in India" (Revised edition), (iv) "India- sus Danzas Clasicas" (India-Her Classical Dances) (Spanish) by Ms Myrta Barvie, (v) "El Cacique de la Paquena Colina", Spanish translation of "The Headman of the Little Hill" by Dr K Shivarama Karanth, (vi) "Cuentos de la India", Spanish translation of "Stories from India" edited by Shri K Natwar Singh. The ICCR is also bringing out a revised edition of "Readings from India" by Shri G N S Raghawan.

The ICCR participated in a number of national and international book fairs.
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APPENDICES

Ministry of External Affairs-List of Divisions

Specialised and Support Divisions

- 1 Administration Division
- 2 Bureau of Security
- 3 Coordination Division
- 4 CPV & 01 Division
- 5 Economic Division
- 6 Establishment Division
- 7 External Publicity Division
- 8 Finance Division
- 9 Foreign Service Institute
- 10 Investment Publicity Unit
- 11 Legal & Treaties Division
- 12 MER Division
- 13 Policy Planning & Research Division
- 14 Protocol (including Conference Division)
- 15 Special Kuwait Cell
- 16 SAARC Division
- 17 Special Unit
- 18 UN Division

Territorial Divisions

- 1 Africa Division
- 2 AMS Division
- 3 BSM Division
- Central Asia Division
- 5 East Asia Division
- 6 Europe East Division
- 7 Europe West Division
- 8 Gulf Division
- 9 IPA Division
- 10 LAC Division
- 11 Northern Division
- 12 Southern Division
- 13 WANA Division
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APPENDIX-II Division-wise List of Countires

Ministry of External Affairs-Division-wise List of Countries and Regions

AFRICA DIVISION

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Angola | 16 Gabon | 31 Nigeria |
| 2 Benin | 17 Gambia | 32 Rwanda |
| 3 Botswana | 18 Ghana | 33 Sao Tome & Principe |
| 4 Burkina Faso | 19 Guinea | 34 Senegal |
| 5 Burundi | 20 Guinea Bissau | 35 Seychelles |
| 6 Cameroon | 21 Kenya | 36 Sierra Leone |
| 7 Cape Verde Islands | 22 Lesotho | 37 South Africa |
| 8 Central African Republic | 23 Liberia | 38 Swaziland |
| 9 Chad | 24 Madagascar | 39 Tanzania |
| 10 Comoros | 25 Malawi | 40 Togo |
| 11 Congo | 26 Mali | 41 Uganda |
| 12 Cote d'Ivoire | 27 Mauritius | 42 Zaire |
| 13 Equatorial Guinea | 28 Mozambique | 43 Zambia |
| 14 Eritrea | 29 Namibia | 44 Zimbabwe |
| 15 Ethiopia | 30 Niger | |

AMS DIVISION

1 Canada	2 United States of America	3 The Bahamas
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BSM DIVISION

1 Bangladesh	3 Myanmar	4 Sri Lanka
2 Maldives		

CENTRAL ASIA DIVISION

1 Azerbaijan	4 Tajikistan	6 Turkmenistan
2 Kazakhstan	5 Turkey	7 Uzbekistan
3 Kyrgyzstan		

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EAST ASIA DIVISION

1 China	4 Mongolia	7 Taiwan
2 Hong Kong	5 North Korea	
33 Japan	6 South Korea	

EE DIVISION

1 Albania	10 Hungary	15 Poland
2 Armenia	11 Latvia	16 Romania
3 Belarus	12 Lithuania	17 Russia
4 Bosnia- Herzegovina	13 Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	18 Slovak Republic
5 Bulgaria	14 Moldova	19 Slovenia
6 Croatia		20 Ukraine
7 Czech Republic		21 Yugoslavia (FYR-Serbia and Montenegro)
8 Estonia		

9 Georgia

EW DIVISION

1 Andorra	10 Germany, Federal Republic of	18 Malta
2 Austria		19 Netherlands
3 Belgium	11 Greece	20 Norway
4 Commonwealth	12 Holy See" The	21 Portugal
5 Cyprus	13 Iceland	22 San Marino
6 Denmark	14 Ireland	23 Spain
7 European Union	15 Italy	24 Sweden
8 Finland	16 Liechtenstein	25 Switzerland
9 France	17 Luxemburg	26 United Kingdom of Great Britain

GULF DIVISION (INCLUDING HAJ CELL)

1 Bahrain	4 Oman	7 Saudi Arabia
2 Iraq	5 Qatar	8 United Arab Emirates
3 Kuwait	6 Republic of Yemen	

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IPA DIVISION

1 Afghanistan	2 Iran	3 Pakistan
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LAC DIVISION

1 Anguilla	14 Dominican Republic	27 Panama
2 Antigua & Barbuda	15 Ecuador	28 Paraguay

3 Argentina	16 El Salvador	29 Peru
4 Barbados	17 Grenada	30 St Christopher and Nevis
5 Belize	18 Guatemala	31 St Lucia
6 Bolivia	19 Guyana	32 St Vincent and the Grenadines
7 Brazil	20 Haiti	33 Surinam
8 Cayman Islands	21 Honduras	34 Trinidad & Tobago
9 Chile	22 Jamaica	35 Turks and Caicos Islands
10 Colombia	23 Netherland	36 Uruguay
11 Costa Rica	24 Mexico	37 Venezuela
12 Cuba	25 Montserrat	
13 Commonwealth of	26 Nicaragua	

NORTHERN DIVISION

1 Bhutan	2 Nepal
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SOUTHERN DIVISION

1 Australia	9 Nauru	17 Solomon Islands
2 Brunei	10 New Caledonia	18 Tavalu
3 Cambodia	11 New Zealand	19 Thailand
4 Fiji	12 Palau	20 Tonga
5 Indonesia	13 Papua New Guinea in South Pacific	21 UN Trust Territories
6 Kiribati	14 Philippines	22 Vanuatu
6 Kiribati	14 Philippines	23 Vietnam
7 Laos	15 Singapore	24 Western Samoa
8 Malaysia	16 Society	

Islands

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WANA DIVISION

1 Algeria	7 League of Arab States	13 SADR (Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic)
2 Arab Maghreb Union	8 Lebanon	14 Somalia
3 Djibouti	9 Libya	15 Sudan
4 Egypt	10 Mauritania	16 Syria
5 Israel	11 Morocco	17 Tunisia
6 Jordan	12 Palestine	

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APPENDIX-III Major International Conferences/Meetings Major International Conferences/Meetings/Seminars etc. organised by Inter-Governmental Organisations at which the Government of India was represented in 1996-97

S. NO.	TITLE OF CONFERENCE	VENUE	DATE
1	Meeting of the States Parties to LIN Conference on the Law of the Sea	New York	4 to 8 March 1996
2	Meeting of the International Seabed Authority-UN Conference on Law of the Sea	Kingston	11 to 22 March 1996
3	52nd Session of UN Human Rights Commission	Geneva	7 to 17 April 1996
4	International Workshop on the Global Environment Facilityxxx	New Delhi	11 and 12 April 1996
5	4th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development	New York	18 April to 3 May 1996
6	UNCTAD-IX Conference	Pretoria	24 April to 5 May 1996
7	Meetings of Inter-Governmental Panel Climate Change (IPCC)	Bangkok	30 April to 2 May 1996
8	20th Antarctica Treaty Consultative Meeting	Utrecht(Netherlands)	29 April to 10 May 1996
9	Meeting of the Inter-Governmental	Washington	15 to 17 May

	Committee on Global Ocean Observing System		1996
10	23rd Regional Conference of FAO Samoa	Western	14 to 18 May 1996
11	HABITAT-II Conference	Istanbul	3 to 14 June 1996
12	83rd Session of International Labour Conference	Geneva	4 to 20 June 1996
13	The Bureau Meeting of the Inter Governmental Council of the General Information programme of UNESCO	Paris	10 and 11 June 1996
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14	Meeting of the Inter-Governmental Regional Committee of Education in Asia and Pacific	Bangkok	24 to 26 June 1996
15	The International Labour Conference of ILO	Geneva	4 to 20 June 1996
16	2nd Session of Conference of Parties(COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change	VENUE	8 to 19 July 1996
17	5th Meeting of States Parties to the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea	New York	24 July to 2 August 1996
18	Meeting of the Second Session of the International Seabed Authority	Kingston	5 to 16 August 1996
19	Regional Inter-Governmental Consultations on Global Environment Outlook(GEO)	Kathmandu	25 and 26 July 1996
20	Inter-Sessional Seminar Under Inter Governmental Panel on Forests sponsored by CSD-UN	Helsinki	19 to 21 August 1996
21	13th Meeting of the Open Ended Working Group on the Montreal Protocol	Geneva	26 to 29 August 1996
22	World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	Stockholm	27 to 31 August 1996
23	2nd Meeting of the SBSTTA-Convention on Biological Diversity	Canada	2 to 6 September 1996
24	9th Inter-Governmental Negotiating Committee on Convention to Combat Desertification	New York	3 to 13 September 1996
25	World Solar Summit	Harare	16 and 17

			September 1996
26	29th Session of the Executive Council of Inter-Governmental Oceanographic Commission	Paris	24 September to 4 October 1996
27	3rd Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity	Buenos Aires	4 to 15 November 1996
28	WIPO Governing Bodies Meeting	Geneva	23 September to 2 October 1996
-			
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29	14th Meeting of Ministers of Health of Countries of South East Asia Region	Jakarta	17 to 19 October 1996
30	11th Session of WMO Regional Association-II (Asia)	Bangkok	3 October 1996
31	Global Environment Facility Council Meeting	Washington	8 to 10 October 1996
32	3rd Meeting of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development	Bangkok	7 to 11 October 1996
33	2nd Meeting of International Conference on Ozone Protection Technologies		14 to 18 & 21 to 23 October 1996
34	2nd Meeting of Range States of Siberian Cranes	Bharatpur(India)	4 to 7 November 1996
35	267th Session of Governing Body of ILO	Geneva	7 to 22 November 1996
36	World Food Summit	Italy	13 to 17 November 1996
37	13th Session of the Sub-Committee of Experts on Transport of Dangerous Goods Meeting	Geneva	2 to 13 December 1996
38	ILO/UNCTAD/Joint Workshop on Human Resource Development	Manila	2 to 6 December 1996
39	ESCAP Workshop on Gender Issues	Bangkok	10 to 12 December 1996
40	Meeting of the Subsidiary Bodies of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change	Geneva	9 to 13 December 1996
41	51st Session of UNGA	New York	September-December 1996
42	10th Session of the Inter-Governmental	New York	6 to 17 January

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APPENDIX-IV Meetings Conferences held under the aegies of NAM

Meetings/Conferences held under the aegis of the Non-aligned Movement (NAM) during 1996-97

S. NO.	TITLE OF CONFERENCE	VENUE	DATE
1	NAM Ministerial Committee on Methodology 16 May 1996	Cartagena	14 to
2	Vth Conference of Ministers of 6 September 1996 Information of the Non-Aligned Countries (COMINAC-V)	Abuja (Nigeria)	2 to

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APPENDIX-V Treaties/Conventions/Agreements concluded or renewed by India

Treaties/Conventions/Agreements concluded or renewed by India with other countries in 1996

S. NO.	TITLE OF CONVENTIONS/ TREATIES/AGREEMENTS ETC	DATE OF SIGNATURE/ ADOPTION	DATE OF RATIFICATION/ ACCESSION OR ACCEPTANCE	DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE
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MULTILATERAL

1.	Amendment of Articles 6 and 22 of the International Telecommunications Satellite Organisation (INTELSAT) Operating Agreement.	4.4.1995	6.1-1996	
2.	Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, 1959.	2.7.1992	20.3-1996	
3.	ILO Convention No. 147 concerning Minimum Standards in Merchant ships.	13.10.1976	26.9.1996	26.9.1997
4.	International Tropical Timber Agreement, 1994.	26.1.1994	2.11.1996	

BILATERAL

Bangladesh

5. Treaty between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on Sharing of the Ganga/Ganges Water at Farakka. 12.12.1996 12.12.1996

Brazil

6. Joint Indo-Brazilian Declaration. 27.1.1996 27.1.1996

Bhutan

7. Agreement on Indo-Bhutan Survey Collaboration Projects. 22.3.1996 22.3.1996

8. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Royal Government of Bhutan regarding the Tala Hydroelectric Project. 5.3.1996 5.3.1996

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9. Agreement between the Royal Government of Bhutan and the Government of the Republic of India regarding the Dungsum Cement Plant in Bhutan. 5.3-1996 5.3.1996

Cambodia

10. Memorandum of Understanding on Economic and Technical Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Cambodia. 18.1.1996 18.1.1996

11. Cultural Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia. 31-1.1996 31-1.1996

Canada

12. Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Industry of Canada and the Ministry of Communications of India on Cooperation in Telecommunications. 11.1.1996 11.1.1996

13. Agreed Minutes to review Air Services Matters between the Government of India and the Government of Canada.
Central African Republic 14.8-1996 14.8.1996

14. Agreement regarding Creation of the joint Commission for Cooperation between the Government of the Central African Republic and tile Government of the Republic of India. 16.5-1996

Comoros

15. Protocol between the Ministry External Affairs of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Comoros on Political, Trade, Economic, Cultural, Scientific and Technical Cooperation. 24.7.1996 24.7.1996

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Cyprus

16. Agreement on Tourism Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus. 7.11.1996

Czech Republic

17. Protocol of Consultation the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. 11.10.1996 11.10.1996

18. Agreement between the Republic of India and the Czech Republic for the Promotion and Protection of Investments. 11.10.1996

19. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Czech Republic on Cooperation in the Fields Of Culture, Education and Science. 11.10.1996

Denmark

20. Agreement between the Gov- 6.9-1995 12.1.1996 28.8.1996

ernment of the Republic of
India and the Government of
the Kingdom of Denmark
concerning the Promotion
and Reciprocal Protection of
Investments.

Finland

21. Protocol on Consultations between the Ministry of External Affairs of India and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. 26.11.1996 26.11.1996

Haiti

22. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Haiti on the Establishment of Formal Diplomatic Relations. 27.9-1996 27.9.1996

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Hong Kong

23. Air Services Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Hong Kong. 10-10-1996 10.10.1996

Israel

24. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the State of Israel for the Promotion and Protection of Investments. 29.1.1996 24.12.1996 18.2.1997
25. Agreement of Mutual Cooperation between the National Small Industries Corporation, India and the Small Business Authority of Israel. 28.11.1996 28.11.1996
26. Umbrella Agreement between the State of Israel and the Republic of India on Cooperation in the field of Industrial and Technological Research and Development. 30.12.1996
27. Agreement on Technical Cooperation between the 30.12.1996

Government of the Republic
of India and the Government
of the State of Israel.

Japan

- | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| 28. No. ID-P107 Loan Agreement
for Dhauliganga Hydroelectric
Power Plant Construction
Project between the Overseas
Economic Cooperation Fund,
Japan and National Hydroel-
ectric Power Corporation Ltd. | 25.1.1996 | 23.5.1996 |
| 29. No. ID-P108 Loan Agreement for
Anpara Power Transmission
System Project (II) between
The Overseas Economic Coop-
eration Fund, Japan and the
President of India. | 25.1.1996 | 25.1.1996 |
| -153> | | |
| 30. No. ID-PI09 Loan Agreement for
Banglore Water Supply and
Sewerage Project between The
Overseas Economic Cooperation
Fund, Japan and the President
of India. | 25-1.1996 | 25.1.1996 |
| 31. No. ID-P110 Loan Agreement for
Urban Water Supply and Sanit-
ation Improvement Program
between The Overseas Economic
Cooperation Fund, Japan and
Housing and Urban Development
Corporation Limited. | 25.1.1996 | 25.1.1996 |
| 32. No. ID-P111 Loan Agreement for
Attappady Wasteland Compreh-
ensive Environmental Conser-
vation Project between The
Overseas Economic Cooperation
Fund, Japan and the President
of India. | 25-1.1996 | 25.1.1996 |
| 33. No. ID-PI12 Loan Agreement for
Gujrat Afforestation and
Development Project between
The Overseas Economic Coope-
ration Fund, Japan and the
President of India. | 25.1.1996 | 25.1.1996 |
| 34. No. ID-P113 Loan Agreement for
Kurnool-Cuddapah Canal
Modernization Project between The
Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, | 25.1.1996 | 25.1.1996 |

Japan and the President of India.
Korea

- | | | | |
|---|-----------|----------|-----------|
| 35. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Korea on the Promotion and Protection of Investments. | 26.2.1996 | 1.5.1996 | 7.5.1996 |
| 36. Agreement on the Establishment of a joint Commission between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Korea. | 26.2.1996 | | 26.2.1996 |

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|---|-----------|--|-----------|
| 37. Agreed Minutes relating to the operation of air services between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Korea. | 31.7.1996 | | 31.7.1996 |
|---|-----------|--|-----------|

Mongolia

- | | | | |
|---|-----------|--|-----------|
| 38. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Mongolia on Trade and Economic Cooperation. | 16.9.1996 | | 16.9.1996 |
| 39. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Mongolia in the Fields of Geology and Mineral Resources. | 16.9.1996 | | 16.9.1996 |
| 40. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Mongolia on Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture. | 16.9.1996 | | 16.9.1996 |
| 41. Protocol on Cooperation between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of External Relations of Mongolia. | 17.9.1996 | | 17.9.1996 |

Nepal

- | | | | |
|---|-----------|--|--|
| 42. Treaty between His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the Government of India concerning the Integrated Development of | 12.2.1996 | | |
|---|-----------|--|--|

the Mahakali River including Sarada Barrage, Tanakpur Barrage and Pancheshwar Project.

43. Agreement between the Republic of India and His Majesty's Government of Nepal for Construction of 22 (twenty-two) Bridges on the Kohlapur-Mahakali Section of the Mahendra Raj Marg. 12.2.1996 12.2.1996

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44. Agreement between His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the Government of India concerning the Electric Power Trade. 17.2.1996

Netherlands

45. Agreement between the Republic of India and the Kingdom of the Netherlands on Promotion and Protection of Investments. 6.11.1995 24.9.1996 1.12.1996

Norway

46. Protocol on Consultations between the Ministry of External Affairs of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway. 23.5.1996 23.5.1996

Oman

47. Memorandum of Understanding on Joint Cooperation for Combating Crime. 5.10.1996

48. Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Agriculture in the Republic of India and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in the Sultanate of Oman in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors. 5.10.1996

49. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Sultanate of Oman on Cooperation in the Fields of Science and Technology. 5.10.1996 5.10.1996

Poland

50. Programme of Cultural and Educational Exchanges between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Poland for the years of 1997-1999. 7.10.1996 1.1.1997

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51. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Poland for the Promotion and Protection of Investments. 7.10-1996

52. Protocol of Consultations between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland. 7.10.1996 7.10.1996

Philippines

53. Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Republic of India and the Department of Energy, Republic of Philippines on Enhanced Cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy. 26.2.1996 26.2.1996

Russian Federation

54. Memorandum of Understanding for Enhanced Cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy between the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Fuel and Energy of the Russian Federation. 4.3.1996
55. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on the installation of direct telephone line with security code between the residence of the Prime Minister of India in Delhi and the Kremlin in 30.3.1996 30.3.1996

Moscow.

56. Programme of Cultural, Scientific and Educational Exchange between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation for the years 1996-1997. 30.3.1996 30.3.1996

Seychelles

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57. Agreement on Tourism Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Seychelles. Slovak Republic 3.10.1996 3.10.1996

58. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Slovak Republic on Cooperation in the spheres of culture, art, education, science, tourism, sports and mass media. 11.3.1996

59. Air Services Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of the Slovak Republic. 9.10.1996 9.10.1996

60. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Slovak Republic on Cooperation in Science & Technology. 9.10.1996

Slovenia

61. Protocol on Consultations between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia. 23.8.1996 23.8.1996

Sudan

62. Memorandum of Understanding in the field of Health Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Republic of Sudan. 13.10.1996 13.10.1996

63. Cultural Exchange Programme 9.8.1996 9.8.1996

between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Sudan for the years 1996-97-98.

Tanzania

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|--|------------|------------|
| 64. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania on Technical Cooperation in the field of Posts & Telecommunications. | 12.12.1996 | 12.12.1996 |
|--|------------|------------|

Thailand

- | | | |
|--|------------|------------|
| 65. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand on the Maritime Boundary between the Two Countries in the Andaman Sea from Point 7 to the Trijunction Point (Point T) between Thailand, India and Myanmar. | 27.10.1993 | 17.1.1996 |
| 66. Agreement between the Ministry of Human Resource Development of India and the Ministry of Education of the Kingdom of Thailand for the Exposition of the Holy Relics of the Lord Buddha and a Photographic Exhibition on the Buddhist sites and shrines in India. | 18.10.1996 | 18.10.1996 |

Tunisia

- | | | |
|--|----------|----------|
| 67. Cultural Exchange Programme between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Tunisia for 1996-1998. | 4.7.1996 | 4.7.1996 |
|--|----------|----------|

United Kingdom

- | | | |
|---|----------|----------|
| 68. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and Government of the | 8.1.1996 | 8.1.1996 |
|---|----------|----------|

United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern Ireland
on Cooperation in Science and
Technology.

United Mexican States
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69. Agreement on Tourism Cooper- 28.3.1996
ation between the Government
of the Republic of India and
the Government of the United
Mexican States.

70. Memorandum of Understanding 20.2.1996
in the field of the Tele-
communications between the
Secretariat of Communications
and Transport of the United
Mexican States and the
Ministry of Communications of
the Republic of India.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

71. IND/96/003 Technical Assist- 10.1.1996 10.1.1996
ance through Tokten, UNistar
and TCDC Umbrella programme.

Yemen

72. Agreement between the Gover- 7.12.1996 7.12.1996
nment of India and the Gove-
rnment of Yemen on Cooperation
in the Scientific and
Technical Fields.

73. Agreed Minutes of the Second 7.12.1996 7.12.1996
Session of the Indo-Yemen
joint Committee for Economic,
Scientific and Technical
Cooperation.

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APPENDIX-VI Full Powers Issued durng 1996

Full Powers Issued during 1996

S. NO. CONVENTIONS/TREATIES
FULL POWER

DATE OF

1. Full Powers in favour of Shri Manmohan Singh, Finance
25.1.1996
Minister to sign the Convention between the Republic
of India and the State of Israel for the Avoidance of
Double Taxation and for the prevention of Fiscal

Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital.

2. Full Powers in favour of Shri V S Ramamurthy,
23.2.1996
Secretary, Department of Science & Technology to sign the Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.
3. Full Powers in favour of Shri Anil Baijal, joint
9.5.1996
Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation & Tourism to sign the Air Services Agreement between the Government of Kenya and the Government of the Republic of India.
4. Full Powers in favour of Shri G K Mishra, Chairman,
16.8.1996
Central Board of Direct Taxes and ex-officio Special Secretary to the Government of India to sign the Protocol to the Convention between the Government of India and the Government of New Zealand for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income.
5. Full Powers in favour of Shri C P Ravindranathan,
18.10.1996
Ambassador of India to Philippines to sign the Protocols on the Establishment of
 - (i) Diplomatic Relations
 - (ii) Consular Relations between the Republic of India and the Republic of Marshall Islands.
6. Full Powers in favour of Shri N K Saxena, Charge
24.12.1996
D'Affaires, Embassy of India, Phnom Penh, Cambodia to sign the Agreement between the Government of India and the Royal Government of Cambodia on the joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation.

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APPENDIX-VII Instruments of Ratification issued during 1996

Instruments of Ratification issued during 1996

S. NO. CONVENTION/TREATY INSTRUMENT	DATE OF
1. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Italian Republic on the Promotion and Protection of Investments, signed on 23.11.1995 at Rome.	12.1.1996

2. Cultural Agreement between the Government of Jamaica and the Government of the Republic of India, signed at Kingston on 20.3.96. 14.8.1996
3. Trade Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Cote D'Ivoire, signed at New Delhi on 17-2.1993. 26.8.1996
4. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Slovak Republic on cooperation in the spheres Of Culture, art, education, science, tourism, sports and mass media, signed at New Delhi on 11.3.1996. 26.8.1996
5. Treaty between His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the Government of India concerning the Integrated Development of the Mahakali River including Sarada Barrage, Tanakpur Barrage and Pancheshwar Project, signed at New Delhi on 12.2.1996. 27.11.1996
6. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Descrtification, Particularly in Africa, signed at Paris on 14.10.94. 29.11.1996
7. Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Tunisia, signed, it Tunis on 17.10-1995. 10.12.1996
8. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the State of Israel for the Promotion and Protection of Investments. 24.12.1996

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APPENDIX-VIII Training imparted under ITEC

Training imparted under ITEC in 1996 in various disciplines to civilian trainees

S.NO.	NAME OF COUNTRY	
1	Afghanistan	2
2	Albania	7
3	Armenia	4
4	Azarbaijan	1
5	Antigua & Barbuda	2
6	Belarus	3
7	Belize	2
8	Bulgaria	2
9	Cambodia	8
10	Cuba	13
11	Czech Republic	1

12	Comoros	2
13	Dominica	3
14	Ethiopia	13
15	Eritrea	3
16	Georgia	1
17	Guyana	8
18	Hungary (Croatia & Bosnia)	2
19	Haiti	2
20	Indonesia	15
21	Iraq	22
22	Jamaica	4
23	Jordan	11
24	Kazhakistan	14
25	Kyrgyzstan	9
26	Laos	11
27	Latvia	2
28	Lebanon	2
29	Lithuania	7

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30	Madagascar	10
31	Malaysia	4
32	Mexico	4
33	Moldova	6
34	Mongolia	11
35	Mozambique	2
36	Oman	7
37	Panama	2
38	Peru	1
39	Philippines	2
40	Palau	2
41	Poland	1
42	Russia	27
43	Slovak Rep.	1
44	St. Kitts & Nevis	2
45	Sudan	33
46	Surinam	7
47	Syria	15
48	St. Vincent	1
49	Tajikistan	10
50	Thailand	8
51	Trinidad & Tobago	10
52	Turkmenistan	14
53	Turks & Gaicos Island	1
54	Ukraine	4

55	Uzbekistan	18
56	Venezuela	1
57	Vietnam	31
58	Yemen	4
59	Romania	8
60	Papua New Guinea	4

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**APPENDIX-IX Training under Special Commonwealth African Assistance Plan
Training under Special Commonwealth African Assistance Plan (SCAAP) i 1996 in
various disciplines**

S. NO.	NAME OF COUNTRY	
1	Burkina Faso	1
2	Benin	1
3	Botswana	10
4	Gambia	4
5	Ghana	46
6	Guinea Bissau	1
7	Ivory Coast	4
8	Kenya	15
9	Lesotho	5
10	Mauritius	32
11	Mali	2
12	Namibia	2
13	Nigeria	7
14	Niger	6
15	Rwanda	1
16	Senegal	1
17	Seychelles	1
18	Sierra Leone	43
19	Swaziland	1
20	Tanzania	38
21	Uganda	71
22	Zambia	22
23	Zimbabwe	21
24	South Africa	5

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APPENDIX-X Foreign participation at 36th NDC course

Foreign participation at the 36th National Defence College
(NDC) Course, New Delhi in 1996

S. NO.	COUNTRY	SLOTS	ARRANGEMENTS
1	Australia	1	Reciprocal
2	Bangladesh	1	ITEC-I
3	Cuba	1	ITEC-I
4	Ghana	1	SFS
5	Greece	1	- d -
6	Indonesia	1	ITEC-II
7	Iran	1	SFS
8	Kenya	1	SFS
9	Kazakhstan	1	ITEC-I
10	Malaysia	1	SFS
11	Nepal	1	SAP
12	Nigeria	1	SFS
13	Oman	1	SFS
14	Palestine	1	ITEC-II
15	ROK	1	SFS
16	Sri Lanka	2	SAP
17	Tanzania* (Sri Lanka)		
18	U.A.E.	1	SFS
19	U.K.	1	Reciprocal
20	U.S.A.	1	SFS
TOTAL	20		

* Tanzania cancelled the slot at the last moment due to tragedy in the nominee 's family & the vacated slot allotted to Sri Lanka

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APPENDIX-XI Foreign participation at 52nd DSSC

Foreign participation at the 52nd Defence Services Staff College (DSSC) Course, Wellington in 1996

S. NO.	COUNTRY	ARMY	NAVY	AIR FORCE	TOTAL	CATEGORY
1	Australia	1	-	-	1	SFS
2	Bangladesh	1	1	-	2	ITEC-T/Recl-
3	Ghana	1	-	-	1	ITEC-II
4	Indonesia	-	1	-	1	ITEC-II
5	Kenya	-	-	1	1	SFS
6	Malaysia	1	-	1	2	SFS
7	Mauritius	-	1	-	1	ITEC-II
8	Nepal	1	-	-	1	SAP
9	Nigeria	-	1	-	1	SFS
10	Oman	1	-	-	1	SFS
11	Palestine	1	-	-	1	ITEC-I
12	Rep. of Korea	-	1	-	1	SFS
13	Sri Lanka	1	1	1	3	SAP

14	Tanzania	1	-	-	1	ITEC-I
15	Thailand	-	-	1	1	SFS
16	U.A.E.	1	-	1	2	SFS
17	U.K.	2	-	1	3	Reciprocal
18	U.S.A.	1	-	1	2	SFS
19	Guyana	1	-	-	1	ITEC-II
20	Yemen	1	-	-	1	ITEC-II
15	6	7	28			

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APPENDIX-XII List of countries to which experts were deputed under ITEC

List of countries to which experts were deputed from India under ITEC Program me during 1996

S.NO.	COUNTRY	FIELD
1	Ghana	Eye Specialist
2	-do-	Medicine
3	Guyana	Engg.
4	- do -	Metallurgy
5	-do-	Engg.
6	-do-	Agriculture
7	Kyrghyzstan	English Teaching
8	- do -	-do-
9	Mauritius	Legal Metrology
10	- do -	Eng
11	- do -	Management
12	- do -	Ayurveda/Siddha
13	Seychelles	Medicine
14	- do -	Military
15	- do -	Military
16	Uzbekistan	Indian Chair
17	Zambia	Military
18	- do -	- do -

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APPENDIX-XIII Countries to which Relief Supply was sent in 1996

Countries to which Relief Supply was sent in 1996

S.No.	AMMOUNT IN THOUSANDS
1 Supply of medicines to Lebanon	1711.5
2 Supply of milk powder/baby food to Lebanon	995
3 Cash assistance to Mongolia in the wake of forest fire disaster	1700
4 Supply of medicines to Myanmar	343
5 Supply of milk powder/baby food to Iraq	2500

6 Supply of 56 MT tea to Iraq by TTCI, Calcutta-payment of fourth and last instalment sent to Iraq	446
7 Supply of 500 MT rice to Sierra Leone by the PEC	7668
8 Supply of 500 MT rice to Comoros by NAFED	8085
9 Supply of handpumps/spray pumps to Zambia by KWPL, Bangalore	869
10 Supply of 1000 MT wheat FOB Bombay to North Korea by NAFED	6242.5
11 Supply of milk powder/baby food, medicines, tents to Bangladesh for tornado victims	4031
12 Supply of medicines to Seychelles	1210
13 Supply of 100 MT rice to Seycelles by NAFED	1282
14 Supply of medicines to Guyana through DGHS	1116
15 Supply of medicines to Sudan through DGHS	570
16 Supply of medicines to Niger through DGHS	1283
17 Supply of medicines to Liberia through DGHS	410
18 Supply of medicines to Djibouti through DGHS	387

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APPENDIX-XIV Projects-completed or under process during 1996-97

Projects-completed or under process during 1996-97

Burkina Faso	Demonstration farms to be operated by Indian farmers
Cambodia	An artificial limb fitment centre installed and commissioned in July 1996
Costa Rica	A photo-voltaic solar energy plant under execution by CEL
Egypt	Assistance to set up mud block and tile manufacturing Plant in June 1996
Ghana	A mobile eye clinic for use in rural areas supplied in September 1996 Four hundred water pumps for Ghana and two hundred for Liberia supplied in April 1996 Supply of artificial limbs to Ghana under process
Kazakhstan	A containerised hot water boiler was supplied during September 1996
Kyrghyzstan	Setting tip of a mini-dairy plant in Kyrghyzstan under process
Mali	15 tool kits were supplied in June-July 1996

200 handpumps supplied in June-July 1996

A proposal for supply of 200 diesel pumps under process

Supply of photo-voltaic solar system to Mali under execution

A project for supply of drilling rig and agricultural equipment (manual rickshaws and handweeders) is under process

Mauritius Remote Sensing Centre under execution by ISRO

Mongolia A Vocational Training, Centre named after Shri Rajiv Gandhi established and handed over by India's Vice President during his visit in September 1996

Oman A photo-voltaic solar system formally inaugurated by India's President during his visit to Oman in October 1996

Senegal Computerisation of Senegalese Prime Minister's office in Dakar completed in August 1996

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Syria A facility for manufacturing photo-voltaic cells and modules is under execution by CEL

Uzbekistan An artificial limb fitment camp was held over one month in September 1996

Zimbabwe A Rural Automatic Exchange donated jointly by Indian Telephone Industries and Telecommunication Consultants India Limited was handed over by India's Prime Minister to Zimbabwean President during the G-15 Summit in Harare in November 1996. The transportation and handling only borne out of ITEC Funds

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APPENDIX-XV Feasibility Studies

Feasibility Studies

Mali

A two member team from IVRI/ICAR visited Mali from 28 September-7 October 1996

to conduct feasibility study for setting up a Poultry Vaccine Laboratory in Mal

i.

Sierra Leone

A two member team from IRCON visited Sierra Leone from 28 September-7 October 19

96 to conduct pre-feasibility study for reconstruction of railway

system in Sierra Leone.

Senegal, Ivory Coast, Ghana, CAR, Togo

A three member team from Gujarat Tractors Corporation Limited visited Senegal, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Central African Republic and Togo during July-August 1996 to explore possibilities for mutual cooperation in the field of agriculture.

Organisation for African Unity (OAU)

An expert from NIC was deputed to conduct feasibility study for computerisation of OAU Secretariat in Addis Ababa in August 1996.
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APPENDIX-XVI Vip visits to india 1996-97

VIP Visits to India during 1996-97

Heads of State, Deputy Heads of State, Heads of Government

1 Prime Minister of Mauritius August 1996	14 to 19
2 President of Finland November 1996	25 to 28
3 President of China 1 December 1996	28 November to
4 Deputy President of South Africa December 1996	3 to 7
5 President of Kazakhstan December 1996	9 to 11
6 Prime Minister of Bangladesh December 1996	9 to 12
7 First Prime Minister of Cambodia December 1996	16
8 Prime Minister of Malaysia December 1996	19 to 22
9 President of Israel 5 January 1997	29 December 1996 to
10 Prime Minister of the United Kingdom January 1997	9 and 10
11 Prime Minister of Trinidad & Tobago 4 February 1997	23 January to
12 President of Cyprus February 1997	10 to 15

13 President of Namibia February 1997	13 to 18
14 Prime Minister of Bangladesh February 1997	14 to 16
15 President of Senegal February 1997	16 to 19
16 President of Turkmenistan February 1997 -173>	25 to 26
17 President of Philippines March 1997	2 to 5
18 Prime Minister of Ethiopia March 1997	5 to 9
19 Prime Minister of Vietnam March 1997	7 to 9
Visit of Foreign Ministers and others	
1 Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka June 1996	19 to 21
2 Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan July 1996	10 to 14
3 Foreign Minister of Nepal August 1996	12 to 14
4 Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan August 1996	19 to 23
5 British Secretary of State for Foreign & August 1996 Commonwealth Affairs	28 to 30
6 Foreign Minister of SADR September 1996	8 to 15
7 Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of September 1996 Luxembourg	9 to 13
8 Foreign Minister of Iran	17 October 1996
9 Foreign Minister of Australia October 1996	19 to 23
10 Secretary General of ASEAN October 1996	20 to 29
11 Deputy Prime Minister of Tajikistan	26 October 1996

12 British Shadow Foreign Secretary 4 November 1996	31 October to
13 Foreign Minister of Bangladesh November 1996	8 to 13
14 Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka December 1996	13 to 21
15 Secretary General of ASEAN -174>	18 December 1996
16 Foreign Minister of Maldives December 1996	18 to 20
17 Foreign Minister of Pakistan December 1996	18 to 21
18 Foreign Minister of Bangladesh December 1996	18 to 23
19 Foreign Minister of Bhutan December 1996	18 to 23
20 Foreign Minister of Nepal December 1996	19 and 20
21 Foreign Minister of Canada January 1997	7 to 15
22 Foreign Minister of Germany January 1997	22 to 24
23 Foreign Minister of Portugal February 1997	6 to 10
24 Foreign Minister of Belgium February 1997	16 to 19
25 Foreign Minister of Denmark February 1997	16 to 19
26 Foreign Minister of Costa Rica 5 March 1997	27 February to
27 Foreign Minister of Venezuela March 1997	2 to 5
28 Foreign Minister of Bangladesh March 1997	11 to 13
29 Secretary General of Commonwealth March 1997 -175>	17 to 20

APPENDIX-XVII Visits Abroad of Presidents,VP and PM of India

Visits Abroad of the President, Vice-President and Prime Minister of India

1 Vice-President to Mongolia	14 to 22 September 1996
2 President to Oman, Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic and Italy	3 to 17 October 1996
3 Vice-President to Iran	22 to 27 October 1996
4 Prime Minister to Zimbabwe (G-15 Summit)	2 to 6 November 1996
5 Prime Minister to Rome (World Food Summit)	15 to 19 November 1996
6 Prime Minister to Dhaka	6 and 7 January 1997
7 Prime Minister to Davos, Switzerland (World Economic Forum) & Mauritius	31 January to 5 February 1997
8 Prime Minister to Moscow	24 to 26 March 1997

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APPENDIX-XVIII The Meetings organised by conference cell since April 1996

The meetings organised by the Conference Cell since 1 April 1996 are as follows:

S.No.	CONFERENCE	DATE
1	Third Meeting of Inter-Governmental Group on Trade Liberalisation	25 and 26 October 1996
2	Seventh Meeting of Committee on Economic Cooperation	28 and 29 October 1996
3	ASEAN-India Joint Cooperation Committee	13 to 15 November 1996
4	Programming Committee, Standing Committee and Council of Ministers Meeting of SAARC	14 to 20 December 1996
5	ASEAN-India ISIS Dialogue	24 and 25 January 1997

In addition, the Conference Cell also provided assistance to other Ministries/

Departments of Government of India in organising international conferences. The Conference Cell particularly provided assistance for the following conferences:

1 UN-ESCAP Ministerial Conference and WTF Asia '96 23 to 31
October 1996
Forum, New Delhi

2 International Energy Conference, Goa 6 to 8
December 1996

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APPENDIX-XIX Number of fresh/miscellaneous applications received and the number of passports

Number of fresh/miscellaneous applications received and the number of passports issued and the number of services rendered during the calendar year 1996

S.NO.	OFFICE	FRESH APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	MISCELLANEOUS APPLICATIONS ISSUED	SERVICES RENDERED
1	AHMEDABAD	126536	127760	26409
2	BANGALORE	102248	105905	27556
3	BAREILLY	36341	33394	6016
4	BHOPAL	19697	18979	5907
5	BHUBANESHWAR	7683	7029	1285
6	CALCUTTA	63883	62367	15046
7	CHANDIGARH	99379	98946	16009
8	CHENNAI	140512	134158	27149
9	COCHIN	84710	83107	23227
10	DELHI	142804	140904	37725
11	GOA	15875	14279	8317
12	GUWAHATI	8335	8169	1274
13	HYDERABAD	190722	176649	32075
14	JAIPUR	48272	47441	9697
15	JALANDHAR	95861	95667	15129
16	JAMMU	12531	10495	992
17	KOZHICODE	140574	126400	30050
18	LUCKNOW	103497	90156	10267
19	MUMBAI	222007	209835	62229
20	NAGPUR	12107	11792	1732
21	PATNA	47159	44001	4613
22	TRICHY	189516	191752	41277
23	TRIVANDRUM	77106	73600	23742
	TOTAL	1987355	1912785	427723

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APPENDIX-XX Statement showing the Revenue and Expenditure Figures of Passport Offices

Statement showing the Revenue and Expenditure Figures of Passport Offices/ Regional Passport Offices during 1996

S.NO.	OFFICE	REVENUE EARNED	EXPENDITURE INCURRED
(RS)	(RS)		

1	AHMEDABAD	46144271.40	8523746.00
2	BANGALORE	38273650.00	10331583.00
3	BAREILLY	12822151.00	3897462.00
4	BHOPAL	7628648.00	1980963.00
5	BHUBANESHWAR	2743258.00	1146795.00
6	CALCUTTA	23633904.00	3736803.00
7	CHANDIGARH	34582981.00	7924899.00
8	CHENNAI	50161850.00	8452576.00
9	COCHIN	31623104.00	9171602.00
10	DELHI	53324216.00	15156849.00
11	GUWAHATI	3020677.00	1491776.00
12	HYDERABAD	64501518.00	14582885.00
13	JAIPUR	17090457.00	6262815.00
14	JALANDHAR	35459851.99	6767736.00
15	JAMMU	4465605.00	1238355.00
16	KOZHIKODE	50266942.00	10452583.00
17	LUCKNOW	33164721.00	8924610.00
18	MUMBAI	90005590.00	18376295.00
19	NAGPUR	4128707.00	1353956.00
20	PANAJI(GOA)	7276020.00	1418720.00
21	PATNA	15853185.00	3082470.00
22	TIRUCHIRAPALLI	64296111.00	7179788.00
23	TRIVANDRUM	28134165.00	6809885.00
	TOTAL	718601583.39	158265152.00

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APPENDIX-XXI Consular Data for 1996

Consular Data for 1996

1	Number of Attestations	281945
2	Number of Indians repatriated at Government Cost*	320
3	Number of Indians arrested abroad*	20488
4	Number of deaths of Indians reported to the Ministry*	3559
5	Number of foreigners arrested in India"	12828
6	Number of foreigners died in India"	378
7	(i) Number of requests for extradition received by Government of India from abroad	4
	(ii) Number of requests for extradition from Government	

of India to Foreign Governments 2
 8 Number of lost/damaged passports cases received* 13620

*Figures are for cases reported

**Figures made available by Ministry of Home Affairs

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APPENDIX-XXII Cadre strength at Headquarters and Missions/Posts abroad during 1996-97

Cadre strength at Headquarters and Missions/Posts abroad during 1996-97 (including Posts budgeted by Ministry of Commerce and held in abeyance/ex-cadred)

S.NO.	CADRE/POST HEADQUARTERS	POSTS AT HEADQUARTERS	POSTS AT MISSIONS	TOTAL
	IFS			
1.	Grade I*	5	21	26
2.	Grade II	4	30	34
3.	Grade III	26	116	142
4.	Grade IV	38	95	133
5.	Jr. Admn. Grade/Senior Scale	14	166	180
6.	(i) junior Scale	3	30	33
	(ii) Probationers reserve	27	-	27
	(iii) Leave reserve	15	-	15
	(iv) Deputation reserve	19	-	19
	(v) Training reserve	7	-	7
	IFS (B)			
7.	(i) Grade I	59	82	141
	(ii) Deputation reserve	6	-	6
8.	(i) Grade II/III	100	172	272
	(ii) Leave reserve	30	-	30
	(iii) Deputation reserve	16	-	16
	(iv) Training reserve	25	-	25
9.	(i) Grade IV	252	409	661
	(ii) Leave reserve	60	-	60
	(iii) Deputation reserve	55	-	55
10.	(i) Grade V/VI	385	196	581

	(ii) Leave reserve	60	-	60
	(iii) Deputation reserve	14	-	14
11.	(i) Gr. II of Cypher Cadre (Cypher Assistant)	58	139	197
	(ii) Leave reserve	23	-	23
12. (i)	Private Secretary	36	197	233
(ii) Leave reserve	14	-	14	
	-181>			
13.	(i) Personal Assistant	157	194	351
	(ii) Leave reserve	33	-	33
	(iii) Training reserve(Hindi)	10	-	10
	(iv) Deputation reserve	12	-	12
14.	Stenographer (Gr.III)	42	77	119
15.	Interpreters' cadre	8	27	35
16.	L&T Cadre	17	-	17
	TOTAL	1630	1951	3581

* Including temporary upgradation of one post from Grade II to Grade I

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APPENDIX-XXIII List of Officers qualified in various foreign languages

List of Officers qualified in various foreign languages

S.NO.	COMPULSORY FOREIGN LANGUAGE	NUMBER OF OFFICERS
1.	Arabic	86
2.	Bhasa Indonesia	10
3.	Burmese	01
4.	Chinese	51
5.	Dutch	01
6.	French	85
7.	German	34

8.	Gorkhali	01
9.	Hebrew	01
10.	Hungarian	01
11.	Italian	05
12.	Japanese	20
13.	Kazakh	01
14.	Kishwahili	10
15.	Malay	01
16.	Nepali	03
17.	Persian	17
18.	Portuguese	16
19.	Russian	72
20.	Serbo-Croatian	03
21.	Sinhalese	02
22.	Spanish	57
23.	Swedish	01
24.	Thai	02
25.	Tibetan	02
26.	Turkish	05
27.	Ukrainian	01
28.	Vietnamese	01

Note: The numbers exclude Language Trainees
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APPENDIX-XXIV Statement showing data on recruitment made in various groups in the Ministry

Statement showing data on recruitment made in various groups in the Ministry of External Affairs and Reserved Vacancies filled by Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/OBCs during the year 1996 (Provisional)

GROUP	TOTAL NO. OF VACANCIES	NUMBER OF VACANCIES		
		RESERVED SC	UNRESERVED ST OBCS	
Group 'A' 19		3	1 5	10
Group 'B' 70		11	1 25	33
Group 'C' 97		14	10 25	48
Group 'D' 16 -184>		3	1 3	9

APPENDIX-XXV Names of Ambassadors/High Commissioners of India abroad who have taken charge

Names of Ambassadors/High Commissioners of India abroad who have taken charge from April 1996

S NO	COUNTRY	CAPITAL	AMBASSADOR/ HIGH COMMISSIONER	DATE OF APPOINTMENT
1	Argentina	Buenos Aires	Nigam Prakash	27.8.96
2	Belarus	Minsk	Smt Madhu Bhaduri	06.8.96
3	Belgium	Brussels	C Dasgupta	26.6.96
4	Brazil	Brasilia	Ishrat Aziz	11.6.96
5	Chile	Santiago	Ram Mohan	11.8.96
6	China	Beijing	V K Nambiar	09.9.96
7	Cuba	Havana	V P Singh	04.12.96
8	Finland	Helsinki	Smt Kamlesh Kumar	06.9.96
9	Greece	Athens	G S Bedi	12.12.96
10	Madagascar	Antananrivo	Dr Prabhakar Jha	18.5.96
11	Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur	P S Sahai	02.10.96

12 Netherlands	The Hague	Prabhakar Menon	17.7.96
13 Norway	Oslo	J Daulat Singh	16.01.97
14 Papua New Guinea	Port Moresby	V S Verma	26.4.96
15 Portugal	Lisbon	S K Bhatnagar	07.8.96
16 Qatar	Doha	R L Narayan	18.12.96
17 South Africa	Pretoria	Gopal K Gandhi	01.7.96
18 Sweden	Stockholm	Sushil Dubey	15.11.96
19 Trinidad & Tobago	Port of Spain	I V Chopra	06.8.96
20 Tunisia	Tunis	R C Shukla	05.8.96
21 Turkey	Ankara	R M Abyankar	16.7.96
22 U S A	Washington	Naresh Chandra	15.4.96
23 Yemen	Sana'a	K R Sinha	19.12.96
24 Vietnam	Hanoi	Aftab Seth	22.01.97
25 Yugoslavia	Belgrade	S K Mathur	16.01.97

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APPENDIX-XXVI Revenue Expenditure of the Ministry of External Affairs during the Financial yr 1996-97

Revenue Expenditure of the Ministry of External Affairs during the Financial Year 1996-97

BUDGET ESTIMATES 1996-97
(IN CRORES OF RUPEES)

Headquarter	69.77
Missions and Posts	515.00
Central Passport and Emigration Organisation	50.25
Foreign Service Training Institute	0.40

Special Diplomatic Expenditure	200.00
International Conferences/Meetings	1.95
Entertainment Charges	12.00
Contribution to International Organisations (including UN)	26.75
Grant-in-Aid to ICCR	25.00
Evacuation of Indians due to War/Civil Disturbance	0.10
Other Miscellaneous items	22.60
Miscellaneous General Service (Loss by Exchange)	0.01
Payment to Shipping Corporation of India for Charter Operations between Madras-Port Blair sector	0.53
Payment to Indian Airlines for Charter Operations between Madras-Port Blair sector	0.01
Aid to Other Countries	
Aid to Bangladesh	1.00
Aid to Bhutan	115.00
Aid to Nepal	46.00
Aid to Sri Lanka	8.00
Aid to Maldives	13.00
Aid to Cambodia	0.00
Aid to Myanmar	10.00
Aid to other developing countries	30.00
Aid to African countries	6.52
TOTAL REVENUE EXPENDITURE	1153.89

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APPENDIX-XXVII Expenditure on Indian Missions/Posts abroad

and Headquarters of the Ministry

Expenditure on Indian Missions/Posts abroad and Headquarters of the Ministry of External Affairs in 1996-97

The estimated expenditure on the Headquarters Organisation of the Ministry during the current financial year (1996-97) is expected to be Rs 69-77 crores which is 6.05 per cent of the total estimated revenue expenditure of the Ministry. Out of this Rs 16-75 crores will be on Salaries, OTA and Wages, Rs 16.12 crores on Travel Expenses, Rs 17.83 crores on Office Expenses, Rs 10.50 crores on Advertising and Publicity and Rs 8.26 crores on Rent, Rates, Taxes, Rs 0.31 crore on miscellaneous items.

The total estimated expenditure on Indian Missions/Posts is expected to be Rs 515.00 crores during the current financial year which works out to 44.63 percent of the total revenue expenditure of this Ministry. Out of this, an amount of Rs 229.92 crores is for Salaries (including Foreign Allowances), OTA and Wages, Rs 51.46 crores for Travel Expenses (Transfer Passages/Home Leave Passages and Local Tours), Rs 97.07 crores for Office Expenses, Rs 12.22 crores for Advertising and Publicity and Rs 124.33 crores for Rent, Rates, Taxes as well as for Repairs and Maintenance of Government owned/rented accommodation in Missions abroad. Average expenditure per Mission abroad (including Publicity), works out to Rs 3.32 crores.

The remaining 49.32 per cent of the estimated revenue expenditure of the Ministry is being incurred on various Aid programmes, for neighbouring and other developing countries including ITEC programmes, Aid to African Countries, SAARC and SCAAP Programmes, contribution to United Nations Organisation and other International bodies, Passport Organisations, Entertainment Charges, Grant-in-Aid to Indian Council for Cultural Relations and other miscellaneous items.

In the Capital Section there is a total provision of Rs 62.03 crores in RE 96-97, out of which Rs 57.00 crores are for construction and purchases of properties. Rest of the amount represents loan component to countries like Bangladesh etc.

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APPENDIX-XXVIII Training programme for IFS Probationers

Training programme for IFS Probationers

Module 1 International Relations

Module 2 Introduction to Diplomacy

Module 3 Regional Focus

Module 4 Indian Foreign Policy

Module 5 International Law

Module 6 New Areas of International Relations

Module 7 International Organisations

Module 8 Defence and Security

Module 9 International Economic Relations and Commercial Diplomacy

Module 10 Diplomatic Practice and Protocol

Module 11 Special Diplomatic Skills

Module 12 Representational Entertainment and Decor

Module 13 Culture and Diplomacy

Module 14 Diplomatic Exercises

Module 15 Ministry of External Affairs

Module 16 Point Counter-Point

Module 17 Technical Skills

Module 18 Languages

Module 19 The Constitutional Structure

Module 20 Attachment with the Armed Forces

Module 21 Bharat Darshan

Module 22 Pradesh Darshan

Module 23 Seemant Darshan

Module 24 SAARC Darshan

Module 25 Assignments & Evaluation

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APPENDIX-XXIX Outgoing Visitors Programme (non-performing) 1996-97

Outgoing Visitors Programme (non-performing) 1996-97

S. NO.	NAME OF VISITOR	COUNTRY	PERIOD
1	Dr B K Bhattacharya Additional Principal Deshbandhu College New Delhi	USA	4 to 7 April 1996
2	Professor Rajiv Verma Head Department of English University of Delhi Delhi	Poland	12 to 14 April 1996

3	Smt Sarmila M Bhatt Lecturer Lady Sri Ram College New Delhi	Poland	12 to 14 April 1996
4	Smt Ira Bhaskar Professor of English Gargi College, Delhi	Poland	-do-
5	Shri Bhupatlal Pandhi Magician Nagpur	USA	14 to 22 April 1996
6	Smt Chandra Pandhi Assistant Nagpur	USA	-do-
7	Dileep Ratanlal Saraf Assistant Nagpur	USA	14 to 22 April 1996
8	Dr Sadhana Naithani Centre of German Studies & Folklore Centre for German Studies Jawaharlal Nehru University New Delhi	China	-do-
9	Professor Shail Kumari Reader Miranda House Delhi	China	22 to 28 April 1996
10	Vidwan R K Padmanabha Advisor Music Section Sri Lalitkala Academy Trust Centre of Performing Arts Mysore	USA	15 to 19 May 1996
11	Professor Ravinder Kumar Director Nehru Memorial Museum & Library New Delhi	Jordan	4 & 5 May 1996
12	Professor Varyam Singh Centre of Russian Studies Jawaharlal Nehru University New Delhi	Bishkek	6 to 18 May 1996

S. NO.	PURPOSE	REMARKS
1	To attend the VIth World Shakespeare Congress at Los Angeles	50% Travel grant
2	To participate in the	-do-

Conference of "Images of
India in film and literature in
English" organised by the
University of Lodz

- | | | | |
|----|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 3 | -do- | -do- | |
| 4 | -do- | -do- | |
| 5 | To participate in the VIth
World Deaf Magicians
Festival in Rochester
New York | Magicians
Delegation | |
| 6 | -do- | -do- | |
| | -189> | | |
| 7 | To participate in the VIth
World Deaf Magicians Festival
in Rochester New York | Magicians
Delegation | |
| 8 | To participate in the
Symposium of the Inter-
national Society for Folk
Narrative Research in Beijing | 50% Travel
grant | |
| 9 | To attend the 13th Inter-
national Ramayana Conference
at Shenzen University | | |
| 10 | To attend the 25th Inter-
national Conference of
American Musical Instrument
Society, University of South
Dakota | -do- | |
| 11 | To participate as a Speaker
in a Seminar on Mahatma
Gandhi organised by the
Indian Embassy Amman in
Collaboration with the Royal
Institute of Inter-faith Studies | | |
| 12 | Visited Bishkek in connection
with translation of Kyrghyz
Epic "Manas" into Hindi | | |
| | -190> | | |
| 13 | Sheikh Saleem Ahmed
Honorary Secretary
Abdur Rahim Khan-e-
Khanan Memorial Society
New Delhi | USA | 15 to 29 May 1996 |
| 14 | Shri Surendran Nair
Artist
Baroda | UK | 22 May to 2 June 1996 |

- | | | | |
|-------|--|------------|--------------------|
| 15 | Shri P Srinivasan
Artist
Varman Art School
Madras | -do - | -do - |
| 16 | Smt Monica Sanyal
1996
President Shivalik
Society for Arts and
Culture Dehradun | USA | 11 May to 29 July |
| 17 | Rajan Devendra Nath Verma
1996
President International
Centre for Cultural
Relations Bombay | Spain | 24 May to 12 June |
| 13 | To deliver lectures on Sufi
1996
traditions in India organised
at the University of Maryland,
Georgia Institute of Techno-
logy Atlanta and University
of Kansas Missouri. | Germany | 12 June to 12 July |
| 14 | To participate in the exhibi-
tion of Contemporary South
Indian Paintings and Sculpture
"The New South" organised
by Global Heritage London | | |
| 15 | -do - | | |
| 16 | Exhibition of her paintings
organised by the Gandhi grant
Memorial Centre Washington | 50% Travel | |
| 17 | To participate in the Inter-
national Theatre Festivals at
Allicante and Paderborn

-do- | | |
| -191> | | | |
| 18 | Professor Nissim Ezekiel
Poet and Playwright
Bombay | France | 28 to 31 May 1996 |
| 19 | Professor Sumit Sarkar
Department of History
University of Delhi
Delhi | France | 3 to 5 June 1996 |

- 20 Professor Romila Thapar France -do -
Retired Professor of History
Jawaharlal Nehru University
New Delhi
- 21 Professor Mohammad France -do -
Ishaq Khan
Department of History
Kashmir University
Srinagar
- 22 Shri Ravi Shankar Rao UK 13 June to 1 August
1996
Bangalore
- 23 Professor Anand Mohan Bhalla Hong Kong 18 to 22 June 1996
Department of English
Rajdhani College
Raja Garden
New Delhi
- 18 To participate in the collo-
quium on "Indian Literature
in English: From Narayan to
Rushdie" organised jointly by
the Indian Embassy and the
British Council
- 19 To participate in a Seminar
"Time as a Historical Construct"
at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes
des Sciences Sociales" Paris
- 20 -do -
- 21 -do -
- 22 To participate in the Aberdeen 50% Travel
International Youth Festival grant
- 23 To participate in the Inter- -do -
national Multi Disciplinary
Conference organised by the
University of Hong Kong and
the Beijing Foreign Studies
University
- 192>
- 24 Smt Sangeeta Luthra Sharma UK 6 to 27 July 1996
Lecturer
Department of History
St Stephen's College
Delhi
- 25 Dr Saryu Doshi Ireland 16 July to
Neela House 16 August 1996
M L Dahanukar Marg

Bombay

26	Shri Arvind Kumar Krishn Allahabad	UK	9 to 27 July 1996
27	Dr Gauri Bhattacharya Department of Vocal Music Rabindra Bharati University Calcutta	New Zealand	12 to 15 July 1996
28	Dr Manisha Sen Reader Department of Applied Psychology University of Bombay Bombay	Canada	24 July to 13 August 1996
24	To attend the Workshop on History at the University of Cambridge	50% Travel grant	
25	To assist the Chester Beatty Library on Jain Manuscripts in the Indian collection		
26	Visited UK in connection with the publication of the Oxford Illustrated History of Indian Literature	-do -	
27	To participate as a folk musicologist at the Conference "Trading with our lives" organised by Corso New Zealand Association for Inter- national Relief Rehabilitation and Development held in Christ Church, New Zealand	-do -	
28	To participate at the Inter- national Council of Psychologists Convention at Alberta, Canada -193>	-do -	
29	Dr Saryu Kalekar Ex Vice Chancellor Chandigarh	Kenya	2 to 5 August 1996
30	Smt Mohini Trikha Sculptor & Painter New Delhi	USA	18 August to 17 September 1996
31	Professor Ram Gopal Bajaj Acting Director National School of Drama New Delhi	Denmark	15 to 22 August 1996

- 32 Professor (Dr) Sitansu Ray
Department of Tagore Music
Viswa Bharati University
Santiniketan
Netherland 19 to 24 August 1996
- 33 Smt Kavita Singh
Art Historian
New Delhi
Denmark 21 to 24 August 1996
- 34 Dr Rajkumar Hans
Department of History
M S University
Baroda
Denmark -do -
- 29 Adjudicator in the Kenya
Music Festival, Nairobi
- 30 To participate in an exhibi-
tion at Vedanta Gallery of
Chicago and Vedanta II
Gallery at Elk Grove,
Chicago
- 31 To attend the International
Theatre Festival organised
by the National Theatre
School, Copenhagen.
- 32 To participate & deliver a
lecture on "Tagore-Einstein
Conversation: Reality and the
Human World, Causality and
Chance" at the Fifth Con-
ference of the International
Society for the Study of
European Ideas at Utrecht
50% Travel
grant
- 33 To attend the 14th European
Conference on Modern South
Asian Studies at Copenhagen
University.
- 34 To participate in the 14th

European Conference on
Modern South Asian Studies
in Copenhagen, Denmark
- 194>
- 35 Professor Baladas Ghosal
Jawaharlal Nehru University
New Delhi
Indonesia 26 to 28 August 1996
- 36 Dr Shashi Joshi
Fellow, Nehru
UK 31 August 1996

Memorial Museum & Library
Teen Murti House
Jawaharlal Nehru University
New Delhi

- 37 Dr Neeta Jha
Reader
L N Mithila University
Kameshwarnagar
Darbhanga
Sweden
20 to 31
August 1996
- 38 Professor (Dr) Amlan Datta
Former Vice Chancellor
Viswa Bharati University
Santiniketan
Germany
31 August to
1 September 1996
- 39 Padamsree Amitabha
Choudhury
Noted Tagore Researcher
Calcutta
Germany
-do -
- 35 To attend a Seminar on "The
Cultural and Social Dimen-
sions of Market Expansion"
at Goethe Institute Jogjakarta
- 36 Visit to the UK in connection
with a research project
"Caste and Power Texts of
Resistance Domination:
Policies of Affirmative and
class in London, UK and
positive discrimination in race
and class" in London, UK
50% Travel
grant
- 37 To participate in the First
ever Maithili Conference
organised by the Stockholm
University
-do -
- 38 To participate in the celebra-
tion of the 75th anniversary
of Tagore's visit to Germany
- 39 -do -
- 195>
- 40 Smt Surekha Panandikar
Convenor
Association of Writers
and Illustrators for Children
New Delhi
Netherlands
12 to 16
August 1996
- 41 Shri C Rajamohan
Strategic Affairs Editor
The Hindu
Uzbekistan
&
Tajikistan
22 to 29
September 1996

New Delhi

42	Smt Maya Govind Poet Bombay	UK	14 & 15 September 1996
43	Professor Gopi Chand Narang Writer New Delhi	Norway	7 to 9 September 1996
44	Shri Kamaleshwar Writer New Delhi	Norway	-do -
45	Shri Himansu Joshi Writer Delhi	Norway	-do -
46	Shri Shamshad Maqbool Husain Renowned Artist New Delhi	USA	2 to 14 September 1996
40	To participate in the 25th Congress of International Board on Books for the Young (IBBY) in Groningen		
41	To deliver lectures on India's foreign policy		
42	To participate in the Kavi Sammelan in Birmingham and London organised by UK Hindi Samiti		
43	To participate in Indo- Norwegian Writers Conference organised by the Sahityik Vichar Sabha, Oslo		
44	-do -		
45	-do -		
46	To co-curate the exhibition of Contemporary American Art held at National Gallery of Modern Art New Delhi in January-February 1997		
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47	Shri Vidya Nand Singh Director Govt Museum and Art Gallery	Kenya	23 to 28 September 1996

Chandigarh

- | | | | |
|----|---|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 48 | Professor Dilip Kumar Sinha
Vice Chancellor
Visva Bharati
Santiniketan | UK | 17 to 24
September 1996 |
| 49 | Smt Vijaya Rajan
Chairperson
Crafts Council of India
Chennai | Morocco | 16 to 20
September 1996 |
| 50 | Dr Saradindu Mukherjee
Department of History
Hansraj College
University of Delhi
Delhi | USA | 10 to 13
October 1996 |
| 51 | Dr Vedagya Arya
Roorkee | USA | 4 to 6
October 1996 |
| 52 | Professor K R Singh
Centre for West
Asian & African Studies
Jawaharlal Nehru University
New Delhi | Seychelles | 25 to 31
October 1996 |
| 47 | To participate in the meeting
of the International Docu-
tation Committee (CIDOC)
and the International Council
of Museums in Nairobi | | |
| 48 | To participate in the Con-
ference organised to mark
75 years of the founding of
Visva Bharati University at the
Tagore Centre UK | | |
| 49 | To attend the meeting of
General Assembly of World
Crafts Council and the 20th
Asian Assembly of World Crafts
Council at Fez | | |
| 50 | To present a paper in the
Annual Conference of the
Oral History Association at
Philadelphia | 50% Travel
grant | |
| 51 | To participate in the Inter-
national Conference on
Indus-Sarasvati Age | | |
| 52 | To deliver a lecture on the
History of the Indian Ocean
from the Indian Ocean stand- | | |

point at the Eleventh Edition
of the Creole Festival held in
Victoria, Seychelles

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|----|--|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 53 | Professor Sharat Kumar
Mukherjee
and Mrs Vijaya Mukherjee
Bengali Writers & Poets
Calcutta | USA | First week of
October 1996 |
| 54 | Dr G Mishra
Senior Lecturer
Radhakrishnan Institute for
Advanced Study in Philosophy
University of Madras
Chennai | USA | 31 October to
3 November 1996 |
| 55 | Shri Jiwan Pani
Delhi | USA | 17 October to
31 December 1996 |
| 56 | Qari Mohd Abdul Qayoom
Shakir
Hyderabad | Bangladesh | 21 to 27
November 1996 |
| 57 | Dr C Panduranga Bhatta
Reader and Head in charge
Department of Sanskrit
Pondicherry University
Pondicherry | Japan | 5 & 6
November 1996 |
| 53 | To deliver lectures at the
University of Washington | 50% Travel
grant | |
| 54 | To participate in the Eighth
International Congress of
Vedanta held at Miami
University, Dayton, Ohio,
USA | -do - | |
| 55 | To give a lecture in the field
of Indian Music and dance
organised by Indo-American
Friendship Society | | |
| 56 | To participate in the VIth
International Qirat Recitation
Conference | | |
| 57 | To participate in an inter-
national Conference on the
Great Religions of Asia at
Kyoto | | |

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APPENDIX-XXX Incoming Visitor Programme (non-performing) 1996-97 (ICCR)

Incoming Visitor Programme (non-performing) 1996-97 (ICCR)

S. NO.	NAME OF PERSON	COUNTRY	PURPOSE
1	Viviene Taylor Director Southern African Development Education and Policy Research Unit (SADEP), University of the Western Cape	South Africa	To participate in the technical workshop in Bangalore of the Southern HDR of the UN
2	Oleg S Kuzin Chief Editor St Petersburg Vedemosti and his wife	Russia	To collect material for a series of articles on India
3	Patrick Pillay Minister of Education and Republic of Seychelles along with his daughter	Seychelles	To identify Indian Institutions for placement from Seychelles in Professional and Vocational Courses
4-8	5-member Chinese delegation Yin Shoushi Vice-President of the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles	China	To interact with prominent Indian artists in the field
	Professor Zhou Guozhen Jindezhen Ceramic Institute Jiangxi Province	China	-do -
	Professor Li Deli Central Academy of arts and Design, Beijing	China	-do -

S. NO.	PERIOD	REMARKS
1	15 to 25 May 1996	
2	21 to 31 August 1996	
3	30 August to 8 September 1996	
4-8	4 to 18 September 1996	
	-do -	
	-do -	

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Gu Peifang Chief of the Division of Asian Affairs External Liaison Department of the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles	China	To interact with prominent Indian artists in the field
Zhang Xihai English-Chinese translator	China	-do -
9 Dr Philippe Regnier Director Modern Asia Research Centre Geneva	Switzerland	To contact key national institutes in India with a view to evolving programmes of cooperation in the fields of teaching, training and research about India.
10 Bapsi Sidhwa Houston	USA	To participate in the Inter- national Seminar "The Muse and the Minorities", New Delhi
11 Meena Alexander	USA	-do -
12 Mzalenda Kibunjia Curator of Antiquities Sites & Monuments National Museums of Kenya Nairobi, Kenya	Kenya	To participate in an Inter- national Conference of Ethnographic Museums organised by the National Museum of Man, Bhopal
13 Dr D Munjeri Executive Director The National Museum of Monuments, Harare	Zimbabwe	-do -
4 to 18 September 1996		
-do -		
9 6 to 22 September 1996		
10 19 to 22 September 1996		
11 -do -		
12 27 to 30 October, 1996		
13 -do -		

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14	George Mudenda Keeper of Ethnography The Moto Moto Museum Zambia	Zambia	To participate in a International Conference of Ethnographic Museums organised by the National Museum of Man, Bhopal
15	Professor Kenneth Waltz Professor of Political Science University of Berkeley California and his wife	USA	To meet eminent people for interaction/dialogue and to give a series of lectures in the different institutions/universities
16	Professor William Sweet Department of Philosophy St. Francis Xavier University Canada	Canada	To meet professors/intellectuals in the field of Philosophy for exchange of views
17	11-member delegation of Lady Monks	Bhutan	For pilgrimage to Buddhist Shrines in India
18	Abdul Hamid Chabra	Sri Lanka	To participate in the 30th Anniversary celebrations of the Press Council of India
19	K P C De Alwis	Sri Lanka	-do -
20	S Dammulla	Sri Lanka	-do -
21	R Gunasingham	Malaysia	-do -
22	Dr B B Madhukar National Poet Mauritius & his wife	Mauritius	To meet eminent Indian poets and writers
23	Istvan Toth Eminent Photographer Hungary	Hungary	Photo project to cover diverse aspects of India
14	27 to 30 October 1996		
15	14 November to 3 December 1996		
16	13 to 24 November, 1996		
17	11 to 26 November 1996		
18	16 to 17 November 1996		
19	-do -		
20	-do -		

21 -do -

22 14 November to
2 December 1996

23 14 November to
2 December 1996
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|----|--|------------------------|--|
| 24 | Nana Nyonwah Panyin III
Chief of Dompim Pepesa
Ghana and his wife
Ghana | Ghana | To meet eminent persons for
discussions about developm-
ent in the field of educat-
ion and industry |
| 25 | Omar Badslia
Distinguished Writer
Artist and Art Organ-
iser based in Cape town | South Africa | Photography project for do-
cumenting people of the
towns and villages of
Gujarat |
| 26 | Ramesh Jayaram
Director Libraries and
Museums Directorate of
City Council of Johann-
esburg and his wife | South Africa | To meet the Gandhian
scholars/visit institutions
associated with Gandhiji |
| 27 | Hassim Seedat
Gandhian Scholar and
his wife | South Africa | To give lectures/talk on
"Mahatma Gandhi in South
Africa" and to visit some
academic institutions, sites
connected with Gandhiji
besides meeting a few
Gandhian Scholars |
| 28 | Daniella Kaneva
Bulgarian TV Special
Correspondent and Mr
Popav, Photographer | Bulgaria | To visit Historical monum-
ents for Video Recording |
| 29 | Arkadiy Gladilovk
Editor-in-Chief
"Slovo Kyrgyzstan" | The Kyrgyz
Republic | To familiarise himself with
political events, current
affairs, economic issues and
issues related to Science
and Technolog |
| 30 | Ramesh Nath Pandey
Member of Parliament
and King's Nominee to
the National Assembly | Nepal | To meet eminent persons
academics and intellectuals
on foreign policy |
| 24 | 26 November to
8 December 1996 | | |
| 25 | 23 November to
14 December 1996 | | |
| 26 | 5 to 19 | | |

December 1996

27 9 to 24

December 1996

28 10 to 17

December 1996

29 13 to 21

December 1996

30 30 December 1996 to
4 January 1997

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|----|---|------------|---|
| 31 | Dr Gushkova
Indologist
Moscow | Russia | To participate in the 7th
International Conference on
Maharashtra Society and
Culture |
| 32 | Dr Eugenia Vanina
Indologist
Moscow | Russia | -do - |
| 33 | Dr Ihab El-Cherif
Writer
Damascus | Syria | To take photographs of
historical monuments and
public life of India for his
book on India to be brought
out in Arabic |
| 34 | Bertie Ahern
MP Irish Parliament and
Leader of the Opposition
Party Fianna Fail and Ms
Celia Larkin | Ireland | To meet counterparts |
| 35 | Dr Kavouras Pavlos
A scholar in social and
cultural anthropology
university of Athens | Greece | To visit organisations spec-
ialising in the field of
social and cultural anthrop-
ology and to give lectures
at the National School of
Drama, IGNCA & MS University
Baroda |
| 36 | 5-member Women's delega-
tion
a) Abdullaeva Nargiza
Specialist Women's
Committee | Uzbekistan | To meet representatives
of women's organisations and
Indian women entrepreneurs |
| | b) Tursunova Lobar
Administrative Secretary
Republican Women's Information
Centre | | -do - |

31 2 to 6 January 1997

32 -do-

33 7 December 1996 to
10 January 1997

34 7 to 13
January 1997

35 3 to 24
January 1997

36 6 to 20
January 1997

-do-

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c) Firuza Kabulova Manager Computer Centre Tumaris	To meet representatives of women's organisations and Indian women entrepreneurs
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d) Noroboeva Shrofat Deputy JHokim for Women's Affairs Surkhandarya Provionce	-do-
--	------

e) Makhamatova Sharopat Head of Women's Section Khokimiat Syrdarya	-do-
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37 Dr Jan Riechow Head of the Department Music & Music Culture of WDR Radio Koln and Mrs. Riechow	Germany	To attend the Thyagaraja festival and interact with leading musicians for the Indian music programmes of the Radio Koln
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38 Gellert Gobar Kis Chairman, Committee Rights Minorities and Religious Affairs Hung- arian Parliament	Hungary	To meet his counterparts
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39 Hon'ble Dasho Sonam Tobgye, Chief Justice, High Court Thimphu	Bhutan	To visit places of pilgri- mage
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40 Venerable Lopon Pema La Head Lama of Nyingmalung Monastery Bhmthang	Bhutan	For pilgrimage
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41 Alphaji Ibrahim Mohamradu Maccido Sultan of Sokoto	Nigeria	To meet his counterparts
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6 to 20
January 1997

-do -

-do -

37 16 to 31
January 1997

38 9 to 23
February 1997

39 3 to 16
February 1997

40 3 to 18
February 1997

41 Early March 1997
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42 5-member Delegation led by Kemelovna Djungarcheva Vice Prime Minister of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic The Kyrgyz Republic To meet their counterparts

43 Zbigniew Kaniewski Chairman Indo-Polish Parliamentary Group Zofia Kuratowska Deputy Marshal of the Senate (Upper House of Polish Government) and her husband Grzegorz Jaszunski Journalist Poland -do -

44 Hon'ble R Roy McMurtry Chief justice of Ontario Canada -do-

45 Dr C R Whittaker Eminent historian of classical Rome UK -do-

46 Dr Abdurrahman Nahdlatul Ulma (NU) Jakarta Indonesia -do-

47 A Tweedie Chairman Edinburg Mela UK -do-

42 March 1997

43 8 to 15
March 1997

44 March 1997

45 -do-

46 -do-

47 -do-

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APPENDIX-XXXI Orientation grant for the year 1996-1997 (ICCR)

Orientation grant for the year 1996-1997 (ICCR)

S. NO.	NAME OF PERSON	COUNTRY	PURPOSE
1	Dr Amara Ranatunga Head of the Institute of Aesthetic Studies and Senior Lecturer Kelaniya University Colombo	Sri Lanka	To do research in Indian Classical Music
2	Dayaratna Ranatunga Director (Music Unit) Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation Colombo	Sri Lanka	-do-
3	Dr Ratna Handurukande Professor of Sanskrit Department of Classical Languages University of Peradeniya Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	To do research at Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Poona and Adyar Li- brary and Research, Madras
4	Pandit Amardeva Musician, eminent Sri Lankan composer, singer and Mrs Wimla Amardeva, a well-known folk singer, composer and dance teacher	Sri Lanka	To meet faculty mem- bers of the Bhatkhande Institute of Music & study tour to Shanti- niketan & Lucknow

REMARKS

1	One month orientation grant plus		
internal travel in September 1996			
2	-do-		
3	One month orientation grant in		
October 1996 plus internal travel (train fare)			
4	One month orientation grant		
November 1996			
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5	Dr Magda Manousha Serouji Lecturer Haifa, Israel	Israel	To study the status of of women in Indian society
6	Rokeya Sultana A well-known Bangladeshi painter	Bangladesh	For pursuing research at the College of Art New Delhi
7	Shamsudeen Scholar West Indies	Trinidad & Tobago	To do research work on Tracing the roots of the Indian Immigrant to Trinidad who had migrated between 1845 and 1917
8	Dr Nikoloz Kenchoshvili Georgian Indologist	Georgia	To give lectures in Indian universities/institutions on

subjects pertaining
to Indo-Georgian
cul-
tural links and
study
the similarities

- 5 Orientation grant for three months from September to December 1996
- 6 2 months orientation grant 14 October to 13 December 1996
- 7 Orientation grant for six months from 31 August to 28 February 1997
- 8 3 months orientation grant January-March 1997

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APPENDIX-XXXII Logistic Support from April-December 1996 (ICCR)

Logistic Support from April-December 1996 (ICCR)

S. NO.	NAME OF PERSON	COUNTRY	PURPOSE
1	Six 55-Member Soka Gakkai International Youth Cultural Delegation, Tokyo	Japan	Goodwill visit
2	2-Member delegation Koichiro Fukuyama Cultural Promotions	Japan	Visit to Indian Muse-
	with organising exhibition on Buddha and broadcasting of a series on Buddha from April 1998	ums in connection	
	Division, Media Development Department, Tokyo and Tomohide Terai Programe Production Department Cultural Programmes Division, Tokyo		

3	28-Member children's delegation Pakistan	To interact with
of Karachi Grammar School	Indian school children and visit historical places of and	
mosques		
PERIOD		

1 31 July to 9 August 1996

2 21 to 27 August 1996

3 13 to 20 December 1996
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APPENDIX-XXXIII Incoming Cultural Delegations from April-December 1996 (ICCR)

Incoming Cultural Delegations from April-December 1996 (ICCR)

1 The Council, in collaboration with the Max Muller Bhavan, organised performance by the 11-Member "Pretty-Ugly" dance company from Germany on 4 April 1996 at Sri Ram Centre, New Delhi. Besides Delhi, the Company presented performances in Madras, Bombay and Calcutta.

2 The Council and the Embassy of Spain organised the performance by a Spanish Flamenco Ballet Group led by Blanca Del Rey on 21 May 1996 at Siri Fort Auditorium, New Delhi.

3 The Council, in collaboration with the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA) and Delhi Tourism Development Corporation (DTDC), sponsored the visit of the 17-Member "Marionette Puppet Theatre" group from Sweden of which Michael Meschek was the Artistic Director. The group presented two shows on 2 and 3 September 1996 at Dilli Haat, New Delhi. The group also presented two shows in Calcutta.

4 The Council and the Embassy of Mexico invited a 5-Member dance group "Arala-Island of Her Heart" choreographed by Regina Quintero from Mexico. The performance in Delhi was organised on 18 September 1996 at India International Centre (IIC) Auditorium, New Delhi. Besides Delhi, the group also visited Chandigarh, Calcutta and Bombay and performed there.

5 Under the Cultural Exchange Programme with Portugal, the Council in collaboration with the Embassy of Portugal presented a Puppet Show by a 5-Member Santo Aleixo Puppet Group on 29 September 1996 at Tagore Hall, Azad Bhavan New Delhi. In addition to the public show the group also presented a programme at Salwan Public School New Delhi for school children.

6 The Council in collaboration with the Italian Embassy Cultural Centre presented a piano concert by 3-Member group led by M Campanella from Italy on 7 October 1996 at Tagore Hall, Azad Bhavan New Delhi.

7 Under the Indo-Austrian Festival the Council extended financial support in presenting performances by the following performing groups in Delhi in collaboration with the Austrian Embassy and the India International Centre at the IIC auditorium.

(a) a 6-Member Dance Group consisting of Radha Anjali (Bharatanatyam), Bert Gstettner and Zdeno Dhlos (Austrian Contemporary Dance)

(b) 2-Member "Vienna Shadow Puppet" Group led by Klaus Behrendt.

In addition a two day workshop by Dance and Puppet group was also conducted at Tagore Hall on 9 and 10 October and 13 and 14 October 1996 respectively.

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8 The Council, in collaboration with the Max Mueller Bhavan, presented the performance by a 9-Member "Musica Antiqua-Koln" on a cost sharing basis. The group presented their concert in Delhi on 25 October 1996.

9 Under the Cultural Exchange Programme, a 23-Member Dance Group from South Africa presented a play "Ahimsa-Ubuntu" in Delhi on 26 October 1996 at the Kamani Auditorium. Besides Delhi, the group presented one show each in Bombay, Ahmedabad and Madras.

10 The Council hosted the visit of a 16-Member Folk Dance Group "Skaz Ensemble" from Russia to participate in the Dussehra Festival at Kullu. Besides their participation in Kullu the Group presented their performances in Chandigarh, Delhi and Lucknow as well.

11 Under the "Indo-Australia New Horizons" the Council extended logistic support for presentation of the various events presented by the performing groups from Australia.

12 A musical evening of folk songs by Pete Seeger the legendary folk singer from the United States, accompanied by his grandson Tao Rodrigues was arranged in November 1996 at Siri Fort Auditorium. Ustad Amjad Ali Khan was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Pete Seeger also performed in Varanasi, Calcutta, Thiruvananthapuram and Bangalore.

13 A Music Concert by the Polish String Quartet was arranged by ICCR which was led by Jadwiga Kotnowska, a young outstanding Flautist, who has performed extensively in Poland and other parts of the world. The performance was held on 19 November 1996 at the Mini Siri Fort Auditorium New Delhi.

14 Santoor Recital by Dr Bee Seavers, a German Musicologist accompanied by an Indian Tabla Player on 30 November 1996 at Tagore Hall, New Delhi.

15 A Musical concert by the "Netherlands Trio": Rian De Waal (Piano), Henrik FLodding (Cello) and Christiaan Bor (Violin) was presented on 19 December 1996 at the IIC auditorium.

16 A 22-Member Theatre Group from Iran visited India from 6-20 December 1996 to perform a mystical play with a contribution of dance, movement, chanting and poetry by Attar Hafiz and Molana at New Delhi.

17 The Council organised the concert tour of a Musical Trio from Netherlands-Rian De Waal (Piano), Harro Ruijsenaars (Cello) and Christiaan Bor (Violin) during 9-21 December 1996 which performed in Delhi, Chennai, Thiruvananthapuram and Calcutta.

18 Under the Indo-Sri Lankan Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP), the ICCR hosted the visit of a 19-Member cultural group from Sri Lanka during December 1996. The group performed in Delhi besides performances in Lucknow and Jabalpur.

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19 Under the Indo-Iran CEP, the ICCR hosted the visit of a 22-Member theatre group from Iran which performed a play based on the Sufi mystical poem the "Seven Abodes of Love" from Iran. Apart from Delhi, the group performed in Hyderabad and Mumbai.

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APPENDIX-XXXIV Outgoing Performing Delegations from April-December 1996 (ICCR)

Outgoing Performing Delegations from April-December 1996 (ICCR)

S.NO.	COUNTRY	TYPE OF GROUP	PERIOD	EXPENDITURE	
				CEP/ (IN RS)	OUT. CEP
1	France	Padma Tawalkar group Khayal Singer x 3 Bombay	April 1996	Rs 1.5 Lakhs	
2	Nepal	Amjad Ali Khan Sarod Master x 5	4 to 6 April 1996	Rs 3 Lakhs	

3	Morocco	Madhvi Mudgal x 7 Odissi Group	13 to 15 April 1996	Rs.45,000/-
4	Thailand	Dr Padma Subramanyam Bharatanatyam Group from Madras x 15	20 to 30 April 1996	Agency Work

REMARKS

1 To give performances at the exposition of Indian Culture and an exhibition entitled "18th Century French Adventure in the India of Maharajas" at the Theatre of Chambery

2 Special concert organised by the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu in honour of His Majesty the King of Nepal.

3 To give a performance at the request of Mission for Charity Show

4 To participate in the Festival of India, Thailand
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5	Panama	Monika Newsan Bharatanatyam Dancer	18 April April 1996	Rs 34,000/-
6	Morocco	Renu Bassi Kathak Dancer New Delhi x 5	24 to 28 April 1996	Rs 4 Lakhs
7	Singapore	Pandit V G Jog Violinist Calcutta	21 to 31 May 1996	Rs 5 Lakhs
8	UK	Shobha Naidu x 5 Kuchipudi Dance Group	21 to 31 May 1996	Rs 5 Lakhs
9	Singapore	12-member Mask Dance Group from Sikkim (Govt of Sikkim)	26 to 30 May 1996	Rs 5 Lakhs
10	UK	Budhadev DasGupta Esraj Player	30 May to 15 June 1996	Rs 40,000/-

5 Bharatanatyam dance at the function for installation of Bust of Mahatma Gandhi

6 To participate in the "Indian Expo" in Morocco

7 To perform at the invitation of Nrityalaya Aesthetics Society Singapore

8 At the invitation of Ms Anne Hunt Director, World Circuit Arts, London for performances at the Indian Festival of Southern Culture

9 To give a performance at inauguration of Singapore Arts Festival, Singapore

10 To perform at cultural events on Tagore organised by Maison des Culture du Monde
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11	Republic of Korea	Rabindra Sangeet Singers x 5; Dance (Traditional) & Music	5 to 12 May 1996	Rs 6 Lakhs
12	Australia	Sanjukta Panigrahi Odissi Dance Group x 6 Bhubhaneshwar	14 June to 15 July 1996	Rs 5 Lakhs (Travel Grant)
13	Israel	Ustad Alla Rakha, Fazal Qureshi, Ustad Sultan Khan	5 to 10 June 1996	Rs 1.20 Lakhs (Travel Grant)
14	Germany	Dr Gopal Shankar Mishra Veena and Sitar Player from Banaras	9 to 30 June 1996	Rs 20,000/-
15	Mauritius	Penaz Masani Ghazal Singer x Bombay	14 to 18 June 1996	Rs 4 Lakhs

11 Celebration of 135th birth Anniversary of Tagore

12 Invitation received from Federation of Indian Association of Victoria

13 To perform at Israel Festival, Israel

14 To give performances cum lectures/work- shops at the invitation of the Liaden Museum Stuttgart, Germany (50% Travel Grant)

15 To perform at the invitation of the President of Mauritius for Mega Concert-A Charity Show to raise funds for eradication of polio in the Islands of Indian Ocean Region, Mauritius

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16	France	10-member Bharatanatyam Dance Group from Bombay and 5-member group Professor T N Krishnan Violinist from Madras	2 to 7 July 1996	Rs 10 Lakhs
17	France	10-member Children's Group of Delhi Public School, New Delhi led by S. Chona Principal	30 July to 5 August 1996	Rs 5 Lakhs CEP
18	D.P.R of Korea	Gulabi Sapera and School, New Delhi led Nizamuddin Langa Rajasthani Music Group	April 1996	Rs 10 Lakhs CEP

19	France	10-member Children's Group of Delhi Public School, New Delhi led by S. Chona Principal	30 July to 5 August 1996	Rs 5 Lakhs CEP
20	Sri Lanka and Dhol Cholam from Manipur	12-member Pung Cholam	August 1996	Rs 5 Lakhs
21	Hungary Kathak Group 6 September 1996 New Delhi	Durga Arya	16 August to	Rs 4 Lakhs
22	Kenya Ghazal Singer	Jagjit Singh x 3	14 to 19 August 1996	Rs 1 Lakh

16 To participate in the Festival of D'Nates

17 To give a performance at the International Youth Talent Festival

18 To participate in April Spring Friendship Art Festival" in Pyong Yang

19 To participate in the Women Arts Festival in Durban and performances in other countries in the region

20 To perform in the "SAARC Drum and Dance Festival" in Colombo, Sri Lanka

21 To participate in "Naturexpo" in Budapest

22 To give a performance at the "Made in India" show in Nairobi, Kenya

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23	Bhutan	Gulabi Sapera folk dance/	12 to 19	Rs 3 Lakhs
	music group from Rajasthan	August 1996		
24	Turkey	Syria Folk Dance Group from West Bengal	Lok Chand August 1996	2 to 20 Rs 10 Lakhs
	Cyprus			
25	UK and Mrs Dhananjayan	V P Dhananjayan September 1996 (Travel Grant)	August-	Rs 1 Lakh T.G.
26	Russia	Cultural Groups of	16 to 28	Rs 90 Lakhs

(150 Artistes) September 1996
 1 Ustad Zakir Hussain x 8
 2 Ritu Samhar
 (a) Madhavi Mudgal x 3
 (b) Preeti Patel x 4
 (c) Bharti Shivaji x 3
 (d) Saswati Sen x 4
 (e) Leela Samson x 3
 (f) V Ravi Shankar x 3
 3 Uday Jadugar
 Magic Group x 4
 4 Parvati Khan x 13
 5 Bhoomika, Modem
 dance x 14
 6 Subha Mudgal
 Hindustani Vocal x 4
 7 Bihu x 12 from Assam
 8 Raghunath Seth-Flute x 4
 23 Independence Day Celebrations Thimpu, Bhutan

24 TO participate in the International Amity Festival and also perform in Turkey and Cyprus

25 Two Travel Grants in connection with the project "Hidden Forces"-London, UK

26 To perform for "Days of Indian Culture"

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9 Prof T N Krishnan-
 Violin x 5

10 Aavishkar-Folk
 dance from
 Gujarat x 15

27	USA	Odissi Dance Group led	10 September to	Rs 6 Lakhs (8 TGS)
by Guru Kelucharan Mahapatra, Bhubaneshwar x 8	20 November 1996			

28	Republic	Renu Bassi Kathak	13 to 16	
of Korea	dance group x 5	September 1996		

Harwinder Bajwa
 Bhangara group x 12

29	Switze-	Smt Aruna	15 to 22	Rs 2.5 Lakhs
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		Sayeeram		TG
land	Carnatic Vocal x	4 September 1996		
30	UK	Ustad Sabri Khan x 2	5 September to	Rs 86000 TG
	30 October 1996			
31	Oman	5-member Kathak Group	29 September to	Rs 2 Lakhs
by Ms Aditi Mangal Das	3 October 1996			

New Delhi

27 To perform at the Centre for World Music and Related Arts, USA

28 Asia Week celebration in Pusan

29 To perform at the invitation of the Association for Classical Indian Music, Zurich, Switzerland

30 To perform at the invitation of Sonia Sabri, Birmingham, UK

31 To give a performance in connection with the State visit of the President of India to the Sultanate of Oman

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32	Iraq Bahrain UAE	Maya Rao, Folk Dance group from Bangalore	30 September to 14 October 1996	Rs 10 Lakhs
33	Germany Ireland Belgium Switzerland Netherlands United Kingdom	Singh Bandhu x 5 Hindustani Vocalist	16 September to 7 October 1996	Rs 12 Lakhs
34	Vietnam	1 Pt Bhajan Sopri x 3 (Santoor) 2 Kathak dance group of Rohini Bhate x 11 3 Pung Cholam (Drums of Manipur) x 6 4 Craftsman x 2	7 to 17 October 1996	Rs 27 Lakhs CEP
35	Sri Lanka	Shovana Narayan Kathak Dancer x 6 New Delhi	29 September to 3 October 1996	Rs 3.5 Lakhs CEP (Item no 1.29 of draft CEP)
36	South	U Srinivas x 4	18 to 24	Rs 2 Lakhs TG

Africa Mandolin Player September 1996
 Madras

32 To participate in Babylon International Festival in Iraq & the Basra Festival in Syria

33 To give performance organised by Indian Missions in the countries listed

34 To give performances in "Days of Indian Culture/Indian Manifestation" in Vietnam

35 To give performances

36 To give a performance at the invitation of Mr Mahalingam Kolapan, Exective Director of the Institute of Art & Culture, Pretoria, South Africa

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37Nepal Rahmat Khan Langa 3 to 7 Rs 4 Lakhs

Folk Dance & Music October 1996

group of Rajasthan x12

38Bhutan Sonal Mansingh x 7 24 October to Rs 5.5 Lakhs

Odissi Dancer, New Delhi 5 November 1996

39USA Kathakali Dance Group 9 October to Rs 18 Lakhs

Mexico of Kerala Kala Mandalam 6 November 1996

Panama (11-members)

El Salvador

Nicaragua

Peru

40Belgium Six musicians 15 to 31 October 1996 Rs 5 Lakhs

41Turkmenistan Pop Music group of 25 October to Rs 5 Lakhs

Gautam Roy Chowdhary 6 November 1996

42Seychelles 4-member group of 17 October to Rs 3 Lakhs

Mauritius	Mohan Bhatt Nanu, Rajsthan Puppet	1 November 1996	
43 Mauritius	12-member Purulia Chhau group of Shri Satish Mahto, West Bengal	6 to 14 November 1996	Rs 6 Lakhs
37	To give performances in Nepal		
38	To give performances in Bhutan		
39	To participate in the Cervantino Festival and to perform in "India Week" organised by Missions chain		
40	To interact and present joint performances with Belgian musicians		
41	To participate in the 5th anniversary celebrations of Independent Turkmenistan		
42	To participate in the Creole Festival in Seychelles & Mauritius		
43	To perform at the Dussera Celebrations in Mauritius		
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44 Pakistan	13-member Calcutta Puppet Group of Suresh Dutta	17 to 29 October 1996	Rs 2 Lakhs
	3-member group of Andhra shadow puppet group led by Dr Leela Upadhyaya		
45 Australia	Satish Vyas x 2	October to November 1996	Rs 1 Lakh T.G
New Zealand	Santoor Player		
46 Reunion Islands	Saroja Vaidyanathan Bharatanatyam Folk	3 to 18 November 1996	Rs 6 Lakhs
Madagascar Kenya	Dance and Music Group x 15		
47 Egypt	15-member Dance & Music	1 to 10 November 1996	Rs 7 Lakhs
	from Manipur & Abhik		

	Sarkar (sarod player x 3)			
48	Japan Music Group 1 Panchavadyam group x 7 2 Kathak group of Rajinder Gangani x 8	15-member Dance and 4 February 1996	26 January to	Rs 10 Lakhs
49	USA Chaurasia x 3 Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhai x 1	Pandit Hari Prasad 5 November 1996	10 September to	Rs 2.5 Lakhs

44 To participate in the International Puppet Festival organised by Rafi Peer Theatre Workshop & Rafi Peer Group Lahore, Pakistan

45 To perform at the invitation of World Culture Music, Sydney, Australia

46 To perform during Diwali Celebrations in Reunion Islands & subsequent tour of the region

47 The Indian Cultural Festival at American University, Cairo, Egypt

48 To give a performance at the invitation of the Saitama Prefectures, Japan

49 Indian Music Concert arranged by Centre for the Performing Arts of India, University of Pittsburg, USA.

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50	Ireland Denmark Sweden Belgium	Kathak group of Vaswati October 1996	24 to 28	Rs 4 Lakhs
51	Greece Turkey Azerbaijan	Puppet Group led By N B Sharma	7-member Shadow October 1996	11 to 22 Rs 7 Lakhs
52	France 22 December 1996	Artist from Rajasthan	3 December to	Rs 42,00/- 2 T.G.
53	USA	Mrs. Kale x 2	March 1997	Rs 2 Lakhs 2 T. G.

54	Australia	9-member Daksha Seth	March 1997	Rs 10 Laksh
New Zealand	Kathak & Contemporary Dance group			
55	UK	Kalari Payattu artistes	March 1997	Rs 2 Lakhs 50% of 8 T.G.

50 To give performances at the festival "Celebration of Senses"

51 To give performances at International Theatre Festival in Greece and thereafter tour the countries in the region

52 To perform at the invitation of "Theatre Entete" in France

53 India Music Concert being organised by the Centre of Performing Arts of India, University of Pittsburg, USA

54 To participate in the Festival of Fire

55 To participate in the project "Beyond the Wall"

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APPENDIX-XXXV Cultural programmes by Indian artistes (ICCR)

Cultural programmes by Indian artistes (ICCR)

1 The Council presented an Odissi Dance Recital by Jyoti Srivastava, disciple of Guru Shriinath Raut on 4 April 1996 at Tagore Hall Azad Bhavan New Delhi.

2 A Semi Classical Vocal Recital by Rekha Surya was presented by the Council on 12 April 1996 at Tagore Hall.

3 The Council presented a special programme of Qawali by Aslam Sabri at Rashtra pati Bhavan on 26 April 1996 in honour of the President of India.

4 A Bharatanatyam Recital by Komala Varadan was presented by the Council on 10 May 1996 at Tagore Hall.

5 A Summer Arts Festival was organised from 20-23 June 1996 at Tagore Hall, where among others Swapna Sundari, Syed Zafar Khan and Shubha Mudgal participated.

6 A four day Cultural Confluence was designed by the Council to offer a variety of rich classical traditions in Indian Music and Dance. Eminent artistes participated.

7 A Festival of music and dance by Indian artistes was organised by the Council from 27-31 August 1996 as part of the Heritage series at Tagore Hall.

8 Sonal Mansingh, Padmabhushan awardee, performed an Odissi dance on 27 August 1996 with the scholar coordinator Shanta Serbjeet Singh; Ustad Sabri Khan, Padmashree awardee gave a Sarangi recital on 28 August with the scholar coordinator Professor Sumati Mutatkar; Leela Samson, Padmashree awardee gave a Bharatanatyam dance performance on 29 August with Leela Venkataraman as the scholar-coordinator; Bharati Shivaji gave a Mohiniattam dance performance on 30 August with the scholar-coordinator Shri Jiwan Pani and Raja-Radha Reddy, Padmashree awardees, gave a Kuchipudi dance performance on 31 August with Shri Ashish Khokar as the scholar-coordinator.

9 The Council extended logistic support in presenting a Bharatanatyam Recital on 28 October 1996 at Convention Hall, Ashok Hotel in honour of the delegates attending the Conference of the UNESCAP.

10 The Council extended logistic support in presenting a cultural programme by the Folk Dance Group from UP, Rajasthan and Punjab on 29 October 1996 at the Lal Chowk, Pragati Maidan in honour of the delegates of the 13th ASEB Meeting.
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11 On the occasion of dinner hosted by the Foreign Secretary for the delegates attending the SAARC Conference in New Delhi, the ICCR presented a Kathak Recital by Vandana Kaul at Hotel Taj Palace on 17 December 1996.

12 On the occasion of a dinner hosted by the Minister of External Affairs for the delegates attending the SAARC Conference, the ICCR presented a cultural programme "Jugalbandi" of Bhagayalakshmi (Veena) and Mukesh Sharma (Sarod) at Hyderabad House, New Delhi on 19 December 1996.
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APPENDIX-XXXVI Incoming Exhibitions from April-December 1996 (ICCR)

Incoming Exhibitions from April-December 1996 (ICCR)

Incoming Exhibitions

1 ICCR, in collaboration with Air India, presented an exhibition of Cartoons by Mario Miranda, titled "The World" in May 1996.

2 An exhibition of photographs entitled "VISIONS": 50 years of United Nations was inaugurated by Smt Usha Narayanan, wife of the Vice-President of India.

3 "INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ART" an exhibition of photographers were held from 28 August to 3 September 1996.

4 An exhibition of marble sculptures by the well known sculptor G L Narayan from Mumbai was arranged during 6-13 September 1996.

5 An exhibition of paintings entitled "Images of Antipodes" by the Mexican artist Eduardo Nunez Valbuena was shown in association with the Embassy of Mexico from 23 September to 1 October 1996.

6 Under the Indo-Swedish Cultural Protocol an exhibition of paintings by the famous Swedish Painter Violet Tengberg entitled "VISION OF THE WORLD EGG" was held in November 1996.

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APPENDIX-XXXVII Outgoing Exhibitions and Films from April-December 1996 (ICCR)

Outgoing Exhibitions and Films from April-December 1996 (ICCR)

Outgoing Exhibitions

1 A collection of contemporary paintings by Indian artists which was loaned to ICCR by the Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi were sent for display at Indian Cultural Centres located in Almaty, Berlin, Cairo, Durban, Georgetown, Jakarta, Johannesburg, London, Moscow, Paramaribo, Port Louis and Tashkent.

2 Selected children's paintings obtained from the Shankar's International Children's Competition Society were sent for participation in the "6th International Children Art Exhibition" held in Republic of Korea.

3 Works by Ved Nayyar and Gogi Sarojpal were sent to Greece for participation in the event entitled 'WHERE ARE YOU MY BROTHER?' organised by the art group "Artists Without Frontiers" in May 1996.

4 The Council commissioned and despatched a boat sculpture by noted sculptor B K Guru for the monument to mark the arrival of Indian Immigrants in Guyana.

5 A replica of the statue of Lord Buddha was sent to Sri Lanka to be installed at the Tooth Relic Temple (Dalada Maligawa), one of the most sacred worship places for Buddhists in Sri Lanka at Kandy.

6 The Council sent an exhibition of contemporary paintings, loaned by Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi for participation in the International Art Festival in Kathmandu during December 1996.

7 ICCR also sent a small exhibition of paintings by Children to Kathmandu being the entry for SAARC Children Paintings Competition in December 1996.

Films

1 A Sri Lankan film festival was held at India International Centre from 18-23 August, 1996 in collaboration with High Commission of Sri Lanka and the India International

Centre.
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APPENDIX-XXXVIII Books sent under presentation scheme from April-December 1996

Books sent under presentation scheme from April-December 1996

AUSTRALIA 5 copies of "Guru Granth Sahib".

BELARUS 28 books on History and Culture sent for presentation to various Academic Institute.

BOTSWANA 2 copies of the "Guru Granth Sahib" in Punjabi were sent for presentation to the Sikh Council in Botswana.

BRAZIL 25 coffee table books.

BELGIUM 30 children's books from Children's Book Trust (CBT) sent for a Poetry Competition held there.

70 books on India sent for the Library of the University of Ghent,

BURKINA FASO 50 pictorial books on Art, Architecture, Handicrafts, Culture were sent for display on the occasion of "Information on India Day".

CANADA 14 books on Dr Ambedkar sent for the University of Victoria.

CHINA 868 slides & materials consisting of 22 brochures, 9 video cassettes.

FRANCE 22 brochures, 9 video cassettes, 868 slides.

GHANA 19 French books on India, 10 folders and 4 video cassettes sent for display in the "India Week" held in Bangui Central African Republic.

35 books on Religion and Culture sent for the Kumasi School.

GUYANA A copy of the "Glimpses of the World History" sent to Indian Cultural Centre for reference.

HONGKONG 14 coffee table books sent.

HUNGARY 46 books on History & Culture sent for presentation to the Deptt of Indo-European Studies, Budapest.

133 books in Hindi sent for the Elete University.

ISRAEL 50 Malayalam books for presentation to the Jewish Community.

IRAN One set of text books on Mathematics from I-XII standard despatched for display in the First Iranian Mathematics Education Conference.

11 volumes on the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad were sent for presentation to "FARS Study Foundation Shiraz".

IRAQ 33 books on Science & Technology sent for the University of Technology in Baghdad.

868 slides brought out by the CCRT sent for Dean College of Fine Arts.
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JAPAN A set of 54 children's books sent for display in the World Children's illustrated Book Exhibition.

JORDAN 25 books on India sent for presentation to the Institute of Diplomacy in Amman.

KAZAKHSTAN A set of 4 books on International Relations despatched.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA 22 books on Rabindranath Tagore sent for display in the Exhibition on Nobel Prize Literature.

THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC 44 books on India and its Foreign Policy sent for the Foreign Office Library.

4 posters on Indian Monuments, 5 photographs of Mahatma Gandhi and 3 paintings sent.

43 books and 5 photographs of Mahatma Gandhi sent for the Humanitus University.

LIBYA 24 books on Rabindranath Tagore and 20 cassettes on Rabindra Sangeet sent for the Speech Competition on the life message and poetry of Rabindranath Tagore.

5 video cassettes and 45 books on Ghalib sent for the Hindustani Quami Ekta Forum and the Indian Women Association.

91 books on India despatched for presentation to the Indian Community School in Tripoli.

MALTA 50 books on India sent for the University of Malta.

MOZAMBIQUE 15 coffee table books sent.
41 books on India sent for the University of Eduardo Mondlane University.

MUSCAT 14 ICCR Publications sent.

MYANMAR 30 panchang and 100 calendars in Bengali sent for distribution to the Bengali speaking community.

NEPAL 28 books on History and Culture sent for presentation to various Academic Institutions.

PAKISTAN 6 books on Buddha, 5 posters, 6 statues of Buddha sent for display in Festival of Lights to commemorate the Vesak Day.

PHILIPPINES 4 books on Religion sent to a Philipino National.

PANAMA 31 books (Novels and ICCR Publications) sent for the Panama University.

SEYCHELLES 26 novels by Indian writers for Prison Library in Victoria.
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SLOVAKIA 2 books and one set of video cassettes on dance sent for presentation to a local school.

SOUTH AFRICA 22 coffee table books and 10 Lalit Kala Folders sent.

SUDAN 92 books on India and Indian culture sent for display in the Exhibition in connection with Indian Week.

SWITZERLAND 2 books and one set of video cassettes on dance sent for presentation to a local school.

TAJIKISTAN 15 coffee table books and 30 ladies scarves sent for presentation during International Women's Day.

THAILAND 2 copies each of the 20 coffee table books were sent for presentation to the Thai dignitaries.

TURKEY 221 Urdu books despatched for presentation to various Universities.

TURKMENISTAN 2 books on India sent for presentation to Ms Babaeva, a Turkmen research scholar.

TRINIDAD AND 20 coffee table books sent.,

TOBAGO 10 copies each of "Discovery of India "and "My Experiment with Truth".
15 posters were sent for the Exhibition during Diwali Celebration Week.

UKRAINE 40 books on Philosophy, Religion and History despatched for presentation to the Institute for Asian and African Studies.

UNITED ARAB 20 coffee table books sent.

EMIRATES 2 sets of five video cassettes on Indian Classical dances.

200 copies of children's books of Children's Book Trust (CBT) sent for presentation to school children.

22 brochures, 9 video cassettes and 868 slides brought out by CCRT.

A set of 13 books on and by Jawaharlal Nehru sent for the Awardees of Painting Competition.

USA 2 sets of "Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi" of 100 books each for presentation to the Centre for India Studies, University of Stonybrook, New York and Arsha Vidya Gurukulam.

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Musical Instruments/Art objects sent under presentation scheme from April-September 1996 (ICCR)

ARGENTINA 3 musical instruments (Harmonium, a pair of Tablas, Sitar), 10 video cassettes and CDs sent for presentation to the Chab-Tareb.

TURKMENISTAN 2 sets of musical instruments of a Harmonium, a pair of Tablas & Flute sent to the Ganga Club, Ashgabat.

GHANA 15 trophies sent for presentation to the Awardees of the Jawaharlal Nehru Painting Competition.

SWAZILAND 3 musical instruments (One Harmonium, a pair of Tablas, a Sitar) sent for the National Museum of Swaziland.

NETHERLANDS 3 musical instruments (a pair of Tablas, One Harmonium, a Sitar) sent for the Hindustani Music and Dance School in Rotterdam.

NEW ZEALAND 2 musical instruments (Harmonium, a pair of Tablas) sent for the Wellington Hindi School.

POLAND 5 pairs of dolls representing various states of India, 20 Lalit Kala Folders, 20 coffee table books despatched.

PAPUA NEW 2 musical instruments (One Harmonium, a pair of Tablas) sent.

GUINEA

SUDAN 2 musical instruments (One Harmonium, a pair of Tablas) sent to the Associations of Indian Community in Omdurman and Khartoum

SURINAM One set of 6 costumes for Ram, Ravana, Sita, Surpnakha, Jatayu and Laxm

an sent for presentation to the Mata Gauri Foundation.

BRAZIL 2 sets of musical instruments (One Sitar, a Pair of Tablas, One Mridanga m & One Vichitra Veena) and 5 video cassettes on Indian Classical Dance sent fo r presentation to the local cultural organisations to promote Indian Music and Dance.

NEPAL One set of Sitar, a pair of Tablas, Tanpura, One Harmonium and One Flute sent for presentation to University, Deptt of Music in Kathmandu.

BOTSWANA One set of a Rudra Veena, a Shruti box, a Ghungroo, a Harmonium and a Mridangam was airfreighted for presentation to School of Bharatnatyam and Music .

BANGLADESH 2 dolls representing India were sent for display in the International Dolls Show.

UKRAINE 5 sets each of the costumes of Bharatnatyam and Kathak and 10 sets of g hungroos were sent for presentation to the various dance institutions in Ukrain e, Georgia and Armenia.

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APPENDIX-XXXIX Visiting Professors-Chairs of Indian Studies Abroad (ICCR)

Visiting Professors-Chairs of Indian Studies Abroad (ICCR)

Under various schemes, the ICCR sends abroad Visiting Professors for teaching I ndology, Indian Language and allied subjects. During the period under report th e following academics were In position abroad:

1 Dr M Venkateshwar

Visiting Associate Professor of Hindi at University of Sofia, Bulgaria

2 Dr Shashi Mudiraj

Visiting Professor of Hindi at the University of Warsaw, Poland

3 Dr Triloki Nath Singh

Visiting Professor of Hindi at the Indian Cultural Centre, Paramaribo, Surinam

4 Dr S C Kumar

Visiting Professor of Hindi at University of West Indies, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

5 Dr N Jayaram

Visiting Professor of Social & Cultural Anthropology at the University of West Indies, St Augustine Campus, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

6 Dr V P Mohd. Kunju Matharu

Visiting Professor of Hindi at the State University, Ghent, Belgium

7 Dr Usha Satyavrat Shastri

Visiting Associate Professor of Hindi at the Silpakorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

8 Dr Ramesh Chand Sharma

Visiting Professor of Hindi at the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Seoul, Republic of Korea

9 Dr Anita Ganguly

Visiting Associate Professor of Hindi at the Helsinki University, Finland

10 Dr Kailash Narayan Tiwari

Visiting Associated Professor of Hindi at Ankara University, Ankara, Turkey

11 Dr Geeta Sharma

Visiting Professor of Hindi at Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre, Moscow, Russia
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12 Dr Syed Asghar Wajahat

Visiting Professor of Hindi at the Eotvos Lorand University, Budapest, Hungary

13 Post Vacant

Visiting Professor of Sanskrit at Sorbonne Nouvelle University, Paris, France

14 Dr Rewati Raman Pandey

Visiting Professor of Sanskrit at Mahatma Gandhi Institute, Port Louis, Mauritius

15 Dr K Nachimuthu

Visiting Professor of Tamil at Warsaw University, Warsaw, Poland

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