



INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS — 2011 DOCUMENTS

Introduced & Edited by
AVTAR SINGH BHASIN

PUBLISHED IN COOPERATION WITH
PUBLIC DIPLOMACY DIVISION
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

GEETIKA PUBLISHERS

INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS — 2011

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

Foreign policy of a country today plays out in the vast arena of global politics. Foreign relations are no longer just an instrument for interaction at diplomatic level but are now a means for procuring sinews for development and progress in trade and commerce, science and technology, education and agriculture and various other fields like energy, climate change, etc. Foreign policy is influenced by the domestic politics of a country, level of economic development, progress in science and technology and ability to compete in promoting trade and investment. In short foreign policy is the product and interplay of multiple forces impinging on and promoting the country's national interest.

The seven hundred and ninety-nine documents reproduced here are intended to make it easier for others to understand and assess India's initiatives in various fields of bilateral, regional and multilateral relations and possible reactions to developments in a given situation.

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ABOUT THE EDITOR



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

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DOCUMENTS**

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INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS – 2011

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

- Section – I General**
- Section – II Civil Nuclear Energy**
- Section – III Climate Change**
- Section – IV Multilateral Cooperation**
- Section – V Diaspora**
- Section – VI**
 - (i) ASIA**
 - (ii) South Asia**
 - (iii) Southeast, East Asia and Pacific**
 - (iv) West and Central Asia**
- Section – VII AFRICA**
- Section – VIII AMERICAS**
- Section – IX EUROPE**
- Section – X INDIA AND THE UNITED NATIONS**
- Section – XI INDIA AT THE UNITED NATIONS**

PREFACE

This is the tenth Volume in the series “India’s Foreign Relations” starting with the volume for year 2002. Published annually in cooperation with the Public Diplomacy Division of the Ministry of External Affairs, it seeks to put together all the official documents bearing on India’s foreign relations.

Given the enlarged scope of foreign relations in the globalised world in which we live today, several Ministries and Departments of the Government of India besides the Ministry of External Affairs contribute to the conduct of foreign relations. While the Ministry of External Affairs determines the broad framework and contours of the Foreign Policy and Diplomacy and is also the principal player in that field, several other Ministries and Departments complement its efforts in their respective spheres of activity. Foreign relations are no longer an instrument merely for interaction at diplomatic level. They are now an instrument for procuring the sinew for development and progress in trade and commerce, science and technology, education and agriculture, and various other fields, like energy, climate change, etc. Foreign policy of any country is influenced by its domestic politics, level of its economic development, its progress in science and technology, and ability to compete in promoting trade and investments. In short foreign policy is the product and interplay of multiple forces impinging on and promoting a country’s national interests.

Since foreign policy must play out in the vast arena of global politics, each country is interested in studying the foreign policy of the other to assess possible reactions to developments in a given situation. Therefore to understand the foreign policy of a country, the importance of documentation needs no emphasis. The need to make them available for easy access is obvious. The purpose of this exercise, being undertaken for the last ten years in the present form, is to make it easier for others to understand India’s actions and reactions in its dealings with other countries either bilaterally or multilaterally on issues confronting them.

As has been pointed out in previous volumes, the increased interaction among nations both bilaterally and multilaterally, at regional or intra-regional levels generate a plethora of documents, thus adding to the bulk annually. To take care of the bulk, we have experimented with electronic technology successfully in the last two years. The same pattern is being followed for the 2011 volume too. The printed volume provides the text of the selected and frequently used documents, along with the reference to all other documents, the full texts of which have been placed in the accompanying CD. It is our expectation that the users would find the arrangement convenient and practical.

The documents, as in the past, have been first arranged thematically and region-wise and then put across chronologically. Those which do not fall in any particular

category or deal with multiple subjects/countries have been placed in the general list with cross referencing where considered necessary.

I have used the facilities of the Library of the India International Centre extensively and found the Librarian Mr. Majumdar and his able staff led by Shafali very helpful and cooperative which greatly facilitated my work. I remain grateful to them for their helpful attitude. In the selection of documents that have gone in the making of this volume, or in adding footnotes to them or for the introduction, I have been guided by the experience gained during the three-decade of my service in the Ministry of External Affairs. However, I remain fully responsible for the views expressed or for any deficiency that may be found in the volume.

**New Delhi,
April 30, 2012.**

Avtar Singh Bhasin



INTRODUCTION

In the emergence of Asia-Pacific as the centre of Global politics in the first decade of the second millennium, India found itself in the locus of international competitive politics. The changing nature of global economic and financial order and emerging geo-political dimensions, enjoined upon India to sharpen new tools to meet the emerging challenges. Greater engagement with Asian centres of power both in the east and west was a natural corollary. Another centre of greater activity was the region of Africa, where India's involvement since independence has matured into a full-blooded relationship. India's neighbourhood calls for priority attention and provides no less challenge. India cannot also ignore the challenges emerging from the fast developing architecture of global powers for which it seeks to work with various regional and intra-regional groupings since the diplomacy today transcends the frontiers of bilateralism and the problems of the world need global solution whether it is climate change, nuclear or conventional energy security, or food security or financial crisis which engulfed the world a few years ago or even control of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism.

2. The message is clear. While conventional approach to international relations continues to be valid, the challenge of the globalised world can only be effectively met by working closely with regional and intra-regional groupings spread across the globe. This idea may not be new since there are already in existence such groupings like NAM for some decades. But such groupings were mostly of a political character to promote international understanding. The idea that has now emerged in the new *avatar* is of promoting economic and social wellbeing to uphold peace. The new trend gave birth to inter-continental gatherings like the RIC, BRICS, and IBSA, EAS, G-4, ASEM, G-20, etc. which promote economic and social wellbeing. Closer institutional interaction with successful groupings like the ASEAN, EU, GCC, G-8, Africa's Regional Economic Communities like COMESA, SADC, ECOWAS and EAC etc., has been strengthened. Carrying the same idea a little further, New Delhi hit upon the strategy of interacting with the countries of Africa at large through the regional African forums on the platform of India – Africa Forum Conference.

II AFRICA

3. In the realm of India's foreign relations Africa has been the toast of the year. Even otherwise right since the independence and even before India had developed substantial and substantive interaction with Africa in several areas. To give a fillip to this relationship India took a major initiative in 2008 to turn the existing relationship into one of partnership and organised the India – Africa Forum Summit. It used the various platforms on which the African countries

were interacting among themselves to launch its initiative. The Indian approach has been one of strengthening South – South linkages and promoting self-reliance through transfer of technologies appropriate to the needs of African partners. In monetary terms India has spent over a billion dollars on its technical cooperation programme for Africa and continues to provide training annually to almost 1000 officials in various capacity building programmes. This is apart from the hundreds of African students who join Indian universities and colleges every year. In a major initiative India has shared the benefits of satellite-based technology with the African countries. India's Space Research Organisation developed, installed and operationalised an ambitious plan which linked 53 countries of Africa through a net-work that used satellite fiber optic and wireless links. It has joined learning centres, universities and hospitals in every African country with the counterpart institutions in India. It is in the background of this existing relationship that the initiative for the India – Africa Forum Conference has to be seen. It was attended by the leaders of 14 African countries and heads of the continent's regional economic groupings. The joint declaration issued at the end of the first New Delhi Conference identified food security, high oil prices, and climate change as the top concerns of the developing world. At the Summit New Delhi pledged easier access to African exports to the Indian market. The India – Africa Framework of Cooperation agreed at the Summit pledged to boost trade and investment and share expertise in agriculture, science and technology, water management and education. India agreed to provide preferential markets to the 34 "Least Developed" African nations, besides committing 500 million US dollars as grant assistance to projects in Africa during the next five years.

4. The success of the first conference propelled India to launch another initiative in the same direction and hold another similar conference this time in Africa itself and chose Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia and headquarters of the AU for the venue. The Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister, the National Security Advisor along with the Foreign Policy establishment travelled to Addis to underline the importance New Delhi continues to attach to its relations with that continent. This comprehensive paradigm of cooperation is premised on Africa's own aspirations for development.

5. The Summit held on May 24 – 25, 2011 was preceded by the Foreign Ministers' meeting on May 23 and a Senior Officials' meeting on May 20-21 also in Addis Ababa. The President of Equatorial Guinea, Mr. Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, in his capacity as Chairperson of the African Union, co-Chaired the Summit along with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. Fifteen African countries participated in the Summit on behalf of the African continent. The choice of the countries was decided by the African Union on the basis of the Banjul format adopted by the African Union for the participation of African

countries in Summits. The countries that were asked by the African Union to participate in the Summit were: Algeria, Burundi, Chad, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Malawi, Namibia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Swaziland. The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr. Jean Ping, also took part in the Summit.

6. It was for the first time that Indian leaders joined so many African leaders at the African soil and it was indeed an historic occasion. Taking partnership between the peoples at the core of the India-Africa relationship, a number of outreach events were organized before or concurrently with the Summit. Some of these were:

- A trade exhibition called the India Show and a Business Conclave,
- An India Africa Media Partnership Symposium
- Handcrafting Hope – a programme for interaction amongst Indian and African craftspeople,
- Rhythm of Life – a series of joint cultural performances by Indian and African artistes showcasing fusion of Indian and African cultures,
- From Tradition to Innovation, a multimedia exhibition tracing the long journey of our partnership; and
- A film festival showcasing the best of Indian commercial cinema.

7. Significantly for the first time ever India-Africa Academic Conference was held on May 11-12, 2011 also in Addis. The Indian and African Scholars discussed different aspects of India-Africa relations with a view to enhancing them further.

8. It will be recalled that the First Summit adopted two far-reaching documents, the Delhi Declaration and the India-Africa Framework for Cooperation. These served as the contours for India's systematic engagement with Africa.

9. At the Second Summit, Prime Minister in his address announced significant programmes of economic cooperation which will take the bilateral relationship to greater heights. These are:

A line of credit of 5 billion US dollars for the next three years to help Africa achieve its development goals. An additional 700 million US dollars to establish new institutions and training programmes in consultation with the African Union and its institutions.

- (a) Under the first line of credit offered in 2008, New Delhi had sought to specifically promote regional integration through infrastructure development. On the advice of the African Union President, India announced support for the development of a new Ethio-Djibouti Railway line to the tune of 300 million US dollars.
- (b) Following the success of the Pan-African E-Network Project, the Prime Minister now proposed the establishment of an India-Africa Virtual University to help meet some of the demands in Africa for higher studies in Indian institutions. He also proposed 10,000 new scholarships under this proposed University for African students.
- (c) To make education in India an enriching experience for the African students, Prime Minister announced a substantial raise in the number of scholarships and training slots for African students and experts, including under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme. It was announced that total commitment for the next three years by way of scholarships to African students will stand at more than 22,000.
- (d) The Prime Minister also announced the establishment of the following new institutions at the pan African level:
 - (i) An India-Africa Food Processing Cluster - This would contribute to value-addition and the creation of regional and export markets;
 - (ii) An India-Africa Integrated Textiles Cluster - This will support the cotton industry and its processing and conversion into high value products;
 - (iii) An India-Africa Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting - This will harness satellite technology for the agriculture and fisheries sectors as well as contribute towards disaster preparedness and management of natural resources;
 - (iv) A request to support the establishment of an India-Africa University for Life and Earth Sciences. India would be happy to support this important venture;
 - (v) An India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development.
 - (vi) To overcome the deficiency in air connectivity between India and Africa, Prime Minister agreed to accord priority in this direction and said New Delhi will be happy to increase the access of African airlines to Indian cities in a significant manner over the next three years.

- (vii) Taking note of the strong regional organizations in Africa, the Prime Minister said India will play an important role in supporting development activities by working with Regional Economic Communities to establish at the regional level, Soil, Water and Tissue Testing Laboratories, Regional Farm Science Centres, Seed Production-cum-Demonstration Centres, and Material Testing Laboratories for Highways.
 - (viii) To promote human resource development at the bilateral level he proposed the establishment of institutes for English language training, information technology, entrepreneurship development and vocational training. As part of the new initiatives in the social and economic sectors he announced the establishment of Rural Technology Parks, Food Testing Laboratories, Food Processing Business Incubation Centres and Centres on Geo-Informatics Applications and Rural Development.
 - (ix) Prime Minister said that to encourage trade and investment flows as well as transfer of technology, the private sectors should be fully involved in the efforts to integrate the economies of India and Africa and proposed the establishment of an India-Africa Business Council to bring together business leaders from both sides.
 - (x) India has consistently supported the development of African capacities in the maintenance of peace and security. As a token of India's commitment to supporting Africa's endeavours for seeking African solutions, India offered to contribute 2 million US dollars for the African Union Mission in Somalia.
10. At the political level the significant outcome of the Summit was that while India took note of "the common African position and the aspirations of the African countries to get their rightful place in an expanded UN Security Council as new permanent member with full rights as contained in the Ezulwini Consensus," Africa too took "note of India's position and its aspirations to become a permanent member with full rights in an expanded UN Security Council."
11. India's major concern on terrorism found the fullest expression in the Addis Ababa Declaration which "unequivocally" condemned "terrorism in all its forms and manifestations", and accepted the Indian contention that "an act of terrorism anywhere is a threat to the entire international community."
12. A new form of terrorism on the high seas in the shape of piracy was accepted as of equal concern. The declaration accepted the need to address the threat "posed by piracy off the coast of Somalia and suffering caused by

taking of hostages”, and called on all States to cooperate in combating and eradicating the menace of piracy. In this context, the Summit welcomed India’s support to efforts to safeguard shipping in the Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean from piracy.

13. With Africa there were a very large number of visits exchanged during the year. The Prime Minister after the India – Africa Forum Summit made a bilateral visits to **Ethiopia** and **Tanzania**. The President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil made a visit to **Mauritius** and Vice President attended the independence ceremonies of newly formed country **South Sudan** at Juba in July. On the way he made a visit to **Kampala**. The Prime Minister of **Rwanda** came at the beginning of the year in January. President of **Uganda** came on a private visit to New Delhi in September. The First Lady of **Mozambique** Mrs. Maria da Luz Guebuza visited New Delhi in November and the Defence Minister of the country came earlier in June and interacted with the Defence Minister A. K. Antony. Commerce and Industry Minister of Mozambique was in New Delhi in March. The Foreign Minister of **Eretria** visited New Delhi in June, a 5-Member delegation from **Lesotho** came in July. The Joint Commission meeting with **Nigeria** took place in New Delhi in March, and the Joint Commission meeting with **South Africa** took place in Pretoria in July. The Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs Gurjit Singh made a first visit by an Indian official to **Comoros Island**.

14. This to and fro visits kept the traffic between India and Africa quite hectic and relationship warm and cordial.

III SOUTH ASIA

15. South Asia despite the SAARC has some distance to go to integrate in comparison to other regions. This is not surprising when we go back a little into history, when South Asia was a single unit of geography. The subcontinent of India out of which emerged the three largest members of the SAARC was an integrated whole. Partition was a disintegrating process that cut linkages built over the centuries. Separated by political differences, integrating them into SAARC has not been easy. India’s initiatives to build network of interdependencies in the region has slowly been showing some positive results. The countries of this region need peace, security, education, healthcare and sustainable development in equal measure. India, being the largest of the countries both in area, population and resources has always demonstrated its willingness to go the extra mile for the sake of peace and security, even on a non-reciprocal basis. This has created an atmosphere of trust and confidence among the neighbours enabling to expand the dialogue on cooperative security. However, there is the need to change the

mindset of the peoples and their governments before the region could really reap the benefits of mutual cooperation.

16. There is of course, the problem of asymmetry among countries in South Asia but does it need to stand in the way of regional cooperation? Asymmetries in size, resources and military capabilities must be used as building blocks to enhance cooperation and not block the much needed cooperation to create the area of shared prosperity.

17. It is this spirit that animates India in its relations with the countries in its neighbourhood comprising the SAARC region. Relations with **Afghanistan** are the shining example of this policy. External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna while attending the two international conferences on Afghanistan in Istanbul (November) and Bonn (December) and another ASEM in Hungary (June) sought to send out this message to the international community at large by extending support to the objectives of the conferences which he identified as bringing regional countries together on an inclusive platform to address the common challenges facing the region and working towards cooperative confidence building measures and solutions. That there is reciprocal trust in Afghanistan's leadership in Indian approach was underlined by the two visits of President Karzai to India (in February and November) and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit to Kabul (in June) to enable interaction between the top leadership of the two countries on a regular basis. The high watermark of this relationship has been the conclusion of a Strategic Partnership Agreement between them in October.

18. To strengthen Afghan capabilities to face the challenge of internal conflict, India reiterated its commitment to the Afghan Defence Minister when he came calling in June that India was committed to building the defence capabilities of the Afghan security forces besides assisting Kabul in its development efforts.

19. Since the return of Sheikh Hasina's Awami League to power in Dhaka, there has been a marked cordiality in the relations between India and **Bangladesh**. There has been a series of visits from the Indian leaders to Dhaka starting with the Vice President's in May, followed by External Affairs Minister's in July and finally Prime Minister's own visit in September. In between Foreign Secretary too made his visit to Dhaka. The Prime Minister's visit to Bangladesh and signing of a clutch of agreements including the Boundary Agreement and the broad-based Framework Agreement on Cooperation for Development were marked by great bonhomie between the leaders of the two countries. Both the countries are motivated by the shared values of democracy, secularism and social justice and the two prime ministers availed the opportunity to reiterate them. It is hoped that the agreement on the sharing of the Teesta waters, which could not be finalised during the PM's visit, would also be signed soon.

New Delhi also assured Dhaka on several occasions and at several levels including at the level of Prime Minister that it would make sure that in pursuing the Tipaimukh project, India would not take steps that would adversely impact Bangladesh. To further promote Bangladesh's trade with Nepal, India readily agreed to amend the existing MOU to further facilitate overland transit traffic between those two countries. Another goodwill gesture that marked the Prime Minister's visit was the announcement to open the access route of Tin Bigha for visits to Bangladesh's enclaves of Dahagram and Angarpota round the clock. To express her happiness at this gesture, Sheikh Hasina herself made a visit to the enclaves through the Tin Bigha corridor on October 19, where she was received by Health Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad and Minister of State for Home Affairs Jitendra Singh.

20. Both Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna visited **Maldives** during the course of the year. The Prime Minister during his visit in November was accorded a unique distinction by the Maldivian Government when he was invited to address the People's *Majlis* (Parliament) of the country. In its 78 years' history, no foreign head of state or government had ever been shown this honour. The geographical contiguity and ethnic, historical and cultural ties create an abiding faith between the two countries highlighted in their commitment to democracy, development and peaceful co-existence. Their shared values give the two countries the confidence that "cooperation at the bilateral, sub-regional and regional levels will enable the two countries to realise their developmental aspirations, and contribute to peace, prosperity and security in the Indian Ocean Region and South Asia." The visit provided the opportunity for the two countries to enter into a series of agreements/MoUs like Framework Agreement on Cooperation for Development, Combating International Terrorism, Trans-national Crime, Illicit Drug Trafficking and Enhancing Bilateral Cooperation in Capacity Building, Disaster Management and Coastal Security. India has extended US\$ 100 million Stand-by Credit Facility to finance several infrastructural projects for accelerated development. The July visit of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to Male was predicated on a high trajectory with both sides embarking on comprehensive, forward looking, pragmatic and mutually beneficial initiatives.

21. India expressed its happiness while welcoming the 7-point agreement among the political parties on the settlement of the Maoist combatants' rehabilitation issue, power sharing and constitution framing which it is hoped would end the long drawn stalemate in the constitutional process in **Nepal**. External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna as well as both the current and the former Foreign Secretaries visited Kathmandu. The Nepalese Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai visited New Delhi in October. He is an alumni of several

educational institutions in India including Jawaharlal Nehru University and has very close links with India.

22. Since the end of the ethnic war in 2009, **Sri Lanka** has been beset with the controversy regarding the violation of human rights by the Sri Lankan security forces towards the concluding phase of the war and at the time of the surrender of the Tamil militants. Apart from the report of the UN panel, video-graphic evidence by various voluntary organisations has surfaced to indict the security forces. This evidence has of course been challenged by Colombo. Sri Lanka on its own also appointed a Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) to look into the various aspects of the ethnic problem and conduct of the war against the LTTE. The LLRC has in December submitted its 400-page report to the Government. The Government of India welcomed the publication of the report and took note of the assurances of the Sri Lanka Government that its recommendations would be implemented. The LLRC recommended various measures for addressing the issues relating to the healing of the wounds of the conflict and fostering the process of lasting peace and reconciliation in the country. The Government of Sri Lanka has expressed its intention to set up a mechanism to carry out further investigations relating to instances of illegal human rights violations and incidents involving loss of civilian life. The Government of India felt it important that “an independent and credible mechanism is put in place to investigate allegations of human rights violations, as brought out the LLRC, in a time-bound manner.” It was in this spirit that India chose to vote for the Resolution at the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva in March 2012 calling on the Island country to implement the LLRC report to create a sense of reconciliation and amity in the Tamil community which was alienated during the years of its struggle for constitutional rights leading to a political solution to the ethnic problem. While Government of India remains concerned about violations of human rights, it has also concentrated its energies on the rehabilitation of the IDPs.

23. The relations with **Pakistan** which remained in a state of suspended animation during most of the year 2010, started looking up in 2011, thanks to the initiatives of Prime Minister. The ice was broken at Thimphu when the two foreign secretaries met there in February. The Prime Minister’s initiative in inviting Prime Minister Gilani to Mohali to watch the Semi-final cricket match between the Indian and Pakistani teams in the World Cup series was a gesture which received all round appreciation. The match provided the opportunity to the two Prime Ministers to talk and Mr. Gilani had no hesitation in congratulating Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh for his initiative and resuming the composite dialogue. Mr. Gilani was quite emphatic that he wanted “both

countries (to) resolve their problems themselves". Dr. Manmohan Singh describing cricket as "uniting factor", said whatever the differences between the two countries "we have to find pathways to resolve them".

24. The appointment of Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar as the Pakistani Foreign Minister was a welcome message from Islamabad that it was interested in burying the rancorous approach of the past and "achieving the common goal of establishing friendly and cooperative bilateral relations" with New Delhi. When the two Foreign Ministers met in July the External Affairs Minister Mr. Krishna affirmed to her India's desire to work with Pakistan "to reduce the trust deficit and move forward in a friendly manner." He assured her of India's "desire for a stable and prosperous Pakistan, acting as a bulwark against terrorism and at peace with itself and its neighbours". While Mr. Krishna was full of optimism, no less was Ms. Khar who sounded upbeat with her remarks that Islamabad was willing to bend backward to improve relations with its neighbours. The New Delhi talks were fruitful in that they created a positive atmosphere at the working level.

25. Since then a lot of water flowed down the Yumana and the Indus. The dialogue process has stayed on course, which enabled Prime Minister to say in November, when he met again Mr. Gilani in Maldives on the sidelines of the SAARC Summit, that "I have always regarded Prime Minister Gilani as a man of peace. Every time I have met in the last three years, this belief has been further strengthened." Talking of the people he said "I have always believed that the destinies of people of India and Pakistan are very closely linked".

26. A breakthrough has occurred and it is in the realm of trade following the mandate of the two prime ministers in Maldives that the two sides work on enhancing preferential trading arrangements as part of the shared vision to significantly expand bilateral trade. The Pakistani Cabinet not allowing the grass to grow under its feet mandated the Pakistani Commerce Ministry to achieve complete normalisation of trade with India.

27. On November 15, the commerce ministers of the two countries met and reminded themselves that, already in September, they had asked their commerce secretaries to lay down specific timelines for full normalisation of trade relationship, dismantling of remaining non-tariff barriers and full implementation of the legal obligations under the SAARC Agreement on SAFTA. All these jargons were euphemism for MFN trading relationship, a status which India had granted to Pakistan for several years. India welcomed the Pakistani decision to move towards the MFN regime in bilateral trade which will be to the benefit of both their peoples. According to Indian Commerce Secretary Mr.

Khullar without the MFN regime, while the formal bilateral trade is around 2.5 to 3 billion US dollars, the informal trade is at least twice that amount. With the MFN regime restored the informal trade would almost vanish and the bilateral trade can straight away jump to \$ 8 billion.

IV

SOUTHEAST, EAST ASIA and PACIFIC

28. The southeast Asian region has emerged as the hub of Asia – Pacific security paradigm in the last decade. The emergence of China as the second largest economy replacing Japan, and its assertiveness in its dealings with the international community, has shifted the centre of gravity of international politics to Asia as never before. China's claim to the entire South China Sea to the exclusion of the interests of other littoral states does not bode well for the future of the region. New Delhi with its Look-East policy is now firmly gravitated to the region's economic and political fortunes. Its relationship with other institutions of the region like the ASEAN and EAS enjoins upon it to stay committed to the region. New Delhi is fully conscious of its new role and responsibility that comes with it.

29. **Australia** is an important country of the Pacific region and India – Australia relations are gathering the warmth of closer relationship. Australia's decision to lift embargo on sale of Uranium to India was a landmark decision and recognition of India's non-proliferation record. The visit of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to Australia at the beginning of the year, greatly contributed to better understanding between the two countries. Australian Defence Minister Stephen Smith's visit in December helped to enhance defence cooperation between the two countries. The Defence Minister A. K. Antony described the relationship as "an important milestone in the evolution of India – Australia partnership". However, New Delhi did not react positively to Australian Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd's observation that India was positive towards joining in the trilateral cooperation in seeking to contain China in the Asia-pacific region. India looks at its role in the region as one of promoting peace along with other countries of the region than as a tool to promote any strategic interest of a third country.

30. India has developed active economic relationship with Australia. There is the mechanism of the Joint Commission to promote deeper economic relationship and the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) as an instrument of a "high quality, truly liberalizing" pathway to close economic integration between India and Australia. To deepen cultural relations between the two countries, the Indian Council of Cultural Relations has set up a Chair of Indian studies at the University of Sydney. To service the Western Australian region, and to increase the reach of Indian missions in that country, New Delhi has decided to set up a new Consulate General at Perth.

31. India's relations with **China** are two pronged, as a neighbor in north and a stakeholder in East Asia region. In 2010 certain wrinkles had developed in the relations between the two countries over issues like denial of visa to senior Indian defence officers, issue of staple visa, or patrolling along the Sino – Indian border. But following the visit to China by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to attend the BRICS Summit in April and his meeting with the Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on the sidelines, a thaw appeared in the bilateral relations. The desire on both sides to iron out the difficulties paved the way for the successful and productive visit of an eight-member military delegation under the leadership of Major General Gurmeet Singh to Beijing, Shanghai and Urumqi (Xinjiang) in June. The Chinese quietly withdrew their practice of issuing staple visas to some Indian from certain areas. Message was clear that China was not keen on a fractured relationship and intended to mend fences. Toning down the rhetoric on the South China sea issue after the EAS summit in Bali raised the hopes in New Delhi that the ONGC prospecting of the oil in that region along the borders of Vietnam would go through without any hitch.

32. The Line of Actual Control along the Sino – Indian border, despite occasional misunderstandings hyped by the media, remained more or less peaceful and tranquil. The China – India agreement ensuring that heavy military equipment stay away from the border along with the agreement prohibiting military exercises very close to the LAC contributed a lot in this direction. Prime Minister's steadfast refusal to share the apprehension articulated by an opposition member in the Lok Sabha on December 13 that China was making all-out efforts to attack India, speaks of the confidence that the leadership of the two countries have built between them.

33. The launch of the Year of India – China Exchanges in 2011 at Sanya by Premier Wen Jiabao and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh was the high water mark of the year in the relations between the two countries. The first India – China strategic dialogue on economic relations opens a new avenue to promote deeper and multi-faceted relationship between the two neighbours.

34. Apart from the meeting that Prime Minister had with Premier Wen in Sanya in April, he had another meeting with Wen on the sidelines of the ASEAN and EAS Summits in Bali in November. These two meetings created a fund of goodwill and generated the warmth in the relationship between the two countries. It was not without significance that Wen recalled Prime Minister's observation at Bali that there was enough space in the world to accommodate the developmental aspirations of both the countries and went on to add that there were enough areas where India and China could enhance mutually beneficial cooperation, terming the 21st century as an Asian century beckoning the two to work hand in hand to

promote economic development and growth. There was satisfaction at the robust economic interaction that had catalyzed in attaining the trade turnover of 70 billion US dollars which could the 100 billion mark by 2015.

35. In March 2011 **Japan** suffered the most unfortunate double whammy in a devastating earthquake and a Tsunami. In a letter to the Japanese Prime Minister Kan, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, expressed shock at the devastation caused by the earthquake and extended on behalf of the people of India the most heartfelt condolences and sympathies. In his statement to the Parliament while expressing deep shock at the loss of life and property, he acknowledged Japanese contribution to India's development and said "we can never forget that India has been the largest recipient of Japan's overseas development assistance". In April Foreign Secretary travelled to Tokyo and offered personally India's condolences and reiterated India's offer to assist Japan in any way required. The Japanese Government expressed their appreciation for the assistance already provided by India for relief and rehabilitation including the sterling efforts of the 46-member team from the National Disaster Response Force of India. The consultations that the Foreign Secretary had with the Japanese Foreign Office during the visit, however, resulted in the agreement to establish an India-Japan-United States trilateral dialogue on regional and global issues of shared interest.

36. Following the commitment made by the Prime Ministers of India and Japan in October 2010, the two countries signed in February "the most ambitious agreement by India so far," — the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) covering trade in goods, services and investment under its ambit.

37. The bedrock of India-Japan relations is formed by several levels of mechanism for dialogue apart from the annual summits between the two prime ministers since 2006. These are annual strategic, security and policy dialogues between the foreign ministers and defence dialogue between the defence ministers. There is also a high level policy and strategic dialogue on economic cooperation between finance ministers and planning agencies of the two countries. Another area where synergy in policy is being developed is Africa where both India and Japan have their wide ranging programmes of cooperation. Two rounds of such dialogues took place at the official level during the year.

38. This year's Summit meeting in December between the two prime ministers also marked the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries and it was an occasion for them to note that in the last six decades the relations between the two countries have been marked by "deep mutual understanding and vibrant people-to-people contacts based on universal values such as democracy, human rights and rule of law, as well as wide-ranging strategic and economic interests".

39. The relations between India and **Indonesia** had an auspicious start with the presence of President Yudhoyono and his wife as Chief Guests for the 2011- Republic Day celebrations. It is significant that when India proclaimed itself a Republic on January 26, 1950, it was honoured with the visit of the Indonesian President Sukarno and Mrs. Fatmawati Sukarno as the State Guests. Both the countries have been quite eager to provide greater economic contents to their two millennia old relationship and are now working towards concluding a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) so as to achieving a bilateral trade target of \$25 billion by 2015. The investment by Indian companies have touched \$3.50 billion and another \$25-billion worth of investments are in the pipeline. It is hoped that the proposed CECA will not only break tariff walls on merchandise trade but also enable professionals from the two countries to take up short-term business assignments in each other's markets. There is already a steady growth of bilateral relations in the political, security, economic, science and technology and cultural sectors

40. There is already an active cooperation through numerous frameworks governing defense, science and technology, space cooperation, agricultural science, culture, tourism, and youth affairs & sports. There is the emerging cooperation in education, media, air services, energy resources including oil, gas, coal, and renewable energy, prevention of smuggling, prevention of illegal trade in narcotics, disaster management, cooperation in the area of small and medium enterprises, meteorology, climatology and geophysics including climate change, health, marine and fisheries. The common desire for accelerating the implementation of cooperation in these areas and monitoring such cooperation through the mechanism of Action Plan on Implementing the New Strategic Partnership drawn up during the Indonesia-India Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) in June 2007 together with the proposed CECA would take the relations between the two countries to new heights.

41. President of **Korea** had visited India in January 2010 as a Chief Guest at the Republic Day celebrations. In July 2011 President Pratibha Devisingh Patil made a State Visit to the Republic of Korea as part of the growing Indian integration with the Asia-Pacific region, the new hub of not only Asian but global activity. The visit gained particular significance with the signing of an Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy by the two countries. There is already a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with South Korea which is under revision to enhance its benefits. Trade with South Korea which stood at \$7.1 billion in 2006 was propelled by CEPA to \$17.5 billion in 2010 — an increase of 46 per cent over the previous year, with growth rates of exports being the same for both countries. As a result of the

CEPA Indian IT companies are getting a foothold in South Korea. There is already a defence cooperation and social security agreements with South Korea.

42. As part of her tour of East Asia, the President Mrs. Patil also visited **Mongolia** to give impetus to the growing economic partnership with that country. The 20 million dollar Line of Credit for establishing an IT education and outsourcing centre in Ulaanbaatar is an endeavour to assist that country in creating new business and job opportunities. India is committed to helping Mongolia in capacity building and human resource development in all sectors required by them. The MoU between the Planning Commission of India and the National Development and Innovation Committee of Mongolia will enable our two countries to share experiences in Plan formulation and implementation. The Indian – Mongolian Business Forum is accelerating the process of economic and commercial cooperation. The Agreement on Cooperation in Defence matters signed during the President's visit will strengthen security cooperation between the two countries and add depth and substance to their ties.

43. **Myanmar** with its 1600 KMs long common border with India provides not only India's Northeast an important linkage to the Southeast Asian region, but is also emerging an important alternative route for linking the northeast with the rest of India. The Kaladan Multi-modal route when operational will provide the much needed alternative linkage. It is a new paradigm of development where foreign policy initiatives blend seamlessly into national economic and commercial initiatives. The high water mark of the relations between the two countries was the visit to India of Myanmar's President U Thein Sein in October and the transition of the regime to an open and democratic framework, resulting in freedom for Aung San Suu kyi and her election to the Myanmar parliament. India offered the new-look regime all necessary assistance in further strengthening the democratic transition in an inclusive and broad based manner. In June the External Affairs Minister Krishna had visited Myanmar for an interaction with the new regime in the new political environment and prepared the groundwork for the Myanmar President's visit. The visit offered him an opportunity to further vitalize the multi-faceted relationship in enhancing security cooperation as well as collaboration in the fields of Connectivity, IT, Energy, Agriculture, Power, Telecommunications and Infrastructure.

44. The visit of **New Zealand** Prime Minister John Key in June was an occasion to highlight Commonwealth ties, shared democratic values, people to people and sporting links which underpin the vibrant relationship between the two countries.

45. **Singapore** has emerged the focal point for southeast Asia. Both the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister visited this important country. The EAM was there in April and Prime Minister in November. Prime Minister

had wide ranging discussions with his counterpart covering international, regional and bilateral issues. To underline the importance of Singapore to India's southeast Asian policy, he emphasized to his interlocutor Singapore's pivotal role in India's Look East Policy. While there is a fruitful interaction with the island country in the economic field since the signing of the CECA in 2005, to make it more meaningful and forward looking a review of the same is underway. There is a MoU with Singapore for cooperation in the field of Personnel Management and Public Administration and an Executive Programme on Cooperation in the fields of Arts, Heritage, Archives and Library. The Parliaments of India and Singapore have also agreed to establish respective Parliamentary Friendship Groups. Both Prime Ministers took note of the strong intergovernmental links between the two countries that provide platforms for regular high level institutional exchanges such as the Foreign Office Consultations, Ministerial Meetings, the Defence Policy Dialogue and the Security Round Table.

46. In April the **Thai** Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva accepting the invitation of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh paid a visit to New Delhi. In their discussions the two prime ministers accepted the need to energize bilateral institutional mechanisms, to enhance cooperation in security matters and to upgrade the bilateral dialogue on defence matters. Through the instrumentality of the joint commission the two countries have substantially enhanced their connectivity as well as bilateral trade and investments. The two countries also have rich interaction through the mechanism of ASEAN and BIMSTEC. The bilateral trade turnover which was about US\$ 6.7 billion in 2010, as agreed to by the two prime ministers is to double by 2014. There are also ongoing negotiations on a Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement that would promote trade in goods and services, and investments.

47. The visit of the **Vietnamese** President to India in October was preceded by the visit of External Affairs Minister to Hanoi in September to co-chair the meeting of the India – Vietnam Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological cooperation. The Second India-Vietnam Strategic Dialogue and the Fifth Foreign Office Consultations had given the opportunity to the two countries to exchange views on current bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest. External Affairs Minister while in Hanoi inaugurated the India – Vietnam Advanced Resource Centres, financed by India at a cost of more than \$ 2 million. This is a quality IT training centre.

48. Vietnam has always been a steadfast supporter of India's permanent membership of an expanded UN Security Council.

V WEST ASIA

49. The West Asia region is home to a large body of Indian diaspora, with historical, civilizational and cultural links and is a source of energy. The region is pulsating with new winds of change which are ushering in a new “spring”. While siding with the people of the region in their search for democratic aspirations, New Delhi is opposed to any imposed regime change from outside. The Government of India believes that “it is the responsibility of sovereign States to respond to the aspirations of its people through administrative, political, economic and other measures. At the same time, it is for the State to decide on the best course of action to maintain internal law and order and to prevent violence”. This policy has been appreciated by the countries of the region and India continues to maintain high level of interaction with them.

50. **Bahrain** Foreign Minister Shaikh Khalidin Ahmed visited New Delhi in March, **Egyptian** Foreign Minister came in May, **UAE** Foreign Minister came calling in June. The **Syrian** Foreign Minister’s visit provided an opportunity to discuss the situation first hand in Syria. The Special Envoy of **Palestinian** President came in August. New Delhi welcomed the agreement between Hamas and Fatah and expressed the hope that this would lead to the realization of the aspirations of the Palestinian people and lead to peace and stability in the region. Secretary General of the **Saudi** National Security Council visited New Delhi in March and briefed New Delhi of the situation in the West Asian region.

51. The mechanism of Foreign Office Consultations helped to exchange views with countries in the region. Such consultations were carried out with **Armenia**, **Iran**, and **Azerbaijan**. The extension of the India-**Oman** Military Cooperation MoU signed in 2005 to 2015 underlined its utility to both the countries.

52. The visit of **Uzbek** President Islam Karimov in May provided an opportunity to renew and establish strategic partnership with Uzbekistan. The strategic partnership would encompass active cooperation in a wide spectrum of areas including political, economic, counter-terrorism, education, health, human resource development, science and technology, tourism and culture. This is an additional mechanism to the already existing ones to promote a wide range cooperation in diverse areas including Information Technology, Pharmaceuticals, Standardization, Small and Medium Enterprises, Coal gasification, Oil & Gas, Science & Technology, Textiles and Banking.

53. India too has strong and friendly relations with **Kazakhstan**. In 2009 the Kazakhstan President was Chief Guest at the Republic Day celebrations. In 2010, External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna visited Astana and in 2011 the

Prime Minister paid an official visit to Kazakhstan, to strengthen India's partnership with the all important country of Central Asia. Kazakhstan has also entered into an agreement with India for the supply of all important element in our civil nuclear energy programme, Uranium. There is convergence of views with Kazakhstan on political and global issues. As Prime Minister said India would like to give added thrust to its relations with Kazakhstan in the field of energy and hydrocarbons as well as atomic energy and space.

54. Another country in this region with which India has developed close interaction is **Kyrgyzstan**. The scope of India – Kyrgyz cooperation was widened in July when Defence Minister A. K. Antony led a high powered defence delegation to Bishkek and offered India's cooperation to his counterpart Major General Abibilla Kudayberdiev in this sensitive area. As a first step, India offered to send a team to train Kyrgyz Armed Forces in UN Peace Keeping Operations and impart English language skills to them. There is already a joint working group on counter-terrorism between the two countries. India has also set up a Kyrgyz – India Mountain Biomedical Research Centre in Bishkek which was inaugurated by the Kyrgyz President during the visit of Defence Minister in July. India's contribution to the project is Rs 6 Crores. As part of the annual foreign office consultation mechanism, this year the consultations took place in New Delhi in August.

VI AMERICAS

55. The high point of India – **US** relations was the 2nd Strategic Dialogue held in June in New Delhi at the level of External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Besides pledging to continue and strengthen their cooperation in the already agreed upon areas, the two ministers agreed to initiate new areas of dialogue to expand their existing cooperation and consultations. The new areas identified were West and Central Asia and dialogue on UN matters. It was also agreed to initiate the dialogue process between India, the United States and Japan. The two Ministers reaffirmed their commitment for consultations, coordination and cooperation in Afghanistan and continue and strengthen their economic cooperation to promote capacity building and human resource development.

56. The Prime Minister had a one to one meeting with President Obama on the sideline of the East Asia Summit in Bali in November. Earlier they had talked on telephone in May to continue the process of dialogue and consultations between them. When Prime Minister met the President in Bali both reassured each other their commitment to continue with the programmes agreed upon during the President's visit to New Delhi in November 2010. Dr. Singh conveyed

to the President that it was a “privilege for India to find you and your administration as deeply invested in ensuring that India makes a success of its historic journey to have the social and economic transformation carried out in the framework of an open society, a democratic polity, committed to the rule of law, and respect for full human freedoms.”

57. In May the two countries launched the Homeland Security Dialogue, agreed upon during President Obama’s visit. It was a significant step considering India lives closest to the epicenter of terrorism and has been the victim of cross border terrorism for many years on the hands of groups operating from across the border in Pakistan, where the society has become highly radicalized, economy weakened and the state structure fragile.

58. New Delhi welcomed the elimination of Osama bin Laden as a “significant step forward” and Prime Minister in his message to Obama hoped that it would “deal a decisive blow to Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups”.

VII EUROPE

59. With the countries of **Europe** India has since independence worked out active and multifaceted relationship. Apart from trade and commerce, there is high level of technological relationship, which has contributed substantially to India’s progress in scientific and technological fields. These relations have found expression in many other areas like culture, tourism, education and last but not the least political. Active relations in all these fields naturally calls for maintaining contacts at several levels including the highest. The Indian and the European leaders frequently exchange visits between them. It was in the same spirit that the President Pratibha Devi Singh Patil in 2011 made a State Visit to two of the Central European countries—**Austria** and **Switzerland**. Both these countries shares with India their core values as well as strong historical ties of friendship.

60. With **Russia** since 2000 there is an institutionalised arrangement of annual summits. This year it was the turn of the Russian Federation to host the summit and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh made his journey to Moscow in December. Through these summits both the countries have not only maintained momentum in their relations but have infused greater contents in their robust relationship. Preceding the Prime Minister’s visit, the External Affairs Minister had visited Moscow to hold talks with his counterpart to prepare for the Summit. During the year bilateral visits and talks with Russia took place at several ministerial levels, Home, Defense, Commerce, Health, Tourism, Steel and Power Ministers. In November the External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna

had led a delegation to Moscow for the Inter-Governmental Commission Meeting.

61. The March 2010 Inter-Governmental Agreement had laid down the broad roadmap for partnership in the area of civil nuclear energy. The construction of Kudankulam 1 and 2 nuclear power plant units have been completed with Russian technology. Techno-commercial discussions for Units 3 and 4 of Kudankulam are almost complete. In June, India and Russia signed an MoU for setting up the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership, which will undertake advanced studies in the field of nuclear research. India's defence cooperation has for long been a vital facet of this multi-faceted relationship, which has now matured well beyond a buyer-seller relationship to co-production through transfer of technologies. Cooperation in the space sector has matured into the Chandrayan-2 mission and manned space flight programmes, as well as adoption and applications of GLONASS technologies.

62. The annual summit helped in the conclusion of agreement on "the terms and conditions for the Russian credit for Units 3 and 4 of the Kudankulam nuclear power project". Speaking of the similarity of views between the two countries Prime Minister said "We share similar views on threats to international security from terrorism, piracy and drug-trafficking. Our aims and objectives with regard to Afghanistan's reconstruction and nation building efforts, and its ability to decide its own future without external interference are very similar. Both India and Russia have a strong interest in promoting stability and prosperity in the region, and we agreed to work closely toward this objective". The Defence cooperation between India and Russia was reviewed in October when the Inter-governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation met in New Delhi. In short, India – Russia relations were described by the Prime Minister himself as "among the most substantive we have with any country".

63. There have been a number of high level visits between India and **Turkey** in recent years. In November 2008, Turkish Prime Minister Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan visited India. The Turkish President came in February 2010. In continuation of this trend Vice-President Hamid Ansari visited Turkey in October when the entire gamut of bilateral, regional and international issues was discussed by him with the Turkish leadership. To promote business relations between the two countries a business delegation had accompanied him and a meeting with the Turkish businessmen was held in Istanbul.

64. The Indo-Turkish Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation is Co-Chaired by the Commerce Ministers of the two countries to give direction towards further consolidation and development of economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries. Both India and Turkey also have signed an Agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation as also an Agreement for

Reciprocal Protection and Mutual Promotion of Investments. Agreements for development of Science and Technology and for cooperation in the IT sector also exist between the two countries. A Joint Study Group has also been commissioned to examine the feasibility of setting up a Free Trade Agreement between India and Turkey. Cooperation in the cultural and education sectors has also been fairly active. Since 1995 an Indian Professor has been on deputation to the Indology Department in the Ankara University to teach Hindi. Similarly, two Turkish language Professors have been deputed to the Jawaharlal Nehru University and the Jamia Millia. MoUs for cooperation have also been concluded between Universities in Turkey and India. Indian culture, including films, dance, yoga and Ayurveda and Indian cuisine obviously, have been drawing attention in Turkey.

65. India and **United Kingdom** had an institutional arrangement for dialogue on economic and financial matters and in pursuit of this arrangement Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee visited London in July for the 4th round of the dialogue which was established in 2005. As a result of these interaction the two countries have identified a number of issues for joint collaboration.

66. The Chancellor of **Germany** Angela Merkel was awarded the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding and she came to New Delhi in May to receive it. The visit coincided with the sixtieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Germany and it was a fitting tribute that German Chancellor, an ardent advocate of India – German strategic partnership should be receiving this prestigious award.

67. Prime Minister of **Slovenia** visited New Delhi in June. There was active interaction with other European countries too. The Foreign Ministers of **Ukraine, Poland, Netherlands** and **Cyprus** visited New Delhi. External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna visited **Hungary** in June and Minister of State Mrs. Preneet Kaur **Lithuania**. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations set up Indian Chairs in several European universities, Czech Republic (Charles University), Germany (Leipzig), Poland (Crakow) and Lithuania.

VIII

MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

68. As pointed out in the beginning, not only has the world become globalized, the problems too have become globalized and therefore need cooperation on a wider scale. While bilateralism will continue to be important mechanism to resolve specific problems peculiar between two countries, regional and intra-regional problems like terrorism, security, climate change, energy, etc would need wider mechanisms to resolve them. Even trade which has purely a bilateral

character has under the WTO regime, become a multilateral problem to be resolved on wider considerations with its impact on other competing players and commodities.

69. In that context, membership of multilateral groupings become an important foreign policy instrument which India has fully appreciated and grasped. It is now member of wide variety of such groupings regional, intra-regional and even intra-continental.

70. Among the groups in the last category, the **BRICS** is one such group which span four continents—Africa, Asia, Europe and Americas. It has overlapping membership with two other groupings—**RIC** and **IBSA**. But each of the three is a different platform and has independent existence. India is the only common factor in all the three and therefore capable of playing a pivotal role. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh participated in the 5th Summit of the IBSA countries at Pretoria in October, while its Ministerial meeting was held in New Delhi in March, attended by External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna. Another Ministerial meeting of IBSA was held in September on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session in New York. The first project financed by IBSA, a sports complex constructed at Ramallah, was formally handed over to Palestinian Authority in November as a gift of the peoples of IBSA countries to the people of Palestine.

71. India also attended the 3rd Summit of the BRICS at Sanya in China in April, with “Broad Vision and Shared Prosperity” as its agenda. South Africa joined in for the first time after its admission to BRIC in 2010. It is of no less significance that all the members of the BRICS are members of the G-20 and currently members of the UNSC. India has proposed creation of BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Fund for BRICS countries with a corpus of US \$10 million, announcing an Indian contribution of \$ 2 million.

72. India is also member of the **G-20** from the very beginning and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has regularly attended its summits. The last summit was at Cannes (France) in November which was held in the backdrop of the sovereign debt crisis in the Eurozone, which has emerged as the principal source of concern for the global economy. Prime Minister felt that this crisis must be resolved since in “Europe’s prosperity lies our own prosperity”. G-20 is important for resolution of international financial issues since conducive global economic environment is important for developing and emerging economies in an increasingly interdependent world.

73. Despite some limitations as pointed out in the narrative above over the last 26 years of its existence, **SAARC** has established itself as the leading mechanism for regional cooperation in South Asia. It has enabled enhanced cooperation

within the region in a wide range of areas such as trade, connectivity, poverty alleviation, food security, women and child development, combating organized crime and terrorism, among others. It has also created new institutions to promote regional integration such as the South Asian Regional Standards Organization, the South Asian Development Fund and the South Asian University which is based in New Delhi. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh underlining the importance of SAARC to the development of South Asia believes that “the fact that the global economy is not doing too well, is a further incentive for countries of the SAARC region to learn to cooperate with one another.”

74. The South Asian University is now a functioning entity, SAARC Development Fund is a functioning entity, and slowly but steadily the SAARC is moving forward to promote the cause of regional integration and regional cooperation. The four agreements signed at the Summit held in November at (Addu) Maldives, the SAARC Agreement on Rapid Responses to Natural Disaster, SAARC Agreement on Multilateral Arrangements on recognition of conformity assessment, SAARC Agreement on implementation of regional standards and SAARC Seed Bank Agreement are important milestones to greater economic interaction among the countries of the SAARC. But it has some distance to go to realise its full potential.

75. “Harnessing the positive contribution of South-South Cooperation for development of the **Least Developed Countries** (LDCs)” was the theme of the Conference of the Least Developed Countries (LDC) hosted by India in February. It was preparatory to the 4th Conference of the UN-LDC Conference which was held in Turkey in May. India was represented at this conference by the External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna.

IX

76. Superannuation led to attrition at the top echelons of the bureaucratic structure of the Ministry. The Foreign Secretary and three other Secretaries superannuated during the year. Shri Ranjan Mathai replaced Mrs. Nirupama Rao as Foreign Secretary. Shri Sanjay Singh replaced Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy as Secretary (East) and Shri M. Ganapathi succeeded Shri Vivek Katju as Secretary (West). Shri Sudhir Vyas took over as Secretary (ER) on the superannuation of Shri Manbir Singh. On the appointment of Shri Jayant Prasad as Ambassador to Nepal, Pinak R. Chakravarty took over as Special Secretary (PD).

X

77. The year 2011 has been a difficult year internationally. The economic meltdown which overtook the world in 2008 was still tormenting many economies particularly in Europe, thus impacting the emerging economies adversely in no

small measure. The Arab world has been in turmoil because of the upsurge of latent democratic aspirations among the people who ironically had never tasted democracy in their history, but found the taste of autocracy rather nauseating and cried for change. The Tsunami in Japan had a devastating impact on millions of people. The Fukushima nuclear disaster put in jeopardy the future of nuclear energy as providing energy security and clean energy at that. The fear of a Fukushima like disaster, created a sudden aversion for nuclear energy and in India too there has been public protests against nuclear energy. This creates new worries for the policy planners of nuclear energy sector as well as for those who looked up to this source as providing a guaranteed source of clean energy. This development puts a question mark on the investments that have already gone into putting up nuclear power plants and those in the pipeline for the future. One of the fundamental reasons for India securing civil nuclear energy cooperation with the United States and other countries in the last few years was to find this clean source of energy as a catalyst for rapid development in the years to come.

78. The ever deteriorating security situation in India's neighbourhood particularly AF-Pak region is a great threat to "internal and external security which altogether can be viewed as the challenge of National Security", the Prime Minister had said in his New Year message. The devastating waves of instability which unleash insecurity in the ocean of our hopes must be overpowered and not allowed to torpedo our efforts to find a secure future for our people. This is the challenge with which the Indian foreign policy planners had been grappling for quite some time. But security or insecurity is an international phenomena and not a one-country concern in today's globalised world where the forces of insecurity have assumed international ramifications. The Prime Minister in his New Year message has given a call to inherent will and skill of the people of India to remain united despite grave provocations from extremists and terrorists. "They have not lost faith in our plural, secular and inclusive democracy. Across the world the people look to India for inspiration. Our model for inclusive growth in an Open Society inspires those who seek freedom from tyranny", said the Prime Minister in his New Year message.



CONTENTS

The documents listed here provide ready reference to the 799 documents bearing on India's foreign relations during the year 2011. While the full text of all the documents is contained in the accompanying Compact Disc (CD), the documents with a STAR (*) only have their full text printed in the volume.

	Page No. on CD	Page No. In Printed Book
Preface	IX	IX
Introduction	XI	XI

DOCUMENT NUMBER

SECTION – I GENERAL

*001. New Year Press Conference by External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna. New Delhi, January 7, 2011.	3	3
002. Speech made by Special Secretary (Public Diplomacy) Jayant Prasad at the Workshop on Science, Diplomacy and Policy at the National Institute of Advanced Studies and American Association for the Advancement of Sciences. Bangalore, January 12, 2011.	11	—
*003. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna in Lok Sabha on combating piracy. New Delhi, March 11, 2011.	20	12
004. Speech of Vice President M. Hamid Ansari delivering the "Annual Lecture-2011" of the Association of Indian Diplomats. New Delhi, March 11, 2011.	22	—
005. Keynote Address by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on 'Women in Public Service' at the DRDO Workshop on "Worldwide Women's Leadership and Critical Success Factors for R&D". New Delhi, March 16, 2011.	29	—
*006. Keynote Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the India Today Conclave. New Delhi, March 18, 2011.	33	15

007.	Interaction of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao with the senior journalists of the Indian Express in the "Idea Exchange" programme. New Delhi, March 20, 2011.	36	—
*008.	Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the release of 'India's National Security - Annual Review 2010'. New Delhi, April 19, 2011.	42	18
*009.	Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the call by IFS Probationers on Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. New Delhi, May 11, 2011.	47	24
010.	Press Release issued by Ministry of Defence on the Address of Defence Minister A. K. Antony at the Unified Commanders Conference on the Security in the Post-Osama Scenario". New Delhi, May 20, 2011.	48	—
011.	Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the visit of Minister Anand Sharma to Paris to address the OECD Ministerial meeting and attend various other engagements connected with trade development. New Delhi, May 27, 2011.	50	—
012.	Inaugural Address of External Affairs Minister at the Haj Conference. New Delhi, June 13, 2011.	51	—
*013.	Announcement by Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs about the appointment of next Foreign Secretary. New Delhi, June 27, 2011.	53	25
014.	Address by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on 'Key Priorities for India's Foreign Policy' at the International Institute for Strategic Studies. London, June 27, 2011.	54	—
*015.	Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao to Indirani Bagchi for the Times of India. New Delhi, July 17, 2011.	60	26
*016.	Address by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on "Maritime Dimensions of India's Foreign Policy". New Delhi, July 28, 2011.	65	31
017.	Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on Headlines Today TV Channel. New Delhi, July 29, 2011.	72	—

CONTENTS**XXXVII**

018. Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao with Smt. Kalyani Shankar for All India Radio. New Delhi, July 29, 2011.	82	—
*019. Remarks by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai upon assumption of Office. New Delhi, August 1, 2011.	88	38
*020. Extracts from the Interaction of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with the media on board his return Special Flight to New Delhi. April 16, 2011.	90	40
*021. Excerpts from the Media Briefing by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on-board his Special Flight en route to New Delhi after attending the UN General Assembly Session. September 27, 2011.	93	43
022. Address by National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon at the Cariappa Memorial Lecture on "The Role of Militaries in International Relations". New Delhi, October 5, 2011.	96	—
*023. Excerpts from Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's address at the Combined Commanders' Conference. New Delhi, October 11, 2011.	105	46
024. Press Note issued by the Ministry of Defence on Defence Minister's address to the Naval Commanders Conference on maritime security. New Delhi, October 12, 2011.	108	—
025. Address of Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the First National Conference on International Relations organized by the Public Diplomacy Division of the Ministry of External Affairs.	109	—
*026. Address by Foreign Secretary at National Defence College on "Security dimensions of India's Foreign Policy". New Delhi, November 23, 2011.	112	49
027. Inaugural Address by External Affairs Minister at Passport Officers' Conference 2011. New Delhi, November 29, 2011.	118	—
*028. Address by National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon at the Gulf Forum 2011 on 'Global Power Shifts and the Role of Rising Powers'. Riyadh, December 5, 2011.	121	55

*029. Statement by Minister of State E. Ahmad at UN Alliance of Civilizations. Doha, December 12, 2011.	124	58
*030. Address by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai at the Conference on "Economic Policies for Emerging Economies". New Delhi, December 14, 2011.	126	61
031. Inaugural Address of Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee at the International Conference on "Economic Policies for Emerging Economies". New Delhi, December 14, 2011.	129	—
032. Address of Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee at the Conference on "Global Economic Situation: New Order Emerging?" in Delhi Economic Conclave. New Delhi, December 15, 2011.	133	—
033. Speech by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the inauguration of Passport Seva Kendras in Andhra Pradesh. Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), December 23, 2011.	136	—

SECTION – II CIVIL NUCLEAR ENERGY

*034. Remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Commissioning of the Power Reactor Fuel Processing Plant. Tarapur, January 7, 2011.	141	67
*035. Meeting of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao with IAEA Director General. Vienna, June 14, 2011.	142	68
*036. Message of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to participants of Global Zero Summit. New Delhi, June 22, 2011.	143	69
037. Extract relevant to Nuclear issue from the Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao by Karan Thapar for Devil's Advocate. New Delhi, July 2, 2011.	144	—
*038. Suo Motu Statement in Lok Sabha by EAM on Nuclear Enrichment and Reprocessing Technology. New Delhi, August 10, 2011.	148	70

CONTENTS**XXXIX**

*039. Information supplied by Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office V. Narayanasamy on Nuclear Liability Law with reference to the Protests against it by energy companies. New Delhi, August 10, 2011.	151	74
040. Statement by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai at the High Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on Nuclear Safety and Security. New York, September 22, 2011.	152	—
041. Rules notified by the Department of Atomic Energy under the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010. New Delhi, November 11, 2011.	152	—
*042. Notification issued by the Department of Atomic Energy notifying the date for coming into effect the the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act 2010. New Delhi, November 11, 2011.	170	75

SECTION – III CLIMATE CHANGE

043. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on India's commitment to move ahead with Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity. New Delhi, February, 10, 2011.	173	—
044. Press Release issued by Ministry of Environment and Forests on the Speech of Minister of State for Environment and Forests at the Basic Countries Conference. New Delhi, February 27, 2011.	175	—
*44A. Joint Statement issued at the Conclusion of Sixth basic Ministerial meeting on Climate Change. New Delhi, February 27, 2011.	177	79
045. Address of Minister of Environment and Forests Jairam Ramesh at the India Today Conclave: "THE WAY TO A GREEN GDP". New Delhi, March 18, 2011.	180	—
*046. Press Release issued by Ministry of Environment and Forests on the Cabinet approval of the signing of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing. New Delhi, April 20, 2011.	184	83

*047.	Joint Statement issued at the conclusion of the Seventh Basic Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change. Zimbali, Durban, May 29, 2011.	186	84
048.	Press Brief issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on the 5-Pronged Approach to fast track climate talks held in Berlin on July 3-4, 2011.	189	—
049.	Press Release issued by Ministry of Environment and Forests on India - US Dialogue on Climate Change. New Delhi, July 19, 2011.	190	—
050.	Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the UN Security Council on "Impact of Climate Change". New York, July 20, 2011.	191	—
051.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on the International Seminar on Environment and Disaster Management. New Delhi, July 21, 2011.	191	—
*052.	Valedictory Address of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the International Seminar on Global Environment and Disaster management. New Delhi, July 24, 2011.	193	88
*053.	Joint Statement issued at the conclusion of the Eighth BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change. Inhotim, Minas Gerais (Brazil), August 26 – 27, 2011.	197	92
054.	Press Release issued by Ministry of Environment and Forests on the Delhi Ministerial Dialogue on Green Economy and Inclusive Growth. New Delhi, September 27, 2011.	201	—
055.	Address by Minister of State for Environment and Forests Ms. Jayanthi Natarajan at the Delhi Ministerial Dialogue on 'Green Economy and Inclusive Growth'. New Delhi, October 3, 2011.	203	—
056.	Press Release on the Delhi Ministerial Dialogue on 'Green Economy and Inclusive Growth'. New Delhi, October 3-4, 2011.	206	—
057.	Chairs' Summary of Delhi Ministerial Dialogue on 'Green Economy and Inclusive Growth'. New Delhi, October 3 – 4, 2011.	208	—
*058.	Press Release issued by Ministry of Environment and Forests on 'Neglected Issues for Durban Discussions'. New Delhi, October 10, 2011.	218	97

CONTENTS		XLI
*059. Joint Statement Issued at the Conclusion of the Ninth BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change. Beijing, November 1, 2011.	221	99
060. Statement by Minister of State for Environment and Forests Ms. Jayanthi Natarajan at the High Level Segment at the 17th Conference of Parties (COP-17). Durban, December 7, 2011.	225	—
061. Intervention by Minister of State for Environment and Forests Jayanthi Natarajan at the Cop-17. Durban, December 10, 2011.	227	—
*062. Statement by Minister of State for Environment and Forests Ms. Jayanthi Natarajan at the Plenary of the COP – MoP. Durban, December 11, 2011.	229	104

SECTION – IV

MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

ASEAN / EAS

*063. Inaugural Address by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at India-ASEAN Delhi Dialogue- III. New Delhi, March 3, 2011.	233	109
*064. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna's visit to Bali for East Asia Summit, Asean Regional Forum Ministerial and other Ministerial meetings. New Delhi, July 20, 2011.	236	112
*065. Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna as Co-Chair at India-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting. Bali, July 22, 2011.	238	114
066. Information provided to Lok Sabha on the Look East Policy of the Ministry of External Affairs. New Delhi, August 10, 2011.	240	—
*067. Media Briefing by Secretary (East) Sanjay Singh on Prime Minister's visits to Bali for the India-ASEAN Summit and the East Asia Summit and to Singapore for a bilateral visit. New Delhi, November 16, 2011.	241	116
*068. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh prior to his departure for Bali for the India-ASEAN Summit and the East Asia Summit and to Singapore for a bilateral visit. New Delhi, November 17, 2011.	248	123

*069. Media briefing by Secretary (East) Sanjay Singh on Prime Minister's engagements in Bali. New Delhi, November 18, 2011.	250	124
*070. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the 9th ASEAN-India Summit. Bali (Indonesia), November 19, 2011.	256	130
*071. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the 6th East Asia Summit Plenary Session. Bali (Indonesia), November 19, 2011.	260	134
*072. Declaration of the East Asia summit on the principles for mutually beneficial relations. Bali, November 19, 2011.	262	136
ASEM		
*073. Intervention by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on Afghan situation at ASEM Foreign Ministers meeting. Godollo (Hungary), June 6, 2011.	264	138
*074. Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at Opening Ceremony of ASEM Foreign Ministers meeting. Godollo (Hungary), June 6, 2011.	266	140
*075. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on non-traditional security threats at ASEM Foreign Ministers meeting. Godollo (Hungary), June 6, 2011.	267	141
*076. Statement by Minister of State E. Ahamed at the 10th Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Ministerial Meeting. Kuwait, October 10, 2011.	269	143
BIMSTEC		
*077. Statement by Minister of State Smt. Preneet Kaur at the Plenary of the 13th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting. Nay Pyi Taw (Myanmar) January 22, 2011.	271	145
BRICS		
078. Address of Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee at the meeting of Ministers of BRICS countries. Paris, February 19, 2011.	275	—
*079. Briefing by Secretary (ER) Manbir Singh and Secretary (East) Sanjay Singh on Prime Minister's visit to China for the BRICS Summit and Kazakhstan for the Bilateral Summit. New Delhi, April 11, 2011.	277	149

CONTENTS

XLIII

*080. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh prior to his departure for China for the BRICS Summit and Kazakhstan for a bilateral visit. New Delhi, April 12, 2011.	290	162
*081. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Joint Press Conference at the BRICS Summit. Sanya (China), April 14, 2011.	291	163
*082. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the plenary session of BRICS Leaders. Sanya (China), April 14, 2011.	293	165
*083. Briefing by Secretary (Economic Relations) Manbir Singh on BRICS Summit. Sanya (China), April 14, 2011.	295	167
*084. Sanya Declaration issued at the end of the Summit of the BRICS countries. Sanya (China), April 14, 2011.	302	174
085. Proposal by India to create a special Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) fund for BRICS. September 15, 2011.	310	—
086. Joint Communiqué issued by the BRICS Finance Ministers' at the end of their Meeting. Washington DC, September 22, 2011.	311	—
CHOGM		
*087. Media briefing by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai on Vice-President's visit to Perth for CHOGM. New Delhi, October 25, 2011.	312	182
*088. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai on Vice-President's engagements at Perth. Perth, October 28, 2011.	322	192
089. Perth Declaration on Food Security Principles. Perth, October 29, 2011.	331	—
090. Communiqué issued at the end of the Conference of the Heads of Government of the Commonwealth Countries (CHOGM). Perth (Australia), October 30, 2011.	334	—
G-20		
091. Remarks of Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee made during the First Session of G-20 Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' meeting. Paris, February 18, 2011.	349	—

092.	Communiqué issued by the G- 20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors at their Conference in Paris. February 18-19, 2011.	351	—
093.	Communiqué issued by the G-20 Finance Ministers and Governor of Central Banks at their meeting at Washington (D.C). April 15, 2011.	355	—
094.	Press Release issued by Ministry of Finance on the views of Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee on the Agenda of G-20 countries dealing effectively with Interrelated issues of Global imbalances, Financial Regulations and the international Monetary System. New Delhi, September 13, 2011.	359	—
095.	Communiqué of the G - 20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors. Washington (D. C), September 23, 2011.	363	—
096.	Intervention of Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee at the G20 Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Dinner Meeting. Washington DC, September 23, 2011.	364	—
097.	Communiqué issued by the Finance Ministers and Ministers of Development of the G-20 countries. Washington (D.C), September 23, 2011.	367	—
*098.	Speech of Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee during G-20 Session on Global Economy and Framework. October 14, 2011.	370	203
*099.	Media Briefing by Deputy-Chairman, Planning Commission Montek Singh Ahluwalia on Prime Minister's visit to Cannes for the G20 Summit. New Delhi, October 29, 2011.	373	206
*100.	Statement of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh prior to his departure for Cannes for the G-20 Summit. New Delhi, November 2, 2011.	385	218
*101.	Remarks of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the G-20 Summit. Cannes (France), November 3, 2011.	386	219
*102.	Signature ceremony of the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax matters. Cannes, November 3, 2011.	389	222

CONTENTS		XLV
*103. Opening statement of Prime Minister at Press Conference in Cannes. November 4, 2011.	390	223
104. G-20 Leaders Summit Communiqué Cannes, November 4, 2011.	392	—
G-24		
105. Intervention by Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee after taking over the Chair of G-24. New York, September 23, 2011.	399	—
IBSA		
106. Communiqué issued by India – Brazil – South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum on the 7th Trilateral Commission Meeting. New Delhi, March 8, 2011.	400	—
*107. Declaration by the IBSA Countries on the situation in the Middle East and Northern Africa. New Delhi, March 8, 2011.	412	225
108. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on IBSA delegation's visit to Damascus and calls on President Assad to discuss situation in Syria. August 11, 2011.	413	—
*109. Joint Statement issued by the IBSA Ministerial meeting held on the margins of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly. New York, September 23, 2011.	415	226
110. Joint Statement issued by IBSA Ministerial Meeting held on the margin of the UN General Assembly Session. New York, September 24, 2011.	417	—
*111. Media Briefing by Secretary (West) M. Ganapathi on Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Pretoria for the IBSA Summit. New Delhi, October 12, 2011.	419	228
*112. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh prior to his departure for Pretoria to attend the IBSA Summit. New Delhi, October 16, 2011.	426	236
*113. Opening Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the plenary session of the IBSA Summit. Pretoria, October 18, 2011.	427	237

*114. Prime Minister's statement to the media after the 5th IBSA Summit. Pretoria, October 18, 2011.	430	240
115. Tshwane Declaration Issued at the end of IBSA Pretoria, October 18, 2011.	433	—
*116. Extracts from the Media interaction by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on board his Special Flight on way back to New Delhi after attending the IBSA Summit in Pretoria. October 19, 2011.	454	243
IOR-AR		
*117. Opening Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the 11th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Indian Ocean Rim - Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC). Bengaluru, November 15, 2011.	456	245
*118. Opening media statement by External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna on the conclusion of the Council of Ministers meeting of IOR –ARC. Bengaluru, November 15, 2011.	458	247
*119. Bengaluru Communiqué issued at the end of the 11th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Indian Ocean Rim - Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC). Bengaluru, November 15, 2011.	460	249
LDC		
120. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the significance of the India - LDCs Ministerial Conference organized by the Ministry. New Delhi, February 16, 2011.	463	—
*121. Press Releases issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the meeting of External Affairs Minister with heads of visiting delegations to India - LDC Ministerial Conference. New Delhi, February 17, 2011.	466	252
122. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on commencement of the INDIA-LDC Ministerial Conference. New Delhi, February 18, 2011.	467	—
*123. Inaugural Address by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at India - Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Ministerial Conference. New Delhi, February, 18, 2011.	469	254

CONTENTS

XLVII

*124. Remarks by Minister of State Mrs. Preneet Kaur at the concluding session of two-days India-LDC Ministerial Conference in New Delhi. New Delhi, February 19, 2011.	472	257
*125. Delhi Declaration issued by the INDIA-LDC Ministerial Conference. New Delhi, February 19, 2011.	474	259
*126. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the UN- LDC IV. Istanbul, May 12, 2011.	477	262
NAM		
127. Statement by Minister of State E. Ahamed at the NAM Ministerial Conference. Bali (Indonesia), May 25, 2011.	481	—
PACIFIC ISLAND FORUM		
128. Statement by Minister of State Smt. Preneet Kaur at the Plenary of the Post-Forum Dialogue Partners' Meeting. Auckland, September 09, 2011.	485	—
SAARC		
*129. Opening Remarks by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao at the 38th Session of the SAARC Standing Committee. Thimphu, February 6, 2011.	486	266
*130. Opening remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the 33rd Session of the SAARC Council of Ministers. Thimphu, February 8, 2011.	489	269
131. Inaugural address by Prime Minister at the 5th Conference of Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians. New Delhi, July 9, 2011.	492	—
*132. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai on Prime Minister's visit to Male for SAARC Summit. New Delhi, November 05, 2011.	495	272
*133. Statement of Prime Minister prior to his departure for Maldives to attend the SAARC Summit. New Delhi, November 9, 2011.	504	282

*134. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Inaugural Session of the XVII SAARC Summit. Addu City (Maldives), November 10, 2011.	506	283
*135. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai on Prime Minister's engagements in Addu City. Addu City (Maldives), November 10, 2011.	510	287
*136. Addu Declaration issued at the conclusion of the Seventeenth SAARC Summit— "Building Bridges". Addu City (Maldives), November 11, 2011.	519	296
*137. Remarks of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on board his special flight from Male to New Delhi. November 12, 2011.	523	300
*138. Briefing by Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs, Joint Secretary (CE) and Joint Secretary (ERS) on visit of Slovenian Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna's visit to to ASTANA for SCO Summit. NEW Delhi, June 13, 2011.	526	303
*139. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the SCO Heads of State Summit. Astana, June 15, 2011.	534	310

SECTION – V DIASPORA

*140. Inaugural speech of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the 9th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. Jaipur, January 8, 2011.	539	315
141. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Valedictory session of the 9th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. Jaipur, January 9, 2011.	543	—
142. Speech by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Indian Community function. Melbourne, January 20, 2011.	545	—
*143. Suo Motu Statement by External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna in Parliament on the efforts undertaken by the Ministry of External Affairs to assist Indians entrapped in crisis situations abroad. New Delhi, February 23, 2011.	546	319

CONTENTS**XLIX**

144.	Press Release issued by Ministry of Overseas Indians on the Fourth Ministerial Consultation of Colombo Process. Dhaka, April 20, 2011.	550	—
145.	Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Indian Community Function. Kuala Lumpur, May 2, 2011.	552	—
146.	Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Indian Community Function in Addis Ababa. Addis Ababa, May 26, 2011.	552	—
147.	Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Reception for the Indian Community at in Dar es Salaam. Dar-es-Salaam, May 26, 2011.	552	—
148.	Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Indian Community Reception. Seoul, July 26, 2011.	552	—
149.	Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Reception hosted by the Indian Ambassador for the Indian Community and Friends of India. Ulaanbaatar, July 27, 2011.	553	—
150.	Press Release issued by Ministry of Overseas Indians regarding the signing of the India – UAE revised Memorandum of Understanding on Manpower. September 13, 2011.	555	—
151.	Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Reception for the Indian Community hosted by Ambassador of India. Geneva, October 2, 1011.	555	—
152.	Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Reception hosted by Ambassador Dinkar Khullar for the Indian community. Vienna, October 5, 2011.	555	—
153.	Press Release issued by Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs on the signing of India – Germany Social Security Agreement. New Delhi, October 13, 2011.	556	—
154.	Press Release issued by Ministry of Home Affairs on the signing of Treaties on Security Cooperation and Exchange of Sentenced Persons between India and UAE. New Delhi, November 23, 2011.	557	—
155.	Press Release issued by Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs making a Year-End-Review of the several Social Security and Labour Agreements signed for Welfare of Overseas Indians. New Delhi, December 30, 2011.	557	—

SECTION – VI

(i) ASIA

156.	Speech of Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee delivered at the Governors' Seminar on "ASIA - 2050" at the Annual Meeting of the Asian Development Bank. Hanoi, May 4, 2011.	567	—
*157.	Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai's media interaction during curtain raiser for 1st meeting of South Asia Forum. New Delhi, August 25, 2011.	569	331
*158.	Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the first meeting of South Asia Forum. New Delhi, September 8, 2011.	578	339
159.	Remarks by Minister of State E. Ahamed at the first meeting of South Asia Forum. New Delhi, September 8, 2011.	580	—
160.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of Defence on the inauguration of the 5th Asian Conference on Cooperative Security by Defence Minister A. K. Antony. New Delhi, November 15, 2011.	582	—
*161.	Keynote Address by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai at the Conference jointly organized by the Ministry of External Affairs-International Institute of Strategic Studies-Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis on Forging Stability in Asia. New Delhi, November 21, 2011.	583	342
*162.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the release of a Report on "South Asia Energy Cooperation and Business Opportunities in the Power Sector" by Secretary (Economic Relations) Sudhir Vyas. New Delhi, November 24, 2011.	589	347

SECTION – VI

(ii) SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

*163.	Remarks by External Affairs Minister at the Press Conference at Kabul. Kabul, January 9, 2011.	593	351
-------	--	-----	-----

CONTENTS**LI**

164.	Interaction of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao with Visiting Afghan Journalists. New Delhi, January 27, 2011.	594	—
*165.	Joint Statement issued during the visit of Afghan President Hamid Karzai. New Delhi, February 3, 2011.	599	352
166.	Statement by Deputy Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri on the situation in Afghanistan at the Security Council. New York, March 17, 2011.	600	—
*167.	Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh prior to his departure for Afghanistan. New Delhi, May 11, 2011.	600	353
*168.	Remarks by Prime Minister at the Banquet Lunch hosted in his honour by the Afghan President Hamid Karzai. Kabul, May 12, 2011.	601	354
*169.	Press Note issued by the Indian Embassy in Kabul on additional assistance to Afghanistan announced by Prime Minister during his visit to Afghanistan. Kabul, May 12, 2011.	602	356
*170.	Joint Declaration issued between India and Afghanistan on the occasion of the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Kabul. Kabul, May 12, 2011.	604	357
*171.	Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the Joint Session of the Afghan Parliament. Kabul, May 13, 2011.	606	360
172.	Press Release issued by Ministry of Culture on the signing of Memorandum of Understanding on Culture. New Delhi, May 27, 2011.	612	—
173.	Press Release issued by Ministry of Defence on the talks between the Indian and Afghan Defence Delegations. New Delhi, June 1, 2011.	613	—
174.	Intervention by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on Afghan situation at ASEM Foreign Ministers meeting. Godollo (Hungary), June 6, 2011.	614	—
*175.	Message of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Afghan President Hamid Karzai conveying his heartfelt condolences on the assassination of Ahmad Wali Karzai. New Delhi, July 12, 2011.	614	366

*176. Welcome remarks by External Affairs Minister during the visit of Prof. Burhanuddin Rabbani. New Delhi, July 14, 2011.	615	366
*177. Press Release on the visit of Chairman of High Peace Council of Afghanistan Prof. Burhanudin Rabbani. New Delhi, July 15, 2011.	615	367
*178. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on Foreign Office Consultations between India and Afghanistan. New Delhi, September 15, 2011.	616	367
*179. Statement of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna offering his Condolences and expressing shock on the assassination of Chairman Burhanudin Rabbani, Chairman of the High Peace Council of Afghanistan. New Delhi, September 20, 2011.	617	369
*180. Press Release issued by Prime Minister's Office condoling the assassination of Afghan leader Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani. New Delhi, September 21, 2011.	618	370
*181. Intervention by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the meeting on new Silk Road in Afghanistan. New York, September 22, 2011.	619	371
182. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on the Situation in Afghanistan at the Security Council. New York, September 29, 2011.	620	—
*183. Statement to the media by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh during visit of President Karzai. New Delhi, October 04, 2011.	621	373
*184. Agreement between India and Afghanistan on Strategic Partnership. New Delhi, October 4, 2011.	624	376
*185. Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at 3rd R.K. Mishra Memorial Lecture delivered by Afghan President Hamid Karzai. New Delhi, October 5, 2011.	630	382
186. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Labour and Employment on the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding for Implementation of a Twin Arrangement for Public Sector Capacity Development in Afghnistan. New Delhi, October 12, 2011.	632	—

CONTENTS**LIII**

*187. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the 'Istanbul Conference on Afghanistan: Security and Cooperation in the Heart of Asia'. Istanbul, November 2, 2011.	634	384
*188. Address by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at International Afghanistan Conference. Bonn, December 5, 2011.	636	387
Bangladesh		
189. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna's meetings at Thimphu. Thimphu, February 7, 2011.	640	—
190. Joint Press Statement issued by Ministry of Culture on India - Bangladesh Meeting on Cultural Cooperation at Secretary-Level. New Delhi, April 7, 2011.	640	—
191. Briefing by Special Secretary (Public Diplomacy) Jayant Prasad on Vice President M. Hamid Ansari's visit to Bangladesh in connection with the 150th Birth Centenary commemoration of Rabindranath Tagore. New Delhi, May 4, 2011.	644	—
192. Media Briefing by High Commissioner for India in Bangladesh Rajeet Mitter on Vice President M. Hamid Ansari's visit to Bangladesh. Dhaka, May 5, 2011.	648	—
193. Address of Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the Inaugural Function of the 150th birth anniversary commemorations of Rabindranath Tagore. Dhaka. May 6, 2011.	654	—
194. Press Release issued by Ministry of Finance on the meeting of Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee with Bangladesh journalists. New Delhi, May 7, 2011.	656	—
195. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the creation of an ICCR's Long Term Tagore Chair at the University of Dhaka. New Delhi, May 17, 2011.	657	—
*196. Remarks by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai at the Joint Press meet in Dhaka. Dhaka, June 7, 2011.	658	393
*197. Extract from Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's interaction with newspaper editors. New Delhi, June 29, 2011.	660	395

*198. Statement of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to Media prior to his departure for Bangladesh. New Delhi, July 4, 2011.	662	396
*199. Press Release issued by Prime Minister's Office on the Telephonic Conversation between Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. New Delhi, July 4, 2011.	663	398
*200. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on arrival at Dhaka airport. July 6, 2011.	664	399
*201. Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Joint Press interaction in Dhaka. Dhaka, July 7, 2011.	665	400
*202. Address by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at Bangladesh Institute of International & Strategic Studies. Dhaka, July 8, 2011.	668	403
*203. Ceremony to hand over Cyclone resistant Core shelters in Bangladesh to affected families. Dhaka, July 12, 2011.	672	407
*204. Interview of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with the Bangladesh news agency Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) on his upcoming visit to Bangladesh. New Delhi, September 5, 2011.	673	408
*205. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai on Prime Minister's visit to Bangladesh. New Delhi, September 5, 2011.	676	411
*206. Response of Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai to questions regarding Teesta Agreement. New Delhi, September 5, 2011.	688	423
*207. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh prior to his departure for Bangladesh. New Delhi, September 5, 2011.	689	424
*208. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai during Prime Minister's visit to Bangladesh. Dhaka, September 6, 2011.	690	425
*209. Statement of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at joint media interaction with Prime Minister of Bangladesh. Dhaka, September 06, 2011.	696	431

CONTENTS**LV**

*210. Speech of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Banquet hosted in his honour by Prime Minister of Bangladesh. Dhaka, September 6, 2011.	698	433
211. Fact Sheet on Agreements and other MOUs signed between India and Bangladesh. September 6, 2011.	700	—
*212. Framework Agreement on Cooperation for Development between India and Bangladesh. Dhaka, September 6, 2011.	706	435
*213. Protocol to the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh concerning the demarcation of the Land Boundary between India and Bangladesh and Related Matters. Dhaka, September 6, 2011.	709	438
*214. Addendum to MOU between India and Bangladesh to facilitate overland transit traffic between Bangladesh and Nepal. Dhaka September 6, 2011.	714	443
215. Memorandum, of Understanding between India and Bangladesh on Conservation of the Sundarban. Dhaka, September 6, 2011.	716	—
216. PROTOCOL on Conservation of the Royal Bengal Tiger of the Sunderban between the Government of the Republic of India and Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Dhaka, September 6, 2011.	719	—
217. Memorandum of Understanding between India and Bangladesh on co-operation in the field of Fisheries. Dhaka, September 6, 2011.	721	—
218. Memorandum of Understanding between Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India and University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Dhaka, September 6, 2011.	724	—
219. Memorandum of Understanding between India and Bangladesh on mutual broadcast of Television Programmes. Dhaka, September 6, 2011.	726	—

220.	Memorandum of Understanding on Academic Cooperation between National Institute of Fashion Technology New Delhi, India and BGMEA Institute of Fashion and Technology Dhaka – Bangladesh. Dhaka, September 6, 2011.	728	—
*221.	Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Dhaka University. Dhaka, September 7, 2011.	736	446
*222.	Joint Statement issued on the occasion of the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Bangladesh. Dhaka, September 7, 2011.	743	453
*223.	Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to Tin Bigha Enclave. New Delhi, October 19, 2011.	753	463
*224.	Response of the Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs to questions relating to Dhaka's concern on possible adverse impact of Tipaimukh Project on Bangladesh. New Delhi, November 22, 2011.	754	464
225.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of Defence on the visit of Bangladesh Army Chief General Mohammad Abdul Mubeen. New Delhi, November 29, 2011.	756	—
226.	Statement by Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External on the death of Bangladesh nationals near India - Bangladesh border. New Delhi, December 20, 2011.	757	—
BHUTAN			
*227.	Press Briefings by Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs on External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna's meetings at Thimphu. Thimphu, February 7, 2011.	758	466
*228.	Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai's first official visit to Bhutan. Thimphu, August 18, 2011.	761	469
*229.	Press Release issued by Ministry of Home Affairs on the India – Bhutan Secretary level meeting to review the India-Bhutan Border and Security Issues. New Delhi, September 15, 2011.	762	469

CONTENTS

LVII

- *230. Messages of felicitations on the Royal Wedding in Bhutan. 762 470
New Delhi, October 13, 2011
- *231. Joint media statement on State Visit of King of Bhutan to 763 470
India.
New Delhi, October 31, 2011.

MALDIVES

- *232. Media Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna 764 472
prior to his departure for Maldives.
New Delhi, July 28, 2011.
- *233. Remarks by External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna at Joint 765 472
Press Conference at Male.
Male, July 28, 2011.
- *234. Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the 766 474
People's *Majlis*.
Male, November 12, 2011.
- *235. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at media 771 479
interaction with President of Maldives.
Male, November 12, 2011.
- *236. Remarks by the Prime Minister at the Official Luncheon 773 481
hosted by the President of Maldives.
November 12, 2011.
- *237. Joint Statement issued on the occasion of the bilateral visit 775 483
of the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh to Maldives.
Male, November 12, 2011.
- *238. Framework Agreement on Cooperation for Development 779 487
between the Government of the Republic of India and the
Government of the Republic of Maldives.
Male, November 12, 2011.

NEPAL

- *239. Response of Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External 782 490
Affairs to media report on likely resumption of arms supply
by India to Nepal.
New Delhi, January 17, 2011.
240. Remarks by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on 783 —
arrival at Kathmandu.
January 18, 2011.
- *241. Felicitations from Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to 784 491
Nepalese Prime Minister on his election to the High Office
of Prime Minister of Nepal.
New Delhi, February 4, 2011.

*242. Press Release issued by Embassy of India in Kathmandu on the Official Visit of Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao to Nepal. Kathmandu, January 20, 2011.	784	491
*243. Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on arrival in Kathmandu. April 20, 2011.	786	493
*244. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna during his interaction with Media. Kathmandu, April 21, 2011.	787	494
*245. Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to media at the end of his visit to Kathmandu. Kathmandu, April 22, 2011.	789	496
246. Press Release on the visit of Nepalese woman Parliamentarians to India. New Delhi, August 10, 2011.	792	—
*247. Felicitations from Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh for Baburam Bhattarai on his appointment as Prime Minister of Nepal. New Delhi, August 29, 2011.	793	499
*248. Statement by the Ministry of External Affairs welcoming 7-Point Agreement reached among political parties in Nepal. New Delhi, November 2, 2011.	794	500
*249. Speech by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Banquet hosted in honour of the visiting Nepalese Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai. New Delhi, October 21, 2011.	795	501
250. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Finance on the meeting between Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee and the visiting Nepalese Finance Minister Barsha Man Pun. New Delhi, October 22, 2011.	797	—
251. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry on the increase in the trade between India and Nepal. New Delhi, October 22, 2011.	798	—
*252. Joint Press Statement issued on the visit of Nepalese Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai. New Delhi, October 23, 2011.	799	503
*253. Remarks by Foreign Secretary on arrival at Kathmandu Kathmandu, November 26, 2011.	806	509

CONTENTS**LIX**

254. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Finance on the remarks by Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee on the signing of the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement with Nepal. New Delhi, November 27, 2011.	806	—
PAKISTAN		
255. Exchange of lists of Nuclear Installations and facilities between India and Pakistan. New Delhi, January 1, 2011.	809	—
*256. Telephonic Talk between External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna and Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Qureshi. New Delhi, January 25, 2011.	809	510
*257. Press Release on the meeting between the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan in Thimphu. February 6, 2011.	810	511
*258. Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao with the Pakistan T.V. Thimphu, February 8, 2011.	811	512
259. Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao with the TV channel 'Times Now'. Thimphu, February 8, 2011.	812	—
260. Interaction of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao with Media at Thimphu. February 8, 2011.	816	—
*261. Agreed Outcome of India Pakistan Foreign Secretary level talks in Thimphu. February 10, 2011.	822	513
*262. Official Spokesperson on remarks by Pak Foreign Ministry Spokesperson on the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee report. New Delhi, February 25, 2011.	824	515
*263. Invitations from Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Pakistan President Zardari and Prime Minister Gilani inviting them to watch Mohali cricket match of the World Cup series between India and Pakistan at Mohali. New Delhi, March 25, 2011.	825	516
264. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs unilaterally extending period of stay in J & K to six months. New Delhi, March 26, 2011.	825	—

265.	Joint Statement issued following India-Pakistan Home/ Interior Secretary level talks. New Delhi, March 29, 2011.	826	—
*266.	Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs condemning tragic assassination of Pak Federal Minister Shahbaz Bhatti. New Delhi, March 2, 2011.	828	517
*267.	Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the media on the visit of Pakistan Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani. Mohali (Punjab), March 30, 2011.	828	517
*268.	Statements by Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan. Chandigarh/Mohali (Punjab), March 30, 2011.	829	518
*269.	Media briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on talks between the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan while watching the India - Pak Cricket Match. Chandigarh/Mohali (Punjab), March 30, 2011.	830	519
*270.	Speech of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the dinner hosted in honour of Pakistan Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani. Mohali (Punjab), March 30, 2011.	835	524
271.	Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao by Mr. Karan Thapar for TV Programme 'India Tonight'. New Delhi, April 5, 2011.	837	—
*272.	Response of External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna to questions on reports of presence of foreign troops in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. New Delhi, April 6, 2011.	846	526
*273.	Response of Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs to reported plea taken by Tahawwur Hussain Rana in a U. S court. New Delhi, April 14, 2011.	847	527
274.	Joint Press Statement of Fourth Meeting of India Pak Judicial Committee on Prisoners. Lahore, April 22, 2011.	848	
*275.	Agreed minutes of the 5th round of talks on commercial and economic cooperation between the Commerce Secretaries of India and Pakistan. Islamabad, April 28, 2011.	849	528
276.	Joint Statement on India-Pakistan Talks on Tulbul Navigation Project/Wullar Barrage. Islamabad, May 13, 2011.	853	—

CONTENTS**LXI**

277.	Joint Statement issued on Pakistan - India Talks on Sir Creek Issue. Rawalpindi, May 21, 2011.	854	—
278.	Joint Statement issued on Defence Secretary Level Talks between India and Pakistan on Siachen. New Delhi, May 31, 2011.	855	—
279.	Joint Press Statement issued by the India - Pakistan Joint Working Group on Visa Matters. Islamabad, June 3, 2011.	856	—
280.	Security Provided to ship MV Suez released by Pirates and safe return of Indian sailors. Response of Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs on the role of Indian navy ships in providing security to MV SUEZ. New Delhi, June 17, 2011.	856	—
*281.	Extract from the Statement of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to media prior to his departure for Myanmar. New Delhi, June 20, 2011.	859	533
*282.	Response of Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs to OIC's incorrect description of Indian state of J&K. New Delhi, June 22, 2011.	860	534
*283.	Statement by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on arrival in Islamabad. Islamabad, June 23, 2011.	860	534
*284.	Joint Press Briefing by Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan. Islamabad, June 24, 2011.	861	535
*285.	Joint Statement issued on the Meeting between the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan. Islamabad, June 24, 2011.	865	539
*286.	Response of Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs to the gratuitous references by OIC to Indian State of J&K. New Delhi, July 1, 2011.	866	540
287.	Extract relevant to Pakistan from the Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao by Mr. Karan Thapar for Devil's Advocate. New Delhi, July 2, 2011.	867	—
288.	Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the Meeting of the India-Pakistan Joint Working Group on Cross LoC CBMs. New Delhi, July 18, 2011.	871	—

*289. Felicitation by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to the newly appointed Pakistan Foreign Minister Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar. New Delhi, July 20, 2011.	872	541
*290. Joint Statement issued after a meeting between Home Minister P. Chidambaram and Pakistan Interior Minister A Rehman Malik. Thimphu, July 24, 2011.	872	542
*291. Response of Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs on the meeting between Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan. New Delhi, July 26, 2011.	873	542
*292. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs with Welcome remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on arrival of Foreign Minister of Pakistan Hina Rabbani Khar. New Delhi, July 27, 2011.	873	543
*293. Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at Press Stakeout with Foreign Minister of Pakistan. New Delhi, July 27, 2011.	874	543
*294. Press Interaction of Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan. New Delhi, July 27, 2011.	875	545
*295. Joint Statement issued following meeting between External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna and Pakistan Foreign Minister Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar. New Delhi, July 27, 2011.	881	551
*296. Suo Motu Statement in Parliament by EAM on "Visit of Foreign Minister of Pakistan to India" . New Delhi, August 3, 2011.	886	555
297. Statement made by Minister of State Mrs. Preneet Kaur in Lok Sabha in reply to a question on Pakistan. New Delhi, August 10, 2011.	889	—
297A. Statement made by Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jyotiraditya Scindia in Rajya Sabha on trade with Pakistan. New Delhi, August 10, 2011.	889	—
298. Information provided by Ministry of Commerce & Industry regarding India - Pakistan Trade in the Rajya Sabha. New Delhi, September 7, 2011.	890	—

CONTENTS**LXIII**

*299. Joint Statement issued at the end of talks between the Commerce Ministers of India and Pakistan. New Delhi, September 28, 2011.	891	559
300. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the India – Pakistan Business Conclave. New Delhi, September 29, 2011.	893	—
301. Joint Press Statement issued after the meeting of the India - Pakistan Joint Working Group on Visa Matters. New Delhi, October 14, 2011.	895	—
*302. Appreciation by India of Pakistan's role in the safe return of Indian Army Helicopter which had strayed across the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir. New Delhi, October 23, 2011.	896	562
*303. Press Statements made by the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan after their meeting on the sidelines of the SAARC Summit. Addu (Maldives), November 10, 2011.	897	563
*304. Press Release issued by Prime Minister's Office on Prime Minister's meeting with Pakistan Prime Minister. Addu (Maldives), November 10, 2011.	898	564
*305. Extract relevant to Pakistan from the media briefing by Foreign Secretary on Prime Minister's engagement during the SAARC Summit. Addu City (Maldives), November 10, 2011.	899	565
*306. Extract relevant to Pakistan from the Remarks of Prime Minister Dr.Manmohan Singh on board his special flight from Male to New Delhi. November 12, 2011.	904	570
307. Joint Statement issued after India – Pakistan talks on Commercial and Economic Cooperation. New Delhi, November 15, 2011.	905	—
308. Excerpts from the Interview of Commerce Secretary Rahul Khullar with the fortnightly FRONTLINE on MFN. Chennai, November 19 – December 2, 2011.	916	—
309. Homage by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to victims of 26/11. New Delhi, November 26, 2011.	918	—
310. Joint Statement issued on the 5th Round of India-Pakistan Expert Level Talks on Conventional CBMs. Islamabad, December 26, 2011.	919	—

311.	Joint Statement on the Sixth Round of India-Pakistan Expert Level Talks on Nuclear CBMs. Islamabad, December 27, 2011.	920	—
SRI LANKA			
312.	Response of Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs to reports of death of an Indian fisherman due to firing by Sri Lankan Navy. New Delhi, January 13, 2011.	920	—
*313.	Joint Statement issued during the visit of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao to Sri Lanka. Colombo. January 31, 2011.	922	573
314.	Press Briefing by Official Spokesperson on External Affairs Minister's meetings in Thimphu. Thimphu, February 7, 2011.	923	—
*315.	Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the meeting convened by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on the question of fishing in the waters between India and Sri Lanka. New Delhi, February 26, 2011.	923	575
316.	Press Release issued by Ministry of External affairs on the Construction of a Hospital at Dickoya in Sri Lanka. New Delhi, March 9, 2011.	925	—
317.	Joint Statement issued on the Meeting of India - Sri Lanka Joint Working Group on Fisheries. New Delhi, March 29, 2011.	926	—
*318.	Response of Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs to the Report on Sri Lankan conflict by panel appointed by UN Secretary General. April 26, 2011.	928	576
*319.	Remarks of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna welcoming Sri Lankan Minister for External Affairs Prof. G.L. Peiris. New Delhi, May 16, 2011.	928	577
*320.	Joint Press Statement issued on the visit of Sri Lankan External Affairs Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris. New Delhi, May 17, 2011.	929	578
*321.	Response of Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs to Channel - 4 News Documentary on 'Sri Lanka's Killing Fields. New Delhi, July 15, 2011.	932	581

CONTENTS**LXV**

*322. Response of Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs to questions on UN Secretary General's Panel of Expert's Report on Sri Lanka. New Delhi, July 15, 2011.	932	581
323. Address by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao at the Inaugural Session of the International Conference on Fisheries organized by the Observer Research Foundation. New Delhi, July 18, 2011.	933	—
*324. Suo Motu Statement in Lok Sabha by External Affairs Minister on "The Situation in Sri Lanka". New Delhi, August 4, 2011.	937	582
*325. Excerpts from the Statement by External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna in the Lok Sabha on "the steps taken by GOI for relief and resettlement of Tamils in Sri Lanka". New Delhi, August 26, 2011.	940	585
*326. Extract relevant to Sri Lanka from the Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary in Addu City, Maldives during the SAARC Summit. Addu City (Maldives), November 10, 2011.	945	591
*327. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the Cabinet decision conveying approval to the reconstruction and repair of houses for the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) of Tamil Origin in Sri Lanka. New Delhi, December 1, 2011.	947	593
*328. Response of Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs to the 'Report of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission of Sri Lanka'. New Delhi, December 25, 2011.	948	594
329. Response of Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs to questions on 'Indian fishermen currently stranded in Sri Lanka due to adverse weather conditions'. New Delhi, December 27, 2011.	950	—

SECTION – VI**(iii) SOUTH EAST, EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC****AUSTRALIA**

*330. Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (South) Arun Goel on External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna's visit to Australia. New Delhi, January 18, 2011.	953	599
--	-----	-----

*331. Opening Remarks of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Seventh India-Australia Ministers' Framework Dialogue. Melbourne, January 20, 2011.	959	605
332. Speech by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Indian Community function. Melbourne, January 20, 2011.	961	—
*333. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to the Indian Media at Melbourne. Melbourne, January 20, 2011.	963	607
*334. Joint Statement issued on the conclusion of the Australia-India Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue. Melbourne, January 20, 2011.	964	608
*335. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on Cabinet approval for the opening of a new Consulate General at Perth in Australia. New Delhi, April 6, 2011.	970	614
*336. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce & Industry on the conclusion of the 13th Session of the Australia – India Joint Ministerial Commission in Canberra. New Delhi, May 12, 2011.	970	614
337. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the ICCR's Annual 'Rajiv Gandhi Visiting Chair of Contemporary Indian Studies' at the University of Technology, Sydney. New Delhi, May 20, 2011.	972	—
338. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the 3rd Meeting of India-Australia Joint Working Group on Consular, Passport and Visa Matters. New Delhi, June 23, 2011.	973	—
*339. Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Inauguration of Consulate General of India at Perth, Perth, October 26, 2011.	975	616
340. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the Australian proposal to sell Uranium to India and cooperation in other fields. New Delhi, November 7, 2011.	977	—
*341. Response of Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs regarding Australian proposal on trilateral pact between India, US and Australia. New Delhi, December 1, 2011.	978	619

CONTENTS**LXVII**

*342. Response of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to the decision of the Australian Labour Party to clear path for Uranium sales to India. Frankfurt, December 4, 2011.	980	620
343. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Defence on the discussions with the visiting Australian Defence Minister Stephen Smith. New Delhi, December 7, 2011.	981	—
BRUNEI		
344. Press Release issued by High Commission of India in Brunei on the visit of Minister of State E. Ahamed to Brunei. Bandar Seri Begawan, September 26, 2011.	982	—
CHINA		
*345. Response of Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs to reports of alleged Chinese intrusion in the Demchok area in Ladakh. New Delhi, January 10, 2011.	983	621
*346. Statement of Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs in response to questions on stapled Chinese visa for Indian citizens domiciled in Arunachal Pradesh. New Delhi, January 12, 2011.	984	622
347. Speech by Foreign Secretary on “Prospects and Challenges of India - China Interactions in the 21st Century” at the India China Institute, The New School, New York. New York, February 12, 2011.	985	—
*348. Interview of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the Chinese news agency Xinhua. April 12, 2011.	997	623
*349. Briefing by National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon on Prime Minister's meetings with Chinese and Russian Presidents. Sanya (China), April 13, 2011.	999	625
350. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the meeting between Minister Anand Sharma and Chinese Governor of Sichuan Province Jiang Jufeng.	1005	—
351. Press Release issued by Ministry of Defence regarding role of Indian Navy in rescuing Chinese merchant vessel. New Delhi, May 6, 2011.	1006	—
352. Reports of construction of a Dam on Brahmaputra River by China. June 14, 2011.	1007	—

353.	Information provided to Rajya Sabha on the bilateral trade between India and China. New Delhi, August 3, 2011.	1008	—
*354.	Response of Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs on an incident involving INS Airavat in South China Sea. New Delhi, September 1, 2011.	1009	632
*355.	Agreed Minutes of the 1st India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue held in Beijing. Beijing, September 26, 2011.	1010	633
*356.	Response of Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs to media report of Chinese intrusions on India - China border. New Delhi, September 29, 2011.	1013	636
357.	Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on India – China Trade. New Delhi, November 3, 2011.	1014	—
*358.	Extract Relevant to China from the Media Briefing by Secretary (East) Sanjay Singh at Bali. Bali, November 18, 2011.	1015	637
*359.	Response of Official Spokesperson to questions of dates for the India and China Border Talks between the Special Representatives of the two countries. New Delhi, November 25, 2011.	1018	640

INDONESIA

360.	Speech by President Pratibha Devisigh Patil at the Banquet hosted by her in honour of the Indonesian President Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. New Delhi, January 25, 2011.	1019	—
*361.	Joint Statement issued on the visit of Indonesian President: "Vision for the India-Indonesia New Strategic Partnership over the coming decade". New Delhi, January 25, 2011.	1021	641
362.	Agreements signed during the State Visit of President of Indonesia. New Delhi, January 25, 2011.	1026	—
363.	Joint Statement issued on the visit of Minister of Commerce and Industry Anand Sharma to Indonesia. Jakarta, October 4, 2011.	1031	—

CONTENTS**LXIX****JAPAN**

364.	Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the call by Minister Anand Sharma on Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan prior to the signing of the the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). February 15, 2011.	1032	—
365.	Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the signing of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CEPA) with Japan. New Delhi, February 16, 2011.	1033	—
*366.	Message of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to his Japanese counterpart condoling loss of life during the Tsunami and earth quack and offering necessary help. New Delhi, March 11, 2011.	1035	647
*367.	Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in Parliament on the earth quake and tsunami in Japan.. New Delhi, March 14, 2011.	1035	647
*368.	Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the wide-ranging Foreign Office consultations held by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao in Tokyo. Tokyo, April 8, 2011.	1037	649
*369.	Press Release issued by Ministry of Finance on Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee's talks with the Japanese Finance Minister. Hanoi, May 5, 2011.	1038	650
*370.	Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the joint media interaction with Japanese Foreign Minister. Tokyo, October 29, 2011.	1040	652
371.	Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the meeting of Commerce Minister Anand Sharma with a Delegation of Senior Japanese Editors. New Delhi, November 1, 2011.	1042	—
*372.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the 3rd India-Japan Dialogue on Africa. New Delhi, November 28, 2011.	1043	654
*373.	Briefing by Officer on Special Duty (XP) Syed Akbaruddin and Joint Secretary (East Asia) Gautam Bambawale on Japanese Prime Minister's visit. New Delhi, December 26, 2011.	1044	655
*374.	Opening Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna during the Address by the Japanese Prime Minister on India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership. New Delhi, December 28, 2011.	1051	662

*375. Remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh during joint media interaction with Prime Minister of Japan. New Delhi, December 28, 2011.	1053	664
376. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry on trade with Japan. New Delhi, December 28, 2011.	1055	—
*377. Joint Statement on the 'Vision for the Enhancement of India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership' upon entering the year of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of Diplomatic Relations. New Delhi, December 28, 2011.	1057	666

KOREA, REPUBLIC OF

378. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the meeting of the India – Korea Business Forum. New Delhi, January 20, 2011.	1066	—
379. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on India – Korea Ministerial joint Committee discussion on Bilateral Trade, Economic Cooperation and Progress in Doha Round. New Delhi, January 20, 2011.	1068	—
*380. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson & Joint Secretary (East Asia) on President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil's State visits to Republic of Korea and Mongolia. New Delhi, July 22, 2011.	1069	675
*381. Statement of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil to the media on board her Special Flight to South Korea and Mongolia. July 24, 2011.	1074	680
382. Briefing by Secretary (East) Sanjay Singh on President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil's engagements in Republic of Korea. Seoul, July 25, 2011.	1076	—
383. Agreements signed during the visit of the President of India to Republic of Korea. Seoul, July 25, 2011.	1081	—
384. Speech of President Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted in her honour by the President of the Republic of Korea Lee Myung – Bak. Seoul, July 25, 2011.	1082	—
385. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Business Interaction by Korean Business Chambers. Seoul, July 26, 2011.	1084	—

CONTENTS**LXXI**

386. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Indian Community Reception. Seoul, July 26, 2011. 1086 —

KOREA, D.P.R.

387. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on humanitarian assistance provided to Democratic People's Republic of Korea. New Delhi, July 5, 2011. 1088 —
388. Condolence message of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on the demise of General Secretary Kim Jong Il of the DPRK. New Delhi, December 20, 2011. 1089 —

MALAYSIA

389. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the signing of the India - Malaysia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA). Kuala Lumpur, February 18, 2011. 1089 —
- *390. Briefing by Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Malaysian Dy. Prime Minister. New Delhi, March 10, 2011. 1091 684
391. Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Indian Community Function. Kuala Lumpur, May 2, 2011. 1097 —
- *392. Interview of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna with Paul Gabriel of the Malaysian Paper *The Star of Malaysia*. Kuala Lumpur, May 3, 2011. 1099 690
- *393. Statement to media by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on the conclusion of the 5th India - Malaysia Joint Commission Meeting. Kuala Lumpur, May 3, 2011. 1103 695

MONGOLIA

394. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the Third Meeting of the India-Mongolia Joint Committee on Cooperation. Ulaanbaatar, May 31, 2011. 1105 —

395.	Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson & Joint Secretary (East Asia) on President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil's State visits to Republic of Korea and Mongolia. New Delhi, July 22,2011.	1106	—
396.	Statement by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil to the Press at Ulaanbaatar. July 28, 2011.	1107	—
*397.	Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted in her honour by the Mongolian President T. Elbegdorj. Ulaanbaatar, July 28, 2011.	1109	697
398.	Agreements signed during the visit of the President of India to Mongolia. Ulaanbaatar, July 28, 2011.	1111	—
399.	Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Business meeting. Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, July 29, 2011	1112	—
*400.	Statement to the Media by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil onboard the special air craft on her way back from her state visits to the Republic of Korea and Mongolia. On Board Special Aircraft, July 30,2011.	1115	700
Myanmar			
*401.	Earth Quack in Myanmar and India's sympathies, condolences and offer of help: March 25,26, 29, 2011	1118	703
*402.	Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to media prior to his departure for Myanmar. New Delhi, June 20, 2011.	1119	704
*403.	Extract from the Statement of External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna to media prior to his departure for Myanmar. New Delhi, June 20, 2011.	1120	705
*404.	Media Report on the visit of External Affairs Minister to Myanmar. May Pyi Taw, June 22, 2011.	1121	706
405.	Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the 4th meeting of the India – Myanmar Joint Trade Commission. New Delhi, September 27, 2011.	1123	—

CONTENTS**LXXIII**

*406. Media briefing by Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs and Joint Secretary (BSM) on the State Visit of President of Myanmar. New Delhi, October 13, 2011.	1124	708
*407. Joint Statement issued on the occasion of the State Visit of the President of Myanmar U Thein Sein. New Delhi, October 14, 2011.	1137	721
*408. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted by her in honour of the President of the Republic of Myanmar U. Thein Sein. New Delhi, October 14, 2011.	1145	729
*409. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Parliamentary Delegation led by Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) Myanmar Parliament. New Delhi, December 12, 2011.	1147	731
NEW ZEALAND		
*410. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on the visit of Prime Minister of New Zealand. New Delhi, June 27, 2011.	1148	732
*411. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh during the State Visit of Prime Minister John Key of New Zealand New Delhi, June 28, 2011.	1152	735
412. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the meeting between Minister Anand Sharma and New Zealand Prime Minister John Key to enhance prospects of greater trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. New Delhi, June 28, 2011.	1153	—
*413. Joint Statement issued on the State Visit of Prime Minister of New Zealand John Key. New Delhi, June 28, 2011.	1155	737
PHILIPPINES		
414. Press Release issued by Ministry of Finance on the visit of Finance Minister of the Philippines Cesar V. Purisima. New Delhi, October 17, 2011.	1158	—
SINGAPORE		
*415. Remarks of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the presentation of a bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore to the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies and the Indian Heritage Centre, Singapore. Singapore, May 5, 2011.	1159	740

416.	Media Briefing by Secretary (East) Sanjay Singh on Prime Minister's visits to Bali for the India – ASEAN Summit, the East Asia Summit and to Singapore for a bilateral visit. New Delhi, November 16, 2011.	1160	—
417.	Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh prior to his departure for the India – ASEAN Summit, the East Asia Summit and to Singapore for a bilateral visit. New Delhi, November 17, 2011.	1160	—
*418.	Remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Unveiling of the Jawaharlal Nehru Bust and Commemorative Marker in Singapore. Singapore, November 20, 2011.	1161	742
*419.	Speech of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the lunch hosted by the Prime Minister of Singapore. Singapore, November 20, 2011.	1162	744
*420.	Statement on the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Singapore. Singapore, November 20, 2011.	1164	746
THAILAND			
*421.	Briefing by Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs on Thai Prime Minister's visit to India. New Delhi, April 4, 2011.	1165	747
*422.	Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to media during the visit of Thai Prime Minister. New Delhi, April 5, 2011.	1171	753
423.	Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the growing economic cooperation between India and Thailand. New Delhi, April 5, 2011.	1172	—
*424.	Joint Statement issued on the conclusion of the State visit of Prime Minister of Thailand Abhisit Vejjajiva. New Delhi, April 5, 2011.	1174	754
*425.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Foreign Minister of Thailand. New Delhi, December 27, 2011.	1178	758
VIETNAM			
426.	Press Release issued by Ministry of Finance on the bilateral meeting between Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee and Vietnamese Prime Minister in Hanoi. May 4, 2011.	1179	—

CONTENTS**LXXV**

*427. Extract from Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs on EAM visit to Hanoi. New Delhi, September 15, 2011.	1180	760
*428. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs on External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna's visit to Hanoi for the 14th India - Vietnam Joint Commission meeting. New Delhi, September 15, 2011.	1183	762
*429. Remarks by External Affairs Minister at inauguration of IT Advanced Resource Center at Hanoi. September 16, 2011.	1189	768
*430. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs and Joint Secretary (South) Arun Goel on the visit of Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang. New Delhi, October 11, 2011.	1190	769
*431. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the Media during the visit of President of Vietnam. New Delhi, October 12, 2011.	1199	778
*432. Joint Statement issued on the occasion of the visit of the President of Vietnam Truong Tan Sang. New Delhi, October 12, 2011.	1201	780
433. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted by her in honour of Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang. New Delhi, October 12, 2011.	1205	—

SECTION – VI

(iv) WEST AND CENTRAL ASIA

434. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the Open Debate on the Middle East at the Security Council. New York, January 19, 2011.	1209	—
435. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on the UN Security Council open debate on the Middle East. New York, July 26, 2011.	1209	—
436. Statement by India at The High Level Event on Conflict Prevention Being Organised by Lebanon, Presidency of the Security Council. New York, September 22, 2011.	1209	—

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--|------|-----|
| 437. | Press Release issued by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs on the Conference of Heads of Mission to Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.
New Delhi, November 25, 2011. | 1210 | — |
| ARMENIA | | | |
| 438. | Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the meeting of the Fifth India-Armenia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific & Technological, Cultural and Education Cooperation and the Foreign Office Consultations at Yerevan from October 31 to November 1, 2011.
New Delhi, November 2, 2011. | 1211 | — |
| AZERBAIJAN | | | |
| 439. | Press Release issued by Embassy of India in Baku regarding India-Azerbaijan Foreign Office Consultations.
Baku, September 24, 2011. | 1213 | — |
| BAHRAIN | | | |
| 440. | Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the Call by Ambassador of India in Bahrain on Prime Minister of Bahrain on the safety of Indian nationals in that country.
New Delhi, March 17, 2011. | 1214 | — |
| *441. | Remarks of Minister of State E. Ahamed welcoming the Foreign Minister of Bahrain Shaikh Khalid Bin Ahmed on his visit to India.
New Delhi, March 30, 2011. | 1215 | 789 |
| IRAN | | | |
| 442. | Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Hardeep Singh Puri in the UN Security Council meeting to hear the briefing by the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to Resolution 1737 (Iran Sanctions Committee).
New York, March 17, 2011. | 1216 | — |
| 443. | Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the Security Council briefing on the Iranian Sanctions (1737) Committee.
New York, June 23, 2011. | 1217 | — |
| *444. | Press Release issued by Embassy of India in Iran on the visit of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao to Iran for Foreign Office Consultations.
Tehran, July 6, 2011. | 1217 | 791 |

KAZAKHSTAN

445. Media Briefing by Secretary (ER) Manbir Singh and Secretary (East) Sanjay Singh on Prime Minister's visit to China for the BRICS Summit and Kazakhstan for the bilateral visit. New Delhi, April 11, 2011.	1218	—
*446. Interview of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Kazakhstanskya Pravda and Egremen Kazakhstan. Astana, April 15, 2011.	1218	792
*447. Interaction of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with Kazakh Media. Astana, April 15, 2011.	1221	795
*448. Opening Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh during the media interaction. Istana, April 16, 2011.	1222	796
*449. Briefing by Secretary (East) on Prime Minister's meeting with the Kazakh President. Astana, April 16, 2011.	1224	798
*450. Remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the luncheon hosted by President of Kazakhstan. Istana, April 16, 2011.	1227	801
*451. Joint Statement issued on the conclusion of the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Kazakhstan. Astana, April 16, 2011.	1228	802
452. Bilateral agreements concluded during PM's visit to Kazakhstan. Astana, April 16, 2011.	1232	—

KYRGYZSTAN

453. Press Release issued by Ministry of Defence on the training of Kyrgyz Armed Forces in UN Peace Keeping Operations to expand Defence Cooperation. New Delhi, July 5, 2011.	1235	—
454. Press Release issued by Ministry of Defence on opening of India-assisted High Altitude Bio-Medical Research Centre in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. New Delhi, July 5, 2011.	1236	—
*455. Press Release issued on the Foreign Office Consultations between India and Kyrgyzstan. New Delhi, August 5, 2011.	1238	807

OMAN

- | | | |
|---|------|-----|
| *456. Press Release issued by Ministry of Defence on the extension of bilateral MOU on Military Cooperation with Oman.
New Delhi, December 28, 2011. | 1239 | 808 |
|---|------|-----|

PALESTINE

- | | | |
|---|------|-----|
| 457. Speech by Minister of State Mrs. Preneet Kaur at International Solidarity Day with Palestinians.
New Delhi, January 28, 2011. | 1240 | — |
| 458. Explanation of Vote delivered by Acting Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri on February 18, 2011 after the Vote on draft resolution S/2011/24 on "Settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territories."
New York, February 18, 2011. | 1243 | — |
| 459. Statement by Acting Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri on the "Situation in the Middle East including the Palestinian Question" in the Security Council.
New York, April 21, 2011. | 1243 | — |
| *460. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs welcoming Fatah-Hamas Reconciliation.
New Delhi, May 6, 2011. | 1243 | 809 |
| 461. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Special Envoy of President of the Palestinian National Authority.
New Delhi, August 24, 2011. | 1244 | — |
| 462. Statement by Minister of State E. Ahamed at the UN Security Council's Open Debate on the situation in the Middle East including the Palestinian Question.
New York, October 24, 2011. | 1244 | — |
| 463. Press Release on the visit of Minister of State E Ahamed to Palestine and Jordan.
Ramallah, November 21, 2011. | 1245 | — |

QATAR

- | | | |
|--|------|---|
| 464. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the 3rd meeting of India-Qatar High Level Monitoring Mechanism.
New Delhi, January 14, 2011. | 1246 | — |
|--|------|---|

SAUDI ARABI

- | | | |
|---|------|---|
| 465. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Secretary General of the National Security Council of Saudi Arabia.
New Delhi, March 29, 2011. | 1247 | — |
|---|------|---|

CONTENTS**LXXIX****SYRIA**

- | | | | |
|-------|--|------|-----|
| 466. | Statement by Acting Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri on the 'Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question' in the Security Council.
New York, April 21, 2011. | 1248 | — |
| 467. | Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the United Nations Security Council open briefing on the situation in Syria.
New York, April 27, 2011. | 1248 | — |
| 468. | Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Syrian Vice Foreign Minister.
New Delhi, August 1, 2011. | 1249 | — |
| *469. | Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of a IBSA delegation to Syria.
New Delhi, August 11, 2011. | 1250 | 812 |
| *470. | Explanation of Vote delivered by Ambassador Hardeep Puri on draft Resolution on Syria at UNSC.
New York, October 4, 2011. | 1251 | 813 |

UAE

- | | | | |
|-------|--|------|-----|
| 471. | Press Release issued by Ministry of Home Affairs on the signing of Treaties on Security Cooperation and Exchange of Sentenced Persons between India and UAE.
New Delhi, November 23, 2011. | 1253 | — |
| 472. | Press Release issued by Ministry of Overseas Indians regarding the signing of the India – UAE revised Memorandum of Understanding on Manpower.
New Delhi, September 13, 2011. | 1254 | — |
| 473. | Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on a meeting between Minister Anand Sharma and UAE Minister of Foreign Trade Ms. Sheikh Bint Al Qasimi.
New Delhi, February 10, 2011. | 1255 | — |
| *474. | Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the official visit of Foreign Minister of UAE.
New Delhi, June 28, 2011. | 1257 | 816 |

UZBEKISTAN

- | | | | |
|------|---|------|---|
| 475. | Briefing by Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs and Joint Secretary (ERS) on Uzbek President's Visit.
New Delhi, May 17, 2011. | 1258 | — |
|------|---|------|---|

*476. Declaration between India and Uzbekistan for a Strategic Partnership. New Delhi, May 18, 2011.	1265	817
*477. Joint Statement issued on Strategic Partnership between India and Uzbekistan during the visit of Uzbek President Islam Abduganievich Karimov. New Delhi, May 18, 2011.	1266	818
478. Agreements signed during the State Visit of the President of Uzbekistan. New Delhi, May 18, 2011.	1270	—

SECTION – VII AFRICA

479. Address by Minister of State Mrs. Preneet Kaur at the 38th World Marketing Congress on "Business Opportunities and Marketing Strategies for Eastern Africa: A Fresh Look". New Delhi, February 10, 2011.	1277	—
*480. Remarks of External Affairs Minister to a group of African journalists on a visit to India on the occasion of the 7th Confederation of Indian Industry - EXIM Bank Conclave. New Delhi, March 29, 2011.	1279	825
481. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the visit of Minister of Commerce and Industry to Cape Town to participate in the 21st meeting of the World Economic Forum on the theme "From Vision to Action, Africa's Next Chapter". Cape Town, May 6, 2011.	1282	—
482. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the Second India-Japan Dialogue on Africa. New Delhi, June 16, 2011.	1283	—
483. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on providing humanitarian assistance to countries in the Horn of Africa. New Delhi, September 14, 2011.	1284	—
484. Statement by Minister of State Ms. Preneet Kaur at the UN General Assembly on New Partnership for Africa's Development. New York, October 11, 2011.	1285	—

CONTENTS**LXXXI**

485. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the Second meeting of the India – African Regional Economic Communities (REC). New Delhi, November 9, 2011.	1288	—
*486. Inaugural address by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Conference on “Indian Lines of Credit: An Instrument to Enhance India-Africa Partnership”. New Delhi, November 22, 2011.	1290	829
487. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the 3rd India-Japan Dialogue on Africa. New Delhi, November 28, 2011.	1293	—
*488. Statement by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai at India - Africa Hydrocarbon Conference. New Delhi, December 10, 2011.	1293	831
INDIA-AFRICA FORUM SUMMIT		
*489. Briefing by Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs on Prime Minister's visit to Ethiopia for the Second India - Africa Forum Summit and Tanzania. New Delhi, May 17, 2011.	1296	835
490. Remarks by Secretary (West) Ministry of External Affairs at the inauguration of Indian Film Festival on the occasion of the Second India – Africa Forum Summit. Addis Ababa, May 20, 2011.	1304	—
491. Statement by Secretary (West) in Ministry of External Affairs at the Inaugural Session of the Senior Officials' Meeting of the Second India Africa Forum Summit. Addis Ababa, May 20, 2011.	1305	—
492. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the inauguration of 'India Show' as part of the Second India – Africa Forum Summit. Addis Ababa, May 20, 2011.	1308	—
493. Statement by Secretary (West) in Ministry of External Affairs during India-Africa Media Partnership Symposium: 'Building Bridges'. Addis Ababa, May 21, 2011.	1310	—
*494. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the 2nd Africa-India Forum Summit. Addis Ababa, May 23, 2011.	1311	843

*495. Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Plenary Session of the 2nd Africa-India Forum Summit. Addis Ababa, May 24, 2011.	1314	846
*496. Opening remarks by Prime Minister at the Joint Press Conference following the conclusion of the Second Africa India Forum Summit. Addis Ababa, May 25, 2011.	1318	850
*497. Addis Ababa Declaration adopted at the Second India – Africa Forum Summit- 2011. Addis Ababa, May 25, 2011.	1320	852
498. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Hardeep Singh Puri at the UNSC debate on Democratic Republic of Congo. New York, May 18, 2011.	1327	—
COMOROS		
498A. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Additional Secretary Gurjit Singh to Comoros. New Delhi, October 8, 2011.	1328	—
EGYPT		
*499. Developments in Egypt. January 30 & February 01, 2011.	1329	860
*500. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna's Statement on stepping down of President Mubarak of the United Arab Republic. New Delhi, February 11, 2011.	1330	861
*501. Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Joint Press Conference following his talks with visiting Egyptian Foreign Minister Nabil El Araby. New Delhi, May 30, 2011.	1331	862
ERITREA		
502. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the Visit of Foreign Minister of Eritrea. New Delhi, June 8, 2011.	1332	—
ETHIOPIA		
*503. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Media following his meeting with Ethiopian Prime Minister. Addis Ababa, May 25, 2011.	1333	863

CONTENTS**LXXXIII**

*504. Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Joint Session of the two Houses of the Parliament of Ethiopia. Addis Ababa, May 26, 2011.	1335	865
505. Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Indian Community Function in Addis Ababa. Addis Ababa, May 26, 2011.	1341	—
IVORY COAST		
506. Resolution on Cote d'Ivoire – India's Explanation of Vote by India's Permanent Representative Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the UN Security Council. New York, March 31, 2011.	1343	—
LESOTHO		
507. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of a 5-member delegation from the Kingdom of Lesotho. New Delhi, July 28, 2011.	1345	—
LIBYA		
*508. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs deploring use of force in Libya. New Delhi, February 22, 2011.	1346	872
509. Explanation of the Vote by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on the Resolution adopted concerning Libya at the Security Council. New York, February 26, 2011.	1346	—
510. Statement by Minister of State Smt. Preneet Kaur in Rajya Sabha on the evacuation of Indian nationals from Libya. New Delhi, March 4, 2011.	1347	—
511. Explanation of Indian Abstention Vote on the Resolution on Libya in the UN Security Council. New York, March 17, 2011.	1349	—
*512. Statement issued by Ministry of External Affairs on Indian grave concern at violence in Libya and calling for peaceful resolution of differences. New Delhi, March 20, 2011.	1350	873
512-A. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the UN Security Council Briefing on Syria. New York, May 4, 2011.	1350	—

*513. Visit of Libyan Foreign Minister Abdel Aati Al Obeidi to New Delhi to discuss the latest situation in Libya. New Delhi, July 22, 2011.	1351	874
*514. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs extending support to Transitional National Council of Libya in the United Nations. New Delhi, September 17, 2011.	1352	875

MAURITIUS

515. Briefing by Secretary (West) in Ministry of External Affairs on the State Visit of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil to Mauritius. New Delhi, April 23, 2011.	1353	—
516. Departure Statement of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil on board her Special Flight to Mauritius. April 24, 2011.	1356	—
517. Statement by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at conclusion of her talks with Mauritian Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam. Port Louis, April 25, 2011.	1357	—
*518. Speech of President Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted in her honour by Mauritian Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam. Port Louis, April 25, 2011.	1359	876
519. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the National Assembly of Mauritius. Port Louis, April 26, 2011.	1361	—
520. Address of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil to the Indian Community at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture. Port Louis, April 26, 2011.	1364	—
521. Address by President Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the ceremony conferring Degree Doctor Honoris Causa on her by the University of Mauritius. Port Louis, April 28, 2011.	1367	—
522. Speech by President Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the India – Mauritius Business Forum at the International Conference Centre. Port Louis, April 28, 2011.	1370	—
523. Statement of President Pratibha Devisingh Patil to the media on board her Special Flight on way back to Delhi after her State Visit to Mauritius. April 28, 2011.	1372	—

CONTENTS

LXXXV

MOROCCO

524. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the meeting of India-Morocco Joint Commission and signing of MOU for Bilateral Economic Cooperation.
New Delhi, April 29, 2011. 1374 —

MOZAMBIQUE

525. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the bilateral meeting between Minister Anand Sharma and Mozambique Minister of Industry and Commerce Mrs. Mrnando Inroga.
New Delhi, March 28, 2011. 1376 —
526. Press Release issued by Ministry of Defence on the cooperation between India and Mozambique on Maritime Security.
New Delhi, June 28, 2001. 1377 —
527. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of the First Lady of Mozambique Mrs. Maria da Luz Guebuza.
New Delhi, November 9, 2011. 1378 —

NIGERIA

528. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the meeting between Minister Anand Sharma and Nigerian Foreign Minister Henry Odein Ajumogobia.
New Delhi, March 16, 2011. 1379 —
- *529. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the 5th India – Nigeria Joint Commission Meeting.
New Delhi, March 17, 2011. 1380 882

RAWANDA

530. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's meeting with Rwandan Prime Minister Mr. Bernard Makuza.
New Delhi, January 14, 2011. 1382 —

SOMALIA

531. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on Comprehensive Strategy for the realization of peace and security in Somali.
New York, March 10, 2011. 1383 —
532. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri in the Security Council debate on Somalia.
New York, September 14, 2011. 1383 —

SOUTH AFRICA

533.	Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the visit of Minister Anand Sharma to South Africa. January 11, 2011.	1383	—
534.	Press Release issue by Ministry of External Affairs on the meeting of the India-South Africa Joint Ministerial Commission. New Delhi, March 8, 2011.	1385	—
535.	Media Briefing by Secretary (ER) Manbir Singh on Prime Minister's meetings with Presidents of Brazil and South Africa on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit. Sanya (China), April 14, 2011.	1386	—
536.	Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce & Industry on the Second India – South Africa C. E. O. Forum Meeting. New Delhi, August 29, 2011.	1387	—
*537.	Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Centenary Celebrations of African National Congress at the U.N. New York, September 22, 2011.	1389	885

SUDAN/SOUTH SUDAN

538.	Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the open meeting of the UN Security Council on the Sudan. New York, January 18, 2011.	1391	—
539.	Statement by Deputy Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri at the briefing of the UN Security Council on the Sudan. New York, February 9, 2011.	1391	—
*540.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs welcoming the successful referendum in Southern Sudan. New Delhi, February 14, 2011.	1392	888
*541.	Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (WANA) on visits of Envoys from Sudan and South Sudan New Delhi, April 28, 2011.	1392	888
542.	Statement by Permanent Representative the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the UN Security Council briefing on the Sudan. New York, June 20, 2011.	1400	—

CONTENTS**LXXXVII**

- *543. Statement by Secretary (East) Sanjay Singh on the forthcoming visit of Vice-President M. Hamid Ansari to Juba and Kampala. New Delhi, July 7, 2011. 1400 897
- *544. Letter of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to President of South Sudan greeting him and the people of South Sudan on their proclamation of independence. New Delhi, July 9, 2011. 1403 899

TANZANIA

545. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri in the Security Council meeting on the Sudan. New York, July 13, 2011. 1404 —
546. Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Reception for the Indian Community in Dar-es-Salaam. Dar-es-Salaam, May 26, 2011. 1404 —
- *547. Remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the launch of the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology. Dar-es-Salaam, May 27, 2011. 1406 900
- *548. Remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the Media at Dar es Salaam. Dar-es-Salaam, May 27, 2011. 1409 903
- *549. Speech by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Banquets hosted in his honour by Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete. Dar-es-Salaam, May 27, 2011. 1411 905
- *550. Extract from Prime Minister's interaction with media onboard special flight on way back to New Delhi from Dar-es-Salaam. May 28, 2011. 1413 907
551. Press Release issued by Ministry of Finance on the signing of India – Tanzania Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement at Dar-es-Salaam. New Delhi, May 30, 2011. 1417 —

UGANDA

552. Press Release of Ministry of External Affairs on the hosting of Ugandan President by Minister of State Shrimati Preneet Kaur. New Delhi, September 27, 2011. 1418 —

ZIMBABWE

- | | | | |
|------|---|------|---|
| 553. | Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the meeting of Minister Anand Sharma with Zimbabwean Minister of Commerce and Industry Prof. Welshman Ncube for enhanced India – Zimbabwe Cooperation.
New Delhi, March 29, 2011. | 1418 | — |
| 554. | Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the visit of Minister of State Jyotiraditya Scindia to Zimbabwe.
New Delhi, September 21, 2011. | 1420 | — |

SECTION – VIII AMERICAS

UNITED STATES

- | | | | |
|-------|---|------|-----|
| *555. | Press Release issued by Embassy of India on 11th U.S.- India Defence Policy Group (DPG) meeting.
Washington DC, March 9, 2011. | 1425 | 915 |
| 556. | Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the postponement of India - USA Strategic Dialogue due to state elections in India and situation in West Asia and North Africa.
New Delhi, March 11, 2011. | 1426 | — |
| *557. | Press Release issued by the Prime Minister's Office giving reaction of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the killing of Osama Bin Laden.
New Delhi, May 2, 2011. | 1427 | 916 |
| *558. | Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on the death of Osama Bin Laden.
New Delhi, May 2, 2011. | 1427 | 916 |
| 559. | Reaction of Home Minister P. Chidambaram to the killing of Osama Bin Laden.
New Delhi, May 2, 2011. | 1428 | — |
| *560. | Press Release issued by Prime Minister's Office on the telephonic talk between Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Barack Obama.
New Delhi, May 9, 2011. | 1429 | 917 |
| 561. | Opening Remarks of Home Minister P. Chidambaram at India-US Homeland Security Dialogue.
New Delhi, May 27, 2011. | 1430 | — |

CONTENTS

LXXXIX

*562. Joint Statement issued at the end of the India - US Homeland Security Dialogue. New Delhi, May 27, 2011.	1433	918
563. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the visit of Minister Anand Sharma to the United States. New Delhi, June 23, 2011.	1436	—
564. Joint Statement issued after the Second Ministerial Meeting of the India - USA Economic and Financial Partnership. Washington D.C., June 29, 2011.	1437	—
565. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Finance on the Second meeting of India - USA Financial and Economic Partnership held in Washington DC. New Delhi, June 29, 2010.	1439	—
*566. Statement by Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. New Delhi, July 15, 2011.	1442	921
567. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Science and Technology on need to enhance cooperation between India and US in Science & Technology Coordination. New Delhi, July 18, 2011.	1445	—
568. Press Release issued by Ministry of Civil Aviation on the signing of the India - USA Aviation Safety Agreement. New Delhi, July 18, 2011.	1446	—
*569. Joint Statement issued on the India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue. New Delhi, July 19, 2011.	1447	925
*570. Joint Press Interaction of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna and US Secretary State Hillary Clinton. New Delhi, July 19, 2011.	1456	933
571. Press Note on the Indo-US Bilateral Meeting on Climate Change. New Delhi, July 19, 2011.	1464	—
*572. Response of Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs to comments by the US State Department on handling of protest fast by Social Activist Anna Hazare. New Delhi, August 12, 2011.	1465	941
*573. Response of Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs on the United States designating Indian Mujahideen (IM) as Terrorist Organization. New Delhi, September 16, 2011.	1466	942

574.	Address of Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee at the US - India Business Council - FICCI meeting. New York, September 21, 2011.	1467	—
575.	Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Minister Anand Sharma's meeting with the India - US CEO Forum in Washington DC on September 22, 2011. September 23, 2011.	1471	—
576.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of Human Resource Development on the importance of Indo – US partnership in Education. New Delhi, October 13, 2011.	1473	—
*577.	Statements to media by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and the US President Obama at Bali on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit. Bali (Indonesia), November 18, 2011.	1474	943
*578.	Extract relevant to the United States from Media Briefing by Secretary (East) Sanjay Singh at Bali. Bali, November 18, 2011.	1476	945
*579.	Statement of the Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs on the need for the US Government to correct its maps on India. New Delhi, November 21, 2011.	1480	949

Brazil

580.	Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce on the meeting between Minister Anand Sharma with the visiting Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio Patriota. New Delhi, March 8, 2011.	1481	—
*581.	Joint Statement on the visit of Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio Patriota. New Delhi, March 8, 2011.	1482	950
*582.	Briefing by Secretary (ER) Manbir Singh on Prime Minister's meetings with Presidents of Brazil and South Africa. Sanya (China), April 14, 2011.	1485	953
*583.	Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the 5th India - Brazil Joint Commission Meeting. New Delhi, December 8, 2011.	1489	956

CONTENTS**XCI****COLOMBIA**

584. Press Release issued by Ministry of Finance on the signing of a Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement with the Republic of Colombia. New Delhi, May 13, 2011. 1490 —

DOMINICA

586. Address by Minister of State Mrs. Preneet Kaur at the Seminar on "India-Dominican Republic: Trade and Investment Opportunities". New Delhi, February 2, 2011. 1491 —

CUBA

585. Speech by Minister of State E. Ahamed at UN General Assembly on the "Necessity of ending the Economic, Commercial and Financial Embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba". New York, October 25, 2011. 1491 —

HAITI

587. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on Haiti in the Security Council. New York, April 6, 2011. 1494 —
588. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri in the debate on Haiti at the Security Council. New York, September 16, 2011. 1494 —

**SECTION – IX
EUROPE****AUSTRIA**

589. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on ICCR's Chair at the University of Vienna. New Delhi, February 4, 2011. 1497 —
590. Media Briefing by Secretary (West) on President's visit to Switzerland and Austria. New Delhi, September 29, 2011. 1497 —
591. Statement of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil to the media on board her special flight on her State visit to Switzerland and Austria. September 30, 2011. 1503 —

592.	Media Briefing by Secretary (West) in Vienna on President's Ongoing Visit to Switzerland and Austria. Vienna, October 4, 2011.	1506	—
593.	Statement to the Press by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil in Vienna. Vienna, October 5, 2011.	1514	—
594.	Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Reception hosted by Ambassador Dinkar Khullar for the Indian community. Vienna, October 5, 2011.	1516	—
*595.	Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted in her honour by Austrian President Heinz Fischer. Vienna, October 5, 2011.	1518	962
596.	Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Business interaction organized by Austrian Federal Economic Chambers. Vienna, October 6, 2011.	1520	—
597.	Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted in her honour by Governor of Salzburg Ms. Gabi Burgstaller. Salzburg, October 6, 2011.	1523	—
*598.	Interaction of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil with the media on board her special flight on way back to Delhi after her tours of Switzerland and Austria. October 7, 2010.	1524	965
599.	Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Foreign Minister of Cyprus Markos Kyprianou. New Delhi, April 19, 2011.	1527	—
CZECH REPUBLIC			
600.	Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the ICCR Chair of Indian Studies/Hindi Language at Charles University, Prague. New Delhi, June 8, 2011.	1528	—
DENMARK			
601.	Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the visit of Danish Minister for Economy Brian Mikkelsen to increase bilateral cooperation in new areas of economic cooperation. New Delhi, January 6, 2011.	1529	—

CONTENTS**XCIII**

602. Response of Official Spokesperson to media question on the failure of the Danish authorities to extradite Kim Davy involved in the Purulia arms drop case. New Delhi, July 8, 2011. 1530 —

FRANCE

603. Speech of Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao at the French Institute of International Relations. Paris, May 5, 2011. 1531 —
604. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao to Paris for India - France Foreign Office Consultations. New Delhi, May 7, 2011. 1540 —
- *605. Statement of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna during Joint Press Interaction with French Foreign Minister. New Delhi, October 20, 2011. 1541 970
- *606. India-France Joint Statement issued on the visit of French Foreign Minister on Progress in "India-France Partnership for the Future". New Delhi, October 20, 2011. 1543 972

GEORGIA

607. Press Release issued by Ministry of Finance on the signing of Agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation with Georgia. New Delhi, August 24, 2011. 1547 —

GERMANY

608. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the creation of an ICCR Chair of 'Corporate Responsibility & Governance' at Leipzig Graduate School of Management. New Delhi, March 31, 2011. 1548 —
609. Decision of the Jury of Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding presided over by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari to confer the Award for the year 2009 on German Chancellor Angela Merkel. New Delhi, May 9, 2011. 1549 —
610. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs and Joint Secretary (EW) on the visit of German Chancellor Angela Merkel. New Delhi, May 30, 2011. 1550 —
- *611. Joint Press Interaction by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and German Chancellor Angela Merkel. New Delhi, May 31, 2011. 1556 977

- | | | | |
|------|--|------|---|
| 612. | Agreements signed during the visit of the Chancellor of Germany.
New Delhi, May 31, 2011. | 1563 | — |
|------|--|------|---|

HUNGARY

- | | | | |
|-------|--|------|-----|
| *613. | Call by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on the Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban.
Budapest, June 8, 2011. | 1564 | 984 |
|-------|--|------|-----|

ICELAND

- | | | | |
|------|---|------|---|
| 614. | Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Foreign Minister of Iceland Ossur Skarphedinsson.
New Delhi, May 3, 2011. | 1565 | — |
|------|---|------|---|

IRELAND

- | | | | |
|------|---|------|---|
| 615. | Speech by Minister of State Smt. Preneet Kaur at Unveiling of Tagore's bust at St.Stephen's Green.
Dublin, October 17, 2011. | 1566 | — |
|------|---|------|---|

ITALY

- | | | | |
|------|--|------|---|
| 616. | Meeting between Minister of Commerce and Industry Anand Sharma and Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini.
Rome, February, 1, 2011. | 1567 | — |
|------|--|------|---|

LITHUANIA

- | | | | |
|------|---|------|---|
| 617. | Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on ICCR setting up Chair of Indian Studies at MYKOLAS University in Lithuania.
New Delhi, February 1, 2011. | 1569 | — |
| 618. | Address by Minister of State Smt. Preneet Kaur at the Mykolas Romeris University Vilnius on India in the 21st Century.
Vilnius (Lithuania), March 30, 2011. | 1570 | — |
| 619. | Press Release issued by Ministry of Finance on the signing of Agreement and Protocol for Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Lithuania.
New Delhi, July 26, 2011. | 1574 | — |

NETHERLAND

- | | | | |
|------|--|------|---|
| 620. | Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the official visit of Foreign Minister of Netherlands.
New Delhi, July 5, 2011. | 1576 | — |
|------|--|------|---|

CONTENTS**XCV****NORWAY**

621. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs condemning senseless acts of violence in Norway. New Delhi, July 2011. 1577 —

POLAND

622. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the ICCR establishing a Tamil Chair at the Institute of Oriental Philology, Jagiellonian University, Crakow, Poland. New Delhi, May 18, 2011. 1578 —
623. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the official visit of Polish Foreign Minister. New Delhi, July 12, 2011. 1579 —

RUSSIA

- *624. Message of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Russian President Dimitry A. Medvedev condemning terrorist attack at Moscow Airport. New Delhi, January 25, 2011. 1580 988
625. Briefing by National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon on Prime Minister's meetings with Chinese and Russian Presidents. Sanya (China), April 13, 2011. 1580 —
- *626. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Defence on the Review of India – Russia Inter – Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation. New Delhi, October 5, 2011. 1581 988
- *627. Media interaction of External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna after his meeting with the Russian Foreign Minister. Moscow, November 16, 2011. 1583 991
- *628. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai on Prime Minister's visit to Russia. New Delhi, December 14, 2011. 1584 992
- *629. Message of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh prior to departure for Russia for the annual Summit with the Russian President. New Delhi, December 15, 2011. 1597 1004
- *630. Interview of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with Russian journalists. December 15, 2011. 1598 1005

*631. Joint Press Interaction of Prime Minister and Russian President. Moscow, December 16, 2011.	1602	1010
*632. Speech of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the luncheon hosted in his honour by the Russian President Medvedev. Moscow, December 16, 2011.	1608	1015
*633. Remarks by Prime Minister at the Joint Meeting with CEOs from India and Russia. Moscow, December 16, 2011.	1610	1017
*634. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai on Prime Minister's official meetings in Moscow. Moscow, December 16, 2011.	1612	1019
*635. Joint Statement issued at the end of the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh: "Furthering the India-Russia Strategic Partnership to meet the challenges of a changing World". Moscow, December 16, 2011.	1621	1028
*636. Extracts from Media interaction of Prime Minister onboard his special flight on way back to New Delhi from Moscow. December 17, 2011.	1630	1037
*637. Statement by External Affairs Minister in the Lok Sabha on court hearing in Tomsk (Russia) on Bhagwad Gita. New Delhi, December 20, 2011.	1632	1039

SLOVENIA

638. Briefing by Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs, Joint Secretary (CE) and Joint Secretary (ERS) on visit of Slovenian Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna's visit to ASTANA for SCO Summit. New Delhi, June 13, 2011.	1634	—
*639. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Slovenian Prime Minister Borut Pahor. New Delhi, June 14, 2011.	1637	1041
640. Agreements signed during the visit of Prime Minister of Slovenia. New Delhi, June 14, 2011.	1639	—

SWITZERLAND

641. Media Briefing by Secretary (West) on President's visit to Switzerland and Austria. New Delhi, September 29, 2011.	1639	—
--	------	---

CONTENTS**XCVII**

642.	Statement of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil to the media on board her special flight on her State Visit to Switzerland and Austria. September 30, 2011.	1640	—
643.	Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Reception for the Indian Community hosted by Ambassador of India. Geneva, October 2, 1011.	1640	—
644.	Statement by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Parliament of the Swiss Confederation. Berne, October 3, 2011.	1643	—
645.	Statement by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil to the media in Berne. Berne, October 3, 2011.	1646	—
*646.	Speech of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted in her honour by President of the Swiss Confederation Mrs. Micheline Calmy-Rey.	1648	1044
647.	Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Indo – Swiss Business Forum. Berne, October 4, 2011.	1650	—
648.	Media Briefing by Secretary (West) in Vienna on President's Ongoing Visit to Switzerland and Austria. Vienna, October 4, 2011.	1652	—
649.	Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the unveiling of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's bust at the University of Lausanne. Lausanne, October 4, 2011.	1653	—
650.	Interaction of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil with the media on board her special flight on way back to Delhi after her tours of Switzerland and Austria. October 7, 2010.	1654	—
TURKEY			
651.	Media Briefing by Secretary (West) M. Ganapathi on Vice-President's visit to Turkey. New Delhi, October 08, 2011.	1655	—
652.	Address by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the function to confer on him the Honorary Doctorate for International Relations by Mevlana University at Konya, Turkey. Konya (Turkey), October 12, 2011.	1661	—

- | | | | |
|------|---|------|---|
| 653. | Address by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the dinner hosted by the Confederation of Businessmen and Industrialists of Turkey.
Istanbul, October 14, 2011. | 1668 | — |
|------|---|------|---|

UNITED KINGDOM

- | | | | |
|-------|---|------|------|
| 654. | Press Release issued by Ministry of Finance on India - U.K Economic and Financial Dialogue and Remarks of Finance Minister at the Conference.
London, July 25, 2011. | 1671 | — |
| *655. | Joint Statement issued at the end of the Fourth Round of Ministerial level India - UK Economic and Financial Dialogue.
London, July 26, 2011. | 1675 | 1048 |
| *656. | Response of Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs on proposed debate in UK House of Commons on J & K.
New Delhi, September 15, 2011. | 1677 | 1050 |

UKRAINE

- | | | | |
|------|--|------|---|
| 657. | Press Release issued during the visit of Foreign Minister of Ukraine.
New Delhi, November 25, 2011. | 1678 | — |
|------|--|------|---|

SECTION – X

INDIA AND THE UNITED NATIONS

- | | | | |
|-------|---|------|------|
| *658. | Joint Press Statement of Ministerial Meeting of the G4 countries (Brazil, Germany, India and Japan).
New York, February 11, 2011. | 1683 | 1053 |
| *659. | Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Interdependence between Security and Development at the UN Security Council.
New York, February 11, 2011. | 1684 | 1054 |
| 660. | Opening Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN and Chairman of the Counter Terrorism Committee Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri.
Strasbourg, April 19-21, 2011. | 1687 | — |
| *661. | Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs announcing the ratification of the UN Conventions against Transnational Organised Crime and Corruption.
New Delhi, May 13, 2011. | 1692 | 1057 |

CONTENTS**XCIX**

*662. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the General Debate of the 4th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. Istanbul, May 12, 2011.	1693	1059
*663. Statement of Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs extending Indian support to the re-election of UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon for the second term. New Delhi, June 7, 2011.	1696	1062
664. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN and Chairman of Counter Terrorism Committee, Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the Opening Plenary of the 10th Meeting of the Heads of Special Services, Security Agencies and Law-Enforcement Organizations. Saint-Petersburg, (Russian Federation), July 6 – 7, 2011.	1697	—
*665. Explanation of Vote by India in the Human Rights Council on the Resolution on Syria. Geneva, August 24, 2011.	1700	1063
*666. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai on Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit to New York for UN General Assembly Session. New Delhi, September 17, 2011.	1701	1064
667. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN and Chairman of the Counter Terrorism Committee Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the UNSG's Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation. September 19, 2011.	1708	—
668. Statement by Permanent Representative at UN and Chairman, Counter-Terrorism Committee Ambassador H.S. Puri at the UN Secretary General's Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation. New York, September 20, 2011.	1711	—
*669. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the UN Security Council's High Level meeting on Conflict Prevention. New York, September 22, 2011.	1714	1072
*670. Speech by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the High Level Symposium of South Africa's contribution to the fight against Racism and Xenophobia [in the context of the Centenary Celebrations of the African National Congress]. New York, September 22, 2011.	1717	1075

*671. Statement by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai at the High Level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on Nuclear Safety and Security. New York, September 22, 2011.	1720	1077
*672. Press Statement of the Ministerial Meeting of the G4 countries (Brazil, Germany, India and Japan) on the margins of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly. New York, September 23, 2011.	1723	1081
*673. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the General Debate at the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly. New York, September 24, 2011.	1725	1082
*674. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai on day 3 of Prime Minister's visit to New York for the UN General Assembly Session. New York, September 24, 2011.	1729	1086
675. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN and Chairman of the Counter – Terrorism Committee Hardeep Singh Puri at the Special Meeting of the Counter Terrorism Committee. New York, September 28, 2011.	1740	—
676. Commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) under India's Chairmanship at UNSC. New York, September 30, 2011.	1743	—
*677. Statement by Minister of State Smt. Preeti Kaur at UNSC's Debate on Security Sector Reform. New York, October 12, 2011.	1744	1098
678. Statement by Permanent Representative and Chairman of the Counter Terrorism Committee Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative and Chairman, Counter Terrorism Committee (1373 Committee) at the Security Council in his national capacity on 'Briefings by Chairmen of Subsidiary Bodies of the Security Council'. New York, Date not stated.	1746	—

SECTION – XI

INDIA AT THE UNITED NATIONS

679.	Statement by Joint Secretary Ministry of External Affairs A. R. Ghanashyam during the General Debate in the First Preparatory Committee of the Fourth UN—LDC Conference. New York, January 10, 2011.	1751	—
680.	Remarks by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, during the handing over ceremony of the G- 77 Chairmanship. New York, January 12, 2011.	1753	—
681.	Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the open meeting of the UN Security Council on the Sudan. New York, January 18, 2011.	1756	—
682.	Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the Open Debate on the Middle East at the Security Council. New York, January 19, 2011.	1757	—
683.	Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on the situation in Haiti at the Security Council. New York, January 20, 2011.	1759	—
684.	Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on post-Conflict Peace- building: Institution Building. New York, January 21, 2011.	1761	—
685.	Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the First Regular Meeting of the Executive Board of the UN Women. New York, January 24, 2011.	1765	—
686.	Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on Piracy off the Coast of Somali at the UN Security Council. New York, January 25, 2011.	1768	—
687.	Statement by Deputy Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri at the briefing of the UN Security Council on the Sudan. New York, February 9, 2011.	1771	—

688.	Statement by Counsellor at the Permanent Mission at the UN Vinay Kumar on UN Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK). New York, February 16, 2011.	1773	—
689.	Explanation of Vote delivered by Acting Permanent Representative Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri on 18 February 2011 after the vote on draft resolution S/2011/24 on "Settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territories". New York, February 18, 2011.	1774	—
690.	Statement by Deputy Permanent Representative Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri at the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. New York, February 23, 2011.	1775	—
691.	Explanation of the Vote by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on the Resolution adopted concerning Libya at the Security Council. New York, February 26, 2011.	1779	—
692.	Statement by Member Secretary National Commission for Women and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Ms. Zohra Chatterji on the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Outcome of the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly at the 55th Session of the Commission of the Status of Women. New York February 28, 2011.	1780	—
693.	Intervention by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the Informal Meeting (closed) of the Plenary on the Inter-Governmental negotiations on the question of equitable representation on and the increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council. New York, March 2, 2011.	1785	—
694.	Statement made by Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs A.R. Ghanashyam during the session on "Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication", 2nd PrepCom of Rio+20 . New York, March 7, 2011.	1789	—
695.	Statement by Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs A.R. Ghanashyam during the session on "Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development", 2nd Prep Com of Rio+20. New York, March 8, 2010.	1791	—

CONTENTS**CIII**

696.	Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on Comprehensive Strategy for the Realization of Peace and Security in Somalia. New York, March 10, 2011.	1793	—
697.	Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the Meeting of the Ad hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly. New York, March 14, 2011.	1796	—
698.	Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri in the UN Security Council meeting to hear the briefing by the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (Iran Sanctions Committee). New York, March 17, 2011.	1800	—
699.	Statement by Deputy Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri on the situation in Afghanistan at the Security Council. New York, March 17, 2011.	1801	—
700.	India's Explanation of Vote after the vote on Libyan Resolution in the UN Security Council by Deputy Permanent Representative Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri. New York, March 17, 2011.	1804	—
701.	Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, at the commemorative ceremony of the "International Day of Nowruz". New York, March 21, 2011.	1805	—
702.	Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on Post-Conflict Peacebuilding [Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its 4th Session] at the Security Council. New York, March 23, 2011.	1807	—
703.	Explanation of Vote on Cote d'Ivoire resolution by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at Security Council. New York, March 30, 2011.	1810	—

704.	Statement by Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva Ambassador Hamid Ali Rao at the 2011 Session of the UN Disarmament Commission. New York, April 5, 2011.	1811	—
705.	Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on Haiti in the Security Council. New York, April 6, 2011.	1814	—
706.	Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the Meeting of the Ad hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly. New York, April 13, 2011.	1816	—
707.	Statement by Deputy Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri at Informal Interactive Panel Discussion on "Human Security" at the UN General Assembly. New York, April 15, 2011.	1820	—
708.	Statement by Acting Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri on the adoption of UNSCR 1977 on 1540 Committee's Mandate at the United Nations Security Council. New York, April 20, 2011.	1822	—
709.	Statement by Acting Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri on the 'Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question' in the Security Council. New York, April 21, 2011.	1824	—
710.	Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the United Nations Security Council open briefing on the situation in Syria. New York, April 27, 2011.	1827	—
711.	Statement by Deputy Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri at the Meeting of the Ad hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly. New York, April 28, 2011.	1828	—
712.	Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the UN Security Council Briefing on Libya (ICC). New York, May 4, 2011.	1831	—

CONTENTS**CV**

713.	Statement by Acting Permanent Representative at the UN and Charge d'affaires, a.i Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri at the open debate of the UN Security Council on the Situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. New York, May 9, 2011.	1832	—
714.	Statement by Acting Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri in the Security Council open debate on Protection of Civilians. New York, May 10, 2011.	1833	—
715.	Statement by Acting Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri in the General Assembly Debate of SAG's Report to SG on Civilian Capacity Review. New York, May 11, 2011.	1836	—
716.	Statement by Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests Dr. T. Chatterjee at the opening session of the High Level Segment for the 19th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development at the 65th Session of the UN General Assembly. New York, May 11, 2011.	1838	—
717.	Statement by Acting Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, at the UN Security Council Debate on UNMIK. New York, May 12, 2011.	1841	—
718.	Statement by Acting Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri in the Security Council Debate of SAG's Report to SG on Civilian Capacity Review. New York, May 12, 2011.	1843	—
719.	Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the General Debate of the 4th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. Istanbul, May 12, 2011.	1845	—
720.	Joint Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN and Chairman of the Counter –Terrorism Committee (CTC) Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on cooperation between the AI – Qaida and Taliban; Sanctions Committee, the Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) and the Committee Established pursuant to the Resolution No. 1540 [2004] at the Security Council. New York, May 16, 2011.	1849	—

721.	Briefing by Permanent Representative at the UN and Chairman of the Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on Counter Terrorism at the United Nations Security Council. New York, May 16, 2011.	1852	—
722.	Statement by Deputy Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri at the Meeting of the Ad hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly. New York, May 17, 2011.	1856	—
723.	Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the UNSC Debate on the Democratic Republic of Congo. New York, May 18, 2011.	1859	—
724.	Statement by Deputy Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri at the Meeting of the Ad hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly. New York, May 25, 2011.	1862	—
725.	Statement by Acting Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri at the UN Security Council Debate on ICTY / ICTR. New York, June 6, 2011.	1863	—
726.	Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on maintenance of International Peace and Security – Impact of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic on International Peace and Security at the Security Council. New York, June 7, 2011.	1865	—
727.	Statement by Minister of Health and Family Planning Ghulam Nabi Azad at the Plenary of the High Level Meeting (HLM) on HIV/AIDS, at the 65th Session of the United Nation General Assembly. New York, June 8, 2011.	1868	—
728.	Statement by Deputy Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri at UNDP Segment of the Annual Session 2011 of the Executive Board of UNDP/ UNFPA/UNOPS. New York, June 13, 2011.	1871	—
729.	Explanation of Vote by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri [After the adoption	1876	—

CONTENTS

CVII

	of the two resolutions succeeding 1267 Sanctions Regime] at the Security Council. New York, June 17, 2011.		
730.	Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the UN Security Council briefing on the Sudan. New York, June 20, 2011.	1879	—
731.	Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the UN Security Council briefing on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia. New York, June 21, 2011.	1880	—
732.	Statement by Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of India at the UN Vinay Kumar at the UN Security Council briefing on the UN Office to African Union (UNOAU). New York, June 21, 2011.	1184	—
733.	Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the Security Council Briefing on the Iranian Sanctions [1737] Committee. New York, June 23, 2011.	1886	—
734.	Statement by Minister for Commerce and Industries Anand Sharma on Organised Crime and Drug Trafficking as a threat to International Security at the UN Security Council. New York, June 24, 2011.	1887	—
735.	Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the First Annual Meeting of the Executive Board of the UN Women. New York, June 27, 2011.	1890	—
736.	Extempore Remarks by Permanent Representative at the UN Hardeep Singh Puri at the Informal Thematic debate on “the United Nations in Global Governance”. New York, June 28, 2001.	1894	—
737.	Statement by Acting Permanent Representative at the UN Vinay Kumar at the UN Security Council debate on UNAMA. New York, July 6, 2011.	1898	—
738.	Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the Open Debate of the UN Security Council on Children and Armed Conflict. New York, July 12, 2011.	1901	—

739.	Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri in the Security Council meeting on the Sudan. New York, July 13, 2011.	1904	—
740.	Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the UN Security Council debate on "Impact of Climate Change". New York, July 20, 2011.	1907	—
741.	Opening Remarks by Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Ajay Maken while Co-Chairing the Thematic Panel on "Strengthening International Cooperation regarding Youth and Enhancing Dialogue, Mutual Understanding and Active Youth participation as indispensable elements of efforts towards achieving Social Integration, Full Employment and the Eradication of Poverty at the High Level Meeting on Youth at the UN General Assembly. New York, July 25, 2011.	1910	—
742.	Statement by Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Ajay Maken at the Plenary of the High Level Meeting on Youth at the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly. New York, July 26, 2011.	1912	—
743.	Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the UN Security Council Open Debate on the Middle East. New York, July 26, 2011.	1914	—
744.	Statement by Deputy Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri at the Follow-up meeting to the High Level Meeting on Revitalizing the work on the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward Multilateral Disarmament negotiations at the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. New York, July 28, 2011.	1916	—
745.	Statement by Deputy Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri at the Second Session of the Open Ended Working Group on Strengthening the Protection of Human Rights of Older Person. New York, August 4, 2011.	1918	—
746.	Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the Open Debate on	1920	—

CONTENTS**CIX**

	UN Peacekeeping Operations at the United Nations Security Council. New York, August 26, 2011.		
747.	Extempore Remarks by Deputy Permanent Representative Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri at the UNDP Executive Board Second Regular Session. New York, September 6, 2011.	1922	—
748.	Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN and Chairman of the Counter Terrorism Committee Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at OSCE Workshop on Public-Private Partnership on Enhancing Tourism Security [8-9 September 2011]. Vienna, September 8, 2011.	1925	—
749.	Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri in the Security Council debate on Somalia. New York, September 14, 2011.	1928	—
750.	Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri in the debate on Haiti at the Security Council. New York, September 16, 2011.	1931	—
751.	Statement by Minister of Health and Family Welfare Ghulam Nabi Azad at the High Level meeting of the UN General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases. New York, September 19, 2011.	1933	—
752.	Statement by Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs Dalip Sinha at the High Level meeting on Addressing Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought in the context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication at the 66th Session of the General Assembly. New York, September 20, 2011.	1936	—
753.	Intervention by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the meeting on New Silk Road in German House. New York, September 22, 2011.	1938	—
754.	Statement by India at The High Level Event on Conflict Prevention Being Organised by Lebanon, Presidency of the Security Council. New York, September 22, 2011.	1940	—

- | | | | |
|------|---|------|---|
| 755. | Statement by Dilip Sinha, Additional Secretary (IO) at the High-level Meeting of the UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. New York, September 22, 2011. | 1943 | — |
| 756. | Intervention by Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs Ravi Bangar on behalf of External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna at the Meeting of the Group of Fifteen (G-15) Ministers of Foreign Affairs. New York, September 24, 2011. | 1945 | — |
| 757. | Statement by Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs Dalip Sinha at the 35th annual meeting of the G – 77 Foreign Ministers. New York, September 24, 2011. | 1948 | — |
| 758. | Statement by Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs Dilip Sinha at the Second Ministerial Luncheon meeting of the Group of Friends at the United Against Human Trafficking. New York, September 26, 2011. | 1951 | — |
| 759. | Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on the Situation in Afghanistan at the Security Council. New York, September 29, 2011. | 1952 | — |
| 760. | Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Moinul Hassan Ahamed on Agenda item 109 – Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism at the 6th Committee of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly. New York, October 3, 2011. | 1955 | — |
| 761. | Statement by Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN K. R. Rahman Khan on Agenda Item 110 – Report of the Secretary General on the Work of the Organization at the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly. New York, October 4, 2011. | 1959 | — |
| 762. | Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN P. J. Kurien at the 2nd Committee General Debate of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly. New York, October 4, 2011. | 1963 | — |

CONTENTS**CXI**

- | | | | |
|------|---|------|---|
| 763. | Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Ram Gopal Yadav on Agenda Item 83 – 'The Rule of Law at the National and International Level' at the 6th Committee of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.
New York, October 5, 2011. | 1965 | — |
| 764. | Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Moinul Hassan Ahamed, during the General Debate of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).
New York, October 6, 2011. | 1968 | — |
| 765. | Statement by Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament Ambassador Sujata Mehta at the General Debate of the First Committee of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.
New York, October 6, 2011. | 1970 | — |
| 766. | Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav on Agenda Item 82 – 'Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the UN and on the strengthening of the Role of the Organization at the 6th Committee of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.
New York, October 6, 2011. | 1973 | — |
| 767. | Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Prof. P. J. Kurien on Agenda Item 78 – 'Criminal Accountability of United Nations Officials and Experts on Mission' at the 6th Committee of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.
New York, October 7, 2011. | 1977 | — |
| 768. | Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of Indian Delegation to the UN Moinul Hassan Ahamed on Agenda Item 79 – Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its Forty-Fourth Session at the 6th Committee of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.
New York, October 10, 2011. | 1980 | — |
| 769. | Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Moinul Hassan Ahamed on Agenda Item 143 – 'Administration of Justice at the UN' at the 6th Committee of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.
New York, October 10, 2011. | 1982 | — |

- | | | | |
|------|--|------|---|
| 770. | Statement by Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN K. Rahman Khan, on agenda item 17 : Macroeconomic policy questions: b) International Financial System and Development , and c) External Debt Sustainability and Development, in the Second Committee of the 66th United National General Assembly.
New York, October 10, 2011. | 1984 | — |
| 771. | Statement by Minister of State for External Affairs Mrs. Preneet Kaur at the Joint Debate on Agenda Item 63[a] and [b], and 13: New Partnership for Africa's Development: Progress in Implementation and International Support; Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa: Report of the Secretary-General [A/66/202 and A/66/214]; and 2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries at the 66th Session of the General Assembly.
New York, October 11, 2011. | 1987 | — |
| 772. | Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Dr. Ratna De on Agenda Item 65[A]: Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Children at the 3rd Committee of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.
New York, October 13, 2011. | 1990 | — |
| 773. | Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Moinul Hassan Ahamed on Agenda Item 18 – Follow up to and Implementation of the Outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference at the Second Committee of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.
New York, October 13, 2011. | 1993 | — |
| 774. | Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav on Agenda Item 51 – International Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in the General Debate of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee [4th Committee] of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.
New York, October 13, 2011. | 1996 | — |
| 775. | Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Dr. Ratna De on Agenda Item 80 – United Nations Programme of Assistance in the | 1998 | — |

- Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law at the 6th Committee of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.
New York, October 14, 2011.
776. Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Prakash Javadekar on agenda items: Culture of peace at the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.
New York, October 17, 2011. 2000 —
777. Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Satpal Rawat on Agenda Item 11 – “Sport for Peace and Development: Building a Peaceful and Better World through Sport and the Olympic Ideal” at the 66th Session of the General Assembly.
New York, October 17, 2011. 2003 —
778. Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Mrs. Santosh Chowdhary on the Thematic Debate on other Weapons of Mass Destruction at the First Committee of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.
New York, October 17, 2011. 2005 —
779. Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Ms. Viplove Thakur on Agenda Item 23[A] – Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty [2008 – 2017] at the Second Committee of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.
New York, October 17, 2011. 2007 —
780. Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Dushyant Singh on Agenda Item 69 – Promotion and Protection of Human Rights [A] Implementation of Human Rights Instruments, [D] Comprehensive Implementation of and Follow up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action at the Third Committee of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.
New York, October 18, 2011. 2010 —
781. Statement by the First Secretary at the Permanent Mission at the UN Dr. Vishnu Dutt Sharma on Agenda Item 85 – The Law of Trans Boundary Aquifers at the 6th Committee of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.
New York, October 18, 2011. 2012 —

782.	Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Mrs. Santosh Chowdhary on agenda item: Questions relating to information at the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) of 66th General Assembly. New York, October 19, 2011.	2014	—
783.	Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Ms. Viplove Thakur on Agenda Item 9 – Debate on the Report of the Economic and Social Council and Integrated and Coordinated Implementation of and Follow up to the Outcome of the Major United Nations Conferences and Summits in the Economic, Social and Related Fields (Agenda Item 14) at the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. New York, October 19, 2011.	2017	—
784.	Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Mrs. Viplove Thakur on Agenda Item 22 – Groups of Countries in Special Situations [A] Follow up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries [B] Specification Actions related to the particular needs and problems of Landlocked Developing Countries; Outcome of the International Ministerial Conference on Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation at the Second Committee of the 66th Session of the General Assembly. New York, October 20, 2011.	2020	—
785.	Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Prakash Javadekar on agenda item — 50: Effects of Atomic Radiation at the Fourth Committee of the 66th United Nations General Assembly. New York, October 21, 2011.	2023	—
786.	Statement by Minister of State E. Ahamed at UN Security Council's Open Debate on the Situation in the Middle East including the Palestinian Question. New York, October 24, 2011.	2025	—
787.	Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of Indian Delegation to the UN Ms. Santosh Chowdhary on Agenda Item 81 – Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its Sixty-third Session — Chapters I – V at the Sixth Committee of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly. New York, October 24, 2011.	2029	—

CONTENTS**CXV**

- | | | | |
|------|--|------|---|
| 788. | Speech by Minister of State E. Ahamed at UN General Assembly on the "Necessity of ending the Economic, Commercial and Financial Embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba".
New York, October 25, 2011. | 2032 | — |
| 789. | Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Mrs. Viplove Thakur on Agenda item 69 (b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and (c) Human Rights situations and reports of Special Rapporteurs and Representatives.
New York, October 26, 2011. | 2034 | — |
| 790. | Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Dushyant Singh on Agenda Item 16 – Information and Communication Technologies for Development at the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.
New York, October 26, 2011. | 2036 | — |
| 791. | Statement by Minister of State for External Affairs E. Ahamed on Agenda Item 72 – Report of the International Court of Justice at the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.
New York, October, 26, 2011. | 2042 | — |
| 792. | Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Mrs. Viplove Thakur on Agenda Item 17: Macro-Economic Policy Questions [A] International Trade and Development and [D] Commodities at the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.
New York, October 27, 2011. | 2045 | — |
| 793. | Statement by First Secretary at the Permanent Mission at the UN Dr. Vishnu Dutt Sharma on Agenda Item 81 – Report of the International Law Commission of the work of its sixty-third Session – Chapter VI, VIII and IX – at the Sixth Committee of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.
New York, October 28, 2011. | 2047 | — |
| 794. | Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Shatrughan Sinha on Agenda Item 27[B] – Meeting Devoted to the Launch of the International Year of Cooperatives 2012 at the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.
New York, October 31, 2011. | 2050 | — |

- | | | | |
|------|---|------|---|
| 795. | Statement by Minister of State E. Ahamed at UNSC on "Post-Conflict Peace-building".
New York, October 31, 2011. | 2053 | — |
| 796. | Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative of India at the First Exchange of the Eighth Round of Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Question of Equitable Representation on and increase in the Membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council.
New York, November 28, 2011. | 2055 | — |
| 797. | Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the Joint Debate on Agenda Item 120: Implementation of the Resolution of the United Nations & Agenda Item 121: Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly at the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly. | 2059 | — |
| 798. | Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the Second Regular Session of the Executive Board of the UN on Women.
New York, December 5, 2011. | 2063 | — |
| 799. | Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on Agenda Item 18 – Follow up and Implementation of the Outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 review Conference at the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.
New York, December 7, 2011. | 2065 | — |

