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External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid with U.S. Secretary of State John F. Kerry during the latter's visit to India for the 4th India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue, in New Delhi on June 24.

India-US: Expanding horizons of bilateral cooperation

■ **INDIA, U.S. ADD STRATEGIC DEPTH TO BILATERAL PARTNERSHIP**

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India ready to discuss patent policies with US lawmakers: Ambassador Rao

Following is the text of a letter sent by Ambassador Nirupama Rao to members of the House India Caucus and Senate India Caucus on India's Intellectual property regime on June 20, 2013

As a member of the Senate India Caucus you have always been a staunch advocate of strong India-U.S. relations and our strategic partnership. We are deeply appreciative of your commitment to further the cause of friendship between our countries.

In recent days, concerns have been raised by members of the U.S. Congress on India's commitments regarding intellectual property protection. I felt that I should write to you to explain the Government of India's approach to the issue.

India has a well-settled, stable and robust intellectual property regime. The three main pillars of this regime are comprehensive laws, detailed rules to back them up, and strong enforcement mechanisms, including for dispute resolution. In India, the IP framework is rooted in law. The full complement of our laws on patents, designs, trademarks and geographical indications is in place and these are in compliance with the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) of WTO. The India Patents Act specifically, is one of the most comprehensive acts, and is rigorously enforced. The award of patents is a transparent legal process with decisions and processes subject to legal scrutiny.

It is understood that the highest share (20-30 percent) of all patents granted in India has gone to U.S. nationals and corporations. And, of all the patents granted for pharmaceutical inventions between 2005 and 2011, more than 85 percent were owned by foreign companies in India. This trend would show that the provisions of the Indian Patents Act relat-

ed to pharmaceutical products are fair and unbiased. The Act does not discriminate between Indian nationals and others.

There is also much interest in India's use of Compulsory Licensing. It is important to understand the legal and public health context of such licensing. I wish to reaffirm that the provisions of the Compulsory License enshrined in the India Patent Act are in accordance with the provisions of the TRIPs Agreement and the Paris Convention.

“ *India has a well-settled, stable and robust intellectual property regime. The three main pillars of this regime are comprehensive laws, detailed rules to back them up, and strong enforcement mechanisms, including for dispute resolution.* **”**

— Ambassador Nirupama Rao

Through such licensing mechanisms, all Governments balance the rights of the patent holder with their obligations to ensure the validity of patents, availability of the products at a reasonable price, and protection of public health and nutrition. Since its inception, Compulsory Licensing has been an integral part of the patent regime of different countries. Globally, 15 different countries, developed and developing alike, have issued more than 35 compulsory licenses.

India has issued only one Compulsory License. The provisions for Compulsory Licensing are not meant to hamper the process of inno-

vation but to ensure a fair balance between the interests of innovators and the urgent needs of public health in a country with a population of over one billion.

I believe we share a common objective of strengthening the India-U.S. Strategic Partnership including importantly, through deepening mutually beneficial trade and commercial engagement. The strategic partnership between our two countries must be viewed holistically, and on the basis of the enormous stakes that both our countries have in ensuring that the gains and the progress that we have achieved in building a defining relationship for the 21st century are not seen through any prism that sacrifices long-term interests for the short-term.

Both U.S. and Indian businesses and investments in each other's economies would stand only to benefit from taking a long-term strategic view of this relationship. My Government stands prepared to resolve issues that arise in the trade and industry domain between our two countries in a spirit of mutual understanding and friendship, always safeguarding the interests of our long-term bilateral and strategic partnership.

In our endeavor to meet this goal, I would welcome the opportunity to engage with you further on these issues and to share our perspectives. My senior colleagues at the Embassy stand prepared to come and meet with your key officials or your constituents to engage in a friendly and substantive exchange of views so as to promote deeper understanding, and to seek mutually satisfactory solutions, in a spirit of friendship. ■

India, US for close interaction between legal agencies

India and the U.S. have agreed that their legal agencies associated with the enforcement of competition law would interact closely as envisaged under the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in September 2012.

India's Minister for Corporate Affairs Sachin Pilot reviewed the MoU signed jointly by his ministry and Competition Commission of India (CCI) with the U.S. Department of Justice and Federal Trade Commission (FTC) with FTC Chairperson Edith Ramirez in Washington, DC.

Minister Pilot also suggested at the meeting on June 13 that officials of FTC and Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) identify a few specific activities for cooperation and joint action prior to Ramirez's visit to India in October.

The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) could cooperate with the FTC in capacity building and aware-



India's Minister for Corporate Affairs Sachin Pilot at a meeting with U.S. Federal Trade Commission Chairperson Edith Ramirez in Washington, D.C. on June 13.

ness generation of the competition legislation and the forthcoming competition policy, among the legal practitioners and judicial bodies of both countries, he suggested.

Later, presiding over the renewal of an MoU between the IICA and the George Washington University Law School, the Corporate Affairs Minister said their collaboration must

make the best of the good work that is being done.

Minister Pilot met with a team from the International Finance Corporation (IFC) led by Saadia Khairi, Vice President, Risk Management and Reporting, on June 14. The discussions covered a broad range of topics relating to business environment in India, among other issues.

Ambassador's Engagement

Ambassador Rao brings India closer to Utah

With a view to promoting exchanges between India and Utah, an important state in the western part of the U.S., Ambassador Nirupama Rao visited the state from June 13-14.

Ambassador Rao called on Lt. Governor of Utah, Gregory S. Bell at the State Capitol in Salt Lake City. She also had meetings with Dr. Cecil O. Samuelson, President of Brigham Young University (BYU) and Dr. Sandra Rogers, International Vice President of BYU, and addressed faculty and students at the BYU at Provo. Ambassador Rao visited the Sikh Temple of Utah in Salt Lake City and the Indian Cultural Centre (ICC) in South Jordan where she interacted



Ambassador Nirupama Rao with Dr. Cecil O. Samuelson, President of Brigham Young University on June 14.

with the Indian American community, who also hosted a felicitation ceremony for the Ambassador at the ICC.

At a luncheon meeting hosted jointly by the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce, the World Trade Centre of Utah and the U.S. International Trade and Diplomacy Office in Utah, Ambassador Rao interacted with the prominent business leaders of the state. Stressing the need for increased cooperation in R & D and investment diversification, the Ambassador emphasized the need for further improving business ties as part of the ongoing strategic partnership between India and the US.

During her meeting with Governor Bell, Ambassador Rao invited the Utah state to explore collaborative avenues with Indian educational institutions, especially through the University of Utah and BYU.



External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid with U.S. Secretary of State John F. Kerry at a joint press interaction in New Delhi on June 24.

India-US: Expanding horizons of bilateral cooperation

Characterized by ‘convergence and candor’, the Fourth India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue emphasized on new areas such as energy, while intensifying cooperation in health, science and technology, education, space, defense and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy

The fourth India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue co-chaired by India’s External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry in New Delhi on June 24 underscored the expansion of horizons in the bilateral cooperation and transformation of the bilateral strategic partnership into a global one. The two leaders expressed appreciation for the success of the two countries in leveraging their respective areas of comparative advantage to jointly assist other partner countries across the globe.

“We are delighted to be developing an increasingly global dimension to the India-U.S. strategic partnership,” EAM Khurshid said at a joint press confer-

ence after the Dialogue. Security, economics and technology; regional strategic and political issues; and global issues were the key strategic issues discussed in the Dialogue, he said.

Secretary Kerry’s visit, the first to India since taking over in February, also saw the two sides discuss boosting business and defense ties and implementing the Indo-U.S. civil nuclear deal. He noted that India-U.S. economic cooperation had grown five-fold in the past five years and was poised to surpass \$100 billion. “We can do even more, we can break down trade and investment barriers,” he said.

Both sides also discussed the Bilateral Investment Protection Agreements (BIPA), aimed to deepen

bilateral economic ties. The last round of talks was held in June 2012.

Secretary Kerry said that India and the U.S. were committed to “fully implement” the civil nuclear deal and that U.S.’ Westinghouse Electric and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) were to arrive at a common agreement “by September this year” for the first U.S. reactor in India.

Addressing the media in Hyderabad House after the fourth round of the Strategic Dialogue, Secretary Kerry said the significant representation on his team, which included Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, was a reflection of the high importance the U.S. placed on its ties with India.

On U.S.’ proposed talks with

Taliban, which India has said should be “Afghan-led and Afghan-owned”, the Secretary of State said that the U.S. would “consult very closely with India and with others in the region”. He said that the U.S. would proceed with the talks only if it is an Afghan-led process and the negotiations would be led by the Afghan High Peace Council. External Affairs Minister Khurshid said the U.S. Secretary of State had assured that “none of the concerns of India will be overlooked” in the talks.

Additionally, the two sides agreed to enhance the existing India-U.S. Global Climate Change Dialogue, and identify opportunities for further and significant bilateral cooperation.

Excerpts from External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid’s statement at the joint press conference following the 4th India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue:

“We have just completed detailed discussions covering key strategic pillars of our relationship, namely: security, economics and technology; regional strategic and political issues; and global issues. Our discussions were truly characterized by convergence and candor.

Secretary Kerry was positive in his assessment of our strategic partnership, and generous in his appraisal of the potential future of our relationship. It is a perspective my colleagues and I fully share. This shared perspective is reflected in our Joint Statement, and in the Fact Sheets drafted by officials on both sides, which will be made available to you shortly.

Today, we are expanding our bilateral cooperation to new horizons, such as energy, while intensifying existing avenues of cooperation in health, science and technology, education, space, defense and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. At the same time, we are very satisfied with the ongoing pace of our political dialogues, which have enabled us to intensify bilateral consultations on key issues in our region and beyond, including in the larger Asian context. We are delighted to be developing an



U.S. Secretary of State John F. Kerry called on Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in New Delhi on June 24.

increasingly global dimension to the India-U.S. strategic partnership.

Today, at the conclusion of this fourth round of our Strategic Dialogue, we can take satisfaction in the fact that within the few years since we raised our relationship to a strategic footing, our bilateral dialogue is wide-ranging to the extent of taking on an all-of-Government character. To put that in perspective, we have exchanged as many as 112 senior official and high-level visits in the year 2012. Exchanges in the current year continue to be equally intense and wide-ranging, with over 47 official visits already exchanged covering conversations ranging from Homeland Security to Education; from Space to Energy; and from our Trilateral dialogue with Japan to a Trilateral

conversation with Afghanistan.

A number of important visits and dialogue processes are scheduled over the next several months, including the Ministerial Energy Dialogue and the CEO’s Forum, both of which are coordinated on our side by Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission.

In participating in special events celebrating our partnership in green and affordable innovation, and in co-chairing the Higher Education Dialogue with our Human Resource Development Minister, the Secretary has highlighted the significance of innovation and education as pillars of this strategic relationship. I want to particularly thank him for this, as there has otherwise been too little said about these very vital aspects of our partnership which exercise an important impact on the lives of our people.

I want to thank our distinguished visitors for their presence here in India. We deeply appreciate their commitment to this partnership, and their substantive contributions during our dialogue. We hope to continue to build on the good work done so far, in expanding the horizons of the India-U.S. relationship.”

India-U.S. discussion focused on boosting business and defense ties, and implementing the Indo-U.S. civil nuclear deal

India, US add strategic depth to bilateral partnership

Affirming their shared vision for peace and stability in Asia and other parts of the world, the two sides reiterated their commitment to facilitating greater two-way trade and investment, including with respect to goods, services, and skilled professionals



External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid and U.S. Secretary of State John F. Kerry at the delegation level talks in New Delhi on June 24.

External Affairs Minister of India Salman Khurshid and U.S. Secretary of State John F. Kerry met in New Delhi and co-chaired the fourth India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue on June 24. During their first meeting, they reviewed the extensive transformation of the bilateral relationship and identified key sectors of cooperation that will continue to add strategic depth to the partnership.

Secretary Kerry was accompanied at the Strategic Dialogue by Ambassador Nancy Powell Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, Admiral Samuel Locklear of the U.S. Pacific

Command, Director John Holdren of the White House Office of Science & Technology Policy, National Aeronautics and Space Administrator Charles Bolden, U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator Rajiv Shah, Export-Import Bank Chairman Fred Hochberg, U.S. Trade & Development Agency Director Leocadia Zak, and senior officials from the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security, and Overseas Private Investment Corporation. External Affairs Minister Khurshid was joined by Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Montek

Singh Ahluwalia; Adviser to the Prime Minister on Public Information, Infrastructure and Innovation Sam Pitroda; Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai; Home Secretary R.K. Singh; Secretary, Department of Science & Technology T. Ramasami; Secretary, Department of Space, Dr. K. Radhakrishnan; Secretary, Department of Higher Education Ashok Thakur and Ambassador Nirupama Rao.

Regional strategic consultations

Reaffirming their shared vision for peace and stability in Asia and in the Indian and Pacific Oceans, the

United States and India underscored their continued support for enhancing regional connectivity, as well as for the continued intensification of India-U.S. engagement through existing regional dialogue mechanisms, including the East Asia Summit process, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum and the ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting Plus. The two sides expressed their commitment to continue to consult closely on issues relating to the region both bilaterally and trilaterally, including in the India-U.S.-Japan format, which has had four successful meetings.

The United States and India reaffirmed the importance of maritime security, unimpeded commerce and freedom of navigation, and the peaceful resolution of maritime disputes in accordance with international law. India welcomed the entry of the United States to the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) as a Dialogue Partner in November 2012, and the United States welcomed India's Observer status to the Arctic Council in May 2013.

Minister Khurshid and Secretary Kerry called for sustained commitment and support of the international community for a stable, democratic, united, sovereign and prosperous Afghanistan. The United States and India each reiterated their enduring commitments to support the Afghan Government and all people of Afghanistan through the transition process and beyond, in accordance with their respective Strategic Partnership Agreements. The two leaders emphasized the importance of ensuring that the international community continues to support free, fair, transparent and inclusive Presidential and Provincial Council elections in Afghanistan in 2014. They emphasized the need for continued efforts to enhance the capacity of the Afghan National Security Forces and sustain the socio-economic development of Afghanistan.



EAM Khurshid with Secretary Kerry at the joint press interaction after the 4th India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue in New Delhi on June 24.

The leaders acknowledged that success in Afghanistan requires, in addition to building up Afghanistan's capacity to defend itself, an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned reconciliation process. They agreed that the process should preserve the historic political, economic and social progress made over the past decade.

The two leaders also reiterated the importance of taking concrete steps to promote expanded private investment and trade in Afghanistan.

Security and strategic partnership

The two co-chairs recognized that defense, counterterrorism, and sci-

ence and technology have become important aspects of the relationship. They welcomed the fact that defense trade had reached nearly \$9 billion, and that U.S. and Indian military forces were continuing their professional exchanges, including through regular military training exercises, like the Army series YUDH ABHYAS, which took place in May, and the naval series MALABAR, planned for later this year. They welcomed the delivery of the first P-8I Poseidon for the Indian Navy in May and the first C-17 Globemaster III for the Indian Air Force in June. Minister Khurshid and Secretary Kerry also acknowledged the efforts that the United States and India are making to transform defense ties beyond buyer-seller relationships and to pursue opportunities for technological cooperation for co-development and co-production of defense equipment.

Recognizing the shared challenges that democratic societies such as the United States and India face from terrorist groups, as well as the grave dangers posed by violent extremism, Minister Khurshid and Secretary Kerry welcomed the convening of the second Homeland Security Dialogue

Minister Khurshid and Secretary Kerry called for sustained commitment and support of the international community for a stable, democratic, united, sovereign and prosperous Afghanistan



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry interacts with young Indian leaders at a program at Lodi Gardens in New Delhi, on June 24. (Photo: U.S. Department of State)

in Washington, May 2013. They reiterated the importance of closer cooperation and development of more intensive partnerships between the two countries in megacity policing, cyber security, global supply chain and transportation security, combating counterfeit currency and illicit financial flows, training of law enforcement agencies, and identifying products and technologies that support law enforcement. They also stressed the need for concerted efforts to address the challenge of terrorism in the region, including the dismantling of terrorist safe havens and disrupting all financial and tactical support for terrorism, and through strengthened cooperation in the Global Counterterrorism Forum. The two leaders reiterated their commitment to continue their cooperation on the Mumbai terror attack in

November 2008, including through continued exchanges of information between designated agencies to aid investigations and trials relating to that attack.

Minister Khurshid and Secretary Kerry emphasized the need for the United States and India to develop stronger partnerships on cyber-security, including through the next iterations of the Cyber Security Consultations, the Strategic Cyber Policy Dialogue, and the Information and Communications Technology Working Group. Secretary Kerry and Minister Khurshid reaffirmed the intent of U.S. and Indian law enforcement agencies to develop closer partnerships critical to the shared objectives of countering transnational crime and terrorist threats that impact both countries. To that end, both leaders welcomed the

enhancement of existing dialogues to a formal India-U.S. Working Group on mutual legal assistance and extradition, acknowledging the importance of continuing to find effective and efficient mechanisms to cooperate on our shared commitment in law enforcement.

Minister Khurshid and Secretary Kerry recognized the very successful partnership being built, through the Strategic Security Dialogue, on issues related to non-proliferation and international security. They reviewed the close cooperation of the United States and India to realize India's intention of joining the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), the Wassenaar Arrangement and the Australia Group. Secretary Kerry reaffirmed the United States' support for India's

full membership in these groups. The United States also welcomed India's March 2013 update to the Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment, and Technology (SCOMET) list.

Strategic partnership in commerce, S&T, education, and energy

Growing trade and investment continue to drive the India-U.S. partnership forward, and bilateral trade in goods and services has reached close to \$100 billion. The two sides welcomed the adoption of new regulations regarding foreign investment ceilings in several sectors of the Indian economy, and the creation of new Cabinet-level mechanisms to expedite investment in India's infrastructure. The co-chairs supported increased investment in mutually-rewarding opportunities in their vast and growing markets. The two sides will resume negotiations to conclude a Bilateral Investment Treaty/Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement as soon as India's revised model BIPPA text is ready.

Both governments reiterated their commitment to facilitating greater two-way trade and investment, including with respect to goods, services, and skilled professionals. Both governments also re-affirmed their commitment to strengthening the innovation climate in each country as a means of promoting economic growth and other legitimate domestic and trade policy objectives. Noting the importance of technology to both economies, India and the United States discussed their cooperation under the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Working Group and reaffirmed plans for a follow on ICT Working Group Meeting in Washington this year. Both sides plan to discuss best practices and cooperation in ICT manufacturing and testing, cloud computing, R&D in ICT and other related areas. To take advantage of the benefits of cyberspace and to manage the increasing threats, both also agreed on the importance of deepening

high-level discussions and cooperation on cyber security and internet governance through various mechanisms including the Cybersecurity Consultations and the Strategic Cyber Policy Dialogue.

The two sides welcomed the increased cooperation and communication between U.S. antitrust agencies and Indian competition agencies that help ensure markets are open and competitive. In September 2012, the U.S. Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission and the Indian Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Competition Commission of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Antitrust Cooperation to promote technical cooperation and consultations on matters of competition policy and enforcement.

Minister Khurshid and Secretary Kerry welcomed the continuation of discussions under the Commercial Dialogue on standards cooperation and the expected launch of discussions on sustainable manufacturing. Minister Khurshid reiterated India's willingness to host the next meeting of the Trade Policy Forum (TPF) in India on mutually convenient dates and have a comprehensive engagement on the full range of issues under the TPF.

The two leaders recognized that India and the United States enjoy ever expanding bilateral cooperation in our science and technology rela-

tionship. Together, India and the United States are using science and technology to tackle global cross-cutting issues such as climate change, disease mitigation, water resources, and clean energy. Both countries facilitate leading edge research and are building public-private partnerships that support technology-based innovation and entrepreneurship. India and the United States look forward to the next Joint Commission Meeting in 2014 to plan, coordinate, and provide strategic guidance to help advance our mutual science and technology endeavors.

The two delegations discussed the critical importance of energy to sustaining economic growth and securing prosperity, and acknowledged the robust and full range of cooperation under the India-U.S. Energy Dialogue, co-chaired by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy and the Deputy Chairman of India's Planning Commission. India and the United States plan to continue their ongoing efforts to expand partnerships in clean energy and energy efficiency through the India-U.S. Partnership to Advance Clean Energy (PACE) and under the multilateral Clean Energy Ministerial. Since 2009, PACE - Deployment has mobilized approximately \$2 billion in clean energy financing to India and PACE - Research has created innovative public-private consortia through the \$125 million Joint Clean Energy Research & Development Centre. They noted the decision taken to create a new Sustainable Growth Working Group under the India-U.S. Energy Dialogue, and the growth of U.S. investment in India's energy sector. India and the United States welcomed additional efforts aimed at financing clean energy investments, promoting the development of smart grid technologies, energy efficient buildings, solar power, smart and efficient air conditioning and space cooling, and expanding off-grid access to clean energy.

The two sides noted the ongoing commercial discussions between

The two delegations discussed the critical importance of energy to sustaining economic growth and securing prosperity, and acknowledged the robust and full range of cooperation under the India-U.S. Energy Dialogue

NPCIL and Westinghouse towards setting up a nuclear power plant at Mithivirdi in Gujarat. They encouraged the two companies to expedite these consultations. They also took note of the ongoing consultations between General Electric-Hitachi and NPCIL on setting up a nuclear power plant in Andhra Pradesh. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to the full and timely implementation of the India-U.S. civil nuclear cooperation agreement.

The Minister and Secretary reviewed the good progress on cooperation between the United States and India on particle physics and expressed the desire to finalize an agreement by the end of this summer. They also committed to encouraging the conclusion of talks between the

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Indian Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) on a bilateral information exchange arrangement, by fall 2013. The two sides also praised collaborative research and development under the India-U.S. Civil Nuclear Energy Working Group, which will meet in Mumbai in July 2013 to discuss advancing cooperation in accelerator technology and other nuclear physics research projects.

The Minister and the Secretary welcomed the expanded work plan endorsed by the India-U.S. Civil Space Joint Working Group in a number of areas, including measures that will improve the use of earth observation data to promote sustainable development and the compatibil-

ity-interoperability between the U.S. Global Positioning System and the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System. They applauded agreement by the Indian Space Research Organization and the U.S. National Aeronautic and Space Agency to explore further cooperative space exploration work, including future missions to the moon and Mars. They welcomed the announcement of NASA support through its Deep Space Network facilities to ISRO's Mars Orbiter Mission, and the ISRO-NASA technical discussions to integrate a U.S. L-band and Indian S-band synthetic aperture radar on an Indian spacecraft for earth observation studies. Both sides intend to cooperate bilaterally and in multilateral forums to promote efforts to ensure the long term sustainability of outer space. To this end, both sides plan to undertake discussions on areas of mutual interest such as space situational awareness, and collision avoidance as part of a Space Security Dialogue.

Minister Khurshid and Secretary Kerry welcomed the Higher Education Dialogue to be held on June 25, 2013. They reiterated their commitment to the Fulbright-Nehru Program for students and scholar exchange, and lauded the colleges and universities selected to receive funding under the second round of awards of the Obama-Singh Knowledge Initiative, for which the two Governments committed in 2009 to provide \$5 million each, over five years. The leaders also lauded initiatives such as the Raman Fellowships for placements of young faculty and researchers in U.S. universities under which a first batch of 126 fellows are scheduled to join U.S. institutions in the current academic session; the 'In Step' initiative for training of in-service teachers; and collaborations in technology-enabled learning, including Massive Open Online Courses.

They underlined the importance of developing further partnerships between U.S. and Indian educational institutions, and developing India's



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry meets with Nobel Laureate Dr. R.K. Pachauri in New Delhi on June 23. U.S. Ambassador to India Nancy J. Powell is also seen. (Photo: U.S. Department of State)

vocational training sector through collaboration with U.S. educational institutions. The two leaders welcomed the initiative to establish community colleges in India. In this context, the Minister and the Secretary welcomed the decision to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding between the All India Council for Technical Education and the American Association of Community Colleges, as well as additional institution-to-institution agreements to be signed on the margins of the Higher Education Dialogue,

To enhance people-to-people connectivity, the two leaders also welcomed the creation of new student programs, such as India's "Connect India" program and the U.S. "Passport to India" initiative. They noted the importance of education as a pillar of the strategic relationship, which not only enhances people-to-people connectivity, but also bolsters Indian institutional capacity to realize the demographic dividend promised by the significant increase of young people in India's population. Cooperation in education supports economic growth in both countries and fosters the innovation and entrepreneurship both nations need to advance together in the 21st century.

The two leaders welcomed the rich mix of public and private science and technology cooperation between U.S. and Indian institutions and partners and underscored the importance of science, technology, and innovation to the well-being and economic growth of the two countries. They applauded the announcement of awards from the Millennium Alliance and the Science and Technology Endowment Board celebrating the joint collaborative and innovative spirit between our scientists and technologists. The two countries reaffirmed their commitment to future collaborations in a wide range of disciplines from physics and state-of-the-art telescopes, to increasing the role of women in science and technology, advancing health research by continuing their success-

They underlined the importance of developing further partnerships between U.S. and Indian educational institutions, and developing India's vocational training sector through collaboration with U.S. educational institutions

es in understanding diabetes, and working towards development of a new rotavirus vaccine. The Indian side underlined its interest to deepen cooperation with the United States in monsoon studies and in developing an Integrated Ocean Drilling Program.

Global Issues

Minister Khurshid and Secretary Kerry lauded the expansion of the successive rounds of the Strategic Dialogue to encompass a truly global strategic partnership. The co-chairs expressed appreciation for the success of the two countries in leveraging their respective areas of comparative advantage to jointly assist other partner countries across the globe.

Minister Khurshid and Secretary Kerry welcomed the ongoing trilateral cooperation in establishing Open Government Platforms in Ghana and Rwanda, eliminating preventable child deaths, and strengthening agriculture management and extension to expand food security among important African partners such as Kenya, Liberia, and Malawi, while also cooperating to empower women economically in Afghanistan. The two sides also welcomed the continuing bilateral consultations on peacekeeping and recognized the need to expand this senior official dialogue to cover the range of issues in the United Nations.

The two sides welcomed the decisions taken at the United Nations

Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties held in Doha. They resolved to carry out the Durban Platform, including by developing a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties. They stressed the need for meaningful implementation of the mechanisms set up under the UNFCCC process. Additionally, the two sides agreed to enhance the existing India-U.S. Global Climate Change Dialogue, and identify opportunities for further and significant bilateral cooperation.

Welcoming the outcome of the Rio+20 Conference in June 2012, the two sides reaffirmed that eradication of poverty is at the heart of the global sustainable development agenda.

The two sides welcomed continuing engagement on women's empowerment and the four meetings that have been held since the establishment of the India-U.S. Women's Empowerment Dialogue in 2009. The Minister and the Secretary welcomed the opportunity to further cement India-U.S. cooperation in these existing areas and explore additional areas of mutual interest, including in the fields of clean energy and women in science, technology, and engineering.

The two leaders endorsed the detailed sectoral fact sheets outlining progress achieved in a range of areas since the previous Dialogue in Washington in June 2012, and encouraged Departments and Ministries on both sides to continue to design and implement ambitious plans to further the partnership.

The two co-chairs expressed satisfaction at the consistent progress being made in the annual Strategic Dialogues towards deepening the India-U.S. partnership. Secretary Kerry thanked Minister Khurshid for hosting the fourth round in New Delhi.

The next round of the Strategic Dialogue will be convened in the United States in 2014, on mutually convenient dates.

India-US: Strengthening a multifaceted partnership

The visionary leaderships of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and U.S. President Barack Obama have led to the growth of India-U.S. relations into a multifaceted partnership. This is reflected from the coop-

eration of the two countries at various levels for strengthening collaboration in all areas of strategic importance. Be it economy, energy, higher education, science & technology, health or cultural cooperation, various institutions of the two countries are now

engaged in advancing the ties between India and the U.S. to a higher level for leveraging the strengths of each other for mutual benefits. As the two countries conclude their fourth Strategic Dialogue, we take a look at the major areas of collaboration:

Sustainable growth, energy and climate change

- India and the U.S. signed a Memorandum of Understanding on clean energy, energy efficiency, energy security, and climate change in 2009.
- The two sides noted the robust and full range of cooperation under the U.S.-India Energy Dialogue, highlighting ongoing engagement in the areas of electrical grid cooperation, energy efficiency, expanding markets for renewable energy technologies and addressing barriers to clean energy deployment, shale gas resource assessments and sharing lessons on exploitation, clean coal technology development, and civil nuclear energy.
- Over the past year, negotiations leading to the construction of U.S. nuclear power plants in Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh have continued with notable progress made towards land acquisition.
- On May 7, 2012 USAID and the Planning Commission of India signed a Statement of Principles forming a new Joint Working Group on Sustainable Growth that will support efforts to “enhance Indian and U.S. capacity to develop long-term plans and strategies to achieve low carbon inclusive growth.” It should also help us in development and adoption of clean technologies.
- Prime Minister Singh and President Obama announced India-U.S. Partnership to Advance



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with U.S. President Barack Obama at White House, Washington, D.C. on November 24, 2009.

Clean Energy PACE in November 2009 to improve energy access and promote low-carbon growth. Under PACE-Research, in 2012, the Government of India and the Department of Energy are supporting three innovative public-private U.S.-India consortia work in solar energy, building efficiency, and advanced biofuels under the \$125 million Joint Clean Energy Research and Development Center.

- USAID announced a new loan guarantee under the Development Credit Authority that will mobilize

at least \$100 million for clean energy investments.

- A Partnership agreement was signed between the U.S. and India for the Sustainable Forests and Climate Adaptation programme on September 30, 2010. Under President Obama’s Global Climate Change Initiative, in July 2012, the Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests and USAID initiated a five-year, \$14 million contract to take Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) actions to scale in India.

Economic Collaborations

- Business ties have led the way in achieving a nearly fivefold increase in bilateral trade since 2000. Annual two-way trade is more than \$100 billion, while the total two way foreign direct investment is nearing \$30 billion.
- Since 2010, India and the United States have engaged in an Economic and Financial Partnership (EFP) to deepen India — U.S. engagement in core economic policy areas.
- India and the United States have engaged in bilateral investment treaty (BIT) negotiations since 2008, with the last round held in June 2012.
- Since 2000, the Commercial Dialogue facilitates discussions on key economic topics such as standards for smart grids and intelligent transportation systems, public awareness programs on Intellectual Property Rights, sustainable manufacturing practices, and support for small and medium enterprises.



Finance Minister P. Chidambaram with business leaders at a India-U.S. CEO Forum Meeting in Mumbai, in October 2007.

- The Trade Policy Forum (TPF) enables India and the U.S. to engage on a wide range of policy issues impacting bilateral trade and investment.
- Under the India-U.S. Aviation Cooperation Program (ACP), the U.S. Trade and Development Agency will sponsor the fourth India-U.S. Aviation Summit in October 2013.
- Through the Information and Communication Technology Working Group (ICTWG), Indian and U.S. officials work to promote

collaboration and partnerships in a sector that is at the forefront of innovation.

- In September 2012, the Indian Competition Agencies (Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Competition Commission of India (CCI)) and the U.S. Antitrust Agencies (Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC)) signed a MOU on Antitrust Cooperation.
- The India-U.S. CEO Forum is a unique gathering of CEOs and senior government officials from both countries that enables a forthright conversation about immediate policy issues.
- Over the past year, economic ties at the state and city levels have grown.
- The new American Business Corners initiative is facilitating economic engagement with India's booming urban centers and strengthening India-U.S. business connections by providing Indian entrepreneurs information about trade and investment opportunities with the United States.

- Under the India-U.S. Health Initiative, launched in 2010, four working groups have been organized in the areas of Non-Communicable Diseases, Infectious Diseases, Strengthening Health Systems and Services, and Maternal and Child Health.
- The Indian National Centre of Disease Control (NCDC) and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S. CDC) and Department of Health and Human Services signed a MOU in November 2010 to collaborate in the establishment and operation of the Global Disease Detection-India Centre. The Global Disease Detection-India Centre is now fully operational and experts have collaborated in the areas of food borne diseases, emergency operations, zoonotic diseases, public health laboratory systems, disease surveillance, epidemiology and acute encephalitis.

Health Matters



Minister for Health and Family Welfare Ghulam Nabi Azad and the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Women and Child Development Krishna Tirath with the U.S. Secretary, Health and Human Services, Kathleen Sebelius, at the India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue, in Washington, D.C. on June 12.

- The Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and U.S. CDC within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services collaborate in the areas of prevention and control of road traffic injury, trauma system development and emergency medical serv-

ices under the framework of a Joint Statement signed in June 2009.

- On June 14-15, 2012, the Governments of the United States, India, and Ethiopia, in collaboration with UNICEF, hosted the Child Survival Call to Action event in Washington, D.C. to mobilize the world to achieve the ambitious yet achievable goal of reducing all preventable child deaths by 2035.
- The Drug Controller General of India and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have been collaborating in the area of training, regulation of medical devices, clinical research, pharmacovigilance, and e-governance.
- Working in close partnership with NACO, PEPFAR has contributed \$261.6 million to India between 2004-2012 for HIV prevention, care and treatment. The U.S. CDC, USAID, and NIH all have bilateral agreements and arrangements with Indian institutions to address HIV/AIDS.

Higher education development

- The United States is the most favored destination for Indian students, with more than 100,000 Indian students pursuing higher studies in the United States.
- In response to strong interest among academic communities in both countries the two countries convened India-U.S. Higher Education Summit in Washington D.C. in October 2011 that ultimately led to the establishment of an annual bilateral Higher Education Dialogue.
- Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Barack Obama announced the Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative in November 2009 to fund institutional partnerships between Indian and U.S. institutions of higher education, through faculty exchanges and research and innovation collaboration in the priority areas of food security, climate change, sustainable health and public health. Each side has committed \$5 million for the initiative, which will grant awards of up to \$250,000 to selected projects.
- The Fulbright-Nehru program, supported by both governments, has nearly tripled in size over the last four years, with approximately 300 students and scholars from the United States and India participating annually.
- The C. V. Raman Fellowship program, announced during the Higher Education Summit in 2011, aims to place junior faculty members from India for post-doctoral research in U.S. higher education institutions. The first cohort of 126 Raman Fellows will conduct post-doctoral research in different U.S. institutions beginning in August 2013.
- Beginning later this year, the United States intends to host a series of delegations of community college leaders from India to the



Then Minister for Human Resource Development Kapil Sibal with former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at the second India-U.S. Higher Education Dialogue, in Washington, D.C. on June 12, 2012.

United States for professional development and capacity building.

- The 'Connect India Program' was announced during the India-U.S. Higher Education Dialogue held in June 2012. It envisages placement of 200 U.S. students at Indian education institutions for a semester of study.
- India is collaborating with U.S. institutions to establish a Centre of Excellence on Cyber Systems at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi.
- The India-Support for Teacher Education Program (In-STEP) is a joint project between the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Ministry of Human Resource Development to build the capacity of teacher educators in India. This thirty-month, \$4.3 million activity plans to send two groups of approximately fifty teachers each from eastern and northeastern states in India to attend a three-month customized training program at a U.S. university.
- The Passport to India Initiative seeks to increase significantly the number of U.S. students in India.

Space Missions

- India and the United States pursue civil space cooperation under the framework of the Joint Working Group on Civil Space, which was constituted as the follow-up to the India-U.S. Conference on Space Science, Application, and Commerce held in Bangalore in June 2004.
- The India-U.S. Civil Space Joint Working Group held its fourth meeting in Washington, D.C., on March 21, 2013. The Joint Working Group engaged in a broad range of discussions and endorsed expanded work in a number of areas including measures to improve the use of earth observation data to promote sustainable development and promote the compatibility and the interoperability between the U.S. Global Positioning System and the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System.
- NASA and ISRO signed an agreement for activities related to India's Mars Orbiter Mission. Further, NASA and ISRO are pursuing discussions on the potential development of a joint dual frequency (L & S band) Synthetic Aperture Radar Imaging Satellite Mission. The two agencies will explore cooperation in future missions to the moon.
- Under agreements signed in March 2012, NASA, the U.S. National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) are cooperating on ISRO's Oceansat-2 mission and the Global Precipitation Measurement and ISRO-French Space Agency Megha Tropiques missions.
- India is implementing a 'Global Positioning System Aided Geo Augmented Navigation System (GAGAN)' for civil aviation purposes through a commercial agreement with the U.S. firm Raytheon.
- ISRO and NASA have worked out Terms of Reference for 'Professional Engineer and Scientist Exchange Programme.'
- India has also funded the establishment of the "Prof. Satish Dhawan Graduate Endowment Fellowship Programme" at the California Institute of Technology.

Science & technology cooperation

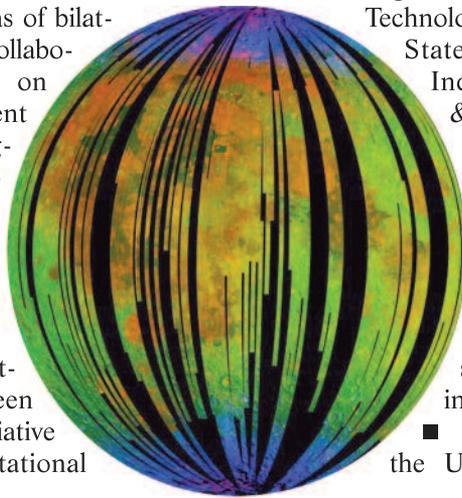
- The India-U.S. Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement, signed in 2005, established the Joint Committee meeting (JCM) to plan, coordinate, monitor, and facilitate bilateral cooperation in science and technology.
- Under the auspices of an agreement signed in July 2011 between Indian Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the DAE and the DOE are exploring collaborative mechanisms to develop next-generation, high-intensity superconducting radio frequency proton accelerators and enhance cooperation in related physics research.
- Through a unique India-U.S. social innovation partnership involving India's Department of Biotechnology, U.S. National Institutes of Health, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, PATH, Bharat Biotech, Stanford University, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, and a range of other public and private partners, collaborators recently released the results of a Phase 3 clinical trial involving a new rotavirus vaccine: ROTAVAC®. Positive results from the Phase III clinical trial, involving more than 6,000 participants in India, showed that ROTAVAC® has an excellent safety and efficacy profile, and

could be recognized as the first entirely new vaccine developed within India in over 100 years.

- The U.S. National Institutes of Health signed two Joint Statements in 2013 with India's Department of Science and Technology and Department of Biotechnology. The Joint Statements are intended to initiate new areas of bilateral scientific collaboration focused on the development of low-cost, diagnostic, and therapeutic medical devices, and to continue such existing collaboration.
- Through a partnership between the Indian Initiative in Gravitational Observations (IndIGO) and the U.S. Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory Laboratory and other institutes in India, both sides are working to build a world-class gravitational wave detector in India that will greatly enhance a network of detectors under construction in the United States, Europe, and Japan to study gravitational waves

emanating from some of the most cataclysmic events in our universe – black holes, neutron stars, and supernovas. This research may improve our understanding of the Big Bang. India has proposed realizing this goal in its Twelfth and future Five-year Frameworks.

- Indian Department of Science & Technology and the United States endowed the India-U.S. Science & Technology Forum (IUSSTF) in 2000 with matching funds to facilitate mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation in science, engineering, and health.



NASA's Moon Mineralogy Mapper, an instrument on the ISRO's Chandrayaan-I mission, took this image. Small amounts of water were detected on the surface of the Moon at various locations. (Photo: ISRO/NASA/JPL-Caltech/Brown Univ./USGS)

- In 2010, the United States and India identified "Women in Science" as a priority area for bilateral

engagement.

- Since 2010, India has committed to contribute as a member in the Thirty Meter Telescope to a California Institute of Technology-led consortium that is developing one of the world's most powerful telescopes in Hawaii.

Cultural Exchanges

- The Indian Ministry of Culture and the Metropolitan Museum Art, New York, signed a Memorandum of Agreement in February 2013 to enhance cultural exchanges, training and visits undertaken by museum professionals from both sides and enhance cooperation in areas of conservation, exhibition, academic research, information sharing, public education, promotion and publicity, publication, museum manage-

ment and short and long-term loans.

- As part of the celebrations of the 150th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, a \$1.5 million "Vivekananda Chair" was established in the University of Chicago and a plaque of Swami Vivekananda was installed at the Art Institute of Chicago.
- The Ministry of Culture is cooperating with the Art Institute of Chicago under the \$500,000



Martha T Roth (left), Dean, Division of Humanities at the University of Chicago, and Sanjiv Mittal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, signing an agreement on establishing a 'Vivekananda Chair' at the University of Chicago on January 28, 2012.

"Vivekananda Memorial Programme for Museum Excellence" for upgrading the skills of museum professionals of India.

- The Tagore exhibition "The Last Harvest" was organized at the Asia Society, New York and at the Art Institute of Chicago in 2012.

INDIA-U.S. HIGHER EDUCATION DIALOGUE 2013



Minister for Human Resource Development Dr. M.M. Pallam Raju and the U.S. Secretary of State John F. Kerry at the India-U.S. Higher Education Dialogue-2013, in New Delhi on June 25.

Higher Education: India, US explore new avenues for collaboration

Promoting institution to institution ties, deepening cooperation in R&D, encouraging students and faculty exchanges, skill development and giving thrust to online education took center stage in the third India-U.S. Higher Education Dialogue

During the third India-U.S. Higher Education Dialogue, the two countries announced eight joint research partnerships under Singh-Obama 21st century Knowledge Initiative; advancing “Connect India” programs aimed at inviting students from the U.S. institutions for short-term courses in India and the final list of 126 Raman Fellows for Post-Doctoral research in U.S. institutions. Institutions of the two countries also signed four Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) on cyber systems, Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), establishment of community colleges, and capacity development.

Opening the Dialogue along with U.S. Secretary of State John F. Kerry, India’s Minister for Human Resource Development Dr. M. M. Pallam Raju

India, US sign four MoUs

THE FOUR MoUs signed during the third India-U.S. Higher Education Dialogue are:

- MoU between Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi and University of Nebraska on Cyber Systems
- MoU between IIT Bombay and edX on Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)
- MoU between All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and American Association of Community Colleges on cooperation for establishment of Community Colleges
- MoU between ITM Group of Institutions and Montgomery College on cooperation in Capacity Development

emphasized the need to look for and work upon new avenues for collaboration so that the two countries could

grow together as two leading knowledge societies in the world.

The Dialogue was attended by Tara Sonenshine, U.S. Under Secretary of State; Martha Kanter, U.S. Under Secretary of Education; U.S. Ambassador to India Nancy Powell other officials and academics from different institutions and Community Colleges from U.S. side. Sam Pitroda, Advisor to Prime Minister; Nirupama Rao, Ambassador of India to U.S.; Ashok Thakur, Secretary, Higher Education; Dr. T. Ramasami, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology; and Vice Chancellors, Directors of Indian Institute of Technologies, other academics and representatives of industry including CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM attended the Dialogue from the Indian side.



Ambassador Nirupama Rao with students from India and the U.S. at the third India-U.S. Higher Education Dialogue in New Delhi on June 25.

HRD Minister Dr Raju said that his vision was to transform the country's educational institutions into hubs of knowledge creation and promoters of innovation as also provide opportunities to its youth for their skill development and employment. The Minister added that overall during the XII Five Year Plan 2012-2017, India would strive toward achieving an additional enrollment capacity of 10 million students in higher education including 1 million in open and distance learning so as to raise the country's Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in Higher Education from 18.1 percent at present to 25.2 percent by 2017 and reach the target of 30 percent GER by 2020. He also said that skill development and vocational education should be an inte-

gral part of the education system and the role of business and industry would be of great relevance. He expressed deep satisfaction at the initiatives taken recently and hoped that the Dialogue would provide more opportunities for mutual engagement.

Secretary Kerry in his opening remarks said the two countries needed to focus on providing education, skills and cultural values to the children who form the most valuable part of the future world population. He remarked that technology should be used as a tool to instill values in children so that they are able to use the information and education they receive for the betterment of the society and nation building. Secretary Kerry also outlined the contours of the broad relations

between the two countries upon which the Higher Education Dialogue need to be carried forward.

The India-US Higher Education dialogue has been very instrumental in strengthening educational collaborations between the two countries. President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh termed the collaboration between India and U.S. as "defining partnership of the century" and outlined that knowledge sharing was an important component of it. The major initiatives include enhanced two-way student mobility, research collaborations, faculty development, collaborations for establishment of community colleges, collaborations for cyber systems, and technology enabled learning including Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).

The deliberations in the Dialogue focused on enhancing opportunities for student/scholar mobility and collaboration, community colleges and Technology Enabled Learning and MOOCs during the working sessions co-chaired by Ashok Thakur, Secretary, Higher Education and U.S. Under Secretary of State Tara Sonenshine. Ways for working together and collaborations were discussed for maximum leveraging of resources, competence and knowledge.

The Dialogue will be taken forward in the coming years for improved relations between India and the United States.

SOME OF the important ideas that emerged from the Dialogue include:

- Deepen educational relations on a sustainable basis in the areas of skill development, learner centric technology integrated education, building human capital for meeting skill requirements at all levels from elementary to tertiary liberal education and establishing stronger and larger people and institutional linkages. India, U.S. will upscale the Raman Fellowships to encourage more students for their post-doctoral studies.
- Create a single-point/nodal agency in select institutions to meet the needs of interna-

FOCAL POINTS

- tional students and faculty to upgrade infrastructure.
- Workshops to be held to promote Twinning arrangements between Indian and U.S. institutions as per India's University Grant Commission (UGC) regulations.
- Sharing best practices through joint workshops in the collaborative domains of community colleges, vocational education, MOOCs and other models of online education.
- UGC and All India Council for Technical

Education (AICTE) to work with their counterparts to embed mechanisms for standard setting and quality assurance mechanisms and vocational education and skills.

- Greater involvement of industry in both countries to develop strong industry-academia linkages.
- Develop better understanding of mutual strengths and leverage them to our mutual advantage for sustainable relationships across the three major themes discussed working sessions, i.e. research collaborations and student/ scholar mobility; community colleges; and Technology Enabled Education.

Press briefing by Indian Parliamentary delegation to US



Baijayant "Jay" Panda, leader of the Indian Parliamentary delegation visiting Washington, D.C., briefing the media at the Embassy on June 5.



The visiting Indian Parliamentary delegation members at the Embassy. From left, Bhakta Charan Das, Prem Das Rai, Baijayant "Jay" Panda, Uday Singh, Partap Singh Bajwa, Supriya Sule and Manicka Tagore.



Media personnel interacting with the delegates.

Ambassador hosts NFIA delegates



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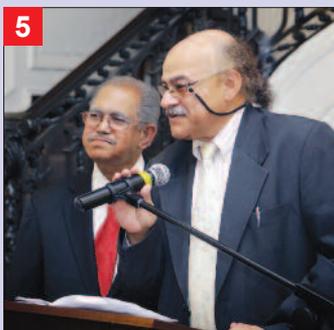
1. Counselor Pranay Verma welcoming the guests at the reception hosted by Ambassador Nirupama Rao for National Federation of Indian American Associations (NFIA) delegates at the Embassy on June 6.
2. Ambassador Nirupama Rao addressing the gathering.
3. Leaders of the NFIA delegates presenting a memento to Ambassador Rao.
4. Sohan P. Joshi, President, NFIA, speaking on the occasion.
5. Subash Razdan, Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awardee, addressing the gathering.
6. Parthasarthy Pillai, Chair, NFIA Congressional Luncheon, proposing the vote of thanks.
7. Guests in attendance.



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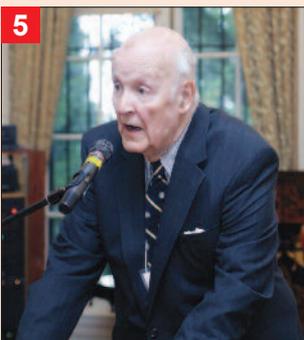
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Talk by noted historian and biographer Ramachandra Guha



1. Ambassador Nirupama Rao welcoming and addressing the guests at a special talk by noted historian and biographer Ramachandra Guha on “Gandhi’s Faith and Ours”, at the Embassy Residence on June 7.
2. Professor Guha talking on “Gandhi’s Faith and Ours”, exploring how Gandhi’s religious pluralism offers a strikingly contemporary alternative to both fundamentalism and militant atheism.
3. Interactive session with Professor Guha.
4. Guests in attendance.

Ambassador hosts members of the English Speaking Union



2. Ambassador Nirupama Rao addressing the gathering.
3. Manil Suri, an Indian-American mathematician and writer, speaking on the occasion.
4. Interactive session with Manil Suri.
5. A. Graham Down, President of Washington Branch of ESU, proposing the vote of thanks.
6. Guests in attendance.

1. Frederic W. Schwartz, former President of Washington Branch of the English Speaking Union (ESU) welcoming the guests and introducing the event at a reception hosted by Ambassador Nirupama Rao for members of the English Speaking Union, at the Embassy Residence on June 12.

Spark!Lab India project & felicitation of Ritankar Das



Ambassador Nirupama Rao, in association with Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution hosted a reception at the Embassy of India for the introduction of the Spark!Lab India Project on June 10. During the event, Ambassador Rao announced the launching of the Young India series by the Indian Embassy, under which a series of events would be organized targeting the younger generation. She also felicitated the special guest Ritankar Das, the youngest University Medalist (top graduating senior) at U.C. Berkeley (over 6000 graduates) in at least a century.

Ambassador Rao said that the Spark!Lab India projects would bring the best of innovation and cooperation between India and the US.

A presentation about the

Spark!Lab India was made by Arthur Molella, Director and Tricia Edwards, Education Specialist, Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution.

The Smithsonian Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation proposes to open a network of hands-on invention activity spaces, called Spark!Labs, throughout India. Operating as a public-private partnership (PPP), the Lemelson Center seeks to open 10 pilot Spark!Lab sites, with the goal of jumpstarting an Indian-run network of up to 100 labs. Over the next two years, the Lemelson Center will work to establish the initial cohort of 10 labs throughout the country, while training science, education, and museum professionals in the Spark!Lab philosophy and methodology and identifying leaders

to spearhead the expansion of the network from 10 to 100 labs. Activities will incorporate relevant topics and themes to the individual communities in India where Spark!Labs will be located.

This was followed by an interactive Q& A session. Lemelson Center also organized a mini Spark!lab in the Embassy where the children, who were the special invitees for the Young India Series, played and learned about Science and scientific principles.

Felicitating the young achiever Ritankar Das, Ambassador Rao said, "It is indeed a great pleasure to note that Ritankar has become the youngest graduate topper of the prestigious University of California, Berkeley, in more than a century. We feel extremely proud to know your exceptional achievements as a young Indian American as, at the age of 18, you are the youngest University





Medalist at U.C. Berkeley, amongst over 6000 graduates, and that too with a double major in bioengineering and chemical biology and a minor in creative writing with 3.99 GPA. Your wider interests and initiative resulting in the founding of Berkeley Chemical Review research journal and the ‘See Your Future’ non-profit organization to promote science as a career among school students, and your poetry book ‘Silent Moon’ are commendable.”

She wished him all the best for his next move to Oxford University to pursue a Master’s degree in biomedical engineering with a fully funded Whitaker Fellowship and then on to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where Ritankar has been admitted to the chemistry Ph.D. program. 

1. Counselor M. Sridharan welcoming the guests at a reception hosted by Ambassador Nirupama Rao, in association with Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, for introduction of the Spark!Lab India Project, at the Embassy on June 10.
2. Padmini Nidumolu, Senior Project Manager, Enterprise & Learning Technologies, addressing the gathering and introducing the event.
3. Ambassador Rao addressing the gathering.
4. Ambassador Rao felicitating Ritankar Das, the youngest University Medalist (top graduating senior) at U.C. Berkeley, with books & bouquet.
5. Ritankar Das speaking on the occasion.
6. Introduction of Spark!Lab India Project by Arthur Molella, Director, Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution.
7. Presentation on Spark!Lab India Project by Tricia Edwards, Education Specialist, Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution.
8. B.P. Agarwal, Executive Director, Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, proposing the vote of thanks.
9. Ambassador Nirupama Rao with school children.
10. Exhibition of Special Display of Spark!Lab equipment.
11. Guests in attendance.

Talk by Dr. Karan Singh on Madan Mohan Malaviya



1. Alka Khanna, an alumni of Banaras Hindu University (BHU), welcoming the guests at a talk by Dr. Karan Singh, M.P & President, Indian Council For Cultural Relations (ICCR), New Delhi, on “Mahamana Madan Mohan Malaviya: His Life’s Message”. The Embassy of India, in collaboration with the

Banaras Hindu University Alumni Associations of USA, hosted the event at the Embassy on June 18.
2. Ambassador Rao addressing the gathering.
3. Dr. Karan Singh delivering his talk on “Mahamana Madan Mohan Malaviya: His Life’s Message”.

4. Interactive session with Dr. Karan Singh.
5. Prof. Krishna Kumar, College of Pharmacy at Howard University and an alumni of Banaras Hindu University (BHU), proposing the vote of thanks.
6. Guests in attendance.

Felicitation of Sri Srinivasan at Embassy Residence



1. Ambassador Nirupama Rao welcoming and addressing the gathering at a reception hosted in honor of Sri Srinivasan, who the U.S. Senate confirmed as Judge, U.S. Courts

of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, at the Embassy Residence on June 17.

2. Sri Srinivasan speaking on the occasion.

3. Ambassador Rao with Sri Srinivasan.

4. Ambassador Rao with Sri Srinivasan, his mother and sister.

5. Guests in attendance.

Consulate EVENTS

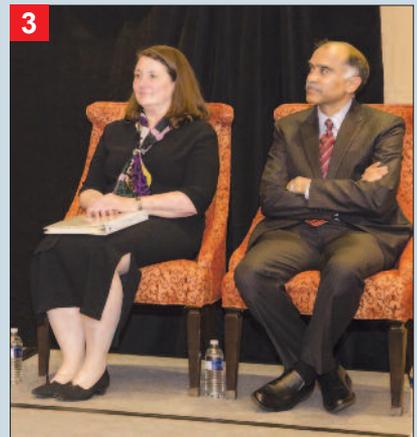
Consulate General of India, Houston



1. During his visit to Colorado, Consul General P. Harish called on Michael B. Hancock, Mayor, City of Denver on May 30. Consul General Harish and Mayor Hancock discussed means of collaboration and potential commercial opportunities between India and Denver.



2. Consul General P. Harish with Colorado Secretary of State Scott Gessler at the National U.S. India Chamber of Commerce (NUICC) "Colorado-India Economic Opportunities and Challenges" conference at Denver, Colorado on May 31. Consul



General Harish was the Keynote Speaker at the event.
3. Consul General P. Harish with Congresswoman Diana DeGette (D-CO, 1st District) at the conference.

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