2012: DEEPENING ENGAGEMENT

In the past year, India and the United States have not only advanced cooperation across the full spectrum of their bilateral relationship, but also deepened their engagement in the pursuit of global peace, stability and prosperity. A recap...
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HIGHLIGHTS OF 2012

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FOREIGN SECRETARY HOLDS MEETINGS IN U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS

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India-US: A Strategic Partnership

With a view to strengthening their bilateral relations in 2012, India and the United States reaffirmed their commitment to fostering and facilitating initiatives and programs that would continue to benefit both countries. As President Barack Obama was re-elected to office, Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh was among the world leaders President Obama personally called to thank for their congratulatory messages and to express his “desire to continue close cooperation moving ahead”. Assessing promising prospects of “even deeper and more rewarding engagement” during President Obama’s second term, India’s Ambassador to U.S. Nirupama Rao noted how India-U.S. relations had moved over the last four years from a ‘consolidation’ phase into one of “comprehensive and multifaceted engagement”.

High-level interactions on various dimensions of India-U.S. engagement, including policy, education, health, defense, trade, science and technology further consolidated the relationship. The Third India-US Strategic Dialogue on June 13, 2012 served as a forum for substantive discussions on key areas of partnership between India and the United States. A 13-point joint statement listing progress in issues ranging from counter-terrorism to people-to-people ties took note of “the remarkable expansion and growth of the bilateral relationship since the inaugural Strategic Dialogue in 2010”. India and the U.S. also agreed to take forward their cooperation on Afghanistan following the first US-Afghanistan-India trilateral dialogue in New York in September.

On the re-election of President Obama, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh conveyed in his congratulatory message, “I look forward to continuing our rewarding association in order to build further on the enduring foundations of our shared values and the accomplishments of the past four years.”

At the onset of the New Year, India and the United States turn to a robust year of partnership.
As a tribute to the thriving Indian diaspora and their continued support to India’s development efforts, the year began with Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD), India’s annual conclave to connect with its 25-million diaspora in more than 180 countries. Inaugurated by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, the event was held from January 7-9 at Jaipur in Rajasthan. Over 2,000 delegates from 59 countries participated in the three-day event. Later in January, the then Finance Minister of India, Pranab Mukherjee, visited Chicago to meet with global business leaders. During his visit, an agreement establishing “The Indian Ministry of Culture Vivekananda Chair” at the University of Chicago was also signed. In February, India signed an MoU with U.S. on labor and employment to help develop appropriate employment strategies for inclusive growth in India and build strong bonds between the two countries. India’s Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai visited Washington, D.C. from February 6-8 to hold discussions with senior U.S. leaders to deepen India-U.S. strategic ties. With an aim to further strengthen economic partnership with India, U.S. Secretary of Commerce John Bryson held a bilateral meeting with Minister for Commerce, Industry and Textiles Anand Sharma in New Delhi on March 26.
India’s robust performance in difficult times makes it a safe haven that global capital is looking for. Even as we grow and acquire economic strength we are a willing hand in the global recovery and improved financial stability.

—Then Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee at the Chicago Council of Global Affairs in Chicago on January 28

1. **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas**: Former President of India Smt. Pratibha DeviSingh Patil presenting the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award to the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago Kamla Persad-Bissessar, at the valedictory session of 10th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas at Jaipur in Rajasthan on January 9. Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs Vayalar Ravi is also seen.

2. **Meeting with Secretary of State**: Ambassador Nirupama Rao calls on U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on January 25. 
   (Photo: U.S. Department of State)

3. **Diaspora Connect**: Then Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee addressing the Indian-American community at a reception organized in his honor by the Consulate General of India in Chicago on January 29.
   (Photo: Jay Mandal)
1. **Republic Day:** Ambassador Nirupama Rao unfurling the National Flag at the Republic Day 2012 celebrations on January 26.


3. **Vivekananda Chair:** 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 to honor the life and legacy of Swami Vivekananda, in Chicago on January 28.

   (Photo: Jay Mandal)

4. **Ambassador’s Engagement:**
   Ambassador Nirupama Rao with Congressman Adam Smith at Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, on January 18.

5. **Minister at Embassy:** Ambassador Nirupama Rao welcomed Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs Vayalar Ravi at the Embassy on January 22. In the picture, Minister Ravi addressing the guests.

6. **Republic Day:** Guests in attendance.

7. **Harvard Club:** Rene Rocque Lee, President, Harvard Club of Washington, DC, proposing the vote of thanks.
FOREIGN SECRETARY HOLDS MEETINGS IN U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS

India’s Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai visited Washington, DC from February 6-8. In addition to co-chairing the annual Foreign Office Consultations with U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman, he called on Deputy Secretary of State William Burns. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton also joined the meeting briefly.

Secretary Mathai also met with the Deputy National Security Advisor Denis McDonough; Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economic Affairs Michael Froman; Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Marc Grossman; Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Robert Hormats; Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs Maria Otero, Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation Ellen Tauscher; and Under Secretary for Commerce Eric Hirschhorn.

The Foreign Secretary also had wide-ranging meetings in the U.S. Congress, including with Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Chairman, House Foreign Affairs Committee; Representative Howard Berman, Ranking Member, House Foreign Affairs Committee; Representative Mike Rogers, Chairman, House Permanent Select Intelligence Committee; Senator Richard Lugar, Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee; Senator John McCain, Ranking Members, Senate Armed Services Committee; Senator Joseph Lieberman, Chairman, Senate Homeland Security Committee; Rep Steve Chabot, Chairman, and Rep Gary Ackerman, Ranking Member of the House Sub-committee on Middle East and South Asia. Representative Dana Rohrabacher also joined the meeting with HFAC Chair.

During the Foreign Secretary’s visit, the two sides reaffirmed the India-U.S. global strategic partnership and reiterated the commitment of their governments to further strengthen and expand the relationship.
We continue to be guided by the larger vision for our strategic partnership and the value of all that our two sides have built together.

—Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, DC on February 6

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1. **FS Visit:** India’s Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in Washington, DC on February 7.

2. **Georgia Calling:** Ambassador Rao with Congressman Hank Johnson in Atlanta on March 3. Also seen in the picture is Consul-General Ajit Kumar.

3. **Georgia Calling:** Ambassador Rao with Congressman Tom Price after a luncheon meeting in Atlanta.

4. **FS Visit:** Foreign Secretary Mathai along with Ambassador Rao at his meeting with U.S. Congressman Howard Berman, Ranking Member, House Foreign Affairs Committee, on February 8.
A key element in the relationship between India and the U.S. has been that it responds to popular aspirations going beyond the calculations of political expediency—Ambassador Nirupama Rao at Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, on February 6.

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1. **South Carolina visit:** Ambassador Rao with Governor of South Carolina Nikki R. Haley and her spouse Michael Haley at the Governor’s Mansion in Columbia.

2. **Cementing Ties:** Ambassador Nirupama Rao with Senator Marco Rubio at Capitol Hill in Washington, DC on February 14.

3. **Beyond Bollywood: Indian Americans shape the nation:** Ambassador Nirupama Rao addressing the guests during a presentation on an exhibition titled ‘HomeSpun’ at the Embassy on February 23.

4. **Bilateral MoU:** India’s Minister for Labor & Employment Mallikarjun Kharge and U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda Solis signing an India-U.S. bilateral Memorandum of Understanding in Washington, DC on February 2.

5. **Beyond Bollywood: Indian Americans shape the nation:** Richard Kurin, Undersecretary for History, Art and Culture, Smithsonian Institution, speaking at the event. *(Photo: Sandra Vuong, Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program)*

People-to-people links are at the heart of our growing partnership. The energy, creativity and enterprising spirit of our people, private sector and civil society are building new bridges across hitherto uncharted waters and adding resilience and vibrancy to our relations.

—Ambassador Nirupama Rao on India-U.S. relations at Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC on January 25

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1. Columbia University Alumni Club:
The Embassy hosted a briefing by Ambassador Rao on India and India-U.S. relations on March 23 for members of the D.C. based Columbia University Alumni club. In the picture, a cross-section of the audience at the event.

2. ‘India Since 1980’:
The Embassy of India hosted a book introduction and discussion of India Since 1980 by its author Prof. Sumit Ganguly, Rabindranath Tagore Chair in Indian Cultures and Civilizations at Indiana University, on March 22. In the picture, Dr. Ganguly reading from his book.

3. Bilateral Meeting:

4. ‘India Since 1980’:
Panelist Gautam Adhikari speaking on contemporary India.

5. Columbia University Alumni Club:
Sukumar Dwarkanath, President, Columbia University Club of DC, speaking on the occasion.

If you just look at the progress we have made across a wide range of sectors in the last two years or so, it would be clear that our bilateral relationship with the U.S. is today better than it has ever been

—Ambassador Nirupama Rao on India-U.S. relations at a seminar in Washington, DC on January 23

A number of high-profile visits from both sides and fruitful bilateral meetings marked this period. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh met with President Barack Obama during the two-day G-20 Summit at Los Cabos, Mexico, in June and U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta arrived in New Delhi on June 5 on a two-day visit. The regional situation and India's purchases of military hardware were discussed on June 6 by Defense Minister A.K. Antony and his visiting U.S. counterpart. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton came to India in May ahead of the third annual India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue in Washington, D.C. in June. India's then Minister for External Affairs S.M. Krishna visited the U.S. in June and discussed with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton a wide spectrum of issues ranging from strategic to economic to defense to fight against terrorism at the Strategic Dialogue. The two sides committed to further deepen their global strategic partnership, charted a vision for the future centered on promoting shared prosperity, peace and stability during the Dialogue on June 13. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and India's then Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal opened the second India-U.S. Higher Education Dialogue in Washington, DC, on June 12. In April, then Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee and then Minister for Power Sushilkumar Shinde visited the U.S.
Our strategic global partnership with the United States is truly transformational in nature. We are not only discussing issues such as strategic cooperation, counter-terrorism, defense, high-technology, civil nuclear and space sector cooperation but also a broad range of development issues that directly and positively impact our citizens.

—Then Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee at Peterson Institute of International Economics, Washington, DC, on April 20

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1. **Ambassador’s Engagement:**
Ambassador Nirupama Rao delivering the commencement address at the University of Florida on April 27.

(Photo: UF Photography/Ray Carson)

2. **Minister Shinde at Embassy:**
Then Minister for Power Sushilkumar Shinde addressing the Indian-American community at the Embassy on April 16.

3. **Education Ministers at Embassy:**
Archana Chitnis, Minister of School Education, Madhya Pradesh, at a reception of a delegation of Education Ministers of five Indian states at the Embassy on April 19.

4. **Energy Partnership:**
Ambassador Rao and Dr. R. Chidambaram, Principal Scientific Advisor to Government of India, at the third India-US Energy Partnership Summit on April 24.

5. **Ambassador’s Engagement:**
Ambassador Nirupama Rao with University of Florida President Bernie Machen on April 27.

(Photo: UF Photography/Ray Carson)
INDIA-U.S. RELATIONS: MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL PARTNERSHIP

With India focused on developing itself as a global hub for innovation, New Delhi would like the business community to explore new ways to advance India-U.S. trade and investment ties to the next level, Ambassador Nirupama Rao said at the 8th Annual India Business Conference at Columbia Business School in New York on April 14.

“I think, now, more than ever before, in the U.S., as in India, there is a clear recognition in advancing the India-U.S. relationship to a new level of higher engagement fully befitting of our strategic partnership,” Ambassador Rao said, addressing the conference on the theme ‘India: Maintaining Momentum’. Among others, Columbia University Professor Jagdish N. Bhagwati was present on the occasion.

One central aspect of the wide-ranging India-U.S. business ties had been their mutually beneficial nature, Ambassador Rao said noting the Indian IT industry, for one, had helped build competitiveness for U.S. companies and facilitated increased access to emerging markets.

Businesses between the two countries, across a range of sectors of economic activity, were more integrated than ever before, she said. “Clearly, it is a mutually complementary framework of ties.”

Among important factors in forging bilateral trade and investment links would be India’s focus on developing itself as a global hub for innovation and India’s commitment to modernize its manufacturing and increase its share in the GDP to 25 percent by 2022, she added.

The Indian infrastructure sector with financing requirements of about $1 trillion in the next five years, also represented a clear set of opportunities for investment and partnerships by U.S. companies, she said.

Indian industry is a key stakeholder in building mutually beneficial commercial partnerships with the United States, including through job creation in the local economy and through their interaction with local communities in the United States.

—Ambassador Nirupama Rao at an event at the U.S. Capitol Hill on April 25

1. Cleveland Park Historical Society at Embassy Residence: To mark the 25th Anniversary of the Cleveland Park Historic District, that has the Embassy Residence listed as one of its grand estates, Ambassador Nirupama Rao welcomed the members of the Cleveland Park Historical Society (CPHS) on April 30. In the photo, members of CPHS at the event.


3. Baisakhi Celebrations: Devotional rendition by Hari Singh, Chattar Singh and Mehtab Singh from Baltimore Gurdwara on the occasion of Baisakhi celebrations at the Embassy Residence on April 22. (Photo: UF Photography/Ray Carson)


5. Baisakhi Celebrations: Rajan Natarajan, Deputy Secretary of State for Policy and External Affairs, Maryland, addressing the gathering.
Today, there is a remarkable degree of depth and diversity in our partnership; there is comfort and candor in our dialogue; and, there is extensive support for this cooperation across a broad spectrum of public opinion in both our countries.

—Ambassador Nirupama Rao at the Atlantic Council in Washington, DC on May 30

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1. CII-India Business Forum:
   Ambassador Nirupama Rao delivering her address at the CII-India Business Forum reception at Capitol Hill, Washington, DC on April 25.
   (Photo: CII-IBF)

2. University of Buffalo alumni event:
   Dr. Satish Tripathi, President of the University of Buffalo, addressing the audience at a reception hosted for the University of Buffalo alumni at the Embassy on April 18.

3. Ambassador’s Engagement:
   Ambassador Nirupama Rao with Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen from Florida at Capitol Hill, Washington, DC on April 17.

4. Ambassador’s Engagement:
   Ambassador Rao with Secretary for Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius on April 9.

5. Ambassador’s Engagement:
   Ambassador Rao presenting a book on India to Senator Dianne Feinstein during their meeting at Capitol Hill in Washington, DC on April 23.
From strengthening economic ties to deepening security cooperation, from meeting the challenges in South and Central Asia to working toward promoting a shared vision for the Asia-Pacific, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s three-day India visit charted a new course for the India-U.S. bilateral relations. Then External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton met and discussed several issues in New Delhi on May 8. “The United States and India are two great democracies with common values and increasingly convergent interests. In our meetings today, we have worked to focus our agenda and prepare for the strategic dialogues in June,” said Secretary Clinton, who was in India on an official visit from May 6-8.

Reaffirming President Barack Obama’s vision of seeing India-U.S. ties as one of the “defining partnerships of the 21st century”, Secretary Clinton said that both the countries should be “working toward having one of the world’s largest trading relationships.”
1. **Secretary Clinton in India**: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in New Delhi on May 7.

2. **Ambassador in Delaware**: Ambassador Nirupama Rao (center) with Governor of Delaware Jack Markell (second from left) in Dover on May 1. Others in the picture (from left) are Delaware’s Secretary of State Jeffrey Bullock, Sudhakar Rao, and Senator from Delaware Tom Carper.

3. **A date with Indian cinema**: Deputy Chief of Mission Ambassador Arun K. Singh addressing the guests at a reception hosted by the Embassy in connection with the first annual Washington D.C. South Asian Film Festival (DCSAFF) on May 31.

4. **A date with Indian cinema**: Actor Manisha Koirala interacting with the audience during a Q&A session.

5. **Secretary Clinton in India**: External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in New Delhi on May 8.
At a practical level, our defense partnership is coming of age. Expanded military exercises, defense sales and intelligence sharing are key examples of the relationship’s maturation.

—U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta on India-U.S. relations in New Delhi on June 6

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1. **Showcasing Buddhist heritage:** Art historian and photographer Benoy K. Behl showcasing his photographs on the Buddhist heritage of the world at an exhibition held at Gandhi Memorial Center, Bethesda, Maryland, from May 19–May 31.

2. **Key to San Diego:** San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders presenting the Key to the City to Ambassador Nirupama Rao in San Diego on June 21.

3. **Strategic Dialogue:** Then External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton during the third India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue in Washington, DC on June 13.


5. **NFIA Delegates:** Ambassador Nirupama Rao hosted a reception for the National Federation of Indian American Associations (NFIA) delegates at the Embassy on June 7. In the picture, Lal K. Motwani, President, NFIA, speaking on the occasion.

6. **Indian classical dance at Embassy:** Purvi Bhatt, disciple of Indian classical dance (Kathak) guru Maneesha Sathe performing at a lecture-demonstration event at the Embassy on June 21.
1. Higher Education Dialogue: India’s then Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal speaking at the opening session of the India-U.S. Higher Education Dialogue as Robert Blake, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton listen at the U.S. Department of State on June 12. (Photo: Bala Chandran)

2. Bilateral Meeting: India’s Minister for Health and Family Welfare Ghulam Nabi Azad with Kathleen Sebelius, U.S. Secretary, Health and Human Services, at the headquarters of the U.S. Food and Drug Regulatory Administration in Maryland on June 12.

3. S&T Cooperation: Then Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Vilasrao Deshmukh; Dr. John Holdren, Director, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy; Ambassador Nirupama Rao, and U.S. Ambassador to India Nancy Powell at the second Joint Commission Meeting on Science and Technology Cooperation at the U.S. Department of State on June 11. (Photo: Bala Chandran)

4. Opening new avenues: From left, John Holdren, Sam Pitroda, Aneesh Chopra (Former Chief Technology Officer of the United States) and Robert Blake at the Joint Announcement of Third Country Open Government Platform Partnerships on June 11. (Photo: Bala Chandran)

5. Leadership Summit: From left, Harold “Terry” McGraw III, Past Chairman, USIBC; then EAM S.M. Krishna; Michael Froman, U.S. Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor for International Affairs; Ambassador Nirupama Rao; and Ajay Banga, Chairman, USIBC, at the 37th U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC) Leadership Summit on June 12. (Photo: Jay Mandal)
G-20 meet in Mexico: Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with U.S. President Barack Obama during the G-20 Summit in Mexico from June 18-19.
On July 25, 76-year-old Pranab Mukherjee was appointed as India’s 13th President. To mark the signing of the sister city agreement by Cincinnati in Ohio with Mysore in the Indian state of Karnataka, Mark Mallory, the Governor of Cincinnati, hosted Ambassador Nirupama Rao at a dinner during her visit to the city from July 11-14. On August 15, for the fourth year in a row, NASDAQ, world’s second-largest stock exchange in the heart of Times Square, donned the colors of the Indian flag to celebrate India’s 66th Independence Day. Greeting India on behalf of President Barack Obama and the American people on its 66th Independence Day, the U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called India “a beacon for the world of the power of non-violence and the promise of democracy”. “As you celebrate this special day with family, friends and loved ones, know that the United States stands with you as a partner and friend,” Secretary Clinton said in her message. India and the U.S. agreed to set up a group to discuss financing options for encouraging energy generation through renewable sources and integration of various renewable energy sources with the grid and storage technologies at the India-U.S. Energy Dialogue co-chaired by B.K. Chaturvedi, Member, Planning Commission of India, and U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu in Washington, DC on September 28.
Deepening Engagement 2012

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People are the lifeblood of this relationship. They’re at the heart of the partnership that we seek to build between our two countries.

—Ambassador Nirupama Rao at a live web chat on July 19

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1. **Ambassador’s Engagement:** Ambassador Rao with Governor Bobby Jindal in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on July 16.

2. **Cincinnati Visit:** Ambassador Rao with Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory at the Mayor’s office in Cincinnati, Ohio, on July 13.

3. **Cincinnati Visit:** Ambassador Rao meeting with Dr. Gregory H. Williams, President of the University of Cincinnati, on July 12. *(Photo: University of Cincinnati)*

4. **Bidding Adieu:** Congressman Gary Ackerman addressing the guests at a reception hosted in his honor at the Embassy Residence on July 19.

5. **Musical Evening:** The Shillong Chamber Choir accompanied by musical band Deshh performing at the Embassy on July 17.

6. **Musical Evening:** Composer and pianist Jeffery Bauer and pianist Lois Jones presenting a duet composition.

7. **Musical Evening:** A presentation by acclaimed pianist Soundarie David Rodrigo

8. **Cincinnati Visit:** Congressman Steve Chabot (left), Ambassador Nirupama Rao and A. H. Vishwanath, Member of Parliament, India, at a gala organized by the Sister Cities Association in Cincinnati on July 12.

9. **Cincinnati Visit:** Ambassador Rao with Dr. Ratee Apana, President of the India-Cincinnati Sister City Association, at a community event. *(Photos 8 & 9: Amy Elisabeth Spasoff)*
Deepening Engagement
INDIA A BEACON FOR THE WORLD: US

Greeting India on behalf of President Barack Obama and the American people on its 66th Independence Day, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called India “a beacon for the world of the power of non-violence and the promise of democracy”.

“As you celebrate this special day with family, friends and loved ones, know that the United States stands with you as a partner and friend,” Secretary Clinton said in her message of best wishes on the eve of India’s Independence Day, on August 13.

“The United States stands side by side with India in a strategic, indispensable partnership built on our shared democratic values and fundamental belief in the entrepreneurial spirit,” she assured.

The Indian and the U.S. governments and the people of the two countries, she said, “will continue to work together to tackle the challenges and seize the opportunities of the 21st century.” She said, through her many visits to India, she had “been impressed with the creativity of the Indian people, the richness of your culture, and the resilience and strength of your democratic institutions”.

We want to work with India on all the new models of education: online models accessible to everyone, quality education affordable to everyone, community colleges and different types of colleges that enable our young people to be outfitted and prepared for the new global economy.

—U.S. Under Secretary of State for Public Affairs and Public Diplomacy Tara Sonenshine at a live web chat with Ambassador Nirupama Rao on July 19

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2. Independence Day celebration: To commemorate India’s 66th Independence Day, NASDAQ invited Ambassador Prabhu Dayal (front row, fourth from left), Consul General of India in New York, to ring the Opening Bell on August 15. The ceremony was attended by the Consulate officials as well as members of the Indian community.

3. Poetic Journey: Guests in attendance at the reception on July 3.


5. Poetic Journey: Shabana Azmi and Javed Akhtar responding to questions during a Q&A session.
Deepening Engagement 2012
1. Independence Day celebrations: A group of singers led by Rabin Goswami presenting Indian patriotic songs on the occasion of India’s Independence Day on August 15. Other members are Satyen Das, Anurag Barua, Nipika Bora, Arundhotee Goswami and Anjana Bordoloi.

2. Celebrating Indian art & culture: Ambassador Nirupama Rao and Dr. Julian Raby, Director of the Freer & Sackler Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution inaugurating ‘Inspired by India: A Family Celebration’ on August 11. Sponsored by the State Bank of India, and with support from the Embassy of India, the event showcased Kathak and Bollywood dance performances, Indian flute music presentation, making of rakhi bracelets, Indian rangoli paintings, henna designs and offered Indian food.

3. Celebrating Indian art & culture: Ambassador Nirupama Rao, Dr. Julian Raby and Dr. Debra Diamond viewing the exhibition of Arts of the Indian Subcontinent and the Himalayas on the occasion.

4. Celebrating Indian art & culture: A presentation of classical Kathak dance performance at the inauguration of the event.

5. Independence Day celebrations: Ambassador Nirupama Rao laying the wreath at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi outside the Embassy on the occasion of India’s Independence Day on August 15.

1. **Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations**: Devapriya (Debu) Nayak presenting a Tabla recital at the Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations hosted at the Embassy Residence on August 24.

2. **Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations**: Invocation prayer (recitation from the Holy Quran) by Yusuf Hameed of the Dawoodi Bohra Community.

3. **At Brown University**: Then External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna delivers a lecture on India's foreign policy at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island on September 28. *(Photo: Jay Mandal)*

4. **India Tea**: Deputy Chief of Mission Ambassador Arun K. Singh addressing the guests at the ‘India Tea’ event at the Embassy on September 18.

5. **India Tea**: A cross-section of the audience at the event.

6. **Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations**: Ambassador Nirupama Rao welcoming and greeting the guests on the occasion.

7. **Hindi Diwas celebration**: Introductory remarks by Asha Chand, President of International Hindi Association (Washington DC Chapter) during Hindi Diwas celebrations at Durga Temple, Virginia, on September 22.
1. **India-U.S. Energy Dialogue:** From left, India’s Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai, India’s Planning Commission Member (Energy) BK Chaturvedi, U.S. Secretary of Energy Dr. Steven Chu and U.S. Under Secretary for Energy (Acting) David Sandalow at the India-U.S. Energy Dialogue in Washington, DC on September 28. (Photo: Bala Chandran)

2. **SUFism at the Smithsonian:** A dance presentation by renowned Sufi-Kathak exponent Manjari Chaturvedi during the Smithsonian Institution’s two-day (September 22-23) symposium. (Photo: Rishi Das)

3. **Embassy hosts ‘SUFism at the Smithsonian’:** Dr. Madan Gopal Singh, renowned folk and Sufi singer, addressing the guests at a reception hosted by the Embassy on September 21 in connection with the Smithsonian Institution’s two-day (September 22-23) symposium.

4. **Embassy hosts ‘SUFism at the Smithsonian’:** Manjula Kumar, Project Director at the Smithsonian Center of Educational and Museum Studies, introducing the artists from India at the event.

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Ours is a natural relationship that is underwritten by shared values of democracy; pluralism; openness; respect for fundamental freedoms; tolerance and a sense of enterprise — Ambassador Nirupama Rao at the Institutional Investors Forum in New York on September 24.
October to December

THERE IS AN UNDENIABLE AND ESSENTIAL UNIVERSALITY ABOUT GANDHIAN IDEAS AND IDEALS THAT WERE, ARE AND WILL REMAIN RELEVANT ACROSS GENERATIONS... LET US PLEDGE TODAY TO TRY AND LIVE BY THOSE PRINCIPLES AND IDEAS TO MAKE THIS WORLD A BETTER AND HAPPIER PLACE FOR COMING GENERATIONS

— Ambassador Nirupama Rao during Gandhi Jayanti celebrations at Gandhi Memorial Center, Bethesda, Maryland, on October 2

At the 67th session of the UN General Assembly in New York on October 1, India’s then External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna said that the architecture of global governance must reflect contemporary realities. Calling for expansion of the Security Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories, Mr. Krishna unequivocally stated India’s willingness and qualifications to be a permanent member of the UN Security Council. On the sidelines of the UNGA session, Mr. Krishna discussed a host of regional and global issues, including ways of advancing bilateral cooperation for Afghanistan, with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on October 1. U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner visited New Delhi to attend the third cabinet-level meeting of the Indo-US Economic and Financial Partnership on October 9. During the meeting, Finance Minister P. Chidambaram and Treasury Secretary Geithner discussed ways to further lower trade and investment barriers between the two countries. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh met with President Barack Obama on the sidelines of the East Asia summit at Phnom-Penh, Cambodia, on November 20 where President Barack Obama said he attached “special significance” to relations with India during the meeting. Prime Minister Singh congratulated President Obama on his re-election.
1. **UNGA Meeting:** Then External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna addressing the 67th session of the UN General Assembly in New York on October 1.

2. **Bilateral Meeting:** Then EAM Krishna with the Secretary of State Hillary Clinton before their bilateral meeting in New York on October 1. (Photo: Jay Mandal)

3. **Gandhi Jayanti:** Srimati Kamala, Founder, Gandhi Memorial Center, speaking at the Gandhi Memorial Center, Maryland, on October 2. (Photo: Susan Hayden)

4. **Tribute to Gandhi:** Gandhi Square Board of Trustees: From left, Hemant Patel, Joy Kuttyani, Babu Varghese, Piyush Agrawal, Vijay Narang, Sajan Kurian, and Chacko Philip during the unveiling of a seven feet tall bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi in the Town of Davie, Florida, on October 2.

5. **Atlanta Visit:** Ambassador Rao and Consul General of India in Atlanta Ajit Kumar with Governor of Georgia Nathan Deal (center) on October 23.

6. **CGI Atlanta inauguration:** Ambassador Nirupama Rao formally inaugurated the Consulate General of India in Atlanta on October 22. In the picture, Ambassador Rao addressing the guests following the inauguration of the Consulate.

7. **CGI Atlanta inauguration:** From left, Margret Kumar, Congressman Rob Woodall, Dr. Galambos, Mayor of Sandy Springs Eva Galambos, Ambassador Nirupama Rao, Consul General Ajit Kumar, Manager of City of Sandy Springs John F. McDonough at the event.

8. **Bilateral Meeting:** Finance Minister P. Chidambaram and U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner exchanging the joint statement at the Indo-U.S. Economic and Financial Partnership meeting in New Delhi on October 9.

9. **Tribute to Gandhi:** Former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam (center), Mayor Judy Paul (right) and Dr. Piyush Agrawal at the event.
2012 Deepening Engagement
We shall not be intimidated by such senseless violence and would continue to pursue (our) faiths and nobody dare obstruct that culture

— Then External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna on August 5 Oak Creek gurdwara shooting during his visit to the Oak Creek gurdwara in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on October 4

1. In Solidarity: Accompanied by Ambassador Nirupama Rao, then External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna met with the family members of victims of August 5 Oak Creek gurdwara shooting during his visit to the Oak Creek gurdwara in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on October 4. In the picture, Minister Krishna and Ambassador Rao (left) meeting with the family members of Punjab Singh, who was injured in the Oak Creek gurdwara shoot-out, at Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Singh’s wife Kulwant Kaur and sons Jaspreet Singh and Raghuvinder Singh are also seen in the picture.

2. In Solidarity: Then EAM Krishna speaking at the Oak Creek gurdwara during the visit.

3. In Solidarity: Then EAM Krishna and Ambassador Rao at a Satsang at the Oak Creek gurdwara during their visit.

4. In Solidarity: Then EAM Krishna and Ambassador Rao (left) addressing media persons after their visit to the gurdwara.
We agreed to deepen our cooperation bilaterally and in multilateral fora, including the G20, to contribute toward steering the global economy out of uncertainties.

— India’s Finance Minister P. Chidambaram and U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner in a joint statement after the third cabinet-level meeting of the Indo-US Economic and Financial Partnership in New Delhi on October 9.

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1. Ambassador’s Engagement: 
Ambassador Nirupama Rao meets with Governor of North Carolina Beverly Eaves Perdue on October 8.

2. Diwali celebrations in White House:  
U.S. Vice President Joe Biden greets Ambassador Rao at the Diwali reception in White House on November 13.

(Official White House Photo by David Lienemann)

3. Embassy hosts Fulbright scholars:  
Dr. Vandana Chakrabarti, Pro Vice Chancellor, SNDT Women’s University, Mumbai, addressing the gathering at the reception hosted in honor of the visiting participants of the Fulbright-Nehru International Education Administrators Seminar at the Embassy on October 23.

4. Diwali celebrations at Embassy:  
Ambassador Rao (third from left) and Sudhakar Rao (second from right) with members of the Indian American community at the Diwali celebrations.

5. Diwali celebrations at Embassy: From left, Shankar Tucker (clarinet) and Krishna Ramdas (tabla) with Vidya and Vandana Iyer presenting ‘Vathapi Ganapathim’ and ‘Ashai Mugam’.

6. Diwali celebrations in White House:  
Ambassador Rao with Congressman Ami Bera at the Diwali reception.
India on November 7 congratulated U.S. President Barack Obama on his re-election and said it looked forward to deepening multi-faceted engagement between the two countries in the years ahead.

Following is the message of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on the re-election of President Obama:

November 7, New Delhi
Dear Mr. President,

It gives me great pleasure to convey to you my warmest congratulations on your re-election as the President of the United States. The renewed confidence that the people of your great country have reposed in you is as much a tribute to your qualities of head and heart as it is an indication of the faith that the American people have in your leadership. Your mandate gives you a historic opportunity to continue to work for the welfare of the American people as also for global peace and progress at an admittedly difficult juncture, not just for the U.S., but indeed for the world at large.

Over the last four years, consistent with our vision of a global strategic partnership between India and the United States, the ties between our two democracies have seen sustained growth. We have not only advanced cooperation across the full spectrum of our bilateral relationship, but also deepened our engagement in the pursuit of global peace, stability and prosperity.

I have personally valued our friendship and I look forward to continuing our rewarding association in order to build further on the enduring foundations of our shared values and the accomplishments of the past four years. I have no doubt that there is much more we can do together to further strengthen the India-U.S. partnership and thereby advance peace and stability, expand mutual economic opportunities, harness the potential of science and technology, innovation and higher education and empower our people to address global challenges.

My wife joins me in wishing you and Mrs. Obama, as well as Malia and Sasha, good health, success and happiness as you prepare for a new term in office.

The government and people of India send their congratulations to President Obama on his winning a second mandate from the people of the U.S. who have expressed their will in the great tradition of democracy in their country.

—India’s External Affairs Ministry after the re-election of President Barack Obama
I believe that the leadership that both Prime Minister Singh and President Obama have imparted over the last four years, has moved India-U.S. strategic partnership from a ‘consolidation’ phase into one of comprehensive and multifaceted engagement.

—Ambassador Nirupama Rao wrote in her blog after the re-election of President Barack Obama.

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1. **East Asia Summit:** Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with U.S. President Barack Obama on the sidelines of 7th East Asia Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on November 20.

2. **Kentucky Visit:** Ambassador Nirupama Rao meeting with Kentucky’s Governor Steve Beshear in Frankfort, Kentucky, on November 19.

3. **Kentucky Visit:** Ambassador Rao interacting with recipients of the Kalam Endowment Research Grant at the Gatton College of Business and Economics at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, on November 19. Standing on her right is Dean David Blackwell.
1. **Gadar centennial celebrations:**
   Ambassador Nirupama Rao releasing *Global Indian Diaspora*, a book by Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) during the launch of the Gadar centennial events in the United States by GOPIO at the Embassy of India on November 3.

2. **Decoding the human mind:**
   Dr. Salman Akhtar, Professor of Psychiatry at Jefferson Medical College, delivering a talk on the nature of courage at the Embassy on November 9.

3. **Clemson University alumni reception:**
   Ambassador Nirupama Rao with Dr. James Barker, President of Clemson University and his spouse Marcia Barker at an event for Baltimore and D.C. based alumni of Clemson University at the Embassy on November 27.

4. **Clemson University alumni reception:**
   Guests in attendance at the event.

5. **Gadar centennial celebrations:**
   Chief Guest Ambassador Nirupama Rao speaking on the occasion.

6. **Gadar centennial celebrations:**
India and the United States both recognize that sustained educational exchanges are key, and that’s why we have placed such an emphasis on the US-India Higher Education Dialogue.

—U.S. Ambassador to India Nancy Powell at the PANIIT Global Conference 2012 in Kolkata on December 7


4. Hanukkah Celebrations: A cross-section of the audience on the occasion.


As our bilateral political engagement has strengthened, our strategic understanding deepened and our cooperation expanded across new frontiers based on our increasingly convergent interests, education has clearly emerged as a priority area of our bilateral engagement.

—Ambassador Nirupama Rao on India-U.S. relations at a seminar in Washington, DC on December 10

2. Christmas Celebrations: Ambassador Nirupama Rao welcomes the guests during the Christmas Celebrations at the Embassy Residence.
The Dialogue continues...

The media briefing room at the U.S. Department of State. (Photo: Bala Chandran)