

2010 - Scripting a landmark year in Indian diplomacy

2010 was an eventful year for Indian diplomacy, which witnessed a qualitative expansion of strategic relations with key partner countries and a robust engagement with India's neighbours. In a year of unprecedented diplomatic engagements, the Government of India hosted 24 Heads of States/Governments and 30 Foreign Minister level visitors. In the same period, the Indian President, Vice President and Prime Minister visited 5, 6 and 11 countries respectively for various multilateral/bilateral engagements. The External Affairs Minister, Shri S.M. Krishna, visited 18 countries, in which most of India's diplomatic engagement naturally focused on the neighbourhood.

2. At the SAARC Summit in Thimphu, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh articulated a vision of prosperous and vibrant South Asia playing its rightful role in shaping the global discourse on issues facing the developing world. Following Prime Minister's meeting with Prime Minister Gilani of Pakistan at Thimphu, the two sides expressed their resolve to make sincere efforts to reduce the trust deficit between the two countries and to resolve outstanding bilateral issues through dialogue.

3. India's active engagement with its neighbours saw the visits to India of Presidents of Nepal, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka, the King & also the Prime Minister of Bhutan, Prime Minister of Bangladesh and Head of State from Myanmar. The State visit of President Pratibha Devisingh Patil to China in May and of Premier Wen Jiabao to India in December, respectively, marked the 60th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and China.

4. The External Affairs Minister paid official visits to Kathmandu, Beijing, Thimphu, Tehran, Islamabad, Kabul, Yangon and Colombo. He inaugurated the Consulates General of India in Jaffna and Hambantota in Sri Lanka. President Pratibha Devisingh Patil also paid State visits to Laos, Cambodia, United Arab Emirates and Syria, where she was received with great warmth and affection.

5. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit to Saudi Arabia resulted in upgradation of the bilateral relationship to a level of Strategic Partnership. In furtherance of the 'Look East Policy',

Prime Minister visited Japan, Malaysia and Vietnam. Bilateral understandings were reached on Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements with Japan and Malaysia. The India - ASEAN FTA in goods became operational on 1st January boosting trade ties. Both sides are currently negotiating an FTA in services and investments.

6. India was privileged to host the Presidents of Seychelles, South Africa, Mozambique and Malawi. EAM travelled to Mozambique, Mauritius and Seychelles to underline India's growing multi-faceted engagement with Africa. The second India Africa Forum Summit will be held in Africa next year, which would be an occasion to further deepen relations with Africa.

7. In the second half of 2010, India hosted Heads of State/Government of all the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, covering visits of Prime Minister of UK (July), President of the USA (November), President of France (December), Premier of China (December), and President of Russia (December). This is widely seen as a visible acknowledgment of India's growing regional and global profile. At the Toronto and Seoul G-20 Summits, Prime Minister deliberated with fellow leaders, on steadying the global financial ship, which had barely emerged from turbulent waters.

8. Prime Minister also participated at the Nuclear Security Summit (Washington), BRIC and IBSA meetings (Brasilia), EAS and ASEAN Summit meetings (Hanoi). The year also saw India's election as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2011 and 2012 with the unprecedented support of UN member nations (187 votes out of 190 valid votes). Four of the five P-5 members have expressed support for India's membership as permanent member of an expanded UNSC.

9. India's quest for ensuring its energy security was acknowledged, including India's pursuit of civil nuclear energy cooperation which has become an important area of strategic partnership with several countries. India's decision to open a Global Center for Nuclear Energy Partnership was well appreciated. India's diplomatic interaction covered the entire spectrum of areas ranging from high technology trade, civil nuclear energy cooperation, space, defence, strengthening counter terrorism initiatives, bilateral trade, investments, cultural

exchanges and promoting people to people contacts. All these have added substance and quality to our engagement with friends and partners around the world.

10. A complete list of the high-level visits during the year is placed below.

**New Delhi
31 December 2010**

Annexure I: Visits by Head of State/Government and equivalent level in 2010

S No	Dignitary	Dates
1.	H E Mrs. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh	January 10-14
2.	H E Dr. Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, President of Iceland	January 11-17
3.	H E Dato Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia	January 19-23
4.	H E Mr. Lee Myung-bak, President of Republic of Korea	January 24-27
5	H.E. Mr. Horst Kohler, President of Germany	February 1-7
6	H.E. Mr. Abdullah Gul, President of Turkey	February 7-12
7	H.E. Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, President of Nepal	February 15-18
8.	H.E. Mr. Vladimir Putin, Prime Minister of Russian Federation	March 12

9.	HE Mr. Hamid Karzai, President of Afghanistan	April 26-30
10.	H.E. Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, President of Turkmenistan	May 24-26
11	H.E. Mr. James Alix Michel, President of Republic of Seychelles	June 1-3
12	H.E. Dr. Jacob Zuma, President of South Africa	June 2-4
13	H.E. Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka	June 8-11
14	H.E. Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman State Peace & Development Council, Union of Myanmar (State)	25-29 July
15	Rt. Hon. David Cameron MP, Prime Minister of United Kingdom (State)	27-29 July
16	H.E Mr Donald Tusk, Prime Minister of Poland (State)	September 6-8, 2010
17	H. E. Mr. Armando Emilio Guebuza, President of the Republic of Mozambique (State visit)	29 September – 4 October, 2010
18	His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, King of Bhutan	5 – 7 October, 2010
19	His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, King of Bhutan	20 – 29 October, 2010
20	H.E. Lyonchhen Jigmi Y Thinley, Prime Minister of Bhutan	30 Oct – 3 Nov, 2010
21	H E Ngwazi Prof. Bingu Wa Mutharika, President of Malawi (State)	November 2-8
22	The Honorable Barack Obama, President of United States of America (State)	November 6-9
23	H E Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy, President of France	December 4-7
24	H E Mr. Wen Jiabao, Premier of China (State)	December 15-17
25	H E Mr. Dmitry A Medvedev, President of Russian Federation	December 21-22

Annexure II

Incoming visits at the level of Foreign Minister in 2010		
S.No	Name of Dignitary and details	Dates
1.	H E Dr. Tonia Borg, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Malta	January 6-11
2.	H E Dr. Peter Baltazs, Foreign Minister of Hungary	January 17-21
3.	H E Dr. Thongloun Sisoulith, Deputy PM and FM of Lao PDR	January 31 - February 3
4.	H E Shaikh Khalid Bin Ahmed Bin Mohamed Al Khalifa, Foreign Minister of Bahrain	February 10-12
5.	H E Mr. Jonas Gahr Store, Foreign Minister of Norway	March 1-3
6.	H E Mr. Stephen Smith, Foreign Minister of Australia	March 2-4
7.	H E Mr. Mohlabi Kenneth Tsekoa, Foreign Minister of Lesotho	March 8-12
8.	H E Mr. Basile Ikouebe, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Congo	March 13-19
9.	H E Mr. Madicke Niang, Foreign Minister of Senegal	March 17-19
10.	H E Ms. Olubanke King Akerele, Foreign Minister of Liberia	March 14-21
11.	H E Mr. Kamalesh Sharma, Commonwealth Secretary General	March 27 -April 1
12.	HRH Prince Salman Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, Governor of Riyadh	April 11-15
13.	H.E. Mr. Alexander Stubb, Foreign Minister of Finland	May 3-5
14.	H.E. Dr Ali Abdussalam Treki, President of UN General Assembly	May 3-5
15.	H.E. Baroness Catherine Ashton, Vice President of European Commission	June 22-25
16.	H.E. Dr. Seyed Shamseddin Hosseini, Minister for Economic Affairs & Finance of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Official)	July 7-9
17.	H.E. Mr. Katsuya Okada, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Transit halt at Delhi)	July 20
18.	H.E. Ms. Hillary Rodham Clinton, US	July 20

	Secretary of State (Technical halt at Delhi)	
19.	H.E. Mr. George Yeo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore (official)	July 31- August 4
20.	H.E. Mrs Patricia Espinosa Cantellano, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico	August 15-17
21.	H.E. Dr. Mamadou Tangara, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Gambia	August 16-22
22.	H.E. Mr. Katsuya Okada, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan	August 21-22
23.	H.E. Dr. Zalmay Rassoul, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan	August 24-26
24.	H.E. Mrs Micheline Calmy-Rey, Federal Councillor, Head of the Federal Department of foreign Affairs of Switzerland	August 29-31
25.	H.E. Mr. Rene Castro, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica	October 11-13
26.	H.E. Guido Westerwelle, Foreign Minister of Germany	October 17 – 19
27.	H E Yusuf Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah, Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs of Sultanate of Oman	October 20 – 22
28.	H.E. Mr. Edward Nalbandian, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia	November 10-13
29.	H.E. Mr. Sergey Ivanov, Deputy Chairman of the Government of Russian Federation	November 17-19
30.	H.E. Mr. Sergey V. Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russian Federation	November 29
31.	H.E. Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn, DPM and Foreign Minister of Ethiopia	November 30-December 5`

ANNEXURE III: OUTGOING VISITS BY PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER IN 2010

S. No.	Visiting Dignitary/ Countries	Dates
1.	Vice President to Zambia, Malawi and Botswana	5-11 January
2.	Prime Minister to Saudi Arabia	Feb 27 to March 1
3.	Prime Minister to US and Brazil	April 10-16
4.	Prime Minister to Bhutan for SAARC	April 28-30
5.	President to the People's Republic of China	May 26-31
6.	Vice President to Czech Republic and Croatia	June 6- 11

7.	Prime Minister to Canada for G-20 Summit	June 25-29
8.	President of India to Laos and Cambodia	September 9-18
9.	Vice President to Belgium for 8 th ASEM Summit	October 3-6
10.	Prime Minister of India to Japan, Malaysia and Vietnam	October 24 - 30
11.	Prime Minister to the Republic of Korea for G-20 Summit	November 10-12
12.	President to United Arab Emirates and Syria	November 21-29
13.	Prime Minister to Belgium and Germany	December 9-12

Annexure IV: Visits of External Affairs Minister in 2010

Sl.No.	Place	Purpose of visit
1.	Kathmandu	Bilateral (15 – 17 January)
2.	London, UK	Ministerial Conference on Afghanistan (26-31 January)
3.	Kuwait	Bilateral Meetings (3-4 February)
4.	Kathmandu	Attend funeral of G.P.Koirala (21 March)
5.	Singapore	Bilateral meetings (23-26 March)
6.	Beijing, China	60 th Anniversary of India-China Diplomatic relations (5-8 April)
7.	Thimphu, Bhutan	SAARC (26- 30 April)
8.	Astana, Kazakhstan	Bilateral Consultations (11-13 May)
9.	Tehran, Iran	G-15 FMs Meeting (15 -18 May)
10.	Washington, USA	Strategic Dialogue Meeting (2-6 June)
11.	Tashkent, Uzbekistan	SCO Summit (10-11 June)
12.	Seoul, ROK	Bilateral (16-19 June)
13.	Mauritius, Mozambique, and Seychelles	Bilateral (2-6 July)
14.	Islamabad, Pakistan	Bilateral (14-16 July)
15.	Kabul, Afghanistan	Kabul Conference
16.	New York, USA	UNGA (21 September – 2 October)
17.	Tokyo, Japan	With PM (24 – 26 October)
18.	Singapore	Bilateral Consultation (26 – 28 October)
19.	Wuhan (China)	Trilateral Meeting (14- 15 November)
20.	Colombo, Sri Lanka	Bilateral Meeting (25-28 November)