

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.280
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2018

VISIT BY DIGNITARIES

280. SHRI S. R. VIJAYAKUMAR:
SHRI VENKATESH BABU T.G.:
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:
SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:
SHRI S. RAJENDRAN:
KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of foreign trips undertaken by the Prime Minister of India, External Affairs Minister and other dignitaries during each of the last four months and the current month, country-wise;
- (b) the areas identified for co-operation and discussions held during the said visits;
- (c) the agreements and MoUs signed and the advantages to the country as a result thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to boost the bilateral relations with foreign countries?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

- (a) to (d) Information as desired is placed at Annexure I.

Visit by dignitaries

S. No.	The details of foreign trips undertaken by the Prime Minister of India, External Affairs Minister (EAM) and other dignitaries (President and Vice President) during each of the last four months and the current month (from 01.08.2018 till date), country-wise	The areas identified for co-operation and discussions held during the said visits	The agreements and MoUs signed and the advantages to the country as a result thereof	The steps taken/being taken by the Government to boost the bilateral relations with foreign countries
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
1.	<u>August 02-03, 2018</u> Visit of EAM to Kazakhstan	Political, Economic, Trade and Defence	No MoU was signed	Both sides engage on a regular basis to widen areas of cooperation.
2.	<u>August 03-04, 2018</u> Visit of EAM to Kyrgyzstan	Bilateral cooperation in the areas of culture, hydro-energy, healthcare, agriculture and IT was discussed.	No MoU was signed	On the cultural front Embassy is conducting Yoga and kathak dance classes in Kyrgyz schools. Plays based on Mahabharata and Ramayana were shown in local language. To increase bilateral relations tele-medicine projects, KIMBMRC projects have been done by Indian side through grants-in-aid. Bhabhatron & Imagin system has been installed & operationalised in Bishkek. Bhabhatron-II is under active consideration.

3.	<u>August 04-05, 2018</u> Visit of EAM to Uzbekistan	To expand bilateral cooperation in all areas including political, trade, and investment, science & technology, agriculture, information technology, nuclear energy, pharmaceuticals & healthcare, culture and academics. To have consultations including on Afghanistan.	No MoU was signed	Both sides are in continuous interaction to widen our areas of cooperation. 17 Agreements/ MoUs were signed during the visit of President of Uzbekistan in October 2018.
4.	<u>August 17-20, 2018</u> Visit of EAM to Mauritius	11 th World Hindi Conference held at Port Louis	N.A.	Promotion of Hindi abroad
5.	<u>August 27-30, 2018</u> Visit of EAM to Vietnam and Cambodia	EAM visited Vietnam and Cambodia to attend the Joint Consultation Mechanism. All aspects of the bilateral relations were discussed and reviewed.	(i) Construction of Son Ca Kindergarten (2 Classrooms and restroom) at Chung My Hamlet (Street 6), Phuoc Dan Town, Ninh Phuoc District, Ninh Thuan Province (ii) Construction of Phuoc Huu Kindergarten (02 Classrooms), Hau Sanh Hamlet, Phuoc Huu Commune, Ninh Phuoc District, Ninh Thuan Province (iii) Construction of Classroom building – Administration building with 12 rooms and other items at Phuoc Dong Primary School, Phuoc Dong Village 2, Phuoc Hau Commune, Ninh Phuoc District, Ninh Thuan Province (iv) Construction of Cham Community House in Ninh Phuoc District, Ninh Thuan Province (v) Construction of 4 storey Classroom building at Hieu Thien Primary School, Phuoc Ninh Commune, Thuan Nam District, Ninh Thuan Province (vi) Construction of Classroom building at Van Lam Primary School, Van Lam Hamlet, Phuoc Nam Commune, Thuan Nam District, Ninh Thuan Province (vii) Construction of Cham Community House in Thuan Nam District, Ninh Thuan Province (viii) MoU between People's Committee of Ninh Thuan Province and ONGC Videsh Limited relating to grant of financial assistance from ONGC Videsh Limited for construction of Cham Community House at Bau Truc Village, Phuoc Dan Town, Ninh Phuoc District, Ninh Thuan Province	The Government has taken numerous steps to boost the relations with Vietnam. The bilateral relations between the two countries were upgraded to that of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2016. There has been high level visits taking place regularly. The bilateral relations are comprehensive and we are engaging Vietnam through Economic, defence, security, space, science and technology, IT, Atomic energy, tourism, people to people exchanges and cultural cooperation. India is also offering Vietnam LOCs and grants through various bilateral and multilateral fora. India is extending assistance to Vietnam for conservation of its heritage sites. The two countries are also cooperating closely at Multilateral organisations and supporting

			<p>List of documents signed during the visit of EAM to Cambodia</p> <p>(i) Agreement between the Government of India and the Royal Government of Cambodia was signed for the Conservation/ Restoration of Preah Vihar Temple, Cambodia</p> <p>(ii) MoU between the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Government of India and the Ministry of Health of the Kingdom of Cambodia on cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine.</p> <p>(iii) MoU between Foreign Services Institute, Ministry of External Affairs, India and National Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cambodia.</p>	<p>each others candidatures in UN. Vietnam was India's coordinator country to ASEAN from 2015-18.</p>
6.	<p><u>August 30-31, 2018</u></p> <p>Visit of Prime Minister to Nepal from 30th to 31st August, 2018 for 4th BIMSTEC Summit</p>	<p>Prime Minister visited Nepal in August 2018 to participate in the 4th BIMSTEC Summit held on the theme of "Towards a Peaceful, Prosperous and Sustainable Bay of Bengal Region", which discussed ways to take forward regional cooperation in various sectors including transport and communications (connectivity), trade and investment, counter terrorism and transnational crime, environment and disaster management, climate change, energy, technology, agriculture, fisheries, public health, people-to-people contacts, cultural cooperation, tourism, mountain economy and blue economy.</p> <p>Prime Minister held bilateral discussion with his Nepalese counterpart during the visit, which was in keeping with the tradition of regular political exchanges</p>	<p>(i) On the sidelines of the 4th BIMSTEC Summit, an MoU regarding preliminary survey of the rail line between Raxaul (India) and Kathmandu (Nepal) was signed and exchanged by the two sides, pursuant to the decision made by the two Prime Ministers in April 2018 to construct a new electrified rail line, with India's financial support, connecting the border city of Raxaul in India to Kathmandu in Nepal with the objective of expanding connectivity to enhance people-to-people linkages and promote economic growth and development.</p> <p>(ii) MoU on BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection was signed during the 4th BIMSTEC Summit, which will promote regional energy and trade.</p>	<p>India and Nepal share historical and civilizational links and have close and friendly political, economic, cultural and social ties.</p>

		<p>between India and Nepal at the highest levels. The visit provided an opportunity to review the close and multifaceted relations between the two countries and to further advance ongoing cooperation in sectors such as agriculture, railway linkages, inland waterways development, economic and development cooperation, trade, economic, civil aviation, water resources, power, culture, and people-to-people ties. The two Prime Ministers inaugurated the Nepal-Bharat Maitri Pashupati Dharmashala in Kathmandu on 31 August 2018, which was constructed with GoI assistance.</p> <p>These exchanges reflect the wide canvass of bilateral cooperative agenda for shared prosperity and development of the two peoples.</p>		
7.	<p><u>September 02-09, 2018</u></p> <p>Visit of President to Cyprus, Bulgaria and Czech Republic</p>	<p>Cyprus: During the visit Rashtrapatiji met President Anastasiades, Mr. Demetris, President of the House of Representatives. He addressed an extraordinary sessions of the House of the Representatives and also delivered a lecture at the university of Cyprus.</p> <p>Both sides reviewed the ongoing bilateral and multilateral engagements and discussed issues of regional and global concerns. Both sides called for enhancing business collaboration in the field of IT, tourism, shipping, renewable energy etc.</p> <p>Bulgaria: In the course of the bilateral talks, the two sides acknowledged the</p>	<p>Cyprus: During the visit, following MoUs were signed:</p> <p>(i) MoU between Financial Intelligence Unit, India and Unit for Combating Money Laundering of Cyprus. The agreement would strengthen the institutional framework to facilitate investment cross-flows.</p> <p>(ii) MoU on cooperation in the areas of Environment between the Ministry of Environment, forest and climate change of India and the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment of Cyprus. The MoU aims at joint collaboration between the two countries to promote sustainable development and help tackle climate change.</p> <p>Bulgaria: During the visit, 5 MoUs/ documents were signed:</p> <p>(i) MoU on Cooperation between the Institute for Nuclear Research and Nuclear Energy of the Bulgarian Academy of</p>	

		<p>relations of traditional friendship and cooperation between Bulgaria and India and reaffirmed the mutual desire to further strengthen the relationship including high level political exchanges, trade, investment, science & technology, education, culture & tourism and other areas of mutual interest.</p> <p>Czech Republic: The two leaders had detailed discussions on all areas of our bilateral cooperation and further strengthen the relationship to take up to strategic levels.</p>	<p>Sciences and the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy (GCNEP) of India; (ii) Programme of Cooperation in the field of Science and Technology for the period 2018-2021; (iii) MoU on Cooperation in the field of Tourism; (iv) MoU between Sofia University and Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) on establishment of ICCR Chair for Hindi Language; and (v) MoU between Invest Bulgaria and Invest India.</p> <p>The above MoUs will open avenues for collaboration with Bulgaria in these fields for the mutual benefit of both countries.</p> <p>Czech Republic: 8 agreements/ MoUs were signed during the visit which included the Visa Waiver for Diplomatic Passport holders; MoU on S&T cooperation between Czech Academy of Sciences and CSIR; Work Plan on joint S&T projects between DST and M/o Youth, Education and Sports; Agreement on Laser research between the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research and ELI Beamlines; MoU between Hisaar Agricultural University and Czech University of Life Sciences; MoU between Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. (BEML) and TATRA Trucks; MoU between PHDCCI and Association of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises and Crafts CZ and MoU between Faculty of Business Administration, University of Economics Prague and IIM, Bangalore.</p>	
8.	<p>September 08-09, 2018</p> <p>Visit of Vice President to United States of America</p>	<p>People-to-People contacts, cultural exchanges, economic and commercial ties between India and the U.S..</p>	<p>No MoU was signed</p>	<p>The multifaceted relations between India and the U.S. have witnessed significant growth and expansion. Cooperation on defence and security issues has been boosted by India's designation as a Major Defence Partner. The inaugural 2+2 Dialogue held in September 2018 helped in creating additional</p>

				synergy in bilateral cooperation on strategic and security matters. The U.S. is India's largest trading partner (goods and services combined).
9.	September 13-14, 2018 Visit of EAM to Moscow	The Visit of the EAM was to co chair the 23 rd session of the India Russia Inter-governmental Commission on Trade Economic and Cultural Cooperation. Issues ranging from Agriculture, elimination of trade barriers, education, co-operation in pharmaceuticals, priority investment projects, space cooperation and economic cooperation were discussed. Focused discussions were held on the following: 1. Interest of Russian companies to participate in the Railway sector through the Make in India programme. 2. Expediting the logistical requirements for the realisation of the INSTC. 3. Discussion on increasing use of national currencies for bi-lateral trade 4. Cooperation in the field of Space technology, including co-operation in India's Chandrayan 2 program 5. Cooperation in the field of nuclear energy	Signing of the Protocol of the 23 rd Session of IRIGC-TEC	The government has instituted various mechanisms to give an impetus to bilateral relations between the two countries. This includes the annual India Russia Inter Governmental Commission on Technical, Economic and Cultural Cooperation, co –chaired by the External Affairs Minister; the India Russia Inter Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation co-chaired by the India Defence Minister; India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue; Co-chaired by the Vice Chairman Niti Ayog. There also exists a mechanism of annual meetings between the leaders of the two countries. These impart to the Strategic Partnership its Special and Privileged character. -
10.	September 14-20, 2018 Visit of Vice President to Serbia, Malta and Romania	Serbia: Both sides held detailed discussions on a range of bilateral and multilateral issues and agreed to expand the bilateral cooperation especially in the areas of economic and cultural relations. Agriculture, food processing,	Serbia: Two agreements were signed during the visit namely (i) Agreement on Plant Protection and Quarantine and (ii) Revised Air Services agreement.	Serbia: This was the first VVIP visit from India to Serbia after 29 years. On the occasion of 70 years of establishment of diplomatic relations between the two

		<p>science and technology, information technology, infrastructure, tourism and pharmaceuticals were identified as priority areas for enhancing economic cooperation.</p> <p>Malta: The two leaders discussed the whole gamut of bilateral relations and also cooperation in multilateral and international forums. The two leaders expressed concerns about issue of terrorism, global warming and climate change. President Colerio commended India's efforts to focus on renewable energy and the initiative of International Solar Alliance. The two leaders also addressed the India-Malta Business Forum. Malta confirmed its support to India's candidature to non-permanent seat of UNSC for the years 2021-22 and reiterated their support to India's candidature to the NSG and Human Rights Council.</p> <p>Romania: The leaders reviewed the existing bilateral ties and discussed possibilities of enhancing relations across the broad spectrum of relationship including political, economic, academic and cultural linkages. Both sides also committed to continue their support and cooperation in UN and other multilateral foras.</p>	<p>Malta: Following MoUs were signed during the visit: (I) MoU on Maritime cooperation between Ministry of Shipping, India and Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects, Malta. (ii) MoU on mutual cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute of India and the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies, University of Malta (iii) MoU in the field of tourism cooperation to promote tourism between the two countries.</p> <p>Romania: MoU between Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of India and Ministry of Tourism of Romania on cooperation in the filed of tourism was signed during the visit.</p> <p>In addition, the following MoUs were signed between the universities/ chambers of commerce and industry of the two countries during the vice President's visit. (I) MoU between Pt. Deen Dayal Petroleum University, Gandhi Nagar and Petroleum-Gas University, Ploiesti (ii) Three MoUs of the Bucharest Chamber of Commerce each with CII, ASSOCHAM and PHDCCI were signed.</p>	<p>countries, Serbia Post and India Post released commemorative stamps on Serbian Physicist and Innovator Nikola Tesla and Swami Vivekananda.</p> <p>Romania: The visit coincided with the 70 years of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Romania and also the Centenary year for Romania.</p> <p>The Foreign Minister of Romania visited India from 24-27 November, 2018 which was seen as a follow up to the visit of Vice President of India to Romania.</p>
11.	<p>September 22-27, 2018</p> <p>Visit of EAM to New York for 73rd</p>	<p>EAM addressed the UN General Assembly on 29 September 2018. She outlined the broad themes of priority to us in the multilateral front, including SDGs, climate change, counter</p>	<p>No MoU was signed</p>	<p>N.A.</p>

	UNGA	terrorism, support for multilateralism and its reform etc. EAM held separate discussions with leaders of 24 countries. They included 3 Heads of Government (Fiji, Mauritius and Nepal) and 21 Ministers (Antigua & Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Armenia, Bolivia, Chile, Cyprus, Colombia, Ecuador, Estonia, European Union, Germany, Iran, Japan, Liechtenstein, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Panama, Spain, Syria and Suriname). She also had pull-aside meetings with ministers from Bangladesh, Equatorial Guinea, Italy, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Singapore and Sri Lanka. During the meetings all aspects of bilateral relationship were reviewed. Besides, EAM participated in the G-4 Foreign Ministers Meeting, NAM Committee Meeting on Palestine, BRICS Ministerial Meeting, IBSA Foreign Ministerial Meeting, SAARC Ministerial Meeting, Nelson Mandela Peace Summit and High Level Meeting on Climate Change. EAM also attended the special event hosted by US President Trump on Global Call for Action on World Drug Problem during the visit.		
12.	October 07-09, 2018 Visit of President to Tajikistan	Hon'ble Rashtrapati ji paid state visit to Tajikistan from 7-9 October 2018. Hon'ble Rashtrapati ji held bilateral meetings with President Rahmon both in a tete-a-tete format and extended format. Tajik Speaker and Prime Minister called on HR during the visit. Issues were discussed on trade and	List/details of MoUs were signed during the visit are as follows; I. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Government of the Republic of India on Cooperation on Peaceful Use of Space Technology for Development. II. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Government of the Republic of India on Cooperation in the	Mission is following up for the implementation of the announcements made during the visit.

		<p>economic cooperation, Afghanistan, defence cooperation and connectivity.</p>	<p>field of Disaster Management.</p> <p>III. Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of the Republic of India on Cooperation in the Field of Renewable Energy.</p> <p>IV. Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Youth matters between the Committee on Youth Affairs and Sports under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Republic of India.</p> <p>V. Memorandum of Understanding between Academy of Agricultural Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, India for Cooperation in Agricultural Research and Education.</p> <p>VI. Memorandum of Understanding between State Educational Establishment "Tajik State Medical University named after Abuali Ibn Sino" and the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, an Organization under the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of the Republic of India on Cooperation in Unani Medicine.</p> <p>VII. Programme of Cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India for the period 2018-2021.</p> <p>VIII. Cultural Exchange Programme between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of India for the Years 2019-2023.</p> <p>The Centre for Strategic Researches under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan and Vivekananda International Foundation, New Delhi also concluded a Memorandum of Understanding.</p>	
13.	October 11-12, 2018	EAM attended the Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Heads of	Memorandum on Technical Cooperation in Joint Prevention and Control of Transboundary and Epizootic	NA

	Visit of EAM to Tajikistan	Governments (SCO-HoG) on 11-12 October, 2018 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. On the side lines EAM called on visiting Afghan CEO Dr. Abdullah Abdullah and had a meeting with Tajik Foreign Minister Mr. Sirojiddin Muhridin. Bilateral issues with Tajikistan/Afghanistan were discussed in the respective meetings.	Diseases was signed by the participating Heads of Government/designated Ministers. In addition, Documents on Cooperation Programme of SCO on Food Security and Development of Inter-regional cooperation, cooperation of scientific research institutes of SCO countries were agreed upon during the meeting.	
14.	October 17-20, 2018 Visit of Vice President to Belgium	This was not a bilateral visit. Hon'ble Vice President had visited Belgium to attend ASEM Summit.	NA	During the Summit Leaders sought to strengthen dialogue and cooperation between the two continents on a wide range of areas, including: trade & investment, connectivity, sustainable development and climate and security challenges such as terrorism, non-proliferation, cyber-security, irregular migration
15.	October 27-30, 2018 Visit of Prime Minister to Tokyo & Yamanashi, Japan	During the visit of PM Modi for the 13 th India-Japan Annual Summit, wide ranging discussions taking stock of the existing cooperation and considering possibilities of future relations under the framework of India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership were held in the following major areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Cooperation: Official Development Assistance for India's socio-economic development, investment by Japanese companies in India and support for 'Make in India', etc.; • Defence and Strategic Cooperation including cooperation in defence equipment 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implementing arrangement for deeper cooperation between Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force and Indian Navy - For greater cooperation and exchange of information in Maritime domain awareness between the Indian Navy and Japan Maritime Self Defence Force 2. MoC between Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry on Japan-India Digital Partnership - To tap into the synergies and complementarities between Japan's "Society 5.0" and India's flagship programmes like "Digital India", "Smart City" and "Start-up India" in areas of next generation technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), and IoT (Internet of Things), etc. 3. Statement of Intent between NITI Aayog and Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry (METI), Japan on Artificial Intelligence (AI) - To encourage and develop cooperation on Artificial Intelligence technologies 	In recent years, the bilateral relations between India and Japan have attained an unprecedented momentum sustained by continuous high-level exchanges between the two countries including at the leadership-level through the Annual Summit mechanism. During the 13th India-Japan Annual Summit, PM Modi and PM Abe signed a Vision Statement focusing on (i) Partnership for Prosperity; (ii) Partnership for Peace; and (iii) Partnership for Global Action, and consisting of a guiding

		<p>and technology;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Partnership; • Healthcare and Wellness; • Connectivity: Within India and in Indo-Pacific region including Africa; • Railways: High Speed Rail, Western Dedicated Freight Corridor, Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Upgradation of infrastructure and technical cooperation for rail safety ; • Cooperation between India and Japan on Agriculture, Food Processing, Food Safety, Forestry, and Fisheries; • Science and Technology; • People to People Exchanges including between Parliamentarians, State to Prefecture and Sister City linkages , Track-1.5 engagements, Sports Exchanges, etc.; • Disaster Risk Reduction; • Environment Cooperation, Clean forms of energy, Sustainable Development Goals; • Global Challenges and Issues like Climate Change, Nuclear Proliferation, Terrorism, UNSC reforms, WTO and RCEP; • Japanese Language Education in India. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. MoC between Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Republic of India and the Office of Healthcare Policy, Cabinet Secretariat, Government of Japan and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan in the field of Healthcare and Wellness - To establish a mechanism to identify potential areas for collaboration between India and Japan in common domains of primary healthcare, prevention of non-communicable diseases, maternal and child health services, sanitation, hygiene, nutrition and elderly care 5. MoC between The Ministry of AYUSH of Republic of India and the Kanagawa Prefectural Government of Japan in the field of Healthcare and Wellness - To promote and deepen mutual understanding and interaction between India's Traditional Medicine Systems like "Ayurveda & Yoga" and Japan's ME-BYO. 6. MoU on Food Safety between Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) & The Food Safety Commission of Japan, The Consumer Affairs Agency of Japan, The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan - For furthering cooperation between the agencies from India and Japan in area of food safety. 7. MoC between Ministry of Food Processing & Industries and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan in the field of Food Processing Industry - Aims at developing India's food processing industry with involvement of relevant stakeholders such as local governments, private companies, etc. 8. The Program for Promoting Investment into India by Japan in the Field of Agriculture and Fisheries between Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer Welfare, India & Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan - To promote development of agricultural value chain and fisheries, including aquaculture, by improving the investment environment for Japanese companies. 9. MoC on Development of Food Value Chain in Maharashtra between State Government of Maharashtra and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan - To facilitate investment of Japanese companies 	<p>framework for future India-Japan relations.</p>
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			<p>in food value chain in State of Maharashtra.</p> <p>10. Memorandum of Cooperation on Development of Food Value Chain in Uttar Pradesh Between The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan and The State Government of Uttar Pradesh, India - To facilitate investment of Japanese companies in food value chain in State of Uttar Pradesh.</p> <p>11. MoU between Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India and NEXI, Japan - For stimulating trade and investment between India and Japan and strengthening cooperation in projects in third countries.</p> <p>12. MOC in Postal Field between the Ministry of Communications, Government of India and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Government of Japan - To strengthen cooperation in postal field including through setting up of Postal Services Dialogue between Ministry of Communications and Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.</p> <p>13. MoU between Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), India and Hiroshima University, Japan for Research Partnership - To promote research partnership in areas such as Electronics, Sensors, High Speed Vision, Robotics, Advanced Manufacturing including Mechatronics, Environmental Research, Intelligent Transportation, etc.</p> <p>14. MoU between Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), India and Research Centre for Advanced Science and Technology (RCAST), The University of Tokyo, Japan for Research Partnership - To promote research partnership in areas like Renewable Energy, Electronics including Robotics/IoT, Advanced Materials, etc.</p> <p>15. Agreement for Cooperation between Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), India and Institute of Innovative Research, Tokyo Institute of Technology (TIT), Japan for joint research in interdisciplinary areas for application in Industrial Research - To establish research partnership between Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR),</p>	
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			<p>India and Institute of Innovative Research, Tokyo Institute of Technology (TIT) in areas such as Advanced Materials, Bioscience and Information Technologies.</p> <p>16.MoC between The National Centre for Polar and Ocean research (NCPOR) of India, Ministry of Earth Sciences and The National Institute of Polar Research (NIPR) of Japan, The Research Organisation of Information and Systems on Polar Research - To strengthen cooperation in the study of Polar Sciences and related logistics.</p> <p>17.MoC between India and Japan in the field of Environment Cooperation - To promote greater cooperation between India and Japan for protection and improvement of environment.</p> <p>18.MoU between National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), India, and Shizuoka University, Japan for Academic and Research exchanges - To promote academic linkages between the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research S.A.S Nagar, and Shizuoka University.</p> <p>19.Memorandum of Understanding on Further Cooperation toward Indo-Japan Global Startup between Nagasaki University and IIITDM Kancheepuram, India - Information Technology and Human Resources development along with Indo-Japan Global Startup.</p> <p>20.Memorandum of Understanding on Academic and Educational Exchange between Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad, India and Hiroshima University, Japan - Joint Research Promotion and exchange of students and faculties between the two institutions.</p> <p>21.Memorandum of Understanding between Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad and National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology - Joint Research Promotion and exchange of students and faculties between the two institutions.</p> <p>22.(Agreement)Academic Exchange Agreement between Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur and Faculty, Graduate School and School of Engineering, Graduate School of Information Science and Technology, Graduate School of Chemical Sciences and</p>	
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<p>16.</p>	<p><u>October 28-29, 2018</u> Visit of EAM to Qatar</p>	<p>During the visit, External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj called on His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar. She also held meeting with her counterpart H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar. Both sides discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and agreed to tap the immense potential that exists in bilateral trade and investment. Qatari investments were invited in the areas including petrochemicals, infrastructure, agriculture and food processing.</p>	<p>External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj and H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar signed a Declaration to establish Joint Commission at the level of External Affairs and Foreign Minister to periodically review progress in various cooperation initiatives.</p>	
<p>17.</p>	<p><u>October 30-31, 2018</u> Visit of EAM to Kuwait</p>	<p>During the visit, EAM called on His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait and Kuwaiti Prime Minister, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamd Al-Sabah</p> <p>EAM later held wide-ranging discussions with the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Kuwait.</p> <p>The two sides reviewed the bilateral cooperation including in areas of Trade & Investment, Defence and Labour issues. Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister accepted India's invitation to join International Solar Alliance.</p> <p>Both sides agreed on need to move beyond oil trade as also explore avenues</p>	<p>Agreement on exemption of visa for holders of Diplomatic, Official and Special Passports- to promote hassle free travel of diplomats and officials between the two countries leading to greater cooperation and understanding.</p> <p>Agreement on recruitment of Domestic Workers- Will lead to safer and smoother employment of Indian domestic workers in Kuwait with safeguards to prevent exploitation.</p>	

		for trade and investment. Issues relating to Indian Community in Kuwait, especially issues regarding Indian Engineers, Nurses and employment of Indian domestic workers were discussed.		
18.	<u>Oct 31 - Nov 6, 2018</u> Visit of Vice President to Botswana & Zimbabwe & Malawi	<p><u>Botswana</u> During the visit, a wide range of areas for further developing cooperation in bilateral, multilateral including regional spheres, were identified.</p> <p><u>Zimbabwe</u> During the visit, a wide range of areas were identified including health, infrastructure development, capacity building, agriculture, trade, ICT and energy etc.</p> <p><u>Malawi</u> Water Projects, Health Sector, Education Sector</p>	<p><u>Botswana</u> Agreement on the Exemption of Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic Passport.</p> <p><u>Zimbabwe</u> (I) Agreement on the reciprocal exemption of Visa requirements for holder of Diplomatic Passport (ii) MoU for Cooperation on broadcasting between Prasar Bharti and ZBC (iii) MoU on Cooperation in the field of art, culture and heritage (iv) MoU on cooperation in the fields of Geology, Mining, and Mineral resources (v) MoU on cooperation in traditional Medicine and Homeopathy (vi) Action plan on cooperation in Information and communication technology</p> <p><u>Malawi</u> (i) Exemption fo Visa for Diplomatic & Official Passport Holders (ii) Extradition Treaty (iii) MoU for capacity building in regulating the mining of Radio-active/Atomic Minerals and Rare Earth materials.</p>	<p><u>Botswana</u> The visit of VP has enhanced bilateral relations with Botswana. India's proposal for further cooperation in the area of defence is under discussions.</p> <p><u>Zimbabwe</u> The announcements made by the GoI for Zimbabwe like US\$ 310 mn LoC for up-gradation of Hwange Thermal Power Station, US\$2.93 mn grant for Up-gradation of Indo-Zim Technology Centre and Gifting of ambulances, medicines and deputation of experts in five specialised areas are under process.</p> <p><u>Malawi</u> The announcements made by the GoI for Malawi like-LoC of US\$ 215.68 for Water projects, gifting of Bhabhatron Cancer treatment machine; medicines; ambulances; books etc are under process.</p>
19.	<u>November 09-11, 2018</u>	This was not a bilateral visit. Hon'ble Vice President had visited France to attend Armistice Centenary	No MoUs / Agreement were signed during the Forum. However, 5 projects from India were identified by the Forum as providing solutions to global governance issues.	The Paris Peace Forum brought together under one roof more than 50 Heads of

	Visit of Vice President to France (Armistice Centenary & Paris Peace Forum)	<p>Celebrations and Paris Peace Forum.</p> <p>The first edition of the Paris Peace Forum was aimed to facilitate exchange among global leaders and to discuss concrete global governance solutions.</p>	One of the projects - Climate Resilient Zero-budget Natural Farming in Andhra Pradesh was selected by the Forum for special support for a period of one year.	State and Government as well international organizations leaders who deliberated on issues such as sustainable peace, digital policies, climate change, and the future of multilateralism. The Forum provided an opportunity to the leader of the Indian delegation to exchange views with Heads of State / Government of a number of countries.
20.	<p><u>November 14-15, 2018</u></p> <p>Visit of Prime Minister to Singapore to attend the 16th ASEAN-India Summit and 13th East Asia Summit (EAS)</p>	<p>During the visit, Prime Minister participated in ASEAN-India Summit, East Asia Summit, Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Leaders' Meeting. On the sidelines, he also held bilateral meetings with Prime Minister of Singapore, Prime Minister of Thailand, Prime Minister of Australia and Vice President of USA.</p> <p>Prime Minister became the first Head of Government to deliver Keynote address at- Singapore Fintech Festival.</p> <p>His other engagements included greeting winners and participants of India-Singapore Hackathon 2018, which was agreed during his last visit in June 2018.</p>	NA Multilateral visit	<p>Discussions on issues of mutual importance at the meetings as mentioned in (b)</p> <p>Prime Minister launched Application Programming Interface Exchange (APIX) platform connecting the ASEAN and Indian financial institutions, innovators and users.</p>
21.	<p><u>November 17, 2018</u></p> <p>Visit of Prime Minister to Maldives</p>	PM met President Solih immediately after his swearing in. Both leaders agreed on the importance of maintaining peace and security in the Indian Ocean and being mindful of each other's concerns and aspirations for the stability of the region.	No agreement / MOU was signed.	<p>PM visited Maldives at the invitation of President elect Ibrahim Mohamed Solih to attend his swearing in ceremony.</p> <p>PM extended an invitation to</p>

		<p>PM assured President Solih of India's complete support in assisting the Maldives to achieve sustainable social and economic development.</p> <p>PM Modi also welcomed the expanding opportunities for Indian companies to invest in the Maldives in different sectors for the mutual benefit of both countries.</p> <p>They also agreed on the need for facilitating easier visa procedures.</p>		<p>President Solih to make a State Visit to India at his earliest convenience which was accepted by President Solih.</p> <p>Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid paid his first visit, after assuming office, to India from 24-27 November 2018, accompanied by the Minister of Finance Mr Ibrahim Ameer and Minister of Economic Development Mr. Fayyaz Ismail and the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ahmed Khaleel.</p>
22.	<p><u>November 18-24, 2018</u></p> <p>Visit of President to Australia and Vietnam</p>	<p>Australia: During the visit, the President held bilateral meetings with the Governor General, His Excellency, Sir Peter Cosgrove and Prime Minister Scott Morrison, MP. During the meetings both sides reviewed bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest.</p> <p>President unveiled the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Paramatta and addressed the Indian Community. As part of his economic engagement President addressed the India Business Summit organized by Australian Financial Review and Australia-India Business Council.</p> <p>In Melbourne, the President held a meeting with Governor of Victoria, Hon. Linda Dessau and addressed the students in Melbourne University.</p>	<p>List of documents exchanged during the visit of President to Australia</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Australia for cooperation in the area of disability and to deliver services to the differently-abled 2. Agreement between Invest India and Austrade to facilitate bilateral investment 3. The Central Mine Planning and Design Institute, based in Ranchi, and the Commonwealth Scientific and Research Organisation, based in Canberra, to foster scientific collaboration and innovation 4. Agreement between the Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Guntur, and the University of Western Australia, Perth, for cooperation in agricultural research and education 5. Joint PhD agreement between the Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi, and the Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane 	<p>India and Australia recognize that there is significant potential for further engagement across a broad range of areas. In addition to the Presidents recent visit , the two way Prime Ministerial visits in 2014 built significant momentum in the bilateral relationship, signifying the growing depth of the India-Australia strategic partnership and building on converging interests, shared values and common democratic institutions.</p> <p>Political interaction is further advanced through Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue (last annual FMFD was held in Delhi on 18-19 July, 2017) and other</p>

		<p>Vietnam: The Joint Statement issued by the President's of the two countries identifying the various areas of cooperation.</p>	<p>List of documents exchanged during the visit of President to Vietnam</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MOU between the Ministry of Information and Communications of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Ministry of Communications of the Republic of India on cooperation in the field of Communications; 2. MOU on cooperation between the Department of Foreign Affairs of Provinces of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam and the Indian Business Chamber in Viet Nam (INCHAM); 3. MOU between the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics, Ha Noi, Viet Nam and the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India; 4. Cooperation Agreement between Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) 	<p>Ministerial official mechanism field of Trade & Commerce, Science & Technology, Education etc. This was the first ever visit to Australia by an Indian President.</p> <p><u>Vietnam:</u> The Government has taken numerous steps to boost the relations with Vietnam. The bilateral relations between the two countries were upgraded to that of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2016. There has been high level visits taking place regularly. The bilateral relations are comprehensive and we are engaging Vietnam through Economic, defence, security, space, science and technology, IT, Atomic energy, tourism, people to people exchanges and cultural cooperation. India is also offering Vietnam LOCs and grants through various bilateral and multilateral fora. India is extending assistance to Vietnam for conservation of its heritage sites. The two countries are also cooperating closely at Multilateral organizations and supporting each others candidatures in UN. Vietnam was India's coordinator country to ASEAN from 2015-18.</p>
23.	<u>November 22-23, 2018</u>	India-Laos 9 th Joint Commission was held during which discussions were	Agreed minutes of Joint Commission was signed by the Foreign Ministers.	India Lao has longstanding historical and cultural

	Visit of EAM to Laos	held to strengthen cooperation in defence, agriculture, trade and investment, education and culture, science and information technology, energy and mining, transport, natural resources and environment.		relationship. It is an important country for India under Act East Policy. There are various mechanism to progress are bilateral relationship through India- ASEAN Strategic Partnership. Indian Government supports various developments assistance projects in Laos, including capacity building programme bilaterally and through ASEAN Mechanism.
24.	Nov 28 – Dec 02, 2018 Visit of Prime Minister to Argentina to attend the Thirteenth G20 Summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina.	The theme of the Summit was “Building Consensus for fair and Sustainable Development”. The Summit focussed on : the future of work, infrastructure for development, sustainable food future and gender mainstreaming strategy across the G20 agenda. G20 Leaders’ Declaration was issued at the Summit. PM also attended informal meeting of BRICS Leaders on margins of G20 Summit on 30 November, 2018. Bilateral meetings were held with 3 LAC countries viz. Chile, Argentina and Jamaica during the visit. Areas of Cooperation identified: Argentina – Investment, energy, mining, agriculture, science and technology, education and other multilateral issues of common interest. Chile – outerspace, agriculture, health, pharmaceuticals, ayurveda and traditional medicines, as well as	Under G20, no agreement/MoU was signed. However, G20 Leaders’ Declaration was issued at the Summit. A media note was issued at the BRICS Leaders’ meeting.	The Govt. of India continues to strive to enhance, expand and deepen bilateral relations with LAC countries through various bilateral and multilateral mechanisms including: 1. Regular political interactions through high-level political visits, FOCs, JCMs, JWGs 2. Regular trade and investment promotion activities through trade delegation visits, trade fairs, market studies, publicity etc. 3. Technical and educational cooperation through numerous GOI scholarship schemes. 4. Developmental projects 5. Cultural exchange and

		<p>regional and multilateral issues of common interest.</p> <p>Jamaica – sports, solar energy, energy efficiency, technology, infrastructure, as well as regional and multilateral issues of common interest.</p>		<p>promotion through cultural events and visits among other activities.</p>
25.	<p><u>December 03-05, 2018</u></p> <p>Visit of EAM to UAE</p>	<p>For co-chairing the 12th session of the India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting for Economic & Technical Cooperation. During the JCM, the two sides took review of the whole gamut of bilateral relations under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and identified new areas of cooperation.</p>	<p>To pursue the agreement during PM Modi's visit to the UAE in August, 2015 for extending bilateral cooperation to developmental projects in Africa, an MOU for tripartite cooperation in Ethiopia was signed during the visit. A currency swap agreement just concluded between the RBI and the Central Bank of the UAE, was also exchanged during the visit.</p>	
