



Fast Track Diplomacy



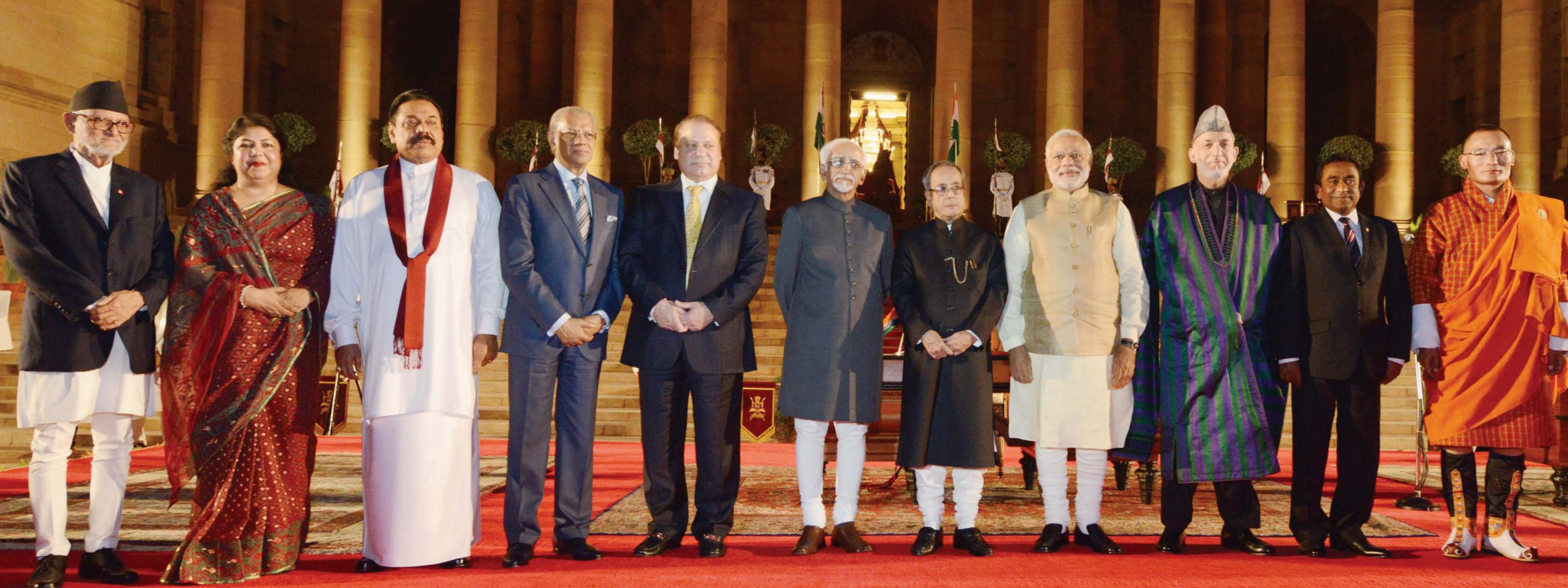
Fast Track Diplomacy

- This booklet traces the fast track diplomatic journey of the new Indian government led by India's 15th Prime Minister Shri Narendra Damodardas Modi.
- The historic invitation extended to the leaders of eight countries for his swearing-in ceremony set the tone and tenor for a new paradigm in India's foreign policy. It was a triumph of statesmanship for the new government and was considered by many as a 'Diplomatic Masterstroke'.
- The Prime Minister, along with the External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj, spent the first day at work meeting leaders of the SAARC nations and Mauritius. This signified the priority placed by the new government on strengthening the bonds of friendship and development partnerships in India's South Asian neighbourhood.
- The government's reassurance to its neighbours, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka that India will continue to value and strengthen its close and enduring relations with them has imparted a renewed vigor in the South Asian region. The invitation to Pakistan's Prime Minister reflected India's hope and commitment to build cordial bilateral ties in an environment free of terror and violence.
- Oman's Foreign Minister was the first visitor received by the new government. Foreign Minister of Uganda was the first African leader to visit India after the formation of the new government.
- The visits of envoys of P5 countries (China, Russia, France, UK and US) to India in quick succession,

reinforced the importance that these countries attach to enhancing the substantive underpinnings of their strategic ties with India.

- The BRICS Summit marked Shri Modi's successful debut on the global stage. The agreement to establish the New Development Bank, and also the decision to have an Indian as its first President marked a major achievement for the new government in the international arena. Meeting with Latin American leaders was also a significant highlight.
- The visits of the External Affairs Minister Smt. Swaraj to Myanmar, Singapore and Vietnam have taken India's ties with the East to a new high-speed phase, from 'Look East' to 'Act East'.
- The Prime Minister's visit to Japan, and the elevation of our ties to that of a Special Global Partnership, has ushered a new dawn in Indo-Japan relations.
- The government's full support to help rescue and return of Indians caught in the midst of conflict zones in Iraq, Libya and Ukraine ensured the safe homecoming of nearly 10,000 Indians.
- The decision to provide passport services in all states in the North East of India; the elimination of shortage of passport booklets and simplification of procedures to get passports reflects the government's continuing commitment to streamline and optimise the delivery of citizen-centric services, as does the launch of an online system of tracking the transportation of the mortal remains of Indians abroad.





- Day Zero: Beginning of the diplomatic drive with invitations being sent to the leaders of all SAARC countries and Mauritius for the swearing-in ceremony of the new government.
- This unprecedented move creates positive vibes, which experts considered to be a 'masterstroke'.

DAY ZERO



FIRST DAY
@ WORK

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj meet the leaders of the SAARC nations and Mauritius.
- The meeting signifies that building strong foreign relations and forging development partnerships in our region is a priority for the new government.
- The clear message conveyed is that India is all set for a more pro-active role as a regional and global player.



NEIGHBOURS
FIRST

B4B - BHARAT FOR BHUTAN, BHUTAN FOR BHARAT



- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visits Bhutan on his first international visit.
- Shri Modi addresses the joint sitting of the Parliament in the Gyalyong Tshogkhang.
- Shri Modi calls for 'B4B' – Bharat for Bhutan and Bhutan for Bharat', implying that the security concerns for the two nations are intertwined and common, as is the vision of development.



- The External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj's visit to Bangladesh marks an 'excellent beginning' in addressing the mutual concerns in the spirit of good neighbourliness.
- Emphasis on comprehensive and equitable partnership, mutually beneficial relations, youth-led development, people-to-people contact, and inter-linkages to move forward in South Asia.
- Bangladeshi media calls this bilateral meeting as 'constructive, productive and fruitful'.

REACHING OUT
TO BANGLADESH



- Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Mr GL Peiris meets the External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj.
- Discusses matters relating to repatriation of fishermen, political reconciliation and the economic reconstruction process in Sri Lanka.

FRIEND FROM
ACROSS
THE STRAIT



A 'HIT' MANTRA

- The India-Nepal Joint Commission meets after 23 years during the External Affairs Minister's visit.
- Shri Narendra Modi visits Nepal; first Indian Prime Minister in the last 17 years to visit the Himalayan country.
- Prime Minister Modi's gripping address to the Nepalese Parliament creates a wave of euphoria amongst the Nepalese people.
- Shri Modi offers a 'HIT' mantra for Nepal's development – H: Highways, I: I-ways and T: Transways.



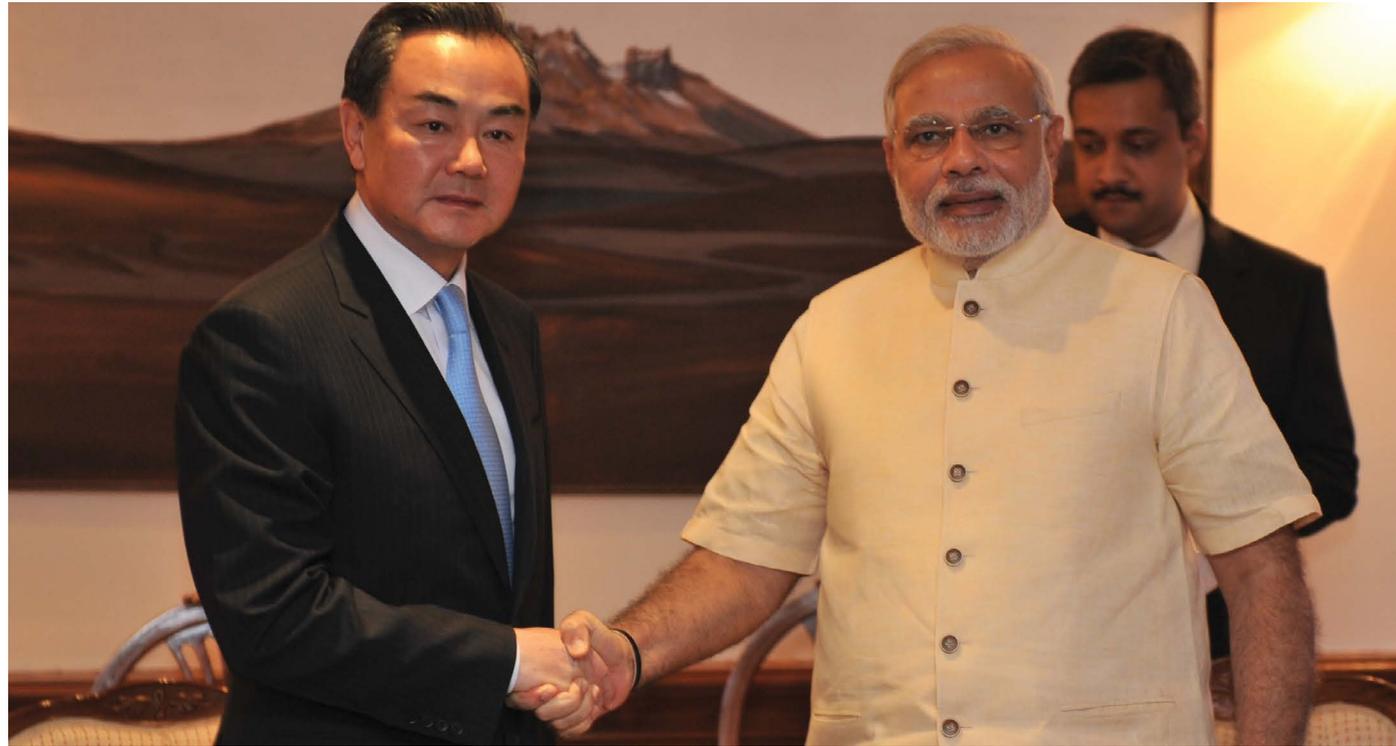


MYANMAR MATRIX

- The External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj visits Myanmar for the ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Meeting; also meets the senior leadership of Myanmar.
- Discusses connectivity projects, including land, maritime and air connectivity, and the much awaited trilateral highway, which will connect India-Myanmar-Thailand.



P5 COME CALLING



TIME-TESTED FRIENDS

- Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Mr Dmitry O Rogozin visits India for bilateral talks.
- Shri Modi expresses deep appreciation for Russia's friendship and unstinting bilateral and international support for India's economic development and security, since the early days of India's independence.



ENHANCING UNDERSTANDING

- Chinese Premier Mr Li Keqiang calls to congratulate Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi - the first foreign leader to do so.
- Chinese Foreign Minister Mr Wang Yi visits India as a special envoy of the Chinese President Mr Xi Jinping.





THE FRENCH CONNECTION

- French Foreign Minister Mr Laurent Fabius visits India to extend President Mr Francois Hollande's invitation to the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
- Discusses ways to strengthen cooperation in key areas such as defence, trade and investment with India; expresses interest in setting up industrial bases in India to boost ties.
- Announces France's initiative towards reworking on a new visa policy that will grant French Visa to Indians within two days.



STRONG TIES OF HISTORY

- The United Kingdom's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Affairs Mr William Hague visits India along with Chancellor of the Exchequer Mr George Osborne; followed by the visit of Deputy Prime Minister Mr Nick Clegg with a trade mission to India.
- UK expresses intention to open up investment opportunities for its firms in India's defence and infrastructure sector, and also attract Indian investment into Britain; discusses cooperation in security issues, building people-to-people ties and matters relating to restructuring/reform of the UN Security Council.
- Announces quadrupling the budget for Chevening Scholarships in India, and creating over 100 new awards to strengthen the educational ties between the two countries.





PAVING THE FUTURE PATH

- The US Deputy Secretary of State Mr William Burns, US Secretary of State Mr John Kerry and US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel visit India in quick succession.
- Smt. Swaraj and Mr Kerry chair the fifth India-US Strategic Dialogue.
- As an exceptional gesture, the US President Mr Barack Obama invites Prime Minister Shri Modi to visit Washington for a meeting, when the Prime Minister visits New York for the UN General Assembly in late September.





PRESIDENCY OF BRICS BANK

- The BRICS Summit marks Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's debut on the global stage.
- India becomes the first President of the New Development Bank.
- Shri Modi states, "The New Development Bank will not only benefit the BRICS nations but will also support other developing nations."

LATIN AMERICA : DISTANCE BRIDGED

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacts with several Latin American leaders on sidelines of the BRICS Summit.
- Prime Minister says that the 'Preferential Trade Agreement' between India and the MERCOSUR trade block, and Chile must be utilised more effectively.
- Asks the Latin American leaders to encourage their business leaders to participate in an upcoming investment conclave in India.



SPECIAL GESTURE

- The President of Brazil Ms. Dilma Rousseff hosts Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in Brasilia on the sidelines of the Sixth BRICS Summit.
- President Rousseff in a special gesture receives the Prime Minister of India with full military honours at the Presidential Palace.
- Decision is taken on expanding investment and trade flows, besides propagating collaboration in the fields of defence, renewable energy and cyber security.



THE INDIAN CONNECT

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has detailed talks with President Mr Donald Ramotar of Guyana and President Mr Desi Bouterse of Suriname on the margins of the BRICS Summit.
- Shri Modi mentions how the population of Indian origin, in these South American countries – who had migrated centuries ago – continues to act as a strong bridge of friendship between India and the South American countries.



EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visits Japan – his first bilateral visit outside India’s immediate neighbourhood; underlines the high priority Japan receives in India’s foreign and economic policies.
- Shri Modi states, “Japan is the land of the rising sun and India is the land of the shining sun.”
- Shri Modi meets Japan’s Prime Minister Mr Shinzo Abe, and Emperor Akihito; elevates the relationship to ‘Special Strategic and Global Partnership’.
- Economic ties receive a huge boost with the setting up of the India–Japan Investment Promotion Partnership, and Japan’s intention to realise 3.5 trillion Yen (Rs. 2,10,000 crore) of public and private investment and financing to India over the next five years.





NEW WAVE OF STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

- External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj travels to Vietnam; meets the top leadership.
- Discusses India's plan to ramp up its engagement with Vietnam in the oil sector and deepen defence ties.
- Smt. Swaraj inaugurates the Third Round of India-ASEAN Think Tanks at Hanoi.

CELEBRATING AND BUILDING TOGETHER

- Singapore's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law Mr K. Shanmugam calls on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi; meets External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj.
- Smt. Swaraj visits Singapore; calls on Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsein Loong; meets her counterpart Mr K Shanmugam during the visit.
- Smt. Swaraj inaugurates the 'Year of India' celebration to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Singapore.
- Invites partnership of the Singaporean companies to speed up connectivity and infrastructure projects in India, particularly, along the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC), the Chennai-Bangalore Industrial Corridor and the North East of India.



BILATERAL TIES AT MULTILATERAL MEETINGS



- Smt. Sushma Swaraj visits Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar for the India-ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting, EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Meeting.
- Smt. Swaraj holds bilateral meetings with her counterparts from 11 countries, including Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, China, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, New Zealand, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam.
- The EAS meeting focuses on cooperation in the areas of energy, education, disaster management, food security and improvement of connectivity; discussion on issues relating to peace and security in the region at the ARF conference.
- Smt. Swaraj emphasises on the need for strong connectivity within ASEAN, and to look at a more 'functional visa regime' in the 10-member grouping.
- Stresses on the importance of the 'C' of connectivity 'to the five Ts' that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is pursuing – Tradition, Talent, Tourism, Trade and Technology – for the growth of ASEAN.



ENERGISING RELATIONS

- The External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj meets Australian Foreign Minister Ms. Julie Bishop on the sidelines of India-ASEAN Foreign Ministers' meeting.
- India and Australia conclude civil nuclear agreement during the visit of Prime Minister Mr Tony Abbott, to India.

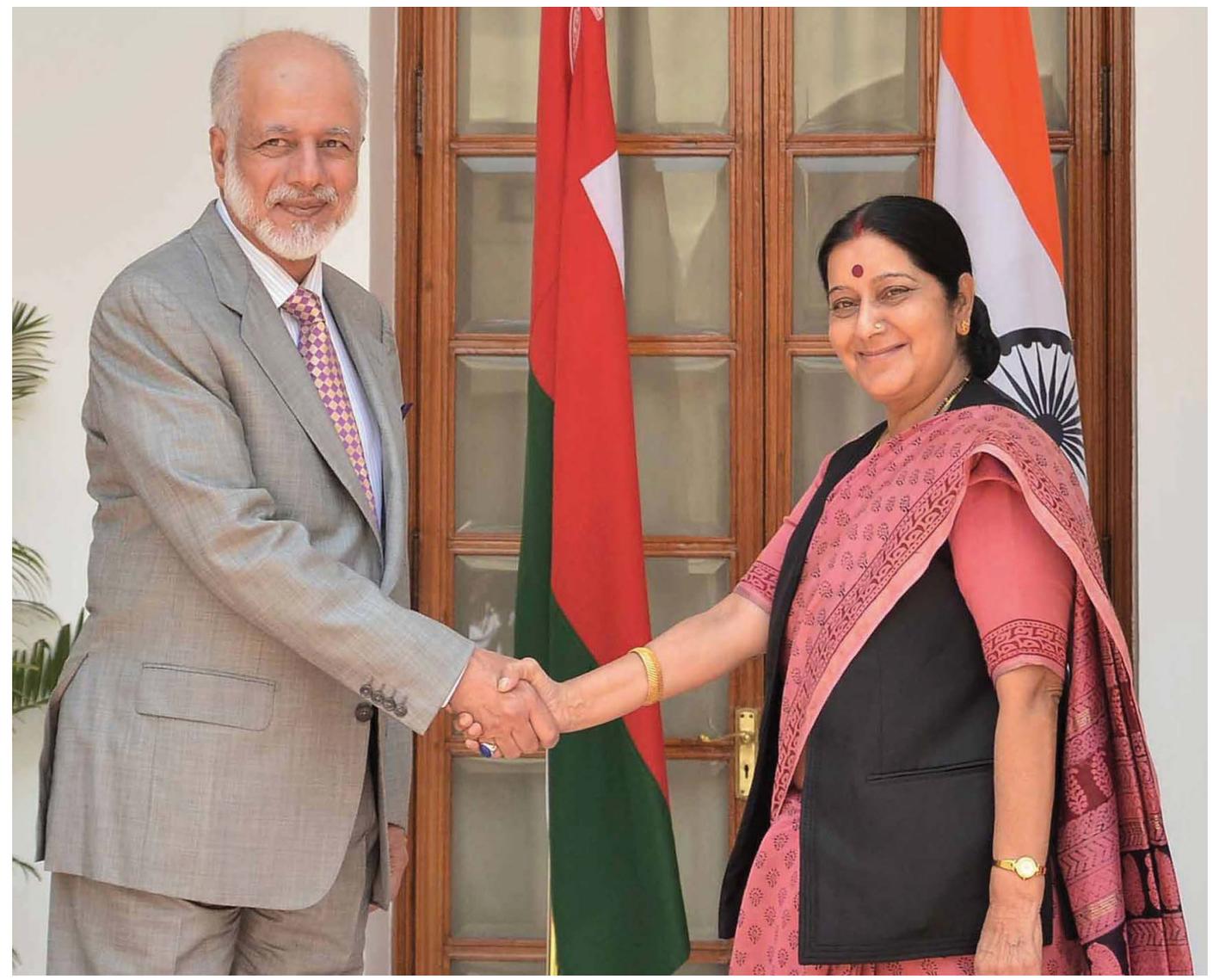




REINFORCING TRADITIONS

THE FIRST VISITOR

- Oman's Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah visits India, the first foreign minister to do so after the new government takes over.
- The leaders discuss various bilateral subjects, including political, economic and defence.





FIRST AFRICAN VISITOR

- Foreign Minister of Uganda Dr. Sam Kutesa visits India.
- Dr. Kutesa underlines the potential for developmental cooperation between India and Uganda in the fields of investment, ICT, hydropower and capacity-building.
- Groundwork begins for hosting the largest ever India-Africa Forum Summit towards the end of 2014.

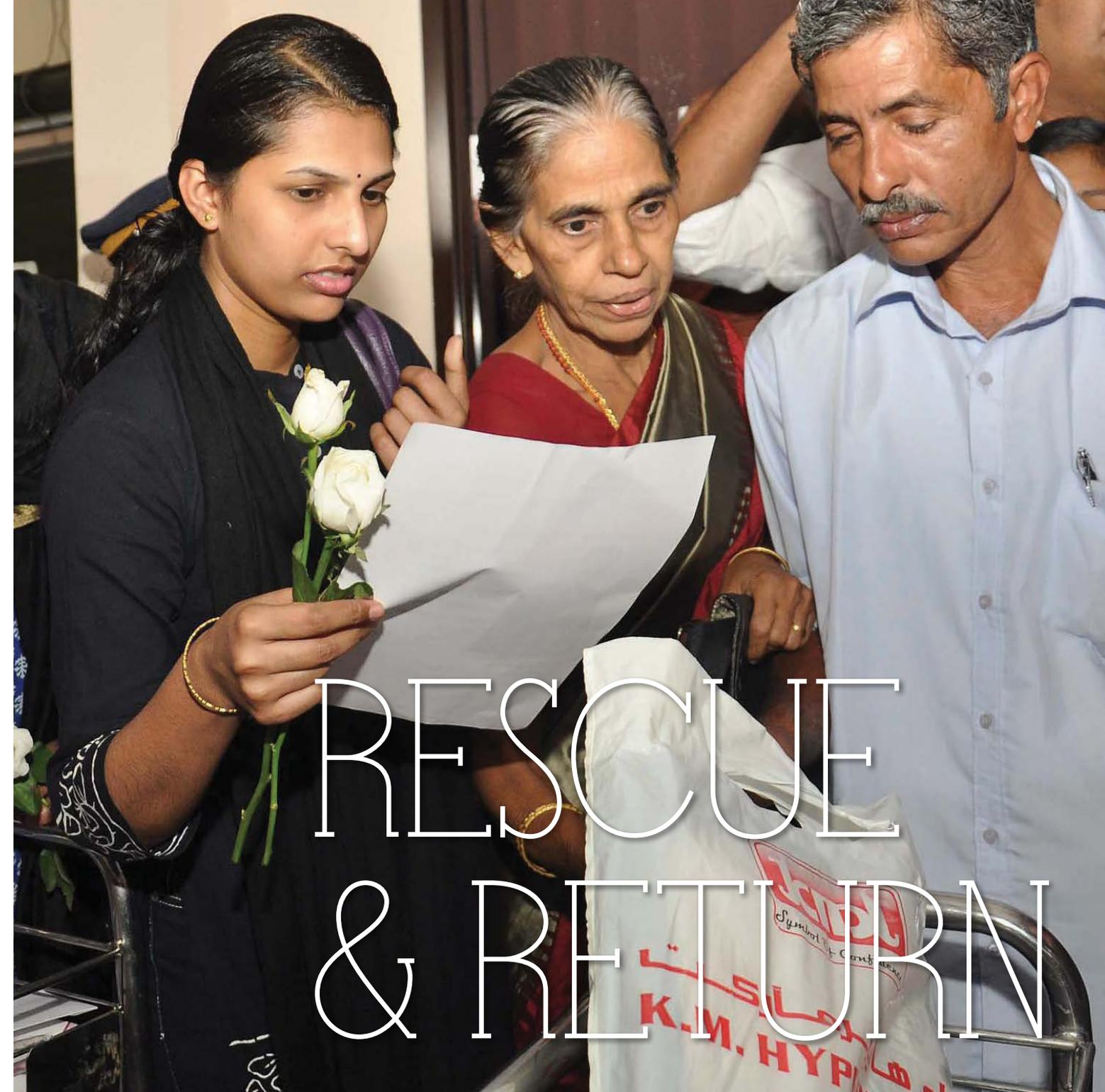


THE FIRST INDIA-LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES MEDIA SYMPOSIUM

- India invites all Arab League Members to participate in a media conclave.
- Smt. Swaraj underlines her government's unflinching commitment to sustain and expand relations with the Arab World.

AFRICAN REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

- The third meeting between India and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) of Africa takes place in New Delhi.
- Work on harmonisation of standards and rules, and creation of common markets, has an important bearing on the development of India's trade and investment with African countries.



RESCUE & RETURN

A MAMMOTH TASK

- 5,500 Indians stranded in civil war-torn Iraq return home.
- All diplomatic channels, in the region and beyond, activated to facilitate the rescue and return of Indian nationals as the crisis deepens.
- Government's efforts lead to the release of the Indians, including 46 nurses caught in the conflict zone.
- Efforts continue for the release of 40 Indians who remain in captivity.



HELP, SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE

- Widespread violence breaks out in Libya.
- Approximately 3,000 Indians immediately evacuated by land, sea and air routes.
- Evacuation of 126 Nepalese nationals from Sirte area of strife-torn Libya facilitated.



RETURN OF STUDENTS

- The government facilitates the evacuation of 1,000 Indian nationals, particularly students, in the wake of growing tension in eastern Ukraine.
- Indian diplomats also help four Sri Lankan students and 16 Maldives nationals to move out of the east Ukrainian city of Lugansk.



NEW INITIATIVES

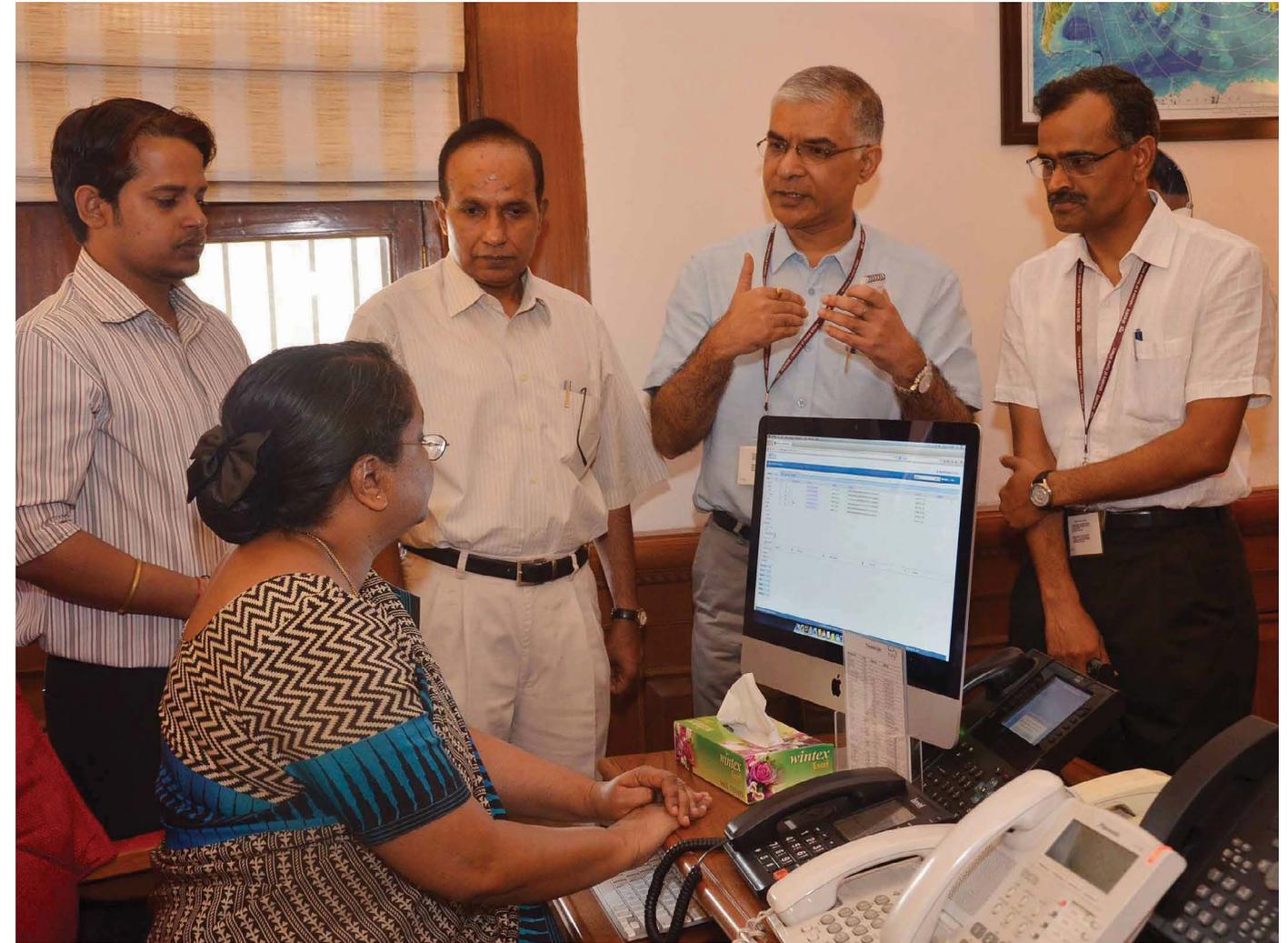


SETTING THE AGENDA

- The External Affairs Minister meets secretaries on assuming office; sets the agenda.

CITIZEN CENTRIC

- The Ministry of External Affairs decides to set-up new Passport Seva Kendras in the North East of India, including Shillong, Imphal, Itanagar, Agartala, Kohima and Gangtok.
- Increase in the annual indent for blank passport booklets for the year 2014-15 to 20 million; to create a strategic reserve of 10 million booklets to meet any future exigency.
- Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs introduces facility for online tracking of the status of return of mortal remains of Indians, who have died abroad; facilitates follow-up with Indian Missions abroad.



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Details of Deceased Person

Name*	<input type="text"/>	Surname	<input type="text"/>
Passport Number	<input type="text"/>	Country where Demised*	Select an option ▼
Details of Employer (Include Address, Phone no., Postal code also)		Details of local Contact (Include Address, Phone no., Postal code also)	
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OPTIMISING SYSTEMS

- The Foreign Secretary Smt. Sujatha Singh launches e-office in the Ministry, marking the first virtual office by an Indian ministry. The e-office is to be rolled out in a phased manner in the Ministry, and thereafter, in the Indian Missions/Posts abroad.
- The e-office is part of the mission mode project under the e-governance plan, and is a move to make offices paperless and more efficient.
- The e-office is aimed at increasing transparency at the workplace, making an office paperless, and lowering costs of office processes.

HOLA-NAMASTE : REACHING HISPANIC WORLD

- Launch of a web-portal in Spanish to engage with the Hispanic community.



CLEAN OFFICE

- Efforts continue to preserve & archive important documents with the assistance of retired Ambassadors.
- An out-of-the-box initiative was taken to clean up the surroundings and the environment.
- All the officials were in office on a Saturday to contribute 'shramdaan' to weed out the unrequired papers, unusable and obsolete furniture, appliances/office equipment, etc.





THE TWITTER STORY



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History is made!! All invited foreign leaders with Indian leaders at the Swearing-in Ceremony of PM @narendramodi
pic.twitter.com/JFlu3HD95a

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@MEAIndia

Women to the fore in Indian diplomacy! Minister @SushmaSwaraj greeted by Foreign Secy Sujatha Singh on day1 in office
pic.twitter.com/P6bXik9108

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@MEAIndia

Break with Protocol! In departure from practice @PMOIndia got off vehicle in Bhutan & met some from huge crowd.
pic.twitter.com/JLTzYOSoi9

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@MEAIndia

Reassurance! Minister @SushmaSwaraj meets families of Indians abducted in Iraq & assures them of all assistance.
pic.twitter.com/V1HaUZ2v90

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@MEAIndia

Ahlan Wa Sahlan! India's External Affairs Minister @SushmaSwaraj greets 1st visitor Oman's Foreign Minister in Delhi
pic.twitter.com/xVdt7aFH2I

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Enroute to Homeland! 1st batch of Indian students arrive in Kyiv from Lugansk responding to advisory to leave region
pic.twitter.com/V8GjuTC008

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24X7 Responses! Control Room in New Delhi responds to all requests for assistance related to Indian nationals in Iraq
pic.twitter.com/fw37yNKw6s

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Proactive in support of Indians in Iraq!! Diplomats reach out to workers in labour camps.
pic.twitter.com/rMI51o1JaR

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Bienvenue! Minister @SushmaSwaraj greets France's Minister @LaurentFabius on day when India launched French satellite
pic.twitter.com/rAgvVQSYv4

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Kailash beckons! Minister @SushmaSwaraj flags off 1st batch of pilgrims on Kailash Manasarovar Yatra.
pic.twitter.com/yzsn1Hjmg2

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Out of box approach to clean up work environment! "Shramdaan" by @MEAIndia officials to weed out files
pic.twitter.com/Ct79h5jPGu

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External Affairs Minister @SushmaSwaraj meets Prez Thein Sein of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw,
pic.twitter.com/v3ci0ruZ3v

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e-Office launched! Foreign Secy Sujatha Singh launches e-Office @MEAIndia Hqrs. pic.twitter.com/RozRQsy16b

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Sustainable development & Inclusive Growth! @PMOIndia speaks at BRICS Summit session on Economic issues pic.twitter.com/MIGiBxRlmd

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Young torch bearer. Indian diplomat Mijito Vinito with torch frm Delhi home of 1st Asiad 4 Incheon host of next Asiad pic.twitter.com/YAWWjvNLoa

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India intensifying engagement. Minister @SushmaSwaraj on visit to 3rd ASEAN state in August meets Vietnam's Prez. pic.twitter.com/jonMavGuCj

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Ready reference when in Gulf ! Contact details for Indians during emergency situations in the Gulf States. pic.twitter.com/cOY2hXxQlG

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Mission/Post	Designated Welfare Officer	Task Assigned	Contact No.	Fax No.	Email	Mobile No.	Telephone/Mobilium Number
Abu Dhabi	Shri Anand Bhatnagar, Counselor	Community Welfare	00 971 2 44873031, 00 971 56202183 (M)	00971 24490729	indiaemb@adnet.ae	90 975 5 4495700 & 90 975 804632 (landline)	Telugu & Malayalam (744)
Bahrain	Shri Ravi Singh, First Secretary	Community Welfare	00 973 17742000, 00 973 17742000, 00 973 3641572 (M)	00973 37180529	indiaemb@bahrain.gov.bh	00 973 17742000	Telugu & Malayalam (744)
Doha	Shri P. S. Subramanian, Deputy Chief of Mission	Welfare Officer	00974 4423194 (M), 00974 4423194 (M), 00974 5513511 (M)	00974 44231939	indiaemb@doha.gov.qa	00974 4423193	Telugu & Malayalam (744)
Doha	Shri Sanjay Singh	Assistant Labour Officer	00974 4441310 (M), 00974 3845807 (M)	00974 44475399	indiaemb@qatar.net.qa	00974 4423193	Telugu (E), Malayalam (E), Tamil (E) and Bengali (E)
Dubai	Shri K. Manoharprasad, Consul	Labour & Welfare	00 971 4 3997474	00971 4 437143	indiaemb@duhai.gov.ae	00971 4 437143, 00971 4 437143, 00971 50 7347676, 00971 4 437143	Telugu & Malayalam (744)

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India-US conclude Strategic Dialogue. Get ready to face media contingent. pic.twitter.com/WlCgUQdPOQ

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Different routes 1 goal - getting home to India! Indian nationals in Libya take sea route from Benghazi pic.twitter.com/xltikxzncK

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@MEAIndia

Transparency thru technology! Minister @SushmaSwaraj launches online system 2 track cases of death of Indians abroad pic.twitter.com/frlWwfyghs

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Kathmandu rocks like never before! Crowds thronged streets of Kathmandu to greet @PMOIndia after Parliament speech pic.twitter.com/mRm1BWLSMW

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Coming home! Amongst 200 Indians coming back to safety from Libya will be 18 month old Sera too! pic.twitter.com/wTT2colilq

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@MEAIndia

Moving from "Looking East" to also "Acting East" - Minister @SushmaSwaraj to Singapore leadership pic.twitter.com/tEOLufYvEl

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@MEAIndia

Poignant Moment. @PMOIndia reaches out to Netaji's oldest living associate in Japan the 99 year old Saichiro Misumi pic.twitter.com/od8HJrHj5S

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