

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

CHAPTER

X

10.1 The modus operandi of actual or potential perpetrators of crime, particularly those engaged in international terrorism, organized crime and illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs have evolved and changed rapidly with advancement of technology and have progressively assumed a transnational and global dimension. Accordingly, the Ministry has taken and pursued a variety of multilateral/bilateral initiatives in areas related to counter terrorism, organized crime and illicit trafficking. The Ministry of Home Affairs being the nodal Ministry for Disaster Management is also actively involved in multilateral and bilateral international initiatives to mitigate and manage natural disasters.

SECURITY & POLICE MATTERS

MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

10.2 SAARC was set up in 1985 as an association of States to “promote the well-being of the populations of South Asia and improve their standard of living; to speed up economic growth, social progress and cultural development; to reinforce links between the countries of this area”. Presently, SAARC has eight member countries; namely, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka while its Secretariat is in Kathmandu (Nepal).

10.3 During the 13th SAARC Summit held at Dhaka in November, 2005, it was *inter-alia*, decided

that SAARC Interior/Home Ministers would meet annually preceded by meeting of the Interior/Home Secretaries. So far two meetings of the SAARC Interior/Home Ministers have been held – in Dhaka (May 11, 2006) and New Delhi (October 25, 2007). The 3rd Meeting, scheduled to be held in November 2009 at Islamabad, was postponed and has not yet been rescheduled.

7th SAARC Conference on Cooperation in Police Matters (Islamabad, April 17, 2008)

10.4 The 7th SAARC Conference on Cooperation in Police Matters was held at Islamabad on April 17, 2008. It was preceded by meeting of Ad-hoc Group of Experts on Networking Arrangement on April 16, 2008 and the meeting of the Focal Points of SAARC Terrorist Offences Monitoring Desk (STOMD) and SAARC Drug Offences Monitoring Desk (SDOMD) on April 15, 2008. The Conference, reviewed the progress of implementation of the decisions taken in the last meeting and discussed various other issues such as strengthening of two Desks, namely, STOMD and SDOMD, networking arrangements, Combating Corruption, Capacity Building and organization of a Workshop on Organized Crime, etc. for SAARC Member States. India is funding the proposal of strengthening of SAARC Terrorist Offences Monitoring Desk (STOMD) and SAARC Drug Offences Monitoring Desk (SDOMD), based in Colombo, to the tune of Rs.2 crore. India is also funding the proposal of Networking of the SAARC Police Chiefs amounting to Rs.12.88 lakh. India will also be

hosting the Workshop on Organized Crime during 2009 as decided in the 6th SAARC Conference on Cooperation in Police Matters. As the part of Police Cooperation among SAARC Member States, India has offered 9 courses in various areas to Member States.

10.5 In- service trainings are being organized by India regularly to enhance the capacities of foreign police personnel under the SAARC umbrella. In-principle approval has been accorded to cooperate with African Union and ASEAN for enhancing the skills of police personnel of their member countries.

Second Meeting of the SAARC Legal Experts and finalization of the SAARC Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters

10.6 The Second Meeting of Legal Experts from SAARC Member States to discuss SAARC Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters was held at Colombo, Sri Lanka from April 21-22, 2008. At the end of the Second Meeting, differences on formulation of the Convention were narrowed down to three Articles. Further, the draft Convention was discussed and signed on August 3, 2008 at Colombo by all the SAARC Member States. India has since ratified the Convention. The Convention will come into force after all the Member States of SAARC deposit their respective Instrument of Ratification with the SAARC Secretariat.

Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

10.7 Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) consisting of Members from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand recognized the need for cooperation in areas of Counter Terrorism and Organized Transnational Crime and adopted a summit declaration on July 31, 2004 to establish a Joint Working Group (JWG) to coordinate efforts in areas like intelligence sharing and capacity

building as well as strengthening the joint efforts on counter terrorism and organized crime.

10.8 During first meeting of the BIMSTEC JWG held in December, 2004 at New Delhi, the following four Sub-groups were set up:

S.No.	Sub Groups	Lead Shepherd
1	Intelligence Sharing	Sri Lanka
2	Law and Legal Enforcement Issues	India
3	Financing of Terrorism	Thailand
4	Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals	Myanmar

10.9 During the meeting of BIMSTEC JWG held in October, 2008 at New Delhi, the draft Convention on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism, Organized Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking was finalized and adopted.

10.10 The Second BIMSTEC Summit was held on November 13, 2008 in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Prime Minister of India. Heads of State/Government from all BIMSTEC partner countries attended. The Summit provided renewed impetus to BIMSTEC as a regional cooperation and integration grouping. In concrete terms, it marked finalization of Convention on Combating International Terrorism.

India – Africa Summit

10.11 India – Africa Forum Summit was held on April 8-9, 2008 in New Delhi. During the Summit, the Prime Minister of India had announced projects/ programmes in the areas of cooperation between India and Africa, to be implemented with African countries over the next 5 years beginning 2008-09/2009-10. Ministry of Home Affairs has earmarked Rs. 10 crore over a period of 5 years for assistance in the areas of

legal framework, cooperation in drug trafficking, capacity building, security cooperation, etc. with African countries.

Cooperation with UN for Global Peacekeeping

10.12 This Ministry is also cooperating internationally by contributing in the UN efforts for global peacekeeping. Presently, 04 Formed Police Units including 01 Female Formed Police Unit have been deployed in Congo, Haiti and Liberia.

BILATERAL COOPERATION

10.13 Mechanisms have been established for institutionalization of bilateral cooperation with a number of neighbouring countries mainly in the form of annual Home Secretary level talks and related sub-mechanism, with Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). In addition, bilateral discussions are held with countries from time to time to expand mutual cooperation and develop institutional mechanism to counter terrorism. During the year, the following bilateral talks/meetings at the level of Home Secretary were held:

Bangladesh

10.14 During the talks, held at Dhaka in August 2008, security related matters including presence of Indian Insurgent Groups (IIGs) leaders and their camps, smuggling of arms, border management and capacity building of law enforcing agencies of both the countries were raised. Both sides had also agreed to activate designated nodal points for regular exchange of information on identified areas regarding activities of insurgents and terrorists.

Bhutan

10.15 The 5th meeting of India-Bhutan was held on November 12-13, 2008 at Panaji, Goa and it was agreed to develop a formal mechanism for exchange of real time information between Sashstra Suraksha Bal (SSB) and Bhutan Police.

Bulgaria

10.16 The Bulgarian delegation led by H.E. Mr. Goran Yonov, Deputy Minister of Interior of the Republic of Bulgaria visited India from June 10-13, 2008 for reviewing the initiatives and progress outlined under the Agreement covering areas of Combating Organized Crime, International Terrorism and Illegal Trafficking in Drugs. The talks were preceded by separate subject specific interactions with officials of Intelligence Bureau, Central Bureau of Investigation and Narcotics Control Bureau. During their visit, H.E. Mr. Goran Yonov called on Home Minister, Minister of State for Law and Justice and Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs.

Maldives

10.17 A delegation led by Union Home Secretary had visited Maldives from January 15-17, 2007 and it was agreed to establish a formal mechanism to combat international terrorism, organized crime and drug trafficking. It was also agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in capacity building, disaster management and coastal security. Accordingly a comprehensive agreement covering above mentioned areas has been posed to Maldives authorities during the current financial year and their response is awaited. It was also agreed to set up a high tech Forensic Laboratory in Maldives. A two member Indian delegation had accordingly visited Male and a project report has been sent to Ministry of External Affairs for onward consideration of Maldives authorities. On February 2, 2009 H.E. Shri Ameen Faisal, Minister of Defence and National Security of Maldives called on Union Home Minister and held bilateral discussion on wide range of security related subjects. The Minister sought the assistance of Government of India in capacity building, equipment, setting up of Forensic Laboratory, Police Academy, etc.

Myanmar

10.18 An MoU on Peace and Tranquility in Border areas was signed in January, 1994 between India and Myanmar paving the way for holding talks at Joint Secretary and Home Secretary level every year

alternatively in India and Myanmar. So far, fifteen meetings at Joint Secretary level and fourteen meetings at Home Secretary level between India and Myanmar have been held.

10.19 The last meeting was held in 2008 in New Delhi wherein issues relating to security including presence and activities of Indian Insurgent Groups (IIGs) along the border and intelligence sharing, drug trafficking, border management, border trade and repatriation of Myanmar fishermen arrested in India were discussed. Further, India and Myanmar had signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Intelligence Exchange Cooperation on April 2, 2008 during the visit of Vice Senior General H.E. Maung Aye, Vice Chairman, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), Government of Myanmar. This MoU would help both India and Myanmar to exchange real time and actionable intelligence.

10.20 Sectoral level meeting between India and Myanmar was held on March 28-29, 2009 at Yangon, Myanmar. Various issues of mutual concern including those related to Security and Border Management were discussed at the meeting. The Indian delegation was led by Joint Secretary (North East), Ministry of Home Affairs and Myanmar delegation was led by the Director General, General Administration Department, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Myanmar.

10.21 As requested by the Government of Myanmar, an Indian delegation, visited Myanmar and has since prepared and submitted an elaborate plan for creation of forensic facilities. In addition, based on the perspective plan prepared by Directorate of Forensic Science after visit to Vietnam, the Government of India is in the process of setting up of a State of art Computer Forensic Laboratory in Vietnam.

Nepal

10.22 Home Secretary level talks between India and Nepal were held at New Delhi on October 31, 2008 and November 1, 2008. The Union Home Secretary led the Indian team and Nepalese delegation was led by Secretary, Ministry of Home, Government of Nepal.

10.23 During the meeting, both sides reviewed the implementation of the decisions taken at the previous meeting as well as focused discussion on the issues relating to (i) Security, (ii) Border Management and (iii) Training, Provisioning and Capacity Building. India further offered its support and cooperation in matters relating to training and strengthening of Nepal Police.

Pakistan

10.24 The Home Secretary level Talks with Pakistan were held in Islamabad on November 25-26, 2008. The Indian side was led by the Union Home Secretary and Mr. Sayed Kamal Shah, Interior Secretary, Government of Pakistan led the Pakistani side. The Talks focused on issues relating to terrorism, drug trafficking, release of prisoners, fishermen, etc. The MoU on cooperation in matters relating to drug trafficking was initiated by the two sides during the Talks.

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

10.25 A delegation led by Major General Al-Sha'afar, Under Secretary, Interior UAE had bilateral discussions with Indian delegation headed by Union Home Secretary on May 28-29, 2007 in New Delhi. Both sides underscored the need to firmly and effectively combat terrorism and other related crime and noted the importance of exchange of operational information and intelligence in the areas of terrorism, organized crime, financing of terrorism, smuggling of arms and explosives and agreed to set up an institutional mechanism to coordinate and facilitate such exchange on continuing basis. It was also decided that the agreements on transfer of sentenced persons and on combating international terrorism, organized crime and illicit drug trafficking would be finalized, as far as possible, within three months.

10.26 In pursuance of above mentioned decisions an Indian delegation led by Additional Secretary (Border Management), Ministry of Home Affairs had visited Abu Dhabi and held discussions on agreement on security cooperation on 4-5 March 2009. After

negotiations, the agreement on security cooperation was initiated at official level. In so far as agreement on transfer of sentenced persons is concerned, substantial progress was made but a few articles remain to be finalized. This agreement would be further negotiated during the next round of discussions.

National Security of Maldives accompanied by Commissioner of Police, Maldives Police and High Commissioner of Maldives in India called on Home Minister on February 2, 2009.

HIGH LEVEL VISITS

10.27 The details of important visits are as under:

- A Bulgarian delegation led by H. E. Mr. Goran Yonov, Deputy Minister of Interior of the Republic of Bulgaria visited New Delhi from June 10 - 13, 2008.
- Rt. Hon. Jack Straw, MP, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, United Kingdom called on the Union Home Minister on September 15, 2008 and discussed the issues of mutual concerns.
- A six member delegation led by Rt. Hon. Keith Vaz, MP, Chairman Home Affairs Committee, United Kingdom called on Union Home Minister on October 3, 2008 and held bilateral discussions on the issues of mutual concerns.
- A German delegation led by Dr. Wolfgang Schauble, Federal Minister of Interior had called on Union Home Minister on December 12, 2008 for holding bilateral discussion in security matters.
- A German delegation led by Mr. Jorg Ziercke, President of the German Federal Police, the Bundeskriminalamt (BKA) called on Union Home Secretary on January 22, 2009.
- A delegation led by H. E. Ameen Faisal, Minister of Defence and

CAPACITY BUILDING

10.28 The Ministry of Home Affairs is imparting inductions as well as in-service training to police personnel of various foreign countries. In the recent past, induction training has been imparted in Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad to the officers belonging to Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives.

10.29 Agreements for bilateral cooperation for police capacity building are in place with various countries like Japan, Singapore, Mongolia, Fiji, UAE, Yemen, Germany, South Africa, etc. Regular Anti terrorism courses to train Indian police personnel are being conducted by United States of America under Anti Terrorism Assistance Program.

Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism

10.30 India has established Joint Working Groups on Counter Terrorism/International Terrorism with several key countries to exchange information and strengthen international cooperation to combat international terrorism and transnational organized crime. During 2008, Joint Working Groups meetings with China, United Kingdom, Russia, USA, Germany, Pakistan and BIMSTEC were held.

Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty/ Agreement in Criminal Matters

10.31 Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Criminal Matters is one of the significant legal instruments to improve and facilitate effectiveness of Contracting States in investigation and prosecution of crime, including crime related to terrorism by providing the necessary legal framework for rendering/receiving legal assistance in criminal matters.

10.32 At present, Treaties/Agreements on Mutual Legal Assistance in criminal Matters are in force with 26 countries namely, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, Canada, Kazakhstan, United Arab Emirates, Russia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Mongolia, Thailand, France, Bahrain, South Korea, United States of America, Singapore, South Africa, Mauritius, Belarus, Spain, Kuwait, Bulgaria, Vietnam, Egypt and Mexico.

10.33 Treaties with Bulgaria, Vietnam, Mexico and Egypt have come into force with effect from October 9, 2008, November 17, 2008, January 17, 2009 and February 2, 2009 respectively.

10.34 During the year, Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in criminal Matters has been signed with Australia and Iran and will come into force after ratification. Ratification from Indian side has been completed. In addition, agreement with Bosnia and Herzegovina has been finalized at official level. Agreement with Germany and Malaysia are under negotiation.

Agreement/MoU on cooperation against International Terrorism, Organized Crime and Illicit Drug trafficking

10.35 An MOU on combating crime between India and Saudi Arabia signed in 2006, has come into force on August 14, 2008.

10.36 An Agreement on Security and Law Enforcement Matters between India and Qatar has been signed on November 9, 2008. The Agreement is yet to come into force.

Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons

10.37 The Government of India enacted the Repatriation of Prisoners Act, 2003 with a view to repatriate foreign/Indian prisoners to the country of their origin to serve the remaining part of their sentence. For achieving this objective, a treaty/agreement is

required to be signed with the interested countries.

10.38 India has so far signed agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons with UK, Mauritius, Cambodia, Bulgaria, Egypt and France. Negotiations have also been concluded with Canada, Hong Kong, Israel and Korea. The agreements with these countries are likely to be signed soon.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

International Meets

10.39 Ministry of Home Affairs co-hosted the first Partnership Development Workshop of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) on South-South Cooperation Program organized by GFDRR, World Bank on October 29-31, 2008 at New Delhi.

10.40 National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) in collaboration with Emergency Management Institute (EMI)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), USA conducted a series of Training Programs on "Exercise Design and Evaluation Master Exercise Practitioner Program" in New Delhi. In addition, NIDM and EMI/FEMA organized a Public Information Course for Public Information Officers and Public Relation Officers.

10.41 NIDM and World Bank Institute (WBI) have collaborative arrangement for conducting online courses on Disaster Management. Under this arrangement, during 2008-09 the Institute conducted two comprehensive Natural Disaster Risk Management Courses and two specialized programs; one on Community Risk Disaster Management and another on Financial Strategy.

Bilateral Agreements/Memorandum of Understanding

10.42 India and Russia are working out an Agreement for cooperation in the field of Disaster Management. The main areas and forms of cooperation

will be exchange of information, early warning, assessment of risks, joint conferences, seminars, workshops, training of specialists, mutual assistance in providing technical facilities and equipment, mutual assistance in enhancing early warning systems and capacity building of both countries in emergency preparedness, prevention and response, planning and carrying out of activities related to emergency preparedness, prevention and response etc.

10.43 National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) has also entered into a MoU with the International Institute for Geo-Information Sciences and Earth Observations (ITC), Netherlands with the objective of developing and implementing mutually beneficial and agreed upon initiatives for exchange of knowledge in the field of Remote Sensing and GIS – Geographical Information System, IT and Geo-Information, Risk Assessment and Joint Organization of Workshops and training programmes.
