New Delhi and Washington underscored the need to harness the full potential of their relationship during the third annual India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue.

(Photo: Jay Mandal/On Assignment)
THIRD INDIA-US STRATEGIC DIALOGUE 2012

Conceptualization & Design: IANS Publishing
Recognizing that the India-U.S. relationship draws its strength and dynamism from the shared values and the growing links between the people of the two countries, New Delhi and Washington call for harnessing the full potential of that relationship during the third annual India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue.

From strategic cooperation to counter-terrorism, from trade and energy security to education and technology, the third annual Strategic Dialogue between India and the U.S. have led to several important advancements in their strategic partnership.
Addressing the 37th U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC) Leadership Summit, External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna stressed that India would restore investor confidence and regain economic momentum and growth.

Work force development, research in grand challenge areas like sustainable development, energy, public health and developing open education resources were some of the key areas discussed during the second India-U.S. Higher Education Dialogue.

Open Government Platform to Promote Transparency
Addressing the Atlantic Council on ‘India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue: Expanding Horizons of Bilateral Partnership’ in Washington, D.C., on May 30, Indian Ambassador to the U.S. Nirupama Rao said that India and the United States would continue to consolidate and reaffirm their strategic partnership. Shared values and the wide range of convergent interests, political momentum, public goodwill, a comprehensive architecture of engagement, and growing levels of comfort and candor in mutual dealings between the two countries point toward such an inference, she said.

“The Strategic Dialogue meetings have provided a unique bilateral forum for stock-taking and giving political direction to the ever-expanding landscape of bilateral partnership and created a multi-hued canvas of mutually beneficial cooperation," she said. "Our relationship is based on our shared values and shared interests as two of the world's largest democracies. Given the priority that both our countries attach to transparency in governance, we have launched an Open Government Platform, leveraging the best features of India's 'India.gov.in' and the U.S. 'Data.gov' sites. We have also indicated our willingness to share this platform with other interested countries," Ambassador Rao added.

Here are the excerpts:

...The India-US Strategic Dialogue was instituted in July 2009 during the first visit of Secretary Clinton to India in her then new role. Our objective was to make our multi-faceted partnership stronger in areas to which both sides attached importance and which are of vital interest and concern to the daily lives of our two peoples. The Dialogue, therefore, identified five principal pillars for expanding cooperation: strategic cooperation, energy and climate change, education and development, economy, trade and agriculture, science and technology, health and innovation.

Subsequently, we have held two meetings of the Strategic Dialogue — the first in June 2010 in Washington D.C. and the second in July 2011 in New Delhi. In the period since that July 2009 visit of Secretary Clinton, we have had the very productive and successful visit to the United States of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, who became the first State guest of the Obama Administration in November 2009 and also the memorable visit of President Obama to India in November 2010. It was during that visit that President Obama characterized the India-U.S partnership as one of the most significant, indispensable and defining partnerships of the 21st century.

In these last three years since the institution of the Strategic Dialogue, we have attempted to translate the vision of our leaders into reality in various ways. The Strategic Dialogue meetings have provided a unique bilateral forum for stock-taking and giving political direction to the ever-expanding landscape of bilateral partnership and created a multi-hued canvas of mutually beneficial cooperation...

Ours is a relationship, as Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has said, “founded on many pillars, it is based on pragmatism and principle, and strengthened by shared values and common interests.”

The strength of our relationship is reflected in the presence of a large India Caucus in both chambers of the U.S. Congress. These are, we understand, the largest bilateral caucuses in the U.S. Congress today. We take immense pride in their efforts to promote our relationship. They have not only done a
commendable job in focusing public opinion and attention of both our governments on the importance of our relationship, but have eminently showcased the bipartisan support enjoyed by the India-U.S. strategic partnership.

...We have launched new strategic consultations that cover key regions of the world, and in the case of the Asia-Pacific have expanded it with a new trilateral dialogue with Japan.

Our cooperation in counter-terrorism has deepened with the launch of a new Homeland Security Dialogue. Thanks also to the civil nuclear initiative, issues which once used to be source of contention, are now becoming wellsprings of cooperation such as in the area of nuclear security and export controls. The U.S. has extended its support to India’s membership in multilateral export control regimes. This support was borne out of our shared belief that India can contribute to enhancing international non-proliferation efforts. India and the U.S. are constructively engaged along with rest of the international community to fashion a collective international response based on effective action at the national level to prevent vulnerable nuclear material falling into hands of non-state actors and terrorist groups, and thus make our world more secure.

Our defense partnership, once barely discernible, has seen exponential growth. We have, since 2005, placed orders for procurement of defense equipment from the US, for our armed forces, totaling now more than $9 billion; we conduct regular military exercises and have engaged in useful dialogue between our defense departments. Defense Secretary Panetta will be visiting India next week, at the invitation of our Defense Minister, Mr. A.K. Antony, to further consolidate our growing defense partnership.

Our trade in goods and services has increased fourfold since 2005 to reach $100 billion...

From 2005-2009, Indian businesses are known to have invested about $25.5 billion in about 43 States of the U.S. in wide ranging fields including IT products and services; manufacturing; distribution and packaging and educational tie-ups...

So how do we in India see the future of our relationship? First of all, the people of India, across all shades of political opinion, support the prospect of an ever growing partnership with the United States. In our quest for development, we see the United States as a valuable partner and we are confident that the long term cooperative framework for this relationship will continue to become stronger and more broad-based. ...

...I would like to conclude with very apt words of Senate India Caucus Chair Senator Warner prior to his visit to India earlier this year, and I quote “The United States and India share a common democracy, a common language and a broad understanding of business. I believe we have reached a point where it is time for the India-U.S. relationship to advance from a timeless friendship to a full partnership....”

India and the United States, two of the world’s largest democracies, increasingly recognize the need not only to maintain a bilateral relationship but also to work together on many issues, including a peaceful and prosperous future for the Asia-Pacific region. The two countries’ continued cooperation as well as their capacity to openly discuss potential causes of disagreement will be key components of their indispensable partnership.

Nancy Powell, the U.S. Ambassador to India, and Nirupama Rao, the Indian Ambassador to the United States, sat down at the Center for American Progress to discuss some of the most pertinent issues of the India-U.S. relationship ahead of the India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue.

Powell said that while preparing for the meeting, she became “increasingly convinced of the true value” of the dialogue, which will involve diplomats as well as investors, innovators, and researchers. “Watching these sparks come off of scientists or people who are dealing with climate or looking at inoculation programs has been quite heartening,” she said.

Rao noted that the dialogue’s effects can be felt by everyone. “The number and the extent of the dialogue mechanisms that sustain the relationship today are really focused on almost every field of human endeavor,” she said, reiterating that a focus on progress, development, and people underpins the India-U.S. relationship.

Powell and Rao both objected to notions that the India-U.S. relationship is oversold and that the dialogues between the two countries lack substance. “I look at it at the ground level and see the extent and the depth and substance of the kind of dialogue and cooperation that happens between the two countries,” Rao said, citing the two countries’ interaction in the region and the expansion of trade and business as evidence of “palpable areas of cooperation.”

Responding to criticisms that the United States and India have not acted unilaterally, Powell said, “I think people that expected India and the United States to be in lockstep probably do not have an appreciation for the independence of either of us, that we are going to pursue our interests, our policies.” She added that the United States and India can disagree over routes to shared goals without acrimony.

Rao also emphasized that she sees no “fundamental divergence” in the United States’ and India’s approaches to Iran’s nuclear ambitions or other situations in the region. “India has expressed its position in an independent manner, but that independence has not signified a certain fundamental resistance to what our other partners are saying,” she said. The two countries can discuss dissonances where they exist, Rao suggested, reflecting “the maturity and the candor” that characterizes the countries’ relationship.

Beyond foreign policy goals the ambassadors acknowledged the necessary interaction between the United States and India to strengthen the global economy. Rao said India’s
government is committed to liberalizing the domestic market, saying she believes there is no “real doubt or questioning of the fundamental needs for opening up and reform.”

Despite an economic growth rate in India that has recently slowed due to the recession, both ambassadors pointed to dynamic business relationships and two-way investments that will benefit both countries in innovative sectors such as information technology or pharmaceuticals. These interactions, Rao said, demonstrate the business community’s appreciation of beneficial business conditions in India. “People are making profits. People are feeling that the climate in India is transparent,” she said.

The ambassadors said this relationship transcends partisan politics in both their countries. Various sides of the political spectrum in India believe, Rao said, “that this is a relationship that needs to be strengthened and will in fact progress as we move forward into the future.”

Powell stressed the importance of expanding the U.S. presence outside of the Indian capital. “There are 45 cities in India that have at least a million people in them. We’re only located in five of them,” she said, suggesting that working with Indian state and local governments will help attract U.S. investment and increase innovation.

Though the ambassadors recognized the increasing interaction and cooperation between India and the United States in the recent past, both also acknowledged that this relationship must expand for the countries to attain common goals in the future.

The video of the conversation can be viewed at: http://www.americanprogress.org/events/2012/06/india.html

From left, Rich Verma, Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress; Indian Ambassador to the U.S. Nirupama Rao, and Nancy Powell, U.S. Ambassador to India at the Center for American Progress in Washington, D.C., on June 8. (Photo: Center For American Progress)
IN FOCUS ///

‘AFFAIR OF THE HEART’
Recognizing that the India-U.S. relationship draws its strength and dynamism from the shared values and the growing links between the people of the two countries, New Delhi and Washington call for harnessing the full potential of that relationship during the third annual India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue.

With a resolve to harness the full potential of their multifarious relationship — from strategic to economic to defense to the struggle against terrorism — India and the United States have committed to further deepening the India-U.S. global strategic partnership.

The two countries charted a vision for the future, centered on promoting shared prosperity, peace and stability as India’s Minister for External Affairs S.M. Krishna and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton met for the third annual India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue in Washington, D.C., on June 13, 2012.

It’s a “unique opportunity to bring together all the threads of our cooperation that constitute the extraordinarily rich tapestry of our relationship,” said EAM Krishna at the opening session of the third annual dialogue.

“In the process of our engagement, we have built something more precious — friendship, goodwill, trust, mutual confidence, candor and belief in the importance of a successful partnership,” he said.

“Sometimes there are questions and doubts about the
relationship. They are inevitable in something so unique and new," Minister Krishna acknowledged.

“But I believe that having settled the question of whether India and the U.S. can or should work towards a close relationship, the question we ask now is how to harness the full potential of that relationship," he said.

Echoing EAM Krishna, Secretary Clinton said: “The effectiveness of our partnership hinges on our ability together to convert common interests into common actions.” But “It’s not enough just to talk about cooperation” on various issues, she said.

“We have to follow through so that our people — citizens of two great pluralistic democracies — can see and feel the benefits.” Forging a new and more mature phase in their critical bilateral relationship, Clinton said: “There is less need today for the dramatic breakthroughs that marked earlier phases, but more need for steady, focused cooperation.”

Noting that bilateral trade and investment may exceed $100 billion this year, up tenfold since 1995 and up more than 40 percent since 2009, Clinton made a call to keep up the momentum.

She sought to advance negotiations on the “Bilateral Investment Treaty, to further reduce barriers to trade and investment in areas like multi-brand retail, and to create hospitable environments for each of our companies to do business in the other’s country”.

Noting that the bilateral defense trade has surpassed $8 billion over the last five years, Clinton said: “We are convinced this partnership can grow in the future to include joint research, development and co-production of defense systems.”

Both the United States and India believe that extending the benefits of higher education to as many people as
possible is not only the right thing to do, but it is the smart thing as well, to help better equip our people to compete in today's global economy, Clinton said.

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna affirmed the importance of maritime security, unimpeded commerce, and freedom of navigation, in accordance with international law, and the peaceful settlement of maritime disputes.

The two sides agreed to continue to consult closely on key global issues, including bilateral exchanges and information sharing in areas such as counternarcotics, countering piracy, maritime safety, and humanitarian assistance/disaster relief.

The two leaders stressed the importance of sustained international commitment to Afghanistan as it assumes full responsibility for governance, development and security.

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna expressed satisfaction with the progress in defense relations, which is an important dimension of their strategic partnership. They noted that India and the U.S. have conducted many military exercises and exchanges in the last six years across all uniformed service branches as well as with civilian relief and development agencies.

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna welcomed the decision by India's Ministry of Human Resource
Development to set up a Center of Excellence in Cyber Security and the dialogue between leading Indian and U.S. universities to enter into cooperation in the proposed Center.

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna acknowledged broad collaboration on a range of bilateral climate change related programs, including those aimed at addressing adaptation to climate change, sustainable management of forests including reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, the U.S.-India task force on hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and domestic research programs in the area of black carbon.

They welcomed the selection of three public-private consortia for funding under the U.S.-India Joint Clean Energy R&D Center, announced by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and U.S. President Barack Obama in November 2010, with an annual commitment of $5 million each from the two governments and matching private contributions from the winning consortia, to promote research and development in the areas of advanced biofuels, solar energy and energy efficiency in buildings.

The two leaders welcomed the announcement of the award of the first eight grants under the Obama-Singh Knowledge Initiative, which aims to strengthen teaching, research, and administration of both U.S. and Indian institutions through university linkages and junior faculty development.

They also welcomed the new five-year, $20 million technical assistance partnership between USAID and the Indian Ministry of Power and the Indian Ministry of New and Renewable Energy to accelerate the scale-up of clean energy technologies.

The two leaders reiterated their governments’ efforts to foster cooperation in research, development and innovation in agriculture, especially on agricultural productivity, envisaged in the Agricultural Dialogue.

They welcomed the recent agreements between agricultural universities in India and U.S. universities for agricultural research, and the proposed collaboration to create a Regional Center of Excellence at the National Institute of Plant Health Management in Hyderabad. Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna took note of the March release of an open-source web portal — the ‘Open Government Platform’ (OGPL) — developed under the India-U.S. Dialogue on Open Government. The OGPL allows any nation to download free software and create a site that provides its citizens access to government data for innovation, economic development and transparency.

On the margins of this Strategic Dialogue, an unprece-
FUTURE TRAJECTORY
From strategic cooperation to counter-terrorism, from trade and energy security to education and technology, the third annual Strategic Dialogue between India and the U.S. have led to several important advancements in their strategic partnership.
India's Minister of External Affairs S.M. Krishna and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton met in Washington, D.C., for the third annual India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue on June 13, 2012.

The leaders reflected on the remarkable expansion and growth of the bilateral relationship since the inaugural Strategic Dialogue in 2010. They committed to further broaden and deepen the India-U.S. global strategic partnership and charted a vision for the future, centered on promoting shared prosperity, peace and stability.

Secretary Clinton was joined by Ambassador to India Nancy Powell, Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Director Dr. John P. Holdren, Deputy Secretary for Homeland Security Jane Lute, Deputy National Security Advisor Michael Froman, USAID Administrator Raj Shah, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, Melanne Verveer, and other senior officials.

Minister Krishna was accompanied by Minister for Health and Family Welfare Ghulam Nabi Azad, Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Prime Minister's Public Information Infrastructure and Innovation Advisor Sam Pitroda, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Women and Child Development Krishna Tirath, Minister of State for Planning, S&IT and Earth Sciences Ashwini Kumar, Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai, Ambassador to the United States of America Nirupama Rao, Home Secretary R.K. Singh, Director of Intelligence Bureau Nehchal Sandhu, Secretary for Higher Education Ashok Thakur and other senior officials.

On the margins of this Strategic Dialogue, an unprecedented number of sub-dialogues have taken place, including the Global Issues Forum, S&T Joint Commission Meeting, the Counter-terrorism Joint Working Group, the Higher Education Dialogue, co-chaired by Secretary Clinton and Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal, Cyber Consultations, the Information and Communications Technology Working Group, the Women's Empowerment Dialogue, Homeland Security Consultations and other events. In addition, U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta visited India on June 5-6, 2012.

Recognizing that the India-U.S. relationship draws its strength and dynamism from shared values, the breadth and diversity of the engagement and growing links between the people of the two countries, leaders of both countries have placed promotion of closer ties between the people, private collaborations and public-private partnerships at the center of the Strategic Dialogue.

STRATEGIC COOPERATION

The United States and India have engaged in comprehensive regional consultations that touched on nearly every region of the world.

The United States and India have a shared vision for peace, stability and prosperity in Asia, the Indian Ocean region and the Pacific region and are committed to work together, and with others in the region, for the evolution of an open, balanced and inclusive architecture. They reaffirmed their support for regional forums like East Asia Summit, ASEAN Regional Forum and ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting Plus, and committed to regular consultations in this regard. The two leaders also welcomed the two rounds of trilateral dialogue between India, the United States and Japan, launched after the second Strategic Dialogue in July 2011, and the ongoing East Asia Dialogue. The United States welcomed India's actions to strengthen regional economic connectivity. Both sides intend to continue to support efforts that promote regional trade, transit, and energy linkages. Secretary Clinton welcomed India’s growing engagement in the Asia Pacific. They agreed to further enhance their consultations on the Indian Ocean region. Minister Krishna welcomed the U.S. interest in becoming a dialogue partner with the Indian Ocean Rim.
Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC), and conveyed that as the current Chair, India will take it forward with other IOR-ARC members.

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna affirmed the importance of maritime security, unimpeded commerce, and freedom of navigation, in accordance with international law, and the peaceful settlement of maritime disputes. The two sides agreed to continue to consult closely on key global issues, including bilateral exchanges and information sharing in areas such as counternarcotics, countering piracy, maritime safety, and humanitarian assistance/disaster relief. Determined to curb the problem of piracy off the coast of Somalia, both governments planned to improve coordination of their anti-piracy efforts. They also planned to cooperate in addressing the problem of hostage-taking by pirates.

The two leaders stressed the importance of sustained international commitment to Afghanistan as it assumes full responsibility for governance, development and security. Noting that India and the United States have each signed Strategic Partnership Agreements with Afghanistan, Minister Krishna and Secretary Clinton welcomed their productive joint consultations on Afghanistan and intend to seek new opportunities to intensify their consultation, coordination and cooperation to promote a stable, democratic, united, sovereign and prosperous Afghanistan. They intend to explore opportunities to work together to promote Afghanistan’s development, including in areas such as agriculture, mining, energy, capacity building and infrastructure. Noting the importance of women’s economic empowerment for Afghanistan’s economic success, they plan to work to further increase their ongoing vocational training and empowerment initiatives. To support their efforts in Afghanistan, they agreed to hold a trilateral dialogue with the Government of Afghanistan.

They welcomed the announcement at the 2012 NATO Summit in Chicago of progress in the security transition process and the participants’ commitment to supporting Afghanistan’s security and development needs into the “transformation decade” (2015-2024). Secretary Clinton welcomed India’s hosting of the Delhi Summit on Investment in Afghanistan on June 28 in New Delhi and both leaders looked forward to the July 8 Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan. The two leaders discussed the vision for enhanced regional connectivity through South and Central Asia.

They reiterated the importance of taking concrete steps...
to promote expanded private investment and trade in Afghanistan. They acknowledged the critical importance of improving Afghanistan’s integration and linkages within the South and Central Asia region and welcomed the ministerial meeting in Kabul on June 14. They acknowledged that success in Afghanistan requires, in addition to building up Afghanistan’s capacity to defend itself, an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned reconciliation process. They reiterated that success in Afghanistan and regional and global security require elimination of safe havens and infrastructure for terrorism and violent extremism in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The two leaders agreed to continue the dialogue on West Asia and Central Asia.

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna expressed satisfaction with the progress in defense relations, which is an important dimension of their strategic partnership. They noted that India and the United States have conducted many military exercises and exchanges in the last six years across all uniformed service branches as well as with civilian relief and development agencies. The two leaders noted that Government of India has awarded defense contracts worth $9 billion in recent years to U.S. companies. Reflecting the United States’ support for India’s continued military modernization, both sides reaffirmed their desire to strengthen defense cooperation through increased technology transfer, collaborative joint research and development, and co-production of defense items. They also welcomed the progress made in the Defense Policy Group (DPG) and the resumption of the Political Military consultations between the two sides.

Reflective of the United States’ deep commitment to pursuing the fullest possible accounting of all Americans missing from past conflicts, the United States appreciated Government of India’s support for the renewal of missions to recover the remains of missing U.S. service members killed in air crashes during World War II.

The two sides welcomed progress toward the full implementation of the historic Civil Nuclear Initiative including the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Westinghouse and the Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL) committing both sides to negotiate an Early Works Agreement for the preliminary licensing and site development work associated with construction of the new Westinghouse reactors in Gujarat state, and the ongoing progress between General Electric-Hitachi and NPCIL on their Memorandum of Understanding.

India expressed appreciation for the strong support extended by the United States for India’s full membership in the four multilateral export control regimes — Nuclear Suppliers Group, Missile Technology Control Regime, Wassenaar Arrangement and Australia Group. The United States welcomed steps India has taken in pursuing outreach with each of the regimes.

**COUNTER-TERRORISM, INTELLIGENCE, HOMELAND SECURITY AND CYBER SECURITY**

Building on the progress in cooperation on counter-terrorism and related homeland security issues since the inaugural Homeland Security Dialogue Ministerial between Home Minister Chidambaram and Homeland Security Secretary Napolitano in May 2011, the United States and India committed to implementation of a detailed action plan intended to share best practices, facilitate the exchange of operational approaches, and promote the development of concrete capacity building programs to secure our respective countries. The two governments also plan to exchange visits across the full range of homeland security issues to address port and border issues, transportation, illicit finance and counterfeit currency, cyber crime, megacity policing and capacity building.

The United States and India committed to continue to collaborate closely on technology approaches to security issues, including science and technology arrangements, to foster closer cooperation. They noted progress in cooperation and exchanges under the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) of the U.S. and India, including the first bilateral exercise to be scheduled in the fall of 2012.

Recognizing the growing threats and challenges in cyber-
space, they welcomed the second round of Cyber Consultations held on June 4, led by their respective national security councils, during which the U.S. and India exchanged views and best practices on a broad range of cyber issues in the interest of advancing security and the effective and timely sharing of digital evidence and information to support counter-terrorism and law enforcement. The delegations agreed to form a working group chaired by the State Department and the Ministry of External Affairs to further discuss the issue of international norms in cyberspace and global Internet governance. The group would provide a forum for consultations will also in advance of important international events related to cyberspace.

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna welcomed the decision by India’s Ministry of Human Resource Development to set up a Center of Excellence in Cyber Security and the dialogue between leading Indian and U.S. universities to enter into cooperation in the proposed Center.

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna lauded the growing collaboration on counter-terrorism in the 13th meeting of the India-U.S. Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism held in Washington, D.C. on June 1 and the outcomes of the 2nd meeting of the Coordinating Committee of Global Forum for Counter Terrorism (GCTF) held in Istanbul on June 6-7. They reiterated their commitment to further strengthening bilateral and multilateral counter-terrorism cooperation, including through intelligence sharing, information exchange, operational cooperation, and access to advanced counter-terrorism technology and equipment. They reiterated their commitment to bringing to justice the perpetrators of the Mumbai terror attack in November 2008 and to comprehensive sharing of information on the investigations and trials relating to that attack.

**ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna welcomed the progress in India-U.S. cooperation in the energy sector, including in the areas of clean and renewable energy, and energy conservation and efficiency. They welcomed the selection of three public-private consortia for funding under the India-U.S. Joint Clean Energy R&D Center, announced by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Obama in November 2010, with annual commitment of $5 million each from the two governments and matching private contributions from the winning con-
sortia, to promote research and development in the areas of advanced biofuels, solar energy and energy efficiency in buildings.

They also welcomed the new five-year, $20 million technical assistance partnership between USAID and the Indian Ministry of Power and the Indian Ministry of New and Renewable Energy to accelerate the scale-up of clean energy technologies.

They noted that the Partnership to Advance Clean Energy (PACE), launched by President Obama and Prime Minister Singh in November 2009, has mobilized more than $1.7 billion towards a wide range of clean energy projects. They expressed appreciation for the efforts of several U.S. agencies to support development and deployment of clean energy projects. They confirmed that both countries would continue to exchange best practices on low-carbon growth strategies to support a greener and more prosperous future.

They welcomed the productive discussions between India and the United States on energy security in May 2012 and planned to continue this conversation, through the Energy Dialogue and other appropriate forums. The two sides also agreed to continue exchanges on assessment of shale and other unconventional gas resource potential in India and on hydrocarbon potential in the Indian Ocean and other regions, and its impact on global energy security. Recognizing the importance of natural gas as a bridge fuel to a clean energy future, the United States reiterated its support as India seeks to secure stable supplies of natural gas.

Minister Krishna stressed India’s interest in import of LNG from the U.S. and requested the U.S. Government to permit such exports to India.

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna acknowledged broad collaboration on a range of bilateral climate change related programs, including those aimed at addressing adaptation to climate change, sustainable management of forests including reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, the India-U.S. task force on hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and our respective domestic research programs in the area of black carbon.

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna commended the progress made at the Durban climate change conference in December 2011. They also affirmed their commitment to address climate change at the multilateral level, including through the work of the Ad hoc Working Group on Durban Platform for Enhanced Actions under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. They stressed the need to enhance international cooperation under appropriate multilateral bodies to address emissions from the international civil aviation and maritime sectors.

**EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna applauded the expansion of the India-U.S. Higher Education Dialogue, which made significant strides in fostering cooperation between the two countries in higher education, research and innovation, and community colleges. The United States and India plan to hold the next annual Higher Education Dialogue in 2013 in India.

They welcomed the announcement of the award of the first eight grants under the Obama-Singh Knowledge Initiative, which aims to strengthen teaching, research, and administration of both U.S. and Indian institutions through university linkages and junior faculty development. The next call for proposals will be announced in July 2012, with both governments having committed $5 million dollars over 5 years.

The two leaders also applauded efforts by both governments to continue to expand educational opportunities and cooperation, including through the Fulbright Nehru Program for students and scholars. These include India’s goal of establishing 100 community colleges in India; the announcement of the C.V. Raman Fellowship, under which the first tranche of 300 junior faculty members would be placed for post-doctoral research in American higher education institutions; India’s launch of a higher education web portal to provide a platform to disseminate information and foster educational and research collaboration and exchanges, such as India’s new Connect to India program to facilitate more American students in Indian universities; and new private sector pledges in support of the United States’ Passport to India Initiative, which seeks to increase the number of American students participating in internships in India.

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna noted that the third meeting of the Women’s Empowerment Dialogue held in February 2012, focused on women’s social and economic empowerment, political participation, early childhood education, skill development of women and girls, and strengthening of institutional linkages and exchanges. The U.S. welcomed India’s proposal to organize a regional South Asia...
Women’s Entrepreneurship Conference that will bring key policy makers, women entrepreneurs, civil society organizations, private sector institutions, and corporations together to work on concrete actions to expand women’s economic participation in the region and beyond.

**ECONOMIC, TRADE AND AGRICULTURE**

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna noted that bilateral trade in goods and services continues to grow and will likely reach $100 billion by the end of 2012. They lauded the launch of the first Infrastructure Debt Fund in India, with a corpus of $2 billion, through the participation of Indian and U.S. financial institutions and welcomed the March 2012 visit to India by U.S. Commerce Secretary John Bryson with a private sector delegation of infrastructure companies as important steps to strengthen bilateral trade and investment in India’s planned investment of $1 trillion in its infrastructure sector.

The two leaders recognized that steps should be taken to promote greater bilateral trade and investment flows, including facilitating greater movement of professionals, investors and business travelers, and encouraging research and innovation that further strengthen economic partnership between the two countries.

The Secretary and Minister called for an expeditious conclusion to negotiations toward a high standard Bilateral
Investment Treaty (BIT) as a key part of the effort to deepen the economic relationship, improve investor confidence, and support economic growth in both countries. They welcomed consultations by experts from both governments on manufacturing best practices and policy.

They welcomed the decision of the two governments to launch a dialogue on Sustainable Manufacturing and another on Enhancing Cooperation in Standards under the Commercial Dialogue. They noted the conclusion in February 2012 of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Labour and Employment and U.S. Department of Labor for skill development, youth development, occupational safety and health, and mine safety and health.

The two leaders reiterated their governments’ efforts to foster cooperation in research, development and innovation in agriculture, especially on agricultural productivity, envisaged in the Agricultural Dialogue. They welcomed the recent agreements between agricultural universities in India and U.S. universities for agricultural research, and the proposed collaboration to create a Regional Center of Excellence at the National Institute of Plant Health Management in Hyderabad.

Secretary Clinton welcomed Minister Krishna’s proposal for a “Conversation between Cities” later this year to discuss urban challenges and their solutions in the 21st century and to foster greater economic ties, understanding and friendship between the people of the two countries.

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, HEALTH AND INNOVATION**

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna reviewed the outcomes of the second Science and Technology Joint Commission Meeting, held on June 11, which covered bilateral research cooperation on basic and applied sciences, atmospheric, environment and earth sciences, health and medical services, STEM education, facilitating technology commercialization for societal impact and retention and advancement of women in science and engineering.

They applauded the first award of grants by the India-U.S. Science and Technology Endowment Board for entrepreneurial projects that commercialize technologies to improve health and empower citizens, which include a partnership to create a cold-chain storage solution to keep farmers’ produce fresh. They noted the ongoing activities of India-U.S. Science & Technology Forum, now in its eleventh year, which have brought together 11,000 Indian and U.S. scientists and technologists.

The two leaders welcomed the rich array of public and private science and technology cooperation between U.S. and Indian institutions and partners.

These include the new initiatives between India’s Department of Science and Technology and U.S. National Science Foundation on a Virtual Institute on Mathematics and Statistical Sciences and DST-NSF Summer Internship; the recent initiative (PC3) of the Department of Electronics and Information Technology and U.S. NSF to jointly fund collaborations between universities and institutions in the two countries on the application of electronics and IT for societal challenges, which has already resulted in five collaborations in the areas of wildlife management, air quality, water sustainability, healthcare and smart electric grids; India’s recent commitment of more than $100 million to the California Institute of Technology’s Thirty-Meter Telescope Project; the exchange of weather and monsoon forecasting, climate change information and global precipitation under the Civil Space Working Group; and the collaborative project of the U.S. National Science Foundation and the Indian Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Science & Technology to develop a Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory, with a likely contribution of $100 million from India.

The two sides also intend to explore opportunities for cooperation in the study of groundwater information systems and Decision Support Systems for optimal management of groundwater resources. The two sides plan to host the next Civil Space Joint Working Group in Washington, D.C. in the summer of 2013.

The two leaders acknowledged the June 9 launch of the Global Ring Network for Advanced Applications Development (GLORIAD), the first direct India-U.S. advanced science and education network supporting enormous data flows between the U.S. and India. Funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation, and as part of a public-private partnership featuring a $6M contribution by Tata Communications and housed by the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (ICTS) of the Tata Institute for Fundamental Research in Bangalore, the new link is part of the NSF-funded advanced global GLORIAD network. Designed to support the most advanced big-data research today – as well as education and health-related research,
GLORIAD’s Indian partners at the ICTS are also launching the first open, science-driven, science-managed network exchange in India.

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna lauded the completion of 25 years of the Vaccine Action Programme, a collaborative research venture between the two countries; welcomed the establishment of the Global Disease Detection India Center, announced by Prime Minister Dr. Singh and President Obama in November 2010; the proposed collaboration between the Department of Biotechnology of India and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on stem cell regenerative medicine research; and collaboration between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Diabetes Research. These are part of the wide-ranging collaboration between the two countries in the health sector.

The Secretary and Minister appreciated the December announcement of the USAID and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) partnership to establish the Millennium Alliance, an innovative development concept to leverage Indian creativity, expertise, and resources to support solutions to benefit vulnerable populations across India and around the world.

The two sides plan to hold an Innovation Roundtable on development challenges and solutions in New Delhi in the later part of 2012. The last roundtable was held in September 2010.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP
Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna commended the progress the two sides have made in implementing the initiatives for international partnership for development and capacity building announced by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Obama in November 2010.

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna took note of the March release of an open-source web portal — the “Open Government Platform” (OGPL) — developed under the India-U.S. Dialogue on Open Government. OGPL allows any nation to download free software and create a site that provides its citizens access to government data for innovation, economic development, and transparency. Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna welcomed OGPL's planned extension to additional countries, starting with Rwanda.

They welcomed the progress in their collaborative efforts to support agricultural development in Africa through initially offering training at Indian agricultural institutions through USAID support to Kenya, Liberia and Malawi.

They also welcomed progress in the initiative for capacity building and training for election management in interested countries.

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna lauded the initiative of the U.S. and India to host, along with the Government of Ethiopia and UNICEF, a Call to Action on June 14-15 in Washington, D.C., to launch a global movement to end preventable child deaths — A Promise to Keep — to demonstrate both countries’ commitment to leadership on this global priority, extending toward ambitious targets in 2035.

PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE TIES
Secretary Clinton welcomed Government of India’s plans to open a Cultural Center in Washington, D.C., noting the powerful India-U.S. connections provided by the nearly three million Indian-Americans in the United States, as well as the more than 100,000 Indian students studying in U.S. universities.

The United States announced the launch of a new online philanthropy platform, a natural extension of the deep and vibrant people-to-people ties between the United States and India, providing private donors in the United States with information to help make decisions about contributing to NGOs in India more effectively (ProjectIndiaGiving.org).

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna appreciated the many actions taken to facilitate the travel of U.S. and Indian citizens, including the planned opening of India’s Atlanta consulate in 2012, the second round of the India-U.S. Consular Dialogue on March 22 in New Delhi, a new interview waiver pilot program to further streamline U.S. visa processing and facilitate legitimate travel between the two countries. The Secretary and Minister discussed various issues relating to inter-country adoptions and expressed the hope that these would be dealt with in a transparent and humane manner to protect the welfare of adopted children.

They also appreciated the establishment of the “Indian Ministry of Culture Vivekananda Chair” at the University of Chicago and an agreement signed between the Ministry of Culture and the Art Institute of Chicago for the “Vivekananda Memorial Program for Museum Excellence” for upgrading the skills of Museum Professionals of India as part of commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

The next meeting of the Strategic Dialogue is scheduled in New Delhi in 2013.
JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE,
TREATY ROOM, US DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CONVERGING PATHS

CHARTING NEW ROADMAP: EAM S.M. Krishna with Secretary Hillary Clinton during the joint press conference in Washington, D.C., on June 13.
(Photo: Jay Mandal/On Assignment)
India and the United States have a strong foundation of friendship and cooperation. But today we are seeing something new. The strategic fundamentals of our relationship are pushing our two countries’ interests into closer convergence.

With these words, terming the Strategic Dialogue meeting an excellent one, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna addressed a joint press conference at the Treaty Room at U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C. on June 13.

“Three years back, we started on this journey of this strategic dialogue. And this is the third year in succession that we are representing our two great countries. And let me convey that we had a very productive strategic dialogue. Our presence here speaks to the extraordinary depth and diversity of our engagement, which is ever increasing,” stressed EAM Krishna at the joint press conference.

**Here are the excerpts:**

**SECRETARY CLINTON:** Good afternoon. It has been a great pleasure to welcome Minister Krishna and his distinguished delegation to Washington. We have had an excellent meeting of the Strategic Dialogue between our two nations covering a wide range of bilateral, regional, and global issues, and I will just touch on a few highlights.

First, I want to put this third Strategic Dialogue into a broader context. India and the United States have a strong foundation of friendship and cooperation. But today we are seeing something new. The strategic fundamentals of our relationship are pushing our two countries’ interests into closer convergence.

By strategic fundamentals I mean not just our shared democratic values, but also our economic imperatives and our diplomatic and security priorities. For example, in order to grow and prosper in today’s world, both the United States and India need an open, free, fair, and transparent global economic system. We both seek security and stability in South Asia and the Asia Pacific. And we both see the importance of a coordinated international response to violent extremism and other shared global challenges.

What does this mean for our partnership? Well, today there is less need for dramatic breakthroughs that marked earlier phases in our relationship, but more need for steady, focused cooperation aimed at working through our differences and advancing the interests and values we share. This kind of daily, weekly, monthly collaboration may not always be glamorous, but it is strategically significant. And that is, after all, what this dialogue is all about.

On the economic front, we reviewed the progress that we’ve made together, and acknowledged there is still more room for growth, investment, and business ties. We need to advance negotiations on a bilateral investment treaty, further reduce barriers to trade and investment in our two countries, create more hospitable environments for companies to do business. And I was pleased that just yesterday, Westinghouse and the Nuclear Power Corporation of India signed an agreement that will speed construction of new power plants in Gujarat and help India meet its energy needs. I look forward to additional deals involving other leading American companies, including General Electric. And we will work together to ensure these projects are implemented to produce real benefits for citizens and businesses alike.

We also covered a number of serious concerns such as counterterrorism, cyber-security, and sustainable development. We discussed cooperation in Afghanistan and the importance of working together with other partners to help build a peaceful and prosperous South Asia. Both the United States and India have signed strategic partnership agreements with Afghanistan to demonstrate our enduring commitment, and today we agreed to move forward with a formal trilateral consultation among our three nations. I told Minister Krishna how much we appreciate India’s efforts in Afghanistan and the region and how much we are looking forward to the investment conference that India will host later this month in New Delhi.
We also discussed the steps that the governments of India and Pakistan are taking to open up avenues for trade, investment, and movement of people. And I applaud the leadership that Prime Minister Singh and Prime Minister Gilani have demonstrated.

We paid particular attention to the future of the Asia Pacific region and our strong support for India’s Look East Policy. We will work together through key multilateral institutions such as the East Asia Summit and the ASEAN Regional Forum. And the United States really welcomes India’s support for our participation as dialogue partner in the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation.

And finally, we worked through some of the issues that we have fielded in common because of the concerns about Iran’s continuing search for a nuclear weapon, and India has made it clear that — Iran, like all countries, must live up to their international obligations and, as I reported to Congress this week, India has taken steps to diversify its sources of imported crude by reducing purchases of Iranian oil. We recognize the important energy needs that India has, and we’re working with India, not only to ensure stable oil markets, but to do more to open up other sources of energy for India.

Now, on all these and other key issues, we are working to convert common interests into common actions. And we
have to follow through. But I was very encouraged by what we heard today. Things that don’t make the headlines but are so critical, such as yesterday’s first ever higher education dialogue, making it easier for U.S. and Indian researchers, students, faculty to take advantage of the educational resources and opportunities in both countries. And we announced the first eight grant recipients of the Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative.

Our Science and Technology Joint Commission are working on improving our linkages in science and engineering and data sharing. We have a new agreement signed in the health area to boost research on diabetes. And, for the first time, we agreed to share the India-U.S. Open Government Platform software that promotes transparency and accountability with a third country partner, Rwanda.

The list is very long and the Minister and I will be making a comprehensive report — he to the Prime Minister, I to the President — of everything that’s been happening in all of the various aspects of this incredibly important dialogue. But I want to thank my partner and colleague in this work for his leadership and his attention that has translated this idea into a very important reality for both our countries.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER: Thank you, Secretary Clinton. It is always a pleasure for me to come back to Washington, D.C. because it is in this city that I have spent a couple of years of my very interesting interaction into American politics. And I had the pleasure of meeting some of great Americans who have led this country subsequently in subsequent years.

And it is always an added pleasure for me, personally, to meet with Secretary Clinton. I always derive so much of comfort and so much of inspiration, if I may say so, Secretary Clinton.

Three years back, we started on this journey of this strategic dialogue. And this is the third year in succession that we are representing our two great countries. And let me convey that we had a very productive strategic dialogue. I want to thank all my ministerial colleagues and senior officials for their participation. Our presence here speaks to the extraordinary depth and diversity of our engagement, which is ever increasing. The relationship between our two countries and our two vibrant democracies, one the oldest and the other one the largest. Secretary Clinton and I expressed confidence about realizing the enormous potentials of our economic ties and addressing the concerns on both sides, which I had outlined at USIBC yesterday.

We welcome the tangible progress on nuclear energy cooperation, as was mentioned by Secretary Clinton with the signing of the MOU between NPCIL and the Westinghouse. I think this should put at rest some of the interpretations and some of the confusion that was prevailing in the immediate aftermath after we signed the nuclear accord. But I’m glad that things are now behind us—nuclear commerce is now beginning to expand itself and we hope more Indian and American companies will be involved in the course of the coming months.

We, Secretary and I, support the growing emphasis on defense technology transfers and co-development and co-production in our expanding defense relationship. I have informed Secretary Clinton of our willingness to receive a team of officials to visit India for the search and recovery of the remains of the MIAs from World War II. Stronger and more effective cooperation in counterterrorism, homeland security, cyber security, and intelligence in recent years is an important aspect of our strategic partnership. India’s interest in further access to Headley and Rana in accordance with our legal procedures for the investigations into the 26/11 was raised.

We recommend the broad portfolio of cooperation in clean energy. I also sought a liberal U.S. regime for gas exports to India, which would be in our mutual economic and energy security interest. We agreed to strengthen the impressive array of our programs in higher education, health, science and technology, innovation, agriculture and women’s empowerment. We have made tangible progress in these areas.

As Secretary Clinton has pointed out, our discussions demonstrated yet again our shared interest and convergent views on a range of regional and global issues. We are committed to build Afghan capacity for governance, development, and security, and to unlock its economic potential through regional integration. We again stressed the importance of elimination of safe havens in Pakistan for Afghanistan’s security and the region’s stability.

Our meeting today yet again underscored the global dimensions of our relationship and added new momentum to our partnership. Thank you.
Briefing the media about the Strategic Dialogue, EAM Krishna said the Dialogue is reflective of the tangible and continuous progress that we are making in every field.

The India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue is the principal platform to bring the different strands of the broad-based and diverse agenda of bilateral engagement and pursue the vision of India-U.S. Global Strategic Partnership, outlined by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Barack Obama.

These were the principal remarks of India’s External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna while briefing the media on the third India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue at the Willard Intercontinental in Washington, D.C., on June 13.

Minister Krishna briefed the media about the Plenary Session where he, along with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, had discussions on five themes — Strategic, Defense, Homeland Security, Counter-terrorism and Intelligence; Economic, Energy, Climate; S&T, Innovation and Health; Higher Education and Empowerment and Regional Strategies and linkages.

Here are the excerpts:

I am in Washington, D.C., to co-chair the third India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. As you know, the Strategic Dialogue is the principal platform to bring the different strands of the broad-based and diverse agenda of bilateral engagement and pursue the vision of India-U.S. Global Strategic Partnership, outlined by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Barack Obama.

I was accompanied by Minister for Health and Family Welfare Ghulam Nabi Azad, Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Prime Minister’s Public Information Infrastructure and Innovation Advisor Sam Pitroda, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Women and Child Development Krishna Tirath, Minister of State for Planning, S&T and Earth Sciences Ashwini Kumar, Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai, Home Secretary R.K. Singh, Secretary for Science and Technology, Secretary for Higher Education Ashok Thakur, Director of Intelligence Bureau Nehchal Sandhu, and other senior officials. Secretary Clinton was joined by her ministerial colleagues and senior officials.

There were several dialogues on the margins of and preceding the Strategic Dialogue.

Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister for Human Resource Development, IT and Telecommunication, chaired the Higher Education Dialogue with Secretary Clinton on June 12. Minister for Science and Technology co-chaired the Joint Science and Technology Commission Meeting with Dr. John
Holdren, President Obama’s Advisor on Science and Technology. Minister for Health and Family Welfare will co-convene with Secretary Clinton and UNICEF, a Call to Maternal and Child Care Action on June 14-15 in Washington, D.C.

A number of sub-dialogues were scheduled on the margins of this Strategic Dialogue, including the Global Issues Forum, Homeland Security Consultations, Strategic Intelligence Dialogue, the Counterterrorism Joint Working Group, Cyber Consultations, Information and Communications Technology Working Group, the Women’s Empowerment Dialogue, Dialogue on Health Cooperation and other events.

I also delivered the keynote address at the Annual Summit of the U.S.-India Business Council on June 12, 2012 in Washington, D.C.

Today, I had a restricted meeting with Secretary Clinton, during which we discussed key bilateral and regional issues.

I also raised humanitarian dimensions of the Karie Shepherd case.

We then chaired the Plenary Session, which had discussions on five themes:

• Strategic, Defense, Homeland Security, Counter-terrorism and Intelligence
• Economic, Energy, Climate
• S&T, Innovation and Health
• Higher Education and Empowerment
• Regional Strategies and linkages

The Joint Statement issued today is reflective of the tangible and continuous progress that we are making in every field, including political and strategic consultations, defense, intelligence, counter-terrorism, homeland security, trade and investment, civilian nuclear energy, space, science and technology, agriculture, higher education and empowerment.
Both the United States and India believe that extending the benefits of higher education to as many people as possible is not only the right thing to do, but it is the smart thing as well, to help better equip our people to compete in today’s global economy.

With these words, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and India’s Union Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal opened the second India-U.S. Higher Education Dialogue in Washington, D.C., on June 12.

“The digital world is challenging the lecture-driven teaching traditions of the university. With open content and open-access, we are seeing the early emergence of a meta-university. The Internet and the Web will provide the communication infrastructure, while the open-access movement and its derivatives will provide much of the knowledge and information infrastructure,” said Minister Sibal at the Education Summit.

Speaking on the need to appreciate, manage and preserve our diversity through education and learning by experience, the Minister said global students would understand and learn about management of diversity in India far better than elsewhere in the world.

During the meeting, Shri Sibal proposed to launch a 'Connect to India' initiative that will make available opportunities for students in the U.S. to spend some time in the quality institutions in India to learn life, society, culture, economy, polity and business.

Secretary Clinton said the Dialogue not only represents the commitment of both the governments but also of both societies to provide more opportunities to the youth to achieve their aspirations. Secretary Clinton highlighted three main focus areas:

- Work force development
- Research in grand challenge areas like sustainable development, energy, public health;
- Developing open education resources

The Higher Education Dialogue chalked out the future strategy for effective partnerships for research and innovation as well as Community colleges and skills, which are very high on India’s development agenda.

Both sides appreciated that there is immense scope of working together on various strands in Research and Innovation, particularly in the identified areas of challenges for which discussion on modes of collaboration, collaborative models, and governance and management issues were deliberated.

Both sides also committed resources for these initiatives.

Here are the excerpts:

As we move into the second year of the India-US Higher Education Dialogue, we move away from the spacious highway of collaboration to the dedicated corridors of connectiv-
ity. Knowledge knows no barriers. The prejudiced human mind creates them. You and I, Secretary Clinton, have together embarked on a journey to eliminate barriers of prejudice by creating opportunities for our children to share knowledge.

This will help them realize that they have common interests and aspirations and that collaborative learning is both enriching and empowering. You rightly termed our relationship as a partnership of democracies, of two vibrant democracies destined to lead the 21st century. Nothing will be more invigorating for this partnership than bringing together our knowledge institutions.

...The collaborations under the Singh-Obama Knowledge Initiative are ready to commence. We have prepared a plan to place our young faculty in universities in your best institutions to enhance their capabilities. We have activated a mechanism for formal collaboration in offering educational programmes between our institutions through the University Grants Commission. A group of State Education Ministers has interacted with community colleges in the U.S. to draw lessons for establishing a similar network of colleges in India.

This group has submitted their recommendation which has been accepted by the forum of all State Education Ministers. I hope to establish 100 such colleges by 2013. I invite Presidents and representatives of community colleges to visit us for a conference that we plan to host in India later this year. I am convinced that more positive outcomes will unfold over the next few months.

The revolution in ICT has been reshaping the world. Advances in science and technology has held the hope of offering new solutions for humanity. Lately, the communi-
cations revolution has also led to redefining the nature of State and society. Key stakeholders are changing the nature of social intercourse and institutions of State. Social interactions have exploded aided by the connecting power of the Internet.

The ability of thoughts to disperse and converge have multiplied exponentially. Crowd-sourcing and cloud computing leverage on this ability of seeking to tap the wisdom of the global community. However, our academic institutions have been slow to leverage the potential of technology for education. Knowledge networks that link research in the grand challenges of the world have also been slow to develop.

The digital world is challenging the lecture-driven teaching traditions of the university. With open content and

THUS THE 21ST CENTURY META-UNIVERSITY WOULD BE A NETWORK AND AN ECOSYSTEM RATHER THAN A SINGLE BRICK AND MORTAR SPACE — A FACEBOOK OF INSTITUTIONS...

THE TORCH BEARERS: From left, Ambassador Nirupama Rao; Minister for HRD Kapil Sibal; Secretary of State Hillary Clinton; Tara D. Sonenshine, Under Secretary, Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs; Robert Blake, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian; and U.S. Ambassador to India Nancy Powell at the U.S. Department of State on June 12. (Photo: Bala Chandran)

KEY INNOVATION AREAS

- Public health including medical technology, green energy and environmental studies
- Cyber security
- Leveraging technology for education leading to e-learning
- Development of Meta University
- Increasing connectivity through NKN
- Educational Technology
- Connect to India program
- Sharing of best practices in innovation and incubation
open-access, we are seeing the early emergence of a meta-university, a concept pioneered by Charles West, as an accessible, empowering, communally constructed framework of open materials and platforms ushering the collaborative future of higher education. The Internet and the Web will provide the communication infrastructure, while the open-access movement and its derivatives will provide much of the knowledge and information infrastructure.

The meta university will reinterpret the concept of a University as not just a traditional, physical space of learning, but as a repository of knowledge and information that can be delivered in multiple ways, and can be accessed from anywhere, at anytime.

It will seek to enhance the learning experience through new and innovative delivery models of education that allow students and institutions to collaborate in unprecedented ways.

Thus the 21st century meta-university would be a network and an ecosystem rather than a single brick and mortar space — a Facebook of Institutions. We have taken small steps in constructing a meta-university with the University of Delhi and Jamia Millia Islamia taking the lead. I welcome the partnership of universities from this part of the world in this enterprise of and for the future.

Last year, I had emphasized the need for building a robust vocational education system that links education to the world of work. This requires the award of qualifications of international standards accepted by industry globally. I am pleased to inform that we have moved ahead to build the National Vocational Education Qualifications Framework (NVEQF). A pilot of the NVEQF in classes IX-XII has been launched this year. The University Grants Commission will recognize the award of formal qualification in vocational education post class XII in tune with NVEQF. The experience of community colleges in developing the workforce for the U.S. in the 20th century will stand us in good stead and inspire us by example. The workforce of the future will be global, their skill sets requiring international acceptance. Community colleges can partner us in developing the curriculum and pedagogy for the global workforce of the 21st century.

...We need to foster an education system that prepares the child in learning how to learn. The student of the 21st century would be like the famous travelers of yore who scoured the vast corners of the world to understand local cultures.

The world is diverse in many ways. Its diversity must be absorbed across borders. While the world is coming together through technology, we must learn to appreciate, manage and preserve our diversity through education and learning by experience. No country on this planet is more diverse than India. I am sure that global students would understand and learn about management of diversity in India far better than elsewhere in the world.

Towards this end, I propose to launch a ‘Connect to India’ initiative that will make available opportunities for students in the U.S. to spend some time in our quality institutions for learning about our life, society, culture, economy, polity and business. ...We must turn to our knowledge systems to understand the changes we are witnessing. Our universities have to grow beyond the realms of science and technology and the nurturing of professions, to once again understand society and its institutions. This understanding can be built only by learning across borders. As I said last year — Knowledge knows no boundaries. Let us rededicate our efforts to cement this partnership.

WE HAVE PREPARED A PLAN TO PLACE OUR YOUNG FACULTY IN UNIVERSITIES IN YOUR BEST INSTITUTIONS TO ENHANCE THEIR CAPABILITIES

AT FICCI EVENT: HRD Minister Kapil Sibal speaking at an FICCI event organized at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, D.C. on June 11. (Photo: FICCI)
Described the Indo-U.S. Science & Technology Cooperation as the bedrock of bilateral strategic relationship, Indian Ambassador to the U.S. Mrs. Nirupama Rao inaugurated the second Indo-U.S. Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) in Washington, D.C., on June 11. Minister for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Vilasrao Deshmukh co-chaired the JCM, along with Dr. John Holdren, Science Advisor to the US President.

The Joint Commission reviewed the considerable progress made in the S&T Cooperation since, the first JCM held in June, 2010. The Commission appreciated significant progress made during this period across all the sectors of global common goods generation.

A “Virtual Institute on Mathematics and Statistical Sciences” has been established by the Indian Department of Science and Technology and U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF). Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in partnership with NIH have added several new collaborative R&D programs on low-cost diagnostics, bio-medical innovation and brain research.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences has established the Monsoon Desk in NOAA which will add predictive and modeling capabilities for monsoons. CSIR has engaged with Mayo Clinic working together on Cancer Chemotherapy. Indian Ministry of S&T and the U.S. DOE have committed U.S. Dollar 50 million for establishing a virtual Indo-U.S. Joint Clean Energy Research and Development Center.
Innovation for societal impact has been supported by the India-US Endowment Fund through projects in areas of 'Healthy Individuals' and 'Empowering Citizens'. Indo-U.S. S&T Forum, a bilateral agency has played significant role in catalyzing the cooperation by supplementing the governmental efforts. At the end, the Joint Commission recommended several new directions of cooperation including research in the areas of high energy particle physics and gravitational wave detection under the ‘Discovery Science Agreement’ between Department of Atomic Energy and U.S. DOE. In Basic and Applied sciences — materials research, computer sciences and neurosciences have been identified as potential areas of future engagement.

In health and medical sector — environmental health, diabetic research, stems cell and regenerative medicine are the new focus areas of cooperation. In Earth & Environmental sciences — hydrological cycle studies, fisheries and algal bloom and deep ocean drilling project in the Arabian Sea have been proposed to be initiated. JCM recognized that the participation of women in science and programs on STEM education should be encouraged across all sectors. The JCM unanimously recommended that both sides along with the respective federal agencies and the scientific community should work together to remove impediments in visa matters and biological material transfer required for the smooth implementation of bilateral S&T programs.
Minister for Health and Family Welfare Ghulam Nabi Azad visits the U.S. FDA Headquarters, stresses on importance of collaboration with the country in food and drug regulation

Stressing on the importance of collaboration with the U.S. in food and drug regulation that would provide exposure to the Indian regulators to international best practices in this area, Minister for Health and Family Welfare Ghulam Nabi Azad met with the officials at the headquarters of the U.S. Food and Drug Regulatory Administration (FDA) in Maryland on June 12.

Minister Azad highlighted the importance of drug and food regulation in the lives of common people and presented an overview of the Indian food and drug industry.

He stated that the Indian food industry is estimated to be worth about $135 billion. There has been rapid growth in the sector, especially the processed food industry, he added.

The Minister said the Indian pharmaceutical industry, estimated to be worth about $20 billion, is ranked third globally in terms of its volume and 13th in terms of its worth. The Union Minister noted that India is regarded as the ‘pharmacy of the developing world’ due to the focus on accessibility and affordability.

Minister Azad also spoke on the drug and food regulatory framework in India. He explained the roles of the Union and State governments in the regulatory framework of food safety, as it is a concurrent subject within the Constitution of India. The role of the Central Government includes making regulations on food standards and other quality parameters; playing advisory role in implementation of the Act by States and Union Territories; amending rules and standards; ensuring that the import of food articles is safe, wholesome and comply with the provisions of Indian Food Laws; and notifying referral food laboratories to test the samples, while the State governments enforce the regulatory standards by lifting samples for testing and carrying out other regulatory functions, Minister Azad stated.

The Health Minister also stressed on the need to make...
the regulatory mechanisms within the country more effective.

During his visit, an agreement on collaboration in Diabetes Research was signed between Minister Azad and Kathleen Sebelius, U.S. Secretary, Health and Human Services, during the bilateral meeting.

The primary aim of this collaboration is to initiate a health research relationship between the two countries to generate a better understanding of the molecular and biological mechanisms underlying diabetes, to characterize the genetic, social and environmental determinants, and to identify innovative approaches for improving prevention and treatment of diabetes.

The two countries will promote and develop cooperation in the field of basic, clinical, and translational research in the areas of diabetes mellitus, on the basis of reciprocity and mutual benefit. Joint efforts will also focus on developing cost-effective tools and approaches to translate research results into policies and actions to improve the public health. As part of this collaboration, joint research programs in diabetes will be developed by the Indian Council of Medical Research and the Department of Biotechnology of the Ministry of Science and Technology, with National Institutes of Health of the Department of Health and Human Services, United States.

**MINISTER KRISHNA TIRATH SPEAKS OF THE FIGHT AGAINST MALNUTRITION**

In a meeting with Ms Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary, US Health and Human Services, in Washington, D.C., on June 12, India’s Minister for Women and Child Development Krishna Tirath highlighted the contribution of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and the multi-sectoral programs of the Government of India in fighting malnutrition in the country. She was accompanied by Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Ghulam Nabi Azad.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Tirath shared her concern on the challenge of malnutrition, particularly among children. She stated that the problem is complex, multidimensional and inter-generational in nature. She elaborated on the role played by one of the flagship schemes being implemented by the Ministry of WCD in India, namely the ICDS for preventing child morbidity, mortality and malnutrition.

She highlighted the scheme’s contribution in providing a holistic package of services namely supplementary nutrition, pre-school non-formal education, nutrition and health education, immunization, health check-up and referral services. She also highlighted the strong element of community partnerships and convergence with different ministries such as health and rural development.

Ms Sebelius said that the U.S. agriculture ministry was running a programme for nutrition support for pregnant and lactating mother, which could also be looked into for cross country learnings to strengthen the nutrition component of ICDS with a focus on pregnant and lactating mothers. Minister Tirath agreed to include this program as part of the learnings under the India-US Women Empowerment Dialogue already in progress under the India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue.
Insisting that it would restore investor confidence and regain economic momentum, India’s External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna said the Indian economy would rebound with new vigor on the strength of strong fundamentals and supported by some policies and prudent economic management.

Addressing the 37th U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC) Leadership Summit, titled ‘Securing the 21st Century Partnership,’ in Washington, D.C., on June 11, Minister Krishna said, “In an era of global inter-dependence, not everything is within the powers of national governments. But we are confident that we will restore investor confidence and regain economic momentum and growth.”
and regain economic momentum and growth”.

“Over the past two decades of extraordinary change in the Indian economy, there have been periods when the growth seemed to lose its steam and the agenda of reform seemed to be slowing,” he said. “But time and again, our economy rebounded with new vigor on the strength of strong fundamentals and supported by some policies and prudent economic management,” Krishna said.

“India’s planned investment of more than a trillion U.S. dollars in infrastructure development over the next five years offers enormous opportunities for expanding our economic partnership. Commerce Secretary Bryson’s visit to India with a strong infrastructure delegation this March and the launch of first Infrastructure Debt Fund in India, with a corpus of US$2 billion, augurs well for our cooperation,” Minister Krishna said.

“We are also optimistic because we are purposefully seeking to shape our external environment in support of our national development goals. There are stirrings of change in our neighborhood. We are working with Pakistan to define a new paradigm of trade relations. We are supporting Afghanistan with investment, development partnership and regional integration. We will host an investors’ conference at the end of June in Delhi, to which, I hope, some of you will come. Across South Asia, we are seeking relationship of shared prosperity through increased trade, assistance and connectivity,” the Minister added.

Here are the excerpts:
The U.S.-India Business Council was formed at a particularly difficult moment in our relationship in the mid-seventies. The initiative was both economic and strategic in nature. It rested on the logic that in pursuing closer economic relationship, our companies, entrepreneurs and professionals would serve as a bridge to a broader and deeper relationship between our countries.

Nearly four decades later that vision has met the test of time. The private sector in our two nations has been the harbinger of change, indeed one of the catalysts in the transformation of India-U.S. relationship into a strategic partnership of great depth and diversity. The ballast our businesses provide will continue to keep our relationships growing
steadily and rapidly. And, I hope that the U.S.-India Business Council will continue to promote India as much as the U.S. in its endeavors.

This is a time of vulnerability and uncertainty in the global economy. This is also a phase of challenges and opportunities for our two economies, too.

In India, there are evident concerns about economic parameters. Measures taken in response to an earlier phase of the global economic crisis, international turbulence and volatility, and policy challenges, have all contributed to the current situation. There are also complex and unresolved issues of equity, sustainability and opportunities and achieving the right balance between various sectors of the economy — these issues have been at the heart of political and policy debate in India.

Questions have been raised about economic policy and commitment to implement reforms. Doubts have been expressed whether the story of Incredible India will remain credible! These sentiments are not new. Over the past two decades of extraordinary change in the Indian economy, there have been periods when the growth seemed to lose its steam and the agenda of reform seemed to slow. But, time and again, our economy rebounded with new vigor, on the strength of strong fundamentals, and supported by sound policies and prudent economic management.

In an era of global inter-dependence, not everything is within the powers of national governments. But we are confident that we will restore investor confidence and regain economic momentum and growth.

Our confidence stems not just from the strong fundamentals of our economy, but, also from the fact that virtually every political party in India has been at some point part of the reform process. We have to respond to the aspirations of an increasingly young, empowered and energized India that has experienced enormous change in a short span of time, and we will do so. But, we will also need a stable and supportive international environment, including an open and growing U.S. market, and the flow of capital and technology...

North America has emerged as an important source of gas and potentially of oil for world markets, and we hope that the U.S. Government will be liberal in permitting gas exports to India. This will be in our mutual economic and energy security interests. And, we are building a web of trade and economic arrangements that stretches from Japan to Canada.

I also have great confidence in the future of India-U.S. economic partnership. I know that this is a time when a degree of skepticism has entered into the sentiment of the business on both sides. I am aware of the concerns of the U.S. businesses; USIBC has been forceful in articulating them!

For our businesses, too, there are pressing issues: whether it is the worsening environment for mobility of professionals, the protectionist sentiments against the global supply chain in services industry, the refusal to even consider a Social Security Agreement that affects the lives of 300,000 non-immigrant Indian professionals in the United States, the unresolved market access issues, or, the persisting presence of India in the Super 301 Priority Watch List and the U.S. Department of Labour’s list.

The progress that we have made gives us the confidence to deal with the challenges in our relationship. Our trade in goods and services has reached a milestone by crossing $100 billion last year. India has been one of the fastest growing destinations for U.S. exports.

— EAM S. M. Krishna
established presence in at least 40 states in the U.S., with a significant part of their investments going into the manufacturing sector, and generating more than 80% of their employment locally from the United States...

...India’s planned investment of more than a trillion US dollars in infrastructure development over the next five years offers enormous opportunities for expanding our economic partnership. Commerce Secretary Bryson’s visit to India with a strong infrastructure delegation this March and the launch of first Infrastructure Debt Fund in India, with a corpus of 2 billion U.S. dollars, augurs well for our cooperation.

I have faith in the future of India-U.S. economic partnership, because I have seen, from my time as the Chief Minister in Bangalore, pioneering models of partnerships between Indian and U.S. firms. These ventures have helped modernize India’s economy and shaped the global knowledge economy. They have also made enormous contribution to U.S. economy and employment. We, in India, have to foster an environment that nurtures these collaborations. The U.S. too, I hope, will remain supportive of these models of partnership.

...A strong economic relationship is an important dimension of the vision of global partnership outlined by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Obama. It is a partnership that continues to grow...
OPEN GOVERNMENT PLATFORM TO PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY

During the India-U.S. Joint Commission Meeting on Science and Technology Cooperation, Dr. John P. Holdren, Assistant to the President for Science and Technology and Dr. Sam Pitroda, Advisor to India’s Prime Minister for Public Information Infrastructure and Innovation, announced the Open Government Platform (OGPL) — a bilateral effort to promote transparency and greater citizen engagement by making government data, documents, tools and processes publicly available...

(Right) Dr. John Holdren, Director, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, addressing the audience at the Open Government Platform launch. (Far right) Jawed Ashraf, Indian Joint Secretary, Americas, Ministry of External Affairs, speaking at the event. (Photos: Bala Chandran)
A joint working group of India and the United States has selected eight institutional partnership projects for the first Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative awards. The initiative aims to strengthen collaboration and build partnerships between American and Indian institutions of higher education. Each project will receive an award of approximately $250,000 that can be utilized over the three year grant period, with the aim of encouraging mutual understanding, educational reform, and economic growth, as well as the development of junior faculty at Indian and American institutions of higher learning.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and U.S. President Barack Obama announced the Obama-Singh Initiative in November 2009 as an affirmation of their commitment to building an enhanced India-U.S. partnership in education. Each government pledged five million dollars for this endeavor, for a total of $10 million.

To implement this initiative, the Governments of India and the United States established a bi-national Obama-Singh Initiative joint working group (JWG).

The JWG provides the final approval for all grants awarded through the Obama-Singh Initiative. The JWG will allocate the $10 million over the course of a five-year period awarding 8-10 university partnership grants annually. Grants to universities will be approximately $250,000 for activities to take place over a maximum of 36 months.

This year, the thematic areas stipulated for proposal consideration included: Agricultural Sciences and Food Security; Energy; Sustainable Development; Climate Change; Environmental Studies; Education and Educational Reform; Public Health; Community Development and Innovation.

---

**THE WINNERS**

**INDIAN-LED PARTNERSHIPS**

**MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY**

Project Title: An Interdisciplinary and Community Oriented Approach toward Sustainable Development

Partner Institutions: Brown University, Duke University and Plymouth State University

**BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY**

Project Title: Paradigm Shift in Energy Scenario for the 21st Century toward Renewable Energy Sources required for both India and the U.S.

Partner Institution: University of Pittsburgh

**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, KANPUR**

Project Title: International Program for Sustainable Infrastructure Development

Partner Institution: Virginia Tech University

**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, DELHI**

Project Title: Resource Building for Ecosystem and Human Health Risk Assessment with Special reference to Microbial Contamination

Partner Institution: Drexel University

**US-LED PARTNERSHIPS**

**RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY**

Project Title: Capitalizing on the Demographic Dividend: Enhancing Talent Development Capacity for India and the U.S. in the 21st Century

Partner Institution: Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

**UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA**

Project Title: Impacts of Climate Change and Changes in Socio-Economic Structure on Traditional Agriculture and the Development of Sustainable Communities among Indigenous Populations

Partner Institution: Bangalore University

**CORNELL UNIVERSITY**

Project Title: Implementing Reformed Curriculum in Emerging areas of Agriculture & Food Security in Two State Agricultural Universities of India

Partner Institutions: University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture and Technology, Meerut

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**

Project Title: The Joint Development of a Master’s Degree in Education for Health Professions Faculty in the United States and India

Partner Institution: Maharashtra University of the Health Sciences
ON THE SIDELINES ///

CHILD SURVIVAL: CALL TO ACTION

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Ghulam Nabi Azad speaking at the ‘Child Survival: Call to Action’ event at Georgetown University on June 14.

Secretary Hillary Clinton addressing the gathering at the event.

Rajiv Shah, Administrator, USAID, speaking on the occasion.
Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Women and Child Development Smt. Krishna Tirath speaking at Child Survival: Call to Action event.

Minister Krishna Tirath at the UNICEF Breakfast Roundtable Meeting on June 15.

(Photos: Bala Chandran)
...India’s expanding GDP, thriving private sector, emerging consumer class, and increasing diplomatic clout have all combined to make it a global power with a big stake in maintaining international security and prosperity. As a result, we find ourselves sharing more than just common values and political systems — we also increasingly share common interests in an open, free, fair, and transparent global economic system; peace and prosperity in South Asia and the Asia-Pacific; and a coordinated international response to violent extremism and other shared global challenges.

A bipartisan commitment across successive American and Indian administrations has driven a steady improvement in relations, marked by high-profile visits like the one my husband took to India in 2000 and achievements such as President Bush’s landmark civilian nuclear cooperation agreement. Today, under President Obama and Prime Minister Singh’s leadership, we are continuing those efforts. There is less need for dramatic breakthroughs and more need for steady, focused cooperation. So together, we are building a mature partnership defined by near-constant consultation aimed at working through our differences and advancing the interests and values we share. This kind of daily collaboration isn’t always glamorous, but it is strategically significant — and a long way from the old days of the Cold War.

Let’s look at three examples of how this works.

First, on the economic front. Two decades after it began to open its economy, India’s industries and innovators have gone global, investing and trading all over the world. Like American businesses, they have come to see that further growth depends on open markets, transparent regulations, and fair mechanisms to settle disputes. And while people in both India and America have important and sometimes conflicting concerns about market access and the effects of globalization, the benefits of growing economic ties are clear: bilateral trade and investment has reached $100 billion a year, creating jobs and opportunities for Americans and Indians alike.

Second, on Asia. For years, Pakistan and South Asia were a chief focus of India’s strategic thinkers. Today, India is also looking east, and playing a larger role in the broader Asia-Pacific. Both India and the United States recognize the strategic and economic significance of the waterways that connect the Indian Ocean through to the Pacific, and the necessity of protecting freedom of navigation. So we are working together and through multilateral institutions such as the East Asia Summit to build a regional architecture that will boost economic growth, settle disputes peacefully, and uphold universal rights and norms.

Third, on global challenges like terrorism, climate change, human rights, and nuclear proliferation. Both India and the United States have been targeted by violent extremists, and we understand that defeating terrorist networks takes international coordination and a comprehensive approach that goes after recruiters, safe havens, and finances. We also both know that addressing cross-cutting challenges like climate change will require developed and developing countries alike to work together. Even on issues where we have at times disagreed, like human rights in Burma or sanctions on Iran, you can see our new habits of cooperation paying off.

These are just three of the most significant areas in which the strategic fundamentals of our relationship are redefining the U.S.-India partnership. On issue after issue, we find that India’s interests and America’s interests are lining up.

The effectiveness of this partnership will hinge on our ability together to convert common interests into common action.

— By U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for India Abroad
India’s strengthening partnership with the U.S.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton once famously compared the strong ties between U.S. and India to an “affair of the heart.” In the last fortnight, during the annual strategic dialogue between our countries, that affection was manifest.

After extremely productive meetings co-chaired by Secretary Clinton and India’s External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna, the two countries announced several important advancements in their strategic partnership. These include enhanced cooperation on many fronts, including in health and education for sustainable development, in the effort to bolster energy security and in the quest to improve business-to-business relations between our two nations.

In the recent past, some American experts have expressed doubts about how collaborative India would be, especially on the issue of nuclear power. But in the last fortnight, those doubts were allayed when Westinghouse announced a preliminary agreement with the Nuclear Power Corporation of India on setting up a nuclear power project to generate electricity, in Gujarat State.

Secretary Clinton hailed the accord as “a significant step toward the fulfillment” of the landmark 2008 nuclear agreement between the U.S. and India. We agree, and would add that there was a lot more progress to highlight in other realms, too. Minister Krishna emphasized that the U.S. and India will continue to make progress and work in tandem on many issues especially in trade and business. On trade, the two leaders announced that they would work toward completing a bilateral treaty that would boost investment and trade between the U.S. and India. Cooperation on defense-related matters, maritime and Internet security, counter terrorism and trade would also be taken forward.

Another major area of common purpose concerned Afghanistan. Mrs. Clinton publicly thanked India for its steady contributions — totaling $2 billion since 2001 — for the welfare and development of the Afghan people.

The U.S. and India have been working separately to find ways to ensure Afghanistan’s long-term peace and stability. Today, the path is open for closer coordination as India and the U.S. now plan to work together — along with Afghanistan — to promote improvements in Afghan farming, mining, energy and infrastructure.

This new, trilateral effort is yet another demonstration of the like-mindedness of the U.S. and India on security issues and their joint determination to do even more to prevent the spread of worldwide terrorism.

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna acknowledged broad collaboration on a range of bilateral climate change related programs, including those aimed at addressing adaptation to climate change, sustainable management of forests including reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, the U.S.-India task force on hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and our respective domestic research programs in the area of black carbon.

In particular, they agreed that their governments would regularly consult about the future of oil and natural gas markets and try to expand sustainable energy sources.

These endeavors would include, but would not be limited to, collaborating on research on renewable energy sources and increasing U.S. exports of clean energy technology to India. The goal: Finding ways to ensure access to reliable and affordable energy supplies.

In particular, India was pleased with the prospects of cooperation to learn best practices for environmental protection and better regulation of natural gas exploration and extraction from the State Department’s Unconventional Gas Technical Engagement Program. We see natural gas as an important bridge to a cleaner fuel future, especially as India prepares next year to begin shale gas exploration.

The U.S. and India clearly have more in common than a love of democracy. We also share economic, diplomatic and security goals. These many mutual interests have brought our nations — and our peoples — closer than ever.

— By Ambassador Nirupama Rao for The Hill
**KRISHNA, CLINTON WELCOME ‘TANGIBLE PROGRESS’ ON NUCLEAR COOPERATION**

External Affairs Minister S M Krishna has told US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton that Washington’s chairmanship of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) would give a “final impetus” to New Delhi’s membership, sources have told The Indian Express.

Krishna welcomed the “tangible progress” in civil nuclear energy cooperation with the signing of the MoU between Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd and US nuclear firm Westinghouse.

Emphasizing “stronger and more effective” cooperation in counter-terrorism and related issues as an important aspect of the strategic partnership, Krishna said, “India’s interest in further access to Headley and Rana... was raised.”

Clinton pushed for FDI in retail, saying, “We look forward to working to advance negotiations on the Bilateral Investment Treaty, to further reduce barriers to trade and investment in areas like multi-brand retail, and to create hospitable environments for each of our companies to do business in the other’s country.”

— By Shubhajit Roy for The Indian Express

**US, INDIA DISCUSS WAYS TO ENHANCE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP**

The U.S. and India agreed on June 13 that there is room for growth in their economic relationship, which has been hampered by the slow pace of reform in New Delhi.

The two countries need to advance negotiations on a bilateral investment treaty, reduce barriers to trade and investment, and create a more hospitable environment for companies to do business, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said.

Mrs. Clinton and Indian External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna chaired the third U.S.-India strategic dialogue at the State Department.

Mr. Krishna said he was “conscious of the fact that there is a degree of skepticism about economic content” of the U.S.-India relationship. He promised foreign investors a level playing field and transparency.

India plans to invest more than $1 trillion on infrastructure in the next five years, which will provide opportunities for U.S. companies, he added.

Trade between India and the U.S. is on track to reach a high of $100 billion this year, but U.S. exchanges with the South Asian nation are declining as a percentage of India’s overall trade.

The U.S. and India are in talks to finalize a bilateral investment treaty that would accelerate investment flows, create jobs and generate growth.

On June 12, Westinghouse Electric Co. signed a memorandum of understanding with the Nuclear Power Co. of India Ltd. that would pave the way for construction of nuclear power plants in India’s western state of Gujarat.

— By Ashish Kumar Sen for The Washington Times

**SIBAL, PITRODA PITCH FOR INDIAN EDUCATION AND GROWTH**

During his last tour of Washington it was all about community colleges and vocational education but on the eve of the first-ever India-U.S. Higher Education Dialogue on June 12, the buzzword of choice for Kapil Sibal, the Minister for Human Resource Development and Communications and IT, was “meta-universities.”

A constant theme that Mr. Sibal and his colleague, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh’s Adviser Sam Pitroda, alluded to was the need for “frugal innovation” that could provide low-cost solutions to benefit those at the bottom of the pyramid in India. High on the list of such innovations was the option to develop universities based in cyberspace, Mr. Sibal argued, as it was not feasible to develop U.S.-style graduate colleges that charged $120,000 or more per year.

This initiative could lead to multiple universities coming together in cyberspace to grant a single degree, saving students enormous costs by substituting physical attendance on college premises with distance learning via the Internet.

— By Narayan Lakshman for The Hindu
US, India see progress on nuclear cooperation

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton welcomed progress in U.S. efforts to invest in India's civilian nuclear power industry but said more action is needed to translate improving ties into economic benefits.

The two governments held their annual strategic dialogue in Washington on June 13, seeking to boost relations that have blossomed in recent years but have yet to meet U.S. hopes for greater market access for American companies.

"It's not enough just to talk about cooperation on issues ranging from civil nuclear energy, attracting U.S. investment to India or defending human rights or promoting women's empowerment," Clinton said, alongside India's foreign minister, S.M. Krishna.

"We have to follow through so that our people, citizens of two, great pluralistic democracies, can see and feel the benefits," she said.

Krishna said India plans to invest $1 trillion in infrastructure development over the coming five years, offering enormous business opportunities for U.S. companies. He offered assurances to prospective investors that there will be "a level playing field and total transparency."

Two years ago, President Barack Obama declared that the U.S.-India relationship would be a defining partnership of the 21st century. Security cooperation and defense sales have grown rapidly, and Washington looks to New Delhi as a partner in the economic development of Afghanistan. But some analysts say the relationship is being oversold.

Clinton said two-way trade and investment has grown 40 percent since 2009 and is set to exceed $100 billion this year, but there is "a lot of room for further growth." The two sides agreed on June 13 to expedite negotiations on a bilateral investment treaty to reduce barriers.

Clinton welcomed the signing, announced on June 13, of an agreement between Westinghouse Electric Co. and the Nuclear Power Company of India Ltd. allowing preliminary site development for future construction of nuclear power plants in western India.

Clinton said it was a significant step toward the fulfillment of a 2008 India-U.S. civil nuclear agreement. That landmark pact, negotiating by the administration of President George W. Bush, allowed India access to technology from international suppliers it had been denied since it conducted its first nuclear test explosion in 1974.

Krishna said it should "put at rest" confusion surrounding the agreement.

"I'm glad that nuclear commerce is now beginning to expand itself," he said at a news conference, expressing hopes that more Indian and U.S. companies would become involved in the months ahead.

Clinton said she looked forward to additional deals with other American companies, including General Electric. But she said there was still a lot of work to be done to address the implications of Indian nuclear liability legislation that effectively has blocked U.S. suppliers from capitalizing on the agreement.

Scott Shaw, a spokesman for Westinghouse, said by email those issues will need to be addressed before signing any final agreements for the project in India's Gu state.

Another area of intense commercial interest to the U.S. is India's defense sector, with sales exceeding $8 billion in the past five years, reflecting growing ties between the two militaries. Clinton said the U.S. was convinced that in the future, it can conduct with India joint research, development and co-production of defense systems.

Associated Press, Washington

p.50-51
ON COURSE...
1. Ambassador Nirupama Rao addressing the guests at a reception hosted for high-level dignitaries on June 12.
2. EAM S.M. Krishna, HRD Minister Kapil Sibal and Advisor to the Prime Minister Sam Pitroda at the reception hosted by Ambassador Rao.
3. Ambassador Rao with EAM Krishna at the event.
5. Ambassador Rao with U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius at the event.
6. Dancer Chitra Kalyandurg, tenor Francois-Olivier Jean and pianist Jeffery Watson performing an excerpt from Felicien David’s “Lalla Roukh” on the occasion.
7. Ambassador Rao with a guest at the reception hosted for the dignitaries.
8. Ambassador Nirupama Rao with Ambassador Nancy Powell at the event.
10. Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of India Montek Singh Ahluwalia with Minister Ashwani Kumar and Minister Azad at the reception.

(Photos: Bala Chandran)
11. Attendees at the Child Survival: Call to Action event at Georgetown University on June 14.
12. Minister Krishna Tirath with a delegate at the Child Survival: Call for Action event.
14. Sam Pitroda (center) and Robert Blake (right) with delegates at the Joint Announcement of Third Country Open Government Platform Partnerships on June 11.
15. Minister Kapil Sibal during a luncheon session with industrialists at the 37th CII-USIBC Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., on June 11.
(Photos: Bala Chandran)
17. Robert Blake and Tara D. Sonenshine (left) with one of the attendees at the event.
18. Ambassador Nirupama Rao addressing the gathering at the second Joint Commission Meeting on Science and Technology Cooperation on June 11.
19. Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh at the event.
20. A section of the audience on the occasion. (Photos: Bala Chandran)
The Dialogue continues...

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