

International Exchange and Cooperation

The Department works as the nodal point in respect of matters relating to international cooperation in the field of Public Administration and Governance, which include organizing programmes and visits of the foreign delegation to India and visits of Indian delegation abroad as part of projects / bilateral measures taken up in accordance with the Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) / Agreements signed between India and other countries (bilateral or multilateral).

The purpose of the international cooperation component is to enable sharing of information, best practice and movement of personnel across national government in areas of Public Administration and Governance Reforms. As part of its international collaborative efforts, DARPG has signed MoUs on cooperation in the field of Public Administration and Governance Reforms with China, Malaysia, Singapore, United Kingdom, France, Portugal, Australia and IBSA – India Brazil and South Africa (Trilateral). The MoUs signed with China, Malaysia, France are under renewal.

Cooperation with International Institute of Administrative Sciences

The Department is an institutional member of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS) since 1998. IIAS with its headquarters at Brussels, Belgium, was established for the purpose of promoting the development of Administrative Sciences, better organization and operation of public administrative agencies, improvement of administrative matters and techniques and for the progress of International Administration. Additional Secretary (DARPG) is on the Council of Administration (CoA) and Finance Committee of IIAS. India's participation in IIAS ensures its advocacy and influence on public administration at global, regional and national levels. IIAS events have offered an opportunity to network and develop meaningful connections with professionals, practitioners and peers throughout the world. Membership of IIAS enables the GoI in getting information on the latest developments in the field of public administration through participation the international meetings and seminars organised by the IIAS as well as through various journals.

Brief on engagement under the MoUs

A. India-Portugal Cooperation

Department has signed an MoU with Ministry of the Presidency and of Administrative Modernization, Government of Portuguese Republic on cooperation in the field of Public Administration and Governance Reforms in June, 2017. The areas of co-

operation under this MoU include Digital transformation of Government, Administrative simplification and process re-engineering, Public Service Delivery, Building and developing staff capability, sharing good governance practices in public administration and Public Grievance Redress Mechanism.

In pursuance of the MoU, a four member Indian delegation led by Secretary (DARPG) visited Lisbon, Portugal on 8-9 May, 2018 to attend a first Senior Consultative Body meeting held under the Memorandum of Understanding signed with Government of Portugal. During the meeting both sides discussed initiatives and approaches for Digital Government, Administrative Simplification & Public Service Delivery and Public Grievance Redress Mechanism.

The second meeting of the Senior Consultative Body will be held in New Delhi after mutual convenience of both sides.

B. India – United Kingdom Cooperation

DARPG signed an MoU with the Cabinet Office, Her Majesty's Government of the United Kingdom (HMG) for cooperation in Public Administration and Governance Reforms in November, 2015. The areas of co-operation under this MoU are (i) sharing good governance practices in public administration, (ii) user led service design, (iii) reducing bureaucracy in service delivery, (iv) government process re-engineering, (v) building and developing staff capability, (vi) public grievance redress mechanism, (vii) local government reforms, (viii) reforms towards strengthening of social security, (ix) collaboration in strategies for promotion of ethics in Government, (x) collaboration between Government and industry on staff management., (xi) mechanisms for public engagement, (xii) crisis and disaster management and (xiii) digital transformation of government.

India-UK First Joint Working Group meeting under the MoU was held in London, UK in January, 2016. During the meeting both sides shared their best practices in the area of public administration, governance reforms and online delivery of citizen-centric services and explored the possibilities of adopting suitable best practices in these areas. Subsequently, a four member delegation from the Govt. of United Kingdom led by UK's Chief Technology Officer [Mr. Andy Beale, CTO Government Digital Service (GDS)] visited India during in September, 2016. The delegation held meetings with Senior officers various Ministries/Departments of Government of India and discussed and shared best practices in e-governance, citizen-centric online delivery of services, good governance practices in public administration, user led service design, Government Process Re-engineering etc.

The second meeting of the India UK Joint Working Group will be held in New Delhi on dates which are mutual convenient to both sides.

C. India - France Cooperation

DARPG signed a Partnership Agreement with Ministry for Devolution and Civil Service of the Government of France on 'Public Administration and Administrative Reforms' in January, 2016

The main objectives of the Partnership Agreement are to strengthen and promote bilateral cooperation between the two countries in public administration and governance. The areas of co-operation under this Partnership Agreement include, cooperation in the field of civil services, human resource management, public administration and administrative reforms for mutual benefit of the official and institutional level, in such areas as the Parties agree upon.

The first meeting of the India-France Joint Working Group, under the Partnership Agreement, was held in June, 2016 wherein both sides exchanged/shared views in the area of public administration, governance reforms and online delivery of citizen-centric services and explored the possibilities of adopting suitable best practices in these areas.

As the MoU with France expired in January, 2019, it is being renewed.

D. India-Malaysia Cooperation

An MoU on cooperation in the field of Public Administration and Governance was signed by DARPG in November, 2013. The areas of cooperation under the MoU in the field of Public Administration and Governance are - (i) human resources management, (ii) improved systems of public service delivery, (iii) e-governance, (iv) accountability and transparency, (v) capacity building and skills up-grading, (vi) quality of outcome, (vii) governance reforms of both countries, and (viii) any other areas of co-operation in the field of Public Administration and Governance to be jointly decided by the Participants.

So far 3 meetings of India- Malaysia Joint Working Group have been held under the MoU. The 3rd meeting of the India-Malaysia Joint Working Group on Public Administration and Governance was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in September, 2015 to carry forward the implementation of MoU signed between the two countries. In furtherance to the Programme of Action agreed during Joint Working Group Meeting (a) 15 officers of Government of India / States and UTs including recipients of Prime Minister's Award (Category I - Excellence in Implementing a Priority Programme) attended the training programme at National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. in July, 2016; and (b) Ministry of Skill Development nominated 2 officers for ASEAN Skill Competition (ASC) 2016 held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in September, 2016. Both the training programmes were funded by Government of Malaysia.

MoU with the Government of Malaysia expired on 24th November, 2018. The MoU is under renewal.

E. India – China Cooperation

MOU on cooperation in the field of Civil Services, Personnel Management and Public Administration between Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Government of India and the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security of the People's Republic of China was signed by DARPG in May, 2010 during the visit of President of India to China. The areas of cooperation under the MOU are - (i) capacity building and skills up gradation, (ii) improved systems of public service delivery, (iii) human resources development – civil services, (iv) human resources management in public sector, and (v) public sector reforms. It has since held four India-China Joint Working Group meetings, the last bilateral meeting was held in November 2013.

MOU with Government of China, which lapsed in May, 2015, is under renewal

F. India – Singapore Cooperation

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on cooperation in the field of Personnel Management and Public Administration between Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Government of India and Public Service Division, Prime Minister's Office was signed in November, 2011. The areas of cooperation under the MoU are (i) Workforce, Workplace and Jobs, (ii) Public Service Delivery, (iii) Human Resource Management, (iv) Public Sector Reform, (v) Leadership/Talent Development; and (vi) E-Governance/Digital Government.

Two Joint Working Group meetings between the two countries under the MoU have been held so far. The last one was held in January, 2015 in Singapore. Under the aegis of MOU and Programme of Action (POA) agreed between the two sides during the India Singapore 2nd Joint Working Group meeting, a 4-day training programme for a Group comprising 25 officers of Government of India and States/UTs including PM/National e-Governance Award winners was organized on the theme e-governance in Civil Services College, Singapore in July, 2016

The MoU with Singapore expired in November, 2016. Department has signed/renewed the MoU on 1st June, 2018 with the Public Service Division of the Republic of Singapore on 'Cooperation in the field of Personnel Management and Public Administration. The joint meeting will be held in New Delhi on mutual convenient dates.

G. India Australia Cooperation

DARPG signed an MoU with the Australian Public Service Commission of the Government of Australia on Co-operation in the field of Public Administration and Governance Reforms during the India-Australia Virtual Summit held on 4th June, 2020. The areas of cooperation under the MoU include (a) Promoting transparency and accountability in delivery of public services; (b) Building effective service delivery in the public service; (c) Recruitment and promotion in the public service; (d) Training and capacity building of the public service; and (e) Public Sector Management and Reform. Preliminary discussions are underway to implement the MoU.

H. India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Forums

An MoU on cooperation in the field of Public Administration and Governance was signed in October, 2007 in South Africa during the 2nd IBSA Summit. The areas of cooperation under the MoU are (i) integrated monitoring and evaluation, (ii) e-governance, (iii) human resource development, (iv) citizen oriented service delivery, (v) anti-corruption and ethics, and (vi) accountability and transparency.

The 7th WGPA meeting was held in New Delhi in March, 2011, where the Working Group decided a way forward in terms of an Action Plan for implementing the MOU in identified areas of interest.

As India is keen to engage with IBSA Forum, it has already proposed to hold the next meeting of the WGPA to carry forward IBSA dialogue and cooperation in the identified areas of mutual interest.