



**Embassy of India
Bangkok**

PRESS RELEASE

**Mr. Kamal Nath, Commerce & Industry Minister of India,
addresses United Nations ESCAP**

Commerce & Industry Minister of India, Mr. Kamal Nath addressed a meeting of 53 countries of Asia – Pacific region at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok on Monday 27th April, 2009.

Participating in the 65th Session of the ESCAP, Mr. Nath called for concerted and coordinated efforts by the countries of the region to effectively tackle on triple crises – food, fuel and financial. He stressed that the region's poor must be provided support safety nets and social protection systems. Referring to the theme topic of the Session – “Towards sustainable agriculture and food security in the Asia and the Pacific”, he mentioned the National Food Security Mission of India, which aims to increase the production of rice by 10 million tones, wheat by 8 million tones and pulses by 2 million tones on a sustainable basis by March 2012.

The Minister also brought out the link between the international movement of agricultural commodities and the livelihood of people in developing countries. He stated that farm subsidies provided by developed countries in the West have distorted global production and trade of food. He hoped that the Doha Round of trade negotiations at the World Trade Organization (WTO) would be able to correct the fundamental structural flaws in global agricultural trade perpetuated through farm support by developed countries and that the livelihoods of the people in developing countries would be protected.

While at UN ESCAP, Mr. Nath also paid floral tributes to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi, installed at the UN Conference Centre. Ms. Noleen Heyzer, Executive Secretary of the UNESCAP and H.E. Ms. Latha Reddy, Ambassador of India was also present on the occasion.

Later in the day, Mr. Nath held bilateral meetings with Ms. Pornhtiva Nakasai, Thailand Minister for Commerce, Mr. Chanchai Chairungruang, Thailand Minister for Industry and Mr. Suwit Khunkitti, Thailand Minister for Natural Resources and Environment.

Place: Bangkok

Dated: 27th April, 2009