

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

**FINANCE MINISTER PRANAB MUKHERJEE AND UK SECRETARY OF
STATE FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ANDREW MITCHELL
HOLDS TELEPHONIC DISCUSSION; BOTH LEADERS EXPRESS
SATISFACTION WITH PROGRESS OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
ACTIVITIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES**

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The Union Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee had a telephonic conversation with Mr. Andrew Mitchell, Secretary of State for International Development of UK today. Both the leaders discussed the recent media reports in UK regarding the India-UK Development Cooperation Partnership. India and UK had mutually agreed in July, 2011 to continue the Bilateral Development Cooperation Programme in India till 2014-15. The same was also mentioned in the Joint Press Statement released after the visit of the Indian Finance Minister Shri Mukherjee to UK in July, 2011 and reiterated in the Joint Press Statement issued during the visit of Secretary of State, Mr. Andrew Mitchell to India on December 16, 2011.

The Finance Minister Shri Mukherjee stated that India and UK share historical ties and have warm and friendly relations. The relationship between the two countries has been strengthened further by the Indo-UK Bilateral Development Cooperation Programme which is mutually beneficial to the two countries. The two Ministers expressed satisfaction with the progress of developmental cooperation activities and also appreciated the recently introduced component of Private Sector Development initiatives through Government Sponsored Institutions.

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