

**Ministry of External Affairs  
Policy Planning and Research Division**

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**Overview of Major Achievements during the month of February 2023**

**High-Level Diplomatic Engagements/Interactions:**

1. Hon'ble President met with the Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia and her delegation on February 2; the incoming Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Singapore on February 3; the Speaker of the National Assembly of Bhutan and her delegation on February 7; the Vice President of Guyana on February 24; the German Chancellor on February 25; and the Crown Prince and Princess of Denmark on February 28. Hon'ble President also delivered the keynote address at the Global Summit of Women 2023 held in Abu Dhabi, UAE in a virtual format on February 21.
2. Vice President met Parliamentary Delegations from Zambia and Bhutan on February 2 and 6, respectively; the Vice President of Guyana on February 23; and the Crown Prince and Princess of Denmark on February 27.
3. On February 25, Prime Minister had a bilateral meeting with the German Chancellor who was on a two-day state visit to India. The leaders also met the top CEOs of the two countries and discussed ways to strengthen economic relations between India and Germany.
4. On February 14, Prime Minister participated in a video call with the President of France and representatives from Tata Sons, Air India and Airbus on the occasion of the launch of a partnership between Air India and Airbus.
5. On February 21, Prime Minister along with the Prime Minister of Singapore participated in the virtual launch of real-time payment linkage between the UPI of India and PayNow of Singapore. Singapore is the first country with which a cross-border Person-to-Person UPI payment facility has been launched.
6. Prime Minister interacted with the US Congressional delegation led by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer in New Delhi on February 20.
7. In February, Prime Minister held telephone conversations with the Prime Minister of Israel (February 8); the President of the USA (February 14), and the Prime Minister of Spain (February 15).
8. PM met the Presidents of Asian Development Bank Mr. Masatsugu Asakawa on 21 February 2023 and World Bank Group Mr. David Malpaas, met Hon'ble PM on 22 February 2023 in New Delhi.



### **EAM's engagements:**

9. EAM led the Indian delegation at the 12th World Hindi Conference, organised in collaboration with the Government of Fiji and held in Nadi, Fiji from February 15-17. In Fiji, EAM called on the President and Prime Minister of Fiji and met the senior members of the Fijian cabinet. EAM also launched the Government of India-funded project for the Solarisation of the Pacific Heads of State Residence at the State House in Suva and inaugurated the renovated Girmit Gallery in Fiji Museum also supported by the Government of India.
10. EAM paid an official visit to Australia on February 18. In Australia, EAM called on the Australian Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, and Deputy Prime Minister & Defence Minister. He also delivered a keynote address at the inaugural Raisina@Sydney conference and participated in a panel discussion with the Australian Minister for Climate Change and Energy.
11. On the side lines of the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, EAM held bilateral meetings with counterparts from Brazil, Türkiye, Mauritius, Denmark and the Czech Republic.
12. EAM met with the Foreign Ministers of France and UAE on February 4; co-chaired the India-Canada Strategic Dialogue along with the Canadian Foreign Minister during the latter's visit to India on February 6; the Foreign Minister of New Zealand on February 7; and the Foreign Minister of El Salvador on February 10.
13. EAM met the Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia and her delegation on February 2; the Commander of the Royal Cambodian Army on February 3; Argentina's Minister of S&T and Innovation on February 6; the Speaker of the National Assembly of Bhutan and his delegation on February 7; the DPM of Fiji on February 8; the; DPM of Mauritius on February 10; Foreign and Security Policy Advisor to German Chancellor on February 13; US senator Chuck Schumer and his Congressional delegation on February 20; Governor of Delaware State, USA on February 21; Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology of UAE on February 22; called on the Vice President of Guyana on February 21 and met the Crown Prince and Princess of Denmark on February 27.
14. EAM's other engagements included his address at the valedictory session of the international conference: '*Connected Histories, Shared Present*' at India International Centre on February 22; his inaugural address at the Asia Economic Dialogue in Pune on February 23; remarks at Symbiosis International, Pune on February 23; address at the '*Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadi Pariyojana*'(PMBJP) programme on February 24, which saw the participation from Heads of Missions from 91 partner countries; and remarks at the India-EU Business and Sustainability Conclave on



February 28. On February 28, EAM also addressed the High-level segment of the 52nd Session of the Human Rights Council through a video message.

15. On February 7, EAM received a telephone call from UK Foreign Secretary and also held a call with his Syrian counterpart to express solidarity and India's support in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake.

16. **MOS(VM)'s engagements:**

MoS (VM) paid official visits to Sri Lanka, Australia, Singapore and Fiji in February. He visited Sri Lanka from February 3-4 to participate in the country's 75th Independence Day Celebrations. MoS (VM) held separate bilateral interactions with Sri Lanka's President and Foreign Minister, and the Foreign Minister of Nepal during the visit. He also interacted with the Indian diaspora. MoS (VM) visited Australia and Singapore from February 18-21, where he met with Ministers and members of the Indian community. The visits were in continuation of his visit to Nadi, Fiji to attend the 12th World Hindi Conference along with EAM. His other engagements included his virtual discussion with Benin's Foreign and Finance Ministers on February 6; his meeting with the 50-member Ethiopian parliamentary delegation on February 22; and with Zimbabwe's Minister for Energy and Power Development on February 22. MoS (VM) visited the Embassies of Turkey and Syria, in New Delhi, on February 6 and 7, respectively, and extended condolences for the devastation caused by the earthquake.

17. **MOS (ML) engagements:**

MoS (ML) met the Foreign Minister of El Salvador and DG for South Political Affairs of the Slovak Foreign Ministry on February 9; Kazakhstan's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs on February 13; Serbia's Assistant Minister for Bilateral Relations on February 3; and interacted with the Victorian Parliamentary Delegation from Australia visiting India on February 16.

18. **MOS (RRS)'s engagements:**

MoS (RRS), along with EAM, met the Foreign Minister of New Zealand on February 7 and Fiji's Deputy Prime Minister in New Delhi on February 8. His other engagements included his remarks at an event on *India-Japan: Connectivity & Development in North East India* on February 3; his interaction with Japan's Wakayama Prefecture delegation on February 6; his address at the launch of Gyan Setu App, which will facilitate the disbursement of ICCR Scholarships to 6000+ foreign students on February



6; and his address at the Valedictory Session of the 4th ASEAN-India Youth Summit on February 14.

### **FS's engagements**

19. FS visited France on February 6 to co-chair the Foreign Office Consultations with the Secretary-General of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. In France, FS participated in the Focal Points' Meeting of the India-France-UAE Trilateral Dialogue. FS also called on the French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs and held meetings with other French dignitaries and officials.

20. FS participated in the final Covid Global Action Plan Foreign Ministerial Meeting hosted by US Secretary of State, Mr. Antony Blinken on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

21. FS also visited Nepal (February 13-14) and Bangladesh (February 15-16). In Nepal, FS called on the President, the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister and held discussions with the Foreign Secretary of Nepal on the entire range of multifaceted cooperation between India and Nepal. In Bangladesh, FS called on the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. FS also held Foreign Office Consultations with his counterpart.

22. On February 8, FS participated in the Covid Global Action Plan Foreign Ministerial meeting hosted by the US Secretary of State.

### **Other engagements:**

23. Secretary (East) interacted with the ASEAN media delegation which was on a week-long familiarisation visit to India on February 11 and met the visiting Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs of Papua New Guinea in New Delhi on February 22.

24. Secretary (CPV & OIA) led the 2nd round of the India-Iraq Foreign Office Consultations held in Baghdad on February 20 and the 12th round of the India-Oman Strategic Consultative Group in Muscat on February 27. He also interacted with a 25-member delegation from the National Defence College of Oman in Delhi on February 1.

25. Secretary (ER) led the Indian delegation to the 1st BRICS Sherpas & Sous Sherpas Meeting held under South Africa's Chairmanship on 1-2 February. On February 17, Secretary (ER) met Former Attorney General Lord Peter Goldsmith of England, Wales & North Ireland. On February 22, Secretary (ER) participated in the inaugural I2U2 Business Forum in Abu Dhabi, UAE. Secretary (ER) chaired the 4th IBSA Sherpas Meeting held virtually on February 24.



26. Secretary (West) led the Indian delegation at the 8th India-Serbia Foreign Office Consultations; 6th India-Slovakia Foreign Office Consultations and 8th India-Kazakhstan Foreign Office Consultations in New Delhi on February 3, 10 and 13, respectively.

27. NSA visited Moscow from February 7-9 to participate in the 5th Multilateral Meeting of Secretaries of Security Councils/National Security Advisers on Afghanistan that was held on February 8. During his visit, NSA called on the President of Russia and met the Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Trade and Industry and the Secretary of the Russian Security Council.

#### 28. **International Solar Alliance**

Congo and Brazil's became full members of the International Solar Alliance in February.

#### 29. **BIMSTEC:**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee (BPWC) was held in Bangkok on 01-02 February 2023. The meeting finalized the Rules of Procedure for BIMSTEC's core mechanisms, sectoral mechanisms, and external relations and prepared various documents for the endorsement of Senior Officials.

#### 30. **BRICS**

The following meetings were held under BRICS:

1<sup>st</sup> BRICS Sherpas and Sous Sherpas Meeting 2023 (31 January - 3 February); 1<sup>st</sup> BRICS Finance & Central Bank Deputy Governors Meeting (3 February 2023); 1<sup>st</sup> BRICS Employment Working Group Meeting (21-24 February 2023); 1<sup>st</sup> BRICS Working Group on Anti - Corruption Meeting (28 February 2023); 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BRICS Science, Technology & Innovation (STI) Steering Committee (28 February 2023)

#### 31. **FATF plenary meeting**

FATF Plenary Meeting was held in Paris, France from 20-24 February 2023.

#### 32. **G20**

Under the aegis of G20, the following meeting took place in February- The 1<sup>st</sup> Sustainable Finance Working Group SFWG meeting was convened in Guwahati, Assam from 02-03 February 2023; the 1<sup>st</sup> G20 Employment Working Group (EWG) Meeting was convened during 02-04 February 2023



in Jodhpur, Rajasthan; 1st Energy Transitions Working Group (ETWG) Meeting meeting was held in Bengaluru, Karnataka from 5-7 February 2023; 1<sup>st</sup> Tourism Working Group (TWG) was held in Rann of Kutch, Gujarat from 7-10 February 2023; 1st Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG) Meeting took place from 13-15 February 2023 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh; and 1<sup>st</sup> Culture Working Group (CWG) meeting was held in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh from 22-25 February 2023.

### **33. I2U2 Business Forum:**

Secretary (ER) Shri Dammu Ravi, India's Sherpa for I2U2, participated in the Inaugural I2U2 Business Forum held in Abu Dhabi, UAE, on 22 February 2023 to discuss opportunities for cooperation between the business communities of I2U2.

### **34. IBSA**

Under IBSA, the following meeting were held: The 4th IBSA Sherpas Meeting was convened virtually on 24 February 2023; A meeting of IBSA Sous Sherpas was held on 2 February 2023 on the sidelines of the 1<sup>st</sup> BRICS Sherpas and Sous Sherpas Meeting in Limpopo, South Africa.

### **35. Indo-Pacific**

The following meetings took place: the 10th Meeting of ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers was held at Yogyakarta on 04-05 February 2023; The 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN-India Digital Ministers (ADGMIN+India) Meeting and the 3rd ASEAN-India Senior Officials' (ADGSOM+India) Meeting took place in Malay, Philippines on 10 February 2023; ASEAN-India Media Exchange Programme: 16 journalists from ASEAN Member States (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam) and one official from ASEAN Secretariat visited India from 09-15 February 2023; The 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN India Youth Summit (12-16 February 2023) held in Hyderabad on 12-16 February; ASEAN-India Online Training Course on 'Cyber Forensics' was conducted in virtual mode by ALTTC, Ghaziabad from 20-24 February 2023; ADMM Plus 18th EWG meeting on Maritime Security & ADMM Plus EWG on Maritime Security Table Top Exercise (TTX) were held on 20-23 & 21-24 February 2023 respectively in Bangkok, Thailand.

### **36. India-Egypt Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism**

India hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the India-Egypt Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism (JWG-CT) held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023 in New Delhi.



**37. India-Canada Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism (JWG-CT)**

India hosted the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the India-Canada Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism (JWG-CT) on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2023 in New Delhi.

**38. Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (RATS SCO) Council Meeting :**

The Group of Legal Experts (GLE) of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (RATS SCO) Council Meeting was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from 6-9 February 2023.

**Foreign Office Consultations (FOCs)**

**39. France:** India France FOCs were held on February 6 in Paris.

**40. Bangladesh:** India Bangladesh FOCs were held in Dhaka in February.

**41. UK:** India-UK Foreign Office Consultations [FOC] on United Nations and Commonwealth matters was held in New Delhi on February 2, 2023.

**42. Kazakhstan:** The 8<sup>th</sup> Foreign Office Consultations (FoC) between India and Kazakhstan was held in New Delhi on 13 February 2023.

**43. Serbia:** The 8<sup>th</sup> Foreign Office Consultations between India and Serbia were held on 03 February 2023 in New Delhi.

**44. Slovakia:** India and Slovakia held Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) in New Delhi on 10 February 2023

**Humanitarian Assistance:**

**45. Bhutan:**

A 40-bed Jigme Dorji Wangchuck Military Hospital in Dewathang was inaugurated by Finance Minister Lyonpo Namgay Tshering. The project received funding of Rs 49.4 Cr from India and will serve the south-eastern district of Samdrupjongkhar.

**46. Turkiye and Syria:**

Following the massive earthquake that struck Türkiye and Syria on February 6, India launched *Operation Dost* to provide necessary support in terms of search and rescue efforts as well as medical assistance.

Around 29 tons of emergency relief assistance has been delivered through two IAF aircraft to Damascus. The consignments include medicines for emergency use, fluids for hydration, protective gear, general use medicines



and medical equipment like ECG machine, patient monitor, power generators etc.

India also supplied earthquake relief to Turkiye: An army field hospital and NDRF team was deployed for search, rescue and relief, in addition to providing essential medicines and medical supplies,

47. **Lao PDR**

India supplied 50,000 Covovax Vaccines to Lao PDR as grant-in-aid.

48. **Nepal**

India handed over the college building of Madan Bhandari Memorial College, Kathmandu built with the Government of India's financial assistance, to the College Management Committee. The project was taken up as a High Impact Community Development Project at the total cost of NRs.28.64 million under 'The Nepal-India Development Cooperation'.

**MOUs**

49. **Norway:** Mr. Jan Christian Vestre, Minister of Trade and Industry of Norway, led a five-member official delegation. The India-Norway Task Force on Energy signed an MoU on 9 February 2023.

50. **Singapore:** On 10 February, Uttar Pradesh and Singapore signed an agreement for collaboration in multiple sectors, including urban development and skills training. Singapore was one of the partner countries, at the Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit 2023, held in Lucknow. At the summit, Enterprise Singapore – which was leading a business delegation of 21 companies with 58 delegates – oversaw the signing of 06 (six) MOUs and pledges between Singaporean companies and the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

51. **Bhutan:** An MoU between the National Assembly of Bhutan and the Lok Sabha of India was signed to strengthen parliamentary relations.

52. **Fiji:** A bilateral visa-waiver agreement for diplomatic and official passports was signed with Fiji in February.

53. **Philippines:** Agreement on Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of Quick Impact Project (QIP) was signed in February 2023. The Agreement provides an enabling framework for facilitating Indian grant assistance to implement small projects for socio-economic development in the Philippines.