

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

Overview of Major Achievements during the Month of November 2023

High-Level Diplomatic Engagements/Interactions:

1. His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the King of Bhutan paid an official visit to India from 03-10 November 2023. This was also his first official visit to the State of Assam and Maharashtra. During the visit, His Majesty met the Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister, Governor and Chief Ministers of Assam and Maharashtra, respectively and other senior officials of GoI.
2. US Secretary Blinken, and Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin, called on the Prime Minister.
3. 2nd Voice of Global South Summit on 17 November 2023: President of The Philippines, Prime Minister of Fiji, Deputy Prime Minister of Lao PD, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, Environment Minister of Kiribati, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lao PD, Foreign Minister of Timor-Leste.
4. Under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, a Virtual G20 Leaders' Summit was held on 22 November 2023. Leaders from all G20 member countries, including the African Union, guest/invitee countries and heads of international organisations participated in the Virtual Summit. The main objective of the Summit was to review and accelerate progress on the outcomes agreed upon during the New Delhi G20 Leaders' Summit held from 09-10 September 2023. The deliberations held during the Summit also factored in the discussions of the 2nd Voice of Global South Summit (17 November 2023) and the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting (12-13 October 2023), including inter alia, MDB (Multilateral Development Banks) Reforms, climate action, Digital Public Infrastructure and Women-led Development. In their interventions, several leaders delved into the recent development in Gaza. Prime Minister assured full support to Brazil's chairmanship of G20, including taking forward the work done during India's G20 Presidency.

EAM's engagements:

5. EAM's engagements for this month included- meetings with the Leader of Opposition of Australia, Peter Dutton; Australia's Minister for Defence Richard Marles; King of Bhutan, His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck; UAE's Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi; Secretary of State Antony Blinken; delivered remarks in the extraordinary meeting of BRICS on Gaza, held virtually on 21 November; and held a telephonic conversation with Israel's foreign minister.
6. Second India-Australia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 20 November. The Dialogue was led by Raksha Mantri and EAM Indian side; and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defense Richard Marles and Foreign Minister Penny Wong from Australian side. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to continue deepening defense and security engagement by

enhancing interoperability, cooperating on situational and domain awareness, intensifying maritime cooperation across the region, and exploring opportunities to grow connections on defense industrial cooperation. A Joint Statement was issued outlining the key areas of discussion and agreed outcomes of the meeting.

7. Fifth India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 10 November 2023. The delegations were co-led by Raksha Mantri and EAM, and the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and US Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III. The two sides reviewed the progress made in bilateral defense and security cooperation, technology domains and multilateral platforms, including Quad. A Joint Statement was issued on the conclusion of the Ministerial Dialogue.
8. 14th Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue was held on 21 November 2023 in New Delhi. EAM and Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong co-chaired the meeting and reviewed the bilateral ties including the progress made on different initiatives and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest. During a press conference held after the Dialogue, FM Wong confirmed that Australia will host the Indian Ocean Conference in Perth in February of next year. Both leaders also virtually addressed the 6th Australia-India Leadership Dialogue (AILD) on 23 November, in Melbourne.

MOS (RRS)'s engagements:

9. MoS (RRS) visited Malaysia from 30 November-02 December. During the visit, he inaugurated the Indian Workers Resource Center (IWRC) on 01 Dec 2023 at the High Commission of India, Kuala Lumpur. He also inaugurated the first Global Organisation for People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) International Business Summit & Expo on 01 December, followed by GOPIO International Business Excellence Awards ceremony on 02 December.

MOS (VM)'s engagements:

10. MoS (VM) visited Kenya from 22-23 November and called on the top leadership of the country. He also co-chaired an India-Kenya Business Meet organised in association with the Government of Kenya. MoS inaugurated an exhibition on the role of the Indian Soldiers in East Africa during World War I.
11. MoS (VM), during his visit to Tanzania from 20-21 November, called on the President of Zanzibar, Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi. He visited the IIT Madras Zanzibar campus with the Minister of Education & Vocational Training of Zanzibar, Lela Muhamed Mussa. He inaugurated the India-Tanzania Business Round Table in Dar-es-Salaam together with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Amb. Mbarouk Nassor Mbarouk, which was followed by a bilateral meeting on several issues of interest.

MOS (ML)'s engagements:

12. MoS (ML) paid official visits to the Republic of Bulgaria from 30 November – 01 December 2023. In Sofia, she was called on the Vice President of Bulgaria. She met with the Dy. Prime Minister & Foreign Minister and the Cultural Minister of Bulgaria. She also interacted with Indian students and the diaspora.
13. MoS (ML) paid official visits to Hungary from 28-29 November 2023. During her visit to Hungary, MoS addressed a conference at the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs. She met the Deputy Foreign Minister, Culture Minister, and other higher dignitaries in Budapest. She also visited the Indology Centre at ELTE University and interacted with students and the Indian diaspora.

Other engagements:

14. Australian Education Minister Jason Clare visited India from 05-07 November. During the visit, he held a bilateral meeting with Minister for Education and Skill Development on 06 November. The 1st Australia-India Education and Skill Council (AIESC) meeting was held at IIT Gandhinagar on 06 November. The meeting was jointly chaired by Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Australian Minister for Education Jason Clare.
15. The Minister of Rural Development and Food of Greece Mr. Eleftherios Avgenakis visited India from 03-05 November 2023 to participate in the 'World Food India (WFI) 2023'. During the visit, he also met Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of Food Processing Industries of India, and Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying of India. Issues related to developing partnerships in agri-food products between Greece and India were discussed.
16. Minister of Industry of Lebanon George Bouchikian visited India from 03-05 November 2023, for 'World Food India 2023'. On the sidelines of the event, he met Minister of Food Processing Industry, on 04 November 2023.
17. State Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, Andreas Motzfeldt Kravik, visited India from 22-25 November 2023. During the visit, he attended the CII India-Nordic-Baltic Business Conclave held in New Delhi on 22-23 November 2023 as a special guest and also participated in the India-Norway Joint Task Force on Blue Economy for Sustainable Development held on 23 November 2023. Mr. Kravik held bilateral meetings with the Minister of Commerce & Industry, and the Minister for Earth Sciences.
18. A 3-member delegation of the Foreign Affairs Committee of Switzerland's Council of States (Upper House) visited India from 27 November-01 December 2023. The delegation met the Minister of Commerce and Industry on 29 November 2023, and the Chairperson and Members of the External Affairs Committee of the Parliament of India, on 30 November 2023.
19. Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Electronics & IT held a pull-aside meeting with Australia's Minister for Industry and Science Ed Husic, on the margins of AI Safety Summit on 02 November at

Buckinghamshire, UK. Both Ministers discussed strengthening the ongoing collaboration on areas of emerging and critical technologies, semiconductor ecosystem and cybersecurity.

20. Minister of State for Jaw & Justice had a courtesy meeting with Nepal's Law Minister, Dhanraj Gurung, in New Delhi on 27 November. The meeting focused on further strengthening bilateral relations, including promoting legal and judicial cooperation between India and Nepal.
21. Minister of Commerce & Industry visited San Francisco, USA, from 13-17 November 2023 to attend the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework's (IPEF) Ministerial and Leaders Meeting (IPEF) and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Summit. At the IPEF Ministerial, CIM joined US and 12 other IPEF partners to sign the IPEF Supply Chain Resilience Agreement. He also participated in the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) – IPEF Investment Forum meeting and represented the Prime Minister at the APEC Leaders' meeting on 16 November 2023.
22. The US Space Agency, and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Administrator, Senator Bill Nelson, visited India from 27 November - 01 December 2023, to discuss the strengthening of India-US cooperation in the space sector. He met Minister of State for Science and Technology on 28 November 2023, and discussed India-US space and scientific research partnership, including the joint mission to the International Space Station (ISS) in 2024 for which the US will be training an Indian astronaut.
23. The 3rd India-Austria Consular Dialogue was held on 23 November 2023, in Vienna. The Indian side was headed by Joint Secretary [CPV] and the Austrian delegation was headed by Ambassador Dr. Georg Stillfried, Director General, Consular Affairs, MoFA, Austria.
24. The 15th India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 01 Nov. The Dialogue was co-chaired by Defence Secretary from the Indian side, and Permanent Secretary (Defence), Singapore, Chan Heng Kee.
25. The 6th meeting of the India-Norway Joint Task Force on Blue Economy for Sustainable Development was held in New Delhi on 23 November 2023, co-chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, and Minister-Counsellor, Martine Aamdal Bottheim, Embassy of Norway in New Delhi.

States Division facilitated the visit of dignitaries to various states in India:

26. Minister of International Development of Norway, Anne Beathe Tvinnereim, visited India from 14-17 November 2023. During the visit, she visited SAEL Industries Ltd in Punjab (a company pioneering in bioenergy development, and which has investments by the Norwegian Climate Investment Fund), the Lady Hardinge Medical College and Kalawati Saran Hospital in New Delhi. The Department of Global Health at Oslo University and Lady Hardinge Medical College and Kalawati Saran Hospital have a collaborative project for the exchange of nurses and doctors to share expertise and knowledge.
27. Gujarat Chief Minister met the UAE Minister for Investment and ADQ CEO Mohammed Al Suwaidi, in Gandhinagar, on 06 Nov 2023. Both sides discussed investment opportunities in food parks, renewable energy, offshore

and wind energy, retail market and power plant sectors in Gujarat. They also explored ways to develop the seafood industry in Veraval and Porbandar.

28. The US Space Agency, and NASA Administrator Senator Bill Nelson visited the ISRO headquarters in Bengaluru and NASA Administrator held talks with Chairman, ISRO/Secretary, Department of Space, and also visited the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) testing and integration facility at ISRO's UR Rao Satellite Centre, Bengaluru.
29. The Division facilitated the visit of Minister for Science, Culture and Tourism, Sebastian Gemkow, of the state of Saxony to Chennai from 26-29 November 2023.
30. Facilitated the visit of Alex Ellis CMG, British High Commissioner to India to Mumbai on 07-08 November 2023.

Foreign Office/Ministry Consultations

31. India and Lithuania held their 9th Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) on 21 November 2023, in New Delhi. The Indian side was led by the Secretary (West) and the Lithuanian side was led by Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, Egidijus Meilūnas. Both sides discussed the entire range of bilateral relations, including political, economic, commercial, people-to-people and cultural linkages, and exchanged views on regional and multilateral issues.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs)

32. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in Broadcasting between Prasar Bharti, India and Radio Televisyen Malaysia (RTM), Malaysia was signed in November 2023.
33. A MoU between the Government of India and the Government of Uganda for setting up of off-shore campus of the National Forensic Science University (NFSU) of India in Jinja, Uganda was signed by the EAM and Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs of Uganda on 12 April 2023.
34. The States' Division facilitated the signing of:
 - a. MoU between Delhi Board of School Education, Department of Education, Delhi and Fukuoka Prefectural Board of Education, Japan.
 - b. MoU between Fukuoka Institute of Technology and Delhi Board of School Education, Department of Education, Delhi.
 - c. MoU between Industries, Investment Promotion & Commerce Department Guidance Tamil Nadu and Commerce, Industries and Labor Bureau, Government of Hiroshima.
 - d. MoU between the State of Rajasthan and Australia India Water Centre (AIWC) to become the member of AIWC by conveying MEA's NoC.

Humanitarian Aid/Assistance

35. Afghanistan

11,770 kgs of essential medicines were sent to Afghanistan as a part of humanitarian assistance.

36. Nepal

An earthquake of magnitude 6.4 Richter Scale occurred in Nepal on 03 November, with its epicenter in Jajarkot District of Karnali Province. As a first responder, India provided about 35 tonnes of emergency relief materials for the earthquake affected families in Nepal through three special Indian Air Force flights and through land route. The support included tents and tarpaulin sheets, blankets and sleeping bags as well as vital medicines, and medical equipment such as surgical equipment, portable ventilators as well as hygiene supplies to meet the urgent requirements of the earthquake affected families.

37. Palestine

The Government of India released USD 2.5 million to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), as part of its annual contribution of USD 5 million for the year 2023-24. In response to the ongoing crisis in Gaza, India continued to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Palestine. The second tranche of India's contribution was sent on 19 November 2023. So far, India has contributed around 70 tonnes of humanitarian assistance, consisting of 16.5 tonnes of medical aid and 54 tonnes of disaster relief material.
