

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

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

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

1. The King of Cambodia visited India from May 29-31 on his maiden State Visit. The visit marked the culmination of the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Cambodia. He was welcomed by the Hon'ble President at Rashtrapati Bhavan and separately met the Vice President on May 30.
2. Vice President visited the UK on May 5-6 to attend the Coronation ceremony of King Charles III on behalf of the Government of India. In the UK, VP interacted with the Presidents of Israel and Brazil and various other leaders. He also interacted with Indian students from various leading Universities in the UK and other members of the Indian community.
3. Prime Minister paid official visits to Japan (May 19-21), Papua New Guinea (May 22) and Australia (May 23-24).
4. In Japan, Prime Minister participated in the G-7 Summit in Hiroshima. On the sidelines of the G-7 Summit, Prime Minister held interactions with the Prime Ministers of Japan, Vietnam, UK, Cook Islands; the Chancellor of Germany; Presidents of Indonesia, South Korea, France, Ukraine, and Brazil; the Presidents of the EU Commission and the European Council; and the UN Secretary-General.
5. On May 20, Prime Minister participated in the third in-person Quad Leaders' Summit in Hiroshima along with his counterparts from Japan, Australia and the US. The leaders announced new initiatives on the Infrastructure Programme, the Clean Energy Diversification Programme, a Partnership for Cable Connectivity and Resilience and the Quad Investors' Network. Separately, EAM met the US Secretary of State on May 21, on the sidelines of the G7 Summit.
6. In Papua New Guinea (PNG), Prime Minister co-hosted the 3rd Summit of the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) with the Prime Minister of PNG on May 22. On the sidelines of the FIPIC, Prime Minister interacted with the Prime Ministers of PNG, Fiji, New Zealand, Cook Islands,

Samoa, Tuvalu, Tonga, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, the Presidents of Nauru, Palau and Kiribati; the Premier of Niue, Minister Kitlang Kabua of Republic of Marshall Islands, and Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum. Prime Minister also met the Governor-General of PNG. During the visit, Prime Minister interacted with ITEC alumni from various Pacific Island Countries. Prime Minister was conferred with the Grand Companion of the Order of Logohu by the Governor-General of PNG and the Companion of the Order of Fiji by the Prime Minister of Fiji (the highest civilian awards of PNG and Fiji respectively).

7. During his visit to Australia, Prime Minister held a bilateral meeting with his Australian counterpart on May 24. Subsequently, EAM and I met with the Foreign Minister of Australia on May 24. During the visit, Prime Minister interacted with prominent public figures of Australia working in diverse fields of science, artificial intelligence, humanities, social work, gastronomy, art and music in separate meetings; met the Governor-General of Australia and the Leader of the Opposition; addressed a Business Roundtable with CEOs of top Australian companies; and interacted with the Indian community in Sydney. Prime Minister joined the Australian Prime Minister for the foundation stone laying ceremony of the '*Little India Gateway*' to be built in Harris Park, Sydney.

8. Prime Minister's other engagements in May included his meetings with the CEOs of Cisco on May 10, Renesas Electronics on May 12 and Walmart on May 14. On May 21, Prime Minister addressed the 76th World Health Assembly (virtually).

9. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel paid an official visit to India from May 9-10. He held bilateral meetings with EAM and Raksha Mantri on May 9 and called on the Prime Minister on May 10.

**EAM's engagements:**

10. EAM chaired the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers in Goa on May 5. On the sidelines of the SCO meeting, EAM met with his counterparts from the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, China, Russia, and the Secretary-General of SCO.

11. EAM paid official visits to Bangladesh (May 11-12), Sweden (May 13-15) and Belgium (May 15-16).

12. In Bangladesh, EAM called on the Prime Minister of Bangladesh on May 11, and delivered the keynote speech at the inaugural session of the 6th edition of the Indian Ocean Conference (co-hosted by the Ministry along with the Government of Bangladesh and the India Foundation) on May 12. EAM also met the Foreign Minister of Nepal in Dhaka.

13. In Sweden, EAM participated in the second EU Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum on May 13 and the inaugural session of the India Trilateral Forum (India, Europe and the US) with the Swedish Foreign Minister on May 15. He called on the Swedish Prime Minister, NSA, and Speaker of the *Riksdag* in separate meetings on May 15, and met the Swedish Foreign Minister and Defence Minister on May 14. In Sweden, EAM also held interactions with his counterparts from Cyprus, Romania, Bulgaria, Belgium, Lithuania, France, Austria, and Latvia.

14. EAM along with CIM and MoS Electronics and Information Technology visited Brussels on May 15-16 to jointly co-chair the first Ministerial meeting of the India-EU Trade and Technology Council on May 16. The Ministers also had several official and business engagements during their visit including their meetings with the Prime Minister of Belgium, the President of the European Commission, and the EU HRVP.

15. EAM's other engagements during the month included his phone call with the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia on May 2; meetings with the UNSG's Special Envoy on Myanmar on May 9; CEO of Cisco on May 9; UK MOS Lord Tariq Ahmad on May 29.

16. EAM met FM Penny Wong on 24 May in Sydney on the sidelines of the visit of PM to Australia.

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

17. MoS (VM) visited Saudi Arabia from May 1-3, Bahrain from May 4-5 and Brunei Darussalam from May 30-31. In Saudi Arabia, MoS (VM) met with Saudi Arabia's Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, and senior Saudi officials and members of the business community. During his visit to Bahrain, he held discussions with Bahrain's Minister of Finance, Minister of Labour and Minister of Social Development and other key officials. During his visit to Brunei Darussalam, MoS (VM) held engagements with businesses and the Indian diaspora members. On May 10, MoS (VM) met

the Secretary General of International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IIDEA) in New Delhi.

**MOS (ML) engagements:**

18. On May 31, MoS (ML) welcomed the Prime Minister of Nepal on his arrival to India. She met the Vice Foreign Minister of El Salvador on May 2, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Georgia on May 15 and the Deputy Foreign Minister of Norway on May 30. MoS (ML)'s other engagements included her meeting with the Assistant Foreign Minister of Kuwait for Asia Affairs; participation in the 10th Group under GenNext Democracy Network Programme; participation in the valedictory function of ICRIER's 1st Trade Facilitation Capacity Building Program for BIMSTEC trade officials; keynote address at the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group event on 'Gender and Corruption' in Uttarakhand; remarks at the celebration of Africa Day 2023 in New Delhi; and at the *Girmitiya Mahotsav*.

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

19. MoS (RRS) paid official visits to Fiji and Singapore from May 15-19. In Fiji, MoS (RRS) called on the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of Fiji on May 15 and 16, respectively, and interacted with other key officials, leaders and representatives of the Indian community in Fiji. He also attended the Girmit Day celebrations as the Guest of Honor. In Singapore, MoS (RRS) met with the Minister in the PMO and Second Minister for Education and Foreign Affairs and interacted with representatives of the Indian community. On May 30, MoS (RRS) welcomed the King of Cambodia to India and met the Secretary General of CICA In New Delhi on May 22.

**Other engagements:**

20. Secretary (East) co-chaired the 4th round of India-El Salvador FOCs on May 1 in New Delhi. He travelled to Bangladesh for the Indian Ocean Conference 2023 where he met Cambodia's Secretary of State, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Vietnam; Secretary General, BIMSTEC; and the outgoing Secretary General, SAARC on May 13.

21. Secretary (CPV & OIA) co-chaired the 12th round of India-Egypt FOCs in Cairo, the 5th round of India-Tunisia FOCs in Tunis and the 6th India-Bahrain FOCs in Bahrain on May 3, 17 and 30, respectively.

22. Secretary (West) co-chaired the 12th India-Russia JWG on Counter Terrorism on May 3 and India-Russia bilateral consultations on UN and multilateral issues on May 4 in Moscow. On May 20, he also co-chaired the 7th India-Austria FOCs in New Delhi. His other engagements included his participation in the 4th India-EU Strategic Partnership Review Meeting in New Delhi on May 8; meeting with the Secretary General of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IIDEA) on May 10; participation as the Chief Guest at the 3rd National Conference on Polar Sciences in Goa on May 18; interaction with the International Relations faculty and students of Goa University on May 19; and meeting with the Secretary-General of CICA on May 23.

### **23. Foreign Office Consultations**

The Month of May saw the FOCs with the following countries:

#### **Austria:**

The 7<sup>th</sup> round of FOC between India and Austria was held on May 30 in New Delhi.

#### **Bahrain**

Secretary (CPV & OIA) co-chaired the 6th India-Bahrain FOCs in Bahrain on May 30.

#### **Egypt**

Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, Secretary (CPV&OIA) led Indian delegation to Cairo for 12<sup>th</sup> FOC on 03 May 2023.

#### **El Salvador**

Secretary (East) co-chaired the 4th round of India-El Salvador FOCs on May 1 in New Delhi.

#### **Tunisia**

Secretary (CPV & OIA) co-chaired the 5th round of India-Tunisia FOCs in Tunis on 17 May.

## Humanitarian Aid

24. **Medical assistance to Afghanistan:** During this period 9376 kg of essential medicines have been sent to Afghanistan as a part of humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan.

25. As part of India's HADR operations, India provided medical supplies and relief materials for the people of Myanmar affected by *Cyclone Mocha*. India also donated 25 tons of Medical aid to the people of Sudan.

26. On May 4, MoS Ports, Shipping & Waterways flagged off the inaugural shipment from SM Port, Kolkata to operationalise the Sittwe Port in Myanmar.

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