

Ministry of External Affairs
Policy Planning and Research Division

Overview of Major Achievements during the month of January 2022

I. Diplomatic Engagements and other Interactions:

1. On January 16, India marked the first anniversary of the COVID-19 vaccination drive. The world has recognised and appreciated India's strengths as the leading global vaccine manufacturer. India has supplied over 155 million vaccine doses to 97 countries and 2 UN organizations. The network of Indian Missions and Posts, as the global arm of the Government, has played a crucial role in our response to COVID-19.

2. 2022 is an important year for India's diplomatic engagements with some of our partner countries. This year, we mark 75 years of our diplomatic relationship with Egypt and the Netherlands; celebrate the 70th anniversary of our diplomatic relations with Japan; commemorate the 50th anniversary of establishment of our diplomatic ties with Vietnam; and mark the 30th anniversary of our diplomatic relations with Israel and Central Asian countries. Historic milestones, like these, provide us with an opportunity to take stock of current state of relationship and explore new areas to further strengthen bilateral cooperation.

3. Prime Minister delivered a 'State of the World' special address, virtually, at the World Economic Forum's Davos Agenda on January 17 2022. The virtual event was held from January 17-21 2022. The event was also addressed by several Heads of State including President of the European Commission; Presidents of Indonesia and China; and the Prime Ministers of Japan, Australia and Israel. The event also witnessed the participation of top industry leaders, international organizations and civil society.

4. On January 20, Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of Mauritius virtually inaugurated the India funded Social Housing Units Project in Mauritius. This project has been implemented as part of the vibrant development partnership between the two countries. The two leaders also participated in the virtual foundation stone laying ceremony for the construction of a state-of-the-art Civil Service College and a 8 MW Solar Photovoltaic Farm. The two projects are being undertaken under India's development partnership. The ceremony included exchange of two key bilateral agreements: Agreement for the extension of USD 190 million Line of Credit from the Government of India to Mauritius for the Metro Express and other infrastructure projects and a MoU on the Implementation of Small Development Projects.

5. Prime Minister hosted the first ever India-Central Asia Summit, in a virtual format, on January 27. The Summit was attended by Presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The Leaders agreed to take India-Central Asia relations to new heights, through the institutionalisation of the Summit mechanism. A comprehensive Joint Declaration, enumerating their common vision for an enduring and comprehensive India-Central Asia partnership was adopted by the leaders.

6. During the month, PM had telephonic conversations with his counterparts from Germany, Barbados and Bahrain.

7. EAM met the UK Secretary of State for International Trade in New Delhi on January 13; held a detailed virtual meeting with the Finance Minister of Sri Lanka on January 15; and participated in a discussion with the French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs on “EU-India Partnership in the Indo-Pacific” on January 27 2022.

8. During January, EAM held telephonic conversations with his counterparts from Russia, USA, Australia, Maldives, Bhutan, Indonesia, Singapore, Bangladesh, Nepal, Nigeria, UAE, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, South Africa, Egypt, Israel, Iran, France, UK, Cambodia, Poland, Portugal, Netherlands, Japan, Brazil, Argentina, Hungary, Sweden, Greece, Finland, Mexico, Kuwait and Qatar. He also spoke to the Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Kenya and High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

9. Notable engagements during the month included organisation of the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (YPBD) Conference on January 9. Minister of State, V. Muraleedharan [MoS (VM)] delivered the Keynote address at YPBD on the topic, “Role of Diaspora Youth in Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav – Innovation and New Technologies”.

10. Minister of State, Meenakshi Lekhi [MoS (ML)] addressed senior officials and diplomats on the occasion of Vishwa Hindi Diwas on January 10; visited the Regional Passport Offices of Jalandhar and Amritsar; addressed the Conference on India-Central Asia Relations, organised by Business World Defence & Vivekananda International Foundation; and delivered a virtual address at the 62nd NDC Course on the subject, ‘India@75’. MoS (ML) met the Ambassadors of Spain, Austria, Venezuela, Israel, and Hungary during the month.

11. Minister of State, Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh [MoS (RRS)] delivered an address at the Innovation Week Celebration on ‘e-Symposium on Building Innovation and Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in Educational Institutions’.

12. During the month, Foreign Secretary called on the Minister for Economic Affairs of Bhutan in New Delhi; had a telephonic call with the US Deputy Secretary of State to review upcoming bilateral engagements; welcomed the former German Chief of Naval Staff to India; and delivered remarks at the ORF-NMF-KAS Symposium on “Potential for Indo-European/German cooperation in the Indo-Pacific”.

13. Secretary (West) participated in the India-Russia Consultations on UNSC issues. Secretary (East) addressed the inaugural session of a customized training programme for officials of Police Academy of Cambodia and delivered the keynote address at the Gateway House Round Table on 'India: Pursuing Prosperity & Security in the Indo-Pacific'.

14. India extended immediate relief assistance of USD 200,000 to Tonga in the wake of the tsunami. This is reflective of India's commitment as a partner under the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC).

15. India supplied the fourth batch of medical assistance, consisting of 3 tons of essential life saving medicines to Afghanistan. Earlier, India had supplied three shipments of medical assistance, consisting of 500,000 doses of COVID vaccine and essential life saving medicines to Afghanistan.

16. The first BRICS Sherpas meeting of 2022 was held virtually on January 18-19, with the members thanking India for its BRICS chairship in 2021. China has taken on the rotating chairmanship of BRICS this year.

17. On January 5, Antigua & Barbuda became the 102nd country to join the International Solar Alliance.

18. Cabinet approved an MoU between India and Nepal for the construction of a bridge over Mahakali river at Dharchula; an MoU between India and Turkmenistan on cooperation in the field of Disaster Management; and an agreement between India and Spain on cooperation and mutual assistance in Customs Matters.

19. Commerce and Industry Minister & G20 Sherpa held a virtual meeting with French G20 Sherpa on January 24.

20. Ministry, in cooperation with the Indian Chamber of Commerce, organised an outreach programme on Export Controls focusing on start-ups in various sectors of the economy. The outreach was aimed at enhancing awareness about regulations for the export of sensitive, dual-use goods and technology. About 200 industries and enterprises including several start-up companies participated in the webinar.

21. As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations to commemorate 75 years of independence, Ministry has launched the first edition of the MEA Internships Programme. Ministry's Internship Policy 2022 aims to take foreign policy closer to the people and ensure better gender inclusivity and increase diversity in terms of qualifications, domicile and socio-economic status amongst the cohort of interns engaged by the Ministry.

22. The 73rd Republic Day was celebrated with vigour by our Missions and Posts across the world.