

Ministry of External Affairs
Policy Planning and Research Division

Overview of Major Achievements during the Month of July 2024

High-Level Diplomatic Engagements/Interactions:

1. Vietnam's Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh paid a State Visit to India from 30 July-1 August. He held talks with the Prime Minister and paid a courtesy call on the Hon'ble President.
2. Vice President and Prime Minister met the Speaker of Japan's House of Representatives, Mr. Nukaga Fukushima and the visiting delegation.
3. Prime Minister visited Russia on 8 and 9 July for the 22nd India-Russia Annual Summit. He held talks with President Vladimir Putin and discussed bilateral cooperation in political, trade, investment, energy, connectivity, science & technology, defence, and security spheres as well as regional and global issues of mutual interest. They issued a Joint Statement on the Development of Strategic Areas of India-Russia Economic Cooperation for the period up to 2030.
4. Prime Minister, at the invitation of Chancellor Mr Karl Nehammer, paid an official visit to Austria from 9-10 July. He called on H.E. Alexander Van der Bellen, President of Austria, and held bilateral discussions with Chancellor Nehammer. This was the Prime Minister's first visit to Austria and that of an Indian Prime Minister after 41 years. This year also marks the 75th year of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The Prime Minister and Chancellor of Austria jointly addressed a group of leading Austrian and Indian CEOs from diverse sectors including infrastructure, automobile, energy, engineering and start-ups. He also addressed the Indian community at Vienna at an event organized by the diaspora.
5. Prime Minister met Lockheed Martin CEO, Jim Taiclet on 18 July in New Delhi. They discussed the role of Lockheed Martin in the Indian defence ecosystem and welcomed its commitment towards realizing the vision of 'Make in India, Make for the World.'

EAM's engagements:

6. EAM's engagements in India: EAM met the Speaker of Japan's House of Representatives, Mr. Nukaga Fukushima and the visiting delegation; Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand Maris Sangiampongsa; called on Vietnam's Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh; was the Chief Guest at the Egyptian National Day celebration held in Embassy of Egypt in New Delhi on 22 July.

7. EAM's engagements abroad: EAM met China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Astana (on the sidelines of SCO Meeting); called on Prime Minister and met Foreign Affairs Minister of Lao PDR; held bilateral meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister, Ms. Yoko Kamikawa during the visit; called on the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and met Foreign Minister of Mauritius; he inaugurated India's first overseas Jan Aushadhi Kendra in Mauritius.
8. On the sidelines of ASEAN Foreign Ministers, EAM met China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi; Foreign Minister of Cambodia; Foreign Minister of Malaysia Mohamad Haji Hasan; Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines Enrique Manalo; Foreign Minister of Singapore Vivian Balakrishnan; Foreign Affairs of Thailand Maris Sangiampongsa; Foreign Minister of Timor Leste Bendito; Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Dato Haji Erywan.
9. On the sidelines of Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Tokyo, EAM met US Secretary of State Antony Blinken

MOS (PM)'s engagement:

10. MoS (PM) presided over the valedictory ceremony of the 1st Special Course for diplomats from Pacific Alliance Countries (Mexico, Peru, Chile and Colombia) and Moldova was organised by SSIFS on 19 July.

Other engagements:

11. Raksha Mantri held a telephonic conversation with Australian Deputy PM and Defence Minister Richard Marles on 4 July. Discussions focused on closer collaboration between the two countries in the Indo-Pacific.
12. Minister of Road Transport and Highways attended the swearing-in ceremony of H.E. Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in Tehran on 30 July.
13. Foreign Secretary paid an official visit to Bhutan from 19-20 July at the invitation of Foreign Secretary of Bhutan, Aum Pema Choden. He chaired the 3rd India Bhutan Development Cooperation Talks for the 13th Five Year Plan (FYP) of Bhutan along with Foreign Secretary Pema Choden.
14. Defence Secretary was called on by Congolese Permanent Secretary Major-General Lukwikila Metikwiza Marcel from the Ministry of Defence, Government of Democratic Republic of the Congo on 5 July to discuss issues of mutual interest.
15. The G20 Development Ministers' Meeting under the Brazilian Presidency was held on 22 and 23 July. The Indian delegation was led by Secretary (ER).

- 16.** Principal Secretary to the Indian Prime Minister co-chaired the first meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia High Level Task Force on Investments with Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Saudi Energy Minister. The event was held virtually on 28 July.
- 17.** OSD (ER & DPA) participated in the First International Conference on Afforestation and Reforestation organized by the Republic of Congo (ROC) in Brazzaville from 2-5 July
- 18.** 6th India-UK Cyber Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 3 July. It was co-chaired by JS (CD), MEA and Ms. Kat Jones, Head of Strategy & Engagement, Cyber Policy Department, the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) of the UK.
- 19.** An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent landed at the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Base Darwin, Australia on 11 July, for participating in Exercise Pitch Black 2024. This biennial, multi- national exercise hosted by the RAAF is being conducted from 12 July to 2 August this year.
- 20.** The 9th Navy to Navy Talks (N2NT) between the Indian Navy (IN) and Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) took place at the NOMA Kota House, New Delhi on 23-24 July.
- 21.** The Indian Navy participated in RIMPAC 2024 - a multi-nation international maritime warfare exercise held at Joint Base Pearl Harbor – Hickam in Hawaii, US.
- 22.** INS Aditya and INS Visakhapatnam undertook Maritime Partnership Exercise with the US Naval carrier Strike Group comprising US Navy ships USS Theodore Roosevelt and USS Daniel Inouye in the Arabian Sea on 12 July.
- 23.** The India-Indonesia-Australia Trilateral Focal Points Meeting was held on 16 July, with participation of senior officials. The three sides held discussions to explore opportunities for collaboration including under the framework of Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) mechanisms, maritime domain awareness, marine pollution and blue economy cooperation.
- 24.** A meeting of Quad senior officials was held in the virtual mode on 3 July. Officials from India, Australia, Japan and the US reviewed Quad’s practical cooperation under various Working Groups and exchanged views on key regional and international issues of mutual interest.
- 25.** The 30th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) was held on 31 July in New Delhi. Joint Secretary (East Asia), from the Ministry of External Affairs led the Indian delegation. The Chinese delegation was led by the Director General of the Boundary & Oceanic Department of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- 26.** In July, following meetings regarding BRICS were held:
- a. BRICS 2nd Senior Energy Officials' Meeting on 2 and 3 July.
 - b. BRICS Civil Forum on 2 and 3 July.
 - c. BRICS Coordination Committee Meeting on Antimonopoly Policy on 2 July.
 - d. BRICS Ministers' Meeting for Disaster Management on 10-11 July.
 - e. BRICS Parliamentary Forum on 4 July.
 - f. 10th BRICS Parliamentary Forum on 11-12 July.
 - g. Meeting of Heads of Press Services/Official Spokespersons of Foreign Ministries of BRICS Countries on 12 July.
 - h. BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues Meeting on 11-18 July.
 - i. 10th BRICS Counter Terrorism Working Group Meeting on 22-24 July.
 - j. BRICS Youth Summit and Youth Ministers' Meeting.
 - k. BRICS Trade Ministers' Meeting on 26 July.
 - l. BRICS Space Agency Meeting on 18 July.
 - m. BRICS Contact Group on Climate Change & Sustainable Development.
 - n. BRICS Space Agency Meeting on 18 July.
- 27.** An Outreach Session of the G7 Trade Ministerial was held on 16-17 July in Italy to discuss supply-chains with participation of the Business 7 engagement group. The Indian delegation was led by the Minister of Commerce & Industry.
- 28.** India concluded its 4th periodic review by the Human Rights Committee under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in Geneva on 15-16 July. The Indian delegation, co-led by the Ld. Attorney General for India and Ld. Solicitor General of India, also included Secretary (West), and senior officials from the Ministries of Women and Child Development, Social Justice and Empowerment, Electronics and Information Technology, Minority Affairs, External Affairs, Tribal Affairs, Home Affairs, and the Offices of Ld. Attorney General and Ld. Solicitor General.
- 29.** A map with locations of proposed new Land Customs Offices on India-Bhutan Border, and comments on locations of drain construction activity by Nepal near India-Nepal border was submitted to the Northern Division.
- 30.** In July, the States Division facilitated visit of the following foreign dignitaries to various states in India:
- a. British Deputy High Commissioner (East & Northeast to India) Dr Andrew Fleming to Meghalaya.
 - b. Ambassador of Republic of Indonesia to India, H.E. Ms. Ina H. Krishnamurthi to West Bengal.
 - c. Ambassador of Malaysia Poland Chitra Devi V Amiah, to Andhra Pradesh.
 - d. Ambassador of Republic of Uzbekistan to India, H.E Mr. Sardor Rushtambaev, to Lucknow.
 - e. British Deputy High Commissioner to India, Ms. Christina Scott, to Gujarat.
 - f. British High Commissioner to India, H.E Mrs. Lindy Cameron, to Mumbai.

- g. Member of Shizuoka Prefectural Assembly and Secretary General of India-Japan friendship parliament league in Shizuoka Prefectural Assembly Mr. Atsuyuki Rachi, to Gujarat.
 - h. Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to India H. E Mr. Sardor Rustambaev to Mumbai.
 - i. Australian High-Commissioner Mr Philip Green to Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.
 - j. Governor of the Mexican State to India, Dr. Americo Villarreal Anaya to Uttar Pradesh.
 - k. Member of Malacca State Executive Council for Youth and Sports and the Member of Malacca State Legislative Assembly, State of Malacca, Malaysia to India, P. Shanmugam V. Pitchay to Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.
 - l. Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage Tourism and Handicrafts of I.R. of Iran H E. Mr. Darabi, to Agra, Uttar Pradesh.
- 31.** Global IndiaAI Summit was organised by MEITY on 3 and 4 July in New Delhi. It brought together over 2000 AI experts, policy makers, with 10,000 joining virtually.
- 32.** Minister of Tourism met the Jordanian Minister of Tourism, Jordan on 22 July.

Foreign Office/Ministry Consultations

- 33.** 2nd India-Japan consultation on Middle East region was held on 25 July. Indian side was led by JS (WANA) with representatives from Gulf & PAI Divisions. The Japanese side was led by Mr. Toshihide Ando, DG (MENA) of Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs)/ Agreements:

- 34.** On 2 August, India and South Korea signed the Terms of Reference for establishing the India-Korea Fast Track Mechanism (FTM), with Mr. Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary of DPIIT, and RoK Ambassador, Mr. Chang Jae-bok officiating the agreement in New Delhi. The India-Korea FTM is designed to swiftly address concerns of South Korean investors, enhancing their ease of doing business in India.
- 35.** During Prime Ministers' visit to Russia, following MoU/Agreements were signed:
- a. Program of India-Russia cooperation in trade, economic and investment spheres in the Russian Far East for the period from 2024 to 2029 as well as of cooperation principles in the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation.
 - b. MoU between Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of the Republic of India and Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation on the issues of Climate change and low-carbon development.

- c. MoU between Survey of India and the Federal Service for State Registration, Cadastre and Cartography, Russian Federation.
 - d. MoU between National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India and the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute on Cooperation in Research and Logistics in polar regions.
 - e. MoU on Cooperation and Collaboration on broadcasting between Prasar Bharati, India, and ANO "TV-Novosti" (Russia Today TV Channel), Russia.
 - f. MoU between Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of the Republic of India and Federal State Budgetary Institution "Scientific Centre for Expert Evaluation of Medicinal Products" of the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation.
 - g. Cooperation Agreement between the Indian International Arbitration Centre and International Commercial Arbitration Court at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation.
 - h. Joint Investment Promotion Framework Agreement between Invest India and JSC "Management Company of Russian Direct Investment Fund".
 - i. MoU between Trade Promotion Council of India and All Russia Public Organization "Business Russia"
- 36.** High Commissioner of India to UK and Vice Chancellor of University of Southampton signed an MoU for the establishment of ICCR Chair of Indian Studies at University of Southampton, UK on 10th July.
- 37.** On the sidelines of the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee, India and the US signed the Cultural Property Agreement. It provides for the repatriation of priceless heritage, deepening cultural ties between the two countries.
- 38.** India and Mozambique signed MoU on recognition of Indian Pharmacopoeia on 18 July 2024.

Humanitarian Aid/Assistance

39. Haiti

India has sent nine tonnes of medical supplies comprising blood transfusion essentials, reagents for immunohematology, rapid tests and ELISA among others as a part of humanitarian assistance to Haiti.
