

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

Overview of Major Achievements during the Month of May 2024

High-Level Diplomatic Engagements/Interactions:

1. Vice-President visited Tehran on 22 May to attend the official ceremony to pay condolences on the tragic demise of President Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and other Iranian officials, who passed away in a helicopter crash on 19 May. It was the first Vice-Presidential level visit to Iran after 1996.

EAM's engagements:

2. The Six months' long Induction Training Programme concluded with a valedictory ceremony on 10 May. The ceremony was chaired by EAM as the Chief Guest and MoS (RRS) as Guest of Honour. FS was also present on the occasion.
3. Timorese Vice Minister of ASEAN Affairs, Ms. Milena Maria Da Costa Rangel led a 4-member delegation (consisting of DG-ASEAN Affairs and two other officials of Ministry of ASEAN Affairs) to India, to attend 26th ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting (AISOM) on 2-3 May, in New Delhi. The delegation along with other AISOM delegations, called on EAM during the visit.
4. Mr. Moosa Zameer, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Maldives (FMZ) made an Official Visit to India on 09 May. This was FMZ's first visit to India in his current capacity. During the visit, FMZ held discussions with India's External Affairs Minister on bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest.

MoS (VM)'s engagements:

5. A 5 Member delegation headed by Libyan Dy. Minister for Political Affairs, visited Delhi from 27-28 May. During the visit, the delegation called on MoS (VM) & met Secretary (CPV&OIA), Secretary (ER) and business Chambers including CII, FICCI & PHD Chamber of Commerce.

Other engagements:

6. Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago Dr. Keith Christopher Rowley accompanied by his spouse and a delegation comprising of Mr. Rohan

Sinanan Minister of Works and Transport, and Ms. Shamfa Cudjoe-Lewis, Minister of Sports and Community development paid a working visit to Mumbai and Jamnagar from 15-18 May. He met the Governor of Maharashtra Shri Ramesh Bais at Raj Bhavan, Mumbai.

7. The European Union and India held their 14th Counter-Terrorism Dialogue on 7 May, in New Delhi. The dialogue was an opportunity to continue and enhance cooperation on this important element of the EU-India Strategic Partnership.
8. The 16th meeting of the India-United Kingdom Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism was held in New Delhi on 21 May. JS (CT) MEA, and Mr. Chris Felton, Head of Counter Terrorism Network for Asia and Oceania, Government of United Kingdom, led the respective delegations to discuss the ongoing counter-terrorism cooperation between the two countries.
9. Foreign Minister Penny Wong inaugurated the new Centre for Australia-India Relations (CAIR) headquarters in Parramatta, Sydney on 20 May, along with several initiatives aimed at strengthening ties between Australia and India. EAM congratulated FM Wong and the CAIR on 'X' platform and wrote '*A true reflection of the increased exchanges and collaboration happening between our two countries. Will surely enhance the India-Australia Dosti.*'
10. India, led by MoES, hosted the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM-46) and the 26th Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP-26) Meeting from 20-30 May at Kochi. Over 400 delegates from 56 countries participated at the global meeting on Antarctic affairs. ATCM-46 was inaugurated by Union Minister for Ministry of Earth Sciences and Ministry of Food Processing Industries. He announced India's plan to set up an Antarctic research station- Maitri-II. From MEA, Secretary (West) attended the inaugural session.
11. Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and AYUSH, visited Tehran, Iran on 13 May, to witness the signing ceremony of long-term main contract for the development of Shahid Beheshti Port Terminal, Chabahar.
12. Foreign Secretary attended as 'Guest of honour' in Israel Independence Day event on 21st May.
13. The second round of the India-US Dialogue on Africa was held in Washington DC on 14-15 May. The Indian side was led by Additional Secretary (E&SA) and Additional Secretary (C&WA), MEA.

14. The 2nd edition of India – Australia – Indonesia Trilateral Maritime Security Workshop (TMSW) was conducted from 15 – 17 May at INS Dronacharya, Kochi. The Theme of the workshop was ‘Indian Ocean Region: Collaborative Efforts to Enhance Regional Maritime Security’. The workshop was conducted under the aegis of Headquarters Southern Naval Command.
15. Secretary (West) led the India’s delegation to the 4th international conference of Small Island Developing States (SIDS-4) held in Antigua and Barbuda from 27-30 May, on the theme ‘Charting the course Toward Resilient Prosperity’.
16. On May 4-7, Secretary (CPV & OIA), MEA, visited Madinah, Jeddah and Riyadh. During his visit, he met the Vice Haj & Umrah Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Dr. Abdul-Fattah bin Sulaiman Mashat. He reviewed arrangements for Indian pilgrims for Haj 2024 and visited Jeddah Haj Terminal. He also had interaction with Indian Community members in Jeddah and Riyadh.
17. A delegation led by Secretary (ER) visited Astana, Kazakhstan to attend meeting of SCO Council of Foreign Ministers on 20-21 May.
18. The 3rd meeting of India-Japan Joint Working Group (JWG) on Cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy was held virtually on 21 May. The Indian side was led by JS (Hydrogen), MNRE and the Japanese side was led by Mr. Umeda Hideyuki, Director, Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry (METI), Japan.
19. The 6th meeting of India-Japan Joint Working Group (JWG) on Counter Terrorism was held in New Delhi on 29 May. The Indian side was led by JS (CT), MEA and the Japanese side was led by Mr. Minami Hiroyuki, Ambassador in-charge of International Cooperation for Countering Terrorism and International Organized Crime, MoFA.
20. The 40th Plenary meeting of Eurasian Group on Money Laundering and financing of terrorism (EAG) was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic from 29-31 May. Representatives from CT Division participated in the meeting.
21. The 2nd Cyber Dialogue between India and the Republic of Korea was held on 28 May in Seoul. The Dialogue was co-chaired by JS (Cyber Diplomacy), MEA and Mr. Rhee Dong-Yeol, Ambassador for International Security Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea. Both sides discussed bilateral cyber cooperation, particularly capacity building, training, standardization and cyber-security.

22. The 21st edition of Shangri-La Dialogue organised by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) took place in Singapore from 31 May – 2 June. Indian Delegation included JS (EA) and JS (PP&R). They held meetings with counterparts in Singapore MFA as well as with think tanks in Singapore.
23. The School Building of Shree Bal Janata Secondary School at Lamahi Municipality, Dang, built with Government of India's financial assistance at the tendered cost of NRs 17.60 million under 'Nepal-India Development Cooperation' was inaugurated on 24 May.
24. A 12-member delegation from National Assembly Service Commission (NASC), Nigeria visited India for a Training Programme conducted by PRIDE, Lok Sabha Secretariat from 7-9 May in New Delhi.

25. BRICS:

- i. 1st BRICS PartNIR Advisory Group Meeting was held on 14 May in a virtual format. The meeting was chaired by Economic Advisor, DPIIT.
- ii. A coordination meeting on BRICS Space Cooperation was held on 15 May under Chairship of Secretary (ER). Delegation from ISRO was led by Scientific Secretary, ISRO; and JS (D&ISA) participated.
- iii. 2nd BRICS Agriculture SOM was held on 15th May and 3rd BRICS Agriculture SOM was held on 27 May.
- iv. The Meeting of Heads of International Divisions of Prosecutorial Services took place in a hybrid format on 21 May.
- v. The 7th BRICS Anti-Drug Working Group Meeting was held in Moscow, Russia on 21-22 May.
- vi. The 16th BRICS Academic Forum was held in an in-person format on 22-24 May in Moscow, Russia.
- vii. BRICS Heads of Space Agencies Meeting was held on 23-24 May in Moscow, Russia. The Indian delegation was led by Chairman, ISRO.
- viii. Two Bilateral Meetings between India and Russia on draft Ministerial Declaration of BRICS Transport Ministers Meeting were held on 27 and 30 May in virtual format.

- ix. 2nd BRICS Finance and Central Bank Deputies meeting was held on 28 May in hybrid-mode.
 - x. 2nd Working Group Meeting of BRICS Task Force on Public-Private Partnership and Infrastructure was held on 28 May.
 - xi. BRICS STI Steering Committee Meeting was held on 28 May, and the Indian delegation was led by Senior Director, DST.
 - xii. BRICS Heads of Academies of Science Meeting was held on 29-30 May in Moscow, Russia.
26. The 7th Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Expert Group Meeting was held virtually on 8 May, chaired by Iran. The agenda of the meeting was to discuss the draft Rules of Procedure for the Functioning of the ACD Secretariat. The Indian delegation for the Meeting was led by JS (MER-II).
27. At the invitation of Denmark and Australian Government, JS (NEST) participated in Cyber and Tech Retreat 2024 held from May 8-10, at San Francisco, which brought together government representatives, tech companies, academics and senior industry leaders, to discuss a range of issues arising from cybersecurity to artificial intelligence.
28. India assumed the Chair of Colombo Process (CP) for 2024-26 for the first time since its inception. CP is a Regional Consultative Process of migrant worker origin countries from South and South East Asia. It serves as a forum for exchange of best practices on overseas employment.
29. ICCR organized the following:
- a. Sponsored the visit of four different groups to Norway, Fiji, Russia and Indonesia for giving cultural performances in connection with the various events/festivals organized by the respective countries.
 - b. Organized a cultural programme featuring Manipuri dance by 'Manipuri Cultural Troupe' & Jazz performance by 'Benny & the Jazz Collective' group in honor of visiting ASEAN-SOM leaders & delegates as a part of the 26th ASEAN-India Senior Officials Meeting held from 2-3 May.
 - c. Organized Yoga residential training for 18 participants of Pacific Island Countries (PICs) in S-VYASA, Bengaluru from 29 April 2024 to 28 May 2024.

Foreign Office/Ministry Consultations

30. The 11th India-Norway FOC were held on 14 May, in New Delhi. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Pavan Kapoor, Secretary (West), MEA. The Norwegian delegation was led by Mr Torgeir Larsen, Secretary General, MoFA of Kingdom of Norway.
31. India and Sweden held the 7th session of FOC on 3 May, in Stockholm. The Indian side was led by Secretary (West), MEA and the Swedish side was led by Mr. Jan Knutsson, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden.
32. 2nd India-Eritrea FOC was held on 15 May, in New Delhi. Discussions covered entire range of bilateral relations including development cooperation and capacity building as well as regional and international issue of mutual interest.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs)/ Agreements:

33. India and Moldova signed an Agreement on visa waiver for diplomatic and official passport holders in New Delhi on 10 May.

Humanitarian Aid/Assistance

34. Kenya

India extended humanitarian assistance to the Government of Kenya in the wake of devastation caused by the floods that have hit the country. A relief consignment was airlifted on an Indian Air Force plane on 14 May that comprised 22 tons humanitarian assistance and disaster relief items including 18 tons of medical aid comprising essential life-saving drugs and surgical equipment, baby food, tents, sleeping bags/mats, blankets, power generation sets, ready to eat meals, basic sanitary utilities and hygiene kits.
