

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

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**Overview of Major Achievements during the month of December 2022**

**High Level Diplomatic Engagements/Interactions:**

1. PM held telephonic conversations with the Presidents of Russia and Ukraine on 16 and 26 December, respectively.

**EAM's engagements:**

2. **UAE:** EAM paid official visits to UAE, New York and Cyprus in December. In Abu Dhabi, EAM inaugurated the India Global Forum on December 12 and met with the Foreign Minister of UAE On December 13.

3. **Cyprus:** EAM paid an official visit to the Republic of Cyprus from 29-31 December 2022. During the visit, he met with H.E. Ms. Annita Demetriou, President of the House of Representatives and acting President and H.E. Mr. Ioannis Kasoulides, Foreign Minister and undertook a detailed review of bilateral ties, including political, economic, commercial and cultural relations.

4. **UN:** EAM visited New York to chair UNSC Ministerial meetings on Reformed Multilateralism & Counter-terrorism under India's Presidency of the UN Security Council. In New York, EAM also co-chaired the launch of the Group of Friends on Accountability for Crimes against UN Peacekeepers on December 16; hosted a 'millet lunch' for UNSC members on December 16; unveiled the bust of Mahatma Gandhi at the UN Headquarters along with UNSG and held bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Ireland and Armenia; UN Secretary General, UNGA President, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Poland; UK's Minister of State Foreign Commonwealth & Development Affairs, US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, UAE's Minister of Culture and Youth; and Japan's State Minister of Foreign Affairs.

5. **Canada:** EAM held telephonic conversations with the Canadian Foreign Minister on December 12 and the newly-appointed Foreign Minister of Kuwait on December 29.

6. **EAM's other engagements:** EAM's other engagements for the month of December included: EAM hosted the Germany's Foreign Minister for bilateral talks on 5 December. They also signed an Agreement on a Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership between India and Germany.

7. EAM addressed the inaugural event of the G-20 University Connect Programme on December 1; addressed the India Trilateral Forum of the German Marshall Fund in New Delhi on December 5; addressed India Today's India-Japan Conclave on December 19; interacted with IFS Officer Trainees of the 2022 batch on December 19; and met with the CEO of Google and Alphabet on December 20.

**8. MOS(VM)'s engagements:** On December 13, a Joint Declaration of Intent on Migration and Mobility was signed by MoS (VM) and Finland's Minister of Employment to arrive at a mutually beneficial arrangement on migration and mobility between the two countries. MoS (VM)'s other engagements included meeting a Parliamentary delegation from South Korea on December 1.

**9. MOS(ML)'s engagements:** MoS (ML) inaugurated the International Lusophone Festival in Goa on December 3, and the Finland Alumni Network in India with Finland's Minister of Employment on December 14. She met Scotland's Minister for Culture, Europe & International Development and Vietnam's Deputy Minister of Culture on December 5 and 15, respectively.

**10. MOS(RRS)'s engagements:** MoS (RRS) visited Nauru, where he called on the President of Nauru on December 13 and met with other Ministers. MoS (RRS) addressed the valedictory session of the first Silchar-Sylhet Festival at Silchar on December 3. On the sidelines of the festival, he met the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh. MoS (RRS)'s other engagements included his remarks at the Global Technology Summit on December 1; his participation in the plenary session on North East Logistics Conclave on December 6; and meeting with the Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Mongolia in Delhi on December 20.

**11. FS's engagements:** FS led the FOCs between India and Japan along with Japan's Senior Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs on December 15.

**Other engagements:**

**12.** Secretary (East) led the first round of FOCs between India and Papua New Guinea in Port Moresby on December 5; and addressed the 4th ASEAN-India Blue Economy Workshop on December 15.

**13.** On December 9-10, Secretary (ER) visited Angola to participate in the 10th Summit of Heads of State of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States. He also called on the Foreign Minister of Angola.

14. Secretary (West) led the 10th round of India-Poland FOCs in Warsaw on December 12 and the 11th India-Netherlands FOCs in New Delhi on December 19.
15. A Parliamentary Delegation from Zimbabwe led by the Speaker called on Hon'ble President and Hon'ble Vice President on December 7 and 8, respectively.
16. Some other notable events in December included: G20s first Sherpa Meeting which was organised in Udaipur on December 5; inauguration of 1st Quad HADR Meeting & TableTop Exercise by Quad Sherpas & Senior Officials in Delhi on December 14; and the IndAus ECTA coming into force on December 20.
17. **Australia:** The India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) came into force on 29 December 2022 paving the way for enhanced bilateral trade between the two countries.
18. Her Majesty the Queen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck, participated and congratulated India via a video message for G20 side event on Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE).
19. The 12th round of the Border District Coordination Meeting between the Royal Government of Bhutan and the State Government of Assam was held at Guwahati from 22-23 December 2022.
20. **Finland:** Minister of Employment of Finland Ms. Tuula Haatainen visited India from 13-17 December 2022 with a business delegation and signed a Joint Declaration of Intent on Migration and Mobility was by Shri V. Muraleedharan, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs.
21. **Nepal:** The 16<sup>th</sup> edition of Indo-Nepal joint training Exercise "SURYA KIRAN-XVI" between India and Nepal was conducted at Nepal Army Battle School, Saljhandi (Nepal), from 16 - 29 December 2022. Exercise "SURYA KIRAN" is conducted annually between India and Nepal with the aim to enhance interoperability in jungle warfare & counter terrorism operations in mountainous terrain and HADR under UN mandate.
22. **Sweden:** Swedish Minister for Foreign Trade and International Development Cooperation Johan Forssell visited India on 8-9 December 2022 on his first international stand-alone visit after the Government formation in October 2022
23. **Tanzania:** Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines Shri Pralhad Joshi met Minister of Minerals of Tanzania, Doto M Biteko in New Delhi on 16 December 2022.

**24. The United Kingdom:** The Minister for Commerce and Industry of India, Shri Piyush Goyal, and UK Secretary of State for International Trade, Ms. Kemi Badenoch, MP, met on 13 December in New Delhi to discuss India-UK FTA negotiations.

**25. Morocco:** 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism between India and Morocco held in Rabat on 29 December 2022.

**26. FOCs:** In December, Foreign Office Consultations with Japan, Papua New Guinea, Poland and the Netherlands.

**27. G-20 Presidency: 1<sup>st</sup> G20 Sherpa Meeting:** The 1st meeting of the G20 Sherpas under the Indian presidency was held in Udaipur from 4th- 7th December 2022. On 04th December, a side event in collaboration with UNDP was organised on "Transforming Lives at the Midpoint of the 2030 Agenda: Accelerating Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in an Era of Cascading and Multiple Crises". The event saw participation of more than 100 delegates from G20 member countries, invited Guest countries and international organizations.

#### **28. Humanitarian Assistance:**

**Bhutan:** The 720 MW Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Power Project was handed over to Druk Green Power Corporation. The Project was jointly inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi and Lyonchhen Dr Lotay Tshering in August 2019 and has exported to India more than 9500 million units of energy since its commissioning.

#### **29. MOUs**

**Nepal :** The Embassy of India Kathmandu and Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, Government of Nepal signed Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) for undertaking three HICDP projects in Nepal under the grant assistance of Government of India, one each in Education, Health Care and Drinking Water Sectors on 12 December 2022. These three projects, namely: - construction of Shree Janata Belaka Secondary School Building in Udayapur District; construction of Ngonga Thenchowk Chholing Meditation Centre in Soulukhumbu District and construction of Lisnekhola Tikasung Dangchet Jharlang Water Supply Project in Dhading District shall be implemented at a total estimated cost of NRs.101.79 million.

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