

Ministry of External Affairs
Policy Planning and Research Division

Overview of Major Achievements during the month of April 2021

I. Achievements pertaining to citizen-centric:

1. MEA has been at the forefront in national response to the Covid pandemic by obtaining priority healthcare supplies from across the world and facilitating their inflows. Highest priority is being accorded to our domestic consideration with regard to meeting the requirements of our healthcare infrastructure.
2. On April 7, India donated USD 1 million to the UN Trust Fund in support of the African Union Mission in Somalia. On April 27, 14 varieties of fruit & vegetable seeds from India arrived in Fiji to support agriculture & livelihoods affected by Cyclone Yasa.

II. Diplomatic Engagements and other Interactions:

1. On 7 April, Prime Minister (PM) met with US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, John Kerry and discussed the issues relating to Climate. Subsequently, he attended the Leaders' Meeting on Climate convened by US President Biden on April 22-23. He highlighted the bold steps taken by India on clean energy, energy efficiency, etc. PM, along with the US President Joe Biden, announced the launch of "India-US climate and clean energy Agenda 2030 partnership".
2. On 8 April, PM and President of the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Wavel Ramkalawan virtually inaugurated several development assistance projects funded by India in Seychelles, including the new Magistrates' Court building. PM also handed over a 48.9 m Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) to the President of Seychelles during the virtual event.
3. PM held a Virtual Summit with the Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Mark Rutte on 9 April. During the Summit, both leaders agreed to launch a Strategic Partnership on Water. They also reaffirmed the commitment to collaborate in Indo-Pacific and to work closely on common global challenges like Covid-19.
4. On 13 April, PM congratulated His Majesty King Abdullah II and people of Jordan on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the state of Jordan. PM also had telephonic calls with US President Biden, Russian President Putin, Australian Prime Minister Morrison, Japanese Prime Minister Suga and European Commission President von der Leyen during the last month.
5. On 18 April, EAM paid an official visit to UAE. He met with his counterpart Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan and discussed significant bilateral and global issues.

6. There were many high-level incoming visits throughout the month. On 6 April, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov met with EAM. Both Ministers reviewed bilateral cooperation and discussed on Afghanistan, West Asia, etc. On the same day, EAM had a virtual meeting with the Foreign Minister of Denmark Jeppe Kofod. The meeting focussed on India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership, greater co-operation on vaccines, EU-India Summit and the situation in Afghanistan, to name a few.
7. On 7 April, EAM and Foreign Minister of Bahrain, Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani co-chaired the 3rd India-Bahrain High Joint Commission in New Delhi. Both leaders agreed to expand cooperation in energy, infrastructure, health, defence and digital sectors. The Bahrain Foreign Minister also called-on Vice President of India during his visit.
8. On 8 April, EAM received the Foreign Minister of Eritrea, Osman Saleh Mohammed. Discussions between the two Ministers revolved around possibilities of cooperation in renewable energy, tele-education, capacity building, health, mining and maritime security. Separately, EAM also met veteran Afghan leader Ismail Khan on the same day and exchanged views on the Afghan peace efforts.
9. On 13 April, EAM met with the French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Jean-Yves Le Drian in New Delhi. Both leaders conducted substantive discussions on issues of bilateral and global importance. The French Foreign Minister also participated in the Raisina Dialogue during his visit.
10. On 16 April, EAM met with the Foreign Minister of Maldives Abdulla Shahid. Both leaders noted the steady progress in India-Maldives partnership. Foreign Minister Shahid participated in the Raisina Dialogue in sessions on "*Financing for Sun*" and "*Global Public Health after the Pandemic*".
11. EAM participated in the 6th National Leadership Conclave of All India Management Association (AIMA) on 19 April. He also delivered an address at the UNSC Open Debate on cooperation between the UN and regional and sub-regional organizations on 19 April. On 22 April, he delivered the keynote address at ICWA-USI International Gallipoli Virtual Seminar. On 23 April, EAM had a virtual meeting with the Executive Vice President of the European Commission, Margrethe Vestager.
12. EAM, along with Minister of State for Ports, Shipping & Waterways & Chemicals & Fertilizers, Mansukh Mandviya held consultations with the Indian vaccine industry on 23 April. On 28 April, EAM along with the Minister of State for External Affairs (MoS) held a virtual conference with all HoMs across the world.
13. In the month of April, EAM had telephonic calls with his counterparts from Poland, Afghanistan, US, Indonesia, UAE, Turkey, UK, Kuwait, Canada, Portugal, Philippines, China and Cyprus.

14. The 6th edition of the Raisina Dialogue was organised from 13-16 April, in a fully virtual format. The theme was "ViralWorld: Outbreaks, Outliers and Out of Control". PM inaugurated the Dialogue through a video message on April 13. President Paul Kagame from Rwanda and PM Mette Frederiksen from Denmark joined the inaugural session as chief guests. EAM participated at the Curtain Raiser session on "*The Health Central: India, SDGs, Vaccines & Global Expectations*". He also participated in the sessions titled, "*Crimson Tide, Blue Geometries: New Partnerships for Indo-Pacific*" and "*Junction Kabul: The Road to Peace*". 150 speakers from 50 nations and multilateral organizations participated and contributed in multiple formats. Viewers from almost a hundred countries logged in to one or more of its sessions.
15. Minister of State held a virtual call with Erik Solheim, former UNEP Executive Director and Norwegian Minister on April 21. Both leaders held wide-ranging discussions on bilateral relations, regional issues, climate change, plastic waste management, and Covid recovery. On 29 April, MoS inaugurated the International Workshop on 'Quad in the Indo-Pacific' organised by The Indian Futures.
16. On 9 April, Foreign Secretary of India met with the Foreign Secretary of Maldives, Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed. He also met with the British High Commissioner to India, Alex Ellis and conveyed condolences on the passing of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.
17. On 14 April, Foreign Secretary participated in the Raisina Dialogue session on "*Plurilateralism Inc: The Future of Global Governance?*" and on 16 April, also addressed the valedictory session.
18. On 19 April, Foreign Secretary participated in an event jointly organised by HCI Ottawa and IFS Association to pay homage to the sacrifice of K. Sankara Pillai IFS (1948). He was killed in line of duty at the High Commission of India, Ottawa in 1961. The event marked 60 years of his martyrdom.
19. On April 29, Foreign Secretary interacted with the media in a special briefing on 'International Cooperation on COVID Pandemic.' He also delivered a keynote address on the topic, "Competition, Convergence and Multi-alignment - Shaping India's Foreign Policy Agenda for the Next Decade", at the inauguration of 'International Relations Conference 2021' at the Symbiosis International University Pune on the same day.
20. India hosted the First Meeting of BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting, virtually, on 6 April. The meeting was co-chaired by the Finance Minister and the Governor of RBI. During the meeting, Finance Minister emphasised the important role of BRICS in responding to the current global crisis.