

Ministry of External Affairs

Overview of Major achievements during the month of September 2019

(I) Achievements pertaining to Governance and Citizen-Centric Services:

E-Governance & Information Technology:

Applications to achieve financial and accounting efficacy in MEA:

Integrated Missions Accounting System (IMAS): MEA is in the process of IMAS Version 2.0 rollout in the missions abroad for payment and accounting software. Currently, the parallel run of IMAS 1.0 and IMAS 2.0 versions is targeted for around 17 missions.

Audit Para and Budget Monitoring: The development work of Audit Para Monitoring System portal is completed. It will soon be launched once approved by Standing Audit Committee (SAC) of MEA.

NGO Darpan Portal for interface between VOs/NGOs and key Government Ministries/ Departments/Government Bodies monitored by NITI Aayog.

Government of India Initiative in Multilateral: EG&IT division is developing the website for "Mekong-Ganga Cooperation" which will provide an overview of Mekong Ganga Cooperation and also have useful information on the various collaborative programmes and activities undertaken by the MGC member countries, important events under the priority areas of cooperation, and also provide links to the MGC points of contact from the member countries. It is envisaged to be launched in December 2019.

Consular, Passport & Visa (CPV):

13 Melas were organized by various Passport Offices at the Passport Seva Kendras under their jurisdiction, in order to provide passport services during the weekends in which 5525 applications were processed. As of 30th September, 2019, 421 Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) were functional. A MoU was signed on Visa waiver on diplomatic and official passports During the visit of the Prime Minister of St. Vincent & Grenadines. The first Consular Dialogue was held between India and Canada in Canada on 30 September 2019. During the Dialogue, the high level Indian delegation sought ways to strengthen welfare and improve Consular services for the growing number of Indians in Canada. A Trade Enquiry Form was launched by Indian Embassy in Azerbaijan through its website. interested Indian businessmen from India can make their trade enquiries through this online form. Air India restarted the new non-stop service from Delhi to Toronto on 27 September 2019 after a gap of 7 years.

(II) Achievements pertaining to diplomatic relations:

Slovenia:

President Shri Ram Nath Kovind paid the first ever State visit to Slovenia from 15-17 September 2019. He was accompanied by a business delegation. During the visit, he had substantial talks on a wide range of subjects with the Slovenian President. He also met the Prime Minister and the President of National Assembly. Eight MoUs/POCs were signed on subjects such as sports, standards, investments, scientific cooperation etc.

Switzerland:

President Shri Ramnath Kovind paid a State visit to Switzerland From 11-15 September 2019 on the invitation of the President of Swiss Confederation. He was accompanied by a high-level official and business delegation. The two sides reviewed and appreciated the current state of bilateral relations and agreed to work together towards enhancing the bilateral trade and investment. Both sides also discussed international and regional issues and cooperation in multilateral fora. The two sides signed MoUs on Technical Cooperation on Climate Change, renewal of Hindi Chair at the University of Lausanne and a Letter of Intent on establishment of bilateral Science & Innovation Alliance were signed during the visit. Shri Kovind delivered an address on the theme *India-Switzerland New Age Partnership: Connecting Himalayas with Alps* at the University of Berne. He also unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi in the commune of Villeneuve.

Russia:

PM Shri Modi visited Vladivostok On 4 & 5 September to attend the 20th India-Russia Bilateral Annual Summit and the Eastern Economic Forum. He visited a Shipbuilding facility called 'Zvezda' in the city of Bolshoi Kamen with President Mr. Vladimir Putin. The leaders also jointly visited the Street of the Far East Exhibition and attended an International Judo tournament. Both sides had delegation level talks and signed 15 MoUs for cooperation in the areas like Energy, Defence, Culture, Transport, LNG, Mining etc. PM Shri Modi also addressed the Plenary session of the 5th Eastern Economic Forum and expressed commitment to work together with Russia to develop the Far East region for Mutual benefit of both countries.

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA):

PM Shri Narendra Modi visited the US from 21-27 September 2019. PM held an interaction with top energy sector CEOs On 22 September 2019 and addressed over fifty thousand Indian-American community at the 'Howdy Modi' event in Texas. PM was joined by the US President Trump in the event. India also hosted an event at the UN to celebrate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi where several Heads of States and Governments along with UN Secretary General attended.

PM addressed the 74th session of the UN General Assembly in New York on 27 September 2019 where he shared views on India's progress in healthcare, mitigating climate change and the need for all those who believe

in humanity to come together to fight terror. In addition, PM held bilateral meetings with several leaders from other countries and UN entities on the margins of the UNGA. PM was conferred the prestigious Global Goalkeepers Goals Award 2019 by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation on 24 September 2019.

EAM met U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation, Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad in New York on 23 September 2019 where the two sides exchanged views on the latest situation in Afghanistan. During his visit to the US, EAM also met with Foreign Ministers of over 40 countries, attended over 30 bilateral meetings, seven multilateral and three speaking engagements.

Maldives:

EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar visited Male on 3-4 September 2019. He called on Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih and Speaker Mohamed Nasheed. He also held bilateral talks with Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid. During the visit, the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty on criminal matters was signed.

Both ministers jointly laid the foundation stone of the new Chancery building of Embassy of India in the Diplomatic Enclave in Hulhumale.

EAM also participated in the Indian Ocean Conference 2019. In his keynote address on "*Securing the Indian Ocean Region: Traditional and Non-traditional challenges*", he highlighted India's articulation of the Indo-Pacific construct. He called on Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe, met with Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration & International Trade of Mauritius Mr. Nandcoomar Bodha and Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Oman Mr. Sayyid bin Hamad Albusaidi on the side-lines of the Conference.

United States of America (USA):

EAM was on a three-day visit to Washington during which he met with US Defence Secretary Mark Esper and the new National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien. EAM Shri S. Jaishankar met with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in Washington on 30 September 2019. During the meeting, the two sides focused on the further progress of India-US bilateral relations. They also discussed important regional and global issues of mutual interest during the meeting.
