

Ministry of External Affairs

Overview of Major achievements during the month of August 2019

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

E-Governance & Information Technology:

Digital Portal: Many Digital Portals have been designed, developed and maintained by MEA for the functional efficiency in India and through our missions abroad. Currently, the major digital portals which are functional are: (i) E-political clearance; (ii) Know India Program; (iii) Scholarship program for Diaspora Children, (iv) Prathishith Pravasi Alumni Portal and (v) Diplomatic ID card. MEA has also developed various other portals (VideshApp, Object'd Art, inventory , furniture management system, email requisition, help desk for support team, Information Management Portal for Protocol, etc) to cater to its in-house functional requirements. MEA is also in the process of Integrated Missions Accounting System (IMAS) Version 2.0 rollout in the missions abroad. MEA also envisages rolling out other important Digital portals like Audit Para Management System and Budget Monitoring System

Monitoring Dashboard : The MEA Performance Monitoring Dashboard has been launched on 14 August 2019 by EAM Dr Jaishankar. The dashboard is created on three target areas capturing all major schemes programmes and initiatives of Ministry with many major indicators sliced and diced across five clusters. The dashboard aims to bring transparency and accountability across all systems of the Ministry and is a tool for performance monitoring.

Consular, Passport and Visa (CPV):

Vide GSR 602(E) a notification was made in the Gazette of India that the provisions of the Extradition Act, 1962, other than Chapter III, shall apply to the Republic of Armenia with effect from 28 August 2019. The Agreement for Exemption from visa requirement for holders of Diplomatic Passport was signed between India and Estonia on 21 August 2019 during the visit of Hon'ble Vice President of India to Estonia. The Agreement on the exemption from Visa requirements for holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports between India and Dominican Republic was signed on August 26, 2019 during the visit of MOS, MEA to Dominican Republic.

(II) Achievements pertaining to diplomatic relations:

Visit of PM to Bhutan

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi made a State Visit to the Kingdom of Bhutan from 17-18 August 2019, at the invitation of the Prime Minister of Bhutan, Dr. Lotay Tshering. During his visit, PM Shri Modi met with King of Bhutan His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck. During the talks both Prime Ministers comprehensively reviewed all aspects of the bilateral relationship as well as other important regional and international developments. PM Shri Modi reiterated Government of India's commitment to advancing the economic and infrastructural development of Bhutan, as per the priorities and wishes of the Government and the people of the Kingdom of Bhutan. Leader of the Opposition of the National Assembly of Bhutan, Dr. Pema Gyamtsho, called on Prime Minister Shri Modi. During the visit, important bilateral projects - 720 MW Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Plant, Ground Earth Station of the South Asian Satellite in Thimphu and inter-connection between India's National Knowledge Network and Bhutan's Research and Education Network were inaugurated. Indian RuPay cards were also launched in Bhutan by both PMs. 10 MoUs, in IT, space, civil aviation, education and legal sectors, were signed during the visit. PM also announced enhancement of quantum of subsidized LPG to Bhutan

from 700 MT to 1000 MT per month, extension of loan period of statue of Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal by another five years and increase in scholarships for Bhutanese students for studies at Nalanda University from 2 candidates to 5 candidates.

China:

EAM Dr Jaishankar visited China from 11-13 August 2019. During this visit, EAM co-chaired the 2nd meeting of the India-China High Level Mechanism on Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges (HLM) on 12 August 2019 in Beijing with State Councilor and Foreign Minister of China. The 2nd HLM meeting provided an opportunity to follow up on the outcomes of the 1st HLM meeting which was held in New Delhi in December 2018, and also to discuss new initiatives for enhancing people-to-people exchanges between the two countries. During the visit, the following 4 MoUs/Agreements have been concluded to : (i) Promote Cultural exchanges for preservation of intangible cultural heritage, organization of cultural activities and management of archaeological heritage sites. (ii) Enhance cooperation in the field of traditional medicine- where both countries have a rich knowledge accumulated over centuries, with the objective of promoting the development of Traditional Medicine in two countries' healthcare systems. (iii) Promote exchanges between National Sports Associations, sports persons and youth for strengthening cooperation on international sports events, and (iv) Cooperation in Museum Management for promoting collaboration between Hubei Provincial Museum, Wuhan and the National Museum, New Delhi in the field of exhibitions, protection and restoration of collections and archaeological excavations for Museums.

Guinea:

President Shri Ram Nath Kovind paid the first ever State Visit to the Republic of Guinea from 1-3 August 2019. In addition to holding detailed discussions on

bilateral relations, international and regional issues of mutual interest with Guinean President Alpha Condé, President Shri Kovind also addressed the Indian community in Conakry. The Guinean leadership expressed appreciation on the recent opening of a resident Indian Mission in Conakry. The President also announced a new Line of Credit of USD 170 million for Water Supply Project of Metropolitan city of Conakry. During the visit, the following 3 MoUs were signed: (i) MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Traditional System of Medicine and Homeopathy; (ii) MoU between the Government of the Republic of Guinea and the Telecommunications Consultants India Limited [TCIL] for Participation in the e-VBAB Network Project [Technology Upgradation of Pan Africa e-Network Project] and (iii) MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Renewable Energy.

ASEAN

EAM Dr Jaishankar traveled to Bangkok to participate in 10th MGC Ministerial Meeting, ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting and 9th EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Bangkok on 1-2 August 2019. In the MGC Ministerial Meeting, MGC Plan of Action (2019-22) was adopted. On the sidelines of the above meetings, EAM also held bilateral meetings with Foreign Ministers of Thailand, New Zealand, EU, Japan, Philippines, Indonesia, UK, China, Singapore, USA, Vietnam, Timore Leste, Sri Lanka, Mangolia and Bangladesh and also with ASEAN Secretary General.
