

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

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

**I. Diplomatic Engagements and other Interactions:**

1. March witnessed a flurry of diplomatic engagements. There have been significant high level outgoing visits, multiple incoming visits and important physical and virtual summits during the month.
  
2. Not with standing the burgeoning of diplomatic activity, Operation Ganga continued throughout the month. We explored all possible mechanisms to evacuate Indian citizens safely from Ukraine. We have so far evacuated about 23000 Indian citizens, as well as 147 foreign nationals belonging to 18 countries, from Ukraine. Prime Minister interacted with Indian community organizations, civil society and volunteer groups involved in Operation Ganga on March 15. Earlier, on March 3, EAM chaired a meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Parliament on developments in Ukraine.
  
3. March 7 marked the 25th anniversary of Indian Ocean Rim Association, (IORA). In a yet another historic occasion, a logo was unveiled to mark the 75th anniversary of our diplomatic relations with Thailand.
  
4. Prime Minister, along with his counterparts from USA, Japan and Australia participated in a Quad Leaders' virtual meeting on March 3 2022. During the meeting, the Leaders exchanged their views and assessments about important developments in the Indo-Pacific. The Quad Leaders reviewed ongoing efforts to implement the Leaders' initiatives announced as part of the Quad's contemporary and positive agenda.
  
5. Prime Ministers of India and Australia held the second India-Australia virtual Summit on March 21 2022. Both Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP). The Leaders' committed to holding Annual Summits to drive closer cooperation. They looked forward to India's 2023 G20 presidency and reiterated their commitment to work closely on economic issues of global interests.

6. On March 30, Prime Minister virtually participated in the 5th BIMSTEC Summit, hosted by Sri Lanka. The Summit saw the adoption and signing of the BIMSTEC Charter.

7. Prime Minister met Sri Lanka's Finance Minister in New Delhi on March 16. In a subsequent meeting, EAM and the Sri Lankan Finance Minister discussed India-Sri Lanka economic partnership. Foreign Secretary also called on the visiting Minister on the same day.

8. Prime Minister, along with the Prime Minister of Japan participated in the 14th India-Japan Annual Summit in New Delhi on March 19. This coincided with the 70th anniversary of our diplomatic ties with Japan. During the Summit, the Leaders discussed bilateral ties, regional & global issues, as well as ways to boost economic and cultural linkages between the two countries. The two leaders also addressed the India-Japan Economic Forum on the same day.

9. Prime Minister held telephonic conversations with his counterparts from Poland, France, Russia, Ukraine, Hungary, Netherlands and the UK. PM also spoke to the President of the European Council and President-elect of South Korea during the month.

10. Notable diplomatic engagements during the month included those of EAM's outgoing visits to Maldives for a bilateral visit and Sri Lanka to attend the 18th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting; and the incoming visits of Foreign Ministers of Austria, Oman, Greece, Mexico, China, Russia, Foreign Secretary of the UK and a parliamentary delegation from Austria to New Delhi. The Foreign Ministers of Greece and Oman separately called on the Vice President. EAM and UK's Foreign Secretary launched the first India-UK Strategic Futures Forum, a track 1.5 Dialogue, hosted by the Indian Council of World Affairs and Policy Exchange, UK.

11. During the month, EAM met the President of US-India Business Council; the President of National Council of Austria; the Brazilian Secretary for Strategic Affairs; the US under Secretary of State for Political Affairs; and the Foreign and Security Policy Advisor to the German Chancellor.

12. EAM held telephonic conversations with his counterparts from France, Estonia, Italy, Thailand, USA and the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs.

13. During the month, Minister of State, Shri V. Muraleedharan [MoS (VM)] met the Undersecretary for Political Affairs, MoFA, Bahrain and Permanent Secretary of Nigerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Minister of State, Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi [MoS (ML)] held

significant discussions with the Minister of State for Trade Promotion of Ireland, the visiting Director of SCO RATS, the Austrian Foreign Minister and the DG of Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in New Delhi. Minister of State, Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh [MoS (RRS)] had a meeting with the President of the National Council of Austrian Parliament and members of the Parliamentary Delegation in New Delhi and addressed the Bangladesh National day. National Security Advisor (NSA) visited Maldives and Indonesia during the month.

**14.** Foreign Secretary visited New York to address the UN Security Council meeting on 'Cooperation between UN and Regional Organisations (League of Arab States (LAS))' on March 23. During the visit, he met the UN Secretary General; the Under Secretary General Department of Operational Support of the UN; and the UAE Minister of State.

**15.** During the month, Foreign Secretary chaired the 6th Act East Forum with the Ambassador of Japan; co-chaired the India-US Foreign Office Consultations with US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs; and met Deputy Director General for Asia and the Pacific of Israel's Foreign Ministry, the delegation of the UN Security Council Analytical Support and Monitoring Team, the President of US-India Business Council, Deputy Foreign Minister of Canada, the French Navy Chief, the Foreign and Security Policy Advisor to German Chancellor, and US Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economics & G20 Sherpa.

**16.** Foreign Secretary inaugurated the Passage to India festival at the Museum of Islamic Art in Qatar; delivered the keynote addresses at the 1st India-UK Strategic Futures Forum and at the UN Peacekeeping Training Program, jointly organized by Centre for UN Peacekeeping and MEA.

**17.** On March 2, Foreign Secretary inaugurated St. Stephen's Young Leaders' Neighbourhood First Fellowship Programme 2022. 21 residential fellows from five neighbouring countries are being trained under this ITEC Residential Programme.

**18.** Secretary (East) co-chaired the India-Canada Foreign Office Consultations in New Delhi, along with the Canadian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs; participated in the virtual meeting with Permanent Secretary of Singapore; welcomed the Secretary, Research, Industrial Policy & Defence Production of Argentina and Chief of Argentine Air force and led the Indian delegation at the 22nd Session of the BIMSTEC Senior Officials Meeting in Colombo. Secretary (CPV & OIA) co-chaired the 5th India-Bahrain Foreign Office Consultations along with the Bahrain MoFA's Undersecretary for Political Affairs in New Delhi.

19. The 8th round of Foreign Office Consultations with Lithuania and the India-Republic of Korea Consultations on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation were conducted in New Delhi during the month.

20. The Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, (SSIFS) in partnership with the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, (LBSNAA) organized a training module on India's neighbourhood for 488 Civil Services Officer Trainees of the 96th Foundation Course. This was the first-ever foreign policy module conducted, as part of the Foundation Course for civil servants. This was also the first of its kind training module on India's neighbourhood policy. In my virtual inaugural message, I reiterated that domestic policies may have both direct and indirect bearing on our neighborhood.

21. India has decided to gift 50,000 MTs of wheat to Afghanistan. To this effect, India and the United Nations World Food Program (UNWFP) signed the second 'In-kind Contribution Agreement for the donation of next batch of 10,000 MTs of wheat to the People of Afghanistan'. India extended a USD 1 billion credit line to Sri Lanka for supply of essential commodities, a key element of the package of support extended by India. On March 9, the second tranche of humanitarian aid was handed over to Romanian authorities for onward transmission to Ukraine.

22. On March 3, India and the International Telecommunication Union, (ITU) signed a Host Country Agreement to establish ITU Area Office & Innovation Centre in New Delhi. This would be ITU's first area office in 2 decades.

23. The 117th Meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) comprising Indus Commissioners of India and Pakistan was held from March 1-3, 2022 in Islamabad, Pakistan. During the meeting, technical discussions were held regarding on-going projects including Pakal Dul, Kiru and Lower Kalnai. The Indian side underscored that all its projects are fully compliant with the provisions of the Treaty and provided technical details in support of its position.

24. In an effort to strengthen Global Health Governance, Ministry of Ayush has signed the Host Country Agreement with the World Health Organization (WHO) for establishing WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in India at Jamnagar, Gujarat. The primary objective of GCTM is to harness the potential of traditional medicine from across the world.

25. The Indian community Sports Centre in Qatar established a Guinness World Record after successfully conducting a yoga lesson for 114 nationalities. This is a manifestation of Yoga's global appeal.

26. The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology and Earth Sciences released India's Arctic policy, titled 'India and the Arctic: building a partnership for sustainable development'. The Arctic Policy will play an essential role in preparing the country to combat challenges, such as climate change.