

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

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**Overview of Major Achievements during the Month of February 2024**

**High-Level Diplomatic Engagements/Interactions:**

1. Hon'ble President and Vice President met Prime Minister of Guyana Mark Phillips during his visit to India from 6-10 February. He was the keynote speaker at the 'World Sustainable Development Summit' organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).
2. Surinamese Parliamentary delegation led by Chairman of the National Assembly of Suriname met Vice President during their visit from 4-8 February.
3. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Parnpree Bahiddha-Nukara, met Vice President during his visit from 25-28 February.
4. Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic Kyriakos Mitsotakis paid a State visit to India from 21-22 February. He was the chief guest and keynote speaker at the 9<sup>th</sup> Raisina Dialogue.
5. Prime Minister of Mauritius and Prime Minister jointly inaugurated a new airstrip, jetty, and six community development projects at Agalega, Mauritius, on 29 February. They were implemented with financial assistance from Government of India. The Prime Minister also announced adoption of Janaushadhi Scheme by Mauritius which is the first of its kind. Under this scheme, Mauritius will be benefited by gaining access to quality generic medicines for its population.
6. Prime Minister paid an official visit to Qatar on 14 and 15 February. He met HH Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, Father Amir HH Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, and HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani.
7. Prime Minister along with President of Sri Lanka and Prime Minister of Mauritius, jointly launched the UPI system in Sri Lanka, and UPI and RuPay card systems in Mauritius on 12 February, in an effort to enhance financial connectivity between India and Sri Lanka and India and Mauritius.
8. Prime Minister paid an official visit to the UAE on 13 and 14 February and met HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the President of UAE.

9. Prime Minister met Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates in India on 29 February.

**EAM's engagements:**

10. On the sidelines of the Raisina Dialogue, EAM held talks with the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania Igli Hasani; Australia's Director General of the Office of National Intelligence (ONI) Andrew Shearer; Foreign Minister of Estonia Margus Tsahkna; Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland Elna Valtonen; Permanent Secretary of State Martin Eyjólfsson; Foreign Minister of Latvia Krišjānis Kariņš; Deputy Foreign Minister of Norway Andreas Kravik; Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania Luminita Odobescu; Foreign Minister of Slovakia Juraj Blunar; Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden Tobias Billström; and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tanzania January Makamba.
11. EAM held talks with Prime Minister of Guyana Mark Phillips; Premier of Saskatchewan province of Canada Scott Moe, former Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and an official trade delegation on 20 February; Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development, and Statistics of Fiji Prof Biman Prasad; Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates; US Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources Richard Verma; Commander of US Indo-Pacific Command John C Aquilino; the Norwegian Parliament delegation to the Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership (ASEP); Foreign Minister of Panama Janaina Tewaney Mencomo on 22 February; 8-member Nepalese Parliamentary delegation; Surinamese Parliamentary delegation; 7-member Thai Senate delegation; and Foreign Minister of Switzerland Ignazio Cassis.
12. EAM's engagements during visits: EAM delivered the keynote address at the 7<sup>th</sup> Indian Ocean Conference (IOC) held in Perth. He met foreign minister Penny Wong on the sidelines of IOC on 9 February. EAM also interacted with Premier of Western Australia Roger Cook; Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe, Foreign Minister of Mauritius Maneesh Gobin, Foreign Minister of Singapore Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Foreign Minister of Madagascar and Rasata Rafaravavitafika and UK's Minister of State for Indo-Pacific Anne-Marie Trevelyan on the sidelines of IOC.
13. On the sidelines of the 60<sup>th</sup> Munich Security Conference, EAM met Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria Mariya; Canadian Foreign Minister Melanie Joly; Singapore's Defence Minister Dr. Ng Eng Hen; and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

### **MOS (VM)'s engagements:**

14. MOS (VM) visited Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, from 21-22 February to represent India at the G-20 Foreign Ministers Meeting (G20 FMM). On the sidelines, he met some of the LAC Foreign Ministers / Leaders of delegations.
15. MOS (VM) met US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 22 February, at Rio, Brazil.

### **MOS (RRS)'s engagements:**

16. MOS (RRS) met Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development, and Statistics of Fiji Prof Biman Prasad.

### **Other engagements:**

17. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Gabrielius Landsbergis; Foreign Affairs Minister of Nepal N.P. Saud; Minister of Defence Personnel and Minister of Veterans' Affairs of Australia; Chief of Royal New Zealand Navy Rear Adm David Proctor; and Deputy Foreign Minister of Vietnam Do Hun Viet, participated in the Raisina Dialogue.
18. Foreign Secretary of India visited Japan from 7-8 February and held consultations with the Vice Minister and Senior Deputy Foreign Minister.
19. Premier of Saskatchewan province of Canada Scott Moe met Minister of Science & Technology, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Minister of Coal and Mines, and MOS (Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare) on 21 February.
20. Minister of Natural Resources of Guyana Vickram Bharrat, participated in the 'India Energy Week' held in Goa from 6-9 February. He held talks with the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
21. Minister of Commerce and Industry led the Indian delegation to the WTO's 13<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference in Abu Dhabi from 27-29 February.
22. Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade of Ontario, Canada, Victor Fedeli, visited India along with a business delegation from 11-17 February. He visited Mumbai and Bengaluru and invited Indian tech companies to co-locate and invest in Ontario by taking advantage of the province's favorable business environment in the fields including artificial intelligence and robotics.

23. Minister for Railways, Communications and Electronics & IT, visited Qatar on 26-27 February and held meetings with Qatar's Minister for Communications and IT, Minister for Transport and Chairman of Qatar Investment Authority and Governor of Qatar Central Bank.
24. Minister of Information and Communications Technologies of Colombia Mauricio Lizcano met MOS (Meity) on 16 February, in New Delhi.
25. Secretary of State (First Deputy Minister) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland Władysław Teofil Bartoszewski, visited India from 19-24 February. He held meetings with the Dean, SSFSI, Secretary (ER) and Deputy National Security Advisor.
26. US Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources Richard R. Verma met Minister of Commerce and Industry, Foreign Secretary, Defence Secretary and Deputy National Security Advisor.
27. The Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry of Fiji Charan Jeeth Singh met Minister for Power, New and Renewable Energy, and Minister for Tourism, Culture, and Development.
28. Malta's Permanent Secretary at the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs Christopher Cutajar, participated in the Raisina Dialogue and India-EU Business Conclave from 20-23 February. During the visit, Malta also signed the International Solar Alliance (ISA) treaty.
29. The first India-Iran Joint Agriculture Working Group Meeting was held on 6 February in New Delhi. The Indian delegation was led by Additional Secretary (DA&FW), while the Iranian delegation was led by Khani Nozari, the Deputy Minister of Commercial Development of the Ministry of Jihad Agriculture.
30. Secretary General of Parliament of Mongolia (State Great Hural) Enkhbat Damdip visited India from 26 February - 01 March. During the visit, he held talks with the Lok Sabha Secretary.
31. The Norwegian Parliament delegation to the Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership (ASEP) visited India for a study tour from 25 February - 2 March. Meetings were held with Minister of Women and Child Development, Minister of Commerce and Industry, and Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy.

32. A Gabonese defence delegation visited India from 8-10 February to explore the purchase of 6 LCH, 5 ALH and 2 Dornier 228 Helicopters. The delegation also visited the HAL Manufacturing Unit in Bengaluru.
33. One Pakistani civilian prisoner was repatriated to Pakistan in February.
34. The inaugural Quad Think Tank Forum was hosted by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) and the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India (MEA) on 24 February, on the sidelines of the Raisina Dialogue, with the participation of leading think tanks from Quad member countries (Australian Strategic Policy Institute- Australia; Japan Institute of International Affairs- Japan; East West Center-US; and ORF-India).

#### **Foreign Office/Ministry Consultations**

35. The 2<sup>nd</sup> FOC between India and Eswatini were held in Mbabane on 19 February. Additional Secretary (ESA) led the Indian side and Principal Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation led Eswatini's side.
36. 7th Ministerial Consultations of Abu Dhabi Dialogue (ADD) was held in Dubai from 10-11 February. The Indian delegation was led by Secretary (CPV&OIA).

#### **Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs)/ Agreements:**

37. Governor of Reserve Bank of India and Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank Shri Maha Prasad Adhikari, signed and exchanged Terms of Reference for integration of fast payment systems of India and Nepal - Unified Payments Interface (UPI) of India and National Payments Interface (NPI) of Nepal respectively, on 15 February, in Mumbai.
38. Satcom Industry Association-India (SIA-India) and the Space Industry Association of Australia (SIAA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 7 February during the DefSat Conference & Expo in New Delhi.
39. MoU on cooperation in the field of sharing successful digital solutions implemented at population scale for digital transformation was signed between Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of India and Ministry of Information and Communications Technologies of Colombia on 16 February.

40. MoU was signed between the Tamil Nadu Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Malaysia's Selangor Indian Chamber of Commerce & Entrepreneurs.
41. On 28 February, Nicaragua signed MoU on pharmacopoeia cooperation. This is expected to boost Indian pharmaceutical exports to Nicaragua.
42. MoU for Sister Park Cooperation between Valley of Flowers National Park of Uttarakhand and Triglav National Park of Slovenia was signed on 16 February.
43. India and Thailand signed MoU between the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur of the Ministry of Ayush, India and the Department of Thai Traditional and Alternative Medicine of the Ministry of Public Health, Thailand on the Establishment of an Academic Collaboration in Ayurveda and Thai Traditional Medicine.
44. MoU between ITA and TECC on the Facilitation of Employment of Indian Workers in Taiwan was signed on 16 February through virtual mode and witnessed by the Secretary (CPV &OIA) on the Indian side and the Deputy Minister of Labour of Taiwan.
45. States Division facilitated meetings of representatives of France, UK, Germany, Greece, Brazil, Australia, Portugal, New Zealand, Poland, Singapore, Denmark, and Belgium with leaders of various states in India.

### **Humanitarian Aid/Assistance**

#### **46. Zambia**

India sent HADR to Zambia in the wake of the cholera outbreak in the country. The aid weighed approx 3.5 tons comprised of water purification supplies and hydration in the form of ORS sachets.

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