

Ministry of External Affairs
Policy Planning and Research Division

Overview of Major Achievements during the month of October 2021

I. Diplomatic Engagements and other Interactions:

1. Prime Minister (PM) travelled to Italy and the UK from October 29 to November 2 to attend the 16th G20 Summit and the World Leaders' Summit of COP26, respectively. On the side-lines of the G20 and COP-26 Summits, Prime Minister held a series of bilateral meetings with his counterparts, including those from France, Germany, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Nepal, Singapore, Spain, the UK and Ukraine and with the President of the EU Commission and President of the European Council. He also paid a historic visit to the Vatican City. Accompanying the Prime Minister, EAM and Foreign Secretary travelled to Vatican City on October 30 to meet Pope Francis.
2. PM inaugurated the Kushinagar International Airport on October 20 2021. A Sri Lankan delegation led by Sri Lanka's Cabinet Minister of Youth and Sports was also present to mark this significant event. Ambassadors from Buddhist countries also attended the event. Thereafter, Prime Minister met Sri Lanka's Cabinet Minister of Youth and Sports.
3. During the month, PM shared his remarks at the launch of the Indian Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai on October 1st; virtually participated in the G20 Extraordinary Summit on Afghanistan on October 12; attended the 16th East Asia Summit on October 27; co-chaired the 18th India-ASEAN Summit on October 28; and delivered address at Global Summit on Supply Chain Resilience on October 31 2021.
4. PM held telephonic calls with the newly-elected Prime Minister of Japan and Prime Minister of UK on October 8 and October 11, respectively.
5. The Vice President and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia visited India from October 1-3. In her meeting with EAM on October 2, both leaders agreed to focus more on health, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and space. She met with the Vice President on October 1 and with MoS(ML) on October 3 2021.

6. US Deputy Secretary of State visited India from October 5-7. During her visit, she called on EAM and held productive discussions. On October 6, Foreign Secretary held consultations with US Deputy Secretary of State, wherein both sides took stock of bilateral issues, ranging from Covid-19, security & defense, economic, climate & clean energy and people to people linkages. Later, Foreign Secretary also participated in the USIBS India Ideas Summit along with US Deputy Secretary of State.

7. The Prime Minister of Denmark was in India from October 9-11 2021. On October 9, she met with Prime Minister and both leaders exchanged a list of MoUs/Agreements that will take the Green Strategic Partnership forward. The Danish Prime Minister also called on Rashtrapati ji on October 9 2021.

8. The Foreign Secretary of UK visited India From October 22-24 2021. She met with EAM on October 22, wherein both leaders held a comprehensive review of the bilateral relationship. Ahead of the visit, EAM had a telephonic call with the Foreign Secretary of UK on October 8 2021.

9. EAM visited Kyrgyzstan from October 10-11, Kazakhstan to take part in the 6th CICA Ministerial Meeting on October 12, Armenia from October 12-13 and Israel from October 17-21. On October 19, EAM along with Israeli Foreign Minister, met with his counterparts from UAE and US in virtual mode, wherein leaders affirmed on working more closely on economic growth and global issues.

10. EAM travelled to Rome to attend the G20 Summit. In Rome, EAM held bilateral visits with his counterparts from Indonesia on October 29 and US on October 30 2021.

11. EAM met with the former Prime Minister of Mauritius on October 7; welcomed the Nepali Congress delegation to New Delhi on October 8; met with the UK Chief of Defence on October 22; interacted with the Director General of WTO; and exchanged views with the Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal on October 22 2021.

12. On October 25, EAM chaired a coordination meeting at HQs, in which Officers of the rank of Joint Secretary and above attended. EAM, inter alia, stressed the need for additional efforts in obtaining regulatory approvals for Indian vaccines.

13. EAM delivered keynote addresses at USIBC India Ideas Summit, 46th Annual Meeting and at the inaugural session of the India-ASEAN Business Summit on October 7. EAM also gave remarks at the 3rd Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue on October 27; addressed a UNSC High Level meeting on cooperation between the UN and regional and sub regional organizations on October 28; delivered remarks at the 4th Indo-Pacific Business Forum on October 28; and gave remarks at Ambition India 2021 on October 29, 2021.

14. MoS(VM) visited New York from October 11-13 to participate at the UNSC High-level open debate on "Peace building and sustaining peace-Identity, State-building & the search for peace" on October 12; visited Sudan and South Sudan from October 18-22; and attended 6th Ministerial Consultation of Abu Dhabi Dialogue held in Dubai on October 26 2021. MoS(VM) interacted with leaders of Indian community in Gulf on October 6; delivered a keynote address at the India-Africa Higher Education & Skill Development Summit on October 21; and addressed PBD Virtual Conference on "Future of Natural Resources" on October 29 2021.

15. MoS(ML) visited Serbia from October 10-13, to address the High Level Meeting, marking the 60th anniversary of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). On the sidelines of the NAM Meeting, she met with the Foreign Minister of Uganda, who will assume the next chairmanship of NAM. MoS(ML) addressed the Annual General Meeting of Swiss India Chamber of Commerce and interacted with members of Indian diaspora in Zurich on October 1 2021.

16. On October 21, MoS (ML) and Foreign Secretary visited Kushinagar, an important site in the Buddhist Circuit, along with the members of the diplomatic corps. In Kushinagar, Foreign Secretary met with Sri Lanka's Cabinet Minister of Youth and Sports.

17. MoS(RRS) virtually launched the partnership between Global Development Centre, RIS and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation on October 5; inaugurated the ASEAN-India Cultural & Civilisational Links Conference on October 7; met with Resident Heads of Mission from New Zealand, Fiji, South Korea and Papua New Guinea on October 21; and launched the teaching Block of Nalanda University on October 29 2021.

18. Foreign Secretary paid an official visit to Sri Lanka from October 2-5. During the visit, he called on the Sri Lankan President, Prime Minister and had meetings with Sri Lanka's

Foreign and Finance Ministers. On October 4, he had a delegation-level meeting with the Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary to review bilateral cooperation. Foreign Secretary also had separate meetings with delegations from TNA, TPA and CWC. He jointly inaugurated 4 projects in the housing & education sectors along with the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka on October 4 2021.

19. On October 12, Foreign Secretary met with the US Chief of Naval Operations on his official visit to New Delhi and discussed India-US defence relations and ongoing maritime cooperation. Foreign Secretary also participated in a Conclave on Investment Opportunities for Japanese Companies in Odisha on October 14. Thereafter, he called on the Chief Minister of Odisha to discuss ways in which MEA can facilitate State government's efforts to promote trade, tourism, tech & investments, enhance passport services, etc. Foreign Secretary also attended the inauguration at KIIT Japanese Language & Mitsubishi Internship and CSR Sports Complex on October 14.

20. On October 14, India hosted the first ever SCO Seminar on Role of Women in Armed Forces.

21. The third India-EU Strategic Partnership Review Meeting was co-chaired by Secretary (West) in Brussels on October 20 2021.

22. In an important diplomatic development, India was elected for the 6th term of the Human Rights Council by an overwhelming endorsement of UN Member States. Tunisia became the 99th signatory to the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement. Additionally, India has agreed for mutual recognition of Covid-19 vaccination certificates with Serbia and Hungary.

23. The Ambassadors of Luxembourg, Slovenia, Israel and Egypt presented their letters of credence in Ashok Hall, Rashtrapati Bhavan on October 26. This was the first physical presentation of credentials, following the pandemic.