

Ministry of External Affairs
Policy Planning and Research Division

Overview of Major Achievements during the month of August 2022

Diplomatic Engagements and other Interactions:

1. **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav:** Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav was celebrated by Missions and Posts across the World with much enthusiasm and vigor, with the active participation of diaspora. Special events and receptions were also held on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of independence. India also received several congratulatory messages on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of India's Independence and on the election of Shri Jagdeep Dhankar as the Hon'ble Vice President of India.
2. **Maldives:** The President of Maldives visited India for delegation level talks with the Prime Minister on August 2. He also met Rashtrapatiji and was called on by EAM on August 1. The Foreign Minister of Maldives and President of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly visited New Delhi from August 28-29 and called on the Vice President on August 28.
3. **Netherlands:** Queen Máxima of the Netherlands met the President on August 29 at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
4. **Philippines:** Prime Minister held a phone call with the newly elected President of Philippines and congratulated him for his election as the 17th President of the Philippines. They also reviewed various areas of bilateral engagement.
5. **France:** Prime Minister held a phone call with French President Macron on August 16.
6. **ASEAN:** EAM paid an official visit to Cambodia from 3-5 August to attend the ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting, held on August 4 where EAM co-chaired the meeting with the Foreign Minister of Singapore. During his visit, EAM also called on the Prime Minister of Cambodia; held a bilateral meeting with his Cambodian counterpart; and with his counterparts from Australia, Sri Lanka, US and Vietnam. A delegation of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly also called on the Vice President on August 12.
7. **Thailand:** EAM visited Thailand from August 16-18 to co-chair the 9th Meeting of India-Thailand Joint Commission along with his Thai counterpart, which took place on August 17. In Bangkok, EAM called on the Prime Minister of Thailand on August 17 and inaugurated the Indian Embassy Residence Complex along with the DPM and Foreign Minister of Thailand.
8. **Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina:** From August 22-27, EAM visited Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina, during which he called on the Presidents of the three countries, and held bilateral engagements with his counterparts and other key leaders. In Paraguay, EAM inaugurated the chancery premises of the Indian Embassy. In Brazil and Argentina, EAM co-chaired the Joint

Commission Meetings (JCM) with his counterparts. EAM also held interactions with respective Indian communities during his tour.

9. **UAE:** EAM paid an official visit to the UAE from August 31-September 2. He co-chaired the 14th India-UAE JCM and 3rd India-UAE Strategic Dialogue with the Foreign Minister of UAE. In UAE, EAM's other engagements included meetings with UAE leadership and the Minister of Tolerance and Co-existence; visit to the BAPS Hindu temple under construction in Abu Dhabi on August 31; and a talk at the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy.

10. **Other engagements of EAM:** EAM met Foreign Minister of Andorra on August 1, whose arrival marked the first ever visit by Andorran FM to India. EAM met Ethiopia's Minister of Women and Social Affairs, the Minister for Development & Nordic Cooperation of Denmark, and the Head of Federal Department of Finance of Switzerland on August 10; the MP and Foreign Policy spokesperson for CDU, Germany on August 15; Speaker of Maldives' Majlis, former Prime Minister of Australia, and Foreign Minister of Maldives on August 29.

11. EAM's other engagements included a phone call with the Foreign Minister of Ukraine on August 8; delivering the 34th Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Memorial Lecture at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy and visit to Regional Passport Office in Hyderabad on August 9; interaction with the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly delegation visiting India on August 11 and with the Lithuanian Parliamentary delegation in Bengaluru on August 12; speech on India's Vision of the Indo Pacific at the Chulalongkorn University on August 18; interaction with Ambassadors from Latin America and the Caribbean countries in New Delhi on August 19; and remarks at the launch of the Asia Society Policy Institute in New Delhi on August 29.

12. **Engagements of MOS(VM):** MoS (VM) visited Nigeria from August 22-23 and met the President, Foreign Minister and the Defence Minister of Nigeria. Earlier, on August 3, he attended the India-Maldives Business Forum along with the President of Maldives in New Delhi.

13. **Engagements of MOS(ML):** MoS (ML) paid official visits to Australia (August 7-9), Norway (August 16-18), Iceland (19-20 August) and Malta (21-23 August). During her visits, she met with Foreign Minister and Minister of Climate and Environment in Norway; Foreign Minister, Speaker of the Parliament and Minister of Culture and Business Affairs in Iceland and President, Foreign Minister and Minister of Tourism of Malta. She also held interactions with the Indian diaspora & participated in cultural events as part of AKAM celebrations. MoS(ML)'s other engagements included a meeting with the First Deputy Foreign Minister of Belarus on August 4.

14. **Engagements of MOS(RRS):** MoS (RRS) was in Indonesia on August 28-29 for an official visit to ASEAN Secretariat. In Jakarta, he held discussions with the Secretary General of ASEAN on August 29; inaugurated the ASEAN-India Network of Universities (AINU) along with the

Secretary General of ASEAN and PRs of ASEAN Member States; and called on the Foreign Minister of Indonesia.

15. MoS(RRS)'s other engagements included a meeting with Kiribati's Minister for Commerce on August 10; interaction with ASEAN institutions on August 29; and a session with Indian CEOs and Business Leaders along with the Chairman of Indonesian Chamber of Commerce on August 30.

16. **Engagements of FS:** On August 23, FS met his Bhutanese counterpart and discussed bilateral issues of mutual interest. In August, FS also interacted with Iranian journalists who were on a week-long familiarisation visit to India; called on the Maldivian Foreign Minister; and inaugurated a session on Development Partnership Administration attended by senior GOI officers.

17. **Foreign Office Consultations:** In August, Foreign Office Consultations (FoCs) were held with Switzerland, Belarus, Philippines, and Singapore.

18. **BIMSTEC:** BIMSTEC Secretary General visited India and held discussions on consolidation and development of BIMSTEC institutional architecture and cooperation. MoS (RRS) met with the visiting BIMSTEC Secretary General on August 24 and handed over a cheque of USD 1 Million for the BIMSTEC Secretariat's operational budget.

Humanitarian Aid/Assistance:

19. **Sri Lanka:** India gifted a Dornier Maritime Reconnaissance aircraft to Sri Lanka on August 15 that will bolster Sri Lanka's maritime security.

20. **Afghanistan:** On August 20, India also supplied the tenth batch of medicine assistance to Afghanistan as part of India's ongoing humanitarian assistance.

21. **Nauru:** On August 25, India gifted 7,000 more doses of Made in India vaccines to Nauru in its fight against Covid-19.

22. **Nepal:** India inaugurated three school buildings developed on grant assistance from Government of India in August.

MOUs/Agreements:

23. **Thailand:** EAM visited Bangkok from 16-18 August 2022 to co-chair the 9th Meeting of India-Thailand Joint Commission (JCM) with Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand (DPM/FM) on 17 August 2022. During the JCM two MoUs, namely (i) MoU on Health and Medical Research Cooperation between Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), India and Department of Medical Sciences (DMS), Thailand; and (ii) MoU for Cooperation & Collaboration on Broadcasting between Prasar Bharti, India and Thai Public Broadcasting Service of Thailand were signed.

24. **Brazil:** EAM visited Brazil from 23-24 August 2022 and co-chaired 8th India-Brazil Joint Commission Meeting along with his Brazilian counterpart Mr. Carlos Alberto Franco França in Brasilia. During the visit, the (i) Protocol Amending the Convention for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income (Protocol to the Double Taxation Agreement) and (ii) an Agreement for Cooperation between Prasar Bharti with its counterpart EBC, Brazil were signed.

25. **Malaysia:** An MoU for establishing an Office in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia was signed on August 18, 2022 between M/s HAL and M/s Forte Drus.

26. **Panama:** On August 25, Panama signed the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement, becoming its newest member.

27. **Suriname:** Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha, H.E. Shri Om Birla, led an Indian Parliamentary Delegation to Suriname from 27-31 August 2022. 4 MoUs/ Cooperation Programmes were signed including (1) MOU between the Secretariat of Lok Sabha of Republic of India and the Secretariat of the National Assembly of Suriname on cooperation between both parliaments; (2) MOU between Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and Suriname Standards Bureau (SSB); (3) Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) between the Government of India and Government of Suriname; and (4) MOU between Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of India and Ministry of Health of Suriname on Cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine.

28. **Uganda:** On the sidelines of the first Convocation Ceremony of National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) held in Gandhinagar on 28 August 2022, an MOU between NFSU and the Ministry of Defence of Uganda was signed to open NFSU's campus in Uganda. A delegation of Ministry of Defence of Uganda led by Minister of Defence, Mr. Vincent Bamulangaki Ssempijja attended the convocation ceremony.