

सत्यमेव जयते

# MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Annual Report 2022



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# **MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

Annual Report 2022





MEA's Glo

Mission & Posts

Bilateral Trade

Solar Alliance

Iconic Projects

Peace Keeping

Grants & Loans

# Mission & Posts

202

Mission and posts operational globally

3

New missions/posts to be opened in 2022-23

## Missions & Posts in

Fiji



HCI Suva

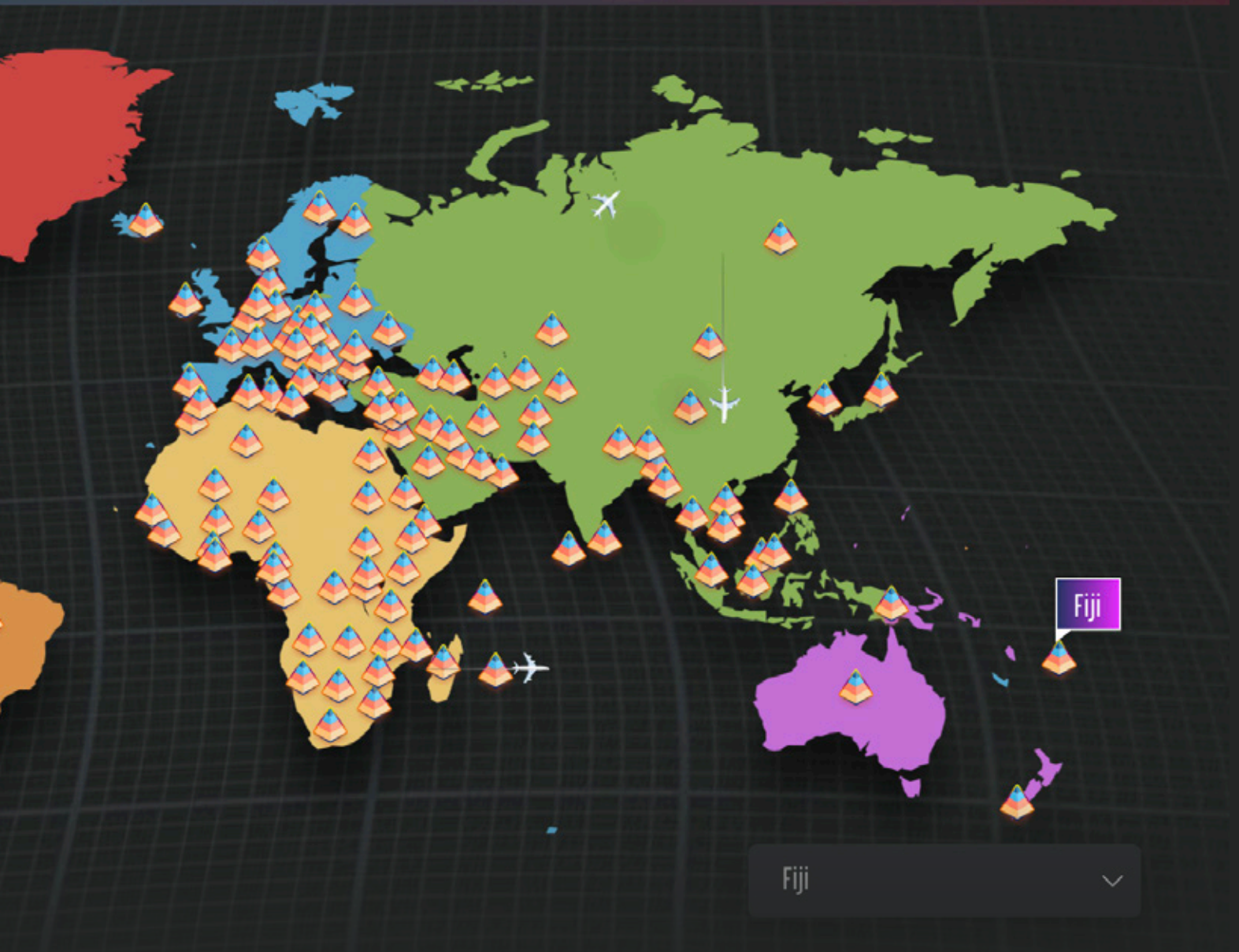
1






# Global Footprint

Mahatma Gandhi Statues Indian Languages Chair Indian Cultural Center Mahatma Gandhi Stamps



The Annual Report of the Ministry of External Affairs is brought out by the Policy Planning and Research Division.  
A digital copy of the Annual Report can be accessed at the Ministry's website : [www.mea.gov.in](http://www.mea.gov.in).

Designed and Produced by

 Jaina Offset Printers: 9873149889, 9811269844

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# Introduction and Synopsis

In the year 2022, the international system grappled with new sets of strategic challenges and risks, even as the older ones persisted. The crisis in Ukraine, global economic slowdown, food, fuel and fertilizer shortages and other disruptions in supply-chains were some of the concerning developments. They came in the wake of the devastation caused by the Covid pandemic.

As the external arm of the Government of India, the Ministry worked towards securing India's interests in such a testing international environment. During the year, Ministry continued its pragmatic and outcome-oriented engagements to promote India's interests and facilitate domestic economic transformation. This was done in a proactive manner, through strengthened bilateral, regional and multilateral partnerships, and by setting diplomatic agenda in key global forums. Our foreign policy continues to be directed towards diversifying the country's strategic and economic options to ensure that India continues its upward trajectory as a fast growing economy, with a rising profile in global affairs.

2022 was a milestone year for India, as the nation completes 75 years of Independence. It is a commemoration of a long journey of nation-building, and celebration of its collective endeavors and accomplishments. As the Prime Minister expressed, India's story has been one of "hard work, innovation and enterprise of

ordinary Indians". To mark the 75 years of India's progress, the Ministry and its Missions and Posts across the world celebrated "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav".

On 01 December, India assumed the Presidency of the G-20 for the year 2023. This was a historic moment, as India became the host of the G-20 Summit for the first time. As the Prime Minister declared, India's G-20 Presidency will be defined by "healing, harmony and hope." A key pillar of India's Presidency will be taking the G20 closer to the public and making it a 'People's G20'. Drawing inspiration from the philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (the world is one family), India's G20 Presidency theme is 'One Earth. One Family. One Future.' The theme affirms the value of all life – human, animal, plant, and microorganisms – and their interconnectedness on the planet Earth and in the larger universe.

India will be hosting over 200 meetings in over 50 cities across 32 different workstreams. As the leading voice of the Global South, India aims to incorporate the views and aspirations of the Global South, in shaping the G-20 agenda.

The crisis in Ukraine, which began in February, was one of the key strategic challenges in 2022. The hostilities put the Indian community of over 20,000 in direct danger, a substantial majority of whom were young Indian students. For



President of Indonesia Joko Widodo symbolically handed over the G20 Presidency to Prime Minister in Indonesia, November 2022

the Government, ensuring their safety was the most pressing and immediate concern. Indians were dispersed across various regions of Ukraine, and needed to be evacuated even as offensive military actions were underway. The evacuation and repatriation exercise, Operation Ganga, was beset with many logistical challenges.

*Operation Ganga* involved a 'whole of Government' approach with the Prime Minister chairing review meetings, almost on a daily basis. The Ministry monitored the evacuation operations on a 24x7 basis. This exercise involved a multi-layered, inter-agency cooperation where the Ministry worked with the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Defence, the National Disaster Response Force, state governments and with the private sector.

This coordinated exercise resulted in affected Indians in Ukraine being safely repatriated back to their homes.

In a globalised world, the impact of the conflict has been felt across all countries, with surging commodity costs, shortages of foodgrains, fertilizers and energy, hurting the Global South. India strongly reiterated the need for an immediate cessation of all hostilities and a return to dialogue and diplomacy. The Prime Minister emphasized that this cannot be an era of war, and that diplomatic solutions need to be found to solve the disputes amicably. India was also at the forefront to provide humanitarian assistance to Ukraine, in the form of essential medical supplies.



An Operation Ganga IAF flight which took off from Poland carrying Indian evacuees from Sumy, Ukraine, March 2022



In 2022, India continued to ensure that the international community remained focused on tackling terrorism, even as new challenges emerged. India hosted two forums on counter-terrorism in 2022. The Special Meeting of the UNSC Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) was held in Mumbai and in Delhi in October 2022. This was the first time that a meeting of the UNSC was convened in India in any format. At this Special Meeting, the CTC unanimously adopted the Delhi Declaration on countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes.

The Third Ministerial Conference on Counter-Terrorism Financing—“No Money for Terrorism”—took place in Delhi in November 2022. At this conference, Prime Minister called on countries to develop “deeper coordination and understanding” so as to prevent terrorists from misusing “differences between systems.” Earlier, India had hosted the General Assembly of the Interpol in New Delhi in October 2022.

2022 was also an important year for India’s diplomatic engagements with key partners. India marked 75 years of its diplomatic relationship with Egypt, Russia, Iraq, Belgium, Saudi Arabia, Czech Republic, France, the UK, Canada, Luxembourg and the Netherlands; celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its diplomatic relations with Japan and Cambodia; commemorated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishment of diplomatic ties with Vietnam, the UAE; and marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations with Central Asian countries, Lithuania, Latvia, Israel and Croatia. Historic milestones, like these, provide an opportunity to take stock of the current state of relationship and explore new areas to further strengthen bilateral cooperation.

As restrictions on travel began easing in 2022, a hybrid mix of diplomatic engagements continued through the year with both in-person and virtual meetings. Multilateral, plurilateral and bilateral meetings took place at all levels.

In 2022, Hon’ble President visited Turkmenistan, The Netherlands, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the UK, while the Hon’ble Vice President visited the UAE, Senegal, Gabon, Qatar and Cambodia.

Prime Minister participated in several virtual and in-person summit-level meetings including India-Central Asia Summit, Quad Leaders Summit, 5th BIMSTEC Summit, XIV BRICS Summit; First I2U2 Summit; SCO Summit; COP 27 and G20 Bali Summit.

Prime Minister traveled to Germany, Denmark, France, Nepal, Japan, UAE, Uzbekistan and Indonesia to participate in various bilateral, plurilateral, and multilateral meetings in 2022.

During the year, EAM visited Qatar, Australia, Philippines, Germany, France, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Indonesia, Rwanda, USA, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Slovakia, Czech Republic,

Uzbekistan, Cambodia, Thailand, Brazil, Paraguay, Ethiopia, Argentina, UAE, Japan, Saudi Arabia, New Zealand, Australia, Egypt, Russia and Cyprus and participated in various diplomatic engagements.

In 2022, India welcomed visiting delegations led by the Heads of State and Heads of Government from Bhutan, Netherlands, EU, Japan, Nepal, Mauritius, UK, Maldives, and Bangladesh.

India’s **Neighbourhood First Policy** remained one of the fundamental pillars of India’s diplomacy during this period. Each of the relationships with countries in the region witnessed progress and consolidation, including high-level visits.

Since August 2021, despite the changes in the political regime, India’s approach to **Afghanistan** continues to be guided by its historical friendship. During the year, India supplied shipments of humanitarian assistance consisting of 40,000 MT of wheat, 55 tons of medicines, 500,000 doses of COVID Vaccine and winter clothing to Afghan people.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of **Bangladesh** paid a State Visit to India from 5-8 September 2022, and held bilateral discussions with the Prime Minister. Both the leaders expressed satisfaction at the excellent state of bilateral relations, based on deep historical and fraternal ties and shared values of democracy and pluralism. India became the top development cooperation partner for Bangladesh in terms of funds disbursement during the last financial year. India has extended concessional credits amounting to almost USD 10 billion to Bangladesh, including through three of its largest bilateral Lines of Credit. There has been a significant increase in bilateral trade, with Bangladesh remaining India’s largest trade partner in South Asia, and India becoming the largest export destination of Bangladesh in Asia.

Over the years, bilateral relations with **Bhutan** have expanded to include a wide range of areas including hydropower, ICT, health, culture, agriculture, space, tertiary education, and digital and financial connectivity. Prime Minister met with King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck in New Delhi on 14 September. Earlier, EAM visited Bhutan from 29-30 April, and held deliberations with senior leadership on bilateral relations. The mutually beneficial development cooperation, especially in the hydropower sector, expanded during the year.

India’s “Neighborhood First” policy and **Maldives’** “India First” policy worked in tandem to tackle shared concerns and advance mutual interests. EAM visited Addu city in Maldives from 26-27 March 2022. The visit saw the signing of several agreements related to the bilateral development cooperation, inauguration/handling-over and launch of a number of key India-supported projects, including a Drug Detoxification and Rehabilitation Centre and National College for Policing and Law Enforcement. President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih visited India from 1-4 August 2022.

India has called for the cessation of violence, upholding rule of law and release of political detainees in **Myanmar**. As a friend of the people of Myanmar, India has continued with humanitarian and development assistance in Myanmar. India provided support to Myanmar in its fight against Covid through supply of medicines, medical equipment and vaccines through 2021 and 2022.

Prime Minister paid an official visit to Lumbini, **Nepal** on 16 May 2022, coinciding with the auspicious occasion of Buddha Purnima, at the invitation of the then Prime Minister of Nepal Sher Bahadur Deuba. Prime Minister together with Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba participated in the “Shilanyas” ceremony for the construction of the India International Centre for Buddhist Culture and Heritage at a plot in Lumbini belonging to the International Buddhist Confederation based in New Delhi. Earlier, Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba visited India from 1-3 April 2022. In a historic milestone, the first broad-gauge passenger railway service connecting India and Nepal in the Jayanagar-Kurtha section was flagged off by the two Prime Ministers during the visit. The use of Indian RuPay Card in Nepal was jointly launched by the two Prime Ministers.

India desires normal neighbourly relations with **Pakistan**. India’s consistent position is that issues, if any, between India and Pakistan should be resolved bilaterally and peacefully, in an atmosphere free of terror and violence. The onus is on Pakistan to create such a conducive environment.

EAM visited **Sri Lanka** from 28-30 March 2022, following the visits to India by Sri Lanka’s Minister of Finance in December

2021 and that of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka in February 2022. India continues to assist Sri Lanka in its economic development and also in overcoming its recent economic challenges. In January 2022, India extended a USD 400 million currency swap to Sri Lanka under the SAARC Framework, and deferred successive Asian Clearing Union settlements till July 2022.

Pursuant to Prime Minister’s announcement at the 18th SAARC Summit, India’s National Knowledge Network was extended to Maldives. The 5th BIMSTEC Summit was held on 30 March 2022 in Colombo, Sri Lanka in virtual mode. At the Summit, the Leaders adopted the BIMSTEC Charter, a milestone in the transition of BIMSTEC from a grouping into a regional organisation.

In 2022, India hosted the first ever India-Central Asia Summit virtually on 27 January 2022. It was attended by Presidents of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan. The Summit coincided with the 30th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Central Asian countries. As Prime Minister highlighted in his address, the Summit had three objectives: first, to make it clear that cooperation between India and Central Asia is essential for regional security and prosperity; second, to give an effective structure to cooperation; and third, to create an ambitious roadmap for cooperation.

The city of Varanasi was nominated as the first-ever Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Tourism and Cultural Capital during the 22nd Meeting of SCO Council of Heads of State



Prime Minister at the Quad Leaders Summit in Tokyo with his counterparts from Australia, Japan and the United States, May 2022

in Samarkand, Uzbekistan on 16 September 2022. India also assumed the rotating presidency of the SCO. India will host the next summit of the Council of Heads of State in 2023.

India's partners in the extended neighbourhood of the Indian Ocean Region also continued to remain a major area of focus. In January 2022, Prime Minister jointly inaugurated development projects with Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, including the Social Housing project to provide affordable houses to the common people of Mauritius. On 08 May 2022, Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth inaugurated the Quatre Bornes to Phoenix segment - the second phase - of the India-Mauritius Flagship Metro Express project, spearheaded by India.

India strengthened its partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region. The Indo-Pacific is central to India's ties with its closest partners, including its Quad partners: Australia, Japan and the United States. Prime Minister took part in the Quad Leaders virtual meeting in March 2022, and in-person Quad Leaders Summit in Tokyo in May 2022.

The scope of the Quad continues to expand. Quad Climate Change Action and Mitigation Package was announced to strengthen efforts towards green shipping, clean energy including green hydrogen, and climate and disaster resilient infrastructure. As part of the ongoing work related to critical and emerging technologies, Quad's Common Statement of Principles on Critical Technology Supply Chains was launched. The four countries vowed to coordinate capacity building programmes for the Indo-Pacific region to bolster critical cyber security infrastructure of the region.

A Quad Partnership on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief for the Indo-Pacific was announced by the Leaders. They also agreed to provide countries in the region resources on earth observation data through a Quad satellite data portal to help track climate events, disaster preparedness and sustainable use of marine resources. India will play a proactive role in this effort given its longstanding capabilities in using space-based data and technologies for inclusive development. Quad Leaders welcomed a new Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness Initiative, to help countries bolster their capacities to respond to HADR incidents and combat illegal fishing.

In May 2022, Prime Minister participated in the launch of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) in Tokyo. IPEF seeks to strengthen economic partnership amongst participating countries with the objective of enhancing resilience, sustainability, inclusiveness, economic growth, fairness, and competitiveness in the Indo-Pacific region.

India's Act East policy and its ties with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) received a significant boost, as 2022 was celebrated as India-ASEAN Friendship Year. India hosted

the ASEAN Foreign Ministers and Secretary General for a Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting (SAIFMM) on 16-17 June 2022 to commemorate 30 years of ASEAN-India relations.

During the year, India continued to step up its engagement with all the major powers. The India-US strategic partnership was further consolidated and strengthened through regular and wide-ranging dialogues, including the 4th India-U.S. 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue held on 11 April 2022 in Washington D.C. It was attended by Raksha Mantri and EAM together with Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin.

Following the successful holding of the 1st India-Russia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue in 2021, there were regular high-level exchanges between India and Russia at the Ministerial and senior official levels, including a number of virtual meetings. EAM visited Moscow in November 2022.

India's relations with European countries and the European Union (EU) witnessed a renewed momentum with a number of high-level meetings and summits. In May 2022, Prime Minister participated in the 2nd India-Nordic Summit in Denmark, with the Prime Ministers of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden and Norway. Prime Minister visited Germany in June 2022 where India was invited for the G7 Summit. EAM visited Germany and France from 18-23 February 2022. EAM visited Slovakia and Czech Republic from 2-6 June. The visit to Slovakia was the first ever visit at the level of EAM, since its creation in 1993. He visited Cyprus from 29-31 December.

Then Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Boris Johnson visited India from 21-22 April 2022. The President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen paid an official visit to India on 24-25 April 2022.

During the year, India and Japan expanded their bilateral engagement, further strengthening the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership. Notably, the 14th India-Japan Annual Summit was held during the visit of Prime Minister Fumio Kishida to India from 19-20 March 2022. Several agreements were signed during the Summit including on Cybersecurity. Announcements were made regarding Clean Energy Partnership; 5 trillion yen public and private investment and financing target for the next five years; and Sustainable Development Initiative for the North Eastern Region of India.

The India-Australia Virtual Summit was held on 21 March 2022, following which the two sides signed the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (IndAus ECTA) on 2 April 2022.

India's engagement with China is complex. Chinese attempts to unilaterally alter the status quo along the LAC in Western Sector starting from April-May 2020 have disturbed the peace



and tranquility along the LAC. These have been met with an appropriate response from the Indian Armed Forces. EAM has conveyed to his counterpart that restoration of normalcy will require a restoration of peace and tranquility in the border areas. It was also highlighted that India-China relationship is best served by observing the three mutuals - mutual respect, mutual sensitivity, and mutual interests. The two sides remain engaged through diplomatic (11 meetings of Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) since June 2020) and military channels (17 meetings of Senior Highest Military Commander (SHMC) since June 2020) to resolve the remaining issues along the LAC.

The historic ties between India and the Gulf and West Asian countries continued to deepen and strengthen. This year saw the signing of the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement during the India-UAE Virtual Summit on 18 February 2022.

Notably, on 14 July 2022, the 1st India-Israel-USA-UAE "I2U2" Summit was held. As strategic partners, the four countries under the I2U2 Framework have agreed to increase joint investment in six key areas of water, energy, transport, space, health, and food security.

On 28 June, Prime Minister visited Abu Dhabi and called on President of the UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and conveyed his personal condolences on the passing away of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan the month before.

EAM visited Saudi Arabia from 10-12 September. During the visit, EAM co-chaired the inaugural Ministerial Meeting of the Committee on Political, Security, Social and Cultural Cooperation with the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud.

Bilateral and multilateral engagement with Africa intensified during the year. India continued its development partnership with Africa by announcing various Lines of Credit. EAM represented the Prime Minister at the Commonwealth Head of Government Meeting held in Rwanda from 22-25 June 2022. The India-Africa Defence Dialogue (IADD) was held on the sidelines of DefExpo 2022 in Gandhinagar on 18 October 2022. The Gandhinagar Declaration, adopted as the outcome document of the second edition of the IADD, charted out new areas for enhancing the India-Africa defence and security partnership. 50 African countries, including 20 Defence Ministers, 7 CDS/Service Chiefs and 8 Permanent Secretaries participated in the Dialogue attesting to the high priority accorded to India-Africa engagement in defence and security.

Over the years, 312 Lines of Credit (LOCs) aggregating more than USD 32.28 billion have been extended to different

countries in various sectors, of which USD 12.39 billion has been extended for African countries.

The Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region remained an important area of focus for India's foreign policy during the year. The then Hon'ble President paid a State visit to Jamaica and St. Vincent and Grenadines from 15-21 May. This was the first ever visit by an Indian Head of State to these countries. EAM paid first ever official visits to three LAC countries including Paraguay, Brazil and Argentina from 21-27 August 2022, and held bilateral engagements with his counterparts. EAM also inaugurated the newly opened Indian Embassy in Asuncion, Paraguay.

India continued its tenure as an elected member of the UNSC for the period 2021-22, during which India participated in various meetings of the Council related to security issues in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and Latin America, as well as on thematic issues such as counter-terrorism, peacekeeping, and women, peace and security. During its term, India endeavoured to voice the key concerns of the Global South, namely, effective response to the menace of terrorism, roadmap for reformed multilateralism, framework for maritime security cooperation and greater protection for UN Peacekeepers through technology.

India assumed the rotating Presidency of the Security Council for the second time in its tenure in December 2022. Under India's December Presidency of the Security Council, there were two signature events, chaired by EAM, on Reformed Multilateralism and Counter-Terrorism, held on 14 and 15 December, respectively. EAM also launched a "Group of Friends for Accountability for Crimes against Peacekeepers".

Responding to the opportunities of the post-pandemic reality meant a reorientation of economic diplomacy as a part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. With the concerted efforts of Missions, the target of merchandise exports of USD 400 billion set by the Prime Minister was achieved before the deadline of 31 March 2022.

The welfare of overseas Indian citizens and nationals remains a high priority for the Ministry. After a two year disruption caused by the pandemic, work on welfare schemes for Indian citizens working overseas progressed well during 2022. Fresh negotiations for signing MoUs/Agreements/MoCs on Migration and Mobility Partnership and Labour and Manpower issues have been initiated with various countries.

On 20 October, Prime Minister and the UN Secretary-General launched Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) at Kevadia, Gujarat. The event saw the virtual participation of leaders from Argentina, Estonia, France, Georgia, Guyana, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Nepal and the UK. The idea of LiFE was introduced by the Prime Minister during the 26th United Nations

Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow last year. The idea promotes an environment-conscious lifestyle that focuses on 'mindful and deliberate utilisation' instead of 'mindless and destructive consumption'.

As on November 30, 2022, 110 countries have signed the Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance. The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure consisted of 31 countries and 8 international organisations as members including 31 national governments, 6 international organisations and 2 private sector networks/ organisations. Tajikistan, Madagascar and South Sudan joined as the new members in 2022.

Three new Missions in Estonia, Dominican Republic and Paraguay were opened during the year 2022. The Mission in Chad was made operational in October 2022. Preparatory administrative and establishment related measures were initiated towards setting up of another three Missions in Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau and Somalia. In May 2021, Cabinet had approved the opening of a Consulate in Addu City, Maldives and in April 2022, Cabinet approved the opening of a Mission in Lithuania. Efforts are underway to operationalize them.

In 2022, the Ministry organized various flagship conferences and Track 1.5 outreach programmes namely, Raisina Dialogue, Asia Economic Dialogue and Global Technology Summit (GTS).

Prime Minister along with President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, joined the Inaugural Session at Raisina Dialogue 2022. The first Raisina Forum for the Future of Diplomacy 2022 was held from October 10-20. The Forum brought together young diplomats from about 30 countries for a 10-day event.

The 7th edition of the GTS was held from 29 November to

1 December 2022 in New Delhi in hybrid format. The theme for this year's Summit was 'Geopolitics of Technology'. The 6th Asian Economic Dialogue was held in virtual mode from 23-25 February. During the year, the Ministry continued to expand its institutional engagement with the strategic and academic community.

As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, the Ministry launched the first edition of Internships Programme. The Ministry's Internship Policy 2022 aims to take foreign policy closer to the people and ensure better gender inclusivity and increase diversity in terms of qualifications, domicile and socio-economic status amongst the cohort of interns engaged by the Ministry.

The Ministry organized the 10th Heads of Mission Conference in Kevadia from 20-22 October. Heads of Indian Missions from 118 countries participated in the conference. Prime Minister and EAM addressed the conference.

The following sections provide a synopsis of the trends mentioned above by chronicling the details of bilateral and multilateral engagements, as well as the activities of the service and support arms of the Ministry.

## India's Neighbours

### Afghanistan

India and Afghanistan are connected together by centuries of historical, people to people and cultural relations. India is concerned about the domestic developments in Afghanistan and its external repercussions.



Prime Minister with Heads of Indian Missions from all over the world at the 10th Heads of Mission Conference in Kevadia, Gujarat, October 2022

Post 15 August 2021, with changes in the political regime, India's approach towards Afghanistan continues to be guided by its historical friendship. In order to assist the Afghan people, India supplied several shipments of humanitarian assistance consisting of 40,000 MT of wheat, 55 tons of medicines, 500,000 doses of Covid vaccines and winter clothing. In the wake of the tragic earthquake that struck Eastern Afghanistan on 22 June 2022, India dispatched 28 tons of emergency relief assistance in two flights for the people of Afghanistan. The relief consignments were handed over to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UN World Food Program, Indira Gandhi Children Hospital and Afghan Red Crescent Society.

In June 2022, an Indian team visited Kabul to oversee the delivery operations of humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan and met with the representatives of the International Organisations and relevant authorities involved in distribution of the assistance. Later, an Indian technical team was deployed in Kabul to monitor and coordinate India's efforts to provide humanitarian assistance.



Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina called on Hon'ble President, September 2022

## Bangladesh

The India-Bangladesh relationship is an important element of India's "Neighbourhood First" policy. The excellent bilateral ties between the two countries achieved further progress in 2022, with both sides maintaining close engagement in diverse areas, including at the highest level. In financial year (FY) 2021-22, bilateral trade touched a record high of USD 18.14 billion, an increase of 68% against the trade of USD 10.8 billion in FY 2020-21. Bangladesh is India's largest trade partner in South Asia and India has become the largest export destination for Bangladesh in Asia.

EAM visited Bangladesh on 28 April 2022 where he called on Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina and met his counterpart, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, Dr. AK Abdul Momen. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid a State Visit to India from 5-8 September 2022. During her visit, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called on the Hon'ble President and Vice President and held bilateral consultations with the Prime Minister. Seven agreements and MoUs were signed during the visit. The Unit-I of Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant was unveiled, and Rupsha railway bridge, one of the longest rail bridges in Bangladesh was inaugurated during the visit. Both projects are being undertaken as part of bilateral development cooperation.

Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, Dr. A.K Abdul Momen visited New Delhi for the 7th Joint Consultative Commission held in June 2022. Mohd. Nurul Islam Sujaan, the Railway Minister of Bangladesh, visited India in May-June 2022. The 38th Ministerial Meeting of the Joint River Commission of India and Bangladesh was held in August 2022 in New Delhi after twelve years, and Zaheed Farooque, State Minister for Water Resources of Bangladesh, attended the meeting.

Bangladesh is India's largest development partner. India became the top development cooperation partner for Bangladesh in terms of funds disbursement during the last financial year. India has extended concessional credits amounting to almost USD 10 billion to Bangladesh, including through three of its largest bilateral Lines of Credit.

## Bhutan

India and Bhutan share unique and special ties based on mutual goodwill, trust and people to people contacts. Over the years, the bilateral relations have expanded to include a wide range of areas including hydropower, Information and Communication Technology, health, culture, agriculture, space, tertiary education, and digital and financial connectivity.

In April 2022, EAM was Bhutan's first high-level visitor from abroad since March 2020, reflecting the great importance both countries attach to this bilateral relationship. During the visit,

EAM received an audience with the King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck; called on the Prime Minister of Bhutan, Dr. Lotay Tshering; and met his counterpart Foreign Minister of Bhutan, Dr. Tandi Dorji. The two sides discussed all issues of mutual interest, including the upcoming high-level exchanges, economic development and hydro-power cooperation. EAM noted that financial connectivity has touched new heights through the launch of the RuPay card and the BHIM app in Bhutan in 2021.

Prime Minister met with the King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck in New Delhi on 14 September 2022.

The mutually beneficial cooperation in the hydropower sector continued during the year. There was sustained engagement in this area through Authority meetings for Punatsangchhu-I and Punatsangchhu-II hydropower project (HEP) to discuss related issues.

Strong development partnership for Bhutan's development on its priorities is an important pillar of India-Bhutan relations. India has committed financial support of Rs. 4500 crore for the 12th Five Year Plan of Bhutan (2018-23), and a 'Transitional Trade Support Facility' of Rs. 400 crore. This assistance is funding over 82 large and intermediate projects and 524 High Impact Community Development Programmes (HICDPs) in the areas of infrastructure development, industries, agriculture, e-governance, community development, health, education and capacity building.

India continued its strong support to Bhutan in its fight against Covid. Bhutan was the first country to receive 550,000 doses of the Made in India Covishield vaccines in two phases. Another consignment of Covid medical supplies/Anti-TB drugs was delivered to Bhutan in April 2022 during EAM's visit.

## Maldives

India's "Neighborhood First" policy and Maldives's "India First" policy worked in tandem to tackle shared concerns and advance mutual interests. India emerged as Maldives' second largest trade partner in 2022. Existing bilateral arrangements for restrictions-free export of nine essential commodities helped Maldives to ensure its food security. Further, India assisted Maldives in its efforts to keep inflation in control, amid volatility in the global markets.

EAM visited Addu city in Maldives from 26-27 March 2022. The visit saw the inauguration/handling-over and launch of a number of key India-supported projects, including the National College for Police and Law Enforcement, the Drug Detoxification and Rehabilitation Centre in Hulhudhoo, and the Eco-Tourism Zone in Meedhoo. He also witnessed the ground-breaking of

the Addu Roads Project and handing-over of the Coastal Radar System to the Maldives National Defence Forces (MNDF).

President of Maldives Ibrahim Mohamed Solih visited India from 1-4 August 2022 at the invitation of the Prime Minister. During the visit, President Solih held delegation level talks with the Prime Minister. Both leaders participated in the virtual "pouring of the first concrete" ceremony of the USD 500 million Greater Male' Connectivity Project being built under grant and concessional loan support from India.

The President of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Maldives Abdulla Shahid visited New Delhi from 28-29 August 2022. Defence and security remained a major area of cooperation between India and Maldives. In February 2022, during the visit of Defence Secretary, the third edition of Defense Cooperation Dialogue was conducted in Male. The 5th NSA Level Meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave was held in Maldives in March 2022.

India-Maldives development cooperation has touched new heights through the ongoing key infrastructure and high-impact grant projects. Spread across Maldives, India is supporting over 45 high-impact grant projects and 10 large key infrastructure projects under EXIM Bank's concessional credit – including development of a bridge connecting 4 islands, ports, airports, roads and reclamation, sports stadium, fisheries expansion and a tertiary cancer hospital. Indian companies are also constructing 4000 social housing units in Maldives under EXIM's Buyers' Credit scheme.

## Myanmar

The ongoing security and humanitarian situation in Myanmar is a cause of grave concern, as it has direct implications for India. India has called for complete cessation of violence, resolution of issues through dialogue, release of political detainees and Myanmar's return to democracy at the earliest. As a friend of the people of Myanmar, India has continued with humanitarian and development cooperation in Myanmar. India is also facing issues relating to the influx of several Myanmar nationals in the Northeastern States.

Foreign Secretary paid a working visit to Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar from 20-21 November 2022 and held discussions on security and stability in the border areas and reviewed bilateral cooperation.

India provided support to Myanmar in its fight against Covid through supply of medicines, medical equipment and vaccines through 2021 and 2022. India also provided 10,000 tons of rice and wheat as humanitarian assistance which was received in Myanmar in March-April 2022.



## Nepal

India and Nepal share close and friendly relations characterized by age-old historical and cultural linkages, open borders and deep-rooted people-to-people contacts. In consonance with the 'Neighbourhood First' Policy, there has been a continued momentum in the bilateral ties with Nepal. Normal trade flows were maintained through border points even during the peak of the pandemic.

In 2022, there were two back-to-back Prime Ministerial visits. Prime Minister paid an official visit to Lumbini, Nepal on 16 May 2022, coinciding with the auspicious occasion of Buddha Purnima. Prime Minister together with the then Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba participated in the "Shilanyas" ceremony for the construction of the India International Centre for Buddhist Culture and Heritage at a plot in Lumbini belonging to the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) based in New Delhi. The plot was allocated to the IBC by the Lumbini Development Trust in November 2021. After the "Shilanyas" ceremony, the Prime Ministers also unveiled a model of the Buddhist centre, which is envisaged as a Net Zero-compliant world-class facility that would house prayer halls, meditation centre, library, exhibition hall, cafeteria and other amenities and would be open to Buddhist pilgrims and tourists from around the world.

Prime Minister visited Nepal after a visit to India by the then Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba from 1-3 April 2022. Both Prime Ministers held bilateral talks on 02 April 2022, reviewing the full spectrum of the bilateral agenda covering political, economic, trade, energy, security and developmental issues. India-assisted development projects achieved substantial progress. A 34.9 km-long cross-border rail link connecting Jaynagar (Bihar) to Kurtha (Nepal) was handed over and flagged off during the visit of Prime Minister Deuba to India in April 2022.

## Pakistan

The 117th Meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) was held from 1-3 March 2022 in Islamabad and the 118th meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission was held on 30-31 May 2022 in New Delhi.

In 2022, the Government facilitated Hindu and Sikh pilgrimages on the occasion of Baisakhi, Barsi of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, Gurupurab, and Shadani Darbar through which around 4,900 Indian pilgrims visited various shrines in Pakistan. During the same period, around 400 Pakistani pilgrims visited various shrines in India to participate in the Urs of Hazrat Amir Khusro, Urs of Hazrat Allahudin Ali Ahmed Sabir, and Urs of Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya. This year, India also facilitated the visit of around 73,000 pilgrims to the holy Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in

Pakistan through the Kartarpur Corridor.

## Sri Lanka

In 2022, India's relations with Sri Lanka further strengthened in line with India's 'Neighborhood First' and SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) policy.

EAM visited Sri Lanka in March 2022. Key MoUs were signed, including on implementation of Sri Lanka Unique Digital Identity (SL-UDI) programme with India's grant assistance; MoU for providing Maritime Rescue Coordination Center; MoU on implementation of Hybrid Power Projects in three Islands off Jaffna; MoU on cooperation in development of Fisheries Harbours in Sri Lanka; MoU for the establishment of Modern Computer Labs and smart boards with customised curriculum software in 200 schools in Galle District; and MoU between Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service and the Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute.

Foreign Secretary visited Sri Lanka in June 2022 and discussed bilateral matters.

Then Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka Prof. G.L. Peiris visited India in February 2022. Former Minister of Finance of Sri Lanka Basil Rajapaksa visited India in March 2022.

India provided multi-faceted assistance to Sri Lanka during the year. The overall economic assistance provided to Sri Lanka this year alone stands close to USD 4 billion. This covers currency swap arrangements, Line of Credit for supply of petroleum products, credit facility agreement for supply of food items, medicines and other essential items, and deferment of payment of liabilities. This is in addition to other forms of assistance extended during the year, including more than 26 tons of drugs and other medical supplies; more than 65,000 tonnes of fertilizer; 1 Lakh Rapid Antigen Kits to combat Covid; 15,000 liters of Kerosene and regular distribution of dry rations to all sections of society around Sri Lanka.

## BIMSTEC and SAARC

India is a founding member of both South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).

The 5th BIMSTEC Summit was held on 30 March 2022 in Colombo in virtual mode. At the Summit, the Leaders adopted the BIMSTEC Charter, a milestone in the transition of BIMSTEC from a grouping into a regional organisation. The 5th BIMSTEC Summit was preceded by the 18th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on 29 March 2022 and 22nd Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) on 28 March 2022. Both meetings were hosted by Sri Lanka

in Colombo in hybrid mode. India's participation at the two meetings was in person.

BIMSTEC Secretary General Tenzin Lekphell visited India from 22-25 August 2022 at the invitation of the Ministry.

Pursuant to Prime Minister's announcement at the 18th SAARC Summit, India's National Knowledge Network was extended to Maldives. In this connection, a Peering Agreement was signed and exchanged between Higher Education Network of the Republic of Maldives and National Knowledge Network of India on 26 March 2022 at a ceremony held in Addu City during EAM's visit to Maldives in March 2022.

14th SAARC Secretary General, Esala Ruwan Weerakoon visited Delhi to attend the Third Ministerial conference on Counter-Terrorism Financing "No Money for Terror" in Delhi from 18-19 November 2022.

## Indian Ocean Region

### Comoros

India-Comoros bilateral relationship gained further momentum. EAM called on President Azali Assoumani of Comoros on the

sidelines of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York on 20 September 2022 and discussed issues of development partnership and maritime security.

### Madagascar

India-Madagascar relations further intensified during the year. The then Foreign Minister of Madagascar, Richard Randriamandrato visited India to participate in the 7th edition of Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi from 25-27 April 2022. During the visit, he called on Prime Minister and held a meeting with EAM. He met EAM again on the sidelines of the 77th Session of the UNGA in New York on 24 September 2022.

### Mauritius

The special and time-tested relationship between India and Mauritius is underpinned by shared history, ancestry, culture, tradition and rich people-to-people ties.

Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth visited India at the invitation of Prime Minister for the ground-breaking ceremony of the WHO Global Center for Traditional Medicine in Jamnagar on 19 April



Prime Minister along with Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Kumar Jugnauth and Director General of WHO Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, at inauguration of Global Ayush Investment and Innovation Summit at Gandhinagar, April 2022

2022. He also participated in the Global Ayush Investment and Innovation Summit 2022 in Gandhinagar on 20 April 2022.

Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Kumar Jugnauth virtually inaugurated 956 units of Social Housing Project in Mauritius and laid the foundation for construction of the Civil Service College and a 8 MW Solar PV Farm project on 20 January 2022. In addition, a Line of Credit of USD 190 million for the Metro Express and other infrastructure projects; and an MoU on the Implementation of Small Development Projects were exchanged during the occasion. The second phase of the India-Mauritius Flagship Metro Express project, spearheaded by India, was inaugurated in May 2022.

Mauritius has been invited as a Guest Country to the next G20 Summit in September 2023 under the Presidency of India.

## Seychelles

India's relations with Seychelles strengthened further in 2022 with substantial engagements across several sectors. India reaffirmed the ideals of SAGAR and 'Neighbourhood First' policy in Seychelles through regular ship visits, joint military exercises, exchange of defence equipment, signing of MoUs for High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs), gifting of medicines and book donations.

MoUs for 6 more projects relating to education, local government and infrastructure sector were signed on 25 November. Procurement of 59 buses as part of USD 10 million LoC to Seychelles was also finalized. Phase 1 of the HICDPs consisting of 29 projects ranging from repair of school facilities, upgradation of amenities for disabled, construction of roads and other civic infrastructure was completed in 2022.

## South East Asia and Oceania

India's engagement with Southeast Asian countries and Oceania takes place under the framework of the Act East Policy. India and the countries in the region reviewed aspects of bilateral cooperation including political, defence, security and strategic, economic and culture, and exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest while exploring new opportunities for partnership to support economic revival.

High level visits from India to South East Asia involved Vice President's visit to Cambodia to attend the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit and 17th East Asia Summit in November; Prime Minister's visit to Bali, Indonesia to attend the 17th G20 Summit in November; EAM's visit to Cambodia to attend the annual ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AIFMM) in August; EAM's visit to Bangkok to co-chair the 9th

India-Thailand JCM with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, Mr. Don Pramudwinai in August; EAM's visit to Bali, Indonesia to participate in the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in July; and EAM's visit to Philippines for bilateral engagements in February. MoS (RRS) visited Lao PDR for bilateral engagements and Philippines as the Special Envoy of the Prime Minister to attend the inauguration of Mr. Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. as the President in Manila.

Notably, a virtual meeting took place between the Prime Minister and Prime Minister of Cambodia Hun Sen on 18 May 2022. Vice President called on His Majesty of Cambodia King Norodom Sihamoni at the Royal Palace in November 2022.

A new high-level Ministerial mechanism India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR) was established between India and Singapore to chart a roadmap to take bilateral relations to a new level. The inaugural meeting of ISMR took place in New Delhi on 17 September 2022.

India hosted ASEAN Foreign Ministers and Secretary General for a Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting (SAIFMM) on 16-17 June 2022. The SAIFMM was co-chaired by EAM and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore, Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan.

During the year, India continued its policy of deepening strategic engagement with countries in the Oceania Region. India and Australia held Virtual Summit on 21 March 2022 during which the entire gamut of relations under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership was discussed. Prime Minister met Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in Tokyo on the sidelines of the Quad Summit on 24 May 2022.

EAM co-chaired along with the then Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne and Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, the 12th and the 13th Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue in February and October, respectively. Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Richard Marles visited India in June 2022. An array of Ministerial visits took place to Australia which included Ministers of Commerce and Industry, Coal and Mines, Education and Skill Development, Power and New and Renewable Energy, Shipping and Transport, amongst others.

The first visit by EAM to New Zealand in 20 years took place in October 2022, imparting new momentum to the relationship.

India's relationship with Pacific Island Countries has deepened with the evolution of the Act East Policy and the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation. India maintained its engagements with the Pacific Island Countries supporting their development objectives, democratic processes, community upliftment and disaster response efforts.





Vice President called on His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni of Cambodia at the Royal Palace, November 2022

## Indo-Pacific

India's Vision for the Indo-Pacific focuses on a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific. India emphasizes respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations in the region, equality of all nations, peaceful resolution of disputes, avoidance of use, or threat of use of force and adherence to international laws, rules and regulations.

The year 2022 witnessed intensification of India's engagement

with various Indo-Pacific frameworks including, inter alia, Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), East Asia Summit (EAS), Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC), Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) and Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT).

India's engagement with EAS is a multilevel interaction process, at the apex being EAS supported by the EAS Foreign



India hosted the Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi, June 2022



Ministers' Meeting and the EAS Senior Officials' Meeting. Vice President led the delegation to the 17th EAS held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 13 November 2022. India also attended the annual EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 5 August 2022.

India participated in the 22nd Council of Ministers' (COM) meeting of the IORA held at Dhaka, Bangladesh on 24 November 2022. The 22nd COM adopted the 'IORA's Outlook on the Indo-Pacific' (IOIP) which would guide enhancement of IORA's engagement in the Indo-Pacific region. IORA signed an MoU for promoting resilience of new and existing infrastructure to climate and disaster risks within the Indian Ocean Region with the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), New Delhi on 28 April 2022. The MoU signed between IORA and the International Solar Alliance in October 2018 was also extended for a further period of two years in 2022. The Secretary General of IORA, Salman Al Farisi, visited India from 28-30 September 2022.

In September 2022, India joined the IMT-GT sub-regional cooperation, as Development Partner and is working together with member countries to chart out areas of mutual cooperation.

## East Asia

### China

India's engagement with China is complex. The two sides agreed that pending the final settlement of the boundary question, maintenance of peace and tranquility in the border areas is essential for the overall development of the bilateral relationship. However, starting April-May 2020, the Chinese side undertook several attempts to unilaterally alter the status quo along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Western Sector,

which seriously disturbed the peace and tranquility along the LAC in the Western Sector and impacted the development of the relationship. These attempts were invariably met with an appropriate response from Indian Armed Forces. Both sides have agreed to resolve the issues along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh through peaceful dialogue. Consequently, discussions have continued with the Chinese side to achieve complete disengagement from all friction points and full restoration of peace and tranquility in the India-China Border Areas at an early date. This year, disengagement was achieved in Gogra-Hot Springs (PP-15) in Eastern Ladakh (September 2022).

### Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in December 1973, relations between India and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have been cordial. India has been consistently supportive of efforts to bring about peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula through dialogue and diplomacy.

### Japan

In 2022, India and Japan marked the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, and further strengthened the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership. Prime Minister of Japan, Kishida Fumio visited India from 19-20 March 2022 for the 14th India-Japan Annual Summit. Several agreements were signed during the Summit including Memorandums of Cooperation (MoCs) in the field of Cybersecurity, Sustainable Urban Development and Decentralised Domestic Wastewater Management; 7 JICA Loans for projects in connectivity, water supply and sewerage, horticulture, healthcare, and biodiversity conservation in various States; India-Japan Industrial Competitiveness Partnership Roadmap; and amendments



Prime Minister along with Prime Minister of Japan Fumio Kishida during his visit to India, March 2022

relating to India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

Prime Minister visited Japan from 23- 25 May 2022 to participate in the third Quad Leaders' Summit in Tokyo at the invitation of the Prime Minister of Japan, Kishida Fumio. Prime Minister visited Japan again on 27 September 2022 to attend the State Funeral of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who he considered a dear friend and a great champion of India-Japan partnership.

EAM and Raksha Mantri paid an official visit to Japan for the second India-Japan 2+2 Ministerial Meeting from 07-10 September 2022.

## Mongolia

Mongolia regards India as its "third neighbour." Raksha Mantri paid a visit to Mongolia from 5-7 September 2022. This was the first ever visit by an Indian Defence Minister to Mongolia. During the visit, he inaugurated the Cyber Security Training Centre at the National Defence University built under a grant from India, and participated in a Ground Breaking Ceremony for the construction of India-Mongolia Friendship School in Ulaanbaatar.

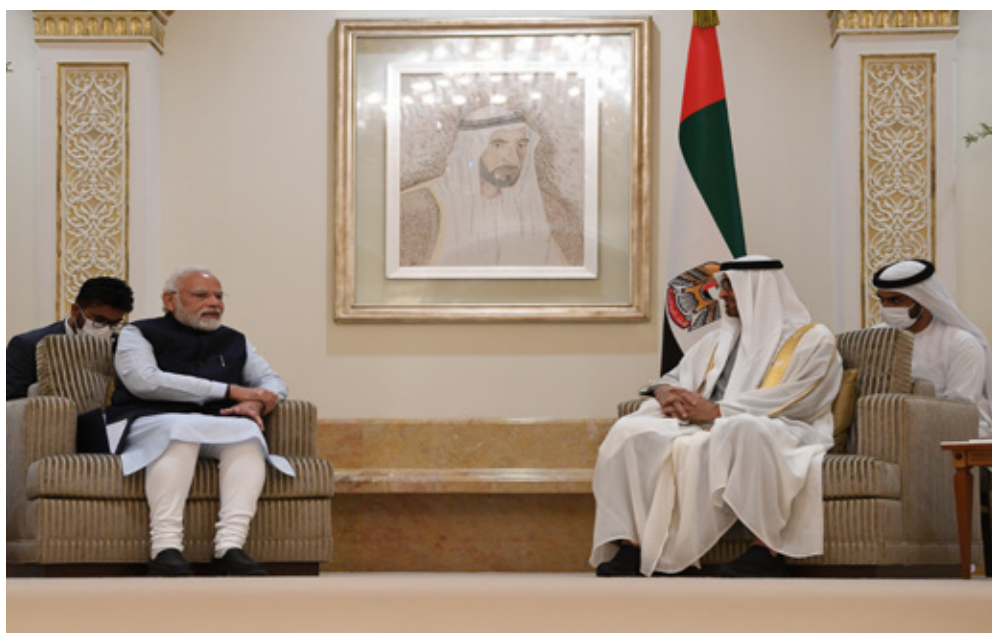
At the request of the Government of Mongolia, India sent holy relics of Lord Buddha for a 12-day exposition to Mongolia

starting on 14 June 2022. The relics were carried by the Minister of Law and Justice in a Special Aircraft of IAF, along with a 24-member delegation.

Development cooperation is a significant facet of India-Mongolia Strategic Partnership. An Oil Refinery Project is under construction in Dornogobi Province of Mongolia, being funded by EXIM Bank. With the estimated cost of USD 1.24 billion, it is the largest Line of Credit project undertaken by India abroad.

## Republic of Korea (ROK)

India and the Republic of Korea (ROK), as Special Strategic Partners, continued to have high level engagements during the year. A number of ministerial engagements took place this year, mostly on the sidelines of multilateral fora which include: EAM's meeting with former ROK Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong in Paris in February 2022 and with new Foreign Minister Park Jin in Bali in July 2022; Commerce and Industry Minister's meeting with former ROK Trade Minister Yeo Han-koo in January 2022 in New Delhi and his meeting with the new ROK Trade Minister Dukgeun Ahn in Geneva in June 2022 and again in Indonesia in September 2022; Finance Minister's meeting with former ROK Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance Hong Nam-ki in Washington in April 2022, and with the new ROK Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance Choo Kyung-ho in Washington in October 2022.



Prime Minister met President of the UAE Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan during his visit to the UAE, June 2022

## The Gulf

India's relations with the Gulf countries continued to deepen during the year with high-level visits, increased trade and investment, and strengthening of relations in other areas including energy, security, defence, culture, education and health and food security. The Gulf countries continued to be among the top trading partners of India. At more than USD 150 billion, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) was the top regional grouping for trade with India in FY 2021-22.

On 18 February, Prime Minister and President of the UAE Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan held a Virtual Summit. The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the two countries entered into force on 1 May 2022. India and the GCC also continued to discuss the re-launch of their FTA negotiations.

Former Vice President Shri Venkaiah Naidu visited UAE on 15 May 2022 to pay condolences on behalf of India on the demise of UAE President and Abu Dhabi Ruler, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Former Vice President and Vice President paid visits to Qatar in June 2022 and November 2022, respectively. The latter visit was for attending the inaugural ceremony of the FIFA World Cup, at the invitation of the Emir of Qatar.

Prime Minister also visited the UAE on 28 June 2022 and paid personal condolences on the passing away of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Prime Minister also congratulated Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on his election as the new President of UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi.

EAM paid visits to UAE and Saudi Arabia during the year while MoS (VM) visited Oman and Qatar. India hosted the visits of Foreign Ministers of UAE and GCC Secretary General. There were also several other ministerial level visits between India and the Gulf countries. Saudi Arabia, UAE and Oman started participating in various meetings under India's G20 presidency. The 8.5 million strong Indian community continued to remain a strong bridge between India and the Gulf countries.

## Iran

India's relations with Iran are unique and historic. During 2022, bilateral relations were strengthened through regular high-level meetings. Prime Minister met the Iranian President Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi in Samarkand on the sidelines of the 22nd meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO in September 2022. Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian visited India in June 2022 and held delegation level talks with the EAM. The two countries signed the Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance on Civil and Commercial matters during the visit.

## West Asia and North Africa

The year marked 75 Years of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Egypt and 30 years of the establishment of full diplomatic relations between India and Israel. Several activities were organized to commemorate these milestones. Egypt has been invited as a Guest Country during India's G20 Presidency this year.

Prime Minister virtually participated in the first Leaders' summit of I2U2 on 14 July 2022, with leaders of Israel, UAE and the US.

The year also witnessed momentum in exchange for high-level visits between India and WANA countries. From the Indian side, EAM visited Egypt and MoS (VM) visited Djibouti and Eritrea. Incoming visits included those of the Vice President of South Sudan Dr James Wani Igga; then Defence Minister of Israel Lt. Gen (Res.) Benny Gantz; Foreign Minister of Syria Dr Faysal Mikdad; Minister Delegate for Digital Transformation of Morocco Dr Ghita Mezzour; Minister of Investments of Jordan Kheiry Y. Amr; and Minister of Trade and Supply of Sudan Amal Salih Saad Mohamed.

Several high-level delegations from these countries participated in flagship events, including CII-EXIM Bank Conclave, India-Africa Defence Dialogue (IADD)-DEFEXPO-2022, and 'No Money for Terror' conference, among others.

## Africa

### East and South Africa

India maintained its multifaceted and vibrant relations with all the countries in East and Southern Africa throughout the year.

Prime Minister met President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa on 27 June 2022 on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Germany. Both leaders reviewed the progress made in bilateral relations, particularly following the signing of the Strategic Programme of Cooperation in 2019.

EAM visited Addis Ababa on 22 June 2022 and met the President of Ethiopia, Sahle-Work Zewde. EAM represented the Prime Minister at the Commonwealth Head of Government Meeting held in Rwanda from 22-25 June 2022.

Vice President of Zambia, W. K. Mutale Nalumango led the Zambian delegation to the 17th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Growth Partnership held at New Delhi in July 2022. This year saw the first ever Trilateral Maritime Exercise of India-Tanzania-Mozambique from 26-28 October 2022, and the visit of Minister of Defence and National Service of Tanzania, Dr. Stergomena Tax to India.



## Central and West Africa

The region covers 25 countries of west, northwest, central and southwest Africa. The region is home to Africa's largest population and fastest growing economies with large reserves of energy resources and minerals. India sources about 18% of its crude oil requirement from this region.

India's diplomatic presence in Africa expanded with the opening of a resident Mission in Chad during the year. With this, out of the 25 countries in the Central and West Africa region, resident Indian Missions are in operation in 20 countries.

Relations with the region were taken to the higher level with recent visits of the Vice-President to Gabon (30 May-1 June 2022) and Senegal (1-3 June 2022), and that of MoS (VM) to Nigeria (22-23 August 2022) and Senegal (24-25 October 2022).

The 17th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Growth Partnership held in New Delhi on 19-20 July, 2022 witnessed the presence of 35 Ministerial level delegations including 04 Vice Presidents from The Gambia, Zambia, Mauritius and South Sudan and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Namibia.

The Ministry of Defence organized DEFEXPO-2022 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from 18-22 October 2022. On the sidelines of DEFEXPO, India-Africa Defence Dialogue (IADD) was held and about 15 countries participated, out of which, 10 countries were represented at Ministerial Level. On the sidelines

of IADD, Raksha Mantri held bilateral talks with his counterparts.

The Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the Ministry and UNESCO, organized the UNESCO-India-Africa Hackathon from 22-25 November at Gautam Buddha University, Uttar Pradesh in which 338 African students from 22 African countries participated. Cultural Troupes from Portuguese speaking countries took part in the Lusophone Cultural Festival held in Goa from 3-6 December 2022.

India continued its development partnership association with Africa by implementing various lines of credit. So far, India has extended over USD 5.3 billion worth of credit to the region, out of which about USD 2 billion has already been utilized and USD 2.45 billion is under implementation.

## Eurasia

There was sustained momentum in India's traditionally close ties with countries in the Eurasian region. Prime Minister hosted the first ever India-Central Asia Summit virtually on 27 January 2022. The summit coincided with the 30th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and the Central Asian countries.

The then Hon'ble President paid a State visit to Turkmenistan from 1-4 April 2022. This was the first-ever visit of the Hon'ble President of India to independent Turkmenistan. EAM visited Uzbekistan on 28-29 July 2022 to take part in the meeting of the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers.



EAM addressed the CHOGM Foreign Ministers' plenary in Rwanda, June 2022

On 01 June, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Adil Tursunov paid a working visit to India. The First Deputy Foreign Minister of Belarus, Sergei Aleinik visited India from 3-5 August to co-chair the 7th round of Foreign Office Consultations in New Delhi. The then Foreign Minister of Belarus Vladimir Makei visited India from 9-10 November to co-chair the 11th meeting of the India-Belarus Inter-governmental Commission on Trade, Economy, Industry, Science, Technology and Culture.

## Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

Prime Minister visited Samarkand, Uzbekistan on 15-16 September 2022 to attend the 22nd Meeting of the Council of SCO Heads of State. On the sidelines of the SCO Summit, Prime Minister held bilateral meetings with the Presidents of Uzbekistan, Russia, Türkiye and Iran. The rotational presidency of the SCO was handed over to India. India will host the SCO summit in 2023.

## Russia

Prime Minister met President Vladimir Putin in Uzbekistan on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit in September 2022. Prime Minister reiterated his call for an early cessation of hostilities in Ukraine and urged the need for dialogue and diplomacy in resolving the crisis.

EAM visited Russia from 7-8 November 2022. In his meeting with Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov of Russia, views on the international situation, including on Ukraine were exchanged. EAM and Foreign Minister of Russia Sergey Lavrov maintained regular contact and met 5 times during this period. The two ministers also met on 8 July in Bali on the sidelines of G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting; on 28 July in Tashkent on the sidelines of SCO Foreign Ministers' Meeting; and in New York on 24 September on the sidelines of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly, and in April 2022 during Foreign Minister of Russia, Sergey Lavrov's visit to New Delhi.

## Ukraine

India maintained sustained contact with Ukraine, including at the leadership level, as difficulties and complexities arose as a result of the conflict. EAM met Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal on the sidelines of the UNGA summit on 21 Sep 2022. EAM later met Foreign Minister of Ukraine, Dmytro Kuleba on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit on 12 Nov 2022 at Phnom Penh in Cambodia.

In the ongoing Ukraine conflict, India has provided 12 consignments measuring 99.3 tons of humanitarian assistance to Ukraine and neighbouring countries comprising medicines,

blankets, tents, tarpaulin and medical equipment. India has also agreed to provide financial assistance amounting to Rs 57,82,591 towards reconstruction, remodeling and refurbishing of a school in Kyiv.

## Europe and European Union

India's relations with European countries and the European Union (EU) witnessed a renewed momentum with a number of high-level meetings and summits taking place. Economic relations with Europe and EU were put on a new growth trajectory with the formal launch of FTA negotiations with the UK in January 2022 and the resumption of negotiations on Trade and Investment Agreements with the EU in June 2022.

The then Hon'ble President paid a State visit to the Netherlands in April 2022; and visited the UK in September 2022 to attend the State funeral of Queen Elizabeth II.

Prime Minister visited Germany, Denmark and France from 2-4 May 2022. In Germany, the sixth round of Inter-Governmental Consultations was held on 2 May 2022, co-chaired by Prime Minister and Federal Chancellor of Germany Olaf Scholz. A key highlight of the visit was the signing of a Joint Declaration of Intent on Green and Sustainable Development Partnership.

Thereafter in Denmark, Prime Minister participated in the 2nd India-Nordic Summit, with the Prime Minister of Denmark Mette Frederiksen; Prime Minister of Iceland Katrín Jakobsdóttir; Prime Minister of Norway Jonas Gahr Støre; Prime Minister of Sweden Magdalena Andersson; and Prime Minister of Finland Sanna Marin.

In France, Prime Minister held wide-ranging discussions with President of France Emmanuel Macron on all the key areas of bilateral engagement, including on defence, space, civil nuclear cooperation and people-to-people linkages.

Prime Minister visited Germany again in June 2022 for the G7 Summit. Prime Minister met the President of the European Council Charles Michel and the President of the European Commission von der Leyen on the sidelines of the G-7 Summit in Elamu on 28 June 2022.

Prime Minister met the UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, French President Emmanuel Macron, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, and Netherlands Prime Minister Mark Rutte on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Bali in November 2022.

EAM visited Germany and France from 18-23 February 2022. In Germany, he participated in the Munich Security Conference (MSC) and held bilateral meetings with Foreign Ministers and senior delegates attending MSC. In France, he participated in



Prime Minister met President of France Emmanuel Macron in Paris, May 2022

the EU Ministerial Forum for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, organized by France as part of its Presidency of the EU Council. EAM paid an official visit to Slovakia on 02-03 June and to the Czech Republic on 04-05 June 2022.

There were several high level incoming visits. Queen Máxima of the Netherlands called on the Hon'ble President at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 29 August 2022. Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Boris Johnson visited India from 21-22 April 2022. During their bilateral talks, the two Prime Ministers appreciated the progress made on the Roadmap 2030 launched at the Virtual Summit in May 2021.

The President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen paid an official visit to India on 24-25 April 2022. This was her first visit to India as the President of the European Commission. During her meeting with the Prime Minister, they announced the establishment of an India-EU Trade and Technology Council.

The UK Foreign Secretary visited New Delhi and Mumbai for the UNSC CTC Conference in October 2022. Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France Catherine Colonna paid an official visit to India from 13-15 September 2022. She held bilateral talks with EAM, and also called on the Prime Minister and conveyed

France's support for Mission LiFE. India's relations with Estonia were upgraded with the appointment of the first Ambassador of India at the newly opened resident Mission of India at Tallinn.

Following India's joining the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) as an Associate Observer in July 2021, India celebrated the Portuguese Language Day in Delhi on 5 May 2022. To further enhance ties with the Lusophone world, India celebrated the International Lusophone Festival from 3-6 December 2022 in Goa in partnership with ICCR and the Government of Goa.

## The Americas

### United States of America

India-US Comprehensive Strategic Global Partnership is underpinned by shared democratic values, convergence on security and strategic issues and a shared vision of a rules-based international order.

Prime Minister and President Biden held a virtual meeting on 11 April 2022. The two Leaders had an extensive exchange of views on several regional and global issues, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, global economic recovery, climate action, and developments in South Asia, the Indo-Pacific and Ukraine. The 4th India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue was held on 11 April 2022. Raksha Mantri and EAM, along with their US counterparts, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and Secretary of State Antony Blinken held bilateral talks.

Prime Minister and President Joseph Biden had a bilateral meeting on 24 May 2022 in Tokyo on the sidelines of the Quad Summit. Prime Minister interacted with President Joseph Biden again during the G7 Summit in Germany in June 2022. He participated virtually in the first Leaders' Summit of I2U2 on 14 July 2022 along with President Joseph Biden, Prime Minister of Israel Yair Lapid and President of UAE Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Prime Minister met President Biden on the margins of the G-20 Summit in Bali on 15 November 2022. Both Leaders agreed that India and the US would continue to maintain close coordination during India's G-20 Presidency.

EAM visited Washington D.C from 25-28 September 2022 for discussions with Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Defence Secretary Lloyd J. Austin, Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, senior members of the Administration, select members of the U.S. Congress, and business leaders. He also attended a roundtable at the National Science Foundation focused on technology collaboration. EAM and his U.S. counterpart Secretary Blinken maintained regular contact throughout the year and met on the margins of Quad Leaders' Summit in May 2022 in Tokyo, G20



Foreign Ministers Meeting on 8 July 2022 in Bali, ASEAN Forum on 04 August 2022 in Phnom Penh, and East Asia Summit on 13 November 2022 in Phnom Penh.

The US is a crucial strategic partner of India in the Indo-Pacific and in the Quad framework. Quad engagement acquired momentum and salience with participation of Prime Minister in Quad Leaders Summit, a Foreign Ministers' meeting, and announcement of Working Groups and initiatives aimed at delivery of public goods to countries in the Indo-Pacific vision. Quad Leaders reiterated their shared vision of maintaining a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region. Prime Ministers' message of Quad being a force for global and regional good was endorsed by his Quad counterparts at the Tokyo Summit in May and exemplified by the delivery of Made in India vaccines to Cambodia and Thailand under the Quad Vaccine Partnership. Quad Ministers agreed on the need to strengthen and reform the multilateral system to make it more effective and in tune with contemporary realities, including through expansion of the membership of the United Nations Security Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories.

## Canada

India-Canada relations remained important. Prime Minister met Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on the sidelines of the G-7 Summit in June 2022. A Parliamentary delegation, led by Speaker of Lok Sabha visited Canada in August 2022. Bilateral progress was made in areas of trade and investment, agriculture and civil aviation during the year.

## Latin America and the Caribbean

India continued its efforts to strengthen its relations and diversify engagements with countries in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region.

Former Hon'ble President paid State Visits to Jamaica and St. Vincent and Grenadines from 15-21 May 2022. These visits were historic being the first-ever visits by an Indian Head of State to these countries and marked the importance that India attaches to Small Island Developing States and the CARICOM.

Prime Minister met the President Alberto Fernandez of Argentina in Munich on 26 June 2022 on the sidelines of the G7 Summit at Munich and discussed a range of issues including trade and investment, South-South cooperation, and coordination in international bodies.

EAM paid first ever official visits to three LAC countries including Paraguay, Brazil and Argentina from 21-27 August 2022 and held bilateral engagements with his counterparts. EAM also inaugurated the newly opened Indian Embassy in Asuncion, with Foreign Minister of Paraguay Julio Cesar Arriola. In Brazil and Argentina, EAM co-chaired Joint Commission Meetings along with his Brazilian and Argentine counterparts, Foreign Minister Carlos França and Foreign Minister Santiago Cafiero, respectively.

The India-CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) Quartet Meeting was held on 19 September 2022 on the



EAM jointly inaugurated the new Indian Embassy in Paraguay with Foreign Minister of Paraguay Julio Cesar Arriola, August 2022

sidelines of UNGA in New York. The Indian side was led by EAM while the CELAC Quartet was represented by Foreign Minister of Argentina Santiago Cafiero, Foreign Minister of Guatemala Mario Adolfo Bucaro Flores, Foreign Minister of Trinidad and Tobago Amery Browne and Vice Minister for Multilateral Affairs of Colombia Laura Gil Savastano. Both sides reviewed the entire spectrum of India-CELAC relations and agreed to work closely in sectors including Trade, Commerce, Agriculture, Food and Energy Security, Health, Vaccine production, Traditional Medicines and logistics.

4th India-CARICOM Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held on 23 September 2022 on the sidelines of UNGA in New York. EAM co-chaired the meeting with his counterpart from Belize.

Foreign Minister of Mexico Marcelo Ebrard Casaubón visited India from 30 March-1 April 2022, together with a 34-member delegation. Foreign Minister of Argentina Santiago Cafiero visited India from 24-28 April 2022 to participate in Raisina Dialogue, and met with the EAM and Minister of Commerce and Industry. Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Guyana Hugh Hilton Todd visited India from 26 April - 1 May 2022 to attend the Raisina Dialogue, and held a bilateral meeting with EAM.

## Nalanda University

Nalanda University was established by an Act of Parliament in November 2010 with an objective to emerge as an international institution for pursuit of intellectual, philosophical, historical and spiritual studies. The University is a declared institute of national importance with a pre-eminent focus on developing international character.

During the year, the University saw a growth in student enrollment to over 250 resident scholars and over 300 students opting for short-term academic courses, including more than 100 international students.

In 2022, the University inaugurated the Centre for Bay of Bengal Studies to conduct specialized research on the Bay of Bengal region. The University also established the ASEAN-India Network of Universities for building linkages for academic exchange, joint research, twinning programmes, student and faculty exchange and other collaborative initiatives amongst select Indian and ASEAN universities.

During the year, the University established international linkages with the following five academic institutions: City University of New York, US; Lumbini Buddhist University, Nepal; Otani University, Japan; National University of Laos; LAO PDR and University of Bengkulu, Indonesia.

## Counter Terrorism

During the year, India held bilateral counter terrorism consultations through the mechanism of JWG-CT with Australia, the European Union, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Tajikistan, the United Kingdom and Uzbekistan.

During 2022, India remained the Chair of the United Nations Security Council Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC). India hosted a Special Meeting of the CTC in Mumbai and in New Delhi from 28-29 October 2022. The meeting was addressed by all members of the Security Council. At the end of the special meeting, the "Delhi Declaration" was adopted, on Countering the Use of New and Emerging Technologies. The declaration expressed commitment of the international community, including the Security Council, to pay utmost attention to address these threats.

During the special meeting of CTC, India announced a voluntary contribution of USD 500,000 in the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter Terrorism, to augment the efforts of the United Nations Office on Counter Terrorism.

During the monthly rotating Presidency of the UNSC in December 2022, EAM chaired a briefing on the topic: "Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts – Global Counter-Terrorism Approach – Principles and the Way Forward".

## Policy Planning and Research

Policy Planning and Research is the nodal division of the Ministry for medium-term policy planning, and organizing outreach initiatives with the strategic and academic community. It conducts in-house policy analysis for the Ministry on a regular basis on key international issues. It holds policy planning dialogues with policy planning bureaus of foreign counterparts to develop a commonality of understanding on regional and global issues. Policy Planning Division is also the nodal Division for coordinating India's Neighbourhood First Policy.

It also funds various research studies on topical subjects of foreign policy and international relations. The research output is utilized by the Ministry and Indian Missions and Posts abroad.

During the year, the Division produced a range of periodic deliverables covering the Ministry's key activities and analyzing events and developments of significance.

The Division hosts various annual flagship events such as Raisina Dialogue, Asian Economic Dialogue, Global Technology Summit, Indian Ocean Conference, India-US Forum, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee Memorial Lecture.



During the year, the Division expanded institutional engagement with think-tanks across different Indian states through Track 1.5 collaborations. The NADI Dialogue was held in Guwahati, and a Conclave on Act East Policy was held in Imphal.

The Division produced a number of research papers and policy briefs, covering foreign policy trends and international developments. These include Foreign Policy Daily Report, Think-Tank Compendium, Global Conflict Monitor, Foreign Policy Crux, Monthly Summary for the Cabinet, and the Annual Report of the Ministry amongst others.

Quad Policy Planners' Dialogue was held in Washington DC from 27-28 June 2022 and India-UK Policy Planning Dialogue was held in London from 19-20 July, 2022. Both the dialogues focused on exchange of medium-to-long term planning perspectives going beyond the immediacy of issues affecting bilateral relations.

## Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)

The ICWA continued to accord high priority to research and study of political, economic and security development in Asia, Africa, Europe, United States, Latin America and Caribbean, and the wider global geo-strategic environments. The research undertaken was disseminated in the form of Sapru House Papers, Issue Briefs, Policy Briefs and Viewpoints, Discussion Papers, Shodh Lekhan which were published on the ICWA website. Further, ICWA continued the process of translating its academic outputs in Hindi. In addition, the Council published 15 books, and 7 Sapru House Papers and 11 Guest Papers and special publications. In line with its mandate, ICWA conducted a large number of events, lectures, conferences and outreach activities.

## Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)

The Research and Information System for Developing Countries is an autonomous policy research institute that specializes in issues related to international economic development, trade, investment and technology. The primary focus is on promoting South-South Cooperation and collaborating with developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums. Through its intensive network of think tanks, RIS seeks to strengthen policy coherence on international economic issues and the development partnership canvas.

## New, Emerging and Strategic Technologies (NEST)

The Ministry, through the New Emerging and Strategic Technologies (NEST) Division continued looking at emerging technologies which have strategic implications, assessing their foreign policy implications and assisting internal stakeholders in India in their demand driven technology pathways. NEST Division was instrumental in India joining as the founding member of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) in June 2020. The election for the three government seats (Incoming Council Chair + 2 government Seats) from GPAI Council was held in October 2022. India won the election for the Incoming Council Chair Seat. India will serve as the Incoming Chair in 2023, and subsequently as Lead Chair in 2024 and Outgoing chair in 2025, over a three year mandate.

## Cyber Diplomacy

The Cyber Diplomacy Division of the Ministry is the nodal point for discussions on cyber security issues, data protection, cybercrime and internet governance in consultation with other Government of India stakeholders.

EAM co-chaired the 1st Foreign Ministers Cyber Framework Dialogue, with former Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne, in Melbourne, Australia on 12 February 2022. First India-Australia Cyber Experts Meeting and the First India-Australia Joint Working Group on Information and Communication Technology was held in July 2022 in Australia.

India also held cyber dialogue with other countries such as Germany, the UK, Japan, and the US.

## E-Governance and Information Technology

The e-Governance and Information Technology (eG&IT) Division has been primarily involved in the design, development, implementation, and maintenance of various e-Governance applications for the Ministry. The Division also provides end-to-end support in respect of all Information Technology (IT) related matters to the Ministry and Missions/Posts.

During the year, eG&IT Division has taken several steps towards the implementation of various components of the Digital India Programme to have a transparent, secure, accessible and participative system. Automation and network are being harnessed as tools to achieve synergy at all levels of functioning in the Ministry.

## United Nations and International Organisations

India continued its high-level engagement with the United Nations and other international organisations, while persistently endeavouring to push for reformed multilateralism.

India continued its tenure as an elected member of the UNSC for the period 2021-22, during which India participated in various meetings of the Council related to security issues in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and Latin America, as well as on thematic issues such as counter-terrorism, peacekeeping, and women, peace and security.

India made its position known on various issues including that related to the conflict in Ukraine, Afghanistan, Syria, among others. During its term, India endeavoured to voice the key concerns of the Global South, namely, effective response to the menace of terrorism, roadmap for reformed multilateralism, framework for maritime security cooperation and greater protection for UN Peacekeepers through technology.

During this period, India was also the Chair of the following three subsidiary bodies of the Security Council – Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), the 1970 Libya sanctions committee, and the 1988 Taliban sanctions committee.

India assumed the rotating Presidency of the Security Council

for the second time in this tenure in December 2022. Under India's December Presidency of the Security Council, there were two signature events, chaired by EAM, on Reformed Multilateralism and Counter-Terrorism, held on 14 and 15 December, respectively.

EAM also launched a "Group of Friends for Accountability for Crimes against Peacekeepers". Along with India, this Group has Troop Contributing Countries like Bangladesh, Egypt, France, Morocco and Nepal, as its co-chairs. India continued to be the largest cumulative contributor of UN Peacekeeping troops, having provided more than 2,60,000 troops cumulatively since inception. As of 31 October 2022, India is the second largest contributor with 5,873 personnel deployed in 9 out of 12 peacekeeping missions.

EAM led the Indian delegation for the High-Level Week at the 77th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA). EAM addressed the General Debate of the High-Level Segment of the 77th UNGA in New York on 24 September 2022, where he noted that India was celebrating 75 years of its independence and that India's story was of toil, determination, innovation, and enterprise of millions of ordinary Indians. Apart from bilateral engagements with an array of partners, EAM also held discussions with the UN Secretary General António Guterres and the President of the General Assembly Csaba Korösi.

An event titled "India@75: Showcasing India-UN Partnership in Action" was organized on 24 September 2022 on the margins



A minute of silence for victims of terrorism was observed at the UNSC briefing on Global Counter-terrorism Approach: Challenges and Way Forward chaired by EAM, December 2022

of the High-Level Week of the 77th UNGA. EAM chaired the event, in which President of the UN General Assembly Csaba Kőrösi, UN Deputy Secretary General Amina J. Mohammed, Foreign Ministers of Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Cyprus, France, Gambia, Guyana, Jamaica, Maldives, Tanzania, Yemen and other senior UN dignitaries participated and delivered keynote speeches.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres undertook a 3-day official visit to India from 18-20 October 2022. This was his first visit to India since he assumed his second term in office. He commenced his visit by paying tributes to victims of 26/11 terror attacks at Taj Mahal Palace Hotel. On 20 October, he joined the Prime Minister at the launch of Mission Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) at the Statue of Unity, Kevadia.

Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change led India's inter-ministerial delegation to the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which was held in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt from 06-19 November 2022. India submitted its Long-Term Low Emissions Development Strategy (LT-LEDS), focusing on India's journey to Net-Zero emissions by 2070, to UNFCCC on 14 November 2022. With that, India joined the select list of less than 60 Parties that have submitted their LT-LEDS to UNFCCC.

Nilambur and Thrissur in Kerala and Warangal in Telangana were designated on the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities in September 2022. These are India's first entries to this list.

## Multilateral Economic Relations

India proactively pursued its economic interests through various active bilateral and multilateral engagements with trade and investment partners.

Prime Minister led India's participation at the 14th BRICS Summit from 23-24 June 2022 in a virtual format. The leaders held discussions on a range of issues including the reform of the multilateral system, COVID-19 pandemic and global economic recovery.

India was invited as part of G7 outreach to the G7 Summit 2022 held from 26-28 June 2022 in Germany under German Presidency. The theme was "Progress towards an equitable world". Prime Minister made statements in two sessions, in addition to holding bilateral meetings.

EAM participated in the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting which took place on 19 May 2022. EAM chaired the 10th India-Brazil-South Africa Dialogue Forum (IBSA) Trilateral Ministerial

Commission Meeting held on the sidelines of UNGA in New York on 21 September 2022.

On 19 May 2022, the New Development Bank announced the launch of its Indian Regional Office (IRO) in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City). The launch of the Bank's IRO aims to cater to infrastructure and sustainable development needs in India and Bangladesh, contributing to economic growth and sustainable development in South Asia, in line with the NDB's mandate.

## India's G20 Presidency

India assumed the Presidency of G20 on 1 December 2022 for a period of one year. India's G20 Presidency theme, "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: One Earth, One Family, One Future," underlines the message of equitable growth and a shared future for all.

Besides the G20 Members, India has invited 9 guest countries - Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain and United Arab Emirates and 14 International Organisations to participate in the G20 meetings and the Leaders' Summit, which is scheduled to be held on 09 and 10 September 2023 in New Delhi.

In a first, the G20 has extended invitations to six African countries for participation during India's Presidency. Around 200 G20 meetings and events in over 30 different workstreams, comprising Sherpa Track Working Groups, Finance Track Workstreams, Ministerial Meetings and Engagement Groups, have been planned to be hosted across the country during the Presidency.

## Economic Diplomacy

Economic Diplomacy Division (ED) is an economic arm of the Ministry that works in coordination with Indian missions/posts abroad, territorial divisions of the Ministry, other Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, State Governments, and Foreign Missions and Posts in India to enable foreign investment flows and promote bilateral trade, tourism, and education. It also handles matters relating to healthcare, energy security, food security, International Solar Alliance (ISA), Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), and I2U2 (India, Israel, the UAE and the USA).

In order to focus on promotion of Trade, Tourism and Technology (3Ts), ED Division developed a dashboard to capture the three parameters. ED Division worked closely with DOC in coordinating with Missions abroad to achieve the target of merchandise exports of USD 400 billion which was set by

the Prime Minister. With the concerted efforts of Missions, this target was achieved before the deadline of 31 March 2022.

Since March 2022, ED Division had been coordinating inter-ministerial meetings under the chairmanship of Secretary (ER) to work out a mechanism for International Trade Settlement in Indian Rupee.

Initiatives such as ISA and CDRI continued to go from strength to strength this year. With Bhutan ratifying the Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) on 31 August 2022, 110 countries signed the Framework Agreement of the ISA, as of 30 November 2022, while 90 of these countries ratified the Framework Agreement. As of 30 November 2022, CDRI consisted of 31 countries and 8 international organisations as members, with Tajikistan, Madagascar and South Sudan joining as the new members.

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets on 5 March 2021. The proposal submitted by the Government of India was supported by 72 countries. ED Division has been coordinating with India's Missions abroad to promote the International Year of Millets.

## States Division

The States Division is primarily mandated with the facilitation of external engagement of States through the network of Indian Missions and Posts abroad and Branch Secretariats/Regional Passport Offices in India.

Liaising with States and Union Territories through their Resident Commissioners continued apace to facilitate various matters. The signing of several MoUs between State Governments and their entities with foreign counterparts was facilitated on trade/investment promotion, skill development and agriculture research. The Division also processed and approved Sister City/State agreements to establish friendly and cooperative relations between Indian States/Cities with foreign provinces/cities.

## Disarmament and International Security Affairs

India participated actively in multilateral forums relating to disarmament, non-proliferation and international security, taking into account its national security interests and priorities in the international security arena. Over the course of the year, India also held bilateral engagements and presented its perspectives in regional forums on these issues.

India's contributions underlined its longstanding commitment to the goal of universal and non-discriminatory nuclear

disarmament and support to global peace and security in areas such as space, maritime and weapons of mass destruction, while responding to evolving international security environment and initiatives by various countries.

During the year, India's Weapons of Mass Destruction Act, 2005 was amended to bring it in line with international obligations relating to financing of weapons of mass destruction. On 01 January 2023, India assumed, for a period of one year, Chairmanship of the Plenary of the Wassenaar Arrangement, a voluntary multilateral export control regime for conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies.

## Development Partnership

Development Cooperation is an integral part of India's foreign policy. In recent years, India has substantially expanded its development programmes in various countries covering grant assistance, Lines of Credit (LOC), technical consultancy, disaster relief, humanitarian aid, educational scholarships and a range of capacity-building programmes including short-term civilian and military training courses.

Major developmental projects identified by the neighbouring governments as priority areas are under implementation in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Maldives in areas of infrastructure, hydroelectricity, power transmission, agriculture, industry, education, health, archaeological conservation and strengthening of cross-border connectivity.

Beyond the neighbourhood, bilateral projects in sectors like energy, power plants, electricity transmission and distribution, roads, railways, ports, agriculture and irrigation, industrial units, information and computer technology and small and medium enterprises have been undertaken in South East Asia, Oceania, Central Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Over the years, 312 LOCs aggregating to more than USD 32.28 billion have been extended to different countries in various sectors, of which USD 12.39 billion has been extended for African countries, USD 17.07 billion has been extended for Asian countries and USD 2.87 billion for countries in Latin America, Oceania and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

In accordance with the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative (G20 DSSI), debt suspension relief is to be made available to the Government of India-supported LOC Borrower Governments as per the standard template of G20 DSSI. Accordingly, India approved the request for debt service suspension in respect of 20 countries.

With the restoration of international air travel, the dedicated Division for heritage conservation (DPA-IV Division) initiated



the deputation of ASI teams to ongoing international heritage conservation projects in countries like Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam. New initiatives like signing of MoU between India and Cambodia on a digital heritage conservation and funding of Ramayana Mural painting restoration, and digitisation of Indic manuscripts stored in libraries abroad were also undertaken.

## Legal and Treaties Division

The Legal and Treaties Division is responsible for handling the legal issues pertaining to the Ministry. Besides, vetting of the treaties and MoUs, ratifying them, uploading the treaties and other related works are looked after by the Division. It has facilitated signing and ratification of a significant number of treaties in the year 2022.

## Consular, Passport and Visa Issues

Consular, Passport and Visa (CPV) Division is the nodal Division for consular and visa services to Indian nationals and foreigners including the Indian Diaspora in India and abroad. During the year, the Division performed consular and visa operations with public-private partnership to render more and more CPV

services through digital platforms in a fast, efficient, transparent and user-friendly manner.

During the year, the Division conducted a number of Consular Dialogues, signing/operationalisation of Visa Waiver Agreements, dealt with matters related to Extradition and Transfer of Sentenced Persons, and handled Overseas Citizens of India and Visas schemes/matters in consultation with Ministry of Home Affairs and other stakeholders.

## Passport Seva Programme

The Passport Seva Programme (PSP) Division provides Passport related services in India and abroad. The Ministry has been making quantitative and qualitative changes so that passports can be delivered to citizens in a timely, transparent, accessible, reliable manner.

Indian Passports (together with other travel documents, such as Certificate of Identity to Stateless persons, Emergency Certificates for returnees to India, Police Clearance Certificates, Surrender Certificates, Line of Control Travel Permits in the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir) are issued by the Ministry through the PSP Division, the Central Passport Organization (CPO) and its all-India network of 36 Passport Offices, the CPV Division (Diplomatic and Official passports) and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration.



Prime Minister interacted with the Indian Community in Berlin, May 2022

This network has been vastly expanded by adding 93 Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) in Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode and 430 Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs) (in association with the Department of Posts) as extended arms of these 36 Passport Offices. The total number of Passport Seva Kendras functioning in the country is 523 as on 31 October 2022, including PSKs and POPSKs.

On 7 January 2022, the Ministry signed the new agreement for the Passport Seva Programme Version 2.0 (PSP V2.0), which will be implemented in the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode with M/s Tata Consultancy Services as the Service Provider. It would ensure easy and smooth end-to-end governance through standardized and liberalized processes using latest and emerging technologies.

The Ministry processed nearly 1.07 crore Passport and related applications and issued 1.03 crore Passport and related documents in India during the year 2022 (till 31 October 2022), as compared to 74.95 lakhs Passport processed in the year 2021.

## Overseas Indian Affairs

After a two year disruption caused by the pandemic, work on welfare schemes for Indian citizens working overseas progressed well during 2022. Fresh negotiations for signing MoUs/Agreements/MoCs on Migration and Mobility Partnership and Labour and Manpower issues have been initiated with various countries.

India and Germany signed a Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement on 05 December 2022 which aims to foster exchange of skills and talents between the two countries. India and Japan held the third Joint Working Group meeting on Specified Skill Worker in a hybrid format on 2 August 2022.

A Declaration of Intent on Cooperation in the field of Migration and Mobility was signed with Greece on 23 March 2022 during the official visit of the Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs Nikolaos Georgios Dendias to India.

The First Joint Working Group on India- France Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement was held virtually on 29 November 2022. The first meeting of the India-UAE Joint Working Group on Manpower was held on 16-17 October 2022 in Dubai.

The work of the Overseas Indian Affairs Division-II also progressed smoothly over the year. The division deals with issues relating to engagement with Indian Diaspora. Among the major Programmes / Schemes handled by the Division are

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention, Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, and Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana.

## External Publicity

The External Publicity and Public Diplomacy Division continued with its efforts to effectively articulate India's position on key foreign policy issues. Proactive efforts to project the 'India Story' and other notable achievements of the country to an international audience continued apace. The disruptions caused by the pandemic presented its own set of challenges and the Division adapted accordingly to successfully function during that time. As the situation has improved, the Division has amalgamated its experiences and skills learnt in those challenging times to further its effective functioning at present.

## Protocol

In 2022, the Protocol Division handled incoming/outgoing visits at the level of Heads of State, Vice-Presidents, Heads of Government and Foreign Ministers. The Division also provided support for the organisation of several multilateral meetings in India including United Nations Counter Terrorism Committee, INTERPOL and No Money For Terror conference.

In 2022, the Division organised the Presentation of Credentials of 31 newly arrived Diplomatic Representatives to India. With the opening of the Resident Mission of Solomon Islands in 2022, the number of Resident Foreign Missions in India increased to 156. During the year, a Cultural Centre of the Czech Republic was opened, while three Consulate Generals/Deputy High Commissions also started functioning, taking the number of such Posts to 107 in India.

## Administration and Right to Information

### Administration

The main responsibility of the Administration Division in the Ministry is to provide human resources at its Headquarters and in 201 Indian Missions/Posts, and 2 Representative Offices abroad. It also deals with formulation and amendment of relevant rules and regulations relating to Indian personnel posted abroad and local employees serving in Indian Missions and Posts.

Three new Missions in Estonia, Dominican Republic and Paraguay were opened in 2022. The India Mission in Chad was made operational in October 2022. Preparatory administrative and

establishment related measures were initiated towards setting up of another 3 Missions in Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau and Somalia. In April 2022, the opening of the Mission in Lithuania was approved by the Cabinet.

## Right to Information

During the year, the Ministry continued efforts towards full implementation of the Right to Information Act 2005. A total of 2609 RTI applications and 144 First Appeals seeking information under the RTI Act 2005 have been received in the Ministry during the above mentioned period and have been disposed of satisfactorily. Applications in general covered subjects such as foreign relations, administrative issues, bilateral visits, Covid pandemic, Ukraine Crisis and expenditures incurred on the same.

## Establishment Division

The Establishment Division was the nodal point for the 'Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign' from 13-15 August 2022 at the offices of the Ministry in New Delhi. In 2022, the Ministry also observed a Special Campaign for Swachhta from 2-31 October 2022 and Swachhta Pakhwada from 1-15 January 2023.

## Global Estate Management

The Global Estate Management Division successfully accomplished several acquisition, construction, redevelopment and renovation of properties for Indian Missions/Posts abroad and RPOs/ICCR/POEs/Branch Secretariats in India. Acquisition of plots of land were completed successfully in Male and Abidjan for construction of Chancery and Residences, while significant progress was made for acquisition of properties and construction at several other missions across the world.

## Implementation of Official Language Policy and Propagation of Hindi Abroad

Implementation of the Official Language policy of the Government of India has been a priority for the Ministry under which it follows a comprehensive scheme for promotion and propagation of Hindi in India as well as abroad, including through organization of World Hindi Conference and Regional

Hindi Conferences such as World Hindi Day held on 10 January and Hindi Divas held on 14 September. Preparations for holding the 12th World Hindi Conference (WHC) in Fiji in February 2023 are currently underway. The first batch of three specialized interpreters in Arabic, Chinese and Russian languages recruited and trained under Atal Bhashantar Yojna (ABY), have been deployed in relevant territorial divisions in the Ministry.

## Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS)

The Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS), established in 1986, is the training arm of the Ministry. Although it was initially set up to cater to the professional training requirements of the officers of the Indian Foreign Service, over the years, its training ambit has vastly increased to include various training programmes for different levels of officers and personnel of the Ministry, members of other civil services and foreign diplomats.

This year, SSIFS returned to full-time in-person courses. The 48th Annual Meeting of the International Forum on Diplomatic Training (IFDT) was held from 14-18 November. It was attended by more than 60 Heads of Diplomatic Training Academies, Deans of academic institutions and other delegates drawn from over 40 countries.

## Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)

Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) organised an array of online and offline activities aimed at promoting India's cultural diplomacy. During the year, 65 cultural delegations visited abroad, giving 350 performances in 60 countries. ICCR also sponsored 14 Vande Bharatam troupes for their performances abroad as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) celebrations.

## Parliament and Coordination

The responsibility of the Parliament and Coordination division broadly consists of Parliamentary work, coordination within and outside the Ministry, admission of certain categories of foreign students in Indian educational institutions and monitoring as well as review of MoUs signed by India with foreign countries.

## CHAPTER

## 1

# India's Neighbours

## Afghanistan

India and Afghanistan are connected together by centuries of historical, people to people and cultural relations. In the last two decades, our development partnership with Afghanistan has been centered around five pillars: (a) large infrastructure projects; (b) human resource development and capacity building; (c) humanitarian assistance; (d) high impact community development projects; and (e) enhancing trade and investment through air and land connectivity.

Post 15 August 2021, with changes in the political regime, India's approach to Afghanistan continues to be guided by its historical friendship. In order to assist the Afghan people, India has supplied several shipments of humanitarian assistance consisting of 40,000 MT of wheat, 55 tons of medicines, 500,000 doses of Covid-19 Vaccine and winter clothing. In the wake of the tragic earthquake that struck eastern Afghanistan on 22 June 2022, India as a first responder, dispatched 28 tons of emergency relief assistance in two flights for the people of Afghanistan. The relief consignments were handed over to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UN World Food Program, Indira Gandhi Children's Hospital and Afghan Red Crescent Society.

In June 2022, an Indian team visited Kabul to oversee the delivery

operations of humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan and met with the representatives of the International Organizations and relevant authorities involved in distribution of the assistance. Later, an Indian technical team was deployed at the Embassy of India in Kabul to monitor and coordinate India's efforts to provide humanitarian assistance.

India has a civilisational relationship with the Afghan people. These long-standing links and UNSC Resolution 2593 would continue to guide the future approach on Afghanistan.

## Bangladesh

India and Bangladesh share bonds of history, language, culture, and multitude of other commonalities.

As an important neighbour and as one of India's closest partners, Bangladesh holds an important place in India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy. India's close association with the Liberation War of Bangladesh and cultural ties between the people of the two countries make this relationship unique.

The excellent bilateral ties between the two countries achieved further progress in 2022, with both sides maintaining a close high level engagement in diverse areas.





Prime Minister welcomed Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina in New Delhi, September 2022

## High Level Exchanges

Prime Ministers of both countries have met 13 times since 2015.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid a State Visit to India from 5-8 September 2022. Seven agreements and MoUs were signed during the visit, including in the areas of water resources, cooperation in railways, capacity building, science and technology and space cooperation. This includes a historic agreement on utilization of water from the common river Kushiara, which will benefit people of Assam and Sylhet in Bangladesh. This is the second water sharing agreement between the two countries after the Ganges Water Treaty in 1996.

Apart from this, several joint initiatives to enhance railway connectivity to be undertaken as part of bilateral development cooperation partnership were agreed during the visit. This includes supply of railway rolling stock, capacity building for the personnel of Bangladesh Railway, sharing of IT solutions for improved services of Bangladesh Railway and up-gradation of rail infrastructure.

Both Prime Ministers also inaugurated a 5.13 km long railway bridge over Rupsha River which has been built with Line of Credit extended by Government of India. This bridge will connect the Mongla Port, the second largest port in Bangladesh, through rail, thereby making it more accessible.

The Unit-I of Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant was unveiled, and Rupsha railway bridge, one of the longest rail bridges in Bangladesh, was also inaugurated during the visit. Both projects are being undertaken as part of bilateral development cooperation.

Prime Minister Hasina also handed over scholarships to the descendants of Indian veterans of the 1971 War, during her State Visit to India in September 2022.

EAM visited Dhaka on 28 April 2022. The 7<sup>th</sup> Joint Consultative Commission was held in New Delhi in June 2022, which was co-chaired by EAM and Foreign Minister of Bangladesh A.K Abdul Momen. The Home Ministers of both countries met on the sidelines of the 3<sup>rd</sup> No Money for Terror Conference held in New Delhi on 18 November 2022.

## Other Bilateral Engagements

Several other engagements between the two countries were also held during the year, under various bilateral institutional mechanisms. Noteworthy among them are 38<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Joint River Commission (August 2022); Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicle Agreement Talks (March 2022); 9<sup>th</sup> Joint Boundary Working Group (May 2022); 6<sup>th</sup> Joint Task Force on Fake Currency (June 2022); 52<sup>nd</sup> DG Level Talks between Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guards Bangladesh

(BGB) (July 2022); 5<sup>th</sup> Joint Boundary Commission (November 2022); and 18<sup>th</sup> Joint Working Group on Border and Security Meeting (December 2022).

The State Minister for Information & Communication Technology Zunaid Ahmed Palak, visited India in April 2022. The Railway Minister of Bangladesh Mohd. Nurul Islam Sujan, visited India in May-June 2022.

## Economic and Trade Relations

There has been a significant increase in bilateral trade last year, with Bangladesh remaining India's largest trade partner in South Asia and India becoming the largest export destination of Bangladesh in Asia. Despite Covid-19 related disruptions, bilateral trade grew at an unprecedented rate from USD 10.78 billion in FY 2020-21 to USD 18.14 billion in FY 2021-22. Exports to Bangladesh touched above USD 16 billion as against USD 9.6 billion the previous FY.

Bangladesh is also India's largest development partner. India became the top development cooperation partner for Bangladesh in terms of funds disbursement during the last financial year. India has extended concessional credits amounting to almost USD 10 billion to Bangladesh, including through three of its largest bilateral Lines of Credit.

A Joint Feasibility Study, finalised this year, recommended that a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) will be beneficial for both countries. Both sides have decided to launch CEPA negotiations to complete it before Bangladesh's graduation out of LDC status.

## Development Partnership

Development partnership is a priority area of bilateral cooperation between the two countries. India has extended concessional finance in forms of loans and grants of approximately USD 10 billion to Bangladesh, making it India's largest development partner. India also emerged as the top development partner of Bangladesh with the highest-ever disbursement of funds in FY 2021-22.

High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs) constitute an active pillar of India's development assistance in Bangladesh, and include construction of student hostels, academic buildings, skill development and training institutes, cultural centers, orphanages, and restoration of common cultural heritage.

## Power and Energy Cooperation

Cooperation in the energy and power sector has become one of the hallmarks of India-Bangladesh relations. Bangladesh

is currently importing 1160 MW of power from India, of which 1000 MW is through the Baharampur (West Bengal) – Bheramara (Bangladesh) interconnection and 160 MW is through the Tripura – Comilla (Bangladesh) interconnection.

Projects in the power sector under Indian Lines of Credit are being undertaken with a view to augment power generation and transmission capacities in Bangladesh. The 1320 MW Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant Project at Rampal with a project cost of USD 1.68 billion is being executed under the Concessional Financing Scheme. The Unit-I of Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant was unveiled during the visit of Prime Minister Hasina in September 2022. India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline connecting Siliguri to Parbatipur in Bangladesh is being built through a grant from Government of India to meet the requirements of refined petroleum products in Bangladesh. The mechanical completion of the pipeline has been achieved in December 2022 and commissioning of the project is expected to take place at an early date.

Synchronisation of power grids of India and Bangladesh is important for enhancing sub-regional cooperation in the power sector. During the visit of Prime Minister Hasina to India in September 2022, the two leaders agreed to expeditiously implement projects to connect the two countries' power grid, including through the proposed high capacity 765 KV transmission line from Katihar (Bihar) to Bornagar (Assam) through Parbatipur in Bangladesh.

## Connectivity

Connectivity has been a priority area of bilateral cooperation. Both sides are working to facilitate seamless movement of people and goods, both in bilateral and sub-regional contexts. Fourth and final trial runs for the operationalization of the Agreement to use Chattogram and Mongla Port was completed this year. Once operationalized, North Eastern states will get access to the sea, while also benefiting businesses in Bangladesh.

With the operationalisation of the Haldibari (India) – Chilahati (Bangladesh) rail link, five out of six pre-1965 rail links have been revived between India and Bangladesh. On 1 June 2022, Mitali Express, the third passenger train between the two countries, connecting New Jalpaiguri to Dhaka was virtually inaugurated by the Railway Ministers of India and Bangladesh. The past year has also witnessed the highest-ever exchange of freight trains. As a result, bilateral trade via rail has recorded an unprecedented year-on-year growth of 130%.

Both India and Bangladesh are jointly undertaking dredging of two critical stretches of Brahmaputra and Koshiyara rivers on India-Bangladesh Protocol routes. These efforts are boosting connectivity of North Eastern states with Bangladesh and the rest of India.

Both sides have also been engaged in finalising implementation of the BBIN Motor Vehicle Agreement to boost sub-regional connectivity.

## Defence and Security Cooperation

There is active cooperation between various agencies of both countries on issues pertaining to security and border management which includes combating drug trafficking, human trafficking, among others.

In the defence sector, significant bilateral exchanges took place during this period. The USD 500 million Line of Credit on defence between India and Bangladesh was operationalized this year, with the signing of the first contract to supply equipment to the Bangladesh armed forces.

In July 2022, India's Chief of Army Staff paid a visit to Bangladesh – his first foreign visit since assuming charge. The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Defence Dialogue and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tri-Services Talks were held from 8-10 August 2022 in New Delhi to comprehensively review ongoing defence cooperation. As part of DefExpo 2022 and the IOR Defence Ministers Meeting in October 2022 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, Bangladesh was represented by the Defence Advisor to the Prime Minister Maj. Gen. Tarique Siddique. Principal Staff Officer (Armed Forces Division) of Bangladesh Lt. Gen Waker Uz Zaman accompanied Major Siddique and met his counterpart, the Defence Secretary. Bangladesh Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Shaikh Abdul Hannan visited India from 15 -18 December 2022.

In July 2022, two delegations of Muktijoddhas from Bangladesh visited neighbouring states of Assam and Tripura, for the very first time, as a recognition of the support given by the people of these states during the Liberation War in 1971.

## People-to-People Ties

People-to-people relations is another critical element of the relationship with Bangladesh today, including as India's largest world-wide visa operations. Prior to the pandemic, close to 1.7 million visas were issued to visitors from Bangladesh.

A youth delegation from Bangladesh visited India in October 2022. Almost 100 youth from different walks of life were part of this delegation. This was the first visit of such a delegation after the pandemic. The delegation called on the Hon'ble President at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

## Capacity Building and Human Resource Development

As an important ITEC partner country, Bangladesh annually sees around 800 participants availing benefits of the ITEC training courses. In March 2021, India announced 1000 "Suborno Jayanti Scholarships" for Bangladeshi students and in February 2022, a dedicated website was launched for desirous Bangladeshi students wanting to study in premier Indian educational institutes, including the IITs and NIITs, and pursue under-graduation, post-graduation and M.Phil/PhD courses.



Prime Minister met the King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck in New Delhi, September 2022

## Bhutan

India and Bhutan share unique and special ties based on mutual goodwill, trust and people-to-people contacts. Over the years, the bilateral relations have expanded to include a wide range of areas including hydropower, ICT, health, culture, agriculture, space, tertiary education, and digital and financial connectivity etc.

The mutually beneficial cooperation in hydropower sector continued during the year. There was sustained engagement in this area through authority meetings for Punatsangchhu-I and Punatsangchhu-II hydropower project (HEP) to discuss related issues. Secretary (Power) visited Bhutan in November 2022 to review the hydropower cooperation.

Strong development partnership for Bhutan's development, on its priorities, is an important pillar of India-Bhutan relations. India has committed financial support of Rs. 4500 crore for the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan of Bhutan (2018-23), and a 'Transitional Trade Support Facility' of Rs. 400 crore. This assistance is funding over 82 large and intermediate projects and 524 High Impact Community Development Programmes (HICDPs) in the areas of infrastructure development, industries, agriculture, e-governance, community development, health, education and capacity building, etc.

The Government of India continued its strong support to Bhutan in its fight against Covid-19. Bhutan was the first country to

receive 550,000 doses of the Made in India Covishield vaccines in two phases. Another consignment of COVID-19 medical supplies/Anti-TB drugs was delivered to Bhutan in April 2022 during EAM's visit.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Border District Coordination Meeting (BDCM) was held between the Royal Government of Bhutan and the State Government of West Bengal on 28-29 September 2022. BDCM has been held regularly since its inception in 1991 and it is an effective mechanism to discuss security and law & order issues, and to resolve issues of mutual concerns between the two sides.

### High Level Exchanges

A number of high-level visits took place during the year signifying the unique bilateral ties between the two countries. On 28-29 April 2022, EAM led a delegation to Bhutan. He met His Majesty the King of Bhutan, His Majesty the Fourth King of Bhutan, Bhutan's Prime Minister Lotay Tshering and Foreign Minister Tandi Dorji to discuss matters of mutual interest.

His Majesty the King of Bhutan traveled to India from 14-16 September 2022. During the visit he met Prime Minister, and discussed bilateral ties, and ways to further strengthen them. The King of Bhutan also met EAM, National Security Advisor and Foreign Secretary during his stay in India.

Bhutan's Minister of Economic Affairs Lyonpo Loknath Sharma visited India on three occasions in 2022 – (i) in January 2022



EAM met Prime Minister of Bhutan Lotay Tshering, April 2022



in New Delhi for meetings with Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, as well as with Union Minister of Power; (ii) in April 2022 to attend the "Waterways Conclave" in Dibrugarh, Assam, organized by the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; and the Bengal Global Business Summit in Kolkata, West Bengal organized by the Confederation of West Bengal Trade Associations; (iii) in July 2022 in New Delhi to attend the 16<sup>th</sup> Authority Meeting of the Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Power Project and bilateral meetings with Indian Minister of Commerce & Industry; the Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare; and Minister of Coal.

India's Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare visited Bhutan from 4-7 September 2022 to lead the Indian delegation at the 75<sup>th</sup> session of the World Health Organisation Regional Committee Meeting (RCM) in Paro. India hosted two side events focusing on Digital Health and Regional Research Platform. Minister of State (MoS) for Health and Family Welfare held a bilateral meeting with the Health Minister of Bhutan, Lyonpo Dechen Wangmo, to discuss bilateral cooperation in health care.

On 29 March 2022 EAM met Foreign Minister Tandi Dorji on the sidelines of 5<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit in Colombo. On 19 April 2022, Prime Minister Lotay Tshering virtually addressed the ground breaking ceremony of the Global Centre for Traditional Medicine inaugurated by Prime Minister, and Director General, World Health Organisation Tedros Ghebreyesus.

Chief of Army Staff visited Bhutan from 29 July-01 August 2022, and met His Majesty the King of Bhutan, His Majesty the Fourth King of Bhutan and Chief Operations Officer of the Royal Bhutan Army, to exchange views on taking forward the strong professional bonds between both the Armies. Chief Operations Officer General Batoo Tshering of the Royal Bhutan Army visited India from 28 October-02 November 2022. He attended the passing out parade at Officers' Training Academy (OTA) Gaya and called on COAS, CDS, CAS and the Defence Secretary during the visit.

## Development Partnership

India is a major development partner of Bhutan, providing more than 80% of grant support received by Bhutan from its development partners. For the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan of Bhutan (2018 - 2023), Government of India has committed an amount of Rs. 4500 crores, comprising Rs. 2800 crores of Project Tied Assistance (PTA), Rs. 850 Crores of High Impact Community Development Project (HICDP) Assistance and Rs. 850 Crores of Program Grant Assistance. In addition, Government of India has also committed assistance of Rs. 400 crores towards Transitional Trade Support Facility and Rs. 100 crores towards Mangdechhu Tariff Adjustment Facility.

From 01 January to 30 November 2022, Government of

India released an amount of Rs. 1416. 264 crores to the Royal Government of Bhutan, taking India's total release of its committed assistance to 80.3%. The bilateral Project Monitoring Committee (PMC) held its second meeting of the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan from 09 - 13 July 2022, to oversee the progress of various development cooperation projects.

In 2022, many India-funded PTA and HICDP projects were inaugurated. On 11 November 2022, the historical Wangduephodrang Dzong, reconstructed with Indian assistance of Rs. 100 crores, was inaugurated by His Majesty the King of Bhutan. During EAM's visit to Bhutan in April 2022, Government of India funded development cooperation projects viz. four lane Jungshina Chubachu highway, Thimphu, the Bajo Khuruthang Highway, Punakha and a Bus terminal in Bumthang were inaugurated.

Other major inaugurations included the sports stadium at Paro, infrastructure at College of Language and Cultural Studies at Trongsa, Simtokha Roundabout at Thimphu, and Dhamdhum Bridge in Samtse.

## Hydropower Cooperation

Out of Bhutan's total hydropower generation capacity of 2326 MW, nearly 2136 MW generation capacity has been built with India's assistance. Government of India has assisted in construction and commissioning of 336 MW Chukha HEP, 60 MW Kurichu HEP, 1020 MW Tala HEP and 720 MW Mangdechhu HEP. At present, construction is ongoing for 1200 MW Punatsangchhu-I HEP and 1020 MW Punatsangchhu-II HEP. With the easing of Covid-19 restrictions, construction for Punatsangchhu-II HEP picked pace, and is expected to be commissioned in 2024.

In order to discuss project construction issues, the 16<sup>th</sup> Authority meeting for Punatsangchhu-II HEP was held in New Delhi on 19 July 2022, and the 23<sup>rd</sup> Authority Meeting of Punatsangchhu-I HEP was held in Thimphu on 23 November 2022. During 29 October-01 November, Secretary Power visited Bhutan to review the bilateral hydropower cooperation. He also undertook site visits to Punatsangchhu-I and II HEPs.

India is the sole importer and buyer of electricity from Bhutan. In 2022, the hydropower sector continued to provide more than 40% of Bhutan's export revenue. India allowed export of 400 MW power to Bhutan in lean seasons of January to March 2022, to help Bhutan meet its lean power deficit.

## Space Cooperation

It has emerged as an important area of bilateral cooperation. A month long customised training program on satellite data analysis for Bhutanese officials was conducted. A major

achievement was the launch of the India-Bhutan SAT on 26 November 2022 by ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. This is the first satellite jointly developed by India and Bhutan, and it will provide high resolution images to Bhutan for their natural resources management.

## Trade and Economic Cooperation

India continued to be Bhutan's largest trading partner. In FY 2021-22, the bilateral trade was USD 1430 million, of which, India's exports to Bhutan comprised USD 885 million and India's imports from Bhutan amounted to USD 545 million. During April-September 2022, the bilateral trade amounted USD 796 million with USD 558 million of exports to Bhutan and USD 238 million of imports from Bhutan. The major commodities imported by Bhutan from India are (a) petrol & diesel (b) passenger cars (c) rice (d) wood charcoal (e) cellphones. Both governments continued to engage in taking measures to facilitate trade and mutual investments.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan (RMA) signed an agreement on 16 November 2022 to enable the RMA to avail an additional currency swap amount of upto USD 200 million, equivalent in INR, from the RBI. The swap agreement will help Bhutan in managing the INR liquidity and also in promoting trade and investment between the two countries.

In line with the special and friendly relationship between India and Bhutan, the Government of India made a number of trade concessions for Bhutan during 2022, such as: (i) lifting the restriction on import of potato only from Bhutan (ii) allowing the import of fresh wholly produced ginger from Bhutan (restricted item) (iii) supplying 10,000 litres of Nano Urea / Nano Nitrogen Fertilizer (Liquid) to Bhutan at a special concessional rate (iv) supplying 111,000 MT of coal to Bhutan (v) permitting the export of wheat, wheat flour, and sugar to Bhutan (despite the export ban in India), and (vi) allowing the import of 17,000 MT of fresh (green) arecanut every year from Bhutan without the Minimum Import Price (MIP) condition.

India and Bhutan are working towards recognition of the equivalence of special food related measures, with the objective of facilitating Bhutanese export of food and agri/livestock products to India. In this connection, a three-member delegation from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) visited Bhutan from 25-29 July 2022 in order to study and assess the official food control system of Bhutan.

To give a push to bilateral start-up cooperation, initiatives were undertaken for connecting Bhutanese start-up ecosystem with the Government of Karnataka, and with the Entrepreneurship Mindset Curriculum (EMC) of the Delhi Government. To

promote Madhya Pradesh tourism in Bhutan, outreach events and familiarisation visit for six Bhutanese delegates to Madhya Pradesh was organized in October 2022.

## Education and Capacity Building

Over 1,100 scholarships are being provided annually by India to Bhutanese students for studying in India, in a wide range of disciplines including medicine, pharmacy, engineering, etc. under various Scholarship Schemes. These include Undergraduate Scholarship under Project Tied Assistance, Nalanda University Scholarships, ICCR UG Engineering Scholarships, India-Bhutan Friendship Scholarship at IIT Kanpur, Ambassador's Scholarship etc. Additionally, Bhutanese students have also been availing scholarships under ICCR, AYUSH, SAARC, BIMSTEC Schemes, along with those offered by various Indian institutions. In 2022, on popular demand, the slots of ICCR Undergraduate Engineering Scholarship and Nalanda University Scholarship were increased from 20 to 25 and from 05 to 30 respectively for the Bhutanese students. In 2022, 8 Bhutanese scholars were awarded India Science Research Fellowship (ISRF) by Indian National Science Academy, for undertaking research at premier Indian institutions.

India is Bhutan's main partner in the capacity building of government officials and professionals/entrepreneurs in various fields. Approximately 20 Bhutanese civil service officers get training at the premier Indian administrative and special training institutions and academies every year. Bhutan is allotted 325 in-person training slots for upgrading administrative and technical skills of government officials and private sector employees. At the request of the Royal Government of Bhutan, a special customised ITEC programme for training 100 Bhutanese young entrepreneurs at the prestigious Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Ahmedabad started in September 2022. In March 2022, three Bhutanese youth joined the St. Stephen's Young Leaders Fellowship Programme sponsored by the Ministry under ITEC. India has also been extending support to Bhutanese academic institutions by deputing lecturers at the request of Royal University of Bhutan under special arrangements.

Other milestones this year includes the successful completion of a capacity building program for Bhutan's judiciary, training of Bhutan police personnel, diplomats, training of 40 DeSuups (volunteers) in International Financial Reporting Standards.

## Culture

India and Bhutan have historical and cultural linkages nurtured by vibrant people-to-people contacts. This is sustained by active bilateral cultural cooperation. In November 2022, a 5-day familiarization tour to visit the Buddhist circuit in India was organized by the Ministry of Tourism, for the winners of



Prime Minister welcomed President of the Republic of Maldives, Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, in New Delhi, August 2022

the India @75 Amrit Mahotsav inter school quiz competition, conducted by the Embassy of India in Thimphu.

A slew of India@75 Amrit Mahotsav cultural events were organized by the Embassy of India Thimphu in partnership with Bhutanese organisations to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Indian Independence. An India-Bhutan cultural cooperation duet song titled “Tho Dha Tshoem” was released by the Embassy on 01 July 2022. The Embassy organised a reception to celebrate 75 years of India’s independence, with dignitaries and friends from Bhutan. Events including lecture and quiz competition on Buddhism, run for unity, lecture on Ayurveda for mental well-being, celebration of the 400<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Assam’s legendary war hero Lachit Barphukan, were held with participation of people from Bhutan.

## Maldives

India and Maldives share ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religious and commercial links and vibrant people-to-people bonds. Both the nations enjoy close, cordial and multi-dimensional relations based on shared values of democratic virtues, peaceful coexistence and rule of law. India’s “Neighbourhood First” policy and Maldives’s “India First” policy are working in tandem to overcome shared challenges & concerns.

## High Level Exchanges

In March 2022, EAM during his visit to Addu City in Maldives inaugurated National College for Police and Law Enforcement, the Drug Detoxification and Rehabilitation Centre, Hulhudhoo, and the Eco-Tourism Zone, Meedhoo. He also witnessed the ground-breaking of the Addu Roads Project and handover of the Coastal Radar System to the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF).

In August 2022, Maldivian President Ibrahim Solih paid an official visit to India. Along with Prime Minister, he jointly launched first-pouring of concrete for the Greater Male Connectivity Project as well as reviewed progress on construction of Social Housing Units and other ongoing bilateral projects. In August 2022, the ground breaking ceremony of Police Infrastructure Development project was also held. In September 2022, Emergency & Trauma Unit at B. Dharavandhoo Health Centre, developed under the cash grant, was inaugurated. In September 2022, a contract was signed for the redevelopment of Hanimaadhoo airport, funded by EXIM Bank of India Line of Credit.

In October 2022, Foreign Secretary visited Maldives and witnessed signing of the agreement on extension of USD 100 million Line of Credit, which was announced during President Solih’s visit to India. He also witnessed handing over of a speed





EAM met Speaker of the People's Majlis of Maldives Mohamed Nasheed in New Delhi, April 2022

boat to the Maldives Correctional Service as well as handed over 24 utility vehicles to MNDF.

## MoUs

In 2022, various capacity building focused MoUs were signed including implementation of National Knowledge Network of India in Maldives. In 2022, under various institutional MoUs and ITEC, more than 800 Maldivians have visited India for in-person training programmes. More than 150 Maldivians have benefited through e-ITEC training programmes too.

## Trade and Economic Cooperation

India has emerged as Maldives' 2<sup>nd</sup> largest trade partner in 2022. Existing bilateral arrangement for restrictions-free export of 9 essential commodities to the Maldives has supported Maldives to ensure its food security, besides keeping the inflation in control, amid volatility in the global markets.

In November 2022, Government of India provided USD 100 million financial assistance through subscription of Maldives' Government Domestic Treasury bonds by SBI, Male. In December 2022, the Reserve Bank of India signed a USD 200 million Currency Swap Agreement with the Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA), which will enable the MMA to make withdrawals in multiple tranches up to a maximum of USD 200 million from the RBI.

## Development Cooperation

India-Maldives development cooperation has touched new heights through the ongoing key infrastructure and high-impact grant projects. Spread across Maldives, India is supporting over 45 high-impact grant projects and 10 large key infrastructure projects under EXIM Bank's concessional credit – including development of a bridge connecting 4 islands, port, airports, roads and reclamation, sports stadium, fisheries expansion and a tertiary cancer hospital. Indian companies are also constructing 4000 social housing units in Maldives under EXIM's Buyers' Credit scheme.

## Defence Cooperation

Defence and security has been a major area of cooperation between India and Maldives. In February 2022, during visit of Defence Secretary, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Defence Cooperation Dialogue was conducted at Male. During the visit, an additional medical equipment worth Rs. 83.3 lakhs was donated to Senahiya Military Hospital besides inauguration of extension project of MNDF's Composite Training Centre and handing over of refitted CGS Huravee ship to MNDF. The 5<sup>th</sup> NSA Level Meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave was held in Maldives in March 2022. Chief of Naval Staff visited Maldives in April 2022. NDC delegation visited Maldives in August 2022. INS Sutlej was deployed to Maldives from April – May 2022, to undertake the 2<sup>nd</sup> joint hydrographic survey in the Greater Male region.



The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of Indian Navy - MNDF Marines - MNDF Coast Guard joint exercise – *Ekatha* – was held in Maldives from 5th September to 3rd October 2022.

The Government of India provided two Indian helicopters and a Dornier aircraft by is an asset to MNDF and has enabled 129 medical evacuations, 15 search missions and 71 joint surveillances. In 2022, more than 200 capacity building slots in ITEC have been used by MNDF and Maldives Police Services (MPS).

## Myanmar

India shares over 1600 km long land border with Myanmar. The ongoing security and humanitarian situation in Myanmar is a cause of grave concern, as it has direct implications for India. India has called for complete cessation of violence, resolution of issues through dialogue, release of political detainees and Myanmar's return to democracy at the earliest. As a friend of the people of Myanmar, India has continued with humanitarian and development cooperation in Myanmar. India is also facing issues relating to the influx of several Myanmar nationals into the North Eastern States.

Myanmar is an important neighbouring country with a long and porous land border with India, and is a vital component of both India's "Neighbourhood First" and "Act East" policies. Myanmar is India's land link to ASEAN. Both countries share strong civilisational, historical and people-to-people ties.

While the pace of progress in bilateral projects have been slow due to the internal situation in Myanmar, some progress on various socio-economic development projects has been made

this year. Myanmar Institute of Information Technology (MIIT) in Mandalay and Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research and Education (ACARE) in Nay Pyi Taw, established through development assistance from India, have been handed over to Myanmar in March 2022. India has signed a Project Agreement for establishing a Modern Integrated Checkpost at Tamu in Myanmar in September 2022.

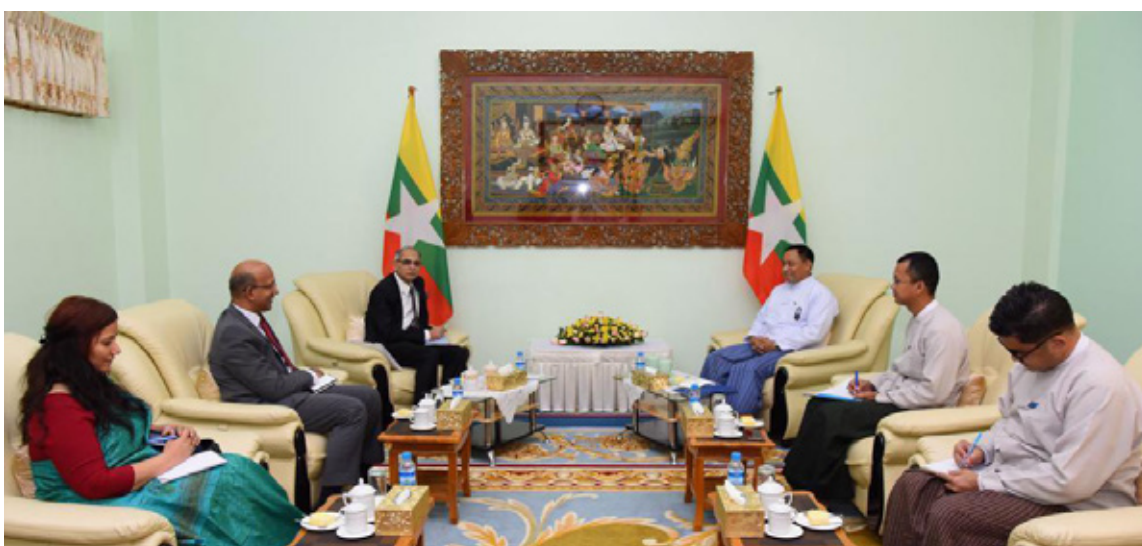
## Visits and Meetings

Foreign Secretary paid a working visit to Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 20-21 November 2022 and held discussions on security and stability in the border areas, and reviewed bilateral cooperation. The 6<sup>th</sup> Director General-level Talks on Narcotics between India and Myanmar was held in May 2022, and Joint Steering Committee and Joint Working Group meetings on cooperation in power sector were held in September 2022.

## Economic and Commercial Cooperation

Bilateral trade between India and Myanmar stood at USD 1.895 billion for FY 2021-22, as compared to USD 1.299 billion in FY 2020-21. India's exports were valued at USD 893 million and imports were USD 1001 million in FY 2021-22.

India and Myanmar signed an MoU in June 2021 under which India provides an annual import quota of 2.5 lakh MT of Black Matpe (Urad) and 1 lakh MT of Pigeon Peas (Tur) to Myanmar to be imported through private traders for five years i.e. from 2021-22 to 2025-26. In FY 2021-22 India imported pulses worth USD 760.24 million which is a significant increase from USD 380.35 million in 2020-21.



Foreign Secretary paid a working visit to Myanmar, November 2022

Commercial relations between India and Myanmar were promoted through initiatives such as Virtual Buyer-Seller Meet on Export of Indian Agri Products in October 2022 and India Myanmar Business Meet in September 2022.

## Development Cooperation

India's development assistance portfolio in Myanmar is about USD 2 billion, the bulk of which is grants. Major people-centric projects include the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project, the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway Project, the Border Area Development Programme in Chin State and the Naga Self-Administered Zone; assistance in setting up institutions for higher learning and research, namely Myanmar Institute of Information Technology (MIIT), Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research and Education (ACARE), Myanmar-India Centre for Enhancement of IT Skills (MICEITS); India-Myanmar Industrial Training Centres (ITC); Rakhine State Development Programme; the repair and conservation of earthquake damaged pagodas etc.

The pace of implementation of large infrastructure projects has suffered due to the security situation in Myanmar including the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project and the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway Project.

Under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP), projects are being undertaken in Chin State and in the Naga Self-administered Zone in Myanmar. 141 projects such as building bridges, roads, schools and health centres have been implemented so far in four phases under BADP, and 41 projects are under implementation.

## Capacity Building

Capacity building has remained a priority area of cooperation to assist the people, especially youth of Myanmar, to overcome the multiple challenges they face. With the disruption in international travel in 2020 due to the pandemic, the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) courses had moved to an online mode of learning. 314 slots out of 340 slots allotted for ITEC and e-ITEC programmes for FY 2022-23 have already been utilised. These included courses in diverse areas including English language, data analytics, gender inclusive governance, courses for educational administrators, Buddhism, Covid-related subjects and parliamentary studies.

India had also offered customised courses for capacity building for participants from Myanmar. 30 participants have received training in India in various paramedical courses this year. 19 Myanmar nationals are undergoing a Master's programme in Social Work at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) in Mumbai. Participants from Myanmar have also taken part

in capacity building programmes at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun and in Indian Statistical Institute in Kolkata. Myanmar was also offered scholarships under Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) Scholarship Scheme in FY 2021-22.

India is also contributing to capacity building by assisting Myanmar to offer various courses in institutions that have been set up with assistance from India. Myanmar Institute of Information Technology in Mandalay has been set up with assistance from India for the supply of equipment, training material, and course design in IT. The institute has been handed over to Myanmar in March 2022. Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research and Education (ACARE) has also been established with assistance from India in supply of equipment, training and teaching courses etc. It constitutes 12 state-of-the-art laboratories for conducting research and it also provides post-graduate courses. The institute has been handed over to Myanmar in March 2022. GOI has been providing technical and financial support to set up Indo-Myanmar Industrial Training Centres (IMITC) – two centres have already been established in Pakkoku and Myingyan, and two more are being set up in Monywa and Thaton.

India's ties with the beneficiaries of its capacity building programmes were maintained through commemoration of ITEC Day and ICCR Day on 16 September and 06 April 2022 respectively.

## Humanitarian Assistance

India provided support to Myanmar in its fight against Covid-19 through supply of medicines, medical equipment and vaccines through 2021 and 2022. Towards this end, two medical oxygen plants were supplied to Myanmar in January 2022. In total, India has supplied more than 21 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine to Myanmar, including as gift and commercial supplies. India also provided 10,000 tons of rice and wheat as humanitarian assistance which was received in Myanmar in March-April 2022.

## Culture

Technical and financial assistance is being extended to Myanmar for conservation and restoration of pagodas in Bagan in Myanmar and a team from the Archaeological Survey of India visited Myanmar in June 2022 in this regard.

On 21 June 2022 the International Day of Yoga was observed as a public event after a gap of two years, with participation from members of Indian and diplomatic communities in Yangon. Other events of cultural significance observed during the year were inauguration of the bust of Lokmanya Shri Bal Gangadhar Tilak at the premises of the Consulate General of India in Mandalay, photo exhibition and screening of documentary films

on National Unity Day, celebration of Ayurveda Day, cleanliness drive on Gandhi Jayanti, celebration of Hindi Diwas etc.

## Nepal

India and Nepal share close and friendly relations characterised by age-old historical and cultural linkages, an open border and deep-rooted people-to-people contacts.

In consonance with the 'Neighbourhood First' Policy, there has been a continued momentum in the bilateral ties with Nepal, promoting greater connectivity - be it physical, economic, energy, digital, cultural, or focusing on infrastructure development and capacity building.

### High-level Exchanges



Prime Minister held bilateral talks with the then Prime Minister of Nepal Sher Bahadur Deuba in Lumbini, Nepal

Since May 2014, there have been 15 exchanges at the level of Head of State/ Head of Government. In consonance with our "Neighbourhood First" policy, Prime Minister visited Nepal five times since May 2014, and Prime Ministers of Nepal have visited India eight times since May 2014.

In 2022, there were two back-to-back Prime Ministerial visits, with then Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba in India on an official visit from 1-3 April, 2022, during which he visited New Delhi and Varanasi. The 34.9 km. long cross-border rail link connecting Jaynagar (Bihar) to Kurtha (Nepal) was flagged off during the visit of then Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba of Nepal to India in April 2022. Also during the visit, both the countries unveiled a Joint Vision Statement on Power Sector Cooperation.

The last visit by Prime Minister to Nepal was to Lumbini on 16 May 2022. The cultural component of the visit included a visit to Mayadevi Temple and performance of Shilanyas ceremony at the site of Centre for Buddhist Cultural Heritage. In addition, 3 new ICCR chairs were established - in Lumbini Buddhist University, Kathmandu University and Tribhuvan University. An MoU for development of 490 MW of Arun IV between Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) and Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) was also signed; and an MoU for general collaboration between IIT and Kathmandu University was signed.

At Ministerial level, the Joint Commission, co-chaired by EAM, has met four times since May 2014, most recently in 2021 in New Delhi. India and Nepal also have around 42 bilateral institutional mechanisms in various sectors.

Despite the Covid-19 restrictions, various joint dialogue mechanisms took place during this period. Some of the recent bilateral engagements include: Joint Working Group (JWG) on Power Sector (Kathmandu, Feb 2022); JWG on Petroleum & Gas sector (virtually, March 2022); Line of Credit Projects Review (Kathmandu, March 2022); Joint Committee on Inundation & Flood Management (JCIFM) (Kathmandu, March 2022); JWG on Border Management (New Delhi, June 2022); SSB-APF Coordination Meeting (Kathmandu, September 2022); Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) and Joint Standing Technical Committee (JSTC) on Water Resources (September 2022) among others.

### Defence and Security Cooperation

India and Nepal have wide-ranging cooperation in the defence sector. India has been assisting the Nepal Army in its modernisation by supplying equipment and providing training. Assistance during disasters, joint military exercises, adventure

activities and bilateral visits are other aspects of India's defence cooperation with Nepal. A number of defence personnel from Nepal Army attend training courses in various Indian Army training institutions. The 'Indo-Nepal Battalion-level Joint Military Exercise SURYA KIRAN' is conducted alternately in India and in Nepal. The 16th edition of Exercise SURYA KIRAN was conducted in Nepal during December 2022. Since 1950, India and Nepal have been awarding each other's Army Chief with the honorary rank of General in recognition of the mutual harmonious relationship between the two armies.

## Operation Maitri and Post-Earthquake Reconstruction Assistance

In the wake of the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, Government of India was the first responder and carried out its largest disaster relief operation abroad (Operation Maitri). India extended USD 1 billion to Nepal as part of its long-term assistance for post-earthquake reconstruction in housing, education, health and culture heritage sectors. The work on reconstruction of more than 130 hospital/ health centres, schools and 28 cultural heritage sites in Nepal is under various stages of implementation.

## Development Partnership

The Government of India provides substantial financial and technical assistance to Nepal for implementation of large development and infrastructure and connectivity projects, as well as small development projects/ high impact community development projects in key areas of education, health, irrigation, rural infrastructure, livelihood development, etc. all across the country. A series of cross-border connectivity projects like rail links, roads, Integrated Check Posts (ICP) are under implementation with Indian grant assistance.

Some of the major flagship projects completed in recent years are the first-ever cross-border petroleum products pipeline in South Asia from Motihari in India to Amlekhgunj in Nepal jointly inaugurated by the two PMs on 10 September 2019; Integrated Check Posts at Birgunj and Biratnagar to facilitate cross-border movement of about 02 million passengers and cargo traffic annually; three cross-border power transmission lines supplying 600 MW of electricity to Nepal.

Despite COVID restrictions, work on the ongoing connectivity and developmental projects continued and showed considerable progress. As of December 2022, all 14 Terai road packages were completed under Indian assistance of Rs. 500 crores and handed over to the Government of Nepal. India and Nepal have also expanded bilateral cooperation to include new initiatives in the areas of agriculture, railways and inland waterways connectivity.

There is steady progress in developing cross-border rail networks between India and Nepal, which include operationalisation of the Jayanagar-Bardibas cross-border section and Jogbani-Nepal Customs Yard rail section. India has also completed the preliminary survey of 136-km broad gauge electrified rail line connecting Raxaul to Kathmandu. Jayanagar-Kurtha stretch of Jayanagar-Bardibas broad gauge project, was launched and operationalised by the two Prime Ministers in April 2022. The trains have been running at full capacity since then. Further, a Bharat Gaurav train connecting the holy city of Janakpur in Nepal with Ramayana circuit locations in India was flagged off in June 2022.

Indian assistance has helped in constructing 807 kms of the 1024 km-long East West Highway, which serves as one of Nepal's lifelines today. The Terai Roads project consists of 10 roads, for which the Government of India had committed Rs. 500 cr. in 2016. These roads connect the East West Highway to the Indian border. The project is now completed. Apart from this, several bridges have also been constructed including river bridges facilitating movement of people and trade. Recent example is the 6-lane major bridge across the River Mechi, connecting Kakarbhitta in Nepal to Panitanki in West Bengal as part of Asian Highway-02, which will provide critical connectivity to Nepal. Groundbreaking of a cross-border motorable bridge over Mahakali river at Dharchula in Uttarakhand was conducted in September 2022.

## Cooperation in Water Resources

Cooperation in water resources, primarily concerning the common rivers, is an important area of cooperation. Three-tier bilateral mechanism (with Ministerial meeting at the apex) has been established in 2008 to discuss issues relating to cooperation in water resources, flood management, and inundation. In the area of river training and embankment construction, India has been providing assistance to Nepal for strengthening and extension of embankments along rivers in Nepal. Discussions on flood management and inundation related matters are underway in existing bilateral mechanisms like JCIFM.

## Power Cooperation

India and Nepal have robust cooperation in the power sector. For the first time in Nepal's recent history, Nepal has become power surplus and has started exporting power to India. Government of India has given approvals to export more than 400 MW of power to India. Nepal exported more than Rs. 600 crores worth of power to India this wet season. With this, electricity has become one of Nepal's largest exports to India.

The Joint Vision Statement on Power Sector Cooperation issued on 02 April 2022 during the visit of Prime Minister



of Nepal to India, laid out a comprehensive roadmap for bilateral cooperation in this sector. Its key pillars include joint development of power generation projects in Nepal, development of cross-border transmission infrastructure, bi-directional power trade, coordinated operation of the national grids and institutional cooperation in sharing latest operational information, technology and know-how. The Vision Statement acknowledged the role Indian investment can play in Nepal's renewable power sector to benefit both the countries.

Further, Indian companies are currently developing large Hydro Electric Projects in Nepal including Arun III (900 MW), Lower Arun (679 MW), Arun-4 (490 MW), West Seti and SR-6 (1200MW) and Upper Karnali (900 MW).

## Trade and Economic Ties

Nepal is India's 11th largest export destination, up from 28th position in 2014. In FY 2021-22, it constituted 2.34% of India's exports. Further India's exports to Nepal during the first three quarters of FY 2021-22 (USD 6.95 billion) have already exceeded the export figures during the entire FY 2020-21 (USD 6.76 billion). The bilateral framework for trade is anchored on India-Nepal Treaty of Trade and Agreement of cooperation to control unauthorised trade, revised in 2009, both treaties were automatically renewed for a further period of 7 years in October 2016. The Trade Treaty allows Nepal unilateral duty free access to the Indian market. Nepal's main imports from India are petroleum products, iron & steel, cereals, vehicles and parts, machinery parts. Nepal's major items of exports include soyabean oil, spices, jute fiber & products, synthetic yarn and tea.

Indian firms are among the largest investors in Nepal, accounting for more than 33% of the total FDI stock in Nepal, worth nearly USD 500 million. There are about 150 Indian ventures operating in Nepal engaged in manufacturing, services (banking, insurance, dry port, education and telecom), power sector and tourism industries.

## Education, Cultural Cooperation and People-to-People Exchanges

India and Nepal extend visa-free entry in their respective territories to each other's nationals. Nearly 8 million Nepalese citizens live and work in India, and around 6,00,000 Indians reside in Nepal. Indians account for about 30% of foreign tourists in Nepal. With a view to strengthen P2P exchanges, sister city agreements have been signed (Kathmandu-Varanasi, Lumbini-Bodhgaya, Janakpur-Ayodhya) & India-Nepal Ramayana Circuit has been launched, apart from Bharat Gaurav train

service connecting to Janakpur pilgrimage site in Kathmandu during this year.

Over the years, India's contribution to human resource development in Nepal has been an important aspect of our relationship. India provides around 3000 scholarships annually to Nepali nationals studying in India and in Nepal at all levels of education, in a wide range of disciplines. Under ITEC programme, professional training is offered annually to about 250 officials from Nepal at various technical institutes in India.

## COVID Assistance

As part of our Covid-19 assistance, India had supplied more than 23 tonnes of medicines and medical equipment to Nepal on Grant basis during the first wave. India has recently resumed the supply of Covid-19 vaccine to Nepal. Till date, more than 3.1 million doses of these vaccines have been sent to Nepal, both on grant and commercial basis. In order to assist Nepal to cope with the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, a Medical Oxygen Plant based on India's indigenous technology was installed at B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences in Dharan in August 2021. This plant has a capacity to serve 200 patients simultaneously. India's efforts to ensure uninterrupted supply of Medical Oxygen to Nepal as well as in maintaining normal trade flows through border points even during the peak of the pandemic has been greatly appreciated in Nepal.

## Pakistan

India desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan. India's consistent position is that issues, if any, between India and Pakistan should be resolved bilaterally and peacefully, in an atmosphere free of terror and violence. The onus is on Pakistan to create such a conducive environment.

However, Pakistan continues to sponsor cross border terrorism against India; restrict normal trade, connectivity, and people-to-people exchanges.

## Indus Water Commission

The 117<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) was held on 1-3 March 2022 in Islamabad and the 118<sup>th</sup> meeting of the PIC was held on 30-31 May 2022 in New Delhi. The Commissioners for Indus Waters of India and Pakistan led the respective delegations. The meeting included technical discussions regarding on-going projects, discussions on exchange of hydrological and flood data, and finalisation of the annual report of the PIC.

## Pakistan's Unilateral Actions and Hostile Propaganda

Pakistan continues to engage in hostile and fabricated propaganda to vilify India, and to divert attention from its domestic political and economic failures. India has completely and unequivocally rejected all actions and statements by Pakistan on matters which are completely internal to India. There is a greater understanding among countries that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and that the matters related to it are internal to India.

## Cross Border Terrorism

Despite India's persistent urging that Pakistan respect its January 2004 commitment of not allowing its soil or territory under its control to be used for terrorism against India, there was no let-up in cross-border terrorism, infiltration and illegal smuggling of arms into India across the LoC and International Boundary. Pakistan is yet to show sincerity in delivering justice to the families of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.

India has consistently stressed the need for Pakistan to take credible, irreversible and verifiable action to end cross border terrorism. India consistently raises the issue of Pakistan's continued support to cross-border terrorism and terrorist infiltration in bilateral, regional and multilateral fora. In such outreach, credible inputs regarding the Pakistani-origins of the captured terrorists are also shared.

## Religious Pilgrimages

Visit of pilgrims between India and Pakistan are facilitated under

the 1974 Bilateral Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines. In 2022, the Government facilitated Hindu and Sikh pilgrimages on the occasion of Baisakhi, Barsi of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, Gurupurab, and Shadani Darbar through which around 4,900 Indian pilgrims visited various shrines in Pakistan. During the same period, around 400 Pakistani pilgrims visited various shrines in India to participate in the Urs of Hazrat Amir Khusro, Urs of Hazrat Allahudin Ali Ahmed Sabir, and Urs of Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya. This year, the Government of India also facilitated the visit of around 73,000 pilgrims to the holy Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan through the Kartarpur Corridor.

## Humanitarian Issues of Prisoners and Fishermen

As per the lists exchanged on 01 July 2022, Pakistan acknowledged the custody of 49 civilian prisoners and 633 fishermen who are Indians or believed-to-be Indians. There are 309 civilian prisoners and 95 fishermen who are from Pakistan in Indian custody. As a result of persistent efforts, India has been successful in securing the release and repatriation of more than 2160 Indian prisoners, including fishermen, from Pakistan's custody since 2014. India has sought early consular access, release and repatriation of the remaining Indian nationals in Pakistan's custody.

## Sri Lanka

In 2022-23, India's relations with Sri Lanka further strengthened in line with India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy and the SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) doctrine.



India handed over Dornier Maritime Reconnaissance aircraft to Sri Lankan Navy



Foreign Secretary with Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs and Chief Economic Advisor met Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Ranil Wickremesinghe in Colombo, Sri Lanka in 2022

## Visits

High level exchanges and interactions continued this year. Then Minister of Finance of Sri Lanka Basil Rajapaksa visited India in March 2022. During the visit, he called on the Prime Minister and met the Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy.

EAM held a virtual meeting with the then Finance Minister of Sri Lanka Basil Rajapaksa in January 2022. Then Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka Prof. G.L.Peeris visited India in February 2022. During the visit, he met the EAM and NSA.

Foreign Secretary visited Sri Lanka in June 2022 and discussed bilateral matters.

The 5th Meeting of India - Sri Lanka Joint Working Group on fisheries, co-chaired by Secretaries from both sides, took place in March 2022 in a virtual format and reviewed developments since the last meeting of the Joint Working Group held in December 2020.

## MoUs

EAM visited Sri Lanka in March 2022 for bilateral and BIMSTEC engagements, during which an MoU was signed on

implementation of Sri Lanka Unique Digital Identity (SL-UDI) programme with Indian grant assistance; MoU for providing Maritime Rescue Coordination Center; MoU on implementation of Hybrid Power Projects in three islands off Jaffna; MoU on cooperation in development of Fisheries Harbours in Sri Lanka; MoU for the establishment of Modern Computer Labs and smart boards with customised curriculum software in 200 schools in Galle District; and MoU between Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) and the Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute were also signed.

## Humanitarian Aid

India gifted a Dornier Maritime Reconnaissance aircraft on 15 August 2022 towards strengthening the maritime security of Sri Lanka at a special event held in Sri Lanka Air Force Base, Katunayake.

India provided multi-faceted assistance to Sri Lanka during the year. The overall economic assistance provided to Sri Lanka by the Government of India this year alone stands close to USD 4 billion. These include – USD 500 million Line of Credit for supply of petroleum products signed in January 2022; Currency Swap of USD 400 million extended to the Central Bank of Sri Lanka

by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in January 2022 – which was rolled over till July 2022; USD 1 billion credit facility agreement signed in March 2022 for supply of food items, medicines and other essential items; deferment of payment of liabilities under the Asian Clearing Union (ACU) mechanism by Central Bank of Sri Lanka to RBI till July 2022 (total deferment of approximately USD 2 billion).

Other assistance includes: more than 26 tons of drugs and other medical supplies worth around Rs. 6 crores provided to Peradeniya University Hospital, Jaffna Teaching Hospital, Hambantota General Hospital and Ambulance Service '1990' in April-May 2022 to meet the acute shortage of medicines; more than 65,000 tonnes of fertilizer supplied in July and August 2022; 1 lakh Rapid Antigen Kits were donated in February 2022

to combat Covid19; consignment of Kerosene (15,000 litres) delivered for the use of fishermen in Sri Lanka, and regular distribution of dry rations to all sections of society around Sri Lanka. Government of Tamil Nadu has contributed rice, milk powder and medicines worth USD 16 million, as part of the larger Indian assistance effort.

High Commissioner of India, then - Minister of Youth and Sports, Minister of Development Coordination and Monitoring and State Minister of Digital Technology and Enterprise Development, and then Minister of State for Estate Housing and Community Infrastructure jointly handed over house keys to more than 1000 beneficiaries from plantation areas of Sri Lanka at a public event in Kotagala on 15 January 2022.



## CHAPTER

## 2

# Indian Ocean Region

India's relationship with island countries in the Indian Ocean Region deepened in the year 2022 despite challenges. Leadership-level engagements with Maldives and Mauritius, and Ministerial level interactions with other countries provided much-needed guidance in advancing the bilateral ties. India continued its developmental assistance and capacity-building support to IOR countries, as per requirements.

## Comoros

The relations between India and Comoros continued to strengthen in 2022.

### Bilateral Engagements

EAM called on the President of Comoros Azali Assoumani on the sidelines of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on 20 September 2022 and discussed issues related to development partnership and maritime security.

### Humanitarian Aid

India donated Anti TB Drugs to Comoros under NTEP (National Tuberculosis Elimination Program) in July 2022.

### Defence Cooperation

The Chief of Comorian Coast Guard Moudjib Rahmane Adaine, the visited India from 24-28 February 2022 to take part in the Indian Navy's multilateral naval exercise MILAN 2022 and from 18-22 October 2022 to take part in DefExpo 2022 and India Africa Defence Dialogue (IADD).

On 7 January 2022, Indian Naval Ship Kesari visited Comoros to provide technical assistance to Comorian Coast Guard in repairing one of their patrol vessels.

Indian Naval Ship (INS) Tarkash made a Port Call at Port Mutsamudu in Anjouan, Comoros from 18-20 October 2022. The ship carried out different activities for the Comoros Coast Guard, thus strengthening India-Comoros ties.

## Madagascar

The momentum in India-Madagascar relations has continued to sustain in 2022, despite the negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

### Bilateral Engagements

The then Foreign Minister of Madagascar Richard Randriamandrato visited India to participate in the 7th edition of the Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi from 25-27 April 2022. During the visit, he called on Prime Minister and had a meeting with EAM. He met EAM again on the sidelines of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on 24 September 2022.

Minister of National Defence of Madagascar, Lt. General Rakotonirina Léon Jean Richard led a 3-member delegation to participate in the DefExpo 2022 and India-Africa Defence Ministers' Conclave held on 18-22 October 2022. During the visit, the Malagasy Defence Minister held a bilateral meeting with Raksha Mantri and discussed steps for furthering defence cooperation between the two countries.

Andry Rajoelina, President of the Republic of Madagascar, sent a video message for the launch of "Mission LiFE" by Prime Minister & United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on 20 October 2022.

### MoUs

During the year, India and Madagascar concluded MoUs/Agreements in the field of broadcasting cooperation, training of diplomats, tele-education and tele-medicine and Visa exemption for holders of diplomatic and service/official passports.

### Humanitarian Aid

India donated 50 computers to the largest high school in Madagascar—Lycee Moderne, Ampefiloha on 12 April 2022. India also donated 15000 bicycles to school children and teachers of Madagascar on 15 August 2022 in a ceremony attended by the Prime Minister of Madagascar Christian Ntsay. On 7 September 2022. Humanitarian assistance of 5000 metric tonnes of rice was handed over in a ceremony attended by the President of Madagascar Andry Rajoelina.

### Defence Cooperation

INS Suvarna and INS Tarkash made a Port Call at Antsiranana on 9-11 October 2022 and 22-24 October 2022 respectively. A 5-member Indian Navy Mobile Training Team was deputed from

10-23 October 2022 to train the Malagasy Special Forces.

## Mauritius

The special and time-tested relationship between India and Mauritius is underpinned by shared history, ancestry, culture, tradition and rich people-to-people ties. Based on shared values such as democracy and pluralism, this privileged relationship has evolved over the years to encompass newer areas such as economic cooperation and maritime security in the strategically important Indian Ocean Region. The high level of trust and mutual understanding between the two sides is reflected in regular high-level political exchanges. The two countries have also been cooperating in the execution of several large infrastructure development projects in Mauritius.

### High Level Bilateral Exchanges

Mauritius joined the 5th Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) held in Maldives on 9-10 March 2022 as a full member.

Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth visited India on the invitation of the Prime Minister for the ground-breaking ceremony of the WHO Global Center for Traditional Medicine in Jamnagar on 19 April 2022. He also participated in the Global Ayush Investment and Innovation Summit 2022 in Gandhinagar on 20 April 2022. PM Pravind Jugnauth held a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister in Gujarat on 20 April 2022 and also met the Chief Minister of Gujarat. He also met EAM and NSA in Delhi.

PM Jugnauth inaugurated the Quatre Bornes to Phoenix segment and Phoenix to Curepipe segment of the ongoing India-assisted Metro Express project on 08 May 2022 and 09 October 2022 respectively.

### Bilateral Engagements

The 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the India-Mauritius High-Powered Joint Trade Committee (JTC), under the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA), was held in New Delhi from 01-03 August 2022. Both sides agreed to the inclusion of the General Economic Cooperation (GEC) Chapter and Automatic Trigger Safeguard Mechanism (ATSM) in CECPA and expressed willingness to enter into a Customs Mutual Administrative Assistance Agreement (CMMA). They also agreed to discuss bilateral recognition arrangements of equivalence on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) measures.

For the very first time, Mauritius was invited to participate in a Special Youth Exchange Programme organized by the National Cadet Corps (NCC) of India as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.



5th NSA-level Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) meeting, March 2022

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) between India and Mauritius on Small & Medium Enterprise Cooperation was held in New Delhi on 25 August 2022. Two MoUs were signed on the occasion: one between SME Mauritius Ltd. and Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Ahmedabad; and another between SME Mauritius Ltd. and National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (ni-MSME), an institute under the Ministry of MSME, Government of India.

The celebrations marking 75 years of diplomatic ties between India and Mauritius were launched officially by PM Pravin Jugnauth on 13 September 2022. The official logo for the commemorations, which was selected after a public competition launched on the MyGov platform, was also unveiled on the occasion. MoS for Commerce & Industry addressed the Forum via a video message.

Mauritius was invited as a Guest Country to the next G20 Summit in September 2023 under the Presidency of India, from 01 December 2022 to 30 November 2023.

A delegation led by the Chief Election Commissioner of India visited Mauritius from 18-20 April 2022 and held bilateral discussions with the Office of the Electoral Commissioner of Mauritius in areas such as training and the exchange of best practices.

## Bilateral Trade

Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of Mauritius Jugnauth, virtually inaugurated 956 units of the Social Housing Project in Mauritius and laid the foundations of the Civil Service College and a 8 MW Solar PV Farm project on 20 January 2022. In addition, a Line of Credit of USD 190 million for the Metro Express and other infrastructure projects and an MoU on the Implementation of Small Development Projects were exchanged during the occasion.

From 05-12 March 2022, a ten-member medical team from India comprising doctors, nursing officers and specialists dealing with COVID-19 cases visited Mauritius as part of a bilateral exchange programme to share best practices regarding the management of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## MoUs

On 23 February 2022, an MOU was signed between the Competition Commission of India (CCI) and the Competition Commission of Mauritius. On 16 November 2022, a tripartite MoU between the High Commission of India in Mauritius, PMO of Mauritius and the Ministry of National Infrastructure and Community Development of the Republic of Mauritius (National

Development Unit) for the implementation of Community Development Projects in Mauritius (Cluster I); and the Letters of Exchange between the Government of India and the Government of Mauritius for the grant assistance of USD 10 million and USD 25 million extended to Mauritius for Phase III and Phase IV extensions of the Metro Project were exchanged.

## Humanitarian Aid

On 6 April 2022, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited delivered a Passenger Variant of Dornier aircraft, procured by the Government of Mauritius under the USD 100 million Line of Credit extended by India. On 27 April 2022, India deployed an Advanced Light Helicopter Dhruv on lease to the Government of Mauritius for a period of two years.

## Defence Cooperation

A five-member technical team from the Indian Navy visited Mauritius for five days from 26-30 June 2022 for refit works of the Coast Guard Ship (CGS) Guardian.

INS Darshak was deployed by the Government of India to carry out hydrographic surveys in Mauritian waters.

## Seychelles

India and Seychelles enjoy deep and friendly bilateral ties. Seychelles is a key strategic partner for India in the Indian Ocean Region. India is viewed as the foremost partner for development aid and capacity building by Seychelles. The main areas of cooperation between the two countries include development partnership, defence cooperation, capacity building including ITEC and scholarship programmes and diaspora engagement among others.

India's relations with Seychelles strengthened further in 2022 with substantial engagements across several sectors. India reaffirmed the ideals of SAGAR and the 'Neighbourhood First' policy in Seychelles through regular naval ship visits, joint military exercises, gifting of defence equipment, signing of MoUs for High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs), gifting of medicines, book donations etc.

## MoUs

Continuing the robust response to the pandemic, India and Seychelles signed MoU on Mutual Recognition of Vaccine Certificates on 5 May 2022.

Phase 1 of the HICDPs consisting of 29 projects ranging from the repair of school facilities, upgradation of amenities for the disabled, and construction of roads and other civic infrastructure that was completed in 2022. MoUs for 6 more projects relating to education, local government and the infrastructure sector were signed on 25 November 2022. Procurement of 59 buses as part of USD 10 million LoC to Seychelles was finalised to commence shortly.

## Humanitarian Aid

Bilateral trade and commerce witnessed economic recovery from the effects of the pandemic due to the rise in tourist numbers. Exports from India to Seychelles were USD 31.12 million for April-September 2022 (in comparison to USD 41.9 million in 2021-22).

## Defence Cooperation

Ex-LAMITYE, the joint military exercise between India and Seychelles was organized in Victoria from 21 to 30 March 2022. Chief of Naval Staff visited Seychelles from 21 to 24 April 2022 providing a boost to the defence ties. INS Kolkata visited Seychelles to participate in the National Day Parade of Seychelles on 29 June 2022. The destroyer-class vessel carried the Indian Navy's marching contingent and the band that took part in the Seychelles National Day.

INS Sharda, in April 2022, delivered PS Zoroaster after a refit in India and carried out an emergency medical evacuation for a Seychellois sailor. INS Gharial visited Seychelles in May 2022 carrying 3 ceremonial guns and a wave rider boat (transshipped from Sri Lanka) to be gifted to the Government of Seychelles. INS Sunayna visited Port Victoria in September 2022 to take part in Combined Maritime Forces exercises which was followed by INS Suvarna along with P-8I aircraft which arrived in Seychelles in October 2022 for EEZ surveillance.



## CHAPTER

## 3

# South East Asia and Oceania

India's engagement with the South East Asian and Oceania regions continued to expand at various levels this year.

## Australia

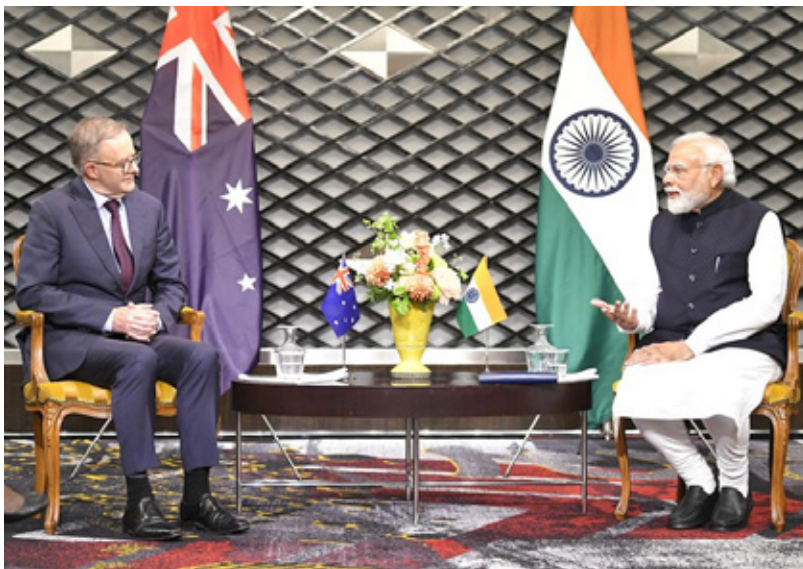
During 2022-23, India continued its policy of deepening strategic engagement with countries in the Oceania Region. India and Australia held a Virtual Summit on 21 March 2022 during which the entire gamut of relations under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership was discussed. Prime Minister met Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, soon after his election victory, at Tokyo on the sidelines of the Quad Summit on 24 May 2022.

The momentum of high-level bilateral exchanges was maintained across the spectrum of economic, commercial, defence, educational and people-to-people ties. The Comprehensive

Strategic Partnership (CSP) between India and Australia was further consolidated and strengthened in 2022 through regular and high-level dialogues, wide-ranging interactions and close collaboration across diverse sectors.

## High-Level Interactions

Prime Minister held a virtual Summit with then Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison on 21 March 2022. They agreed to institutionalise Annual Summits between India and Australia. Following the change of Government in Australia in May 2022, there was an excellent opportunity for an early engagement. Prime Minister met Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on 24 May 2022, on the sidelines of the Quad Leaders' Summit in Tokyo, soon after his election. The two Prime Ministers met again in Tokyo on 27 September 2022, and on 16 November 2022 on the margins of the G20 Summit in Bali.



Prime Minister held talks with Prime Minister of Australia Anthony Albanese in Tokyo, May 2022

## Bilateral Dialogues

EAM held the 12<sup>th</sup> Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue with then Foreign Minister Marise Payne on 11 February in Melbourne. The 13<sup>th</sup> Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue was held by EAM with Foreign Minister Penny Wong on 10 October 2022 in Canberra. Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia, Tim Watts, visited India on 14-18 November 2022 to attend the No Money for Terror Conference and the Bengaluru Tech Summit.

## Defence Cooperation

Australia's Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Richard Marles visited India from 20-22 June 2022 and met with Raksha Mantri and EAM. Chiefs of the Australian Navy, Air Force and Army all undertook visits to India. Indian Chief of Naval Staff visited Australia from 25-29 September 2022. INS Sumedha made a port call at Fremantle port in Perth on the occasion of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Indian Air Force participated in Exercise PITCH BLACK in Northern Territory in August-September 2022 and the Indian Navy participated in the multinational Exercise KAKADU in Darwin in September 2022. Navies of Australia and India also participated in Exercise MALABAR off the east coast of Japan from 8-15 November 2022. Indian and Australian Armies conducted their joint exercise AUSTRALHIND in Rajasthan in November-December 2022.

## Economic Cooperation

The India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) was signed on 2 April 2022 and entered into force on 29 December 2022. It is the first such agreement signed by India with a developed country in more than a decade. ECTA will result in an immediate reduction of duty to a large percentage of trade lines and also benefit Indian students, professionals, and workers in Australia.

An amendment to Australia's tax legislation was negotiated along with ECTA which will ensure that Indian IT companies will no longer be taxed by Australia for supplying services remotely.

## Education

India and Australia reached an agreement on Mutual Recognition of Educational Qualifications. Minister for Education & Skill Development and Entrepreneurship visited Australia from 21-24 August 2022 and co-chaired the 6th meeting of the Australia-India Education Council with Jason Clare, Minister for Education of Australia.

## People-to-People Ties

The Indian community in Australia, numbering around 7,21,000 (2022), continues to grow in size and importance. Moving past China and New Zealand, India has become the third largest

country of birth (2021) in Australia. India is the second largest immigrant group in Australia after the U.K. and the largest source of skilled professionals in Australia. There is a constant flow of students and tourists from India. The number of Indian students continues to grow over 77000.

## Agreements/MoUs signed and Announcements Made in 2022

- MoU on Co-Investment in Australian Critical Minerals Projects between Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL), India and Critical Minerals Facilitation Office (CMFO), Australia
- Letter of Intent regarding Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement
- Letter of Arrangement between India and Australia for Educational Qualifications Recognition
- MoU for cooperation and collaboration on broadcasting between Prasar Bharati, India and Special Broadcasting Service (SBS), Australia
- Establishment of General Rawat India-Australia Young Defence Officers' Exchange Programme
- Return of 29 artefacts by the Government of Australia
- Matching funds as Australia of the amount of AUD 10 million for Pacific Island Countries under Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS)
- Matching funds as Australia of the amount of AUD 10 million for Pacific Island Countries under International Solar Alliance (ISA).

## Brunei

Bilateral relations between India and Brunei Darussalam continue to be warm and friendly.

## Energy Cooperation

Brunei is an important part of India's energy security architecture with the export of crude oil to India, its membership of ASEAN, its partnership in India's Act East Policy, and the Indo-Pacific Concept and the presence of around 14,000 Indian nationals in Brunei.

Dato Erywan Pehin Yusof, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs, visited India from 15-17 June 2022 to participate in Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers Meeting and Delhi Dialogue XII. The 2<sup>nd</sup> JTC to boost economic relations was held on 10 March 2022.

## Technology Cooperation

India established a Telemetry Tracking and Telecommand (TTC) Station by Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) in

Brunei in 1998 to support the tracking of its Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicles (GSLV). Efforts for its upgradation and relocation to an alternative site are currently ongoing. Brunei has obtained the approval to lease the site of Telisai Earth Station to ISRO under a commercial arrangement between Unified National Networks Pt. Ltd and ISRO and the draft MOU is under preparation by the Bruneian side.

## International Cooperation

Brunei has generally been supportive of India's candidature to various international bodies. In the year 2022, Brunei was supportive of India's candidates for most of the international fora, including that of election to Intangible Cultural Heritage, ITU and ICAO.

## Cambodia

2022 is a milestone year for the relationship between India and Cambodia, as it marked the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the two countries. The year 2022 was also important, as Cambodia was the Chair of ASEAN during the designated ASEAN-India Friendship year marking 30 years of India- ASEAN relationship.

India and Cambodia, located in each other's extended neighbourhood, share a unique civilizational heritage in terms of religious, linguistic and cultural ties. Bilateral relations with Cambodia have progressed in various fields including capacity building, restoration & preservation of cultural monuments, grant assistance and developmental projects, assistance for de-mining, defence cooperation, and trade and investments. Cambodia is an important partner and interlocutor for India's Act East Policy, Mekong Ganga Cooperation and Indo-Pacific.

## High Level Exchanges

In 2022, the relationship has further strengthened with a number of high-level interactions between the two sides. At the request of the Cambodian side, a virtual meeting took place between Prime Minister and Prime Minister of Cambodia Hun Sen on 18 May 2022. Both leaders reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and multilateral issues of mutual concern, including Myanmar, the Russia-Ukraine Conflict, Korean Peninsula, Indo-Pacific and the South China Sea. The Prime Minister of Cambodia thanked India for providing 325,000 vaccines under the Quad Vaccines' Initiative and also for supporting Cambodia in its economic and social development.

Vice President visited Cambodia from 11-13 November 2022 to attend the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit & 17<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit. The ASEAN-India Summit was historic as



Vice President and EAM inaugurated the restored Hall of Dancers at Ta Prohm Temple in the Angkor archaeological complex, November 2022.

it elevated the ASEAN-India relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. During the visit, Vice President also had meetings with the King, Prime Minister, and President of the Senate of Cambodia. In all the meetings the Cambodian leadership appreciated India's support for the country, including in their times of difficulty. In the presence of Vice President of India and Prime Minister Hun Sen three MoUs and one Financing Arrangement were exchanged for cooperation in the areas of Culture Heritage, Biodiversity & Health. Vice President announced grant assistance of USD 426,000 for making three districts and one commune in Cambodia landmines free; ITEC training slots for Cambodia were increased from 200 to 250; and ICCR scholarships increased from 30 to 50. Vice President visited the heritage sites of Ta Prohm and Angkor Wat Temples in Siem Reap and inaugurated the Hall of Dancers which has been restored and conserved by the Archaeological Survey of India under assistance from the Ministry at the Ta Prohm Temple.

## Bilateral Cooperation

EAM undertook a visit to Cambodia from 3-5 August 2022 to attend the annual ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AIFMM). The meeting was co-chaired by EAM and Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Foreign Minister of Singapore and was attended by Foreign Ministers/representatives from other ASEAN member states. During the visit, EAM also called on the Prime Minister of Cambodia. EAM also visited the heritage sites of Ta Prohm

Temple and Angkor Wat Temple in Siem Reap and examined the restoration and conservation work at these cultural heritage sites by the Archaeological Survey of India. He also visited the Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) Asian Traditional Textile Museum in Siem Reap, which has been set up by India along with Cambodia and other MGC partner countries and assured India's continued support to the project.

Raksha Mantri visited Siem Reap, Cambodia from 21-24 November, 2022 to attend the 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Plus and the maiden India-ASEAN Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting. Raksha Mantri held a meeting with General Tea Banh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence of Cambodia. Raksha Mantri also called on the Prime Minister of Cambodia along with ADMM-Plus Defence Ministers. On the sidelines of ADMM-Plus, Lt. Gen Hun Manet, Deputy Commander in Chief, Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and Commander, Royal Cambodian Army called on Raksha Mantri and apprised of the military-to-military ties between both countries.

MoS (RRS) visited Cambodia from 20-22 June 2022. On 21 June 2022, MoS (RRS) attended the 8<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga celebrations held in Siem Reap and also reviewed the progress in restoration and conservation work that is currently being undertaken by ASI at Ta Prohm Temple. During the visit, MoS (RRS) also inaugurated 2 school buildings constructed with grant assistance provided by India under its Quick Impact Project (QIP) Scheme under the Mekong Ganga Cooperation. On 21



June 2022, MoS (RRS), along with the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Cambodia, inaugurated the joint logo to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between India and Cambodia.

The Speaker of Lok Sabha accompanied by 5 Members of Parliament visited Cambodia from 21-24 April 2022 on the first-ever visit by an Indian Speaker at the invitation of his Cambodian counterpart. During the visit, the Parliamentary delegation had a Royal Audience with His Majesty the King of Cambodia and held discussions with the Presidents of the National Assembly and Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia. Both sides discussed ways to further enhance Parliamentary Cooperation between the two countries.

Commemorating the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-India Relations, a delegation of AIPA visited India from 11-12 August 2022. The AIPA Delegation was led by the First Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and consisted of 11 parliamentarians from AIPA Member Parliaments. The delegation met EAM, the Vice Chairman of Rajya Sabha and called on the Vice President of India.

Secretary (East) visited Phnom Penh on 11 April 2022 and met Mr. Koy Kuong, Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. They reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and laid down the path for future cooperation.

## Humanitarian Aid

In the area of capacity building which holds much importance to the Cambodian side, under ITEC programme more than 2000 officials from Cambodia have availed training at various institutes in India. The year saw the resumption of training under ITEC as the COVID-19 pandemic receded. India's assistance has further been enhanced with an increase of training slots for Cambodia from 200 to 250.

India's proud association with the restoration and conservation of cultural monuments in Cambodia has been continuing with works at Ta Prohm and Preah Vihear Temples. As a major milestone, work at the Hall of Dancers at Ta Prohm Temple was completed during the year. Work is also progressing at Lord Shiva Temple at Preah Vihear. Grant assistance has also been extended to National Authority for Sambor Prei Kuk, the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, Royal Government of Cambodia for Conservation and Preservation of Ashram Maha Russey Temple, Sambor Prei Kuk, a UNESCO world heritage site.

## Trade and Economic Cooperation

Trade volume between India and Cambodia is on an upward

trajectory. From April to September 2022, trade was USD 165.57 million with exports from India amounting to USD 122.02 million and imports from Cambodia amounting to USD 53.55 million. Officials from India and Cambodia held the latest round of negotiations in October 2022 and reiterated their willingness for an early conclusion of the Bilateral Investment treaty.

## Culture

To further cultural relations between India and Cambodia, the Embassy in Phnom Penh celebrated Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) week (8-16 August 2022) to commemorate 70 years of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between India and Cambodia, the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of India's independence and 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN- India Relations. Various events included a Food Festival, the commissioning of a book *Sanskrit Loan-words in the Khmer Language*, AKAM online quiz, the launching of a video series depicting major Cambodian temples with significant Indian influences, a blood donation camp, and the launching of a video series on Jatakas amongst others. The iconic week culminated with a grand reception on the Independence Day of India with Senior Cambodian ministers, renowned guests and members of the Indian community from different walks of life attending the event.

With tremendous political goodwill as well as a commitment at the highest level, India- Cambodia relations are poised for new heights in the times to come.

## Indonesia

Indonesia is the second largest trade partner for India in the ASEAN region. Bilateral trade stood at USD 26.17 billion in 2021-22, substantially higher than the pre-pandemic trade of USD 21.43 billion in 2019-20. The bilateral relationship was elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during the visit of Prime Minister to Indonesia in 2018. It spans sectors including space, defence, education, science, technology, health, culture and maritime security. New areas of cooperation have emerged in the sectors of Health, digital technologies and emerging technologies.

## High Level Engagements

High-level interactions and engagements with Indonesia continued in the year 2022. Prime Minister visited Indonesia to attend the 17<sup>th</sup> G20 Summit in Bali. He acknowledged initiatives taken by Indonesia as G20 Chair. At the closing session of the Summit, the Indonesian President symbolically handed over the G20 Presidency to the Prime Minister.

EAM visited Bali, Indonesia on 7-8 July 2022 to participate in the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting. The participating ministers deliberated on strengthening multilateralism, and global challenges including food and energy security.

EAM earlier in the year headed the Indian delegation for the 7<sup>th</sup> India-Indonesia Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) held in New Delhi on 17 June 2022. The Indonesian delegation was led by Retno Marsudi, Minister of Foreign Affairs. Both Ministers reviewed the bilateral relations and discussed the roadmap for strengthening the India-Indonesia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Both Ministers exchanged views on international and regional issues including the Indo-Pacific. EAM expressed solidarity with Indonesia for its Chairmanship of the G20 and supported its priorities.

The second edition of the Joint Task Force (JTF) meeting on development of connectivity between Andaman & Nicobar Islands (ANI) and Aceh Province, Indonesia took place in Port Blair on 19 December 2022. The Indian delegation was led by Joint Secretary (South) and the Indonesian delegation was led by Jatmiko H Prasetyo, Director for South and Central Asian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia.

National Security Advisor led a delegation to Jakarta, Indonesia to co-chair the 2<sup>nd</sup> India-Indonesia Security Dialogue (IISD) with Dr. Mohammad Mahfud, Coordinating Minister of Political, Legal and Security Affairs on 17 March 2022. Both the sides discussed issues including cooperation in Counter Terrorism, Maritime, Defence and Cyber Security. The leaders signed the MoU for Security Dialogue to further strengthen cooperation on political and security issues. A Joint Press Release was also issued on 2<sup>nd</sup> IISD. The 5<sup>th</sup> JWG on Drug Control Cooperation took place virtually on 30 August 2022. The India-Australia-

Indonesia (IAI) trilateral Foreign Ministers' meeting took place along the sidelines of the 77<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on 23 September 2022.

## Foreign Office Consultations (FOC)

7<sup>th</sup> round of India-Indonesia Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) was held on 14 April 2022, in Jakarta. The meeting was co-chaired by Secretary (East) and Dr. Abdul Kadir Jailani, Director General for Asia Pacific and Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia. The two sides reviewed their overall bilateral relationship, covering political exchanges, defence and security cooperation, trade and economic matters, and consular issues. The two sides agreed to improve connectivity between Andaman & Nicobar Islands, and Aceh Province, as well as to enhance people-to-people exchange, and cultural cooperation.

## Lao PDR

India and the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) share ancient civilizational linkages and have enjoyed friendly relations and good cooperation over the past decades. Bilateral relations with Lao PDR continued to be steadily strengthened during the year.

## Bilateral Cooperation

Mr. Thongphane Savanphet, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lao PDR visited India from 15-17 June 2022 to attend Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting and 24<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting in New Delhi. Mr. Ngampasong Muongmany, Vice Minister of Public Works and Transport, Lao



Prime Minister attended the working Session on Food & Energy Security of G20 Summit in Bali, Indonesia

PDR visited India from 22-25 March 2022 to attend the WINGS INDIA 2022. Mr. Sanya Praseuth, Member of Parliament, Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee, National Assembly of Lao PDR led the Lao parliamentary delegation to India from 10-14 August 2022, as part of the celebrations of ASEAN-India Friendship Year – 2022.

Major General Phanseng Bounphanh, Deputy Chief of General Staff, Lao People's Army visited India from 17-19 October 2022 to participate in DefExpo 2022 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Mr. Khamking Phuilamanyong, Deputy Minister of Public Security, Lao PDR visited India to attend 3<sup>rd</sup> Ministerial Conference on Counter-Terrorism Financing "No Money for Terror" in New Delhi from 18-19 November 2022.

MoS (RRS) visited Lao PDR from 22-26 June 2022. During the visit, MoS (RRS) had a meeting with Mr. Bounleua Phandanouvong, Deputy Foreign Minister of Lao PDR, and paid courtesy calls to the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister; Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism; and Minister of Agriculture and Forestry. MoS (RRS), along with Mr. Phet Phomphiphak, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Lao PDR participated in the groundbreaking ceremony of an irrigation project being implemented under the Indian Line of Credit (LoC) of USD 14.7 million.

## Cultural Cooperation

The Archaeological Survey of India has been working on the restoration of the UNESCO world heritage site at Vat Phou, an ancient Shiva Temple. Phase-I of the project is complete; Phase II of the project is ongoing and is likely to be completed in 2028.

## Malaysia

India and Malaysia enjoy friendly relations strengthened by their shared history, civilizational links, people-to-people contacts, growing trade and economic ties, defence cooperation, and well-established cultural and tourism relations.

Bilateral trade between India and Malaysia grew by an impressive 34% to reach USD 19.6 billion.

## Bilateral Cooperation

The year 2022 saw a renewed momentum in India-Malaysia bilateral relations starting with the 5<sup>th</sup> Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) at the Secretary level which took place in Malaysia on 12 April 2022, visit of Malaysia's Minister of Higher

Education Datuk Seri Dr. Noraini Ahmed to India in April 2022, visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia to India for the Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 16 June 2022 followed by a bilateral meeting between EAM and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, virtual bilateral meeting of the Defence Ministers of India and Malaysia on 27 June 2022 followed by the visit of Defence Secretary, Ministry of Defence, India to Malaysia in August 2022.

High Commission organized a special commemorative event India-Malaysia@65 on 09 September 2022, to mark the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Malaysia. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia was the Chief Guest at the event.

An agreement was signed on Mutual recognition of Vaccination Certificates in June 2022.

## Defence Cooperation

The bilateral defence cooperation activities received a fillip with the Virtual Interaction between Defence Ministers in June 2022. This was followed up by visits of senior delegations lead by Chief of Royal Malaysian Navy and Commander Air Operations to India while Indian Defence Secretary and Vice Chief of Army visited Malaysia. For the first time, Armed Forces of India and Malaysia held all three joint exercises in 2022, namely; Joint Naval Ex SAMUDRA LAKSAMANA in May 2022; Joint Air Exercise UDARA SHAKTI in Aug 2022 and Joint Army Ex HARIMAU SHAKTI in Nov-Dec 2022. 8<sup>th</sup> Navy to Navy talks took place in June 2022 in Malaysia. A delegation from National Defence College (NDC) visited Malaysia for a week-long foreign exchange tour in May 2022.

## New Zealand

India and New Zealand have a longstanding and friendly relationship. Despite travel restrictions for the better part of the year owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the engagement between the two countries continued to grow.

## Bilateral Engagements

EAM visited New Zealand from 5 to 9 October 2022 and held a bilateral meeting with Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta. The visit at the level of EAM took place after a gap of 21 years. EAM also paid a call on the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern, and participated in an event along with the



EAM called on New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, October 2022.

New Zealand Prime Minister to felicitate members of the Indian community in New Zealand for their exceptional achievements and contributions. The leaders released India@75 postage stamps to commemorate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Earlier in the year, EAM met Foreign Minister of New Zealand Nanaia Mahuta in Paris on 21 February 2022 on the sidelines of the Ministerial Forum for Co-operation in the Indo-Pacific.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Foreign Ministry Consultations were held in New Delhi on 23 June 2022. India-New Zealand Joint Trade Committee meeting was held on 24 June 2022 in New Delhi.

## Defence Cooperation

Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) visited New Zealand from 29 September 2022 to 2 October 2022. An Agreement was signed on 01 October 2022 by the Indian Navy, the New Zealand National Maritime Coordination Centre and the Royal New Zealand Navy concerning the exchange of information relating to White Shipping.

## Economic & Trade Relations

New Zealand's Trade & Agriculture Minister Mr. Damien O'Connor visited India from 19-21 September 2022 and had a series of meetings with the Commerce & Industry Minister

Minister for Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare, and the Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairy.

## People-to-People Ties

As per the 2018 census report, there are approximately 2,50,000 PIOs in New Zealand out of which about 70,000 persons are estimated to be Indian passport holders and the rest holding New Zealand passports. Hindi is the fourth most spoken language in New Zealand. Ms. Priyanka Radhakrishnan is the first Indian-origin Minister in the current New Zealand Government.

## Pacific Island Countries

**(Fiji, Tonga, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Niue, Vanuatu, Cook Islands and Nauru)**

India has had strong historical engagement with the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) under the Act East Policy. The government of India stepped up its efforts to engage with countries in this



region under the landmark initiative, the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC), launched by Prime Minister at the first FIPIC Summit that was held in Suva, Fiji in November 2014. The second FIPIC Summit was held in Jaipur in August 2015. During FIPIC-I and FIPIC-II Summits, India announced major initiatives to boost cooperation with the PICs, including the setting up of Information Technology Labs in each PIC, and a project for solar electrification of 2,800 houses in 14 PICs under which 70 women solar engineers (called Solar Mamas) have been trained and electrification process is underway.

## Bilateral Engagements

EAM met Fijian Prime Minister Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting at Bali on 7 July 2022.

India and Papua New Guinea (PNG) held their 1<sup>st</sup> Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) on 5 December 2022. India and Fiji held the 5<sup>th</sup> round of FOC on 18 July 2022 at Suva.

In keeping with the momentum of bilateral engagements, EAM met Foreign Minister of PNG Justin Tkachenko at Washington DC on 27 September 2022 and discussed ongoing cooperation with Pacific Islands and next steps for taking it forward. EAM launched the website and logo for the 12<sup>th</sup> World Hindi Conference (WHC) in New Delhi on 27 October 2022 and announced the dates of the Conference to be held in Fiji on 15-17 February 2023.

EAM met Solomon Islands' Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Mr. Jeremiah Manele in Kigali, Rwanda at the margins of the CHOGM Summit in June 2022 & reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing bilateral cooperation to new heights.

India and Solomon Islands signed a Visa exemption agreement to exempt Diplomatic & Official passport holders of both countries from visa upto 90 days. A bilateral Agreement for the exemption of visa requirements for holders of Diplomatic & Official Passports was signed with Palau on 18 July 2022.

EAM met with Minister for Justice, Communication & Foreign Affairs of Tuvalu on 24 June 2022 at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) and discussed India - Tuvalu development partnership, focusing on energy, health and climate action.

## Development Assistance

A major engagement of India with PICs is through development assistance under South-South Cooperation in the form of capacity building (civil and defence training under ITEC), ICCR scholarships, grant-in-aid and loan assistance. Through these modes, assistance including community development, solar electrification, purchase of agricultural equipment, computers and LED bulbs for schools, sewing machines, dialysis machines, portable saw mills, boats and pick-up trucks, construction of sea wall, and coral farms, have been undertaken so far in the PICs.



EAM met Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Solomon Islands Jeremiah Manele in Kigali, Rwanda on the margins of the CHOGM Summit in June 2022

## Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)

India has been providing Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) to the PICs from time to time. The Government of India extended immediate relief assistance of USD 200,000 to support relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in the Kingdom of Tonga in the wake of a tsunami that hit Tonga on 15 January 2022.

## Support in the Health Sector

Under the initiative of 'Vaccine Maitri', India has assisted some of the Pacific Island countries with the supply of Covid-19 Vaccines including Fiji, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. India's gift of 10,000 doses of Covid vaccines helped Nauru to vaccinate all its adult population. Separately, medicines were donated to Fiji, Kiribati and Marshall Islands through bilateral grants. The Government of India supported the Jaipur Foot Camp on 01 November – 17 December 2022 for fitment of artificial limbs to over 600 amputees in Fiji through the Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS), Jaipur.

## India-UN Development Partnership Fund

Apart from bilateral engagements, the India-UN Development Partnership Fund was created in 2017. It aims to support demand-driven sustainable development projects in developing countries, focusing mainly on LDCs and small island developing

states. Assistance to Solomon Islands, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, Tonga, Tuvalu and Palau for procurement of medical equipment and supplies, as well as for strengthening health systems in response to Covid-19 has been provided by India through this Fund.

## Elections Assistance

The Government of India gifted four multi-purpose Vehicles to the Fijian election body on 30 June 2022. India also supported national elections in PNG by providing indelible ink [20,781 bottles of 80 ml each] in July 2022. India is one of the three Co-Leads alongside Australia and Indonesia for the Multinational Observer Group overseeing Fijian elections in December 2022.

## Philippines

The year witnessed significant and sustained progress in India-Philippines relations, with a range of engagements across various sectors helping further strengthen bilateral ties.

## Bilateral Engagements

Prime Minister spoke over the phone with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on 5 August 2022 to congratulate him on assuming office as the 17<sup>th</sup> President of the Philippines. The two leaders reviewed bilateral relations and agreed to work together to further diversify and deepen engagement. The Prime Minister reiterated the important role that the Philippines plays in India's



Inauguration of Jaipur Foot Camp in Fiji, November 2022

Act East Policy and its Indo-Pacific vision. On 30 June 2022, MOS(RRS) attended the inauguration of President Marcos, as the Special Envoy of the Prime Minister.

EAM visited Manila from 13-15 February 2022 and met Secretary of Foreign Affairs (SFA) Mr. Teodoro L. Locsin Jr. and discussed a range of issues. EAM described the bilateral relationship as driven by mutual developmental goals and respective national security objectives. EAM also met Defence Secretary Mr. Delfin Lorenzana, Finance Secretary Mr. Carlos Dominguez and Agriculture Secretary Mr. William Dar during his visit. SFA Locsin visited India on a bilateral visit from 23-26 April 2022 at the invitation of EAM, and also participated in Raisina Dialogue 2022; he, along with other participating Ministers, called on Prime Minister. On 12 November 2022, EAM met the SFA Mr. Enrique A. Manalo on the sidelines of the 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Cambodia. The meeting provided a useful opportunity to maintain the dialogue at foreign minister level after the assumption of office by the new government in the Philippines.

Meetings of institutional mechanisms added momentum to relations. The 13<sup>th</sup> Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) and 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Dialogue at the Secretary level were held in Manila on 17 August and 18 August 2022 respectively. Discussions covered India-Philippine relations as well as regional and global

issues. Secretary (East) who headed the Indian delegation also called on SFA Mr Enrique Manalo.

Areas of developmental interest to both countries such as agriculture and health have emerged as focus areas for the bilateral partnership. Mr. William Dar, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Philippines visited India and met Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare on 21 April 2022 in New Delhi. India participated as a partner country at the Mindanao Food Congress, one of the leading agri-sector trade events in the Philippines, from 26-30 October 2022. Indian firms also took an active part in the Davao Agri Trade Expo in September 2022. At the request of the Philippines, a special virtual briefing on our flagship crop insurance scheme, the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), was organized for senior officials of the Philippines on 29 April 2022.

Health cooperation received a boost with the signing of the MoU on cooperation in Traditional Medicine between the Philippines Institute of Traditional Medicine and Alternative Health Care (PITAHC) and the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur on 20 April 2022.

Finance sector engagement has been identified as another focus area, with both sides finalising an MoU on setting up a Joint Working Group on fintech cooperation. Space cooperation emerged as a new area of engagement.



EAM met Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Philippines, Enrique A. Manalo, on the sidelines of the 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Cambodia, November 2022



## Defence Cooperation

Defence engagement moved into a higher trajectory with the signing of a contract worth USD 374.9 million for the supply of BrahMos Shore-based Anti-Ship Missile System to the Philippines in January 2022. The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the India-Philippines Joint Defence Industry and Logistics Committee (JDILC) was held on 11 March 2022 at New Delhi, wherein both sides committed to building cooperation in capability enhancement, focusing on requirements of the Armed Forces of the Philippines through the transfer of advanced systems and production of defence equipment. The Asian Defense and Security (ADAS) 2022 Exhibition held at WTC Manila in April 2022 had the largest ever Indian presence with the participation of more than 15 defence-related companies, reflecting growing interest in defence industry cooperation.

## Singapore

Singapore was India's 6<sup>th</sup> largest trade partner in 2021-22 with a share of 2.9 % of India's overall trade. In 2021-22, bilateral trade stood at USD 30.11 billion compared to US 21.98 billion during 2020-21. The cumulative FDI inflows from Singapore to India stood at USD 136.65 billion (April 2000 – June 2022), 23% of total FDI inflows in India.

2022 saw the resumption of regular face-to-face engagements between India and Singapore, with a number of high-level bilateral meetings taking place between the two sides.

## High Level Exchanges

A new high-level Ministerial mechanism India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR) has been established between India and Singapore to chart a roadmap to take bilateral relations to a new level. The inaugural meeting of ISMR took place in New Delhi on 17 September 2022. The Singapore delegation included Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) Lawrence Wong, Foreign Minister (FM) Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Transport and Trade Relations Mr. S. Iswaran, and Minister of Trade and Industry (MTI) Mr. Gan Kim Yong. The India side included EAM, Finance Minister, and Commerce and Industry Minister. The ISMR allowed in-depth, productive and wide-ranging discussions from a strategic and long-term perspective on both existing and new areas of cooperation. The focus on emerging areas such as Digital Connectivity, Fintech, Green Economy, Green Hydrogen, Skill Development and Food Security will lead to further enhancement of the Strategic Partnership between India and Singapore. DPM Wong and MTI Gan Kim Yong also called on Prime Minister. During the visit, FinTech Cooperation Agreement was signed between the Monetary

Authority of Singapore (MAS) and the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) in Gujarat.

President of the Republic of Singapore, Madam Halimah Yacob, conferred the prestigious Pingat Jasa Gemilang (Tentera) [Meritorious Service Medal (Military)] on Admiral Sunil Lanba (Retd), the former Chief of Naval Staff, Indian Navy. Dr. Ng Eng Hen, Defence Minister of Singapore presented the award to Admiral Lanba (Retd), on behalf of the President, in a solemn Investiture Ceremony, held on 08 September 2022 at the Ministry of Defence, Singapore.

Singapore's Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Second Minister for Education Dr Mohamad Maliki Osman visited New Delhi from 24 -26 April 2022 to attend the 7<sup>th</sup> Raisina Dialogue. Minister Maliki spoke at a Raisina Dialogue fireside chat on 26 April 2022 titled "ASEAN and its Role in the Global Order". Minister Maliki, accompanied by the Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information Mr Tan Kiat How, met EAM, Minister for Education and Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports and other prominent Indian personalities.

Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for Social Policies Tharman Shanmugaratnam made a working visit to India from 4-10 July 2022. He delivered the inaugural Arun Jaitley Memorial Lecture on 08 July 2022 where he spoke on "Growth Through Inclusivity, Inclusivity Through Growth". He had bilateral meetings with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Road Transport and Highways, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Corporate Affairs, the EAM and Minister of Commerce and Industry, the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and the Minister of Textiles. He earlier visited Guwahati, on 4-5 July, where he met the Chief Minister of Assam and other Cabinet Ministers.

Ms Sun Xueling, Minister of State (MOS), Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Social and Family Development, attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> No Money for Terror Ministerial Conference on Counter-Terrorism Financing on 18-19 November 2022 in New Delhi. During her visit, MOS Sun met the Minister of Women and Child Development and the Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture of India.

The 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the India-Singapore Defence Working Group (DWG) took place in New Delhi on 31 October 2022. Following a two-year hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) resumed their joint military training in India. The 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the training, which first occurred in 2008, took place from 03 November – 14 December 2022.



The 4th meeting of the India-Singapore Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism was held in Singapore on 18-19 May 2022.

On 16 November 2022, PM of India and PM Lee met on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Bali. They discussed strengthening bilateral cooperation including in sectors such as the green economy, FinTech and deepening trade relations.

## Bilateral Engagements

On 22 February 2022, EAM met Singapore's FM Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan on the sidelines of the EU Ministerial Forum on Indo-Pacific. Besides forum deliberations, they spoke about travel resumption, economic cooperation and regional developments.

Singapore Foreign Minister Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan visited India from 15-17 June 2022. He co-chaired the Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting (SAIFMM) in New Delhi with EAM on 16 June 2022. He also participated in the Ministerial Session of the Delhi Dialogue XII. During the visit, FM Vivian called on PM Modi along with the other ASEAN Foreign Ministers and ASEAN Secretary-General Lim Jock Hoi. He also met the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs and Minister of Railways, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology.

On 15 January 2022, Mr Ong Ye Kung, Minister of Health of Singapore, had a virtual meeting with the Minister of Health and Family Welfare. They agreed to continue to work on a stronger healthcare partnership and strengthen the close relationship between the two sides.

On 06 July 2022, EAM met Singapore's DPM and Finance Minister Lawrence Wong, and Defence Minister Dr. Ng Eng Hen.

On 04 August 2022, EAM co-chaired the ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AIFMM) with Singapore FM Vivian Balakrishnan in Phnom Penh.

From 24-26 April 2022, a 12-member Indian Parliamentary Delegation, led by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha visited Singapore. The delegation met Mr. Tan Chuan-Jin, Speaker, Parliament of Singapore. The delegation also called on Mr. Goh Chok Tong, Emeritus Senior Minister (ESM) of Singapore. The delegation also paid their respects at the Indian National Army (INA) Memorial in Singapore.

On 14 July 2022, Finance Minister met DPM and Finance Minister Mr. Lawrence Wong, on the sidelines of the G20 Finance Ministers and the Central Bank Governors Meeting in Bali. The two leaders had fruitful discussions on India-Singapore engagements and exchanged views on the G20 agenda and global economic and financial matters.

On 01 September 2022, Education Minister held a discussion with Dr Maliki Osman, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Education & Foreign Affairs, Singapore, in Bali, Indonesia.

On 24 September 2022, the Minister of Commerce and Industry held meetings with Mr. Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Senior Minister & Coordinating Minister for Social Policies, and Mr. Gan Kim Yong, Minister for Trade and Industry. He interacted with over 20 CEOs & Investors at a Business Roundtable.

The Election Commissioner of India was on an official visit to Singapore from 5-8 October 2022. He held a meeting with Mr. Koh Siong Ling, Head of the Election Department of Singapore to share experiences on the electoral processes on both sides.

India invited Singapore to participate in the G20 meetings and summit under India's G20 Presidency in 2023.

## Foreign Office Consultations

On 19 August 2022, the 16<sup>th</sup> India-Singapore Foreign Office Consultations were held in Singapore and were co-chaired by the Secretary (East) and Mr. Albert Chua, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore. During the FOCs, the two sides reviewed the gamut of bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction at the present level of engagement.

## Defence Cooperation

From 25 February to 4 March, 2022, Singapore Navy participated in the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of MILAN, the multilateral naval exercise hosted by the Indian Navy. Ships, aircraft and participants from more than 40 countries took part in the exercise held in Visakhapatnam and the Bay of Bengal.

From 04-06 April 2022, Chief of Army Staff made an official visit to Singapore. He called on Minister for Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen.

From 14-17 August 2022, INS Saryu made a visit to Changi Naval Base Singapore.

## Thailand

India and Thailand continue to work closely to build substantive partnerships focusing on economic and strategic objectives in line with the 'Act East Policy' of India and the 'Act West Policy' of Thailand. Both sides deepened collaboration at regional and sub-regional levels within the framework of ASEAN, Mekong Ganga Cooperation, BIMSTEC and other multilateral fora. Thailand assumed the chairmanship of BIMSTEC in March

2022. The two countries celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2022. With the easing of travel restrictions related to Covid-19, regular high-level visits and meetings resumed including the holding of Foreign Office Consultations (FOCs) and the Joint Commission Meeting (JCM).

## Bilateral Engagements

Ms. Pornpimol Kanchanalak, Advisor to the DPM & FM of Thailand visited India to attend the Special ASEAN-India Foreign Minister Meeting (SAIFMM) as Special Envoy on 16 June 2022 in New Delhi to commemorate 30 years of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations and she also attended Delhi Dialogue XII.

EAM visited Bangkok from 16-18 August 2022 to co-chair the 9<sup>th</sup> India-Thailand JCM with Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs (DPM & FM) of Thailand on 17 August 2022. During the visit, EAM paid a courtesy call on Gen. Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of Thailand. EAM also gave a public talk on "India's Vision of the Indo-Pacific" at the prestigious Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok and inaugurated the newly constructed Embassy Residence and Residential Complex, jointly with DPM & FM of Thailand.

The Speaker of Lok Sabha, met H.E. Mr. Chuan Leekpai, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Thailand on the sidelines of the 8<sup>th</sup> G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20) in Jakarta, Indonesia on 7 October 2022 and discussed ways to strengthen parliamentary cooperation between the two countries.

Minister of State for External Affairs and Education MoS (RRS), visited Thailand from 29-31 July 2022 to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the North-East India Festival. Chief Ministers of Meghalaya and Nagaland, Deputy Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh and other Ministers and senior officials along with around 500 people from the North Eastern states of India participated in the Festival which received an overwhelming response from all sections including Government, businesses including travel and tourism sector, academia, artists and the Thai people providing impetus to trade, tourism and people to people link between North Eastern states of India and Thailand. MoS (RRS) held a bilateral meeting with the Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand, Mr. Vijavat Isarabhakdi during the visit.

## Foreign Office Consultations

The 6<sup>th</sup> round of FOCs between India and Thailand, co-Chaired by Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, and Thai Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Thani Thongphakdi, was held on 21 April 2022 in New Delhi.

## MOUs

During this period, the following MoUs/ Agreements were signed between the two countries: (i) MoU on Health and Medical Research Cooperation between the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), India and the Department of Medical Sciences (DMS), Thailand in August 2022; (ii) MoU for cooperation & collaboration on broadcasting between Prasar Bharti, India and Thai Public Broadcasting Service of Thailand in August 2022; (iii) MoU between Ministry of Commerce, Kingdom of Thailand and the Department of Industries and Commerce, Government of Telangana to promote trade and investment in April 2022; (iv) MoU between ICCR and Thammasat University for the establishment of the Hindi Chair in April 2022; and (v) MoU between Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts and Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Chiang Mai, Thailand on conservation, digitization and documentation of Lanna Manuscripts in April 2022.

## Humanitarian Aid

The two countries continued to cooperate in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic and India donated 200,000 Covaxin vaccines to Thailand under Quad Vaccine Partnership Initiative in April 2022 which was highly appreciated by the Thai leadership.

The Embassy continued to extend support in the repatriation of the rescued Indian nationals who were victims of ongoing fake job scams in the Mayawaddy region of Myanmar entering through the neighbouring countries including Thailand. Embassy also continued outreach to the Indian diaspora, academic institutions and promoting various scholarship schemes offered by India under ITEC, ICCR, Hindi scholarship and Ph.D fellowship at IITs in India.

## Defence Cooperation

The 33<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Indo-Thai CORPAT exercise was held from 5-6 May 2022 as a no-contact exercise at sea only and the 34<sup>th</sup> edition is planned as an exercise at sea only from 3-4 December 2022. The Army to Army staff talks between the Indian Army and Royal Thai Army were conducted from 18-22 July 2022 at Ayutthya in Thailand. For the first time, 2 Royal Thai Armed Forces officers attended the United Nations Peacekeeping Contingent Commander Course from 12-23 September 2022 in Delhi. The exchange of visits by defence delegations from both sides resumed this year and Indian companies also participated in the defence and security exhibition in Bangkok in August 2022.

## People-to-People Ties

The Embassy organized several commercial outreach events in collaboration with the leading business chambers, export promotion agencies, Indian and Thai companies, tourism promotion agencies and tour operators to promote trade, investment and tourism between India and Thailand including a seminar on 'Ease of Doing Business in India and Incredible India' in Nakhon Pathom province on 27 June 2022; a Trade meet as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> North East India Festival on 30 July 2022 with participation of Mr. M.L Chayotid Kridakon, Thai Trade Representative and Advisor to the Prime Minister of Thailand; a seminar on 'Business Opportunities in India and Incredible India' in Surat Thani province on 7 October 2022 as well as meeting of Indian companies in Thailand with the senior officials of Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) in Thailand in May 2022 to explore business opportunities; and a CEOs meet comprising companies from both India and Thailand during the visit of Ms. Anupriya Patel, Minister of State (Commerce & Industry) of India to Thailand, in May 2022.

The embassy organised various activities to celebrate the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) during the year including World Hindi Day, Pravasi Bhartiya Divas, National Youth Day, Republic Day, the establishment of India Corners at the National Library of Thailand and Srinakharinwirot University, Birth Anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, World Bicycle Day, Save Soil Day, International Day of Yoga, Guardian Ring of Yoga, ITEC Day, the International Day of Non-Violence in association with UNESCAP at UNCC, Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, Unity Run and Human Chain Formation and digital UNI-TEA campaign and 2<sup>nd</sup> International Quiz on Buddhism in association with Sathira Bhammasathan Foundation, Bangkok.

The Embassy in association with Triratnabhoomi Society of Thailand organized an exposition on Buddhist heritage sites of India 'Buddhabhoomi: Journey along the Footsteps of Buddha' from 26-28 August 2022 in Bangkok which was attended by Mr. Itthipol Kunplome, Minister of Culture of Thailand, Tourism Minister of Madhya Pradesh, a large number of Buddhist monks and thousands of Thai people.

Prof. Chirapat Prapandvidya of Silpakorn University was conferred the Padma Shri Award 2022 for his contribution in promoting Sanskrit in Thailand under the category of 'Literature and Education'.

The Ambassador of India also launched the Thai version of Mahatma Gandhi's book, *Gita Bodh* at Chulalongkorn University in September 2022. A number of interviews and articles by the Ambassador were published in major print media, online media, and Radio channels covering the celebration of AKAM, the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of India-Thailand Diplomatic Relations. Several physical and virtual events including talks by eminent

speakers were organized to promote yoga, ayurveda, Sanskrit and Hindi language, Indian dance, textile, culinary and art and architecture at the Embassy and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre during this period.

Indian neem saplings plantation ceremony in Trang Province of Thailand was jointly presided over by Mr. Chuan Leekpai, President of the National Assembly and Speaker of the House of Representatives of Thailand and Ambassador of India on 3 September 2022, the neem seeds for which were gifted by India.

## Timor Leste

India was one of the early countries to establish diplomatic relations with Timor Leste. An MoU formally establishing diplomatic relations was signed on 24 January 2003. India's DPR in New York was a member of the mini mission of the Security Council which visited the country in November 2012 to analyze the ground situation and hear views of the concerned on the United Nations Integrated Mission in TL (UNMIT)'s withdrawal and the post-UNMIT situation in Timor-Leste.

Timor-Leste supports India's permanent membership of the UNSC. This was formally announced by PM Alkatiri in 2003 at the UNGA. It supported India's candidature for a non-permanent seat during 2011-12. Timor-Leste extended their crucial support for the election of India's candidate for the post of Regional Director, South East Asia Regional office (SEARO), WHO in September 2013. Timor-Leste co-sponsored the Resolution on Yoga in the UNGA.

India-Timor-Leste bilateral trade during 2020-21 was USD 26.04 million in which major items of exports included agro products, pharmaceuticals, rubber, salt etc.

## Bilateral Cooperation

The Ambassador of India to Indonesia and Timor Leste visited Timor Leste on two occasions in 2022. During his first visit (17 - 21 May 2022), he met Mr. Jose Ramos Horta, the current President of Timor Leste. He also met Dr. Francisco Guterres Lu-Olo, former President, Mr. Xanana Gusmao, Chief Negotiator for Maritime Boundaries, Former Prime Minister, and President of Timor Leste, Rector of the University of Timor Leste and WHO & UN representatives.

On the second visit from 19-23 August 2022, National Day (Independence Day of India) was celebrated in Timor Leste. During the visit, he held meetings with Mr. Taur Matan Ruak, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Ms. Adaljiza Albertina Xavier Reis Magno, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste, Mr. Pedro dos Reis,

Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and Ms. Odete Maria Freitas Belo, Minister of Health of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, members of the Indian community and prominent Timorese of Indian origin separately. He reviewed the gamut of bilateral relations at the highest level of the Timor-Leste Government, including avenues of cooperation on economic and commercial sectors were discussed during the meetings.

## Humanitarian Aid

The Government of India extended humanitarian assistance in the form of 2000MT of rice to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste in January 2022.

## Cultural Cooperation

A 12-member cultural group named “Fundacao Cultural Le-Ziaval” from Timor-Leste, sponsored by the Government of India, participated in the Lusophone Cultural Week during 4-6 December 2022 in Goa. This was the first such kind of participation of Timorese Cultural troupes in India.

## Vietnam

The historic “Joint Vision for Peace, Prosperity and People” jointly adopted by the PMs of the two countries pursuant to a Virtual Summit held on 21 December 2020, has continued to guide the wider contours of bilateral engagements in 2022. Plan of Action for the implementation of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership: 2021-23 signed during the Virtual Summit acts as a key factor in keeping the momentum of the bilateral engagement. In 2022-23, the two countries will be celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. A series of bilateral activities encompassing a wide range of cooperation areas from political exchanges to defence and security partnerships, trade and investment, energy, development cooperation, and cultural and people-to-people relations organized as part of the celebrations have further uplifted the comprehensive strategic partnership and developed trust at all levels.

The bilateral economic engagement continued in the post-Covid period. As per Government of India statistics, the total bilateral trade for the first 9 months of 2022 was USD11,324.05 million.

## High Level Interactions

Prime Minister and General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Nguyen Phu Trong had a telephone conversation on 15 April 2022. The two leaders complimented each other on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations

between India and Vietnam. They expressed satisfaction over the rapid pace of wide-ranging cooperation under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and agreed to further strengthen bilateral relations through engaging in new areas of cooperation. They also exchanged views on regional and global issues of shared interest, including the ongoing crisis in Ukraine and the situation in the South China Sea.

Foreign Minister of Vietnam Bui Thanh Son attended the Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers’ Meeting held in New Delhi on 16-17 June 2022 to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations. During the visit, he held talks with EAM on 17 June 2022. EAM and Foreign Minister Bui Thanh Son also launched the joint logo for the celebration of 50 years of India-Vietnam Diplomatic Relations.

A Vietnamese delegation headed by Deputy Minister of Public Security Sen. Lieu. Gen. Luong Tam Quang attended the second Vietnam-India security dialogue held in Delhi on 13 September. The Indian delegation was headed by Deputy National Security Advisor.

An Indian Parliamentary delegation, led by Lok Sabha Speaker visited Vietnam from 19-21 April 2022 at the invitation of the Chairman of the National Assembly of Vietnam, Mr. Vuong Dinh Hue. During the visit, Lok Sabha Speaker held delegation-level talks with the Chairman of the National Assembly and separately met General Secretary of the Communist Party Nguyen Phu Trong, State President Nguyen Xuan Phuc and Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh. He also visited Ho Chi Minh City where he held talks with the city’s Party Secretary and Politburo member Nguyen Van Nen. The discussions covered wide-ranging issues including bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Minister of State for External Affairs MoS (RRS) attended the Horasis India Meeting-2022 held in Binh Duong province (Vietnam) on 25-26 September 2022. On the margins of the event, MoS (RRS) also held talks with Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Vu Duc Dam, Party Secretary of Binh Duong province Mr. Nguyen Van Loi and Party Secretary of Ho Chi Minh City Mr. Nguyen Van Nen separately.

Secretary (East) visited Vietnam from 29-31 May 2022. He co-chaired the 12<sup>th</sup> India-Vietnam Political Consultations and the 9<sup>th</sup> Strategic Dialogue held on 30 May 2022 with his counterpart Vice Minister Nguyen Minh Vu. The two sides reviewed the gamut of bilateral issues, and also discussed regional and international issues of mutual concern. During the visit, Secretary (East) also called on Foreign Minister Bui Thanh Son where the Foreign Minister, inter alia, emphasised closer engagements in the fields of polity and economy.

India-Vietnam continued close coordination in regional and multilateral domains, especially at ASEAN and the United



National Security Council. Hon'ble Vice President and Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh had detailed discussions on bilateral, regional and international issues on the sidelines of the 19<sup>th</sup> India-ASEAN summit held in Cambodia.

## Defence Cooperation

Defence Minister visited Vietnam from 8-10 June 2022. He met with his counterpart Gen. Phan Van Giang, State President Nguyen Xuan Phuc and Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh separately. Vietnamese leaders underlined the importance of defence partnership as a key pillar of India-Vietnam long-term relations and evinced interest to have closer cooperation amidst geopolitical developments in the region and the world. Defence Minister also handed over 12 High-Speed Guard Boats built by M/s Larsen & Toubro to Vietnam. The visit culminated with the signing of a "Joint Vision Statement on Defence Cooperation towards 2030" and an "MoU on Mutual Logistics Support". The visit of India's Defence Minister to Vietnam in June 2022 progressed the defence cooperation. Defence Minister and his Vietnamese counterpart Minister of National Defence Gen. Phan Van Giang also met on the sidelines of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Retreat held in Siem Reap, Cambodia in November 2022.

Indian Navy Ships INS Sahyadri and INS Kadmat paid port calls to Ho Chi Minh City from 24-26 June 2022 and two multi-role stealth frigates INS Shivalik and the INS Kamorta corvette, docked at Nha Rong port for a three-day friendly visit to

Ho Chi Minh City from 30 November – 02 December 2022. Bilateral military exercises are held periodically, including the last maritime exercises, with Vietnam People's Navy frigate VPNS Ly Thai To (HQ-012). Vietnam People's Navy Frigate 016 Quang Trung visited India in February 2022 to participate in the Multilateral Naval Exercise MILAN in Vishakhapatnam, India.

## Humanitarian Aid

Under the Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) framework, 27 Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) dedicated to developing local community infrastructure in different provinces of Vietnam were completed. So far, since 2017, 47 QIPs (including 10 QIPs being taken up in FY 2022-23) have been undertaken in 40 provinces of Vietnam in the field of capacity building, various scholarship programmes, including the 1000 scholarships for ASEAN countries at Indian Institute of Technology were being utilized by the Vietnamese students.

## Development Cooperation

The restoration and conservation of archaeological sites in Vietnam is an important aspect of India's development cooperation with Vietnam. In this regard, the Archaeological Survey of India continued its project of conservation and restoration of the UNESCO World Heritage Site at My Son in central Vietnam.



Raksha Mantri arrived at Hanoi on an official visit to Vietnam, June 2022.

## CHAPTER

## 4

## East Asia

India endeavoured to strengthen ties with all partners in East Asia. India's ties with China remained complex, even as the two sides made some progress in the resolution of the issues along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh. The year witnessed further bolstering of the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership, including through sustained leader-level engagement, as the two celebrated 70 years of establishment of diplomatic relations. High level engagement at ministerial level was sustained with Mongolia and the Republic of Korea. India's ties with Democratic People's Republic of Korea remained cordial.

## China

India's engagement with China is complex. The two sides have agreed that pending the final settlement of the boundary question, maintenance of peace and tranquility in the border areas is an essential basis for the overall development of the bilateral relationship. However, starting from April-May 2020, the Chinese side undertook several attempts to unilaterally alter the status quo along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Western Sector, which seriously disturbed the peace and tranquility along the LAC in the Western Sector and impacted the development of the relationship. These attempts were invariably met with an appropriate response from Indian Armed Forces. Both sides have agreed to resolve the issues along the LAC in Eastern

Ladakh through peaceful dialogue. Consequently, discussions have continued with the Chinese side to achieve complete disengagement from all friction points and full restoration of peace and tranquility in the India-China Border Areas at an early date. However, the continued unilateral attempts by China to change the status quo have impacted the bilateral relationship since then.

The two sides continued to make some progress in the resolution of the issues along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh. Continuing with disengagement in Pangong Tso in February 2021 and in Gogra area in August 2021, this year, disengagement was achieved in Gogra-Hot Springs (PP-15) in Eastern Ladakh (September 2022). However, there are still some outstanding issues that need to be resolved. India has maintained its engagement with the Chinese side both through diplomatic and military channels to resolve the remaining issues at the earliest so as to restore peace and tranquility in the border areas.

EAM held a meeting with Foreign Minister of China Wang Yi during the latter's visit to India on 25 March 2022. The two Ministers exchanged views on the border situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh. EAM conveyed to FM Wang Yi that restoration of normalcy will require a restoration of peace and tranquility. Apart from this, EAM discussed key issues including return of Indian students to continue their



EAM met the then Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of the G-20 Foreign Ministers' meeting in Bali, Indonesia in July 2022

education in China. The two Foreign Ministers also met in Bali on 07 July 2022 on the sidelines of the G-20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting. During the meeting, EAM called for an early resolution of all the outstanding issues along the Line of Actual Control in Eastern Ladakh. EAM also reiterated the need to sustain the momentum to complete disengagement from all the remaining areas to restore peace and tranquility in the border areas. EAM also highlighted that India-China relationship is best served by observing the three mutuals - mutual respect, mutual sensitivity, and mutual interest.

From May 2020 onwards, there have been 11 meetings of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) so far, with the latest being on 14 October 2022. Seventeen rounds of meetings between the Senior Commanders (headed by Commander of 14th Corps on Indian side) were also held, with the last round held on 20 December 2022. During these diplomatic and military level meetings, the two sides have had candid and in-depth exchange of views on the situation along the LAC in the India-China border areas. There was agreement to continue discussions through diplomatic and military channels to resolve the remaining issues along the LAC at the earliest.

India continues to engage with China on multilateral platforms including BRICS, SCO, G-20, UN, etc.

## Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in December 1973, relations between India and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have been cordial. India has been consistently supportive of efforts to bring about peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula through dialogue and diplomacy.

## Japan

In 2022, India and Japan marked the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. After the Second World War, India concluded a Peace Treaty with Japan on 28 April 1952, marking the beginning of diplomatic relations between the two countries. To commemorate this milestone, the Ministry celebrated 'India-Japan at 70' this year through a series of events in Japan and India. The year witnessed increasing bilateral and multilateral engagements between India and Japan, and further strengthening of the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership.

## High Level Engagement

The two sides maintained the momentum of their ties through multiple visits. The 14<sup>th</sup> India-Japan Annual Summit was held in New Delhi in March 2022 when Prime Minister Fumio Kishida made an official visit to India. Both sides agreed on a joint statement titled, "Partnership for a Peaceful, Stable and Prosperous Post-Covid World." At the summit, both Prime Minister and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida noted with appreciation that since the elevation of ties to a Special Strategic and Global Partnership, there had been significant growth in economic cooperation. They expressed their shared intention to realise JPY 5 trillion of public and private investment and financing from Japan to India in the next five years, in order to finance appropriate public and private projects of mutual interest. They also recalled the establishment of the Japan-India Industrial Competitiveness Partnership (IJICP) in November 2021, and welcomed the formulation of a Roadmap under the IJICP. Both sides welcomed the launch of the Japan-India Clean Energy Partnership (CEP), and signed the exchange of notes concerning yen loans related to seven projects wherein Japan will provide over 300 billion yen (USD 2.7 billion) in total.

Prime Minister travelled to Tokyo in May 2022 to attend the 2nd Quad Leader's Summit. During the visit, several initiatives including Quad Climate Change Action and Mitigation Package (Q-CHAMP), Quad Partnership on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) for the Indo-Pacific, Quad Satellite Data Portal, Indo-Pacific Economic Forum (IPEF) and Indo-

Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness Initiative were unveiled. In addition to holding bilateral meetings with his Quad counterparts, including Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister interacted with top business leaders in Japan. Prime Minister met Prime Minister Fumio Kishida again on the sidelines of the G-7 summit in June. Prime Minister visited Japan again on 27 September 2022 to participate in the State Funeral of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The impact of the shocking assassination was felt deeply in India which was one of the first countries to declare a one day mourning period. While in Japan, Prime Minister also held a meeting with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida during the visit.

## Bilateral Dialogues

EAM held several interactions with Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi during the course of the year. In January 2022, they held a telephone conversation and discussed the need to enhance cooperation in fields such as digital, cyber, defence equipment and technology, and spoke about enhancement of connectivity in India's North Eastern region. They met for the first time at the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Melbourne in February 2022. EAM met Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi again in New York where they attended the G-4 and Quad Foreign Ministerial meetings in September. On 08 September, EAM met his counterpart for the 14<sup>th</sup> India-Japan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue and had a frank exchange of opinions on regional issues of importance.



Prime Minister welcomed Prime Minister of Japan Fumio Kishida during his visit to India in March 2022



Frank exchange of opinions between the two countries continued throughout the year through Quad consultations held in New Delhi in September; interactions between Deputy NSAs in April and September; and Foreign Office Consultations in December.

The second 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue was held in Tokyo in September 2022, bringing together Defence Ministers and Foreign Ministers from both countries to discuss issues of strategic importance. The dialogue concluded with a joint statement which highlighted both countries' commitment to a common strategic goal of achieving a Free and Open Indo-Pacific, that is inclusive and resilient, based on the rule of law and free from coercion. The Ministers had a frank and fruitful discussion on the regional and global issues of mutual interests and concerns. They also concurred to launch the Joint Service Staff Talks between the Japan Joint Staff and the Indian Integrated Defence Staff. During the Defence Ministerial Meeting held on 8 September, the defence ministers of both countries welcomed the progress being made towards the first India-Japan joint fighter aircraft exercise with a view to further strengthen bilateral cooperation.

Meetings of several bilateral mechanisms, including under the India-Japan Industrial Competitiveness Partnership, such as the Steel Dialogue, Joint Working Group on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Joint Working Group on Logistics, and Joint Working Group on Information and Communications Technology, were held in the year 2022. The 4<sup>th</sup> India-Japan

Cyber Dialogue was held in June and areas of discussion included national cyber policies and cyber-security strategies, recent cyber threat landscape, Information and Communications Technology supply chain risks and 5G policies. Bilateral cooperation in the area of skill development continued to advance. With easing of border restrictions, over 200 skilled and semi-skilled workers have entered Japan under the Technical Intern Training Program (TITP) and Specified Skilled Worker (SSW) mechanism since March 2022. Further, in order to promote training in Japanese manufacturing practices, more than 22 Japan-India Institutes of Manufacturing and 8 Japanese Endowed Courses are currently operational in India. First India-Japan Finance Dialogue was held in June at Vice Minister/Secretary level and has set the tone for working together in the financial sector during Japan's forthcoming Presidency of G7 and India's G20 Presidency.

## Defence Cooperation

The year also witnessed further strengthening of bilateral security and defence cooperation. The Joint Working Group on Defence Technology and Equipment Cooperation (JWG-DETC) meeting was held virtually on 09 February 2022. Chief of the Air Staff visited Japan from 16-20 May. Chief of the Naval Staff visited Japan from 05 - 09 November 2022 for the 18<sup>th</sup> Western Pacific Naval Symposium.

Admiral Hiroshi Yamamura headed the JMSDF delegation for Exercise Milan 2022 in February 2022. During the sea phase of



The sixth edition of the Japan India Maritime Exercise 2022, JIMEX 22 hosted by the Indian Navy was held in September 2022

Milan 2022, JS Yuudachi conducted Replenishment at Sea (RAS) with INS Shakti and received sixty tons of fuel, marking the first instance of operationalization of the Japan India Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Service Agreement which was signed in September 2020. The third edition of Indian Army - Japan Ground Self-Defense Force bilateral exercise Dharma Guardian was conducted at Foreign Training Node, Belgaum from 27 February-10 March 2022. The 6th edition of JIMEX (bilateral maritime exercise between two navies) was conducted in the Bay of Bengal from 11-17 September. The 2022 edition of MALABAR multilateral exercise involving Indian Navy (IN), Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF), Royal Australian Navy and US Navy was conducted in the vicinity of Yokosuka from 10-15 November 2022. IN P8-I aircraft, INAS 312 were deployed to Japan from 07 - 16 November 2022 for participation in exercise MALABAR. IN Ships Shivalik and Kamorta also participated in the International Fleet Review at Yokosuka to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> year of formation of JMSDF.

Gen Koji Yamazaki, Chief of Staff, Joint Staff visited India to participate in the Raisina Dialogue from 25-27 April 2022.

## Economic Ties: Strengthening Trade, Investment and Business Links

On the economic front, Japan continued to be a key partner in India's growth and socioeconomic development. In financial year 2021-22, bilateral trade stood at USD 20.57 billion, the largest ever. Japanese Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in 2021-22 was USD 1.49 billion. Cumulative investment from Japan since 2000 has been USD 37.79 billion making Japan the fifth largest investor in India. The number of Japanese companies registered in India stands at 1439.

In another huge milestone for India-Japan economic partnership, Suzuki marked 40 years of entering the Indian market this year. In its long journey in India, it remains a shining example of the strength of India-Japan partnership. Prime Minister attended the anniversary celebrations and virtually laid the foundation stones for two key electric vehicles (EV) battery manufacturing plants in Hansalpur, Gujarat and Kharkhoda, Haryana.

India and Japan continue to work bilaterally as well as under the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) towards reliable, resilient, and efficient supply chains. Commerce and Industry Minister along with Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry and Australia's Minister Trade, Tourism and Investment held the second ministerial meeting (virtually) under SCRI on 15 March 2022. In the Joint Statement issued after the meeting, the three Ministers gave directions to identify key sectors, particularly in manufacturing and services, where trilateral cooperation could enhance resilience of supply chain

in the sectors, and encouraged further collaboration between Austrade, Invest India and JETRO to promote investment and business in these sectors.

Further progress was made in the implementation of the flagship Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) project. The 14th Joint Committee meeting on MAHSR was co-chaired by Minister of Railways and Special Adviser to Prime Minister of Japan Dr. Mori Masafumi in virtual format on 30 June 2022.

Covid-19 restrictions were relaxed on both sides, and subsequently, travel and issuance of visas resumed. This ensured the resumption of parliamentary exchanges between the two countries. A round table of Parliamentarians was held in April in a virtual format, where views were exchanged on strengthening people-to-people ties, ease of doing business, enhancing digital connect, infrastructure development and investment. A Parliamentary delegation from India visited Japan in September and held productive meetings with counterparts in the Diet to explore ways of deepening the India-Japan partnership with a special focus on ways to increase Japanese investment in India.

Minister of Large and Medium Industries, Government of Karnataka and Minister for Industries, Investment Promotion and Commerce, Government of Tamil Nadu visited Japan for investment promotion in 2022. Mission continued engagement in Japan to extensively promote the 3Ts- Trade, Technology and Tourism

## Cooperation in Clean Energy and Water Sectors

India and Japan launched a Clean Energy Partnership during the Annual Summit in March 2022 for cooperation towards achieving sustainable economic growth, addressing climate change and ensuring energy security, in areas such as electric vehicles, storage systems including batteries, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, solar energy, clean energies including green hydrogen/ammonia, wind energy, exchange of views on respective energy transition plans, energy efficiency, CCUS (Carbon dioxide Capturing, Utilization and Storage) and Carbon Recycling. In May this year, an MoU was signed between Japan and International Solar Alliance on cooperation in the field of solar energy

Memorandums of Cooperation on Decentralized Wastewater Management and Sustainable Urban Development were signed during the Annual Summit in March 2022. Jal Shakti Minister met with Japan's Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Tetsuo Saito on the sidelines of the 4<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Water Summit (APWS) in Kumamoto in April. They held in-depth discussions on a wide range of subjects including Johkasou water technology and decentralized wastewater treatment.

## People-to-People Ties

President, Indian Council for Cultural Relations visited Japan and held a “Knowledge India Dialogue” with scholars and academics.

After a gap of two years, the Embassy of India hosted a reception to mark the 73<sup>rd</sup> Republic Day of India. The reception saw the presence of many dignitaries including Speaker of House of Representatives Hiroyuki Hosoda, Minister of Foreign Affairs Yoshimasa Hayashi, Former Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and the then Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Taro Honda. Several Members of the Diet, senior government functionaries, captains of industry, eminent academics, cultural personalities, media, and members of diaspora also graced the occasion. ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’ and ‘India-Japan at 70’ were celebrated at a huge scale in Japan, with a curtain raiser reception held on 28 April 2022. This was followed by several webinars, cultural events, symposiums and marking of many milestone days to remember the contributions of the makers of the Indian nation.

During the course of the year, many personalities who contributed to the strengthening of India-Japan partnership were honoured with the highest awards, presented by the Indian Government. Hon’ble Former President presented Padma Shri to Mr. Ryuko Hira in March this year. The scroll and medallion of Padma Shri awarded to Late Dr. Nakamura Tetsu was handed over to his daughter Ms. Akiko Nakamura in a prominent ceremony held in Kobe. In October, the scroll and medallion of Padma Vibhushan awarded to former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe were handed over to his widow Akie Abe in a solemn ceremony in Tokyo.

## Mongolia

India and Mongolia share traditional, historic, civilizational, cultural and spiritual ties. Mongolia regards India as their “third neighbour.” Since the elevation of bilateral relationship to Strategic Partnership in 2015 during the visit of Prime Minister to Mongolia, bilateral cooperation between the two countries has continuously expanded. India and Mongolia maintained regular high-level interactions and engagements throughout the year, which further strengthened the strategic partnership. Several development projects in Mongolia, which are being built in partnership with India, witnessed significant progress.

Although bilateral trade is modest in value and volumes, the total bilateral trade at the end of the FY 2021-22 was USD 63.8 million, a year-on-year increase of about 80%. Overall, India-Mongolia bilateral relations maintained a positive momentum this year.

Raksha Mantri paid a visit to Mongolia from 05-07 September 2022. This was the first ever visit by an Indian Defence Minister

to Mongolia. During the visit, he inaugurated the Cyber Security Training Centre at the National Defence University built under a grant from Government of India. He also participated in a Ground Breaking Ceremony for the construction of India-Mongolia Friendship School in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. In a special gesture, President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh hosted a special reception in the honour of Raksha Mantri during the visit.

Buddhism forms a special connect between the two countries. At the request of the Government of Mongolia, the Government of India sent holy relics of Lord Buddha for a 12-day exposition to Mongolia starting on 14 June 2022. The relics were carried by the Minister of Law and Justice in a Special Aircraft of IAF, along with a 24-member delegation. The exposition received a warm welcome by thousands of devotees in Mongolia. The President of Mongolia, Speaker of Mongolian Parliament and several other high-level dignitaries paid their respects to the holy relics in-person. Member Secretary, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts accompanied by Ling Rimpoche and an eight-member delegation visited Mongolia from 7-9 October to distribute re-printed sacred Mongolian Kanjur to monasteries/NGOs at Gandan Monastery in Ulaanbaatar. The reprinting project of 108-volume Mongolian Kanjur was undertaken by the Ministry of Culture and was completed by 31 March 2022.

Two Judges of the Supreme Court attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Association of Asian Constitutional Courts and Equivalent Institutions from 19-20 August 2022 in Ulaanbaatar.

India, represented by the Ambassador to Mongolia, participated at the Ulaanbaatar Dialogue, an International Conference on Northeast Asian Security from 23-24 June 2022. The Mongolian Defence Minister led a delegation to attend DefExpo 2022 that was held in Gujarat from 19-21 October 2022. The Mongolian Deputy Minister of Justice and Home Affairs participated in the No Money for Terror Conference 2022 in New Delhi from 18-19 November 2022 and also met with the Minister of State for Law and Justice.

Bilateral cooperation in the field of traditional medicine received a boost with the establishment of an Ayush Info Cell at the Pethub Monastery on 11 April, under the grant provided by the Ministry of Ayush. The Ayush Cell will play an important role in the promotion of Ayurveda and traditional medicines in Mongolia.

Throughout the year, both sides maintained the tradition of supporting each other across multilateral and international fora.

Defence ties between the two countries further deepened during the year. Indian Army participated in the Khaan Quest 2022, a multilateral Peacekeeping exercises in Mongolia from 6-17 June 2022, with a 40-member contingent (Ladakh Scouts), the largest ever Indian contingent at the exercise. A delegation





Minister of Law and Justice along with a 24-member delegation carried the Holy relics of Lord Buddha in a Special Aircraft of IAF, for 12-day exposition to Mongolia in June 2022.

of 2 female peacekeepers attended the Female Peacekeepers International Conference (FPIC) hosted by Mongolia in Ulaanbaatar.

Development cooperation is a significant facet of India-Mongolia Strategic Partnership. An Oil Refinery Project is under construction in Dornogobi Province of Mongolia, being funded by EXIM Bank. With the estimated cost of USD 1.236 billion, it is the largest Line of Credit (LoC) project undertaken by India abroad. The construction of another LoC project funded by India in Mongolia – the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Centre of Excellence in IT, Capacity Building and Skilled Development witnessed continuous progress.

## Republic of Korea

India and the Republic of Korea (ROK), as Special Strategic Partners, continued to have high level engagements during the year.

A number of ministerial engagements took place this year, mostly on the sidelines of multilateral fora which include: EAM's meeting with Former ROK Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong in Paris in February 2022 and with new Foreign Minister Park Jin in Bali in July 2022; Commerce and Industry Minister's meeting with former ROK Trade Minister Yeo Han-koo in January 2022 in New Delhi and his meeting with the new ROK Trade Minister Dukgeun Ahn in Geneva in June 2022 and again in Indonesia in September 2022; Finance Minister's meeting with former ROK Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance

Hong Nam-ki in Washington in April 2022, and with the new ROK Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance Choo Kyung-ho in Washington in October 2022.

On parliamentary engagements, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha had a bilateral meeting with ROK National Assembly Deputy Speaker Kim Young-joo on the sidelines of G20 Parliamentary Speaker's Summit in Indonesia in October 2022. Deputy Speaker Kim Young-joo further paid a visit to India in October 2022. Another five-member parliamentary delegation visited India from 25 November to 02 December; they met MoS (VM) during their visit.

Institutional Dialogue level engagements also continued during the year. The Third Dialogue on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation at Joint Secretary level was held in New Delhi in March 2022. The Third Army to Army level talks took place in Seoul in October 2022. ROK Navy participated in MILAN exercise in February 2022 for the first time. Indian Navy also participated in the ROK submarine search and rescue exercise in May 2022. A DG-level delegation from the Korean Coast Guard visited India and held bilateral meetings with Indian Coast Guards in October 2022. Indian naval Ships INS Shivalik and INS Kamorta visited Busan Naval Base for a "Turn Around" in November 2022, and conducted combined exercises including field drills and communication drills with a ROK naval ship. Similarly, two Korean Naval ships had also visited Chennai in September 2022 and held combined exercises. An exhibition to commemorate India's contribution to the Korean War was organised in March 2022; it was attended by the ROK Minister





EAM met Foreign Minister of ROK Park Jin on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers' meeting in July 2022 in Bali, Indonesia

of Patriots and Veteran Affairs. A commemorative book was also released during the occasion.

Bilateral trade from January - October stood at USD 23.9 billion, (Export: USD 7.9 billion; Import- USD 16 billion). ROK's FDI to India in 2021 stood at USD 343 million, while Korea's total FDI to India from 1980 to 2021 stands at USD 7.27 billion. The 9<sup>th</sup> round of CEPA negotiations was held in November 2022. For investment promotion, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) delegation headed by the Joint Secretary, along with the CEO of Invest India visited ROK in June 2022. DPIIT Special Secretary visited ROK in November 2022 and spoke at a 'Make in India Seminar 2022' organised by the Embassy in collaboration with DPIIT and Korea International Trade Association (KITA).

State delegations from Karnataka (August), Tamil Nadu (October) and Uttar Pradesh (December 2022) visited ROK for investment promotion. The Embassy participated in local trade fairs to showcase India's diverse range of products, facilitated visits of Korean trade delegation (tea importers) to India, and arranged several B2B meetings for boosting Indian exports to ROK.

During the year, think tank engagements also picked up. The first 'Korea India Strategic Forum', a think-tank dialogue between

India Foundation and Sejong Institute took place in August 2022. The 21<sup>st</sup> India Korea Strategic Dialogue was held between Ananta Aspen Centre and Seoul Forum for International Affairs in November 2022. "India-ROK Defence Strategic Dialogue", a think-tank dialogue between United Service Institute of India (USI) and Korea National Defence University (KNDU) took place in November 2022 in Seoul. The 7<sup>th</sup> Korea Institute of Defense Analysis – Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses dialogue was held in December 2022.

India and ROK share close cultural linkages. President of the Jogye Order led a 150 strong delegation to India and held a 'dedication ceremony' of the Korean Buddhist Temple 'Bunhwangsa' and the groundbreaking ceremony of the community medical clinic at Gaya in Bihar in May 2022. DG, Indian Council for Cultural Relations visited ROK in June 2022 to further strengthen the cultural connect between the two countries. Cultural troupes from India visited ROK in October 2022, and performed in various cities of ROK, as part of 'Sarang,' the annual flagship cultural festival of India in ROK. An India Centre for promotion of India-focused activities in the Busan University of Foreign Studies (BUFS) was inaugurated in June 2022. The 10th Indian Film Festival screening with selected award winning, critically acclaimed Hindi and popular regional films with Korean subtitles was organized in various cities across ROK in November-December 2022.

## CHAPTER

## 5

# Eurasia and Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

## Armenia

The year 2022 saw an upward trajectory for the relations between India and Armenia which also marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between both countries. There were constant high-level visits from both sides.

On 25 April 2022, the Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan visited India on 24-27 April 2022 to participate in the Raisina Dialogue. Foreign Minister Mirzoyan along with other Foreign Ministers also made a joint call on Prime Minister on 26 April 2022. The Foreign Ministers also brought along business delegation and had detailed meetings with the representatives of CII in Delhi on 25 April 2022 and in Mumbai on 27 April 2022.

A large defence delegation including Defence Minister Suren Papikyan, Deputy Defence Minister Karen Brutyan, and Deputy Hitech Minister Gevorg Mantashyan participated in the DefExpo 2022 in Gandhinagar from 18-22 October 2022. The Minister of Defence of Armenia also had a bilateral meeting with Raksha Mantri.

Armenia's Secretary for Security Council Armen Grigoryan

participated in the 'No Money For Terror' Conference in New Delhi from 18-19 November 2022. He also held a bilateral meeting with National Security Adviser.

On 18 February 2022, the 9th round of Foreign Office Consultations was held in Virtual Format.

A 29-member defence delegation of India led by an Additional Secretary Department of Defence Production (DDP) visited Armenia from 17-19 September 2022 and held negotiations with the Armenian Ministry of Defence. He also called on Former Defence Minister Mikael Harutyunyan. Contracts worth more than USD 350 million were signed between the Armenian side and the Indian companies.

The 8th session of the India-Armenia Inter-Governmental Commission was held in Yerevan on 04 July 2022. Foreign Minister Mirzoyan led the Armenian delegation, while the Indian delegation was led by Secretary West. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Armenia regarding Indian grant assistance for "High Impact Community Development Projects" was signed on 04 July 2022. Secretary West also inaugurated the Mahatma Gandhi Centre at the Yerevan State Medical University developed by the Mission from the Aid to Eurasia assistance.



EAM with Foreign Minister of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan at the UNGA, April 2022

## Azerbaijan

India and Azerbaijan continued their engagements through interactions at various platforms during the year. Deputy Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Elnur Mammadov and Secretary West co-chaired the fifth round of the India-Azerbaijan Foreign Office Consultations in New Delhi on 28 November 2022. Indian Youth delegation participated in the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Youth Summit in Baku in June 2022. A delegation from the Central Board of Direct Taxes visited Baku from 29 June - 01 July 2022 to negotiate the bilateral Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA).

Following the gradual relaxation of COVID-related restrictions in the country, emphasis was made on fostering more economic and cultural engagements. In order to meet export targets, physical and virtual interactions between major companies and export promotion councils in India with their counterparts in Azerbaijan were organized.

The 'Best of India' Exhibition with the participation of more than 60 Indian companies, was organized in Baku in cooperation with the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) from 02-12 September 2022 and in Ganja from 17-25 September 2022. An exclusive Fashion Show presenting "Indian Creativity on Ramp" was also organized on 31 August 2022 at JW Marriott Absheron, Baku. Indian companies participated in Interfood Azerbaijan Exhibition from 18-20 May 2022, in the Oil and Gas exhibition from 01-03 June 2022, and in Baku Build Exhibition from 19-21 October 2022. The Mission facilitated the visit of 10 representatives of pharmaceutical companies as well as

pharmaceutical regulatory bodies from Azerbaijan to participate at iPHEX-22 from 21-23 September 2022 in Noida. MD & CEO of ONGC Videsh Ltd visited Baku in October 2022 to participate in the 15th Verona Eurasian Economic Forum.

Bilateral trade between India and Azerbaijan reached USD 1.767 billion during the period from January - October 2022, with an increase of 184.3%, making India the fourth largest trade partner.

Azerbaijan Airlines (AZAL) started direct flights between Delhi and Baku twice a week from 09 August 2022 and between Mumbai and Baku twice a week from 12 November 2022. India became the fourth largest source of tourists in Azerbaijan.

India continued to extend Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) scholarships to Azerbaijani officials and more than 47 scholars participated in physical ITEC courses and e-ITEC courses in 2022-23. One officer from Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry participated in the Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats organized by the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS).

As part of the celebrations of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, a large number of events were organized during the year in coordination with various Azerbaijani institutes and Indian diaspora associations in Azerbaijan. The major events include the Indian cuisine show, Ambedkar Jayanti, Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary, Independence Day, showcase of textiles heritage of India, Diwali festival, rice and tea tasting events, teachers' day, Hindi day, ITEC Day, Ayurveda Day, Constitution Day, Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, Sardar Patel Jayanti, Bollywood

dance performances, State Tourism Promotion event and non-commercial screening of Indian movies at the multiplex.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and The Chamber of Auditors of the Republic of Azerbaijan (CAAR), in Baku on 16 September 2022.

More than 10 Yoga events were organized in different cities of Azerbaijan during the month of June 2022 as part of the celebrations of the 8th International Day of Yoga. The Embassy started regular yoga classes at the Chancery in October 2022.

## Tajikistan

The year marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Tajikistan. The Minister of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan, Mr. Nematullo Hikmatullozoda was the Chief Guest at the celebrations on 26 August 2022 in Dushanbe.

On 27 January 2022, the First India Central Asia Summit was held via Video Conference mode which was followed by a number of high-level meetings and visits, setting the stage for further development and expansion of India-Tajikistan relations during the current year. On 28 July 2022, EAM and the Tajikistan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sirojiddin Muhriddin met in Tashkent on the sidelines of the SCO Foreign Ministers' meeting and discussed bilateral, international, and regional issues.

On 13 September 2022, the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the India-Tajikistan Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism was held virtually. Issues of countering radicalization, preventing the financing of terrorism, ensuring cybersecurity, suppressing drug trafficking, exchanging information, and building capacity were discussed. Tajikistan also supported Indian candidature for election to the UN and other international bodies.

On 06 September 2022, Hon'ble President sent a congratulatory message to President Rahmon on the occasion of the 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the independence of Tajikistan. The Speaker of Lok Sabha also sent a message to the Chairman of Majlisi Milli Rustam Emomali on this occasion.

The two sides exchanged a number of messages at the HoS/HoG/VVIP level during the year. On 23 July 2022, Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon sent a letter of congratulations and good wishes to the Hon'ble President on her election as President of India and expressed satisfaction with the expansion of relations in 30 years of diplomatic relations between the two nations. President Rahmon sent congratulatory messages to the Hon'ble President and Prime Minister on Indian Independence.

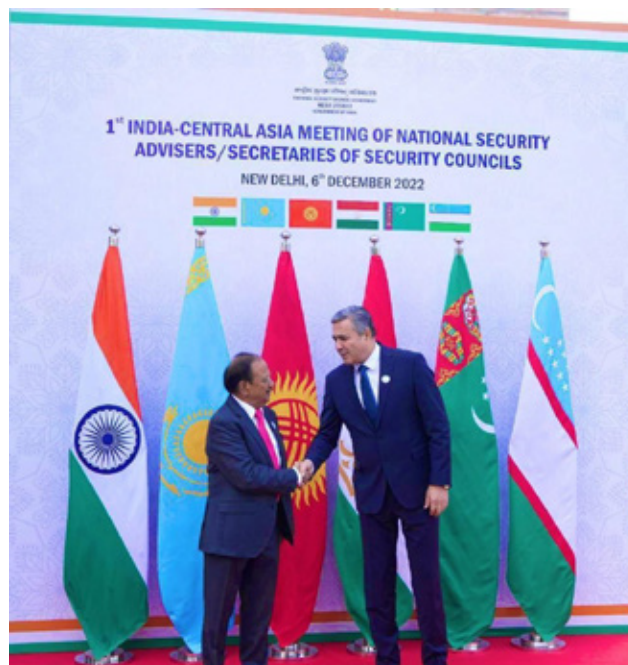
EAM and the Tajik Foreign Minister also exchanged messages on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Diplomatic

relations between India and Tajikistan. In July 2022, Prime Minister and the Tajik President Rahmon exchanged greetings on the occasion of Eid al-Adha.

On 18 & 19 November, the Tajikistan delegation headed by the First Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs took part in the ministerial conference on combating the financing of terrorism held in New Delhi. On the sidelines of the conference, he met the Special Secretary of Internal Security, the Ministry of Home Affairs, and discussed issues of expanding India-Tajikistan cooperation in the fight against organized crime, drug trafficking, and cybercrime. The Additional Secretary, MHA led the Indian delegation at the International Conference on International and Regional Border Security and Management Cooperation to Counter Terrorism and Prevent Movement of Terrorists held in Dushanbe on 18 & 19 Oct 2022 which was organized by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Office (UNOCT) and United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) together with Tajikistan.

On 6 December 2022, Tajik NSA Mahmudzoda Nasrullo participated in the First India-Central Asia Meeting of National Security Advisors in New Delhi. He also held bilateral talks with NSA.

Minister for Jal Shakti participated in the Second High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action 'Water for Sustainable Development 2018-22' held on



NSA with NSA of Tajikistan, Mahmudzoda Nasrullo Rahmatjon, at the 1st India-Central Asia Meeting of National Security Advisors/ Secretaries of Security Councils held in New Delhi, December 2022



06 and 07 June 2022 in Dushanbe where he addressed the Plenary session and co-chaired the Thematic Panel 'Increasing Water Health Nexus' for responding to the challenges of the post-COVID world'. He also interacted with the Indian diaspora and Indian medical students in Dushanbe during his visit. The First Deputy Minister of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan took part in the 7<sup>th</sup> India Water Week, which started on 01 November 2022 and had bilateral meetings with the Minister of Jal Shakti. On 28 June, on the sidelines of the UN Conference on the Ocean in Lisbon, the Minister of State for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences and Tajik Energy and Water Resources Minister. Daler Jumaev met and discussed cooperation in the field of S&T and science-based water management technologies.

On 17 August 2022, a Supreme Court Justice participated in the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Chief Justices of the Supreme Courts of SCO member states in Dushanbe and also received the Chairmanship of the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting to be held in India in 2023.

The year saw a sharp increase in bilateral trade on account of a substantial increase in Tajik imports of Sugar from India. On 04 November 2022 Indian and Tajik banks held an online meeting to discuss cooperation in the banking sector, including setting up of correspondent accounts of Tajik banks in Indian banks, remittances through India, and opening of Rupee Vostro accounts. A large number of Tajik businessmen also participated in Business events and Exhibitions in India over the course of this year including in the 8<sup>th</sup> International Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Exhibition "IPHEX-2022" held in Greater Noida from 21-23 September 2022.

India continued its efforts to develop Tajikistan's institutional, infrastructure, and institutional capacity during the year. On 11 June 2022, India handed over the India-Tajikistan Friendship Hospital (ITFH) to the Tajik side together with the complete set of medical equipment, medicines, stores, and support equipment, including an Operation Theatre, X-Ray machines, laboratories, critical care ambulances, and administrative vehicles. Work progressed at a steady pace on Dushanbe-Chortut Highway Project (Phase-I), which is being built with a USD 17.5 million Indian grant in aid assistance and is expected to be completed by 31 Dec 2022. In July 2022 India also handed over the Ayni Airport near Dushanbe which has been rehabilitated, renovated, and developed with Indian assistance.

The year 2022 also saw numerous activities to further strengthen people-to-people and cultural connections:

- As part of the celebrations of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of India-Tajikistan diplomatic relations, Indian Embassy in Dushanbe organized a series of three concerts of Indian music and dance in parks of Dushanbe. An Indian Film Festival was also organized to celebrate this milestone.

- A large number of people participated in the Friendship Run organized by the Embassy and the Tajik Youth Committee on 20 November 2022, to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Indian independence and the 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Tajik independence thereby celebrating the friendship between the people of the two countries and to work to further strengthen the historic, cultural and civilizational ties even further. A nine-member India delegation participated in the 37<sup>th</sup> Plenary of the Eurasian Group on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Terrorism Financing (EAG) held in Dushanbe from 21-25 November 2022.
- A 20-member Youth Delegation from Tajikistan together with youth delegations from other Central Asian Countries participated in the India-Central Asia Youth Forum in India from 17-23 November 2022, which saw them visit Delhi, Mumbai, and Agra.
- The 8<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga was celebrated enthusiastically in Tajikistan with several events in Dushanbe as well as in Panjakent city. A special Yoga workshop was also organized at the Tajik Institute of Physical Culture.
- A 12-member National Chess Team of Tajikistan participated in the 44<sup>th</sup> Chess Olympiad 2022 held in Chennai on 28 July 2022. An Indian Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) team participated in the Asian MMA Championships which were held in Dushanbe in October 2022.
- Starting from 09 April, Somon Air resumed regular weekly flights on the route Dushanbe-Delhi-Dushanbe after a two-year break caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The Embassy organized/participated in a number of other activities like the celebration of World Hindi Day and Hindi Diwas in association with Tajik National University and Tajik Institute of Languages, International Dance Festivals in Dushanbe and Khorog cities, Saree Draping Festival, Tea Festival, Food Festival, and Lectures & Films on Ayurveda for health benefits.
- Indo-Tajik Friendship Society published eight books on India-related issues in the Tajik language, including books titled (a) Literary Movement in Hindi Literature; (b) The image of women in Premchand's Novels Nirmala and Gaban; (c) Reflection of Social Problems in the stories of Mehriniso Parviz; (d) Sanskrit Language; (e) Description of partition of India in the works of Indian writers, and (f) Eternal Wisdom of India.

## Kyrgyzstan

India and the Kyrgyzstan Republic share warm and friendly relations characterized by cooperation in several spheres. Bilateral relations have been raised to the level of a Strategic Partnership. During the year 2022-23, there were exchanges of visits at the political level and interactions at the institutional level. Both sides worked towards implementing the decisions

taken during the 1<sup>st</sup> India-Central Asia virtual summit held on 27 January 2022.

On 06 December 2022, Secretary of the Security Council Marat Imankulov participated in the First India-Central Asia Meeting of National Security Advisers/ Secretaries of Security Councils held in New Delhi. The National Security Advisers/ Secretaries of the National Security Councils of India, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan also participated in the meeting. Turkmenistan was represented by their Ambassador in India. Secretary of the Security Council Imankulov also had a bilateral meeting with the National Security Adviser of India. A Joint Communiqué was issued at the end of the meeting.

A delegation of cadets from the Military Lyceum of the Kyrgyz Republic visited India from 09 – 17 August 2022 under the rubric of the India-Kyrgyz Youth Exchange Programme.

On 24 August 2022, the Minister of Defence, met the Minister of Defence of the Kyrgyz Republic Lt. Gen. Baktybek Bekbolotov at Samarkand in Uzbekistan on the sidelines of the meeting of the Defence Ministers of SCO countries. Both sides discussed the issues of bilateral defense cooperation between the two countries.

EAM met Kyrgyzstan Foreign Minister Zheenbek Kulubaev on the sidelines of the SCO Foreign Ministers Meeting in Tashkent on 29 July 2022. Both leaders discussed various aspects of bilateral cooperation.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the India-Kyrgyz Republic Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation (IKIGC) was held in a virtual format on 03 November 2022. It was co-chaired by the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution and Textiles, and Minister of Digital Development Talantbek Imanov. IKIGC held that there was immense potential for the expansion of bilateral trade between India and the Kyrgyz Republic. Both sides discussed mutual cooperation and steps to further enhance them in the fields of Trade & Economy, Development Partnership, Investment, Digitalization, Intellectual Property, Agriculture, Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals, Textiles, Education, Environment, Standardization & Metrology, Banking, Transport, Labour, Mining and Power sectors. Emphasis was given to increasing bilateral trade and investment opportunities. India invited the Kyrgyz Republic to take part in trade expos in India. The two sides agreed to take necessary measures to increase the interaction of exporters and importers of the two countries and expand the trading basket. A Protocol of the 10th session of the IKIGC was signed between India and the Kyrgyz Republic.

MoS (ML) visited the Kyrgyz Republic from 9-12 June 2022. During the visit, MoS called on the Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic Akylbek Zhaparov and reaffirmed India's commitment to be a reliable partner in the

developmental journey of the Kyrgyz Republic. During the meeting with the Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Zheenbek Kulubaev, MoS took stock of the state and prospects of bilateral relations and also exchanged views on regional and international issues of importance. MoS discussed ways to further enrich India-Kyrgyz Republic cultural cooperation in her meeting with then Kyrgyz Minister of Culture, Information, Sports and Youth Policy Mr. Azamat Zhamankulov and also signed the bilateral Cultural Exchange Programme for the period 2022-26. MoS participated in the curtain raiser events leading to the International Day of Yoga as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations in the Kyrgyz Republic. MoS also interacted with the Indian community, including students, in Bishkek and Cholpon-Ata Issyk-Kul Lake. The visit of MoS provided the impetus to further deepen our strategic relations with the Kyrgyz Republic bilaterally and in the framework of the India- Central Asia Summit.

The 12th round of the India-Kyrgyz Republic Foreign Office Consultations was held in Bishkek on 14 November 2022. The Indian delegation was led by Secretary West and the Kyrgyz delegation was led by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Aibek Muhtarovich Artykbaev. During the consultations, both sides undertook a comprehensive review of their bilateral ties in diverse areas including Political, Economic, Commercial, Defence, Development Partnership, Capacity Building, Education, Consular Matters, Cultural cooperation, and connectivity. Both sides examined the implementation of the decisions taken during the First India-Central Asia Summit held on 27th January 2022. The discussions also included how to increase trade and investment between the two countries. The two sides also exchanged views on regional and international matters of mutual interest and agreed to strengthen their cooperation in the UN and other multilateral forums. During this visit, Secretary West also had a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Digital Development Indira Sharshenova. The possibilities of cooperation in the field of the IT sector, including sharing of experience from India's digital initiatives were discussed.

A 20-member youth delegation from the Kyrgyz Republic visited India from 17 to 23 November 2022, under the rubric of the first India-Central Asia Summit held in January 2022. The delegation visited Delhi, Mumbai, and Agra. While in Mumbai, the delegation called the Governor of Maharashtra and the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra. While in Delhi, the delegation called the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports.

India – Kyrgyz Republic bilateral trade during January-September 2022 is USD 93.39 million. India's exports to the Kyrgyz Republic were USD 84.33 million, while Kyrgyz exports to India were USD 9.06 million. Indian exports registered a growth of 142% on a year-to-year basis. India's exports among others comprise sugar & sugar confectionery, pharmaceutical products, electric machinery & equipment, articles of clothing & clothing accessories (knitted, crocheted, or crocheted), organic chemical

compounds & nuclear reactors. Kyrgyz Republic exports to India include oil seeds, fruits, medicinal plants, straw, fodder, mineral fuel, oil and products of their distillation, vegetables, tubers, etc. The Kyrgyz Republic has received a small investment from Indian businessmen in the mining and hospitality sectors. Agro-processing, education, pharmaceuticals, IT, and textiles are some other areas of opportunity.

The 8<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga was celebrated in Bishkek on 18 June 2022 and in Osh on 21 June 2022. Long-term practitioners and local teachers of yoga demonstrated easy postures and breathing techniques to the audience. Kyrgyz youth & yoga exponents participated in the event that was graced by practitioners of Bishkek Yoga Network as well.

The Mission hosted a webinar on “North East India” at the Kyrgyz Russian Slavic University (KRSU) on February 2022 wherein around 20 entrepreneurs from the North East joined in collaboration with Kyrgyz counterparts. The areas identified were tourism, textiles, and handicrafts. To commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of India’s independence, a photo Exhibition titled ‘Noth Eastern India – the splendor of possibilities’ was also organized at KRSU.

Nine diplomats from the Kyrgyz Republic participated in a customized course for young diplomats from the countries of

Central Asia, including the Kyrgyz Republic, from 05-16 December 2022 at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS). This course was offered by India at the First India-Central Asia Summit held virtually on 27 January 2022. The training program included modules on India’s foreign policy, India’s relations with Central Asia, multilateral diplomacy & WTO, UN reforms, space diplomacy, India’s perspectives on nuclear non-proliferation & disarmament, negotiation skills, water security, Gol’s economic initiatives and economic reforms, digital empowerment, India’s pandemic response, women in diplomacy, INSTC, etc. There were also sessions on Ayurveda and Yoga. As a part of their study tours in New Delhi, the diplomats undertook visits to the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the Election Commission of India, the National Museum, and the Gurgaon automobile plant of Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. They also undertook a day-long visit to Agra to see the Taj Mahal.

E-visa services were restored for the citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic on 6 December 2022. The e-Visa has five sub-categories e-Tourist visa, e-Business visa, e-Medical visa, e-Medical attendant visa, and e-Conference visa.

A two-week long India-Kyrgyz Joint Special Forces (SF) Exercise Khanjar-IX was held at Bakloh, India, from 25 March 2022. Exercise KHANJAR is aimed toward interoperability, jointness,



Governor of the State of Maharashtra with the 20-member youth delegation from Kyrgyzstan under the rubric of the first India-Central Asia Summit, Raj Bhavan Mumbai in November 2022



and mutual exchange of SF tactics, techniques, and procedures in the Counter-Insurgency/ Counter-Terrorism environment. A 20-member contingent each from 4 PARA, Special Forces and Kyrgyz Ilbirs Special Forces Brigade took part in this exercise. Special Forces contingents from India and the Kyrgyz Republic shared their experience and best practices in terms of tactics, techniques, and procedures for countering present and emerging threats throughout the conflict spectrum. During the Exercise, combat shooting, sniping, mountain survival, hostage rescue drills, and unarmed warfare were extensively performed.

A delegation of cadets from the National Cadet Corps (NCC) visited the Kyrgyz Republic from 08-14 December 2022. They interacted with their counterparts from the Military Lyceum of the Kyrgyz Republic and visited various places of interest including the Victory Memorial, Burana Tower, Ala Archa National Park, and the National History Museum.

A six-member NCC delegation from India visited the Kyrgyz Republic from 8-14 December, 2022, under the rubric of the Memorandum of Understanding on Youth Exchange Programmes (YEPs) signed between the Ministries of Defence of India and the Kyrgyz Republic. The NCC Delegation visited some defence institutions including the Kyrgyz National Military Institute, named after the Hero of the Soviet Union, Major-General Dair Asanov (KNML), Museum of M.V. Frunze, and the Scorpion Special Forces Brigade in Tokmok.

## Belarus

India-Belarus relations saw a sustained surge in interactions during 2022. Belarus expanded its diplomatic presence in India by opening a Consulate General at Mumbai in August 2022.

On 9 & 10 November 2022, the then Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei visited India to co-Chair the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the India-Belarus Inter-governmental Commission on Trade, Economy, Industry, Science, Technology, and Culture.

During 03-05 August 2022, the First Deputy Foreign Minister of Belarus Sergei Aleinik visited India to co-chair the 7<sup>th</sup> round of Foreign Office Consultations in New Delhi and inaugurated the Consulate General of Belarus in Mumbai.

The celebrations of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations were also inaugurated with a gala concert on 13 April 2022. On 20 April 2022, a festival of Belarusian cinema took place in New Delhi.

On 17 July 2022, Embassy conducted an Indian Mango and Tea tasting festival during the Slavianski Bazaar, a prestigious annual cultural event in Belarus. Bhairi Bhavani, a performing arts troupe from Maharashtra participated in the festival.



EAM with the former Foreign Minister of Belarus Vladimir Makei, in India, November 2022





MoS (ML) visited Georgia on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Georgia, October 2022

## Georgia

The bilateral ties between India and Georgia progressed steadily during this year.

The Minister of State visited Georgia from 10 & 11 October 2022 on the occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Georgia. During the visit, the MoS met Minister of Foreign Affairs Ilia Darchiashvili, First Deputy Chairman of Parliament George Volski and Deputy Culture Minister Irakli Giviashvili.

The 6th round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Georgia was held in Tbilisi on 06 July 2022. The Indian delegation was led by Secretary West, while the Georgian delegation was led by Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Khvtisiashvili. Both sides reviewed bilateral relations & discussed ways to further strengthen them. Views were also exchanged on the regional & international matters of mutual interest.

## Turkmenistan

The relations between India and Turkmenistan are warm and cordial. President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> India-Central Asia Summit virtually on 27 January 2022 during his remarks, President Berdimuhamedov stressed the

need for the creation of Eurasian transport corridors through Central Asia to marine terminals in the Indian Ocean. He also called for setting up a Central Asia-India Medical Association and the creation of an energy bridge "Central Asia - India".

Former President sent a congratulatory message to the newly elected President of Turkmenistan, Serdar Berdimuhamedov on 17 March 2022. Former President visited Turkmenistan from 01-04 April 2022 and met with President Berdimuhamedov. It was the first visit by an Indian President to Turkmenistan and the first Head of State to visit Turkmenistan after the Presidential elections in March 2022. Four MoUs in the field of culture, disaster management, youth affairs, and finance were signed. The visit also saw the inauguration of an 'India Corner' by the President at the Institute of International Relations in Ashgabat, and the re-opening of the Yoga and Traditional Medicine Center, which was closed in March 2020 due to the pandemic. President Berdimuhamedov sent congratulatory messages to President and Prime Minister on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Turkmenistan. The Hon'ble President conveyed his thanks in response.

On the occasion of the Independence Day of Turkmenistan, the Hon'ble President sent a congratulatory message to President Berdimuhamedov. A 3-member delegation from the Narcotics Bureau and the Department of Revenue Intelligence participated in the 55<sup>th</sup> session of the Sub-commission on Illicit Drug Trafficking



Former President and President of Turkmenistan Serdar G. Berdimuhamedov, held delegation levels talks in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan in April 2022

in the Near and Middle East organized by UNODC in Ashgabat from 22–25 November 2022. Turkmenistan's Ambassador to India, Shalar Geldynazarov represented Turkmenistan in the inaugural meeting of India Central Asia Meeting of Secretaries of Security Councils/NSAs hosted by National Security Advisor on 6 December 2022.

A virtual meeting between the Export Promotion Centre (EPC), Chamber of Commerce Madurai, and Chamber of Commerce, Turkmenistan was held on 15 June 2022, in which businesspersons involved in food, agricultural, textile, and engineering sectors of both countries discussed ways to further trade ties.

A virtual meeting between the Turkmenistan Logistic Association (TLA) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) was held on 16 June 2022, to discuss transport and logistics cooperation between both countries.

On 22 July 2022, an online meeting between officials from Turkmengaz, EXIM Bank of India, and the DPA-I division on the utilization of LOC for Central Asian countries was held.

On 02 August 2022, a virtual meeting between officials from the Ministry of Healthcare and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan, EXIM Bank of India, and the DPA-I division on the utilization of LOC for Central Asian countries was held. Minister of Healthcare & Medical Industry of Turkmenistan Atageldi Germanov,

participated in the meeting. The embassy in association with the Ministry of Tourism and the Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) organized a hybrid B2B meeting between Indian and Turkmen businessmen in the hospitality sector on September 13, 2022.

16 students from Turkmenistan have availed the ICCR scholarship slots in the academic year 2022 – 23. Five Turkmen professionals have so far attended online courses under the e-ITEC program in 2022 - 23.

Turkmenistan unilaterally supported India's candidature to Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) for the term 2022-26 (June 2022), re-election to Council of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in Region E for the term 2023-26 (August 2022) & re-election to the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) for the term 2022-25 (September 2022).

## Ukraine

On 24 February 2022, Russia launched a special military operation in Ukraine and occupied parts of Chernihiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia regions and reached the northern outskirts of Kyiv. The Indian Embassy in Kyiv was temporarily shifted to Lviv on 01 March 2022, and thereafter to Warsaw, Poland on 13 March 2022. Consequent to the

withdrawal of Russian forces from Kyiv and Chernihiv regions in the first week of April, the Embassy was shifted back to Kyiv on 17 May 2022. The Embassy resumed visa & consular services with effect from 30 May 2022.

Prime Minister and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had a telephone conversation on 04 October 2022. EAM had a telephone conversation with Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba on 08 August 2022. EAM met Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal on the sidelines of the UNGA summit on 21 Sep 2022. The National Security Adviser had a telephonic conversation with Andriy Yermak, Advisor to President Zelenskyy on 7 October 2022 and 8 December 2022. EAM met Foreign Minister Kuleba on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit on 12 Nov 2022 at Phnom Penh in Cambodia.

Due to the escalation of hostilities since 10 October 2022, and repetitive missile and drone attacks by Russia on the critical energy and civilian infrastructure, the Embassy issued advisories on 10 October, 19 Oct, 22 October & 25 October advising Indian citizens to avoid non-essential travel to and within Ukraine and to immediately leave the country by available means through the neighboring countries i.e., Hungary, Slovakia, Moldova, Poland & Romania.

There were around 22,700 Indian students enrolled in Ukraine (21,928 medical and about 800 non-medical) in the 2021-22 academic session. On commencement of the conflict in February 2022, all Ukrainian Universities switched to online education for foreign students. For the continued education of Indian medical students, the National Medical Commission (NMC) India has conveyed no objection to the academic

mobility of Indian students to Universities in specified countries provided that other criteria of Screening Test Regulations, 2002 are fulfilled; has clarified that there are no restrictions on a permanent transfer to Universities in third countries for medical students covered under the Screening Test Regulations, 2002; and has also clarified that Medical students are allowed to undergo online classes of theory subjects which should be supplemented by online practical and clinical training done in the Medical University and /or its affiliated Hospitals during their MBBS course. A total of 3,964 Indian students have taken permanent transfer to universities in the third countries. Further, around 170 students have received permission from Ukrainian Universities to continue their education in partner Universities in third countries under an academic mobility program. A total of 15,613 students are studying in various medical Universities in Ukraine, out of which 14,973 students are undergoing online classes and 640 students are undergoing classes in Offline mode. Currently, around 1,100 students are in Ukraine.

Since 24 February 2022, the Government of India provided 12 consignments measuring 99.3 tons of humanitarian assistance to Ukraine and neighboring countries comprising medicines, blankets, tents, tarpaulin, medical equipment, etc. The Government of India has also agreed to provide financial assistance amounting to INR 57,82,591 toward the reconstruction, remodeling, and refurbishing of a school in Kyiv.

## Uzbekistan

India-Uzbekistan relations go deep in history. Over two millennia of civilizational exchanges between the peoples



EAM met Foreign Minister of Ukraine Dmytro Kuleba, on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit at Phnom Penh in Cambodia, November 2022



of the two countries provide a solid base of friendship and mutual understanding which led to the declaration of their Strategic Partnership in 2011. This Strategic Partnership has progressed in various directions of political, economic and commercial, defence and security, cultural and educational cooperation in recent years. March 2022 marked the special occasion of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries leading to the exchange of congratulatory messages between the Former President and President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

On 27 January 2022, the first India-Central Asia Summit took place virtually hosted by Prime Minister with the participation of the Presidents of all the five Central Asian states. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev participated in the Summit and welcomed the initiative in his intervention. He emphasized the need for close political dialogue between India and the Central Asian states for addressing the common problems of the region and other global issues and further called for active participation of India in the sphere of healthcare and education, vaccines and pharmaceuticals, information technology and infrastructure development as priority areas for mutual cooperation. Following the Summit, the Delhi Declaration was adopted.

Prime Minister participated in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit held in Samarkand on 15-16 September 2022. With the successful completion of the Samarkand Summit, its chairmanship was passed on to India. Prime Minister and President Mirziyoyev held a bilateral meeting in which priority areas of bilateral cooperation were discussed focusing on trade and investment, development partnership, and multilateral cooperation including in the United Nations. On the sidelines of the Summit, Prime Minister also held bilateral meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ebrahim Raisi. Leading to the SCO Summit, several ministerial meetings were hosted by Uzbekistan in which dignitaries from India participated. In the field of defence cooperation, India and Uzbekistan held their Joint Working Group meeting in March in Tashkent and held their third joint military exercise Dustlik in March-April in Urgench.

The SCO track of ministerial meetings hosted by Uzbekistan under its chairmanship provided the opportunity for several high-level visits from India. At the ministerial level, there were the visits of the Minister of State for Culture and Parliamentary Affairs on 19-22 May; the External Affairs Minister on 28-30 July;



Prime Minister met President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, on the sidelines of the SCO Summit in Samarkand, September 2022.



the Minister for State for Home Affairs on 17-19 August, and the Minister of Defence 23-25 August. For the SCO meeting of the National Security Advisors, India was represented by Deputy NSA from 18-19 August. During these visits, meetings on the sidelines between the two sides provided the opportunity for advancing the agenda of bilateral cooperation.

On 11 May 2022, India and Uzbekistan held their 15th round of Foreign Office Consultations in New Delhi. The consultations were co-chaired by Secretary West and Deputy Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan Furkat Sidikov. During the consultations, a comprehensive review was undertaken of all aspects of bilateral relations. It was agreed to maintain close contact on various issues of regional importance and advance the development partnership between the two countries. Deputy Foreign Minister Sidikov visited New Delhi again on 14 July 2022 and led a delegation to brief the Indian side on the ongoing process of constitutional reforms undertaken by Uzbekistan. During the course of his visit, he called on the Minister of State for External Affairs & Culture.

The second session of the Joint Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation was held between the two sides in Tashkent for which the Indian delegation was led by the Department of Commerce. Extensive discussions were held with the Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan following which the Indian delegation was shown textile, agricultural and other clusters of production in Uzbekistan.

The economic and commercial relations between the two countries were comprehensively discussed during the 13<sup>th</sup> session of the India-Uzbekistan Intergovernmental Commission held in New Delhi on 28 July for which the Uzbek delegation was led by, Deputy Prime Minister Jamshid Khodjaev while the Indian side was led by Minister of Commerce & Industry. During the visit of the Uzbek delegation, the fourth session of the Joint Working Group on Textiles was also held.

Focused business delegations from various fields led by chambers and other organizations visited Uzbekistan to promote Indian exports. A Pharmexcil delegation comprising 28 companies visited Uzbekistan in March and conducted a Buyer-Seller meeting. A delegation of the Federation of Indian Exports Organization (FIEO) comprising 50 companies held their Buyer-Seller meeting in Tashkent in September. India International Textile Machinery Exhibitions Society (India-ITME) held a roadshow in Tashkent in September in which 25 Indian companies promoted their products. Various other individual companies also visited Uzbekistan to explore market opportunities.

With the objective of focusing on the potential of exports from states, the Mission organized for the very first time the 'Bihar Divas' celebrations in March 2022. During the special business

session, presentations were made on the history, tourism, and industrial and agricultural potential of Bihar. Representatives of Uzbek companies and the Association of Exporters of Uzbekistan as well as local Indian companies operating in Uzbekistan were invited.

India-Uzbekistan Entrepreneurship Development Centre (IUEDC) which was run by the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmedabad on the premises of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan (CCIU) sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs completed its two-year project duration in November 2022. During this period, the resident Director of the Centre deputed from India conducted various training programs for Uzbek entrepreneurs including youth and women from various regions of Uzbekistan. The Centre developed training material including audio-visual resources. Information technology equipment for the Centre was donated by the Government of India in 2021. Following the successful completion of the project, the Centre was fully handed over to the CCIU.

An iconic event was held to mark the ongoing Azadi Ki Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) in March 2022 with Kathak performances by the Vande Bharat troupe led by Ms. Sharvari Bhide sent by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) in the cities of Tashkent, Kokand, and Urgench. During these performances, local Uzbek folk dance groups also participated making these performances equally the celebration of India-Uzbekistan cultural relations.

The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of India's independence was celebrated with extraordinary fervor with a special cultural evening presented at the centrally located Tashkent City Park in which a variety of Indian cultural performances were presented. The Mission honored 12 Uzbek personalities from different walks of life during the event to recognize their contribution towards strengthening India-Uzbekistan friendship. A mega cultural show was presented to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Uzbekistan in the prestigious Turkestan Hall in Tashkent in which Indian, Uzbek, and Kazakh artists performed Indian classical, folk, and Bollywood dances and songs. Performances of Rajasthani folk dances and songs by the folk group 'Dhood' were arranged to mark the celebrations of Deepawali in Tashkent, Samarkand, and Bukhara. These events were celebrated with the joint efforts of the Mission and the Indian diaspora in Uzbekistan. A large number of Indian students also participated in these events in Samarkand and Bukhara. In Tashkent, the second edition of the Indian diaspora's annual magazine 'Varshik Darpan 2022' was also released dedicated to the memory of iconic Indian freedom fighter Sri Aurobindo Ghosh marking his 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary and emphasizing the spirit of AKAM.

On the occasion of his visit to Samarkand, Prime Minister gifted a collection of books on India for the libraries of the Samarkand State University and the Silk Road University of Tourism, Samarkand. The books were handed over by the Ambassador to the Rectors of the universities on 16 September 2022. The mission opened India Study Centres at Navoi Pedagogical Institute and Tashkent Textile & Light Industry Institute in March 2022 and Andijan State University and Ferghana State University in April 2022. With these, the total number of India Study Centres functioning in Uzbekistan stands at 13. These Centres are playing a valuable role in forging academic ties between Indian and Uzbek universities and promoting studies relating to India in Uzbekistan.

## Russia

During the period, India-Russia Special & Privileged Strategic Partnership continued to strengthen despite the Covid-19-related challenges and the difficulties arising due to the conflict in Ukraine which began on 24 February 2022. This period was particularly significant for bilateral relations, as it marked the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties, under which various events were organized. Both sides worked towards enhancing cooperation in all areas including high-level political engagements, cooperation in the trade and economic sphere, defence, security, culture, and people-to-people ties.

Prime Minister and President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin maintained regular contact during this period. They held

four telephone conversations in this period, three of which (24 February, 2 March and 7 March) were focused on the evacuation of Indian students from Ukraine, among other issues. During the fourth conversation on 1 July 2022, the two leaders reviewed the implementation of the decisions taken during President Putin's visit to India in December 2021 and exchanged ideas on how bilateral trade in agricultural goods, fertilizers, and pharmaceutical products could be encouraged further. Both leaders also held a bilateral meeting in Samarkand, Uzbekistan on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit on 16 September 2022, where they discussed important issues of bilateral cooperation as well as regional and global issues of interest. Discussions pertaining to global food security, energy security, and availability of fertilizers in the context of the challenges emanating from the current geopolitical situation. Prime Minister reiterated his call for an early cessation of hostilities in Ukraine and the need for dialogue and diplomacy.

On 7 September 2022, Prime Minister virtually addressed the plenary session of the 7<sup>th</sup> Eastern Economic Forum attended by President Putin.

EAM and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov maintained regular contact and met five times. On 1 April 2022, Foreign Minister Lavrov visited New Delhi and met with EAM to discuss a number of bilateral, regional, and international issues. During FM Lavrov's call on Prime Minister, he expressed concern at the loss of lives and property in the conflict in Ukraine and called for an immediate cessation of hostilities. The two ministers also



EAM met the Foreign Minister of Russia Sergey Lavrov during his visit to Russia, November 2022

met on 08 July 2022 in Bali on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting; on 28 July 2022 in Tashkent on the sidelines of the SCO Foreign Ministers' Meeting; and in New York on 24 September 2022 on the sidelines of the 77<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly.

EAM visited Moscow on 8 November 2022 and met FM Lavrov to discuss bilateral issues and exchange views on various regional and international developments. EAM also met Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation and Minister of Trade and Industry, Denis V. Manturov, his co-chair for the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation and discussed issues pertaining to bilateral economic cooperation in various domains.

The Defence Minister held a telephone conversation with Russian Defence Minister Gen Sergei K. Shoigu on 26 October 2022 and discussed bilateral defense cooperation as well as the situation in Ukraine.

On 16 August 2022, the Defence Minister also took part in the 10<sup>th</sup> Moscow Conference on International Security and virtually addressed the Plenary Session on the topic "Global Security in a Multilateral World".

On 16 & 17 August 2022, National Security Advisor visited Moscow and held consultations with his counterpart Mr. Nikolai P. Patrushev on a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues in Moscow. He also held a meeting with DPM & Ministry of Industry & Trade Denis Manturov.

On 15-17 June 2022 Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers visited St. Petersburg, where he led the Indian delegation to St. Petersburg International Economic Forum and held a number of meetings, including with the then Minister of Industry & Trade Denis Manturov and Russian Minister of Health Mikhail Murashko. He participated in sessions on food security and healthcare.

On 31 January 2022, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei V. Vershinin visited New Delhi for consultations on UNSC related issues with Secretary West. He also called on the Foreign Secretary following the consultations.

On 28 & 29 July Secretary (West) visited Moscow for UN consultations with Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei V. Vershinin. He also met with Deputy Director of Russia's Federal Security Service Oleg V. Syromolotov to discuss issues of mutual interest in the sphere of counter-terrorism. He also held consultations on Arctic-related issues with Ambassador-at-Large on Arctic issues Nikolai Korchunov.

On 17 November 2022, DFM Vershinin visited New Delhi for consultations on UN and multilateral issues with Secretary West.

DFM also called on Foreign Secretary to brief him on Russia's position on UN related issues.

On 27 July 2022, DFM Igor V. Morgulov held a telephone conversation with the Foreign Secretary to discuss priority areas of bilateral cooperation as well as international and regional issues.

Enhancing trade and economic cooperation between India and Russia is a key priority for the political leadership of both the countries, as is clear by the revised targets of increasing bilateral investment to USD 50 billion and bilateral trade to USD 30 billion by 2025. During April – October 2022 India's trade with Russia was around USD 30 billion, which represents a strong growth in our bilateral trade. Bilateral investments between the two countries remains strong and surpassed the previous target of USD 30 billion in 2018, leading to revised target of USD 50 billion by 2025. The major bilateral investments by Russia in India are in the oil and gas, petrochemicals, banking, railways and steel sectors. The major investment of India in Russia is in the sector of Petrochemicals.

The second meeting of the Working Group on Agriculture was held on 9 June 2022 in video-conference format with participation of Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Deputy Minister of Agriculture of the Russian Federation.

Two rounds of discussions between India-Russia Committee for bilateral negotiations on the fertilizer trade were held on 27 September and 07 November 2022 for long term supply of fertilizers from Russia to India. Indian side was headed by Secretary Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers and his Russian counterpart Mikhail Ivanov of the Russian Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Russian Ministry of Defense conducted 10<sup>th</sup> edition of Moscow Conference on International Security (MCIS) on 16 August 2022. In the conference, Defence Minister's video message on 'Global Security in a multilateral World' was shown to the international audience. On the sidelines of the Forum, International Army Games-2022 were also held, in which 43 Indian Armed Force personnel participated in the 2 events of the Games.

India & Russia continued their close cooperation in the sphere of civil nuclear energy cooperation as part of the ongoing project at Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant. Construction work continued at Units 3 & 4 and 5 & 6 despite difficulties. Both sides agreed to work in close contact to find an amicable solution to the difficulties. Secretary Department of Atomic Energy accompanied NSA in August 2022 and held separate meeting with Director General Rosatom Alexey Likhachev on 18 August 2022 to discuss various aspects of cooperation in civil nuclear energy.

The traditionally strong cooperation in the field of space continued to strengthen under India's flagship manned spaceflight mission *Gaganyaan*. Chairman of ISRO, who accompanied the NSA in August 2022 also held a meeting with the Deputy Director General of Roscosmos, Sergey Savelyev to discuss bilateral cooperation.

Issues surrounding Russia-Ukraine conflict dominated at major international forums including the UNSC, the UNGA, the UNHRC, UNESCO, ILO, IPU, ITU, IAEA. India abstained at all the resolutions at the multilateral including the UNGA resolutions on suspension of Russia from the UNHRC on 7 April 2022, and territorial integrity of Ukraine on 12 October 2022. India called for an immediate cessation of hostilities and an end to the violence and urged both sides to return to the path of diplomacy and dialogue, and also expressed its support for all diplomatic efforts to end the conflict. India also drew attention to the impact of the conflict on issues including food, fertilizer and fuel security, particularly in the developing countries. India also welcomed signing of the "Black Sea Grain Initiative" in July 2022 as well as its extension in November 2022.

Russia also sent its representative to participate at the Special Meeting of the UNSC's Counter-terrorism Committee held on 28-30 October 2022. Director of the Department of New Challenges and Threats, Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Vladimir Tarabrin, participated at the meeting. At the 3rd Ministerial Conference on Counter-terrorism Financing "No Money for Terror" held on 18 & 19 November 2022, the State Secretary & the Deputy Director of Russia's agency Rosfinmonitoring German Neglyad led the Russian delegation.

India and Russia also coordinated on issues at other fora including BRICS, SCO and FATF.

On 13 April 2022, an event was organized in the Embassy to commemorate 75 years of India-Russia diplomatic relations with the participation of then DFM Igor Morgulov, former Russian diplomats with ties to India and representatives from MFA, Indologists, prominent think tanks, journalists, etc. President of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) visited Russia with Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra and Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly for the inauguration of a bust of the prominent author Annabhau Sathe at the Margarita Rudomino All-Russian State Library for Foreign Literature. At a separate event organized at the embassy on 13 September 2022, Dr Sahasrabuddhe awarded Prof Boris Zakharin the ICCR World Sanskrit Award and Irina Glushkova was presented the ICCR Distinguished Alumni Award.

The Mission closely cooperated with Russian Ministry of Defence in facilitating the evacuated of students from eastern Ukraine. Teams from the Mission visited the border for preparations.

The 8th International Day of Yoga was celebrated in 33 regions

of Russia. On 19 June 2022 in Moscow's Muzeon Park of Arts, more than 500 persons participated in Yoga demonstration and master classes on Ayurveda and meditation. As a precursor to the event, master classes of Yoga were organised in some of the leading parks in Moscow from 13-17 June 2022. On 21 June, Yoga Day was also celebrated in Moscow as a part of the the Guardian Ring of Yoga with the backdrop of the iconic location of Red Square and Kremlin.

A number of events were organised to mark the 75th Independence Day—Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, including lighting up of the iconic Evolution Tower in Moscow in the colors of Indian tricolour on 15 August 15, 2021. Some of the other major AKAM events included:

On 28 June 2022, as part of AKAM and 75th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations of India-Russia, Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre (JNCC) organized a book release ceremony at the D P Dhar Hall, Embassy of India, Moscow. The Russian translation of the book *The Heritage of Buddhist Pala Art* was released by the Ambassador along with the author of the book Dr Sudhakar Sharma, , Lalit Kala Akademi, Chairman Centre for Spiritual Culture, Samara and Deputy Chairman of the Moscow from Republic of Buryatia.

The 76<sup>th</sup> Independence Day was celebrated in the Embassy of India on August 15, 2022, with the Ambassador hoisting the flag and reading out the Hon'ble President's message. The event was attended by Indian community members and Embassy officials.

## Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

Over the past two decades, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has emerged as a key regional grouping in the Central Asian region that has provided a common platform to strengthen cooperation between Member States in security, trade, science & technology, and people-to-people contact. The year 2022 began with events under the Chairmanship of the Republic of Uzbekistan of SCO Council of Heads of State (SCO CHS). The activities of SCO were held against the backdrop of the pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine conflict. In the course of the year 2022, regular institutional and ministerial meetings of SCO and heads of relevant agencies were held. India actively took part in the initiatives introduced by the Uzbek as Chair.

### Summit of SCO Council of Heads of State (CHS)

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State was held on 16 September 2022 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. The meeting



was chaired by the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev. Prime Minister led the delegation and participated in the Summit. The SCO Summit was also attended by the leaders of the SCO Member States, Observer States, Secretary General of the SCO, Executive Director of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), President of Azerbaijan, President of Türkiye and the President of Turkmenistan invited as guests of honor. In his address, Prime Minister underlined India's civilizational connect with the SCO Member States. He stressed on keeping the needs and aspirations of Central Asian Republics (CARs) at the core of the work of SCO. Prime Minister also spoke about the worsening humanitarian situation in Afghanistan and held bilateral meetings with the leaders of Uzbekistan, Russia, Iran, and Turkey. The city of Varanasi has been nominated as the first ever SCO Tourism and Cultural capital during the year 2022-23 at the SCO Summit in Samarkand. At the Summit, the Council of Heads of State adopted the Samarkand Declaration, agreements on Plant Quarantine and Tourism, and MoU on Museum Affairs. At the conclusion of the Summit, the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev handed over the Chairmanship of SCO CHS to Prime Minister for the period from 17 September 2022 to 25 June 2023.

### Meeting of Council of Heads of Government (CHG)

The 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) was held on 01 November 2022 under the Chinese

Chairmanship in virtual format. The External Affairs Minister represented India at the meeting. The SCO CHG meeting was attended by SCO Member States, Observer States, the Secretary General of SCO, the Executive Director of SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), Turkmenistan, and other invited guests. In his address, the External Affairs Minister underlined India's strong cultural and historical connect with the SCO region and reiterated India's firm commitment towards deepening multilateral cooperation in the areas of food and energy security, climate change, trade and culture. He spoke about the launch of the global Mission 'LIFE' (Lifestyle for Environment) by Prime Minister on 20 October 2022, and its relevance to ensuring food and energy security. External Affairs Minister also drew attention to India's commitment to fighting the challenge of climate change and also our achievements made in this direction. He also emphasized India's strong recovery on the economic front after the pandemic. EAM also expressed interest in expanding India-SCO trade on the basis of fair market access. A Joint Communique of SCO Heads of Government and other Decisions was adopted at the conclusion of the meeting.

### Meeting of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM)

EAM attended the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Tashkent on 28 & 29 July 2022 where the Foreign Ministers of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia,



Prime Minister at the 22nd meeting of the Council of Heads of the SCO Member States in September 2022



Prime Minister joined the leaders of SCO Member States for discussions, Samarkand, Uzbekistan in September 2022

Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan also participated. The meeting discussed the preparations for the forthcoming SCO Summit of Heads of State that was held on 15-16 September 2022 at Samarkand on topical international and regional issues. EAM also held bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the SCO FMM (Foreign Ministers Meet) with counterparts from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan and with the Secretary General of the SCO.

### Meetings at the Level of Ministers

The Minister of Science and Technology virtually participated in the meeting of SCO Science & Technology Ministers on 8 April 2022. The Minister of State for Culture participated in the 19th Culture Ministers meeting of SCO Member States on 19 May 2022 in Tashkent. The Minister of Heavy Industry, virtually participated in the meeting of SCO Industry Ministers on 15 July 2022. The Minister of State for Home Affairs also participated in the meeting of SCO Ministers for Internal Affairs and Public Security on 18 August 2022 in Tashkent. The Deputy NSA also participated in the meeting of the Secretaries of the Security Councils of SCO Member States on 18 & 19 August in Tashkent.

The Defence Minister participated in the meeting of Defence Ministers of SCO Member States on 23-24 August 2022 in Tashkent. The Solicitor General of India participated virtually in

the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the SCO Prosecutor Generals held in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan on 23 September 2022.

### India's Chairmanship of SCO Council of Heads of State 2023

For the first time, India assumed the Chairmanship of the SCO Council of Heads of State on 17 September 2022. India has planned to host a number of institutional and ministerial level meetings under its Chairmanship of SCO CHS 2023.

The first-ever meeting of the SCO National Coordinators under India's Chairmanship was held in New Delhi from 17-20 October 2022 in a hybrid format. The SCO National Coordinators from Pakistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan were present in person while Russia, China, and Uzbekistan joined virtually. Joint Secretary (JS) and National Coordinator from India chaired the Council. The Deputy Secretary General from the SCO Secretariat in Beijing and the Deputy Director of SCO RATS along with their delegations were also present at the meeting. The main task of the SCO CNC (Council of National Coordinators) in New Delhi was to negotiate and approve the Joint Communique of the SCO Council of Heads of Government, held on 01 November 2022. The document was negotiated successfully under India's Chairmanship. The Indian chair also launched its Calendar of Events to be held during the course of its Chairmanship.

## CHAPTER

## 6

# Gulf, West Asia and North Africa

## Gulf

India's relations with the Gulf countries have continued to deepen during FY 2022-23 with exchange of high-level visits, increase in trade and investment and strengthening of relations in other areas including energy, security, defence, culture, education and health and food security. The subsiding of Covid-19 pandemic was a major factor in the intensification of exchanges between India and the Gulf countries. This was in line with the transformation in relations achieved under the leadership of Prime Minister.

The Gulf countries continued to be among the top trading partners of India. Investment flows also continued to be robust. As per Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) figures FDI from GCC countries into India between April 2000-September 2022 stood at about USD 19.66 billion. India's energy imports from the region also remain substantial.

Former Vice President visited UAE on 15 May 2022 to pay condolences on behalf of India on the demise of the UAE President and Abu Dhabi Ruler Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Prime Minister also visited the UAE on 28 June 2022 and paid personal condolences on his passing away. Prime Minister also congratulated Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al

Nahyan (MBZ) on his election as the new President of UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi. On 18 February 2022, Prime Minister and Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan held a Virtual Summit. The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the two countries entered into force on 1 May 2022. India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) also continued to discuss the re-launch of their FTA negotiations.

Former Vice President and Vice President paid visits to Qatar in June 2022 and November 2022, respectively. The latter visit was to attend the inaugural ceremony of the FIFA World Cup, at the invitation of the Emir of Qatar.

EAM paid visits to UAE and Saudi Arabia in 2022, while MoS (VM) visited Oman and Qatar. India hosted the visits of the Foreign Minister of UAE and GCC Secretary General. There were also several other ministerial level visits between India and the Gulf countries. Saudi Arabia, UAE and Oman started participating in various meetings under India's G20 presidency.

The 8.5 million strong Indian community continued to remain a strong bridge between India and the Gulf countries. A number of events were organized by Indian Embassies in the region to celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) in which the Indian community participated enthusiastically.

## Bahrain

The bilateral relations between India and the Kingdom of Bahrain continued their momentum and upward trajectory this year as well.

Prime Minister held telephonic conversation with the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Bahrain, Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, on 01 February 2022. Both leaders expressed satisfaction at the continued progress made in diverse sectors of the relationship including political, trade, investment, energy, health, security and people-to-people contacts.

Undersecretary for Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Bahrain, Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, visited India and co-chaired the 5<sup>th</sup> Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) in New Delhi on 28 March along with Secretary (CPV&OIA). Bahrain joined the International Solar Alliance as its 86<sup>th</sup> Member. The Instrument of Accession (IOA) was handed over by Dr. Shaikh Abdulla on the sideline of the 5<sup>th</sup> Foreign Office Consultations.

India joined Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) as Associate Partner in 2022 in keeping with India's commitment to collective responsibility of maritime security in the region. Deputy Chief of Naval Staff paid a visit to Bahrain in this regard. High level defence and security delegations from both sides took part in each other's flagship events including Defence Expo in India, and Bahrain International Air Show in Manama in November 2022. A delegation led by Deputy Commander of the Royal Bahrain Naval Force, Rear Admiral Salah Mohamed Hijres visited India from 17-21 October 2022 to represent Bahrain at Def Expo 2022 and at Indian Ocean Region Defence Ministers' Conclave.

A virtual meeting between Ministry of Ayush and National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA), Bahrain was held on 15 November 2022 to discuss possibilities of cooperation in the field of alternative medicine and Yoga. A two-member senior official Indian delegation represented India at the Manama Dialogue held from 18-20 November 2022.

India and Bahrain have continued to maintain robust growth in bilateral trade and investments. During April-October 2022, bilateral trade was USD 1.02 billion of which Indian exports were USD 0.45 billion and Indian imports 0.57 billion.

With the improving Covid situation in both countries, several business meetings and delegation visits have taken place between India and Bahrain. A delegation from the Economic Development Board (EDB) of Bahrain visited India from 04-11 September 2022. A NASSCOM delegation visited Bahrain on 23 May 2022. A 40-member Indian delegation representing 21 food and agri business companies and three farmer producer organisations, led by Federation of Indian Export Organizations

(FIEO) visited Bahrain on 02 and 03 November 2022. About 80 Indian companies including from Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council participated in the region's premier event, Jewellery Arabia 2022 in Bahrain.

Bahraini Government allotted land to Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) for construction of a Swaminarayan Temple in Bahrain. The celebration of the Golden Jubilee of establishment of Diplomatic Relations and Azadi Ka Amrit Mahostav (75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of India's Independence) also continued.

## Iran

India's relations with Iran are unique and historic. Iran is an important partner and a close neighbour.

During 2022-23 bilateral relations were strengthened through regular high-level meetings. Prime Minister met Iranian President, Dr Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi, in Samarkand on the sidelines of the 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO in September 2022. This was the first meeting between the two



Prime Minister met the President of Iran Ebrahim Raisi on the sidelines of the 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO, September 2022



leaders. Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, visited India in June 2022 and held delegation-level talks with EAM. The two countries signed the Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance on Civil and Commercial matters during the visit. Foreign Secretary held India-Iran Foreign Office Consultations with the Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs of Iran, Dr Ali Bagheri Kani, on 24 November 2022.

To continue cooperation in the field of regional connectivity, including the development of Shahid Behesti Terminal, Chabahar Port, along the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways visited Iran, including the Chabahar Port, in August 2022. During the visit, India and Iran signed a MoU on recognition of Certificates of Competency in Unlimited Voyages to help seafarers from both countries. The Shahid Behesti Terminal has so far handled 255 vessels, 16,250 TEUs (Twenty Foot Equivalent units) and 5 million tons of bulk and general cargo from various countries.

## Iraq

India has been a traditional partner of Iraq with strong historical and civilizational linkages.

EAM met President of the Kurdistan Regional Government, Nechirvan Barzani, on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference on 19 April 2022. Governor of Sulaymaniyah Province, Kurdistan Region of Iraq, Dr. Haval Abubaker, visited India from 11-21 April 2022 under the ICCR's Distinguished Visitors Programme 2022-23. A bilateral FOC between India and Iraq is likely to be held in February 2023. A high level delegation from Iraq participated in the 'No Money for Terror Conference' organized in New Delhi in November 2022.

Iraq is now the 7th largest trading partner of India and one of the largest suppliers of crude oil to India. Oil imports constituted the bulk of bilateral trade at USD 24.10 billion between April-October 2022-23.

India continued to assist Iraq in capacity building. For the year 2022-23, a total of 200 slots were allotted under the ITEC programme. A 20-member Iraqi IT team from Prime Minister's office underwent a cyber security training programme conducted by C-DAC Mohali from 17 October-11 November 2022. More than 50 Iraqi scholars have pursued higher studies under ICCR's General Scholarship Scheme (GCSS) in premiere institutions in India.

A large number of Iraqis visited India for medical treatment, tourism, higher education and business. More than 20,000 visas, mostly for medical treatment in India, were issued for the period January-October 2022. Thousands of Indians visited the holy shrine of Najaf and Karbala on the occasion of Arbaeen and Ashura, taking advantage of relaxed visa norms for religious

tourism to Iraq in 2022. It is estimated that more than 20,000 Indians are working on various projects in Iraq.

Indian yoga sessions by an expert yoga instructor were launched across Iraq. Indian Embassy in Baghdad organised 69 events under the aegis of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'. A special postage stamp of the value of IQD 1000 was brought out on the special occasion to celebrate 75 years of India's Independence. A bust of Gandhiji was unveiled at Sulemaniyah, the largest public park in the country.

## Kuwait

India and Kuwait enjoy close and friendly relations, anchored in the people to people connect and trade relations. The year 2021-22 marked the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Prime Minister congratulated Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al Ahmed Al-Sabah, on his appointment as Prime Minister of Kuwait on 25 July 2022. EAM had a telephonic conversation with Foreign Minister of Kuwait, Dr. Ahmed Nasser Mohammed Al-Sabah, on 22 January 2022. Discussions pertained to bilateral issues and sharing of perspectives on regional issues of mutual interest.

Indian Naval Ship (INS) TEG reached Shuwaikh Port, State of Kuwait on 18 July 2022 for Operational Turn Around (OTR). INS TIR and INS SUJATA along with Indian Coast Guard Ship SARATHI reached Shuwaikh Port of Kuwait on 04 October 2022. During the visit, Indian and Kuwaiti Naval Forces exchanged technical and operational experiences both onboard Indian Naval Ships and at the Training Institutes of Kuwait Navy.

India has consistently been among the top ten trading partners of Kuwait. Bilateral trade between April-October 2022 has stood at USD 8.51 billion, with Indian exports to Kuwait totaling USD 0.85 billion and imports amounting to USD 7.66 billion.

A delegation led by the Additional Director General of Foreign Trade visited Kuwait from 17-20 May 2022 for an anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of Mono Ethylene Glycol (MEG) from certain Kuwaiti companies. A delegation from FICCI with representatives from the Food and Beverage Sector visited Kuwait from 02-05 July 2022.

The size of the Indian community, estimated to be around 1 million, remained the largest expatriate community in Kuwait. Consular and attestation services were outsourced from January 2022. The Indian Embassy in Kuwait organized more than 200 activities to celebrate AKAM promoting the cultural heritage of India and its rich tradition. The Indian Embassy in Kuwait celebrated the International Yoga Day, Constitution Day, Ayurveda Day and organized a special cultural program called 'Namaste Kuwait' to mark the culmination of 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of India-Kuwait diplomatic relations.



Indian Naval Ship INS TEG at Shuwaikh Port, Kuwait for Official Turn Around, July 2022

## Oman

India and the Sultanate of Oman enjoy warm and cordial relations owing to the triple advantage of proximity, cultural familiarity and people-to-people ties. The relations between both countries have continued to strengthen which was also reflected in India extending special invitation to Oman to participate in the G20 Summit and meetings as a Guest country under India's G20 Presidency.

The Foreign Minister of Oman, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Albusaidi, visited India on 23 and 24 March 2022. During his visit, he met the former Vice President and held delegation level talks with EAM. Both Ministers reviewed bilateral relations in all domains including trade, energy, defence, security, tourism, health, higher education, space, cybersecurity, maritime and culture. An MoU between Oman Post and India Post for issuance of an Oman-India Joint Commemorative Stamp and a Plan of Cooperation (POC) in S&T for the year 2022-25 was also signed during the visit.

MoS (VM) visited Oman on 03 and 04 October 2022. During the visit, MoS met with Oman's Foreign Minister, H.E. Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Albusaidi; Undersecretary for Diplomatic Affairs in the Foreign Ministry, Sheikh Khalifa Alharthy; the Central Bank of Oman's (CBO) Executive President, Tahir bin Salim al Amri; and Head of Oman Investment Agency, Abdul Salam Al Murshidi. The CBO signed an MoU with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). An MoU between Oman News Agency and Asia News International which was signed in August 2022 was also exchanged.

Defence cooperation continued to remain strong between the two countries. Secretary General of Oman's Defence Ministry,

Dr Mohammed Al-Zaabi, paid his first official visit to India. He led the Omani delegation that participated in the 11<sup>th</sup> India-Oman Joint Military Cooperation Committee (JMCC) meeting held at New Delhi on 31 January and 01 February 2022. During his visit, SGMZ called on Raksha Mantri and held meetings with the Chief of Army Staff to review the bilateral cooperation in defence sector.

The Chief of Royal Navy of Oman, Rear Admiral Saif Nasser Al Rahbi, paid his maiden visit to India from 14-18 February. He interacted with all services Chiefs and the Foreign Secretary. Navy-to-Navy Staff Talks were also held from 15-18 February 2022. Four senior officers from the Royal Navy of Oman visited India for Staff Talks.

MoS for Health and Family Welfare of India visited Oman on November 24 and 25 and participated in the 'Third Global High-Level Ministerial Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance' held in Muscat. On the sidelines of the Conference, she met with the Health Minister of Oman, Dr. Hilal Al Sabti, and discussed ways to deepen bilateral cooperation in the field of health and wellness.

Bilateral trade between India and Oman has shown strong growth, touching almost USD 10 billion in 2022, a jump of almost 90% over the previous year. The 10<sup>th</sup> India-Oman Joint Commission Meeting was held on 11 May 2022 at Delhi which was co-chaired by Commerce Ministers of India and Oman. The Omani delegation was led by Minister of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion, Qais bin Mohammed bin Moosa Al Yousef. Both sides agreed to enhance collaboration in food and agriculture, renewable energy including Green Hydrogen, health and pharmaceuticals, mining, manufacturing, IT, sports, culture, and tourism. A JCM was jointly organized by FICCI and

the Oman Chamber of Commerce & Industry (OCCI) on 12 May 2022. India is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest market for Oman's crude oil exports for the year 2022.

Bilateral investment flows have also been robust, as reflected in numerous joint ventures, established both in India and Oman. Indian firms have invested heavily in Oman in various sectors like iron and steel, cement, fertilizers, textile, cables, chemicals, automotive, etc.

Several events were organized by the Embassy of India, Muscat under AKAM. 'Muscat Yog Mahotsav' was celebrated with 75 events across Oman over 75 days. Various activities like 'Happinezz Workshop' for Children with Special Needs, tree plantation drive, health checkup & Consular camp, mega blood donation drive, beach cleaning across Oman and wadi cleaning drive etc were organized under Sewa Utsav during March-April 2022.

## Qatar

The historical and cultural ties shared by the two countries continued to grow with regular high level engagements and bilateral visits. The former Vice President paid an official visit to Qatar from 04-07 June 2022. This was the first ever visit by an Indian Vice President to Qatar. Vice President called on Father Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani and met Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin

Abdulaziz Al Thani, on 05 June 2022. Both sides held delegation level talks and reviewed bilateral relations including trade, investment, economic and security cooperation. Vice President also launched "India-Qatar Start Up bridge" that aims to link the start-up ecosystems of the two countries.

Vice-President visited Qatar on the invitation of Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on 20-21 November 2022 to attend the Opening Ceremony of the FIFA World Cup 2022. On the sidelines, Vice President interacted with the Emir, UN Secretary General, FIFA President, International Olympic Committee President and several other world leaders.

The Emir held a phone call with Prime Minister on 29 October 2022. They agreed to jointly celebrate 50 years of India-Qatar diplomatic relations in 2023.

On 09 February 2022, EAM visited Qatar and held discussions with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, regarding strengthening the bilateral relations and expanding political, economic and security partnership. Both the ministers jointly unveiled the foundation stone at the Chancery Complex of the Indian Embassy at Diplomatic Enclave in Doha. Earlier, on 22 January 2022, EAM held a phone call with the DPM and the FM and reviewed aspects of the bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on the latest developments on Afghanistan and other regional issues.



10<sup>th</sup> India-Oman Joint Commission Meeting co-chaired by Commerce Ministers of India and Oman, May 2022





Vice President and the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani at the Opening Ceremony of the FIFA World Cup, November 2022

EAM and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Qatar jointly unveiled the foundation stone at the Chancery Complex of the Indian Embassy in Doha, February 2022

MoS (VM) paid an official visit to Qatar from 08-10 May 2022 and had discussions on bilateral relations with the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Qatar, Sultan bin Saad Al Muraikhi, and Speaker of the Shura Council, Hassan bin Abdullah Al Ghanim.

Qatar's Foreign Minister's Special Envoy for Counter terrorism and Mediation in Conflict Resolution, Dr. Mutlaq bin Majed

Al Qahtani, participated in the special meeting of the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee on combating the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes, in Mumbai on 28-29 October 2022 and 'No Money for Terror Conference' held in New Delhi on 18 and 19 November 2022.

The 7<sup>th</sup> JWG Meeting between India and Qatar on Labour and Manpower Development was held on 04 and 05 May 2022 in New Delhi. Both sides reiterated their commitment towards the protection and promotion of labour rights and agreed to streamline recruitment and enhance cooperation for time-bound resolution of issues of mutual concern.



EAM and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Qatar Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani jointly unveiled the foundation stone at the Chancery Complex of the Indian Embassy in Doha, February 2022



INS Kolkata participated in the 7th edition of Doha International Maritime Defense Exhibition and Conference (DIMDEX) 2022, Qatar during 21-23 March 2022. Qatar Emiri Naval Force participated as Observer in Biennial multilateral Naval exercise MILAN 2022 hosted by the Indian Navy in Visakhapatnam from 25-28 February 2022. Qatar Armed Force delegation participated in the DEFEXPO-22 at Gandhinagar from 18-22 October 2022. Qatar Coast Guard delegation participated in the 10<sup>th</sup> Search & Rescue Exercise conducted by Indian Coast Guard at Chennai from 26-28 August 2022.

The bilateral trade stood at USD 11.3 billion from April-October 2022. India gave exemptions for supply of wheat and sugar to Qatar. Mutual investments continued to be robust between the two countries.

The Indian diaspora is estimated to be around 8.45 lakhs and is the single largest expatriate community in Qatar. A total of 85 events were conducted under AKAM highlighting myriad dimensions of Indian culture. 'Passage to India', an Indian community festival was held from 24-26 March 2022. Foreign Secretary inaugurated the festival and MoS (VM) sent a video message to the Indian community on the occasion. Indian community in Qatar made it to the Guinness World Record for the most nationalities in a yoga session after Indian Sports Centre under the aegis of Embassy of India successfully conducted a yoga lesson for 114 nationalities on 25 March 2022.

## Saudi Arabia

India and Saudi Arabia have continued to cement their strategic partnership. In pursuance of the Strategic Partnership Council (SPC) Agreement signed by India and Saudi Arabia during the visit of Prime Minister to Riyadh in October 2019, EAM visited Saudi Arabia from 10-12 September 2022. He and Saudi Foreign Minister, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, co-chaired the first Ministerial Meeting of the Committee on Political, Security, Social and Cultural Cooperation of the SPC in Riyadh on 11 September 2022.

During his visit to Riyadh, EAM also met the Secretary General of the GCC, Dr. Nayef Falah M. Al-Hajraf, and both signed an MoU on Mechanism of Consultations between India and the GCC. The Secretary General visited India on 24 November 2022, during which he met EAM and the Commerce and Industry Minister (CIM).

An eight member Saudi delegation comprising senior officers from the Saudi Ministry of Defence visited DEFEXPO 2022 at Gandhinagar from 18-20 October 2022. INS Tarangini visited Saudi Arabia in October 2022 and earlier INS Chennai and INS Aditya had visited Saudi Arabia in June 2022. Four ships of the Indian Navy's First Training Squadron visited Saudi Arabia in May 2022.



EAM co-chaired the first Ministerial Meeting of the Committee on Political, Security, Social and Cultural Cooperation of the SPC with the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia Prince Faisal Bin Farhan Al Saud in Riyadh, September 2022



India-UAE Virtual Summit, June 2022

The CIM visited Riyadh on 18 and 19 September 2022 to co-chair, along with the Saudi Energy Minister, Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud, the first Ministerial Meeting of the Committee on Economy and Investments of SPC. The Saudi Energy Minister also paid a visit to India on 21 October 2022 at the invitation of CIM. Besides official meetings, he also interacted with some of the top business and industry leaders. Bilateral trade during 2022-2023 (April-October) reached USD 32.19 billion. Saudi Arabia remained a major energy partner of India.

The Minister for Chemical and Fertilizers visited Riyadh on 25 and 26 August 2022 and met Saudi Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture, Abdulrahman bin Abdulmohsen Al-Fadli and Saudi Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources, Bandar bin Ibrahim Al Khorayef.

Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change addressed the Middle East Green Initiative Summit on 08 November on the sidelines of COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh. Both countries also worked together in the G20.

India Week was celebrated from 27-29 November 2022, as part of Riyadh Season 2022.

Saudi Arabia is home to approximately 2.5 million Indian expatriates.

## UAE

India and the UAE enjoy traditionally close and friendly relations

that are centuries old. The bilateral relationship, which has received special attention under the leadership of Prime Minister, has seen a complete transformation since 2014. UAE was extended a special invitation to participate in G20 as a Guest country during India's presidency.

Prime Minister visited UAE on 28 June 2022 when Prime Minister had a stop-over at Abu Dhabi while returning from Munich, Germany after attending the G7 summit. This was a special visit of Prime Minister to offer his condolences on the demise of former President of the UAE, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed, and to congratulate President Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan on succeeding Sheikh Khalifa.

Earlier, both leaders held a Virtual Summit on 18 February 2022 when the historic India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was signed and the Joint Vision Statement was issued. Both leaders also launched a Joint Commemorative Stamp to mark 75 years of India's Independence (Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav), 50 years of the formation of the UAE and 50 years of the India-UAE diplomatic relationship.

The first summit of I2U2 (India, Israel, UAE and the US) took place in hybrid format in July 2022 in which Prime Minister and the UAE President Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan participated virtually while Prime Minister of Israel and the US President joined together from Tel-Aviv. During this summit, projects worth USD 2 billion were announced in the field of food security in India.

In the last one year there have been several Ministerial visits from both sides. At the Foreign Minister level, UAE Foreign Minister, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed (ABZ) visited India on 21 and 22 November 2022 and met with EAM. In the last one year there have been multiple visits of EAM to the UAE, most recently in September 2022. During his visit in September 2022, EAM co-chaired the 14<sup>th</sup> Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Strategic Dialogue with his UAE counterpart. EAM also met the UAE Foreign Minister on several other occasions including *inter alia* on the margins of G-20 meetings in Indonesia and UNGA in New York. EAM also had a trilateral meeting with UAE and French Foreign Ministers on the margins of the UNGA.

The UAE's MoS (International Cooperation), Reem Al Hashimy, attended the Special Meeting of UNSC Counter Terrorism which was held in Mumbai and Delhi in October 2022. Ms. Reem Al Hashimy also had a bilateral meeting with EAM on the margins of the meeting in Delhi. A UAE delegation also participated in the 'No Money for Terror Conference' in New Delhi in November 2022.

The Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Housing and Urban Affairs visited the UAE from 15-17 November 2022 to take part in the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition Conference (ADIPEC). On 05 December 2022, MoS (Space, Science & Technology and PMO) visited the UAE to attend the inaugural Abu Dhabi Space Debate (ADSD).

The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) came into force on 01 May 2022. Bilateral trade between India and UAE reached USD 50.45 billion in the period April-October 2022. Of this, Indian exports were USD 18.24 billion registering a growth of 18.8% compared to the same period in last FY. Indian imports in April-October 2022 were USD 32.21 billion which saw a growth of 32.8%.

Following the CEPA there have been a number of visits by business delegations from both sides, including that of UAE Minister of Economy, Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri, to India in May 2022. Some of the Indian states also had G2G and G2B meetings with the UAE stakeholders for investment and business opportunities on both sides. Chief Minister of Haryana visited UAE in October 2022 and a visit of a delegation from the UP Government also took place.

The CIM and ADIA Chairman, H.H. Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, held the 10<sup>th</sup> High Level Task Force for Investment (HLTFI) meeting in October 2022 in Mumbai. The Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) met in May 2022; 4<sup>th</sup> Joint Committee on Consular Affairs (JCCA) in October 2022; and 1<sup>st</sup> Joint Working Group on Manpower in October 2022.

Dubai Expo 2020 received over 24 million footfall including over 2 million footfall at the India Pavilion. The India Pavilion was also selected as one of the four Pavilions by the Dubai Government

that will remain permanent and the Embassy is planning to convert it into an innovation and startup hub.

The UAE continued to host the largest Indian community numbered at about 3.5 million. A new Hindu temple was inaugurated in Dubai in October this year and the first Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi which is under construction received full support of the Government.

## Yemen

India's relations with Yemen are centuries old with historical trade links and strong people-to-people connect. Both countries continue to maintain close ties despite the adverse security situation in Yemen. India remains committed to a peacefully negotiated, Yemeni-led and Yemeni-owned political settlement of the conflict. India's views in support of the ceasefire between the parties to the conflict in Yemen and for negotiations for the restoration of peace were regularly articulated in the UN Security Council in 2022.

The Secretary (CPV&OIA) met the Minister of Foreign Affairs & Expatriates of Yemen, Ahmed Awad Bin Mubarak, on the margins of 9<sup>th</sup> Global Forum of UN Alliance of Civilizations in Fez, Morocco on 24 November 2022. Both sides discussed the situation in Yemen and bilateral cooperation to support the people of Yemen.

The Government of India took steps to address food security in Yemen by prioritizing wheat exports to the country despite national regulations on wheat exports. In this regard, India also hosted a visit of the Yemen Vice Minister of Commerce and Industry on 18 July 2022. India's exports to Yemen showed growth of 66% Y-to-Y between April-October 2022 and reached USD 0.61 billion. India's imports from Yemen during the same period were 0.09 billion.

Thousands of Yemenis continued to visit India to receive medical treatment in Indian hospitals. In 2022, 58 Yemeni nationals were provided ICCR scholarships for higher studies in India.

Due to the fragile political and security situation in Yemen, the Embassy of India to Yemen was relocated to Djibouti in April 2015 and has since been functioning from a Camp office in Djibouti. The Embassy continues to provide visa services to Yemeni nationals and consular services and assistance to the Indian community in Yemen.

## West Asia and North Africa

Despite the constraint of the pandemic, India's engagement with the countries of the WANA region further intensified during the year. The year marked 75 Years of the establishment

of diplomatic relations between India and Egypt and 30 years of the establishment of full diplomatic relations between India and Israel.

The year also witnessed momentum in exchange for high-level visits between India and WANA countries. From our side, EAM visited Egypt, MoS (VM) Djibouti and Eritrea and Secretary (CPV & OIA) Syria, Lebanon and Morocco. The incoming visits from the region included that of the Vice President of South Sudan, Dr James Wani Igga; Defence Minister of Israel, Lt. Gen (Res.) Benny Gantz; Foreign Minister of Syria, Dr Faysal Mikdad; Minister Delegate for Digital Transformation of Morocco, Dr Ghita Mezzour; Minister of Investments of Jordan, Kheiry Y. Amr; and Minister of Trade and Supply of Sudan, Amal Salih Saad Mohamed. Prime Minister virtually participated in the first Leaders' summit of I2U2 on 14 July 2022.

Several high-level delegations from these countries participated in our flagship events, including CII-EXIM Bank Conclave, India-Africa Defence Dialogue (IADD)-DEFEXPO-2022, 'No Money for Terror' conference, among others.

## Algeria

Special Envoy and In-charge of International Security Issues in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Algeria, Ahmed Benyamina, visited India on 18 and 19 November 2022 to participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ministerial Conference on Counter-Terrorism Financing "No Money for Terror".

India remained proactively engaged with Algeria during the year, particularly in the field of defence. INS Tarangini made a port call at Algiers on 07-09 June 2022 followed by INS Tarkash undertaking a bilateral PASSEX with the Algerian Navy on 20 July 2022. A 27-member Indian Air Force team visited Blida, Algeria in August 2022 to participate in the 9<sup>th</sup> International Army Games.

## Djibouti

MoS (VM) paid a bilateral visit to Djibouti on 21 and 22 September 2022. This was the first Ministerial level visit from India to Djibouti since the opening of India's resident Mission in Djibouti in April 2019. He called on Djibouti's Prime Minister, Abdoukader Kamil Mohamed, and met with the Foreign Minister, Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, and other dignitaries and discussed bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. An Agreement on the exemption from visa requirements for holders of Diplomatic & Official Passports and an MoU between the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service and the Institute of Diplomatic Studies of Djibouti was signed during the visit.

Djibouti's Minister of Energy & Natural Resources, Yonis Ali Guedi, during his visit to India from 17-20 October 2022, held bilateral talks with the Minister of New & Renewable Energy on the margins of the 5<sup>th</sup> Assembly of International Solar Alliance.

More than 10 Indian Naval Ships made port calls at Djibouti for Operational Turn Around (OTR) and anti-piracy patrol in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

## Egypt

Bilateral engagement with Egypt substantially intensified during the year which also marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Prime Minister invited Egypt's President Abdel Fattah El Sisi as Chief Guest on Republic Day 2023. EAM, during his visit to Egypt from 14-16 October 2022, handed over the invitation to President Sisi which was accepted by the latter. India has also invited Egypt as a Guest Country during its G20 Presidency in 2022-23.

EAM during the visit also held meetings with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt, Sameh Shoukry. Prior to this, EAM and the Foreign Minister Shoukry met in New York on 19 September 2022 on the sidelines of the 77<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly (UNGA) and discussed cooperation in the areas of defence, trade & investments, renewable energy and education.

The Raksha Mantri visited Egypt from 18-21 September 2022 and held meetings with President Sisi and Minister of Defense General Mohammad Zaki on various aspects of defence cooperation. An MoU on Defence Cooperation was signed during the visit. From the Egyptian side, Air Marshal Mohamed Abbas Helmy, Commander-in-Chief of the Egyptian Air Force, visited India from 04-07 July 2022. Indian Air Force participated in the Tactical Leadership Programme of the Egyptian Air Force Weapons School from 23 June-22 July 2022. Indian Navy ships undertook several port calls at Egyptian ports during the year.

A high-level delegation led by Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change visited Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt to participate in CoP-27 from 05-08 November 2022.

Meetings of several bilateral institutional mechanisms took place during the year, including the 1<sup>st</sup> JWG on Health & Medicine on 11 April 2022; 1<sup>st</sup> JWG on Animal Husbandry, Dairy & Fisheries on 25 October 2022; 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of Joint Trade Commission and Joint Business Council in Cairo on 25 and 26 July 2022.

## Eritrea

MOS (VM) visited Eritrea on 14 and 15 September 2022, the first-ever bilateral visit from India to Eritrea. During the visit,



MoS called on Eritrean President, Isaias Afwerki, and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Osman Saleh Mohammed, and discussed diverse areas of bilateral cooperation and regional and global issues of mutual concern. The 1<sup>st</sup> Training Squadron of the Indian Navy (INS Tir, Sujata and ICGS Sarathi) made a port call at Massawa Port of Eritrea on 23-25 April 2022.

## Israel

On 29 January, Prime Ministers of India and Israel virtually inaugurated the year-long celebrations of the establishment of 30 years of diplomatic relations. A special logo was created to mark the occasion. In addition, iconic buildings in India and Israel were illuminated simultaneously.

Prime Minister participated in the first leaders' virtual Summit of I2U2, along with the Prime Minister of Israel, President of the UAE and President of the USA on 14 July 2022. The I2U2 Group was conceptualized during the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the four countries held in Tel Aviv on 18 October 2021.

From 08-11 May, Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare paid an official visit to Israel at the invitation of his Israeli counterpart. Apart from officials, he interacted with Israeli agro-tech companies and farmers on modern farming practices and technologies. Ms Eynat Shlien, Head of MASHAV, the International Development Cooperation Agency of Israel, visited India from 09-14 June 2022.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister of Israel, Lt Gen (Res) Benjamin Gantz, paid an official visit to India from 01-03 June during which he called on Prime Minister and met with Raksha Mantri and NSA. During the visit, both sides signed a Vision Document for Defence Cooperation and a Letter of Intent for Cooperation between the Defence Research & Development Organization (DRDO) of India and Israel's Directorate for Defence Research & Development (DDR) in Futuristic Defence Technologies.

The 10th Joint Committee on Science and Technology cooperation was held on 25 July 2022 via virtual mode. From 14-18 November 2022, a delegation led by Secretary DST visited Israel for the 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Board meeting of the India-Israel Industrial R&D and Innovation Fund (I4F).

## Jordan

EAM met with the Foreign Minister of Jordan, Ayman Safadi, on the sidelines of the 77<sup>th</sup> UNGA on 23 September 2022 and held discussions on bilateral ties and regional developments. Minister of Investment of Jordan, Kheiry Y. Amr, accompanied by Chairman of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC), paid

a visit to India and met with Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers on 22 and 23 March 2022 and held discussions on investment ties and supply of phosphate and potash fertilizers from Jordan to India.

The Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers visited Jordan from 13-15 May 2022, to further enhance bilateral cooperation in the fertilizer sector. During the visit, JPMC signed MoUs with a number of Indian fertilizer companies and manufacturers worth USD 1.5 billion. Jordan's Arab Potash Company and Indian Potash Limited signed a five-year MoU for a consistent supply of Potash to India.

## Lebanon

Secretary (CPV&OIA) paid a bilateral visit to Lebanon on 03 and 04 October 2022. During the visit, he called on the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Abdallah Bou Habib, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hani Al-Chemaitelly, and the Governor of Beirut, Marwan Abboud. On behalf of the Indian government, he donated 5 Made in India Motorbikes, each to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and Beirut Governorate. On 19 December 2022, a 45 KV Generator was donated to MOFA, Lebanon.

Two Quick Impact projects, the Construction of a Reception Cabin and Reforestation with 800 seedlings at Shouf Biosphere Reserve were completed and inaugurated on 05 June 2022. The Indian Battalion in UNIFIL continue to do commendable humanitarian work and share a great rapport with the civil society of Lebanon.

## Libya

India and Libya have traditionally enjoyed warm and friendly relations, which continued to grow during the year after the Ambassador of India to Tunisia was concurrently accredited to Libya in late 2021. The Libyan side also significantly expanded its Mission's staff strength in New Delhi, which is indicative of its interest to increase engagement with India.

EAM met the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Libya, Dr Najla Al Mangoush, on 20 September 2022 on the sidelines of UNGA and reviewed different facets of bilateral relations. Dr Mangoush briefed EAM on the evolving political situation in Libya.

## Morocco

The bilateral Relations between India and Morocco continued to deepen and diversify during the year. The 5<sup>th</sup> India-Morocco Foreign Office Consultations was co-chaired by Secretary

(CPV&OIA) in Rabat on 24 and 25 November 2022 where both sides resolved to further expand and strengthen bilateral partnerships in diverse fields. During the visit, Secretary (CPV&OIA) called on Ms. Leila Benali, Minister of Energy Transition & Sustainable Development and discussed areas of bilateral collaboration, including fertilizers, renewable energy and climate change. He also represented India at the 9<sup>th</sup> Global Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilizations in Fez, Morocco on 21-22 November 2022.

Defence Cooperation continued to grow as INS Tarkash undertook Maritime Patrol Exercise (MPX) with Royal Moroccan Naval Ship Hassan II on 26 July 2022, off Port Casablanca.

The Moroccan Minister Delegate for Digital Transformation and Administration Reforms, Dr Ghita Mezzour, paid a working visit to India from 26 May-04 June 2022.

The Comptroller & Auditor General of India led an Indian delegation to Morocco from 15-18 September 2022. During the visit, an MoU on cooperation between the Supreme Audit Institutions of the two countries was signed. An MoU was signed between National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and the Moroccan Agency for Solar Energy (MASEN) to work together in the renewable energy sector in New Delhi on 20 July 2022.

## Palestine

India continued its support for the Palestinian cause to establish a sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine co-existing peacefully with Israel. India also reiterated its hope for any early resumption of the dialogue between Israel and Palestine for moving towards a comprehensive and negotiated resolution. The Government of India continued to pursue its policy of developmental assistance to Palestine. India also contributed USD 5 million to the United Nations Relief & Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) as per its commitment for the year 2022.

## Somalia

India continued to condemn major terrorist attacks in Somalia during the year. EAM held a telephone call with the Foreign Minister of Somalia, Abdisaid M. Ali, on 19 April 2022. They discussed the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), maritime piracy issues and other matters of common interest including strengthening cooperation in areas of trade, security, health & education.

MoS (RRS) met the State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Somalia, Ali Mohamed Omar, on the sidelines of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Cabinet

Meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 24 November 2022 and exchanged views on various matters of bilateral and multilateral engagement between India and Somalia.

## South Sudan

Bilateral relations between India and South Sudan continued to expand during the year. A high-level delegation led by Dr James Wani Igga, Vice President (Economic Cluster) participated in CII-Exim Bank India-Africa Growth Partnership Summit on 19 and 20 July 2022 in New Delhi. The Deputy Defence Minister represented South Sudan at the India-Africa Defence Dialogue held on the sidelines of DefExpo-2022 in Gandhinagar on 18 October 2022.

Two bilateral assistance projects, namely "Installation of Four Handpumps at Mangalla Internally Displacement Persons' Camp" and "A 6-week Artificial Limbs Fitment Camp at Juba" were executed in June-July 2022. In May 2022, a group of 31 South Sudanese diplomats were trained in SSIFS, New Delhi.

## Sudan

Minister of Trade and Supply of Sudan, Amal Salih Saad Mohamed, visited India to attend the 17<sup>th</sup> CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Growth Partnership held in New Delhi on 19 and 20 July 2022. She also met with MoS for Commerce & Industry.

A high-level delegation led by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Defence of Sudan, Lt. Gen. Isam Mohamed Hassan Karar, participated in Second India Africa Defence Dialogue (IADD)-2022 and Indian Ocean Region Defence Ministers' Conclave.

Minister for Higher Education and Scientific Research of Sudan, Mohamed Hassan Dhahab, visited India to attend the 17th edition of FICCI Higher Education Summit and Exhibition 2022 held in New Delhi from 17-19 November 2022. Sudan's Director General of Police Forces, Lt. Gen. Police Anan Hamid Muhammad Omar, participated in the 'No Money for Terror' (NMFT) Conference held in New Delhi from 17-18 November 2022.

## Syria

Syrian Foreign Minister, Dr Fayssal Mekdad, paid a bilateral visit to India from 17-20 November 2022 during which he called on Vice President, held discussions with EAM on a wide range of issues of mutual interest, interacted with the business

community at CII and delivered an address at the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA). Prior to this, EAM met Dr Mekdad on the sidelines of UNGA in September 2022.

The Secretary (CPV&OIA) paid a bilateral visit to Syria on 02 October 2022 during which he inaugurated the Second Artificial Limb Fitment Camp in Damascus and called on the Syrian Foreign Minister, Dr Fayssal Mekdad. He also announced the Indian Government's 200 new scholarships to Syrian students during the academic year 2022-23. A total of 531 persons benefited from the Limb Camp.

## Tunisia

The first meeting of JWG on Judicial Cooperation between India and Tunisia was held virtually on 13 January. During the

meeting, comprehensive discussions were held on ways to further strengthen collaboration between the two judiciaries and learn from each other's best practices. The seventh meeting of India-Tunisia JWG on Drugs and Pharmaceuticals was held virtually on 14 January 2022. Both sides agreed on the need for a mechanism for the exchange of information and experience on the grant of marketing authorizations and technical control on imports and increased collaboration on R&D.

## League of Arab States

EAM, during his visit to Egypt, called on Secretary General of the League of Arab States (LAS), Ahmed Aboul Gheit, at their Headquarters in Cairo on 15 October 2022 and discussed a range of issues of mutual interests. Both sides agreed to organize various elements of the India-LAS Executive Programme and Foreign Ministers' Meeting in 2023.

## CHAPTER

## 7

## Africa

## Central and West Africa

The Central & West region of Africa covers 25 countries of west, northwest, central and southwest Africa. The region is home to Africa's largest population and fastest growing economies with huge reserves of energy resources and minerals. India sources about 18% of its crude oil requirement from this region. Thus, the region is the important source of energy supplies for India and the total bilateral trade during the year 2021-22 was USD 39.57 billion.

India's diplomatic presence in Africa expanded with the opening of a resident Mission in Chad during the year. With this, out of the 25 countries in the Central & West Africa region, resident Indian Missions are in operation in 20 countries. India largely enjoys a warm and friendly interaction with most of the countries of the region. All 25 Central & West African countries continued to support India's candidature in various elections in the United Nations and related international bodies.

India continued its development partnership association with Africa by implementing various lines of credit. So far, India has extended over USD 5.3 billion worth of credit to the region, out of which about USD 2 billion has already been utilised and USD 2.45 billion is under implementation.

## Angola

The year 2022 witnessed uncertainty, tensions due to electoral campaigns for the General elections held in August 2022. In the elections, the ruling party the Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola (MPLA) led by Joao Lourenco retained the power.

Angola has taken over the Vice Presidency of the AU in March 2022 and is also currently heading the International Conference of the Great Lake Region (CIRGL) and the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) organisation for the biennium 2021-2023. Secretary (ER) attended 10<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State and Government of organisation of African, Pacific and Caribbean States (OAPCS) held in Luanda, Angola from 9-10 December 2022.

Minister of National Defence Joao Ernesto dos Santos "Liberdade" led a delegation to participate in 12<sup>th</sup> Edition of DefExpo 2022 from 18-22 October 2022. On the sidelines, Angolan Minister of Defence participated in 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the India-Africa Defence Dialogue (IADD) and held bilateral talks with Raksha Mantri.

Angolan delegation, led by the Secretary of State for the Interior, Jose Paulino da Silva, attended 90<sup>th</sup> Session of the General



Assembly of the International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL) held in New Delhi from 18-21 October 2022.

Relations with Angola gained further impetus during the year. Angola continued to support India's candidature to various posts in the UN and other multilateral fora e.g., IMO, Interpol, UNESCO, WHO, IAEA's External Auditor and ITU during the year.

India's bilateral trade with Angola is on an upward trajectory with our exports reaching USD 452 million and imports reaching USD 2.72 billion during 2021-22. At present Angola is being benefited from rising oil prices.

The ongoing Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) celebrations have received encouraging participation of the Angolan Government in the events such as social donation camp, school redevelopment projects, blood donation etc.

## Benin

India-Benin bilateral engagement gained in substance with the landmark State visit of the President of India to Benin in July 2019. The High Commissioner of India visited Benin on 09 and 10 November 2022 and presented his letter of credence to President of Benin Patrice Talon at Cotonou. During this visit, the High Commissioner visited Primus Diagnostic Centre, Indian International School (IISB), and interacted with the Indian Community based in Cotonou. He also attended the IBSA-UNDP meeting hosted by the Ambassador of South Africa to Benin with the Ambassador of Brazil in Cotonou. The bilateral trade between India and Benin in 2021-22 was to the tune of USD 1.18 billion compared to USD 881.17 million in 2020-21. Beninese officials continued to benefit from the ITEC programme, ICCR scholarships, as well as scholarships under the e-VidyaBharati and e-ArogyaBharati(e-VBAB) project. The Indian community in Benin as well as Beninese nationals participated in the 8th International Day of Yoga (IDY) in June 2022, National Unity Day 2022 etc.

## Burkina Faso

Relations between India and Burkina Faso continued warm and cordial during the year. Burkina Faso's Minister of Industrial Development, Commerce, Handicrafts, Small and Medium Enterprises Abdoulaye Tall visited India on 19 and 20 July 2022, to participate in the 17<sup>th</sup> CII – Exim Bank Conclave on India – Africa Growth Partnership. A Burkinabé delegation led by Permanent Representative Interpol/Ouaga National Central Bureau, Daoud Traoré, visited India to participate in the 90<sup>th</sup> Interpol General Assembly held in New Delhi from 18-21 October 2022. Students from Burkina Faso continued to benefit from the

ITEC programme and ICCR scholarships. Bilateral trade between India and Burkina Faso stood at USD 622.09 million during the year 2021-22. Minister for Sports, Youth and Employment of Burkina Faso participated in 8<sup>th</sup> IDY jointly organised by our Mission and 'Hatha-Yoga Club of Burkina Faso', a reputed, 30-year-old institution in Ouagadougou.

## Cabo Verde

India and Cabo Verde had an active engagement during the year strengthening the bilateral relations. Janine Tatiana Santos Leles, Minister of State, National Defense and Territorial Cohesion of Cabo Verde, visited India for the 12<sup>th</sup> DefExpo-2022 and participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> India-Africa Defence Dialogue held at Gandhinagar from 18-22 October 2022. On the sidelines, the Minister held bilateral talks with Raksha Mantri. Cabo Verde continued to benefit from the ITEC programme and ICCR scholarships. A cultural troupe from Cabo Verde participated in the 35<sup>th</sup> International Surajkund Crafts Mela held from 20 March-04 April 2022. An 8-member cultural troupe from Cabo Verde also participated in the Lusophone Cultural Festival organised by ICCR in Goa from 03-06 Dec 2022. The bilateral trade between India and Cabo Verde stood USD 10.90 million during the year 2021-22.

## Cameroon

In July 2022, Minister Delegate to the Minister of External Relations in-charge of Cooperation with the Commonwealth Felix Mbayu led a Cameroonian delegation to India to attend 17<sup>th</sup> CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Growth Partnership held in New Delhi on 19 & 20 July 2022. On the sidelines of the Conclave, the Cameroonian Minister met with the Director General of International Solar Alliance (ISA) and had fruitful discussion for cooperation in Solar and renewable energy.

In 2021-22, the bilateral trade increased to 910.47 with India's imports to USD 542.95 and India's exports to USD 367.52. Cameroon is a beneficiary country of the ITEC civilian (09 slots) and defence (47 slots) programmes as well as the Africa Scholarship Scheme of ICCR (03 slots).

## Central African Republic

Bilateral relations between India and the Central African Republic(CAR) continued to remain upbeat. CAR continued its support to India's candidature at various international forums. India also continued to provide capacity building support to the country, notably under India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) and ITEC capacity building programmes. The bilateral trade between India and CAR stood at USD 20.31 during 2021-22.

Foreign Minister Baïpo-Temon held a tele-conversation with EAM on 25 July and requested for India's cooperation in lifting the arms embargo on CAR in the UN Security Council. Minister of National Defense of CAR Rameaux Claude Bireau, participated in India-Africa Defence Dialogues held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat on 18 October 2022 organised on the sidelines of DefExpo-2022. The visiting Minister also held bilateral talks with the Raksha Mantri.

The UN Peacekeeping Mission (MINUSCA) continues to work in CAR with over 15,000 personnel, working to ensure protection of civilian lives and stabilisation of institutions in the country.

## Chad

Bilateral relations with Chad gained momentum this year with the opening of its Resident Mission in Chad. India extended humanitarian assistance to Chad by gifting 1000 tons of Rice to Chad during the year 2022. India continued its capacity building programme with Chad through ITEC and ICCR Scholarships. Chadian nationals continued to attend Hindi language courses in Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra.

## Côte d'Ivoire

A seven member Indian delegation led by the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change visited Abidjan in May 2022 to attend the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (COP 15-UNCCD). Minister attended the High-level segment of COP15-UNCCD and also handed over the Presidency of COP to Cote d'Ivoire.

India's engagement with Cote d'Ivoire intensified with focus on strengthening our business linkages for trade and investment. The bilateral trade between India and Cote d'Ivoire for the year 2021-22 was USD 1,197.40 million registering an increase of 32% over the previous year.

India continued to provide 100 ITEC training slots and 8 ICCR scholarships to Cote d'Ivoire, which have been utilised satisfactorily. Mission organised the 8<sup>th</sup> International Yoga Day on 19 June 2022 where the Ivorian Sports Minister attended as the Chief Guest.

## Democratic Republic of Congo

Relations with Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) remained cordial during the year. DRC continued its support to India's candidature at various international fora.

President Tshisekedi assumed the Presidency of Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) in January 2022 and South African Development Community (SADC) on 18 August. DRC also formally joined the East African Community (EAC) on 29 March.

Defence Minister Gilbert Kabanda Kurhenga led a defence delegation to India to attend 12<sup>th</sup> DefEXPO 2022 and 2<sup>nd</sup> IADD in October 2022 in Gandhinagar. On the sidelines, the Minister held bilateral talks with the Raksha Mantri.

The bilateral trade saw substantial increase from USD 440 million in 2020-21 to USD 599 million during 2021-22. Indian Mission, in collaboration with APEDA, Plexconcil, FICCI, and Federation of Congolese Enterprises (FEC) held a Buyer-Seller meet on 21 November, on rice, wheat, sugar and plastic.

India continues to provide capacity building support to the country, notably ICCR scholarships and ITEC capacity building programmes. e-VBAB acted as a digital bridge between two countries. Mission continued to celebrate various events to commemorate AKAM.

## Equatorial Guinea

India and Equatorial Guinea(EG) enjoy warm and friendly relations. President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo and his party the Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea (PDGE) won Parliamentary elections which were held on 20 November 2022. President Obiang holds a distinctive record of longest serving President.

Vice Minister of Mines and Hydrocarbons Santiago Eneme Nsuga participated in the 17<sup>th</sup> CII Exim Bank Conclave on "India-Africa Growth Partnership" in July 2022. Minister of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications of the Republic Rufino Ovono Ondo Engonga attended UNESCO-India-Africa Hackathon prize distribution ceremony held on 25 November 2022.

EG continued to support Indian candidature to various posts in the UN and other multilateral fora e.g., CLCS, IFAD, ITU, ICAO etc. EG has already conveyed its support to India for UNSC non-permanent Seat 2028-2029 elections.

The bilateral trade during 2021-22 regained momentum with total figures of USD 898 million, a sharp increase from USD 253 million in 2020-21. On 12 May 2022, Government of India gifted 350 kgs. anti-Tuberculosis medicines to EG.

EG's cultural troupe "National Ballet Ceiba" participated in the 35<sup>th</sup> Surajkund International Crafts Mela from 19 March-4 April 2022. An 8-member cultural troupe "Mokam Enam Lugu" from EG also performed in the Lusophone Cultural Week held in Goa from 03-06 December 2022.



Former Vice President with President of Gabon Ali Bongo Ondimba in Libreville, May 2022

Mission organised the 8<sup>th</sup> International Yoga Day in Malabo on 21 June 2022 in cooperation with EG Cultural Centre and continued to organise various other events as part of 75 years of India's Independence, on the theme "AKAM".

## Gabon

Gabon assumed non-permanent membership of UNSC w.e.f. 01 January 2022 and joined Commonwealth of Nations in June 2022 for Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held at Kigali.

The Bilateral relations were further strengthened with exchange of visits during the year. Former Vice President paid an official visit to Gabon from 30 May-01 June 2022. During the visit, the then Vice President met President of Gabon Ali Bongo Ondimba; held delegation level talks with Prime Minister Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda; met Presidents of the National Assembly and Senate; and visited Gabon's Special Economic Zone where around 50 Indian companies are operating. A high-level CII Business delegation also accompanied the Former Vice President. Two MoUs were signed during the visit viz. MoU between SSIFS and Gabonese Ministry of Foreign Affairs for training of their diplomats and Agreement for establishing Joint Consultative Machinery (JCM).

A high-level Ministerial delegation led by Gabonese Minister of Industry Meleku Alebel Addis, attended the 17th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave in New Delhi on 19 & 20 July 2022. Foreign Minister of Gabon Michel Moussa Adamo visited Mumbai and

Delhi on 28-30 October, to attend the UN Counter Terrorism Committee and on the sidelines met the EAM.

Indian Naval ship INS Tarkash visited Port Gentil for a friendly port call; professional interactions and exchange of anti-piracy best practices in the Gulf of Guinea. It was the first ever visit of an Indian Naval ship to Gabon.

First ever India-Gabon Foreign Office Consultations (FOCs) co-chaired by the Joint Secretary of the Central & West Africa Division(C&WA), the Ministry and Ambassador, Director General of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Gabon Guy Gerard Nkolo, in New Delhi on 20 November 2022.

Gabon continued its support to India's candidature at various international fora. India continues to provide capacity building support to the country, notably ICCR scholarships and ITEC capacity building programmes including e-ITEC programs.

The bilateral trade touched USD 1.12 billion in 2021-22 with India now being the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest destination for the Gabonese exports.

## Ghana

India-Ghana relations further deepened during 2022 with several high-level engagements. EAM called on President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo on the margins of the 77<sup>th</sup> UNGA – high level week in September 2022 in New York. Foreign Secretary participated in a UNSC flagship in November 2022 organised by



EAM called on President of Ghana Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo on the margins of the 77th UNGA High Level Week in September 2022 in New York

Ghana as UNSC's monthly President and met Foreign Minister of Ghana Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Botchwey led a Ghanaian delegation to a Special Meeting of the UNSC's Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) in October 2022 and on the sidelines met EAM. Special Adviser to the President of Ghana Maj. Gen. Francis Adu-Amanfoh (retd) on the Accra Initiative attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ministerial Conference on Counter Terrorism Financing "No Money For Terror" on 18 & 19 November 2022 in New Delhi.

Ghana Fisheries Minister Mavis Hawa Koomson visited India and met the Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying. Deputy Foreign Minister Kwamu Ampratwum-Sarpong participated in the Raisina Dialogue in April 2022. Minister of Defence Dominic Aduna Nitiwul attended the DefExpo 2022 and IADD in October 2022 in Gandhinagar and on the sidelines held bilateral talks with Raksha Mantri. Deputy Minister of Energy William Owuraku Aidoo attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Assembly of ISA in New Delhi in October 2022.

A 5-member Parliamentary delegation led by First Deputy Speaker of Parliament Joseph Osei-Owusu participated in Mid-Year Executive Committee Meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) in Assam in April 2022, later was joined by other MPs for a study tour in April 2022. Seven young MPs from Ghana attended the 2nd session of Gen-Next Democracy Network Programme of ICCR in May 2022.

Ghana continued to be amongst the favoured destinations for Indian investors, with FDIs value of USD 2.2 billion in 870 projects. After the slump during the pandemic, trade has rebound to USD 2.60 billion in 2021-22 as compared to USD 2.24 billion in 2020-21.

India hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> India-Ghana FOC in July 2022, co-chaired by, Joint Secretary(C&WA), the Ministry and Deputy Foreign Minister of Ghana Kwamu Ampratwum-Sarpong.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> round of India-Ghana Joint Trade Committee (JTC) was held in July 2022 in New Delhi. 48 Indian companies participated at the Agritech West Africa 2022 in March 2022; 50 Indian companies participated at the West Africa Pharma and Healthcare in April 2022; 15 Indian universities participated at the Study in India Expo in June 2022; 28 Indian companies participated at the India-Africa ICT Expo in September 2022 and 36 Indian companies participated at the Power & Energy Ghana Expo 2022 in November 2022.

The Mission organised Digital Session on Business Opportunities between India and Ghana in February 2022, the India-Ghana Business Summit in April 2022 and India-Ghana Pharma Business Summit on 13 December 2022 are the other big events this year.

India has extended about USD 450 million concessional lines of credit (LoCs) and grants to Ghana. The Foreign Service Training Institute funded under USD 5 million LoC has been completed



and handed over this year.

Slots for ITEC and ICCR scholarships were utilised by Ghanaians. Under e-VBAB Network Project, more than 900 Ghanaian students have already enrolled. Prof Johnson Nyarko Boampong, Vice Chancellor of University of Cape Coast visited India under Academic Visitors Programme of ICCR in September 2022.

Mission organised various activities as part of the AKAM celebration in different parts of Ghana. A 14-member cultural dance troupe from Ghana visited India and performed at the 35<sup>th</sup> edition of Surajkund Mela in March-April 2022.

## Guinea Bissau

India and Guinea Bissau, for decades, have maintained warm and friendly relations. Guinea Bissau Government is generally supportive of India. There has been regular co-operation at international fora such as the United Nations and NAM. India-Guinea Bissau continued to strengthen with several ministerial visits from the West African country, for whom India is an important trading partner. Minister of State for Defence of Guinea Bissau Marciano Silva Barbeiro participated in the 12<sup>th</sup> DefExpo and the 2<sup>nd</sup> IADD at Gandhinagar from 18-22 October 2022 and on the sidelines held bilateral talks with Raksha Rajya Mantri. Minister of National Education Matina Moniz led the Guinea Bissau delegation to the UNESCO-India-Africa Hackathon held in Gautam Buddh University from 22-25 November 2022. A 15-member cultural troupe from the National Ballet of Guinea Bissau participated in the 35<sup>th</sup> International Surajkund Crafts Mela held from 20 March-04 April 2022. An 8-member cultural troupe from Guinea Bissau participated in the International Lusophone Festival organised by ICCR in Goa from 03-06 December 2022. India-Guinea Bissau bilateral trade rose to USD 185 million in 2021-22, a 27% increase from the previous year. India also continued to offer a large number of slots to the Bissau-Guinean officials under ITEC programme including ICCR scholarships to pursue various courses in India.

## Liberia

India and Liberia continued to enjoy warm and friendly bilateral relations. Liberia has been supportive of India's position at the international fora. Deputy Minister of Defence for Operations Prince Kollie Vincent visited India to participate in the 12<sup>th</sup> DefExpo-2022 held in Gandhinagar from 18-22 October 2022. On the sidelines, the visiting Minister attended the India-Africa Defence Dialogue (IADD) 2022 and held bilateral talks with Raksha Rajya Mantri. Bilateral trade between India and Liberia was USD 268.25 million during 2021-22 registering a 2.33% growth over the previous period 2020-21. India provides 70

training slots under the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation ITEC & 6 ICCR scholarships for post-graduate studies. Liberians have also been benefiting from other capacity building training programmes in India under the IAFS, Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats conducted by the Ministry as well as under the US-Liberia-India trilateral cooperation programme.

## Mali

India-Mali relationship continued to strengthen and diversify during the year. India and Mali worked closely at the United Nations and various multilateral fora, including supporting each other's candidatures to various UN and international bodies. The Government of India continued to be supportive of the people and Government of Mali.

Mali participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of IADD on the sidelines of the DefExpo2022 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India from 18-22 October 2022. Mali was represented by a Major General and a Brigadier. Mali sent a 21-member team to the UNESCO-India-Africa (UIA) Hackathon, held at Greater Noida, India from 23-25 November 2022.

A key aspect of India-Mali relationship is India's Development assistance in the form of concessional Line of Credit (LOC) for projects identified by the Government of Mali.

India continued to offer numerous educational, training and capacity building opportunities to Malian citizens through its ITEC programme and ICCR scholarships. For the year 2022-2023, ICCR offered 16 scholarships for higher studies in India which have been utilised by Malian students. In addition, one Malian student has been provided a scholarship for studying Hindi at the Central Institute of Hindi at Agra in 2022.

Under e-VBAB Network Project, which is fully funded by the Government of India, 44 Malian students have enrolled for the July 2022 academic session.

The total bilateral trade was USD 230.42 million in 2021-22, up from USD 200.94 million in 2020-2021.

## Mauritania

India and Mauritania enjoy warm and friendly relations. India and Mauritania continued to work closely at the multilateral fora and supported each other's candidatures to various UN and international bodies. The Minister of National Defence of Mauritania participated in 12<sup>th</sup> DefExpo-2022 and 2<sup>nd</sup> IADD held in Gandhinagar from 18-22 October 2022 and on the sidelines held bilateral talks with Raksha Mantri. The total bilateral trade in 2021-22 stood at USD 108.91 million.



EAM met Foreign Minister of Nigeria Geoffrey Onyeama on the margins of the Raisina Dialogue held in April 2022 in New Delhi

## Niger

India and Niger continued to engage with each other. India and Niger maintained close cooperation at the international fora. Both countries have extended support to their candidatures in UN and other international bodies.

Niger participated in the 17<sup>th</sup> CII-Exim Bank conclave on India-Africa Growth Partnership held in New Delhi on 19 & 20 July 2022. Niger was represented by Minister of Commerce Alkache Alhada and Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Salamatou Gourouza Magagi. Niger also participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> IADD on the sidelines of the DefExpo2022 in Gandhinagar from 18-22 October 2022, 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the ISA in October 2022, the 90<sup>th</sup> INTERPOL General Assembly held in Delhi from 18-21 October 2022, and the UIA Hackathon held at Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida, UP from 23-25 November 2022.

India continued its support to Niger in providing capacity building opportunities in diverse disciplines through the ITEC programme which resumed in the physical format from June 2022. Twenty-five civilian and four defence training slots under ITEC have been utilised by Niger in 2022-23 as of November 2022. Five Nigerien students received ICCR scholarships for pursuance of higher studies in India in 2022-23.

## Nigeria

India and Nigeria saw visible progress by active interaction at

various levels and engagement in trade and commerce. Bilateral trade has risen strongly by 69 % from USD 8.8 billion in 2020-21 to USD 14.95 billion in the year 2021-22.

High-Level engagements continued to impart momentum to bilateral relations during the year. EAM met his Nigerian counterpart Geoffrey Onyeama in April 2022 on the sidelines of Raisina Dialogue 2022. MoS-VM visited Nigeria in August 2022 to attend the inaugural event of Nigeria-India Business Council (NIBC). On the margins, MoS paid a courtesy call on President Muhammadu Buhari and met the Foreign Minister and Minister of Defence of Nigeria.

Nigeria's Minister of Interior Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola participated in "No Money for Terror" (NMFT) in November 2022 and met Minister of Home Affairs. A Nigerian delegation led by Maj. Gen. Marwa, Chairman, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) visited India for their meeting with the Narcotics Control Bureau in December 2022.

In April 2022, Nigerian Foreign Minister Onyeama launched the India-Nigeria Business Forum in New Delhi. In July 2022, Nigeria's Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment Richard Adebayo participated in 17<sup>th</sup> CII EXIM Bank Conclave in New Delhi. A CII delegation of 49 companies participated in the Nigeria Oil & Gas Exhibition in Abuja in July 2022. A delegation from OIL, OICL visited Abuja to participate in the India-Nigeria Gas Summit in September 2022. In September 2022, Director General, National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control Prof. Moji Christianah Adeyeye visited India to attend Pharmexcil.



MoS (VM) paid a courtesy call on President of Nigeria Muhammadu Buhari during his official visit to Nigeria in August 2022

India's defence engagement has seen further strengthening and diversification during the year. Indian Naval Ship, INS Tarkash visited Lagos, to conduct first ever anti-piracy operation in the Gulf of Guinea. Nigeria participated in Defexpo 2022 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. During 2022-23 a total of 150 Defence ITEC slots have been offered to Nigeria till June 2023, out of which 35 Slots have been utilised till November 2022.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> FOC between India-Nigeria was co-chaired by JS (C&WA) and the Director Regions, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria and was held in New Delhi in September 2022.

For the academic year 2022, under e-VBAB, 4830 Nigerian students got admitted in India. Slots under ITEC programme, ICCR scholarships and civilian training were utilised by Nigerians and around 1600+ Nigerian students got admitted under Study in India (SII).

The Indian Diaspora in Nigeria is estimated to be about 50,000 persons.

In March 2022, 15 members of the Nigerian cultural troupe participated in 35<sup>th</sup> Surajkund Mela 2022.

## Republic of Congo (ROC)

India and the Republic of Congo (RoC) enjoy cordial and warm relations. India and ROC maintained close cooperation at the international fora. Both countries have extended support to their candidatures in UN and other international bodies.

Minister of Special Economic Zones and Economic Diversification of RoC Emile Ouosso participated in 17<sup>th</sup> CII-Exim Bank Conclave on India-Africa Growth Partnership in New Delhi. Minister of Security and Public Order, Raymond Zephirin Mboulou attended 90<sup>th</sup> INTERPOL General Assembly in New Delhi from 18-21 October 2022. Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Congolese Armed Forces along with Lt.Col. Toumba Cherubain attended 12<sup>th</sup> DefExpo-2022 at Gandhinagar from 18-22 October 2022.

India also continued its support to ROC in its capacity building through ITEC programme & ICCR Scholarships. As part of AKAM celebrations, several events were organised by the Mission.

## Republic of Guinea

India and Guinea continued to enjoy friendly relations underpinned by common values and shared vision.

Director General of Higher Education (DGES) Dr. Oumar Doumbouya and Director General of Inspection Abdoul Karim Diallo from the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation of the Republic of Guinea attended the 17<sup>th</sup> Edition of the International Higher Education Summit (FHES 2022) held from 17-19 November 2022 in India.

Adviser to the Prime Minister of Guinea Nabe Ismael Sidiki, represented Guinea in the 17<sup>th</sup> CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India - Africa Growth Partnership held from 18-20 July 2022 in New Delhi. National Focal Point for International Solar Alliance, Ministry of Energy, Hydraulics and Hydrocarbons Karim Camara,

visited India to attend the 5<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the ISA on behalf of Guinea, scheduled from 17-20 October 2022 in New Delhi. The bilateral trade between India and Guinea was USD 2132.79 million during 2020-21 which increased to USD 4,178.09 million in 2021-22 registering a growth of 195.90%. Guinea is adequately utilising the 30 slots under the ITEC Programme and 8 ICCR slots earmarked for the country.

## Sao Tome & Principe

Sao Tome and Principe (STP) underwent a political transition in October 2022, after the parliamentary elections were held on 25 September 2022. The opposition party, viz, Independent Democratic Action (Acção Democrática Independente or ADI party), won the elections with an absolute majority and Patrice Trovoada was sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Sao Tome and Principe on 11 November 2022.

India and STP enjoy warm and friendly relations. The growth in exports to STP in 2021-22 was broad based, registering a 44% growth over 2020-21 and 34% over 2019-20. The Mission organised a Conference on India and Sao Tome Economic Cooperation in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce and Department of Trade of Sao Tome, which was attended by 40 businessmen. Three Indian companies participated in local tenders pertaining to solar energy and financial and banking services.

A 6-member cultural delegation from STP participated in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Suraj Kund Mela in Faridabad from 19 March-04 April 2022. A STP Chess team also participated in the Indian Chess Olympiad, held in Chennai. A senior official from STP also participated in the ISA Meeting held in Delhi from 17-20 October 2022.

The Indian Mission in STP markedly increased its activities by organising several events and interactions in trade, education, training, brand activities, diaspora, climate change etc including 8<sup>th</sup> IDY 2022, Study in India, Textile Branding India event, photo exhibitions on Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhai Patel, Climate Change and on Ayurveda.

## Senegal

Senegal is the current Chair of the African Union (AU). Bilateral relations with Senegal acquired a new impetus this year with the first ever high-level visit from India to Senegal since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1961. Former Vice President paid a state visit to Senegal on 02 and 03 June 2022. During the visit, Former Vice President held bilateral talks with President Macky Sall, and also met the Speaker of the National Assembly of Senegal Moustapha Niasse.

There were 2 visits at Ministerial level from India to Senegal during the year viz. visit of Minister of Jal Shakti to attend



Prime Minister met President of Senegal Macky Sall at the G20 Summit in Bali, November 2022

the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum from 21-22 March 2022; and the visit of MoS-VM to participate in the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the Dakar International Forum on Peace and Security in Africa which took place in Dakar on 24 & 25 October 2022.

Apart from bilateral visits, there have been few meetings on the sidelines of multilateral events. Prime Minister had a pull-aside meeting with President Macky Sall on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Bali on 15 November 2022. Earlier, the two leaders also had a brief interaction on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Germany on 28 June 2022. EAM held a bilateral meeting with Aissata Tall Sall, the Foreign Minister of Senegal, on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Bali, Indonesia on 07 July 2022.

Three MoUs/Agreements were signed namely (i) Cultural Exchange Program (CEP) between India and Senegal for the period 2022-26 (ii) Agreement on mutual exemption from the visa requirement for holders of diplomatic, official/service passports; and (iii) MoU between India and Senegal on youth cooperation.

Bilateral trade between India and Senegal reached a new high mark of USD 1.65 billion during 2021-22 with India's exports gaining traction this year with higher diversification in the trade basket. The first India-Senegal Joint Trade Committee meeting Co-Chaired at Joint Secretary level took place in virtual mode on 04 May 2022.

Indian Naval Ship INS Tarkash was on a goodwill visit to Dakar from 31 July & 01 August 2022 during which the ship Captain had interaction with Senegalese Navy on professional engagements and maritime defence cooperation between the





Former Vice President with President of Senegal Macky Sall at Dakar, June 2022

two navies.

Senegal is a beneficiary country of the ITEC civilian (16 slots) and defence (31 slots) programmes as well as the Africa Scholarship Scheme of ICCR (1 slot). A 14-member cultural troupe from the National Ballet of Senegal participated in the 35<sup>th</sup> International Surajkund Crafts Mela held from 20 March- 04 April 2022.

## Sierra Leone

India and Sierra Leone share warm and friendly relations based on common values and shared vision. Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry Haja Isata Abdulai Kamara visited India to attend the 17<sup>th</sup> CII EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Growth Partnership held in New Delhi on 19 & 20 July 2022. Deputy Defence Minister Col (Rtd) Muana Brima Massaquoi, along with Chiefs of Air and Navy staffs attended the DefExpo-2022 (18-22 October 2022) and the IADD on 18 October 2022 held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat. On the sidelines, the visiting Minister had bilateral meetings with the Raksha Rajya Mantri. A 2-member delegation from Sierra Leone attended the 90<sup>th</sup> INTERPOL General Assembly session held in New Delhi from 18-21 October 2022. A 16-member team led by Deputy Minister of Technical and Higher Education Sarjoh Aziz-Kamara, two senior officials from Sierra Leonean Education Department and 13 students participated in the UIA Hackathon held from 22-25 November 2022 at Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida,

Uttar Pradesh, India. Sierra Leone is one of the beneficiaries of the ITEC programme (50 slots), ICCR Scholarship (15 slots), and e-VBAB programme (200 seats).

## The Gambia

India and The Gambia share warm and cordial relations. Recent years have witnessed an exchange of high-level visits which have maintained the momentum in bilateral relations. Vice President Badara A. Joof led a high-powered 28-member delegation of 4 Ministers (Finance, Health, Petroleum, and Public Service) to India from 18-23 July 2022 to participate in the 17<sup>th</sup> CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Growth Partnership, held in New Delhi on 19 and 20 July 2022. During the visit, Vice President Badara had a brief joint meeting with Former Vice President of India. In addition, MoS-VM and Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Personnel Grievances (DARPG) called on Vice President Badara and discussed issues of mutual interest.

EAM had a telephonic conversation with the Foreign Minister of The Gambia Dr. Mamadou Tangara on 13 October 2022.

Minister of Defence Sering Modou Njie and Chief of Defence Staff Lt Gen. Yakuba Drammeh, participated in the 12<sup>th</sup> DefExpo and 2<sup>nd</sup> IADD at Gandhinagar from 18-22 October 2022 and on the sidelines held bilateral talks with Raksha Mantri. Permanent

Secretary for Higher Education Research, Science and Technology Dr. Yusupha Touray led The Gambian delegation to the UNESCO-India-Africa Hackathon held in Gautam Buddha University from 22-25 November 2022.

Bilateral trade between the two countries stood at USD 196 million in 2021-22, up 17% from the previous year. In developmental partnership, two Line of Credit projects continued to be implemented; these were: replacement of Asbestos Water Pipes with UPVC pipes and Electricity Expansion Project in Greater Banjul Area. Capacity building is an important element of the bilateral engagement with The Gambia – 25 senior civil servants of the government of The Gambia participated in a special course at the National Center for Good Governance, New Delhi from 16-21 May 2022. Apart from this, the Gambia is a beneficiary country of the ITEC training programme (60 civilian slots and 4 defence slots annually) as well as ICCR Africa Scholarship scheme (33 slots). In addition, 231 Gambian students have been awarded scholarships under e-VBAB Project to pursue online education from Indian Universities. The 8<sup>th</sup> IDY 2022 was celebrated with wide participation in June 2022.

## Togo

Bilateral ties with Togo continued to grow in multiple sectors.

Minister of Investment Promotion Rose Kayi Mivedor led a 29-member business delegation to participate in the 17<sup>th</sup> India-Africa CII-Exim Bank Conclave in New Delhi on 19-20 July 2022. On the margins, an MoU was signed between Indian Importers Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IICCI) and Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Togo (CCI Togo). 10 Indian Universities participated in the first-ever Education Fair in Lomé on 26 April 2022. Minister of Higher Education and Research Prof. Mejesté Wateba visited India under ICCR's Distinguished Visitors Programme from 02–10 October 2022. During the visit, he signed an MoU with Vellore Institute of Technology and Chandigarh University.

The Indian Naval Ship "INS Tarkash" made a Port Call to Lomé from 01-04 September 2022. The Chief of Staff of the Army of Togo Colonel Kassawa Kolemaga participated in the DefExpo 2022 and IADD in October 2022. Two officials from Ministry of Health of Togo participated in the inaugural ceremony of the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine at Jamnagar on 19 April 2022 and the World Summit of Investment and Innovation of AYUSH in Ahmedabad on 21 & 22 April 2022 from held at Gautam Buddha University in Uttar Pradesh on 22–25 November 2022.

Bilateral trade amounted to USD 3,389 million in 2021-22, with India's exports to Togo at USD 3,012 million and imports from Togo at USD 377 million. During the first six months of the current Financial Year, April-September 2022, bilateral

trade amounted to USD 3,743 million with India's exports to Togo at USD 3,431 million and imports from Togo at USD 312 million. A project funded by Government of India through India-UN Development Partnership Fund for USD 1 million to promote biodiversity-friendly livelihoods in Fazao-Malfakassa Park, executed by UNESCO, also concluded this year. Under Capacity building programme 09 Togolese officials have so far availed capacity-building training in 2022. Togo utilised all five slots allocated under ICCR. One Togolese diplomat attended the 69<sup>th</sup> Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) held at SSIFS in October 2022. A 10-member dance troupe from Togo took part in Chhattisgarh National Tribal Dance Festival held in Raipur in November 2022. IDY was celebrated in June 2022 in Mission including 03 additional Yoga events in other parts. A 12-member Chess team from Togo participated at the 44<sup>th</sup> Chess Olympiad in Chennai.

## East and Southern Africa

India maintained vibrant relations with all the countries accredited to the East and Southern Africa Division throughout the year. The engagements and bilateral cooperation with all the accredited countries continued to enhance and strengthen during the period.

### Botswana

Prime Minister in his *Mann ki Baat* on 28 August 2022 praised the patriotic medley comprising 75 songs in different Indian languages composed by amateur local musicians of Botswana as part of AKAM.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Lemogang Kwappe met with the EAM on 19 October 2022 in Kevadia, Gujarat and reviewed the current state of bilateral relations and explored ways to strengthen cooperation in areas such as health, trade and investment, defence, economic cooperation, training and capacity building. Foreign Minister Dr. Kwappe also met on 21 October 2022 with the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, in New Delhi and discussed means of strengthening cooperation in the agriculture sector and explored ways to enhance bilateral agricultural trade.

Minister of Defence & Security Thomas Kagiso Mmusi, along with a delegation of police personnel visited India to attend the 90<sup>th</sup> Interpol General Assembly held in New Delhi from 18-21 October 2022.

Botswana Defence Forces (BDF) Commander Placid Diratsagae Segokgo headed a BDF delegation to the DefExpo held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from 18-22 October. The visit was important as it followed visits of a Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) delegation to Botswana in April and September

2022 to make presentations on their light combat helicopters and transport aircraft.

## Burundi

Foreign Ministry of Burundi organised a Diplomatic Week on the theme "A dynamic diplomacy at the service of agricultural development and strengthening of national sovereignty" in Burundi from 27-30 June 2022. The High Commissioner participated in the diplomatic week. The diplomatic week was followed by the 60th Independence Day celebration of Burundi on 01 July 2022.

## Eswatini

Principal Secretary, Ministry of National Security & Defence, Prince Sicalo Nkopololo Dlamini led a 5-member Eswatini delegation to the 12<sup>th</sup> Edition of DefEXPO 2022 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the IADD held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat on 18-22 October 2022. Another prominent member of the delegation was Army Commander General Mashikilisane Moses Fakudze.

A 3-member Eswatini delegation led by the National Commissioner of Police William Wayne Dlamini participated in the 90<sup>th</sup> INTERPOL General Assembly session held in New Delhi on 18-21 October 2022.

For the Academic Year 2022-23, 30 scholarships were granted to Eswatini students under the Africa Scholarship Scheme of ICCR. Of which, 20 students have already joined their respective universities and the remaining are in the process of leaving for India soon.

Under ITEC, 25 training slots were allocated for defence training and 50 slots for civilian training to Eswatini for the training year 2022-23.

13 students from Eswatini participated in the UIA Hackathon held in Greater Noida from 22-25 November 2022. Minister of Education & Training Howard Mabuza also participated in the event at the invitation of the Minister of Education of India.

A 15-member Eswatini cultural delegation consisting of a dance troupe and artisans participated in the Surajkund Mela held from 20 March-04 April 2022.

On 26 April 2022, the bust of Mahatma Gandhi was unveiled jointly by the High Commissioner and the Minister of Housing & Urban Development of Eswatini and installed at Selection Park.

Three mini-India corners were established in libraries at the Purity High School, Lonhlupheko; Good Shepherd College of Health Sciences, Siteki; and Woodlands High School, Mbabane

by HCI Mbabane. All these mini-India Corners were supplied with books by the Mission.

Eswatini's High Commissioner to Malaysia represented Eswatini at the 17<sup>th</sup> CII-EXIM Bank Conclave held at New Delhi on 19 & 20 July 2022.

A 12-member Manipuri Dance Group from the Jawaharlal Nehru Manipuri Dance Academy, Imphal, sponsored by ICCR visited the Eswatini from 29 August-02 September 2022. HMK Mswati-III hosted a Dinner at Lozitha Palace where the group performed in front of the Royal family and other invited guests. Two more performances were held at the University of Eswatini and Mantenga Cultural Village.

HCI Mbabane held the annual Diwali Bazaar in Malkerns Town on 26 November 2022. The event showcased small businesses, handicrafts, culture & cuisine of both India and Eswatini.

## Ethiopia

EAM visited Addis Ababa on 22 June 2022 and met the Ethiopian President Sahle-Work Zewde. They discussed bilateral cooperation including education, health and investment as also development partnership. Also, they exchanged perspectives on the regional and international situation. EAM also exchanged pleasantries with the Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen and appreciated their warm sentiment towards India and their good words for our bilateral partnership. EAM inaugurated the Indian Embassy's Chancery Building & Residential Complex. He was joined by the Ethiopian Minister for Women and Social Affairs and the State Minister for Foreign Affairs. During the visit EAM also addressed the Indian community.

EAM met Ethiopian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mekonnen on the sidelines of UNGA in New York on 21 September 2022 inter alia discussed bilateral relations and UNSC matters including the developments in Ethiopia.

Ethiopian Defence Minister Dr. Abraham Belay attended the IADD in Gandhinagar on 17-20 October 2022. During the visit, he met Raksha Mantri and discussed bilateral relations including cooperation in the defence sector.

Ethiopian Minister of Industry Melaku Alebel participated in the 17<sup>th</sup> CII-Exim Bank Conclave on India – Africa Growth Partnership held on 19-20 July 2022. He was one of the speakers at the Trade Ministerial Session – Building B2G Bridge. Minister of Industry Alebel met the Minister of State for Commerce & Industry in New Delhi. They discussed strengthening our strong and deep bilateral relationship with a focus on enhanced economic cooperation and bilateral engagement.

Ethiopian Minister for Women and Social Affairs Dr. Ergogie Tesfaye, visited India from 08-14 August 2022. She was conferred ICCR Distinguished Alumni Award – 2021 in New Delhi. During the visit, she met EAM and Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment and Minister of Women and Child Development.

Ethiopian Minister of Peace Binale Andualem attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> 'No Money for Terror' Ministerial Conference on Counter-Terrorism Financing in New Delhi on 18-19 November. He met the Union Home Minister and discussed bilateral, multilateral and regional issues of mutual interest.

Secretary (ER) visited Addis Ababa on 04 October 2022 and met with the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission to discuss India's engagement with the African Union. The consultations covered issues related to India's cooperation with the African Union including the possibility of holding the next round of the IAFS. Secretary (ER) met the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and discussed various developments in India-Ethiopia bilateral relations, including political exchanges, development cooperation, training and capacity building. Secretary (ER) also addressed a gathering of India Business Community organised by the Indian Embassy in Addis Ababa. Over 100 businesspersons attended the event.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Round of FOCs between India and Ethiopia was held in Addis Ababa on 03 October 2022. JS (E&SA) and his counterpart reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations during the FOC. Issues discussed included political engagements, trade & economic matters, development partnership projects, cultural and consular matters, cooperation in higher education, people-to-people contacts, etc. It was also agreed to work to expand engagement in fields such as defence, Science and Technology, education, agriculture and allied sectors and civil aviation. Views on regional and global issues of mutual interest as well as AU related matters were also exchanged.

Nine students from Ethiopia participated in the UNESCO-India-Africa Hackathon held during 23-25 November 2022.

The Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council with 11 Indian companies and 2 Indian companies based in Ethiopia participated at the Africa Sourcing Fashion Week in Addis Ababa during 04-07 November 2022. On the sidelines, a Roadshow on Source India was held at the Embassy.

An Ethiopian cultural group participated at the Suraj Kund Mela during April 2022. The group's visit was sponsored by the Haryana Government and the Ministry.

## Kenya

Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs Raychelle Omamo met EAM on the sidelines of CHOGM in Kigali, Rwanda. They



EAM met Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Kenya Raychelle Omamo, July 2022

reaffirmed commitment to stronger bilateral relations and closer cooperation at the multilateral level, including in the UNSC.

The Minister of Environment and Climate Change visited Nairobi on 03 & 04 March 2022, to represent India at the special session of United Nations Environment Assembly - UNEP@50 (50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNEP) at the United Nations office in Nairobi. He delivered India's national statement, participated in Leadership Dialogues at the special session and held 11 bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the event. Minister also interacted with a cross-section of the Indian diaspora during his visit.

MoS (VM) visited Kenya on 13 September 2022 to attend the swearing-in ceremony of President Dr. William Samoei Ruto. MoS also attended the official function at the State House.

The second round of FOC between India and Kenya was held on 08 April 2022 in New Delhi. The meeting reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations including political, economic, cultural, defence, people to people, trade & investment, and other issues of common interest. Both sides reiterated the need for increasing cooperation in emerging sectors such as health, tourism, space, blue economy, new and renewable energy, agro processing, traditional medicine, vaccine production among others.

The second India-Kenya Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting was held in Nairobi on 08 & 09 November 2022. The two sides reviewed the progress made in military-to-military engagements, including Training, High Level visits, Expert Exchanges, Industry Cooperation, cooperation in Research and Development and decided to explore further cooperation including through joint ventures. The Joint Secretary (Armed



Forces) and High Commissioner called on Mr. Aden Bare Duale Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Defence. First edition of the India Kenya Defence Industry Seminar and Expo was held on 10 & 11 November 2022 to identify concrete opportunities for collaboration in the defence industry.

INS Tabar visited Mombasa Port, Kenya, the only country in Africa where an Indian Naval Ship has been deployed for hoisting the Indian National Flag on Independence Day 2022 to celebrate AKAM. During the visit, the ship and the crew participated in numerous celebrations in the city of Mombasa such as India-Kenya Friendship Run & India-Kenya Medical Camp.

The Water Hyacinth Harvesting Machine gifted by Government of India to the County of Kisumu was jointly inaugurated by High Commissioner and Prof. Peter Anyang' Nyong'o, Governor, Kisumu County on 15 November 2022. It represents grassroots development cooperation using Indian expertise to address local challenges.

## Lesotho

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Relations Matsepo Molise Ramakoe visited India (a private visit). She met EAM on 01 June 2022 and was conferred 'Honoris Causa' degree by G.D. Goenka University in India on 03 June 2022.

## Malawi

India became the third largest trading partner with Malawi with a total trade figure of USD 258.13 million in 2021-22.

In July 2022, a delegation comprising of Minister of Trade & Industry Mark Katsonga Phiri, M.P., Minister for Water & Sanitation Abida Sidik Mia, M.P., and Deputy Minister for Agriculture Madalitso Kambauwa Wirima, M.P., from Malawi attended 17<sup>th</sup> CII Exim Bank Conclave in New Delhi on 19 & 20 July 2022.

In October 2022, Deputy Minister of Defence Harry Mkandawire along with Deputy Commander of Malawi Defence Forces Lt. General Paul Valentino Phiri attended the IADD which was held on the sidelines of DefExpo 2022 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Deputy Minister of Education Monica Chang'anamuno led a 21-member delegation for the India-Africa Hackathon, which was held in New Delhi from 22-25 November 2022.

Relations between India and Malawi gained momentum with the visit of MoS-VM to Malawi on 08-10 June 2022. This was the first high-level visit from India after the new government formed under Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera in June 2020. MoS had a very productive bilateral meeting with Minister of

Foreign Affairs Nancy Tembo and reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations between India and Malawi. MoS-VM also called on the President of Malawi and Vice-President Saulos Klaus Chilima. During the visit, MoS also announced the gifting of 200 laptops for the Members of Parliament of Malawi and donation of Anti-Cancer medicines worth USD 1.4 million.

The High Commission organised a Webinar on "India-Malawi Pharmaceutical Cooperation and Regulatory Development" on 23 February 2022 in association with PHARMEXCIL with an objective to facilitate and promote pharma trade between India and Malawi. The Webinar was followed by virtual Business-to-business (B2B) meetings. Over 80 companies from India and about 25 companies from Malawi participated at the B2B meetings.

The High Commission participated at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Malawi International Trade Fair held from 28 July-07 August 2022 at the Chichiri Trade Fair Grounds, Blantyre. Over 20 Indian companies including Tata, Ashok Leyland, Kirloskar, Godrej, Mahindra, Shakti Pumps, Genus batteries and inverters, Luminous batteries and inverters, Jaguar bathroom fittings, participated and displayed India made products at the India pavilion. President Chakwera, who inaugurated the Trade Fair, also visited the India Pavilion. India Pavilion was declared the Best International Exhibitor and the award was presented by President Chakwera.

The High Commission participated at the Lilongwe Motor Show held on 22 October 2022 in Lilongwe. At the 'India Pavilion', Made-in-India automobiles including two wheeler, heavy trucks, tippers and passenger buses and auto components were displayed. Indian companies including Tata, Ashok Leyland, Mahindra, TVS, Apollo Tyres participated and displayed India made vehicles and products at the India Pavilion.

On 5 November 2022, the High Commission celebrated States Day and Diwali. The focus States this year were Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan and Telangana. State booths displayed respective culture, traditions and food etc. The Speaker of the Parliament of Malawi graced the event.

India-Malawi-Germany engaged in a Triangular Cooperation on development of "Agri Business Incubator Model for Women in Agriculture & Food Systems in Malawi" under which 50 Malawian women will be trained.

## Mozambique

The Minister of National Defence of Mozambique led a delegation to India to participate in the Def-Expo 2022 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from 18-22 October 2022. He also participated in the IADD. Mozambique co-opted the Gandhinagar Declaration during the IADD.

The Minister for Industry & Commerce of Mozambique Silvino Augusto Moreno participated in the CII-EXIM Bank Africa Conclave on the theme – 'India-Southern Africa Growth Partnership' that was held at Johannesburg in South Africa on 31 October & 01 November 2022.

In a landmark Defence Cooperation initiative, the Mozambique Navy participated in the Trilateral Naval exercise with India and Tanzania off the Mozambican Channel on 27 & 28 October 2022.

The Deputy National Security Advisor of India led an Inter-Ministerial delegation to Mozambique from 03–05 May 2022 to explore possibilities of expanding India's security cooperation with the Government of Mozambique to help the latter deal with the challenges posed by terrorism, particularly in its northern province of Cabo Delgado where Indian PSUs have large investments in a LNG Project.

To kick start bilateral cooperation between the Parliaments of India and Mozambique, the President of the Assembly of Mozambique Esperanza Bias visited India during 26–30 July 2022 on the joint invitation of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. During the visit, India and Mozambique signed a bilateral MoU on Cooperation on Parliamentary Affairs between the two sides.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> FOC between India and Mozambique was held in Delhi on 04 July 2022. This was followed by a Dialogue of Developmental Partnership Projects between India and Mozambique in Delhi on 05 July 2022.

In February 2022, India and Mozambique signed an MoU for implementation of a drinking water project at the Northern Mozambican District of Mueda under donation of USD 10 million. The Government of India also donated two Mahindra SUVs to Mozambique in June 2022.

Mozambican Military Cadets participated in the special Youth Exchange Programme organised by the National Cadet Corps (NCC) of India to coincide with the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Independence Day of India in August 2022 as part of AKAM.

The Government of India donated 720,000 doses of Covishield vaccines under the COVAX initiative to Mozambique in January 2022. In February 2022, India and Mozambique signed an MoU for Mutual Recognition of Covid Vaccine Certificate. A consignment of PPE kits and face masks were gifted in June 2022 to Mozambique to help combat the spread of Covid-19 pandemic.

Government of India extended 43 ICCR Scholarships and 60 ITEC Scholarships to Mozambican nationals in 2022.

The High Commission of India in Maputo facilitated participation of a 10-member Mozambican musical band – Massukos and

another dance group at the last edition of the Surajkund International Crafts Fair at Faridabad, India in February 2022. It also facilitated the participation of a Tribal Dance Group from Mozambique, "Ungassoly" at the International Tribal Dance Festival at Raipur, Chhattisgarh in November 2022. One of the most popular and noted musical bands of Mozambique, "Banda Kakana" is scheduled to participate in the upcoming India-Lusophone Cultural Week at Goa, India in December 2022.

## Namibia

The highlight of the period was the transfer of eight cheetahs from Namibia to India on 16 September 2022 which were released by Prime Minister on 17 September 2022 at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh for Cheetah's reintroduction into India's wilds. This transfer was the world's first ever intercontinental trans-location of a major carnivore species and attracted global interest and attention.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah visited India to take part in the 17<sup>th</sup> CII-India Conclave on India Africa Growth Partnership held on 19 & 20 July 2022 as also to hold bilateral talks with the EAM. The visit saw signing of three bilateral agreements on 'Wildlife Conservation and Sustainable Biodiversity Utilisation between India and Namibia'; Agreement between Namibia and India on 'Authorising Spouses and Dependents of Members of the Diplomatic Mission to Engage in Gainful Employment; and an MoU between National Forensic Science University (NFSU) of India and Namibian Police Forensic Science Institute (NPFISI) on 20 July 2022.

EAM met the Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of International Relations of Namibia in Kigali on the sidelines of CHOGM in June 2022.

Namibian Minister of Higher Education and IT Itah Kandji Murangi led a six member delegation to India during 18-24 September 2022 to participate in the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of Asian Summit on Education and Skills held in Bengaluru.

A large number of outreach activities were organised commemorating the AKAM. Special AKAM week of the Mission was organised from 20-26 March 2022, which included a Development Partnership commemoration, an Indian Film festival and a special programme to promote cultural ties with diaspora. The cultural hall of the High Commission was also inaugurated by the Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of Namibia and MOS-VM in hybrid mode on 23 March 2022. As part of the Republic Day 2022 celebration, Mission organised a Fashion Show which also had participation from Namibia's national cricket team.

The 4<sup>th</sup> round of India-Namibia FOC took place on 03 November

2022 in Windhoek wherein the two sides carried out a comprehensive review of the existing bilateral relations including enhancing cooperation in development partnership, trade and investment relations, energy, defence, agriculture, health, art and culture and education. The two sides also exchanged views on regional issues as well as cooperation in multilateral fora such as the United Nations, ISA, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

A high level delegation from Bank of Namibia visited Mumbai on 14-16 June 2022 to hold discussions with National Payments Corporations of India Ltd and Reserve Bank of India officials regarding introduction of UPI technology in Namibia.

Indian Naval Ship Tarkash made a port call at Walvis Bay from 03-06 October 2022. This port call was a demonstration of India's warm ties with Namibia and its commitment to maritime security in the region.

Under Development Partnership, a Forensic Expert was deputed to Namibian Police Forensic Science Institute for a period of three months as part of ITEC programme from June-August 2022. A number of Namibian defence personnel visited India to attend various training courses under ITEC (Defence) programme.

During the current year, over 800 virtual and physical business to business meetings were organised by the Mission. Over 280 Namibian businesspersons had about 500 interactions on 10 June 2022 at Mission premises with a business delegation from Indian Economic Trade Organisation. Sector specific B2Bs were also facilitated with CAPEXCIL and FIEO on 14 & 15 March and 12 April 2022 respectively. Several Indian diamond cutting and polishing establishments have started their operations in Namibia in recent times.

As part of AKAM activities, Mission also collaborated with NAMPOST for the release of a special commemorative stamp on the theme of "India-Namibia Partnership: Celebrating our people and cultural traditions" showcasing the rich diversity of Indian costumes by famous Namibian personalities on 15 August 2022. This was mentioned by the Prime Minister in his Mann ki Baat programme.

On joining a Teacher of Indian Culture, Mission has resumed conducting regular yoga classes which are popular with the Namibians. To promote Ayurveda, three special weekly sessions on the benefits of Ayurveda were organised in October 2022. People to people contacts were further augmented with the cultural activities organised by the newly formed pan-India community association " India Namibia Friendship Association".

## Rwanda

EAM visited Rwanda for the period from 22-25 June 2022 to



EAM met Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Rwanda Vincent Biruta, June 2022

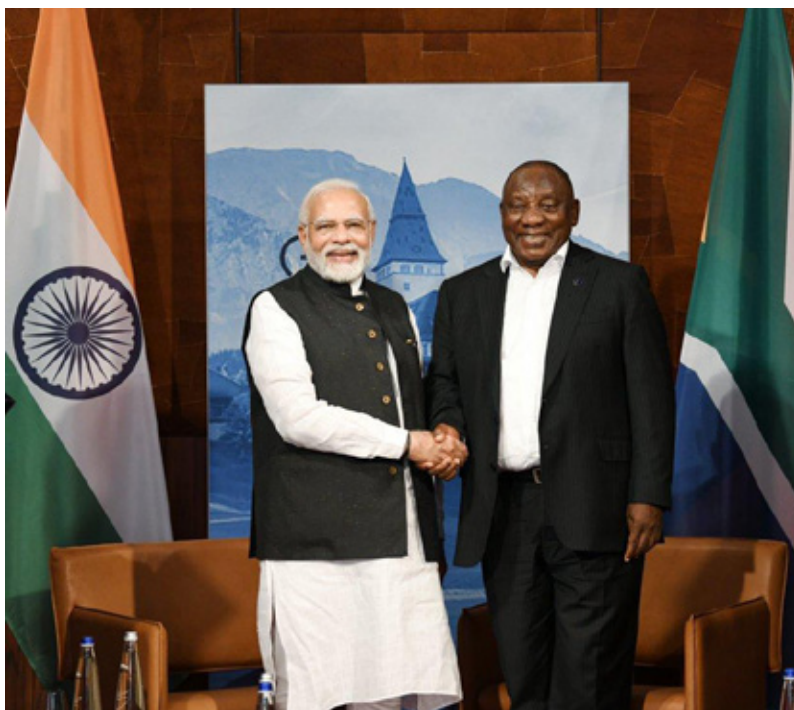
attend the Commonwealth Head of Government Meeting 2022 (CHOGM-2022).

Minister of Defence of Rwanda Major General Albert Murasira visited India to attend the India Defence Expo 2022 held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India from 18-22 October 2022.

Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, led an Indian Parliamentary Delegation to Rwanda to attend 145<sup>th</sup> Inter Parliamentary Union Assembly for the period from 10-15 October 2022. The Indian candidate Smt. Aparajita Sarangi, Lok Sabha MP was elected as executive committee member of Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU).

Assistant General Manager and Resident Representative, East Africa Representative Office of Exim Bank of India, visited Rwanda for the period from 08-13 November 2022 to review the LOC projects under implementation in Rwanda.

During the period January-November 2022 the Mission organised several cultural and business events as part of celebrations of AKAM and to commemorate specific events. It organised a Business Symposium on 25 March 2022 at the premises of Rwanda India Entrepreneurship Development Centre, Kigali; a Hindi essay writing competition on the occasion of World Hindi Day; 2<sup>nd</sup> Business Symposium on 08 June 2022; celebrated IDY on 05 June 2022; Flag hoisting ceremony on the occasion of



Prime Minister met President of South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa on the sidelines of the G7 Summit, June 2022

India's Independence Day on 15 August 2022; a Cleanliness Drive to mark the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 02 October 2022; and celebrated ITEC Day on 18 November 2022.

## South Africa

Prime Minister met President Cyril Ramaphosa on 27 June 2022 on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Germany. Both leaders reviewed the progress made in bilateral relations between the two countries, particularly following the signing of the Strategic Programme of Cooperation in 2019. Both leaders also welcomed the WTO agreement reached in June 2022 that supports the production of Covid-19 vaccines in developing countries. Discussions were also held on continued coordination in multilateral bodies and the need for their reform, particularly the UN Security Council.

EAM met with Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa Dr Naledi Pandor on 07 July 2022 on the sidelines of G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting (G20 FMM) in Bali, Indonesia and on 23 June 2022 on the sidelines of CHOGM 2022 in Kigali. In their meeting on 23 June 2022, EAM discussed the international situation with his counterpart and agreed that India and South Africa continue to work closely to uphold the interest of the Global South.

The 10<sup>th</sup> India-Brazil-South Africa Dialogue Forum (IBSA) Trilateral Ministerial Commission (ITMC) meeting took place on 21 September 2022 in New York. It was chaired by the EAM. Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil Carlos Alberto Franco França and Minister of Health of the Republic of South Africa Dr. Joe Phaahla, led their respective delegations. The Ministers, *inter alia*, reviewed the entire gamut of IBSA cooperation.

EAM participated in the meeting of BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Relations on 22 September 2022, chaired by Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa Dr. Pandor as the incoming BRICS Presidency in 2023. The Ministers exchanged views on major global and regional issues on the United Nations agenda in the political, security, economic, financial and sustainable development spheres, as well as on intra-BRICS activities.

A South African defence delegation led by Minister of Defence and Military Veterans of the Republic of South Africa Thandi Ruth Modise visited India from 18-22 October 2022 in connection with DefExpo 2022 (18-22 October) and on the sidelines of the DefExpo, the delegation also attended India-Africa Defence Dialogue (18 October) and Indian Ocean Region Defence Ministers' Conclave (19 October).



Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa Candith Mashego-Dlamini visited India on an official visit from 24-27 April 2022. She represented South Africa at the Raisina Dialogue 2022 which took place in New Delhi from 25-27 April 2022. On the sidelines of the Raisina Dialogue 2022, MoS-VM held productive discussions with her and discussed further deepening India-South Africa bilateral relationship through a wide range of cooperation in various sectors.

A 16-member NDC (National Development Council) delegation headed by AVM (SDS Air) visited South Africa on study tour from 05-10 June 2022 as part of training curriculum for all course participants to gain an all-encompassing overview of socio economic development, foreign policy, security and strategic issues in context with global environment.

11<sup>th</sup> session of India-South Africa FOCs was held on 03 August 2022 in New Delhi, and co-chaired by Joint Secretary(East & Southern Africa) from Indian side and Acting DDG (Asia and Middle East) N.M. Lallie from the South African side.

Chief of the SA Army Lt. General Lawrence Khulekani Mbatha visited India from 23-26 August 2022 at the invitation of the Indian Chief of the Army Staff.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Navy to Navy Staff Talks between India and South Africa held from 07-09 September 2022 at Simons Town, South Africa. RADM Cr Praveen Nair accompanied by Cdr Munish Sethi and Cdr Siddharth Chaudhary from IHQ MOD (Navy) visited South Africa to attend the talks.

The 7th edition of the joint military exercise IBSAMAR was held from 10-22 October 2022 at Port Elizabeth, South Africa. INS Tarkash paid a port call at the Port of Gqeberha, formerly Port Elizabeth.

## Tanzania

Secretary (ER) visited Tanzania on 06 & 07 October 2022. He met the Permanent Secretary (PS) of Foreign Affairs, PS Finance and Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar.

Several firsts in Defence Cooperation between India and Tanzania include (i) 1<sup>st</sup> ever bilateral Defence Expo where 16 Indian defence companies showcased their products to Tanzania Peoples Defence Forces; (ii) 1<sup>st</sup> ever Trilateral Maritime Exercise of India-Tanzania-Mozambique on 26-28 October 2022 during visit of INS Tarkash for a bilateral exercise with Tanzania; (iii) bilateral visit of Dr. Stergomena Tax to India from 25-27 August 2022 (iv) visit of Deputy National Security Adviser to Tanzania from 1-3 May 2022.

A joint delegation from India-UAE Healthcare sector including Indian hospitals and diagnostic chains visited Tanzania from 16-18 August 2022 to explore investment opportunities. During the visit Apollo Hospitals signed an agreement with Eclipse Group for setting up a 60 bed cancer hospital in Dar es Salaam.

Bilateral trade has maintained an upward trajectory. Currently India is the third largest trading partner of Tanzania with bilateral trade of USD 5.274 billion (January-September 2022). Tanzanian avocados gained entry in Indian markets. First consignment was sent by air cargo on 21 January 2022.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> India Tanzania FOC was held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022 in New Delhi. The Indian side was led by Joint Secretary (E&SA) and the Tanzanian side was led by Caesar C. Waitara, Director (Asia and Australasia), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation of Tanzania.

Under Development Cooperation, implementation of a USD 1 billion water project is underway; a portion of this amounting to USD 500 million will be spent for development of water projects in 24 towns.

## Uganda

On 03 November 2022, Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni hosted the Indian community for a mega dinner at State House Entebbe as part of celebrations for Diwali. President also tweeted on 04 November 2022 that "The Gujaratis have played a lead role in Uganda's social, and industrial development for the last many decades. It is only Amin who saw them as a problem, he didn't value the chain of wealth creation".

In October 2022, a delegation from Uganda headed by Minister of State for Defence and Veterans Affairs Oleru Huda Abason participated in the DefExpo 2022 and IADD, held on the sidelines of the Expo on the invitation of Raksha Mantri.

A 17-member delegation from the National Defence College of India visited Uganda from 29 May-04 June 2022. The NDC delegation was led by a Brigadier Level officer and consisted of officers from Army, Air Force, Navy, Civil/police officers. The delegation called on the President of Uganda and also met the Minister of Defence, Chief of Defence Forces and other dignitaries.

Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Indian Affairs was jointly launched on 3rd August 2022 by the Speaker of Parliament of Uganda Anita Annet Among and High Commissioner of India in the presence of Chairman of the Forum Fred Opolot, MP. The Forum will enable continuous dialogue and enhanced cooperation among Parliamentarians of both countries.

On 28 August 2022, NFSU, Gandhinagar and Ministry of Defence of Uganda signed an MoU to open NFSU's foreign campus in Uganda. Subsequently, a delegation from NFSU visited Uganda from 19-26 September 2022 and met the President of Uganda, Defence Minister of Uganda and other senior officials in Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces (UPDF). The Government of Uganda has earmarked 130 acres of land at Jinja for the permanent campus of NFSU which is likely to be functional from December 2022.

An MoU was signed (in virtual mode) between the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs, Government of Uganda and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) on 03 Mar 2022. This MoU is for Repair, Overhaul, Maintenance, supply of spares etc. of Su-30MK2 aircraft operated by UPDF -Air Force by HAL, India. Permanent Secretary of MoDVA, Uganda and General Manager (Marketing), Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) signed the MoU.

## Zambia

Vice President W. K. Mutale Nalumango led a Zambian delegation, along with Minister for Small and Medium Enterprise Development Elias Mubanga to the 17<sup>th</sup> CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Growth Partnership held at New Delhi in July 2022.

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence led an 8-member Zambian delegation to participate in Defexpo and 12<sup>th</sup> India-Africa Defence Dialogue held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from 18-22 October 2022.

Inspector General of Police led a 5-member Zambian delegation to attend the 90<sup>th</sup> INTERPOL General Assembly held from 18-21 October 2022 in New Delhi.

India supported Zambia with a Line of Credit of USD 68 million for construction of 650 prefabricated Rural Health Posts. Out of 650 rural health posts, 563 have been commissioned and are operational.

## Zimbabwe

First Lady Auxilia Mnangagwa visited India during the period 3-11 May 2022. She met with leaders of charity and business organisations, who expressed their willingness to partner with her organisation, Angel of Hope Foundation.

Minister of Information, Publicity, and Broadcasting Services Monica Mutsvangwa, along with Deputy Minister of Health and Child Care Dr. John Mangwiro, and Deputy Minister of Finance C. Chiduwa, attended CII EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Growth Partnership held on 19 & 20 July. Minister Mutsvangwa also met with the Minister of Information and Broadcasting during the visit. She also attended the 53<sup>rd</sup> International Film Festival of India (IFFI) to be held from 21-28 November 2022 in Goa.

Deputy Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education Innovation Science and Technology Raymore Machingura visited India from 20-27 November 2022 to attend UNESCO India Africa Hackathon to be held in Greater Noida from 22-25 November 2022.

MoS-VM visited Zimbabwe from 06-08 June 2022 and had comprehensive discussions with President Mnangagwa, Speaker of the Parliament Adv. Jacob Francis Mudenda, and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Frederick Shava. MoS handed over a sewing machine to the First Lady from the consignment of 950 sewing machines donated to the Angel of Hope Foundation by India. MoS also handed over a consignment of medicines to combat tuberculosis to the Deputy Minister of Health & Child Care. MoS, along with Minister of Higher & Tertiary Education Prof. Amon Murwira commissioned the new CNC machines at the Indo-Zim Technology Centre at the HIT Campus in Harare.

Permanent Secretary of Defence Mark Grey Marongwe led a delegation to India to attend IADD/Defence Expo from 18-22 October 2022.

Commissioner General of Police, Harare, Cde T.G. Matanga visited India to attend the Interpol-ICPO General Assembly, held from 18-21 October 2022 at New Delhi.

The second Foreign Office Consultation (FOC) between India and Zimbabwe was held in New Delhi on 29 September 2022, with both sides undertaking a comprehensive review of bilateral relations.

An MOU on technical cooperation for Transport and related infrastructure projects, was signed between M/s RITES Ltd, and the National Railways of Zimbabwe in March 2022 in India. A delegation led by Deputy Minister of Transport and Infrastructure M. Madiro visited India from 29-31 August 2022.

## CHAPTER

## 8

# Europe and the European Union

## Central Europe

### Albania

India-Albania relations are positive, friendly, and forward-looking and both countries also cooperate in multilateral forums.

On 19 September 2022, EAM met the Foreign Minister of Albania Olta Xhaçka on the sidelines of the 77<sup>th</sup> UNGA in New York. EAM valued close cooperation with Albania in the UN Security Council and discussed strengthening bilateral relations and exchanging views on Ukraine and energy security.

Deputy Foreign Minister and Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania Ms. Megi Fino, led a delegation to attend the Special Meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on 28-30 October 2022 at Mumbai and New Delhi. On 29 October, she called on EAM in New Delhi where both leaders discussed cooperation in UNSC, explored the full potential of bilateral relations and cooperation in multilateral forums.

On 22 November 2022, India Albania Tourism Forum was held in Tirana in partnership with the Albanian Tourism Union, Albanian National Tourism Agency and Indian Association of

Tour Operators (IATO). It was the first event of its kind where more than 45 Albanian representatives of the tourism industry joined in person and 20 Indian tourism companies participated online.

The 8th International Day of Yoga 2022 was also celebrated at Grand Lake Park in Tirana on 18 June 2022.

### Austria

India and Austria have always had close relations. During the year, bilateral relations were enhanced further. EAM met Austrian Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg four times in 2022:

a) In February 2022 on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference; b) In March 2022 for the Delegation level talks in New Delhi; c) In June 2022 on the sidelines of the GLOBSEC Forum in Bratislava; and d) On September 2022 on the sidelines of the 77<sup>th</sup> UNGA in New York.

During his visit to India from 19-21 March 2022, Foreign Minister Schallenberg was accompanied by a high-level business delegation where both Ministers discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations, including political, economic,

commercial, and consular ties. They also exchanged views on the Covid-19 pandemic including the '*vaccine maitri*' initiative and mutual recognition of vaccination certificates. Both sides agreed to further intensify commercial engagements with a keen expression of interest by the Austrian business delegates towards investing in sectors like renewable energy in India. Both sides also looked forward to the 75 years of bilateral diplomatic relations.

On 12-16 March 2022, an Austrian Parliamentary Delegation led by the President of the Austrian National Council Wolfgang Sobotka, including the President of the Federal Council Ms. Christine Schwarz-Fuchs, visited India on the invitation of Lok Sabha Speaker. The delegation also met Vice President, the Governor of Telangana, EAM, and had high-level meetings with the Lok Sabha Speaker.

## Bosnia and Herzegovina

India's relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina continued to be steady during the year. The year also marked the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two nations.

## Bulgaria

India's relations with Bulgaria strengthened further based on bilateral exchanges and cooperation in multilateral fora. In May 2022, a delegation of Members of the Parliament of Bulgaria visited India and discussed bilateral cooperation in areas like trade, investment, the automotive sector, and transport. In June 2022, the 8th International Day of Yoga (IDY) was celebrated in

Sofia and other cities in Bulgaria. Both countries also supported each other's candidatures in multilateral fora.

## Croatia

Bilateral relations with Croatia continued to strengthen during the year. On 04 November 2022, the 10<sup>th</sup> session of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Croatia was held in Zagreb. The Indian side was led by Secretary West and the Croatian side was led by Director General for Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs Dr. Petar Mihatov.

During the Consultations, both sides carried out a comprehensive review of the existing bilateral relations, including strengthening of cooperation in trade and economic relations, defense and maritime, science and technology, innovation, research and development, higher education, tourism, culture, and people-to-people ties. The two sides also exchanged views on international issues of mutual interest, including cooperation in the UN and other multilateral fora, climate change, and sustainable development. They also discussed regional issues such as the EU, QUAD, Indo-Pacific, the Ukraine conflict, and developments in India's neighborhood.

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in Croatia continued during the year with many events, which included the celebration of the 8<sup>th</sup> IDY during 01-21 June 2022 at 75 different locations in Croatia and an exhibition of 75 paintings on India by the students of the School of Applied Arts and Design in Zagreb. India also joined as the partner country at the Annual Tourism Fair in Zagreb on 08-10 April 2022, where thematic tourism ideas of India were shared including a publication on 75 iconic destinations of India.



EAM met the Foreign Minister of Cyprus Ioannis Kasoulides, on the margins of UNGA, September 2022



## Cyprus

India and Cyprus enjoy excellent bilateral relations. EAM had a telephonic conversation with Foreign Minister Ioannis Kasoulides on 18 April 2022, and discussed bilateral ties, and regional and global issues along with India-EU relations. EAM had a bilateral meeting with the Foreign Minister Kasoulides at the sidelines of Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2022 in Rwanda, Kigali on 23 June 2022. Both sides reviewed and appreciated the upward trajectory in the bilateral ties and agreed to maintain the momentum of high-level exchanges, economic cooperation and people-to-people ties. EAM and the Foreign Minister Kasoulides also met on 24 September 2022 at the sidelines of 77<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly (UNGA) and exchanged views on bilateral, regional and international issues of common interest.

On 18 November 2022, MoS for Home Affairs had a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Interior of Cyprus Nicos Nouris on the sidelines of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ministerial Conference on Counter-Terrorism "No Money for Terror" in New Delhi. Both sides discussed bilateral cooperation and issues of mutual interest.

Bilateral trade between the two countries from April 2021-March 2022 was USD 214.17 million. As per Department of Industry Policy and Promotion (DIPP) estimates, the Republic of Cyprus is among the top ten FDI investors in India with cumulative investments of USD 12.13 billion during April 2000-September 2022.

Cyprus supported India's candidature in the Commission on the Limits of Continental Shelf (CLCS), UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Culture Heritage at UNESCO HQ, the post of President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and election to the Council (Part II) of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for the term 2023-25.

## Czech Republic

Bilateral relations remain robust between India and the Czech Republic. On 4-5 June 2022 EAM visited the Czech Republic at the invitation of Minister of Foreign Affairs Jan Lipavský. During the delegation-level talks, the two leaders discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations, including political, economic, defense and security, SandT, cultural, and people-to-people ties. Both sides appreciated that bilateral trade had crossed over USD 2 billion. Discussions were also held on India-European Union (EU) relations, including the upcoming Czech Presidency of the EU. Both sides agreed to work towards an early conclusion of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and exchanged views on the Indo-Pacific and the Ukraine conflict. They also discussed cooperation at multilateral fora and agreed to work closely in this sphere.

EAM also interacted with Czech Members of the European Parliament and discussed India's strong ties with EU, as well as the Czech Republic. They exchanged views on the Indo-Pacific, food and energy security, as well as digital cooperation.



EAM with the Czech Members of the European Parliament in bilateral meetings and discussions, June 2022

## Denmark

Bilateral relations between India and Denmark continued to strengthen during the year. The Green Strategic Partnership between India and Denmark got a huge boost with the visit of Prime Minister to Denmark on 3 and 4 May 2022. The visit included a bilateral component and the 2<sup>nd</sup> India-Nordic Summit. During the bilateral talks, both leaders reviewed the progress of the India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest. Queen Margrethe II, as a special gesture, hosted an official dinner in Prime Minister's honor. Prime Minister addressed the CEO-level India-Denmark Business Forum at the Confederation of Danish Industry and an Indian community event. Government-to-government MoUs/Agreements in the fields of migration and mobility, green shipping, cultural exchange programs, water resource management, skill development, animal husbandry, and dairying were exchanged.

Prime Minister attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> India-Nordic Summit along with the Prime Ministers of Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and Finland and reviewed India-Nordic relations. A Joint Statement reiterating a strong commitment to multilateralism and international cooperation, and a robust partnership with Nordic countries to help promote innovation, economic growth, climate-friendly solutions, and mutually beneficial trade and investments was issued.

The exchange at high-level visits continued from both sides during the year. Minister of Jal Shakti visited Denmark from 11-14 September 2022 to participate in the International Water Association - World Water Congress and Exhibition 2022. An MoU on cooperation in the field of Water Resources Development and Management was signed during the visit, which *inter alia* covers the establishment of the proposed Smart Water Laboratory on Clean River Water in Varanasi. Danish Minister for Development Cooperation Flemming Moller Mortensen visited India from 10-13 August 2022.

Other high-level bilateral interactions include a visit by the Uttar Pradesh Legislature delegation led by the Speaker of the UP Vidhan Sabha and Chairman of the UP Vidhan Parishad in August 2022 and a Ministerial delegation from Rajasthan led by the Minister of the Public Health Engineering Department and Ground Water Department to Aarhus in August 2022. An official delegation from the National Security Council Secretariat and National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, Pune visited Greenland to participate in the Arctic Circle Greenland Forum from 27-29 August 2022.

Four Joint Working Group meetings were held: the JWG on Shipping (25 April 2022); the fifth JWG meeting on Renewable Energy (8 September 2022); the fourth JWG meeting on Energy Cooperation (22 September 2022); and the JWG meeting on Food Processing and Food Safety (1 December 2022)



Prime Minister held meetings with the Nordic leaders at India-Nordic Summit, in Copenhagen, Denmark in May 2022

## Estonia

India's relations with Estonia were upgraded with the appointment of the first Ambassador of India at the newly opened resident Mission of India. He presented credentials to the President of Estonia on April 26, 2022. EAM met the Estonian Foreign Minister on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York to discuss bilateral relations and Russia's war in Ukraine.

## Finland

India's relations with Finland continued to maintain a positive trajectory in 2022, characterized by strong convergence in emerging areas of technology like artificial intelligence, 5G/6G, quantum computing, science and technology, renewable energy, education, and startups. Prime Minister met Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin on 4 May 2022 in Copenhagen on the margins of the 2nd India-Nordic Summit during which they took stock of the progress made in the Virtual Summit in March 2021. EAM had four interactions with his counterpart Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto - a telephone conversation on 19 January 2022 on bilateral issues, as well as on the situation in Afghanistan; a meeting on 19 February 2022 on the margins of the Munich Security Conference; this was followed by another meeting on 23 September 2022 on the sidelines of the UNGA in New York and a telephonic conversation on 5 October 2022 on multilateral agenda.

Minister of Economic Affairs Mika Lintilä visited India with a Team Finland business delegation from 18 - 22 April 2022. Both sides reached an agreement on setting up the Virtual Centre for Excellence in Quantum Computing. Cooperation in energy, start-up, green energy, green transition, decarbonization, development of EV ecosystem, recycling of batteries, smart charging, biofuel technologies, etc were discussed during the visit. An MoU for Cooperation in Renewable Energy was signed during the visit. Minister of Science and Culture Petri Honkonen visited India from 14-18 November 2022 to attend the Bengaluru Tech Summit and hold discussions on cooperation in education, science, and technology. Minister of Employment Tuula Haatainen led a 40-member delegation to India from 12-16 December 2022 during which a Declaration of Intent on Migration and Mobility was signed.

The 20th Joint Economic Commission Meeting between India and Finland took place on 2-3 June 2022. A high-level delegation from Kerala visited Finland on 2-4 October 2022 to explore cooperation in education, tourism, and investment. Startup India led official Indian participation with 28 Indian startup companies at SLUSH 2022 held from 16-18 November 2022.

## Greece

India's close and friendly relations with Greece continued to grow steadily in 2022. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece Nikos Dendias paid an official visit to India on 22 and 23 March 2022. During the visit, he called on the Vice President and had delegation-level talks with EAM. The two ministers discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and explored ways to further strengthen the close and friendly ties between the two countries. They also shared views on regional and global issues of mutual interest.

The two sides noted the importance of the movement of people in an orderly and legal way and signed a Declaration of Intent on Migration and Mobility. A Cultural and Educational Exchange Programme for the five-year period 2022-2026 was also signed during the visit. The Foreign Minister Dendias handed over the Instrument of Ratification of Greece and has signed the Framework Agreement on International Solar Alliance.

EAM met the Foreign Minister Dendias again on 23 September 2022 on the sidelines of the 77<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly in New York. The two Ministers discussed bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and international issues, including the Ukraine conflict, the Mediterranean, and the Indo-Pacific.

## The Holy See

India and the Holy See have friendly relations dating back to the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1948.

## Hungary

India's friendly relations with Hungary continued to grow steadily throughout the year. Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary Péter Szijjártó visited India on an official visit on 26 and 27 May 2022. He was accompanied by a high-level business delegation. The two Ministers, over delegation-level talks, discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations, including political, economic, cultural, and people-to-people ties. EAM thanked the Hungarian government for facilitating the evacuation of more than 6000 Indian citizens through the Ukraine-Hungary border and for their offer to accommodate evacuated Indian medical students in Hungarian universities. Both sides also agreed to further explore opportunities in various sectors including water, agriculture, food processing, health, and SandT. The Hungarian side also signed the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement.



An India-Hungary Business Forum, co-chaired by Foreign Minister Szijjártó along with the Minister of State for External Affairs, was also held on 27 May 2022 where senior business leaders from both countries participated. Two commercial agreements were signed at the Business Forum. Foreign Minister Szijjártó also met the Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs and Petroleum and Natural Gas and discussed cooperation in the energy sector between the two countries.

## Iceland

The relationship between India and Iceland continues to be warm and friendly. Prime Minister met with Icelandic Prime Minister Katrín Jakobsdóttir on 04 May 2022 on the sidelines of the 2nd India-Nordic Summit in Copenhagen. During the meeting, the leaders discussed cooperation in geothermal energy, fisheries, strengthening trade, arctic issues, and gender equality measures.

In the context of India and Iceland celebrating fifty years of bilateral relations, EAM held an online meeting with Icelandic Foreign Minister Thórdís Kolbrún R. Gylfadóttir on 12 May 2022 where they discussed bilateral issues and other matters of mutual interest.

On 19 and 20 Aug 2022 MoS (ML) visited Iceland where she met Icelandic Foreign Minister Thórdís Kolbrún R. Gylfadóttir. Both sides agreed to enhance cooperation in fisheries, geothermal energy, innovation, trade and investment, tourism, culture, and increasing people-to-people exchanges.

A delegation led by the Secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences represented India at the Arctic Circle Assembly from 13-16 October 2022. The delegation held meetings on the sidelines with delegations from the US, UK, Scotland, Greenland, and Japan. India is an Observer in the Arctic Council, an intergovernmental platform of Arctic states.

The bilateral trade between India and Iceland was USD 17.48 million in 2021-22. There are about 8 Icelandic companies operating in India and around 428 Indian nationals in Iceland, most of whom are in the service or business sector or are students.

Iceland supported India's candidatures to UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage for 2022-26; Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) 2023-27; International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) elections; International Civil Aviation Organization re-elections; International Telecommunications Union Council (ITU) and ITU – Radio Regulatory Board (RRB) elections.

## Latvia

India-Latvia relations continued to be steady during the year. There is a significant amount of interest in Indian culture, Yoga, Ayurveda, etc amongst the people of Latvia. During the International Day of Yoga events in Latvia, there was enthusiastic participation. India and Latvia held Foreign Office Consultations in New Delhi on 29 November 2022. Secretary West co-chaired the consultations along with State Secretary in the Foreign Ministry of Latvia Andris Pelss. Both sides discussed the entire range of bilateral relations, including political, economic, commercial, people-to-people, and cultural linkages, and exchanged views on regional and multilateral issues.

## The Principality of Liechtenstein

The bilateral relations between India and The Principality of Liechtenstein continued to be smooth. The Indian Embassy in Berne is concurrently accredited to the Principality of Liechtenstein and maintains regular contact with political and business leaders in the Indian Diaspora in the Principality.

Ambassador presented credentials to Prince Alois on 29 April 2022. Mission hosted its Independence Day Reception on 24 August 2022 in Liechtenstein. From the Liechtenstein side, Minister of Foreign Affairs Dominique Hasler attended the event as the Chief Guest. Chief of Protocol and senior Govt. Officials, Members of Parliament, and business and cultural leaders were also present on the occasion. The year 2023 will be celebrated as the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of India-Liechtenstein bilateral diplomatic relations.

## Lithuania

India and Lithuania share a common link through language. Lithuanian is widely acknowledged as being the language grammatically closest to Sanskrit and signifies close ancient links. A two-member Lithuanian Parliamentary delegation led by the Head of Inter-Parliamentary Relations Mykolas Majauskas, with India Group, visited India from 9-14 August 2022. The delegation had meetings with Secretary West and Members of Parliament on 10 August 2022 in New Delhi. They also visited the International Solar Alliance Secretariat in Gurugram. On 11 August 2022, the delegation also visited Mumbai and had a meeting with the RBI officials and discussed fintech and cryptocurrency regulations. On 12 August 2022, the delegation visited Bangalore and had meetings with the Minister of Education, IT and BT, Science and Technology, Skill Development of Karnataka, and private sector companies like Infosys, Anthem Biosciences, SLK Software, and Teltonika.





Foreign Minister of Malta Ian Borg during a bilateral meeting with EAM, September 2022.

## Malta

High-level engagement between India and Malta continued in 2022. On 19 September 2022 EAM met Maltese Foreign Minister Dr. Ian Borg on the sidelines of the 77<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly. The two Ministers agreed to deepen cooperation in the UN and Commonwealth and also explored strengthening of bilateral economic ties between the two countries.

On 21-23 August 2022, MoS (ML) visited Malta. MoS (ML) called on the President of Malta Dr. George Vella, and met Foreign Minister- Dr. Ian Borg, Minister of Tourism- Clayton Bartolo, and Minister for National Heritage, Arts and Local Government- Dr. Owen Bonnici. Both sides had detailed discussions on bilateral relations, especially trade and investment, tourism, and culture. Earlier, at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2022, held in Kigali, Rwanda on 20-25 June 2022, Secretary West had a meeting with the Permanent Secretary in Malta's Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade Christopher Cutajar. They discussed the further strengthening of bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Malta's Minister for Active Ageing, Dr. Jo Etienne Abela visited India from 04 - 14 October 2022. He traveled to Chennai, Hyderabad, and Ahmedabad to explore further collaboration between India and Malta in the hand pharmaceutical sectors.

The Indian expatriate community in Malta is growing in strength, adding to the country's workforce in various sectors, including health, hospitality, and construction

## Moldova

On 28 December 1991, India recognized Moldova and established diplomatic ties on 20 March 1992. The relationship between India and Moldova is amicable and cordial. India and Moldova cooperate on issues of mutual concern and in international forums.

On 22 September 2022, EAM met Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Moldova Nicu Popescu in New York on the sidelines of the 77<sup>th</sup> UNGA. EAM thanked him for his support during Operation Ganga and appreciated his enthusiasm for expanding bilateral ties.

In April 2022, the Indo-Mold Business and Cultural Organization (IMBCO) started Hindi classes for beginners in Chisinau, Moldova. In May 2022, 'Disha', a cultural festival took place at the Nicolae Testemițanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Chisinau where Indian medical students showcased Indian dance and music. On 21 and 22 May 2022 a photographic exhibition "Lens Vision", was held where a collection of 72 photographs by the President of the "Bengal Photography Institute" were displayed. Hindi Day was also celebrated in

Chisinau, Moldova on 16 September 2022. On 19th June 2022, the 8th International Day of Yoga was celebrated at the State University of Physical Education and Sports in Chisinau.

## Montenegro

India's relations with Montenegro have traditionally been close and friendly since the days of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) of which it was a constituent republic. There is considerable goodwill and a feeling of friendship for India in Montenegro. In June 2022, EAM met President of Montenegro Milo Đukanović on the sidelines of the GLOBSEC 2022 Bratislava Forum. Both leaders noted the friendly ties between the two countries and the close cooperation in the multilateral fora.

## North Macedonia

Relations between India and the Republic of North Macedonia are warm and cordial. The Foreign Office Consultations (FoCs) with North Macedonia were held on 27 October 2022 in New Delhi. The FoCs carried out a comprehensive review of bilateral relations, including high level political exchanges; enhancing cooperation in trade and investment, ICT, agriculture, science and technology, textile, education, health, consular issues, culture and tourism, and people-to-people contacts. North Macedonia supported India's candidature in various multilateral forums.

## Norway

Prime Minister met the Prime Minister of Norway Jonas Gahr Støre in Copenhagen on the sidelines of the 2nd India Nordic Summit. Both leaders reviewed bilateral relations and discussed future areas of cooperation. Prime Minister highlighted that Norway's skills and India's scope provided natural complementarities. Both leaders further discussed the potential for deepening engagement in areas like Blue Economy, renewable energy, green hydrogen, solar and wind projects, green shipping, fisheries, water management, rainwater harvesting, space cooperation, long-term infrastructure investment, health, and culture.

On 9 September 2022, Prime Minister had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Støre. The leaders discussed bilateral and international issues of mutual interest, including initiatives to mobilize climate finance for renewable energy projects in developing countries. Prime Minister also emphasized the importance of ensuring equitable, timely, and adequate climate finance for the developing world, and appreciated PM Støre's commitment to the cause.

EAM and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway Anniken

Huitfeldt met on the sidelines of the UNGA in New York on 22 September 2022. Both leaders discussed the Nordic partnership, Afghanistan, Ukraine, and climate action.

The year 2022 also saw an intensification of the India-Norway partnership in the fields of energy, environment, and education. A Joint Task Force on Energy was constituted to provide an impetus to our clean energy partnership. Joint Working Groups on Education and Science and Technology; and on Environment had fruitful discussions in New Delhi and Warsaw respectively. Foreign Office Consultations were also held with Norway in November 2022.

## Poland

India and Poland share a long-standing friendly relationship, marked by historical cultural linkages. This year witnessed further reaffirmation of our friendship when Poland assisted in the evacuation of students from Ukraine in the months of February-March 2022 wherein 3693 Indian nationals were evacuated by 17 flights from the Polish airport of Rzeszow. The Polish government extended all help during their evacuation of Indian nationals. Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways and Civil Aviation visited Poland to oversee the evacuation efforts.

On 01 March 2022 Prime Minister spoke to Polish President Andrzej Duda on the phone and warmly thanked him for the assistance provided by Poland in the evacuation of Indian citizens from Ukraine.

On 11 January 2022 and 28 February 2022 EAM had telephonic conversations with Polish Foreign Minister Zbigniew Rau and held bilateral discussions with Rau on the sidelines of the Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi on 25 April 2022. During Foreign Minister Rau's visit to New Delhi, a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Criminal Matters was also signed. Furthermore, on 12 December 2022, Foreign Office Consultations were held with Poland.

## Romania

Romania extended assistance during the evacuation of around 8000 Indian citizens from Ukraine to India through its territory. A video conference meeting between the Parliamentarians from India and Romania took place on 09 June 2022. The meeting was chaired on the Indian side by the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs and on the Romanian side by the President of the Romanian Parliamentary Friendship Group with Indian Senator Banu Claudia-Mihaela. Discussions were held on bilateral visits, parliamentary exchanges, trade and investment, Ayurveda, defense, and tourism.

The 8<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga 2022 was celebrated in seven cities in Romania where four MPs and a Mayor from Romania participated in Indian Council for Cultural Relations's (ICCR) Gen Next Democracy Programme from 05-14 September 2022 in New Delhi.

On 14 November 2022 India and Romania also held their fourth Foreign Office Consultations in New Delhi. The consultations covered the entire gamut of bilateral relations, including political, economic, commercial, consular, and cultural linkages. Both sides also exchanged views on regional and global issues, including developments in the Indo-Pacific, QUAD, India's neighborhood, EU, Ukraine conflict, cooperation in multilateral fora including the UN, UNSC reform, and India's G20 Presidency.

## Serbia

During the year 2022, both India and Serbia remained engaged in all spheres of cooperation including trade and commerce. Subsequent to the general elections held in Serbia in April 2022, a new Government was formed on 26 October 2022.

The Interior Minister of Serbia Aleksandar Vulin visited New Delhi from 18-21 October 2022 and led the Serbian delegation to the 90<sup>th</sup> Session of the INTERPOL General Assembly, organized by the Central Bureau of Investigation in New Delhi.

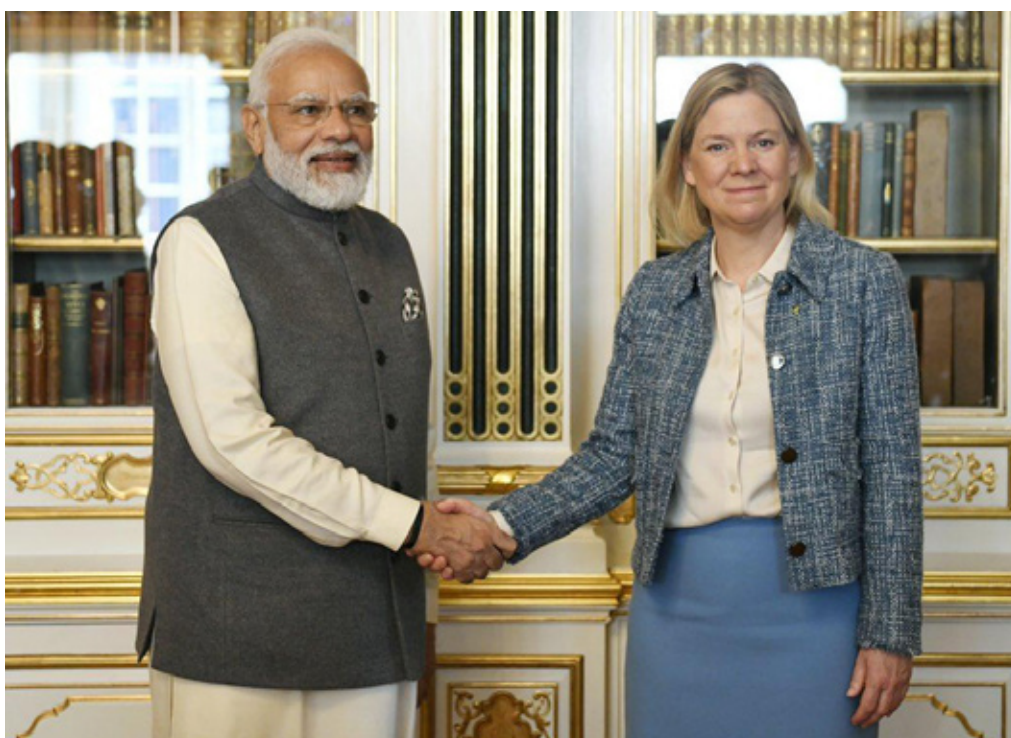
Cooperation in the field of culture also made further progress. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Prasara Bharti and PINK TV Serbia in October 2022 for mutual cooperation between the two media organizations.

## Slovakia

India and Slovakia have had traditionally warm and cordial relations. On 2-4 June 2022, EAM participated in the GLOBSEC Bratislava Forum 2022 and held a bilateral discussion with the then Foreign Minister of Slovakia Ivan Korčok. EAM also met the Prime Minister of Slovakia Eduard Heger on the sidelines of the GLOBSEC Forum. The two countries also have strong economic and commercial relations with several Indian companies having a presence in Slovakia and vice versa. A business delegation from Slovakia participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> Smart Cities Exhibition and Conference held from 23-25 March 2022 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

## Slovenia

The bilateral relations between India-Slovenia are cordial. A Slovenian delegation led by Foreign Minister of Slovenia Dr. Anže Logar visited New Delhi from 25-28 April 2022 for the



Prime Minister met the former Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson, on the sidelines of the 2nd India-Nordic Summit in Copenhagen in May 2022.

Raisina Dialogue 2022. During the visit, he met EAM and held discussions on bilateral issues, and shared views on the matters pertaining to the EU, UN, and regional and international issues.

The second edition of the Surya Festival of Yoga and wellness was held from 10-21 June 2022 in Slovenia. As part of the festival, the Embassy of India Ljubljana organized a large number of events in various cities in collaboration with the local government, municipalities, and other stakeholders.

The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Secretary visited Slovenia to attend the 60th International Fair for Agriculture and Food (AGRA) from 20-22 August 2022. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the National Small Industries Corporation NSIC, India, and SPIRIT Slovenia on cooperation in the field of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises was signed in August 2022.

## Sweden

India and Sweden have had long standing close relations based on common values, strong business, investment, and research and development linkages, and similar approaches to meet global challenges of peace and security, and development.

In May 2022, Prime Minister met the then Prime Minister of Sweden Magdalena Andersson on the sidelines of the 2nd India-Nordic Summit in Copenhagen. The two leaders reviewed the progress made in their bilateral partnership, especially the progress made under the Joint Innovation Partnership. Both leaders also discussed possibilities of deepening cooperation in areas like innovation, climate technology, climate action, green hydrogen, space, defense, civil aviation, Arctic, polar research, sustainable mining, trade, and economic ties.

This year there have been seven ministerial interactions- Foreign Ministers (Munich in February 2022); Environment Ministers (Nairobi in March 2022; Stockholm in June 2022 (Stockholm+50); and Sharm-El-Sheikh in November 2022 (COP27)); Aviation and Infrastructure Ministers (Virtual in March 2022), Swedish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Energy, Business and Industry and our Science and Technology Minister (in a hybrid format in October 2022) and between Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade with Commerce and Industries Minister (in December 2022).

## Switzerland

India and Switzerland relations continued to be warm and cordial. Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin, Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research paid a working visit to India on 03 and 04 October 2022. The visit included meetings with Minister of Commerce and Industry and officials

of the Department of Science and Technology. Federal Councilor Ueli Maurer, Federal Department of Finance visited India on 10 August 2022. During his visit, he met Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, and EAM. Discussions were held on bilateral finance topics and the India-Switzerland partnership in the context of India's G20 presidency this year. Also, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) State Secretary Livia Leu visited India for Foreign Office Consultation on 02 August 2022 in New Delhi.

From 22-26 May 2022, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare participated in the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum held at Davos, Switzerland. A three-member delegation of the Railway Board participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Joint Working Group on technical cooperation in the rail sector held in Berne on 30 August 2022. A virtual meeting also took place between Union Minister of Commerce and Industry and Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin on 6 December 2022.

AKAM Iconic Week – 2022 was celebrated from 19 September 2022 to 02 October 2022 as an Indian cultural festival that showcased music, dance, exhibition, cuisine, crafts, Bollywood and yoga in Switzerland. Some of the major events organized were the opening Gala including a short parade of giant puppets followed by a music performance by a Rajasthani folk band, a Bollywood Dance Workshop and Well-being Session, an exclusive exhibition titled Gandhi@150 which showcased a rare collection of archival photographs taken by press photographer Kulwant Roy, 'Shakti'-Mohiniyattam and Kalaripayattu dance performance by a cultural troupe led by Ms. Radhika Menon concert by Dr. L. Subramaniam and Kavita Krishnamurti, etc.

On 05 April 2022, Ambassador in Berne presented credentials to President and Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis.

India and Switzerland share a long history of warm and cordial relations. A Treaty of Friendship between India and Switzerland was signed at New Delhi on 14 August 1948; one of the first such treaties to be signed by independent India and an important milestone in Indo-Swiss relations. The year 2023 will mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the India-Switzerland Friendship Treaty. India and Switzerland are moving towards a dynamic and future-oriented partnership that reflects our priorities and potential.

## Türkiye

On 16 September 2022, on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit Prime Minister met with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. On the sidelines of UNGA, EAM met Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu on 20 September 2022 in New York.



After a gap of three years, the two sides held the 11<sup>th</sup> round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Türkiye in Ankara on 10 June 2022, co-chaired by Secretary West and Deputy Foreign Minister Sedat Önal.

Various events were organized in Türkiye under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM). The Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) sponsored the Gujarati folk dance group 'Saptak' that visited Bursa, Türkiye for the 34th International Golden Karagoz Folk Competition in July 2022.

## Europe West

Europe West Division handles relations with 10 countries and 3 Principalities in Europe and also the European Union (EU). India's relations with these countries and principalities and the EU continued to witness a growing momentum in bilateral exchanges and cooperation.

Former President paid a State visit to the Netherlands in April 2022; visit to the UK in September 2022 to attend the State funeral of Queen Elizabeth II.

During 2022, Prime Minister visited Germany for the 6th Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC) (2 May 2022); 48th G7 Summit (26-28 June 2022) in Schloss Elmau; and Paris for the Bilateral Summit in May 2022. Prime Minister met EU President Ursula Von Der Leyen in April 2022 in Delhi; Prime Minister met the President of the European Council Charles Michel and the President von der Leyen on the sidelines of the G-7 Summit in Schloss Elmau on 28 June 2022. Prime Minister also met the UK Prime Minister, German Chancellor, French President, Italian Prime Minister, Netherlands Prime Minister on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Bali in November 2022.

EAM met the German Foreign Minister, Irish Foreign Minister during the Munich Security Conference from 18-20 February 2022. EAM visited Paris from 20-23 February 2022 to attend the EU Ministerial Forum on Indo-Pacific, during which he met the French Foreign Minister and Spanish Foreign Minister. EAM also visited Germany for the G7 Summit and the 6th IGC. EAM also bilaterally met his German, Italian, Dutch and Andorran counterparts in Delhi; Portuguese and Luxembourgish counterparts on the sidelines of Raisina Dialogue in April 2022.

The UK Foreign Secretary visited Delhi and Mumbai for the UNSC Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) Conference in October 2022. The President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen was the Chief Guest at Raisina Dialogue.

The India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations were launched in January 2022. Six rounds of negotiations have been held till December 2022. The India-EU FTA negotiations were launched in June 2022.

Germany is India's 2nd largest development cooperation partner, after Japan. The total volume of Germany's bilateral technical and financial cooperation by the end of 2022 amounted to EUR 22.9 billion.

Following India's joining the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) as an Associate Observer in July 2021, India celebrated the Portuguese Language Day in Delhi on 5 May 2022. To further enhance ties with the Lusophone world, India celebrated the International Lusophone Festival from 3-6 December 2022 in Goa in partnership with Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the Government of Goa.

The resident Missions of Belgium, Ireland, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain, UK, Netherlands and EU in India organized the celebrations in Delhi as part of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) AKAM week in February 2022.

India also celebrated 75 years of establishment of diplomatic relations with Belgium, France and Netherlands in 2022.

## Andorra

The maiden official visit of Andorran Minister of Foreign Affairs, Maria Ubach i Font to India from 31 July – 2 August 2022, which was also the first ever ministerial visit from Andorra to India, since diplomatic ties were established in 1994, gave a further boost to the friendly relations between India and the Principality of Andorra. During bilateral talks, EAM and the Andorran Foreign Minister reviewed the full spectrum of bilateral relationship. EAM thanked the Andorran Foreign Minister for support to India's positions and candidatures at multilateral fora. The two Ministers signed a Joint Declaration of Intent for Friendship and General Cooperation which lays the framework for cooperation between the two countries on education, culture, science, information, youth, sports, tourism, diplomacy, health and other areas. Both ministers welcomed the opening of an Indian Honorary Consulate in Andorra la Vella.

Maria Ubach i Font also met NITI Aayog Vice Chairman and discussed Agenda 2030, SDGs and how India and Andorra can collaborate on tackling global challenges such as climate change. She also interacted with industry representatives at Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

## Belgium

India and Belgium celebrated 75 years of establishment of diplomatic relations in 2022.

There were regular ministerial level interactions between the two countries in 2022, which included visits by Minister of Commerce and Industry from 17-18 June 2022 to launch the

EU-India FTA negotiations and a visit by Minister of Railways, Communications and Electronics and Information Technology on 16 June 2022 to the headquarters of IMEC (Interuniversity Microelectronics Centre) at Leuven.

## Economic and Digital Cooperation

The central pillar of India-Belgium bilateral relations has traditionally been trade and investment. In August 2022, India ranked 14<sup>th</sup> both as imports reached EUR 4.8 billion, an increase of 21.9%, and exports to Belgium from India reached EUR 5.7 billion, an increase of 48.9%. Total trade balance was EUR 859.4 million. The India-Belgium Luxembourg Economic Union Joint Commission (India-BLEU JCM) established in 1997 is the main forum for deliberating on bilateral economic and commercial issues and will hold its next edition in 2023.

In October 2022, Government of India signed an agreement with a Belgium-based research and innovation hub, Interuniversity Microelectronics Centre (IMEC), which will provide the technology to manufacture chips of 28 nanometres and above, for which the user has to pay a royalty. Three companies including Vedanta in a joint venture with Foxconn, IGSS Ventures Pte, Singapore and International Semiconductor Consortium (ISMC) have submitted applications for semiconductor fabs and through this MoU IMEC will transfer cutting-edge technology to the company that sets up the semiconductor plant in India.

## European Union

The Strategic Partnership between EU and India has been further strengthened by high level political engagements and also by progress in various fields such as trade and technology.

### High Level Exchanges

The President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen paid her first official visit to India on 24 and 25 April 2022, during which she was the Chief Guest at Raisina Dialogue, where she delivered the inaugural address in the presence of Prime Minister. During the visit, President Von Der Leyen met with Prime Minister, called on the former President and also had a meeting with EAM. During her bilateral talks with Prime Minister, they announced the establishment of an India-EU Trade and Technology Council to bring about high-level coordination on the intersecting aspects of trade, technology and security and provide the political steer needed for in-depth strategic engagement. Further, Prime Minister met the President of the European Council Charles Michel and the President von der Leyen on the sidelines of the G-7 Summit in Schloss Elmau, Germany on 28 June 2022.

In addition to the highest-level political engagements, there had been a regular interaction at the Ministerial / Commissioner



Prime Minister held talks with the President of the European Commission Ursula Von Der Leyen, in New Delhi, April 2022

level. European Commissioner for Energy Kadri Simson, visited India from 7 and 8 September 2022. During her visit, she met Minister for Coal and Minister for Power and Non-Renewable Energy and also participated at the first India-EU Hydrogen Forum; and an event on solar energy. EAM met his EU counterpart, High Representative/Vice President Josep Borrell, on 3 August 2022 in Cambodia and also on 7 July 2022 in Bali on the sidelines of G-20 Foreign Ministers' meeting. Further, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs Food and Public Distribution and Textiles of India visited Brussels on 17 and 18 June 2022 and met his counterpart, Executive Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis and they formally re-launched the negotiations for an India-EU Trade, Investment and Geographical Indications Agreements. As on date three rounds of negotiations have been held. Moreover, the Commerce Minister also met Executive Vice President Dombrovskis on the sidelines the G-20 Trade, Investment and Industry Ministerial Meeting in Bali on 21 September 2022; on the sidelines of the 12<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of WTO in Geneva on 13 June 2022 and also on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos on 25 May 2022. Further, Minister of Railways, Communications and Electronics and Information met his EU counterpart Executive Vice President Margrethe Vestager. Furthermore, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and Minister of Labour and Employment of India had a virtual meeting with the European Commissioner for Environment Virginijus Sinkevičius on 17 October 2022, and he also met with Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal Frans Timmermans on 31 August 2022 on the sidelines of G20 Joint Environment and Climate Ministers' Meeting in Bali; Minister of Women and Child Development, and Minority Affairs of India met with European Commissioner for Equality Helena Dalli on 24 August 2022 on the Sidelines of G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment (MCWE) 2022 in Nusa Dua Bali; and Minister of Finance of India met European Commissioner for Economy Paolo Gentiloni on 22 April 2022 in Washington on the sidelines of the IMF-WB Spring meetings 2022. Further, six Members of the European Parliament's (EP) Committee on International Trade (INTA), led by its Chair Bernd Lange, along with the Chair of EP Delegation for India (D-IN), Soren Gade, visited India from 11-13 April 2022 and had meetings with various interlocutors.

In addition to the political level engagements, the 9<sup>th</sup> round of Foreign Policy and Security Consultations (22 November 2022 in New Delhi); 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility (27 October 2022 in Brussels); 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the India-EU Human Rights Dialogue (15 July 2022); first ever Security and Defence Consultations (10 June 2022 in Brussels) between India and EU were also held.

From the trade perspective, the EU is one of the most important trade partners of India. The total bilateral trade in goods between India and the EU from January to September 2022 was EUR 84.6 billion and registered a growth of 34.7% compared

to bilateral trade of EUR 62.8 billion achieved during the same trading period in 2021. In addition to this, India-EU bilateral Trade in Services in 2021 was valued at EUR 30.40 billion.

## France

In 2022, India and France celebrated 75 years of establishment of diplomatic relations alongside Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Over the course of these seven and a half decades, this relationship has grown stronger into a friendly and trusted strategic partnership that will complete 25 years in 2023.

While cooperation in the areas of defence and security, space and civil nuclear matters constitute the principal pillars of the India-France Strategic Partnership, both countries are increasingly engaged in wide areas of cooperation including maritime security in the Indo Pacific region, digitalisation and advanced computing, counter terrorism, climate change, blue economy, renewable energy and sustainable growth and development, among others. Both countries share convergence of views on a range of regional and global issues, including on the need for a reformed multilateralism where a UN reform is a shared priority. In this regard, France is a steadfast supporter for India becoming a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

The two countries have a strong economic relationship with India with increasing bilateral trade and investment. There exist vibrant cultural and educational linkages as also growing people-to-people contacts led by Indian diaspora which has a sizeable presence in metropolitan France and its overseas departments/territories.

## High-Level Political Exchanges

Prime Minister and President Emmanuel Macron share a strong relationship underscored by convergences in global and regional priorities. They have been in touch with each other over telephonic conversations and in person meetings. In 2022, both leaders met thrice in person (at G20 Summit in Bali on 16 November, at G7 summit in Schloss Elmau on 27 June and at Bilateral Summit in Paris on 4 May) and spoke twice telephonically, once on 01 March and on 16 August 2022. Their meetings and exchanges focused on deepening Indo-French strategic partnership by increasing cooperation in areas of defence, nuclear, trade, food and energy security, climate change, digital, Indo-Pacific, Russia-Ukraine conflict and other regional and global issues.

French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Catherine Colonna, visited India on 14 and 15 September 2022 on her first official visit to an Asian country since assuming office. During the visit she called on Prime Minister and had bilateral



Prime Minister met the President of France Emmanuel Macron, during his visit to Paris, May 2022.

meetings with External Affairs Minister and National Security Advisor. Their talks covered the gamut of the bilateral trust-based strategic partnership, regional and global subjects of common interest, and coordination on issues at the United Nations Security Council.

EAM held talks with Foreign Minister Colonna few times during the course of the year including at Bali G20, United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), during Prime Minister's visit to France in May and telephonically few times to discuss global challenges and the conflict in Ukraine, in addition to other bilateral matters. Earlier, EAM visited Paris from 20-23 February 2022 to attend the EU Ministerial forum for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific; held bilateral meetings with French foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian and French Defence Minister Florence Parly. On the sidelines of the EU Ministerial forum, he interacted with Foreign Ministers of Bangladesh, Singapore, New Zealand, Greece, Spain, Republic of Korea, Czech Republic, EU Commissioner for International Relationships. EAM also chaired a conference of Heads of Indian Missions in EU countries at India House in Paris. He also called on the French President Emmanuel Macron and interacted at *Institut français des relations internationales* (IFRI), Paris. EAM also spoke to France's former Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian on 9 January 2022 to discuss the French Presidency of the EU council and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region, among other issues of global and regional significance.

Other key visits at ministerial level in 2022 included the visit of Minister of Railways, Communications and Electronics and Information Technology on 15 June 2022 to participate in

VivaTech 2022- Europe's largest tech event, where India was the Country of the Year with a strong participation by startups; Minister of Information and Broadcasting led a delegation to Cannes for the Annual Cannes Film Festival on 17 and 18 May 2022 where India was the 'Country of Honour'; visit of Minister of Health and Family Welfare on 6 and 7 April 2022 to Evian-les-Bains for the Gavi Conference. In addition to the visit of Foreign Minister Colonna to India in September 2022, Minister for the Armed Forces of France Mr Sébastien Lecornu visited India on 27 and 28 November 2022 for the fourth Indo-French Annual Defence Dialogue; Minister for Digital Transition and Telecommunications Mr Jean-Noël Barrot travelled to India on 18 November 2022 to participate in the third No Money For Terror conference; French Minister Delegate for Francophonie and International Partnerships Chrysoula Zacharopoulou visited India on 18 October 2022 to take part in the Fifth General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance co-chaired by France and India; French Minister delegate for Transport Jean Baptiste Djebbari participated in the opening ceremony of WINGS India 2022 in March 2022 and French Minister delegate for Foreign Trade and Economic Attractiveness Franck Reister travelled to India on 10 and 11 March 2022 for a bilateral visit.

India and France have a range of regular official and institutional dialogue mechanisms encompassing areas such as security and defence, economy and trade as well as people-to-people, scientific and cultural domains. Fourth Annual Defence Dialogue at Defence Ministers' level was held on 28 November 2022 during the visit of French Minister of Armed force Sébastien Lecornu to India. First Joint Working Group on Migration and Mobility Partnership between the two countries was held on 29



November 2022 after the Migration and Mobility Agreement came into force on 01 October 2021, upon ratification by the French Parliament. Senior officials from the two countries also exchanged notes and views under United Nations Security Council Consultations on 30 August 2022 and on West Asia and North Africa on 12 April 2022. Both countries will also hold Foreign Office Consultations, Strategic Dialogue, Maritime Cooperation Dialogue among others in the following weeks and months.

An important element of this year's exchanges included momentum in trilateral format meetings through the India-France-UAE Trilateral and India-France-Australia Trilateral. Both meetings were held at the Foreign Ministerial Level on the sidelines of the 77th UNGA in New York in September 2022. Apart from serving as platforms to discuss converging strategic interests in the Indo-Pacific, these two formats include considerable components of environmental and economic cooperation.

## Defence Cooperation

India and France have a strong and robust defence partnership with an increasing *atmanirbharta* element for India. During the visit of President Emmanuel Macron to India in March 2018, the two countries decided to create an Annual Defence Dialogue at the Ministerial level; four editions have been held so far; the most recent one held in November 2022 during visit of French Minister of Armed Forces Sébastien Lecornu to India.

Major ongoing defence-related projects include the purchase of Rafale aircrafts and the P-75 Scorpene Project. Other potential new areas of collaboration being pursued with the French Companies pertain to co-development of fighter aircraft engines, ammunition and tactical surveillance equipment. Defence business and official delegations from both sides participated in India's Defence Expo 2022 and French Eurosatory and Euronaval exhibitions to explore areas of further collaboration.

India-France joint defence exercises have grown in scope and complexity over the years. These exercises help enhance military cooperation and interoperability of the armed forces of India and France and underscore the shared commitment of both nations to security, safety and freedom of the global commons based on international law. The seventh edition of the bilateral air exercise between the Indian Air Force and the French Air and Space Force 'Exercise Garuda-VII' concluded at Air Force Station, Jodhpur on 12 November 2022. The 20th edition of the Bilateral Naval Exercise between Indian and French Navies – 'Exercise VARUNA' was conducted in the Arabian Sea, off the coast of Goa from 30 March – 03 April 2022. The sixth edition of the biennial training exercise "EX SHAKTI 2021" was conducted from 15 - 26 November 2021 in Fréjus, France.

Next edition is scheduled for 2023. Navies from the two countries also participated jointly in the Maritime Partnership Exercise in July 2022, IMEX 22 in March 2022 and Ex Milan 22 in February-March 2022. Indian Navy's P8I (Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aircraft) was also deployed in the French overseas region of La Reunion from 8-12 November 2022 for a joint reconnaissance mission in the western Indian Ocean.

## Space Cooperation

India and France have a rich history of cooperation in the field of space for over fifty years between ISRO and the French Space Agency- the National Centre for Space Studies (CNES) carrying on various joint research programmes and launch of satellites. Ongoing cooperation activities include joint-satellite mission Trishna, Maritime Domain Awareness system, payload accommodation, ground station support and professional exchange. Both countries cooperate on earth observation, space geodesy, future launch vehicle technologies, and planetary exploration. While ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) has launched French satellites on a commercial basis, Arianespace, France has been the major provider of launch services to Indian Geo-Stationary satellites. France remains a major supplier of components and equipment for the Indian space programme. During Prime Minister's visit to Paris on 4 May 2022, both sides decided to launch a dialogue on space related issues to discuss the wide-ranging areas of cooperation.

National Space Agencies of France CNES and ISRO have jointly identified the areas of cooperation in Human Spaceflight as per which, CNES will be supporting Gaganyaan mission in the fields of space medicine and supply of crew support elements. The training of Indian flight surgeons at European Astronaut Facility, Cologne and training of Astronaut ground support staff at Toulouse Space Center of CNES were completed in July as provisioned in the Implementing Arrangement signed in April 2021.

## Civil Nuclear Cooperation

*Électricité de France* (EDF) has deputed teams of experts to carry out discussions to resolve outstanding issues for the construction of six EPR units at Jaitapur of 1650 MWE, which have carried out visits to India regularly this year. Both sides are progressing on the technical and techno-commercial discussions.

The Annual Joint Coordination Committee between French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA) and India's Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) took place on 30 March 2022 to review the activities under their bilateral cooperation. The broad framework agreement covering a wide range of areas of cooperation including Nuclear Reactors Technology, Nuclear Safety, Waste Management, Nuclear

Fusion, Training etc. was extended by 5 years in December 2020.

A meeting of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) council was held on 15 September 2022 to review progress and discuss relevant aspects of the project where India is a member of the consortium with 9.1 % share. Project Jules Horowitz Reactor(JHR)- a materials testing and research reactor being constructed at CEA where India will have 3% usage rights, is also advancing well.

## Economic and Digital Cooperation

India and France have important bilateral investments and trade and commercial exchanges. France is one of the largest investors in India with a cumulative FDI stock of approximately USD 10.3 billion till June 2022. There are nearly 150 Indian companies operating in France employing more than 7000 employees. Post Covid, the bilateral trade between the two countries increased rapidly and in 2021, it stood at EUR 12.71 billion, up by approximately 40% from EUR 9.07 billion in 2020. During April-October 2022, India's exports to France were valued at USD 4.56 billion, up by approximately 34% during the corresponding period the previous year. Bilateral trade in the 12 months, October 2021 to September 2022 stood at USD 14.76 billion with a historic high of exports from India valued at USD 8.84 billion. India's main exports included engineering goods, petroleum products, ready-made garments, electronic goods and pharmaceuticals.

Fast Track Mechanism to resolve any investment related issues between Indian and French companies was signed in 2020. Technical meeting of the Fast Track Mechanism with the French Ministry of Economy highlighting the investment-related issues faced by Indian companies in France took place on 16 February 2022.

Joint statement signed between President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister during his visit to France on 04 May 2022 declared India as country of the year at VivaTech- Europe's largest Tech and Startup Event Minister of Communications and Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Minister of Railways visited the event on its first day on 15 June 2022 to inaugurate India's pavilion comprising 66 Indian startups, 9 Indian innovations and 40 sessions were organized across 4 days. During the event, three Memorandums of Understanding were signed between institutions on both sides including between National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) International and Lyra Network of France for 'acceptance of UPI and Rupay Card in France'. Building upon the InFinity Summit on Indo-French Digital cooperation, launched by the Embassy of India, Paris with its first edition being organized on 24 - 25 November 2021, a workshop called [IN]:[FRA]Structures to

build secure and innovative digital commons was held on 08 April 2022 which gathered more than 100 representatives of Governments, startups, developers and think tanks to discuss joint projects in the fields of Healthcare, Education, Financial Services, Public services and Identity.

At the states' level, many economic engagements between the two countries resumed as international fairs and events returned to France after Covid. Minister of Tourism, Government of Puducherry led a delegation to Paris on 14 November 2022 for the Puducherry tourism road show event to increase the flow of international tourists in Puducherry. Minister for Agriculture from the state of Uttarakhand visited on 25 and 26 February 2022 to participate in the annual board meeting of World Union of Wholesale Markets at Rungis, France. Minister of Agriculture, Farmer Welfare, Animals Husbandry and Dairying, Fisheries Law and Legislative Govt. of Haryana had meetings in the Agricultural sector in Paris on 07 October 2022. On 3 and 4 October 2022 Minister for Large and Medium Industries, Govt. of Karnataka met several representatives from different organisations like Alstom, Saint Gobain, SAFRAN, Airbus and Thales and on 20-22 September 2022 Minister of Tourism, Govt. of Kerala, attended the international event for French travel market, 'IFTM Top RESA'.

## Cooperation in the fields of Science and Technology and Education

There exists a vibrant educational cooperation within the governmental framework and amongst universities and academic institutes. Both sides have been encouraging to increase the number and quality of student exchanges. To further facilitate the pursuit of higher education by Indian students in France and French students in India and enhance their employability the Agreement on Migration and Mobility has been signed which entered into force from 01 October 2021, the first Joint Working Group on which was conducted on 29 November 2022.

During EAM's visit to France in February 2022, the two sides adopted the India-France Roadmap on Blue Economy and Ocean Governance. The roadmap rests on four pillars: Institutional, Economic, Infrastructure and Scientific and Academic. An Indian delegation comprising of officials from the NITI Aayog led by Special Secretary NITI aayog and Secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, visited Paris on 13 June 2022 to participate in the 'Preparatory meeting of the Blue Economy and Ocean governance Dialogue between India and France'. This year, a Senior Officer at École Navale- the French Naval Academy, also joined National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) Chennai for 2 years to deepen scientific collaboration between oceanographic institutes of two countries.

India participated as the featured 'Country of Honour' at the 13th edition of the Sea Tech Week, held in Brest, France from 26-30 September 2022. The event had participation from a delegation of experts at NIOT. Many opportunities were identified for future collaboration including in submersibles technologies.

On 11 February 2022, Prime Minister addressed the One Ocean Summit organised by the French Government on governance of the high seas and coordination of international scientific research. As Prime Minister and United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres launched the Mission LiFE movement in Gujarat in October 2022, French President Emmanuel Macron gave a keynote address virtually in support of the movement.

The first phase of Indo-French Campus for Health focused on the field of life sciences for health was also launched in June 2022 to offer double degrees from Indian and French institutes. During the visit of French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna to India, from 13-15 September 2022, India and France agreed to launch a scheme for Young Professionals for the age group 18 to 35 years (issue of 500 visas on both sides to young professionals).

## Cultural Cooperation

India was designated as the Guest of Honour Country at the Paris Book Festival 2022 organized from 21-24 April 2022. Reciprocally, France will be the Guest of Honour at the next edition of World Book Fair, Delhi. India was the official Country of Honour at the Marché du Film 2022, Cannes Film Festival, held between 17-25 May 2022. The International Yoga Day 2022 was celebrated by the Embassy in front of the iconic Eiffel Tower with more than 150 participants. More than 40 events were held across 20 locations in France.

## Germany

Germany and India share a robust economic and developmental partnership. Besides strong economic ties, both countries have a shared interest in upholding democratic values, the rules-based international order, multilateralism as well as the reform of multilateral institutions. Given its key role in the EU as well as the strength of our bilateral relations, Germany is one of India's most important partners in Europe. India was also among the first countries to establish diplomatic ties with the Federal Republic of Germany after the Second World War.

Several institutional arrangements exist between India and Germany to discuss bilateral and global issues of interest, namely, Foreign Office Consultations, High Defence Committee, the Indo-German Energy Forum, the Indo-German Environment

Forum, and Joint Working Groups in various fields, including skill development, automobiles, agriculture, tourism, water and waste management. A Track 1.5 Strategic Dialogue has been established to enable key stakeholders to enhance mutual understanding of national, regional and strategic interests.

Cooperation in science and technology is another important aspect of the India-Germany partnership. India's scientific establishments have close partnerships with German RandD institutions, including the Max Planck Society, Fraunhofer Society, Helmholtz Association and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Over the last few years, Germany has emerged as a destination of choice for Indian students and researchers. As per 2022 figures from the German Federal Statistical Office, 34,134 Indian students are currently studying in Germany.

## 6th Intergovernmental Consultations (IGC)

Prime Minister visited Berlin on 2 May 2022 to co-chair the 6th IGC with Chancellor Olaf Scholz where he was accompanied by EAM, Finance Minister, National Security Advisor and Minister of State (I/C) for Science and Technology. A total of 14 agreements were signed in diverse fields such as green partnership, development cooperation, exchange of classified information, renewable energy, migration and mobility, economic cooperation and agriculture. Prime Minister and the Chancellor also signed the Joint Declaration of Intent on Green and Sustainable Development Partnership.

India and Germany have set up a Task Force on Green Hydrogen which is intended to forge a closer partnership in the field of green hydrogen and to establish India as a global hub for green hydrogen production and possibly export green hydrogen to Germany.

## High-Level Political Exchanges

There are regular high-level contacts between India and Germany. Prime Minister and Chancellor meet regularly for bilateral meetings and on the sidelines of multilateral meetings. Following the 6th IGC summit, Prime Minister visited Munich from 26-28 June 2022 to attend the 48<sup>th</sup> G7 Summit under German Presidency at Schloss Elmau. Prime Minister and Chancellor also interacted on side-lines of the G20 Summit in Bali on 16 November 2022. On 5 January 2022, Prime Minister had a telephone call with Chancellor Olaf Scholz which was the first engagement between the two leaders after the formation of the new Federal Government in Germany, during which they reviewed the potential of ongoing cooperation and discussed ways in which both sides can strengthen investment and trade links, and how they can diversify cooperation and exchanges in new areas.

## Ministerial Visits

Bilateral exchanges at ministerial level take place regularly. Before his visit to Germany for the G7 Summit and the 6th IGC, EAM attended the Munich Security Conference from 18-20 February 2022, during which he met the German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock.

Ministerial visits from Germany to India at the federal level include a visit by the German Foreign Minister from 5-6 December, 2022. Earlier, the Minister of State in the German Foreign Office, Dr Tobias Lindner visited India to attend the 7th Raisina Dialogue in Delhi in April 2022.

## Multilateral Cooperation

Both countries consult each other and coordinate positions in multilateral fora including G-20 and in the UN on global issues such as climate change and sustainable development. Germany and India support each other on the UNSC expansion within the framework of the G4. The last meeting of the G4 was held at the level of Foreign Ministers on the sidelines of the 77<sup>th</sup> UNGA in September 2022. India and Germany also held UN Consultations in September 2022 prior to the 77<sup>th</sup> UNGA. Both sides also agreed to work together to accelerate the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) on reforms of the UN Security Council, with an overall objective to achieve concrete outcomes in a fixed time frame. India and Germany also held Cyber Consultations in April 2022 in Berlin.

## Economic and Commercial Relations

Germany is India's largest trading partner in Europe. It has consistently been among India's top 15 global partners and was the eleventh largest trading partner in FY 2021-22. India, at 0.9% of Germany's total trade, was ranked 24th in 2021. Bilateral trade in 2021-22 was USD 24.85 billion registering a growth of about 14.17% over FY 2020-21. Indian exports during this period increased by 21.64% reaching USD 9.88 billion and Indian imports increased by 9.71% to USD 14.96 billion. During FY 2022-23 (until September 2022), bilateral trade was USD 12.71 billion, which was an increase of 6.63% over the corresponding period in FY 2021-22. Indian exports with USD 5.1 billion during this period witnessed an increase of about 12.53% and Indian imports with USD 7.6 billion registered an increase of 3%.

Germany is the 9th largest FDI source for India. The total FDI from Germany to India from April 2000-September 2022 is over USD 13.8 billion. In FY 2021-22, German FDI in India was USD 728 million, which was 9% more than in FY 2019-20. There are more than 1,700 German companies and over 600 joint ventures operating in India. A Market Entry Support

Programme, the 'Make in India Mittelstand' (MIIM) for German Mittelstand (SMEs) and Family-Owned Businesses is being implemented by Embassy of India, Berlin to support high potential Mittelstand companies with medium to long term potential for manufacturing in India. As of date, more than 160 companies are being facilitated through this programme with a declared investment of nearly EUR 1.5 billion. More than 30 of these companies are 'hidden champions' that are world market leaders in niche products/technologies.

In 2022, German automotive company Continental AG invested EUR 119 million to set up a Technical Centre in Bengaluru catering to automotive research and development for local and global markets. Robert Bosch announced investment of over EUR 23 million in India in the next five years in advanced automotive technologies and digital mobility space. Verbio AG invested EUR 25 million in India's largest bio-energy plant, which was inaugurated in October 2022, which uses crop residue to produce biogas and manure.

There are more than 240 Indian companies operating in Germany. Indian companies have invested in Germany mainly through Mergers and Acquisitions. Investments are mostly in IT, automotive, pharma, biotech and manufacturing. Major clusters of Indian companies are in the states of North-Rhine Westphalia, Hesse, Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg.

Fast Track mechanisms are in place by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and the German Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) to address issues/ grievances of companies in India and Germany. The last meeting under the Fast Track Mechanism for German companies took place on 24 November 2022, chaired by the Secretary of DPIIT and Ambassador of Germany to India.

## Development Cooperation

Germany has been an important development cooperation partner for several decades. India is Germany's largest development cooperation partner. For India, Germany is the second largest partner after Japan. Priority areas for Indo-German development cooperation include energy, sustainable economic development, environment and management of natural resources. Major projects are in the sectors of energy (renewables and Green Energy Corridor), Indo-German Solar Partnership, skill development and sustainable urban development (water/sanitation/waste, climate friendly urban mobility, smart cities). Jochen Flasbarth, State Secretary in the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), led a delegation to India in April 2022 for preparatory discussions relating with the relevant Ministries in India on the 6th IGC including the Indo-German Green and Sustainable Development Partnership.



The annual meeting of the Indo-German Negotiations on Development Cooperation took place on 28 November 2022. Germany made new commitments of EUR 983.67 million for 2022 (EUR 899.5 million for financial cooperation and EUR 36 million for technical cooperation) towards achieving cleaner energy, more sustainable cities and better protection of natural resources. The total volume of the bilateral technical and financial cooperation by the end of 2022 amounts to EUR 22.9 billion.

## Meetings of the Joint Working Groups (JWGs)

The JWGs on (i) Automotives (ii) Quality Infrastructure (iii) Energy Forum (iv) Alternative Medicine and (v) Vocational Education and Training (VET) took place in January 2022, February 2022, April 2022, November 2022 and December 2022 respectively.

## Others

Germany's Parliamentary Committee on Environment headed by Member of Parliament Harald Ebner visited India from 25 October - 5 November 2022. During the visit, they met with the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and discussed global environmental, climate change, and other related challenges. Both sides also discussed how Germany and India can work together to find sustainable solutions to these challenges.

## Defence Cooperation

As part of Germany's Indo-Pacific Guidelines issued in September 2020, Frigate 'Bayern' set sail from Wilhelmshaven in August 2021 and carried out Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with INS Trikand in the Gulf of Aden. Subsequently, the Frigate made a port call at Mumbai on 21 January 2022 and carried out PASSEX with INS Vishakhapatnam. Former German Navy Chief Vice Admiral Kay-Achim Schönbach visited New Delhi from 20-22 January 2022 relating to the ship's visit of the German frigate BAYERN to Mumbai.

On 6 June 2022, a delegation from the National Defence College visited Germany. The delegation held meetings at the Federal Ministry of Defence, German Foreign Office, Bundeswehr's Operational Command, Potsdam and Bundeswehr's Command and Staff College, Hamburg.

## S&T and Education Cooperation

Indo-German Science and Technology Center (IGSTC), in February 2022, launched Paired Early Career Fellowship in

Applied Research (PECFAR), to create avenues for a two-way exchange of young early-career Indian and German researchers in pairs.

In February 2022, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the German Research Foundation (DFG) jointly launched the International Research Training Group (IRTG) program to promote top-level research cooperation and support the mobility of early career researchers.

During the 6th Inter-Governmental Consultation (IGC-6) held on 2 May 2022 in Berlin, a Letter of Intent towards the establishment of a Biosafety level-4 laboratory in Banda district, Uttar Pradesh was signed between National Centre for Disease Control, Government of India and Robert Koch Institute, Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

During the 6<sup>th</sup> IGC, the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IITR) signed two MoUs with Helmholtz Center for Heavy-Ion Research (GSI- Helmholtzzentrum für Schwerionenforschung) - Facility for Antiproton Ion Research (FAIR), Darmstadt to collaborate in nuclear and accelerator sciences and technologies and other scientific domains of mutual interest and to offer internship, training and research experience to undergraduate and postgraduate students researchers or equivalent and staff members of IITR at GSI-FAIR.

On 25 April 2022, Leibniz Institute for Solid State and Materials Research, Dresden (IFW), Dresden and SN Bose National Centre for Basic Science (SNBNCBS), Kolkata signed an MoU for cooperation in the field of Novel Magnetic and Topological Quantum Materials.

University of Siegen, Germany signed MoUs, with the Indian Institute of Technology Varanasi (5 May 2022) and Kerala University of Digital Science, Innovation and Technology (5 October 2022) for academic cooperation in education, research and scholarship.

## Ireland

India and Ireland continue to maintain close and friendly ties and there have been frequent exchanges between the two sides. EAM met with Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney on the margins of the Munich Security Conference in February 2022. Minister of State for Trade Promotion, Digital and Company Regulation in the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment Robert Troy, visited India for St. Patrick's Day in March 2022. Discussions during the bilateral meeting with MoS (ML) included deepening and widening bilateral relations and people-to-people contacts. Secretary Consular, Passport and Visa (CPV) and Overseas Indian Affairs (OIA) visited Ireland on 4 and 5 April 2022 and participated in the Global Diaspora Summit 2022. The 9th bilateral Foreign Office Consultations



EAM with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ireland Simon Coveney, on the margins of the Munich Security Conference, February 2022

were held in New Delhi on 14 October 2022 during which comprehensive discussions were held on bilateral, regional and global issues.

## Economic Cooperation

India's total trade in goods with Ireland for April 2021 to March 2022 is USD 1823.76 million. India's exports to Ireland were USD 687.95 million and imports from Ireland were USD 1135.81 million.

## Education

Ireland is a significant destination for Indian students seeking higher education, particularly post-graduate, doctoral and postdoctoral students in the areas of engineering, technology, medicine, and management. Ireland offers non-EU/EEA students who have graduated (PG) from Irish Higher Educational Institutions (Level three) to remain and seek employment in Ireland for 24 months. There are about 6,000 Indian students in Irish higher educational institutions. The Embassy conducted a brainstorming session with academics from prominent Irish Higher Education institutions (Trinity College, University of Limerick, Dublin City University, Irish Universities Association) on enhancing cooperation in the education sector in January 2022.

## Cultural Cooperation

The local Indian community is strongly supported by the Embassy for its various cultural performances, representing various states. Rutger Kortenhorst, an Irish Sanskrit scholar, was awarded Padma Shri in the field of Literature and Education. Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) sponsored the visit of 16-member Tagore Theatrical group led by Mrs. Dona Ganguly from 19-21 August 2022 as part of celebrations to commemorate 75 years of Indian Independence.

The Embassy celebrated key events like World Hindi Day, National Youth Day, webinar on 'Effects of Ayurveda and Yoga in addressing post-pandemic stress' etc. International Day of Yoga (IDY)2022 was celebrated in County Galway. City Halls in Counties Cork and Limerick were illuminated in the colours of the National Flag as part of 73rd Republic Day celebrations. The National Flag was flown at the University of Cork and City Hall on the occasion.

In May 2022, the Embassy started a flagship event entitled "India-Ireland Friendship Lecture Series", under which eminent persons having expertise in different fields of interest in promoting, widening and deepening mutual understanding and progress, are enlisted to deliver a lecture in their field of expertise either in person or virtually. 21 lectures have been

delivered till 30 November and 5 lectures are scheduled for December 2022.

## Italy

The bilateral relationship between the two countries witnessed an upswing with the first bilateral meeting between Prime Minister and the newly elected, first lady Prime Minister of Italy. Giorgia Meloni on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Bali in November 2022, which was the third interaction between Prime Ministers of India and Italy in the last three years.

### High Level Exchanges

The year was particularly significant in terms of high-level exchanges. The 9<sup>th</sup> round of Senior Officials Dialogue (Foreign Office Consultations) was held in Rome on 14 February 2022. The then Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio paid his first visit to India from 4-6 May 2022 during which he held bilateral talks both with EAM and Minister of Commerce and Industry. He also co-chaired a business roundtable event wherein several top Indian and Italian CEOs participated. Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas visited Italy from 5-7 September 2022 to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> edition of the Gastech Conference in Milan.

On an invitation from the World Food Program (WFP), Chief Minister of Odisha visited Rome from 20-26 June 2022 and met Executive Director, WFP David Beasley to discuss the future collaboration between Odisha and WFP in the field of agriculture. In July 2022, a six-member delegation from the State

of Haryana Cooperation Minister visited Italy and met Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization Qu Dongyu, to explore possible areas of future collaboration and also had bilateral discussions with the Italian Minister of Agriculture. Several speakers of the Legislative Assemblies including Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Haryana visited Italy on a parliamentary study tour during this period.

### Economic Relations

Italy is India's third largest trading partner in the EU. Bilateral trade in the period of April -September 2022 registered a growth of 2.88% over the same period in 2021-22 reaching a total of USD 7.19 billion. Amidst COVID-19 Pandemic, both the countries expressed solidarity and supported each other. Direct flights on Delhi-Rome resumed between India and Italy on 03 December 2022. The second edition of the India-Italy Innovation Day was held successfully in November 2022 with participation of around 50 leading Indian and Italian startups, virtually.

The year 2022 was also a prominent year for India in the field of agriculture, with the election of India as the chair of the International Steering Committee (ISC) in its 7<sup>th</sup> meeting on 17 November 2022. ISC is comprised of 14 member states constituted in FAO, Rome to celebrate the International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023. India's presence and profile considerably increased in the top governing bodies of three Rome-based UN agencies on agriculture (Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and World Food Programme (WFP)) with India's selection for



Prime Minister with the Prime Minister of Italy Giorgia Meloni, at the G20 Summit in Bali, Indonesia, November 2022

IYM. India continued to be a member of the FAO Council and various Executive Boards of IFAD and WFP. The other notable developments include India's contribution of USD 500,000 to the International Year of Millets Secretariat. Minister of State for Agriculture visited Rome to participate in the Opening Ceremony of the International Year of Millets 2023 which was held on 6 December 2022 at the FAO Council session. India has the largest program of any country that receives IFAD's assistance globally.

## Defence Cooperation

On the defence front, the India-Italy defence relations gained major impetus in 2022 due to resolution of issues followed by the visit of Prime Minister to Italy for the G20 Summit. As a further testimony to the growing warmth in relations, the long outstanding India-Italy Military Cooperation Group (MCG) meeting was held in Rome on 31 May-1 June 2022. A delegation from National Defence College visited Italy from 5-10 June 2022 and received a first-hand understanding of the role, strategic concept and organization of the Italian Armed Forces. Also, INS Tarakash and Italian Ship Camandante Foscari conducted a joint maritime exercise in the South East of Sicily in July 2022. INS Tarangini made a port call at Syracuse in September 2022. The Italian Defence Industry also participated in the Defence Expo in Gandhinagar in October 2022 reflecting the recent upswing in defence relations.

## Cultural Cooperation

IDY 2022 was celebrated at the iconic Castel Sant Angelo in Rome with enthusiastic public participation and also in Florence, Rome, Palermo and Procida. The façade of one of the buildings of the majestic Baths of Diocletian was illuminated with the Indian tricolour on the occasion of the Republic Day. MoS for Culture graced the Venice Biennale Cinema Festival virtually. The Festival of Traditional Medicines was organized by the University of Perugia in November 2022 with special focus on AYUSH. The Embassy organized the 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of the River-to-River Indian Film festival in Florence during December 2022 as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations.

## Luxembourg

The warm and friendly bilateral relations with the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg were further strengthened by visit of Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn to India during 26 and 27 April, 2022 for the Raisina Dialogue during which EAM had a bilateral meeting with Foreign Minister Asselborn and reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relationship besides discussing regional and global issues.

As a follow up to the successful Leaders Summit between the two Prime Ministers in November 2020, cooperation across various sectors has seen an upswing. An inter-regulatory cooperation agreement between Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF) Luxembourg and International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) was signed on 06 January 2022 and exchanged on 29 July 2022 in the presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister. An MoU between India and Luxembourg on cooperation in the exploration and uses of outer space for peaceful purposes was signed in February 2022. A Luxembourgish company – B Medical System - with niche and state-of-art technology in the domain of cold chain vaccine refrigeration set up its first manufacturing facility outside Luxembourg in Mundra, Gujarat, in January 2022. In July 2022, the company also opened its office at New Delhi.

During the period Jan-Sep 2022, Indian exports to Luxembourg amounted to EUR 26.991 million, and Indian imports from Luxembourg were at Euro 35.146 million, taking the total bilateral trade between the two nations to EUR 62.137 million. FDI flows from Luxembourg to India from April 2000 to March 2022 stood at USD 3.905 billion making it the 15th largest investor in India.

## Monaco

India and Monaco established consular relations in 1954 and officially established diplomatic relations in 2007. Ambassador of India in Paris is concurrently accredited to the Principality of Monaco while Monaco has a non-resident Ambassador to India.

Trade, tourism and tax matters are principal areas of cooperation between India and Monaco. The two sides endeavor to explore other areas as well, including cultural relations, cooperation on marine biodiversity and clean energy. In recent years, India's exports to Monaco have seen an upward trend though there still remains greater potential to increase bilateral trade. India and Monaco cooperate closely on issues of tax evasion and money laundering.

This year, India extended the facility of visa free entry for a stay of less than 90 days to diplomatic passport holders of Monaco, which Monaco had given to India under its border arrangements with France.

## Netherlands

### High Level Exchanges

India and the Netherlands enjoy long-standing friendly and multifaceted relations with a broad agenda of cooperation



marked by shared values of democracy, rule of law and growing convergences on global and regional issues. The year 2022 marked 75 years of India-Netherlands diplomatic relations. The occasion was commemorated through the launch of a special India-Netherlands Lotus-Tulip logo in March 2022 and the state visit of the former President to the Netherlands from 4-7 April 2022 at the invitation of King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima.

During the visit, which was the first Head of State visit from India to the Netherlands in more than three decades, Former President held bilateral meetings with the King and the Queen and the Prime Minister of Netherlands Mark Rutte. During the year, Prime Minister had two telephonic conversations with the Prime Minister of Netherlands Mark Rutte in March 2022 and July 2022. The two leaders discussed India-Netherlands bilateral ties, including Strategic Partnership on Water and cooperation in the key areas of agriculture, health, high tech and emerging sectors. The two leaders also exchanged views on India-EU relations, regional and global issues including convergence and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and the Ukraine issue. The leaders also saw each other on the sidelines of a multilateral event - the G20 Summit in Bali in November 2022.

The momentum of bilateral high-level interactions was further enhanced by the visit of Queen Máxima of the Netherlands to India from 29-31 August 2022, in her official capacity as United Nations Secretary-General's Special Advocate (UNSGSA) for Inclusive Finance for Development and G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI) Honorary Patron. She was one of the first world leaders to call on the newly appointed Hon'ble President of India. External Affairs Minister also met with the Foreign Minister of Netherlands Wopke Hoekstra twice during the year (April 2022 and July 2022). The momentum of Parliamentary Exchanges also increased with the visit of Lok Sabha Speaker to Netherlands in August 2022. He had good interaction with President of the Dutch Senate Anthony Bruijn.

India-Netherlands Foreign Office Consultations were held on 19 December 2022 led by Secretary West and Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Netherlands.

## Economic Cooperation

Trade and Commercial relations form the backbone of the vibrant India-Netherlands relationship. The Netherlands was India's 3rd largest trading partner in the EU (2021-22). Bilateral trade touched an all time high of USD 17 billion in 2021-22. During the financial year 2021-22, India's total exports to the Netherlands amounted to USD 12.547 billion and India's total imports from the Netherlands during the financial year 2021-22 stood at USD 4.478 billion. The trade balance was in India's favour at USD 8.068 billion. The total Foreign Direct

Investment flows into India from the Netherlands during the financial year 2021-22 was USD 4.6 billion. The Netherlands is now the fourth largest investor in India with a total FDI of USD 42 billion since 2000. Indian companies are also investing in the Netherlands in a big way, with a total investment of USD 22 billion. A Joint Statement for establishing the bilateral Fast-Track Mechanism (FTM) between India and the Netherlands for facilitating investments from Dutch companies, was signed by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and the Embassy of the Netherlands on 27 September 2022 in New Delhi.

The robust India-Netherlands cooperation on the Water, Agriculture and Health (WAH) Agenda also progressed well during the year. In the water sector, a delegation from the Dutch Ministry of Water Management visited India in September 2022 and held discussions with the Namami Gange team from the Ministry of Jal Shakti. India and Netherlands also organized a seminar on Inland Waterways Transport in November 2022. Following the sixth meeting of India-Netherlands Joint Working Group on Agriculture Cooperation held virtually in June 2021, India and Netherlands extended the Action Plan for establishing Centres of Excellence in agriculture and related areas for the next 3 years till 2024 by signing an agreement in August 2022. In the health sector, the Netherlands Vice Minister of Health Marjolin Sonnemans visited India and co-chaired the India-Netherlands Joint Working Group Meeting on Health. In the field of security cooperation, a delegation from our National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) participated at The Hague Security Delta's Indo-Dutch Cyber Security Summer School in October 2022. The Dutch delegation also participated at the 'No Money for Terror Conference' held in October 2022 in India.

## Diaspora and Cultural Cooperation

During the State Visit to Netherlands in April 2022, President of India participated in a special ceremony at the famous Keukenhof of Tulip Garden to name 'Maitri' Tulip to Netherlands, as a symbol of historic friendship between people of India and the people of the Netherlands. The Netherlands is home to the largest Indian diaspora in the EU comprising nearly 200,000 Surinamese Hindustani and 60,000 Indian professionals and more than 3,500 students from India are studying in the Netherlands in various universities. An ICCR Cultural Centre "The Gandhi Centre" has been functional in The Hague since 2011. The Centre had an active calendar of programmes in the year 2022 including Yoga, Sanskrit, Tabla, Kathak and Hindi language classes, in addition to organizing various cultural programmes including music, dance, workshops, movies, etc. It also organized various events to mark the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Gandhi Jayanti Celebrations, National Unity Day, Constitution Day etc.



Former President met Prime Minister of the Netherlands Mark Rutte, at Hague, April 2022

## Portugal

The cordial bilateral relations between India and Portugal continued to strengthen in 2022. Whilst the ongoing conflict in Ukraine has had a dampening effect on commercial activity, including tourism flows, bilateral trade has nonetheless flourished, building upon the recovery from 2021. The ratification of the bilateral Migration and Mobility Agreement, intended to facilitate mutually beneficial migratory flows, has been a major step in this regard. India joining the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) in July 2021 has added a new dimension to our relations with Portugal and the Lusophonic world with events such as India celebrating Portuguese Language Day in May 2022 and organizing a Lusophone Cultural Festival in Goa from 3-6 December 2022 has further strengthened the ties.

### High-Level Exchanges

EAM held a telephone conversation with the then Foreign Minister Santos Silva on 11 January 2022. On 6 April 2022, following the delayed inauguration of Portugal's new cabinet after the Portuguese general elections on 30 January 2022, Prime Minister congratulated Prime Minister Costa on his reappointment via twitter. As he assumed his new position, Foreign Minister Gomes Cravinho travelled to New Delhi from 26-27 April 2022 to attend the Raisina Dialogue. He also met EAM and discussed various matters, including the evolving

conflict in Ukraine.

Minister of State for Science and Technology and Minister of State for Earth Sciences visited Portugal from 27 June - 1 July 2022 to participate in the 2022 UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon, during which he presented India's statement before the full house of the UN meet. On 12 October 2022, India and Portugal held the third round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOCs) in Lisbon to review bilateral relations and discuss cooperation, co-chaired by Secretary West and the Director General for Foreign Policy Rui Vinhas. Secretary West also interacted with the Foreign Minister João Gomes Cravinho at a round table discussion organised by the Oriente Foundation, in addition to calling on Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Francisco André and Executive Secretary of Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP) Zacarias Costa in Lisbon.

### Multilateral Relations

Portugal has consistently backed India's bid for permanent membership in the UNSC. In the 3rd Ministerial Conference on Counter-Terrorism Financing "No Money for Terror" Portugal was represented by a delegation led by António Mendonça Mendes, Secretary of State for Tax Affairs. Portugal has supported India in the successful elections at the International Maritime Organization (IMO), UNESCO World Heritage Committee and the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO)-Interpol and International Court of Justice.

India was recently granted associate observer status with the CPLP, in July 2021. MEA celebrated World Portuguese Language Day in May 2022. MEA also organised the International Lusophone Festival (ILF) from 3-6 December 2022 in Goa, in coordination with ICCR and Government of Goa. All CPLP countries participated by sending cultural troupes. A Round Table conference was also organised as part of ILF where academicians, senior officers of MEA and eminent people with Portuguese connect were speakers.

## Economic and Commercial Relations

Bilateral trade has seen exceedingly rapid growth in 2022. According to data from Portugal's Institute of National Statistics (INE), India-Portugal trade between January and September 2022 amounted to EUR 1,057.84 million up 52.56% on 2021, with the trade balance continuing to be firmly in India's favour.

Due to demographic issues – having a large elderly population and too few (skilled) workers to fill in the gaps in the labour market – Portugal has prioritised steps to facilitate immigration from countries such as India which has led to the signing of the bilateral Migration and Mobility Agreement.

## Cultural Cooperation

In 2022, the gradual Covid-19 deconfinement helped to reinvigorate the cultural footprint of India in Portugal, with various India-linked events and exchanges taking place on Portuguese soil over the year.

AKAM Iconic Week was celebrated in Lisbon from 23-29 January 2022 starting with the 126<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose on 23 January 2022. A film festival was organized on the same day showcasing Indian movies. The inauguration of the event was followed by a video message by MoS (ML). Meanwhile, a Khadi / saree exhibition was organised by the ISHA Artes and Casa da Índia associations as well as the Parish of Misericórdia, also held in the context of the AKAM Iconic Week celebrations. Celebration of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Republic Day of India, World Hindi Day, 8<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga (IDY), were key events organised by the Embassy. The Embassy also participated in the annual Diplomatic Bazaar organised by the Portuguese Diplomatic Families' Association on 11 and 12 November 2022, during which President of the Portuguese Republic Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa and Mayor of Lisbon Mr Carlos Moedas visited the Indian stall.

## San Marino

Relations with San Marino remained cordial and friendly. Both

the countries have established a fruitful cooperation, particularly within international fora, but also at a bilateral level on issues of common interest.

The Republic of San Marino has appointed Chiara Taddei as non-resident Ambassador of San Marino to India (credentials yet to be presented).

The Republic of San Marino has extended support to India's candidature in ECOSOC for 2022-24; Members of the Human Rights Council 2022-2024; IMO Council under Category B for the biennium 2022-23; Members of UNICTRAL (United Nations Commission on International Trade Law) for the 2022-2028; Members of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO for the 2021-2025; Universal Postal Union (Postal Union Council (POC) and International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

IDY 2022 was celebrated enthusiastically. For the first time, celebrations in San Marino also included a Special Yoga Session for children as the Government of San Marino is taking steps to introduce yoga in schools across the country.

## Spain

Spain and India continue to maintain close and friendly ties. In February 2022, EAM met with Spanish Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares on the sidelines of the EU Ministerial Forum on Indo-Pacific in Paris. The bilateral ties got a fresh impetus with the first official visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs European Union and Cooperation José Manuel Albares, to India on 15 June 2022, during which he met EAM and reviewed the full spectrum of bilateral relationship and expressed commitment to add new depth and content to the relationship. There were detailed discussions focused on enhancing cooperation in the key priority areas of trade and investments, people-to-people relationship, climate cooperation, green energy, science and technology, innovation and defence and security. The Ministers also exchanged views on a number of regional and global issues of mutual interest and noted the mutual understanding and support in addressing common challenges like climate change, global health, sustainable development and counter-terrorism. The ministers signed the Joint Declaration of Intent on Cooperation in Cultural and Academic fields.

EAM met Spanish Foreign Minister Albares again on 24 September 2022 in New York on the sidelines of UNGA and discussed bilateral cooperation and issues like the Ukraine conflict and the Indo-Pacific tensions. MoS (ML) visited Spain from 10 and 11 May, 2022 to attend the High-Level International Conference on Human Rights, Civil Society and Counter-Terrorism, in Malaga and briefly met the Spanish Foreign Minister.

## Economic Cooperation

Commercial ties continue to remain strong between India and Spain. Bilateral trade between the two countries crossed over USD 6.7 billion in 2021 and has reached USD 6.17 billion up to September 2022, which indicates recovery to pre-pandemic levels. Spain continues to remain India's sixth largest trade partner in the European Union. Spain is also the 16<sup>th</sup> largest investor in India.

The contract to procure 56 C295 aircraft from Spain has taken off with various delegations from the Ministry of Defence visiting Airbus Spain to finalize various details including the Critical Design Review Meeting. Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of the C-295 Aircraft Manufacturing Facility in Vadodara, Gujarat, on 30 October 2022.

India participated with high level delegations in the various trade fairs in Spain such as FITUR, Mobile World Congress, Global Seafood Expo, Alimentaria, INTERGIFT, HISPAC, FIMA Agrícola, Fruit Attraction and Smart Cities Expo World Congress. BSMs for leather with CLE and apparels with APEC were held in the months of May 2022 and October 2022 respectively. The Mission in Madrid was also one among the two embassies selected at a global level to celebrate National Handloom Day and hosted the Land of Woven dreams exhibition with HEPC in August 2022. In order to promote millets among the Spanish society, the Mission set up a millet corner at the International Tapas Festival in Valladolid in November 2022.

## Cultural Cooperation

The Mission collaborated with local partners to organise over 100 cultural events in 2022 all across Spain and Andorra. These included classical music and dance concerts, workshops on Indian culture, conferences and seminars, movie screenings, photo exhibitions, gastronomy events, book presentations etc.

AKAM Iconic Month was celebrated in October 2022 with 38 cultural events in Spain, starting with the Round Table Conference on '*Gandhian Ideas to Rethink A World in Crisis*' at Conde Duque Cultural Center. The highlight of the celebration was the '*Mahatma Symphony: India@75*' concert by violinist Dr. L. Subramaniam, Kavita Krishnamurti along with the Castilla y León Symphony Orchestra at the prestigious National Music Auditorium on 06 October 2022, which was attended by the members of the Royal Family of Spain.

India was a partner country at one of the largest photo exhibitions in Europe – *PhotoEspaña*, which exhibited a collection of 50 iconic pictures of the celebrated Indian photographer Raghu Rai titled '*Mother India*' from 17 June to 21 August 2022.

India Day was celebrated at *Seminci Film Festival*, *Asian Summer Film Festival*, *Barcelona* and *IE University*, Madrid.

India was represented at the Madrid Summer Festival '*Veranos de la Villa*', in which the *Har Ghar Tiranga* campaign was incorporated.

International Yoga Day was celebrated at iconic locations in 21 cities in Spain and Andorra, starting from 21 May 2022 in Gran Canarias. The main event was held at the plaza of the Royal Palace of Madrid on 19 June 2022, with the participation of more than 600 people, making it one of the biggest public events in Madrid after the lifting of Covid restrictions.

## United Kingdom

India-UK bilateral relationship continued to strengthen under the overall ambit of Roadmap 2030. Prime Minister met the UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak in Bali on the side-lines of the G20 Summit on 16 November 2022 and carried out discussions to boost trade between the two countries. This was the first in-person meeting between the two leaders, since Rishi Sunak took over as the UK Prime Minister. The Young Professionals Scheme was also announced after the meeting.

The former Prime Minister Boris Johnson paid an official visit to India on 21 and 22 April 2022, during which he visited Sabarmati Ashram, Joseph Cyril Bamford Excavators Limited (JCB) plant at Halol, Gift City and Gujarat Biotechnology University. In Delhi, he held discussions with Prime Minister, where both leaders reviewed the progress made on the Roadmap 2030. The UK's decision to offer 'Open General Export Licence' to Indian companies was announced. It was agreed to target the conclusion of the FTA by the end of 2022. MoUs on Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership and Global Innovation Partnership were concluded. A joint statement on India-UK Cyber Cooperation was also issued.

Hon'ble President visited London from 17-19 September 2022 to attend the State Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II. Hon'ble President paid her respects to the Queen lying in state at Westminster Hall and signed the condolence book at Lancaster House on 18 September 2022. Hon'ble President met King Charles III at a reception held at Buckingham Palace on the same day.

UK's former Secretary of State Anne-Marie Trevelyan, visited India from 12-14 January 2022, and met the Minister for Commerce and Industry. India and UK formally launched negotiations for an Interim Agreement towards a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on 13 January 2022 in New Delhi. On 31 March 2022, the then UK Foreign Secretary Elizabeth Truss visited India and had meetings with EAM, Minister of Finance and National Security Adviser.

Minister of Commerce and Industry led a delegation to London on 26 and 27 May 2022 to review the Free Trade (FTA) talks. UK Minister for International Trade Kemi Badenoch visited





Prime Minister met Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Rishi Sunak, at the G20 Summit in Bali, November 2022

India on 12 and 13 December 2022 to review the India UK FTA negotiations.

During the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Session in New York, EAM met his counterpart, UK Foreign Secretary James Cleverly on 21 September 2022. EAM had a bilateral meeting with UK Foreign Secretary James Cleverly on 29 October 2022, during the UNSC CTC Conference held in Delhi and Mumbai on 28 and 29 October 2022. Discussions included progress on Roadmap 2030, Ukraine conflict and the Indo-Pacific.

## Economic Relations

**Bilateral Trade:** During the period from April-September 2022, total bilateral trade in goods (merchandise) was USD 11.06 billion, of which India's export to the UK was USD 5.67 billion while India's import from UK was USD 5.39 billion. India was the UK's 12th largest trading partner in this period accounting for 1.9% of UK's total trade.

The MoU on Implementation of Global Innovation Partnership (GIP) was signed during the UK Prime Minister's visit on 22 April 2022 by the Foreign Secretary and the British High Commissioner. As a follow up, an MoU was signed by the Ministry of External Affairs with SBI CapVentures Ltd in Mumbai on 30 June 2022. Both sides put in place requisite structures to implement the programme.

India invested in 107 projects and created 8,664 new jobs in the UK to retain the position of second-largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2021-22. There are 900 Indian companies operating in the UK, with combined revenues of almost GBP 54.4 billion. Together, they paid over GBP 304.6 million in corporate tax and employed 141,005 people. This figure excludes employees of UK branches of Indian companies. There are over 65,000 companies owned by the Indian diaspora.

As part of the Enhanced Trade Partnership between the two countries, on 21 July 2022 in New Delhi, India and UK signed three MoUs/Agreements for collaboration on healthcare workforce and on mutual recognition of Seafarer's Certificate of Competency and Higher Educational qualifications.

## Institutionalized Dialogues

India -UK Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) was held in New Delhi on 13 January 2022 headed by Minister for Commerce and Industry and UK's Secretary of State for International Trade Anne-Marie Trevelyan. India-UK UN Consultations were held on 3 and 4 February 2022 in New Delhi. Discussions were attended by the UK delegation led by Deputy Political Director Harriet Mathews. Counter Terrorism Dialogue: The 15<sup>th</sup> India-UK CT Dialogue was held in London on 4 and 5 April 2022. The first India-UK Strategic Futures Forum, a Track 1.5 Dialogue, co-hosted by Indian Council of World Affairs; Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India;

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, United Kingdom; and Policy Exchange was held on 30 and 31 March 2022 in New Delhi. India-UK Joint Working Group (JWG) on Counterterrorism was organised in London on 4 and 5 April 2022. India-UK Cyber Security Dialogue was held in London on 11 and 12 April 2022. UK-India Policy Planning Dialogue was organized from 18-21 July 2022 in London. The National Security Advisor had a meeting with the UK National Security Advisor Stephen Lovegrove on 21 July 2022 during the latter's visit to India. The then Defence Secretary led seven-member delegation to the UK from 3-5 October 2022 for the Defence Consultative Group Meeting. India-UK Commonwealth and Multilateral Consultations at DG Level were organised on 7 and 8 November 2022.

## Defence Cooperation

Vice Chief of Air Staff, Indian Air Force visited the UK from 13-17 July 2022 and attended the Global Air and Space Chiefs' Conference (GASCC) 2022 and Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT) - 2022. During his visit, he had a call-on with the Chief of the Air Staff, Royal Air Force.

Visit of Other Delegations: A delegation from the NDC consisting of 17 Officers including five Officers from Friendly Foreign Countries visited the UK for the Foreign Studies Tour from 06-10 June 2022. UK Youth and Cadets Delegation consisting of two officers and ten cadets took part in the Special Youth Exchange Programme organised by the Directorate General National Cadet Corps from 09-17 August 2022 and took part in the Independence Day Celebrations. The Defence and Military

Adviser attended the 4<sup>th</sup> Defence Attaché's Conference at New Delhi from 13-14 October 2022 and thereafter attended DefExpo 2022 from 17-22 October 2022 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The UK Delegation headed by Major General David Eastman, Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Capability and Force Design) attended the DefExpo 2022.

Military Steering Group (MSG) Meeting between HQ Integrated Defence Staff and UK Strategic Command was held at New Delhi, on 7 and 8 September 2022. The 12<sup>th</sup> India-UK Executive Steering Group (ESG) Meeting between the Indian Army and British Army was held at Secunderabad and New Delhi, India from 27-29 September 2022.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Indian Navy-Royal Navy ESG Meeting was held at New Delhi on 2 and 3 August 2022 to review all aspects of Navy-to-Navy relations and cooperation. The 16<sup>th</sup> IAF-RAF Executive Steering Group (ESG) meeting was held in the UK from 28-31 March 2022.

## Education

India and UK signed Mutual Recognition of Academic Qualifications Memorandum of Understanding on 21 July 2022, giving a fillip to cooperation in the education sector between the two countries. The latest UK Immigration Statistics published on 25 August showed that nearly 118,000 Indian students received a student visa in the year ending June 2022 – an 89% increase from the previous year. India has now overtaken China as the largest nationality being issued sponsored study visas in the UK.

## CHAPTER

## 9

## The Americas

## North America

## United States of America

India-US Comprehensive Strategic Global Partnership is underpinned by shared democratic values, convergence on security and strategic issues and a shared vision of a rules-based international order. Bilateral ties continued their upward trajectory through wide-ranging engagement and collaboration. Regular high-level dialogue between Prime Minister and US President Joseph Biden was instrumental in guiding the two governments and focusing the bilateral agenda on contemporary global issues of shared priority. Ministerial and official level interactions across sectors continued apace for review of ongoing bilateral collaboration.

Bilateral agenda and cooperation acquired depth and diversity. Economic and commercial ties are a critical pillar with the US becoming India's largest trade partner in 2022. People-to-people ties are vibrant with an Indian diaspora of 4.2 million in the US and the US being a favoured destination for Indian students and professionals. Both countries continued their efforts to address global challenges of shared concern.

## High Level Interactions

Prime Minister and US President Biden interacted regularly – through virtual and in-person meetings to review the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership and the potential for strengthening bilateral cooperation further.

Prime Minister had a virtual meeting with President Biden on the India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue on 11 April 2022. Prime Minister and President Biden had a bilateral meeting on 24 May 2022 in Tokyo on the sidelines of the Quad Summit. He also interacted with President Biden during the G7 Summit in Germany in June 2022. He participated virtually in the first Leaders' Summit of I2U2 on 14 July 2022 along with President Biden, Prime Minister of Israel Yair Lapid and UAE's President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Prime Minister met President Biden on the margins of the G20 Summit in Bali on 15 November 2022. Both leaders agreed that India and the US would continue to maintain close coordination during India's G-20 Presidency.

The fourth India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue, led by EAM and Raksha Mantri and their US counterparts Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, was



Prime Minister held talks with the President of the US, Joseph R. Biden in Tokyo

held on 11 April 2022 in Washington DC. The four co-chairs of the 2+2 had a joint interaction with President Biden. During his visit to the US, Raksha Mantri visited the US INDOPACOM headquarters in Hawaii. EAM had meetings with senior US administration members and interacted with business leaders. Raksha Mantri and Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin met on the sidelines of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus) in Siam Reap on 22 November 2022.

## Bilateral Dialogues

EAM visited Washington D.C from 25-28 September 2022 for discussions with Secretary Blinken, Defence Secretary Lloyd J. Austin, Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, senior members of the Administration, select members of the US Congress, and business leaders. He also attended a roundtable at the National Science Foundation focused on technology collaboration.

EAM and his US counterpart Secretary Blinken maintained regular contact throughout the year and met on the margins of the Quad Leaders' Summit in May 2022, G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting on 08 July 2022 in Bali, ASEAN Forum in Phnom Penh on 04 August 2022, and East Asia Summit in Phnom Penh, on 13 November 2022. Their discussions were productive and enabled

regular review of bilateral cooperation and contemporary regional and global developments.

Minister of Commerce and Industry (CIM) had regular virtual and in-person interactions with US Trade Representative and US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo. He participated in a Supply Chain virtual Ministerial meeting hosted by Secretary Raimondo and Secretary Blinken on 19-20 July 2022. The revamped India-US CEO Forum was launched virtually by CIM and the US Secretary of Commerce on 10 November 2022.

Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs (FM) visited the US to participate in the IMF-World Bank Spring Meetings from 18-26 April 2022. FM also met Secretary Raimondo. FM visited the US from 11-16 October 2022 for annual meetings of the IMF and the World Bank, the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governor Meetings. FM met her US counterpart Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and World Bank President David Malpass. The ninth India-US Economic and Financial Partnership Dialogue was co-chaired by FM and Secretary Yellen on 11 November 2022 in New Delhi.

Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas visited the US in October 2022 to co-chair the India-US Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP) Ministerial with his counterpart Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm. He also interacted with senior members of the US Administration.



Minister of Environment and Climate Change participated in the Major Economies Forum (MEF) virtual meeting hosted by President Biden on 18 June 2022 and the MEF virtual Ministerial hosted by US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry on 27 January 2022.

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Samantha Power visited India from 25-27 July 2022. She met EAM, Foreign Secretary, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister and CEO NITI Aayog. The focus of her visit was on bilateral development partnerships and engagement with CDRI which she is presently co-Chair.

A Congressional delegation led by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and comprising Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ), Senator Mark Kelly (D-AZ) and Congressman Mondaire Jones (D-NY) visited India from 20-22 April 2022. Senator Jon Ossoff (D-GA) visited India from 30 August-6 September 2022.

Congressman Adam Smith (D-WA), Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee led a Congressional delegation including Congresswoman Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA) and Congressman Austin Scott (R-GA), both members of the House Armed Services Committee from 13-15 April 2022. Congressman Eric Swalwell (D-CA), a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence visited India in September 2022.

Other incoming visits were by the US Under Secretary for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland for Foreign Office Consultations 19-23 March 2022, Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights Uzra Zeya 17-22 May 2022, Dr. Sethuraman Panchanathan, Director, US National Science Foundation 06-22 August 2022, Treasury Deputy Secretary Wally Adeyemo 24-26 August 2022, US National Security Council Coordinator for Indo-Pacific Dr. Kurt Campbell 6-7 October 2022 etc.

Foreign Secretary visited Washington DC from 7-8 November 2022 and met Principal Deputy National Security Adviser Jon Finer, Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland, Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights Uzra Zeya, Under Secretary of Defense Policy Dr. Colin Kahl and Under Secretary, Homeland Security Robert Silvers.

Under the US-led Summit for Democracy, the Election Commission of India is leading the cohort in Elections Integrity, in partnership with Greece, Mauritius and International Foundation for Electoral Systems as co-leads share expertise in holding free, fair and credible elections. The first International Conference under this Cohort on 'Role, Framework and Capacity of EMBs' was held on 31 October-1 November 2022 in Delhi. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), along with the French Government and Wadhvani Foundation is working on the Cohort for Global Public Digital Goods for Democracy.

## Defence Cooperation

As part of the bilateral defence partnership which is an important pillar of the bilateral ties, both sides engaged through institutionalised dialogue, joint exercises, personnel exchanges, cooperation in maritime security and counter-piracy and other aspects. Regular bilateral visits, enhanced complexity of exercises and sustained interactions between Services have consolidated India-US defence ties.

The INDO PACOM Commander Admiral John Aquilino visited India in April 2022 to participate in the Raisina Dialogue. The chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) visited the US in May 2022. US Army Pacific (USARPAC) Commander General Charles Flynn visited India in June 2022. Indian Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari visited the US to participate in the International Air Chiefs' Conference 2022 in Washington D.C. from 15-17 September 2022. The Chief of Naval Staff met the US Chief of Naval Operations during the International Fleet Review 2022 in Japan on 6 November 2022. The US Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro visited India from 17-21 November 2022.

The US Navy participated for the first time in India-led multilateral naval exercise MILAN 2022 in the Bay of Bengal from 25 February - 4 March 2022. An Indian naval contingent participated in the multilateral naval exercise RIMPAC 2022 from 29 June- 4 August 2022 in Hawaii. A Special Forces team of the Indian army trained with the US Special Forces at the bilateral exercise Vajra Prahar in Himachal Pradesh from 8-29 August 2022. Tri-Services Amphibious HADR tabletop exercise Tiger Triumph 2022 was held at Vizag from 18-20 October 2022. Malabar naval exercise was held from 08-15 November 2022 off Yokosuka, Japan with the participation of the navies of India, the US, Australia and Japan. Annual bilateral Joint Army exercise Yudh Abhyas 2022 was held from 15 November - 2 December 2022 in Uttarakhand.

India joined the multilateral Combined Maritime Force (CMF) based in Bahrain, as an Associate Partner in April 2022. Indian Navy participated in the CMF Exercise in Seychelles from 24-27 September 2022.

In a first, the US Military Sealift Command (MSC) ship USNS Charles Drew underwent repair at a shipyard in Chennai in August 2022. INS Satpura's visit to San Diego, California on 15-16 August 2022, was the first by an Indian Naval Warship to the west coast of North America.

India-US Military Cooperation Group, Executive Steering Group (ESG-Navy) and Executive Steering Group Meeting (ESG-Army) held meetings. The India-US 2+2 Inter-Sessional Dialogue and Fifth India-US Maritime Security Dialogue were held in New Delhi on 7 September and 8 September 2022, respectively led by senior officials of the Ministry of External Affairs and Defence

and the US Departments of State and Defense. The second 2+2 Inter-Sessional Dialogue was held on 14 December 2022.

## Security and Counter-Terrorism Cooperation

Cooperation in counter-terrorism is one of the pillars of the India-US strategic partnership featuring cooperation, information exchange, capacity building and regular dialogue including through the India-US Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism. Both sides are also working together on designations of terrorists and terror groups in the United Nations.

Home Secretary and Under Secretary for Policy, Department of Homeland Security of the US co-chaired the Senior Officials Meeting of India-US Homeland Security Dialogue virtually on 12 January 2022.

The 4th India-US Cyber Dialogue was held in Washington DC from 21-23 September 2022 led by our Deputy National Security Adviser (DNSA) and US DNSA Anne Neuberger. The India-US Bilateral Framework Agreement was also signed. India participated in the US-led Counter Ransomware Initiative (CRI) meeting in Washington D.C. on 01 November 2022.

The Third Counter Narcotics Working Group meeting was held in New Delhi on 7-8 July 2022 led by our Director General, Narcotics Control Bureau and the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Assistant Director Kemp Chester. An Amended Letter of Agreement (ALOA) for bilateral cooperation in drug-related matters was also signed.

## Economic and Commercial Relations

In Financial Year 2021, overall bilateral trade in goods and services has crossed USD 159 billion for the first time ever for a calendar year with USD 113 billion in merchandise and around USD 46 billion in services trade.

The bilateral hydrocarbons trade stood at USD 19 billion during 2021-22. The US has become our 4<sup>th</sup> largest crude oil and 2<sup>nd</sup> largest LNG supplier.

The US was the second biggest source of Foreign Direct Investment into India in Financial Years 2021 and 2022. In FY 2022, 18% of total FDI equity inflows to India came from the US at USD 10.54 billion.

The Investment Incentive Agreement between our Ministry of Finance and the US Development Finance Cooperation (DFC) was signed on 23 May 2022, to enable enhanced investment support provided by US DFC in India.

Prime Minister participated in the launch of discussions for an Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) in Tokyo on 23 May 2022. India joined three Pillars of IPEF, related to supply chains, tax and anti-corruption and clean energy. Negotiations are ongoing on the text of IPEF. CIM participated in the first IPEF Ministerial meeting in California in September 2022.

In November 2022, the US Department of Treasury removed India from the 'Monitoring list' used to track US' major trading partners for possible currency manipulation. India had been a part of the Monitoring list since December 2020.

## Climate and Energy

US and India continued collaboration on sustainable energy transition, deployment of clean energy and achievement of climate change mitigation goals.

Both sides continue efforts to advance emerging fuels and technologies and electrification and decarbonization of end-use sectors, research and development on smart grids and energy storage and new collaboration on carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) technologies. The two countries are also collaborating under the US-India Partnership to Advance Clean Energy-Research (PACE-R). There is ongoing collaboration in strengthening the power grid, assessing grid-integrated buildings, electric vehicles, renewable energy development and deployment, energy efficiency and conservation; and cooperation between Indian and US Department of Energy labs and agencies on energy data management, modelling, and low carbon technologies.

The US ratified the International Solar Alliance Agreement in September 2022.

## Space, Science & Technology and IT

Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) concluded an Agreement for providing Deep Space Navigation support for Chandrayaan-3 Lander and Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter. ISRO and NASA continue to work together on a joint microwave remote sensing satellite for Earth observation, named NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR). ISRO- NASA entered into an Implementing Arrangement for hosting the Laser Retroreflector Array (LRA) on ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 Lunar Lander.

In April 2022, ISRO and United States Space Command (USSPACECOM) signed an MoU for Cooperation in Safety of Spaceflight and Space Situational Awareness Services and Information. The first bilateral Exchange on Space Regulatory Frameworks was held on 21 July 2022.

In May 2022, in India, Prime Minister and President Biden announced the launch of the initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET) which would be led by the National Security Councils of both countries to forge closer linkages between the respective governments, academia, and industry in artificial intelligence, quantum computing, 5G and 6G, biotech, space, semiconductors etc.

India-US Information and Communications Technology Dialogues was held virtually on 20 January 2022.

## Health Collaboration

Prime Minister participated in the Global COVID Summits convened by President Biden in 2022 as part of efforts to coordinate response strategies. India is actively participating in the US-led Global Action Plan (GAP) framework launched in February 2022 to bridge policy gaps and end the COVID pandemic. Under GAP, India is leading in three areas- Get shots in arms, supply chain resilience and capacity building for healthcare workers.

The US -India Vaccine Action Programme was renewed in May 2022 to enable vaccine development, tuberculosis research and infectious diseases biology; Bioethics fellowship; Anti Microbial research; platform technologies and fostering clinical research in India.

The Secretary (Biotechnology) visited the US from 10-11 October 2022 for the Joint Working Group of Vaccine Action Programme (VAP) and other scientific consultations. A Joint statement was signed to extend VAP until 2027.

## People-to-people ties

About 4.2 million Indian Americans/Indian-origin people reside in the US. There are five persons of Indian origin in the US Congress. Almost 21% of total international students in the US are Indians. In 2022 almost 82,000 student visas were issued in India.

The Indian Embassy and Consulates held several events celebrating 75 years of India's independence under the banner of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM). These events saw enthusiastic participation by the Indian community.

The Embassy, in collaboration with the Textiles Museum, George Washington University, organized an exhibition on Indian Textiles: 1000 years of Art & Design on 11 February 2022. On 11 June 2022, the Embassy organized an event to celebrate Baisakhi, Bihu, Gudi Padwa and Ugadi, with the participation of the Indian community and friends of India.

The 8<sup>th</sup> IDY was celebrated on 18 June 2022 at the iconic Washington Monument with the theme 'Yoga for Humanity'. A round-table on Cultural Diplomacy with President, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) on 30 June 2022. President of the ICCR chaired a round-table on enhancing India-US cultural ties on 30 June 2022 in Washington D.C.

## MoUs/Agreements

A Memorandum of Understanding between India's Department of Space and the US Department of Defense for cooperation in Safety of Spaceflight and Provision of Space Situational Awareness Services and information.

The Investment Incentive Agreement 2022 was signed between the Ministry of Finance and the US International Development Finance Corporation.

The India-US Bilateral Framework Agreement was also signed. India participated in the US-led Counter Ransomware Initiative (CRI) meeting in Washington D.C. on 01 November 2022.

## Quad Engagement

The Quad engagement acquired momentum and salience with the participation of Prime Minister in the Quad Leaders Summit, a Foreign Ministers' meeting, and the announcement of Working Groups and initiatives aimed at the delivery of public goods to countries in the Indo-Pacific vision. The Quad Leaders reiterated their shared vision of maintaining a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region. Prime Minister's message of Quad being a force for global and regional good was endorsed by his Quad counterparts at the Tokyo Summit in May 2022 and exemplified by our delivery of Made in India vaccines to Cambodia and Thailand under the Quad Vaccine Partnership. Quad Ministers agreed on the need to strengthen and reform the multilateral system to make it more effective and in tune with contemporary realities, including through the expansion of the membership of the United Nations Security Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories.

The Quad engagement continued in the year 2022 and acquired momentum. On 24 May 2022, Prime Minister participated in the Quad Leaders' Summit in Tokyo, along with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida of Japan, President Biden and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of Australia.

The Leaders reviewed developments in the Indo-Pacific, progress made on Quad's core agenda- addressing inequity in access to the Indo-Pacific, climate action, resilient supply chains, the peaceful use of outer space and providing sustainable financing for infrastructure in the region.



Prime Minister held a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Schloss Elmau, Germany, June 2022

They launched the Quad Satellite Data Portal to provide regional countries space-based data for climate and disaster forecasting and sustainable use of marine resources; announced a Quad Climate Change, Adaptation and Mitigation Package (Q-CHAMP) to help countries meet their COP26 commitments; Quad Debt Management Resource Portal to help countries in addressing the challenges of unsustainable debt financing, and Partnership on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Cooperation to provide timely and effective assistance to the Indo-Pacific region.

The Leaders welcomed the announcement of the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness which seeks to provide regional countries with space-based satellite data to address illicit maritime threats such as IUU fishing and respond to climate-related disasters.

Quad Foreign Ministers met in person on 11 February 2022 in Melbourne. They also met on 23 September 2022 on the sidelines of the UNGA High-Level Week in New York, where they issued a Joint Statement calling for urgent reforms of the UN-led multilateral system, including expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of the UN Security Council. The Ministers also signed the guidelines for the 'Quad Partnership on HADR in the Indo-Pacific' and released a joint statement on ransomware, calling on states to take reasonable steps to address ransomware operations emanating from their territory. The next meeting of Quad Foreign Ministers will be held in India in 2023.

## Canada

India-Canada relations are friendly and stable. Both Prime Ministers met on the sidelines of the G-7 Summit in June 2022 and Foreign Ministers have regular dialogue. A Parliamentary delegation, led by the Speaker of Lok Sabha visited Canada in August 2022. Progress was made in trade and investment, agriculture and civil aviation. Canada has emerged as one of the preferred destinations for higher education for Indian students. The mobility of professionals to Canada is on the rise.

The two countries are negotiating an Early progress Free Trade Agreement (EPTA) and a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

India and Canada ties are underpinned by a shared commitment to democratic values, pluralism, and rule of law, underlined by expanding economic engagement, regular high-level interactions, and long-standing people-to-people ties. An exchange of Ministerial and official visits were maintained to review bilateral collaboration.

## High-level/ Leader-level Interaction

Prime Minister met Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on the sidelines of the G-7 Summit at Elmau, Germany on 27 June 2022. Speaker of Lok Sabha led a Parliamentary delegation to participate in the 65th Commonwealth Parliamentary



Conference (CPC) in Halifax, Canada from 20-26 August 2022. On the sidelines, he held bilateral meetings, *inter alia*, with the Speaker of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada. He also interacted with the Indian community. EAM met Foreign Minister Melanie Joly in Kigali on 23 June 2022 on the margins of the CHOGM and East Asia Summit in Phnom Penh on 12 November 2022.

## Bilateral Dialogues

Minister of Civil Aviation visited Canada from 2-4 May 2022 and met the Canadian Minister of Transport Omar Alghabra. Minister of International Trade of Canada, Mary Ng co-chaired the Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment with the Commerce and Industry Minister on 11 March 2022 in Delhi. She also met the Finance Minister and Minister of Women and Child Development. Both countries agreed to explore the possibility of an India-Canada Early Progress Free Trade Agreement (EPTA) and expedite negotiations for the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). So far, four rounds of negotiations for the India-Canada EPTA/CEPA have been held between April and September 2022. Minister of Environment, Forests & Climate Change and his Canadian counterpart Steven Guilbeault signed an MOU for collaboration on climate change and the environment in Stockholm in June 2022.

Secretary (East), MEA and Deputy Foreign Minister Marta Morgan co-chaired the Foreign Office Consultations on 14 March 2022 in New Delhi and discussed a range of bilateral issues.

## Economic and Commercial ties

Trade and investment linkages are a key component of the multi-faceted bilateral partnership. India's exports to Canada in 2022-23 (April-August) are worth USD 1.90 billion and imports from Canada are USD 1.70 billion. Total bilateral trade in goods stands at USD 3.6 billion in 2022-23 (April-August). Portfolio investments from Canada into India increased from USD 5 billion to more than USD 55 billion in the last seven years as Canadian investors consider India as an attractive destination for investments. More than 600 Canadian companies have established a presence in India and more than 1000 companies are pursuing business opportunities in India. To strengthen bilateral trade and attract Canadian investments into India, various trade and investment activities such as business roundtables, commercial meetings, and other networking events were held by our High Commission/Consulates in Canada in association with industry associations and chambers of commerce.

## Science and Technology

Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST) led a delegation of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) to Ottawa for the 7th India-Canada Joint Science Technology Cooperation Committee (JSTCC) on 19 May 2022. MOUs for Cooperation in Industrial Research, Development & Innovation, between DST and the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) and between DST, Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) for cooperation in S&T were signed.

## Education and Culture

Education is a key area of mutual interest. India has now become the top source of foreign students with 230,000 Indian students studying in Canada.

On India's Independence Day, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau extended greetings. Community organizations across Canada celebrated Independence Day. Historic and popular monuments were lit in tricolour. Landmark events were held under the banner AKAM by the Mission and Consulates involving Indian community organizations throughout the year. IDY was celebrated with enthusiasm throughout Canada.

The first statue of Shri Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was unveiled in Canada on 1 May 2022, at Sanatan Mandir Cultural Centre complex, Ontario, Canada. The event also marked a celebration of Gujarat Day. Prime Minister sent a special message on the occasion.

India-Canada Consular Dialogue was held on 14 November 2022 in New Delhi.

## Latin America and the Caribbean

India continued its efforts to strengthen its relations and diversify engagements with countries in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region during 2022. Hon'ble President of India paid State Visits to Jamaica and St. Vincent & Grenadines (SVG) from 15-21 May 2022. These visits were historically the first-ever visits by an Indian Head of State to these countries and marked the importance that India attaches to Small Island Developing States and the CARICOM.

## High Level Interactions

Prime Minister met the President of Argentina Alberto Fernandez in Munich on 26 June 2022 on the sidelines of the G7 Summit at Munich and discussed various issues including trade and investment; South-South cooperation, particularly in the pharmaceutical sector; climate action, renewable energy, nuclear medicine, electric mobility, defence cooperation, agriculture and food security, traditional medicine, cultural cooperation, as well as coordination in international bodies. This was the first bilateral meeting between the two leaders. The Speaker of Lok Sabha led an Indian Parliamentary Delegation to Suriname from 27-30 August 2022 and to Mexico from August 31-02 September 2022 and held bilateral meetings with his counterparts and other dignitaries.

## Bilateral Cooperation

EAM paid first-ever official visits to three LAC countries including Paraguay, Brazil and Argentina from 21-27 August 2022 and held bilateral engagements with his counterparts. He also met the top leaderships in these countries. EAM also inaugurated the newly opened Indian Embassy in Asuncion, Paraguay. In Brazil and Argentina, EAM co-chaired Joint Commission Meetings along with his Brazilian and Argentine counterparts. A special commemorative stamp was released by the Brazilian Post to mark 75 years of India's Independence.

During the G-20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM) at Bali, EAM had brief interactions with the Foreign Minister of Brazil Charlos

Franca, the Foreign Minister of Argentina Santiago Cafiero the and Foreign Minister of Mexico Marcelo Ebrard on July 07, 2022, and held discussions on issues of bilateral and multilateral interest.

In September 2022, on the sidelines of the 77th session of UNGA in New York, EAM held a series of bilateral meetings with the leaders of Latin America and the Caribbean including the Foreign Minister of Trinidad & Tobago Dr. Amery Browne, Foreign Minister of Nicaragua Denis Moncada, Foreign Minister of Cuba Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla, Foreign Minister of Bolivia Rogelio Mayta, Foreign Minister of Dominican Republic Roberto Alvarez, Foreign Minister of Paraguay Julio Cesar Arriola, Foreign Minister of Mexico Marcelo Ebrard Casaubon, Foreign Minister of Venezuela Carlos Rafael Faria, and also received Prime Minister of St. Vincent & Grenadines Dr. Ralph Gonsalves. Issues related to the bilateral relationship and multilateral partnership including trade & investment, climate change, food and energy security, and UN reforms were discussed during the meetings.

The India-CELAC (Community of Latin American & Caribbean States) Quartet Meeting was held on 19 September 2022 on the sidelines of UNGA in New York. The Indian side was led by EAM while the CELAC Quartet was represented by the Foreign Minister of Argentina Santiago Cafiero, Foreign Minister of Guatemala Mario Adolfo Bucaro Flores, Foreign Minister of Trinidad and Tobago Dr. Amery Browne and Vice Minister for Multilateral Affairs of Colombia Laura Gil Savastano. Both sides expressed satisfaction at revitalizing the India-CELAC forum, reviewed the entire spectrum of India-CELAC relations and agreed to work closely in sectors including Trade, Commerce,



EAM hosted the Ambassadors in New Delhi from the Group of Latin American and the Caribbean countries- Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Suriname and Uruguay in August 2022

Agriculture, Food and Energy Security, Health, Vaccine production, Traditional Medicines and logistics. Regional and multilateral issues of mutual interests, including cooperation in the UN and other multilateral bodies, were also discussed.

The fourth India-CARICOM Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held on 23 September 2022 on the sidelines of UNGA in New York. EAM co-chaired the meeting with his counterpart from Belize. The meeting was a follow-up to Prime Minister's historic meeting with the CARICOM leaders in September 2019. The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministers of Barbados, Dominica, Bahamas, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, St Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago and Suriname. During the meeting, both sides expressed happiness at the steady progress in cooperation between India and the CARICOM countries, and discussed ways of deepening political engagement, and increasing trade and investment and cooperation in the context of post-pandemic economic recovery. They also deliberated on development partnerships and capacity building including through tailor-made and specialized training courses and deputation of experts based on the requirements of the CARICOM countries.

Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairy led a 28-member business delegation to Brazil from 16-20 May 2022 at the invitation of the Brazilian Minister of Agriculture and held meetings with Minister of Agriculture, President of Brazilian Cooperatives Organization, Brazilian Committee of the International Dairy Federation, Directors of the Brazilian Association of Zebu Breeders and visited the UPL-Agro-Chemical Company of Brazil, Uberaba, Government Cattle Research Center, Genetic Research Centers- Zevoumeryo, ABS and Alta Genetics etc.

MoS (ML) visited Panama from 28-30 April 2022 and held a bilateral meeting with the Foreign Minister of Panama. She paid a visit to Honduras from 1-3 May 2022 and called on the President of Honduras Iris Xiomara Castro and held a bilateral meeting with the acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation on issues of bilateral, regional and international significance. MoS-ML also paid a visit to Chile from 3-5 May 2022 and had detailed bilateral discussions with the Chilean Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage. Issues related to enhancing cooperation in trade and investment, health and pharma, AYUSH, IT, Space and Culture, were discussed.

MoS (VM) visited Brazil from 6-8 November 2022 to attend the Solemn Session organized by the Parliament of Brazil to commemorate India's 75 years of Independence. During the visit, MoS-VM also called on Hamilton Mourao, Vice President of Brazil and discussed growing bilateral cooperation in the areas of Trade & Investment, Bio-energy, Oil and Natural Gas, Defence, Animal Husbandry etc.

Secretary (East) led the Indian delegation for Foreign Office Consultations (FOCs) with Cuba on 27 June 2022, with Mexico on 29 June 2022, with Dominican Republic on 01 July 2022, with Venezuela on 21 November 2022, with Panama on 23 November 2022, with Guyana on 28 November 2022 and for bilateral meeting with his counterpart in Colombia on 25 November 2022. During the FOCs, the entire gamut of bilateral relations, including development partnership projects, trade and economic relations, cooperation in areas such as renewable energy, science & technology, ICT, health, traditional medicine, yoga, biotechnology, agriculture and sports were reviewed. The two sides also exchanged views on regional and international issues of common interest including cooperation in the United Nations.

Among foreign dignitaries who visited India in 2022, the Foreign Minister of Mexico Marcelo Ebrard Casaubón visited India on 30 March-1 April 2022 at the invitation of EAM. He was accompanied by a 34-member delegation comprising senior government officials, academics, and businesspersons. Minister of Mines and Energy of Brazil Bento Albuquerque visited India from 17-23 April 2022 and held meetings with the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Road Transport and Highways. Foreign Minister of Argentina Santiago Cafiero visited India from 24-28 April 2022 to participate in Raisina Dialogue-2022 and held meetings with EAM and the Minister of Commerce and Industry. Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Guyana Hugh Hilton Todd visited India from 26 April - 1 May 2022 to attend the Raisina Dialogue-2022 and held a bilateral meeting with EAM. The discussions during these meetings covered a wide range of issues of mutual interest such as Development Partnership, Health-care, COVID-19, Energy Cooperation, Education and Capacity Building, and Agriculture, among others.

## People-to-People Ties

As part of India@75 AKAM celebrations, the Indian Missions in the LAC region, in association with the local art and culture centres, universities, and academic institutes, organized a series of cultural, commercial and literary events to mark 75 years of India's independence. The activities also included seminars and demonstrations of Yoga and programmes related to the celebration of the 152nd birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

## Argentina

Relations between India and Argentina continue to grow with increased interactions, including through various bilateral dialogue mechanisms, high-level visits as well as exchanges in various multilateral fora.



Prime Minister met the President of Argentina Alberto Fernandez on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Munich, June 2022

## High-level Interactions

Prime Minister had a bilateral meeting with President Fernandez on 26 June 2022 in Munich on the margins of the G7 Summit. EAM had a telephonic conversation with Argentine Foreign Minister (FM) Santiago Cafiero on 14 January 2022. They both met on 24 April 2022 in Delhi during FM Cafiero's visit to India for participating in Raisina Dialogue 2022.

## Bilateral Cooperation

EAM visited Buenos Aires on 25-26 August 2022 and co-chaired India-Argentina Joint Commission Meeting with FM Cafiero. EAM also called on President Alberto Fernández during the visit. An MOU on Cooperation in the field of Mineral Resources was signed during the visit. EAM also had a meeting with FM Cafiero on the margins of the 77<sup>th</sup> UNGA session in New York on 19 September 2022 along with Foreign Ministers of Guatemala, Trinidad & Tobago and the Vice Minister of Colombia, reactivating the India-CELAC dialogue after 5 years.

## Defence Cooperation

Defence cooperation between India and Argentina gained momentum with the visit of the Argentine defence delegation comprising Air Force Chief Brigadier General Xavier Isaac, Secretary of Defence Production Ms. Daniela Castro and senior Air Force officials to Delhi and HAL, Bengaluru from 9-14 March 2022. This was followed by the visit of the Chief of Combined

Defence Staff of Argentina Lt. General Juan Martin Paleo leading a 4-member delegation to DefExpo 2022 at Gandhinagar and HAL, Bengaluru, from 19-24 October 2022.

## People-to-People Ties

In-person celebrations of International Day of Yoga were held, after two years of virtual celebrations during the Pandemic, at the iconic Sports Centre of BOCA Juniors Football Club on 20 June 2022. It witnessed the participation of over 10,000 enthusiasts. An AYUSH Information Cell was launched in Argentina to disseminate information on traditional healthcare systems and well-being, on 29 March 2022.

## Bolivia

Ties between India and Bolivia continued to strengthen in diverse fields during the year.

## Bilateral Cooperation

EAM held a bilateral meeting with Bolivia's Foreign Minister Rogelio Mayta in September 2022 in New York on the sidelines of the 77<sup>th</sup> session of UNGA. Issues of importance for bilateral cooperation were discussed during the meeting. Bolivia shares similar views on various issues of global importance, such as climate change, terrorism, energy and food security, poverty alleviation etc. It has largely been supportive of India in multilateral fora, including the expansion of the UNSC.



The first meeting of the Joint Working Group under the MoU for cooperation in the field of Geology and Mineral Resources was held on 7 April 2022 in virtual mode. Both sides identified possible areas of collaboration in developing long-term and mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of baseline Geoscience Data Generation; Mineral Prognostication; Geo-informatics; Fundamental and Multi-Disciplinary Geo-science; Lab facility and training and capacity building.

Discussions on lithium partnership were held between Telangana State and YLB on 1 November 2022 to ascertain the possibilities of securing Bolivian lithium for our industrial use and commercial tie-ups with the Indian industry for the production of Lithium-ion batteries/related products in India. The Bolivian side expressed their willingness to negotiate a letter of intent/MoU between Telangana State Mineral Development Corporation (TSMDC) and to receive a delegation in early 2023.

## Economic Cooperation

Bilateral trade during 2021-22 grew by 74.75% to USD 2,190.49 million with India's exports registering a 25.04% increase, making India the 4<sup>th</sup> largest trade partner of Bolivia, and the 10<sup>th</sup> largest supplier of goods. There is significant scope for further improvement. India's exports include automobiles, pharmaceutical products, organic and inorganic chemicals, machinery, rubber & plastic products, metal products, textiles & fibres, iron & steel, etc. Bolivian exports mainly include gold, fertilizers, metal & mineral scrap, leather and wood.

## Health Cooperation

India is Bolivia's top supplier of pharmaceuticals with a 16.2% market share in 2021. An 80-member business Delegation representing 62 Indian pharma companies visited the Bolivian city of Santa Cruz on 4-5 August 2022. A business conference and over 600 B2B meetings with Bolivian health providers, pharmacies and companies were held during the visit. The Director General of the State Agency of Medicines and Technologies in Health (AGEMED) and Executive Director of the State procurement agency CEASS visited India from 21-13 September 2022 to participate in iPHEX (the International Exhibition for Pharma and Healthcare).

## Developmental Assistance

Bolivia is a beneficiary of India's development assistance in capacity building, diplomatic training and infrastructure up-gradation etc. Between January to November 2022, seven Bolivian nationals attended e-ITEC courses. Bolivian diplomats have been attending the Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) conducted by SSFSI.

## People-to-People Ties

As part of AKAM celebrations, a number of events have been organised in Bolivia. A bust of Mahatma Gandhi was unveiled in La Paz last year and another bust of Mahatma Gandhi is expected to be installed in Santa Cruz, Bolivia in 2023. In connection with the 8<sup>th</sup> IDY, both physical and virtual events were organised at several places throughout Bolivia, including iconic places.

## Brazil

India's multifaceted and strategic relationship with Brazil flourished in 2022 with high-level visits and intense engagements in different sectors including energy, ethanol, animal husbandry, defence and security affairs. The engagement also acquired a new dimension as partners in the UNSC. Bilateral trade which grew by 63% in the last fiscal year acquired greater momentum in 2022, with bilateral trade expanding by 29% reaching USD 13.65 billion by the end of November 2022, with India having a trade surplus of USD 2.29 billion.

## High Level/ Leader- level Interaction

President Jair Bolsonaro along with seven of his cabinet ministers including Foreign & Defence Ministers and the Chief of Brazilian Navy visited Rio de Janeiro to attend celebratory reception on 15 August 2022 on-board Indian Naval Ship INS Tarkash, which made a goodwill visit to Brazil to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of India's Independence.

## Bilateral Engagements

EAM led a delegation to Brazil to co-chair the 8<sup>th</sup> India-Brazil Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) with his Brazilian counterpart FM Carlos Alberto Franco França in Brasília on 24 August 2022 and discussed cooperation in the areas of trade and investment, sustainable development, energy with focus on biofuel, agriculture and livestock, health and traditional medicine, science and technology, defence affairs, counter-terrorism, consular and legal affairs, regional and global issues, including reformed multilateralism.

EAM also called on President Bolsonaro and met Economy Minister Paulo Guedes. He delivered a lecture at the Rio Branco Institute (Brazilian Diplomatic Academy). During the visit, an MoU was signed between Empresa Brasil de Comunicação (EBC) and Prasar Bharati, India, to exchange their contents produced to various platforms. A Protocol amending the convention between India and Brazil for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion was also signed during the visit. A special commemorative stamp as part of AKAM was

released by the Brazilian national postal service, Correios, in commemoration of 75 years of India's Independence. Earlier, EAM had also met FM França on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting in Bali in July 2022, and at the G4 Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the sidelines of the 77<sup>th</sup> UNGA in September 2022.

MoS (VM) and Parliamentary Affairs addressed a special Solemn Session held in the Brazilian Parliament (Congresso Nacional) on 8 November 2022 to commemorate "75 years of India's Independence". He also called on Vice President Hamilton Morao during the visit and discussed bilateral affairs.

The Brazilian Energy and Mines Minister Bento Albuquerque visited India in April 2022 and met the Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas following which both sides issued a joint statement highlighting areas for future cooperation to enhance the beneficial partnership between the countries. Minister Albuquerque also met the Minister of Road Transport & Highways and CEO, Niti Aayog.

Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, led a delegation to Brazil in September 2022, held meetings with the Minister of the Ministry of Mines & Energy and CEO Petrobras, and discussed investments in the oil & gas sector, sourcing of crude and trade in petroleum products and cooperation in biofuels and bioenergy sector. During the visit Indian Oil and Petrobras signed a long-term contract for sourcing of Brazilian crude. Separately, two business delegations comprising members of the Indian Sugar Mill Association & UP Distillers Association visited Brazil in June and November 2022 and met important stakeholders in the areas of the sugar industry, ethanol and flex-fuel production and related R&D sectors with an objective of promoting ethanol and bio-fuel production and advance flex fuel regime and energy transition program in India.

Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying of India led a delegation composed of experts from animal husbandry and dairying and representatives of the private dairy sector and held discussions with his Brazilian Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply, and leading firms in cattle genetics, dairy development to promote animal husbandry and dairy sector in India. Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Animals Husbandry & Dairying Fisheries, Government of State of Haryana also visited Brazil in July 2022 and had similar engagements. A business delegation comprising members of Banas Dairy also visited Brazil in August 2022 and held B2B meetings with cattle genetics, breeding and dairy development firms.

Education and Skill Development Minister held a bilateral meeting with Victor Godoy, Minister of Education of Brazil, in Bali on 30 August 2022 on the sidelines of the G20 Education Ministers Meeting and had fruitful discussions on deepening the bilateral engagements in education, entrepreneurship, research

and innovation. They agreed to revive the Joint Working Group engagements in the areas of education and skill development.

## Counter-Terrorism

Ambassador Eduardo Saboia, Secretary (Asia, the Pacific & Russia), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brazil, visited India to attend the Special meeting of the UNSC Counter Terrorism Committee in October 2022 and held a bilateral meeting with the Secretary (East).

## Space, Social Security and Health Cooperation

Director, U R Rao Space Centre led a 3-member delegation to Brazil from 19 to 21 May 2022 to attend SpaceBR Show at Sao Paulo and the inaugural function of the Space Exhibition on India's Space Journey at Brasilia and held discussions with Brazilian Space Agency, and Association of Aerospace Industries to advance bilateral cooperation in the space sector.

On 20 July 2022, Brazil and India signed the Administrative Arrangement for implementation of the Social Security Agreement to facilitate the movement of professionals and businessmen at a ceremony held at the Ministry of Labour and Social Security in Brasilia.

The 1<sup>st</sup> JWG meeting, under the MoU between the Ministry of AYUSH and the Ministry of Health of Brazil on cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy, was held in Brasilia on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

## Defence Cooperation

A 3-member delegation led by Vice Admiral Liberal Enio Zanelatto, Industrial Director of the Brazilian Navy visited India and held a discussion with Indian authorities on the maintenance of the Scorpene Class Submarine including sharing of best practices in maintenance and matters of strategic nature.

Rear Admiral Dhiren Vig, VSM visited Brazil in June 2022 with a 17-member National Defence College delegation and attended various meetings at Army HQs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Presidency, Embraer HQ, Superior War College (ESG) and Naval Base (AMRJ) at Rio de Janeiro. The visiting NDC delegation also met General (Retd) Augusto Heleno Ribeiro Pereira, Secretary of Institutional Security, Brazil (counterpart of National Security Advisor) and exchanged views.

## People-to-People Ties

The Mission organized more than a dozen of events as part of

AKAM, which included a few signature events such as a month-long Exhibition on India's Space Program under the theme 'A Journey into Space - ISRO's History,' in May-June 2022 at Planetarium, Brasilia, a 75-km Independence Motorcycle Rally in partnership with Royal Enfield and Government of Federal District of Brasilia, an Indian cultural week in the city of Cuiaba, the celebration of International Day of Yoga in 5 cities (Brasilia, Rio de Janeiro, Cuiaba & Foz de Iguacu in addition to Sao Paulo) of Brazil, release of a special commemorative stamp by the Brazilian national postal service, Correios, a Solemn Session in the Brazilian National Congress and a three weeks long exhibition on 75 years of India's independence in the Brazilian Parliament. A 12-Member Gujarati Dance Troupe "Aavishkar" visited Brazil in August 2022 and performed in Brasilia, Sao Paulo, Atibaia and Londrina.

Ambassador of India to Brazil handed over Padma Shri awards to Lia Diskin, co-founder of Palas Athena, and Gloria Arieira, a Sanskrit Scholar & Director of Vidya Mandir in two separate ceremonies held in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. Both had been awarded Padma Shri awards in 2020.

## Chile

India's relations with Chile continue to grow with the increased high-level interactions. A 4-member delegation from India visited Santiago in April 2022 and held 1<sup>st</sup> round of negotiations with Chilean Ministry of Labour and Social Security officials on Social Security Agreement. MOS (ML) visited Chile on 4-5 May 2022 and held meetings with the President of the Chamber of Deputies, Minister of Culture, Art & Heritage, and Minister of Foreign Affairs and reviewed growing bilateral relations between the two countries. MOS-ML also met a business delegation from Chilean Federation of Industries (SOFOFA) and discussed issues related to bilateral trade and investment opportunities available in India.

A 4-member delegation led by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) visited Chile in November 2022 to participate in the UN Technical Committee meetings in Santiago Chile. The CAG also had a bilateral meeting with the Comptroller General of the Republic of Chile during which a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the two Supreme Audit Institutions for better coordination and close cooperation between them. A trade event was organized by Chile India Chamber of Commerce (CAMINDIA) and BTG Pactual Chile, the largest investment bank in Chile, in November 2022.

A 17-member defence delegation from National Defence College visited Chile on a Foreign Country Study Tour in May-June 2022 and interacted with senior Chilean defence officers and visited defence colleges/units.

## Colombia

India-Colombia relations maintained a steady momentum during the period. The two countries continued exploring avenues for enhanced cooperation in the areas of health, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, space, defence, hydrocarbons, information technology, and audio-visual co-production.

### Economic Cooperation

Bilateral trade for the period of April- September 2022 stood at USD 2.38 billion. Imports from Colombia stood at USD 1,528.84 million growing by 32% and exports to Colombia stood at 853.94 million, growing by 26%. Import of mineral fuels, oil and petroleum dominated the import basket while India's export basket comprised engineering goods, chemicals, petroleum products, and pharmaceutical products.

### Bilateral Cooperation

Secretary (East) held bilateral discussions on 25 November 2022 with his counterpart Francisco Jose Coy Granados, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Colombia. This was the first foreign office level engagement between the two countries following the assumption of office by the new government in Colombia. The two sides reviewed bilateral relations and discussed cooperation in international fora. The Colombian side highlighted the priorities of the new government and gave an assessment of the regional situation.

Several B2B meets and BSMs were organized during the period. A delegation comprising representatives from 9 Indian companies, led by SRTEPC, participated in the flagship textile fair of Colombia, the Colombiatex 2022, held in Medellin from 25-27 January 2022. Another delegation comprising representatives from 17 Indian companies showcasing a range of textile products, led by Texprocil, participated in the flagship textile fair of Colombia, the Colombiatex 2022. In the period, Indian manufacturers from automotive (led by Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India), industrial and engineering goods (led by Engineering Exports Promotion Council), pharmaceuticals (led by Pharmexcil), plastics, construction sectors visited Colombia to participate in business meets with the Colombian buyers and importers in the aforementioned sectors. Indian delegations from health sector visited Colombia which strengthened health cooperation between India and Colombia.

### Health Cooperation

On 15 February 2022, the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Joint Working

Group in Health was organized between the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Government of India and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Government of Colombia. In April 2022, the two countries organized the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of Joint Working Group in space.

## People-to-People Ties

Under AKAM, Embassy organized a number of events including India weeks at renowned Colombian Universities, Ayurveda Day, Constitution Day, Unity Day, World Cycling Day, 152<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Guru Nanak Jayanti, Tagore Jayanti In October 2022, Deepawali as well as Har Ghar Tiranga, with enthusiastic participation. IDY was organised in several cities of Colombia. Over 2000 persons have attended the IDY-related events even though there have been insistent rains this year. On 21 June 2022 at Bicentenario Park, Bogota, the Embassy organized the IDY under "Guardian Ring of Yoga" wherein IDY events at iconic locations was telecast live by Delhi Doordarshan (DD). The exhibition on 'Sacred India' curated by Delhi based photographer Amit Pasricha, was mounted on several places during the period. Mahatma Gandhi's photograph exhibition on the life of Mahatma Gandhi was mounted in local museums and Universities.

## Cuba

India's bilateral relations with Cuba remained warm and cordial.

### Bilateral Cooperation

After a hiatus of 15 years, 2<sup>nd</sup> round of India and Cuba FOCs were held on 27 June 2022 in Havana which was led by the Secretary (East) while the Cuban side was led by Anayansi Rodríguez, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. The two sides reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations, including development partnership projects, trade and economic relations, and cooperation in areas such as renewable energy, health including traditional medicine and yoga, biotechnology, agriculture, sports, science & technology and ICT. Secretary (East) called on Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Ricardo Cabrisas and acting Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Gerardo Peñalver and exchanged views on further enhancing bilateral ties between Cuba and India. A Postal Stamp to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence was released by the Government of Cuba.

In August 2022, a banking delegation led by Yamile Berra, Vice Minister of the Central Bank of Cuba visited India with the aim to improve banking relations. She called on the Minister of State for Finance, Government of India. Cuban delegation met with the officials of the Government of India in Delhi and held meetings in Mumbai with several banks, including the Reserve Bank of India.

On 19 September 2022, EAM exchanged views on bilateral and multilateral issues of mutual interest with the Foreign Minister of Cuba Bruno Rodriguez in New York on the sidelines of the 77<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly.

### Health Cooperation

On 28 September 2022, Dr. Olga Lidia Jacobo Casanueva, Director of the Center for the State Control of Medicines, Equipment and Medical Devices (CECMED), during her official visit to India as leader of the Cuban delegation, discussed with the Director General of the Central Drugs Control Organization (CDSCO), the main aspects of draft MoU with between the two organisation. The Cuban delegation also met officials from MoHFW and the Ministry of AYUSH of the Government of India.

### Energy Cooperation

The head of the Department of Renewable Energy of the Ministry of Energy and Mines of Cuba, Rosell Guerra Campaña, led a Cuban delegation in the 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), which took place in New Delhi from 18-20 October 2022. Cuban delegation held a bilateral meeting with the ISA Director General, where both sides reaffirmed their commitment to continue working together to expand the use of renewable energy globally, particularly in the Caribbean region.

The Embassy in Havana, in association with the Cuban Chamber of Commerce, organized an interactive event for Cuban MSMEs on 31 March 2022 and reviewed the opportunities in the growing MSMEs sector in Cuba. A 10-member Indian Economic Trade Organisation (IETO) business delegation visited Cuba from 7-12 August 2022 to explore business opportunities. Indian business community participated in the 38<sup>th</sup> edition of the International fair of Havana (FIHAV) with a business delegation comprising of 22 companies and 3 organisations namely FIEO, IETO and Pharmaxcel. Both countries have business potential in the sectors such as renewable energy, auto parts, tourism/hospitality, mineral resources (Nickel, cobalt, etc.), food processing (oil, poultry, packaged food, etc.).

### People-to-People Ties

As part of AKAM, a number of events were organised by the Embassy. On 25 February 2022, the Embassy of India donated 175 books to Gandhi Library in the House of Culture, Havana. This donation is important for the Cubans who are keen to know more about Indian culture and the diversity it possesses. On 21 June 2022, the Embassy of India in association with Cuba's National Institute of Sports celebrated the IDY with the participation of around 150 Cubans. Other cultural events organised by the Embassy included Hindi Diwas, Gandhi Jayanti,



Ayurveda Day, Constitution Day, etc. In addition, Embassy, in association with the Indo-Cuba Friendship Cultural Society, organized cultural programmes on the occasions of Holi and Deepawali. In September 2022, the Government of India deployed a Yoga teacher at the Embassy of India in Havana, for a duration of 11 months, in order to promote yoga among Cubans.

## Ecuador

India-Ecuador relations continued to strengthen and gain increasing salience during the period.

Bilateral trade stood at USD 881.96 million during the period. India's exports stood at USD 194.97 million, growing by approximately 47%, whereas India's imports stood at USD 686.99 million, growing by approximately 46%. Engineering goods, pharmaceuticals and chemicals constituted top 3 articles in the export basket and mineral oil and petroleum and wood dominated the import basket. In January 2022, in collaboration with Pharmexcil and India-Ecuador Chamber of Commerce, the Embassy organized a virtual business meet in the pharmaceutical sector.

In December 2022, a webinar on defence promotion from India to Ecuador was organized with participation from the Ministries of Defence of the two countries and Indian manufacturers of defence products.

The embassy has also been organising a number of cultural and sports activities as part of AKAM celebrations.

## Mexico

India and Mexico share a privileged partnership and the year saw a deepening of the bilateral relations with a number of high-level exchanges.

### Bilateral Cooperation

Foreign Minister of Mexico Marcelo Ebrard led a 36-member high-level delegation to India from 30 March – 2 April 2022 and had several important engagements. The more important ones include meetings with EAM, CIM, the Minister of Health, Minister of AYUSH, MoS (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology.

The period also witnessed the deepening of parliamentary relations with the visit of Indian Parliamentary delegation led by the Speaker of Lok Sabha from 29 August – 2 September 2022. As a significant achievement, an organic India-Mexico Parliamentary Friendship Garden was established on the

premises of the Chamber of Deputies of Mexico (equivalent to our Lok Sabha). The Speaker also unveiled the statue and bust of Swami Vivekananda and Dr. Pandurang Khankhoje (India's freedom fighter and agriculture reformist in Mexico) at the University of Hidalgo and the University of Chapingo respectively. MoS for Parliamentary Affairs and Culture visited Mexico to participate in UNESCO's conference MONDIACULT from 30 September – 2 October 2022.

The 6<sup>th</sup> round of the Foreign Office Consultations between the Secretary (East) and Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico was held on 29 June 2022. In terms of new Agreements/MOUs, a Special Cooperation Agreement on Crop Monitoring, Drought Assessment and Capacity Building between ISRO and the Mexican Space Agency was signed on 29 June 2022. A Strategic Partnership and Technology Transfer Agreement between CIPLA and BIRMEX of Mexico was signed on 10 August 2022. Cooperation in the health sector was further strengthened by the signing of an MOU between Indian company ImmunoACT, the National Polytechnic Institute and INCMNSZ of Mexico on 8 November 2022 for the transfer of technology used with immunotherapy to combat cancer. In terms of traditional medicine, a Chair on collaboration in Ayurveda was established at the Medical School of the National Autonomous University of Nuevo Leon.

### Economic Cooperation

India-Mexico bilateral trade surpassed USD 10.1 billion making India the 10<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner of Mexico. To further promote business and investment, the Embassy established a new Trade and Commerce Council of India and Mexico, which was launched by Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard on 6 December 2022. India participated in several trade fairs and exhibitions held in Mexico.

### People-to-People Ties

In a significant development, 30 Mexican diplomats participated in a special training course organized by the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS), New Delhi. A number of MOUs on student and faculty exchanges were signed during the year. Cultural cooperation continues to progress with India participating in several important cultural events in Mexico. Round-the-year activities were held to commemorate AKAM.

### Multilateral Cooperation

India and Mexico continue to cooperate closely in the UN and various multilateral forums, most significantly as non-permanent members of the UNSC during 2021-22. India and Mexico also support each other's positions including candidatures in the UN.

Mexico is an important G20 partner and is actively participating in India's Presidency of G20. Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Ms. Carmen Moreno Toscano visited India to participate in the G20 Sherpas' meeting held in Udaipur from 4-7 December 2022.

## Paraguay

India and Paraguay enjoy friendly and cordial relations. This year marks a landmark in the history of bilateral relations, as India opened its Embassy in Asuncion on 27 January 2022. It also saw high-level visits and exchanges between the two countries.

### Bilateral Cooperation

EAM paid an official visit to Paraguay from 21-23 August 2022 during which EAM and Foreign Minister (FM) of Paraguay, Ambassador Julio Cesar Arriola, jointly inaugurated the Embassy of India in Asuncion. EAM also called on H.E. Mario Abdo Benitez, the President of Paraguay. During his visit, EAM inaugurated a Gandhi Bust at Costanera – a prominent location in Asuncion, on 21 August 2022. Vice-Minister of Defence of Paraguay, Colonel Dr Gladys Arsenia Ruiz Laconich, visited India in October 2022 to participate in DefExpo 2022.

A 7-member delegation comprising young leaders, politicians and businessmen from Paraguay travelled to India under the "Gen-Next Democracy Network program 2022-23" program of ICCR from 08-17 August 2022. A Paraguayan diplomat also visited India for the 69<sup>th</sup> Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) from 03-28 October 2022. Dean of Diplomatic and Consular Academy "Carlos Antonio Lopez" of Paraguay, and Ambassador Juan Andres Cardozo, visited India to participate in the 48<sup>th</sup> International Forum for Diplomatic Training (IFDT) in November 2022, organized by SSIFS, New Delhi.

### MoUs

A MoU between the Prasar Bharati, the Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies of Paraguay, and the Paraguayan National Audiovisual Institute (PNAI) was signed on 12 December 2022 for Cooperation and Collaboration in the Areas of Exchange of Audio-visual Programs and Content.

## Peru

Relations between India and Peru have traditionally been cordial and friendly. A group of 6 young Peruvian leaders, including three Members of Congress, visited India from 20-29 May 2022 under ICCR's Gen-Next Democracy Network Programme. The multifaceted bilateral cooperation covers a range of areas, including health & pharma, energy & mines, textiles &

agriculture, science & technology, defence & space, capacity building & development cooperation and culture & people to people contacts. The negotiations to finalise a Trade Agreement between India and Peru made significant progress following five rounds of talks and an inter-sessional meeting.

Bilateral trade has recorded substantial growth in the current Financial Year. Total bilateral trade during the financial year 2021-22 was USD 3,604.93 million, of which India's exports were worth USD 897.55 million and imports from Peru were USD 2,707.38 million. From April to September 2022, the two-way trade grew by 7.66% to USD 1,904.15 million with India's exports registering a 3.29% increase. India's main exports to Peru included textiles, automobiles, pharmaceuticals, iron and steel, articles of iron & steel, chemicals, machinery & instruments, plastic & rubber products, pipes for the oil & gas industry, leather goods, etc. Main imports from Peru are gold, copper, drilling machines, synthetic filaments, copper wires, copper scrap, zinc oxide, fresh grapes, etc.

The Pharmexcil coordinated an 80-member pharma business delegation from 62 Indian pharma firms that visited Peru on 8-9 August 2022 and held extensive business meetings with Government procurement agencies, regulators and business partners. The embassy of India in Lima in association with the Ministry of AYUSH organized a session on the AYUSH System of Medicine with participation from regulatory affairs and traditional systems of medicine from Peru and Bolivia on 12 August 2022 focusing on the promotion of AYUSH products and partnerships in traditional medicine. A 9-member business delegation from the Plastics Export Promotion Council (Plexconcil) participated in the Expoplast Peru from 24-27 August 2022. A group of 10 Indian ceramic companies participated in EXCON 2022 from 12-15 October 2022. Four Indian textile firms participated in the Expotextil Peru 2022 from 3-6 November 2022 held in Lima.

The two countries supported each others' candidatures in various multilateral fora on the basis of reciprocity. Peru supports India on UN Reforms and India's permanent membership of an expanded UN Security Council. India participated in the 52<sup>nd</sup> regular General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) held in Lima from 5-7 October 2022 as a Permanent Observer.

Peruvian nationals continue receiving training under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC). Between January and November 2022, 41 candidates from Peru have taken various e-ITEC and ITEC (physical) courses. The ITEC Day 2022 was celebrated on 15 September 2022 with the participation of ITEC Alumni and dignitaries. Highlighting various identified themes, around 130 events have been held in Peru as part of AKAM celebrations. On the occasion of the 8<sup>th</sup> IDY, 8 events with the theme, Yoga for Humanity, were organised in various cities throughout Peru including iconic places with the participation

of over 300 Yoga lovers including dignitaries, members of the diplomatic corps, media houses etc. A commemorative postal stamp marking the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of India's Independence was released in August 2022 by Serpost, the Postal Services of Peru. Gandhi Jayanthi was celebrated on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2022. The 7<sup>th</sup> Ayurveda Day with "Har Din Har Ghar Ayurveda" as the main theme was celebrated on 21 October 2022. Commemorating the National Unity Day, several events, including a talk on Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: A Supreme Leader with Exemplary Qualities", a talk on Life and Contribution of Sardar Patel, a documentary screening, Unity Over Tea, Run for Unity, an exhibition titled "Sardar Patel: The Architect of Unification" were organised. Constitution Day was celebrated on 26 November 2022 by organising a number of events, including an exhibition.

On the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of India's Independence, a Special Commemorative Postal Stamp was released by Serpost in August 2022. The Peru-India Parliamentary Friendship League in the Congress has been re-constituted in May 2022. An Adviser to the Peruvian Minister of Health as well as six delegates from four companies visited India in September 2022 to participate in IPHEX (the International Exhibition for Pharma and Healthcare).

## Uruguay

India continued to maintain close bilateral ties with Uruguay. A 4-member delegation comprising young leaders, politicians and public officials from Uruguay travelled to India under the "Gen-Next Democracy Network program 2022-23" program of ICCR from 18-28 July 2022. Ambassador maintained the momentum of bilateral interaction and met President Luis Lacalle Pou on 6 September, Vice President Beatriz Argimón on 26 September and President of House of Representatives Ope Pasquet on 27 September.

## Venezuela

India's relations with Venezuela continue to be strengthened in political, commercial and cultural realms. Both countries have cooperative relations in the multilateral fora.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Carlos Faria met EAM on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2022 on the sidelines of UNGA in New York and discussed bilateral issues as well as global political and economic issues.

Secretary (East) led the Indian delegation for the 4<sup>th</sup> Foreign Office Consultations in Caracas on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022. The Venezuelan side was led by Vice Foreign Minister Capaya Rodriguez. Secretary (East) also called on Venezuelan Foreign Minister Carlos Faria. Important bilateral issues were discussed

during the visit. Ambassador of India to Venezuela held several meetings with the top leadership of Venezuela including the Foreign Minister, Vice Foreign Minister and several other Cabinet Ministers and Governors of various provinces during the period of the report.

The 8<sup>th</sup> IDY was celebrated in Caracas with the participation of the Venezuelan Vice Foreign Minister of Asia, Middle East and Oceania. Several events have been organised by the Embassy of India in Caracas to celebrate 75 years of India's independence under the theme of AKAM. These include Cultura de la India, Khana de la India, Yoga de la India, Namaste India and Bollywood y Arepa. The Embassy set up India Corners in Caracas, Valencia, Apure, Bolivar State and Maracay. Other events during the period included the organization of Gandhi Jayanti in Caracas with the participation of the Venezuelan Foreign Minister and the Venezuelan Vice Foreign Minister.

Despite the restrictions imposed by the COVID pandemic, USD 115.56 million worth of exports from India to Venezuela happened during April-October 2022. Important items of exports from India to Venezuela include minerals, fuel, pharmaceutical products, cotton, cereals and iron and steel.

## Central America

### Belize

India and Belize maintain friendly relations. India continues to maintain its interaction at the level of Foreign Ministers in multilateral fora including at SICA, CARICOM, CELAC and the Commonwealth.

Regular meetings between EAM and the Foreign Minister of Belize Eamon Courtenay helped consolidate and promote bilateral ties.

CEO of National Defence and Border Security of Belize (equivalent to Defence Secretary), Dario Oscar Tapia, visited India from 17-21 October 2022 to participate in DefExpo-2022 held in Gujarat and had a number of bilateral engagements.

Belize and India have supported each other on various issues in the UN and other multilateral fora, a trend which was witnessed during 2022 as well.

A number of participants from Belize also took part in ITEC courses in India. In addition to the donation of 25,000 doses of the Made in India AstraZeneca Covishield vaccine in March 2021, India provided another donation of 10,000 doses of Covishield vaccines in July 2022.

## Costa Rica

India maintains friendly and cordial relations with Costa Rica. The embassy in collaboration with Centro De Cine of the Ministry of Culture and Youth of Costa Rica organised the Indian Film Festival in San Jose from 16-26 February 2022. Ambassador along with Raciél Del Toro, Director, National Film Centre and Loida Pretiz Beaumont, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Culture and Youth of Costa Rica inaugurated the event. A Consular camp was also organized in Costa Rica to provide services to the members of the Indian community on 16 February 2022.

Mission in collaboration with ASOYOGA celebrated the IDY 2022 on 18 June 2022 in different districts and provinces in Costa Rica. Six young delegates from different walks of life visited India under the 5<sup>th</sup> batch of the Gen-Next Democracy Programme organised by ICCR from 05-14 September 2022.

## El Salvador

India's bilateral relations with El Salvador continued to strengthen in all spheres of engagement including political, commercial, cultural and consular. There are around 20 Indians in El Salvador, working in BPO, pharmaceuticals, hospitality and Missionaries of Charity.

A 4-member Indian Mining Expert delegation visited El Salvador from 3-7 October 2022. During their visit, they visited different abandoned mining sites for further studies across El Salvador with the accompanying delegation from the Ministry of Economy of El Salvador.

The commercial relations are on the upswing; 2021-22 year saw the highest ever Indian exports to El Salvador, worth USD 148.17 million, YOY growth of 76.13%. Pharmaceuticals, textiles (especially cotton yarn and fibers), chemicals, engineering products, automobiles - two and three wheeler, motor vehicles/cars, auto components and parts, iron and steel, industrial machinery and parts, electrical machinery and equipment are the top products exported to El Salvador. El Salvador is close to US, and due to its strategic location, there are huge opportunities for Indian IT companies for nearshoring from where they can serve the US markets.

There is a growing awareness of Indian culture in El Salvador. As a part of AKAM, the Embassy in association with the Ministry of Culture of El Salvador organized performances by the ICCR-sponsored Kathak troupe led by Soniya Parchure in May 2022 in San Salvador and Santa Ana, as well as Unity Concerts by ICCR sponsored Indian Music band Purple Fusion to mark the National Unity Day in the first week of November 2022. The Embassy in collaboration with the consortium of 15 Yoga studios in El Salvador organized the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of IDY in San Salvador in June 2022. In November 2022, for the first time,

the Embassy and Foreign Ministry of El Salvador organized celebrations of Diwali at the premises of the Foreign Ministry, with the Indian community.

## Guatemala

India's relations with Guatemala further deepened in all spheres, including political, commercial and cultural. To Mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of diplomatic relations, the Mission organized over 50 cultural and commercial events in 2022 across the length and breadth of Guatemala. The celebrations culminated on 18 November 2022 with a commemorative event, jointly organized by the Mission and Guatemalan Foreign Ministry, at the Foreign Ministry premises in presence of Foreign Minister Mario Bucaro and Vice Foreign Ministers. Two participants from Guatemala visited India under ICCR Gen Next Democracy Network Programme from 18 to 27 July 2022.

India's visibility and image was enhanced by organising a series of cultural events not only in the capital but also across the nook and corner of Guatemala. As a part of AKAM, more than 75 events were organised across Guatemala, including the flag hoisting in 10 different cities on Independence Day. On 12 November 2022, Mission organized one its kind, largest Yoga Festival in Central America, perhaps in the LAC region, with the participation of more than 2500 people, at Mariscal Zavala Military Brigade. Similarly, in June 2022, Mission organized the IDY at the world heritage city of Antigua, which was live broadcast on DD India as a part of the Yoga Guardian ring. On 5-6 February 2022, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Mission organized the film festival at the Miguel Angel Asturias National theatre in Guatemala City.

## Nicaragua

India maintains cordial and friendly relations with Nicaragua. Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Denis Moncada Colindres had a meeting with EAM in New York in September 2022 on the sidelines of the UNGA. After signing and ratifying the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement in 2021, Nicaragua started working on a Solar PV Project with ISA Secretariat.

The Mission with the assistance of the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua organised the IDY celebrations at the Japanese Park in the capital Managua, Director of the Nicaraguan Institute of Culture, Luis Morales Alonso was the Chief Guest.

## Panama

India-Panama bilateral ties strengthened with the visit of MOS (ML) to Panama from 29 April to 1 May 2022, during which



she held a delegation-level talk with Foreign Minister Erika Mouynes. The two sides agreed to strengthen ties in areas like healthcare, pharmaceutical, knowledge-based economy, space, Science & Technology. An Agreement authorizing the dependents of members of a diplomatic mission or consular post to engage in Gainful Employment was also signed. MoS-ML led a yoga session in which the Panamanian Culture Minister and Vice Foreign Ministers participated. MoS (ML) and Ms. Giselle González Villarrue, Minister of Culture of Panama signed the CEP 2021-2024 aiming to consolidate and strengthen the cultural relationship between the two countries.

Ambassador of Panama to India Yasiel Burillo signed the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement on 25 August 2022. Five young Panamanians from political, entrepreneurial and other backgrounds visited India under the 6<sup>th</sup> batch of the Gen-Next Democracy Programme organised by ICCR from 10-19 October 2022.

Secretary (East) visited Panama from 22-24 November 2022 and co-chaired 2<sup>nd</sup> India-Panama FOCs with Panamanian Vice Minister Vladimir A. Franco Sousa. The two sides reviewed bilateral cooperation in various fields like pharmaceutical, healthcare, trade and visa facilitation, cooperation between the Diplomatic institutions of the two countries and close bilateral engagement. Secretary (East) was also called on by the Foreign Minister of Panama Jenaina Tewaney Mencomo.

The IDY 2022 was celebrated in Panama City on 21 June 2022. The Indian Mission joined the Guardian Ring of Yoga live telecast initiative with a yoga and meditation session at the City of Knowledge, Panama City on 21 June 2022 in collaboration with the Ministry of External Relations and Yoga Professors in Panama. A week-long physical Yoga and Ayurveda festival was organised from 13 to 20 June 2022 in which various Yoga and Ayurveda practitioners from Panama gave different Yoga sessions/talks/meditation sessions at various iconic places of Panama which includes the famous Soho Mall, Cinta Costera, National Library at Parque Omar. The Embassy in collaboration with the Technological University of Panama organized an Indian Film Festival from 16-18 August 2022.

## Caribbean Countries

### Antigua & Barbuda

India's relations with Antigua & Barbuda continue to be warm and friendly. Indian Independence Day was celebrated in Antigua and Barbuda for the first time with the Honorary Consul of India hoisting the National Flag. Hon'ble Prime Minister Gaston Brown sent his wishes through social media and audio-visual media. The High Commission organized an event in Antigua and Barbuda on 19 June 2022 to celebrate

IDY. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Trade Chet Greene graced the event as the Chief Guest.

### The Bahamas

India enjoys close and cordial relations with the Bahamas.

EAM met the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bahamas. Fred Mitchell on the sidelines of the Foreign Ministers' meeting in Kigali in June 2022 and also at the India-CARICOM luncheon meeting on the sidelines of the 77<sup>th</sup> session of UN GA in September 2022.

The Bahamas and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the implementing agency, launched the construction of the Abaco community centre and hurricane Shelter funded by the Government of India at the cost of USD 1 million. In August 2022, the High Commissioner called on Prime Minister Philip Davis and Foreign Minister Fred Mitchell and had discussions on a wide range of bilateral issues.

During the meeting, at the request of the Indian community in The Bahamas, a request for the allocation of land for the Indian Association in The Bahamas (IAB) was conveyed. The land has now been identified and modalities of the lease terms worked out. During the visit, a consular camp was organized in Nassau to deal with the consular issues of the Indian community.

### Barbados

India's bilateral relations with Barbados deepened further during the year. Traditionally, the relationship is reinforced by our commonwealth membership, the English language and our love for cricket. Both countries worked closely with each other in the multilateral fora and Barbados continued to support Indian candidates in the elections. Hon. Arthur Holder, Speaker, House of Assembly of Barbados attended the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's Midyear Executive Committee Meeting in Guwahati on 09 & 10 April 2022.

The Indian community in Barbados celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of India's independence on 15 August 2022 with a flag hoisting preceded by a T20 India@75 Cricket match under lights on 13 August 2022 at Briarhall Cricket grounds in Barbados. Minister of Environment, National Beautification and the Blue and Green Economy Adrian Forde was the Chief Guest. He congratulated the gathering that 75 years of Independence was a great achievement and also marked the completion of 55 years of diplomatic relationship between Barbados and India which started in 1966, the year Barbados became Independent.

A 6-member EXIM Bank of India delegation visited Barbados from 20-29 November 2022 for an inception visit for a

consultancy assignment for establishing an Export Credit Agency in Barbados to help that country to achieve an export target of USD 1 billion by 2030.

## Commonwealth of Dominica

India and the Commonwealth of Dominica share a warm and friendly relationship. Dominica supports India's candidatures at the UN, appreciates India's growth as a major country and expects India to offer assistance in fields such as health care and training of health workers, IT, and capacity building through training programmes.

High Commissioner visited Dominica in April 2022 and held discussions on issues of bilateral cooperation with Hon'ble Roosevelt Skerit, Prime Minister, Dr. Irving McIntyre, Minister of Health, Wellness and New Health Investment and Cassani Laville, Minister of Works and Digital Economy. During the visit, an MOU on mutual recognition of Covid19 Vaccine Certificates was signed by the High Commissioner and Dr. Irvind McIntyre, the then Minister of Health, Wellness and New Health Investment.

## Dominican Republic

India opened its Resident Mission in Santo Domingo on 01 January 2022, though diplomatic relations between India and Dominican Republic (DR) were established in May 1999 and the Dominican Republic opened its Embassy in New Delhi on 01 May 2006.

### Economic Cooperation

Bilateral trade between India and the Dominican Republic has increased significantly in the last few years. India is the 4<sup>th</sup> trading partner of DR. Bilateral trade increased to USD 896 million by the end of March 2022 which is 90% more than the trade of 2020-21. Indian exports registered 37% growth to reach USD 286 million, while Dominican exports increased by 137% to reach USD 610 million.

### FOCs

The 2<sup>nd</sup> round of FOCs between India and DR were held in Santo Domingo on 01 July 2022. The Indian side was led by the Secretary (East) and the Dominican Republic by Ambassador José Julio Gómez, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. The consultations reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations including political, trade and investment, capacity building and cooperation in science and technology including space, cyber security and artificial intelligence, and higher education and

cultural relations. Multilateral and regional issues including cooperation in the UN, International Solar Alliance (ISA) and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) were also discussed.

### Science and Technology Cooperation

As part of India's Development Partnership programme and the Dominican Republic's requirements, 18 professionals were trained at a customized course on Cyber Security and Malware Analytics from 21 November-16 December 2022 at C-DAC, Mohali. Two Dominican professionals attended the UNISpace Nano Satellite Assembly & Training (UNNATI) organized by ISRO from 15 October-15 December 2022 at UR Rao Satellite Centre, Bengaluru. A delegation from Dominican Republic participated in iPHEX and Global Regulators' Meet event organized by Pharmexcil from 21-23 September 2022 in Noida. Vice Minister and Director of the Drug Regulatory Authority of Dominican Republic - DIGEMAPS Leandro Villanueva and Deputy Director of PROMESECAL (Government Drug Procurement Agency) Luis Francisco Liranzo attended the event at the invitation of Pharmexcil.

The Director General of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) led a delegation to participate in the Latin America & Caribbean Climate Week of the UN Climate held in Santo Domingo from 18-22 July 2022. The delegation conducted regional Consultations with Caribbean countries on the sidelines of Climate Week and also held meetings with dignitaries of the Dominican Republic. Dr. Max Puig, Executive Vice President of the National Council for Climate Change and Clean Development Mechanism attended virtually the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Regional Committee of International Solar Alliance (ISA) of the Latin American and the Caribbean Region held on 04 August 2022 at Georgetown, Guyana. The Dominican Republic also participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), which took place from 18-20 October 2022 in New Delhi.

### Cultural Cooperation

International Day of Yoga celebrations were held in the Dominican Republic for the first time in June 2022 with much anticipation and enthusiasm. In addition to the celebrations at the capital Santo Domingo, the IDY was celebrated simultaneously at other cities namely, Santiago, Bavaro, Cabarete, Higüey, Samaná, San Cristobal, San Francisco, La Vega, La Romana, Salcedo and Bonao. As part of 'AKAM' celebrations, the Dominican Foreign Ministry lighted its historic building with Indian tricolours on India's Independence Day. The Mission celebrated 153<sup>rd</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and International Day of Non-Violence by organizing various events such as a lecture cum photo exhibition on the Life of Gandhi at Mahatma Gandhi

School in Santo Domingo on 30 September 2022, a conference and screening of the movie 'Gandhi' on 02 October 2022 at Plaza de la Cultura, and photo exhibition on the Life of Gandhi at popular Ágora Mall from 25-31 October 2022.

## Grenada

India and Grenada enjoy warm and friendly relations. Grenada supports India at UN elections and in international fora. The Union Community Complex in the Parish of St. Mark's, Grenada had been fully funded by the Government of India – completed in 2019 and opened for public use in December 2021. Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell acknowledged assistance received from countries including India and international organisations in his budget speech on 5 December 2022.

## Guyana

India and Guyana enjoy close friendly relations.

### Bilateral Cooperation

President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, as well as Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, former President Donald Ramotar, Members of Parliament, senior Government officials, CEOs and other dignitaries, graced the Republic Day Reception organised by the High Commission in Georgetown.

Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Hugh Hilton Todd visited India from 26 April-1 May 2022 to attend the Raisina Dialogue 2022. Foreign Minister interacted with Prime Minister and also met EAM. Both sides discussed issues related to energy, digital, health and people-to-people connections.

### Energy Cooperation

Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Housing & Urban Affairs of India met Vickram Bharrat, Minister of Natural Resource of Guyana in Abu Dhabi on 31 October 2022 on the sidelines of Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC 2022) and discussed areas of cooperation in the energy sector. The Minister underlined that Indian companies will assist the Guyanese in training engineers for upstream & downstream sectors so that they can maximize production from their landmark discoveries.

The 58<sup>th</sup> Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Day was celebrated on 13 September 2022 with a formal event at the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre. Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of Guyana was the Chief Guest along with other

dignitaries, ITEC alumni, members of the Diplomatic Corps, media and the Indian diaspora.

### FOCs

The 4<sup>th</sup> round of India-Guyana FOCs was held in Georgetown on 28 November 2022. The Indian side was led by the Secretary (East) and the Guyanese side by Ambassador George Talbot, Director, Multilateral Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Secretary (East) also called on President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, who was accompanied by Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo, Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation Hugh Todd and Minister in the Ministry of Public Works Indar Deodat. The two sides discussed cooperation in a wide range of areas including oil and gas, infrastructure projects, defence cooperation, capacity building and Guyana's requirement for skilled manpower.

### Cultural Cooperation

High Commission organized an event on 19 June 2022 to celebrate IDY. The Speaker of the National Assembly, Manzoor



Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Guyana, Hugh Hilton Todd met EAM during his visit to participate in "Raisina" Dialogue in April 2022 at New Delhi

Nadir along with Minister of Human Services Dr. Vindhya Persaud, Members of Parliament, Diplomatic Corps, government officials, leading diaspora members and media graced the occasion. High Commission celebrated Raksha Bandhan on 20 August when female members of the High Commission tied Rakhis to the President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Guyana.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation Hugh Hilton Todd attended the “Showcasing India-UN Partnership in Action” event held at New York on 24 September 2022. The event on 3 October 2022 to mark the 153<sup>rd</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and the 118<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Lal Bahadur Shastri was attended by Prime Minister Mark Phillips, Minister of Housing and Water Collin Croal, and Pt. Ubraj Naraine Mayor of Georgetown along with members of the Diplomatic Corps among others attended the event. High Commission also organized a Dussehra-Garba event on 4 October 2022, Diwali celebrations on 29 October 2022 with 2 Cabinet Ministers and the Speaker of the National Assembly attending the event replete with Indian music, dance, fusion, fireworks etc., and an event to showcase the contribution of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in shaping the freedom movement of India on 31 October 2022.

## Haiti

India’s relationship with Haiti has been friendly with Haiti supporting India in various International fora. The Embassy of India in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic was concurrently accredited to the Republic of Haiti with effect from 06 July 2022. Haiti was previously accredited to India’s Embassy in Havana, Cuba. Minister of Environment James Cadet and three other officials from the Haitian side attended the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Regional Committee of International Solar Alliance (ISA) of American and the Caribbean Region held on 04 August 2022 at Georgetown, Guyana.

For the most part of 2022, Haiti went through a dire security situation. Several embassies closed their operations and their diplomats were evacuated. However, the Embassy of India has been in regular touch with the Indians based in Haiti and coordinated with the Foreign Ministry of the Dominican Republic for the timely issue of the permission letter to enter the Dominican Republic for Indians who were willing to leave Haiti. 34 such permission letters were issued of which 16 Indians actually travelled out of Haiti.

## Honduras

India’s relations with Honduras continue to be cordial and friendly. MOS (ML) visited Honduras from 1-3 May 2022. During her visit, she called on the President of Honduras Iris Xiomara Castro Sarmiento. She also met Acting Minister of Foreign

Affairs and International Cooperation Antonio Garcia and discussed various bilateral, regional and international issues. MOS-ML along with Minister of Agriculture Ms. Laura Suazo, laid the foundation stone for the USD 26.5 million Jamastran Valley Irrigation project, funded by the Government of India through a Line of Credit. The project is estimated to irrigate 3,060 hectares of land and benefit about 1200 farmers.

India’s exports are gradually increasing to Honduras. Bilateral trade during 2021-22 stood at USD 310.81 million out of which USD 291.49 million are India’s exports to Honduras. Pharmaceuticals, textiles (especially cotton yarn and fibres), Chemicals, engineering products, automobiles - two and three-wheelers, motor vehicles/cars, auto components and parts, iron and steel, industrial machinery and parts, electrical machinery and equipment are the top products exported to Honduras.

Three participants from Honduras namely Heidy Alachán, Legal Advisor to the President’s office, Zulmit Rivera, Minister of Youth and Carmen Haydee, Vice Minister of Justice visited India under ICCR Gen Next Democracy Network Programme from 18-27 July 2022.

As a part of AKAM, the ICCR-sponsored Kathak troupe performed in the National Theatre in Tegucigalpa and in San Pedro Sula in May 2022. Yoga is followed by many and there are many yoga schools in Honduras. In June 2022, the Embassy celebrated the 8<sup>th</sup> IDY in La Esperanza, Honduras. In October 2022, for the first time, the Embassy organized celebrations of Diwali in Honduras with the Indian community.

## Jamaica

The year 2022 was of historic significance to the bilateral relationship of India and Jamaica. It was marked by the State visit of the Hon’ble President of India, the first ever by a Head of State from India to Jamaica in May 2022. The visit coincided with the commemoration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the SSIFS, MEA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica. Hon’ble President inaugurated the India-Jamaica Friendship Garden at Hope Botanical Garden and Dr. B.R Ambedkar Avenue in DownTown Kingston. He also addressed the Joint Session of Parliament. EAM and Foreign Minister Senator Kamina Johnson Smith met on the sidelines of the Foreign Ministers’ Meeting during the CHOGM in Kigali and the 77<sup>th</sup> session of UNGA.

## Economic Cooperation

Bilateral trade between the two countries attained its highest figure in the last 10 years valued at USD 82.40 million, with Indian exports worth USD 80.60 million and Indian imports





Former President met Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, and Governor General of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Dame Susan Dougan

valued at USD 1.80 million. There has been an impressive increase in the uptake of ITEC slots. Four defence training slots, offered to Jamaica after a gap of 12 years, have been subscribed.

### Cultural Cooperation

Indian music mural and Taj mural were inaugurated in Kingston Downtown. In a continued celebration of the 175<sup>th</sup> year of Indians' arrival in Jamaica, a documentary titled 'Courage and Purpose from the Mainland' was commissioned. With the intent to spread the celebration of India@75 across Jamaica, a Free Fun Fair Day was organised in the Parish of St. Mary. The full-day Fun Fair included Yoga sessions, Medical Camp, a food festival, Cultural display, Indian movie screening and netball and football games. Relentless efforts were made to generate goodwill of the people for India and Indian businesses in Jamaica by organising 8 medical camps with the support of Indian doctors and pharmaceutical companies which benefited over 2500 rural people.

Efforts to popularise Yoga classes were a great success. Special Yoga sessions were organised for Universities, the Jamaica Defence Force and Corporates at their request. Yoga for Kids is introduced on demand. Hindi classes were also conducted. Popular festivals like Holi, Diwali, Onam, Navratri and Garba, Durga puja were celebrated with fanfare and mainstreamed by inviting Government representatives, diplomats and corporate heads.

### St. Kitts & Nevis

India's relations with St. Kitts and Nevis remained friendly and cordial. High Commission with the cooperation of the Indian community in St Kitts and Nevis celebrated the 8<sup>th</sup> IDY in St Kitts. To celebrate Independence Day, the Honorary Consul of India in St. Kitts and Nevis organized a ceremony on 15 August 2022 of flag hoisting.

### St. Lucia

St. Lucia and India enjoy cordial relations and interact actively in the UNO, Commonwealth, NAM and multilateral fora. 11 July 2022 marked the beginning of the construction of a building for a project for upgrading Saint Lucia's capacity to provide vocational training for marginalized youth. The project is undertaken by the India-UNDP fund. The Indian community in Saint Lucia celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of India's independence on 15 August 2022 enthusiastically.

### Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG)

The relations between India and SVG witnessed a new era with the State Visit of Hon'ble President from 18-20 May 2022. The Hon'ble President was accompanied by the Minister of State for Finance Members of Parliament and a high-level

official delegation. The Governor General Dame Susan Dougan, Prime Minister Dr. Ralph E. Gonsalves and senior Ministers of the Cabinet received the Hon'ble President at the airport with full military honours. Hon'ble President began the visit with a discussion with the Governor General and the Prime Minister at the Government House on 19 May.

India conveyed its willingness to cooperate closely with SVG in the fields of Information Technology, Health, Tourism and Agriculture. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the progress achieved on the four Quick Impact Grant Projects and an Arrowroot Modernization Grant Project undertaken in SVG with a USD 200,000 and a USD 1.3 million Indian grant respectively and also two other projects to be undertaken under a USD 1 million CARICOM grant extended by India. An Agreement for the Exchange of Information and Assistance in Collection with respect to Taxes and an MoU on the refurbishment of the old Calder Community Centre project were signed. Hon'ble President addressed the House of Assembly at a special sitting, dwelling on the commonalities between the two countries. He also addressed the Indian Diaspora at Calder Road and unveiled a name board renaming Calder Road as 'India Drive' which also had a Hindi transliteration in Devnagari - a first for SVG. The First Lady Smt. Savita Kovind visited a School of Special Needs separately and donated USD 25,000/- to the Government.

EAM received Dr. Ralph Everard Gonsalves, Prime Minister of SVG on 23 September 2022 on the sidelines of the 77<sup>th</sup> session of UNGA and discussed deepening bilateral relations between SVG and India, as well as the current state of global affairs. SVG continued to offer support to Indian candidates in the elections for positions in multilateral organizations.

## Suriname

India continued to enjoy close, warm and friendly relations with Suriname, reinforced by cultural and people-to-people contacts bridged by the Indian Diaspora's arrival almost 149 years ago.

### High-level/ Leader- level Interactions

Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Speaker of Lok Sabha and comprising of three Members of Parliament visited Suriname from 28-31 August 2022. Several Agreements/MoUs were signed during the visit, including (i) an MoU between the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the Suriname Standards Bureau (SSB); (ii) MoU between the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of India and the Ministry of Health of Suriname on cooperation in the field of health and medicine; (iii) MoU between the Secretariat of Lok Sabha of the Republic of India and the Secretariat of the National Assembly of Suriname on cooperation between both parliaments; and (iv) Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) between the Government of India and the Government of Suriname.

EAM met Ambassador Albert Ramdin, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation during the 4<sup>th</sup> India-CARICOM Foreign Ministers' Meeting, held on the sidelines of UNGA in New York on 23 September 2022. The Minister of Natural Resources of Suriname David Abiamoto along with Valerie Lalji, an Official in the Ministry of Natural resources travelled to India to attend the 5<sup>th</sup> Assembly of International Solar Alliance in New Delhi from 17-21 October 2022. Minister of Justice and Police of Suriname, Kenneth J. Amoksie along with two officers from Suriname Police Corps travelled to India to attend the Interpol General Assembly from 18-21 October 2022. Defence Minister of Suriname Ms. Krishnakoemarie Mathoera along with Lt. Col. Mangal, Chief of Staff participated in the DefExpo-2022 from 17-21 October 2022 held in Gandhinagar, Gujrat. Three officers participated in training courses in various fields under the regular ITEC programme.

A 6-member EXIM Bank of India delegation visited Paramaribo on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and met Maurice Roemer, Governor of the Central Bank of Suriname. They also called on Silvano Tjong-Ahin, Minister of Finance and Planning a.i followed by a presentation at the Ministry. In the evening, they made a presentation for the business community on the theme 'Doing Business with India - the role of the Exim Bank of India'. Over 60 representatives attended the presentation which was followed by a Q&A session.

### Energy Cooperation

An Indian Company Kalpataru Power Transmission Limited India signed two contracts with N.V Energiebedrijven Suriname(EBS) for Power Projects valued at USD 66.35 million which are being funded by the Caribbean Development Bank. Another Indian company, M/s Transrail was also awarded a Power Project – Electricity System Upgrade and Expansion Project valued at USD 9 million in 2022.

### People-to-People Ties

As part of India@75 AKAM celebrations, the Embassy organized a series of events such as World Hindi Day, Holi-Phagwa, International Dance Day, 348<sup>th</sup> Coronation anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Charity Food Mela, Amrit-e-Sur singing competition, 75 trees plantation ceremony, Hindi Pakhwada, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Birth anniversary, Constitution Day, 400<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Assam's legendary war hero Lachit Barphukan, which were attended by senior most dignitaries of Suriname including the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Deputy Vice-Chairman of Suriname's Parliament. The Mission & Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre also celebrated the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of International Day of Yoga. The President of Suriname Chandrikapersad Santokhi was the Chief Guest. The Programme was live-streamed on Doordarshan and

the President of Suriname addressed the worldwide viewers of Doordarshan and the gathering, alternating between Hindi and English. The President was also the Chief Guest at a reception on the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of India's Independence on 15 August 2022.

## Trinidad and Tobago

India enjoys friendly relations with Trinidad and Tobago. The two countries have completed 60 years of establishment of diplomatic relations this year. EAM held a bilateral meeting with Senator the Hon. Dr. Amery Browne, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago on the sidelines of the 77<sup>th</sup> session of UNGA on 19 September 2022, and also as part of the CELAC quartet on 19 September 2022, as well as at 4<sup>th</sup> India-CARICOM Foreign Ministers' meeting on 24 September 2022. Training slots under ITEC Programme are being availed of by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago at an increasing pace. State promotion witnessed Odisha Day on 31 March 2022 and Karnataka Day on 25 November 2022.

The 8<sup>th</sup> IDY was celebrated at the prominent location of Chaguaramas Boardwalk on 26 June 2022 with the

participation of a large number of Yoga schools, government officials, diplomatic corps, Yoga enthusiasts and media. The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of India's independence was celebrated on 15 August 2022 at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Cooperation (MGICC). There were cultural performances on patriotic themes with the participation of members of the diaspora and Indian community.

ITEC Day was commemorated on 30 September 2022 with Senator Dr. Amery Browne, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs being the Chief Guest, Reita Toussaint, Permanent Secretary (Foreign Secretary) and Joel Martinez, Mayor of Port of Spain also being present. Vishwa Hindi Divas was celebrated on 21 January 2022. An exhibition on 'Atomic Energy of India: A Glorious Past, A Resplendent Future' was inaugurated at MGICC on 17 February 2022. A statue of Mahatma Gandhi was unveiled in Cedros, Trinidad and Tobago on 26 April 2022. Mission conducted Hindi and Sanskrit classes and annual examinations for more than 330 students in hybrid mode. For the session from August 2022-July 2023, more than 200 students have registered. Mission also organised a series of events to mark Hindi Divas, the Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Diwali, Ayurveda Day etc.

## CHAPTER

## 10

## BIMSTEC &amp; SAARC

India is a founding member of both SAARC and BIMSTEC. Activities under SAARC and BIMSTEC complement India's 'Neighborhood First' and 'Act East' policies.

## BIMSTEC

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a unique regional organization linking South Asia with South East Asia while focusing on India's core concerns in the region thus fulfilling India's key foreign policy priorities of 'Neighborhood First' and 'Act East'. India is currently leading the Security sector out of a total of 7 priority sectors under BIMSTEC Cooperation. The Security sector consists of 3 sub-sectors, Counter Terrorism and Trans-national Crime (CTTC); Disaster Management; and Energy.

The Fifth BIMSTEC Summit was held on 30 March 2022 in Colombo, Sri Lanka in virtual mode. At the Summit, the Leaders adopted the BIMSTEC Charter, a milestone in the transition of BIMSTEC from a grouping into a regional organization. India ratified the Charter on 12 August 2022 and deposited the instrument of ratification with the BIMSTEC Secretariat.

The leaders also issued a Joint Declaration and witnessed the signing of three documents namely, the BIMSTEC Convention

on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters; MoU on Mutual Cooperation between Diplomatic Academies/Training Institutions of BIMSTEC Member States; and the Memorandum of Association on the Establishment of the BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility in Colombo. Thailand assumed the Chairmanship of BIMSTEC at the conclusion of the Summit.

At the Summit, in line with India's commitment towards strengthening BIMSTEC, Prime Minister announced a one-time grant of USD 1 million to the operational budget of the Secretariat to complete institution-building tasks; a capacity-building program by ICRIER in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Trade Facilitation; expansion of the scope of the existing BIMSTEC Nalanda Scholarship Scheme; establishment of networking scheme among institutes of Marine Sciences in the BIMSTEC region; and commissioned a Study by RIS on creating regional value chains on value-added agricultural products in the BIMSTEC region.

The 5<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit was preceded by the 18<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on 29 March 2022 and the 22<sup>nd</sup> Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on 28 March 2022. Both meetings were hosted by Sri Lanka in Colombo in hybrid mode. India's participation at the two meetings was in person. EAM led the Indian delegation at the 18<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting, and Secretary (East) led the Indian delegation at the 22<sup>nd</sup> SOM.



The 5th BIMSTEC Summit also adopted BIMSTEC Master Plan for Transport Connectivity which presents a comprehensive 10-year strategy and action plan (2018-2028), prepared and supported by ADB for improving the region's transport linkages covering roads and road transport, railways and rail transport, ports and maritime transport, inland water transport, civil aviation & airports development, multi-modal & inter-modal transport, trade facilitation, and human resource development.

The 5th Meeting of the BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee (BPWC), a core mechanism of BIMSTEC consisting of National Focal Points from respective Ministries of External/Foreign Affairs of the Member States, was held in person in Bangkok, Thailand from 13-15 September 2022. The meeting deliberated on administrative and institution-building issues of BIMSTEC as well as the strategy for strengthening regional cooperation in the seven identified sectors for cooperation under BIMSTEC.

A Special Meeting of the BPWC was held on 10 October 2022 in virtual mode, to discuss the draft Rules of Procedure for Core BIMSTEC Mechanisms. The meeting, anchored by the BIMSTEC Secretariat in Dhaka, held extensive deliberations and agreed to continue discussions at the next meeting to be held in person on 21 and 22 December 2022 in Dhaka. These meetings were

part of the priority tasks of BIMSTEC's institutional mechanism mandated by the Leaders at the 5<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit.

BIMSTEC day was observed on 06 June 2022, marking the completion of 25 years of establishment (Silver Jubilee) of BIMSTEC in Bangkok in 1997. Prime Minister's message to member states on the occasion affirmed the role of the BIMSTEC Charter as the guiding force in expanding cooperation and enhancing BIMSTEC's collective potential. He also reiterated India's commitment to strengthening cooperation in different areas for the larger benefit of the people. Silver Jubilee celebrations were held at BIMSTEC Secretariat in Dhaka, during which a publication titled "25 Years of BIMSTEC – Towards a Peaceful, Prosperous and Sustainable Bay of Bengal Region" was released. BIMSTEC Chair Thailand organized an Exhibition to mark the occasion in Bangkok on 13 June 2022. Indian Ambassador to Thailand spoke on behalf of the diplomatic corps and the member states at the event and reiterated India's commitment and cooperation in achieving the BIMSTEC vision.

BIMSTEC Secretary General Tenzin Lekphell visited India from 22-25 August 2022 at the invitation of Secretary (East). Detailed discussions on consolidation and further development of the BIMSTEC institutional architecture under the BIMSTEC Charter



The Secretariat of BIMSTEC in Dhaka celebrated the 25th Anniversary, June 2022

were held. Discussions were also held on rapidly taking forward cooperation in specific areas led by India including Counter Terrorism, Disaster Management, Maritime Cooperation and Energy Security. Ongoing cooperation activities in the three BIMSTEC priority areas of poverty eradication, connectivity, and trade & investment were also reviewed. Secretary General met Deputy National Security Advisor Secretary of Power, and Member-Secretary, the National Disaster Management Authority, and reviewed BIMSTEC cooperation in sectoral areas. Secretary General called on, the MoS (RRS) on 24 August 2022. On the occasion, MoS (RRS) ceremonially handed over a cheque of USD 1 million for the BIMSTEC Secretariat's operational budget as announced by Prime Minister at the 5<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Energy Ministers, chaired by Nepal, was held in a virtual mode in Kathmandu on 20 April 2022. Minister of Power represented India at the Meeting which was preceded by the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Senior Officials on Energy. The Ministers' Joint Statement called for accelerating energy cooperation in the region.

The First Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Disaster Management Cooperation was held virtually in New Delhi on 12 May 2022. The meeting hosted by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), India, held discussions on the BIMSTEC Plan of Action aimed to improve preparedness and coordination for responding to natural disasters in the Bay of Bengal region.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Governing Board (GB) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate (BCWC) were held at National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), Noida, India on November 1 and 2, 2022. The GB reviewed the draft 'Host Country Agreement' for establishing the Centre while the SAC made several recommendations to improve interactions in matters pertaining to weather and climate in the Bay of Bengal Region. Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences of India delivered the keynote address.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Working Group to finalize the Draft Text of the Agreement on Maritime Transport Cooperation was held virtually in New Delhi on 30 August 2022. The Director General of Shipping and Additional Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India, chaired the meeting. The meeting made substantial progress towards the completion of negotiations on the Agreement, which, when concluded, is expected to promote the growth of regional economic and commercial relations among all the BIMSTEC Member States through strengthening and development of merchant shipping and maritime transport in the region.

In pursuance of the Prime Minister's announcement made at the 4<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit in 2018, India organized a training programme for the second batch of Law Enforcement Officers from BIMSTEC Countries from 04 - 15 July 2022 at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNAA) in India. The training programme was in the areas namely cyber security, counter-terrorism, transnational organized crime, de-radicalization, and other law enforcement challenges.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture chaired by the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare of India was held virtually on 10 November 2022. The Ministers stressed the increasing importance of strengthening regional cooperation in agriculture and food security and the need for adopting new technologies including artificial intelligence in agriculture. The Ministers also approved signing a MoU between the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and BIMSTEC. The Ministerial Meeting was preceded by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Senior Officials on Agriculture on 09 November 2022. The 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Agricultural Cooperation was held virtually from Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, on 08 September 2022. The Meeting discussed and agreed on several measures for cooperation in the agricultural sector.

BIMSTEC Secretary General Tenzin Lekphell attended the Third 'No Money for Terror' (NMFT) Ministerial Conference on Counter-Terrorism Financing in New Delhi on 18 and 19 November 2022, at the invitation of the Government of India. The Conference was aimed at building on the gains of the two previous conferences held in Paris in April 2018 and Melbourne in November 2019 to work towards enhancing global cooperation to combat terrorist financing. During the visit, Secretary General held discussions with Additional Secretary (BIMSTEC & SAARC) and exchanged views on progress in BIMSTEC cooperation.

## SAARC

India is a founding member of the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

SAARC, founded in 1985, is a regional consensus-based organization consisting of eight Member States. Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are the seven founding members. Afghanistan joined the regional organization in 2007 through the signing of a Joint Declaration. SAARC Secretariat is located in Kathmandu, Nepal and is headed by a Secretary General. Mr. Esala Ruwan Weerakoon from Sri Lanka is serving as the 14th Secretary General since March 2020. The three-year tenure of the SAARC Secretary-General came to an end in February 2023. Next SAARC Secretary-

General will be selected by Bangladesh as per the alphabetical base rotation rule.

Nepal continues to hold the Chair of SAARC till the next Summit.

The pandemic including global travel restrictions in general, and the second wave of Covid-19 in member states in particular, significantly affected the activities of SAARC during the year.

14th SAARC Secretary General Esala Ruwan Weerakoon visited Delhi to attend the Third Ministerial Conference on Counter-Terrorism Financing “No Money for Terror” in Delhi on 18-

19 November 2022 at the invitation of the Ministry of Home Affairs. During his visit, he also held talks on SAARC-related issues with Secretary (East).

Pursuant to Prime Minister’s announcement at the 18th SAARC Summit, India’s National Knowledge Network was extended to Maldives. In this connection, a Peering Agreement was signed and exchanged between the Higher Education Network of the Republic of Maldives (HNM) and the National Knowledge Network (NKN) of the Republic of India on 26 March 2022 at a ceremony held in Addu City during EAM’s visit to Maldives (26-27 March 2022).



EAM with Foreign Minister of Maldives Abdulla Shahid in Addu City, March 2022

## CHAPTER

## 11

## Nalanda University

Nalanda University was established by an Act of Parliament, with the objective to emerge as an international institution for the pursuit of intellectual, philosophical, historical and spiritual studies. The University is a declared institute of national importance with a pre-eminent focus on developing international character.

Nalanda University was established in the backdrop of a proposal mooted by Singapore at the 2nd East Asia Summit (EAS) in 2007 for reviving ancient Nalanda and establishing a 21st century institution of learning, linking South and East Asia. Subsequently, in 2009, with India's active collaboration, the EAS Leaders issued a Joint Statement supporting the establishment of the Nalanda University as a non-state, non-profit and self-governing institution.

The Nalanda University Act came into force in November 2010. An intergovernmental MoU was signed by 8 EAS participating countries in October 2013. Thereafter, 9 more EAS and other participating countries have signed the MoU, taking the participating countries' number to 17.

The 17 participating countries are - Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos, Mauritius, Myanmar, New Zealand, Portugal, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

### Academic Progress

Nalanda University has completed more than 12 years since its establishment in 2010. In the years running up to 2014, the University's focus was broadly on areas like formulation of academic Statutes and Regulations, preparation of groundwork for campus infrastructure development, preparing Headquarters Agreement and others.

The University commenced its first academic session in September 2014. The first batch of 16 students graduated in 2016. Between 2014-2019, the University operated from an intervening campus near the main campus in Rajgir. In December 2019, the University moved entirely to the newly constructed main campus.

Currently, the University has six Schools of Studies – (i) School of Buddhist Studies, Philosophy and Comparative Religions; (ii) School of Historical Studies; (iii) School of International Relations and Peace Studies; (iv) School of Business Management in relation to Public Policy and Development Studies; (v) School of Languages and Literature; and (vi) School of Ecology and Environment Studies.

During 2022-23, the University undertook several new initiatives to expand its academic program. The University saw a growth in



student enrollment to over 250 resident scholars and over 300 students opting for short-term academic courses. This includes more than 100 international students from various countries.

In 2018, at the 4th BIMSTEC Summit in Kathmandu, Prime Minister made a commitment to launch a dedicated Centre of learning on the Bay of Bengal region at Nalanda University. During 2022-23, the University inaugurated the Centre for Bay of Bengal Studies to conduct specialized research on the Bay of Bengal region. The University also established the ASEAN-India Network of Universities for building linkages for academic exchange, joint research, twinning programs, student and faculty exchange and other collaborative initiatives among select Indian and ASEAN universities. During the year, the Neemrana Centre for undergraduate studies was also set up in the State of Rajasthan as a Regional Educational Centre under public-private partnership to harness the multi-dimensional potential of environment studies.

In 2022-23, the University established International Linkages with the following five academic institutions – (i) City University of New York ; (ii) Lumbini Buddhist University, Nepal; (iii) Otani University, Kyoto, Japan; (iv) National University of Laos; and (v) University of Bengkulu, Indonesia

### Campus Infrastructure Development

In 2014, the Cabinet approved a Masterplan for Nalanda at

a capital cost of Rs. 1750 crores. Infrastructure development was conceived under 6 broad categories of structures – Administrative, Academic, Amenities, Utilities, Residences and Site Development.

During the year, the campus infrastructure development intensified with the completion of many construction works. The University Campus is designed as a Net Zero sustainable green campus. The key sustainability features include, net zero energy, net zero water, net zero waste and net zero emission. This hybrid concept featuring renewable energy sources with the indigenous approach and its integration with various innovative technologies has ushered green growth of the campus. Some niche technologies used in creating a net-zero campus are given below -

- Use of Desiccant Evaporative (DEVAP) technology for cooling/heating of the buildings.
- Solar Integrated thermal storage technology for HVAC System.
- Smart LED lighting, Digitally Addressed Lighting Interface (DALI) integrated with occupancy sensor.
- Use of Compressed Stabilized Earth Blocks (CSEB) instead of common burnt clay bricks.
- Use of integrated boxes of masonry to achieve seismic stability.
- Use of thick cavity walls to increase thermal resistance.



MoS (RRS) at the launch event of ASEAN-India Network of Universities, at ASEAN Headquarters, Jakarta in August 2022

## CHAPTER

## 12

## Indo-Pacific

India's vision for the Indo-Pacific focuses on a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific. India emphasizes respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations in the region, equality of all nations, peaceful resolution of disputes, avoidance of use or threat of use of force and adherence to international laws, rules and regulations. India aims to enhance multi-faceted engagement with all countries in the region and those with interests in it, encompassing political, security, economic, and socio-cultural spheres, aimed at Security And Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).

The year witnessed an intensification of India's engagement with various Indo-Pacific frameworks including, inter alia, the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), East Asia Summit (EAS), Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC), Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) and Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT).

## Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

India's relationship with ASEAN is a key pillar of our foreign policy and the foundation of our Act East Policy. India supports

ASEAN centrality in the evolving architecture of the Indo-Pacific construct. Formal engagement of India with ASEAN began in 1992 as a 'Sectoral Dialogue Partner' and subsequently as a 'Dialogue Partner' in 1996. Engagement with ASEAN was upgraded to the Summit level in 2002, and was further elevated to a 'Strategic Partnership' in 2012. This year marked the 30th Anniversary of establishment of India-ASEAN relations and was celebrated as the ASEAN-India Friendship Year.

In 2022, Cambodia chaired ASEAN under the theme of 'ASEAN A.C.T: Addressing Challenges Together'. Singapore holds the position of ASEAN Country Coordinator for India until August 2024.

Engagement with ASEAN is a multi-level interaction process. At the apex is the annual ASEAN-India Summit, supported by the ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting and the ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting. In 2022, to mark the important milestone of 30 years of ASEAN-India relations, the Annual 19th ASEAN-India Summit was designated as the Commemorative Summit. The Vice President led the delegation to the Summit held on 12 November 2022, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The Summit was historic as it elevated the ASEAN-India Partnership to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP). A Joint Statement to establish the CSP was adopted by the Leaders.

As part of Friendship Year celebrations, India hosted the Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting (SAIFMM) in Delhi in June 2022. SAIFMM was attended by Foreign Ministers from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, ASEAN Secretary General and representatives from Laos, the Philippines and Thailand. SAIFMM was preceded by the 24th ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting (AISOM) in New Delhi on 15 June 2022. On 04 August 2022, EAM participated in the annual ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AIFMM) held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. AIFMM deliberated on ways to elevate ASEAN-India cooperation in the post pandemic era, including enhancing cooperation in areas of smart agriculture, healthcare, new and renewable energy, digital inclusivity and fintech.

India and ASEAN organized a host of activities to celebrate the ASEAN-India Friendship Year. This included the ASEAN-India High-Level Conference on Renewable Energy in February, the release of a joint logo in March, the visit of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly Delegation in August and the first ASEAN-India Start-Up festival in October. It also included organization of various track 1.5 activities like Act East through Northeast Conclave in Assam and the seventh roundtable of ASEAN- India Network of Think Tanks, both of which were held in May. The 12th edition of Delhi Dialogue in June, a seminar on the convergence of ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific and Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative in September, and ASEAN-India media exchanges in June and November were also conducted. Youth-centric activities, including the inauguration of ASEAN-

India Network of Universities in August, ASEAN-India Artists Camp in October and ASEAN-India Music Festival in November were also held.

## East Asia Summit (EAS)

Established in 2005, the Leaders-led EAS format is the most vital part of the ASEAN-led frameworks, primarily because of the contribution it makes to building an environment of strategic trust in the region. India sees the EAS as the logical platform to promote a free, open, inclusive, transparent, rules-based, peaceful, prosperous Indo-Pacific region.

India's engagement with EAS is a multilevel interaction process, at the apex being East Asia Summit (EAS) supported by the EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting (EAS FMM) and the EAS Senior Officials' Meeting (EAS SOM). The Vice President led the delegation to the 17th East Asia Summit held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 13 November 2022. At the Summit, the Vice President reaffirmed the importance of EAS as the foremost mechanism of the ASEAN-led architecture in the Indo-Pacific. In the context of challenges to food and energy security, he called for a full contribution to the International Year of Millets in 2023. He also highlighted the importance of the EAS mechanism in promoting a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific with freedom of navigation and overflight. At the EAS, important regional and international issues including Indo-Pacific, South China Sea, UNCLOS, terrorism, and the situation in the Korean Peninsula as well as in Myanmar were discussed.



Vice President with the leaders of ASEAN Member States at the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in Phnom Penh, November 2022





EAM addressed the Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi, June 2022

India also attended the annual EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 05 August 2022 and the EAS Senior Officials' Meeting held virtually on 08 June 2022.

To implement the action points of Manila Plan of Action (2018-2022) under the EAS Mechanism, India, in partnership with Singapore and Australia, organised the EAS Workshop on Combating Marine Pollution with a focus on marine plastic debris in February 2022. India also organised the EAS Workshop on Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in April 2022, in partnership with Singapore.

### Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative (IPOI)

On 01 June 2018, Prime Minister outlined India's vision for the Indo-Pacific region in his speech delivered at the Shangri La Dialogue in Singapore. India called for a free, open and inclusive order in the Indo-Pacific, based upon respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations, peaceful resolution of disputes through dialogue and adherence to international rules and laws. India's concept of the Indo-Pacific is inclusive in nature, and supports an approach that respects

the right to freedom of navigation and overflight for all in the international seas. India's Indo-Pacific vision is premised upon the principle of 'ASEAN-Centrality'. India's approach is based on cooperation and collaboration, given the need for shared responses to shared challenges in the region. On 04 November 2019, Prime Minister launched the Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative (IPOI) at the 14<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit held in Bangkok, Thailand. As an open global initiative, the IPOI draws on existing regional cooperation architecture and mechanisms to focus on seven central pillars conceived around Maritime Security; Maritime Ecology; Maritime Resources; Capacity Building and Resource Sharing; Disaster Risk Reduction and Management; Science, Technology and Academic Cooperation; and Trade Connectivity and Maritime Transport. India has taken lead on the Maritime Security and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management pillars of IPOI, and has also invited countries to come on board and lead its different pillars. Currently, Australia is leading its Maritime Ecology Pillars. Japan is leading its connectivity pillars. France and Indonesia are co-leading the Marine Resources pillars. In 2022, Singapore agreed to lead the Science, Technology and Academic Cooperation Pillar and the United Kingdom agreed to co-lead on Maritime Security Pillars of IPOI.



## Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

India, a founding member of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), remained actively engaged at IORA during the year. IORA is the largest organization in the Indian Ocean Region with 23 Members and 10 Dialogue Partners. India is strongly committed to strengthening IORA, in order to promote peace, security and prosperity in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) as well as in the wider Indo-Pacific. India is the coordinator of the IORA priority areas of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Science, Technology and Innovation. India is setting up an eOffice at the IORA Secretariat.

India participated in the 22nd Council of Ministers' (COM) meeting of IORA held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 24 November 2022. The Indian delegation was led by MoS (RRS). The 22<sup>nd</sup> COM adopted the 'IORA's Outlook on the Indo-Pacific' (IOIP) which would guide enhancement of IORA's engagement in the Indo-Pacific region. India led the process of development of the IOIP. The 22<sup>nd</sup> COM endorsed India's candidature for IORA Vice-Chair for the period 2023-25 by consensus.

The Secretary General of IORA Salman Al Farisi visited India (New Delhi and Mumbai) from 28-30 September 2022. During the visit the IORA Secretary General called on MoS (RRS) and met with Secretary (East), the IORA Senior Official of India, to

discuss the full range of issues related to peace and prosperity in the IOR. The IORA Secretary General held discussions at the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) secretariat on the implementation of the MoU signed between IORA and CDRI for promoting resilience of new and existing infrastructure to climate and disaster risks within the Indian Ocean Region. He also held meetings with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to discuss issues related to the Disaster Risk Management priority area of IORA which is led by India.

IORA signed an MoU for promoting the resilience of new and existing infrastructure to climate and disaster risks within the Indian Ocean Region with the CDRI on 28 April 2022. The MoU between IORA and the International Solar Alliance, which was signed in October 2018, was extended for a further period of two years until 2024.

India chaired the inaugural meeting of the Working Group on Disaster Risk Management (DRM) on 09 June 2022. Under the DRM priority area of IORA, the Indian Coast Guard organised a training course on 'Marine Oil Preparedness and Response' (IMO Introductory, Level-I and II) from 18-29 April 2022 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, in collaboration with India's Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) program, for all IORA Member States. Under the Maritime Safety and Security priority area of IORA, the Indian Navy conducted a seminar on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing at Goa on 2 November 2022.



IORA Secretary General Salman Al Farisi called on MoS (RRS) during his visit to India in September 2022

## Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC)

Established in 2000, Mekong Ganga Cooperation is one of the oldest initiatives in the Mekong sub-region. The 13<sup>th</sup> Mekong Ganga Commission Senior Officials' Meeting was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 01 August 2022.

Quick Impact Project (QIP) Scheme has been one of the major mainstays of MGC partnership. These are short-term, low-cost, community-oriented projects for the development of social infrastructure in the region whereby each CLMV country (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam) is offered to undertake a maximum of 10 projects per year. Since 2016, India has implemented 96 projects under this scheme. Since 2005, for capacity building, India has been offering 50 MGC scholarships per year to students from MGC countries to pursue diploma and degree courses.

## Other Mechanisms in the Indo-Pacific

### ASEM (Asia Europe Meeting)

ASEM is an inter-governmental, inter-regional process between Asia and Europe, established in 1996 with 53 Partners, 51 Member States and 2 regional organizations (ASEAN and EU). India became a member of ASEM in 2008. India has been actively participating in various activities of ASEM and its related mechanisms including the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF).

## Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS)

India joined Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) as a Development Partner in 2019. At the ACMECS – Development Partners Senior Officers Meeting held in November 2022, India and ACMECS adopted the Joint Development Plan, to promote cooperation in the areas of connectivity, capacity building, water resources management, tourism and health.

## Indonesia–Malaysia–Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT)

In September 2022, India joined the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) sub-regional cooperation, as Development Partner and is working together with member countries to chart out areas of mutual cooperation. IMT-GT was set up in 2005 with an aim of accelerating and facilitating economic development in participating countries through greater integration of trade and commerce in the sub-region.

## Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)

India joined the Indian Ocean Commission as an Observer in March 2020 and has since then actively engaged with the IOC and participated in its Council Meetings.

## CHAPTER

## 13

# United Nations and International Organisations

## The 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Csaba Kőrösi of Hungary was unanimously elected as President (PGA) of the 77<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on 07 June 2022. The 77<sup>th</sup> session of the UNGA opened on 13 September 2022. With this, Kőrösi assumed the office as the 77<sup>th</sup> PGA on 13 September 2022. The theme for the 77<sup>th</sup> UNGA Session was “A watershed moment: transformative solutions to interlocking challenges”. India actively participated and effectively articulated its position in this session of the UNGA on relevant issues.

EAM led the Indian delegation for the High-Level Week at the 77<sup>th</sup> session of UNGA. EAM addressed the General Debate of the High-Level Segment of the 77<sup>th</sup> UNGA in New York on 24 September 2022. EAM noted that India was celebrating 75 years of its independence and that India’s story was of toil, determination, innovation, and enterprise of millions of ordinary Indians. The ‘New India’, under the visionary and dynamic leadership of Prime Minister, was a confident and resurgent society. EAM also recalled the five pledges that was committed to on Independence Day on 15 August, setting the agenda for the centenary of our independence.

In keeping with India’s strong commitment to reformed multilateralism, EAM hosted a Ministerial meeting of the G-4 group of countries (India, Brazil, Japan, Germany). He also hosted a high-level meeting of the L.69 group and other like-minded countries, titled: “Reinvigorating Multilateralism: A call to Action for Comprehensive Security Council Reform” on 23 September. This meeting was chaired by the Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, as the L.69 Chair. This meeting also commemorated the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of L.69 group of pro-reform Member States, including primarily developing countries from across the world, all united by a common desire to achieve comprehensive reform of the Security Council. Upon conclusion of the meeting, the participants joined in a “Call to Action” joint statement to “instill new life” during the 77<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNGA, and to call on all Members States of the UN to join hands to achieve comprehensive reform of the Security Council.

To commemorate and showcase India’s achievements at the UN on the occasion of “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav” (AKAM), EAM addressed a special event “India@75: Showcasing India-UN Partnership in Action” on 24 September. EAM highlighted India’s development journey and its contributions to South-South Cooperation. The event was also addressed by the President of the 77<sup>th</sup> UNGA, along with Foreign Ministers of

several member states, and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator.

During the visit, EAM also participated in plurilateral meetings of the Quad group of countries (India, USA, Australia and Japan); India, Brazil, South Africa (IBSA); Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (BRICS); India – Presidency Pro Tempore CELAC; India-CARICOM and other trilateral formats, such as India-France-Australia, and India-France-UAE. EAM also had bilateral meetings with Foreign Ministers of the G20 and UNSC member states.

EAM also held discussions with the UN Secretary General (UNSG) António Guterres and the PGA Csaba Korosi.

The High-Level week of the 77<sup>th</sup> UNGA witnessed the participation of more than 100 Heads of State and Governments for the first time in last two years. While the Ukraine conflict figured in the speeches of the dignitaries, global issues of importance such as Covid-19 recovery, Sustainable Development Goals, Terrorism, Climate Change and Reform of Multilateral Institutions were also prominently highlighted. EAM's address to the 77<sup>th</sup> UNGA provided an opportunity to reiterate India's position on these issues and reaffirm India's leadership role as the voice of the Global South.

UNSG Antonio Guterres undertook a 3-day official visit to India from 18-20 October 2022. This was his first visit to India since he assumed his second term in office. Following are the major highlights of his visit:

UNSG commenced his visit to India by paying tributes to victims of 26/11 terror attacks at Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, on 18 October. He also viewed a photo exhibition "26/11: Lest We Forget" chronicling the horrors of the Mumbai terror attack.

On 19 October in Mumbai, at a Public Lecture in IIT, Bombay, on the theme, "India@75: India - UN Partnership: Strengthening South-South Cooperation", UNSG commended the strong partnership between the UN and India, and India's development contribution to the Global South. He highlighted partnership between India and the UN and strengthening South-South Cooperation. He underscored that as a member of the Security Council for the past two years, India had contributed significantly to promoting multilateral solutions and addressing crises.

UNSG was welcomed by EAM in Ekta Nagar, Kevadia on 19 October, where they exchanged views on pressing global concerns and challenges in multilateralism.

On 20 October Prime Minister launched Mission Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) at the Statue of Unity, Kevadia. He was joined by the UNSG at the launch. LiFE is being envisaged as an India-led global mass movement that will nudge individual & collective action for sustainability. Prior to the Global Launch

of Mission LiFE, Prime Minister and UNSG held talks in Kevadia, and also paid tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at the Statue of Unity.

At the launch of Mission LiFE, leaders from across the world joined the Prime Minister. The launch saw the video messages supporting the LiFE initiative from the leaders of Argentina (President Alberto Fernández), Estonia (Prime Minister Kaja Kallas), France (President Emmanuel Macron), Georgia (President Irakli Garibashvili), Guyana (President Irfaan Ali), Madagascar (President Andry Rajoelina), Maldives (President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih), Mauritius (Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth), Nepal (Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba) and the UK (Former Prime Minister Liz Truss).

## UN Security Council

India continued its tenure as an elected member of the UNSC for the period 2021-22. During the period of the report, India participated in various meetings of the Security Council related to issues in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe, and Latin America, as well as on thematic issues such as counter-terrorism, peacekeeping, and women, peace, and security. India made its position known on various issues including that related to the conflict in Ukraine, Afghanistan, Syria, among others.

In keeping with the high-level participation in various meetings of the Security Council, there were visits from dignitaries over the course of the period under review. EAM participated in the high-level briefing of the Security Council on Ukraine on 22 September 2022. MoS (VM) participated in the high level UNSC Open Debate on conflict and food security on 19 May 2022; MoS (RRS) participated in the Open Debate on Strengthening accountability and justice for serious violations of international law on 02 June 2022; MoS (VM) participated in the Debate on "Peace and Security in Africa: Strengthening the fight against the financing of armed groups and terrorists through the illicit trafficking of natural resources" on 06 October 2022. Foreign Secretary participated in the Open Debate on "Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: Integrating effective resilience building in peace operations for sustainable peace" on 03 November 2022. Secretary (East) attended the UNSC Open Debate on "Key Role of Strategic Communications for Efficient Peacekeeping" on 12 July 2022.

During this period, India was also the Chair of the following three subsidiary bodies of the Security Council – Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), the 1970 Libya sanctions committee, and the 1988 Taliban sanctions committee. Under India's chairmanship, the CTC held a Special Meeting in Mumbai and New Delhi on 28 and 29 October 2022, first such meeting ever held in India. A Delhi Declaration on countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes was adopted at this meeting.



India assumed the rotating Presidency of the Security Council for the second time in this tenure in December 2022. Under India's December Presidency of the Security Council, there were two signature events, held on 14 and 15 December on Reformed Multilateralism and Counter-terrorism respectively. The two signature events were chaired by EAM.

On 14 December, India convened a High-level Open Debate on the theme – "Maintenance of International Peace and Security: New Orientation for Reformed Multilateralism" at the Security Council in New York. New Orientation for Reformed Multilateralism (NORMS) envisages reforms in the current multilateral architecture with the UN at its centre to make it more representative and fit for purpose. This Open Debate was intended to encourage UN Member States to take this important conversation forward by deliberating on the elements of a new orientation for multilateralism and on how best to move forward in this regard in a time-bound manner. The briefers for this event were UNSG Antonio Guterres and PGA Csaba Korösi.

The other signature event held was the High-level briefing on the theme – "Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts: Global Approach to Counter Terrorism - Challenges and Way Forward". It was held on 15 December at the Security Council in New York. Realizing that the threat of terrorism is grave, universal, and transnational in character, this briefing intended to underscore the necessity of collective and coordinated efforts to combat the menace of terrorism. The high-level briefing provided an opportunity for members of

the Security Council to build on the recent deliberations of the UNSC's CTC meeting in Mumbai and Delhi (28 and 29 October 2022). It allowed the Member States to share their views on the current state of affairs to aim to arrive at key principles of the global community's collective fight against terrorism.

The briefers for this signature event on 15 December were Under Secretary General, UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) Vladimir Voronkov, Acting Executive Director, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) Weixiong Chen, and Nurse Anjali Vijay Kulthe, victim and survivor of the 26/11 Mumbai terrorist attacks who was responsible for saving several patients as the terror attacks unfolded in Mumbai at the Cama and Albless Government Hospital. Nurse Kulthe narrated her painful yet inspiring story in Hindi. This was the first time that an intervention was made in Hindi at the UNSC.

On 14 December, EAM also unveiled Mahatma Gandhi's Bust at the UN Headquarters. The bust, a gift from India to the UN, is the first Gandhi sculpture that has been installed in the UN Headquarters.

EAM also launched a "Group of Friends for Accountability for Crimes against Peacekeepers". It may be noted that during India's August 2021 Presidency of the UNSC, a resolution was adopted unanimously on ensuring accountability for crimes against UN peacekeepers. Along with India, the "Group of Friends for Accountability for Crimes against Peacekeepers" has Troop Contributing Countries like Bangladesh, Egypt, France, Morocco, and Nepal, as its co-chairs.



EAM with UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, and President of the UN General Assembly, Csaba Körösi, unveiling the bust of Mahatma Gandhi at the UN Headquarters in December 2022

During the visit, EAM also held discussions with the UNSG and PGA. EAM also engaged bilaterally with his counterparts from Armenia and Ireland, and with UAE's Minister of Culture and Youth, Japan's State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Poland's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, UK's Minister of State for the Middle East and US's Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, who attended the High-Level Signature Events of India's December Presidency of the UNSC.

A special photo exhibition showcasing India's initiative on "International Year of Millets 2023" was also organized during EAM's visit to New York for India's December Presidency of the Security Council. Alongside, a millets-based luncheon was also hosted by EAM for UNSG and UNSC member states.

Overall, during its 8<sup>th</sup> term as an elected Member of the UN Security Council, India along with pursuing its core priorities, endeavoured to voice the key concerns of the Global South, namely effective response to the menace of terrorism, roadmap for reformed multilateralism, framework for maritime security cooperation and greater protection for UN Peacekeepers through technology. Apart from these priority issues, guided by the "Five S's" approach, as set out by the Prime Minister: *Samman* (Respect), *Samvad* (Dialogue), *Sahyog* (Cooperation), *Shanti* (Peace), and *Samriddhi* (Prosperity), India tried to bring the focus of the Council on a number of other issues of regional and international concern during its current tenure in the Council. In keeping with this commitment, India announced its candidature for the Security Council non-permanent seat for 2028-2029 on 15 June 2022, from the Asia-Pacific Group. Elections will be held during the 81<sup>st</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2027.

## Reforms of the UN Security Council

India continued its efforts to move forward the process of UNSC Reforms, including by engaging actively in the ongoing Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) process on UNSC reform, which conducted in-person meetings in the 76<sup>th</sup> UNGA session. Our efforts included extensive outreach and coordination with reform-oriented groupings like the G-4 and L-69, and other like-minded delegations, to achieve a meaningful and comprehensive outcome on UNSC reform.

The G-4 Foreign Ministers (consisting of India, Brazil, Germany, and Japan) held their annual meeting on 22 September 2022, on the side-lines of the 77<sup>th</sup> UNGA session to review progress of Security Council reform. In a joint press statement released following the meeting, the G4 Ministers "assessed that today's conflicts around the globe as well as increasingly complex and interconnected global challenges have brought to the forefront

the urgency of reforming the United Nations and updating its main decision-making bodies". In his address to the 77<sup>th</sup> session of the UNGA, EAM noted that "The call for reformed multilateralism – with reforms of the Security Council at its core – enjoys considerable support among UN members".

## Peacekeeping

India continued to be the largest cumulative contributor of UN Peacekeeping troops, having provided more than 2,60,000 troops cumulatively since inception. As of 31 October 2022, India is the second largest contributor with 5,873 personnel deployed in 9 out of 12 peacekeeping missions. 177 Indian Peacekeepers have sacrificed their lives while serving in UN missions.

UN Peacekeeping operations in 2022 were marked by a high rate of violence, particularly in the missions of United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). As on 10 November 2022, 86 Peacekeepers, including two Indian Peacekeepers had lost their lives during the year. India consistently raised its voice for better equipping and protecting its troops to ensure their safety and security. Indian Peacekeepers proved their mettle time and again in their deployments, particularly in MONUSCO, against Armed Groups threatening to harm civilians under their watch.

India strengthened its contribution to peacekeeping by deploying a Mechanised Infantry Unit in the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). It was one of our fastest ever movements, effected in response to UN's call for rapid deployment in the area. This unit includes an All-Women Engagement Platoon comprising of 01 women officer and 25 women troops. India is also in the process of deploying a helicopter unit in MINUSMA (Mali) with a view to provide much needed aerial mobility in the mission.

At deliberations in UN, India continues to stress the need for institutionalized triangular consultations between Security Council, Secretariat and Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) in mandate formulation; need for prioritization in mandates and matching of tasks and resources.

The third United Nations Chief of Police Summit (UNCOPS) was organised by the Secretariat this year. The event was last organised in 2018. This year, the Indian delegation was led by Director of Intelligence Bureau (IB). The summit discussed emerging challenges for Peacekeeping and ways and means to meet these challenges.

## Peacebuilding

In January 2022, India was once again elected to the 31-member Organization Committee of the Peace Building Commission (PBC) as one of the top 5 Troop Contributing Countries in the UN. India has been a member of the Peacebuilding Commission since its inception in December 2005 and has so far contributed nearly USD 6 million to the Peacebuilding Fund.

In 2021, India pledged a contribution of USD 150,000 to the Peace Building Fund (PBF). Our contribution to the PBF reaffirmed our push for national ownership while underscoring the support for the Secretary-General's prioritization of peacebuilding and sustaining peace and prevention. The PBF is the UN's financial instrument of first resort to sustain peace in countries or situations at risk or affected by violent conflict. The Fund's 2020-2024 strategy is most ambitious yet, responding to the Secretary-General's call for a quantum leap of support for peacebuilding and prevention with a particular focus on youth and women inclusion in peacebuilding.

The Fund has invested over USD 1.2 billion to date in over 60 countries, with support from almost 60 member states, including India. On 08 September, the UNGA adopted a resolution on financing for peacebuilding. This marks the first time the General Assembly (GA) membership unanimously agreed on the use of all means, including assessed funding for peacebuilding and sustaining peace, among other financing modalities, and recognizes the benefits of peacebuilding for the "countries concerned" without confining the peacebuilding agenda to a specific region.

## Counter-Terrorism

Counter-terrorism has remained one of the top priorities for India at the United Nations. We strongly believe that a multilateral response led by the United Nations is required to address the threat to international peace and security posed by terrorism. Our priorities envisage highlighting the terrorist threat in Africa and South Asia, growing threat of terrorist misuse of new and emerging technologies, greater transparency, autonomy, depoliticization of the UN sanctions regimes, promotion of Anti-Money Laundering/Countering Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) standards of international bodies such as FATF, supporting UN efforts aimed at improving member states' compliance to these standards, including through capacity building support to member states.

### Chair of Counter Terrorism Committee

India assumed the Chair of the Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) of the Security Council in January 2022 for one year and incorporated some of these priorities in the CTC's programme

of work for 2022. The Committee organized an open briefing on "terrorist threat in South and South-East Asia" on 14 February, an open meeting on "Countering terrorist narratives and preventing the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes" on 24 March, and a Joint open briefing of the CTC and the 1267/1989/2253 ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee on "ISIL in Africa: nature of threat and responses" on 07 April 2022.

### CTC Special Meeting

Government of India hosted a special meeting of CTC on countering the threat of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes in Mumbai and New Delhi on 28 and 29 October 2022. This was the first time that the UN Security Council had held a meeting, in any format, in India. In Mumbai, the members of the CTC paid homage to the victims of terrorism, including 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, in a solemn ceremony. In the following briefing, the CTC members listened to the experiences of the victims of terrorism as well as presentations on cross-border terror financing threat in India and South Asia. The day-long meeting in New Delhi on 29 October focused on countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes, having 4 thematic briefings on a) countering terrorist exploitation of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), b) countering terrorism financing – threats and opportunities related to new payment technologies and fundraising methods, c) threats posed by terrorist use of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) and d) an overarching considerations for countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes. The meeting also adopted an outcome document "Delhi Declaration" on countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes.

Foreign Ministers from Gabon, Ghana, UK, US (virtual), UAE (MoS) and Albania (Deputy Minister) also participated in the meetings. EAM delivered the keynote addresses in Mumbai and New Delhi. The meeting evinced interest from more than 400 representatives from 55 member states, 33 International and Regional Organizations, and 27 civil society organizations, academia, and private sector multi-stakeholder organizations. 40% of speakers were women.

On 29 October 2022, addressing the CTC Special meeting in New Delhi, EAM announced India's contribution of USD 500,000, to the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism for year 2022-23. The contribution has ensured India's continued support to the UNOCT's Global Programmes on "Countering Terrorist Travel" and "Countering Financing of Terrorism", and has taken India's cumulative contribution to CT Trust Fund since 2018 to USD 2.1 million. India has also been undertaking multiple efforts to ensure accountability and fight the impunity of terror, and in this regard extended financial support to the UN Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes

Committed by Da'esh/ISIL (UNITAD) to investigate the crimes committed by ISIL/Da'esh against the people of Iraq and the citizens of other countries, including 39 Indians.

Besides this, India participated in high-level counter terrorism meetings organized in General Assembly and Security Council. MoS (VM) participated in the Security Council Debate on "Peace and Security in Africa: Strengthening the fight against the financing of armed groups and terrorists through the illicit trafficking of natural resources" on 06 October 2022, organized by Gabon. During the high-level week, Secretary (West) participated in ministerial level meetings – the Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF) on 21 September 2022 as well as the Ministerial meeting of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism (GOFVOT) on 22 September 2022.

## Global Congress of the Victims of Terrorism

The first Global Congress of the Victims of Terrorism held in United Nations headquarters on 08 and 09 September 2022. From India, Karambir Kang, a victim of 26/11 Mumbai attacks and Nidhi Chaphekar, a victim of 2016 Brussels airport bombings participated in the victim's segments.

India actively participated in the meetings and deliberations of 1267/1989/2253 Al-Qaeda and ISIL/Da'esh Sanctions Committee. We strived to update the working methods of the Committee to enhance transparency and objectivity in the working of the Committee. We continue to engage the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team (MT) on the issue of improving the effectiveness of reporting Asset-Freeze and exemption measures.

## Non-Aligned Movement

India constructively engaged with the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Countries through regular NAM meetings, and by contributing to various issues raised by NAM members. India continued to emphasize upon the Chair of the NAM Coordination Bureau of importance of adhering to the NAM methodology and working methods and worked with like-minded countries of the movement to raise these issues.

On the sidelines of the UNGA high-level week, Secretary (West) participated in the Ministerial meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement, titled "The Role of the NAM in Post-Pandemic Global Recovery: The Way Forward" on 21 September 2022. In his address he mentioned that on the strength of its democracy, discipline and decisiveness, India could create a genuine people's movement to fight this pandemic and could return on quick recovery path, and India would continue to support friendly NAM member states in their post-Covid recovery efforts. He also warned that pursuance of partisan agenda by some member

states rather than working towards strengthening our collective effort had resulted in an increasing number of members to disassociate themselves from NAM positions.

On the sidelines of the UNGA high-level week, Secretary (West) also participated in the Ministerial Committee of NAM on Palestine on 24 September 2022. India also participated in the NAM Youth Summit held in Baku from 25 and 29 July 2022.

## The Commonwealth

The 26<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) was held in Kigali, Rwanda from 20-25 June 2022. Paul Kagame, the Rwandan President is the current Chair-in-Office, who assumed the Chairmanship during CHOGM 2022.

EAM led the Indian delegation to CHOGM 2022 and attended the Summit from 22-25 June in Kigali, Rwanda. The theme of CHOGM 2022 Summit was: "Delivering a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, Transforming". There was a broad affirmation of support for India's vaccine outreach to the Commonwealth Member States. The Leaders of the Commonwealth Member States deliberated on issues of contemporary relevance including global challenges like – climate change, food security, health issues. Five Outcome Documents: CHOGM Communique, Leaders' Statement, Kigali Declaration on Child Care and Protection Reform, Declaration on Sustainable Urbanization, and Commonwealth Living Lands Charter: A Commonwealth Call to Action on Living Lands (CALL) were adopted.

During the visit to Kigali, Rwanda for CHOGM, 2022, EAM held several bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Commonwealth Member States and other visiting dignitaries, including with Abdulla Shahid, the then UN General Assembly President. He also interacted with members of the Indian community at a reception hosted by the Indian High Commission in Kigali.

## Democracy Initiatives

Community of Democracies (CoD) is a global intergovernmental coalition of States to bring together governments, civil society, and the private sector in the pursuit of a common goal: supporting democratic values and strengthening democratic norms and institutions around the world. India as a founding member and as the largest democracy in the world has maintained constant engagement with CoD since its inception in 2000. India's Governing Council membership was renewed in 2018 for a period of 6 years. India has been regularly participating in the Ministerial Conferences at EAM/ MoS level. The 35<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting of CoD took place in virtual mode on 05 and 06 July.



International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IIDEA) is an inter-governmental organization, with a mandate to support and advance democracy worldwide. India is a founding member and apart from making regular annual monetary contributions, an eminent Indian has also been in the Board of Advisors (BoAs) from the outset. India made an annual contribution of USD 50,000 to IIDEA in 2021-2022. Secretary General, IIDEA, Kevin Casas-Zamora recently visited India (his first visit ever to India) for the International Conference: "Role, Framework and Capacity of Election Management Bodies" organized by Election Commission of India under the aegis of Summit for Democracy from 31 October-02 November 2022. At the request of the Secretary General, IIDEA, Secretary (West) held a meeting with him on 31 October in his Chamber in South Block, New Delhi.

India makes an annual contribution of USD 150,000 to the United Nations Democracy Fund to support democracy initiatives around the world including through community activism, electoral processes, gender equality, media and freedom of information, rule of law and human rights, strengthening civil society interaction with government, tools for knowledge and youth engagement.

## Hindi in the United Nations

India has been partnering with the UN Department of Global Communications since 2018 by providing an extra-budgetary contribution to mainstream and consolidate news and multimedia content in Hindi language. As part of these efforts, 'Hindi @ UN' project was launched in 2018 with an objective to enhance the public outreach of the United Nations in Hindi language, and to spread greater awareness about global issues among millions of Hindi-speaking population around the world.

Usage of Hindi in UN public communications (UN news, weekly audio bulletins on UN radio and UN social media) began in March 2018 following the first MoU signed by the UN with any country. Since then, there has been a steady increase in volume and frequency of Hindi content in both the Hindi website of the UN and its social media sites including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The MoU with the UN on usage of Hindi has been extended by five more years till 2025.

The Resolution A/RES/76/268 on 'Multilingualism' was adopted with consensus on 10 June 2022 at the UN General Assembly. The resolution was co-sponsored by India. It is noteworthy that for the first time, the Resolution has a mention of Hindi language. The Resolution encourages the UN Department of Global Communications to continue disseminating important communications and messages in official as well as in non-official languages, including in Hindi language. The resolution also mentions Bangla and Urdu for the first time.

## Special Political and Decolonization Committee

India emphasized the need to step up efforts for eradication of colonization and pursue a pragmatic approach towards decolonization, which would enable the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories to build capacities in their just and noble quest towards achieving long-cherished goals. On the principle of self-determination, India highlighted that the United Nations has established the principle of self-determination as a vehicle for the worthy cause of decolonization of the seventeen Non-Self-Governing Territories on the Agenda of the Fourth Committee and not a justification for Member States to undermine the territorial integrity of any Member State.

During the 9<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting, five draft Resolutions were passed including information, economic and other activities which affect the interests of the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories; Implementation of the Declaration on Granting of Independence of Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the UN; offers by Member States to study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories; Implementation of the Declaration of Granting Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, along with draft decision titled Question of Gibraltar and Question on Western Sahara. As per past practice, India voted in favour of these five Resolutions.

## Maritime Anti-Piracy Bill (MAPB), 2022

In its winter session of 2022, Parliament passed the Maritime Anti-Piracy Bill (MAPB) 2022, moved by EAM. The Bill was originally introduced on 09 December 2019 in the Lok Sabha by the EAM and was subsequently referred by the Speaker (Lok Sabha) to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs for examination and report. The recommendations of the Standing Committee were suitably incorporated in the form of official amendments to the Bill, prepared after extensive inter-Ministerial consultations. Official amendments to the bill were moved by EAM in Lok Sabha on 07 December 2022. After extensive discussions in the Lok Sabha, the bill, with official amendments, was passed by the Lok Sabha on 19 December 2022. The bill, as passed by Lok Sabha, was moved in Rajya Sabha and was passed in the House on 21 December 2022.

MAPB 2022 will provide the necessary enabling domestic legal framework to try piracy related offences in India. The provisions of MAPB 2022 are applicable to the high seas, where the offense of piracy is committed. The Bill defines 'piracy' as a

criminal offence and provides sound legal basis, certainty and clarity for speedy trial of piracy related offences in India. It will act as a deterrent against pirates and promote safety of India's maritime trade, including the safety of our vessels and crew members. The legislation will also be a step forward towards further cooperation with the signatories of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982 – which India ratified in 1995. During India's Presidency of the UN Security Council on 09 August 2021, Prime Minister had chaired a High-level Open Debate on International Maritime Security, which had highlighted the threats to maritime safety and security posed, *inter-alia*, from piracy. This legislation, therefore, is a significant step in strengthening India's efforts towards enhancing maritime security.

## Human Rights, Humanitarian and Social matters

The UNGA allocates to its Third Committee, agenda items relating to a range of social, humanitarian affairs and human rights issues that affect people all over the world. The Third Committee of the General Assembly continued to focus on the examination of human rights questions, including reports of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council. The Committee interacted with special rapporteurs, independent experts, and chairs of working groups as mandated by the Human Rights Council. The Committee addressed important social development questions such as the advancement of women, the protection of children, youth, family, aging, persons with disabilities, crime prevention, criminal justice, the treatment of refugees, international drug control, and indigenous issues. During the 77<sup>th</sup> UNGA, a total of 51 resolutions were adopted by the Committee; India co-sponsored 19 resolutions.

The high-level meeting of the UNGA to mark the commemoration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities was held on 21 September 2022. Joint Secretary (UNES) of the Ministry delivered the national statement at the high-level meetings highlighting the steps taken by the Government of India in fulfilment of all rights of the minorities in line with the principles as enshrined in the UN Declaration.

The 12<sup>th</sup> session of the UNGA's Open-Ended Working Group of Ageing was held from 11-14 April 2022 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The focus areas for this session were 'Contribution of older persons to sustainable development' and 'Economic Security'. India actively contributed to the discussion at the Working Group and highlighted the steps taken by the Government of India to promote safety and welfare of older persons including effective provisions for their access to work,

healthcare, justice, social protection and public assistance.

The 60<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission for Social Development was held from 07-16 February 2022 on the priority theme "Inclusive and resilient recovery from Covid-19 for sustainable livelihoods, wellbeing, and dignity for all: eradicating poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions to achieve the 2030 Agenda". The discussion during the session focused on the urgency to ensure that the Covid-19 response and recovery plans and programmes should be inclusive, particularly focusing on eradicating poverty and hunger. The Commission primarily follows up to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) by monitoring, reviewing, and assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, regional, and international levels.

The 66<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women was held from 14-25 March 2022 in hybrid format at UN HQs in New York and virtually. The priority theme of the session was "Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes". Minister of Women and Child Development delivered the national statement (through pre-recorded video) during the general discussion. India is a member of the Commission for the tenure 2021 to 2025. The Commission is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

On the margins of the 66<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women, Permanent Mission of India to the UN in partnership with the All-India Women's Education Fund Association (AIWEFA) organized a virtual side-event on "A world we women and girls want: Lifestyle for the environment" on 21 March 2022. The event focused on the concept of LIFE expressed by Prime Minister at COP26 in Glasgow with an emphasis on the role of women climate action. Permanent Mission of India to the UN also co-hosted a virtual side event on "Unlocking the potential for Women in STEM" on 15 March 2022 in collaboration with Permanent Mission of the UK.

The 55<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Population and Development was held from 25-29 April 2022 in hybrid format at UN HQs in New York and virtually. The special theme of the session was "Population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth". The discussion during the session focused on three major issues: building back better after the Covid-19 pandemic, accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda and ensuring effective implementation of ICPD to achieve inclusive and sustained economic growth. Minister of Health and Family Welfare delivered the national statement (through pre-recorded video) during the general discussion on 25 April 2022. India is a

member of the Commission for the tenure 2022 to 2025.

The first International Migration Review Forum, under the auspices of the UNGA was held at UN HQs in New York from 17-20 May 2022. The Forum served as a platform to discuss and share progress on the implementation of all aspects of the Global Compact, including as it relates to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and with the participation of all relevant stakeholders. A Progress Declaration was adopted at the closing session. MoS (VM) participated in the Forum and delivered the national statement.

15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was held from 14-16 June 2022. Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment delivered the statement through a pre-recorded video, highlighting India's progressive step on the issue including through the enactment of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act in 2017, and other policies and initiatives aimed at developing a conducive environment for persons with disabilities to enable them to enjoy rights and realize their potential.

## Economic and Social Issues

The 76<sup>th</sup> UNGA held a High-Level Meeting on Road Safety on 30 June 2022, titled "The 2030 horizon for road safety: securing a decade of action and delivery". The UNGA High-Level Political Forum was held on 14 July 2022 and Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog Shri Sumant Bery addressed the meeting titled "Accelerating achievement of the SDGs by 2030: addressing ongoing crises and overcoming challenges".

The 77<sup>th</sup> UNGA began in September 2022 with a robust participation from the Indian delegation. Secretary (West) participated in and delivered India's statements at the annual G-77 Ministerial, Least Developed Countries Ministerial, and Landlocked Developing Countries Ministerial meetings. Secretary (West) also participated in a high-level side event on SDG 11.1 on Safe and Affordable Housing for All, a meeting of the Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance, and the Summit for Information and Democracy.

The Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee) commenced deliberations on forty-six resolutions in the first week of October 2022. These resolutions were adopted by the Second Committee in the third week of November 2022, and India co-sponsored thirty-four resolutions as part of the G-77 group.

India co-organized, along with Singapore and Nigeria, a commemorative event celebrating World Toilet Day 2022. The two co-hosts of the UN Water Conference, Netherlands and Tajikistan were the special invitees.

The revitalized Group of Friends of the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) was launched on 23 November 2022 at the UN HQs in New York. India assumed co-chairmanship of the Group of Friends, along with Austria and Rwanda, to help steer a roadmap of the review of the Vienna Programme of Action (VpoA) culminating in the Third Conference of LLDCs in 2024.

## 2030 Agenda

Strategies for a 'New India' by 2022 and the country's vision for 2030 are aligned with the spirit of achieving the 2030 Agenda. The various flagship programs- Poshan Abhiyaan, Ayushman Bharat, Swachh Bharat, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Skill India, Ujjwala Yojana, Rural Electrification program, Smart Cities Mission –directly address the challenges highlighted by the SDGs. The slogan of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas' mirrors the essence of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, of leaving no one behind. India continued to highlight its success in adopting, implementing, and monitoring SDGs and shared details of these success stories for the benefit of other member states.

## Elections

Elections at the UN and the international organizations have become increasingly contentious and intensive in terms of time and resource allocation. India had a stellar performance in 2022 and was elected to the following bodies in the past year:

- a) Commission on Science and Technology for Development for the term 2023-26 - elected by acclamation at the election held in April 2022.
- b) Committee on NGOs for the term 2023-26 – elected by acclamation at the election held in April 2022.
- c) Commission for Social Development for the term 2023-27 by acclamation at the election held in April 2022.
- d) India's candidate was elected to the Commission on Limits of the Continental Shelf for the term 2023-28, in the election held in June 2022.
- e) UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee (ICH) - elections held in June 2022 during 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly of the State Parties to the 2003 Convention for Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- f) India's candidate was elected as Secretary General (2023-2026 term) of Asia Pacific Postal Union (APPU) at the elections held in August 2022 in Bangkok during 13<sup>th</sup> APPU Congress.
- g) Council of International Telecom Union (ITU) (2023-2026)– elections held in October 2022 during Plenipotentiary Council of ITU in Bucharest, Romania
- h) India's candidate was elected as a member of ITU Radio Regulation Board (RRB) for the term 2023-2026.

- i) Council of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)  
- India was elected to the ICAO Council Part II, during the elections held in Montreal, Canada from 27 September- 07 October 2022.

## UNHRC

As a member of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) for the current three-year term of 2022-2024, India continued its engagement and participation in HRC Sessions, annual forum meetings, intergovernmental working group proceedings, and the human rights Treaty Bodies reporting process. India continued to highlight its support for the global promotion and protection of human rights, especially technical assistance and capacity building cooperation among UN Member States. High-level engagement continued with the previous UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (HCHR) Michelle Bachelet, the current HCHR Volker Turk, and independent UN experts.

On 10 November 2022, India underwent the fourth cycle of its Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the human rights situation in India. The Indian delegation to the UPR Session was led by Ld. Solicitor General of India and comprised senior officials from the Ministries of External Affairs, Home Affairs, Women & Child Development, Social Justice and Empowerment, Minority Affairs, and Rural Development, and the NITI Aayog, as well as the Vice Chancellor of the National Law University, Delhi. India also actively participated in the fourth cycle UPRs of the 13 other Member States whose review was undertaken in the November 2022 UPR Session.

## International Labour Organisation (ILO)

The 110<sup>th</sup> International Labour Conference (ILC) of the International Labour Organization (ILO) was held in Geneva from 27 May-11 June 2022. The Indian delegation at the ILC was led by Minister of Labour & Employment, and also included the Minister of State for Labour & Employment.

The 344<sup>th</sup>, 345<sup>th</sup> and 346<sup>th</sup> Sessions of ILO's Governing Body (GB) were held in Geneva, Switzerland in March, June and October-November 2022 respectively. During the 344<sup>th</sup> GB Session, India's proposal for Totalisation of Social Security for Migrant Workers was taken up as an agenda item, and the GB decided to continue the discussions in future ILO meetings. The Indian delegation to the 346<sup>th</sup> GB Session was led by Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment, and bilateral meetings were held on the sidelines with the delegations of G-20 member countries in view of India's ensuing G-20 Presidency.

## World Health Organization (WHO)

On 19 April 2022, Prime Minister in the presence of Mauritian Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, and the Director-General of the WHO Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus laid the foundation stone of the WHO Global Center for Traditional Medicine in Jamnagar, Gujarat. This is the first of its kind WHO global centre to be setup in the global south. The primary objective of the Centre is to harness the potential of traditional medicine from across the world through modern science and technology and improve overall health of communities across the world. The Centre will highlight the potential of traditional medicine and utilize technological advancements to promote its safe and effective use. The Centre will focus on four main strategic areas: evidence and learning; data and analytics; sustainability and equity; and innovation and technology to optimize the contribution of traditional medicine to global health and sustainable development.

## Legal Issues

The Sixth Committee is the primary forum for the consideration of legal questions in the General Assembly. During the 77<sup>th</sup> Session, the Sixth Committee met from 03 October-18 November 2022.

The Indian delegation participated and presented its national statement on Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization; and delivered national statements on all other agenda items of the Sixth Committee.

India also participated in following Working Group Meetings held simultaneously on the sidelines of Sixth Committee and presented its national position:

- (i) Working Group on measures to eliminate international terrorism, held on 14 & 21 October 2022
- (ii) Working Group on criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission, held on 11 and 20 October 2022
- (iii) Working Group on the scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction. Two informal consultations were held on 14 and 21 October 2022 with a focus on the question, "What should the role and purpose of universal jurisdiction be?"
- (iv) Working Group on "Responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts". Three meetings were held on 18 October, 31 October and 07 November 2022.



India participated in the fourth and fifth sessions of the Intergovernmental Conference (BBNJ) convened under resolution 72/249, from 07-18 March 2022 and 15-26 August 2022. Fifth session of the Conference was convened pursuant to General Assembly decision 76/564. The resumed fifth session of Intergovernmental Conference (BBNJ) has been scheduled for 21 February 2023-03 March 2023. India participated in substantive deliberations which addressed issues such as the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, in particular, marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits, measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas, environmental impact assessments, and capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology.

India also participated in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the States Parties to the UNCLOS (1982) held from 13-17 June 2022. The meeting took note of the work undertaken by the institutions established under the Convention, namely, the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), the International Seabed Authority (ISA), and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS).

India participated in the 27<sup>th</sup> session of the ISA which was held in three parts. First two parts were held in hybrid mode. The Council of the ISA resumed its meetings under Part III of the 27<sup>th</sup> Session between 31 October to 11 November 2022. India participated in the deliberations wherein, the main item on the agenda of the Council was the draft regulations on the exploitation of mineral resources in the Area.

India participated in the Open-ended Working Group to consider issues relating to the conditions of service of the members of the CLCS and report to the thirty-second Meeting of States Parties in 2022.

India contributed actively to the deliberations at the informal consultations on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, Omnibus resolution; and Implementation of Sustainable Fisheries Omnibus Resolution on impact of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks held in the month of October and November 2022. The informal consultations for each topic were held for two weeks each.

India also participated in the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea which held its twenty-second meeting on the topic: "Ocean observing" on 06-10 June 2022. Also, under the aegis of the United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the UNCLOS of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks; fifteenth round of informal consultations of States Parties to the Agreement, focusing on the topic "Implementation of an ecosystem approach to

fisheries management" was held from 17-19 May 2022.

## United Nations Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS)

While referring to India's pursuit for bilateral and multilateral relations with other countries and space agencies in the peaceful uses of outer space, India at the UN highlighted its efforts to share its facilities and expertise in the application of space science and technology with international partners by conducting short-term and long-term courses. The cooperation in the space research has benefited more than 4500 beneficiaries from more than 110 countries, mainly from the developing countries. At UNCOPUOS, India was honoured with the selection of its candidate as the Chair of New Working Group on Long Term Sustainability of outer space of the Scientific and Technical subcommittee, to facilitate implementation of adopted 21 guidelines with required capacity building.

India also highlighted the importance to strengthen the international legal framework to ensure that outer space environment is conducive for peaceful uses and to enhance the safety and security of all space assets.

## Committee on Information

During the General Debate at the UN, India highlighted its efforts for bridging the 'vaccine gap' by supplying vaccines to low- and middle-income countries, through COVAX facility and through bilateral grants-in-aid under 'Vaccine Maitri' initiative. To tackle the issue of disinformation and misinformation, India suggested DGC to work with Member States, other UN and international organizations, and new and traditional media companies in holding educational and public awareness campaigns. India stressed that the United Nations Information Centre (UNICs) adhere to the principles of impartiality and neutrality in their messaging, especially on social media.

In addition, India urged UN to promote multilingualism, notably UN's Hindi social media account. India also stressed the issue of growing digital dependency and bridging the widening "digital gaps" and "digital knowledge gaps" amongst countries through capacity building.

## International Organization for Migration (IOM)

MoS (VM) led the Indian delegation to IOM's first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) from 17-20 May 2022 in New

York, USA. IMRF reviewed progress made at local, national, regional and global levels in implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

## International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

A Host Country Agreement for the establishment of an ITU Area Office and Innovation Centre at New Delhi was signed on 03 March 2022 by Minister of Communications, and the then Secretary-General of ITU Houlin Zhao. The Area Office and Innovation Centre is expected to be inaugurated and become operational in early 2023. Other than India, it will serve Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. It is expected to give impetus to research and development in telecommunication technologies and provide opportunities to academia, start-ups and enterprises to develop and showcase their innovation at a global stage.

An Indian delegation led by MoS Communications participated in ITU's World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum meeting in Geneva, Switzerland from 31 May-03 June 2022. MoS delivered a policy statement on 'Bridging Digital Divides' in the High-Level Interactive Policy Session and attended the Ministerial Roundtable on 01 June 2022.

The ITU Plenipotentiary Conference was held from 26 September-14 October 2022 at Bucharest, Romania, in which elections were conducted for ITU's highest decision-making bodies, namely, the 48-seat ITU Council, the 12-seat Radio Regulations Board (RRB), and the 5-member senior management team of ITU. With the overwhelming support of member states, India was re-elected to the ITU Council and India's candidate was elected as a member of the RRB. The Plenipotentiary Conference also approved India's proposal for the hosting of the World Telecommunications Standardization Assembly (WTSA) in 2024, which is the governing conference of the ITU Standardization Sector.

## International Solar Alliance

India was granted Observer Status for the International Solar Alliance in UNGA. India voiced the developing country's position during climate related negotiations in the UN, focusing on the importance for developed countries to fulfill their pre-2020 commitments. Climate Ambition needs to go hand-in-hand with the framework for financial, technical, and capacity-building support to countries that need it.

## Climate Action - COP 27

Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change led

India's inter-ministerial delegation to the 27<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which was held in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt from 06-19 November 2022. Major outcome at the COP27 was the decision to establish funding arrangements on Loss & Damage to support developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. The cover decision of COP27 noted the importance of transition to sustainable lifestyles and sustainable patterns of consumption and production in climate action, which is in line with the objective of Mission LiFE launched by Prime Minister. During COP27, India submitted its Long-Term Low Emissions Development Strategy (LT-LEDS), focusing on India's journey to Net-Zero emissions by 2070, to UNFCCC on 14 November 2022. With that, India joined the select list of less than 60 Parties that have submitted their LT-LEDS to UNFCCC.

## Arctic Council

A delegation led by Secretary (Ministry of Earth Sciences) represented India at the Arctic Circle Assembly from 13-16 October 2022. The delegation held meeting on the sidelines with delegations from the US, UK, Scotland, Greenland, and Japan. Activities of the Arctic Council were paused over the Ukrainian crisis.

## United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2) was held in Nairobi from 28 February- 02 March 2022. India proposed a draft resolution on a 'Framework for addressing plastic product pollution including single-use plastic product pollution'. Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change headed the Indian delegation at the Assembly and delivered the National Statement for India.

Minister of Environment and Climate Change represented India at the Special Session of United Nations Environment Assembly - UNEP@50 to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNEP, held on 03 and 04 March 2022 in Nairobi. He delivered India's national statement and participated in Leadership Dialogues at the Special Session.

India also participated in the 157<sup>th</sup>, 158<sup>th</sup>, & 159<sup>th</sup> meetings of Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) of UNEP, held in hybrid mode, on 01 February, 26 May and 29 September 2022 respectively.

## UN-Habitat

As a member of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat, India participated in its 1<sup>st</sup> Session for the year 2022 during 29-31

March 2022 and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session during 21-23 November 2022.

The Board discussed, inter alia, the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023; flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities; update on the UN-Habitat's engagement in countries, territories and areas affected by conflict and disaster; outcome of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the review of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda; outcomes of the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum, etc.

## International Fund For Agricultural Development (IFAD), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and World Food Programme (WFP)

India's presence and profile considerably increased in the governing bodies of 3 Rome-based UN agencies on agriculture (FAO, IFAD and WFP) with India's selection for International Year of Millets 2023 (IYM). An International Steering Committee (ISC) comprising of 14 member states was constituted in FAO to celebrate the IYM. India was elected as chair of the ISC in its 7<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 17 November 2022. The other notable developments include India's contribution of USD 500,000 to the International Year of Millets Secretariat.

MoS Agriculture visited Rome to participate in the Opening Ceremony of the IYM 2023 which was held on 06 December 2022 at the FAO Council session.

India continued to be a member of the FAO Council and Executive Boards of IFAD and WFP. India has the largest program of any country that receives IFAD's assistance globally.

## United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

A MoU was signed in August 2022 between UNITAR and Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for the Defeat-NCD Partnership, to provide a framework for collaboration for prevention and treatment of Non-Communicable Diseases.

## Universal Postal Union

The 13<sup>th</sup> Asian Pacific Postal Union (APPU) Congress was held in Bangkok in September 2022. Elections for the post of Secretary General, APPU (2023-2026 term), were held during the Congress in which India's candidate was elected. The Indian Candidate is the first ever Secretary General from the South Asian region in 60 years.

## United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

India is a founder Member of the UNIDO. It is both a recipient as well as a contributor to the programmes of UNIDO. India contributes to the regular budget of UNIDO. In addition, India also makes an annual voluntary contribution to the Industrial Development Fund (IDF) of UNIDO. India hosts UNIDO's second largest technical cooperation (TC) programme. UNIDO's country programme for India is largely funded through Government of India's own budgetary resources and/or through Global Environment Facility (GEF). UNIDO's India Country Program 2018-22 is aimed to further forge and strengthen the partnership between UNIDO and the Government of India to initiate and facilitate the transition towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development, in various sectors, regions and value chains.

## India-UN Development Partnership Fund

The Fund, established in 2017, has developed a portfolio of 66 development projects in partnership with 51 developing countries, focusing on Southern-led, demand-driven development and transformational projects. The Fund, over the past year has worked rapidly to supplement the efforts of quick response to the Covid-19 pandemic. These projects are spread across countries such as Bolivia, Dominica, Trinidad and Tobago, Dominica, Nicaragua, Timor-Leste, Paraguay, Mali, Cameroon, Tonga, Belize, Mozambique, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Moldova, Samoa, Bahamas, Belize, Guyana, St Kitts and Nevis, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Antigua and Barbados. These projects have focused on social innovation hubs, human security and sustainable development, clinical management, ICT development, education solutions for disabled children, family planning programs, access to water, scalable renewable energy technologies, etc to mitigate socio-economic impact of the pandemic and catalyze transformative recovery.

## United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

The 78<sup>th</sup> Session of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) was held from 23 – 27 May 2022 in Bangkok. The theme of the Session was 'A common agenda to advance sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific'. Minister of State for Commerce & Industry led the Indian delegation for the Session. The Commission adopted 4 resolutions and 14 decisions during the Session.

Elections to the Governing Councils of 4 Regional Institutions of UNESCAP [namely, the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT)]; the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM); the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM); and Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) were also held during the 78<sup>th</sup> Session, and India was elected to all the Governing Councils.

## UNESCO

The 214<sup>th</sup> session of UNESCO Executive Board was held from 30 March-13 April 2022. India's National Statement was delivered, highlighting the reforms brought in the field of Education through its National Education Policy. Nilambur and Thrissur in Kerala and Warangal in Telangana were designated on the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities in September 2022. These are India's first entries to this list. National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) was awarded the UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize 2021 for its program on 'Enabling education of persons with disabilities (PWDs) through technology enabled inclusive learning material, with specific focus on Indian Sign Language (ISL) based content'.

India was awarded UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize 2022 for Mother Tongue Based Multilingual Education' program of Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences. India's National Statement was delivered at the 215<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Board, which was held from 05-19 October 2022. The vision of Prime Minister invoking the 'Panchpran'(the Five pledges) to take the Country forward was stressed.

"Manuscript of Nāṭyaśāstra by Bharat Muni (Sage Bharata)" was submitted for the 2022-2023 cycle of the Memory of the World Programme. "The First Summit Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement Archives" was submitted for the 2022-2023 cycle of the Memory of the World International Register by Non-Aligned Movement like Egypt, Serbia, Algeria, Indonesia and India. For Inscription on the Representative List of Humanity for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, "Garba of Gujarat" was nominated.

## International Day of Yoga

The 8<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga (IDY) was commemorated at the UN HQs building in-person, following two years of virtual celebrations, under the theme "Yoga for Humanity". The main event, a yoga-demonstration titled "Yoga with the Masters" was inaugurated by Abdulla Shahid, the then President of General Assembly and featured an introduction to basic Yoga practices and their demonstration by renowned Yoga masters. The event was telecast live as part of the Global Yoga Guardian Ring.

A digital exhibition titled "The World of Yoga" featuring different asanas from the Common Yoga Protocol and images of the IDY celebrations across the world projecting Yoga's global reach and appeal, was also mounted at the UN premises from 21 June-01 July 2022.

## International Day of Non-Violence

To mark the International Day of Non-Violence, a panel discussion on "Education for Human Flourishing" was organised at the UN HQs in New York on 30 September 2022. The highlight of the event was the projection of a life-size hologram of Mahatma Gandhi, for the first time at UN and a panel discussion, which included Permanent Representative of India to the UN, Dr. Bernice A. King, CEO, The King Center, Atlanta, Princess Hayu of Indonesia, Youth representative on digital education transformation, and Director, UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP), as the moderator.

## INDIA@75: Showcasing India-UN Partnership in Action

An event titled "India@75: Showcasing India-UN Partnership in Action" was organised on 24 September 2022 on the margins of the High-Level Week of the 77<sup>th</sup> session of the UNGA.

EAM chaired the event, in which PGA Csaba Kőrösi, UN Deputy Secretary-General, Amina J. Mohammed, Foreign Ministers of Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Cyprus, France, Gambia, Guyana, Jamaica, Maldives, Tanzania, Yemen and other senior UN dignitaries participated and delivered keynote speeches.

The event served as a platform to exchange experiences and share best practices of India's partnership with UN and other partner countries in localising the SDGs and initiate a dialogue on scaling-up similar partnerships with other countries around the world.

## Women's Day

The 2022 Hansa Mehta dialogue, organised by the Permanent Mission of India to the UN, focused on inclusive and gender-sensitive recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. It was held virtually on 15 March 2022 and featured a keynote speech by the Director General of the World Trade Organization, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, which was followed by an interactive conversation moderated by Inga Rhonda King, Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the UN. Abdulla Shahid, Former President of the General Assembly opened the dialogue with his address.



## CHAPTER

## 14

## G20

## India's participation in G20 under Indonesia's Presidency

India participated actively in the Group of Twenty (G20) meetings and events held under Indonesia's G20 Presidency during the year. Being the incoming G20 President and a member of the



वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्  
ONE EARTH • ONE FAMILY • ONE FUTURE

Logo and Theme of G20 India

Troika, India played the role of an effective and trusted bridge and worked in partnership with all sides.

There was ministerial-level participation at several G20 ministerial meetings hosted by Indonesia, including the Minister of Finance, EAM, Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Minister of Education, Minister of Women and Child Development, Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Minister of Power, Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Minister of Labour and Employment, Minister of State for Tourism and Minister of State for Culture.

Speaker, Lok Sabha led an Indian Parliamentary delegation to Jakarta, Indonesia from 05-07 October 2022 to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> G20 Parliamentary Speakers Summit (P20). India's G20 Sherpa participated in the three Sherpa Meetings held in Indonesia during the year. Secretary (Economic Relations) represented India at the Development Ministers' Meeting on 07-09 September 2022 in Belitung, Indonesia.

Prime Minister participated in the 17<sup>th</sup> G20 Leaders' Summit held in Bali, Indonesia on 15 and 16 November 2022. His visit was immensely significant, helping bridge the differences and achieving outcomes despite a challenging global environment, and setting the stage for India's G20 Presidency. At the end of

the Summit, the “G20 Bali Leaders’ Declaration” was adopted which reflected Prime Minister’s remark “Today’s era must not be of war”. The declaration also addressed several global challenges, and also reflected India’s positions and interests on a range of subjects.

The G20 committed to accelerating the achievement of SDGs and called for additional financing by Multilateral Development Banks for it. The importance of multilateral reforms for implementing the 2030 agenda was highlighted. The need for deliberations on an ambitious new collective quantified goal for climate finance post-2025 was recognized. The G20 agreed to implement the “One Health” approach and improve stakeholders’ capacity along the food supply chain, including smallholder and marginal farmers, as well as to promote farmer’s and fishermen’s livelihoods. It also agreed to promote “nutritious food for all”, which includes millets. The G20 committed to facilitating humanitarian supplies for ensuring access to food in emergency situations and to support the carve-out for humanitarian activities from sanctions. In the area of energy transition, sustainable and just transitions were emphasized; along with international cooperation for energy security, and regional energy connectivity.

The G20 Declaration recognized the need for international cooperation and support, including finance, technology and sustainable consumption as critical enablers, for achieving climate goals, as well as the importance of sustainable “lifestyles”. In the area of health, support was expressed for international collaboration to establish global digital health networks. In the area of tourism, the G20 expressed support for seamless international travel, including interoperability and digital solutions for proof of vaccinations. The importance

of policies to create an enabling, inclusive and open digital economy, that fosters new technologies and entrepreneurship, with data protection and empowerment, was recognized. Commitment was reiterated to address the international debt situation. Other areas of interest to India which found mention were Disaster risk reduction with a reference to CDRI, promoting Start-Ups, and support for the international mobility of researchers.

## India’s G20 Presidency

India assumed the Presidency of G20 on 01 December 2022 for a period of one year. The G20 Presidency is India’s most high-profile international endeavour ever. Besides the G20 Members, India has invited 9 guest countries (Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain and United Arab Emirates) and 14 International Organisations (ADB, ASEAN Chair, AU Chair, AUDA-NEPAD Chair, CDRI, FSB, ILO, IMF, ISA, OECD, UN, World Bank, WHO and WTO) to participate in the G20 meetings and the Leaders’ Summit, which is scheduled to be held on 09 and 10 September 2023 in New Delhi. In a first, the G20 has extended invitations to six African countries for participation during India’s Presidency.

To prepare effectively for the substantive and logistical aspects of the Presidency, India’s G20 Secretariat was established in the Ministry, New Delhi in February 2022. Around 200 G20 meetings and events in over 30 different workstreams, comprising Sherpa Track Working Groups, Finance Track Workstreams, Ministerial Meetings and Engagement Groups, have been planned to be hosted across the length and breadth of the country during the Presidency.



EAM at a University Connect program on G20



Prime Minister at the unveiling of the Logo, Theme and Website of India's G20 Presidency, November 2022

The logo, theme and website of India's G20 Presidency were launched by Prime Minister on 08 November 2022. India's G20 Presidency theme, "*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: One Earth One Family One Future*," underlines the message of equitable growth and a shared future for all. In the G20 Presidency logo, the Earth reflects India's pro-planet approach while the Lotus represents growth amid challenges. The logo and the theme together convey a powerful message of India's G20 Presidency, which is of striving for just and equitable growth for all in the world, as we navigate through these turbulent times, in a sustainable, holistic, responsible, and inclusive manner. The logo represents a uniquely Indian approach to our G20 Presidency, of living in harmony with the surrounding ecosystem.

A key element of India's G20 Presidency is taking the G20 closer to the public and making it a 'People's G20'. To realize this, citizen engagement and large-scale public participation

through various "Jan Bhagidari" activities are being planned and conducted across the country.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Sherpa Meeting in Udaipur (04-07 December), 1<sup>st</sup> Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meeting in Bengaluru (13-15 December), 1<sup>st</sup> Development Working Group Meeting in Mumbai (13-16 December) and 1<sup>st</sup> Framework Working Group Meeting in Bengaluru (16-17 December) were held in the first month of India's G20 Presidency. Some of the substantive conversations in broad priority areas, inter alia, revolved around inclusive and resilient growth; progress on Sustainable Development Goals; green development and LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment); technological transformation and public digital infrastructure; multilateral institutions; women-led development; and international peace and harmony. A new Working Group on "Disaster Risk Reduction" and a new Engagement Group "StartUp20" have been established during India's G20 Presidency.

## CHAPTER

## 15

# Multilateral Economic Relations

## BRICS

### XIV BRICS Summit

Every year close to 20 Ministerial meetings take place in the BRICS track. BRICS is chaired on an annual calendar basis in

a rotational manner. China is the incumbent chair, and South Africa will take over as BRICS chair from 01 January 2023.

Prime Minister led India's participation at the 14th BRICS Summit on 23-24 June 2022 in a virtual format. The non-BRICS engagement segment of the Summit was held on 24 June. On 23 June, the leaders held discussions in the fields



Prime Minister at the 14th BRICS Summit held virtually in June 2022



of Counterterrorism, Trade, Health, Traditional Medicine, Environment, Science, Technology & Innovation, Agriculture, Technical and Vocational Education & Training, and also key issues in the global context, including the reform of the multilateral system, Covid-19 pandemic, global economic recovery, amongst others. Prime Minister noted that as BRICS members we should understand the security concerns of each other and provide mutual support in the designation of terrorists; this sensitive issue should not be politicized. At the conclusion of the Summit, BRICS leaders adopted the 'Beijing Declaration. On 24 June, Prime Minister highlighted India's development partnership with Africa, Central Asia, Southeast Asia, and from the Pacific to the Caribbean; India's focus on a free, open, inclusive, and rules-based maritime space; respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations from the Indian Ocean Region to the Pacific Ocean; and reform of multilateral system as large parts of Asia and all of Africa and Latin America have no voice in global decision-making. Prime Minister noted the importance of circular economy and invited citizens of participating countries to join the Lifestyle for Environment (LIFE) initiative.

## Meetings of BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs/ International Relations

EAM participated in the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting which took place on 19 May 2022. The BRICS Ministers adopted a Joint Statement. Another meeting of BRICS Foreign Ministers,

chaired by South Africa as the incoming BRICS Chair (from 01 January 2023), was held on the sidelines of UNGA in New York on 22 September 2022. EAM participated in it. The Ministers adopted a Press Statement at the end of the Meeting.

## India-Brazil-South Africa Dialogue Forum (IBSA)

### 10<sup>th</sup> IBSA Trilateral Ministerial Commission (ITMC) Meeting

EAM chaired the 10<sup>th</sup> IBSA Trilateral Ministerial Commission Meeting held on the sidelines of UNGA in New York on 21 September 2022. The Ministers held discussions on global issues, including cooperation in multilateral organizations, South-South cooperation, UNSC Reform, 2030 Agenda & Sustainable Development Goals, Climate Change, countering terrorism, financing for development, WTO, and G20, among others. The Ministers adopted a Joint Communiqué at the end of the meeting.

### IBSA Fund

IBSA Fund-supported projects help partner countries in the Global South to achieve their national priorities as well as other internationally agreed development goals. Since its inception,



EAM at the 10th IBSA Trilateral Ministerial Commission Meeting, September 2022



Prime Minister at the G7 Summit in Germany, June 2022

the IBSA Fund has disbursed over USD 44 million, supporting 39 development projects in 34 countries. India has been a regular contributor to the IBSA fund since its inception.

## G7

### G7 Summit 2022

The G7 Summit 2022 was held from 26-28 June 2022 at Schloss Elmau, in Bavaria, Germany under the German Presidency. The theme was *"Progress towards an equitable world"*. India was invited as part of the G7 outreach. Prime Minister made statements in 2 sessions and also held bilateral meetings. The Outcome documents for the Partner Countries included the Joint Statement on *"Resilient Democracies"*.

### G7 Development Ministers' Meeting

Secretary (ER) participated in the G7 Development Ministers' Meeting which took place on 18-19 May 2022 in Berlin, Germany. India participated in 3 out of 6 sessions of the meeting -

1. Infrastructure Investment for Sustainable Development
2. Ambitious climate & development partnership, and
3. A feminist development policy in times of crisis.

### G7 Global Inclusion Summit

The G7 Inclusion Summit took place on 01-02 September in Berlin. India was a guest country. The Indian delegation comprised of Secretary, DePWD and JS (MER). The outcome document of the G7 Inclusion Summit was a Chair's Summary.

### Other G7 Meetings

India participated in a high-level Dialogue on *"Leveraging Private Capital for Sustainable Infrastructure Development"* and the G7 Development Ministers Meeting; a Ministerial Conference on Uniting for Global Food Security; the G7 Meeting of Commissioners for Disabled Persons; G7 Africa Roundtable; International Expert Conference on the Recovery, Reconstruction and Modernisation of Ukraine; and G7 Climate and Health Event.

## Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

India continued to engage with OECD under its stated policy of *'Limited Sectoral Engagement'*.

## South-South Cooperation

### Global South-South Development Expo 2022

The Global South-South Development Expo 2022 took place from 12-14 September 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand. IBSA Exhibit booth was launched. AS (ER&DPA) participated as a panellist in 2 panel sessions. India also participated in the side event *"COWIN: A Digital Revolution winning over COVID-19"* and another side event organized by DPPA-UNDP titled *'South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Sustaining Peace.'*

## Other Multilateral Organisations

### International Monetary Fund (IMF)

The Managing Director of IMF, Ms Kristalina Georgieva, visited India from 07-10 September 2022. MD, IMF called on Prime Minister and had meetings with EAM and Finance Minister. MD, IMF also made a courtesy call to Hon'ble President.

### New Development Bank (NDB)

On May 19 2022, the NDB announced the launch of its Indian Regional Office (IRO) in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City). The launch of the Bank's IRO aims to cater to infrastructure and sustainable development needs in India and Bangladesh, contributing to economic growth and sustainable development in South Asia, in line with the NDB's mandate.

## CHAPTER

## 16

# Development Cooperation

Development Cooperation is an integral part of India's foreign policy. In recent years, India has substantially expanded its development cooperation in various countries which includes Grant assistance, Lines of Credit (LOC), technical consultancy, disaster relief, humanitarian aid, heritage restoration, educational scholarships and a range of capacity-building programmes including short-term civilian and military training courses encompassing both geographical reach and sectoral coverage.

Major developmental projects identified by the neighboring governments as priority areas are under implementation in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Maldives in areas of infrastructure, hydroelectricity, power transmission, agriculture, industry, education, health, archaeological conservation and strengthening of cross-border connectivity with these countries. Beyond the neighborhood, bilateral projects in sectors like energy, power plants, electricity transmission & distribution, roads, railways, ports, agriculture & irrigation, industrial units, information and computer technology (ICT) and small & medium enterprises have been undertaken in South East Asia, Oceania, Central Asia, Africa and Latin America.

A key aspect of India's development assistance in the past few years has been the extension of LOCs or concessional loans to other developing countries. Over the years, 312 LOCs

aggregating more than USD 32.28 billion have been extended to different countries in various sectors, of which USD 12.39 billion has been extended for African countries, USD 17.07 billion has been extended for Asian countries and USD 2.87 billion for countries in Latin America, Oceania and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

## DPA I

The scope and reach of India's development assistance has seen considerable expansion in the past few years. India's abiding geo-political, strategic and economic interests and the need to effectively deliver India's assistance has prompted greater engagement with developing countries, particularly on the development assistance front. In recognition of this, the Development Partnership Administration (DPA) was created in January 2012 to effectively handle India's development aid projects through the stages of conception, launch, execution and completion. The DPA functions in close coordination with the Territorial Divisions in the Ministry, which continue to be the principal interlocutors with partner countries in identifying their developmental needs and priorities. The DPA is progressively developing the expertise required to handle projects in varied sectors and regions through the stages of project formulation, appraisal, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.



India's development partnership is based on the needs of the partner countries and is geared towards responding to as many requests received from these countries as technically and financially feasible. The focus of development assistance have been the countries in India's neighborhood, CIS and Africa; though India is also expanding its development assistance reach to South East Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, Pacific Island Countries, etc.

## Lines of Credit (LOC)

LOC are essentially concessional loans. Government of India LOCs are offered to foreign countries on a bilateral basis. This operation is carried out jointly by the Ministry and the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, through the Exim Bank of India.

### Objective of LOCs

Through LOC, India can help partner countries throughout various stages of project implementation such as project formulation, technical studies and identifying suitable project management consultants and execution companies. Under LOCs, the partner countries have a benefit of lower interest rates, long moratorium period of 5 years and extended repayment period of 20-25 years. The partner countries have great flexibility in identifying sectors and choosing the projects, based on their national priorities. Further, since substantial part of any development project under LOC is carried out with local sub-contractors utilising local material, it helps the local industry and the economy in the partner countries.

The portfolio of LOCs has been diversified geographically as well as sectorally. Geographically, LOCs have now been extended to Russia and Central Asian countries. Sectorally, LOCs have been extended for financing projects in new sectors like Connectivity, ICT, Health, Renewable Energy, Oil Refinery, Water & Sanitation etc.

### LOCs in the Neighborhood

The focus of LOCs has been on development initiatives undertaken in the borrowing countries, particularly in our neighborhood, based on India's Neighborhood First Policy.

**Bangladesh:** Government of India has extended 4 LOCs amounting to USD 7.862 billion to the Government of Bangladesh. The portfolio of LOC extended by the Government of India is highest in the case of Bangladesh.

**Maldives:** Government of India has extended 6 LOCs worth USD 1.43 billion to Government of Maldives, which includes financing the Greater Male Connectivity Project.

**Nepal:** Government of India has extended 4 LOCs to the Government of Nepal aggregating USD 1.65 bn for various infrastructure development projects such as roads, power generation, transmission lines, rehabilitation, reconstruction and housing, etc.

### LOCs in CIS

During the Second Meeting of India-Central Asia Dialogue held on 28 October 2020, EAM announced a Government of India LOC of USD 1 billion for 5 Central Asian Countries viz. Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, for priority developmental projects in fields such as connectivity, energy, IT, healthcare, education, agriculture, etc.

**Kyrgyzstan:** Government of India has extended 1 LOC of USD 200 million to the Government of Kyrgyzstan for development projects.

**Uzbekistan:** Government of India has extended 2 LOCs of USD 488 million to the Government of Uzbekistan for undertaking Social Infrastructure and other development projects.

### Development Projects in Africa

India's partnership with Africa is based on a consultative model of cooperation and sharing of development experiences, and is focused on addressing the priorities and needs of the African countries. The engagement with African countries through various development partnership initiatives has witnessed a marked increase in the last decade. The three India-Africa Forum Summits (IAFS I, II & III) in 2008, 2011 and 2015 have further reinforced the development partnership with the continent.

A total of 202 LOCs amounting to USD 12.39 billion have been extended by the Government of India to African countries in varied sectors such as power plants, hydroelectricity, power transmission & distribution networks, dams, roads, railways, ports, agriculture & irrigation, industrial units, skills development, civil construction etc. Activities in the new sectors such as Telecommunication and Solar power have also been expanded and strengthened under the Government of India LOCs to Africa in this year. Some large iconic projects by Government of India in Africa include construction of Parliament building, Convention Centers etc. People oriented projects in the area of Drinking Water and sanitation and Rural Electrification are also being undertaken in African countries.

### Overseas Promotion of Lines of Credit

Government of India is strongly promoting development partnership initiatives through Lines of Credit across the world through Social Media, Monthly newsletters etc. Under

new digital outreach initiatives, a dashboard has also been developed on the website of the Ministry for regular updates on LOCs. Our Missions are also promoting the significant occasions and milestones like signing of LOC Agreements, foundation stone laying and commencement ceremonies, inauguration ceremonies etc. on various social media platforms.

## DPA II

During FY 2022-23, in-person courses of the Ministry's flagship capacity building Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme were gradually reinstated, and both menu-based courses and customised courses were offered. A total of 186 menu-based in-person courses and 39 customised country specific courses have been approved/conducted as of December 2022, offering nearly 6700 training slots. This is in addition to the 145 e-ITEC courses including 27 customised e-ITEC courses being conducted/offered as of December 2022. In total, 370 courses are being offered in the current financial year 2022-23. With the easing of travel restrictions, activities under other ITEC modalities like ITEC-Executive, ITEC-Onsite and ITEC Experts were restarted in the current year.

## Capacity Building Through Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC)

As the flagship capacity building programme of the Government of India, the ITEC programme has a footprint in 160 countries and has contributed to the capacity enhancement of more than 2,00,000 professionals since its inception in 1964. Apart from being a powerful tool of India's soft power diplomacy, the ITEC programme has also assumed the mantle of leadership in capacity building initiatives in South-South Cooperation.

Apart from providing capacity building training programmes in the traditional areas of governance, ITEC has been expanded to include emerging areas like AI, nano-technology, forensics and cyber security. ITEC now enables participating professionals to access programmes and registrations using a dedicated online portal and provides its training content through reputed partner institutions like IITs, IIMs, NLUs and Indian Institute of Science in the public sector as well as reputed institutions in the private sector. The Ministry continues to engage actively with professionals trained under ITEC through initiatives like ITEC Day celebrations and social media engagements. It is a matter of much satisfaction that over the years ITEC alumni has become a powerful catalyst in forging strong ties with India.

## Civilian training under ITEC

With the onset of Covid-19 and related travel restrictions in March 2020, civilian in-person ITEC trainings remained largely

suspended for two years. During this period, capacity building activities continued unabated with the successful use of online platforms through the eITEC modality. Physical ITEC courses were recommenced from 01 March 2022 with the St Stephen's Young Leaders Neighbourhood First programme. As of date, a total of 186 menu-based physical ITEC courses (offering nearly 5500 slots) have been approved and published for the current financial year. More than 2000 of these slots have been utilised till date.

In addition to menu-based courses, country specific special courses are also conducted from time to time based on requests received from foreign governments. These courses are for specific capacity building requirements like English Language (for various Gulf, Central Asian and LAC countries), Yoga Trainers, Forensic investigation and Police training (for Seychelles), Aerodrome training, journalist training, solar entrepreneurs and training of chambers of commerce professionals. A total of 39 such customised physical courses are being conducted in the current financial year.

Apart from the physical/in-person training, ITEC content for civilians is also delivered through three other broad channels. The *e-ITEC* channel provides online, real-time training delivered by Indian Institutes to professionals located in partner countries. The *ITEC Onsite* channel provides customized content to our partner countries by shifting the training to the country itself by deputing training professionals for short duration. The content for these programmes focuses on the requirements of our partner countries in sector-specific training like Fertiliser Technology; Fisheries Technology; Agriculture and allied sectors; Teachers' Training and Research; Open Education Resources; Securities Markets; Wind Energy; Rural Electrification; South-South Cooperation etc. The *ITEC Executive* is the third channel, which is an exclusive programme for senior level functionaries and policy makers in our partner countries; this channel delivers content through the medium of conferences, workshops and study/exposure visits which provide an understanding of practices and systems in India.

The eITEC scheme launched after the comprehensive review of the ITEC programme was successfully scaled up since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020. The Ministry continued its programme of capacity building by making an agile shift to digital technology and rolled out online training programs on a large scale and at short notice, to continue engaging with our partner countries. A unique feature of the eITEC scheme has been the ability to deliver capacity building courses in innovative areas unique to India; for example, one of the most successful eITEC courses have been training on Vipasana meditation to promote holistic wellbeing, especially during the pandemic.

In the current training year, 145 eITEC courses are being offered of which 72 courses have already been completed/ongoing. More than 2761 participants from 84 countries have availed

these online trainings till date. One of the highlights of eITEC programmes conducted in 2022 was the massive online training on English Language Proficiency for nearly 970 English teachers of Uzbekistan which was conducted by EFLU, Hyderabad. Similarly, eITEC courses are being implemented by CDAC for providing training on internet/web/office automation for officials of the Ministry of External Relations (MIREX), Republic of Angola.

Under ITEC Onsite, customized capacity building programmes are provided to our partner countries by shifting training to the country itself by deputing our trainers for a short duration. Several focus areas that have been identified to provide training include Fertiliser technology; Wildlife; Fisheries Technology; Agriculture and allied sectors; Teachers' Training and Research; Open Education Resources; Securities Markets; Wind Energy; Rural Electrification.

The first ITEC-Onsite assignment was executed in 2018-19 when a team of experts was sent to Sierra Leone for Cyber Crime training. In 2022, two ITEC-Onsite assignments were carried out—(i) National Tiger Conservation Authority experts sent in March 2022 to Cambodia for possible tiger-reinduction; and (ii) Experts from the Ministry of Mines were sent to El Salvador in October 2022 to assist in reclamation assessment of abandoned mines.

ITEC Executive is an exclusive programme for policy makers, senior level functionaries and professionals of partner countries which covers conferences, workshops, study/exposure visits with an aim to provide an understanding of best practices/governance innovations in India. It was instituted to further raise the level of our interaction with policy makers and civil servants of partner countries and provides a platform for interaction among senior functionaries (DG level and above) of partner countries and their Indian counterparts. It also aims at higher level of learning in cutting-edge areas of technology and policy areas.

The first ITEC Executive programme was conducted in 2019-2020 for Secretary-level officers of Tunisia, at Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) on the theme of e-governance. In the FY 2022-23, one ITEC Executive course was conducted through National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) for a batch of Permanent Secretary level officers from The Gambia on good governance. This was the second such programme organised for The Gambia. A second ITEC-Executive programme for senior officials of the Ivory Coast was conducted by IIM, Indore in December 2022.

ITEC also supports mid-career training of civil servants from interested partner countries. Mid-career training for civil servants from Bangladesh and Myanmar civil servants are being carried out in partnership with NCGG in the current financial year.



ITEC and National Judicial Academy (NJA) Bhopal partnered with Myanmar to enhance the capacities of judicial officers from Myanmar in December 2022.

Nearly 120 officers from Bangladesh have already completed their training till date, and another 160 are likely to be trained by the end of this financial year. Apart from this, mid-career judicial officers from Bangladesh and Myanmar are being trained through customised ITEC courses. 98 judicial officers from Bangladesh have completed their training with NJA, Bhopal as of date. Thematic training on subjects like cyber-crime investigation and financial fraud investigation for mid-career police officers have been started at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy. Police officers from Seychelles and South Sudan have been trained under customised ITEC courses.

## Deputation of ITEC Experts

The Ministry also provides capacity building assistance in the form of sending Indian experts on deputation to the partner countries in areas requested by them. These ITEC experts are embedded in host government for varying periods ranging from 6 months to more than a year, and allow us to build a long-lasting sustainable engagement with that country. Deputation of ITEC Experts to partner countries has served a very important role in connecting the civil and defence personnel of partner countries with their Indian counterparts.

In all, the Ministry has sent about 157 civilian experts to 18 countries under ITEC since 2014. On an annual basis, there have been 53 experts in 2019-20, 44 in 2020-21, 41 in 2021-22 and 42 in 2022-23 working abroad in the fields of defence, archaeology, forensic sciences, agriculture, medicine, legislation drafting, ayurveda, disaster response and Oil Spill Preparedness. Deputation formalities are underway to send another 6 civilian experts to few countries namely Guyana, Fiji, and Belize. On the defence side, a total no. of 36 experts is deployed to 12 countries under ITEC Programme, with deputation of additional 6 defence experts are under process for deputation to Seychelles.

## Defence Training Under ITEC

ITEC defence courses are provided through the training institutions of the Ministry of Defence based on the allocations recommended by the Ministry. The expenditure is borne out of the ITEC budget. Around 600 courses are being offered by more than 100 Defence institutes. For the purpose of ITEC, friendly foreign countries are categorised into four categories: (i) category I - all the expenses are borne by Government of India including return air fare under ITEC budget head; (ii) category II - all the expenses are borne by Government of India under ITEC budget head excluding return air fare which is borne by the participant country; (iii) SAP (special aid programme)- all the expenses are borne by Government of India but under the budget head of concerned territorial division of the Ministry; (iv) SFS (self-finance scheme)- all the expenses are borne by the country itself. Since 2014, nearly 18500 defence training slots

have been offered, against which 10,871 defence personnel and officers have been trained.

During 2022-23, there were 2709 ITEC defence slots that were allotted to 78 partner countries.

Courses covered under Army, Navy and Air Force are related to security and strategic studies, defence management, electronics, mechanical, marine engineering, Long C, Long N, marine hydrography, counterinsurgency, jungle warfare, qualified flying instructor, ground duty, flying training etc. Few courses were also offered in DSSC, SDMC, HDMC, DMC and NDA. Additionally, 252 slots to 39 partner countries were offered by Indian Coast Guard in 3 courses i.e. Maritime Law and Ops course; MRCC ops and SAR course; IMO level I & II course. In TY 2021-22, 39 NDC slots have been allotted to 30 partner countries. The course started in January 2022 at National Defence College, New Delhi.

## Grant Projects in Other Developing Countries

Leveraging the global brand value of Indian IT, the Ministry has been providing IT-skills training through setting up of computer training labs called CEIT (Centres for Excellence in IT) as a focussed modality of capacity building partnership. Till date, India has executed 50 such CEIT projects in 47 countries, with nearly 1.9 lakh trainees having successfully completed CDAC-certified courses in advanced subjects like high performance computing, Big Data, AI, machine language and computer languages.

CEITs have been established in several countries of Central Asia, West Asia, Africa, Latin America, South East Asia and Pacific Islands have earned enormous goodwill and are much sought after by our partner countries. 4 Projects currently under implementation include the CEIT in Argentina (at the University of Hurlingham campus), CEIT at Jordan (at the HTU university), CEIT at Syria (with the National Agency for Network Security) and the upgradation of the Param supercomputing facility at Kazakhstan CEIT.

As part of skill training related capacity building, vocational training center implemented by the division in Belize is nearing project completion, with the final component of on-the-job training likely to be taken up from January 2023.

## Artificial Limb Fitment Camps

Under 'India for Humanity' initiative, the Division organises artificial limb fitment camps, popularly known as Jaipur Foot in close coordination with Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS). An MoU between BMVSS and the Ministry was



concluded in November 2017. Thereafter, since the 150th Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi, this programme is being implemented under the Ministry's 'India for Humanity' initiative which was formally launched on 09 October 2018.

Till March 2022, a total of 19 camps in 18 countries were conducted, resulting in fitments of 9627 limbs in all. In the current year, camps have been completed in Syria and Fiji, while preparations are underway for camps in Vietnam (proposed for December 2022), Lebanon (proposed for January 2023) and Cambodia (proposed for March 2023).

## DPA III

### India's Development Partnerships

Inspired by the spirit of '*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*', India's international development cooperation has expanded significantly in the recent years in its geographical reach as well as in the areas of cooperation. It is natural that most of India's significant development partnerships include the neighbouring countries given the focus of India's external engagement on its immediate and extended neighbourhood supported by the 'Neighborhood First' and 'Act East' policies. Another noteworthy feature of India's development partnerships has been its demand-based nature and the close alignment with the priorities of the partner countries.

As the DPA arm of the Ministry has gained experience over the years, the sustainability of projects besides the project delivery and implementation have received increased attention. India's development partnership model has received a high degree of acceptance from its partners because of the focus on keeping the requirements and priorities of the partner country at the center of the projects.

India's development assistance has been a major catalyst for creation of much needed infrastructure in the partner countries such as railway links, roads & bridges, waterways, border-related infrastructure, transmission lines, power generation, hydropower etc.

### Afghanistan

India has been a steadfast partner in reconstruction and development efforts in Afghanistan despite serious security challenges. The principal focus of India's development assistance to Afghanistan has been to build capacities of Afghan nationals and its institutions for governance and delivery of public service, develop socio-economic infrastructure, secure lives and promote livelihoods.

Some of the key Indian projects in Afghanistan are the new 'Parliament Building in Kabul (2015), and the Afghan India Friendship Dam, earlier known as Salma Dam (2016) which underline India's commitment to the rebuilding of a united, democratic and prosperous Afghanistan. Both countries jointly launched the 'New Development Partnership' in September 2017 to further enhance India's development assistance to Afghanistan. India has agreed to undertake the Shatoot Dam project which will provide drinking water to residents of Kabul besides rehabilitation of existing irrigation and drainage network, and necessary tests and surveys for the project are being carried out.

India is supporting High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs) spread across all the 34 provinces of Afghanistan by extending grants assistance. Since 2005, three phases of community-based projects funded by Indian grants and covering areas like agriculture, education, labour, rural development and public health have been implemented by the Afghan government agencies thus building local capacity towards project management. Under Phase I and II implemented during 2005-2009, USD 20 million was provided for undertaking 116 projects. Under the Phase III launched in 2012, funding of USD 100 million was provided for 420 projects of which 350 have been completed. At the 2020 Afghanistan Conference held in Geneva in November 2020, EAM announced launch of Phase-IV of HICDPs with grants assistance of USD 80 million for implementing around 100 new projects in Afghanistan.

Support for education and capacity building programmes is an important aspect of India's development partnership with Afghanistan. Under the Special Scholarship Scheme for Afghan Nationals (SSSAN) administered by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), 1000 annual scholarship slots are provided to Afghan students for studying in universities and institutes across India. Since 2006, more than 10,000 Afghan students have been trained under this scheme. In addition, another 500 scholarship slots are provided for children/dependents of martyrs of Afghan National Defence and Security Forces and 614 fellowships for Agricultural studies, administered through the Department of Agricultural Research and Education and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. India is also supporting establishment of the Afghanistan National Agriculture Sciences and Technology University (ANASTU) in Kandahar which is the first university of its kind in Afghanistan.

However, due to the current political and security situation, Grant in Aid projects in Afghanistan is on hold except support of scholarship programme for students presently enrolled in Indian University. India is also supplying 75000 MT of wheat to Afghanistan as a humanitarian assistance despite the challenges caused by Covid-19.

## Bangladesh

India is also constructing the Akhaura-Agartala Rail Link which connects the existing station of Agartala in India to the Gangasagar station in Bangladesh. Work is ongoing in India as well as on the Bangladesh side.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, India had also supplied 109 ambulances to Bangladesh in various hospitals in Bangladesh as a humanitarian gesture at an estimated cost of approximately Rs. 33 crore.

## Madagascar

India has also supported Madagascar by providing 5000 MTs of rice as humanitarian assistance. This is the largest donation of rice from India to Madagascar so far. President of the Republic of Madagascar Andry Rajoelina received the consignment of rice in September 2022.

## Maldives

India and Maldives have a growing development partnership involving both grant and LOC assistance. India is assisting in construction of a new Ministry of Defence building for Maldives and is expected to be completed by June 2023. The Construction of National College for Policing and Law Enforcement (NCPLE) (formerly ISLES) in Maldives has been completed in March 2022. The project was inaugurated by EAM on 27 March 2022.

India provided grant for construction of additional facilities at the Composite Training Centre at Maafilaafushi Island built up with India's assistance.

The construction work of India supported Greater Malé Connectivity Project through a grant of USD 100 million and a LOC of USD 400 million is ongoing. Prime Minister of India and President of Maldives jointly laid the foundation in August 2022. The GMCP involves construction of bridge and causeway links between the Islands of Vilingli, Gulhifalhu and Thilafushi with Malé. The project is the largest infrastructure project to be undertaken in the country and is expected to become the new economic lifeline for Maldives.

## Mauritius

India has been providing development assistance to Mauritius in various sectors, including infrastructure, health, education and capacity building. Under its assistance programme, India has extended a grant of USD 353 million as a Special Economic Package to Mauritius in 2016, for implementation of six projects in Mauritius, namely, Metro Express (USD 275 million), New Supreme Court Building (USD 30 million), Education-Tablets (USD 14 million), Social Housing for Poor (USD 20 million), New ENT Hospital (USD 14 million) and 4 Medi-clinics & 2 Area Health Centres (AHCs). The first phase of Metro Express Project in Port Louis built under the India-Mauritius Development Partnership has operationalised in 2020 and it proved to be a major success with a record number of ridership reached in the first year. The



India supported Maldives' largest infrastructure project outside of Greater Malé region, Hanimaadhoo International Airport Development project under concessional credit, September 2022

phase two of Metro Express has also been completed and jointly inaugurated by both Prime Minister of India and Mauritius in October 2022. The new Supreme Court building in Port Louis built with grant assistance of USD 28.12 million from India was jointly inaugurated by the Prime Ministers of India and Mauritius on 30 July 2020. Social housing Project in Port Louis has also been completed and jointly inaugurated by Prime Ministers of India and Prime Minister of Mauritius in January 2022.

Other significant infrastructure and capacity building projects completed by India in Mauritius are building an ENT Hospital, and the E-Tablet project to provide teaching aids for primary schools in Mauritius. India also provided grant assistance for construction of a Civil Services College in Port Louis. Work on setting up of Renal Transplant Unit at the Jawahar Lal Nehru Hospital in Mauritius under Government of India's grant assistance of USD 10 million has started.

## Mongolia

India is also providing support for construction of India-Mongolia Friendship School in Ulaanbaatar. Defence Minister of India laid the foundation stone of the project in September 2022. MoU for the project was signed during Prime Minister's visit to Mongolia on 17 May 2015.

## Myanmar

India is providing support for three major road connectivity projects in Myanmar which aim to strengthen regional connectivity by building the road network between Myanmar and the North-Eastern States of India. Under the Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project (KMMTTP) Project, an international port has been built at Sittwe in Myanmar. The stretch of Kaladan river connecting Sittwe Port with Paletwa has been developed for navigation and a well-resourced Inland Water terminal has been established at Paletwa. Sittwe port at Myanmar is planned to be operationalized soon. Work is also going on to build road between Paletwa and Zorinpui on the India-Myanmar border. India has supported implementation of two projects in Myanmar related to India- Myanmar- Thailand (IMT) Trilateral Highway, namely, re-construction of sixty-nine bridges and their approaches in the Tamu - Kyigone - Kalewa road section and upgradation of the Kalewa-Yargi road section. Once completed, the Trilateral Highway will provide seamless connectivity for the North Eastern states of India with Myanmar, Thailand and other ASEAN countries and facilitate movement of goods and traffic.

India also provided support for capacity building projects in Myanmar, namely establishment of the Myanmar Institute of



Raksha Mantri inaugurated Cyber Security Training Centre at National Defence University in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, built with assistance from the Government of India in September 2022.



Information Technology (MIIT) in Mandalay, India Myanmar Centre for Enhancement of IT Skills (IMCEITS) in Yangon and the Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research and Education (ACARE) near Naypyidaw. India has also provided 10000 MTs of rice and 200 MTs of wheat in March 2022 as humanitarian assistance.

## Nepal

India-Nepal developmental partnership extends to a wide spectrum of projects, including infrastructure projects in areas of railways, road, electricity transmission lines, police training and vocational training. India is undertaking development of rail links with Nepal for enhancing the ease of movement of people and goods. Under the first phase, Jayanagar-Bardibas Rail Link (68.72 kms) and Jogbani –Biratnagar Rail Link (18.60 kms) are being developed at an estimated cost of around Rs. 950 crores. The Jaynagar to Kurtha rail section (34km) which is the first broad gauge passenger rail line in Nepal has been completed and flagged off by the Prime Minister of India and Nepal virtually on 02 April 2022. Kurtha-Bijalpura section is physically complete and likely to be handed over to Nepal in the near future. Final Location survey for construction of a new electrified rail line connecting Raxaul to Kathmandu is going on by Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) of India.

India has completed construction of two Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) at Birgunj and Biratnagar in Nepal along the India-Nepal Border to facilitate trade and movement of goods and traffic. These were handed over to the Government of Nepal in 2018 and 2020 respectively. Development of ICP at Nepalgunj is currently underway and is expected to be completed during the first half of next year. Fourth ICP at Bhairahawa is to be undertaken with the Government of India's grant assistance for which the contract has been awarded and the work is likely to commence soon. Decision has been taken to construct the another ICP at Dodhara-Chandani along Indo-Nepal international border, for which Detailed Project Report (DPR) is being prepared by the Ministry.

Under the ambit of India's assistance for development projects, the Nepal-Bharat Maitri Polytechnic is being built at Hetauda, Nepal for providing vocational training. The award of works to construct Nepal Police Academy at Panuati has been in July 2022.

## Sri Lanka

A modern state-of-art Cultural Centre has been constructed at Jaffna under India - Sri Lanka development partnership. The Cultural Centre includes a 2-storied museum, 12-storied learning tower, an auditorium block, a public square and a floating stage

for cultural performances. The project was inaugurated by EAM on 28 March 2022.

Earlier, India had helped establish an Island wide Emergency Ambulance Services with a total of 209 ambulances in Sri Lanka during 2018 -2019.

## Tajikistan

India is providing support for construction of a 9.2 km of eight Lane Bypass Road from Dushanbe to Chortut in Tajikistan, consisting of four Lanes in both side direction including footpath and an automobile bridge. The total road work comprises two phases. Construction of phase 1 has been started from December 2020. The works of the phase –I is in the last stage and project is expected to be completed in December 2022.

## DPA IV

### International Heritage Restoration Projects

With the restoration of international air travel, DPA IV Division reinitiated the deputation of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) teams to ongoing international heritage conservation projects in countries like Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam. New initiatives like signing of MoU between India and Cambodia on a digital heritage conservation and funding of Ramayana Mural painting restoration, and digitization of Indic manuscripts stored in libraries abroad were also undertaken.

DPA IV Division acts as a nodal point to deal with restoration of heritage projects undertaken by the Government of India in countries abroad. These projects are implemented by ASI, the designated technical agency under the Ministry of Culture and are funded by the Ministry.

With the restoration of international travel, ASI teams were sent to all the 4 project sites in Cambodia (Ta Prohm and Preah Vihear), Vietnam (My Son) and Lao PDR (Vat Phou). In Ta Prohm, restoration work is currently in its third phase, while at Preah Vihear, which is the latest project taken up by India, site-level activities were commenced in the current year. The first phase of the project in My Son, Vietnam is drawing to a close and is expected to be completed in the next few months. Vietnam has requested that a subsequent group of temples on the same site may be taken up by India. Similarly, restoration works were reinitiated at the Vat Phou site in 2022 after a long covid induced gap of 2 years.

As part of new initiatives under DPA IV, two separate MoUs have been entered into with the Royal Government of Cambodia for funding conservation of Ramayana mural paintings at the Wat





EAM reviewed the conservation and restoration work at the UNESCO accredited Ta Prohm Temple being undertaken by ASI in collaboration with Cambodia's APSARA authority, August 2022.

Raja Bo pagoda and to collaborate in research, development and application of technology for digital documentation of heritage sites in Cambodia in November 2022. In an effort to promote restoration and revival of Intangible Cultural Heritage like language, rituals, practices, performing and other fine arts in an institutional manner, India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi was tasked with a pilot research project for cataloguing, survey, and digitisation of Indic manuscripts held in four locations (University of Copenhagen, Welcome

Collection London, Tribhuvan University, Nepal and Syrian Christian Archive at Kottayam Kerala) through an initiative called 'South Asian Manuscript Histories and Textual Archive', (SAMHITA) in March 2022. Responding to requests received from Uzbekistan, the division organised the feasibility study tour by ASI for possible excavation, restoration and conservation of Karatepa and Fayaztepa Buddhist Temple Complexes in Termez District of Uzbekistan. ASI's recommendation is currently under consideration by Ministry of Culture.

## CHAPTER

## 17

## Economic Diplomacy

Economic Diplomacy Division (ED) is an economic arm of the Ministry that works in coordination with Indian Missions/Posts abroad, territorial divisions of the Ministry, Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, State Governments, and Foreign Missions/Posts in India to enable foreign investment flows and promote bilateral trade, tourism, education, and handles matters relating to healthcare, Energy Security, Food Security, ISA, CDRI, IZU2, etc.

### Trade and Investment

In order to focus on the promotion of Trade, Tourism & Technology (3Ts), the Division has developed a dashboard to capture these 3 parameters. The dashboard will enable Missions abroad to provide the data and progress related to trade, technology and tourism as well as the activities undertaken by Missions in pursuance of these objectives. This enables the Ministry to have an assessment of the performance of Missions on 3Ts. Access is being provided to all concerned Ministries and Departments including DOC, MeitY and MOT. The Division worked closely with DOC in coordinating with our Missions abroad to achieve the target of merchandise exports of USD 400 billion which was set by the Prime Minister. With the concerted efforts of our Missions, this target was achieved before the deadline of 31 March 2022.

### Health and Medical Value Travel

Together with the Ministry of Health, ED Division organized a series of virtual meetings with 61 Indian Missions/Posts in the month of November and December 2022 to increase Medical Value Tourism in India. Our Missions provided valuable guidance to the Ministry of Health on region-specific demand from tourists in their countries. The Division also coordinated two meetings on India-UAE joint investment in the Health sector in Africa in June and December 2022 where various hospital chains from India visited Tanzania and Kenya along with their UAE partners to explore joint development of the healthcare sector in Africa.

### Higher Education Institutes (HEI)/ IITs Abroad

ED Division actively promoted the setting up of IITs abroad as part of the New Education Policy by coordinating with the Ministry of Education and IIT Council. The Division organised virtual meetings in March and December 2022 with Indian Missions abroad, which resulted in concrete partnerships with IIT Delhi in UAE, IIT Madras in Tanzania, IIT Kanpur in Bahrain and IIT Kharagpur in Malaysia.

## I2U2 (India, Israel, the UAE and the USA)

I2U2 demonstrates the strategic convergence of India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States. The I2U2 is aimed to encourage joint investments in six mutually identified areas such as water, energy, transportation, space, health, and food security. It intends to mobilize private sector capital and expertise to help modernize the infrastructure, decarbonise industries, improve public health, and promote the development of critical, emerging and green technologies. I2U2 aims to maximize innovation, technology, skilled workforce, and entrepreneurial dynamism in all four countries.

Prime Minister participated in the first virtual summit of I2U2 leaders, along with the Prime Minister of Israel, the President of the UAE and the President of the USA on 14 July 2022. Leader, among others, discussed two joint projects related to food parks and renewable energy to be set up in India. The last I2U2 Sherpas meeting was held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York on 20 September 2022 which was attended by Secretary (ER). Ways forward for the two projects under I2U2 on Food Corridor and Wind-Solar Hybrid Renewable energy were discussed. ED Division continues to coordinate with the relevant stakeholders on matters pertaining to I2U2.

## Settlement of Payments in INR

Since March 2022, the Division has been coordinating inter-ministerial meetings under the chairmanship of the Secretary (ER) to work out a mechanism for International Trade Settlement in INR. Subsequently, RBI issued its circular on 11 July 2022, bringing in a mechanism for international trade settlement in INR. ED Division also prepared a Concept Note and shared it with all our Missions to facilitate Indian trade with their respective countries in INR. The Division held meetings in coordination with RBI and concerned agencies in Russia, UAE and Maldives to implement this mechanism. Many countries have shown positive interest in trade settlement using mutual currencies.

## International Solar Alliance (ISA)

ISA aims to contribute to the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement by bringing together countries to provide a collective response to the main common obstacles in the massive deployment of solar energy in terms of technology, finance and capacity. With Bhutan ratifying the Framework Agreement on 31 August 2022, 110 countries have signed the



Prime Minister at the first I2U2 Summit with his counterparts from the United States, Israel and UAE, July 2022

Framework Agreement of the ISA, as of 30 November 2022 while 90 of these countries have also ratified the Framework Agreement.

India was re-elected as the President of the ISA General Assembly for the third consecutive term from 2022- 2024. ED Division is the Depository of ISA and coordinated with the nodal Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and the ISA Secretariat in organising the 5th General Assembly of the ISA in New Delhi on 18 October 2022. The Assembly took stock of the developments under key initiatives of ISA, including the Solar Technology and Application Research Centres (STAR-Cs) for capacity building in member countries, the Solar Finance Facility, and the Solar Grand Challenge for nurturing innovation in the solar sector, which is in the process of being operationalized over the next year.

## Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)

CDRI functions as an inclusive multi-stakeholder partnership where knowledge is generated and exchanged on different aspects of disaster resilience of infrastructure. The coordination efforts between ED Division and CDRI are intended towards engaging additional members, countries, and international organizations, representing varied geographic and socio-economic contexts, disaster risk profiles as well as capacities to mitigate and adapt to climate change and disasters. As of 30 November 2022, the Coalition consists of 31 countries

and 8 international organisations as members including 31 national governments, six international organizations and two private sector networks/organizations. Tajikistan, Madagascar, and South Sudan are the new members. Several countries have contributed financial resources, technical assistance/secondments, and the nomination of experts to various Programme Appraisal and Steering Committees in support of the mandate of CDRI.

A Headquarters Agreement was signed between the Director General of CDRI and JS (ED) on behalf of the Government of India on 22 August 2022 in the presence of the co-chair of the Governing Council of CDRI and Principal Secretary to Prime Minister.

## United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)

ED Division represented India at the Commission Session of UNCITRAL held in New York in June-July 2022. The Division has also been participating and coordinating actively on the various working groups of UNCITRAL.

Working Group-I on Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises met in New York in May 2022 and in Vienna in September 2022 and deliberated on issues pertaining to access to credit for MSMEs.



Signing of Headquarters Agreement of CDRI, August 2022



Working Group-II on Dispute Settlement met in New York in March-April 2022 and in Vienna in October 2022. This Working Group, having concluded its work on Expedited Arbitration during the two sessions in 2022, held discussions on the probable work to be undertaken. India pointed out the need to have protocols and standards for online modes of dispute settlement, keeping in view equity and fairness in terms of the use of technology for dispute settlement mechanisms.

Working Group-III which continues deliberations on Investor-State Dispute Settlement Reforms continued its discussions in New York in February 2022 and in Vienna in September 2022. The Working Group included an additional week of time this year and continued deliberations on both the structural reforms which include the creation of a multilateral investment court and procedural reforms where the draft code of conduct for arbitrators/adjudicators was discussed.

Working Group-IV on Electronic Commerce was held in New York in April 2022 and in Vienna in October and November 2022. The Working Group continued deliberations on the proposal for legislative work on electronic transactions and the use of artificial intelligence and automation.

Working Group-V on Insolvency Law met in New York in April 2022 and in Vienna in December 2022. The Working Group deliberated on cross-border insolvency proceedings and civil asset tracing and recovery tools.

Working Group-VI on Judicial Sale of Ships, at the session in New York in February 2022, concluded its work on the subject and framed a draft Convention on the Judicial Sale of Ships. The session in Vienna in November-December 2022 started work on Negotiable Multimodal Transport Documents.

## Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)

The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), an inter-governmental organisation, of which India has been a member since 1950, signed a host country agreement with India in 2008 to set up a permanent facility in India. While this is still a work in progress, the PCA has been conducting the PCA-India Conferences and workshops under the ambit of the Host Country agreement which is being facilitated by ED Division. A training programme on investment arbitration was jointly hosted by the MEA and the PCA in June 2022. The training programmes were held in hybrid mode and were inaugurated by Dr Justice DY Chandrachud, Judge, Supreme Court of India, in presence of Secretary (ER) and other dignitaries. The valedictory address at the training programme was delivered by MoS (RRS) in the presence of JS (ED) and other dignitaries. The program was attended by over

200 participants from various Ministries/ Departments, MEA HQ, Indian Missions abroad and State Governments. Further, most of India's investment treaty cases are administered by the PCA and ED Division, through the Mission in The Hague, which coordinates with the PCA in such cases.

ED Division, along with the Indian Mission in The Hague, was actively involved in the election of the Secretary-General of PCA and was coordinating matters pertaining to the election of the Secretary-General of the PCA, which happens to be the first non-Dutch Secretary general of the PCA. ED Division is also coordinating the implementation of the PCA- India Host Country Agreement.

## Energy Security

ED Division serves as the primary body facilitating engagements between the line ministries and energy agencies including IEA (International Energy Agency) and IRENA (International Renewable Energy Agency). JS(ED) on behalf of the Ministry attended the IEA Ministerial Meeting held on 23 and 24 March 2022 in Paris, France. Besides facilitating India's energy engagements at the multilateral forum, ED Division is also a part of the group of line ministries, involved in pursuing bilateral energy dialogues and improving institutional ties with various countries. ED Division in coordination with MOP organised Mission Innovation-Clean Energy Ministerial Senior officials meeting from 06-08 April 2022 in New Delhi to spearhead the global clean energy transition, across various topics such as Power, Steel, Road Transport, Hydrogen and the seventh Mission Innovation. An Indian delegation led by MoS for Science and Technology including JS(ED) attended the 13<sup>th</sup> Clean Energy Ministerial and the 7<sup>th</sup> Mission Innovation Ministerial (CEM13/ MI-7) in Pittsburgh, USA, from September 21-23 2022.

## Market Expansion Activities

To strengthen the goal of the 3Ts and to promote Indian business and industry abroad, the Ministry via its Missions/ Posts abroad allocates funds under the budget Head "Market Expansion Activities".

The budget provided under "Market Expansion Activities" acts as an essential launch pad for our Missions/Posts in effectively handling routine trade and investment inquiries and analyzing the economic and business climate in the respective country. Missions/Posts also play an important role in carrying out market surveys, and seminars which aim to target Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Business leaders' associations. ED Division has allocated Rs. 10 Crores under the "Market Expansion Activities" to various Missions/Posts abroad.

## Website and Global Mapping of Resources

The website of the ED Division ([www.indbiz.gov.in](http://www.indbiz.gov.in)), launched by EAM on 16 December 2020, is a repository of information ranging from various States based data to Investment opportunities, general facts and data, to information about various sectors of the Indian economy. The goal of the website is to project 'Brand India' in a contemporary and comprehensive way by providing two-way information between Indian Businesses and Foreign enterprises.

The website hosts a section on 'World Resource Endowments and Opportunities' providing a database on the global supply and demand of various resources like minerals, trade, and agricultural exports among others. Trade-related updates and the market surveys carried out by our Missions abroad are regularly updated on the website which assists the businesses to pinpoint new trade opportunities.

## Industrial Outreach and Investment Promotion and Publicity

**IMC India Calling Conference:** The ED Division in collaboration with the IMC Chamber of commerce and Industry organized IMC India Calling 2022 on 06 May 2022 virtually. The event focused on highlighting several measures taken by the government of India to boost domestic and foreign investments in India.

**13<sup>th</sup> Edition of International Conference and Exhibition dedicated to Minerals, Metals, Metallurgy & Material (MMMM):** The ED Division in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Metals organized the 13th edition of International Conference and Exhibition dedicated to Minerals, Metals, Metallurgy & Materials (MMMM) from 25-27 August 2022 in New Delhi. The Conference provided a platform to discuss the latest trends, technology development and innovations taking place across the world, which will enable the Indian Metal Industry to evolve cost-effective, energy-efficient solutions, policies and practices for the Indian metal sector.

**3rd edition of LEADS 2022:** The ED Division in collaboration with FICCI organized the 3rd edition of "LEADS: Reimagine the World", a 2-day global thought leadership initiative on 20 and 21 September 2022 in New Delhi. LEADS (Leadership, Excellence, and Adaptability of business built on pillars of Diversity and Sustainability) was planned, with an overarching theme of 'Future of Sustainable World Order'. LEADS 2022 provided an ideal platform for investors, business leaders and

industry captains to share their vision on future imperatives for economic engagement overseas.

**Energy Security Conference:** The ED Division in collaboration with CII organized the "Energy Security Conference" on 10 November 2022 in New Delhi. The key objective of the Conference was to facilitate wider discussion and consultation in order to identify the challenges and opportunities of India's Energy Security which may help the Government of India formulate various energy policies to ensure its Energy Security.

**India Southern Africa Regional Conclave:** The ED Division in collaboration with CII and EXIM Bank organized the Indian Southern Africa Regional Conclave (ISARC) in Johannesburg, South Africa from 31 October-01 November 2022. The South African Regional Conclave was aimed to serve as a platform for dialogues between India and the 16 SADC countries. The South African Development Community (SADC), which is an inter-governmental organization covering 16 countries in the region, plays a pivotal role in furthering socio-economic cooperation among its member African countries.

### Dissemination of Business and Economic Outreach

**Products:** ED Division supports the Missions/Posts abroad in economic and business outreach activities by providing them with the relevant promotional, publicity and knowledge/information material on India's policy environment, policy decisions, investment opportunities, trade-related matters, among others.

**Mining-related Events:** JS(ED) was part of the Indian delegation led by Secretary, Mines in two mining events: 'Mining Indaba-2022' was held in Cape Town, South Africa from 09-12 May 2022 bringing together mining leaders, policymakers, financiers, technical experts, innovators and educators. Bilateral meetings were also held with delegations from Zimbabwe, Saudi Arabia, Gambia and South Africa on the sideline of 'Mining Indaba-2022'.

**IMARC:** International Mining and Resource Conference and Expo 2022 was held in Sydney, Australia from 02-04 November 2022. Bilateral meetings were also held with the delegations of Saudi Arabia, Argentina, Peru and Australia. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Joint Working Group meeting of India-Australia for cooperation in the field of mining and processing of Critical and Strategic Minerals was also held.

## Civil Aviation

ED Division is the nodal division in the Ministry for all matters relating to Air Services Agreements with foreign countries/airlines and works closely with the Ministry of Civil Aviation on these matters. The Division also provides inputs on these issues

and requirements of flight operations or code share to promote tourism and strengthen bilateral/multilateral relations.

**ICAO engagements:** ED Division on behalf of the Ministry provides inputs on issues of ICAO like LTAG (Long Term Aspirational Goals) and CORSIA (Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation), etc. JS (ED) also participated in the High-level Meeting on the Feasibility of (HLM-LTAG) held at ICAO Headquarters in Montreal, Canada, from 20-22 July 2022. On 09 September 2022, Ministry through ED Division co-hosted a reception of ICAO member countries in Sushma Swaraj Bhawan in New Delhi to apprise the member countries of the Indian Civil aviation sector and canvass India's re-election in Part-II of the ICAO Council in October 2022.

**ICAN:** (ICAO Air Services Negotiation Event (ICAN2022)) ED Division and Ministry of Civil Aviation participated in the 14th ICAO Air Services Negotiation (ICAN2022). The event was hosted by the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority from 05-09 December 2022 in Abuja, Nigeria. Bilateral meetings were held with Switzerland, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, DR Congo, Seychelles, Sudan, Thailand, Zimbabwe, and Brazil. India signed 2 new MoUs for Air Services Agreement with DR Congo and Sudan. Negotiations for the Liberalisation of the Air services Regime including more points of call, and code-sharing arrangements by Indian Airlines also took place. The Division in association with the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MOCA) is also involved in the designation of national and foreign carriers to operate between India and other countries which do not have direct flight connectivity.

## Investment Treaties

The Division actively participates in investment treaty negotiations and has been involved in coordinating these negotiations and providing requisite inputs from a policy/political perspective and from an international law perspective. India is in the process of terminating its old generation investment treaties and is actively engaged with over 30 countries in negotiating investment treaties based on the new model BIT of 2015. These include negotiations with Canada, the UK, UAE, the EU, and Australia amongst others. Matters pertaining to investment treaties involve origin countries/foreign relations and issues pertaining to international law. The correspondence about BIT with other countries is routed through ED Division. The Division had also attended the Parliamentary Standing Committee meetings on the subject "India and Bilateral Investment Treaties" where the issues pertaining to India and its investment treaties including the disputes under these treaties were discussed and had been following up on the recommendations made by the Committee. ED Division has also been providing requisite advice and assistance in the proceedings of Investment Treaty Arbitration

Cases. The Division took the lead in concluding the Joint Interpretative Statement (JIS) of the India-Mauritius BIT which clarifies the provisions of the treaty as was the understanding of the Parties when the treaty was concluded. The JIS was signed on 11 July 2022.

## Arbitration Cell

The Arbitration Cell of the Ministry which is under the ED Division handles the legal work of the Division which involves numerous arbitrations and litigations including investment treaty disputes and related court proceedings, apart from the investment treaty negotiations, the work related to UNCITRAL and the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA).

The award in the RAKIA v/s Republic of India case was rendered where the tribunal ruled in favor of India. The Ministry (through the ED Division) coordinated the case along with the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the counsels. The final hearing in the GPIX v/s Republic of India arbitration under the India-Mauritius BIT took place in London from 14-25 November 2022 and the award is expected in due course. CC Devas have initiated a new arbitration under the India-Mauritius BIT. There are various disputes at different stages including challenges to Arbitral awards and enforcement of arbitration awards, which are being handled by the Arbitration Cell of the ED Division.

## Sectoral Group of Secretaries (SGoS)

SGOS Groups 3 and 7 - which deal with Resources and Commerce and Industry and are represented by Secretary (East) and Secretary (ER), respectively - are handled by ED Division on behalf of the Ministry. The group's overriding goal is to enhance India's investment climate by increased physical connectivity, competitive approvals, investor-friendly policies, enhanced exports, and lower import dependence.

## International Year of Millets (IYOM)

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets (IYOM) on 05 March 2021. The proposal submitted by the Government of India was supported by 72 countries. ED Division is coordinating with India's Missions abroad to promote International Years of Millet. Missions and Posts are making concerted efforts to promote IYOM 2023 by organising various events. Mission's social media accounts are also actively engaged in creating awareness about Millets.

The Division collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare in co-hosting a Luncheon at the pre-launch celebration of the IYOM for Foreign Ambassadors by EAM and Agriculture Minister. The celebration of IYOM is intended to increase public awareness of the health benefits of millets and their suitability for cultivation under tough climate conditions.

The formal launching ceremony of IYOM was held at Food and Agriculture Organisation in Rome on 06 December 2022. EAM hosted a millet-based Luncheon for UNSC member countries on 15 December 2022 in New York, USA. All Indian Missions abroad have been requested to host a one-week event to celebrate IYOM throughout the year in 2023.



EAM at the pre-launch of International Year of Millets 2023, November 2022



## CHAPTER

## 18

# States Division

States Division as per its mandate facilitated external outreach of States and Union Territories through the network of Indian Missions and Posts abroad and through Branch Secretariats. The mandate was pursued proactively, taking steps to resume the organization of events etc. to facilitate diplomatic outreach of States and promote economic diplomacy at the state level.

Liaising with States and Union Territories through their Resident Commissioners continued apace to facilitate various matters. The signing of several MoUs between State Governments and their entities with foreign counterparts was facilitated on trade and investment promotion, skill development, agriculture research etc. The Division also processed and approved Sister City/State agreements to establish friendly and cooperative relations between Indian States and Cities with foreign provinces and cities. Details of important events held/facilitated are given below:

## Funds disbursed under State Facilitation Abroad

An amount of Rs. 6.95 Crore was sanctioned under “State Facilitation Funds” to Indian Mission/Posts abroad. Allocation of additional funds from this budget head is under process. These funds were utilized by our Missions/Posts to promote States and Union Territories abroad.

## Funds disbursed under Facilitation and Knowledge Support

The Division sanctioned funds from Facilitation and Knowledge Support funds towards the organization of events held under AKAM, Northeast promotional Meet and Deccan Dialogue.

## Sister City Agreement with Foreign Governments

1. The following twinning agreements were processed:

S. No.	Subject	Parties
1	Twinning Agreement	Mumbai, Maharashtra and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
2	Sister State Agreement	Karnataka and Ariana Governorate of Tunisia
3	Twinning Agreement	Noida, Uttar Pradesh and Virginia, USA
4	Twinning Lol	Aurangabad, Maharashtra and Ingolstadt, Germany

## The following MoUs were processed and facilitated

S. No.	Subject	Parties	Date
1	MoU	Cambridge University, UK and ASAP Kerala	25.03.22
2	MoU	Maharashtra and Bloomberg Philanthropies, USA	22.06.22
3	Lol	Western Australia and Andhra Pradesh	15.07.22
4	MoU	Central Agricultural University, Imphal and the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas.	01.09.22
5	MoU	Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur and Borlaug Institute for South Asia	07.10.22
6.	FoE	Haryana and Somalia Investment Promotion Office (SOMNIVEST)	07.10.22
7	MoU on the Field of Sports Development	Kerala and Netherlands on Technical Cooperation	27.10.22

## Events Organized/facilitated by the States Division

- Foreign participation in Surajkund International Craft Mela 2022 held in Faridabad, Haryana from 19 March-04 April 2022 was facilitated.
- The 2nd Northeast Buyer-Seller Meet (BSM) was organized in Guwahati, Assam from 27-29 July 2022. The event was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Assam, while MoS (RRS) was the Chief Guest. It provided a platform to showcase the products and services of Northeastern States to neighboring countries and beyond. The event was organized in collaboration with the Indian Chamber of Commerce N.E Chapter.
- Participation of diplomatic foreign Missions in diplomatic outreach events like Economic and Investment Opportunities in Telangana on 19 August 2022 in Hyderabad was facilitated.
- The division facilitated the Make in Odisha Conclave 2022 which was held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha from 30 November-04 December 2022. It mobilized an investment of Rs. 10.5 trillion.
- The Division is facilitating UP Invest 2023 in February 2023, for inviting partner countries by organizing/facilitating virtual Conferences with Indian Missions/Posts abroad and UP Invest Officials of the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

- Inputs on behalf of the Ministry in Inter-Ministerial Consultations on issues of North-Eastern States especially on development projects being executed in neighboring countries, State Zonal Council Meetings, Project monitoring Group meetings, Centre-State Coordination issues, Parliament Standing Committees etc. were provided from time to time.

## Facilitation of Visits of Foreign Dignitaries

Visits of foreign Delegations/Ambassadors based in New Delhi to various States/Union Territories of India during the period January to November 2022 were facilitated.

## Clearance to North Eastern State Projects Funded by External Agencies

During the period of January to November 2022 Ministry's approval to 26 externally Aided Projects, to be undertaken in North Eastern States (Assam, Tripura, Mizoram, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Manipur and Nagaland), funded by multilateral and bilateral agencies such as WB-IBRD, ADB, JICA, etc. was processed.

## CHAPTER

## 19

# Disarmament and International Security Affairs

India participated actively in multilateral forums relating to disarmament, non-proliferation and international security, taking into account its national security interests and priorities in the international security arena. Over the course of the year, India also held bilateral engagements and presented its perspectives in regional forums on these issues. India's contributions underlined its longstanding commitment to the goal of universal and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament and support to global peace and security in areas such as space, maritime and weapons of mass destruction, while responding to evolving international security environment and initiatives by various countries. During the year, India's 'WMD Act 2005' was amended to bring it in line with international obligations relating to financing of weapons of mass destruction. On 01 January 2023, India will assume, for a period of one year, Chairmanship of the Plenary of the Wassenaar Arrangement, a voluntary multilateral export control regime for conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies.

## First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly

India participated constructively and presented its views on disarmament and international security matters at the 77<sup>th</sup> session of the First Committee of the United Nations General

Assembly (UNGA) in New York from 03 October - 04 November 2022.

The 77<sup>th</sup> UNGA First Committee adopted four resolutions that are annually tabled by India. Resolutions on "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction" and "Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament" were again adopted by consensus by the First Committee. India's two other resolutions in the First Committee, "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons" - which calls for negotiations on an international Convention for prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons - and "Reducing Nuclear Danger" - which suggests review of nuclear doctrines and immediate steps to reduce the risk of intentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons - were also adopted by wide support of the UN member states. The UN Secretary General's Report, as mandated by India's resolution in 2021 on the role of science and technology, reviewed scientific developments and their potential impact on international security and disarmament.

India also presented its positions on specific resolutions in the First Committee on various matters- nuclear, chemical and biological disarmament, non-proliferation, space security, cyber security and related issues.

## Conference on Disarmament (CD)

India participated in the work of the Conference on Disarmament (CD)'s 2022 session and in the work of its Subsidiary Bodies during the year 2022, presenting its positions on all the core agenda items of the CD including nuclear disarmament, prevention of nuclear war and all related matters, prevention of an arms race in outer space, new types of weapons of mass destruction, transparency in armaments etc. While the CD was unable to reach consensus on a Programme of Work, the work continued in the form of Subsidiary Bodies on the CD's Agenda Items under which structured discussions were held. India participated constructively in the work of the Subsidiary Bodies.

India also participated in the sessions of the 25-member Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Nuclear Disarmament Verification (NDV) during the year. India participated in meetings on disarmament related issues in other forums, including those organized by United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and other think tanks.

## United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

As a member of the UN Security Council (UNSC) for a two-year period until 31 December 2022, India participated in deliberations on various matters pertaining to international security in the UNSC. India also engaged with relevant committees of the UN on specific matters relating to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and associated developments pertaining to Syria, DPRK and other UNSC Committees and Panels.

As a part of the ongoing Comprehensive Review of the implementation of UNSC Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 (2004) and renewal of the mandate of the Committee established pursuant to the Resolution ('1540 Committee'), India participated in the consultations on the Review report related to status of UNSCR 1540 implementation and the new UNSC Resolution that extended the 1540 Committee's mandate for another 10 years - till 30 November 2032. India's inputs related to the proliferation of WMD-related materials, equipment and technology, evolving nature of proliferation risks, regional approach in assistance mechanism, etc., were suitably incorporated in the UNSCR 2663 adopted on 30 November 2022 and the Comprehensive Review report. Under India's WMD Act 2005 and its Rules, the various advisory committees held their review meetings during the year.

## Amendment of WMD Act 2005

In August 2022, India amended 'The Weapons of Mass

Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act, 2005' ('WMD Act 2005'), in order to fulfil international obligations relating to financing of weapons of mass destruction. The amendment prohibits financing of any prohibited activity under the Act and other relevant Acts, and empowers taking financial and other measures to prevent such financing, in relation to weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems.

## Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)

At the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), India engaged on the Chemical Weapons Convention's implementation in terms of chemical weapon destruction, industry verification, national measures and international cooperation. India also fulfilled its implementation requirements under the CWC in terms of declarations, contributions and cooperation activities at the OPCW and presented its perspectives on matters relating to the Convention and its implementation. In recognition of its constructive role and the vast size of its chemical industry, India was re-elected to the Executive Council for 2023-25 from the Asia-Pacific Group in the 27<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of States Parties. Indian experts were also selected to serve on two of the advisory bodies of the OPCW namely, the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) and Administrative and Financial Board (ABAF). India contributed to the capacity building activities of the OPCW through four courses on developing analytical and laboratory skills conducted by the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology in Hyderabad in collaboration with the Technical Secretariat.

## Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC)

India actively participated in the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the five-yearly Review Conference of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) from 28 November-16 December 2022 in Geneva and outlined its priorities including strengthening of the convention; enhancing national implementation; reviewing international developments in the field of science and technology; international cooperation and assistance in general and, in particular, the India-France proposal on Art VII Database to facilitate assistance to countries; and establishment of scientific review process under the BTWC.

The Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi, hosted an international conference titled 'Advancements in Science and Technology: Benefits and Risks for the Biological Weapons Convention', organised by the EU and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs in collaboration with



the Ministry, on 11-12 October 2022 to review developments in science and technology relevant to the BTWC and prepare for the 9th Review Conference.

India also participated in the Preparatory Committee Meeting for the 9th Review Conference from 05-08 April 2022 at Geneva. India also continued its annual submissions to the BTWC and engaged constructively with other countries on specific issues.

## Fora on Conventional Weapons

India participated in the meetings of Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (GGE on LAWS) under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), held at Geneva from 07-11 March 2022 and 25-29 July 2022, where it emphasised the need for a shared and common understanding of LAWS and reiterated the importance of the CCW forum for further progress on the subject. India also participated in the 16th Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V (14 November 2022) related to Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) and the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Amended Protocol II (15 November 2022) related to Mines, IEDs and Booby Traps. India also participated in the Annual Conference of the CCW (16-18 November 2022) and reiterated its support for the CCW and its protocols.

India participated as an Observer at the 20th meeting of the State Parties for Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) at Geneva, Switzerland from 21-25 November 2022. India reiterated its respect and due consideration for the provisions of international humanitarian law in this regard and outlined its contribution towards training on demining and capacity building of various countries.

India participated in the 8th Biennial Meeting of the State Parties from 27 June -01 July 2022, to review the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action (UN PoA) to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). The meeting adopted an outcome document aimed at strengthening the implementation of the Programme of Action as well as the International Tracing Instrument against illicit trafficking of SALW.

India participated in the Second Substantive Session of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Conventional Ammunition at Geneva from 15-19 August 2022 and contributed to the discussions towards shaping the framework for a possible adoption of an outcome document at the third and final session in February 2023.

India also emphasised the need to review IATG (International Ammunition Technical Guidelines) to meet current expectations. Thereafter, India was included in the Technical Review Board

(TRB) of IATG (International Ammunition Technical Guidelines) and sent a review board member to Geneva from 16-17 November 2022. With this, India became the eleventh country in the world to be added to TRB of IATG.

## Strategic Export Control Regimes

As a member of multilateral export control regimes, India engaged towards the goals of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, related materials, equipment and technologies. This included sharing of best practices or implementation experiences in the area of export controls; participation in the development of guidelines for export controls and lists of materials, equipment and technologies regulated under the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) and Australia Group (AG); and harmonizing India's national export control list (SCOMET) with that of these regimes and the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

India will assume Chairmanship of the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) Plenary on 01 January 2023 for a period of one year. The Chairmanship was handed over to India by Ireland at the 26th annual Plenary of the WA held at Vienna on 30 November-01 December 2022. WA is a multilateral export control regime, which, through regular information exchange among members on transfers of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies, seeks to promote transparency and greater responsibility in such transfers and prevent destabilising accumulations.

India participated in the Australia Group (AG) Plenary meeting (July 2022) at Paris, the Experts, General Working Group and Plenary meetings of WA (March-April, May, September, October and November-December 2022) at Vienna, and the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) Plenary (October 2022) at Montreux, related to consultations on evolving the control lists and best practice guidelines of the respective export control regimes, as well as information exchange on implementation experiences, technological developments, proliferation trends, and addressing these issues as they emerge.

The Ministry continued to contribute to the export licensing processes of the Inter-Ministerial Working Group (IMWG), led by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) for export controlled dual-use items under India's Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment and Technologies (SCOMET) list; by the Department of Defence Production (DDP) for export of Category 6 (Munitions List) military items of SCOMET; and by the Department of Atomic Energy for exports of nuclear-related items. The Ministry engaged with enforcement mechanisms and organisations including the Central Board of Indirect Taxes



India took over the Plenary Chairmanship of Wassenaar Arrangement from Ireland in December 2022

and Customs (CBIC), in the context of national non-proliferation objectives.

The Ministry, together with its partners such as the DGFT, DDP, CBIC, various industry chambers and other stakeholders, participated in outreach activities to enhance awareness of India's strategic export controls throughout the year. Along with the focus on region-specific outreach programmes that has continued in the last few years, there was also a thrust on reaching out to Start-ups, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), academic and research institutions, etc. through the relevant organisations. An outreach event on policy and compliance related to export controls for the chemical and petrochemical sector was organized in partnership with the Federation of Gujarat Industries (FGI), in August 2022 at Vadodara (Gujarat). Two outreach webinars were organized in 2022 for the academic and research institutions, laboratories and centres in the context of intangible technology transfers: for the chemical, petrochemical and biotechnology sectors in February 2022, and for the electronics, computers and information technology sectors in June 2022.

## Dialogue with Other Countries

Bilateral disarmament and non-proliferation dialogues were held during the year with the EU (10 February 2022) and the Republic of Korea (31 March 2022), where developments on the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda relating to

nuclear, chemical, biological domains, as well as outer space security, conventional weapons and strategic export controls were discussed.

India held separate maritime security dialogues during the year with the EU (01 February 2022) and USA (08 September 2022) to exchange perspectives about the developments, cooperation opportunities and strengthening of maritime security internationally.

## International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA)

India participated in the 66<sup>th</sup> session of the IAEA General Conference held at Vienna from 26-30 September 2022, as well as the meetings of the Board of Governors held in March, June, September, October and November 2022. At these meetings, India contributed to deliberations relating to nuclear safeguards issues, peaceful uses of nuclear energy, technical cooperation, nuclear security and safety-related issues.

India's Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP) collaborates with IAEA for capacity building in areas such as advanced nuclear energy systems, nuclear security, application of radioisotope and radiation technologies, radiological safety, nuclear material characterisation etc. on a regular basis. IAEA organised an international workshop on 'Nuclear Security Culture in Practice' at GCNEP from 19-22 September 2022.

## Civil Nuclear Cooperation

India engaged with various countries in the area of nuclear power generation and other peaceful uses of nuclear energy, such as medical and industrial applications of radioisotopes. MoUs were signed between India's Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and UK's Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) concerning cooperation with India's Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP) in April 2022; between India's Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) and Uzbekistan's State Committee on Industrial Safety (SCIS) in the field of radiation and nuclear safety in September 2022.

The Fission Moly Plant (FMP) of the Board of Radiation and Isotope Therapy (BRIT), DAE constructed by the Argentine company M/s INVAP at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai was successfully commissioned in August 2022. With this facility, India becomes one of the few countries in the world with production capability of medical grade HSA Mo-99 using Low Enriched Uranium target. The facility will also make India self-sufficient in HSA Mo-99 and enable its export.

India also continued to contribute to the mega science projects such as International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) based in France, the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Geneva, Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) project with the US and Square Kilometre Array (SKA) involving various partners towards scientific research.

## Outer Space Matters

India continued to participate actively and present its perspectives on matters related to outer space at the Conference on Disarmament, as well as meetings of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and its subsidiary bodies. As Chair of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, India continued to closely engage with the UN member States during the Working Group meetings towards advancing the goal of safe and responsible use of outer space. India participated in meetings of the Open-Ended Working Group on reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours convened at Geneva from 9-13 May 2022 and 12-16 September 2022 pursuant to UNGA Resolution 76/231 of 2021.

India continued to implement the provisions of the Hague Code of Conduct (HCoC), such as prelaunch notifications of India's ballistic missile and space launches and submission of annual declarations to the arrangement. India participated in the 21st Annual Regular Meeting of HCoC held at Vienna on 30 - 31 May 2022.

## Maritime Security Affairs

As an important stakeholder in maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region and globally, India maintained active engagement



India's National Statement at the 66th IAEAGC by Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission & Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy, September 2022



with countries and multilateral organisations. India expanded engagement at the Information Fusion Centre Indian Ocean region (IFC-IOR) where various countries positioned their liaison officers during the year towards enhancing mutual understanding and cooperation in the maritime domain.

India participated in the High-Level meeting of Djibouti Code of Conduct – Jeddah Amendment (DCoC-JA) from 22-24 November 2022 at Jeddah where India's proficiency in information analysis and sharing was presented and avenues for increased engagements with DCoC-JA member states were put forth. India participated in the plenary meeting of the Friends of Gulf of Guinea (G7++ FoGG) from 01-02 December 2022 at Abidjan. India deployed an Indian Navy ship for the first time to the Gulf of Guinea, for 41 days in August-September 2022, to support the Yaounde Architecture (YA) and this gesture was appreciated at the G7++ FoGG Plenary.

India participated in the preliminary meetings of Strategic Planning Steering Group (SPSG) of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) towards formulating the way ahead for re-envisioning of the Group to CGIMA (Contact Group on Illicit Maritime Activity) and actively contributed to the discussions on the mandate of the new group.

India also continued to engage with Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) based in Singapore, Co-operative Mechanism on the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS), Aids to Navigation Fund (ANF) Committee in the Straits of Malacca, and other forums.

## ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus)

Secretary (East) led the Indian delegation at 29<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum Ministerial Meeting held on 05 August 2022 at Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The 29th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) exchanged views on international and regional issues, as well as future direction of the ARF. It adopted two Statements viz. the ARF Statement on Promoting Peace, Stability and Prosperity in the Region through Preventive Measures and the ARF Statement on Supporting the Preservation of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ). As part of India's engagement with ARF, India co-chaired the 13th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security on 12 May 2022 and will co-chair the workshop series on International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS Code) during the year 2022 - 2023. India also participated in the 10th Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF) meeting on 07 December 2022 at Manila and presented the contribution of IFC-IOR, as well as avenues for engagement with ASEAN member states.

Raksha Mantri led India's participation at the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus) annual meeting at Siem Reap, Cambodia on 23 November 2022. This year, India has assumed the Co-chairmanship of the ADMM Plus 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle of Experts' Working Group-Military Medicine (EWG-MM) along with Myanmar.



Raksha Mantri at the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting held at Siem Riep, Cambodia, November 2022



## Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)

MoS (ML) represented India as Prime Minister's Special Envoy at the 6<sup>th</sup> CICA Summit held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 12-13 October 2022. The 6th CICA Summit adopted four outcome documents viz. (i) Astana Statement on CICA Transformation; (ii) Regulations of the Fund of the Conference on Interaction

and Confidence Building Measures in Asia; (iii) CICA Plan of Action on the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy; and (iv) CICA Leaders' Statement on Cooperation in the Field of Security of and in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies. In addition, the CICA Summit decided to grant membership to Kuwait as the 28<sup>th</sup> Member State. India extended support to Kazakhstan as CICA Chair to initiate transformation of CICA into an international organization in the 30<sup>th</sup> year of its conception through a gradual process while maintaining its core principles of consensus and voluntariness.



MoS (ML) delivered India's statement at the 6th CICA Summit in October 2022.

## CHAPTER

## 20

# Legal and Treaties Division

Legal and Treaties Division is the legal limb of the Ministry taking care of the legal issues pertaining to the Ministry. Besides, vetting of the treaties and Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs), ratifying them, uploading the treaties and other related works are looked after by the Division. It has facilitated signing and ratification of significant number of treaties in the year 2022. A detailed list of such treaties, agreements and MoUs are in the Annexure to this Report.

## United Nations and International Law

### Sixth Committee (Legal) of the United Nations General Assembly

The Sixth Committee constituted under General Assembly addresses issues relating to international law. The Committee not only drafts new international law, but also offers interpretations of existing international law, as well as recommendations for Members to implement international regulations through national law. The Committee also considers legal issues which affect the United Nations Secretariat and operations. It also provides an opportunity for the UN member States for the consideration of legal questions.

The Committee met during the 77<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly, from 03 October-18 November 2022, to deliberate on the legal issues of international importance. The Legal & Treaties Division actively participated in its deliberations.

At its 3<sup>rd</sup> plenary meeting, held on 16 September 2022, the General Assembly allocated 31 items to the Sixth Committee. It includes references to the reports of International Law Commission (ILC), United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization.

An Indian delegation participated and presented its national statement on Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization; and delivered national statements on all other agenda items of the Sixth Committee.

Measures to eliminate international terrorism (Agenda item 112) was one of the main topics of discussion in the Sixth Committee. The General Assembly adopted a Resolution, *inter alia*, calling upon all States to cooperate to prevent and suppress terrorist acts.

77<sup>th</sup> session of the Sixth Committee also deliberated upon the following important topics in which India made statements.

They are- (i) Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission; (ii) The rule of law at the national and international levels; (iii) Crimes against humanity; (iv) The scope and application of the principle of Universal Jurisdiction; (v) Responsibility of States of internationally wrongful acts; (vi) Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its 55<sup>th</sup> session; (vii) Protection of Diplomats; (viii) International Law Commission Topics; (ix) Report of the International Court of Justice (ICJ); and (x) Oceans and the Law of Sea.

The report of the ILC relating to the work at its 72<sup>nd</sup> session was considered in three parts. India made statements on all three parts, which included the following topics: Protection of the Atmosphere, Provisional Application of Treaties, Immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction, Sea-level rise in relation to international law, Succession of States in respect of State responsibility and General principles of law.

## International Law Weekend

This year, International Law Week was held in New York on 24th October. Poland was the chief coordinator for the informal meeting of Legal Advisers of Foreign Ministries of the UN Member States during the International Law Week. The Sixth Committee legal advisors participated in the meeting. There were panel discussions on various topics of contemporary international law. This year's edition featured four discussion panels, titled: Suspension/Termination of Treaties in Armed Conflicts and Other Emergency Situations; Universal Jurisdiction as an Instrument for Fighting Impunity in Crimes Against International Law; Weaponizing Food – International Armed Conflicts and Food Security; and Resources in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction – Outer Space and Maritime Areas. Additional Secretary from the Legal & Treaties Division participated in the meeting.

## United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)

The UNCITRAL is a subsidiary body of the United Nations General Assembly. Established in 1966, UNCITRAL is the core legal body of the UN system in the field of international trade law. The official function of UNCITRAL is to modernize and harmonize the rules of international business. The organization is responsible for helping to facilitate international trade and investment. India has been a Member of UNCITRAL since its inception and has been participating in its Sessions as well as contributing towards growth of international trade law. Legal & Treaties Division has participated in the select Working

Groups meetings during the year 2022-23 and contributed to the discussions. Various working groups under UNCITRAL are:

1. The Working Group I on Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises- The Working Group is in the process of considering and deliberating the issues related to access to credit for micro small and medium sized enterprises.
2. The Working Group II on Arbitration and Conciliation/ Dispute Settlement - The Working Group deliberated on the issues related to settlement of commercial disputes and prepared a draft provision for technology-related Dispute Resolution and adjudication.
3. The Working Group III on Investor-State Dispute Settlement Reform - The Working Group held formal and informal sessions to deliberate on various topics concerning reforming of Investor – State dispute settlement reforms. The topics of deliberations include - selection and appointment of ISDS tribunal members in a standing mechanism; the advisory centre; a multilateral instrument to implement ISDS reform options; “procedural rules reform” and “cross-cutting issues”; draft provisions on mediation and draft guidelines on the use of mediation in ISDS; and the code of conduct for arbitrators and judges in a standing mechanism.
4. The Working Group IV on Electronic Commerce- The Working Group held a conceptual discussion on the use of artificial intelligence and automation in contracting and to the draft provisions on the use and cross-border recognition of identity management and trust services.
5. The Working Group V on Insolvency Law- The Working Group discussed on the topics relating to - civil asset tracing and recovery in insolvency proceedings; applicable law in insolvency proceedings; commemoration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency.
6. The Working Group VI on Judicial Sale of Ships - The Working Group deliberated on the international experiences on dematerialization of negotiable transport document with the development of a new instrument on negotiable cargo documents.

## Law of the Sea

India participated in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982), held from 13-17 June 2022. The meeting took note of the work undertaken by the institutions established under the Convention, namely, the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), the International Seabed Authority (ISA), and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS). On 15 June 2022, the Meeting proceeded with the election and 20 candidates were elected as members of the

CLCS for a five-year term of office, commencing from 16 June 2023 to 15 June 2028.

India participated in the Open-ended Working Group to consider issues relating to the conditions of service of the members of the CLCS and report to the thirty-second Meeting of States Parties in 2022.

Legal & Treaties Division participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> sessions of the Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) on 7-18 March 2022 and 15-26 August 2022. BBNJ has been established to elaborate the text of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. Fifth session of the Conference was convened pursuant to General Assembly decision 76/564. India participated in substantive deliberations which addressed issues such as the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, in particular, marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits, measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas, environmental impact assessments, and capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology.

India participated in the 27<sup>th</sup> session of the meeting of the ISA which was held in three parts. First two parts were held in hybrid mode. ISA resumed its meetings under Part III of the 27<sup>th</sup> Session between 31 October-11 November 2022 and India participated in its deliberations. The main item on the agenda of the Council was the draft regulations on the exploitation of mineral resources in the Area.

Legal & Treaties Division contributed actively to the deliberations at the informal consultations on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, Omnibus resolution; and Implementation of Sustainable Fisheries Omnibus Resolution on impact of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks, held in the month of October and November 2022.

Legal & Treaties Division participated in the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea which held its 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting on the topic «Ocean Observing» on 6-10 June 2022. Also, under the aegis of the United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, fifteenth round of informal consultations of States Parties to the Agreement was held, focusing on the

topic “Implementation of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management” was held on 17-19 May 2022.

## Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO)

AALCO hosted its 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Session in New Delhi from 26 – 28 September 2022. MoS (VM) inaugurated the Session. Additional Secretary, Legal & Treaties Division, was elected as the President of the Sixtieth Annual Session. 41 Member States, 10 Observers States and 3 International Organizations and 2 Arbitrations centres have participated in its Session. The Indian delegation was headed by Additional Secretary (Legal & Treaties) and India made several statements on the topics of international significance.

The Session opened with releasing of a Yearbook of AALCO, AALCO Journal of International Law, Report of the AALCO Webinar on Rising Sea Levels and AALCO Member States: Perils and Protection under International Law (2022), and the Newsletter vol.13.

The session also deliberated on the substantive matters such as, Environment and Sustainable Development, Status and treatment of Refugees, International Trade and Investment Law, Selected Items on the Agenda of the International Law Commission and violations of International Law in Palestine and other Occupied Territories by Israel and other International Legal Issues related to the Question of Palestine etc. Legal & Treaties Division has delivered statements on all the topics.

The Legal & Treaties Division also participated in the 66<sup>th</sup> AALCO Constitution Day celebration held in New Delhi on 15 November 2022. Additional Secretary (Legal & Treaties) delivered a special address on this occasion.

## Drafting of Legislations

The Legal & Treaties Division has contributed to the drafting of the Bill relating to the Anti-Maritime Piracy Bill, 2022, which was passed by both the houses of the Parliament in its winter session. Besides, the Division also contributed in framing of the Immigration Bill.

## Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition

The Legal & Treaties Division has examined a draft Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Criminal Matters with Argentina, Saudi Arabia, and Italy. The Division has also examined a few MLAT



requests including the one from Ecuador, which was examined in the light of provision under the United Nations Convention Against Corruption. The Division was also involved in the negotiation of an Extradition Treaty with Italy.

## Information Technology Law

The Legal and Treaties Division's representatives attended various sessions of the Open-Ended Working Group on Developments in the field of Information and Communications Technologies in the context of International Security and the Group of Experts on Advancing State Responsibility in the field of ICTs in the context of international security.

## Investment and Trade

Legal & Treaties Division has participated in negotiations, examination of documents, and provided international law advice in relation to BITs. Major negotiations that took place during this year include BIT negotiations with UAE, USA, Canada, EU, UK, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Russia etc.

The Legal & Treaties Division has also provided international law advice in negotiation of various Free Trade Agreements concluded or negotiated this year. The countries with which such negotiations took place were Australia, UK, and Canada.

The Legal & Treaties Division is also part of the team responsible for legal scrubbing/vetting of various Free Trade Agreements/Bilateral Investment Agreements concluded by India. Accordingly, the Division contributed to legal scrubbing of the FTAs concluded with UAE and Australia. Besides, the Division has vetted BIT concluded between India and Uzbekistan.

Legal & Treaties Division has also advised on legal positions and proposals as part of various Bilateral Investment Agreements and Free Trade Agreements.

## Other Treaty Negotiations

Legal & Treaties Division actively participated in many bilateral and multilateral negotiations pertaining to various subject matters of national and global importance. Most notable among them are,

- i. 27<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference Climate Change (COP-27) held at Sharm-el-sheikh.
- ii. United Nations Ad Hoc Committee to elaborate a comprehensive International Convention on the use of ICTs for Criminal Purpose.

- iii. United Nations Biodiversity Conference (CBD COP 15)
- iv. Meeting of the Experts Group on the Parentage/Surrogacy Project (EG-PISA) of the Hague Conference on Private International Law.
- v. Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space Legal Subcommittee (United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs)
- vi. Open-ended Working Group on reducing Space threats (United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs)
- vii. High Contracting Parties of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs)
- viii. India and USA negotiated and signed the India-USA Investment Incentive Agreement. The agreement provides for the United State Development Finance Corporation to make further investments into India and is likely to leads to further development in India.
- ix. Meeting of the Parties of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)
- x. Bilateral Social Security Agreement with Chile.
- xi. Bilateral Agreement on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances with Saudi Arabia.

## Treaty Practice and Online Treaty Database

One of the core functions of the Legal and Treaties Division is to facilitate signing and implementation of treaties on behalf of India. In this regard, Instrument of Full Power was issued to sign several such treaties. A list of Instrument of Full Powers issued during the year 2022 is at **Annexure-I**. Similarly, signed bilateral and multilateral treaties were implemented through Instrument of Ratifications, facilitated by the Legal and Treaties Division during the year 2022. A list of Instruments of Ratification/Accession issued during the year 2022 is at **Annexure-II**.

The Legal and Treaties Division is the depository of all the Treaties signed on behalf of India. A comprehensive list of (non-classified) Agreements/Treaties signed by India during the year 2022 is placed at **Annexure-III**.

Being a depository of treaties, Agreements/Treaties concluded on behalf of Government of India with foreign counterparts are indexed and text of such documents have been uploaded into the Indian Treaties Database which is maintained and constantly updated by the Legal & Treaties Division. The Treaty database (web link: <https://www.mea.gov.in/TreatyList.htm?1>) comprises of the treaties covering the period from 1950 till 2022. Currently there are more than 3,400 such treaties in the database which have open access.

## Examination/Vetting of Legal Documents

Legal & Treaties Division has examined a number of international law instruments including MoUs, treaties/agreements as well as Cabinet notes and rendered legal opinion. The Division, inter alia examined and provided its views on treaties, agreements, MoUs in the areas including defence co-operation, agriculture, railways, SAARC, Health, bio-technology, outer space, science and technology, BRICS (conglomeration of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), agreements relating to international terrorism, transnational organized crime and drug trafficking/narcotics; also agreements on confidentiality; sharing of hydrological data; gas and energy; bilateral agreements on cultural cooperation, audio visual cooperation, road transport, trade and investment, projects to be implemented in foreign countries, education, tourism, climate change, protection of

natural resources; water resources; bio-diversity; solar alliance; ozone depleting substances; hydrography, twinning/sister city agreements and customs cooperation agreements, etc.

## Legal Opinions and Legal Research

Legal & Treaties Division rendered legal opinion on various subject matters involving international law and domestic legal matters such as, UN matters, interpretation of treaties on various subjects, immunity and privilege issues, local employees cases, human rights issues, humanitarian law matters, international criminal law and legal assistance matters, on transfer of sentenced persons, space and air law issues including issues relating to applicability of international law in case of return of space objects, environment matters, Indus Water Treaty issues, Palestine membership to Association of Asian Constitutional Courts, court cases, tender documents etc.

## CHAPTER

## 21

# Policy Planning and Research (PP&R)

Policy Planning and Research (PP&R) is the nodal division of the Ministry for medium-term policy planning, and organizing outreach initiatives with the strategic and academic community. It conducts in-house policy analysis for the Ministry on a regular basis on key international issues. It holds policy planning dialogues with policy planning bureaus of foreign counterparts to develop a commonality of understanding on regional and global issues.

The Division leads the Ministry's efforts in cross-cutting initiatives especially those which involve coordination with other ministries in the Government. It also funds various research studies on topical subjects of foreign policy and international relations. The research output is utilized by the Ministry and Indian Missions and Posts abroad in dealing with their various mandates.

The Division also supervises the functioning of the Ministry's Library and Boundary Cell. It is also the nodal administrative agency for matters pertaining to the Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA) and Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) - two autonomous research bodies which function under the Ministry.

In April 2021, the work related to Nalanda University was transferred to PP&R Division. The Ministry is represented in the

statutory governance structures of Nalanda University through participation in the Governing Board, Finance Committee, Buildings and Works Committee and other bodies.

During the year, the Division continued to undertake niche policy analysis assignments, and enhance the Ministry's institutional engagement with the strategic and academic community. The Division produced a range of periodic deliverables covering the Ministry's key activities and analyzing events and developments of high significance. A new model template for commissioning research studies by institutional partners was also developed.

## Outreach to the Strategic Community

Public diplomacy outreach to the strategic and policy community is one of the core verticals of PP&R Division. During the year, it held regular and structured interactions with think tanks, research institutions, and universities. The Division supported several joint activities with these institutions through conferences, seminars/webinars, Track 1.5/2 dialogues, and research projects. It maintained regular contact with academics of Indian Universities working on areas of interest to the Ministry.



EAM at the Inaugural Session of the 7th Global Technology Summit, November 2022

The Division supports four annual flagship conferences organized in partnership with prominent Indian think-tanks - Raisina Dialogue (in partnership with Observer Research Foundation), Asian Economic Dialogue (in partnership with the Pune International Centre), Global Technology Summit (in partnership with Carnegie India) and Indian Ocean Conference (in partnership with India Foundation). These conferences are broadly themed under geopolitics, geoeconomics, geotechnology and geostrategy, respectively.

The Division also extends financial support to various other conferences on International Relations. These conferences are structured as multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral conclaves which engage decision-makers at the level of Ministers and high-level government officials as well as policy practitioners, leading personalities from business and industry, and members of the strategic community, media and academia.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Raisina Dialogue was held in New Delhi from 25-27 April, 2022. Prime Minister inaugurated the Dialogue on 25 April. President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen joined the Inaugural Session as Chief Guest. The 7<sup>th</sup> edition saw over 100 sessions with over 210 speakers from more than 90 countries and multilateral organisations.

The 7th Global Technology Summit was held from 29 November to 01 December 2022 in New Delhi in hybrid format. The theme of the Summit was 'Geopolitics of Technology'. EAM inaugurated the Summit.

## Supporting Track 1.5/2 Dialogues and Research

The Division also supports Track 1.5 and Track 2 Dialogues. These are country-focused, bilateral/multilateral dialogues where government officials participate along with academics and foreign think-tank partners. A list of flagship conferences, Track 1.5/2 Dialogues, and various other conferences supported by the Division is given in Table 1.

During the year, the first Raisina Forum for future of diplomacy was held in October in New Delhi and Varanasi. It brought together 35 young diplomats from about 30 countries, and provided them an exposure to and understanding of India, while deliberating on global issues.

The Division has developed new frameworks for policy outreach to institutions in different states across India. In this regard, the Division has engaged the NEDFI or North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. for a connectivity study between India and its neighbours, specifically Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar. The Division also organized the NADI Dialogue in Guwahati - which was inaugurated by the EAM, the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, and the Chief Minister of Assam. A conclave on "Act East to Indo-Pacific. Role of North Eastern States in Connecting the Connectivities" was also organized in Imphal, Manipur.





EAM and Assam Chief Minister at the inauguration of NADI Dialogue in Guwahati, May 2022

## Policy Planning Dialogues

The PP&R Division has a system of engaging with policy planning counterparts of foreign countries. These dialogues play a critical role in identifying areas of mutual interest and avenues of cooperation with a wide range of partners.

Quad Policy Planners' Dialogue was held in Washington DC from 27-28 June. India-UK Policy Planning Dialogue was held in London from 19-20 July, 2023. Both the dialogues focused on exchange of medium-to-long term planning perspectives going beyond the immediacy of issues affecting bilateral relations. They covered cross-cutting issues like geopolitical scenario planning, risk assessments and global trend projections to get a 360 degree view of on-going international developments.

## In-House Research and Publications

The Division produced a number of research papers and policy briefs, covering foreign policy trends and international developments. The focus of these papers ranged from

immediate response options to emerging issues to medium and long-term trends and developments in the world and India's evolving role and interests over this strategic horizon.

These papers were prepared by in-house expertise of the Ministry, as well through consultations with other relevant Departments/Ministries and think-tanks. All these analyses collectively helped shape the roadmap of India's international engagements in pursuit of India's foreign policy objective of ensuring a peaceful, stable external environment and creating the most propitious climate for India's economic growth and development. The papers were circulated within the Government as well as shared with the wider strategic community. During the year, the Division produced policy papers on subjects of economic diplomacy, geopolitics of technology standards, India's diplomatic response to international conflicts, geopolitics of climate change negotiations and various other topical subjects.

Throughout the year, the Division also produced a range of publications. These include Foreign Policy Daily Report, Think-Tank Compendium, Global Conflict Monitor, Foreign Policy Crux, Monthly Summary of the Cabinet and Annual Report of the Ministry.

## Other Administrative Functions of the PP&R Division

### Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)

The Division is the administrative division for processing the grant in aid for ICWA as well as for administrative matters pertaining to the governance of ICWA. The ICWA continued to accord high priority to research and study of political, economic and security developments in Asia, Africa, Europe, United States, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the wider global geo-strategic environment. The research undertaken was disseminated in the form of Sapru House Papers, Issue Briefs, Policy Briefs and Viewpoints, Discussion Papers, Shodh Lekh (शोध लेख) which were published on the ICWA website. Further, ICWA continued the process of translating its academic outputs in Hindi, which were regularly posted on its website. In addition, the Council published 15 books, 7 Sapru House Papers, 11 Guest Papers, and various special publications.

### Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)

The Division is the nodal division for processing the grant in aid for RIS as well as for administrative matters pertaining to the governance of RIS. The RIS is an autonomous policy research

institute that specializes in issues related to international economic development, trade, investment and technology. It fosters effective policy dialogue and capacity building among developing countries on global and regional economic issues. The primary focus is on promoting South-South Cooperation and collaborating with developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums. Through its intensive network of think tanks, RIS seeks to strengthen policy coherence on international economic issues and the development partnership canvas.

### Library

The Library serves as the Resource and Information Centre for the use of officers and staff members at headquarters as well as Indian Missions and Posts abroad. The library currently functions at Patiala House and Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan (JNB).

The library has over 100,000 books, rich resource materials and a large collection of maps, microfilms and official documents. It subscribes and maintains more than 300 periodicals / journals and newspaper titles (including online journals and databases).

The Library was instrumental in helping Indian Missions abroad to establish Mission Libraries during the year and facilitated Missions to set up e-libraries on NIC Cloud under Embassy of India Libraries Network on a regular basis (Link: <https://eg4.nic.in/embassies/home>).

**Table 1**  
**A list of flagship conferences/Track 1.5/2 Dialogues/Research Projects supported by the Division**

Sl. No	Conference/Track 1.5/2 Dialogue	Partner Institute
1	Raisina Dialogue	Observer Research Foundation
2	Global Technology Summit	Carnegie India
3	Asia Economic Dialogue	Pune International Centre
4	Indian Ocean Conference	India Foundation
5	India-Republic of Korea Track 1.5 Indo-US Forum India-Japan Track 1.5 India-EU Track 1.5	Ananta Aspen Centre
6	NADI Dialogue	Asian Confluence
7	India Global Forum	India Inc. London/Dubai
8	India-France Track 1.5	Gateway House
9	India-Japan Track 1.5	Delhi Policy Group
10	Kolkata-Dhaka Dialogue	HP Ghosh Research Centre
11	Analytical and Research Studies on Pakistan	Manohar Parrikar Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses
12	Analytical and Research Studies on China	Chennai Centre for China Studies
13	Analytical and Research Studies on China	Centre for China Analysis and Strategy

## CHAPTER

## 22

# Counter Terrorism

India has always been at the forefront of global efforts of counter terrorism. The issue of countering terrorism found prominent mention in bilateral and multilateral meetings at all levels during the year 2022.

During 2022, India held bilateral counter terrorism consultations through the mechanism of JWG-CT with Australia, the European Union, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Tajikistan, the United Kingdom and Uzbekistan.

During 2022, India remained the Chair of the United Nations Security Council Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC). India hosted a Special Meeting of the CTC in Mumbai and in New Delhi on 28 & 29 October 2022. The meeting was addressed by all members of the Security Council. At the end of the special meeting, the “Delhi Declaration” was adopted, on Countering

the Use of New and Emerging Technologies. The declaration expressed commitment of the international community, including the Security Council, to pay utmost attention to address these threats.

During the special meeting of CTC, India announced a voluntary contribution of half a million dollars in the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter Terrorism, to augment the efforts of the United Nations Office on Counter Terrorism (UNOCT).

During the monthly rotating Presidency of the UNSC in December 2022, EAM chaired a briefing on the topic: “Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts – Global Counter-Terrorism Approach – Principles and the Way Forward”.



Prime Minister addressed the 3rd 'No Money for Terror' Ministerial Conference in New Delhi, November 2022

To strengthen global efforts to combat terror financing, India hosted the 3rd 'No Money For Terror' (NMFT) Ministerial Conference on Countering Terror Financing on 18 & 19 November 2022 in New Delhi, with a total of 93 participating countries and international organisations. The conference was inaugurated by the Prime Minister. A Chairs Statement was released at the end of the conference.

India also participated in several other international events, meetings, seminars, conferences, etc. on counter terrorism during the year. An Indian delegation led by Secretary (West) participated in the 12th Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF) Ministerial Plenary Meeting, held in New York on 21 September 2022. An Indian delegation led by Joint Secretary



EAM delivered the keynote address at the Plenary session of UNSC special meeting of Counter-Terrorism Committee in New Delhi in October 2022



(CT) participated in the 20th GCTF Coordinating Committee Meeting, held in New York on 19 September 2022.

An Indian delegation led by Minister of State (MoS - ML) participated in the High Level International Conference on Human Rights, Civil Society and Counter Terrorism held on 10 & 11 May 2022 in Malaga, Spain. India also participated at a high level international conference on regional cooperation among Central Asian States, within the framework of the Joint Plan of Action for implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, held on 3 & 4 March 2022 in Tashkent. An Indian delegation participated in the Aqaba Process High Level Tech Meeting on "Preventing Terrorist and Violent Extremist Exploitation of the Internet" held on 22 & 23 November 2022 in Bali, Indonesia.

At the regional level, India successfully completed the one year tenure of Chairmanship of the Council of Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (RATS SCO) which culminated with holding of the 38<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Council of RATS SCO on 14 October 2022 in New Delhi. During the tenure, India chaired 27 meetings and 5 events on different aspects of counter terrorism. India also hosted a Joint Anti-Terrorist Exercise (JATE) named "Anti-Terror 2022" from 8-13 October 2022 at National Security Guard (NSG) Campus, Manesar, Haryana.

India is the lead country for security cooperation under the BIMSTEC framework. During 2022, India participated in the 12th meeting of the BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism held virtually on

16 August 2022, and in the 7th meeting of the BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals held in Chiang Rai, Thailand, from 7-9 December 2022.

An Indian delegation participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> BRICS Counter Terrorism Working Group (CTWG) Plenary Session as well as the Sub-Group Meetings held virtually from 19-21 April 2022. India also participated in the BRICS Seminar on Targeted Financial Sanctions related to Terrorism and Terrorist Financing held virtually on 19 April 2022.

India's engagements with QUAD in counter-terrorism gained momentum during the year. An Indian delegation participated in the first meeting of QUAD Counter Terrorism Work stream and the 3rd Table Top Exercise held from 26-29 October 2022 in Sydney, Australia. An Indian delegation led by Joint Secretary (CT) also participated in the 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Senior Officials meeting on Transnational Crimes (SOMTC) held virtually on 20 July 2022. The 1st India-Sri Lanka Technical Level Meeting under the Colombo Security Conclave's (CSC) pillar on Countering Terrorism and Radicalisation was held on 28 October 2022, to discuss countering terrorism and radicalisation issues.

During 2022, an Indian delegation participated in the three plenary meetings of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) held in February, June and October. India also participated in the Plenary meetings of Eurasian Group on Combating money laundering (EAG) held in Tashkent from 30 May-3 June 2022, and the Asia Pacific Group on money laundering (APG) Plenary meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in July 2022 .

## CHAPTER

## 23

## E-Governance &amp; IT

The e-Governance and Information Technology (eG&IT) Division has been primarily involved in the design, development, implementation, and maintenance of various e-Governance applications for the Ministry. The Division also provides end-to-end support in respect of all Information Technology (IT) related matters to the Ministry and Missions/Posts abroad viz. procurement, maintenance, and upkeep of the entire IT infrastructure.

During the period January-November 2022, eG&IT Division took several steps towards the implementation of various components of the Digital India Programme in the Ministry and all Missions/ Posts abroad, to have a transparent, secure, accessible and participative system. Automation and network are being harnessed as tools to achieve synergy at all levels of functioning in the Ministry and render efficient IT services to government officials.

The Division from time to time has organized a number of classes, lectures and seminars such as on the Fundamentals of Cyber Security, Implementation of Cyber Security Policy etc. for the purpose of spreading awareness among the officials and staff of the Ministry and Missions/Posts abroad about the basic concepts of cyber security and enable them to manage and mitigate cyber threats. 'Cyber Jagrookta Diwas' is celebrated on the first Wednesday of every month.

### Integrated Mission Accounting System Ver 2.0 (IMAS 2.0)

IMAS 2.0 has been rolled out with effect from 05 April 2021 and as of date, a total of 175 Indian Missions/Posts are live on IMAS 2.0. It is expected to be completely rolled out to all the Missions/Posts by January 2023.

### Video Conferencing

As a positive experience of the Pandemic in the world, there has been a remarkable shift in meetings from physical to virtual form. Ministry has embraced this change by adopting virtual engagements with stakeholders concerned around the world. eG&IT Division geared up the Ministry with state-of-the-art hardware and applications for running seamless Video Conferences using cloud-based as well as on-premise video conferencing infrastructure. These platforms and infrastructure are being effectively utilised to conduct prestigious multilateral events and Summits, viz, G20 events, *Pravasiya Bhartiya Diwas* events, SCO Summit, etc. A total of 950 VCs have been conducted by the division between 01 January - 30 November 2022.

## Ministry of External Affairs Digital Online Working System (MEADOWS)

The MEADOWS platform, launched on 01 January 2021 effectuates “minimum paper, maximum governance” in the day-to-day functioning of the Ministry. It is an in-house application developed as a basket comprising several utilities viz, APAR filing, Leave Management, Inventory Management, Bills Management, Deployment of personnel, FSB, JEB, SEB etc.

The following portals/websites were designed, developed, and updated by the eG&IT Division during the period of the report i.e., 01 January 2022-30 November 2022:

- Centre for Contemporary China Studies (CCCS) Website
- Trade, Technology & Tourism (3Ts) Dashboard
- Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Website (SCO-India)
- Vishwa Hindi Sammelan Website (VHS)
- Diplomatic Identity Card Registration and Issuance System (ID-Protocol) Portal

Additionally, the eG&IT Division continues to maintain the previously developed 60 portals/websites which have become indispensable for the efficient day-to-day functioning of the Ministry. The G20 India Presidency website was launched by the Prime Minister on 08 November 2022.



Vishwa Hindi Sammelan Website

## CHAPTER

## 24

# Consular, Passport and Visa Services

Consular, Passport & Visa (CPV) Division is the nodal Division to provide consular and visa services to Indian nationals and foreigners including Indian Diaspora in India and abroad as well. During the year 2022, CPV Division has performed consular and visa operations with public-private partnership in fast, efficient, transparent and user- friendly manner and further to render more and more CPV services through digital platforms.

As part of 'Ease of Doing Business & Ease of Living for Citizens', the Division has been focusing on enhancing the public service delivery in an efficient manner through digital platforms to provide seamless benefit to Indian citizens and Indian diaspora.

In addition, under good governance initiatives to resolve consular grievances of Indians abroad, the [MADAD online portal](#) has led to qualitative improvement in delivery of consular assistance and handling of consular grievances, with an impressive success rate of resolution of cases by over 95 percent.

During the year, the Division has conducted a number of Consular Dialogues, signing/operationalisation of Visa Waiver Agreements, dealt with matters related to Extradition and Transfer of Sentenced Persons (TSPs) and handled Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) and Visas schemes/matters etc. in consultation with Ministry of Home Affairs and other stakeholders, which are explained in detail below.

## Visa- Exemption Agreements

India has so far signed 'Visa Exemption/Waiver Agreements' for the holders of diplomatic and official/service passports with 126 countries. During 2022, Visa Exemption/Waiver Agreements for holders of diplomatic and/or official/service passport were signed/operationalised with the Governments of Dominican Republic, Gambia, Indonesia, Malawi, Senegal, and Solomon Islands.





MADAD Portal Online, MEA

## Visa/e-Visa Schemes - Relaxation on Visa & Travel restrictions

In 2022, the Government of India further relaxed travel restrictions on international travel. The e-Visa scheme of Government of India, which was launched in 2014 for e-Tourist visas only, has been gradually liberalized over the years by further including categories of visas viz e-Business visa, e-Medical visa, e-Conference and e-Medical Attendant. The scheme has also been progressively extended to nationalities of an increasing number of countries. Nationals of 171 countries were earlier eligible to avail e-Visa facility prior to its suspension in March 2020, due to the onset of the COVID pandemic.

All categories of e-Visas, that were suspended in March 2020 in the aftermath of the COVID pandemic, have been restored in 2022 for 156 countries with effect from 14 March 2022. It was further restored to the nationals of Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan with effect from 5 December 2022 and to the nationals of Canada with effect from 20 December 2022. Thus, post-covid pandemic e-Visa scheme have now been restored to 165 countries.

During the period from 1 January-30 November 2022, 19,30,859 regular paper visas for all categories and 11,42,533 e-Visas for

specified categories, i.e. tourism, business, conference, medical and medical attendant have been issued.

Under the scheme, as per the announcement made by the Hon'ble Finance Minister for grant of free tourist visas to 5 lakh tourists to India till 31 March 2022, a total number of 3,34,166 tourist visas (including e-TV and regular paper TV) have been issued on gratis basis.

## Consular Dialogue Mechanism

The Consular Dialogue mechanism is aimed at discussing outstanding Consular, Visa and diaspora related matters with a view to engage in discussing and resolving issues faced by the Indian Diaspora/ NRIs abroad. India has so far established a bilateral Consular Dialogue mechanism with 28 countries. During 2022, Consular Dialogues/Consultations were held with Iran, Bangladesh, Czech Republic, UAE and Canada.

## Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) Card Scheme

Government of India launched the Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) card scheme in August 2005 for persons of Indian Origin.

OCI card is a lifelong visa for visiting India. The erstwhile Person of Indian Origin (PIO) card scheme which was started in the year 1999 was merged with OCI scheme in 2015. The deadline for conversion of PIO cards into lifelong OCI cards has been extended up to 31 December 2022.

So far around 43 lakhs OCI cards have been issued since inception of PIO/OCI scheme in August 2005. The number of OCI cards issued during the period 1 January - 30 November 2022 is 5,71,121.

## Extradition

The Ministry is the Central Authority for extradition matters and for the implementation of the Extradition Act, 1962 which regulates extradition of fugitive criminals from India. To facilitate extradition of fugitive criminals, till date, India has signed extradition treaties with 50 countries and has extradition arrangements with 12 countries. Efforts are also underway to conclude extradition treaties with more and more countries, in particular, with those having citizenship by investment programmes or favourable permanent residency or passport regimes through investment route, so as to ensure that fugitive criminals do not escape justice. With this objective in mind, the Ministry has been actively pursuing negotiations with various countries for bilateral extradition treaties to provide a legal and institutional framework to facilitate seeking extradition of fugitives involved in international terrorism, financial frauds, drug-trafficking, transnational organized crimes and other serious crimes. The Ministry also facilitates and renders legal advice to law enforcement agencies in the preparation of extradition requests and vigorously follows up the requests with foreign countries concerned through cooperation between Central Authorities and through our Missions abroad.

## Consular Services

As an integral part of welfare measures directed to Indian nationals living abroad, various consular services like attestation of documents, registration/ solemnisation of marriages of Indian nationals, registration of births and deaths of Indian nationals, transportation of mortal remains of deceased Indians and serving of summons received from Indian Courts to Indian nationals residing abroad are provided by our Missions and Posts. For Indian nationals arrested or imprisoned abroad, Mission/ Posts provide consular access to visit them in prisons and to ascertain their welfare. Open Houses and Consular Camps are regularly organised by most Missions/Posts to provide consular services at different locations. Our Missions and Posts in Gulf countries and Malaysia have specialised Community Welfare and Labour Wings to attend to employment related issues.

In addition, CPV Division also deals with consular matters of foreign nationals including their security related issues in India in consultation with line Ministries/Departments in Government of India, States Governments' authorities and foreign Diplomatic Missions in India.

## e-SEWA

e-SEWA is an online platform, launched in July 2020 to render miscellaneous consular services through Indian Missions/ Posts abroad. Started with a pilot project in 7 Missions/Posts abroad, it has now been rolled out in 18 Missions/Posts abroad till November 2022. There are plans to further link 50 more Missions/Posts abroad to e-SEWA.

## Attestation/Apostille

CPV is also the nodal Division for legalisation of documents including educational, commercial, and personal documents. The legalization of Indian documents is a requirement for their use abroad for educational, business, employment, immigration visa etc. The documents can be legalized in two manners; Apostille: for use in those countries, which are members of the Hague Apostille Convention on Apostille, 1961; and Attestation: for use in those countries which are not parties to The Hague Convention on Apostille.

During 2022, from 01 January - 30 November 2022, 77,455 documents have been attested and 1,15,229 documents have been apostilled in online mode, whereas 4,84,101 documents have been attested and 6,50,478 documents have been apostilled in the offline mode.

Over 10,23,609 documents have been successfully processed through e-Sanad digital Portal since its launch in 2017 till November 2022. Currently, 112 Document Issuing Authorities (DIAs) have been integrated with e-Sanad Portal so far either through Digi Locker (CBSE, Maharashtra State Board of Secondary & Higher Secondary Education, Tamil Nadu Board of Higher Secondary Education and Greater Chennai Corporation or directly through the digital portals of State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Puducherry. In addition, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Indo Latin American Chamber of Commerce have also integrated directly into the e-Sanad portal.

With a view to broaden the scope of e-Sanad to provide seamless, cashless, efficient and hassle free attestation and apostille services in a timely manner through e-Sanad, consistent efforts are being made to put on board more new DIAs. In 2022, in a phased manner, the process for integration to

e-Sanad of more than 500 such academic Institutions/Boards, which are registered with National Academic Depository (NAD) and on board with DigiLocker, is underway. A more secure and safe Apostille sticker with added security features has been introduced in 2022.

## MADAD-Consular Service Management System

In pursuance of 'Good Governance' initiative of the Government, the Ministry launched a web portal (online Consular Services Management System) named MADAD in 2015, to extend a helping hand to Indians abroad requiring consular assistance. All Indian Missions and Posts abroad as well as the Ministry's Branch Secretariats in Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad and Kolkata are associated with this portal for consular grievance tracking and follow-up.

The MADAD online portal has led to qualitative improvement in handling of consular matters and grievances, through online forwarding, tracking and escalation until their eventual resolution. It allows direct registration seeking consular assistance and grievances by the members of the public and effective tracking of the entire grievance handling process thereafter. As of November 2022, with an impressive rate of resolution of around 95 percent of over 80,000 grievances registered on the MADAD Portal, around 75,000 grievances have been resolved.

## Passport Seva Programme

The Passport Seva Programme (PSP) provides Passport-related services in India and abroad. The issuance of passports has emerged as one of the most noticeable statutory and citizen-centric services rendered by the Ministry. The Ministry has been making quantitative and qualitative changes so that passports can be delivered to the citizens in a timely, transparent, more accessible, reliable manner and in a comfortable environment through streamlined processes and by a committed, trained, and motivated workforce.

Indian Passports (together with other travel documents, such as Certificate of Identity to Stateless persons, Emergency Certificates for returnees to India, Police Clearance Certificates, Surrender Certificates, Line of Control Travel Permits in the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir) are issued by the Ministry through the PSP Division, the Central Passport Organisation (CPO) and its all-India network of 36 Passport Offices, the CPV Division (Diplomatic and Official passports) and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration.

This network has been vastly expanded by adding 93 Passport

Seva Kendras (PSKs) in Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode and 430 Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs) (in association with the Department of Posts) as extended arms of these 36 Passport Offices. The total number of Passport Seva Kendras functioning in the country is 523 as on 31 October 2022, including PSKs and POPSKs.

## Passport Seva Programme 2.0

On 7 January 2022, the Ministry signed the new agreement for the Passport Seva Programme Version 2.0 (PSP V2.0), which will be implemented in the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode with M/s Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) as the Service Provider. It would ensure easy and smooth end-to-end governance through standardized and liberalized processes, use of latest and emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence, Chat-Bot, use of big-data and Advance Analytics, etc. The PSP V2.0 is under implementation stage and the tentative date of Go-Live is in July 2023.

## Passport services in India and Missions/ Posts abroad

The Ministry processed nearly 1.07 crore Passport and related applications and issued 1.03 crore Passport and related documents in India during the year 2022 (till 31 October 2022), as compared to 74.95 lakh Passport processed in the year 2021.

The Indian Missions/Posts abroad received 14 lakh Passport and related applications and issued 13.98 lakh Passports, Emergency Certificates (ECs) and other passport-related miscellaneous documents during the year 2022 (till 31 October 2022).

## mPassportSeva Mobile App

The *mPassport Seva* Mobile App with additional facilities to apply, pay and schedule appointments for passport services is available both in Android and iOS platforms. Citizens do not require access to a computer and printer to apply for passport services. The *mPassport Seva* App supports an enhanced set of passport services such as:

- i. New User Registration
- ii. Sign Into Registered User Account
- iii. Application form filling to apply for Passport and Police Clearance Certificate.
- iv. Pay for Passport Services
- v. Appointment Scheduling
- vi. Application Availability Status
- vii. Document Advisor
- viii. Fee Calculator

## Applying from Anywhere in India

An applicant can now apply for a passport from anywhere in India. This initiative enables applicants to choose the Passport Office (PO) and thus the desired PSK/ POPSK under the PO where they wish to submit their application irrespective of whether the present residential address specified in the application form lies within the jurisdiction of the selected PO or not.

Police verification would be conducted by the Police Station in whose jurisdiction the address mentioned in the form falls and the passport will also be printed and dispatched at the same address by the PO selected for application submission by the applicant. Nearly 11.49 lakh applications were submitted under this scheme during the calendar year 2022.

## Appointments

The Ministry released nearly 81,000 appointments per day, including nearly 22,000 appointments at the 430 POPSKs. Securing online appointments for submission of passport applications at PSKs has been simplified. The current provision is allowing applicants to choose any appointment date from the earliest five available dates (working days) for scheduling/ rescheduling an appointment for passport related services. It has made the process of issuing passports easy and quick.

## Outreach of Passport Services

### A. Passport Office

The Ministry has taken steps to simplify the procedure for getting passports for the general public. These involve simplification of the passport rules, and greater outreach to the people in the delivery of passport related services. The objective of the Government has been to cater to the demand for passports and to reach out to the people located far away from the Passport Offices. The list of the 36 Passport Offices in India is at **Annexure-X**.

### B. Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs)

The Ministry has opened 16 PSKs since May 2014 which includes all the states in the North-East of India. There are 93 PSKs functioning in the country as of 31 October 2022 and the list is at **Annexure-XI**.

### C. Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs)

The Ministry, in association with the Department of Posts (DOP),

announced an innovative initiative in 2017 to open Passport Seva Kendras at the Head Post Offices (HPO)/Post Offices (PO) in the country called 'Post Office Passport Seva Kendra' (POPSK). The Ministry has functionalized 430 POPSKs to date, as per list at **Annexure-XII**.

The POPSKs function like any other existing PSK. Applicants, who apply for their passports online through the passport portal, can schedule an appointment and then visit the designated POPSK to complete the formalities. These formalities are similar to those at any PSK. Photographs, biometrics and the supporting documents would be electronically captured at the POPSK, and the applicant will not have to revisit them prior to the issue of the Passport.

## D. Integration of Indian Missions/Posts abroad into the PSP

The process of integrating the Indian Missions/Posts abroad into the PSP commenced in October 2018 and is continuing. The aim is to provide a uniform centralised passport issuance application process working on a single centralised database for the Indian citizens living abroad and seeking Passport-related services. The Ministry has successfully integrated the passport issuance systems in 180 Indian Missions/Posts into the PSP system. The Ministry is working to complete the integration of all Indian Missions/Posts abroad at the earliest.

## Simplification of Procedures

The procedure for issuing passports has been further streamlined. Police Clearance Certificates are now being issued on post-Police verification basis in cases where the current passport was issued within one year prior to the submission of a Police Clearance Certificate application after receiving a clear police verification report. It has also been decided to issue Police Clearance Certificates under stamp signatures instead of ink signatures so that the man hours saved could be utilised for more productive work.

Clear guidelines have been framed regarding documents required for processing of passport applications of in-country adopted children under Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956 and Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. All the Gazette Notifications issued under the Passports Act 1967 with effect from May 2014 have been placed before both the Houses of the Parliament in July 2022.

Indian nationals whose passports were lost or damaged in cyclone 'Shaheen' in the Sultanate of Oman were exempted from payment of passport fee to mitigate the suffering of those who were not in a position to bear this expenditure.



## E-Passport

E-Passport is a combined paper and electronic passport with a Radio Frequency Identification Chip and an antenna embedded as an inlay. The main benefit of the e-Passport will be its enhanced ability to maintain the integrity of its data, thereby increasing the level of confidence in the Indian Passport. E-Passports would also facilitate the ease of travel for Indian citizens, making their interface with immigration authorities much smoother.

E-Passport project involves setting up of a complex technical ecosystem, including Public Key Infrastructure, Key Management System, Inter-operability test bed, Project Management Unit, e-Personalisation, as also creation of e-Passport verification set-up at Immigration Check Points by the Bureau of Immigration. This technical eco-system and infrastructure is in the process of being set up.

## Production and Personalisation of Travel Documents

Indian travel documents are produced by India Security Press, Nashik, which is a unit under the Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL). All Regional Passport Offices in India and select Missions/Posts abroad have been provided with machine readable passport printers. All Passport Issuing Authorities issue machine-readable passports (MRPs) as per the guidelines laid down by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

For the 157 Indian Missions/Posts abroad, where passport printing facility is not available, Machine-Readable Passports are printed at Central Indian Passport Printing System (CIPPS) of PSP Division in the Ministry, New Delhi. During January-October 2022, CIPPS printed 1,78,543 passports and 1,03,126 Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) cards.

## Certificate of Identity (Col)

Passports Act 1967 provides for issuance of Col 'for the purpose of establishing the identity of a Stateless person residing in India'. During the period January-November 2022, a total number of 2,810 Cols were issued.

## Appeals under Section 11 of the Passports Act 1967

Under Section 11 of the Passports Act, appeal against the decisions of Passport Issuing Authorities (PIAs) is a statutory right conferred upon the affected persons. Joint Secretary (PSP)

& Chief Passport Officer is the Appellate Authority in such cases. In the wake of Covid pandemic, the Ministry decided to conduct appeal hearings through video conferencing so as to obviate any avoidable delay in timely disposal of appeal petitions. During the period January-November 2022, a total of 31 appeals were heard and disposed of.

## Inspection of Regional Passport Offices

The division coordinates the Study Tours of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and Inspections of Regional Passport Offices by the First Sub-Committee of Parliament on Official Language on the Progressive Use of Official Language in RPOs.

During the year, the PSP Division coordinated the Study Tour of the Standing Committee on External Affairs at Leh, Chandigarh and Shimla during 17-21 May 2022 and at Goa, Hyderabad and Chennai during 29 August-2 September 2022.

During the year, the First Sub-Committee of Parliament on Official Language inspected the RPOs at Chennai (21 May 2022), Coimbatore (24 May 2022), Srinagar (27 June 2022), Mumbai (11 July 2022) and Hyderabad (11 November 2022).

## Regional Passport Officers' Conference 2022

A two-day Regional Passport Officers' Conference was held by the Ministry at New Delhi on 18-19 November 2022. All the 36 Regional Passport Officers and stakeholders of Passport Seva Programme (PSP) deliberated upon, in detail, the functioning of passport issuance system, its achievements as well as challenges faced, and future initiatives to make the process smoother and more effective for the citizens of India.

The High-Level Segment of the Conference was presided over by EAM on 18 November 2022, in the presence of MoS (VM), Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, Secretary (CPV & OIA), MEA and Shri Vineet Pandey, Secretary (Posts), Department of Posts.

EAM noted that there had been a complete transformation in the passport delivery system under the present Government. He referred to the Post Office Passport Seva Programme as a good example of 'minimum government, maximum governance' through maximum utilization of existing resources in taking passport services to remote locations. He added that PSP has been the pioneer of digital service delivery in India, and it was only after the success of PSP at such a large numerical size that the digital story of India got scaled up, adding that the impact of the PSP has been beyond passports.

Passport Seva Puraskars were announced for the best performing Passport Offices & officials, State Police, Postal Staff as well as personnel of the Service Provider.

## International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)

Since February 2009, India is a participating member of the 'Public Key Directory (PKD) on e-Passport' of ICAO, which has been implementing the guidelines on Machine Readable Travel Documents. India also participated in 17th Symposium on ICAO Traveller Identification Programme (TRIP) during 13-15 September 2022 at ICAO Headquarters in Montreal, Canada and in the 29th PKD Meeting of PKD Board during 15-17 November 2022 at Kampala, Uganda.

## Public Grievance Redressal Mechanism

Under the Passport Seva Programme, the Ministry has put in place a robust Grievance Redressal system, whereby a multilingual National Call Centre with a toll-free number (1800-258-1800), operating in 17 languages on a 24 x 7 basis, has been set up to disseminate information about various passport related services, including handling of grievances and citizens feedback.

The Passport portal also has an email-based helpdesk, where suggestions and grievances can be logged in. Citizens can also monitor the status of their passport applications/grievances online through this portal.

A Public Grievance Redressal Cell (PGRC) has been set up in PSP Division under the supervision of Joint Secretary (PSP) & CPO, who is also designated as the Officer In-charge of Public Grievances of the Ministry for Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS). It deals with grievances received through telephone, e-mail, and post, directly from the public and also references from various Government offices, such as the President's Secretariat, Prime Minister's Office, Cabinet Secretariat and Central Vigilance Commission, etc. The names and contact details of the Public Grievance Officer are also displayed in the RPOs/PSKs and on the website of the RPOs.

During the period January-November 2022, 75,620 grievances were received at CPGRAMS, of which 74,585 grievances i.e. 98.6% were addressed successfully.

## Central Passport Organization

The Central Passport Organisation (CPO) was created in 1959 as a subordinate office of the Ministry and is headed by Joint Secretary (PSP) and Chief Passport Officer, who also acts as Appellate Authority under the Passports Act, 1967 and the Head of Department under the Delegation of Financial Powers Rules, 1978.

As on 30 November 2022, the sanctioned strength of CPO was 2,741 and the working strength was 1,761. In addition, there were 16 technical and 5 supporting staff to man the Project Management Unit (PMU) of PSP. Presently, there are 46 vacancies at Group 'A' level, 210 vacancies at Group 'B' (Gazetted) level and 724 vacancies at Group 'B' (Non-Gazetted) & Group 'C' levels, totaling 980 vacancies. Group 'A' vacancies are filled up through promotion and deputation; Group 'B' (Gazetted) vacancies are filled up through promotion from feeder grade, and Group 'B' (Non-Gazetted) and Group 'C' vacancies are filled up through promotion from feeder grade, direct recruitment, and Limited Departmental Competitive Examination (LDCE) through Staff Selection Commission (SSC). The vacancies for direct recruitment and LDCE have been indented to SSC for the vacancy years 2019 to 2023.

The Ministry has also deployed 330 Data Entry Operators and 25 Office Assistants against the vacant non-gazetted posts for smooth functioning of the Passport Offices through an Outsourced Agency to bridge the gap between the sanctioned strength and the working strength of the non-gazetted posts. The indents have been sent to SSC to fill the vacancies for direct recruitment posts of 86 Assistant Superintendents, 213 Junior Passport Assistants (JPAs), 49 Office Assistants (OAs), 7 Stenographers (Grade-II) and 28 Junior Translation Officers.

In view of the 100% increase in passport applications processed by the CPO from 2010 to 2019 (pre-Covid), a need was felt for Cadre restructuring and reviewing the cadre strength of the CPO. A proposal for physical inspection and staffing study of the CPO by the Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) of the Department of Expenditure (DoE) was sent to the Ministry of Finance in November 2019. Now the DoE has advised that the Administrative Ministry may review Cadres under them for which they are the cadre controlling authority as per extant guidelines on the subject and proposals may be referred to the DoE after recommendation of the respective Financial Adviser and with the approval of Minister in charge. A Cadre review Committee for restructuring of all cadres of CPO would be constituted shortly.

## CHAPTER

## 25

# Overseas Indian Affairs

## Overseas Indian Affairs I

After a two year disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, work on welfare schemes for Indian citizens working overseas progressed well during 2022. Fresh negotiations for signing MoUs/Agreements/MoCs on Migration and Mobility Partnership and Labour & Manpower issues have been initiated with various countries. The major developments during 2022 are as follows:

### Assistance under Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF)

ICWF, set up in 2009, is aimed at assisting Overseas Indian nationals in times of distress in the most deserving cases on a means-tested basis by providing emergency medical assistance, air passage to stranded Indians, legal assistance, emergency medical assistance, boarding & lodging, assistance to Indian women facing marital issues and transfer of mortal remains to India. The new ICWF guidelines have provided Indian Missions/Posts abroad greater flexibility in addressing requests for assistance by Indian nationals in distress abroad. ICWF has been very effectively used to assist a total of 3,06,602 Indians in distress in foreign countries with a total expenditure of Rs. 538 crores till September 2022.

### Pre-Departure Orientation Programm (PDOT)

PDOT is a one-day training programme on soft skills imparted by the Ministry in collaboration with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), State Governments and other stake holders. As on 30 November 2022, 1,21,596 prospective migrant workers have benefited from the training programs both in physical and online formats through 32 PDOT centres. Additionally, under the PDOT Expansion Plan, the Ministry has approved the opening of 58 new PDOT centres in 8 states in July 2022.

### Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana (PBBY)

The Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana (PBBY) is a mandatory insurance scheme for all Emigration Check Required (ECR) category workers going to ECR countries. The scheme provides an insurance cover of Rs. 10 lakhs in case of accidental death or permanent disability and other benefits at a nominal insurance premium of Rs. 275/- for two years or Rs. 375/- for three years validity. The scheme was revised from 01 August 2017, to include ECNR category workers on voluntary basis and to make settlement of claims simpler for the benefit of our workers and to ensure expeditious settlement of claims. The scheme has so

far provided insurance cover to 72 lakh Indian migrant workers till October 2022.

## Migration and Mobility Partnerships

Migration and Mobility Partnerships have been an important pillar of cooperation aimed at harnessing our demographic dividend and fostering mobility for our students, academicians, researchers, professionals, businesses etc. India and Germany signed a Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement on 05 December 2022 which aims to foster exchange of skills and talents between the two countries.

India and Japan held the third Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting on Specified Skill Worker (SSW) in a hybrid format on 02 August 2022 in New Delhi.

Key issues discussed during the meeting included demand-supply matching including the use of digital technology and platforms, raising the number of test centers in India, expanding the sectors of implementation, raising awareness about the SSW programme in India, Japanese language promotion in India, and setting up a framework for programme monitoring. Japanese side announced that in addition to the existing cooperation under nursing/caregiving, SSW will also be expanded to cover the agriculture sector. The Indian side welcomed the announcement and called for expansion of SSW to other sectors also. The Government of Japan has formally initiated qualification tests for Nursing Care/Caregiver field, Agriculture skill Assessment Test, and Japanese language tests from January 2022 onwards. Candidates from all over India have been appearing for the tests at the designated test center in Gurugram.

A Declaration of Intent on Cooperation in the field of Migration and Mobility was signed with Greece on 23 March 2022 during the official visit of Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Nikolaos Georgios Dendias to India.

The First Joint Working Group on India-France Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement (MMPA) was held virtually on 29 November 2022. JWG covered discussion on issues relating to students, mobility of professionals, visa issues, Young Professionals Scheme (YPS) and cooperation in vocational education and training among other issues. The JWG was preceded by a workshop on "Migration and Mobility of Indian Young Professionals to France" held in Paris on 28 November 2022 in collaboration with the Embassy of India, Paris, CII Skills and NSDC.

## Cooperation on Labour and Manpower related issues

The Labour and Manpower Cooperation MoUs/Agreements

are in place with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries viz. Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates, and with Jordan. Agreement on recruitment of domestic workers with Saudi Arabia, a Protocol on Domestic Workers annexed to the MoU with the UAE are also in place.

The seventh Joint Working Group Meeting between India and Qatar on Labour and Manpower Development was held on the 4 & 5 May 2022 in New Delhi. The Qatari and Indian sides had productive discussions on a wide range of issues related to the movement of labour and manpower. In this context, the Indian side has welcomed the labour reform measures taken by the State of Qatar in the recent past years. The Qatari side also praised the contribution of the Indian community to social development and infrastructure projects in the State of Qatar, stressing Qatar's commitment to protecting and promoting labour rights.

Senior Officers' meeting (SOM) was organised virtually by the Abu Dhabi Dialogue from 18-19 October 2022. The Abu Dhabi Dialogue is a voluntary and non-binding inter-government consultative process, engaging twelve Member States of the Colombo Process (CP), namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam; and six Gulf countries of destination: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, as well as Malaysia. This SOM was an opportunity to shape the content and recommendations of the reports that will be presented to Ministers at the next Ministerial Consultation in 2023.

The first Meeting of India-UAE Joint Working Group on Manpower was held on 16-17 October 2022 at Dubai. The topics of discussion included implementation of the signed MoU on Manpower, challenges faced by Indian workers in UAE, creation of Nodal points for reporting workers' issues, integration of online workforce platforms, recruitment and repatriation of Indian female workers etc.

The 8th JWG on Manpower between India and Oman at Muscat is scheduled to be held on 28-29 December 2022.

## High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility (HLDMM)

Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, Secretary (CPV & OIA) and Ms. Monique Pariat, Director General (Migration and Home Affairs), European Commission Co-Chaired the 6th High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility (HLDMM) between India and the EU at Brussels on 27 October 2022. The representatives of the Diplomatic Missions of EU Member States in Brussels were also invited as Observers by the EU. The Indian delegates for the dialogue comprised representatives from the Ministry, Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Skill Development





MoS (VM) delivered the national statement at the Plenary of First International Migration Review Forum held at UNGA in May 2022

& Entrepreneurship and Labour & Employment. The high-level dialogue focused on wide range of topics related to the promotion of safe, orderly and regular migration and prevention of irregular migration. The discussions also focused on potential areas of cooperation to facilitate and ease mobility and migration of talented professionals, students and skilled workforce for the mutual benefit for both the EU and India. The two sides also expressed satisfaction of the successful implementation of the India-EU Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (India-EU CAMM). As India and EU celebrate 60 years of diplomatic ties, the Dialogue was an important dimension of the strategic partnership between India and EU.

### Other engagements related to Migration

The closing seminar of India-EU Cooperation and Dialogue on Migration and Mobility CDMM project was held on 24 February 2022, at the Imperial Hotel, New Delhi. The event aimed to reflect upon the main outcomes of the project as well as capture views and suggestions for what actions may help strengthen collaboration in the future.

MoS (VM) led the Indian delegation for the first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), held under the auspices of the General Assembly at the United Nations in New York from 17-20 May 2022. MoS (VM) delivered India's official statement at the Plenary Session of the IMRF. He also met the President of the General Assembly, Director General, International Organisation for Migration and dignitaries from the other countries, who gathered for the inaugural session at IMRF. He also met with a wide cross-section of the Indian diaspora.

The hybrid meeting of Thematic Area Working Groups (TAWGs) of the Colombo Process (CP) was held from 21-23 June 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand. The two convened TAWGs in this meeting were the 7th Meeting of the Skills and Qualification Recognition Processes TAWG chaired by the Government of Sri Lanka and the 6th Meeting of Promote Cheaper, Faster and Safer Transfer of Remittances. There were also two workshops conducted on gender-responsive migration governance and the international legal basis for bilateral cooperation. Representatives from nine Colombo Process Member States (CPMS), Non-State Organisations, the Swiss Agency for Development and Corporation, UN Agencies and partners of the Governance of Labour Migration in South and South-East Asia (GOALS) Programme were present. The CAO, ICM presented the national update from India in the 7th TAWG on skills and qualification recognition processes.

### India Centre for Migration (ICM)

ICM organised various virtual panel discussions and stakeholder consultations on issues relating to international migration and diaspora and 9 such discussions have taken place between April 2021 to March 2022. Apart from these, ICM has organised 5 stakeholder engagements on overseas employment with State governments and Recruiting Agents. ICM in close collaboration with the OIA division prepared a report of framework for availing employment opportunities abroad for the Cabinet Secretariat. Additionally, ICM has also been involved in collaboration projects with international organisations. It has been the implementing partner from the Indian side for the India-EU technical project for



India and Japan held the third Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting to discuss the way forward for successful implementation of the Specified Skill Worker (SSW) scheme, August 2022

the Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (Camm) which came to a close in February 2022. ICM is also collaborating with IOM on a project on "Strengthening data-informed and migrant-centered migration management frameworks in India". The project's primary objective is to contribute to improving access to labour migration opportunities for aspiring Indian migrants through strengthened migration management frameworks.

ICM is now the Centre for Migration, Mobility and Diaspora Studies (CMMDS) at the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) which has come into effect on 01 August 2022 pursuant to decision of the Government of India to merge the erstwhile India Centre for Migration with the ICWA. The broad areas of activities include research, capacity building and assisting the Ministry on matters relating to international migration and mobility.

## Overseas Indian Affairs II

The Overseas Indian Affairs Division-II deals with issues relating to engagement with Indian Diaspora. Among the major Programmes / Schemes handled by the Division are Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Conferences,

Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award, Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, Know India Programme, Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana, Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children, Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz, NRI marital disputes and Child Custody Issues, Promotion of Cultural Ties with Diaspora, Students issues, RISHTA Portal, grievances pertaining to diaspora, any other issues pertaining to diaspora and new initiatives taken from time to time by the Government.

### Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is the flagship event of the government which is celebrated to reconnect and deepen its engagement with the diaspora. Since 2015, its format has been revised to celebrate the PBD once every two years and to hold theme-based PBD Conferences during the intervening period with participation from overseas diaspora experts, policy makers and stakeholders. The Ministry has organised 16 PBD Conventions so far. The 17th PBD Convention is scheduled from 8-10 January, 2023 in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The theme of the 17th PBD Convention is "Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India's progress in Amrit Kaal". It is being organised in the physical format after a gap of 4 years.



Celebration of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2022 at Indian Embassies abroad

### Scholarship Program for Diaspora Children

Government of India's Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children was introduced in the Academic Year 2006-07 to make higher education in Indian Universities/Institutes in different fields (except Medical and related courses in India) accessible to the diaspora children and promote India as a centre for higher studies. The scheme provides 150 scholarships to children of NRIs/PIOs/OCIs living abroad. Since academic year 2006-07, 1377 Scholarships have been granted under the Scheme. 150 scholarships have been granted under the Scheme in AY 2021-22. Until academic year 2021-22, the SPDC was open for 69 countries of the world including ECR Countries. Since 2022-23, the Scheme has been extended to diaspora students from all countries.

### Know India Program (KIP)

Since 2003-04, the Ministry has been organizing KIP with an aim to connect diaspora youth aged between 18-30 years with their motherland and to give them an exposure to India's diverse forms of art, heritage, and culture. Ministry has, so far, conducted 62 editions of this programme, with the participation of a total number of 2181 diaspora youth till November 2022. KIP has been restarted in FY 2022-23 and 03 editions (60th- 62nd) have been successfully conducted in FY 2022-23, participated by 120 members of Indian youth diaspora. Three more editions of KIP (63-65th Editions) are scheduled for FY 2022-23 which will be organised during December 2022 – February 2023.



Interaction of 60th Know India Program (KIP) participants with Senior Officials of NITI Aayog in September 2022



## Promotion of Cultural Ties with Diaspora (PCTD)

Financial grant to Indian Missions/Posts abroad is provided to support their initiatives aimed at strengthening ties with the Overseas Indian Community; to preserve, maintain and showcase their Indian heritage and culture. The scheme was started in 2005. Budget allocation has been increased from Rs. 2 crore to Rs. 3 crore this year. Sanctions for an amount of Rs. 2.67 crore have been issued to 45 Missions/Posts so far. An amount of Rs. 15.05 Lakh has also been granted to Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP).

A new initiative "Felicitation of Armed Forces Veterans Abroad" to honour retired veterans of 75 years or above from Indian Armed Forces has been included in the Scheme from the current financial year.

## Assistance to Distressed NRI Women Largely Affected by Marital Disputes

The Ministry/Missions also provides assistance in many ways to distressed Indian women facing marital issues. The Ministry

has addressed 328 complaints/grievances from 01 January - 31 October 2022.

## Student Issues

Sizeable numbers of Indian students are studying abroad. Many issues related to Indian Students enrolled in foreign universities have been addressed by this division in consultation with concerned territorial Division & Missions/Posts abroad, such as refund of fees, problem in admissions & fraud cases etc. The Ministry also facilitated ease of travel restrictions or resolving the visa issuance matters concerning with the Indian students.

## Global Pravasi Rishta Portal

Global Pravasi Rishta portal is an online digital portal for connecting Diaspora (NRI, PIO and OCI) with Government of India through Embassies and Consulates. It is a two-way communication channel between the Government of India & Indian Diaspora abroad and can be used for dissemination of information and creation of database of diaspora based on voluntary registration. The Portal was launched on 30 December 2020. As on 28 November 2022, a total number of 34,322 diaspora members registered themselves on the portal.



CHAPTER

26

# New Emerging and Strategic Technologies (NEST) and Cyber Diplomacy

## NEST

The Division on New Emerging and Strategic Technologies (NEST) was set up in January 2020. It has continued looking at emerging technologies which have strategic implications, assessing their foreign policy implications and assisting internal stakeholders in India in their demand driven technology pathways. During the last one year, India has taken forward-looking positions on language regarding collaboration in emerging technologies which has been deliberated in statements in a plurilateral or regional context and examined by NEST, MEA.

In keeping with its “synaptic” role, the Emerging Technologies Initiative was launched in August 2020 by NEST Division in partnership with the Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India and the Science Policy Forum to crowd-source Expressions of Intent (EOIs) on emerging technologies. Of the 183 EOIs received, 11 were shortlisted, with 2 being adopted by line ministries & departments. The remaining 9 EOIs are currently being pitched to stakeholders in

line ministries for their adoption in areas such as AI applications, 6G telecommunications etc.

NEST Division was instrumental in India joining as the founding member of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) in June 2020. Meity’s (Emerging Technologies Division) is the nodal point of contact from India and participates in GPAI proceedings. The election for the 3 government seats (Incoming Council Chair + 2 government Seats) from GPAI Council was held in October 2022. India won the election for the Incoming Council Chair Seat. India will serve as the Incoming Chair in 2023, and subsequently as Lead Chair in 2024 and Outgoing Chair in 2025 (3- year mandate).

NEST Division and Indian Missions have contributed to the knowledge database for the National Mission on AI, National Hydrogen Energy Mission, National Deep Ocean Mission, etc. Several other papers & analysis briefs have also been circulated to line ministries & departments of the Government of India, that are in line with Indian initiatives such as the National

Quantum Mission, National Education Policy 2020, National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage, National Semiconductor Mission etc. Issue briefs on critical and strategic minerals, emerging technology application in healthcare, life sciences research, data security, agriculture, border management etc have also been circulated, receiving positive feedback from line ministries.

As a part of a wider outreach strategy, NEST Division has been circulating a monthly NEST Newsletter, detailing and tracking various developments related to new and emerging technologies within India.

## Cyber Diplomacy

Cyber Diplomacy (CD) Division of the Ministry is a specialized division dealing with international cyber governance issues and is engaged with countries at bilateral, regional and multilateral fora, including the United Nations. India has been actively participating in and contributing to Cyber Dialogues/Conferences and Conventions to voice its views, shape global cyber policies and strengthen its cyber security. In keeping with its commitment to a multi-stakeholder model of cyber governance, India has been engaged in activities with the private sector, civil society and academia to shape and strategize cyber policy.

CD Division engaged in bilateral cyber consultations with strategic countries in consultation with other Government of India stakeholders viz. National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Ministry of Electronics and information technology (MeitY), Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Department of Telecommunication(DoT) etc.

## Bilateral Relations with Individual Countries

EAM co-chaired the 1st Foreign Ministers Cyber Framework Dialogue, with former Australian Foreign Minister Ms Marise Payne, in Melbourne, Australia on 12 February 2022.

Joint Secretary (CD) led the following cyber dialogues in 2022:

- Sixth India-Germany Cyber Dialogue in Berlin during 7- 8 April
- Fifth India-UK Cyber Dialogue in London on 11-12 April
- Fourth India-Japan Cyber Dialogue held virtually on 30 June
- Fifth India-Australia Bilateral Cyber Policy Dialogue held in New Delhi on 17 November.

Joint Secretary (CD) participated in the Fourth India-US Bilateral Cyber Dialogue in Washington DC, USA from 21-23 September 2022.

## Regional and Multilateral Cooperation in the Area of Cyber Issues

India actively participated in the First (28 February-11 March), Second (30 May-10 June) and Third (29 August-09 September) meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee to "Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communication Technologies for Criminal Purposes", established by the General Assembly in its resolution 74/247.

India actively participated in the Second (28 March-01 April), Third (25-29 July 2022) substantive sessions and Inter-Sessional (05-09 December 2022) meeting of the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) on the security of and in the use of ICTs 2021-2025, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 75/240. India played a key role in negotiations to adopt an outcome document, the Annual Progress Report of the OEWG during the third substantive session and presented the Global Cyber Security Cooperation Portal (GCSCP) as a capacity-building initiative in the United Nations which has received positive support from multiple countries across regions.

India is actively participating in the 36-country grouping 'Counter Ransomware Initiative' to prevent and combat ransomware attacks on the critical information infrastructure of India.

As a strong advocate for enhancing cyber capacity building for small and developing countries, India in association with CERT-IN hosted 'IBSA Cyber Threat Hunting' webinar on 03 November 2022 and the 'India-ASEAN Cyber Threat Hunting' webinar from 15-16 November 2022. The cyber capacity building webinars received positive feedback from the participating cyber experts, and countries appreciated India's initiatives in this regard. The webinar with the ASEAN Member States was envisioned to be a step towards ensuring cybersecurity and cyber stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

India participated in the 9th Asian Regional Forum (ARF) Open Ended Study Group (OESG) on Confidence Building Measures to reduce the risk of conflict stemming from the use of ICTs held on 10 May 2022 and the 4th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Security and in the use of ICTs held on 13 May 2022 in virtual mode.

India participated in the Eighth Meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Security in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) held on 24 May 2022 in the virtual mode under the Chairmanship of China.

India attended the meeting of the SCO Group of Experts on International Information Security held on 13 July 2022 in hybrid mode and SCO Expert Forum on Information Security held on 06 September 2022 in virtual mode.

India attended the CICA workshop on Secure and Sustainable Development of the Internet organized by Russia on 24 August 2022 in virtual mode.

## CHAPTER

## 27

## Protocol Division

Protocol Division comprises a total of seven sections viz. Protocol-I, Protocol-II, Protocol-III, Protocol (Hyderabad House), Protocol Special, Protocol (Hospitality & Accounts) and Government Hospitality Organisation (GHO).

### Protocol-I

Protocol-I section, under the charge of Deputy Chiefs of Protocol (Ceremonial) is mandated to handle incoming visits of Heads of State/Heads of Government, Vice-Presidents, and Foreign Ministers (Annexure VI), outgoing visits of President, Vice President and Prime Minister (Annexure IV), entertainment (official lunches, dinners and receptions on behalf of the Ministry) and ceremonial functions, airport passes, access to ceremonial and reserve lounge, etc. In addition, 11 virtual summits/conferences (Annexure V) took place between January to July 2022.

### Protocol-II and Protocol Special Sections

Protocol-II and Protocol Special sections, both under the charge of Deputy Chief of Protocol (Privileges) deal with various issues

related to privileges and immunities of the diplomatic missions based in India like issuance of diplomatic/official identity cards in respect of foreign representations in Delhi and in different States of the country; finalising agreements for gainful employment and subsequently, processing requests of permission of gainful employment for family members of members of diplomatic missions and consular posts in India; permission to foreign diplomats for enrolment in Indian Universities; security arrangement for foreign representations and their residences in India; privileges and immunities to international organisations recognised under Article 3 of United Nations (Privileges & Immunities) Act, 1947; issues related to tax exemptions on the principle of reciprocity; forwarding of court summons issued by various courts in respect of diplomats/officials and diplomatic missions in India; processing requests for purchase/registration/sale of motor vehicles and custom duty free imports.

### Protocol-III

Protocol-III section's work domain includes exchange of messages and communications on national days, arrangements for presentation of credentials, appointment of new Consuls General in India as well as Honorary Consuls; preparation of credential papers of Heads of Mission (HoMs) (Annexure VII) and commission of appointment of Consuls General;

arrangements for first arrival and final departure of Heads of Foreign diplomatic missions (Annexure VIII); permissions for creation of new posts (civil and defence) in foreign diplomatic missions/posts in India; issuance of letters to airport authorities for airport passes to diplomatic missions in India; arrangement for simultaneous interpretation on Independence Day as well as other arrangements viz. invitations to HOMs and other diplomatic officers in addition to the arrangements made during Republic Day and Beating Retreat functions; handle court cases and complaints received from local staff working in foreign diplomatic missions; handle the arrangements for nomination of chief guests for National days of Diplomatic Missions in New Delhi and other related Protocol work.

### Protocol Housing Section

Protocol Housing Section is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the Hyderabad House in cooperation with the horticulture, civil and electrical wings of CPWD. This includes repair and maintenance works of electrical/civil/horticulture. In addition, this section also handles processing of payment to ITDC on account of their administrative, management and operational expenditure; matters relating to purchase/sale/allotment of land, built up property, lease etc. in respect of all diplomatic missions and international organisations in Delhi which involves communication with State Governments for land allotment, signing of perpetual lease deed etc; disputes/court cases between landlords and diplomatic Missions in Delhi and other States; running and operation of the VVIP Receptorium at Air Force Station, Palam with the help of Military Engineering

Service (MES) and CPWD and assisting the diplomatic missions regarding services like NDMC, MCD, DDA, MTNL etc. Further, for last few years, this section has been coordinating with various stakeholders on upcoming second Diplomatic Enclave project in Dwarka, New Delhi.

In 2022, Protocol Division handled incoming/outgoing visits at the level of Heads of State, Vice-Presidents, Heads of Government and Foreign Ministers.

The Division also provided support for organisation of several multilateral meetings in India including United Nations Counter Terrorism Committee, INTERPOL and No Money for Terror held by other Ministries + additional meetings.

In addition, the Division handled 300+ entertainment functions and facilitated an average of over 120 requests per week for Airport Passes, Ceremonial and Reserve Lounges and facilitation through Security and Customs. While innovative measures such as virtual Presentation of Credentials were used during the pandemic, 2022 saw a return to normalcy with in-person Credential Ceremonies resuming at Rashtrapati Bhawan. In 2022, the Division organised Presentation of Credentials of 31 newly arrived Diplomatic Representatives to India. With the opening of the Resident Mission of Solomon Islands in 2022, the number of Resident Foreign Missions in India increased to 156. During the year, a Cultural Centre of Czech Republic was opened while three Consulate Generals/Deputy High Commissions also started functioning taking the number of such Posts to 107 in India. The year saw (till 30 November 2022) addition of 81 members to the Resident Diplomatic Corps present in India.

### Diplomatic Corps in India

S. No.	Item	Name/Number
1.	Dean of Diplomatic Corps	H.E. Mr. Alem Tsehaye Woldenariam, Ambassador of the State of Eritrea
2.	Ambassadors/High Commissioners New Arrival (List Enclosed)	22
3.	Ambassadors/High Commissioners Departure (List Enclosed)	3
4.	Resident Missions in India	156
5.	Non-Resident Missions	11
6.	Honorary Consuls General based in New Delhi	19
7.	Honorary Consuls in other cities	215
8.	Consulate General in India	107
9.	Created new posts in Diplomatic Missions	81



### List of Incoming Ambassadors/High Commissioners

S. No.	Country	HOM
1	Czech Republic	H.E. Dr. Eliska Zigova
2	Uganda	H.E. Ms. Joyce Kakuramatsi kikafunda
3	Nauru	H.E. Ms. Marlene Moses
4	Germany	H.E. Dr. Philipp Ackermann
5	Congo Republic	H.E. Mr. Raymond Serge Bale
6	Suriname	H.E. Mr. Arunkoemar Hardien
7	Belgium	H.E. Mr. Didie Vanderhasselt
8	Vietnam	H.E. Mr. Nguyen Thanh Hai
9	Iran	H.E. Dr. Iraj Ilahi
10	Sweden	H.E. Mr. Jan Thesleff
11	Bangladesh	H.E. Mr. Md. Mustafizur Rahman
12	UAE	H.E. Dr. Abdalnaseer Jamal Hussain Mohammed Alshaali
13	Maldives	H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Shaheeb
14	Latvia	H.E. Mr. Juris Bone
15	Japan	H.E. Suzuki Hiroshi
16	Lithuania	H.E. Mrs. Diana Mickeviciene
17	Laos	H.E. Mr. Bounmy Vanmany
18	Greece	H.E. Mr. Dimitrois Ioannou
19	Ecuador	H.E. Mr. Francisco Teodoro Maldonado Guevara
20	Somalia	H.E. Mr. Ahmed Ali Dahir
21	Syria	H.E. Dr. Bassam Alkhatib
22	Saudi Arabia	H.E. Mr. Saleh Eid H Al-Husseini

List of Resident Missions/ Trade offices/ Consulate Generals/ Deputy High Commissions/ Honorary Consuls (approved from 01.01.2022 to 30.11.2022)

- Resident Missions : Solomon Islands
- Trade Offices : Nil
- Cultural Centre : Czech Republic
- Consulate Generals/ Deputy High Commissions:
  1. Finland - Mumbai
  2. Australia - Bengaluru
  3. Mexico - Mumbai
- Honorary Consulates General/ Honorary Consulates:
  1. Democratic Republic of Congo - Mumbai
  2. Switzerland – Chennai
  3. Malawi – Bengaluru
  4. Malawi – Chennai
  5. Namibia – Bengaluru
  6. Czech Republic – Chandigarh
  7. Madagascar – Bengaluru
  8. Uganda – Chennai
  9. Lithuania – Hyderabad
  10. Sierra Leone – New Delhi
  11. Cambodia – Bengaluru
  12. Botswana – Hyderabad
  13. Vietnam- Chennai
  14. Vietnam – Gandhinagar
  15. Hungary – Chandigarh
  16. Morocco – Bengaluru
  17. North Macedonia – Mumbai
  18. Rwanda - Kolkata

## CHAPTER

## 28

# External Publicity & Public Diplomacy Division

The External Publicity and Public Diplomacy Division continued with its efforts to effectively articulate India's position on key foreign policy issues in accordance with its mandate. Simultaneously, proactive efforts to project the 'India Story' and other notable achievements of the country to an international audience continued apace. The disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic presented its own set of challenges and the Division adapted accordingly to successfully function during that time. As the situation has improved, the Division has amalgamated its experiences and skills learnt in those challenging times to further its effective functioning at present.

## Engagement with the Media

### Press Coverage

The period January – November 2022 saw a surge in the number of incoming and outgoing visits of VVIPs vis-a-vis last year. These visits and high-profile interactions were given due publicity by XP Division.

The Prime Minister visited Germany (6th India-Germany Intergovernmental Consultations), Denmark (2nd India-Nordic Summit) and France in May 2022. He also visited Lumbini, Nepal in May 2022 to attend the 2566th Buddha Jayanti and Lumbini

Day. The Prime Minister visited Japan in May 2022 for the Quad Leaders' Summit and then to Germany (G7 Summit) and UAE in June 2022. He visited Uzbekistan in September 2022 to attend the SCO Summit and then to Japan in September 2022 to attend the State Funeral of the former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The Prime Minister also went to Indonesia in November 2022 to attend the G20 Leaders' Summit.

EAM visited Australia, Philippines, Germany and France in February 2022, Maldives and Sri Lanka in March 2022. EAM also visited the United States of America, Bangladesh and Bhutan in April 2022, followed by his visit to Slovakia and the Czech Republic in June 2022. EAM attended the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers' Meeting in July 2022 in Tashkent and visited Cambodia, Thailand, Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina and UAE in August 2022. He visited Japan, Saudi Arabia, the United States of America in September 2022, New Zealand, Australia and Egypt in October 2022, followed by his visit to Russia in November 2022.

The Prime Minister of Japan visited India in March 2022 for the 14th India-Japan Annual Summit, this was followed by the visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal in April 2022. The Prime Minister of Mauritius visited India in April 2022 along with a high-level delegation. April 2022 saw the visit of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom followed by the Official visit of the President of

the Republic of Maldives in August 2022. The King of Bhutan visited India in September 2022 and the Prime Minister of Bangladesh visited in September 2022 for a State visit.

The Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka visited in February 2022 followed by the visits of Foreign Ministers of Austria, Greece, Oman and Mexico in March 2022. Foreign Ministers of Italy and Hungary visited in May 2022. June 2022 saw the visits of Foreign Ministers of Iran, Spain and Bangladesh followed by the visit of the Foreign Minister of Andorra in July-August 2022 and the Foreign Minister of Maldives in August 2022. The French Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs visited in September 2022 followed by the Foreign Minister of Botswana in October 2022. November 2022 saw the visits of Foreign Ministers of Belarus, Syria and UAE.

Other VVIP visits included visits of the former Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of the United Kingdom Elizabeth Truss in March 2022 followed by the visit of the President of the European Commission Ursula Von Der Leyen in April 2022. H.M. Queen Maxima of the Netherlands

visited in August 2022 and the Secretary General of the United Nations Mr Antonio Guterres visited in October 2022.

## Engagement with Foreign Media

In order to enhance awareness about India amongst friendly countries and to encourage media exchanges, XPD Division organises familiarisation visits by foreign journalists to India. For the current financial year 2022-23, a total of 11 such visits have been planned that include Maldives, Bangladesh, Iran, Sri Lanka, Seychelles, Nepal and Bhutan. Journalists from ASEAN, Gulf, LAC, SCO, and PIC groups/regions are also included in the visits. A total of 129 Journalists/Editors from Maldives, ASEAN Member States, Bangladesh, Iran, Sri Lanka, Seychelles, Nepal and Bhutan have visited India so far under this programme during the given time. Additionally, 08 Indian media persons also visited Singapore and Cambodia under ASEAN-India Media Exchange Programme.



ASEAN journalists on a week-long familiarization visit to India, June 2022

## Digital outreach

MEA has been a pioneer in the Government of India to embrace a robust social media presence and digital identity with a consistently growing number of followers across platforms.

MEA has over 3.84 million followers on Twitter with @MEAIndia having 2.29 million followers and @IndianDiplomacy having 1.5 million followers, adding approximately 110,000 followers since last year. Missions and Posts have also continued to increase engagement with the diaspora and the local population in the host country through social media platforms. Today around 194 Indian Missions/Posts have a presence on Twitter; 191 Missions/Posts have a presence on Facebook; and around 132 Missions have a presence on Instagram, with more being encouraged to join the platform. This all-round digital outreach by the Ministry has enabled faster, direct and accurate dissemination of information on the Ministry and Mission/Posts' activities to an audience not just in India but all across the world.

MEA's YouTube channels – The Division manages two YouTube channels for the Ministry; MEA India channel has a total of over 191,000 subscribers, and Indian Diplomacy channel has over 148,000 subscribers as of December 2022.

MEA Flickr account (MEAphtogallery) continues to serve as a repository of photos for all of MEA's major events, in India and abroad, with a photo bank of 44,420 HD photos as of December 2022.

MEA's SoundCloud account (MEAIndia) is a useful audio clip database for accessing audio clips of all media briefings. Video Clips of all media briefings are also uploaded on YouTube.

XP Division in consultation with the Ministry of Ayush organised the Guardian Yoga Ring event to celebrate the 8th International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2022. A list of our Embassies and Consulates, located across continents and time zones, that would participate in this event was made and IDY activities from these locations were telecasted live on Doordarshan as a relay from 3 am to 10 pm (IST) on June 21. Around 80 Indian Missions/Posts abroad participated in this initiative.

The popularity and success of MEA's efforts in expanding digital outreach and branding itself as a 'digitally forward' Ministry is demonstrated by the continuous growth of its followers across social media platforms.

## Visual Outreach – Films and Documentaries

The XPD Division commissions documentaries aimed at positive projection of India's image abroad. FTP links of the

documentaries commissioned by this division are shared with Indian Missions/Posts abroad for presentation and screening purposes. These documentaries are also uploaded on the MEA YouTube channel "Indian Diplomacy" for ease of reference and use. Non-commercial screening rights of popular Bollywood and Regional feature films are procured and shared with Indian Missions/Posts abroad through FTP links/DCPs for screening by them as well as for participation in local film festivals.

Other publicity materials such as Customised sets of popular Indian Classical/Bollywood Music Cards, videos and photographs of Eminent leaders shared with Missions/Posts abroad for organising publicity campaigns, photographic exhibitions etc. and photographs on Parakram Diwas and India @ 75 also uploaded on Intranet. Customised sets of popular Indian Classical/Bollywood music cards were also used for gifts/presents purposes by MEA and our Missions/Posts abroad.

During the year, the Division commissioned many short films and videos such as (i) Lotus Trail - India's Buddhist Linkages with South-East Asia and East Asia countries. (ii) Film on Passport Seva (iii) India@75: A Journey of Transformation (iv) 8th International Day of Yoga with AKAM theme. (v) 26/11 Mumbai Terror Attacks (vi) Film on Indian Diaspora (vii) Series of short videos to celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav etc. in India and abroad.

## Public Outreach

### Government's Achievements in the Field of Foreign Policy

The Division brought out a hardbound book titled 'Citizen-Centric Foreign Policy' showcasing the achievements of the government in the field of foreign policy covering the period of the last 8 years. To affect a greater outreach, an e-book version, as well as a Hindi-translated version of the same, was also brought out and hosted on the Ministry's website.

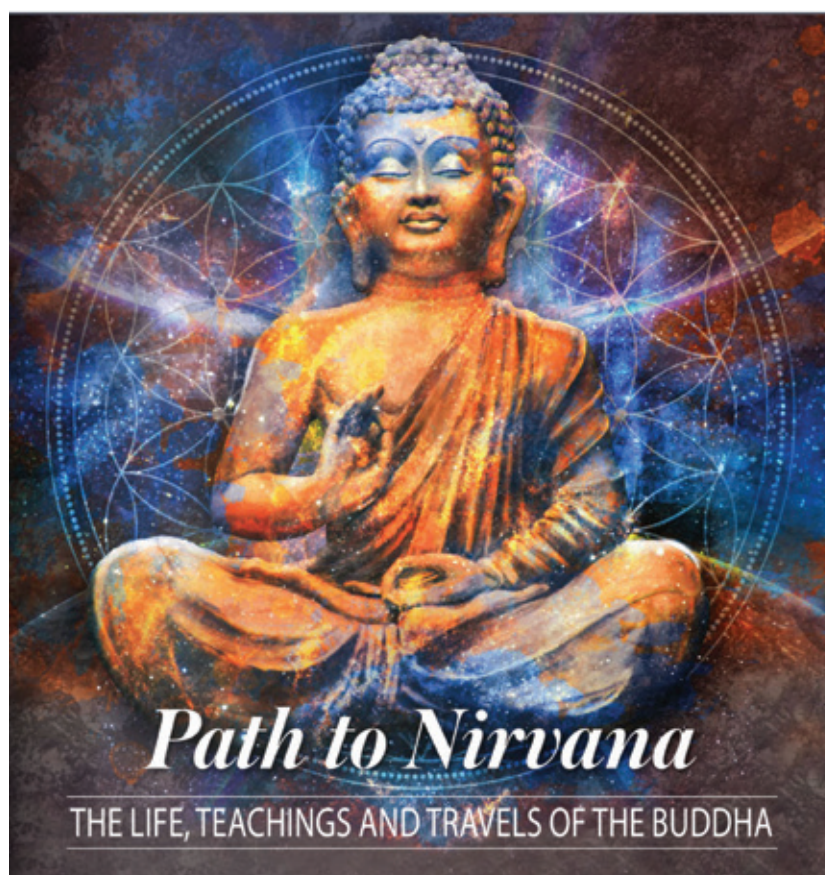
### Commissioning of e-Books

The Division regularly brings out e-books with a view to showcase significant events/VVIP visits etc. During the period the e-books listed below were commissioned: a) Highlights of Prime Minister's visit to Uzbekistan b) India's Engagement with Global Partners c) Prime Minister's visit to Germany & UAE d) Path to Nirvana e) Citizen-Centric Foreign Policy f) Jan Kendrit Videsh Neeti (Citizen-Centric Foreign Policy – Hindi version) g) Furthering the Force for Global Good h) On a Pious Note i) Making it easy to travel, Making it secure to travel j) Highlights of Prime Minister's Visit to Germany, Denmark & France k) India's Arctic Policy.





E-book Citizen-Centric Foreign Policy (Hindi Version)



E-book "Path to Nirvana"

## Books and Periodicals

### Book Committee

The Book Committee was established in 2003 as a public diplomacy tool to select books from several categories namely Indian Classics, Foreign Policy and Strategic Affairs, Technology and Popular Science, Hindi and Sanskrit, Art and Culture, Religion and Spirituality, Children Books and Politics and Economy for the Missions/post abroad library as well as for presentation purposes. Under the 43rd Book Committee, 408 titles were selected. The demand of approximately 33000 Copies was received from 89 Missions/Posts for different titles. The total expenditure to procure these books was Rs. 3.95 crore/-.

The 44th Book Committee Meeting will be organized in 2023.

### India Perspectives

The bimonthly flagship magazine of the Ministry is now available in a digital format in 16 languages. The web version of the magazine allows customisation of the content and the option to download and electronically disseminate it through social media by the Missions and Posts. The magazine covers selective themes such as partnership, life and style, innovation and institutions, economy and sports, tour and travel etc. It can be read online at [www.indiaperspectives.gov.in](http://www.indiaperspectives.gov.in) and [www.mea.gov.in](http://www.mea.gov.in).



India Perspectives E-book

## CHAPTER

# 29

# Administration, Establishment, Global Estate Management and Right to Information

## Administration

The main responsibility of the Administration Division in the Ministry is to provide manpower resources both at its Headquarters and in 201 Indian Missions/Posts, and 2 Representative Offices abroad. In this regard, the Division oversees cadre management exercises which involve recruitment, training, postings/ transfers, deputations, and career progression.

In addition, the Division deals with formulation and amendment of relevant rules and regulations relating to Indian personnel posted abroad and local employees serving in Indian Missions and Posts.

The current sanctioned strength of the Ministry is 4488 (Annexure VIII) with 52.2% of these posts located in Missions and Posts abroad. The total strength is distributed across

different cadres of the Ministry such as the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), IFS General Cadre, Branch B, Stenographers Cadre, Interpreters Cadre, Legal & Treaties Cadre, among others.

The Ministry reorganises its divisions and their responsibilities to account for new developments and functional priorities such as creation of G-20 Division. Currently, there are 57 Divisions in the Ministry.

Three new Missions in Estonia, Dominican Republic and Paraguay were opened in the period from December 2021 - January 2022. Mission in Chad was made operational in October 2022. Preparatory administrative and establishment related measures were initiated towards setting up of another 3 Missions in Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, and Somalia. In May 2021, the Cabinet approved the opening of a Consulate in Addu City, Maldives. In April 2022, the opening of the Mission in Lithuania was approved by the Cabinet. Efforts are underway to operationalize them.

As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, MEA launched the MEA Internships Programme 2022 with the aim to take foreign policy closer to the people; provide value to the interns; ensure better gender inclusivity and increase diversity in terms of qualifications, domicile and socio-economic status amongst the cohort of interns engaged by the Ministry. A total of 75 interns were offered in 2022 in a single term of three months from April to June 2022.

The Division actively utilised technological tools such as the e-Samiksha portal, an online interface between Headquarters and the Missions/Posts. The Foreign Service Board/Senior Establishment Board/Junior Establishment Boards are through the Ministry's Digital Online Working System (MEADOWS). The Administration Division has been effectively using e-Office, in line with the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)'s initiatives to increase efficiency in decision making. Government e-Market place (GeM) has been utilised for hiring of manpower and hiring of vendors to provide cars to the Ministry.

## Establishment

The Ministry observed a Special Campaign for Swachhta during 2-31 October 2022 and Swachhta Pakhwada during 1-15 January 2023 wherein all MEA offices, RPOs, Protector of Emigrants (POE), Branch Secretariats, Missions and Posts abroad participated.

As mandated by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) a three-member team from Quality Council of India (QCI) carried out Swachhta Assessment on Special Campaign for Disposal of Pending Matters at JNB in May 2022. New facilities such as sanitary napkin vending machines and crèche have been commenced in JNB and South Block.

The Division was the nodal point for the 'Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign' during 13-15 August 2022 at all MEA offices in New Delhi and motivated its officials to participate in the campaign and make it a success.

During 2022, the Division dealt with over 500 proposals from Missions/Posts abroad for various requirements including purchase/replacement of official vehicles, procurement of carpets, AMC for house-keeping etc.

The Division ensured over 90% official procurements through GeM Portal. In association with the officials of Government e Marketplace (GeM), two training programmes on 'GeM' were organised by the Division on 13 June and 06 September 2022.

Apart from procurement of 50 flats at Commonwealth Village Akshardham in 2021 which are fully occupied by Under Secretary and Deputy Secretary level officers, 18 more flats have

been procured and added to the Ministry's overall inventory of residential accommodation. Due to India's assumption of the G-20 Presidency, housing requirement has increased and on Ministry's request, Directorate of Estate (DoE) has allotted 50 flats (Type-IV & Type-III) at the newly constructed Thyagraj Nagar Complex (near Thyagraj Stadium) for a period of three years. Physical occupation of these 50 flats is expected to be taken shortly.

The Division continued its efforts to provide adequate safeguards at the Ministry's offices to fight against the Covid-19 pandemic during 2022-23.

## Global Estate Management (GEM)

The Global Estate Management (GEM) Division actively pursued several acquisition, construction, redevelopment, and renovation of properties for Indian Missions and Posts abroad and RPOs, ICCR centres, POEs, and Branch Secretariats in India.

Acquisition of properties were pursued in Male and Abidjan for construction of Chancery and Residences, while significant progress was made for acquisition of properties at Washington (Chancery plot), Seychelles (Ambassador's residence), Ashgabat (Chancery), Bucharest (Chancery & Residences) and Vladivostok (Chancery & Staff Residences). Acquisition of properties in Guatemala (Chancery & Ambassador's Residence), Bishkek (Chancery), Brussels (additional Chancery space), Baku (Plot for Chancery & Residences) and Milan (Chancery) are progressing satisfactorily.

Construction projects in Kabul (Residences), Geneva (Chancery), Wellington (Chancery & Residences), Bangkok (Ambassador's Residence & Residences of other officials) and Luoyang Temple in China (Renovation & Installation of Artwork) were completed successfully. Construction of the Ambassador's Residence in Amman has been initiated. Other construction projects in Khartoum (Chancery & Staff Residences), Brunei Darussalam (Chancery, HC's Residence & Residences), Port of Spain (Cultural Centre), Islamabad (Residential Complex) and Kathmandu (Chancery & Residential Complex) are nearing completion. Construction of Chancery & Residences in Phuentsholing was re-started after halting due to pandemic.

Renovation projects in Seoul (Chancery) have been completed successfully and those in Warsaw (Embassy Residence) and Yangon (Chancery) are nearing completion. Major repairs/renovation projects have been initiated in Abu Dhabi (Chancery), Lagos (Chancery), CGI New York (Chancery & CG's Residence), PMI New York (Chancery-cum-residences) Port of Spain (HC's Residence & Staff Residences), Prague (Ambassador's Residence), Pretoria (DHC's Residence) and Vienna (Ambassador's Residence).



Construction projects in RPO Bhopal are slated to be completed by January 2023, and those in RPO Ranchi and RPO Kolkata are progressing at a good pace. Construction of buildings for RPO Chennai and RPO Hyderabad have been initiated. Renovation projects in RPO Lucknow and RPO Bhubaneswar are nearing completion. Important and high visibility redevelopment projects of MEA Hostels at Gole Market and K.G. Marg in Delhi, which will augment the availability of residential units for the housing needs of the Ministry, have been started and are progressing well.

## Right to Information (RTI)

During the year, the Ministry continued efforts towards full implementation of the Right to Information Act 2005. In keeping with instructions of Department of Personnel & Training (DOPT) on suo-motu disclosure, uploading of RTI applications, appeals, responses and monthly RTI figures on public domain has been implemented. The system of online acceptance and disposal of

RTI applications has been implemented in Missions and Posts abroad by aligning them with the RTI web portal.

A total of 2609 RTI applications and 144 First Appeals seeking information under the RTI Act 2005 have been received in the Ministry during the above-mentioned period and have been disposed of satisfactorily. Applications, in general, covered subjects such as foreign relations, administrative issues, bilateral visits, Covid-19 pandemic, Ukraine Crisis and expenditures incurred on the same.

All Central Information Commission's (CIC) hearings have been attended by the concerned Central Public Information Officers (CPIOs) and a representative of the RTI Cell. Quarterly return has been filed with CIC as required, on schedule.

In collaboration with SSIFS, implementation of online suo moto disclosure (transparency audit) by all the CPIOs in the Ministry including Missions and Posts abroad in a time bound manner, as per the instructions of CIC, has been concluded for the year 2021-22.

## CHAPTER

## 30

# Implementation of the Official Language Policy

Implementation of the Official Language policy of the Government of India has always been a priority for the Ministry under which it follows a comprehensive scheme for promotion and propagation of Hindi in India as well as abroad, including through organization of World Hindi Conference and Regional Hindi Conferences regularly, World Hindi Day on 10 January and Hindi Divas on 14 September. Preparations for holding the 12th World Hindi Conference (WHC) in Fiji in February 2023 are currently underway. The first batch of three specialized interpreters in Arabic, Chinese and Russian languages recruited and trained under Atal Bhashantar Yojna (ABY), have been deployed in relevant Territorial Divisions in the Ministry.

A detailed network involving Indian Missions/posts abroad, PIOs and NRIs bodies, local NGOs, Cultural Organisations and Associations have been co-opted for promotion and propagation of the Hindi Language abroad. Hindi teachers are recruited locally by each Mission to teach Hindi and teaching material is supplied by the Division to Missions and Posts abroad for all Hindi learners and also for presentation to educational institutions and organisations involved in the teaching and promotion of Hindi. The Ministry extended financial support

of approximately Rs. 54.26 Lakh to Missions/Posts abroad to engage teachers to conduct Hindi classes. In addition, teaching material and books worth approximately Rs. 27.11 lakh were also provided through our Missions for organizing Hindi classes.

The Division also coordinates through our Missions work related to grant of scholarships to foreign students to study Hindi at Kendriya Hindi Sansthan Agra. The responsibility for monitoring use of Hindi language in the Regional Passport Offices is also entrusted to the Division of the Ministry. The responsibility is discharged through inspections carried out by the Division. During the year 2022-23 one of RPOs inspections was carried out.

The Regional Hindi Conferences are organised by our Missions abroad in association with local institutions engaged in promotion and propagation of Hindi and Indian culture. The World Hindi Day is celebrated in all our Missions and Posts abroad as well as Headquarters on 10 January every year. Hindi Pakhwada was organised to mark Hindi Diwas 2022, which saw enthusiastic participation by Regional Passport Offices as well as our Missions and Posts abroad. An amount of Rs. 1,33,49,800/-

was granted to the Missions to celebrate the Hindi Pakhwada. Various competitions and activities, including Hindi Essay Writing, Hindi Noting & Drafting, Hindi Poetry Competition, Official Language General Knowledge Competition were organised on this occasion. At the HQs, prizes were distributed to the winners by MoS (ML) in a Ceremony held in Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi on 3rd October 2022. A grand Kavi Sammelan was also organized on the occasion which saw participation by renowned Hindi poets.

The 12th WHC is scheduled to be organised in Fiji in February 2023. In this connection, a 3-member delegation led by Dr. Anjeela Jokhan, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts, Government of Fiji visited India 27-29 October 2022 to participate in the launch ceremony of the logo and the website ([www.vishwahindisammelan.gov.in](http://www.vishwahindisammelan.gov.in)) of the 12th WHC. These were launched by EAM on 27 October 2022 in New Delhi in the presence of MoS (VM) and chairperson of the 12th WHC Advisory Committee. The high-level Indo-Fijian Joint Committee on 12th WHC held its 3rd and 1st onside meeting co-chaired by Secretary (East) and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts, Government of Fiji in New Delhi

on 28 October 2022. Earlier, the 2nd meeting was held on 24 June 2022 by video conferencing.

The 1st Sub-Committee of the Parliament on Official Language carried out an inspection of the Ministry on 14 October 2022 on the progressive use of Hindi in official work of the Ministry and suggested various ways to further maximise the use of official language. During the year, it also carried out inspection of MEA's autonomous/subordinate offices ICCR and RIS and of 5 RPOs.

The ABY was instituted by MEA for training language experts towards creating a pool of 'Specialised Interpreters' for interpretation to and from Hindi language in Arabic, Chinese, French, Japanese, Russian and Spanish. Under this Yojana, 1st batch of three candidates, one each in Arabic, Chinese and Russian, after getting trained in the USA, have been deployed in relevant Territorial Divisions in the Ministry.

During the period, continuous translation work for Hindi was undertaken for documents and other materials received from various Divisions of the Ministry and Missions.

## CHAPTER

## 31

# Finance and Budget

The total budget allocated to the Ministry for Financial Year (FY) 2022-23 is Rs. 17,250 Cr at the Budget Estimates (BE) stage.

## Sectoral distribution of budget for major allocations

Sector		Allocation (In Rs. Cr)
Technical and Economic Cooperation (TEC) with foreign countries	Grants	6043.77
	Loans	706.23
	Total TEC	6750.00
Indian Missions and Posts abroad		3769.06
Special Diplomatic Expenditure		3100.01
Passport and Emigration		1001.67
International Cooperation		898.46
Capital Outlay on Public Works and Housing		710.00
MEA Secretariat		541.79
Assistance to Autonomous Bodies and Other Institutions		354.90
Others		124.11
<b>Total BE for FY 2022-23</b>		<b>17250.00</b>

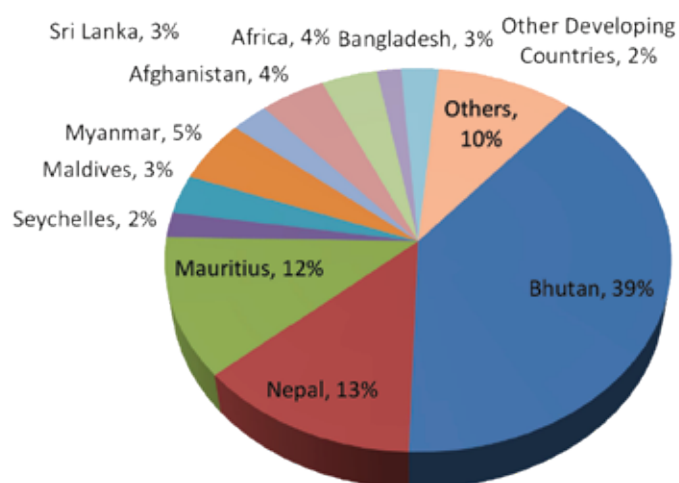
Development Partnership portfolio (or the Technical and Economic Cooperation) which constitutes India's Aid to various countries, continues to be the focus and priority with the largest allocation in the Ministry's budget. In FY 2022-23, of

the total budget of Rs. 17250 Cr, the Technical and Economic Cooperation Heads (TEC) outlay is 39.13% or Rs. 6750 Cr, of which Rs. 6043.77 Cr (35.04%) is for grant programmes and Rs. 706.23 Cr (4.09%) is for loans.



### Head-wise distribution of the TEC outlay in financial year 2022-23

Technical and Economic Cooperation (TEC) Heads		Allocation (In Rs. Crore)	% of Total TEC Allocation
Aid to Bangladesh		300.00	4.44%
Bhutan	Grant	1560.01	33.57%
	Loan	706.23	
	Total Bhutan	2266.24	
Aid to Nepal		750.00	11.11%
Aid to Mauritius		900.00	13.33%
Aid to Afghanistan		200.00	2.96%
Aid to Seychelles		14.06	0.21%
Aid to Myanmar		600.00	8.89%
ITEC Programme		167.70	2.48%
Aid to African Countries		250.00	3.70%
Aid to Sri Lanka		200.00	2.96%
Chabahar Port, Iran		100.00	1.48%
Aid to Maldives		360.00	5.33%
Aid to Other Developing Countries		150.00	2.22%
Investment Publicity & Promotion Programme		210.00	3.11%
Indo-Pacific Cooperation		50.00	0.74%
Aid to Eurasian Countries		140.00	2.07%
Multilateral Economic Relations Programme		14.00	0.21%
Aid to Latin American Countries		40.00	0.59%
Aid for Disaster Relief		10.00	0.15%
SAARC Programmes		6.00	0.09%
Aid to Mongolia		12.00	0.18%
Aid for Cultural and Heritage Projects		10.00	0.15%
<b>Total</b>		<b>6750.00</b>	



Pie chart showing the distribution of budget for Development Partnership

The bulk of Ministry's Development Partnership budget, comprising about 66%, is allocated to the neighbouring countries under the Government's "Neighbourhood First" Policy, followed closely by allocation to Indian Ocean Region (22%), Extended Neighborhood (7.2%), Africa (3.70%), Latin American countries (0.59%), among others.

Of the total budget for FY 2022-23 of Rs. 17250 Cr, the bifurcation of allocations between establishment heads and

non-establishment heads is 30% (Rs. 5331 Cr) and 70% (Rs. 11919 Cr) respectively. Ministry has consistently maintained its expenditure on Establishment heads within 30% of its total budget.

The Ministry has been optimally utilising the funds allocated to it in the Revised Estimates (RE) stage of a financial year for the past ten FYs.

### Revised Estimates for the past ten Financial Years

FY	BE Allocation	RE Allocation	Actual Expenditure	Utilisation as % of BE	Utilisation as % of RE
In Rupees Cr; Rounded Off					
2012-13	9662	10062	10121	105 %	100 %
2013-14	11719	11794	11807	101 %	100 %
2014-15	14730	12620	12149	82 %	96 %
2015-16	14967	14967	14541	97 %	97 %
2016-17	14663	13426	12772	87 %	95 %
2017-18	14798	13690	13750	93 %	100 %
2018-19	15011	15582	15526	103%	99%
2019-20	17885	17372	17272	97%	99%
2020-21	17347	15000	14362	83%	96%
2021-22	18155	16000	14174	78%	89%

The Ministry has revenue receipts of Rs. 3573.38 Cr till 30 November 2022 in FY 2022-23, from passport services (Rs. 2151.38 Cr), visa fees (Rs. 827.99 Cr) and other receipts (Rs. 594.01 Cr). The revenue receipt for the last five financial years from FY 2018-2019 to FY 2022-2023 is given below:

### Revenue receipt from financial years 2018-2019 to 2022-2023

Year	Heads	Amount (Cr.)	Percentage
2018-19	Passport	2679.75	44%
	Visa	2688.9	44%
	Others	680.06	11%
	Total	6048.71	
2019-20	Passport	2522.71	49%
	Visa	1792.11	35%
	Others	856.16	17%
	Total	5170.98	
2020-21	Passport	583.56	77%
	Visa	24.85	3%
	Others	149.73	20%
	Total	758.14	
2021-22	Passport	2332.50	66%
	Visa	316.93	9%
	Others	874.18	25%
	Total	3523.61	

Year	Heads	Amount (Cr.)	Percentage
2022-23 (*figures up to 30 Nov 2022)	Passport	2151.38	60%
	Visa	827.99	23%
	Others	594.01	17%
	Total	3573.38	

In January 2022, the Ministry had a total of four Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) Paras pending from Report No. 6 of 2020 (1 Nos) and Report No.2 of 2021 (3 Nos). 5 more Paras were added vide CAG report No. 24 of year 2022 dated 20.12.2022. The status of submission of Action Taken Notes (ATNs) for these Paras is given below:

Year	CAG Report	Total No. of Paras	Final ATNs Submitted	ATNs Under Process
2017	Report No.12 of 2017	4	4	Nil
2018	Report No.4 of 2018	5	5	Nil
2019	No Report generated by CAG for MEA	-	-	-
2020	Report No.6 of 2020	4	4	Nil
2021	Report No.2 of 2021	5	3	2
2022	Report No. 24 of 2022	5	0	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>	

The details and status of these CAG Paras are as below:

CAG Report No.	Para No.	Subject	Status
6 of 2020	8.4	Incorrect adoption of rates resulting in extra cost – Nalanda University	Final ATN submitted by the Ministry. Approved by Audit
2 of 2021	5.3	Irregularities in receipt and utilisation of compensation by the HCI London	Revised ATN is under preparation by the Ministry
	5.4	Grossly irregular and manipulated award and execution of work relating to the renovation of the basement at India House, London, leading to undue benefits being extended to the contractor by the HCI London	Revised ATN is under preparation by the Ministry
	5.5	Undue benefit extended to the contractor by Nalanda University, Rajgir	Final ATN submitted by the Ministry. Approved by Audit
24 of 2022	2.1	Short collection of fees due to application of incorrect exchange rate in fixing the fees for Overseas Citizenship of India Card scheme	Draft ATN is under preparation by the Ministry
	2.2	Irregularities in setting up of Indian Cultural Centres by Indian Missions at Washington and Paris	Draft ATN is under preparation by the Ministry
	2.3	Avoidable payment of cost escalation and interest	Draft ATN is under preparation by the Ministry
	2.4	Adoption of improper tendering process led to cost overrun besides arbitrarily deviating from the identified items of work under the tender	Draft ATN is under preparation by the Ministry
	2.5	Excess fee charged for passport renunciation	Draft ATN is under preparation by the Ministry

## PAC Paras

In January 2022, the Ministry had a total three PAC Paras pending from Report 17 of 17th Lok Sabha. Final ATR of all three pending Paras has been submitted by the Ministry. In addition, corrigendum to two ATRs already submitted in response to PAC Paras intimating factual position (Para 12 of Report No. 17 of 17th Lok Sabha and Para 9 of Report No. 28 of 16th Lok Sabha) were submitted by the Ministry.

Year	PAC Report No	Total No of Paras	Final ATRs Submitted	ATRs Due	Remarks
2018	PAC Report No. 112	7	7	-	Final ATRs submitted.
2020	PAC Report No.17	5	5	-	Final ATRs submitted.

Details and status of these PAC paras are as under:

Lok Sabha No.	Report No.	Para No.	Subject	Status
16	28	9	<p>"Excesses over voted grants and charged appropriations"</p> <p>[The Committee notes that the Ministry in their reply has mentioned the upgrading of the Indian Mission Accounting System (IMAS) in about 12 to 18 months which is expected to facilitate sharing of expenditure details in real time and reduce the recurrence of excess expenditure. The Committee would like to be apprised of the details of the substantive progress made in this regard along with elaboration on how and to what extent the same will curtail overshooting of expenditure.]</p>	Revised final ATRs submitted.
17	17	5	<p>Committee's Observations on Action Taken by the Ministry on the Observations/ Recommendations of the Committee contained in their 112th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on "Incorrect Adoption of Exchange Rate in Ottawa and its Consulates" as contained in CAG Report No.11 of 2016 Chapter VII Para 7.1 [The Committee notes that the Action Taken Notes were furnished by the Ministry after a delay of more than a year. The Committee deprecates the undue delay in submission of Action Taken Notes by the Ministry and desire that necessary instructions may be issued to ensure that replies to the Committee are henceforth submitted in time.]</p>	Final ATRs submitted.
		7	<p>Committee's Observations on Action Taken by the Ministry on the Observations/ Recommendations of the Committee contained in their 112th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on "Incorrect Adoption of Exchange Rate in Ottawa and its Consulates" as contained in CAG Report No.11 of 2016 Chapter VII Para 7.1</p> <p>[The Committee desire the to furnish Action Taken Notes in respect of Observations/ Recommendations contained in Chapter I within six months of the presentation of the Report to the House.]</p>	Final ATRs submitted.
		12	<p>Committee's observations on Action Taken by the Ministry on the Observations/ Recommendations of the Committee contained in their 112th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on "Incorrect Adoption of Exchange Rate in Ottawa and its Consulates" as contained in CAG Report No.11 of 2016 Chapter VII Para 7.1</p> <p>[The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation that action be taken against those responsible for not adhering to stipulated rules and guidelines and the Committee be apprised of the details thereof. The Committee also desires that basic/ refresher training may be imparted to all the Mission staff to ensure that such errors do not recur. The Committee, therefore, reiterates that a review of all the Missions may be carried out to ascertain and obviate occurrence of any such instances and desire that the Ministry may furnish specific data on real-time monitoring of such issues since the integration of passport issuance project.]</p>	Revised final ATRs submitted.
		22	<p>Committee's observations on Action Taken by the Ministry on the Observations/ Recommendations of the Committee contained in their 112th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on "Incorrect Adoption of Exchange Rate in Ottawa and its Consulates" as contained in CAG Report No.11 of 2016 Chapter VII Para 7.1</p> <p>[The Committee would like to be apprised of the details of the Global Passport Seva Project as well as the resultant impact on monitoring and real time reporting. The Committee would also like to know if the implementation of this project specifically addresses the concerns raised by them in earlier recommendation].</p>	Final ATRs submitted.



## CHAPTER

## 32

# Parliament & Coordination Division

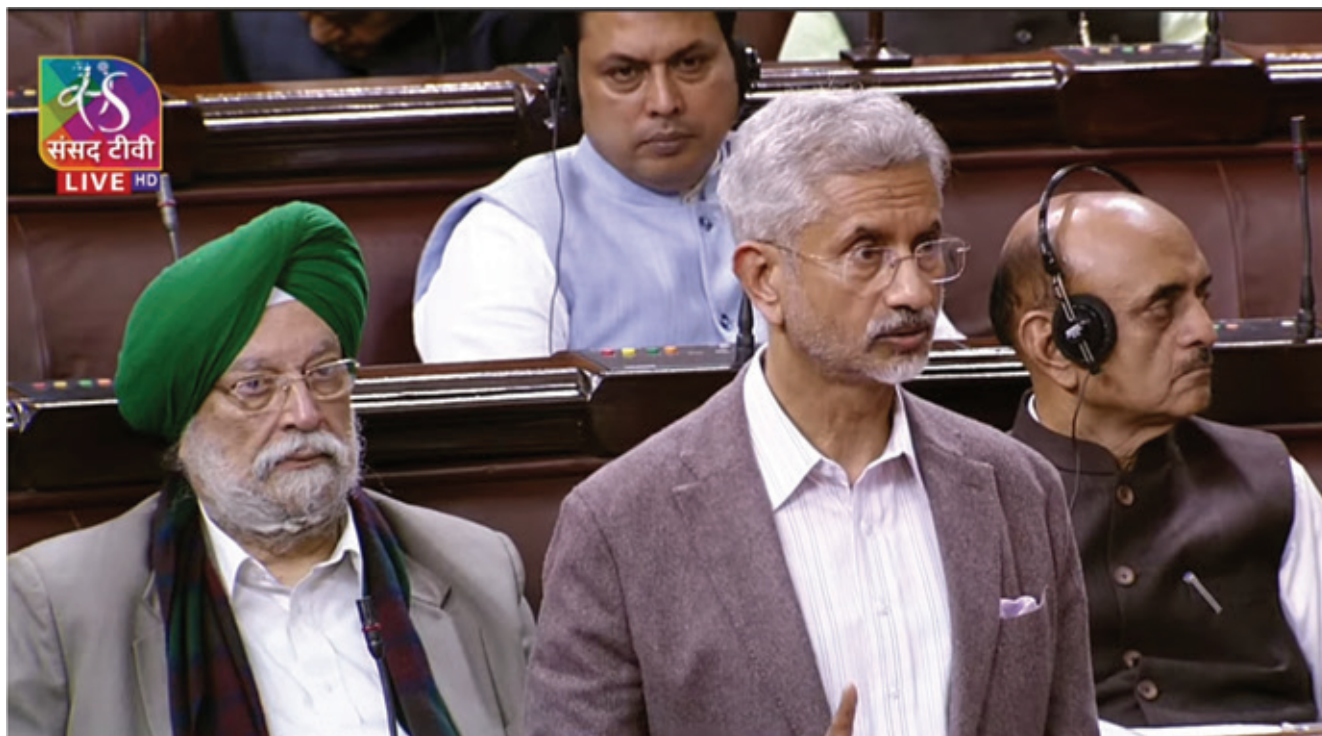
The responsibility of the Parliament & Coordination Division broadly consists of Parliamentary work; coordination within and outside the Ministry; coordination of the Ministry's activities carried out under 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsava' (AKAM), participation in nationwide campaigns carried out by other Ministries like Special Campaign for Disposal OF Pending Matters (SCDPM), monitoring as well as a review of MOUs signed by India with other countries; admission of certain categories of foreign students in Indian educational institutions, among others.

## Parliament Section

Parliament Section is the Ministry's interface with Parliament and the nodal point for Parliament-related work of the Ministry.

The endeavour of the Ministry has been to ensure timely response to the issues raised in the Parliament, including of the Department Related Standing Committee, efficiently conduct legislative business and coordination on the issues related to various international cooperation AND exchange activities carried out by the Parliament.

During the year 2022, the Ministry brought two important legislations which were passed by the Parliament. The 'Weapon of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Amendment Bill 2022' was passed by Lok Sabha on 06 March 2022 and by Rajya Sabha on 01 August 2022. 'The Maritime Anti-Piracy Bill' was passed by Lok Sabha on 19 December 2022 and in Rajya Sabha on 21 December 2022.



EAM during discussion on Maritime Anti-Piracy Bill-2022 in Rajya Sabha

During the Calendar year 2022, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs held 12 meetings on the following 10 subjects:

- i. India's Soft Power and Cultural Diplomacy: Prospects & Limitations;
- ii. Examination of Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2022-23;
- iii. India's Position in the Ongoing Climate Change Negotiations;
- iv. Countering Global Terrorism at Regional and International Level;
- v. Opportunities in African Countries and India's Engagement;
- vi. QUAD in Indo-Pacific Region: India's Role and Strategies for Engagement and Cooperation;
- vii. India's Role in Different Bodies of the United Nations Including Security Council: Imperatives and Challenges for India's Permanent Membership in United Nations Security Council;
- viii. India's Policy Planning and Role of Think Tanks with Special Reference to 'Indian Council of World Affairs'

and 'Research and Information System for Developing Countries';

- ix. Russia-Ukraine Conflict, its Global Impact and India's Response Thereto;
- x. India's Neighbourhood First Policy with Special Reference to Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

In 2022, two Consultative Committee Meetings were held on the subjects 'Situation in Ukraine' and 'Situation in Sri Lanka' on 03 March and 18 June, respectively, under the Chairmanship of EAM.

During the year, the Ministry complied with 10 Parliamentary Assurances. A total of 45 matters were raised under Special Mention, Rule 377 and Zero Hour in the Parliament. Out of 45 matters, while 38 have already been replied to, 7 recent matters are under process for appropriate response. A total of 324 admitted Parliament Questions were replied.

During the year, Annual Reports and Annual Accounts of the Indian Council of World Affairs, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Research and Information System for Developing Countries, India Centre for Migration, Nalanda University and South Asian University were laid in the Parliament.



EAM Chairing Consultative Committee Meeting on 'Situation in Sri Lanka'

## Coordination Section

On behalf of the Ministry, Coordination Section conducts interaction with the other GOI Ministries/Departments, State Governments/Union Territories, autonomous bodies and private institutions. The Section processed political clearances for visits abroad, conferences/seminars/exhibitions, and sports events and examined the proposals for clearance for military flights in a timely manner. A total of 5692 political clearances were issued with respect to international conferences in the year 2022. The Section also coordinated work related to various awards including Padma Awards, Gandhi Peace Prize and Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony.

As the designated Nodal Point in the Ministry for commemorating AKAM at Headquarters and Indian Missions/Posts abroad, the Division effectively coordinated the organization of around 4000 events by the Missions/Posts. AKAM celebrations by Missions/Posts continued to witness enthusiastic participation of the Indian Diaspora, Friends of India and local governments of other countries. The Division played a key role in the celebration of the Government of India's signature events abroad such as Har Ghar Tirangaa, Freedom Struggle: Forgotten Heroes, Surya Namaskar Project, Rashtriya Ekta Diwas/Week, Constitution Day, Tagore Jayanti, National Youth Day, National Tourism Day, Mahaparinirvana Diwas, Ayurveda Day, Parakram Diwas, Atmanirbhar Bharat, Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas, World Hindi Day, Makar Sankranti Celebrations including Kite Flying and Rangoli Making, among others.

Uploading of Ministry's inputs on the Cabinet Secretariat's e-Samiksha Portal, the digital governance platform to facilitate monitoring of the implementation of Cabinet Decisions, Cabinet observations/instructions, recommendations of Committee of Secretaries, etc. was regularly coordinated. Uploading of Ministry's inputs on various digital portals was managed from time to time by collating inputs from various Divisions. PMO References portal monitored by PMO, oversees compliance/implementation of PM's Announcements, and issues between States and the Center were also handled diligently. Special Campaign 2.0 Portal launched by DARPG for timely and effective disposal of pendency, references from MPs and State Governments, Inter-Ministerial Consultations, Parliamentary Assurances, etc. were also coordinated in a timely manner. Special Campaign 2.0 Portal also included details of cleanliness campaigns and management of records (physical as well as e-files) carried out by the Ministry.

## Monitoring Cell

The Monitoring Cell also monitored the status of MoUs/Agreements signed with other countries by the various Indian Government Ministries/Departments and coordinated the exercise for review of the MoUs/Agreements from the perspective of their continued relevance. The Ministry continued to liaise and follow up on their progress with the line Ministries, Divisions within the Ministry and Missions/Posts abroad.

312 MoUs/Agreements were reviewed during 2022 out of a total of 3295 existing MoUs/Agreements. 283 MoUs have been identified for continuation and 29 MoUs have been recommended for discontinuation. 2984 MoUs are yet to be reviewed.

## Education Section

Education Section of the Ministry dealt with the selection, nomination and admission of foreign students from 57 friendly neighbouring and developing countries for MBBS, BDS, B. Arch., BE, B.Tech, B. Pharmacy and Diploma in Engineering & Pharmacy in various government institutions in India under the Self Financing Scheme against seats allocated to this Ministry by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of Education. Persecuted religious minority migrants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan based in India were also offered seats under this scheme.

During the academic year 2022-23, 39 eligible applicants were allotted seats in the B.E./B.Tech/B.Arch/B.Pharmacy courses

till date. 1 seat has been allotted for Diploma in Engineering course. 248 applications were received for MBBS and BDS courses from various foreign nationals and persecuted migrants from minority communities based in India.

Till date, the Education Section processed the following political clearances in 2022:

- (i) 126 cases of political clearances in respect of foreign students for elective-training, observer-ships and short/long-term training,
- (ii) 1692 cases of political clearances in respect of foreign students appearing in various Post Graduate medical and allied entrance examinations,
- (iii) 10 cases of research visas clearances were also issued, and
- (iv) 83 cases of political clearances in respect of foreign students for studying Hindi at Central Institute of Hindi, Agra.



## CHAPTER

## 33

# Conference Division

Summits/Conference Division provides logistical support to the Ministry in organising meetings, events, seminars, and conferences including international and multilateral involvement of foreign ministers and delegates in India and abroad.

Between January 2022 and November 2022, the Division provided support for a total 824 meetings held in physical as well as virtual formats at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan (SSB). These meetings were held at different levels including at leaders' level, ministerial level and official's level.

In addition, the Summits/Conference Division also acts as nodal agency for Sushma Swaraj Bhawan (SSB) (formerly Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra PBK) which was inaugurated by the Prime Minister on 02 October 2016.

India assumed the Presidency of G20 on 1 December 2022 for a period of one year. The G20 Presidency is India's most high-profile international endeavour. Besides the G20 Members,

India has invited 9 guest countries (Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain and United Arab Emirates) and 14 International Organisations to participate in the G20 meetings and the Leaders' Summit, which is scheduled to be held on 09 and 10 September 2023 in New Delhi. In a first, the G20 has extended invitations to six African countries for participation during India's Presidency. Around 200 G20 meetings and events in over 30 different workstreams, comprising Sherpa Track Working Groups, Finance Track Workstreams, Ministerial Meetings and Engagement Groups, have been planned to be hosted across the country during the Presidency.

The SSB had been upgraded to serve as India's BRICS Secretariat in 2021, and subsequently as India's G20 Summit Secretariat with a working space for nearly 300 officers. This upgrade will provide an important venue for G20 related meetings during India's Presidency of G20.

CHAPTER

34

# Archives

Archives & Record Management (A&RM) division is a repository of MEA's Archives and Records. The Division also undertakes the job of appraisal and transfer of files to the National Archives of India (NAI) and has digitized the records of the Ministry stored with it. Presently, the Division is in the process of moving

its records from the older location of C-1 Hutments to Jawahar Lal Nehru Bhawan (JNB) and Indian Society of International Law (ISIL) Building.

About 40% of the records have been shifted to JNB and efforts are underway to shift the rest to JNB and ISIL Building.

## CHAPTER

## 35

# Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service

The Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) was established in 1986 by the Government of India, primarily to cater to the professional training requirements of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officers inducted directly via the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) every year. Over the years, its training ambit has vastly increased to include various training programmes for different levels of MEA officers, MEA personnel, members of other civil services and foreign diplomats. It conducts training programmes for officials other than the MEA officers posted to our Missions and Posts abroad. The courses and programmes for foreign diplomats are a way to build bridges of friendship and academic cooperation with countries around the world. They are designed to serve as an introduction to the principles and practices of diplomacy, current and emerging issues in international relations, as well as the salient features of India's history and culture as they impinge upon India's foreign policy.

The year 2022 began under the cloud of the Omicron surge in the country. This meant that courses conducted by SSIFS had to be done virtually or in a hybrid mode. Due to a successful vaccination campaign, the third wave was managed well and

as the situation improved, SSIFS emerged from the shadows of the COVID-19 pandemic and gradually returned to full-time physical courses. Both its verticals (catering to MEA officers, officials, and foreign diplomats) witnessed packed calendars. The six-month Induction Training Programme (ITP) of the 2021 Batch IFS OTs (Officer Trainees) along with two diplomats from Bhutan commenced with a slight delay due to the pandemic (in March 2022 instead of December 2021). But as the pandemic was on the wane, the entire six-month ITP till September 2022, was fully 'in person' and all scheduled attachments within India and abroad took place as per schedule. As in the past, EAM graced the Valedictory Function in September 2022.

This year, SSIFS conducted all the three Mid-Career Training Programmes for IFS Officers at various stages of their career. There were Special Training Programmes responding to requests from the Comptroller & Auditor General's Office, from XP Division for the Indian media, Capacity Building Commission (CBC), MEA Orientation Module for IAS Assistant Secretaries, Training Module on India's Neighbourhood for the 96th and 97th Foundation Course at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) for all civil

services, Foreign Policy Module for Haryana Institute of Public Administration (HIPA)'s Special Foundation Course, Training module for G20 Liaison Officers and the periodic programmes such the one for Defence Attachés.

The highlight of the year was SSIFS hosting the 48th Annual Meeting of the International Forum on Diplomatic Training (IFDT) from 14-18 November 2022 under the aegis of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. IFDT is a premier global forum that brings together more than 70 diplomatic training institutes and academic institutions from around the world. The Annual Meeting was attended by more than 60 Heads of Diplomatic Training Academies, Deans of academic institutions and other delegates drawn from over 40 countries.

The Foreign Training calendar was equally eventful. SSIFS' flagship bi-annual Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) [for 50 diplomats from 50 countries] resumed after the COVID hiatus with the 69th edition taking place in October 2022. Country-specific (South Sudan and Mexico) and region-specific (Central Asia) programmes, the Know India Programmes for Young PIOs and Familiarization Programmes for Resident (foreign) Diplomats were conducted during the year. In addition, responding to specific requests from MEA Territorial Divisions and local diplomatic Missions (Bangladesh High Commission), tailor-made orientation programmes were organized.

As far as the NRG (Non-Representational Grade) Programmes were concerned, Induction, Promotion-related and Posting-related programmes were conducted on a regular basis for various levels of MEA personnel. In addition, Induction Training

Programmes were conducted for the Direct Recruit Assistant Superintendents of the Central Passport Organisation, officials from the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and a Citizen-Centric Orientation Programme for MEA Interns (the latter two were organized for the first time).

## Cadre Training Programmes for Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Officers

### Induction Training Programme:

Thirty-Five IFS Officer Trainees (OTs) of the 2021 Batch and two Bhutanese diplomats underwent the six-month Induction Training Programme (ITP) from 21 March 2022 – 14 September 2022. The ITP, inter alia, included modules on theories of international relations, foreign policy, bilateral relations with neighbouring countries and major powers, and multilateral organizations. It also included modules on finance, accounts, administration, establishment, consular, passport and visa, international law, protocol, economic and commercial diplomacy, defence diplomacy, S&T, domestic policy, health, tourism, hospitality and media management. Soft power and communication skills were stressed upon. For effective dissemination of knowledge to trainees, senior civil servants, retired ambassadors, senior faculty and research fellows from various Ministries, institutions and think-tanks were invited as speakers. Additionally, SSIFS also invited Ambassadors and



IFS Officer Trainees of the 2021 batch called on Prime Minister as part of their Induction Training Program on August 2022



High Commissioners of foreign countries to interact with the IFS OTs. During their ITP, the OTs were also addressed by the Foreign Minister of Andorra, H.E Ms. Maria Ubach i Font and the Foreign Minister of Poland, H.E Mr. Zbigniew Rau.

Various pedagogical approaches were adopted to train the IFS OTs using state-of-the-art Information Technology (IT) tools (both offline and online). The pedagogical tools included interactive lectures, simulations, role plays, workshops, hands-on training, case studies, success stories, structured mentoring programmes, interactions between foreign and Indian diplomats, field visits and exposure through various attachments.

The OTs had a ten-day long Bharat Darshan tour (30 April-10 May 2022) to acquaint them better with the rich cultural diversity, heritage and tourism potential of the country and a three-day State Attachment (11-13 May 2022) to their respective allotted States. A one-week attachment with the Indian Army (06-10 June 2022) was organised to build a better perspective about border management and interaction with army officers in the field. The OTs attended attachments with the Department of Atomic Energy and the Indian Navy from 13-16 June 2022.

Mission Orientation Attachment for the OTs was organised from 17-23 July 2022. Four groups (each group comprising 8-9 OTs) visited four countries in India's neighbourhood, namely, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and the Maldives.

From 07-13 August 2022, the OTs attended attachments with various Bengaluru-based institutions including ISRO, DRDO, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), and also had interactive sessions with India Stack, Intel, Infosys and Biocon.

As part of the ITP, the OTs called on the Hon'ble President on 29 September 2022 and Prime Minister on 29 August 2022.

To mark the conclusion of the ITP of the 2021 Batch, a valedictory function was organised on 14 September 2022 which was presided over by EAM as Chief Guest. MoS (RRS) also graced the occasion. EAM's Gold Medal for the Best OT of the 2021 Batch, MoS Silver Medal for esprit de corps, Ambassador Bimal Sanyal Memorial Medal for the Best Dissertation, trophies for best committee (Cultural Committee), best sportspersons and special mementos for Bhutanese diplomats were awarded on the occasion.

IFS OTs of the 2022 Batch joined SSIFS on 12 December 2022 for their six-month Induction Training Programme.

### Mid-Career Training Programme-I

The Mid-Career Training Programme-I (MCTP-I) for IFS officers of 2010 and 2011 Batches was conducted from 06-22 June 2022. Twenty-three officers participated in the programme

which included the foreign policy module at SSIFS, management module at IIM (Ahmedabad) and State Attachment in the respective allocated States.

### Mid-Career Training Programme-II

The Mid-Career Training Programme-II (MCTP-II) for IFS officers of the 2006 Batch was conducted from 11 July – 03 August 2022. Twenty-six officers participated in the programme which included the foreign policy module at SSIFS, diplomacy module at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (USA), management module at IIM (Ahmedabad) and State Attachment in the respective allocated States.

### Mid-Career Training Programme-III

The Mid-Career Training Programme-III (MCTP-III) was conducted from 09-27 May 2022. Twenty-nine IFS officers from the 1992, 1995, 1996 and 1997 Batches participated in the programme which included the foreign policy module at SSIFS, management module at the Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad and State Attachment in the respective allocated States.

## Specialized Training Programmes

### Training Programme for Officers Posted to Overseas Audit Offices

A two-day online Training Programme for 15 officers posted to the Overseas Audit Offices of Comptroller & Auditor General was organised from 06-07 January 2022. The training programme was held in the virtual format due to the outbreak of Omicron variant of the Covid-19 pandemic.

### AKAM - Special Course on Foreign Policy for Indian Media

SSIFS, in association with MEA's External Publicity, organised a 'Special Course on Foreign Policy for Indian Media' from 21-25 February 2022. The Special Course coincided with MEA's Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) week. Twenty-one Indian journalists from various English, Hindi and regional media houses participated in the course. MoS (ML) was the Chief Guest at the Valedictory Ceremony held on 25 February 2022.

### Workshop of Capacity Building Commission (CBC)

The Capacity Building Commission (CBC), in collaboration with SSIFS, organized a one-day workshop on "Enhancing Teaching

Capacities of Central Training Institutes (CTIs)" on 29 June 2022. The objective of the workshop was to delve deep into the topics of faculty selection, training and development in CTIs like institutionalization of systematic faculty development. Twenty-five CTIs from across India were invited. The workshop was held in a hybrid mode – thirty participants were physically present and twenty-five joined in virtually.

### MEA Orientation Module for IAS Assistant Secretaries

A MEA Orientation Module was held from 11-15 July 2022 for four Assistant Secretaries from the 2020 Batch of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS). The modules were conducted at SSIFS, there were calls on Joint Secretaries heading MEA Divisions including Administration, Territorial Divisions, Multilateral Divisions, etc. Following the Orientation Module, the four IAS Assistant Secretaries were deployed with MEA Divisions as a part of Desk Attachment from July-October 2022.

### Training Programme for Defence Attachés posted abroad:

A one-week training programme, from 22-26 August 2022, was conducted for twenty-five Defence Attaché-designates who have been posted to Indian Missions abroad.

### Training Module on India's Neighbourhood for the 96th and 97th Foundation Course at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA)

SSIFS, in partnership with the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), organised a training module on India and its neighbourhood at the 96th Foundation Course (FC) for the latest entrants to India's Civil Services. The 3-day training module on India's Neighbourhood, held from 9-11 March 2022, was organised for 488 participants attending the 96th FC. This was the first-ever foreign policy module conducted as part of the Foundation Course for civil servants and the first-of-its-kind training module on India's neighbourhood. The second edition of this programme was held from 19-20 September 2022 as part of the 97th Foundation Course for 455 participants.

### 48th Annual Meeting of the International Forum on Diplomatic Training:

SSIFS organized the 48th Annual Meeting of the International Forum on Diplomatic Training (IFDT) from 14-18 November

2022. IFDT is a premier global forum that brings together more than 70 diplomatic training institutes and academic institutions from around the world. The 48th Annual Meeting of IFDT, which coincided with Government of India's Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, was attended by more than 60 Heads of Diplomatic Training Academies, Deans of academic institutions and other delegates drawn from over 40 countries.

The Annual Meeting was inaugurated on 15 November 2022 by Secretary (Economic Relations) who delivered the Keynote Address on the occasion. MoS (VM) and MoS (ML) addressed the delegates on 15 November and 16 November 2022 respectively.

On 15 - 16 November 2022, eight panel discussions on a range of topics related to diplomatic training and issues of global importance were held under the overarching theme of 'Diplomacy for Development'. Panellists and moderators included representatives of IFDT member institutions, United Nations officials, senior officials of Government of India, eminent domain experts including former Ambassadors of India, and members of academia and think-tanks. On 17-18 November 2022, visits to iconic monuments in Delhi and Agra were organized for the IFDT delegates. Site visits to the India International Trade Fair (IITF), and the National Crafts Museum were also conducted.

On 15-16 November 2022, on the sidelines of the IFDT, Dean (SSIFS) met his counterparts from participating countries such as Acting Coordinating Director, Foreign Service Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Regional Integration of Ghana Akua Sekyiwa Ahenkora; Akua Sekyiwa Director, Diplomatic School of Armenia Ahenkora Vahe Gabrielyan; Rector, Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic Chinara Adamkulova; Director General, Foreign Service Training Institute, Japan Mr. Akira Muto; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Jamaica Sheila Sealy Monteith; Director, Devawangse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs of Thailand Thitiporn Chirasawadi and, President, Hungarian Diplomatic Academy Dr Orsolya Pacsay-Tomassich.

### Foreign Policy Module for the Special Foundation Course organised by Haryana Institute of Public Administration (HIPA)

As part of a Special Foundation Course conducted by the Haryana Institute of Public Administration (HIPA), SSIFS organized a training programme on foreign policy with a focus on India and its neighbourhood on 28-29 November 2022. Thirty-five officers of the 2018 to 2021 Batches from the Indian Police Service, Indian Railways Accounts Service and Indian Postal Service participated in the programme.

Earlier this year, on 24 August 2022, SSIFS signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with HIPA.

### Training module for G20 Liaison Officers

In collaboration with MEA's G-20 Secretariat, SSIFS organised a training module for Liaison Officers from various Government of India Ministries on 02 December 2022.

## Non-Representational Grade (NRG) Training Programmes for Branch B of IFS:

During the period under review, the following training courses were organised for Non-Representational Grade (NRG) officials (Section Officer and below):

- (i) Batch-II of Induction Training Programme (ITP) for Direct Recruit Assistant Section Officers (ASOs) of the 2017 and 2018 Batches was conducted online (due to the prevailing COVID-19 situation at that time) from 31 January-11 February 2022. 56 ASOs participated in the Programme.
- (ii) Induction Training Programme for Direct Recruit Assistant Superintendents in Central Passport Organisation of 2018 Batch from 04-13 April 2022 and attended by 14 participants.
- (iii) IVFRT (Immigration, Visa, Foreigners' Registration & Tracking) Training Programme from 18-25 April 2022 and attended by 105 participants.
- (iv) Accounts Training Programme (in preparation for IMAS Training) conducted in two batches on 26 April 2022 and 12 May 2022 and attended by 92 participants.
- (v) 83rd IMAS (Integrated Mission Accounting System) Training Programme conducted in batches from 27 April - 11 May 2022 and 13 - 27 May 2022 and attended by 92 participants.
- (vi) Training of OIA-II (Overseas Indian Affairs-II) Division, MEA officials in Computer Skills from 02-03 June 2022 and attended by 17 participants.
- (vii) Citizen Centric Orientation Programme for MEA Interns from 21-22 June 2022 and attended by 42 participants.
- (viii) Induction Training Programme for Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Officials from 22-24 June 2022 and attended by 31 participants.
- (ix) Half-Yearly Mandatory English Stenography Test for Direct Recruit Personal Assistants (PAs) and Stenographers on

30 June 2022 in which 04 Stenographers and 13 Personal Assistants appeared.

- (x) IVFRT (Immigration, Visa, Foreigners' Registration & Tracking) Training Programme from 27-28 July 2022 and attended by 15 participants.
- (xi) Quarterly Typing Test for Direct Recruit Assistant Section Officers (DR ASOs), Junior Secretariat Assistants (JSAs) and Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS) on 29 July 2022 in which 06 officials appeared.
- (xii) Batch-I of the Induction Training Programme for Direct Recruit Assistant Section Officers (DR-ASOs) of 2019 batch from 22 August - 02 September 2022 and attended by 36 ASOs. Batch II of the Induction Training Programme for DR-ASOs of 2019 batch from 19-30 September 2022 and attended by 29 ASOs.
- (xiii) Promotion-related Training Programme for Assistant Section Officers (ASOs) in hybrid mode from 21-25 November 2022 and attended by 70 participants.
- (xiv) Promotion-related Training Programme for Stenographers and Personal Assistants (PAs) in hybrid mode from 28 November - 02 December 2022 and attended by 54 participants.
- (xv) IVFRT (Immigration, Visa, Foreigners' Registration & Tracking) Training Programme took place from 06-09 December 2022.
- (xvi) Accounts Training Programme (in preparation for IMAS Training) is scheduled to take place in December 2022.
- (xvii) 84th IMAS (Integrated Mission Accounting System) Training Programme is scheduled to take place in December 2022 and January 2023.

## Training programmes for Foreign Diplomats

### Training Programme for Officer Trainees (OTs) of Bangladesh Foreign Service

A half-day training programme for fifteen Officer Trainees of the 2019 Batch of Bangladesh Foreign Service was organized on 25 February 2022 at the request of the High Commission of Bangladesh in New Delhi. The 16-member delegation from the Foreign Service Academy of Bangladesh was led by Director General, Mr. Shah Ahmed Shafi. Three interactive sessions on India and its land, people and culture, India's foreign policy and bilateral relations with Bangladesh were organised for the visiting delegation. The programme was held under the aegis of the MEA's Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) week.

### 3rd Special Course for diplomats from South Sudan

The 3rd Special Course for Diplomats from South Sudan was held at SSIFS from 17-27 May 2022. Thirty-one diplomats from the Republic of South Sudan participated in the programme including two diplomats from their Embassy in New Delhi. The Course included modules on India's foreign policy, India-West and North Africa Relations and in particular with the Republic of South Sudan, development partnership cooperation, water and energy security, SDGs, role of women in diplomacy, agricultural and food security, Ayurveda, and disaster management. A session on Yoga and meditation was also organised for them. The South Sudanese diplomats made interesting country presentations and were attired in their national costumes on the last day of the programme.

### Orientation Programme for the European Union (EU) COASI (Asia-Oceania Working Party) Delegation

A half-day Orientation Programme was conducted on 23 May 2022 for the visiting European Union (EU) Asia-Oceania Working Party (COASI) delegation consisting of twenty-one diplomats. The COASI is composed of diplomats representing the 27 EU Member States. It handles preparations for discussions on EU relations with Asia and Oceania in the EU Foreign Affairs Council and deals with developing long-term EU strategies and policies for the region, preparing summits with EU's strategic partners, and preparing the political framework agreements between the EU and countries in the Asia and Oceania region. Three interactive sessions on the Indo-Pacific, India's Foreign Policy and Government of India's Economic Initiatives & Investment Opportunities in India were organised for the visiting delegation.

### 5th Familiarization Programme for Resident Diplomats

The 5th Familiarization Programme for Resident Foreign Diplomats was held from 13-17 June 2022. Thirty-three diplomats from resident diplomatic Missions of twenty-three countries spanning Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe, and Oceania participated in the programme. The objective of the Familiarization Programme was to "introduce" India to the resident diplomats. A wide spectrum of speakers drawn from the academia, think-tanks, retired Ambassadors and senior serving officers from MEA and other Ministries, NITI Aayog, Election Commission of India, etc. addressed the diplomats on inter alia India's foreign policy priorities, Indian polity, Government of India's Flagship Schemes, economic and trade

initiatives, digitalisation and development, conduct of elections in India, Indian culture and tourism prospects. A high tea was hosted on all five days showcasing snacks/cuisine from different regions of India.

### 1st Special Course for Diplomats from Mexico

The first-ever Special Course for Diplomats from Mexico was held from 05-17 September 2022. Thirty-one diplomats, including thirteen women diplomats, from Mexico participated in the course. The Special Course was inaugurated on 05 September 2022 by Secretary (East) who delivered the Inaugural Address. The Mexican diplomats called on EAM on 13 September 2022. MoS (ML) was the Chief Guest at the Valedictory Ceremony held on 15 September 2022. Following their training stint in New Delhi, the diplomats attended a two-day module from 16-17 September 2022 at the Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU), Ahmedabad. The training programme in SSIFS included modules on India's foreign policy, India's relations with Latin America & the Caribbean region, women in diplomacy, WTO, UN reforms, the Indo-Pacific, nuclear non-proliferation & disarmament, space diplomacy, negotiation skills, Government of India's economic initiatives and economic reforms, digital empowerment, India's pandemic response etc. There were also sessions on Ayurveda and Yoga. As a part of their study tours, the diplomats visited the Rashtrapati Bhavan, Election Commission of India, National Museum, and Indian media houses.

### 52nd Batch of Mid-Career Training Programme in Field Administration for Civil Servants of Bangladesh

Thirty-nine senior civil servants from Bangladesh belonging to the 52nd Batch of Mid-Career Training Programme in Field Administration, attended an Orientation session on "India's Foreign Policy" at SSIFS on 02 September 2022.

### 69th Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats

SSIFS' flagship programme, the Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD), held twice a year in spring and autumn since 1992, resumed after the COVID hiatus and was held from 03-28 October 2022. Forty-six young diplomats from forty-six countries from across the globe participated in this programme. It included the training modules on various topics including India's foreign policy, key international issues, multilateral diplomacy, and diplomatic skills. The participants were given an exposure to modern India's economic and technological developments. MoS (RRS) graced the Valedictory Function on 28 October 2022.



## Know India Programme for Young Persons of Indian Origin

Orientation Sessions for the 60th, 61st and 62nd Know India Programmes (KIP) were organised by SSIFS in collaboration with MEA's OIA-II (Overseas Indian Affairs-II) Division on 29 August and attended by 40 participants; on 27 September attended by 39 participants and on 04 November 2022 attended by 40 participants from countries with significant Indian Diaspora. The KIP is a flagship initiative for Diaspora engagement which familiarizes Indian-origin youth (18-30 years) with their Indian roots and contemporary India through a 25-day orientation programme organized by OIA - II Division.

## 2nd Special Course for Diplomats from Central Asia

The 2nd Special Course for Diplomats from Central Asia took place from 05-16 December 2022. Twenty-nine diplomats from the Central Asian Republics (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) attended the course. The training programme included modules on India's foreign policy, India's relations with Central Asia, multilateral diplomacy & WTO, UN reforms, space diplomacy, India's perspectives on nuclear non-proliferation & disarmament, negotiation skills, water security, Government of India's economic initiatives and economic reforms, digital empowerment, India's pandemic response, women in diplomacy, INSTC etc. There were also sessions on Ayurveda and Yoga. As a part of their study tours in New Delhi, the diplomats undertook visits to Rashtrapati Bhavan, Election Commission of India, National Museum and the Gurgaon automobile plant of Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. They had a day-long visit to Agra to see the Taj Mahal.

## Visits of delegations to SSIFS

### Visit of Foreign Minister of Poland

Foreign Minister of Poland Zbigniew Rau visited SSIFS on 25 April 2022 and addressed the IFS OTs and Bhutanese diplomats.

### Visit of President of the Institute of Political and International Studies (IPIS) of Iran

President of the Institute for Political and International Studies

(IPIS) of Iran Dr. Mohammad Hassan Sheikholeslami visited SSIFS on 27 April 2022.

### Visit of Chancellor of Korea National Diplomatic Academy

The Chancellor of Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA), Mr Hong Hyunik, along with a six-member delegation, visited SSIFS on 25 November 2022.

### Visit of State Secretary of Latvia

The State Secretary of Latvia, H.E. Mr. Andris Pelss visited SSIFS on 30 November 2022, accompanied by a three-member delegation including the Latvian Ambassador, Juris Bone.

## Memoranda of Understanding (MoU)

In 2022, SSIFS signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with Sri Lanka on 28 March 2022; BIMSTEC on 30 March 2022; Jamaica on 16 May 2022; Gabon on 31 May 2022; Madagascar on 12 September 2022 and Djibouti on 22 September 2022 taking the total number of MoUs with counterpart institutions/ Ministries of Foreign Affairs to 98.

## SSIFS Administration/Campus

### Transparency Audit under RTI Act, 2005

SSIFS, a Central Training Institute (CTI), has been mandated to carry out Transparency Audit of proactive disclosures by public authorities under the RTI Act, 2005 with respect to public authorities under the Ministry. In 2022-2023, SSIFS successfully conducted the audit of 126 public authorities from Ministry of External Affairs and our Missions and Posts abroad which had submitted their self-appraisal on the CIC (Central Information Commission) portal dedicated for the purpose.

### SSIFS Campus

As a part of the continuous process of maintenance, renovation, upgradation and modernization of infrastructure and facilities at the Institute, several projects like the installation of a new CCTV system, renovation of Dean's residence and other residential units have been successfully completed.

## CHAPTER

## 36

# Indian Council for Cultural Relations

Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) in its endeavour to augment cultural relations and promote soft power of India across the world kept buzzing with activities and made many advances. With the pandemic bringing the world to a standstill, ICCR kept its spirit high and was able to establish a rapport with the foreign students and the world through its online as well as offline activities. ICCR actively conducted several major events for the celebrations of the 75th Year of Independence of India under the flagship programme of the government “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav”.

The Council works with its 37 Indian Cultural Centers (ICCs) abroad and 5 Zonal offices, 4 Sub-Zonal offices and 2 Regional Offices under RPOs in India. Additionally, ICCR extends support to the Casa de la India in Valladolid, Spain established on ‘PPP’ Model (Public-Private Partnership). The activities of the ICCR are a continuation of both ongoing and regular activities as well as many new initiatives and special activities.

## Administration

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs visited Leh, Chandigarh and Shimla on 17 May 2022 and Goa

on 31 August 2022. Director General and Deputy Director General (Admin), ICCR briefed the members of the Committee about promotion of cultural activities in the UT of Ladakh and the State of Goa

On 29 September 2022, ICCR entered into collaboration with Google to promote Sanskrit globally by including it in the Google Translate software.

## Restructuring of ICCR’s Regional Offices

ICCR was operating 19 Regional Offices in different parts of India. However, due to the increasing costs of establishment maintenance and administrative and manpower challenges, the office of Chairperson, Finance Committee, ICCR conducted an in-depth study to restructure these Regional Offices. Based on this detailed study, Chairperson had recommended steps for the restructuring of ICCR’s Regional Offices. Upon acceptance of the recommendations of the Chairperson, Finance Committee of by the statutory bodies of ICCR, the total number of Zonal/ Sub-Zonal Offices and other offices in India was restructured to 11 with effect from 01 July 2022.

## Scholarships

Scholarships are an important tool to encourage foreign nationals to study and appreciate Indian arts, heritage and culture. These are also a way to create outreach, a feeling of goodwill and promote India's influence across the world. In the academic year 2022-23, ICCR offered 3878 scholarship slots to foreign nationals to pursue UG, PG and PhD level courses in Indian Universities and Institutes. The digitization of the scholarship module brought expediency and wide-ranging choices while maintaining transparency.

The Council launched India Alumni Portal of ICCR on 09 April 2022 at ICCR, to enable all the ICCR Alumni to connect with each other and their Alma mater.

## Chairs

ICCR is instrumental in setting up Chairs of Indian Studies abroad on various subjects like History, Buddhist Studies, Hindi and Sanskrit. It has 09 operational Chairs across the globe and is in the process of setting up new Chairs in Poland, Bangladesh, Iceland, Jamaica, Hongkong, Cambodia, Switzerland and Germany.

## Conferences and Seminars

In order to enhance India's skills of cultural diplomacy and reinforce dialogue between civilizations, the Council organized international conferences on various subjects. Some of the major Conferences and Seminars organized during the period include "Project Reflecting Buddhist Linkages with ASEAN and East Asian Countries" and the E-Coffee Table book "Path to Nirvana" launched by MoS (RRS) on 23 February 2022.

ICCR organized a two-day national Seminar in Raj Bhavan on "Indian Cinema and Soft Power" in collaboration with FLAME University, Pune and Films Division, Mumbai during 03 and 04 May 2022. The Governor of Maharashtra graced the occasion on the inaugural day of the Seminar.

An "International Conference on Yoga & Natural Health Care for Covid: From Prevention to Long Term Rehabilitation" was organised in association with Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samathihana, S-VYASA University, Bengaluru, the Embassy of India, Seoul and the Wonkwang Digital University, Seoul on 25 & 26 June 2022.

ICCR sponsored the visit of a 20-member Buddhist delegation to India from Koyasan University, Osaka – Kobe (Japan) under

the Distinguished Buddhist Scholar programme. The visiting delegation called on President, ICCR and faculty and students of the Buddhist Study Centre at Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida. The delegation visited Ajanta and Ellora in Maharashtra, the Dhuli Stupa in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, and Rajgir, Nalanda and Bodhgaya in Bihar during their travel from 05 -15 November 2022.

## Fellowships

ICCR promoted the Guru Shishya Parampara by awarding 02 Senior Fellowships, namely, (i) the Pandit Bhimsen Joshi Fellowship of Music to Ms. Gabriella Garima Toth from Hungary and (ii) the Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan Fellowship of Music to Mr. Carsten Wicke from Germany.

ICCR awarded Senior Fellowship to Prof. Ramdhony Dhanwantree Reshmi from Mauritius on "Medieval India: Sultanate, Mughals, Sikh Guru, Bhakti Saints, Christianity, Sufism". She has enrolled in Gautam Buddha University, Noida.

ICCR awarded Senior Fellowship to Peter Pannke to do his research on "Dhrupad Classical music traditions of India" from University of Allahabad for 12 months. He has joined the university in October 2022.

## Outgoing Visitors' Programme

Under this program, ICCR sponsored several visits, such as those of Prof. Amrit Sen and Mr. Somjitdas Gupta to participate in the "International conference on Tagore" as Educators at the University of Valladolid from 4- 8 May 2022; Dr. Sudhakar Sharma, former director of Lalit Kala Academy to Moscow and Samara for attending a book launch event from 27 June-07 July 2022; and the visit of four descendents of erstwhile Maharajas of Jamnagar and Kolhapur to Poland to celebrate links between India and Poland under Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) on 5 July 2022.

## Outgoing Cultural Delegations

The Council, in its efforts to create international understanding through culture, sponsored cultural troupes for performances in various countries. During the period 01 January to 30 November 2022, 65 cultural delegations visited abroad, giving 350 performances in 60 countries. ICCR also sponsored 14 Vande Bharatam troupes for performances abroad as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) celebrations.

Other such visits include live the performance of a 35-member Bharatnatyam troupe on Ramayana during the visit of Hon. President of India to commemorate 75 years of establishment of diplomatic ties with Netherlands and coinciding with AKAMs celebrations, a 10-member Kathakali Dance Group to participate in ASEAN Cultural Festival on “Unity in Peace” during Vice President and EAM’s visit to Cambodia, a 13-member Folk dance group to participate in the 34th International Golden Karagoz Folk Dance Competition in Bursa, Turkey, a 6-member Qawwali Group at the International Samaa Festival for Chanting and Spiritual Music, Cairo; and the Kanglei Mime Theatre Repertory performed in 37th International Pantomime Festival in Dresden, Germany.

## Incoming Cultural Delegations

To create international understanding through culture, the Council showcases performances by foreign cultural troupes so that the people of India get to see and appreciate cultures from across the globe.

ICCR organized the 6th International Ramayana Festival from 19-20 October 2022. Cultural groups from Sri Lanka, Trinidad & Tobago, Indonesia, Fiji, Malaysia and Thailand and an Indian group participated in the 6th International Ramayana Festival from 19 & 20 October at Kamani Auditorium, New Delhi. Minister of Culture was the Chief Guest on the Occasion. These groups also participated in the Ramayana Festival in Bhopal from 15-22 October 2022, the Deepotsav in Ayodhya from 22-28 October 2022 and the Ramayana Festival in Gujarat from 26-27 October 2022.

A dance performance by Ms. Akmaral Kainazarova and Group from the Centre for Indian Classical Dances and Yoga in Almaty-

Kazakhstan was showcased on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between India and Kazakhstan on 10 March 2022 in Delhi.

A cultural performance by two musical groups Havas Family group and Lazgi Group of dancers on 02 April 2022 at ICCR, Azad Bhavan, New Delhi, on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Uzbekistan.

A Jazz music concert by Benny and the Jazz Collective Group on 07 April 2022, and a Hindustani classical-fusion concert by Rajat Kakkar and Group were held on 8 April 2022 at the residence of Foreign Secretary during the dinner hosted by MEA for senior journalists & diplomats.

A cultural evening on 02 September 2022 at ICCR auditorium hosted performances by “Chutney Soca Monarch” a 6-member group from Trinidad and Tobago, and a 12-member Indian folk group led by Shri Sukhvinder Singh along with a Tabla Player-Hafeez Ahmed Alvi. This concert of fusion the musical traditions of India and Trinidad & Tobago was held as part of celebrations of 60 years of Indo-Trinidad & Tobago Diplomatic Relations. MoS (ML) was the chief guest on the occasion.

ICCR sponsored the visit of 12-member Theatrical group “Tbilisi Akhmeteli State Drama Theatre” from Georgia from 2-10 September 2022 in India.

Performances by two groups comprising of a 17-member “Folk Fore- Ethnographic Ensemble “Kambarkan” named after Chalagyz Isabaev and State Dance Ensemble “Ak Maral” named after Nudin Tugelov” from Kyrgyzstan was organised by ICCR on 12 October 2022 at ICCR Auditorium. MoS (RRS) was the Chief Guest on the Occasion.



Events organised on the Occasion of 30th Anniversary of Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between India and Kazakhstan





MoS (ML) felicitated artists from Cairo Opera Ballet Company at ICCR in November 2022

A performance by 9-member group “Flamenco Real” from Spain in India from 12-19 October 2022 along with a joint production of Spanish Flamenco & 7- member Indian Kathak group led by Ms. Vidha Lal was held on 14 October 2022 at the Kamani Auditorium New Delhi. MoS (ML) was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

ICCR supported the National Tribal Dance Festival (NTDF) organized by Government of Chhattisgarh from 01-03 November 2022 at Raipur by facilitating the participating foreign groups from 9 countries i.e. Russia, Mongolia, Togo, Mozambique, Serbia, Indonesia, New Zealand & Maldives.

ICCR also hosted the visit of a 22-Member Cairo Opera Ballet Group from 31 October-8 November 2022. During the visit, a presentation by the Egyptian group was organised on 3 November 2022 at Kamani Auditorium, New Delhi. MoS (ML) was the chief guest on the occasion.

Three Russian cultural groups were hosted from 20 – 29 November 2022; (i) 51- member State Academic Honoured Dance Ensemble of Dagestan “Lezginka”, (ii) 6-member Terem - Quartet and (iii) 33 - member Krinitsa Ensemble for “Festival of Russian Culture in India”. The groups performed at Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai.

## Awards

During the period under report, ICCR conferred the Distinguished Alumni Award for the year 2022. The awardees were Prof. Dimitrios Vassiliadis from Greece, Ms. Masako Satou from Japan, Dr. Wah Wah Maung from Myanmar, Dr. Son Yeon Woo from Republic of Korea and Mr. Nguyen Trung Khanh from Vietnam.

Award-giving ceremonies for recipients of respective awards for previous years were also organized. These included (i) the Distinguished Alumni Award for the year 2020 to Ms. Martine Metayer (France) and Dr. Francesca Cassio (Italy) on 15 August 2022 and 19 July 2022 respectively; and (ii) the Distinguished Alumni Award for the year 2021 to Mr. Sonam Dorji (Bhutan) on 26 May 2022, Mrs. Eat Sophea (Cambodia) on 29 August 2022, Dr. Ergogie Tesfaye Woldemeskel (Ethiopia) on 08 August, 2022 and Dr. Irina Glushkova (Russia) on 13 September 2022.

The Distinguished Indologist Award for the years 2018 to 2021 were conferred on Prof. Werner Menski (UK) on 30 June 2021, Dr. Vishwa Adluri (USA) on 29 June 2022, Sh. Rajiv Malhotra (USA) on 29 June 2022 and Mr. Jeffrey Armstrong (Canada) on 26 July 2022 respectively.

World Sanskrit Award for the years 2020 and 2021 were conferred to Mr. Rutger Kortenhorst (Ireland) on 15 June 2022 and Dr. Boris Alekseevich Zakharin (Russia) on 13 September 2022 respectively.

The Award for Promotion of Buddhist Studies for the year 2021 was conferred to Otani University (Japan) on 29 March 2022.

A new Annapurna Certificate award has been instituted in 2022.

As a special gesture a donation of US \$2500/- was given to Tsubosaka Dera temple, Japan for a Buddhist painting in October 2022.

## Visitors Programme

The Council hosted the visits under various programmes such as:

### Distinguished Visitors Programmes

Various visits under this program were those of Prof. Eghosa E. Osaghae, Director-General, Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA), Abuja from 07-17 March 2022; Dr. Havel Abubaker, Governor of Sulaimaniah, Iraq from 11-21 April 2022; Mr. Cristobal Gabarron and his companion from Spain from 25 April-03 May 2022; Mr. Christian Escobar, renowned artiste from Guatemala from 02-11 June 2022; and Prof. Majeste Ihou Wateba, Togolese Minister of Higher Education and Research from Togo and his spouse from 2-11 October 2022.

### Academic Visitors Programmes

Professor Talib Muhammad Sharif Omer, Dean of Mergasor Technical Institute in Kurdistan, Iraq visited India from 04-14 July 2022, while Prof. Johnson Nyarko Boampoing, Vice Chancellor of Cape Coast University, Ghana visited India from 23 September-2 October 2022.

### Gen-Next Democracy Network Programme

27 delegates from 06 countries namely, Peru, Bangladesh, Nepal, Ghana, Brunei and Norway came to India under Group 2 Gen-Next Democracy Network Programme from 20-29 May 2022.

21 delegates from 06 countries, namely, Guatemala- 02 delegates, Uruguay- 04 delegates, Zambia- 06 delegates, France- 01 delegate, Fiji- 05 delegates and Honduras- 03 delegates under Group 3 Gen-Next Democracy Network Programme visited India from 18-27 July 2022.

25 delegates from 05 countries, namely, Uganda- 06 delegates Mauritius-07 delegates Czech Republic-02 delegates, Thailand-03 delegates, and Paraguay.

07 delegates visited India under the Group 4 Gen-Next Democracy Network Programme from 08-17 August 2022.

18 delegates from 06 countries, namely, Romania, Australia, Costa Rica, South Korea, Greece and Austria visited India under the Group 5 Gen-Next Democracy Network Programme from 05-14 September 2022.

21 delegates from 05 countries, namely, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Germany, Panama and Senegal visited India under the Group 6 Gen-Next Democracy Network Programme from 10-19 October 2022.

## Exhibitions

The Council organized a Craft Mela from 22-25 February 2022. A photographic exhibition of photographs taken by the Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to India at the on the Kumbh Mela was organized in ICCR Art Gallery in March 2022.

A paintings exhibition "The Head of the Giant" of Mr. Cristobal Gabarron (Spain) was hosted on 27 April 2022 at Bikaner House, New Delhi. An exhibition during the visit of Foreign Minister of Malaysia to India was arranged on 17 June 2022 at ICCR Art Gallery.

A Retrospective Exhibition of "Rokeya Sultana" has inaugurated on 6 June 2022 at Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi. Two Textile Exhibitions in collaboration with Thai Embassy were organized at Varanasi and Kolkata on 20 & 25 June 2022 respectively. An exhibition of artworks of Ms. Rokeya Sultana, artist from Bangladesh was displayed at Rabindranath Tagore Centre, Kolkata from 06-20 July 2022.

A painting exhibition titled "Cultural Tapestry of India and Thailand" was organized on 20 August 2022 at Lalit Kala Akademi Art Gallery to celebrate 75 years of diplomatic relationship between India and Thailand.

The Council organized a month long 'Art in Residency Programme' for Mr. Pedro Vaz, from Portugal. An Exhibition of the artwork created by the artists during the residency programme was also organized at the ICCR Art Gallery. The exhibition was inaugurated by MoS (ML) on 16 September 2022. The exhibition was open to the public from 17-30 September 2022.

An exhibition of Cuban Artists was inaugurated by MoS (ML) on 27 October 2022 at Azad Bhawan Auditorium, ICCR and Exhibition of Egyptian Photographs & Sculptures in collaboration

with Embassy of Arab, Republic of Egypt and IGNC was inaugurated by President, ICCR at Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi on 30 November 2022.

## Busts and Statues

During the period January-November 2022, ICCR sent 21 busts and statues of Indian icons and national leaders for ceremonial installation to Tanzania, USA, Iraq, UAE, Costa Rica, Vietnam, Bolivia, Myanmar, Mexico, Spain, Tajikistan, Guatemala City, Oman, Malaysia, The Netherland and Japan.

## Publication

A book titled 'Connecting through Culture: An Overview of India's Soft Power Strengths' was released on 13 July 2022 at Sushma Swaraj Bhavan, Chanakyapuri. EAM was the Chief Guest and Governor of Kerala was the Guest of Honour for the ceremony. Jointly edited by Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudhe, President ICCR and Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), the book contains an anthology of essays on various aspects of India's soft power strengths.

ICCR organized the Book Release function of 'The Arabic

Version of 'Majma Ul-Bahrain of Dara Shikoh', by Shri Amar Hasan Swami. The book was released by the Vice President. The programme also witnessed the release of the song 'Atulya Bharat Desh Mera', by Mr Anand Karki, renowned Gazal singer of Nepal on 09 September 2022 at Azad Bhawan Auditorium, ICCR.

## Indian Culture Centre

ICCR signed a tripartite agreement with the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and Central Hindi Directorate (CHD) on 9 November, 2022 to introduce a three month long online basic Hindi Awareness course for foreign nationals.

With the objective of promoting yoga worldwide, ICCR has been deploying yoga teachers from India to its cultural centres. With the success of International Day of Yoga (IDY), ICCR fortified sending teachers to Missions and Posts as well. Currently, there are 40 Teachers of Indian Culture (TIC) and 87 Local Resource Person for Yoga posted at the ICCs, Missions and Posts for imparting teachings and training on Yoga. ICCR facilitated the celebration of the 8th International Day of Yoga-2022 in 178 countries through Missions/Posts. The allocated budget amounted to Rs.7,00,55,964/- for IDY-2022 to 178 Mission/Post, and Rs.2,20,45,611/- for Global Yoga Ring-2022 to 53 Missions/Posts.



Craft Mela "Coalescence" Craft-Culture-Community-Climate organised under Ministry's week of AKAM



## Zonal Offices

ICCR signed an MoU with Haryana Institute of Public Administration (HIPA) on 7 October 2022. The objective of this MoU is to institutionalize the partnership between HIPA and ICCR in the areas of cooperation mutually identified. Similarly, ICCR signed MOUs with 21 States of India on 11 November 2022 at ICCR, New Delhi. The objective of these MoUs is to make the partnership between the States and ICCR more meaningful, bringing in active involvement, and institutionalizing the same.

## Special Project

ICCR had conducted the "Pratibha Sangam Competition" for foreign nationals and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) in different genres of Indian Classical Music and Dance – Carnatic music such as (Vocal and instrumental), Hindustani music (vocal and instrumental), Odissi, Bharatnatyam and Kathak. The entries were judged by experts in each of the above genres and 3 winning entries have been declared in the month of November, 2022. Prize money of \$500, \$350 and \$250 has been announced for 1st, 2nd and 3rd participations. The 1st and 2nd prize holders will also be invited to India between 26 December 2022- 15 January 2023 for performances.



Pratibha Sangam Competition organised by ICCR for foreign nationals and Persons of Indian Origin



## CHAPTER

## 37

# Rapid Response Cell

The new division named Rapid Response Cell (RRC) was created in July 2021 in the Ministry to take responsibilities on COVID matters, vaccines, and related issues, including liaison with other Ministries. It subsumed the COVID cell and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) cell.

## Vaccine Maitri

Vaccine Maitri is an initiative of Government of India to supply Made-in-India COVID vaccines to various countries across the world, while keeping in view the domestic production capacity and the requirement of the national vaccination programme. Following our philosophy of “Vasudaiva Kutumbakam” and the maxim “One Earth, One Health”, India saved crores of lives by providing vaccines to many countries. India has played a major role and has been a reliable and growing source of global healthcare capacities during this pandemic period. In line with our Neighbourhood First policy, the supplies were first undertaken to our neighbouring countries as India’s gift. Subsequently, supplies to other countries were undertaken, both as gifts and under commercial contracts. Till 30 November 2022, 281.42 million doses of Made-in-India COVID vaccines were supplied to 99 countries and two UN entities (UN Peacekeepers and UN Health Workers). This includes more than 14.85 million doses as a grant to 50 countries and UN

peacekeepers and nearly 51.52 million doses to 48 countries in the global south under the COVAX facility. India has supplied a total 62.83 million Made-in-India doses to its neighbouring countries. India has also donated 525,000 doses of WHO approved Made-in-India vaccines to Cambodia and Thailand under Quad Vaccine Partnership.

## COVID related Medical Aid

India has supplied COVID related essential drugs, test kits, protection gear, etc., to over 150 countries. More than half of this supply was on a non-commercial basis. In recent months, India has supplied drugs, test kits, protection gear to Bhutan, Fiji, Kiribati, Mozambique, and Sri Lanka.

## Mutual Recognition of COVID Vaccination Certificate

Consequent upon the decision of the Union Cabinet, India pursued mutual recognition of vaccination certificates with individual countries for ensuring both the safety and ease of travel for the people. India has concluded Mutual Recognition of COVID vaccination Certificate, signing Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) or through exchange of Note Verbale. Till 30 November 2022, 145 countries recognize India's vaccination certificate for travel purposes under their universally applicable health protocols.

## COVID Related Experience Sharing

In an effort to mitigate the SARS-COV-2 genomic surveillance disparities in South-east Asia, a proposal for Indian SARS-COV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) was proposed. The proposal to extend and share its sequencing expertise in India's neighbourhood by mentoring scientists in these countries through training under the ITEC programme is under consideration.

## Vande Bharat Mission

The Ministry actively played the role of moderator between the Ministry of Civil Aviation and other stake holders in India and abroad for execution of "Vande Bharat Mission", under

which Indian citizens stranded abroad were repatriated in when scheduled international air services were suspended. The mission turned out to be one of the largest logistical missions of its type ever undertaken. It facilitated the movement of more than 3.15 crore people through COVID lockdowns and post-lockdown period since May 2020.

## Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Efforts

HADR missions are complex inter-agency operations which require detailed planning and efficient execution. India has an established reputation as a first responder and a responsible Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) provider. The Ministry, which has been mandated with COVID and HADR related responses, has efficiently liaised with other Ministries, Armed Forces, State governments and PSUs to facilitate supplies of critical items to the neighbourhood, Indo-Pacific and beyond.

The Ministry has smoothly coordinated supply of disaster relief material and emergency use medicines to Ukraine. Upholding the country's reputation of being the 'Pharmacy of the World',



EAM handing over medicines to Foreign Minister of Bhutan Tandi Dorji, as part of India's HADR efforts



India handed over 7725 kgs of essential medicines and medical equipment to Ukraine

India facilitated the supply of Anti-TB drugs to 11 neighbouring countries and Island nations including Iran, Bhutan, Maldives, Zimbabwe & Seychelles, medical aid, and disaster relief to the Island nations of Kiribati & Tonga. India remains committed

to its special relationship with the people of Afghanistan. In this endeavour, India has so far provided 40,000 MT of wheat, 20.5 tons of anti-TB drugs and 5 million COVID vaccines to Afghanistan.

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## Annexure - I

## List of FULL POWERS

S. NO.	SUBJECT	DATE of Issuance	Country
1	Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the government of the Republic of India and the government of the UAE.	17.02.2022	United Arab Emirates
2	Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Custom Matters between the government of the Republic of India and the government of the Republic of Philippines.	19.02.2022	Philippines
3	Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters between the government of the Republic of India and the government of the Republic of Armenia.	23.02.2022	Armenia
4	India Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (IndAus ECTA) between the government of the Republic of India and the government of Australia.	30.03.2022	Australia
5	Investment Incentive Agreement between the government of the United States of America and the government of Republic of India	23.05.2022	United States of America
6	Joint Interpretative Statement to the Agreement between the government of the Republic of India and the government of the Republic of Mauritius	06.07.2022	Mauritius
7	Agreement on A Way Finding GPS based navigational application for <i>Palais des Nations Compound, Geneva</i> between the Republic of India and the United Nations	20.07.2022	United Nations
8	Headquarters Agreement between the government of the Republic of India and The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) granting CDRI the status of an International Organisation in India	03.08.2022	CDRI
9	MoU on co-operation in the field of Defence between The Ministry of Defence of the Republic of India and The Ministry of Defence of the Arab Republic of Egypt	25.08.2022	Egypt
10	MoU on Defence Cooperation between the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Croatia.	20.10.2022	Croatia

## Annexure II

## List of Ratifications since January 2022

S. No.	Subject	Country/ Organization	Date of Signing	Date of Ratification
1	India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (IndAus ECTA) between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Australia	Australia	02.04.2022	21.11.2022
2	BIMSTEC Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.	BIMSTEC	30.03.2022	08.08.2022
3	BIMSTEC Charter	BIMSTEC	30.03.2022	12.08.2022
4	Memorandum of Association on the establishment of BIMSTEC technology transfer facility.	BIMSTEC	30.3.2022	30.09.2022
5	Treaty on Mutual legal Assistance in Civil and Commercial Matters between the republic of India and the republic of Bulgaria	Bulgaria	12.09.2007	29.07.2022
6	Agreement between the government of the Republic of India and the government of the Republic of Djibouti on Exemption from Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic & Official/Service Passports.	Djibouti	22.09.2022	21.10.2022
7	Agreement between the government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the government of the Republic of India on Mutual Visa Exemption for Holders of Diplomatic Passport.	Ethiopia	19.02.2021	19.10.2022
8	Agreement between the government of the Republic of India and the government of the Republic of Ghana on cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy	Ghana	22.09.2021	13.06.2022
9	Agreement between the government of the Republic of India and the government of the Republic of Indonesia concerning cooperation in the field of Defence.	Indonesia	25.05.2018	05.08.2022
10	Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Civil and Commercial Matters Between the government of the Republic of India and the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.	Iran	08.06.2022	18.10.2022
11	Protocol Amending the Implementing Agreement between the government of the Republic of India and the government of Japan pursuant to Article 13 of the Comprehensive Economic partnership Agreement between the Republic of India and Japan	Japan	19.04.2022	21.04.2022
12	Bilateral Investment Treaty between the government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the government of the Republic of India	Kyrgyzstan	14.06.2019	02.08.2022
13	Agreement between the government of the Republic of India and the government of the Republic of Madagascar on the Exemption of Visa for the Holders of Diplomatic Passports and Service/Official Passports.	Madagascar	13.09.2022	21.10.2022
14	MoU on Cooperation between the Ministry of Law & Justice of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Justice of the Kingdom of Morocco	Morocco	02.04.2018	22.12.2022
15	Agreement between the government of the Republic of India and the government of the Republic of the Philippines on co-operation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matter	Philippines	24.04.2022	25.05.2022
16	Treaty between the Republic of Poland and the Republic of India concerning Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters	Poland	25.04.2022	10.05.2022
17	Agreement between the Republic of India and the Portuguese Republic on Audio-Visual Co-production.	Portugal	14.02.2021	24.06.2022

S. No.	Subject	Country/ Organization	Date of Signing	Date of Ratification
18	Agreement between the government of the Republic of India and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for the Exchange of Information and Assistance in Collection with Respect to Taxes.	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	19.05.2022	26.10.2022
19	Agreement between the government of the Republic of India and the government of the Republic of Senegal on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic and Official/Service Passports.	Senegal	01.06.2022	04.08.2022
20	Agreement between the government of the Republic of India and the government of Solomon Islands on Exemption from Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports.	Solomon Islands	22.06.2022	21.10.2022
21	Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United Arab Emirates.	United Arab Emirates	18.02.2022	28.03.2022
22	Investment Incentive Agreement between the government of India and the government of the United States of America.	United States of America	23.05.2022	07.06.2022
23	Eleventh Additional Protocol to the constitution of the Universal Postal Union	UPU	27.08.2021	07.09.2022

## Annexure - III

## LIST OF AGREEMENTS 2022

Sl. No.	Agreement/ Memorandum of Understanding	Country	Date of Signing	Date of entry into force	Ministry
1.	MoU for Cooperation in the field of Mineral Resources between Ministry of Mines of Government of the Republic of India and Secretariat of Mining of the Ministry of Economy of the Government of Argentine Republic.	Argentina	26.08.2022	26.08.2022	Ministry of Mines
2.	MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Armenia regarding India Grant Assistance for High Impact Community Development Projects.	Armenia	04.07.2022	04.07.2022	Ministry of External Affairs
3.	Letter of Intent between the Government of the Republic of India as represented by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs and the Government of Australia as represented by the Australian Department of Home Affairs regarding the Migration and Mobility Partnership Arrangement.	Australia	18.03.2022	18.03.2022	Ministry of External Affairs
4.	MoU on Collaboration in IT Systems such as FOIS and other IT Application for Bangladesh Railway between the Ministry of Railways of the Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Railways of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.	Bangladesh	06.09.2022	06.09.2022	Ministry of Railways
5.	MoU on Training of Bangladesh Railway Employees in the Training Institutes of Indian Railways between the Ministry of Railways of the Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Railways of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.	Bangladesh	06.09.2022	06.09.2022	Ministry of Railways
6.	MoU between The Ministry of Jal Shakti, the Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Water Resources, the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on Withdrawal of Water by India and Bangladesh from Common Border River Kushiara.	Bangladesh	06.09.2022	06.09.2022	Ministry of Jal Shakti
7.	Extension of the MoU between the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology of the Republic of India and the Information and Communication Technology Division of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on Cooperation in the Field of Information Technology and Electronics	Bangladesh	26.04.2022	26.04.2022	Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)
8.	MoU between Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and Ministry of Tourism, Royal Government of Cambodia regarding Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of Quick Impact Projects (QIP) in Cambodia – Project on Enhancing Tourism Development in Toul Poan Tali Boeung Sneah Community Prey Veng Province, Cambodia	Cambodia	22.11.2022	22.11.2022	Ministry of External Affairs



Sl. No.	Agreement/ Memorandum of Understanding	Country	Date of Signing	Date of entry into force	Ministry
9.	MoU between Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA), Royal Government of Cambodia regarding Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of Quick Impact Projects (QIP) in Cambodia – Project on Mine-Free Villages in Koh Kong Province, Cambodia	Cambodia	21.06.2022	21.06.2022	Ministry of External Affairs
10.	MoU between Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation, Royal Government of Cambodia regarding Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of Quick Impact Projects (QIP) in Cambodia – Project on Enrichment in Science, Technology and Innovation, Kampot Province, Cambodia	Cambodia	29.03.2022	29.03.2022	Ministry of External Affairs
11.	MoU between Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and Ministry of Tourism, Royal Government of Cambodia regarding Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of Quick Impact Projects (QIP) in Cambodia – Project on Developing Mobile Application to Promote Tourism and Ecotourism Communities	Cambodia	29.03.2022	29.03.2022	Ministry of External Affairs
12.	MoU between Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and Ministry of Tourism, Royal Government of Cambodia regarding Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of Quick Impact Projects (QIP) in Cambodia – Project on Enhancing Ecotourism Activities in Phat Sanday Ecotourism Community, Kampong Thom Province, Cambodia	Cambodia	29.03.2022	29.03.2022	Ministry of External Affairs
13.	MoU between Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and Center for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (Caritas-CCAMH), Royal Government of Cambodia regarding Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of Quick Impact Projects (QIP) in Cambodia – Project on Reaching Orphan and Vulnerable Children through Mobile Clinical Service in Cambodia	Cambodia	18.03.2022	18.03.2022	Ministry of External Affairs
14.	MoU between Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and Our School, Non-Governmental Organization, Kep Province, Royal Government of Cambodia regarding Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of Quick Impact Projects (QIP) in Cambodia – Digital literacy and Education Programme with blended Learning approach, Kep Province, Cambodia	Cambodia	29.03.2022	29.03.2022	Ministry of External Affairs

Sl. No.	Agreement/ Memorandum of Understanding	Country	Date of Signing	Date of entry into force	Ministry
15.	MoU between National Authority of Sambor Prei Kuk, Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, Kingdom of Cambodia and Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India regarding Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of Quick Impact Projects (QIP) in Cambodia – Conservation and Preservation of Ashram Maha Russey Temple, Sambor Prei Kuk, Kampong Thom Province, Cambodia	Cambodia	25.03.2022	25.03.2022	Ministry of External Affairs
16.	Financing Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Royal Government of Cambodia for Conservation and Preservation of Wat Raja Bo Pagoda Paintings in Siem Reap, Cambodia	Cambodia	12.11.2022	12.11.2022	Ministry of External Affairs
17.	MoU on the Establishment of the ICCR Chair in Sanskrit and Buddhist Studies between Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Preah Sihanouk Raja Buddhist University	Cambodia	21.09.2022	21.09.2022	Indian Council for Cultural Relations
18.	MoU between the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Health of the Kingdom of Cambodia on Cooperation in the field of Health & Medicine	Cambodia	12.11.2022	12.11.2022	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
19.	MoU between the Ministry of Environment, Kingdom of Cambodia and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Republic Of India on Cooperation in Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Wildlife Management Recovery Strategy of Tiger and its Habitat	Cambodia	12.11.2022	12.11.2022	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
20.	MoU among the Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Biotechnology of the Government of the Republic of India and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) of Canada concerning Cooperation in Science and Technology.	Canada	13.05.2022	13.05.2022	Department of Science & Technology and the Department of Biotechnology
21.	MoU between the Department of Science and Technology of the Government of the Republic of India and the National Research Council (NRC) of Canada Concerning Cooperation in Industrial Research, Development and Innovation.	Canada	19.05.2022	19.05.2022	Department of Science & Technology
22.	MoU between India and Canada to Establish Stronger Cooperation on Environmental Protection and Climate Action.	Canada	20.06.2022	20.06.2022	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
23.	MoU between Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change of the Republic of India and the Department of the Environment of Canada on Cooperation in the Field of Climate Change and Environment.	Canada	02.06.2022	02.06.2022	Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change
24.	Declaration of Intent on Migration and Mobility between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus	Cyprus	29.12.2022	29.12.2022	Ministry of External Affairs

Sl. No.	Agreement/ Memorandum of Understanding	Country	Date of Signing	Date of entry into force	Ministry
25.	Cultural Exchange Programme between the Ministry of Culture of India and the Ministry of Culture of Denmark for the years 2022-2026	Denmark	30.04.2022	30.04.2022	Ministry of Culture
26.	Joint Declaration Of Intent Between The Ministry Of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry And Dairying (Department Of Animal Husbandry And Dairying) Of The Republic Of India And The Ministry Of Food, Agriculture And Fisheries Of The Kingdom Of Denmark On Cooperation In The Fields Of Animal Husbandry And Dairying	Denmark	02.05.2022	02.05.2022	Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying
27.	Letter Of Intent Between The Ministry Of Ports, Shipping And Waterways, Government Of The Republic Of India And The Ministry Of Industry, Business And Financial Affairs, Government Of The Kingdom Of Denmark	Denmark	03.05.2022	03.05.2022	Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
28.	MoU Between The Ministry Of Skill Development And Entrepreneurship, Government Of The Republic Of India And The Ministry Of Children And Education Of The Kingdom Of Denmark On Cooperation In The Field Of Skill Development, Vocational Education And Entrepreneurship	Denmark	03.05.2022	Not yet	Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
29.	Declaration Of Intent On Migration And Mobility Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The Kingdom Of Denmark	Denmark	03.05.2022	Not yet	
30.	MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Denmark on Cooperation in the Field of Water Resources Development and Management.	Denmark	12.09.2022	12.09.2022	Ministry of Jal Shakti
31.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Djibouti on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic & Official/Service Passports	Djibouti	22.09.2022	Yet to come into force	Ministry of External Affairs
32.	MoU for Reciprocal Recognition of COVID-19 Vaccination Certificates between the Government of the Republic of India and Government of Commonwealth of Dominica.	Dominica	08.04.2022	08.04.2022	Ministry Health and Family Welfare
33.	Joint Declaration between Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology of the Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of the Republic of Finland to establish an Indo-Finnish Virtual Network Centre on Quantum Computing	Finland	18.04.2022	18.04.2022	Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology
34.	MoU for Cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy between the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of the Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of the Republic of Finland	Finland	29.04.2022	29.04.2022	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)

Sl. No.	Agreement/ Memorandum of Understanding	Country	Date of Signing	Date of entry into force	Ministry
35.	Joint Declaration of Intent (DoI) on Migration and Mobility between the Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of the Republic of Finland	Finland	13.12.2022	13.12.2022	Ministry of External Affairs
36.	Agreement between the Government of the Gabonese Republic and The Government of the Republic of India on Establishment of a Joint Commission.	Gabon	31.05.2022	31.05.2022	Ministry of External Affairs
37.	MoU between Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of the Republic of India and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Gabon.	Gabon	31.05.2022	31.05.2022	Ministry of External Affairs
38.	Joint Declaration of Intent between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany on the Implementation of Triangular Development Cooperation projects in Third Countries.	Germany	02.05.2022	02.05.2022	Ministry of External Affairs
39.	Joint Declaration of Intent between the Republic of India and the Federal Republic of Germany on the Partnership for Green and Sustainable Development.	Germany	02.05.2022	02.05.2022	Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change
40.	Joint Declaration on the Initialling of the Agreement on a Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.	Germany	02.05.2022	02.05.2022	Ministry of External Affairs
41.	Joint Declaration of Intent between the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of the Republic of India and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany on Indo-German Development Cooperation Regarding Renewable Energy Partnership.	Germany	02.05.2022	02.05.2022	Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)
42.	Joint Declaration of Intent between the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of the Republic of India and the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK), Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on Indo-German Green Hydrogen Task Force.	Germany	02.05.2022	02.05.2022	Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)
43.	Joint Declaration of Intent between the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare of the Government of the Republic of India and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany on Agro ecology and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources.	Germany	02.05.2022	02.05.2022	Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare



Sl. No.	Agreement/ Memorandum of Understanding	Country	Date of Signing	Date of entry into force	Ministry
44.	Joint Declaration of Intent regarding the Cooperation in the Field of Forest Landscape Restoration between the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of the Government of the Republic of India and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection of the Federal Republic of Germany.	Germany	02.05.2022	02.05.2022	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
45.	Joint Declaration of Intent between the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of India on Continuation of Cooperation in the Field of Advanced Training of Corporate Executives and Junior Executives from India	Germany	02.05.2022	Not yet	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
46.	MoU on the Mechanism of Consultations between the Government of the Republic of India and the Secretariat General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf	Gulf	10.09.2022	10.09.2022	Ministry of External Affairs
47.	Cultural and Educational Exchange Programme between the Government of the Republic of India and The Government of the Hellenic Republic for the years 2022-2026.	Hellenic Republic	23.03.2022	23.03.2022	Ministry of Culture
48.	Declaration of Intent on Migration and Mobility between The Government of the Republic of India and The Government of the Hellenic Republic.	Hellenic Republic	23.03.2022	23.03.2022	Ministry of External Affairs
49.	MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia concerning Mutual Recognition of COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate.	Indonesia	02.02.2022	02.02.2022	Ministry Health and Family Welfare
50.	MoU between the Narcotics Control Bureau of the Republic of India and the National Narcotics Board of the Republic of Indonesia on Combating Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Substances and its Precursors.	Indonesia	17.06.2022	17.06.2022	Ministry of Home Affairs
51.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the International Telecommunication Union concerning the establishment of an Area Office & Innovation Centre of the International Telecommunication Union in the Republic of India	International Tele-communication Union	03.03.2022	Not yet	Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications
52.	Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Civil and Commercial Matters between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.	Iran	08.06.2022	Not yet	Ministry of Law and Justice
53.	MoU concerning of the Mutual Recognition of Seafarer's Certificates of Competency in Unlimited Voyages	Iran	21.08.2022	Not yet	Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

Sl. No.	Agreement/ Memorandum of Understanding	Country	Date of Signing	Date of entry into force	Ministry
54.	MoU Between the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of the Republic of India and Ministry of Foreign Affairs And Foreign Trade, Jamaica	Jamaica	16.05.2022	16.05.2022	Ministry of External Affairs
55.	MoC between the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs of the Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of the Government of Japan in the field of Sustainable Urban Development.	Japan	19.03.2022	19.03.2022	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
56.	MoC between the Ministry of Jal Shakti of the Republic of India and the Ministry of the Environment of Japan in the Areas of Decentralized Domestic Waste Water Management.	Japan	19.03.2022	19.03.2022	Ministry of Jal Shakti
57.	MoC in the field of Cyber Security between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.	Japan	19.03.2022	19.03.2022	Ministry of External Affairs
58.	India – Japan Industrial Competitiveness Partnership Roadmap	Japan	19.03.2022	Not yet	Ministry of AYUSH
59.	Cultural Exchange Program between the Ministry of Culture of the Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Culture and Sports of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the years 2022-2025.	Kazakhstan	13.06.2022	13.06.2022	Ministry of Culture
60.	Cultural Exchange Programme between the Ministry of Culture of the Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Culture, Information, Sports and Youth Policy of the Kyrgyz Republic for the years 2022-26.	Kyrgyz	11.06.2022	11.06.2022	Ministry of Culture
61.	MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg on Cooperation in the exploration and uses of outer space for peaceful purposes	Luxembourg	06.01.2022	Not yet	Department of Space
62.	MoU between the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, Ministry of External Affairs, Republic of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Madagascar.	Madagascar	12.09.2022	12.09.2022	Ministry of External Affairs
63.	MoU between Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of the Republic of India and Ministry of Health, Government of the Republic of Maldives for Reciprocal Recognition of COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate.	Maldives	26.03.2022	26.03.2022	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
64.	MoU between High Commission of India, Male and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Maldives and Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment, Government of India for Development of a Youth Centre in Adh. Dhigurah, Maldives.	Maldives	18.04.2022	18.04.2022	Ministry of External Affairs

Sl. No.	Agreement/ Memorandum of Understanding	Country	Date of Signing	Date of entry into force	Ministry
65.	MoU between High Commission of India, Male and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Maldives and Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment, Government of the Republic of India for Development of a Youth Centre In GA. Gemanafushi, Maldives.	Maldives	18.04.2022	18.04.2022	Ministry of External Affairs
66.	MoU between High Commission of India, Male and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Maldives and Kulhudhuffushi Regional Hospital, Maldives for Establishing a Speech Therapy Unit at Kulhudhuffushi Regional Hospital, Maldives.	Maldives	18.04.2022	18.04.2022	Ministry of External Affairs
67.	MoU between High Commission of India, Male and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Maldives and Hulhumale Hospital for Establishment of Prosthetics and Orthotics Manufacturing Workshop at Hulhumale Hospital, Maldives.	Maldives	18.04.2022	18.04.2022	Ministry of External Affairs
68.	MoU between High Commission of India, Male and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Maldives and Addu Equatorial Hospital, Maldives for Establishing a Mental Health Centre at Addu Equatorial Hospital, Maldives.	Maldives	18.04.2022	18.04.2022	Ministry of External Affairs
69.	MoU between High Commission of India, Male and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Maldives and Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment for Development of a Sports Complex in N. Manadhoo, Maldives.	Maldives	18.04.2022	18.04.2022	Ministry of External Affairs
70.	MoU between High Commission of India, Male and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Maldives and National Centre for Cultural Heritage for Preservation of Cultural Places in N. Landhoo Maabudhuge, Maldives and Th. Dhiyamigili Ganduvaru, Maldives.	Maldives	18.04.2022	18.04.2022	Ministry of External Affairs
71.	MoU between Judicial Service Commission of the Republic of Maldives and Ministry of Law and Justice of the Government of the Republic of India in the Field of Judicial Cooperation.	Maldives	23.08.2022	23.08.2022	Ministry of Law and Justice
72.	Joint Interpretative Statement to the Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Republic of Mauritius Signed On 4th September 1998 (The Agreement)	Mauritius	11.07.2022	Not yet	Ministry of Finance
73.	MoU (MoU) between High Commission of India, Mauritius and Prime Minister's Office of the Republic of Mauritius and Ministry of National Infrastructure and Community Development of the Republic of Mauritius (National Development Unit) for the implementation of Community Development Projects in Mauritius (Cluster I)	Mauritius	16.11.2022	Not yet	Ministry of External Affairs

Sl. No.	Agreement/ Memorandum of Understanding	Country	Date of Signing	Date of entry into force	Ministry
74.	Letter of Exchange between the Government of India and the Government of Republic of Mauritius for the extension of the Metro Express Project with grant of 10M Dollars	Mauritius	16.11.2022	Not yet	Ministry of External Affairs
75.	Letter of Exchange between the Government of India and the Government of Republic of Mauritius for the Phase IV of the Metro Express Project with grant of 25M Dollars	Mauritius	16.11.2022	Not yet	Ministry of External Affairs
76.	MoU between the Government of the Republic of India & the Republic of Mozambique for \$10 million Grant Assistance (Donation) from the Government of the Republic of India for the Drinking Water Project in Mueda Plateau in Cabo Delgado province of Mozambique.	Mozambique	14.02.2022	14.02.2022	Ministry of External Affairs
77.	Reciprocal Recognition of COVID-19 Vaccination Certificates.	Mozambique	14.02.2022	14.02.2022	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
78.	Memorandum of Cooperation which aims to develop privileged relations between the Parliaments of the Republic of India & the Republic of Mozambique based on the principles of equality, reciprocity of benefits and mutual respect.	Mozambique	27.07.2022	27.07.2022	Department of Parliamentary Affairs
79.	Memorandum of Association on the Establishment of BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility.	BIMSTEC	30.03.2022	Not yet	Department of Science and Technology
80.	BIMSTEC MoU on Mutual Understanding in the Field of Diplomatic Training.	BIMSTEC	30.03.2022	30.03.2022	SSIFS, MEA
81.	BIMSTEC Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.	BIMSTEC	30.03.2022	Not yet	Ministry of Home Affairs
82.	Project Agreement between Embassy of India, Yangon and Ministry of Construction of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for the Establishment of Modern Integrated Check-Post (ICP) at Tamu Phasel, Myanmar.	Myanmar	16.09.2022	16.09.2022	Ministry of External Affairs
83.	MoU on Wildlife Conservation and Sustainable Biodiversity Utilization.	Namibia	20.07.2022	20.07.2022	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
84.	MoU on Authorising Spouses and Dependents of Members of the Diplomatic Mission or Consular Post to Engage in Gainful Employment	Namibia	20.07.2022	20.07.2022	Ministry of External Affairs
85.	MoU on Fields of Academic Cooperation between High Commissioner of Namibia to India and Campus Director, National Forensic Sciences University	Namibia	20.07.2022	20.07.2022	Ministry of External Affairs
86.	MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Nepal on Enhancing Technical Cooperation in the Railway Sector.	Nepal	02.04.2022	02.04.2022	Ministry of Railways



Sl. No.	Agreement/ Memorandum of Understanding	Country	Date of Signing	Date of entry into force	Ministry
87.	Strategic Partnership on Water between the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Ministry of Jal Shakti of the Government of the Republic of India.	Netherlands	29.03.2022	29.03.2022	Ministry of Jal Shakti
88.	Extension of Action Plan of Indo-Dutch Joint Agriculture Working Group between the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, Netherlands.	Netherlands	17.08.2022	17.08.2022	Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of the Republic of India
89.	Programme of Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Sultanate of Oman for the period 2022-2025	Oman	23.02.2022	23.03.2022	Department of Science & Technology
90.	MoU between the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications, Government of India and Oman Post SAOC, Sultanate of Oman for Issuing of India – Oman Joint Stamps	Oman	21.03.2022	21.03.2022	Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications
91.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Palau on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports.	Palau	18.07.2022	Not yet	Ministry of External Affairs
92.	Cultural Exchange Programme between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Panama for the years 2021-2024.	Panama	29.04.2022	29.04.2022	Ministry of Culture
93.	Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of the Republic of Panama for Authorizing the Dependents of Members of a Diplomatic Mission or Consular Post to Engage in Gainful Employment.	Panama	29.04.2022	29.04.2022	Ministry of External Affairs
94.	Treaty between the Republic of Poland and the Republic of India concerning Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.	Poland	25.04.2022	Not yet	Ministry of Home Affairs
95.	Cultural Exchange Programme between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Romania for the period 2022-2027.	Romania	01.07.2022	01.07.2022	Ministry of Culture
96.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and Saint Vincent and The Grenadines for the Exchange of Information and Assistance in Collection with respect to Taxes.	Saint Vincent	19.05.2022	Not yet	Ministry of Finance
97.	MoU between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and The Roads, Buildings and General Services Authority of Saint Vincent and The Grenadines on Refurbishment of The Old Calder Community Centre Project.	Saint Vincent and The Grenadines	19.05.2022	19.05.2022	Ministry of External Affairs

Sl. No.	Agreement/ Memorandum of Understanding	Country	Date of Signing	Date of entry into force	Ministry
98.	MoU between the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Youth of the Government of the Republic of Senegal on Cooperation in Youth Matters.	Senegal	01.06.2022	01.06.2022	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
99.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Senegal on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic and Officials/Service Passports.	Senegal	01.06.2022	01.09.2022	Ministry of External Affairs
100.	Cultural Exchange Programme between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Senegal for the years 2022-2026.	Senegal	01.06.2022	01.06.2022	Ministry of Culture
101.	MoU between the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Health of the Government of the Republic of Seychelles for Reciprocal Recognition of COVID-19 Vaccination Certificates.	Seychelles	05.05.2022	05.05.2022	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
102.	Agreement between the Governments of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States on the Development of Cooperation in Tourism	Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States	16.09.2022	Not yet	Ministry of Tourism
103.	Agreement between the Authorized Bodies of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States on Cooperation in Plant Quarantine	Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States	16.09.2022	Not yet	Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare
104.	Memorandum of Obligations between Authorized Bodies of the Shanghai Cooperation Member States on Cooperation in Museum Affairs	Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States	16.09.2022	Not yet	Ministry of Culture
105.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Solomon Islands on Exemption from the Visa Requirements for Diplomatic and Official Passports.	Solomon Islands	22.06.2022	Not yet	Ministry of External Affairs
106.	Joint Declaration of Intent between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Kingdom of Spain on Cooperation in the Cultural and Academic Fields.	Spain	15.06.2022	15.06.2022	Ministry of External Affairs
107.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for Gifting of a 4000-ton Floating Dock to the Government of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for the Use of Sri Lankan Navy.	Sri Lanka	15.03.2022	15.03.2022	Ministry of External Affairs
108.	Letter of Exchange in respect of IN Dornier Aircraft between the Government of India and the Government of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.	Sri Lanka	15.03.2022	15.03.2022	Ministry of External Affairs

Sl. No.	Agreement/ Memorandum of Understanding	Country	Date of Signing	Date of entry into force	Ministry
109.	MoU between the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Republic of India and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Suriname on Cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine.	Suriname	30.08.2022	30.08.2022	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
110.	Cultural Exchange Programme between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Suriname.	Suriname	30.08.2022	30.08.2022	Ministry of External Affairs
111.	MOU on Bilateral Cooperation between The European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) and DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, GOI	The European Union	11.05.2022	11.05.2022	Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
112.	Intent of Cooperation on High Performance Computing, Weather Extremes and Climate Modelling, and Quantum Technologies between Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology, European Commission and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India	The European Union	21.11.2022	21.11.2022	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India
113.	MoU between Financial Monitoring Service at the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan and the Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) concerning Cooperation in the Exchange of Financial Intelligence related to Money Laundering Predicate Offences and Terrorism Financing.	Turkmenistan	31.03.2022	31.03.2022	Ministry of Finance
114.	Programme of Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Turkmenistan in the Fields of Culture and Arts for the years 2022-2025.	Turkmenistan	02.04.2022	02.04.2022	Ministry of Culture
115.	Programme of Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Turkmenistan on Cooperation in the Field of Disaster Management.	Turkmenistan	02.04.2022	02.04.2022	Ministry of Home Affairs
116.	MoU between Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Sports and Youth Policy of the Government of Turkmenistan on Cooperation in Youth Affairs.	Turkmenistan	02.04.2022	02.04.2022	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
117.	Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)	United Arab Emirates	18.02.2022	Not yet	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
118.	MoU between India Post and the Emirates Post to Jointly Launch the India-UAE Commemorative Stamp	United Arab Emirates	18.02.2022	Not yet	Department of Post, Ministry of Communications
119.	MoU between the Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change of the Republic of India and the Office of the UAE Special Envoy for Climate Change (UAE) on Climate Action.	United Arab Emirates	26.05.2022	26.05.2022	Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change
120.	MoU between UAE MoFAIC and Ministry of External Affairs of India on The Establishment of the UAE-India Cultural Council Forum.	United Arab Emirates	01.09.2022	Not yet	Ministry of External Affairs

Sl. No.	Agreement/ Memorandum of Understanding	Country	Date of Signing	Date of entry into force	Ministry
121.	MoU between India and the UAE on Climate Action.	United Arab Emirates	26.05.2022	Not yet	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
122.	Specific Cooperation Agreement between the Indian Space Research Organization, Department of Space of the Republic of India and The Mexican Space Agency of the United Mexican States on Crop Monitoring, Drought Assessment and Capacity Building.	United Mexican State	29.06.2022	Not yet	Department of Space
123.	MoU between the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) of the Government of the Republic of India and the Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning Cooperation with India's Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP)	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	18.04.2022	18.04.2022	Department of Atomic Energy
124.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the United Nations on A Way Finding Application to be used in the <i>Palais des Nations</i> Compound	United Nations	17.10.2022 19.10.2022	Not yet	Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications
125.	MoU between the Department of Space of the Government of the Republic of India and the United States Department of Defense for Cooperation in Safety of Space-flight and the Provision of Space Situational Awareness Services and Information.	United States of America	11.04.2022	11.04.2022	Department of Space
126.	Investment Incentive Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of India.	United States of America	23.05.2022	Not yet	Ministry of Finance
127.	Agreement between National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States of America (USA) for Deep Space Network (DSN) support for ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 Lunar Lander and Chandrayaan-2 Lunar Orbiter Missions.	United States of America	10.02.2022	Not yet	Department of Space
128.	Implementing Arrangement with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States of America (USA) for Cooperation on the Chandrayaan-3 Mission.	United States of America	16.02.2022	Not yet	Department of Space
129.	Amended Letter of Agreement (ALOA) in the Field of cooperation for drug related matters between India and the U.S.A.	United States of America	08.07.2022	Not yet	Ministry of Home Affairs
130.	MoU between Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) and the State Committee on Industrial Safety (SCIS) of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of radiation and nuclear safety	Uzbekistan	27.09.2022	Not yet	Department of Atomic Energy
131.	The Cultural Exchange Programme between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam 2022-2025	Vietnam	15.12.2022	Not yet	Ministry of Culture

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## Annexure IV

## Details of Outgoing Visits by President/Vice President/Prime Minister

Sl. No.	Country	Dates
<b>President</b>		
1	Turkmenistan, The Netherlands, and Sweden	01-07 April, 2022
2	Jamaica and St. Vincent & The Grenadines (technical halt in Milan and Frankfurt)	14-22 May, 2022
3	United Kingdom	17-20 September, 2022
<b>Vice President</b>		
1	Abu Dhabi (UAE)	15-16 May, 2022
2	Gabon, Senegal and Qatar	30 May – 07 June, 2022
3	Cambodia	11-13 November, 2022
4	Qatar	20-21 November, 2022
<b>Prime Minister</b>		
1.	Germany, Denmark and France	02-04 May, 2022
2.	Nepal	16 May, 2022
3.	Japan	22-25 May, 2022
4.	Germany and UAE	26-28 June, 2022
5.	Uzbekistan	15-16 September, 2022
6.	Japan	26-28 September, 2022
7.	Indonesia	14-16 November, 2022

## Annexure V

## Virtual Summits/Events

S. No.	SUBJECT	DATE
1	India-Mauritius Virtual Event	20 January, 2022
2	India-Central Asia Virtual Summit	27 January, 2022
3	India-UAE Virtual Summit	18 February, 2022
4	QUAD Virtual Summit	03 March, 2022
5	India-Australia Virtual Summit	21 March, 2022
6	5th BIMSTEC Virtual Summit	30 March, 2022
7	India-US Virtual Meeting	11 April, 2022
8	Global Covid Summit	12 May, 2022
9	Virtual Conference with Cambodian PM	18 May, 2022
10	BRICS Virtual Summit	23 – 24 June, 2022
11	I2U2 Virtual Summit	14 July, 2022

## Annexure VI

### Details of Visits by Head of State/ Head of Government/ Vice President/ Foreign Ministers and Equivalent

S. No.	Country	Dates
1	H.E. Prof. G.L. Peiris, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka	06-08 February 2022
2	Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga, Former Prime Minister of Kenya	12-13 February 2022
3	H.E. Alexander Schallenberg, Federal Minister for European and International Affairs of Australia	19-21 March 2022
4	H.E. Mr. Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister of Japan	19-20 March 2022
5	His Excellency Mr. Nikos Dendias, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic	22-23 March 2022
6	H.E. Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Al-Busaidi, Foreign Minister of the Sultanate of Oman	23-24 March 2022
7	H.E. Mr. Wang Yi, State Councilor and Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China	24-25 March 2022
8	H.E. Marcelo Ebrard, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico	30 March – 01 April 2022
9	Rt Hon. Elizabeth Truss MP, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of United Kingdom	31 March 2022
10	H.E. Mr. Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation	31 March – 01 April 2022
11	Rt. Hon. Sher Bahadur Deuba, Prime Minister of Nepal	01-03 April 2022
12	H.E. Mr. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius	17-24 April 2022
13	Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson MP, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom	21-22 April 2022
14	Raisina Dialogue i. H.E. Ursula von der Leyen, President, European Commission (HOG level) ii. H.E. Teodoro Locsin Jr. Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Philippines iii. H.E. Santiago A. Cafiero, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Argentina iv. H.E. Geoffrey Onyama, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Nigeria v. H.E. Ararat Mirzoyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia vi. H.E. Zbigniew Rau, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland vii. H.E. Anže Logar, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Slovenia viii. H.E. Richard J. Randriamandrato, Foreign Minister of Madagascar ix. H.E. Anniken Huitfeldt, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Norway x. H.E. Wopke Hoekstra, Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands xi. H.E. Gabrielius Landsbergis, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lithuania xii. H.E. Jean Asselborn, Foreign Minister of Luxembourg xiii. H.E. Hugh Hilton Todd, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Guyana xiv. H.E. João Gomes Cravinho, Foreign Minister of Portugal, Ursula von der Leyen, President, European Commission (HOG level) xv. H.E. Teodoro Locsin Jr. Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Philippines xvi. H.E. Santiago A. Cafiero, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Argentina xvii. H.E. Geoffrey Onyama, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Nigeria xviii. H.E. Ararat Mirzoyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia xix. H.E. Zbigniew Rau, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland xx. H.E. Anže Logar, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Slovenia xxi. H.E. Richard J. Randriamandrato, xxii. H.E. Anniken Huitfeldt, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Norway H.E. Wopke Hoekstra, Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands H.E. Gabrielius Landsbergis, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lithuania H.E. Jean Asselborn, Foreign Minister of Luxembourg H.E. Hugh Hilton Todd, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Guyana H.E. João Gomes Cravinho, Foreign Minister of Portugal	25-27 April 2022
15	H.E. Mr. Luigi Di Maio, Minister of External Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic	04-06 May 2022
16	H.E. Mr. Peter Szijjarto, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary	26-27 May 2022

S. No.	Country	Dates
17	Visit of 13 US Congressional Staffers	28 May – 03 June 2022
18	H.E. Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran	08-10 June 2022
19	H.E. Mr. Jose Manuel Albares, Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain	15 June 2022
20	Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers Meeting and Delhi Dialogue XII i. Hon. Dato Seri Setia Hj Erywan Pehin Yusof, The Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam ii. H.E. Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister of Cambodia iii. H.E. Retno L P Marsudi, Indonesia Foreign Minister iv. H.E. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Singapore v. H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi, ASEAN Secretary General vi. HE Bui Thanh Son, Vietnam Foreign Minister vii. H.E. Dato Sri Saifuddin bin Abdullah, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia viii. H.E. Pornpimol Kanchanalak, Thailand Special Envoy ix. H.E. Thongphane Savanphet, Lao PDR Deputy Foreign Minister x. H.E. Antonio A. Morales, Philippines Additional Secretary	15-17 June 2022
21	H.E. Dr. A K Abdul Momen MP, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh	18-20 June 2022
22	CII EXIM Bank Conclave on Africa i. H.E. Mr. Badara A. Joof, Vice President of The Gambia ii. H.E. Mr. Marie Cyril Eddy Boissézon, GOSK, Vice President of Mauritius iii. H.E. Dr. James Wanilga, Vice President of South Sudan iv. H.E. Ms. W.K. Mutale Nalumango, Vice President of Zambia v. H.E. Ms. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Foreign Affairs of Namibia	19-20 July 2022
23	H.E. Ms. Maria Ubach Font, Foreign Minister of Andorra	31 July-02 August 2022
24	H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, President of the Republic of Maldives	01-04 August 2022
25	H.E. Ms. Patricia Scotland, Commonwealth Secretary General	06-09 August 2022
26	H.E. Mr. Tenzin Lekphell, Secretary General of BIMSTEC	22-25 August 2022
27	H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, President of the General Assembly & Foreign Minister of the Republic of Maldives	28-29 August 2022
28	Her Majesty Queen Maxima of Netherlands	29-31 August 2022
29	State visit of H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh	05-08 September 2022
30	Visit of H.E. Mrs. Catherine Calonna, French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs	13-15 September 2022
31	Visit of H.E. Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, King of Bhutan	14-16 September 2022
32	Visit of H.E. Mr. Lawrence Wong, Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore and H.E. Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Foreign Minister of Singapore	16-21 September 2022
33	Visit of Ambassadors/High Commissioners to Gujarat (Vadodara and Kevadia)	01-03 October 2022
34	Visit of 10 US Congressional Staffers	01-08 October 2022
35	H.E. Dr. Lemogang Kwape, Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation of Botswana	17-22 October 2022
36	H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General to Mumbai and Kevadia	19-21 October 2022
37	United Nations, Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) (Mumbai, Delhi) i. H.E. Lord Tariq Ahmad MOS for the Middle East, South Asia and the United Nations, FCDO ii. H.E. Ms. Shirley Ayorkar Botchwey, Ghana FM iii. H.E. Michael Moussa ADAMO, Gabon FM	28-30 October 2022
38	H.E. Mr. Vladimir Makei, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus	9-11 November 2022
39	H.E. Dr. Fayssal Mekdad, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriate of Syria	17-21 November 2022
40	H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed, Foreign Minister of UAE	21-22 November 2022



## Annexure VII

## Credential Presentation by Foreign Heads of Mission (1 January 2022 to 30 November 2022)

SL No.	Country	Name of Ambassador/High Commissioner	Date of Credential Presentation
1	Tanzania	H.E. Mrs. Anisa Kapufi Mbega	16 February 2022
2	Djibouti	H.E. Mr. Abdillahi Assoweh Isse	
3	Serbia	H.E. Mr. Sinisa Pavic	
4	North Macedonia	H.E. Mr. Slobodan Uzunov	
5	Algeria	H.E. Mr. Abderrahmane Benguerah	16 March 2022
6	Malawi	H.E. Mr. Leonard Mungezi	
7	Canada	H.E. Mr. Cameron Mackay	
8	Indonesia	H.E. Ms. Ina H. Krisnamurthi	
9	Russia	H.E. Mr. Denis Alipov	11 May 2022
10	Slovak Republic	H.E. Mr. Robert Maxian	
11	Sudan	H.E. Mr. Abdalla Omer Bashir Elhusain	
12	Nepal	H.E. Dr. Shankar Prasad Sharma	
13	Ecuador	H.E. Mr. Francisco Teodoro Maldonado Guevara	26 August 2022
14	Somalia	H.E. Mr. Ahmed Ali Dahir	
15	Germany	H.E. Dr. Philipp Ackermann	
16	Suriname	H.E. Mr. Arunkoemar Hardien	
17	Syria	H.E. Dr. Bassam Alkhatib	14 September 2022
18	Czech Republic	H.E. Dr. Eliska Zigova	
19	Republic of Congo	H.E. Mr. Raymond Serge Bale	
20	Nauru	H.E. Ms. Marlene Moses	
21	Saudi Arabia	H.E. Mr. Saleh Eid H Al-Husseini	26 October 2022
22	Uganda	H.E. Ms. Joyce Kakuramatsi Kikafunda	
23	Vietnam	H.E. Mr. Nguyen Thanh Hai	
24	Iran	H.E. Dr. Iraj Elahi	
25	Sweden	H.E. Mr. Jan Thesleff	28 November 2022
26	Belgium	H.E. Mr. Didier Vanderhasselt	
27	Bangladesh	H.E. Mr. Md. Mustafizur Rahman	
28	Maldives	H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Shaheeb	
29	UAE (United Arab Emirates)	H.E. Dr. Abdul Nasser Jamal Hussain Mohammed Alshaali	
30	Latvia	H.E. Mr. Juris Bone	
31	Japan	H.E. Mr. Suzuki Hiroshi	

## Annexure VIII

## Final Departure Status of Foreign Heads of Missions (01 January to 30 November 2022)

Sl. No.	Mission	Name of Head of Mission	Date of Final Departure
1	Saudi Arabia	Dr. Saud Mohammed A Alsati	31.01.2022
2	Russia	Mr. Nikolai Kudashev	05.02.2022
3	Guatemala	Mr. Giovanni Rene Castillo Polanco	05.04.2022
4	Somalia	Ms. Faduma Abdullahi Mohamud	21.04.2022
5	Hungary	Mr. Andras Laszlo Kiraly	30.04.2022
6	Republic of Congo	Mr. Andre Poh	08.05.2022
7	Republic of Guinea	Mrs. Fatoumate Balde	15.06.2022
8	Germany	Mr. Walter Johannes Lindner	29.06.2022
9	Peru	Mr. Carlos Rafael Polo Castaneda	10.07.2022
10	Belgium	Mr. Francois Gilles R. Delhaye	20.07.2022
11	Oman	Mr. Sheikh Hamed Saif Abdulaziz AL Rawahi	20.07.2022
12	Burundi	Ms. Stella Budiriganya	11.07.2022
13	Philippines	Mr. Ramon S. Bagatsing Jr.	14.07.2022
14	Lesotho	Mrs. Lineo Irene Molise	04.08.2022
15	Malaysia	Mr. Datuk Hidayat Abdul Hamid	03.08.2022
16	Maldives	Dr. Hussain Niyaz	17.08.2022
17	Viet Nam	Mr. Pham Sanh Chau	27.08.2022
18	Ukraine	Dr. Igor Polikha	06.09.2022
19	Mauritius	Mrs. Santi Nai Hanoomanjee, GSCK	10.09.2022
20	Bangladesh	Mr. Muhammad Imran	14.09.2022
21	Iran	Dr. Ali Chegeni	24.09.2022
22	Sweden	Mr. Klas Molin	27.09.2022
23	Japan	Mr. Suzuki Satoshi	28.09.2022
24	Lao PDR	Mr. Bounneme Chouanghom	04.11.2022
25	United Arab Emirates	Dr. Ahmed Abdulrahman A. Albanna	21.10.2022
26	China	Mr. Sun Weidong	26.10.2022
27	Qatar	Mr. Mohammed Khater E Al-Khater	29.10.2022
28	Colombia	Ms. Mariana Pacheco Montes	03.11.2022
29	Kyrgyz Republic	Mr. Asein Isaev	10.11.2022
30	Venezuela	Mrs. Coromoto Godoy Calderon	15.11.2022

## Annexure-IX

**Cadre strength at Headquarters and Missions abroad as on 2022 (including posts budgeted by M/o Commerce, ex-cadre posts and posts encadred from MOIA & POE) as on 30 June 2022**

S.No.	Cadre/Post	Posts at Hqrs.	Posts at Missions	Total
1	Grade I	5	28	33
2	Grade II	6	40	46
3	Grade III	38	147	185
4	Grade IV	58	155	213
5	Junior Admn. Grade/Senior Scale	114	282	396
6	(i) Junior Scale	10	25	35
	(ii) Probationers Reserve	62		62
	(iii) Leave Reserve	15		15
	(iv) Deputation Reserve	19		19
	(v) Training Reserve	7		7
	<b>Sub Total I</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>1011</b>
<b>IFS(B)</b>				
7	(i) Grade I	118	125	243
	(ii) Deputation Reserve	6		6
8	(i) Integrated Grades II & III	362	253	615
	(ii) Leave Reserve	30		30
	(iii) Deputation Reserve	16		16
	(iv) Training Reserve	25		25
9	(i) Grade IV	217	560	777
	(ii) Leave Reserve	60		60
	(iii) Deputation Reserve	54		54
10	(i) Grade V/VI	173	84	257
	(ii) Leave Reserve	60		60
	(iii) Deputation Reserve	14		14
11	(i) Grade II of Cypher Cadre	47	61	108
	(ii) Leave Reserve	5		5
12	(i) Stenographer's Cadre	526	554	1080
	(ii) Leave Reserve	47		47
	(iii) Training Reserve (Hindi)	10		10
	(iv) Deputation Reserve	12		12
13	Interpreter's Cadre	9	26	35
14	L&T Cadre	20	3	23
	<b>Sub Total II</b>	<b>1811</b>	<b>1666</b>	<b>3477</b>
	<b>Grand Total (Subtotal I+II)</b>	<b>2145</b>	<b>2343</b>	<b>4488</b>

## Annexure- X

## Passport Offices – State/UT-wise

S. No.	Passport Office	State / Union Territory
1	PO Ahmedabad	Gujarat
2	PO Amritsar	Punjab
3	PO Bareilly	Uttar Pradesh
4	PO Bengaluru	Karnataka
5	PO Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh
6	PO Bhubaneswar	Odisha
7	PO Chandigarh	Chandigarh
8	PO Chennai	Tamil Nadu
9	PO Cochin	Kerala
10	PO Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
11	PO Dehradun	Uttarakhand
12	PO Delhi	Delhi
13	PO Ghaziabad	Uttar Pradesh
14	PO Panaji	Goa
15	PO Guwahati	Assam
16	PO Hyderabad	Telangana
17	PO Jaipur	Rajasthan
18	PO Jalandhar	Punjab
19	PO Jammu	Jammu and Kashmir
20	PO Kolkata	West Bengal
21	PO Kozhikode	Kerala
22	PO Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
23	PO Madurai	Tamil Nadu
24	PO Mumbai	Maharashtra
25	PO Nagpur	Maharashtra
26	PO Patna	Bihar
27	PO Pune	Maharashtra
28	PO Raipur	Chhattisgarh
29	PO Ranchi	Jharkhand
30	PO Shimla	Himachal Pradesh
31	PO Srinagar	Jammu and Kashmir
32	PO Surat	Gujarat
33	PO Tiruchirappalli	Tamil Nadu
34	PO Trivandrum	Kerala
35	PO Vijayawada	Andhra Pradesh
36	PO Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh



## Annexure-XI

## State/UT-wise list of Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs)

S. No.	State/UT	No. of PSKs	Location of PSKs
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	Vijayawada, Tirupati, Visakhapatnam, Bhimavaram
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	Itanagar
3.	Assam*	1	Guwahati
4.	Bihar	2	Patna, Darbhanga
5.	Chandigarh UT**	1	Chandigarh
6.	Chhattisgarh	1	Raipur
7.	Delhi NCT***	3	Herald House, Shalimar Place, Bhikaji Cama Place
8.	Goa	1	Panaji
9.	Gujarat	5	Ahmedabad I&II, Vadodara, Rajkot, Surat
10.	Haryana	2	Ambala, Gurgaon.
11.	Himachal Pradesh	1	Shimla
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	Jammu, Srinagar
13.	Jharkhand	1	Ranchi
14.	Karnataka	5	Bangalore I&II, Hubli, Mangalore, Kalaburagi
15.	Kerala	13	Thiruvananthapuram, Thiruvananthapuram (Rural), Kollam, Cochin, Ernakulam Rural, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Malappuram, Thrissur, Kozhikode I&II, Kannur I&II
16.	Madhya Pradesh	2	Bhopal, Indore
17.	Maharashtra	8	Mumbai I, II&III, Pune, Nagpur, Thane, Nashik, Solapur
18.	Manipur	1	Imphal
19.	Meghalaya	1	Shillong
20.	Mizoram	1	Aizawl
21.	Nagaland	1	Dimapur
22.	Odisha	1	Bhubaneswar
23.	Puducherry	1	Puducherry
24.	Punjab	5	Amritsar, Ludhiana, Jalandhar I&II, Hoshiarpur
25.	Rajasthan	4	Jaipur, Jodhpur, Sikar, Udaipur
26.	Sikkim	1	Gangtok
27.	Tamil Nadu	8	Chennai I, II&III, Trichy, Thanjavur, Madurai, Tirunelveli, Coimbatore
28.	Telangana	5	Hyderabad I, II&III, Nizamabad, Karimnagar
29.	Tripura	1	Agartala
30.	Uttar Pradesh	6	Lucknow, Varanasi, Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Bareilly, Ghaziabad
31.	Uttarakhand	1	Dehradun
32.	West Bengal@	3	Kolkata, Berhampore, Siliguri
	<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>	

\*RPO Guwahati covers five other North-Eastern States also at present.

\*\*RPO Chandigarh covers parts of Punjab and Haryana.

\*\*\*RPO Delhi covers parts of Haryana.

@RPO Kolkata covers Sikkim and Tripura.

## Annexure-XII

## State/UT-wise list of Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs)

S.No.	POPSK Locations	State/UT	Passport Office
1	Anantapur	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
2	Bapatla	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
3	Chittoor	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
4	Gudivada	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
5	Guntur	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
6	Hindupur	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
7	Kadappa	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
8	Kodur	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
9	Kurnool	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
10	Nandyal	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
11	Narasaraopet	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
12	Nellore	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
13	Ongole	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
14	Amalapuram	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
15	Eluru	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
16	Kakinada	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
17	Rajamundry	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
18	Srikakulam	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
19	Vizianagaram	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
20	Yelamanchili	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
21	Port Blair	Andman & Nicobar	Kolkata
22	Changlang	Arunachal Pradesh	Guwahati
23	Khonsa	Arunachal Pradesh	Guwahati
24	Barpeta	Assam	Guwahati
25	Dhubri	Assam	Guwahati
26	Dibrugarh	Assam	Guwahati
27	Goalpara	Assam	Guwahati
28	Golaghat	Assam	Guwahati
29	Jorhat	Assam	Guwahati
30	Karbi Anglong	Assam	Guwahati
31	Karimganj	Assam	Guwahati
32	Kokrajhar	Assam	Guwahati
33	Mangaldoi	Assam	Guwahati
34	Nawgong	Assam	Guwahati
35	North Lakhimpur	Assam	Guwahati
36	Silchar	Assam	Guwahati
37	Tezpur	Assam	Guwahati
38	Tinsukia	Assam	Guwahati
39	Arrah	Bihar	Patna
40	Aurangabad	Bihar	Patna
41	Banka	Bihar	Patna

S.No.	POPSK Locations	State/UT	Passport Office
42	Begusarai	Bihar	Patna
43	Bettiah	Bihar	Patna
44	Bhagalpur	Bihar	Patna
45	Buxar	Bihar	Patna
46	Chhapra	Bihar	Patna
47	Dalmia Nagar	Bihar	Patna
48	Ekma	Bihar	Patna
49	Dalsingh Sarai	Bihar	Patna
50	Forbesganj	Bihar	Patna
51	Gaya	Bihar	Patna
52	Gopalganj	Bihar	Patna
53	Hajipur	Bihar	Patna
54	Jahanabad	Bihar	Patna
55	Jamui	Bihar	Patna
56	Katihar	Bihar	Patna
57	Khagaria	Bihar	Patna
58	Kishanganj	Bihar	Patna
59	Madhubani	Bihar	Patna
60	Maner	Bihar	Patna
61	Motihari	Bihar	Patna
62	Munger	Bihar	Patna
63	Muzaffarpur	Bihar	Patna
64	Nalanda	Bihar	Patna
65	Navada	Bihar	Patna
66	Purnea	Bihar	Patna
67	Saharsa	Bihar	Patna
68	Samastipur	Bihar	Patna
69	Sasaram	Bihar	Patna
70	Sheohar	Bihar	Patna
71	Sitamarhi	Bihar	Patna
72	Siwan	Bihar	Patna
73	Supaul	Bihar	Patna
74	Bilaspur	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
75	Durg	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
76	Janjgir-Champa	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
77	Korba	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
78	Raigarh	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
79	Rajnandgaon	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
80	Surguja	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
81	Silvasa	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	Mumbai
82	Daman	Daman	Mumbai
83	Janak Puri	Delhi	Delhi
84	Mehrauli	Delhi	Delhi

S.No.	POPSK Locations	State/UT	Passport Office
85	Nehru Place	Delhi	Delhi
86	Patparganj	Delhi	Delhi
87	Yamuna Vihar	Delhi	Delhi
88	Margao	Goa	Panaji
89	Amreli	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
90	Anand	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
91	Bharuch	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
92	Bhavnagar	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
93	Bhuj	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
94	Chhota Udaipur	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
95	Dahod	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
96	Gandhinagar	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
97	Godhra	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
98	Jamnagar	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
99	Junagadh	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
100	Kheda	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
101	Mehsana	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
102	Palanpur	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
103	Patan	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
104	Porbandar	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
105	Himmatnagar	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
106	Surendranagar	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
107	Veraval	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
108	Bardoli	Gujarat	Surat
109	Navsari	Gujarat	Surat
110	Rajpipla	Gujarat	Surat
111	Valsad	Gujarat	Surat
112	Bhiwani- Mahendragarh	Haryana	Chandigarh
113	Hisar	Haryana	Chandigarh
114	Kaithal	Haryana	Chandigarh
115	Karnal	Haryana	Chandigarh
116	Panipat	Haryana	Chandigarh
117	Sirsa	Haryana	Chandigarh
118	Yamunanagar	Haryana	Chandigarh
119	Faridabad	Haryana	Delhi
120	Narnaul	Haryana	Delhi
121	Rohtak	Haryana	Delhi
122	Sonipat	Haryana	Delhi
123	Hamirpur	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
124	Kangra	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
125	Kullu	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
126	Mandi	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
127	Palampur	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla



S.No.	POPSK Locations	State/UT	Passport Office
128	Una	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
129	Kathua	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu
130	Rajouri	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu
131	Udhampur	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu
132	Anantnag	Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar
133	Baramulla	Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar
134	Bokaro	Jharkhand	Ranchi
135	Chaibasha	Jharkhand	Ranchi
136	Deoghar	Jharkhand	Ranchi
137	Dhanbad	Jharkhand	Ranchi
138	Dumka	Jharkhand	Ranchi
139	Giridih	Jharkhand	Ranchi
140	Gumla	Jharkhand	Ranchi
141	Hazaribagh	Jharkhand	Ranchi
142	Jamshedpur	Jharkhand	Ranchi
143	Jumri Talaiya	Jharkhand	Ranchi
144	Khunti	Jharkhand	Ranchi
145	Medininagar	Jharkhand	Ranchi
146	Sahibganj	Jharkhand	Ranchi
147	Simaria	Jharkhand	Ranchi
148	Ankola	Karnataka	Bengaluru
149	Bagalkot	Karnataka	Bengaluru
150	Belagavi	Karnataka	Bengaluru
151	Bellary	Karnataka	Bengaluru
152	Bidar	Karnataka	Bengaluru
153	Chamrajanagar	Karnataka	Bengaluru
154	Channapatna	Karnataka	Bengaluru
155	Chikballapur	Karnataka	Bengaluru
156	Chikkodi	Karnataka	Bengaluru
157	Chitradurga	Karnataka	Bengaluru
158	Davangere	Karnataka	Bengaluru
159	Gadag	Karnataka	Bengaluru
160	Hassan	Karnataka	Bengaluru
161	Jalahalli	Karnataka	Bengaluru
162	Koppal	Karnataka	Bengaluru
163	Maddur	Karnataka	Bengaluru
164	Mysuru	Karnataka	Bengaluru
165	Raichur	Karnataka	Bengaluru
166	Robertsonpet	Karnataka	Bengaluru
167	Shivamogga	Karnataka	Bengaluru
168	Tumakuru	Karnataka	Bengaluru
169	Udupi	Karnataka	Bengaluru
170	Vijayapura	Karnataka	Bengaluru

S.No.	POPSK Locations	State/UT	Passport Office
171	Chengannur	Kerala	Cochin
172	Kattappana	Kerala	Cochin
173	Nenmara	Kerala	Cochin
174	Palakkad	Kerala	Cochin
175	Kasargod	Kerala	Kozhikode
176	Attingal	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram
177	Pathanamthitta	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram
178	Leh	Laddakh	Srinagar
179	Kavaratti	Lakshadweep	Cochin
180	Balaghat	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
181	Betul	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
182	Chhatarpur	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
183	Chhindwara	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
184	Damoh	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
185	Dewas	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
186	Dhar	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
187	Gwalior	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
188	Hoshangabad	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
189	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
190	Ratlam	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
191	Rewa	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
192	Sagar	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
193	Satna	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
194	Seoni	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
195	Tikamgarh	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
196	Ujjain	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
197	Vidisha	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
198	Aurangabad	Maharashtra	Mumbai
199	Bhiwandi	Maharashtra	Mumbai
200	Bhusawal	Maharashtra	Mumbai
201	Dhule	Maharashtra	Mumbai
202	Dombivli	Maharashtra	Mumbai
203	Jalgaon	Maharashtra	Mumbai
204	Rajapur	Maharashtra	Mumbai
205	Santa Cruz	Maharashtra	Mumbai
206	Sion	Maharashtra	Mumbai
207	Vashi	Maharashtra	Mumbai
208	Vikroli	Maharashtra	Mumbai
209	Ahmednagar	Maharashtra	Pune
210	Baramati	Maharashtra	Pune
211	Beed	Maharashtra	Pune
212	Ichalkaranji	Maharashtra	Pune
213	Jalna	Maharashtra	Pune

S.No.	POPSK Locations	State/UT	Passport Office
214	Kolhapur	Maharashtra	Pune
215	Latur	Maharashtra	Pune
216	Madha	Maharashtra	Pune
217	Nanded	Maharashtra	Pune
218	Osmanabad	Maharashtra	Pune
219	Pandharpur	Maharashtra	Pune
220	Parbhani	Maharashtra	Pune
221	Pimpri Chinchwad	Maharashtra	Pune
222	Sangli	Maharashtra	Pune
223	Satara	Maharashtra	Pune
224	Shirur	Maharashtra	Pune
225	Srirampur	Maharashtra	Pune
226	Akola	Maharashtra	Nagpur
227	Amravati	Maharashtra	Nagpur
228	Bhandara	Maharashtra	Nagpur
229	Buldhana	Maharashtra	Nagpur
230	Chandrapur	Maharashtra	Nagpur
231	Gadchiroli	Maharashtra	Nagpur
232	Hingoli	Maharashtra	Nagpur
233	Katoal	Maharashtra	Nagpur
234	Wardha	Maharashtra	Nagpur
235	Yavatmal	Maharashtra	Nagpur
236	Kakching	Manipur	Guwahati
237	Tura	Meghalaya	Guwahati
238	Aska	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
239	Balasore	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
240	Bargarh	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
241	Baripada	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
242	Berhampur	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
243	Bhadrak	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
244	Bhawanipatna	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
245	Bolangir	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
246	Cuttack	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
247	Dhenkanal	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
248	Jagatsinghpur	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
249	Jajpur	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
250	Kendrapara	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
251	Keonjhar	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
252	Koraput	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
253	Nabarangpur	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
254	Phulbani	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
255	Puri	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
256	Rourkela	Odisha	Bhubaneswar

S.No.	POPSK Locations	State/UT	Passport Office
257	Sambalpur	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
258	Karaikal	Puducherry	Tiruchirapalli
259	Basi Pattana	Punjab	Chandigarh
260	Bathinda	Punjab	Chandigarh
261	Firozpur	Punjab	Amritsar
262	Malerkotla	Punjab	Chandigarh
263	Moga	Punjab	Jalandhar
264	Pathankot	Punjab	Jalandhar
265	Patiala	Punjab	Chandigarh
266	Phagwara	Punjab	Jalandhar
267	Ropar	Punjab	Chandigarh
268	Ajmer	Rajasthan	Jaipur
269	Alwar	Rajasthan	Jaipur
270	Banswara	Rajasthan	Jaipur
271	Barmer	Rajasthan	Jaipur
272	Bharatpur	Rajasthan	Jaipur
273	Bhilwara	Rajasthan	Jaipur
274	Bikaner	Rajasthan	Jaipur
275	Chittorgarh	Rajasthan	Jaipur
276	Churu	Rajasthan	Jaipur
277	Dausa	Rajasthan	Jaipur
278	Hanumangarh	Rajasthan	Jaipur
279	Jaisalmer	Rajasthan	Jaipur
280	Jhalawar	Rajasthan	Jaipur
281	Jhunjhunu	Rajasthan	Jaipur
282	Kankroli	Rajasthan	Jaipur
283	Karauli-Dhaulpur	Rajasthan	Jaipur
284	Kota	Rajasthan	Jaipur
285	Kotputli	Rajasthan	Jaipur
286	Nagaur	Rajasthan	Jaipur
287	Pali	Rajasthan	Jaipur
288	Pratapgarh	Rajasthan	Jaipur
289	Sawai Madhopur	Rajasthan	Jaipur
290	Sirohi	Rajasthan	Jaipur
291	Sriganganagar	Rajasthan	Jaipur
292	Arani	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
293	Chennai GPO	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
294	Chidambaram	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
295	Cuddalore	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
296	Dharmapuri	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
297	Kallakurichi	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
298	Kancheepuram	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
299	Krishnagiri	Tamil Nadu	Chennai

S.No.	POPSK Locations	State/UT	Passport Office
300	Ranipet	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
301	Tiruvallur	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
302	Tiruvannamalai	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
303	Vellore	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
304	Viluppuram	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
305	Coonoor	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore
306	Erode	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore
307	Rasipuram	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore
308	Salem	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore
309	Bodineyaknur	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
310	Devakottai	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
311	Kodairoad	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
312	Nagercoil	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
313	Rajpalyam	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
314	Ramathapuram	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
315	Thoothukkudi	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
316	Virudhunagar	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
317	Karur	Tamil Nadu	Tiruchirappalli
318	Perambalur	Tamil Nadu	Tiruchirappalli
319	Sirkali	Tamil Nadu	Tiruchirappalli
320	Thiruthuraiipoondi	Tamil Nadu	Tiruchirappalli
321	Adilabad	Telangana	Hyderabad
322	Bhongir	Telangana	Hyderabad
323	Kamareddy	Telangana	Hyderabad
324	Khammam	Telangana	Hyderabad
325	Mahabubabad	Telangana	Hyderabad
326	Mancherial	Telangana	Hyderabad
327	Medak	Telangana	Hyderabad
328	Medchal	Telangana	Hyderabad
329	Mehbubnagar	Telangana	Hyderabad
330	Nalgonda	Telangana	Hyderabad
331	Siddipet	Telangana	Hyderabad
332	Vikarabad	Telangana	Hyderabad
333	Wanaparthy	Telangana	Hyderabad
334	Warangal	Telangana	Hyderabad
335	Dhramanagar	Tripura	Kolkata
336	Amroha	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
337	Badaun	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
338	Bijnaur	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
339	Moradabad	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
340	Pilibhit	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
341	Rampur	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
342	Shahjahanpur	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly



S.No.	POPSK Locations	State/UT	Passport Office
343	Achnera	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
344	Agra	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
345	Aligarh	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
346	Baghpat	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
347	Bulandshahr	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
348	Hathras	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
349	Meerut	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
350	Muzaffarnagar	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
351	Noida	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
352	Saharanpur	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
353	Vrindawan	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
354	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
355	Ambedkar Nagar	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
356	Amethi	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
357	Ayodhya	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
358	Azamgarh	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
359	Bahraich	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
360	Ballia	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
361	Balrampur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
362	Banda	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
363	Bhadohi	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
364	Chunar	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
365	Deoria	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
366	Farrukhabad	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
367	Fatehpur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
368	Ghazipur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
369	Gonda	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
370	Goshi (Mau)	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
371	Hamirpur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
372	Hardoi	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
373	Jaunpur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
374	Jhansi	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
375	Kheri	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
376	Maharajganj	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
377	Misrikh	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
378	Pratapgarh	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
379	Rae Bareli	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
380	Siddharth Nagar	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
381	Sitapur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
382	Sultanpur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
383	Unnao	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
384	Almora	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
385	Kathgodam	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
386	Nainital	Uttarakhand	Dehradun

S.No.	POPSK Locations	State/UT	Passport Office
387	Roorkee	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
388	Rudrapur	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
389	Srinagar	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
390	Alipurduar	West Bengal	Kolkata
391	Amta	West Bengal	Kolkata
392	Arambagh	West Bengal	Kolkata
393	Asansol	West Bengal	Kolkata
394	Ashok Nagar	West Bengal	Kolkata
395	Balurghat	West Bengal	Kolkata
396	Bangaon	West Bengal	Kolkata
397	Bankura	West Bengal	Kolkata
398	Bardhaman	West Bengal	Kolkata
399	Barrackpore	West Bengal	Kolkata
400	Basirhat	West Bengal	Kolkata
401	Beadon Street	West Bengal	Kolkata
402	Bishnupur	West Bengal	Kolkata
403	Bolpur	West Bengal	Kolkata
404	Canning Road Ferry Ghat	West Bengal	Kolkata
405	Chinsurah	West Bengal	Kolkata
406	Coochbehar	West Bengal	Kolkata
407	Darjeeling	West Bengal	Kolkata
408	Diamond Harbour	West Bengal	Kolkata
409	Dum Dum	West Bengal	Kolkata
410	Ghatal	West Bengal	Kolkata
411	Howrah	West Bengal	Kolkata
412	Jadavpur	West Bengal	Kolkata
413	Jalpaiguri	West Bengal	Kolkata
414	Jhargram	West Bengal	Kolkata
415	Jiyaganj	West Bengal	Kolkata
416	Kakdweep	West Bengal	Kolkata
417	Kanthi	West Bengal	Kolkata
418	Katwa	West Bengal	Kolkata
419	Kharagpur	West Bengal	Kolkata
420	Krishnanagar	West Bengal	Kolkata
421	Makdumpur	West Bengal	Kolkata
422	North Dinajpur	West Bengal	Kolkata
423	Purulia	West Bengal	Kolkata
424	Raghunathganj	West Bengal	Kolkata
425	Rampurhat	West Bengal	Kolkata
426	Ranaghat	West Bengal	Kolkata
427	Samsi	West Bengal	Kolkata
428	Serampore	West Bengal	Kolkata
429	Tamluk	West Bengal	Kolkata
430	Vasai	Maharashtra	Mumbai

## This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 horizontal blue lines spaced evenly across the page, typical of notebook paper. The lines are thin and light blue, set against a plain white background. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

## This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

[illegible]







# MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Annual Report 2022

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