

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

Overview of Major Achievements during the Month of December 2023

High-Level Diplomatic Engagements/Interactions:

1. President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto visited India from 04-06 December 2023, and was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhawan. He held talks with the Hon'ble President and the Prime Minister.
2. The Prime Minister participated in COP28 on 30 November and 01 December, in Dubai, UAE. The delegation comprised of EAM, NSA, FS, MoEFCC, and other senior officials. The Prime Minister jointly launched the Global Green Credit Initiative with the UAE President HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, which witnessed the participation of the PM of Sweden and Presidents of Mozambique and the European Council. The PM also participated in the side event titled "Leadership Group for Industry Transition" along with the PM of Sweden. On the sidelines of COP28, he met Israel's President.
3. Sultan of Oman His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, visited India on 16 December, for a state visit, and was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhawan. The Prime Minister and His Majesty held closed consultations followed by delegation-level talks. A Joint Vision document titled 'A Partnership For the Future' was adopted.

EAM's engagements:

4. EAM's bilateral engagements in New Delhi: He met US Principal Deputy National Security Adviser Jonathan Finer during his visit from 04-08 December; Minister of Hajj and Umrah of Saudi Arabia Dr Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah on 05 December; Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Rwanda Dr Vincent Biruta on 07 December; Minister of Foreign Affairs of Benin Olushegun ADJADI BAKARI during his visit from 16-18 December; US Senator Michael Bennet during his visit on 21 and 22 December.
5. EAM visited UAE to participate in COP28 and 14th Sir Bani Yas forum, and held talks with UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan; visited Moscow and St Petersburg, Russia from 25-29 December.

MOS (RRS)'s engagements:

6. MoS (RRS) paid an official visit to Malaysia from 30 Nov to 02 December. During the visit, he inaugurated the first ever Global Organization for People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) International Business Summit & Expo on 01 December, followed by the GOPIO International Business Excellence Awards ceremony on 02 December. He also inaugurated the Indian Workers Resource Center (IWRC) on 01 December at the High Commission of India, Kuala Lumpur.

MOS (ML)'s engagements:

7. MOS (ML) visited the Republic of Bulgaria from 30 November to 01 December 2023, and called on the Vice-President, met the Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and the Cultural Minister of Bulgaria.

Other engagements:

8. US Principal Deputy National Security Adviser Jonathan Finer, visited India from 04-08 December and held talks with the National Security Adviser, Deputy National Security Adviser and Foreign Secretary. He also delivered a keynote address at the Global Technology Summit.
9. The 3rd in-person meeting of Quad Senior Cyber Group was held on 05-06 December in Tokyo, Japan. National Cyber Security Coordinator led the Indian side, and the meeting was attended by the Deputy NSAs of Australia, Japan and the US to review the progress of Quad Cyber initiatives and to reaffirm commitment to support Cyber Security capacity building in the Indo-Pacific region, including through cyber challenge events.
10. Minister of Commerce and Industry met Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Benin Olushegun ADJADI BAKARI during his visit from 16-18 December, in New Delhi.
11. Minister of Commerce and Industry met the New Zealand Trade Minister Todd McClay on his first visit to India on 18 December. Both ministers emphasized the importance of trade facilitation, aiming to streamline processes, reduce barriers, and create a conducive environment for businesses and investors. The ministers pledged to deepen engagement in sectors like agriculture, forestry, pharmaceuticals, connectivity, education, and tourism.

12. Minister of Commerce and Industry met Mohammed bin Mazyad Al Tuwajiri, Advisor at the Royal Court of Saudi Arabia, during his visit on 04 and 05 December, in New Delhi.
13. Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change led India's inter-ministerial delegation at the COP28 negotiations. At a side event held at India Pavilion at COP28, India launched the "Global River Cities Alliance". During COP28 on 09 December 2023, India submitted to UNFCCC India's Third National Communication and Initial Adaptation Communication.
14. Minister of Minority Affairs and Women & Child Development met Minister of Hajj and Umrah of Saudi Arabia Dr. Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah, during his first official visit on 05 December, in New Delhi.
15. US Senator Michael Bennet visited India on 21 and 22 December and held talks with the Minister of State for Entrepreneurship, Skill Development, and Electronics & Technology.
16. The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and Coalition for Disaster Resilience Infrastructure (CDRI), organized five Quad Climate Working Group side events on the margins of COP28 from 04-10 December, in Dubai, with participation of all Quad partners. The events were focused on Financing the Resilient and Sustainable Infrastructure: Quad Clean Energy Initiatives; LiFE principles; Infrastructure Gap; and Resilience for Seaport Infrastructure.
17. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, conducted a virtual workshop on 11 December, titled "India's Digital Health initiatives for the Indo-Pacific countries". Public Health experts from 13 Indo-Pacific countries and Observers from Quad partner countries participated, as part of the Quad Health Security Partnership's ongoing efforts. Sessions on Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP), Stimulating Advanced Knowledge for Sustainable Health Management (SAKSHAM), Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ADM), e-Sanjeevani and Co-WIN were held.
18. The 2nd Quad Pandemic Table Virtual Top Exercise, fostering collaboration on disease surveillance through the 'One Health' approach, was organized by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, on 14 December.

19. A Quad-themed Track 1.5 dialogue on Digital Public Infrastructure was held on 05 December 2023 at the Global Technology Summit 2023 in New Delhi, with participation from all Quad countries.
20. The first Quad Counterterrorism Working Group meeting was held in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, from 19-21 December. Participants from the four Quad countries exchanged information on terror threats, potential for regional coordination, and how to counter use of emerging technologies by terror groups. A tabletop exercise focused on enhancing Quad cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region was also conducted.
21. India and the US held 14th Edition of the bilateral Special Forces exercise “Vajra Prahar 2023” in Umroi, Meghalaya, from 21 November-11 December. The exercise aimed at sharing best practices and experiences in areas such as joint mission planning and operational tactics.
22. Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of the USA, Christopher A. Wray, visited India on 11 and 12 December. He met the Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Shri Dinkar Gupta, Director, CBI, and Commissioner of Delhi Police.
23. India-U.S. Anti-Money Laundering/Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) Dialogue, hosted by the Ministry of Finance, was held in New Delhi on 13 December. It was co-chaired by the Revenue Secretary and U.S. Treasury Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Brian Nelson. Both sides discussed ways to address illicit finance and implementation of AML/CFT standards in line with FATF recommendations. Mr. Nelson also called on the Foreign Secretary during his visit.
24. Secretary (West) visited Geneva, Switzerland to represent India at the Human Rights 75 High-Level Event on 10-12 December, organized by the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to commemorate 75 years of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) on 10 December 1948. He also represented India at the second Global Refugee Forum organized by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
25. The UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting was held on 05 and 06 December, in Accra, Ghana. The Indian delegation was led by Minister of State (Defence). Significant pledges to UN Peacekeeping were announced by India including special military and police units.

26. An eight-member Indian business delegation visited Slovenia from 04-08 December. The visit provided a unique platform for companies from the two countries to explore partnership and investment opportunities, aligning with the broader vision of promoting economic diplomacy on a global scale. An India-Slovenia Business Meet was also organized during the visit.

Foreign Office/Ministry Consultations

27. The fourth Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between India and Botswana were held in Gaborone on 14 December. The Indian side was led by Additional Secretary (East and Southern Africa), and the Botswana side was led by Ambassador Clifford Maribe, Permanent Secretary (Acting) in the Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation.
28. The second FOC between India and Burundi were held in Bujumbura on 12 December. The Indian side was led by Additional Secretary (East and Southern Africa), and the Burundian side was led by Ambassador Ernest Niyokindi, Director General of Bilateral Relations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Burundi.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs)

29. MoU was signed between the Government of the Republic of India represented by the Ministry of Culture and the Government of the Sultanate of Oman represented by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth in the field of Culture.
30. MoU was signed between the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology of the Sultanate of Oman and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of the Republic of India in the field of Information Technology.
31. MoU was signed between the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and National Center for Financial Information (FNCI) on cooperation in the exchange of intelligence related to money laundering, associated predicate offences and terrorism financing; between the Government of Sultanate of Oman and the Government of Republic of India concerning the Gainful Employment of Accompanying Persons of Official Employees; between the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Dhofar University on the establishment of the ICCR Chair of Indian Studies- Hindi Language.

32. Heads of Terms for Investment in Oman India Joint Investment Fund (OIJIF-III) to be entered between Oman Investment Authority (OIA) and State Bank of India (SBI).
33. Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Central Drugs Standard Control (CDSCO) organization, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoI and Federal Service for Surveillance in Healthcare, Russian Federation.

Humanitarian Aid/Assistance

34. Papua New Guinea:

On 06 December, India announced USD 1 million relief assistance to Papua New Guinea in the wake of the Mt. Ulawun volcanic eruption in West New Britain province. The consignment arrived on 22 December at Port Moresby Airport. PNG Minister for Oil Palm Francis Maneke, received the consignment of relief materials & medical aid (17 tons) from India.
