

Ministry of External Affairs
Policy Planning and Research Division

Overview of Major Achievements during the Month of August 2023

High-Level Diplomatic Engagements/Interactions:

1. The Vice President met the Executive Vice-President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on August 3.
2. The former President of Mongolia and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of North Macedonia called on the Vice-President on August 5 and August 31 respectively.
3. Prime Minister visited South Africa from August 22-24 to participate in the 15th BRICS Summit. On the sidelines of the summit, Prime Minister met the President of South Africa, Prime Minister of the Republic of Ethiopia, President of the Republic of Senegal, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the President of the Republic of Mozambique. Prime Minister also participated in the BRICS Business Forum Leaders' Dialogue on August 22, in which Prime Minister highlighted the various reforms being undertaken by India to improve the ease of doing business and invited BRICS business leaders to participate in India's developmental journey. Prime Minister also stressed that together BRICS can contribute significantly to global welfare, particularly of the Global South. The 15th anniversary of BRICS also witnessed the expansion of the forum with 6 countries (Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and UAE) joining BRICS.
4. Prime Minister visited Greece on August 25. During the visit, Prime Minister met the President of Greece and was conferred with the Grand Cross of the Order of Honour. Prime Minister also met the Prime Minister of Greece, and attended a business lunch hosted by the latter. Prime Minister also addressed the Indian community in Athens. Both sides agreed to elevate their relationship to a 'Strategic Partnership'.
5. In August, Prime Minister held telephonic conversations with the President of South Africa (August 3), Prime Minister of Nepal (August

- 5), the President of Iran (August 19) and the President of Russia (28 August).
6. On August 16, Prime Minister received a Congressional delegation from the USA, including the co-chairs of the India Caucus in the House of Representatives.
7. Several countries sent congratulatory wishes for a successful landing of Chandrayaan-3. India also received wishes from many countries on the occasion of its 77th Independence Day.

EAM's engagements:

8. EAM's engagements for the month included his address at the 9th CII India-LAC Conclave (August 3), meeting the delegation led by the Speaker of National Assembly of Malawi (August 3), meetings with the FM of Honduras (August 4), the Bolivian Minister of Development Planning (August 4), the Executive Vice President of Venezuela (August 4), the former President of Mongolia (August 7), the CEO of Cummins (August 7), the UK Minister of State for Security (August 10), interaction with the US Congressional delegation (August 16), meetings with the Director of the US National Science Foundation (August 21), the Russian Foreign Minister on the side-lines of the BRICS summit (August 23), the CEO of AP Moller Holdings (August 26), the US Trade Representative (August 26), the Kenyan Defense Minister (August 30) and the FM of North Macedonia (August 31).
9. During the month, EAM also held telephonic conversations with the Czech Foreign Minister (August 8) and the Moroccan Foreign Minister (August 21).

MOS(VM)'s engagements:

10. MoS (VM) paid an official visit to the State of Kuwait from August 23-24. During the visit, MoS (VM) called on Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister, the Foreign Minister and Deputy Foreign Minister of Kuwait. MoS (VM) inaugurated the *Shilaphalakam* at the premises of the Indian Embassy in Kuwait on August 23 to honour the sacrifices of the freedom fighters of the Indian Independence movement and held interactions with the Indian community in Kuwait.

MOS (ML) engagements:

11. MoS (ML)'s engagements for the month included her meetings with the Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs & Vice Minister of Foreign Trade and Investment Promotion of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (August 1), Vice Minister of Foreign Trade of Peru (August 5), the Minister of Digital Transformation of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (August 10) and UK's Minister for Culture & Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Arts and Heritage (August 23). Her other engagements in the month included delivering an address at the Valedictory session of the 9th CII India-LAC Conclave on August 4, attending the valedictory function of 36 diplomats from El Salvador undergoing their 1st ever specialised course for El Salvador diplomats in SSIFS on August 11, and hosting lunch for the 11th group of 19 young leaders from nine countries (Albania, Denmark, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Moldova, Namibia and the United States of America) under the GenNext Democracy Network Programme of ICCR on August 21.

MOS (RRS)'s engagements:

12. MoS (RRS) met representatives of the New Zealand International Business Forum and India New Zealand Business Association on August 30.

Other engagements:

13. Secretary (East) participated in the East Asia Summit (EAS) Senior Officials' Meeting held on 3 August 2023 in Bali, Indonesia.
14. The 4th BRICS Sherpa and Sous-Sherpa Meeting was held on 17-21 August 2023 in Johannesburg, South Africa for negotiating the Johannesburg II Declaration. The Indian delegation included - Shri Dammu Ravi, Secretary (ER) - India's BRICS Sherpa, Shri Ninad S. Deshpande, JS(MER) - India's BRICS Sous-Sherpa, Dr. Piyush Singh, Director (MER), Shri Naveen Chand, US(MER) and Ms. Priyanka Sethi, US (MER).

Foreign Office/Ministry Consultations

15. In August, Foreign Office Consultations were held with Thailand, New Zealand, Samoa, Uzbekistan, Cameroon, Malawi and Angola. India

participated in the Ukraine peace process talks held in Jeddah. The India-Lesotho Joint bilateral commission for cooperation meeting was also held.

16. **Malawi**

The second Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between India and Malawi were held in Lilongwe on 04 August 2023.

17. **New Zealand**

On 18 August 2023, the 5th India-NZ Foreign Ministry Consultations (FMC) took place in Wellington, New Zealand.

18. **Samoa**

On 21 August 2023, 1st India-Samoa Foreign Ministry Consultations were held in Apia.

19. **Thailand**

The 7th Foreign Office Consultation between India and Thailand was held in Bangkok on 7 August.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs)

20. **Australia**

The Cabinet approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in Sports between the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports of India and the Department of Health and Aged Care of the Government of Australia on 16 August.

21. **Dominican Republic**

The two sides signed the following MOUs: a) MoU between Invest India and Pro Dominican (investment promotion agency of DR) for cooperation; b) MoU between CII and Association of Industries of Haiti (ADIH).

22. **Greece**

India and Greece signed of the MOU on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture, including the establishment of a Hellenic-Indian Joint Sub-committee on Agriculture for facilitating sectoral cooperation for mutual benefit.

23. Mexico

State Government of Uttar Pradesh and the Government of Nuevo Leon, Mexico signed MOU on Mutual Cooperation on 04-05 August 2023.

24. Nepal

India and Nepal signed three projects in education sector and one project in Water Supply and Sanitation, at a total estimated cost of NRs. 170 million. These four projects, namely:- construction of School Building of Shree Galainath Secondary School, Shailashikhar Municipality; School Building of Shree Himalaya Secondary School, Byas Rural Municipality in Darchula District; School Building of Diding Primary School, Chichila Rural Municipality in Sankhuwasabha District and construction of Shreepur Water Supply and Sanitation Project, Triyuga Municipality in Udayapur District of Nepal shall be implemented through local authorities of Shailashikhar Municipality; Byas Rural Municipality; Chichila Rural Municipality and Triyuga Municipality, respectively. The construction of these projects will provide better education facilities and water supply & sanitation facilities for the local community and improve the quality of life for people in Nepal.

25. The Philippines

The MOU on Enhanced Maritime Cooperation was signed by PCG Comdt. and ICG Director General Rakesh Pal preceded by a bilateral meeting between the PCG and the ICG in New Delhi. The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the exchange of White Shipping Information was also signed by PCG Comdt. and Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral R Hari Kumar during the visit.

26. Trinidad and Tobago:

On August 11, 2023, the T&T High Commissioner and Joint Secretary (IC) of MeitY signed an MOU on Cooperation in the Field of Successful Solutions and implemented at Population Scale for Digital Transformation.

Humanitarian Aid/ Assistance

27. Cambodia

On 31 August 2023, Embassy of India, Phnom Penh and Cambodia Mine Action and Victims Assistance Authority (CMAA) signed an

Agreement for Grant Assistance for providing USD 426,709 for making BotumSakor, SraeAmbel, Thma Bang Districts and Trapeang Rung Commune in Koh Kong Province, Cambodia Land Mine Free. The project will free an area of around 1,972,091 sqm of landmines and other pieces of unexploded ordnance, benefiting 21,000 people in the area.

28. The assistance was announced by the Vice President of India in November 2022 in Phnom Penh during a meeting with H.E. Hun Sen, former Prime Minister of Cambodia. The assistance is part of India's contribution towards making Cambodia land mine-free by 2025 which is one of the highest priority areas for the Royal Government of Cambodia.
29. **Peru**
India has also supplied 1000 units (478 kgs) of Human Immunoglobulin (IVIG) 5 mg/100 ml to Peru.
30. **Suriname**
India has provided humanitarian aid in the form of 8 tons of essential medicines to Suriname following floods in the country.
31. **Tuvalu**
Under the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, Government of India allocated USD 700,000 towards a crucial water storage initiative in Tuvalu. Tuvalu's sole public school, the 'Motufoua Secondary School', is set to benefit from a new concrete water cistern project, boasting a 760-metric cube capacity.
