

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

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**Overview of Major Achievements during the Month of August 2024**

**High-Level Diplomatic Engagements/Interactions:**

1. At the invitation of Fiji's President Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere, Hon'ble Rashtrapatiiji paid a two-day State visit to Fiji from 5-7 August. This was the first-ever visit by an Indian Head of State to Fiji. She also held bilateral meetings with the President and the Prime Minister of Fiji.
2. Hon'ble Rashtrapatiiji undertook a state visit to New Zealand from 7-9 August. She held bilateral meetings with the Governor General, Prime Minister Christopher Luxon and Foreign Minister Winston Peters and discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation, specifically in the areas of trade, culture, sports, defence, and traditional medicine. During the bilateral meeting with PM Luxon, the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Instrument of Ratification was handed over by the New Zealand side.
3. Hon'ble Rashtrapatiiji paid a State Visit to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (TL) on 10 August. This was the first ever Head of State/Head of Government level visit from India to Timor-Leste.
4. Prime Minister of Vietnam Pham Minh Chinh paid a State Visit to India from 30 July –1 Aug. He was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Forecourt, followed, by official talks with the Hon'ble President, Prime Minister and EAM.
5. Vice President was called on by the Speaker of the National Assembly of Mauritius Adrien Duval.
6. Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim paid a State Visit to India from 19 – 21 August. He called on Hon'ble Rashtrapatiiji and held bilateral level talks with the Prime Minister. The bilateral relationship between India and Malaysia was elevated from Enhanced Strategic Partnership to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
7. Prime Minister spoke with the Prime Minister Anthony Albanese. They discussed the progress in bilateral relations and cooperation in the multilateral fora, including the Quad.
8. India hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Voice of Global South Summit on 17 August. The Prime Minister addressed the leaders of Global South in the Inaugural Session of the Summit.
9. Foreign Minister and Defence Minister of Japan called on the Prime Minister on 19 August, during their visit to India for India-Japan 2+2 Meeting.

10. Prime Minister paid an official visit to Poland on 21 and 22 August. The visit coincided with the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Poland. He held discussions with Prime Minister Donald Tusk and called on President Andrzej Duda of Poland.
11. Prime Minister visited Kyiv on 23 August. This was the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Ukraine after the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1992. His engagements in Kyiv covered a broad range of aspects of bilateral ties including political, trade, economic, investments, education, cultural, people-to-people exchanges, humanitarian assistance and others.
12. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal, Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba paid an official visit to India from 18-22 August. During her visit, she called on the Prime Minister, and reviewed progress in various fields such as energy, infrastructure and sports.
13. The Prime Minister held telephonic conversation with US President Joe Biden on 26 August. . They exchanged detailed views on regional and global issues, including the situation in Ukraine, as well as the situation in Bangladesh.
14. The Prime Minister met Canadian MP Chandrakanth Arya on 12 August in New Delhi. They discussed India-Canada relations and stressed on the need to work to realize the full potential of bilateral relationship.

**External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar's (EAM) engagements:**

**15. EAM's engagements in India**

- i. The 3<sup>rd</sup> India-Japan 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting was held in New Delhi on 20 August. Defence Minister, and EAM from the Indian side, and Ms. Yoko Kamikawa, Foreign Minister, and Mr. Minoru Kihara, Defence Minister from the Japanese side held discussions.
- ii. The President of Chile paid an official visit to India from 27-31 August. During his visit, the 2<sup>nd</sup> India-Chile Joint Commission Meeting was held on 28 August, co-chaired by EAM, and Mr. Alberto Van Klaveren.
- iii. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil, Mauro Vieira, paid an official visit to India from 25-28 August, to co-chair the 9<sup>th</sup> India-Brazil Joint Commission Meeting on 27 August and was co-chaired by the EAM and FM Vieira.
- iv. EAM addressed the Foreign Ministers of the Global South countries during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Voice of Global South Summit, on 17 August; held talks with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal, Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba; met Minister of Foreign Affairs of St Kitts and Nevis Denzil Douglas on 6 August; met Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand Maris Sangiampongsa who visited India for the 2<sup>nd</sup> BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat; met Director General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of

Israel; US Deputy of State for Management and Resources Richard R. Verma on 17 August; met the Speaker of National Assembly of Mauritius Adrien Duval; met Canadian MP Chandrakanth Arya in New Delhi on 12 August; met journalists from 23 Indo-Pacific countries visiting India under the Quad familiarization visit;

**16. EAM's engagements abroad**

- i. The 2<sup>nd</sup> round of India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR), was held in Singapore, on 26 August. Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs, EAM, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of Railways, Information and Broadcasting, and Electronics and Information Technology visited Singapore for the roundtable. From the Singaporean side, Mr. Gan Kim Yong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry, Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. K Shanmugam, Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law, Mrs Josephine Teo, Minister for Digital Development and Information and Second Minister for Home Affairs, Dr. Tan See Leng, Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Trade and Industry and Mr. Chee Hong Tat, Minister for Transport and Second Minister for Finance participated in the meeting. The Ministers reviewed the progress of India – Singapore Strategic Partnership, particularly under the pillars of Digitalization, Skills Development, Sustainability, Healthcare & Medicine, identified during the 1st meeting of ISMR held in New Delhi.
- ii. On 18 August, EAM visited Kuwait on an official visit. During the visit, he met his Kuwaiti counterpart Abdullah Ali Al Yahya, Crown Prince of Kuwait HH Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah and Prime Minister of Kuwait HH Ahmad Al Abdullah Al Sabah. He also interacted with representatives from Indian community in Kuwait.
- iii. EAM held a meeting with Polish Foreign Minister, Mr. Radoslaw Sikorski. Both leaders took stock of the entire bilateral partnership ahead of the meeting between the two Prime Ministers held on the same day.
- iv. EAM paid an official visit to Maldives from 9-11 August, and held meetings with President, Foreign Minister, Minister of Finance and Minister of Economy and reviewed status of cooperation between the two countries. During the visit, EAM along with Foreign Minister of Maldives inaugurated water and sewerage projects in 28 islands of Maldives along with HICDPs.

17. EAM held telephonic conversations with Foreign Minister of UK; Egyptian Foreign Minister

**Minister of State, Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh's (MOS (KVS)) engagements:**

18. MOS (KVS) visited to Norway from 21-23 August, where he participated and delivered the inaugural address at the 1<sup>st</sup> India-Nordic Track 1.5 Dialogue alongside the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway. Later, he held bilateral meetings with the Norwegian Foreign Minister, as well as with the Minister of Environment and Climate of Norway, and interacted with Norwegian Parliamentarians and prominent personalities.

### **Minister of State, Shri Pabitra Margherita's (MOS (PM)) engagements:**

19. MOS (PM) visited the Kingdom of Tonga from 27-29 August to attend the 53<sup>rd</sup> Pacific Island Forum (PIF) Leaders Meeting. On the sidelines of the Forum, MOS (PM) met Nauru's President David W. R. Adeang, and UK Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Indo-Pacific).
20. MOS (PM) visited Trinidad & Tobago and called on the Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley.
21. MOS (PM) visited Panama and called on President José Raúl Mulino, met Foreign Minister Javier Martínez-Acha Vásquez, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Vice Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Health, and other officials.
22. MOS (PM) called President of Guatemala César Bernardo Arévalo de León, and met Minister of Foreign Affairs Carlos Ramiro Martínez.
23. MOS (PM) called on President El Salvador Nayib Bukele and Minister of Foreign Affairs Alexandra Hill Tinoco.
24. MOS (PM) attended the inauguration of the 2<sup>nd</sup> term of President of Dominican Republic Luis Abinader, and met Foreign Minister Roberto Álvarez.

### **Other engagements:**

25. Vice President of Mauritius, H.E. Mr. Marie Cyril Eddy Boissezon visited India from 18-24 August, 2024 to attend the 19<sup>th</sup> CII India-Africa Conclave 2024 in New Delhi.
26. Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim delivered 50<sup>th</sup> Sapru House Lecture on "Towards a Rising Global South: Leveraging on Malaysia-India Ties" in ICWA.
27. The 19<sup>th</sup> edition of CII India-Africa Conclave held at New Delhi from 20-22 August, witnessed high level participation from E&SA countries. Vice President of Burundi Prosper Bazombanza, and Vice President of Zimbabwe Gen. (Retd.) Dr. C.G.D.N. Chiwenga, along with Ministers from Eswatini, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Uganda and senior dignitaries from Ethiopia and Burundi participated in the Conclave.
28. Nepal's Minister for Industry, Commerce, and Supplies, Damodar Bhandari, paid an official visit to India from 6-10 August, for the BIMSTEC Business Summit. During the visit he held meetings with Minister for Commerce and Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and also visited ports in Kolkata and Vishakhapatnam.
29. Raksha Mantri met US Secretary of Defence Mr. Lloyd J. Austin on 23 August in Washington D.C. They reviewed the existing defence cooperation activities. He also held talks US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, interacted with leading US

defence companies at the Defence Industry Roundtable organized by US India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF).

30. Deputy Minister of Commerce of Thailand Suchart Chomklin attended the BIMSTEC Business Summit 2024.
31. Commerce and Industry Minister met Administrator of US Small Business Administration Ms. Isabel Guzman in New Delhi on 16 August.
32. National Security Adviser visited Colombo on 29 and 30 August, to attend the signing ceremony of the Founding Documents of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC). As part of the visit, he met NSAs of Sri Lanka and Maldives. Separately, NSA also had meetings with the then President Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena and other political leaders, and discussed various aspects of bilateral ties between the two countries.
33. Air Chief Marshal, Chief of Air Staff visited Thailand from 18-23 August. During his visit, he held bilateral discussions with the Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF) and other senior officers of RTAF.
34. Secretary (East) visited Lao PDR from 21-23 August to attend EAS Preparatory Senior Officials' Meeting. During the visit, Secretary (East) also held bilateral meetings with Lao PDR Deputy Foreign Minister and SOM leader Thongphan Savanphet of Lao PDR; Permanent Secretary and SOM Leader of Brunei, Johariah Wahab, and Deputy Secretary and SOM Leader of Australia, Michelle Chan.
35. Permanent Secretary for Law and Second Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Singapore, Luke Goh visited India and met Secretary (East).
36. Secretary (ER) delivered special address in the opening session of the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2024 on 28 August.
37. The 31<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) was held on 29 August in Beijing. JS (East Asia) from the Ministry led the Indian delegation. The Chinese delegation was led by Mr. Hong Liang, Director General of the Boundary & Ocean Affairs Department of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
38. Ministry in cooperation with Centre for UN Peacekeeping, New Delhi conducted the 2nd iteration of the UN Peacekeeping Contingent Commanders Course (UN PKCCC) from 19-30 August. Secretary (West) delivered valedictory address.
39. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Republic of Korea-India Consular Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 28 August. It was co-chaired by Mr. Yoon Chu-sok, Director-General for Consular Affairs and Safety, Ministry of Foreign Affairs from the ROK, and JS (CPV), from India.
40. The Speaker of the National Assembly of Mauritius, Mr. Adrien Duval visited India from 16-18 August, on the invitation of Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

41. Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain.
42. 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Human Resource Development held on 21-22 August in Sri Lanka.
43. As part of its ongoing overseas deployment to East Asia, Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Offshore Patrol Vessel Sujay, with an integral helicopter made a port call at Jakarta for a two-day visit on 21 August.
44. The 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the India-Australia Joint Working Group on Counter- Terrorism was held on 12 August in New Delhi.
45. The 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of India-Indonesia Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism held on 23 August in Jakarta, Indonesia.
46. The 6<sup>th</sup> India-Australia Maritime Security Dialogue was held on 13 August in Canberra.
47. On 26 August, an Iranian delegation led by Dr. Mohammad Reza Farzin, Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) participated in the Global conference on “Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and Emerging Technologies” organized by RBI in Bengaluru.
48. **Following BRICS-related meetings were held:**
  - a. BRICS Contact Group on Climate Change & Sustainable Development (CGCCSD)
  - b. BRICS STI Steering Committee Meeting
  - c. BRICS founding members’ Sherpas Meeting
  - d. Virtual BRICS Sherpas & Sous-Sherpas Meeting
  - e. BRICS Space and RSSC Meetings
  - f. BRICS Senior Officials Meeting on Culture
  - g. BRICS CGCCSD Expert Meeting and High – level Dialogue.
49. **Following Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD)- related meetings were held:**
  - a. ACD Senior Officials Meeting
  - b. Inter-Ministerial Meeting on ACD Connectivity Working Group
  - c. ACD Working Group on Connectivity Meeting
  - d. ACD Preparatory Committee Meeting
50. IBSA Consultative Meeting between Directorate IBSA, IORA and Operation PHAKISA, the High Commission of the Republic of India and the Embassy of the Federative Republic of Brazil was held on 6 August.

51. The first Polar Dialogue was organized as a Track 1.5 event, by National Institute of Advanced Studies in Bengaluru on 30 and 31 August, with the Ministry's support. Secretary (West) delivered the keynote address at the inaugural session via video message.
52. The States Division facilitated the following meetings:
- a. Consulate General of Finland Erik af Hällström with the Governor of Maharashtra.
  - b. Minister of Agriculture of New Zealand Todd McClay with Chief Minister of Gujarat.
  - c. British High Commissioner in Bengaluru Lindy Cameron with Chief Minister of Karnataka.
  - d. Australian High Commissioner Philip Green with Chief Minister of West Bengal.
  - e. British Deputy High Commissioner in Kolkata Andrew Fleming with Chief Minister of Odisha.
  - f. Australian Consul General in Chennai Silai Zaki with Lt Governor and Chief Minister of Puducherry.
  - g. Australian High Commissioner Philip Green with Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.

#### **Foreign Office/Ministry Consultations**

53. The third Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between India and Zimbabwe were held in Harare on 6 August.
54. The fourth Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between India and Zambia were held in Lusaka on 8 August.
55. The 17<sup>th</sup> India-Israel FOC was held on 28 & 29 August.

#### **Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs)/ Agreements:**

56. On 6 August, New Zealand and India signed a Customs Cooperative Arrangement, aimed at enhancing trade ties and intensifying collaboration against transnational organized crime.
57. On 9 August, MoU on Pharmacopoeial Cooperation between Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, India and Ministry of Health & Medical Services, Solomon Islands was signed.
58. India and Malaysia signed eight MoUs related to Recruitment, Employment and Repatriation of workers, Co-operation in the field of Ayurveda and other traditional systems of medicine, Digital Technologies, Culture, Arts and Heritage, Tourism, Youth and Sports, Public Administration and Governance Reforms.
59. The CAG signed a MoU with National Audit Office, Bahrain to enhance cooperation in the fields of audit activities, and developing professional skills of the staff members.

**60. Four MoUs were signed between India and Ukraine:**

- i.** Agreement on Cooperation in Agriculture and Food Industry: This agreement focuses on promoting cooperation through joint research, information exchange, and enhancing agricultural ties.
- ii.** MoU on Medical Products Regulation: This aims at collaboration between India's Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation and Ukraine's State Service on Medicines and Drugs Control, enhancing safety and quality standards in medical products through training and capacity building.
- iii.** MoU on Humanitarian Grant Assistance: India committed to providing grant assistance for high-impact community development projects in Ukraine, supporting local development efforts.
- iv.** Programme of Cultural Cooperation (2024-2028): This program aims to boost cultural exchanges between the two countries, covering areas like theatre, music, fine arts, and heritage conservation

**61.** India and the US signed the Security of Supply Arrangements and the agreement for positioning of Indian officers at key US commands.

**62.** A MoU on training 1000 Maldivian officials in India through NCGG was exchanged during EAM's visit.

**63.** Nine MoUs/ letter of intent/agreements were signed in several areas including in medicinal plants, customs cooperation, radio and television programming, legal field, heritage conservation, during the State Visit of Prime Minister of Vietnam Pham Minh Chinh.

**64.** MoU on India Stack was signed between MeitY and St. Kitts and Nevis on 5 August in New Delhi.

**65.** MoU for cooperation regarding deployment of UPO was signed between NIPL and Government of Maldives.

**66.** MoU on the supply of the buses was signed between India and Government of Sao Tome and Principe.

**Humanitarian Aid/Assistance**

**67. Syria**

India sent humanitarian assistance in the form of anti-cancer medicines weighing around 1400kgs to the Government and People of Syrian Arab Republic. The Consignment was handed over to Syrian Ministry of Health by the Ambassador of India on 26 August.



**68. El Salvador**

12 tons of humanitarian aid was delivered in two tranches via air route on 17 and 27 August. The third tranche of 38 tons has been dispatched via sea route. The aid comprises of baby and family hygiene products, medicines, medical equipment such as transport ventilators, vital sign monitors, wheel chairs, disaster relief material comprising blankets, and ready to eat food.

**69. Ukraine**

India provided humanitarian assistance in the form of medical aid comprising of four units of Arogya Maitri BHISHMA Cubes and 10 units of Generator sets weighing 22,200 kgs to the Government of Ukraine on 23 August. The medical assistance was handed over to the Government of Ukraine by the Prime Minister during his visit.

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