

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

Overview of Major Achievements during the month of January 2023

High Level Diplomatic Engagements/Interactions:

Dear Colleagues,

2023 was ushered in by India hosting the "Voice of Global South Summit" on January 12 and 13 under the theme "Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose". The virtual Summit saw the unprecedented participation of 125 countries from the Global South across 10 sessions. Prime Minister launched the Summit with the Inaugural Leaders' Session on January 12 and also chaired the Concluding Leader's Session on January 13. Participating countries appreciated and congratulated India for hosting the Summit and expressed hope that the Summit would serve as a catalyst for building a prosperous and inclusive future for the world that takes into account the needs of the Global South, including through India's ongoing G20 Presidency.

2. The 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention was organized in partnership with the Madhya Pradesh Government from January 08-10, with the President of Guyana as the Chief Guest and the President of Suriname as the Special Guest of Honour. The theme of this PBD Convention was "*Diaspora: Reliable partners for India's progress in Amrit Kaal.*" Hon'ble President addressed the valedictory session of the PBD Convention and also conferred Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards on January 10. On the sidelines of the Convention, Hon'ble President met the Presidents of Guyana and Suriname in Indore on January 10.

3. Prime Minister inaugurated the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention in Indore on January 09 and met the Presidents of Suriname and Guyana on the sidelines of the Convention. Prime Minister also inaugurated the 1st ever-digital PBD Exhibition on the theme "*Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav - Contribution of Diaspora in Indian Freedom Struggle*" on January 09. EAM delivered the welcome remarks at the Valedictory sessions of the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention on January 10 and addressed the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas event on January 08. On the sidelines, he called on the Presidents of Guyana and Suriname; met with the Malaysian Minister of Human Resources, Foreign Minister of Panama; and a Ministerial delegation from Mauritius.

4. On January 25, Hon'ble President virtually participated in the 7th Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) as Special Guest.

5. President of Egypt paid a state visit to India from January 24-26. He was the Chief Guest of India's 74th Republic Day parade. On January 25, Hon'ble President met the Egyptian President. In a subsequent meeting, Vice-President called on the President of Egypt. Prime Minister held delegation-level talks with the Egyptian President on January 25. Both leaders witnessed the exchange of Commemorative Postal Stamps to mark the milestone of the 75th anniversary of India-Egypt diplomatic ties.

6. The President of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (PGA) visited India from January 29-31. Prime Minister met PGA on January 30 and reaffirmed India's commitment to multilateralism, including at the UN. PGA also held talks with EAM on key multilateral and regional issues of mutual interest on January 30.

7. Prime Minister held telephone calls with the British Monarch on January 03 and the Prime Minister of Israel on January 11.

8. On January 05, the Diplomatic Advisor to the French President called on the Prime Minister.

EAM's engagements:

9. EAM visited Austria from December 31-January 03. During the visit, EAM called on the Chancellor of Austria. EAM met the Foreign Ministers of Austria, Czech Republic and Slovak Republic in the Slavkov format on January 02; he also held bilateral meetings with his Austrian and Czech counterparts. In Vienna, EAM called on the President of Bulgaria on January 01, the Director-General of IAEA on January 03 and interacted with the Indian community.

10. EAM paid an official visit to Maldives and Sri Lanka from January 18-20. In Maldives, EAM joined the President of Maldives in the ground-breaking ceremony of the Hanimaadhoo International Airport Development Project. EAM also held a bilateral meeting with the Foreign Minister of Maldives. In Sri Lanka, along with the Sri Lankan President, EAM inaugurated various Indian projects. During the visit, he also called on the Prime Minister and the former President of Sri Lanka and met Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Transport, Fisheries, and other dignitaries.

11. At the Voice of Global South Summit, EAM addressed the Foreign Ministers' Session on '*Priorities of the Global South - Ensuring a Conducive Environment*' and the Foreign Minister's session on G20 on January 12 and 13, respectively.

12. EAM presided over the 3rd Atal Bihari Vajpayee Memorial Lecture held on 23 January on the topic "*The Future of Global Uncertainty*." Bilahari Kausikan, former Singaporean diplomat and present Chairman of the

● Middle East Institute of the National University of Singapore, was invited to deliver the lecture.

13. EAM's other engagements included his meetings with the Chairman and CEO of Microsoft; the Diplomatic Advisor to President of France; the MP and Chairperson of Policy Research Council, LDP, Japan; the Director of US National Science Foundation; UK's Permanent-Undersecretary; the Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan; a delegation led by the Secretary General of the ruling party in Tanzania (CCM); the DPM and FM of Thailand; the India-Germany Parliamentary Friendship group delegation; and the US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs during the month.

14. During the month, EAM held telephonic conversations with his counterparts from Brazil, Israel and South Korea on January 05, 30 and 31 respectively.

MOS(VM)'s engagements:

15. MoS (VM) visited UAE from January 19-21, where he met with the UAE's Minister of Justice, Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence, and a broad cross-section of the Indian community. MoS (VM) attended the biennial convention of the People of Indian Origin Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PIOCCI) at Indore on January 08. On January 18, MoS (VM) joined MoS (Health) at the inaugural session of the First G20 Health Working Group Meeting at Thiruvananthapuram. MoS (VM) met the Minister of State for Public Service Management & Good Governance of Tanzania in New Delhi on January 07.

MOS (ML) engagements:

16. MoS (ML) paid an official visit to Cuba, Guatemala, El Salvador and Bolivia from January 13-20. During her visit to Cuba, MoS (ML) called on the President of Cuba and met the President of Cuba's National Assembly of People's Power and Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Culture. In Guatemala, she held detailed discussions with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Culture and Sports, and Public Health & Social Assistance. In El Salvador, MoS (ML) called on the President and held meetings with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Culture, and the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs. In Bolivia, MoS (ML) called on the President and had separate meetings with the Vice Foreign Minister and Foreign Minister. MoS (ML) visited Greece on January 30 and 31, where she called on the Deputy Prime Minister of Greece, and met the Greek Foreign Minister, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs in charge of Greek Diaspora and Public Diplomacy, and Minister of Culture and Sports. Her other engagements in the month included chairing the third plenary of PBD 2023 on '*Leveraging the soft power of India - Goodwill through craft, cuisine & creativity*' on January 09 and attending the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas event on January 08; MOS(ML) also inaugurated

the first-ever SCO film Festival under India's ongoing Chairmanship of SCO, along with Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting and other Indian film stars.

MOS (RRS)'s engagements:

17. MoS (RRS) welcomed the Egyptian President on January 24. On January 24, MoS (RRS) also met Nauru's Minister for Climate Change, Agriculture and Infrastructure. His other engagements included his remarks at PBD's session on the '*Role of the Indian diaspora in promoting the Indian Healthcare Ecosystem in Amrit Kaal: Vision @2047*' on January 09; his participation in the India-Guyana Business Event along with the President of Guyana hosted by FICCI on January 12; and his address at the curtain raiser for B-20 events in Northeast India on January 17.

FS's engagements

18. FS travelled to Bhutan on official visit from January 18-20, where he co-chaired the 4th India-Bhutan Development Cooperation Talks along with his Bhutanese counterpart. During the visit, he also called on the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Bhutan.

19. FS led the Indian delegation at the 15th India-UK FOC that was held on January 16 in New Delhi. On 31 January, FS co-chaired the annual India-US FOC with the US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs in New Delhi.

20. The 3rd Disarmament and International Security Fellowship Programme was organized by the Ministry at SSIFS from January 09-27. Young diplomats from 30 countries participated in the fellowship programme. Secretary (West) inaugurated the Programme on January 27. FS addressed the valedictory ceremony.

Other engagements:

21. Secretary (East) paid an official visit to South Korea from January 16-17 to co-chair the 5th Foreign Policy and Security Dialogue. During the visit, he met with the Vice Minister of Defence and the Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs & Unification Committee of RoK National Assembly.

22. Secretary (West) led the 9th India-Slovenia FOC on January 06 in Ljubljana. On 12 January, Secretary (West) addressed the inaugural session at the 10th meeting of the BIMSTEC Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime hosted by India in New Delhi, which was attended by all BIMSTEC member states.

23. India's G-20 Presidency progressed with several meetings and conferences held across India in January. These included: the 1st G20 Global

- Partnership for Financial Inclusion meeting in Kolkata (January 09-11); the Think20 Inception Conference in New Delhi (January 13-14); a 2-day Think20 event on 'Global Governance with LiFE Values and Wellbeing' in Bhopal (January 16-17); the 1st G20 Infrastructure Working Group Meeting in Pune (January 16-17); the 1st G20 Health Working Group meeting in Thiruvananthapuram (January 18-20); B20 India Inception Meeting in Gandhinagar (January 22-24); the 1st Startup20 meeting in Hyderabad (January 28-29); the 1st International Financial Architecture Working Group meeting in Chandigarh (January 30-31); Science20 Inception Meeting in Puducherry (January 30-31); and the 1st G20 Education Working Group Meeting in Chennai (January 31-February 02).

24. During the month, the Speaker of Lok Sabha led an Indian Parliamentary delegation to Kenya and Tanzania. The Speaker called on the President of Kenya, and the Prime Minister of Tanzania respectively, apart from other interactions.

25. NSA paid an official visit to Washington DC from January 30-February 01. During the visit, he interacted with US policymakers and stakeholders from across Government, Congress, business, academic and research communities.

26. Another notable event during the month was the deployment of a platoon of women peacekeepers as part of the Indian Battalion in UNISFA, Abyei.

27. Deputy Managing Director of IMF, Ms. Antoinette Sayeh visited India from 4-7 January 2023. Issues pertaining to financial development in the region, including situation in Sri Lanka, were discussed. A follow up meeting of MEA-MoF with IMF officials on Sri Lanka was held on 6 January 2023.

Humanitarian Assistance:

28. Eriteria: A three-member health delegation led by Dr. Haile Mehtsun visited during 18-23 Jan 2023 seeking assistance in medical and para-medical fields. They had meetings in AIIMS, DDG, ICCR, AS (DPA II) and JS (WANA).

29. Sri Lanka: During the visit of EAM in January, EAM and President of Sri Lanka virtually inaugurated a building for the Kandyan Dancing Academy in Pallekele and 350 housing units built with Government of India's assistance in Galle, Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Anuradhapura and Badulla Districts.

● **30. Tanzania:** Vice President of Tanzania Dr. Philip Mpango, inaugurated the Extension of the Lake Victoria Pipeline Water Supply Project to the town and villages of Tinde on 19 January. The project funded by GoI LOC will benefit 136,000 residents of Tinde & Shelui towns and adjacent 31 villages.

31. Fiji: 40. In January, A 17-member team from India arrived in Fiji to conduct open heart surgeries at the Sai Sanjeevani Children's Heart Hospital at Muanikau, Suva.

MOUs

31. Austria: MoU on Culture was signed

32. Egypt : Five MoUs/MoC in the area of Cyber Security, IT, Culture, Media & Youth Matters.

33. Malaysia: (1) MoU between PRIMAS (Malaysian Indian Restaurant Association) and NSDC International; and (2) MoU between KLSICCI (Kuala Lumpur & Selangor Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry) with NSDC-International.

34. Maldives: MoU on implementation of High Impact Community Development Projects Phase II, MoU to develop Youth centre in Gadhoo and MoU between Cochin University and Maldives National University.
