

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

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**Overview of Major Achievements during the Month of October 2023**

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

1. President of the United Republic of Tanzania accompanied by a large business delegation was on a state visit to India from 8-10 October. She held a meeting with the President and thereafter held a detailed bilateral dialogue with the Prime Minister.
2. At the invitation of Vice-President Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, H.E. Ms. Raquel Peña Rodríguez, Vice President of the Dominican Republic, paid an official visit to India from 03-05 October 2023. She was accompanied by senior officials of the Government of the Dominican Republic. This was the first-ever visit of the Vice President of the Dominican Republic to India.
3. On 3 October 2023, Vice President Rodríguez called on the President of India, held a meeting with the Speaker of Lok Sabha at the New Parliament House.
4. The Prime Minister held a telephonic conversation with 10 October with Israel's PM Benjamin Netanyahu; with Jordanian King Abdullah-II on 23 October; with Egyptian President Sisi on 29 October regarding the ongoing conflict situation between Israel-Palestine.
5. On 15 October 2023 Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the 141st International Olympic Committee Session in Mumbai, which was attended by the President of Nigeria Olympic Committee Mr. Habu Gumel.

**EAM's engagements:**

6. EAM's engagements for the month included- calling on Vice President of the Dominican Republic, H.E. Ms Raquel Peña Rodríguez; meeting with the foreign minister of Malta, H.E. Dr Ian Borg; calling on President of Singapore, H.E. Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Deputy PM and Finance Minister, H.E. Mr Lawrence Wong, meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Vivian Balakrishnan and Minister of Defence H.E. Dr Ng Eng Hen, during his official visit to Singapore; calling on President of Sri Lanka and attending the 23<sup>rd</sup> Council of Ministers meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association; co-chairing the 18<sup>th</sup> India-Vietnam Joint Commission Meeting on Economic, Trade, Scientific and Technological Cooperation in Hanoi along with Vietnam's foreign minister Bui Thanh Son; attending the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of SCO Council of Heads of Government in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan)

**MOS (RRS)'s engagements:**

7. Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs and Education led a delegation to the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) on 19-20 October 2023. This was the first Ministerial level visit from India to the Marshall Islands in the last five years. MoS called on H.E. Mr. Jimata Kabua, Chairman of the Council of Iroij (Council of traditional chiefs/elders), and H.E. Mr. Wilbur Heine, the Acting President of the Marshall Islands.
8. Minister of State of External Affairs Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh (MoS RRS) paid an official visit to Timor-Leste from 30 Sept – 2 October 2023, the first ministerial-level visit from India to Timor-Leste since 2018. During the visit, MoS RRS called on President Mr. Jose Ramos-Horta and Prime Minister Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao, and discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral ties and cooperation in the fields of health, agriculture, trade, hydrocarbons, pharmaceuticals, education and capacity building.
9. Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs and Education [MoS (RRS)] visited Vietnam to participate in the third edition of the North East India Festival (NEIF) in Ho Chi Minh City from 27-29 October 2023.

**MOS (VM's) engagements:**

10. Shri V. Muraleedharan, Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs of India, paid an official visit to the Sultanate of Oman on 18-19 October 2023. During his visit, MoS held a bilateral meeting with H.E. Said Al Saqri, Minister of Economy of Oman in which he explored avenues of cooperation and discussed key aspects of India-Oman economic relations. MoS also held a meeting with H.E. Mahad bin Said Baowain, Minister of Labour of Oman and discussed labor relations and skill development to enhance the well-being of Indian workers.
11. Shri V. Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs, paid an official visit to Brazzaville, Republic of Congo (ROC) from 27-28 October 2023, to participate in the Second Three Basins Summit. On the sidelines of the Summit, MOS (VM) interacted with the President of ROC and had a bilateral meeting with H.E. Mr. Jean Claude-GAKOSSO, Minister of Foreign Affairs of ROC.

**Other engagements:**

12. An Indian Parliamentary Delegation comprising 6 Members of Parliament (3 each from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) led by Shri Vishnu Dayal Ram, MP(LS) participated in the 147th IPU held in Luanda, Angola from 23-27 October 2023. On the sidelines of the Assembly, the delegation also held bilateral meetings with their counterparts from Belarus and Armenia.
13. A Parliamentary delegation led by Speaker of the Australian House of Representatives Milton Dick MP visited India from 7-14 October. He met Lok

Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla on 12 October in which both agreed to widen the scope of parliamentary cooperation. Speaker Milton Dick and Australia's President of the Senate Senator Sue Lines participated in the G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20) held in New Delhi on 13-14 October.

- 14.** HE Mrs. Ana Lilia Rivera Rivera, President of the Senate, HE Mrs. Marcela Guerra Castillo, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies and Senator Martha Guerrero Sánchez participated in the 9th G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit held on 13-14 October in New Delhi. She held a bilateral meeting with the Speaker Shri Om Birla and discussed issues of mutual cooperation.
- 15.** Minister of Water and Energy of Cameroon H. E. Mr Elounjdou Essomba Gaston attended the Sixth Session of the International Solar Alliance Assembly held from 31 October- 01 November 2023 in New Delhi.
- 16.** Members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and members of various state legislative assemblies of India participated in the 66th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held in Accra from 30 Sept. to 06 Oct. 2023.
- 17.** H.E. Mr. Abbas Tajudeen, Speaker of Nigeria's 10th House of Representatives accompanied by the Deputy President of the Senate Distinguished Senator Jibrin Barau, and other members visited India to participate in the P20 and G20 Summit taking place in New Delhi from 13-14 Oct 2023. On the sidelines, H.E. Mr. Abbas Tajudeen met with Shri Om Birla, Speaker of Lok Sabha.
- 18.** Pan African Parliament's Acting President Dr. Ashebir Gayo attended the G20 Speakers Summit in New Delhi from 13-14 October 2023. Dr. Gayo held discussions with the Speaker on the sidelines of the summit.
- 19.** The Finance Minister visited Morocco to attend IMF/WB annual spring break meetings from 09-15 October and met the Moroccan Finance Minister.
- 20.** Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri Raj Kumar Singh, visited Saudi Arabia on 08-09 October 2023 to participate in the Middle East North Africa Climate Week 2023 at an invitation from the Saudi Minister of Energy, H.R.H. Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al-Saud.
- 21.** Minister of Commerce & Industries and Textiles and Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Shri Piyush Goyal, visited Saudi Arabia on October 24-25, 2023 to participate in the 7th edition of Future Investment Initiative Forum 2023.
- 22.** On 5-6 October 2023, Minister of Textiles, Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Shri Piyush Goyal visited

UAE. On 05 October, he co-chaired the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the India-UAE High-level Task Force on Investment (HLTFI) in Abu Dhabi with Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Managing Director of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority.

- 23.** On 2-5 October, MoP&G Shri Hardeep Singh Puri visited Abu Dhabi to take part in the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC).
- 24.** Commerce & Industry Minister, Shri Piyush Goyal met US Trade Representative, Ms.Katherine Tai, on 28th October 2023 on the sidelines of the G7 Trade Ministers' Meeting in Osaka, and discussed India-US trade and investment ties.
- 25.** The Foreign Secretary chaired a virtual meeting of the Quad Sherpas on 19 October 2023, where he reviewed Quad collaboration and progress.
- 26.** BRICS Tourism Ministers Meeting under the Chairship of South Africa was held on 24 October 2023 at Cape Town, South Africa. It was preceded by the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on 23 October 2023. Shri Rakesh Kumar Verma, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Tourism led the Indian delegation for both the SOM and the Ministerial. A Joint Communique was adopted at the end of the meeting.
- 27.** The Outreach Session of G7 Trade Ministers' Meeting was held on 28 October 2023 in Osaka City and Sakai City in Japan. The Indian delegation was led by Mr. Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry.

**States Division facilitated the visit of dignitaries to various states in India:**

- 28.** The visit of H.R.H. the Grand Duke of Luxembourg in Mumbai to attend the 141st International Olympic Committee (IOC) session, from 15-17 October 2023.
- 29.** The Courtesy introductory Calls of Australian High Commissioner to India, His Excellency Philip Green OAM, on officials of Tamil Nadu state from 6 to 8 October 2023.
- 30.** The meeting of the Consulate General of Finland in Mumbai, Mr. Erik af Hallstrom, with Shri Rahul Narwekar, Speaker, Legislative Assembly, Maharashtra.
- 31.** The meeting of H.E. Ms. Anna-Maja Henriksson, Minister of Education of Finland with dignitaries in Govt. of Tamil Nadu (Minister for Information Technology and Digital Services and Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development).

- 32.** The visit of Deputy Foreign Minister of Norway, Mr. Andreas Motzfeldt Kravik to Chennai on 24 November 2023 and facilitated the meeting with Governor and CM of Tamil Nadu.
- 33.** The visit of the British High Commissioner in New Delhi, H.E. Mr. Alex Ellis CMG to Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh from 28-30 October 2023 and meeting with the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.

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

- 34.** India and Malta held the 3rd round of FOC on 29 September 2023 in New Delhi, co-chaired by Shri Sanjay Verma, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs and H.E Mr. Christopher Cutajar, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs & Trade, Malta. The FOC provided an opportunity for reviewing bilateral engagements and exchanging views on regional and global issues of mutual interest.

### **Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs)**

- 35.** The India-Norway Joint Task Force Meeting on Energy took place in New Delhi on 27 October 2023, co-chaired by Shri D. D. Jagdale, Joint Secretary, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy and Ms. May Elin Stener, Ambassador of Norway to India. During the meeting, MoUs were signed by Ocean Sun (Norway) with (i) SJVN (Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam) and (ii) Anert (Agency for New and Renewable Energy Research & Technology, Kerala) on floating solar projects.
- 36.** Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri Raj Kumar Singh, visited Saudi Arabia on 08-09 October 2023 to participate in the Middle East North Africa Climate Week 2023. An MoU between India and Saudi Arabia in the fields of Electrical Interconnections, Green / Clean Hydrogen and Supply Chains was signed between the Minister and the Minister of Energy of Saudi Arabia.
- 37.** During President of Tanzania's state visit, a total of 6 MOUs were signed during her visit in various fields of cooperation such as digital solutions, maritime security, culture, sports and investments.
- 38.** During Minister of Textiles, Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Shri Piyush Goyal's visit to UAE, two MoUs were signed on the sidelines of the 11<sup>th</sup> India-UAE High-level Task Force on Investment (HLTFI)- (i) MoU between NPCI and its UAE counterpart whereby NPCI shared its Rupay Domestic Card Stack, for the first time with any country; (ii) MoU on cooperation in the fields of Industry and Advanced Technologies in areas relating to space, AI, renewables, health care and others.

## **Humanitarian Aid/Assistance**

### **39. Gaza**

India sent humanitarian to Gaza through Egypt on 22 October 2023. The aid comprised 32 tons of disaster relief material like tents, sleeping bags, tarpaulins, basic sanitary utilities, water purification tablets, approx 6.5 tons of medical supplies including essential life-saving medicines, protective and surgical items, wound care, fluids, painkillers, so on.

### **40. Fiji**

The Government of India gifted two custom-made Mobile Soil Testing laboratories worth FJ\$179,752.30 to the Fijian Government under the Government of India's development partnership (Grant-in-Aid) Assistance.

### **41. Israel**

In the wake of the Israel-Gaza conflict, India conducted Operation Ajay to repatriate Indians from Israel.

### **42. Lao PDR**

Indian embassy in coordination with the Lao authorities coordinated rescue and repatriation of 56 Indian nationals trapped in Laos including 38 workers from Odisha who were stuck in a wood factory in Attapeu Province, Lao PDR. So far, the Embassy has rescued 248 Indian nationals from the different parts of Laos.