

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

Overview of Major Achievements during the month of April 2023

High-Level Diplomatic Engagements/Interactions:

1. The King of Bhutan met the Hon'ble President at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 4 April. Separately, on 5 April, a Parliamentary Delegation from South Sudan led by the Speaker of the Transitional National Assembly called on the Hon'ble President at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
2. The Foreign Minister of South Korea, the Minister of Public Security of Vietnam and a parliamentary delegation from the UK called on the Vice President on April 7, 10, and 11 respectively.
3. On April 4, Prime Minister met the King of Bhutan, spoke at the International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure via video-conferencing. Prime Minister met the CEO of Apple Group and Chairman of SAFRAN April 19, 20 respectively.
4. Mr Park Jin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of ROK, paid an official visit to India on 7-8 April 2023. During the visit he called on Vice-President of India and held delegation level talks with EAM.
5. Prime Minister held telephone conversations with the Prime Ministers of the UK and Denmark April 13, 20 respectively.

EAM's engagements:

6. EAM called on the King of Bhutan on April 3. On April 7, EAM met the Foreign Minister of South Korea during the latter's visit to India.
7. In April, EAM paid official visits to Uganda, Ethiopia and Mozambique in Africa. EAM visited Uganda from April 10-12, where he called on the President, met the Foreign Minister and other key officials. During the visit, EAM launched the EXIM Bank-funded project that will supply drinking water to half a million people in 20 districts of Uganda, inaugurated the first overseas campus of the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) in Jinja and interacted with the Indian community. While in transit through Ethiopia, EAM met with the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Ethiopia.
8. EAM visited Mozambique from April 13-15, where he called on the President, co-chaired the 5th Joint Commission Meeting with the Mozambican Foreign Minister, met the Minister of Transport and

Communications and the Minister of Health. EAM also inaugurated virtually the Buzi Bridge constructed as part of the 132 km Tica-Buzi-Nova-Sofala Road project by India.

9. In April, EAM also travelled to Guyana (April 21-23), Panama (April 24-25), Colombia (April 25-27) and Dominican Republic (April 27-29) - his first visit to these countries as EAM. EAM jointly inaugurated the Embassy of India in Santo Domingo with Vice President of Dominican Republic Ms. Raquel Peña.

10. In Guyana, EAM co-chaired the 4th India-CARICOM Ministerial Meeting with the Foreign Minister of Jamaica. On the sidelines of the meeting, EAM interacted with Foreign Ministers of St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Barbados, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Suriname and the Secretary-General of CARICOM. EAM also called on the President and the Prime Minister, interacted with the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Guyana and co-chaired the 5th India-Guyana Joint Commission Meeting with the Guyanese Foreign Minister.

11. On April 25, EAM delivered the keynote address at the India-Latin America Business event. In Panama, EAM called on the President and met the Foreign Minister and participated in the India-SICA Foreign Ministerial Meeting held on April 26. On the sidelines of the SICA Ministerial, EAM interacted with the Vice Ministers of Honduras and Guatemala, and Foreign Ministers of Belize, Nicaragua, and El Salvador.

12. In Colombia, EAM met the Foreign Minister and representatives of business and civil society. On April 27, EAM addressed the India-Colombia Business Forum.

13. The visit to the Dominican Republic was the highest-level visit from India since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1999. Apart from calling on the President, EAM held discussions with the Foreign Minister, Minister of Industry, Commerce and MSMEs, and formally inaugurated the Indian resident mission.

14. On April 18, EAM co-chaired the 24th session of the India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific & Cultural Cooperation along with the Russian Deputy Prime Minister during the latter's visit to India. The Deputy Prime Minister also held bilateral meetings with the Commerce & Industry Minister, Finance Minister and NSA.

15. EAM's other engagements included his meetings with the Israeli Knesset Speaker and his parliamentary delegation on April 3, his address at the India-Russia Business Dialogue on April 17 and his meeting with the UN Secretary-General in New York on April 20.

16. EAM held telephone conversations with the Foreign Ministers of Portugal (April 6), UAE (April 19), Saudi Arabia (April 18), Papua New Guinea (April 18) and Egypt (April 20).

MOS(VM)'s engagements:

17. From April 25-28, MOS(VM) visited Jeddah to oversee Operation Kaveri for the evacuation of Indian citizens from Sudan. He held interactions with Indians transiting from Sudan to India via Jeddah and also visited the control room set up to facilitate the evacuation of Indians from Sudan. Subsequently, MOS(VM) paid an official visit to Saudi Arabia from May 1-3. During the visit, he met Saudi Arabia's Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, senior Saudi officials and members of the business community. He conveyed the appreciation of the Government of India to the Government of Saudi Arabia for facilitating Operation Kaveri through Jeddah. He also held interactions with a wide cross-section of the Indian community in Riyadh and Dammam. MOS(VM) then paid an official visit to Bahrain on May 4-5. During the visit, he held discussions with Bahrain's Minister of Finance, Minister of Labour, Minister of Social Development, Deputy Speaker of the Council of Representatives, and other officials and parliamentarians. He also interacted with Indian community members and friends of India.

MOS (ML) engagements:

18. Ukraine's First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs visited New Delhi from April 10-12. During the visit, the Minister met MoS (ML) and held bilateral talks with Secretary (West).

19. MoS (ML) visited Croatia and Slovenia from April 15-20. In Croatia, MoS held discussions with the Foreign Minister, Culture and Media Minister and State Secretary for Political Affairs. In Slovenia, MoS(ML) called on the Deputy Prime Minister and met the Deputy Foreign Minister and State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and other key officials. Her other engagements in the month included delivering the inaugural address at the First-Ever SCO Young Authors' Conference, address at ICCR on the occasion of its 74th Foundation Day and meeting with the Deputy Governor of Andijan, Uzbekistan on April 12 and meeting with the Vice Foreign Minister of Peru on April 14.

MOS (RRS)'s engagements:

20. MoS (RRS) gave a valedictory speech at the SCO Young Authors' Conference hosted by India on April 13. MoS (RRS) met the Health Ministers of Fiji and the Solomon Islands on April 24 and 25 respectively.

FS's engagements

21. FS paid a 3-day visit to Mauritius, wherein he called on the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister of Mauritius on April 13. He also visited the iconic Mahatma Gandhi Metro Station at Reduit which was inaugurated in January 2023 as part of the 75th anniversary of India-Mauritius diplomatic relations.

22. On April 10, FS met nine visiting British Parliamentarians from the All-Party Parliamentary Group in India. On April 17, he attended the 6th meeting of the Steering Committee on matters related to the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960. The meeting was chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Water Resources who took stock of the ongoing modification process of the Indus Waters Treaty.

Other engagements:

23. Secretary (East) co-chaired the India-Canada FOC on April 12 in Ottawa. In Canada, Secretary (East) held a virtual courtesy call with the Canadian Minister of Defence on April 12 and also met the Vice Chair of the Canada-India Parliamentary Friendship Group on April 13. Secretary (East) co-chaired the 2nd India-Peru Joint Commission Meeting in New Delhi on April 11.

24. Secretary (West) led the Indian delegation at the 7th round of the India-Denmark FOC in Copenhagen on April 1 and the 12th India-Estonia FOC in New Delhi on April 12.

25. India was elected to the UN Statistical Commission in April for a 4-year term beginning on 1 January 2024. In addition, India was also elected to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

26. On April 17, India celebrated a key milestone in its G20 Presidency with the hosting of its 100th G20 meeting - the Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) in Varanasi.

27. The first ever India-Iran-Armenia trilateral was held on 20 April 2023, in Yerevan where issues of connectivity, culture, and enhancing trade between the participating countries were discussed.

28. On April 22, ISRO successfully launched the PSLV-C55 mission carrying two Singapore satellites weighing 757kg. The primary payload is an earth observation satellite. The launch was carried out at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

29. The 8th India-Thailand Defence Dialogue was held in Bangkok on 20 April.

Foreign Office Consultations

Canada :

30. India-Canada Foreign Office Consultations (FOCs) were held on 11 April 2023 in Ottawa. Shri Saurabh Kumar, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs, and Mr. David Morrison, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Global Affairs Canada, led the respective delegations.

Denmark:

31. The 7th round of India-Denmark Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) was held on 01 April 2023 in Copenhagen at the level of Secretary (West).

Estonia:

32. India and Estonia held Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) in New Delhi on 12 April 2023. The Indian side was led by Shri Sanjay Verma, Secretary (West). The Estonian side was led by Mrs. Kyllike Sillaste-Elling, Undersecretary for Political Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia.

Republic of Congo:

33. The Second round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOCs) between India and Republic of Congo (ROC) was held on 13 April 2023 in New Delhi. It was co-chaired by Shri Sevala Naik Mude, JS (C&WA), from the Indian side and Amb. Mrs. Gisele Bouanga-Kalou, Director of Cabinet (equivalent to Secretary), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, from ROC side.

India-USA Consular Dialogue:

34. The 10th India-USA Consular Dialogue was held in Washington DC on 27 April 2023. The U.S. delegation led by Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs Rena Bitter, met with counterparts from the Indian delegation led by JS (CPV).
