

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

\*\*\*

**Overview of Major Achievements during the month of January 2021**

**I. Achievements pertaining to citizen-centric:**

1. The launch of *Vaccine Maitri* in January 2021 has been a landmark initiative in our diplomacy. In accordance with the Prime Minister's commitment to deploy India's vaccine production and delivery capacity for the benefit of all humanity, vaccines have been delivered to Afghanistan, Bhutan, Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, UAE, Brazil, Morocco, Bahrain, Oman, Egypt, Algeria, Kuwait, South Africa, Barbados and Dominica. A limited quantity of vaccines has initially been supplied as grant assistance and on contract. We now propose to facilitate much of our external supplies on a commercial basis. We have demonstrated in practical terms our intent of being good international citizens and responsible stakeholders in global healthcare supply chains.
2. The 16th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) Convention was held in a virtual format on 9 January 2021. The theme of this year's PBD Convention was "Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat". In his inaugural address, PM highlighted the role of Indian diaspora in strengthening the identity of Brand India. Rashtrapati ji delivered the Valedictory address to the diaspora. EAM addressed the session on the 'Role of the Diaspora in Atmanirbhar Bharat'. In run up to the Convention, MoS joined MoS for Youth Affairs & Sports, Mr. Kiren Rijiju, in the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas held on 8 January.
3. Phase 9 of the Vande Bharat Mission became operational from 01 January 2021. As on 31 January 2021, over 40 lakh people have been repatriated under the Mission through flights, land borders and naval ships.
4. India gifted 50,000 RT-PCR COVID-19 test kits to Bhutan. India also delivered relief material for the cyclone-affected people of Fiji.
5. Two Indian cultural sculptures excavated in Vietnam were added in the list of "National Treasures" by the Prime Minister of Vietnam, Nguyen Xuan Phuc. The Ganesha and Gajasimha statues represent the religious art of the Champa Kingdom.

6. Seven Eswatini nationals participated in the eITEC programme on Election Technology, organized by the International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIDEM) on 18-22 January.

## **II. Diplomatic Engagements and other Interactions:**

- 8 PM held a video-teleconference with German Chancellor Angela Merkel on 06 January 2021. The two leaders discussed key issues including the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, regional and global issues, particularly India-EU relations. 2021 marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral relations between India and Germany and the 20th anniversary of the Strategic Partnership. Prime Minister also held telephonic conversations with the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi on 28 January and Prime Minister of UK on 05 January.
- 9 PM addressed the virtual Climate Adaptation Summit 2021 on 25 January and the World Economic Forum's virtual Davos Agenda Summit on 28 January.
- 10 EAM visited Sri Lanka from 5-7 January 2021. He held discussions with his counterpart on the entire range of bilateral relations. He also called on Sri Lankan President and Prime Minister on 6 January. EAM and Nepal's Minister of Foreign Affairs co-chaired the 6th India-Nepal Joint Commission Meeting on 15 January 2021. EAM also had telephone conversations with British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken this month.
- 11 On 12 January, EAM addressed the UN Security Council Open Debate on 'Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts'. He presented an eight-point Action Plan to combat terrorism. EAM also delivered the keynote addresses at the 14th Annual Conference of Institute for National Security Studies, Israel on 27 January and the 13th All India Conference of China Studies on 28 January.
- 12 On 16 January, EAM chaired the meeting of the Consultative Committee on External Affairs on the topic of 'India's Global Strategy'.
- 13 On 19 January, EAM met High Commissioners/Ambassadors of Mozambique, Zambia, Malawi, Rwanda, Botswana, Burundi, Zimbabwe and Ethiopia. Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen called on EAM ahead of the Foreign Office Consultations.

- 14 The Diplomatic Advisor to the French President, Emmanuel Bonne visited India for the annual India-France Strategic Dialogue on 07 January. NSA led the Indian delegation. Following the Dialogue, Mr Bonne called on the Prime Minister, Defence Minister and External Affairs Minister and the Foreign Secretary.
- 15 Minister of State visited Ghana on 06-07 January to attend the swearing-in ceremony of President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo. Subsequently, he also called on the President and attended engagements with the Indian community.
- 16 Minister of State also visited UAE on 19-21 January. He met UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Minister of Tolerance. He inaugurated a Centre for Upskilling in Dubai that will help in meeting the skill demand of our expatriate community in the UAE. He also launched the mobile app of Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendra, Dubai, which will make consular services more accessible to our citizens in distress.
- 17 Foreign Secretary signed a Memorandum of Cooperation between India and Japan on Specific Skilled Workers on 18 January. This will help promote movement of skilled workers from India to Japan. FS also co-chaired the 5th meeting of the Act East Forum with the Japanese Ambassador on 28 January to review the progress of projects in North East India under this initiative. On 20 January, he met the Ambassadors of EU countries and discussed India-EU strategic cooperation in the context of India-EU+27 Leaders' Summit in May 2021.
- 18 On 6 January, FS addressed the UNSC Open Debate on "Challenges on Maintaining Peace and Security in Fragile Contexts", reiterating India's commitment to supporting African countries without conditionalities, in their efforts towards maintaining peace and security. He also spoke at the India-France-Japan Workshop on the Indo-Pacific organized by the Embassies of France and Japan along with the Observer Research Foundation.