

Ministry of External Affairs
Policy Planning and Research Division

Overview of Major Achievements during the month of December 2021

I. Diplomatic Engagements and other Interactions:

1. Rashtrapati ji embarked on a state visit to Bangladesh from December 15-17 to participate in the special celebrations of Mujib Shato Borsho and the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's Liberation. During his visit, he met with the President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Bangladesh. Earlier, On December 6, India and Bangladesh jointly celebrated Maitri Divas to mark the occasion.
2. On December 6, the president of Russia was in New Delhi for the 21st India-Russia Annual Summit. Prime Minister (PM) met with the President of Russia in New Delhi and exchanged ideas for expanding cooperation in various fields. The first India - Russia 2+2 India meeting between the Foreign and Defence Ministers also took place on the same day. Later, PM had a significant telephonic conversation with the Russian President on December 20 2021.
3. PM met with the French Minister of Armed Forces on December 17. Both leaders discussed bilateral defence cooperation, regional security, Indo-Pacific and France's forthcoming Presidency of the EU Council.
4. PM inaugurated the Infinity Forum on December 3 and delivered India's National Statement at the Summit for Democracy on December 10 2021.
5. EAM visited Abu Dhabi on December 4 to address the 5th Indian Ocean Conference. During the visit, EAM met with Crown Prince and the Foreign Minister of UAE on December 4. He also met with the President of Sri Lanka and Foreign Minister of Oman during the visit.
6. On December 1, EAM welcomed a Parliamentary delegation from Mongolia. The Mongolian delegation called on Rashtrapati ji on December 1 2021.
7. EAM joined Vietnamese National Assembly President and his delegation at the 5th anniversary celebrations of India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership on December 17. The delegation called on the Vice President and Rashtrapati ji on December 17 and 19, respectively. Earlier, they met with the Lok Sabha Speaker on December 16 2021.
8. EAM hosted the 3rd meeting of the India-Central Asia Dialogue in New Delhi from December 18-20 2021. Foreign Ministers of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan participated in the meeting. The Foreign Ministers of these

countries paid a joint courtesy call on Prime Minister and discussed ways to strengthen India's close partnership with Central Asia.

9. Secretary-General, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France was on an official visit to India from December 20-22, 2021. He met EAM on December 21st and discussed bilateral cooperation, Indo-Pacific and global developments.

10. EAM addressed the International Conference on Nepal's Reconstruction held in Kathmandu virtually on December 8; delivered remarks at the Vijay Diwas event organised by BSF India to commemorate 50 years of liberation of Bangladesh on December 16; delivered remarks at the India-Japan Indo-Pacific Forum on December 21 and presided over the 2nd Atal Bihari Vajpayee Memorial Lecture on foreign policy, that was delivered by Dr Michael Fullilove, Executive Director, Lowy Institute on December 24 2021.

11. During the period, EAM held telephonic calls with his counterparts from Sri Lanka, UAE, Singapore, Bangladesh, Nepal, Nigeria, Bhutan, Indonesia, Australia, Maldives, Russia, US, Israel and Egypt.

12. The Ministry participated in the Good Governance Week celebrations, organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, (DARPG). EAM, MOS (VM), MOS (ML) and MOS (RRS) delivered special addresses in different sessions and Foreign Secretary delivered the valedictory address at a session held on December 21 2021. The Ministry also participated in the week-long exhibition organized at Ambedkar International Centre.

13. MoS (VM) held a virtual interaction with the Indian community in Cote d'Ivoire on December 9. He received the new Ambassador of Sierra Leone to India on December 14 2021.

14. MoS (ML) attended the National Day of Romania on December 1; participated in the National Day Reception of Finland on December 3; attended the National Day event of Kazakhstan as Chief Guest on December 10; addressed the Global Technology Summit's session on Future of Tech: Resilience & Partnerships on December 15; and participated in the 3rd India-Central Asia Dialogue, along with EAM on December 19 in Delhi. During the month she also met with the Ambassadors of Belarus, Cuba and Portugal.

15. MoS (RRS) met with the Deputy NSA of South Korea and the Ambassador of Moscow in Delhi on December 3 and 8, respectively. MoS (RRS) participated in Thai National Day Celebrations at its Embassy in Delhi on December 3; attended the Maitri Diwas celebration organised by the Bangladesh High Commission on December 6; addressed the Global Technology Summit session on future of EdTech in India on December 14; delivered the keynote address at the 8th Indian Ocean Dialogue on December 15; and visited IFC-IOR on its 3rd anniversary on December 22 2021.

16. Foreign Secretary visited Bangladesh from December 7-8 2021. During the visit, he called on the Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, and Minister for Road Transport & Bridges and met with the Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh.

17. Foreign Secretary paid a working visit to Myanmar from December 22-23 2021. During the visit, he inaugurated the India Centre at the erstwhile LIC building in Yangon. He called on the Chairman, State Administrative Council and other senior representatives, members of civil society and political parties, including the National League for Democracy. He also interacted with select Ambassadors in Myanmar on issues of mutual interest. He handed over India's gift of over 1 million doses of 'Made in India' vaccines to the Myanmar Red Cross Society.

18. During the month, Foreign Secretary met with the EU Special Envoy for Afghanistan; with the US Senior Director in the White House National Security Council; and held Foreign Office Consultations with the Secretary-General of France on December 21 2021.

19. Secretary (East) participated in the 3rd round of India-Paraguay Foreign Office Consultations in Paraguay On December 2; interacted with the ASEAN Heads of Mission in Delhi on December 8; and presided over the first meeting of the India-Fiji high-level joint committee on December 22 2021.

20. On December 1, Secretary (West) co-chaired the 9th India-EU Energy Panel Meeting, wherein a new Work Programme on 'India-EU Clean Energy & Climate Partnership 2021-2023' was adopted. She virtually participated in the 8th Foreign Office Consultations between India and Slovenia on December 10 2021.

21. BRICS Sherpas and Sous Sherpas held their fourth and concluding meeting under India's Chairship during the year 2021 on December 15. The meeting was chaired by Secretary (CPV&OIA).

22. India has joined the G20 Troika along with Italy and Indonesia in December 2021.

23. On December 17, the King of Bhutan pronounced Prime Minister's name for the highest civilian decoration, Order of the Druk Gyalpo.

24. The Global Technology Summit organized by Carnegie India with the support of the Ministry was held on December 14-16, 2021. It saw virtual participation by the Prime Minister of UK.

25. Under Operation Devi Shakti, a special Kam Air flight from Kabul to New Delhi was arranged by India, which brought 10 Indians and 94 Afghans.

26. Durga Puja has been added to the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

27. Other diplomatic achievements during the month included India's re-election to International Maritime Organisation Council on December 10 and the granting of the observer status to the International Solar Alliance by the UN General Assembly.

28. Egypt has joined the BRICS New Development bank as the fourth member after Bangladesh, UAE & Uruguay.