

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

Overview of Major Achievements during the Month of September 2023

High-Level Diplomatic Engagements/Interactions:

1. On the sidelines of the G20 Summit, the Prime Minister held bilateral meetings with H.E. Mr. Azali Assoumani, President of Comoros in his capacity as African Union (AU) Chair; Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau; Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu; President of United States Joseph Biden. Egyptian President El Sisi, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese visited India for the G20 Summit.
2. HRH Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud called on the President during his state visit. He also met the Prime Minister, and they discussed bilateral relations in political, trade, investment, energy, defence, security, social, cultural and people-to-people ties. The two leaders also co-chaired the first meeting of India - Saudi Strategic Partnership Council. In this regard, the two leaders reviewed the work done under the framework of the Strategic Partnership Council and expressed satisfaction at the outcomes of the works of the two Ministerial Committees namely: (a) the Committee on Political, Security, Social and Cultural Cooperation and their subcommittees and (b) the Committee on Economy and Investments and their Joint Working Groups, which have deepened the strategic partnership between the two countries in diverse fields. At the end of the Meeting, the two leaders signed the Minutes of the Meeting.
3. The Prime Minister and the President of United States Joseph Biden co-chaired a special event 'Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) & India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)', on the sidelines of G20, and announced the launch of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC). Leaders from the European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Mauritius, UAE, Saudi Arabia, as well as representatives from the World Bank, participated in this event.

4. On the sidelines of G20 Summit, PM Shri Narendra Modi along with the leaders of Singapore, Bangladesh, Italy, USA, Brazil, Argentina, Mauritius and UAE, launched the Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA).
5. The Prime Minister attended the 20th ASEAN-India Summit held in Jakarta on 7 September 2023. He reaffirmed ASEAN centrality in the Indo-Pacific, and also the need to complete the review of ASEAN-India FTA in a time bound manner. Prime Minister presented a 12-point proposal for strengthening India – ASEAN cooperation covering connectivity, digital transformation, trade and economic engagement, addressing contemporary challenges, people-to-people contacts and deepening strategic engagement.
6. The Prime Minister attended the 18th East Asia Summit (EAS) held in Jakarta on 7 September 2023. At the 18th EAS, PM reiterated the importance of EAS mechanism and reaffirmed our support to further strengthening it.

EAM's engagements:

7. EAM's engagements for the month included meeting with Nigeria's Minister of Foreign Affairs (05 September), participation in the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New York (22 September), meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guinea Bissau (23 September), Foreign Minister of Uganda General Jeje Ogonja (23 September), led the Indian delegation for the IBSA Foreign Ministers' Meeting (22 September).
8. India and the United Nations launched a joint capacity-building initiative for the Global South during an India-led event "India-UN for the Global South-Delivering for Development" on the sidelines of the 78th UNGA in New York on 23 September 2023 in the presence of the External Affairs Minister. The "India-UN Capacity Building Initiative" builds upon the extensive cooperation in development and capacity building that India already has bilaterally with the partner countries.

MOS (RRS)'s engagements:

9. MoS paid an official visit to New Zealand from 24-29 September 2023. During the visit, MoS and New Zealand's Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Chris Hipkins participated in the 1st India Business Summit 2023 co-organised by the High Commission and the Auckland Chamber of

Commerce where he shared his views on India's economic growth and boosting India-New Zealand relations.

Other engagements:

10. Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri Dammu Ravi attended the Sherpas meeting of India, Israel, United Arab Emirates, US I2U2 countries in New York on 20 September 2023 on the sidelines of 78th United Nations General Assembly Meeting. The Sherpas unveiled the new I2U2 website to enhance cooperation between the member countries. The I2U2 Private Enterprise Partnership was also signed between the US Department of State and the US-UAE Business Council, the UAE-Israel Business Council, and the UAE-India Business Council.
11. On 06 September 2023, Nigerian Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs & Food & Public Distribution and Textiles met Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry.
12. On 08 September 2023, H.E. Mr. Adebayo Olawale Edun, Nigerian Minister of Finance and Economy and Mr. Abubakar Atiku Bagudu, Nigerian Minister of Budget and National Planning met Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Finance Minister of India.
13. The Indian Army and the United States Army co-hosted the 13th Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs' Conference (IPACC), Indo-Pacific Armies Management Seminar (IPAMS) and Senior Enlisted Leaders Forum (SELF) - a three-day conference of Chiefs of Armies and delegates of 35 countries in New Delhi from 25-27 September 2023.
14. BRICS Meeting of Officials and Experts on Population Matters was held on 12-15 September 2023 in Durban, Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa (Hybrid Format). The Indian delegation was led by Dr. Pawan Kumar, Advisor (Family Planning/MH), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
15. The BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting under the Chairmanship of incoming Chair (Russia) was held on 20 September 2023 at UN Headquarters in New York. Media Statement of BRICS Foreign Ministers was adopted during this Meeting. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Dammu Ravi, Secretary (ER). Dr. Piyush Singh, Director

(MER) and Shri Naveen Chand, US (MER) also participated in this Meeting.

16. The World Heritage Committee (WHC) 45COM(Extended) session of UNESCO was held in Riyadh (KSA), from 10 to 25 September 2023. The WHC has inscribed India's two nominations such as Santiniketan for 2022, and for 2023: Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas as World Heritage Sites.

Foreign Office/Ministry Consultations

17. 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.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs)

18. On 11 September, eight MoUs were signed/exchanged during the state visit of HRH Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud visit including in the fields of energy; digitization and electronic manufacturing; anti-corruption; archival cooperation; Bilateral Investment; EXIM Banks; small and medium enterprises; and seawater desalination.

Humanitarian Aid/Assistance

19. Malawi

India supplied the final tranche of humanitarian aid to Malawi comprising of 11.4 tons of anti-cancer drugs and general medicines.

20. Afghanistan

The final shipment of 2500 MT wheat of the total 10000 MT has been supplied to Afghanistan, via Chabahar port in September 2023.
