

Ministry of External Affairs
Policy Planning and Research Division

Overview of Major Achievements during the month of April 2022

I. Diplomatic Engagements and other Interactions:

1. The month of April witnessed a flurry of diplomatic engagements. There have been significant high level outgoing visits, multiple incoming visits and important physical and virtual summits during the month.

2. President of India paid State visits to Turkmenistan and the Netherlands from April 1-7 2022. This was the first ever visit by an Indian President to Independent Turkmenistan. During the visit to Turkmenistan, the President met the new President of Turkmenistan on April 2. Both leaders discussed various issues of bilateral and regional cooperation, including implementation of the outcomes of the India-Central Asia Summit held in January 2022. In the Netherlands, the President held significant discussions with their Royal Majesties, the Prime Minister and the Presidents of the Senate and House of Representatives of the Netherlands. The visits coincided with the celebration of 30th and 75th anniversary of our diplomatic ties with Turkmenistan and the Netherlands respectively.

3. Prime Ministers of India and Australia witnessed the virtual signing ceremony of the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement, (IndAus ECTA) on April 2. The IndAus ECTA, encompassing trade in goods and services, is a balanced and equitable trade agreement and it will further cement the already deep and strategic relations between the two countries. The Agreement will significantly enhance the bilateral trade in goods and services, create new employment opportunities, raise living standards and improve the general welfare of the peoples of the two countries. Earlier, the two Prime Ministers held the 2nd India-Australia Virtual Summit on March 21, 2022.

4. Prime Minister and the President of the USA held a virtual meeting on April 11, 2022. The two Leaders had an extensive exchange of views on several

regional and global issues, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, global economic recovery, climate action, recent developments in South Asia and the Indo-Pacific region, and the situation in Ukraine. Subsequently, the fourth India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue was led by EAM and Rakshamantri and their US counterparts in Washington DC. During the Dialogue, Ministers reaffirmed the importance of the India-U.S. Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership to international peace and security.

5. Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the first of its kind WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) in Jamnagar, Gujarat on April 19. The ceremony was attended by Prime Minister of Mauritius and Director-General, World Health Organization (WHO). Subsequently, Prime Minister addressed the inaugural day of the Global AYUSH Investment and Innovation Summit in Gandhinagar, Gujarat on April 20. Prime Minister held separate bilateral meetings with the Prime Minister of Mauritius and Director-General of WHO. EAM called on the Prime Minister of Mauritius on April 23, 2022.

6. Prime Minister of Nepal paid an official visit to India from April 01-03, 2022. This was his first bilateral visit abroad after assuming office. During the visit, the Prime Minister of Nepal had significant discussions with the Vice President, the Prime Minister, EAM and NSA. The flagging off the first broad-gauge passenger railway service connecting India and Nepal in the Jayanagar-Kurtha section, inaugural of the 90 km long 132 KVDC Solu Corridor Transmission line, launching of RuPay card in Nepal, Nepal's decision to join the ISA, etc, are some of the key outcomes of the visit.

7. Prime Minister of the UK paid an official visit to India on April 21-22, 2022. This was his first visit to India as Prime Minister of the UK. The visit took place at a significant time, as the two countries celebrate 75 years of bilateral ties and India is commemorating the 75th anniversary of her Independence. Prime Minister of the UK held delegation level talks with Prime Minister in New Delhi on April 22, 2022. Both leaders expressed their desire to steer bilateral relations towards a Vision 2047 for shared security and prosperity of their people and the planet. EAM called on UK's Prime Minister on April 22, 2022.

8. President of the European Commission visited India on April 24-25, 2022. This was her first visit to India as the President of the European Commission.

9. The visit took place, as India and the EU are commemorating the 60th anniversary of diplomatic ties this year. During her visit, she called on the President, met the Prime Minister and also had a meeting with EAM on April 25. During her bilateral meeting with PM, the two leaders announced the establishment of an India-EU Trade and Technology Council. This new mechanism will bring about high-level coordination on the intersecting aspects of trade, technology and security and provide the political steer needed for in-depth strategic engagement. She addressed the inaugural session of the 7th Edition of the Raisina Dialogue on April 25 2022.

10. The 7th Edition of the Raisina Dialogue, Ministry's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-economics was held on April 25-27, 2022. Prime Minister inaugurated the Dialogue on April 25. President of the European Commission joined the Inaugural Session as Chief Guest. The theme for the 2022 Edition was "Terra Nova: Impassioned, Impatient, and imperiled". Over the course of three days, the Dialogue had panel discussions and conversations on significant issues. This year, Raisina Dialogue side-events were hosted in Berlin and Washington D.C. The Raisina Young Fellows programme was conducted on the sidelines of the main conference. EAM, Ministers of State and MEA Officials addressed various sessions of the Raisina Dialogue 2022. Prime Minister met the CEO of Intel on April 6. They held discussions on subjects relating to tech, research and innovation.

11. During the month, PM held telephonic calls with the Prime Minister of Israel and the General Secretary of Communist Party of Vietnam.

12. Notable diplomatic engagements during the month included EAM's official visits to Bangladesh and Bhutan on April 28-30; and the incoming visits of Foreign Ministers of Russia, Argentina, Philippines, Nigeria, Slovenia, Poland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Portugal, The Netherlands, Norway, Madagascar, and Guyana.

13. During the month, EAM met the Secretary to the Cabinet of Mauritius on April 7; hosted a US Congressional Delegation, led by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand on April 21; and met Speaker of Maldives Parliament on April 25, 2022.

14. EAM laid the foundation stone for the MEA residential complex redevelopment at Gole Market on April 19 2022.
15. During April, EAM held telephonic conversations with his counterparts from US, France, Cyprus, and Somalia.
16. During the month, Minister of State, Shri V. Muraleedharan [MoS (VM)] met South Africa's Deputy Foreign Minister on April 26. Minister of State, Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi [MoS (ML)] met Panama's Foreign Minister and Minister of Culture on her visit to Panama from April 28- May 1. She launched the "All Women Ambassadors Group" on April 14; and met CICA's Executive Director on April 27. Minister of State, Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh [MoS (RRS)] met the visiting Malaysian Minister of Education and his team on April 8 in New Delhi; and received Thailand's Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs in New Delhi on April 21 2022.
17. During the month, the then Foreign Secretary, Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla met the Secretary to the Cabinet of Mauritius on April 7; the US Congressional delegation led by Congressman Adam Smith on April 14; State Secretary of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation & Development and Thailand's Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs on April 21; Bangladesh High Commissioner and felicitated the winners of the India-Bangladesh Maitree Diwas logo and backdrop competition on April 25 2022.
18. On April 12, the then Foreign Secretary, Harsh Vardhan Shringla convened the 1st meeting of Inter-Ministerial Coordination Group (IMCG) for comprehensive management of relations with our neighboring countries; delivered the valedictory addresses at UN Peacekeeping Training Program, jointly hosted by Center for UN Peacekeeping and MEA on April 1; and at the UN National Investigation Officers (NIO) Training of Trainers (TOT) Programme that brought together 20 foreign delegates from 9 partner countries.
19. Secretary (East) co-chaired Foreign Office Consultations with Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand on April 12, 14 and 21 respectively; paid a courtesy call on the Foreign Minister of Malaysia on April 12; interacted with the Cambodian Secretary of State in Phnom Penh on April 11; met the ASEAN Deputy Secretary General and ASEAN Committee of Permanent Representatives at the

20. ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta. Secretary (ER) led India's delegation at the 2nd BRICS Sherpas' Meeting on April 12-13 held in a virtual format. On April 13, Secretary (West) hosted members from the Committee of International Trade of European Parliament.

21. During the month, India delivered one consignment each of 36,000 MT petrol & 40,000 MT diesel, and 11,000 MT rice to Sri Lanka on April 6 & 12, respectively. Two consignments of 40,000 MT of diesel under Indian assistance through Line of Credit of USD 500 million was also handed over to Sri Lanka. On April 21, India handed over the 2nd consignment of Made in India vaccines to Thailand, under the Quad Vaccine Partnership.

22. The first round of India-UAE UN consultations at Director General (DG) level were held in Abu Dhabi on April 26. Both sides exchanged views on areas of priority during their ongoing UNSC tenure. They agreed to work closely together on key issues on the UNSC agenda, in particular on their shared commitment to reformed multilateralism and counter-terrorism.

23. On April 27, the Union Cabinet approved the opening of a new Indian Mission in Lithuania in 2022. The opening of Indian Mission in Lithuania will help expand India's diplomatic footprint, deepen political relations and strategic cooperation, enable growth of bilateral trade, investment and economic engagements, and facilitate stronger people-to-people contacts.