

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

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**Overview of Major Achievements during the Month of April 2024**

**High-Level Diplomatic Engagements/Interactions:**

**EAM's engagements:**

**1. EAM's engagements in India:**

EAM met Minister of State (International Cooperation), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of UAE Reem Al Hashimy, during her visit to New Delhi on 29 and 30 April.

2. EAM held a telephone conversation with Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs Hossein Amir-Abdollahian on bilateral and regional issues.

**Other engagements:**

3. Minister of State (International Cooperation), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of UAE Reem Al Hashimy held talks with the Foreign Secretary on 30 April and reviewed the current state of bilateral relations.
4. NSA met Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Dr Ali Akbar Ahmadian, on the sidelines of 19<sup>th</sup> SCO NSA's meeting in Astana.
5. The Foreign Secretary visited Washington DC, US, from 9-12 April and held discussions with Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources Richard Verma and Deputy Secretary Kurt Campbell. He also met senior officials at the National Security Council, Department of Defense, Department of Commerce and Department of Energy, and representatives of leading US think tanks.
6. Chief of Royal Australian Navy Vice Admiral Mark Hammond visited India from 2-6 April, and met the Chief of the Naval Staff, Defence Secretary, Chief of Defence Staff and Chief of Air Staff.
7. The 27<sup>th</sup> edition of India-US Army Executive Steering Group (ESG) meeting was held at the US Army Pacific Headquarters in Hawaii, US, on 11 April. The Indian delegation was led by the Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strategy), who held discussions with the commanding generals of US Army and Marine Force,

on emerging threats, conflict resolution and the need to address various challenges.

8. Defence Secretary held a bilateral meeting with Minister of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics of Iran, Brigadier General Mohammed Reza Gharaei Ashtiyani on the sidelines of SCO Defence Ministers meeting at Astana.
9. The first Meeting of the India-Romania Joint Committee on Defence Cooperation (JCDC) was held in Bucharest on 23 April. Issues pertaining to training cooperation, joint exercises and defence industrial collaboration, views on the regional security situation were discussed.
10. A delegation led by Commerce Secretary visited Australia from 28-30 April, for the first Joint Committee Meeting between India and Australia under Ind-Aus ECTA and for review of progress in Ind-Aus CECA.
11. Following meetings were held under BRICS:
  - (a) 1<sup>st</sup> BRICS Contact Group on Climate Change and Sustainable Development (CGCCSD) Meeting on 2 April.
  - (b) 1<sup>st</sup> BRICS Senior Officials' Meeting on Transport on 3 April.
  - (c) BRICS Sous-Sherpas Meeting (on Partner Country Model) on 8 April in virtual format.
  - (d) 6<sup>th</sup> BRICS Remote Sensing Satellite Constellation (RSSC) Working Group Meeting on 9 April.
  - (e) Meeting of BRICS Labour Research Institutes Network and First BRICS Employment Working Group (EWG) Meeting from 9-11 April.
  - (f) Consultation Meeting hosted by DEA on BRICS Finance Track matters on 10 April.
  - (g) Meeting of the Chairs of the Committee on International Affairs of BRICS Parliament from 11-12 April.
  - (h) Meeting of BRICS Working Group for Research Competition Issues in Digital Markets on 11 April.
  - (i) Annual Technical Meeting of National Statistical Offices of BRICS countries from 16-17 April.

- (j) 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of BRICS Working Group on Security in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) from 16-17 April.
  - (k) Working Meeting on BRICS Education Track on 16 April.
  - (l) International Youth Forum on Public Diplomacy on 16 April.
  - (m) 2<sup>nd</sup> BRICS Youth Council Meeting on 17 April.
  - (n) BRICS Working Group on Emergency Prevention and Response from 16-17 April.
  - (o) 1<sup>st</sup> BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) Meeting from 17-18 April.
  - (p) BRICS Health Senior Officials Meeting from 18-19 April.
  - (q) BRICS Film Festival from 19-23 April.
  - (r) 15<sup>th</sup> BRICS TB Research Network Meeting on 23 April.
  - (s) 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BRICS STI Steering Committee on 23 April.
  - (t) BRICS Council on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism on 24 April.
  - (u) Meeting of BRICS Working Group on ICT from 24-25 April.
12. Secretary (Mines) led a delegation to Chile to participate in the World Mining Congress and the World Copper Conference 2024 during 15-17 April 2024. During his interaction with Chilean Authorities, Secretary (Mines) expressed India's keen interest in securing long-term supply of copper and lithium from Chile.
13. Secretary (Economic Relations) accompanied by AS (E&SA) visited Rwanda and Kenya from 7-12 April. He represented India in the event marking 30<sup>th</sup> commemoration of the Rwanda genocide. In Uganda, Secretary (ER) led a 35-member multi-sectoral business delegation, and met senior government officials.
14. First meeting of the Inter-Governmental Expert Group on Mountain Economy was held on 23-24 April in Thimpu, Bhutan.

15. A delegation led by Commerce visited Wellington in New Zealand for a Joint Trade Committee meeting from 26- 27 April.
16. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> meetings of the ACD Expert Group were held in a virtual format on 22 and 24 April, to negotiate the draft Rules of Procedure of Asia Cooperation Dialogue. The meetings were chaired by Iran.
17. India-Slovenia Science, Innovation, Technology, and Economic (SITE) Network was launched in New Delhi on 9 April. It is aimed at fostering deeper collaboration and increasing technology commercialization in the two countries.
18. The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of India-Kazakhstan Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism was held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 8 April. The Indian delegation was led by Joint Secretary (CT) and the Kazakhstan delegation by Mr. Talgat Kaliyev, Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Both sides exchanged views on the terrorist threats in their respective regions, including state-sponsored, cross-border terrorism in South Asia.
19. The 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of India-France Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism was held in New Delhi on 15 April. The Indian delegation was led by Joint Secretary (CT), and the French delegation by Ambassador Olivier Caron, Special Envoy for Counter-Terrorism and Organized Crime. Both sides exchanged views on the terrorist threats in their respective regions, including State-sponsored, cross-border terrorism in South Asia, Africa and the Middle East. The two sides assessed counter terrorism challenges, including the use of new and emerging technologies by terrorists, misuse of internet for terrorist purposes, radicalisation and terror financing.
20. India-Japan consultations on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation were held in Tokyo on 24 April.
21. India-Republic of Korea consultations on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation were held in Seoul on 26 April.
22. Seventy pilgrims from Pakistan visited India from 25-30 April to participate in the annual Urs of Amir Khusro in Delhi.
23. Two Pakistani juvenile prisoners were repatriated to Pakistan on 26 April.
24. The States Division facilitated:

- a. Visits and meetings of Australian Deputy Consul General and Australian Consul Generals in Chennai, Mumbai, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Kolkata.
  - b. Visit of Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Himachal Pradesh from 22-24 April.
  - c. Meeting of Consul General of Singapore in Mumbai with the senior ministers of the Government of Odisha from 17-20 April.
25. Print of Strip Maps and distribution of Boundary Pillars plotted on map for India-Nepal boundary were provided to Northern Division.
26. A delegation from the National War College, USA, led by Professor Gregory Macris, visited India from 8-10 April and held discussions with National Defence College, New Delhi.
27. A combined two-week long Special Course for diplomats from Cambodia and Lao PDR, inaugurated by Dean, SSIFS on 27 March, was concluded on 05 April. 30 diplomats (15 from each country) participated in the programme. The valedictory session was chaired by Dean, SSIFS on 05 April.

#### **Foreign Office/Ministry Consultations**

28. India and Croatia held the 11<sup>th</sup> session of FOC on 30 April in New Delhi. The Indian side was led by Secretary (West), and the Croatian side was led by Dr. Petar Mihatov, Director General for Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia.
29. The first FOC between India and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was held on 10 April in New Delhi. The Indian side was led by Additional Secretary (Central & West Africa Division), and the DRC side was led by Mr. Wabenga Kaleo Theo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Francophone.

#### **Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs)/ Agreements:**

30. The Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC Ltd.) joined Quad countries' Export-Credit Agencies (ECAs) of USA, Japan, and Australia, to sign a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) in Oslo, Norway on 23rd April, 2024. A 'Joint Statement on Enhanced Quad Export Credit Agency (ECA) Cooperation'

was made on the occasion by Quad ECAs by which they committed to enhance the level of cooperation, engagement, and alignment with each other.

31. MoU between Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) and the National Meteorological Office of Dominican Republic (ONAMET) was signed on 25 April in New Delhi, for bilateral cooperation in areas such as early warning systems, capacity building in the field of meteorological predictions and satellite data analysis.

### **Humanitarian Aid/Assistance**

#### **32. Fiji**

India handed over 7642.27 kgs of pediatric medicines and injectables to Fiji. They will be used for general symptomatic and common treatments for infectious diseases of children under Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) Programme of the Government of Fiji.

#### **33. Nepal**

- a. Foundation stone for the construction of a school building being built with Indian financial assistance was laid on 8 April, in Sankhuwasabha district.
- b. India laid foundation stone and inaugurated the High Impact Community Development Projects in Darchula.
- c. India gifted 35 ambulances and 66 school buses in various districts of Nepal.

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