

# International Developments

August 2024





## Bilateral/Multilateral Engagements

**State Visit of President Smt. Droupadi Murmu to Fiji:** The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu reached Suva, Fiji on August 6, 2024. She held meeting with Prime Minister and President of Fiji. The leaders agreed to build upon the historic ties and strengthen the partnership between the two countries. President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka also presided over a ceremony for handing over of documents for allocation of project sites for (i) High Commission of India Chancery and Indian Cultural Centre Complex, Suva and (ii) 100-bed Super Speciality Hospital, Suva...

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**State Visit of President Smt. Droupadi Murmu to New Zealand:** The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu reached Wellington, New Zealand on August 8, 2024 and met Governor General Dame Cindy Kiro at Government House. During the meeting, both leaders hailed the warm and friendly relationship between India and New Zealand and discussed cooperation across various sectors. They agreed on the need to continue efforts to widen the scope of India-New Zealand economic relationship by establishing mutually beneficial collaborations and partnerships, especially through trade and businesses. Prime Minister of New Zealand Christopher Luxon also called on the President...

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**State Visit of President of India to Timor-Leste:** The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu reached Dili, Timor-Leste on August 10, 2024 and held meeting with President of Timor-Leste. During the meeting, the leaders discussed opportunities for enhancing the bilateral cooperation between India and Timor-Leste. In the next engagement, Prime Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão of Timor-Leste called on President Droupadi Murmu. signing of three MoUs on Cultural Exchanges, collaboration between Prasara Bharati and 'Timor-Leste Radio & Television' (RTTL), exemption from visa requirement for holders of diplomatic, official and service passports...

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**State visit of Prime Minister of India to Ukraine:** Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi undertook a visit to Ukraine on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2024. The Leaders discussed enhancement of cooperation in areas such as trade and commerce, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, defence, education, science & technology, and culture, apart from exploring a stronger partnership in domains such as digital public infrastructure, industry, manufacturing, green energy etc., including through greater involvement of business and industry from both nations...

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**State visit of Prime Minister of India to Poland:** Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, paid an official visit to Poland from August 21-22, 2024. Both leaders stressed the need to maintain regular high-level contacts to strengthen bilateral political dialogue and develop mutually beneficial initiatives. Both sides recognized the need to strengthen and deepen cooperation in the defence sector. To this end, they agreed to fully utilize existing bilateral mechanisms, including the Joint Working Group for Defence Cooperation. To implement the Strategic Partnership, both sides agreed to a five-year Joint Action Plan for 2024-2028...

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**State Visit of Prime Minister of Malaysia, H.E Mr. Anwar Ibrahim to India:** On 20 August 2024, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim visited India. The wide-ranging discussions between the two Prime Ministers included many areas that make India-Malaysia relations multi-layered and multi-faceted. Both leaders witnessed the exchange of MoUs on cooperation in the fields of Recruitment, Employment and Repatriation of Workers; Ayurveda and other Traditional Systems of Medicines; Digital Technologies; Culture, Arts and Heritage; Tourism, and many more...

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## **State visit of H.E. Pham Minh Chinh, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to India:**

Prime Minister of Viet Nam, H.E. Pham Minh Chinh paid a State Visit to India from 30 July-01 August 2024. The leaders agreed to continue the effective implementation of the outcomes of high-level talks and visits in recent years, including the India. They agreed to intensify and strengthen the bilateral dialogue in various domains, including the Joint Commission for Economic, Trade, Scientific & Technological Cooperation for mutual benefit. They welcomed the signing of the Plan of Action for the implementation of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership for the period of 2024-2028...

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## Trade and Investment

**Trade Connect ePlatform being setup to connect Indian Exporters, MSMEs and Entrepreneurs, Indian Missions Abroad, Export Promotion Councils and other Partner Government Agencies:** The Government has initiated the creation of Trade Connect ePlatform to connect Indian Exporters, MSMEs and Entrepreneurs with various stakeholders including Indian Missions Abroad, Export Promotion Councils, and other Partner Government Agencies. The platform will provide information on trade events taking place in different parts of the world, benefits available due to India's Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and other international trade related information and data...

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**Commerce Secretary participated in the 14th BRICS Trade Ministers' meeting:** Commerce Secretary Shri Sunil Barthwal attended the 14th BRICS Trade Ministers' Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2024 under the BRICS Presidency of Russian Federation. The theme of BRICS this year is "Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development". The Trade Minister's meeting endorsed the Joint Communique and 6 outcome documents pertaining to various issues mentioned earlier. Commerce Secretary laid stress upon the importance of collaborative efforts and commitment along with resilience, unity and transparency to face challenges under the principles of compassion, empathy and understanding, for a common brighter future of BRICS countries...

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**India-Saudi Arabia hold first meeting of the High-Level Task Force on Investments:** The first meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia High Level Task Force on Investments held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2024. The two sides reviewed the discussions held between the technical teams of the Task force. Constructive discussions were held on various opportunities for bilateral investments in diverse areas in public and private sector, including refining and petrochemical plants, new and renewable energy, power, telecom, innovation, among others. The two sides agreed to regular consultations between technical teams on both sides to take forward the discussions and reach an agreement on specific investments...

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**3rd Voice of Global South Summit:** India hosted the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2024, in virtual format, with the overarching theme, "An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future". Driven by a shared vision of a Global South that fully achieves the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and embarks on a rapid developmental trajectory beyond 2030, Prime Minister also put forward a proposal for a comprehensive four-fold Global Development Compact comprising four elements: Trade for development; Capacity building for sustainable growth; Technology sharing; and Project specific concessional finance and grants. The Prime Minister also announced a number of significant initiatives by India in advancing its development partnership with countries of the Global South...

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## **Joint Statement: Third India-Japan 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting:**

The Union Minister of Defence of India, Shri Rajnath Singh, Minister of External Affairs of India, Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Ms. KAMIKAWA Yoko and Minister of Defense of Japan, Mr. KIHARA Minoru, held the third India-Japan 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting in New Delhi on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2024. The Ministers highlighted their common strategic vision towards a free and open Indo-Pacific, that is inclusive, peaceful, prosperous and resilient, as part of the rules-based international order. They also looked forward to having dialogues in areas such as space, maritime affairs and Africa...

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**UK-India Technology Security Initiative:** Recognising the increasing role of technology in national security and economic development, the Prime Ministers of India and the United Kingdom are launching a new 'Technology Security Initiative' (TSI) to elevate the strategic partnership between the two countries to the next level. The TSI builds upon the ambitious bilateral cooperation agenda set out in the India-UK Roadmap 2030 and will bring into sharper focus collaboration in critical and emerging technologies (CET) across priority sectors. It will reinforce existing collaborative efforts in various technologies, broaden the mandates of existing mechanisms, and establish new mechanisms for cooperation...

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**DGFT simplifies Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme procedures to enhance Ease of Doing Business:** The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has announced significant enhancements to the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme aimed at simplifying processes, reducing transaction costs and promoting automation to benefit exporters. These changes align with the commitment of the Government to create a more business-friendly environment and improving India's manufacturing competitiveness. As per the changes, the scheme will now provide exporters an extended period to submit Installation Certificates for imported Capital Goods. This extension reduces pressure on businesses, allowing them to focus more on production and export activities...

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## **10th Round of India-Australia CECA Negotiations held on five tracks in Sydney:**

10th Round of India-Australia CECA Negotiations was held from 19-22 August 2024 in Sydney in the areas of Goods, Services, Digital Trade, Government Procurement, Rules of Origin and Agri tech. Intense discussions were held on each of these tracks bringing in clarity and understanding for convergence in the remaining provisions. It was decided that given the clear understanding of each other's proposals under the five tracks, track leads from both the sides would work out action plan for negotiations through virtual mode intersessionally before the next round, likely to be held in India...

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**Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh chaired bilateral meeting on US-India Civil Nuclear Commerce:** On 25<sup>th</sup> August 2024, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh chaired a pivotal bilateral meeting on US-India Civil Nuclear Commerce, highlighting the deepening cooperation between the two nations in critical areas of science, technology, and clean energy. Dr. Jitendra Singh announced that an Indian astronaut from the Gaganyaan Mission is set to join the International Space Station, marking a significant milestone in Indo-US Space collaboration. The meeting concluded with both nations reaffirming their commitment to strengthening their cooperation in emerging technologies, with mutual interests in enhancing economic growth, national security, and global leadership in technological advancements...

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**2<sup>nd</sup> round of India-Singapore ministerial roundtable:** Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs, Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Railways, Information and Broadcasting, and Electronics and Information Technology visited Singapore for the 2nd round of India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR) which was held on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2024. The Ministers reviewed the progress of India – Singapore Strategic Partnership, particularly under the pillars of Digitalization, Skills Development, Sustainability, Healthcare & Medicine, identified during the 1st meeting of ISMR. They deliberated on ideas to expand bilateral cooperation and decided to add two new pillars, Advanced Manufacturing and Connectivity for further strengthening bilateral cooperation...

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## India's Engagements with International Organisations

**ADB invests USD100 Million to support decarbonization of India's commercial and industrial sector:** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a USD100 million equity investment to advance the decarbonization of India's commercial and industrial sector through utility-scale solar, solar-wind hybrid and rooftop solar power projects and to provide cost-effective clean energy directly to users. The financing includes USD70 million from ADB's ordinary capital resources and USD30 million from Leading Asia's Private Infrastructure Fund 2 (LEAP 2), administered by ADB. Providing commercial and industrial users in India with access to clean and renewable energy will foster growth of the sector while helping to achieve net-zero emissions...

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