

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1672
ANSWERED ON- 03/08/2023

ACHIEVEMENTS OF INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

#1672. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether there are some special achievements of India's foreign policy in the last years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that India's foreign policy resulted in remarkable progress in the country's economy; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(DR. RAJKUMAR RANJAN SINGH)

(a & b) Yes, India's foreign policy has chartered a path that enhances its strength, protects its core interests, and ensures India's continued upward trajectory as a fast-growing and inclusive economy, with a rising profile in global affairs. This has been achieved despite the unforeseen challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and disruptions caused by armed conflicts.

(c & d) Yes, there is a greater integration of the Indian economy with regional and global economies. This has contributed to a deeper and extensive trade, technology and investment partnerships; accrued benefits from migration and mobility of India's skilled professionals globally; and expansion of India's developmental template internationally. India has also streamlined and strengthened its Economic Diplomacy initiatives to support India's domestic development programmes, especially towards flagship initiatives in key sectors including manufacturing, skill development, agriculture, infrastructure development, digital economy, innovation, entrepreneurship, emerging technologies, etc.

An indicative list of special achievements of India in foreign policy domain is also attached at Annexure I.

Diplomatic Milestones in the past 9 years

- First-ever Visits by Hon'ble President of India to - Australia, Bolivia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ghana, Djibouti, Eswatini, Equatorial Guinea, Jamaica, New Zealand, Suriname and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- First-ever Visits by the Hon'ble Prime Minister to - Israel, Palestine, Mongolia, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Bahrain, Fiji.
- First-ever Summits held - First India-Australia Annual Summit (March 2023); Voice of Global South Summit (January 2023); India-Israel-USA-UAE "I2U2" Summit (July 2022); India-Central Asia Summit (2022), India-CARICOM Leaders' meeting (2019), India-Nordic Summit (2018 and 2022); 10 ASEAN Leaders attended Republic Day as Chief Guests (2018); and Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation Meeting (2014).
- First time ever the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India chaired the UN Security Council Meeting during India's Presidency (August 2021).
- More than 150 Summits (bilateral and multilateral) in the past 9 years.
- New International Organizations Headquartered in India - International Solar Alliance (ISA) and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).
- First ever meeting of the UN Security Council in any format convened in India: the Special Meeting of the UNSC Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) held in Mumbai and in Delhi in October 2022.
- India assumed the G20 Presidency on 1 December 2022 and will be convening the G20 Leaders' Summit for the first time in the country in September 2023. During our year-long Presidency, over 200 meetings will be held across all Indian States and Union Territories.
- India hosted the first ever "Voice of Global South Summit" under the theme – 'Unity of voice, Unity of purpose' on 12-13 January 2023 in virtual format. 125 countries participated in the Summit. These included 29 countries from Latin America & Caribbean, 47 countries from Africa, 7 countries from Europe, 31 countries from Asia and 11 countries from Oceania.
- The 17th Pravasi *Bharatiya Divas Convention* was held in Indore in January 2023 with the theme "Diaspora: Reliable partners for India's progress in Amrit Kaal".
- The 12th World Hindi Conference was held in Nadi, Fiji in February 2023, in collaboration with the Government of Fiji.
- Several new diplomatic missions opened, including three new diplomatic missions in Estonia, Dominican Republic and Paraguay in the year 2022.
- Hon'ble Prime Minister of India launched "Mission LiFE" (Lifestyle for Environment) in October 2022 in the presence of the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres.
- India assumed the rotating presidency of the SCO for the year 2022-23 and hosted the meeting of the Council of Heads of State of SCO in virtual format on 04 July 2023.

- Varanasi was nominated as the first-ever SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital.
- On 21 June 2023, Hon'ble Prime Minister led the Yoga Day celebrations at the UN headquarters, creating the Guinness World Record for the participation of people of most nationalities in a single Yoga session. (The idea for declaring an International Day of Yoga (IDY) at the United Nations was formally proposed by Hon'ble Prime Minister in his address to the 69th UNGA on 27 September 2014. The resolution establishing the IDY was co-sponsored by 177 countries and was adopted by the UNGA in December, 2014.
- Through India's Neighbourhood First Policy, Connectivity, Commerce, Cultural and People-to-People linkages, etc. with India's neighbors have been improved.
- India's development partnership portfolio now spans 78 countries across the World.
- Under *Vaccine Maitri*, India supplied more than 300 million COVID-19 vaccines to more than 100 partners across the World.
- Under Operation Kaveri, India evacuated about 4000 Indian and foreign nationals from Sudan in 2023.
- Under Operation Ganga, India evacuated about 22,500 nationals from Ukraine in 2022.
- Through the use of e-governance tools, India's consular operations have been made amongst the fastest, most transparent and user- friendly, globally.
- India has recorded highest ever annual FDI inflow of *USD 83.57 billion* in the Financial Year 2021-22.
- India's Merchandise exports registered highest ever annual exports of USD 447.46 billion in Financial Year 2022-23.
- India signed Comprehensive Economic Partnership/Cooperation Agreements with Mauritius (2021), UAE (2022) and Australia (2022) respectively.
- India has signed Social Security Agreements to protect the interest of Indian workers abroad, Agreements to enhance the mutual mobility of students, professionals and researchers and Agreements with several nations to prevent illegal migration.
- Under Start-up India initiative, bridges with 15 countries have been established to provide a soft-landing platform for startups from India and partner nations.
- India has put in place an arrangement allowing transactions in domestic currencies to support the increasing interest of the global trading community to transact in INR, and promote growth of bilateral trade. As on date, banks from 22 countries have opened Special Rupee Vostro Accounts in Indian Banks.
- India is actively promoting the acceptance of RuPay/UPI-powered apps with partner countries.
