

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2168
ANSWERED ON- 07/08/2025

STRENGTHENING INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS AND GLOBAL PRESENCE

2168. SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH

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

- a) the details of high-level bilateral or multilateral visits that are planned for the upcoming quarter and how are these expected to advance India's diplomatic priorities;
- b) the role India is currently playing in regional platforms such as BIMSTEC, SCO, and G20 in terms of security, trade, and climate cooperation; and
- c) the support mechanisms in place to assist the Indian diaspora living in conflict-affected or politically unstable regions abroad?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI PABITRA MARGHERITA)

(a) India maintains regular diplomatic engagements with all the countries including through established institutional bilateral mechanisms. Meetings under these frameworks are planned mutually based on the relevance, convenience and need/interests of both sides. These visits are established means to foster closer relations with foreign countries and further India's national interests, safeguard its strategic interests, implement foreign policy objectives as well as strive for promoting safety, security and welfare of Indian citizens abroad.

(b) In line with our Neighbourhood First policy and MAHASAGAR (Maritime Heads for Active Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision, India has been working with partners in the region in promoting regional cooperation through platforms including BIMSTEC. Reaffirming this commitment, India is taking a number of initiatives to strengthen partnerships in the region for enhancing security, facilitating trade and investment, establishing physical, maritime and digital connectivity, collaborating in food, energy and human security, promoting capacity building and skill development, and improving people to people ties.

India's priorities and interests in SCO are guided by the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision for a 'SECURE' SCO "Security, Economic development, Connectivity, Unity, Respect for sovereignty

and territorial integrity and Environmental protection”. Our approach, engagement and initiatives in SCO are aligned with this vision. India also considers the SCO as a structured platform, for engaging the Central Asian nations with regularity, to enhance our presence and visibility as well as furthering our interests.

India plays a significant role in G20 as an influential and active member, championing issues of national interest as well as for the Global South, and helping build consensus within the G20. India successfully carried forward and cemented the ambition and outcomes from its Presidency, including condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, affirming the need to scale up climate finance from billions to trillions of dollars and the need to pursue reform of the World Trade Organization during the Brazilian G20 Presidency. These priorities are being taken forth in the ongoing South African G20 Presidency as well.

(c) The Government accords utmost priority to the welfare and safety of Indian nationals including students, particularly in conflict-affected or politically unstable countries. As such, we have established mechanisms like walk-ins, emails, multilingual 24x7 emergency numbers, grievance redressal portals like MADAD, CPGRAMS, eMigrate and social media etc to address their concerns. Further, there are bilateral agreements in place with the Gulf countries to address some specific issues of labour and manpower, and also to promote welfare and protection of Indian workers.

The Government actively monitors developments and issues advisories. During emergencies or crisis situations, our Missions/Posts abroad proactively help distressed/stranded Indian nationals by providing consular assistance, food, shelter, medicine and return passage to India. The Government is always prepared to take additional steps, including arranging flights for rescue operations. Some of the recent evacuation missions are Vande Bharat Mission, Operation Devi Shakti, Operation Ganga, Operation Kaveri, Operation Ajay, Operation Indravati etc.
