

India at the 76th Session of UNGA, 2021
Prepared by
Videsh Vibhag, Bharatiya Janata Party

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Executive Summary

- **76th Session of UNGA:** After several hurdles due to the pandemic, the 76th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 76) started on 14 September 2021. Abdulla Shahid, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Maldives, was sworn in as the General Assembly President. The first day of the high-level General Debate began on 21 September 2021 and it concluded on 27th September 2021. Due to the global pandemic, the size of delegations allowed into the General Assembly Hall was limited this time. Though over 100 Heads of State or Government attended the event in person including the Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. EAM Dr S Jaishankar and Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla also represented India at this prestigious global event.
- **PM's address at UNGA:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always been the most active advocate of global multilateralism through the United Nations and several other forums. For his endeavour he is well appreciated by the global leaders as well. This year he addressed the High Level segment of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on 25 September 2021. The theme for 76th UNGA debate was "Building resilience through hope to recover from Covid-19, rebuild sustainably, respond to the needs of the planet, respect the rights of people and revitalize the United Nations" and in his speech he intensely touched upon several important issues confronting the international community at the present context of covid 19 pandemic.
- **First in-person Quad Leaders' Summit:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the first in-person Quad Leaders' Summit in Washington D.C., USA. The summit was attended by the heads of the states of the rest of the partners : Prime Minister Scott Morrison of Australia, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga of Japan, and President Joseph Biden of the United States of America.
- **Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership with the USA:** Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had a warm and productive engagement with President of the United States of America Joseph R. Biden. This was the first in-person meeting of the two Leaders after President Biden assumed office in January 2021. The leaders took the opportunity to review the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership and potential for strengthening bilateral cooperation further. The Prime Minister remarked that India and the USA were entering a decade of transformation, based on the pillars of tradition of democratic values, technology, trade, talent of the people, trusteeship of nature, and above all, trust.
- **Reforming The UNSC:** The Foreign Ministers of the G4 countries, H.E. Mr. Carlos Alberto Franco França, Foreign Minister of Brazil, H.E. Mr. Heiko Maas, Federal Foreign Minister of Germany, H.E. Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Minister for External Affairs of India, and H.E. Mr. Motegi Toshimitsu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan met during the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. The Ministers underlined the urgency of reforming the Security Council in order to make it more legitimate, effective and representative by reflecting the reality of the contemporary world including developing countries and major contributors. The G4 Ministers reviewed that the the Decision 75/569 and the commitment of all Heads of State and Government to "instil new life in the discussions on the reform of the Security Council", as mentioned in the Declaration on the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations (A/RES/75/1).

- **New Nepali leadership attempts to balance with India :** Nepal's new Foreign Minister Narayan Khadka in a meeting with EAM Dr S KJaishankar asserted that friendship with both neighbours, India and China, remains of "paramount importance" in the conduct of its foreign policy. He further mentioned that the government of Nepal led by Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba is committed to conduct the foreign policy on the basis of sovereign equality, mutual respect, and mutual benefit and remains engaged with all friendly countries in the wider international community.
- **Advocating For The Afghan Cause:** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has told the G20 nations that the Taliban's commitment not to allow the use of Afghanistan's soil for terrorism in any manner should be implemented. Jaishankar addressed the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Afghanistan while the 76th session at the UNGA was going on. He said that the International community must come together in response to humanitarian needs and assistance providers must be accorded unimpeded, unrestricted and direct access. He further stated that the world expects a broad-based inclusive process that involves representation from all sections of Afghan society.
- **Countering Turkey Through Cyprus Issue:** Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan raked up the Kashmir issue during his address at the United Nations General Assembly, prompting India to pay back in kind and call for Turkey to respect the UNSC resolutions on Cyprus. Last year, too, he had made a reference to Kashmir in his pre-recorded speech at the UNGA. Hours after his remarks, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met his Cyprus counterpart Nikos Christodoulides and stressed the need for Turkey to respect and adhere to the UNSC resolutions on Cyprus.
- **On Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons:** Foreign Secretary addressed on the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons at the 76th United Nations General Assembly. He said that the High-Level Plenary meeting provided a valuable opportunity for the international community to reaffirm its commitment to global nuclear disarmament and to enhance public awareness about the objectives of the total elimination of nuclear weapons. He asserted that India is committed to the goal of universal, non-discriminatory, and verifiable nuclear disarmament, leading to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, consistent with the highest priority accorded to nuclear disarmament by the Final Document of the First Special Session of the UN General Assembly on Disarmament (SSOD-1).
- **On India's bid for a permanent seat at the UN Security Council:** Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla addressed the press after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech during the 76th session of the UN General Assembly. Shringla reiterated India's bid for a permanent seat at the UN Security Council, saying that under the General Assembly President Abdulla Shahid, there would be a "thrust to the inter-governmental process", moving forward towards text-based negotiations which are underway with an aim of "concrete outcomes in a fixed timeframe". Previously, the United States President Joe Biden did mention that "India should have a permanent seat in the UN Security Council". Shringla said that besides the US, India has received support for its candidacy from many countries, including Quad partners. In the UNGA address, Portugal also supported India for the permanent seat in the UN Security Council.

The 76th UNGA

After several hurdles due to the pandemic, the 76th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 76) started on 14 September 2021. Abdulla Shahid, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Maldives, was sworn in as the General Assembly President. The first day of the high-level General Debate began on 21 September 2021 and it concluded on 27th September 2021. Due to the global pandemic, the size of delegations allowed into the General Assembly Hall was limited this time. Though over 100 Heads of State or Government attended the event in person including the Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. EAM Dr S Jaishankar and Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla also represented India at this prestigious global event.

Prime Minister's Address at the UN General Assembly

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always been the most active advocate of global multilateralism through the United Nations and several other forums. For his endeavour he is well appreciated by the global leaders as well. This year he addressed the High Level segment of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on 25 September 2021.

The theme for 76th UNGA debate was **"Building resilience through hope to recover from Covid-19, rebuild sustainably, respond to the needs of the planet, respect the rights of people and revitalize the United Nations"** and in his speech he intensely touched upon several important issues confronting the international community at the present context of covid 19 pandemic which was later summed up by EAM Dr S Jaishankar.

> PM Modi stated that India is the **'Mother of Democracy'** and strongly affirmed in favour of democratic values. According to him, Democracy fosters vision for good governance through integrated and equitable development. He further mentioned that the impact of India's development on global progress is evident as when India grows, the world grows; when India reforms, the world transforms.

> He asserted India's importance as a **responder to natural disasters and a net contributor to the security** in the subcontinent and beyond. While ensuring its democratic values, he added that India has been a pioneer in the transformational role of technology in the daily lives of crores of its people. He also announced that India will soon resume vaccine supplies to the world.

> Regarding India's strong commitment towards **climate action he stated that India is diversifying its energy capacities particularly through exploring renewables and green hydrogen energy resources.** He also spoke of a diversified, resilient and expanded global value chain and production centers is in India's collective interest.

> Prime Minister cautioned against **regressive thinking and extremism, and proposed science-based, rational and progressive thinking.** He said that using terrorism as a political tool will backfire on those practising it. Regarding Afghanistan, the Prime Minister called for Afghan soil not to be used by terrorists.

> The PM also recalled his deliberation at the UNSC last month. He said that India, during its Presidency of the UN Security Council, shaped **an important outcome document on Maritime Security.** The international community must speak in one voice to strengthen a rules-based world order. Oceans and their resources must be used, not abused. Oceans are also lifelines for international trade, and should be safeguarded from expansion and exclusion.

As the leading voice of the developing world, Prime Minister's address at the High-Level Segment of the 76th UNGA provided an opportunity to project India's views on a range of issues from Covid-19 and

vaccine equity, international terrorism, Afghanistan, international peace and security, reformed multilateralism and sustainable development.¹

Simultaneous Bilateral and Multilateral Engagements

First in-person Quad Leaders' Summit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the first in-person Quad Leaders' Summit in Washington D.C., USA. The summit was attended by the heads of the states of the rest of the partners : Prime Minister Scott Morrison of Australia, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga of Japan, and President Joseph Biden of the United States of America.
- **Strategic concerns on Afghanistan, South Asia and the Indo-Pacific:** The Leaders had a very useful exchange of views which reinforced the shared interests, values and underlying principles in which the Quad framework was anchored. The Leaders shared their respective perspectives **on Afghanistan and the regional situation in South Asia and the Indo-Pacific**. On Afghanistan, they agreed to deepen their cooperation in counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance and called on the Taliban to abide by **UN Security Council Resolution 2593**. The Leaders denounced the use of terrorist proxies and emphasized the importance of denying any logistical, financial or military support to terrorist groups which could be used to launch or plan terror attacks, including cross-border attacks.
- **Fostering the Covid-19 vaccine partnership:** The Quad Leaders took stock of progress made since their March 2021 Summit, especially the Covid-19 vaccine partnership. They welcomed Prime Minister Modi's announcement that India will start supplying India-made Covid 19 vaccines to the Indo-Pacific region with eight million doses, from October 2021. **With the objective of normalising international travel and ensuring predictability, the Prime Minister proposed common travel norms among countries and mutual recognition of vaccination certificates.**
- **Promotion of Green Energy:** The Leaders discussed affirmative actions towards climate change, decarbonization efforts in shipping and port operations, deployment of clean hydrogen technology, and the need for responsible and resilient clean energy supply chains. In this context, Prime Minister Modi proposed a **Global Green Hydrogen coalition**. The Leaders also launched a **Shipping Taskforce that will coordinate greening and decarbonizing the shipping value chain. Mumbai Port Trust will participate in this initiative along with ports from the other three Quad countries.**
- **Quad Principles on Technology Design, Development, Governance, and Use:** The Leaders issued the Quad Principles on Technology Design, Development, Governance, and Use that will guide not only the region but the world toward responsible, open, high-standards innovation. The principles taken into consideration are as follows:

>Partners are committed to **the development of critical and emerging technology that yields tangible benefits for society, developed through a multi-stakeholder approach that is adaptive, dynamic, and aligns with universal values, including respect for freedom of expression and privacy.**

> The quad partners support approaches to **technological design, development, governance, and usage that promote shared values, including the autonomy, agency, and dignity of individuals.**

¹https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/34328/Prime_Ministers_Address_at_the_UN_General_Assembly

- > The design, development, governance, and use of technology should be an **equitable and inclusive process** that neither involves nor results in unfair discriminatory action.
- > Technology should not be misused or abused for malicious activities such as authoritarian surveillance and oppression, for terrorist purposes, or to disseminate disinformation.
- > Technology ecosystems built upon trust, integrity, and resilience foster innovation.
- > **Resilient, diverse, and secure technology supply chains** – for hardware, software, and services – are vital to the shared national interests. Close cooperation on supply chains with allies and partners who share common values will enhance security and prosperity, and strengthen capacity to respond to international disasters and emergencies.²
- **Quad Infrastructure Coordination Group:** A Quad Infrastructure Coordination Group was launched to share assessments of regional infrastructure needs and coordinate approaches, technical assistance and capacity-building efforts,
- **Space Cooperation :** The Leaders also set up a space cooperation working group to exchange satellite data for monitoring and adapting to climate change, disaster preparedness, and responding to challenges in shared domains.³

Embracing Ties with the USA Under Biden Presidency

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had a warm and productive engagement with President of the United States of America Joseph R. Biden. This was the first in-person meeting of the two Leaders after President Biden assumed office in January 2021. The leaders took the opportunity to review the **India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership** and potential for strengthening bilateral cooperation further.
- The Prime Minister remarked that India and the USA were entering a decade of transformation, based on the pillars of tradition of democratic values, technology, trade, talent of the people, trusteeship of nature, and above all, trust.
- The leaders welcomed the forthcoming bilateral dialogues in various sectors, including the annual 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue of Foreign and Defense Ministers, which would identify priorities for future.
- The two leaders discussed the COVID-19 situation and ongoing India-US collaboration to contain the pandemic. In this context President Biden appreciated India's ongoing vaccination efforts, and our global outreach to provide Covid assistance.
- Recognising that there was immense scope for further enhancing bilateral trade, both leaders agreed that the next **Trade Policy Forum** would be convened later this year to identify measures which would boost commercial linkages. Under the **India-US Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030** Partnership, they agreed to accelerate clean energy development and deployment of critical technologies. Acknowledging the large Indian Diaspora in USA, Prime Minister also highlighted

²https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/34323/Quad_Principles_on_Technology_Design_Development_Governance_and_Use

³https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/34324/Prime_Ministers_participation_in_the_Quad_Leaders_Summit

the importance of people-to-people ties between the two nations and the mutual benefits of facilitating mobility and expanding higher education linkages.

- Prime Minister Modi welcomed U.S. leadership on climate action, including the return of the United States to the Paris Agreement. President Biden expressed support for Prime Minister Modi's intention to achieve a domestic goal of installing 450 GW of renewable power by 2030 and acknowledged the importance of mobilizing finance for investments in renewables, storage, and grid infrastructure that will guarantee clean, reliable power for millions of Indian households. **Through the two main tracks of the Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP) and the Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD) under the U.S.-India Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership, the United States and India will accelerate clean energy development and deployment of critical technologies to advance a clean energy transition. India welcomed the United States joining the Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT).**
- President Biden reaffirmed the strength of the defense relationship between the United States and India and the unwavering commitment to India as a Major Defense Partner through close defense engagements in information sharing, sharing of logistics and military-to-military interactions, strengthening cooperation in advanced military technologies, and expanding engagements in a multilateral framework including with regional partners. **The Leaders welcomed the deepening of advanced industrial cooperation. In this context, they noted the recent project to co-develop air-launched unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) under the Defense Technology and Trade Initiative, and encouraged more such joint efforts.**
- The Leaders reaffirmed that the **United States and India stand together in a shared fight against global terrorism, will take concerted action against all terrorist groups, including groups proscribed by the UNSCR 1267 Sanctions Committee, condemned cross-border terrorism, and called for the perpetrators of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks to be brought to justice.** They denounced any use of terrorist proxies and emphasized the importance of denying any logistical, financial or military support to terrorist groups which could be used to launch or plan terror attacks.
- The Leaders resolved that the **Taliban must abide by UNSC Resolution 2593 (2021)**, which demands that Afghan territory must never again be used to threaten or attack any country or to shelter or train terrorists, or to plan or finance terrorist attacks, and underscored the importance of combating terrorism in Afghanistan. The Leaders called on the Taliban to adhere to these and all other commitments, including regarding the safe, secure, and orderly departure from Afghanistan of Afghans and all foreign nationals and to respect the human rights of all Afghans, including women, children, and members of minority groups. They emphasized the importance of efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, called on the Taliban to allow full, safe, direct and unhindered access for the United Nations, its specialized agencies and implementing partners, and all humanitarian actors engaged in humanitarian relief activity, including with respect to internally displaced persons. Reflecting their long-term commitment to promoting development and economic opportunity for the Afghan people, they determined to continue to closely coordinate and to work jointly with partners toward an inclusive and peaceful future for all Afghans.
- The Leaders noted that the movement of highly skilled professionals, students, investors and business travelers between their countries enhances their economic and technological partnership. The Leaders highlighted the importance of resilient and secure supply chains between the two countries. The Leaders recognized the importance of critical and emerging technologies in

delivering economic growth and achieving strategic priorities. **They looked forward to reviving the High Technology Cooperation Group (HTCG) in early 2022, with the objective of accelerating high technology commerce in key areas.**⁴

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also visited Kamala Harris, Vice President of the United States of America, in Washington DC in person. During the meeting they exchanged views on recent global developments, including in Afghanistan and reaffirmed their commitment towards a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region. The two leaders discussed the COVID-19 situation in their respective countries, including ongoing efforts to contain the pandemic through expedited vaccination efforts, and ensuring supply of critical medicines, therapeutics and healthcare equipment.⁵

Bilateral Exchange with Japan

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met H.E. Mr. Suga Yoshihide, Prime Minister of Japan, in Washington DC on the sidelines of the Quad Leaders' Summit. He congratulated Prime Minister Suga for successfully hosting the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympic Games in the midst of a global pandemic. The two Prime Ministers reviewed the multi-faceted relationship between the two countries and exchanged views on recent global and regional developments, including in Afghanistan.

- They reaffirmed their commitment **towards a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region**. They agreed to enhance bilateral security and defence cooperation, including in the area of defence equipment and technologies.
- The two Prime Ministers welcomed the increasing economic engagement between the two countries. They welcomed the launch of the **Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) between India, Japan and Australia earlier this year as a collaborative mechanism to enable resilient, diversified and trustworthy supply chains**.
- Prime Minister Modi highlighted the need to develop bilateral partnerships in manufacturing, MSME and skill development. Prime Minister Suga informed Prime Minister Modi that in order to operationalize the **Specified Skilled workers (SSW) agreement** which was signed earlier this year, the Japanese side would be undertaking skill and language tests in India from early 2022.
- The two Prime Ministers **discussed the COVID-19 pandemic and efforts to address it**. They highlighted the increasing importance of digital technologies and in this regard positively evaluated the progress in the India-Japan Digital Partnership, especially in start-ups.
- They exchanged views on further collaboration in various emerging technologies. Discussions also took place on climate change issues and green energy transition, and the potential for Japanese collaboration with **India's National Hydrogen Energy Mission**.
- The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to advance efforts to facilitate the smooth and timely implementation of **the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) project**.

⁴https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/34320/USIndia_Joint_Leaders_Statement_A_Partnership_for_Global_Good_September_24_2021

⁵https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/34308/Meeting_between_Prime_Minister_Shri_Narendra_Modi_and_Vice_President_Kamala_Harris_of_the_USA

- The two leaders also welcomed the progress in bilateral developmental projects in India's North Eastern Region under **the India-Japan Act East Forum**, and noted possibilities for further enhancement of such cooperation.⁶

Interaction with the Australian PM and talks on Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi held a bilateral meeting with Australian Prime Minister Hon'ble Scott Morrison on the sidelines of the Quad Leaders' Summit in Washington DC. The last bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Morrison was the Leaders' Virtual Summit when the Strategic Partnership between India and Australia was elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

- During the meeting, the Prime Ministers discussed a broad range of issues of bilateral, regional and global importance. They noted with satisfaction the regular high-level engagements between the two countries, including the recently held first India-Australia Foreign and Defence Ministers' 2+2 Dialogue.
- They expressed satisfaction at the ongoing negotiations on a bilateral Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA). In that context, they welcomed the visit to India by former Australian Prime Minister Mr. Tony Abbott as PM Scott Morrison's Special Trade Envoy for India, and noted the commitment of both sides to achieve an early harvest announcement on an interim agreement by December 2021.
- The Prime Ministers underlined the need for the international community to address the issue of Climate Change on an urgent basis. In this regard, Prime Minister Modi highlighted the need for a broader dialogue on environment protection. Both leaders also discussed possibilities of providing clean technologies.
- The Prime Ministers agreed that as two vibrant democracies in the region, the two countries needed to work closer together to overcome the challenges in the post-pandemic world, inter alia to enhance supply chain resilience.⁷

Prime Minister's meeting with distinguished leaders

The Prime Minister interacted with several business leaders in the United States of America to foster stronger implementations of policies on board.

- He met Mr. Stephen Schwarzman, Chairman, CEO and Co-Founder of Blackstone. Mr. Schwarzman briefed the Prime Minister about Blackstone's ongoing projects in India, and their interest in further investments in the infrastructure and real estate sectors. Promising investment opportunities in India including those under National Infrastructure Pipeline and National Monetisation Pipeline were also discussed.⁸
- Prime Minister visited Mr. Vivek Lall, the Chief Executive of General Atomics Global Corporation. They spoke about strengthening the defence technology sector in India. Mr. Lall

⁶https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/34309/Meeting_between_Prime_Minister_Shri_Narendra_Modi_and_HE_Mr_SUGA_Yoshihide_Prime_Minister_of_Japan

⁷https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/34307/Prime_Ministers_meeting_with_Australian_Prime_Minister_Scott_Morrison_on_the_sidelines_of_the_Quad_Leaders_Summit

⁸https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/34306/Prime_Ministers_meeting_with_Mr_Stephen_Schwarzman_Chairman_CEO_and_CoFounder_of_Blackstone

appreciated the recent policy changes to accelerate defence and emerging technology manufacturing and augment capacity building in India.⁹

- Prime Minister interacted with Mr. Mark Widmar, CEO of First Solar. They talked about India's renewable energy landscape, particularly solar energy potential, and our target of 450 GW electricity generation from renewable sources by 2030. Discussions also took place about First Solar's interest in setting up manufacturing facilities in India using their unique thin-film technology by availing the recently launched Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme, as well integrating India into global supply chains.¹⁰
- Prime Minister talked to Mr. Shantanu Narayen, President and CEO of Adobe. They discussed Adobe's ongoing collaboration and future investment plans in India. Discussions also focused on India's flagship programme Digital India, and use of emerging technologies in sectors like health, education and R&D.¹¹
- Prime Minister spoke to Mr. Cristiano Amon, CEO of Qualcomm. During the meeting, they discussed investment opportunities offered in India's telecommunications and electronics sector. This included the recently launched Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) as well as developments in the semiconductor supply chain in India. Strategies for building the local innovation ecosystem in India were also discussed.¹²

The EAM's collaboration during the 76th UNGA

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar attended several side events during the 76th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) meeting with his global counterparts and held talks on various contemporary issues of global importance.

G4 Ministerial Meeting on UNSC Reform

- The Foreign Ministers of the G4 countries, H.E. Mr. Carlos Alberto Franco França, Foreign Minister of Brazil, H.E. Mr. Heiko Maas, Federal Foreign Minister of Germany, H.E. Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Minister for External Affairs of India, and H.E. Mr. Motegi Toshimitsu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan met during the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.
- The Ministers underlined **the urgency of reforming the Security Council** in order to make it more legitimate, effective and representative by reflecting the reality of the contemporary world including developing countries and major contributors. The G4 Ministers reviewed that the the Decision 75/569 and the commitment of all Heads of State and Government to "instil new life in

⁹https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/34305/Prime_Ministers_meeting_with_Mr_Vivek_Lall_Chief_Executive_of_General_Atomics_Global_Corporation

¹⁰https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/34304/Prime_Ministers_meeting_with_Mr_Mark_Widmar_CEO_of_First_Solar

¹¹https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/34303/Prime_Ministers_meeting_with_Mr_Shantanu_Narayan_President_and_CEO_of_Adobe

¹²https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/34302/Prime_Ministers_meeting_with_Mr_Cristiano_Amon_CEO_of_Qualcomm

the discussions on the reform of the Security Council”, as mentioned in the Declaration on the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations (A/RES/75/1).

- In this context, the Ministers also welcomed the readiness of the UN Secretary-General to provide necessary support, as expressed in his report "Our Common Agenda" of 10th September 2021. The Ministers further welcomed that the Elements Paper prepared by the Co-Chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) has evolved, with partial attributions of the positions and proposals of Member States.
- The G4 Ministers expressed their strong determination to work towards launching text-based negotiations without further delay in the IGN, on the basis of a single document, with a view to its adoption in the General Assembly.
- The G4 Ministers reaffirmed that it is indispensable to reform the Security Council through an expansion of both categories, permanent and non-permanent seats, to enable the Security Council to better deal with the ever-complex and evolving challenges to the maintenance of international peace and security, and thereby to carry out its duties more effectively. In this context, the Ministers expressed their strong support to the Common African Position (CAP) as enshrined in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration.¹³

G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Afghanistan and India's take on Afghan Situation

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has told the G20 nations that the Taliban's commitment not to allow the use of Afghanistan's soil for terrorism in any manner should be implemented. Jaishankar addressed the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Afghanistan while the 76th session at the UNGA was going on. He said that the International community must come together in response to humanitarian needs and assistance providers must be accorded unimpeded, unrestricted and direct access. He further stated that the world expects a broad-based inclusive process that involves representation from all sections of Afghan society. Jaishankar said the UN Security Council resolution 2593 on Afghanistan reflects global sentiment and India's engagement will be driven by its historical friendship with the Afghan people. The resolution, adopted under India's Presidency of the 15-nation Council in August, demanded that Afghan territory not be used to threaten or attack any country or to shelter or train terrorists, or to plan or to finance terrorist acts, and reiterated the importance of combating terrorism in Afghanistan, including those individuals and entities designated pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999), and noted the Taliban's relevant commitments.

New Nepali leadership attempts to balance with India

Nepal's new Foreign Minister Narayan Khadka in a meeting with EAM Dr S KJaishankar asserted that friendship with both neighbours, India and China, remains of "paramount importance" in the conduct of its foreign policy. He further mentioned that the government of Nepal led by Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba is committed to conduct the foreign policy on the basis of sovereign equality, mutual respect, and mutual benefit and remains engaged with all friendly countries in the wider international community. After the meeting External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar reciprocated by tweeting that the world's economic center of gravity is shifting decisively towards Asia, centered on the economic growth of China and India. At the same time, the world is becoming more complicated and polarised, with transnational challenges ranging from terrorism to climate change to food security to mass migration to political radicalism and extremism.

¹³ https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/34299/G4_Ministerial_Joint_Press_Statement

Sri Lanka and India discussing Post-Ethnic War Issues

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister G L Peiris spoke to Dr S Jaishankar about Sri Lanka's progress to address the post-ethnic war issues, including releasing LTTE prisoners and revisiting a controversial anti-terror law. The two leaders on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session. During the meeting with Peiris in New York, Jaishankar indicated the need for a fair and just resolution of residual issues in the aftermath of the ethnic issues is in the interest of both countries, the Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry said in a statement. He said that the Foreign Ministry, Defence Ministry and Justice Ministry were working collaboratively to address key issues, such as revisiting the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), releasing of LTTE prisoners, and empowering independent institutions such as the Office of Missing Persons, Office for Reparations, Office of National Unity and Reconciliation, the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka and the SDG Council.

Erdogan's Kashmir-reference and India's Cyprus retort

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan raked up the Kashmir issue during his address at the United Nations General Assembly, prompting India to pay back in kind and call for Turkey to respect the UNSC resolutions on Cyprus. Last year, too, he had made a reference to Kashmir in his pre-recorded speech at the UNGA. Hours after his remarks, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met his Cyprus counterpart Nikos Christodoulides and stressed the need for Turkey to respect and adhere to the UNSC resolutions on Cyprus.

- Apart from the above stated engagements the EAM Jaishankar also ,met with **Norwegian Foreign Minister Ine Eriksen Soereide** ahead of PM Modi's UNGA address.
- He also met with **UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss** and talked about the “**progress of Roadmap 2030.**” Jaishankar and Truss also talked about Afghanistan and the present situation in Indo-Pacific.
- Dr Jaishankar also met with his **Iraqi counterpart Fuad Hussein** and exchanged views on “historical ties, economic, energy and development cooperation linkages.”
- Dr S Jaishankar also discussed recent developments in the Indo-Pacific and Afghanistan crisis with **French foreign minister Jean-Yves Le Drian.**
- He discussed the evolving situation in Afghanistan with Minister for **Foreign Affairs of Finland Pekka Haavisto.**
- After his meeting with **Chile's Foreign Minister Andres Allamand**, Jaishankar tweeted about India's expanding economic engagement with Chile including on green energy.
- He also met the new **Tanzanian Foreign Minister Liberata Mulamula** and promised to work to advance development partnership and traditional political cooperation.
- He also held a bilateral meeting with **Japanese Foreign Minister Motegi** and appreciated his insights on Indo-Pacific and Afghanistan. Regarding the same issues he also spoke to the **German Foreign Minister Heiko Mass and Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne.**
- Jaishankar met **Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry** in the UN headquarters on the sidelines of the UNGA and exchanged views on the GERD issue and Afghanistan.
- He also met with his counterpart from **Indonesia Menteri Luar Negeri**, a key ASEAN partner and discussed regional developments.

Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla on Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

- Foreign Secretary addressed on the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons at the 76th United Nations General Assembly. He said that the High-Level Plenary meeting provided a valuable opportunity for the international community to reaffirm its commitment to global nuclear disarmament and to enhance public awareness about the objectives of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.
- He asserted that India is committed to the goal of universal, non-discriminatory, and verifiable nuclear disarmament, leading to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, consistent with the highest priority accorded to nuclear disarmament by the Final Document of the First Special Session of the UN General Assembly on Disarmament (SSOD-1).
- He highlighted that India believes that the goal of nuclear disarmament can be achieved through a step-by-step process, underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework that is global and non-discriminatory. **India's approach is outlined in our Working Paper submitted to the UNGA First Committee in 2006 and to the Conference on Disarmament in 2007, which has an enduring relevance.**
- **He talked about India's annual resolution in the UN General Assembly on the "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons" tabled since 1982** enjoys wide support of the membership and calls on the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations in order to reach agreement on an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances.
- He further argued that India, as a responsible nuclear weapon State, has a nuclear doctrine outlining credible minimum deterrence with the posture of no-first use and non-use against non-nuclear weapon States. India has played a leading role in global efforts towards nuclear disarmament. India was the first country to call for a ban on nuclear testing in 1954 and a non-discriminatory treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, as distinct from non-dissemination, in 1965.
- He concluded by saying that India is a key partner in the global non-proliferation efforts. One of the important steps undertaken by us in this context is the piloting of an annual UN General Assembly Resolution on "Measures to Prevent Terrorists from Acquiring Weapons of Mass Destruction" since 2002, which is adopted by consensus. The Security Council Resolution 1540 is an important instrument for global non-proliferation efforts. There is a need for the international community to pay closer attention to the illicit proliferation of networks of nuclear weapons, their delivery systems, components and relevant technologies.¹⁴

On India's bid for a permanent seat at the UN Security Council

Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla addressed the press after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech during the 76th session of the UN General Assembly where Shringla reiterated India's bid for a permanent seat at the UN Security Council. He mentioned that the United States President Joe Biden did say that India should have a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. Shringla said that besides the US, India has received support for its candidacy from many countries, including Quad partners. In the UNGA address, Portugal also supported India for the permanent seat in the UN Security Council.

¹⁴https://www.mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl/34333/Foreign_Secretarys_Address_at_the_UNSC_meeting_on_Nonproliferation_of_weapons_of_mass_destruction_Comprehensive_Nuclear_Test_Ban_Treaty

India's engagement at the 76th session of UNGA has proved again that india is not only a conventional leader of global south but at the same time it has emerged as a sensible global leader in the crisis of multilateralism which appeared at the dawn of covid19 pandemic. Under the strong leadership of PM Modi and the vision to march forward as the 'Vishwa Guru' India has raised several issues of global concern which other world leaders have forgotten to raise for years. India was not only vocal about its conventional foriuegn policy priorities but at the same time advocated for world concerns like nuclear disarmament, climate change, revived multilateralism, development, disaster risk reduction, management terrorism etc. That's how India tried to provide a realist version of peace by fostering ideals of democratic values as mentioned by our former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee that democracy is the best guarantor of peace and development.