

आ नो भद्राः क्रतवो यन्तु विश्वतः  
ऋग्वेद -1.89.

Let noble thoughts come to us from all directions in the universe.

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## Operation Dost in Türkiye and Syria



On 6th February, 2023 when two powerful earthquakes hit Syria and Türkiye, 3 truck load of relief materials were arranged at Hindon airbase consisting of life saving emergency medicines and protective items within 12 hours. The consignment consisted of 5,945-ton emergency relief material which included 27 life-saving medicines, two kinds of protective items and three categories of critical care equipments, valued at approximately Rs 2 crore.



On 10th February 2023, a bigger lot of relief materials was arranged for both Turkiye and Syria. The consignment for Syria consisted of 72 critical care drugs, consumables and protective items of 7.3 tons, valued at Rs 1.4 crore. Relief materials sent for Turkiye included 14 types of medical and critical care equipments, valued at Rs 4 crore.



The Indian disaster relief team, comprising 99 personnel of Indian Army Field Hospital and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) returned home on February 20 2023 after putting in a stupendous effort to provide medical relief to disaster victims in Hatya Province of Turkiye hit by earthquake. The effort has been applauded both at the National and International levels. The Indian Army Field Hospital has treated 3604 casualties, providing emergency medical care and performing 04 x major surgeries, 63 x minor surgeries, 343 minor procedures including 87 x POP applications for fixing fractures.



## India & EU Launch Trade and Technology Council



India and the EU announced on February 6 the establishment of the three Working Groups under the India-EU Trade and Technology Council and their Terms of Reference. TTC was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President of the European Commission H.E. Ms. Ursula von der Leyen during the latter's visit to India in April 2022.

The TTC is a strategic coordination mechanism that will allow both partners to tackle challenges at the nexus of trade, trusted technology and security, and thus deepen cooperation in these fields between India and the EU. The TTC with India is only the second such Council for the EU and the first such mechanism for India.

The TTC will be co-chaired on the Indian side by the Ministers for External Affairs; Commerce and Industry; and Communications, Electronics and Information Technology.

Under the TTC, the following three Working Groups have been established:

- i). Working Group on Strategic Technologies, Digital Governance and Digital Connectivity
- ii). Working Group on Green and Clean Energy Technologies
- iii). Working Group on Trade, Investment and Resilient Value Chains

## 1st G20 Finance Ministers Central Bank Governors Meeting



The 1st G20 FMCBG meeting under the G20 Indian Presidency saw the participation of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of the G20 members, invitee members and heads of International Organisations.

The Indian Presidency has designed the meeting agenda in a manner that can foster a meaningful exchange of ideas among Ministers and Governors on pragmatic and meaningful approaches to address some of the key global economic issues.

The discussions in the G20 FMCBG meeting are intended to provide a clear mandate for the various workstreams of the G20 Finance Track in 2023.

Addressing via video message the gathering, the Prime Minister underlined that this is the first Minister-level dialogue under India's G20 Presidency. Taking note of the challenges faced by the world in the present day, the Prime Minister said that the participants are representing the leadership of global finance and economy at a time when the world is facing serious economic difficulties. The Prime Minister gave examples of covid pandemic and its after-effects on the global economy, rising geopolitical tensions, disruptions in global supply chains, rising prices, food and energy security, unsustainable debt levels affecting the viability of many countries, and the erosion of trust in international financial institutions due to their inability to reform quickly. Shri Modi pointed out that it is now up to the custodians of the leading economies and monetary systems of the world to bring back stability, confidence and growth to the global economy.

## India expects the FTA with EU to be a 'game-changer': Mr. S. Jaishankar



India expects its proposed free trade agreement (FTA) with the European Union (EU) to be a 'game-changer' and is looking forward to a mutually advantageous conclusion to the negotiation process for the pact within a 'short-planned timeline,' External Affairs Minister Mr. S Jaishankar said. While addressing an event at the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), he also said that Europe and India can strengthen each other's strategic autonomy by reducing dependencies, cooperating on critical technologies, and ensuring supply-chain restructuring.

The External Affairs Minister asserted that the new approach of India to trade agreements addresses issues of non-tariff and behind-the-border barriers, quality standards, and related benchmarks.

He added that by reducing their mutual reliance on one another, working together on key technologies, and assuring supply-chain restructuring, Europe and India can enhance their respective strategic autonomy. Therefore, the India-EU FTA is a very crucial goal for the country. The recently unveiled Trade and Technology Council (TTC) will provide the structure and strategic guidance to the partnership between the two sides. The TTC with India is the European Union's second such technology partnership after the first one with the United States which was firmed up in June 2021.

## Government is working to make India a global automobile manufacturing hub: Mr. Nitin Gadkari



Mr. Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways stated that the government is working towards making India a global automobile manufacturing hub and the domestic industry is expected to be worth US\$ 180 billion (Rs. 15 lakh crore) in the near term. He was speaking at the virtual inauguration of Tata Motor's vehicle scrapping facility in Jaipur.

The Minister said the automobile sector currently contributes to 7.1% of the nation's gross domestic product (GDP) with the industry size at around US\$ 94 billion (Rs. 7.8 lakh crore).

He also noted that approximately 4 crore people are employed directly or indirectly in the auto industry, and by 2025, it is anticipated that this figure will increase to 5 crores.

Mr. Nitin Gadkari highlighted the scrappage policy which enables the removal of older and unfit vehicles and the introduction of new lesser polluting vehicles in a phased manner. It has been estimated that the automotive demand generated by the scrapping policy will lead to an additional good and services tax (GST) revenue of US\$ 4.83 billion (Rs. 40,000 crores) to the government and the raw material cost for new cars will go down by 30%.

## India sets a target of 5 MMT annual green hydrogen production by 2030



Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, the Union Finance Minister, has announced India's target of green hydrogen to reach an annual production of 5 million metric tonnes (MMT) by 2030, while presenting the Budget 2023 in the parliament. She also said that India is moving forward firmly for the 'panchamrit' and net-zero carbon emissions by 2070 to help in the green industrial and economic transition.

She stated that the National Green Hydrogen Mission will facilitate the transition of the economy to low carbon intensity and reduce dependence on fossil fuel imports. Furthermore, she proposed an allocation of US\$ 4.29 billion (Rs. 35,000 crores) for priority capital investments towards energy transition and net zero objectives and energy security. She stated that a 'Prime Minister's Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment, And Amelioration of Mother Earth' will be launched to incentivize States and Union Territories to promote alternative fertilizers and balanced use of chemical fertilizers.

## President of India inaugurates International Engineering and Technology Fair 2023



The President of India, Ms. Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the International Engineering and Technology Fair (IETF) 2023 in New Delhi.

Speaking at the event, the President said that this year's celebration of India's engineering and manufacturing sector growth also serves as a testimony of the country's partnerships with the world's leading providers of cutting-edge technologies.

**The President said “India has advanced significantly in the 48 years since the founding of the IETF and that the country's engineering sector has reached new heights during this time. Recent policy decisions have fuelled an unparalleled level of inclusive growth. Rapid economic digitization and social acceptance of this change have unlocked enormous potential and opened up new avenues for rapid growth”.**



## Belgo-Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry New Year Reception



Belgo-Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BICC&I) hosted its New Year reception at the Chancery's premises. BICC&I members, Ambassador Santosh Jha and business and industry leaders had a lively interaction on India-Belgium trade relations and India's appeal as a favoured business destination.

Ambassador invited Belgian businesses to be a part of the story of India's rapid economic growth and development. BICC&I Chairman Baron Philippe Vlerick stressed on the vibrant India-Belgium trade ties.

## Ambassador's interaction with young EU diplomats of the European Diplomatic Academy



Ambassador Santosh Jha spoke to young EU diplomats European Diplomatic Academy on India's role in the world & multifaceted India-EU relations. Ambassador thanked Rector Federica Mogherini and the policymakers of the future for an engaging conversation.



## International Year of Millets 2023 – Deputy Chief of Mission meets Mr Nickels from the Ministry of the Economy of Luxembourg



To celebrate UN International Year of Millets 2023, gift boxes of delicious & healthy Indian millet snacks were sent by Ambassador to friends in the EU and Belgium. Indian millet products are an excellent combination of great taste, nutrition & sustainable diet.

Deputy Chief of Mission Mr. Debasish Prusty had a fruitful meeting with Mr Patrick Nickels of the Ministry of the Economy of Luxembourg and discussed the growing India-Luxembourg trade relations. DCM presented Mr Nickels with Indian Millets based products and briefed him about the climate and health benefits of Millets.

**RICH IN HERITAGE,  
FULL OF POTENTIAL.**



## Visit India at Brussels Expo



Visitors at the India stall at the Salon des Vacances were treated to a special yoga session. At Brussels Expo, visitors got to know more about mesmerizing North East India and Paradise Unexplored.

**Incredible India**  
[www.incredibleindia.org](http://www.incredibleindia.org)

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