

आ नो भद्राः क्रतवो यन्तु विश्वतः
ऋग्वेद -1.89.

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

Vol. 28, March 2023

G20 Foreign Minister's Meetings in New Delhi, 1-2 March 2023



The Indian Presidency hosted the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in two very productive sessions, which covered various dimensions of international cooperation. The meeting saw participation from all the G20 countries and the nine guest countries along with 13 international organizations.

The meeting began with a virtual address by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in which he offered strong guidance on what the Foreign Ministers should do at the meeting. To sum up what the Prime Minister said during the address, there were five important points.

The key takeaways from the Outcome Document and discussions include the strong sentiment which G20 countries expressed on the need to strengthen multilateralism in the context of the dramatic changes in the global order. The G20 recognized in the context of the UN, the essentiality of reforms and the need for reinvigorated multilateralism. Two, the important principles of international development cooperation, such as host country ownership, equal partnerships, tailoring such cooperation efforts with local needs, these were some aspects highlighted by the G20. They also touched upon the need for the Multilateral Development Banks to mobilize additional financing and welcomed efforts to provide additional financing for Sustainable Development Goals.



President of India's Greetings on the Eve of Holi



The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu has conveyed her greetings to her fellow citizens on the eve of Holi.

In a message, the President has said, "On the auspicious occasion of Holi, I extend my greetings and best wishes to all Indians living in India and abroad.

The Festival of Holi symbolizes the vibrant colours and spirit of tolerance in our diverse society. This festival of joy is an opportunity to further promote goodwill and harmony among people. I wish that this unique festival of colours strengthens the feelings of love and brotherhood among all.

On this delightful occasion, let us pledge to work together for the progress and prosperity of our society and nation".

PM inaugurates the Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference



The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference in New Delhi on 18 March.

Based on India's proposal, the year 2023 was declared as the International Year of Millets (IYM) by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). Also, in line with the Prime Minister's vision to make the celebrations of IYM 2023 a 'people's movement' and position India as the 'global hub for millets', all central government ministries/departments, states/UTs, farmers, start-ups, exporters, retail businesses and other stakeholders, are being engaged to promote and spread awareness about the benefits of millets (Shree Anna) for the cultivator, consumer and climate.

The two-day global conference held sessions on all important issues related to millets (Shree Anna) like promotion and awareness of millets among producers, consumers and other stakeholders; millets' value chain development; health and nutritional aspects of millets; market linkages; research and development etc. The conference was attended by Agriculture Ministers of various countries, international scientists, nutritionists, health experts, start-up leaders and other stakeholders.



Quad Foreign Minister's Meeting



The Foreign Ministers of Australia, India and Japan and the Secretary of State of the United States of America met in New Delhi, India on 03 March 2023, for the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting. The meeting reaffirmed the Quad's steadfast commitment to supporting a free and open Indo-Pacific, which is inclusive and resilient. They strongly supported the principles of freedom, rule of law, sovereignty and territorial integrity, peaceful settlement of disputes without resorting to threat or use of force and freedom of navigation and overflight, and oppose any unilateral attempt to change the status quo, all of which are essential to the peace, stability and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.

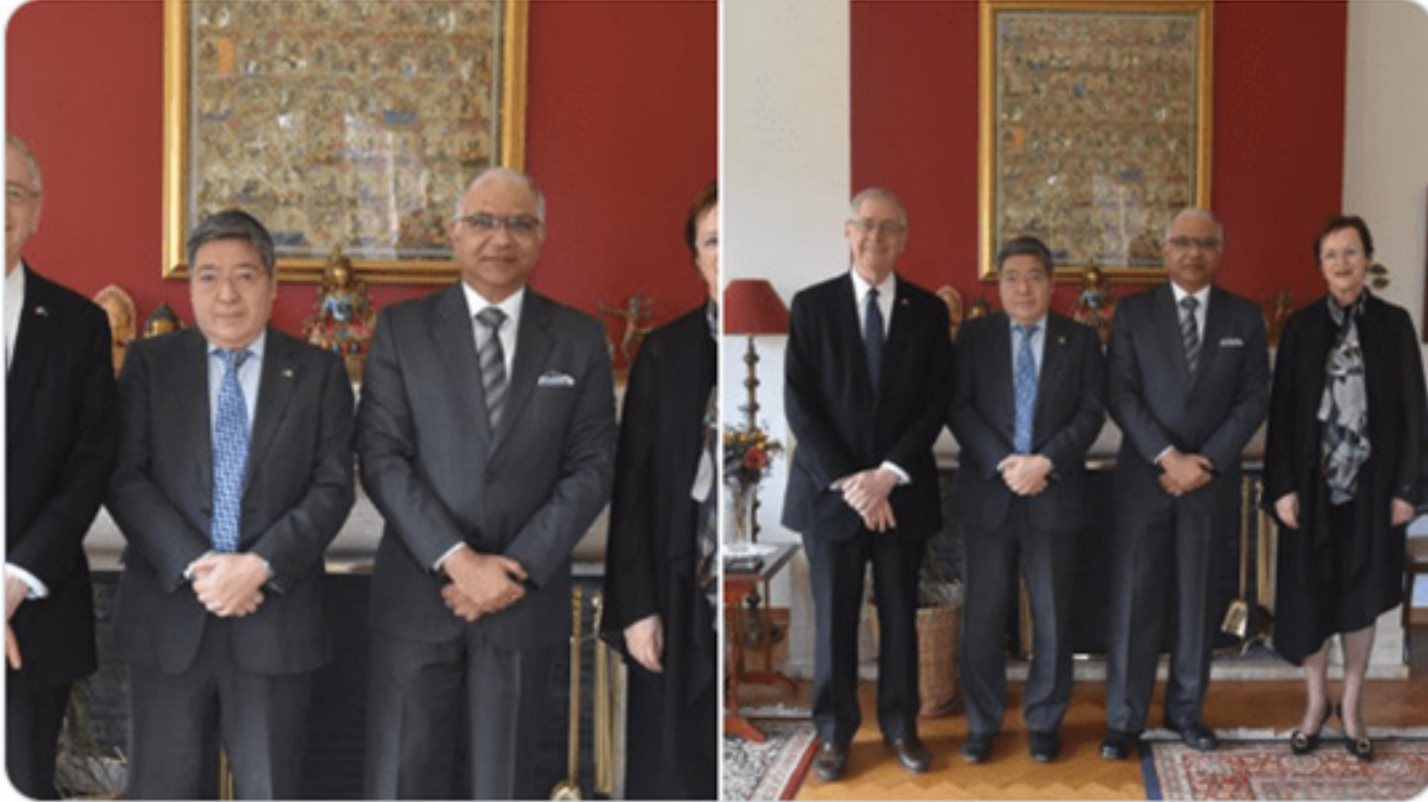


India in Belgium

@IndEmbassyBru

India government organization

Ambassador @santjha was delighted to host Quad Ambassadors - Ambassador Yasushi Masaki @yasushi_m_Japon, Ambassador Caroline Millar @AustraliaEU, and Ambassador Mark Gitenstein @USAmbEU for a cordial and useful discussion at his residence in Brussels



6:44 PM · Apr 13, 2023 · 786 Views

ASEAN-India and EAS Senior Officials' Meeting in Jakarta



Secretary (East), Shri Saurabh Kumar undertook a visit to Jakarta from 7-8 March 2023 to attend the annual ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting (AISOM) and East Asia Summit Senior Officials' Meeting (EAS SOM).

The Meeting discussed strengthening of the Leaders-led EAS platform, implementation of AOIP, and regional and international issues including the developments in South China Sea, Korean Peninsula, Myanmar and Ukraine. Secretary(East) in his intervention underlined the key role played by EAS as a leading mechanism for peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific. He noted the strong convergence between Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative and ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific and expressed support for Indonesia's initiative of Indo-Pacific Forum and EAS Workshop on Coastal Economy.

During the visit, Secretary (East) also had bilateral meetings with his counterparts on the sidelines of the SOM meetings. Overall, Secretary (East)'s visit to Indonesia was fruitful and strengthened India's bilateral and multilateral engagements in the Indo-Pacific.

Several steps have been taken to boost the Indian tea industry, address emerging challenges, and create a global brand



India has taken several steps to boost the output, create a niche brand for Indian tea and ensure the welfare of the families associated with the tea industry. With an output of around 1,350 million kilogrammes, India is the world's second-largest producer of black tea and is self-sufficient to fulfil its domestic needs as well as its export responsibilities. Around 18% of the world's total tea usage comes from India, which is also the biggest consumer of black tea and is the fourth-largest exporter of tea to a variety of countries.

Almost 2.30 lakh small tea growers are currently involved in the supply network. The government of India through the Tea Board has helped in the formation of 352 self-help groups (SHGs), 440 farmer producer organisations (FPO) and 17 farmer producer companies (FPCs).

Despite numerous geopolitical, geoeconomic, and logistical difficulties, it is anticipated that Indian tea exports will surpass 95% of the US\$ 883 million goals set during 2022–23.

Government will bring retail trade policy to promote ease of doing business



Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is working to bring a national retail trade policy for brick-and-mortar retail traders with an aim to promote ease of doing business. Additionally, the policy will also help in providing better infrastructure and more credit to the traders. The Department is also working to bring an e-commerce policy for online retailers. In addition, the department is in the process of drawing up an insurance scheme for all the retail traders, which would particularly help the small traders of the country.

India's overall exports cross an all-time high of US\$ 750 Billion



India's merchandise and services exports are expected to exceed US\$ 760 billion in the previous fiscal year that ended on March 31, 2023. Speaking at the ASSOCHAM Annual Session 2023, Mr. Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Government of India noted that despite the global economic downturn, rising inflation, and high-interest rates, India is doing well. He also added how exports increased from US\$ 500 billion in 2020-21 to US\$ 676 billion in 2021-22. India is becoming more cost-competitive due to a number of government initiatives, including PM Gati Shakti, massive investments in infrastructure and logistics and technology innovation. The Minister also stated that the Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with the UAE and Australia have been well received by the industry.

PLI scheme incentivises the use of millets in Ready to Cook/Ready to Eat (RTC/RTE) products



In order to promote the use of millets in Ready to Cook/Ready to Eat (RTC/RTE) products and to incentivize these products for promoting their value addition and sales, a component for millet-based products with an outlay of US\$ 96.9 million (Rs. 800 crores) was carved out under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for food products being implemented by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) since 2021–22. 30 applications in total, 22 SMEs and eight large entities were accepted under this segment. The packaged and branded RTC/RTE food products with more than 15% of millets by weight/volume in the product composition are qualified for claiming the incentives under the PLI Scheme component for Millet Based Products.

Fourth Round of India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA)



The fourth round of India-EU Free Trade Agreement was held in Brussels, Belgium from 13-17 March, 2023. The round was concluded in a positive note after several meetings and productive conversations. The next round has been planned in June, 2023 in India.

Promotion of 'Make In India' in Luxembourg



An event titled "New India, Growing India: What Luxembourg could offer and gain in the Partnership" was organised by the Embassy in collaboration with Indian Business Chamber of Luxembourg. The event was aimed at highlighting the tremendous

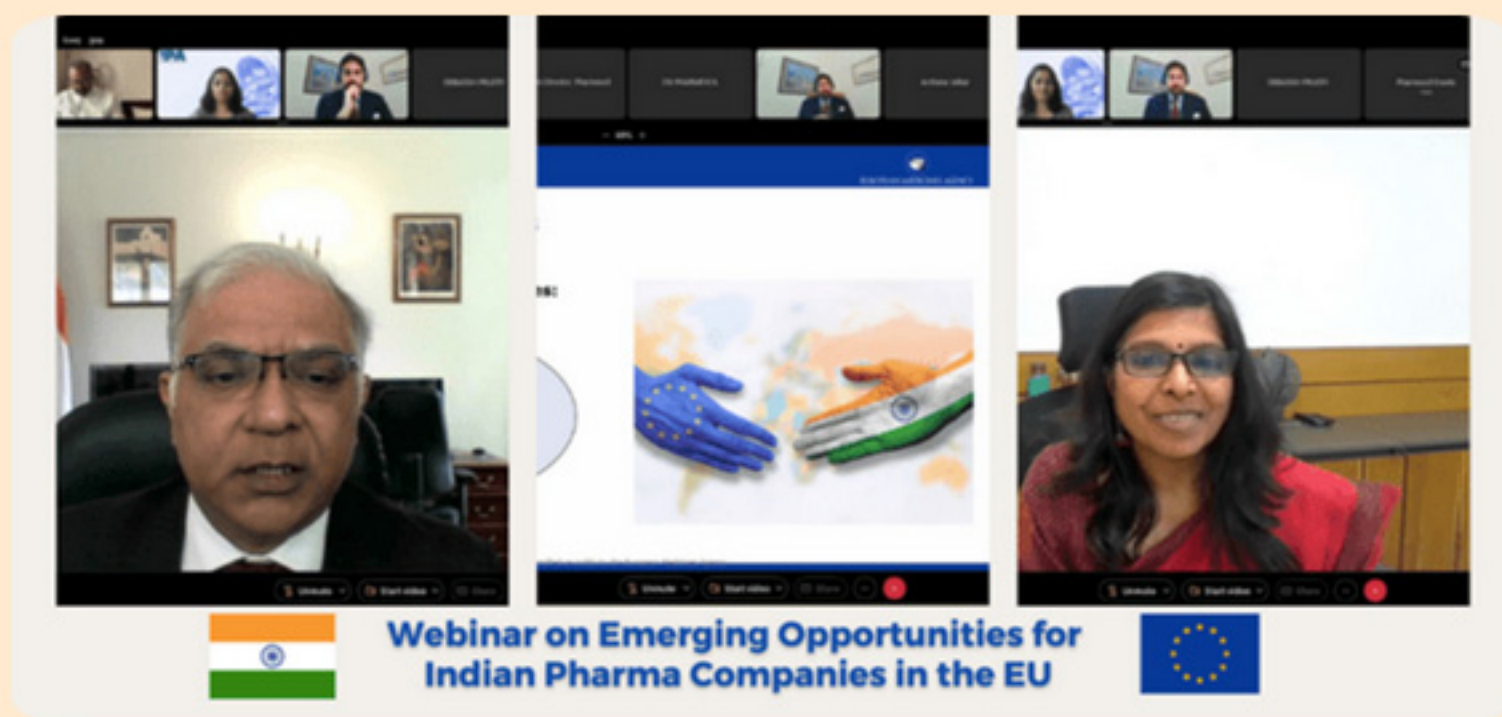
improvements in creating a positive business environment in India in the last few years and the potential in trade relations between India and Luxembourg by focusing on experiences of Arcerol-Mittal in acquiring new businesses in India, Paul Wurth in operating in India for the past 3 decades and of B Medical Systems in establishing a new business. Key note for the event was delivered by H.E. Mr. Franz Fayot, Minister of the Economy of Grand -Duchy of Luxembourg.

75 Years of India-Luxembourg Friendship



Release of a joint commemorative postage stamp to mark '75 Years of India-Luxembourg Friendship'. The stamp celebrates the artistic legacy of Padma Bhushan Amar Nath Sehgal & his contributions to strengthening the bond between India and Luxembourg.

Webinar on Emerging Opportunities for Indian Pharma Companies in the EU



A webinar on Emerging Opportunities for Indian Pharma Companies in the EU was organised by the Embassy in collaboration with Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (PHARMEXCIL) under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. Ambassador Shri Santosh Jha addressed the webinar and emphasised significant opportunities for Indian pharma business in the EU. The webinar was attended by more than 130 pharma entrepreneurs and professionals. The discussions were focused on developments, trends and potential for collaboration in strengthening the supply chain.

Ambassador attends Gudi Padwa by the Belgium Marathi Mandal



Ambassador Santosh Jha wished a prosperous year ahead while attending a function to commemorate 'Gudi Padwa' organised by the Belgium Marathi Mandal. Ambassador underlined that Indian community are the real ambassadors of Indian culture and symbol of Indian traditions & Unity in Diversity.

Kangra Tea Receives GI Status in the EU



Kangra Tea receives Protected GI status in the EU and becomes second Indian product recognised with GI status. EU Commissioner for Agriculture Janusz Wojciechowski handed over the GI certificate to Ambassador Santosh Jha.

To protect the names of specific products to promote their unique characteristics, linked to their geographical origin as well as traditional know-how, product names can be granted a 'geographical indication' (GI) if they have a specific link to the place where they are made.

Deputy Chief of Mission addresses Students at the VUB



Chargé d'affaires Debashish Prusty addressed students of the VUB University on business environment and opportunities in India, highlighting investment opportunities in renewables, green Hydrogen and the startup ecosystem in India.