

आ नो भद्राः क्रतवो यन्तु विश्वतः
ऋग्वेद -1.89.

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

Vol. 17, April 2022

Visit of the President of the European Commission to India



President of the European Commission, H.E. Ms. Ursula Von Der Leyen was on an official visit to India from 24-25 April 2022. This was her first visit to India as the President of the European Commission and was taking place as India and the EU are commemorating the 60th anniversary of diplomatic ties this year. President Von Der Leyen was the Chief Guest at this year's Raisina Dialogue, where she delivered the inaugural address in the presence of Prime Minister.

President Von Der Leyen met with Prime Minister Modi, called on President Ram Nath Kovind and also had a meeting with External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar. She paid homage to the Father of the Nation at Rajghat.

During the bilateral talks, both sides reviewed the progress in implementing the India-EU Roadmap 2025 and the outcomes of the India-EU Leaders' Meeting in May 2021. They welcomed the recent decision to formally restart negotiations on India-EU Trade and Investment Agreements by June 2022. Both sides expressed hope in the early

conclusion of negotiations for unlocking the full potential of bilateral trade and economic relations. They noted the strong synergies between India-EU Connectivity Partnership announced last year and EU's new Global Gateway strategy and agreed to fast-track its implementation.

Emphasizing the need for closer cooperation on strategic aspects of emerging technologies and building trusted partnerships, Prime Minister Modi and President Von Der Leyen announced the establishment of an India-EU Trade and Technology Council. This new mechanism will bring about high-level coordination on the intersecting aspects of trade, technology and security and provide the political steer needed for in-depth strategic engagement.

They appreciated the ongoing cooperation in the digital sector including in areas such as Artificial Intelligence & 5G and welcomed the finalization of the Letter of Intent on High Performance Computing in COVID-19 drug research and climate modeling.

Both sides noted the increasing policy convergences on Indo-Pacific and exchanged views on other regional and global issues of mutual interest including cooperation in WTO, G20, Afghanistan and Myanmar.

Both sides expressed concern on the humanitarian situation in Ukraine and called for an immediate end to violence. Prime Minister Modi stressed the importance of giving peace a chance and the need to return to dialogue and diplomacy as the only way to achieve peace.

Prime Minister Modi and President Von Der Leyen also discussed the strong co-operation on climate and clean energy between the two sides. Prime Minister invited EU's increased participation in the green energy sector in India with a focus on green hydrogen. Earlier during the visit, on 24 April, President Von Der Leyen visited TERI Gram (The Energy and Resources Institute) and the Secretariat of International Solar Alliance (ISA), in Gurugram.

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi held talk with President of the European Commission, Ursula Von der Leyen in New Delhi



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi received Her Excellency Ms. Ursula Von der Leyen, President of the European Commission on 25th April 2022. Prime Minister thanked the European Commission President for consenting to deliver the inaugural address at the Raisina Dialogue this year, and said that he looked forward to hearing her address.

The leaders agreed that as large and vibrant democratic societies, India and Europe share similar values and a commonality of perspectives on many global issues.

They reviewed the progress in the India-EU Strategic Partnership, including the forthcoming re-commencement of negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement and Investment Agreement. It was agreed to institute a high-level Trade & Technology Commission to provide political-level oversight of all aspects of the India-EU relationship, and to ensure coordination between different areas of cooperation.

The leaders had an extensive discussion on climate related issues, including on possibilities of collaboration between India and the EU in areas like Green Hydrogen. They also discussed the continuing challenges of COVID-19 and stressed efforts to ensure equitable access to vaccines and therapeutics to all parts of the world.

In addition, several geo-political issues of topical importance were discussed during the meeting, including the situation in Ukraine and developments in the Indo-Pacific region.

India-EU: Launching the Trade and Technology Council



Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi and President of the European Commission Ms Ursula von der Leyen agreed to launch the India-EU Trade and Technology Council at their meeting in New Delhi on Monday, 25 April 2022. This strategic coordination mechanism will allow both partners to tackle challenges at the nexus of trade, trusted technology and security, and thus deepen cooperation in these fields between the EU and India.

Both sides agreed that rapid changes in the geopolitical environment highlight the need for joint in-depth strategic engagement. The Trade and Technology Council will provide the political steer and the necessary structure to operationalise political decisions, coordinate technical work, and report to the political level to ensure implementation and follow-up in areas that are important for the sustainable progress of Indian and European economies.

Even as both sides celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, both sides are confident that the shared values and common interests of India and the EU offer a strong basis to intensify mutually beneficial and deepen strategic cooperation. India and the EU are bound by decades of close partnership and are determined to increase joint efforts to tackle current challenges and address geopolitical circumstances.

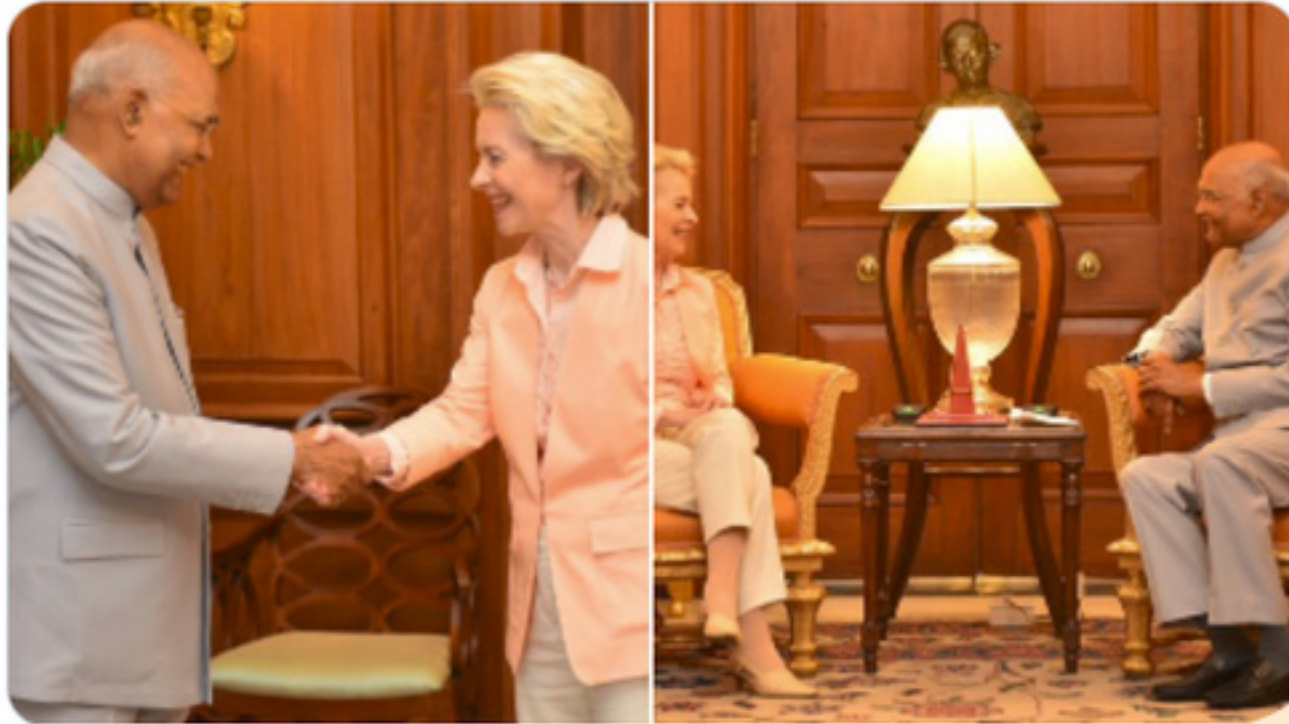
The decision to set up a Trade and Technology Council will be the first for India with any of its partners and second for the EU following the first one it has set up with the US. Establishing the India-EU Trade and Technology Council is a key step towards a strengthened strategic partnership for the benefit of all peoples in India and the EU.



President of India ✓ @rashtrapatibhvn · Apr 25

President of the European Commission @vonderleyen called on President Ram Nath Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

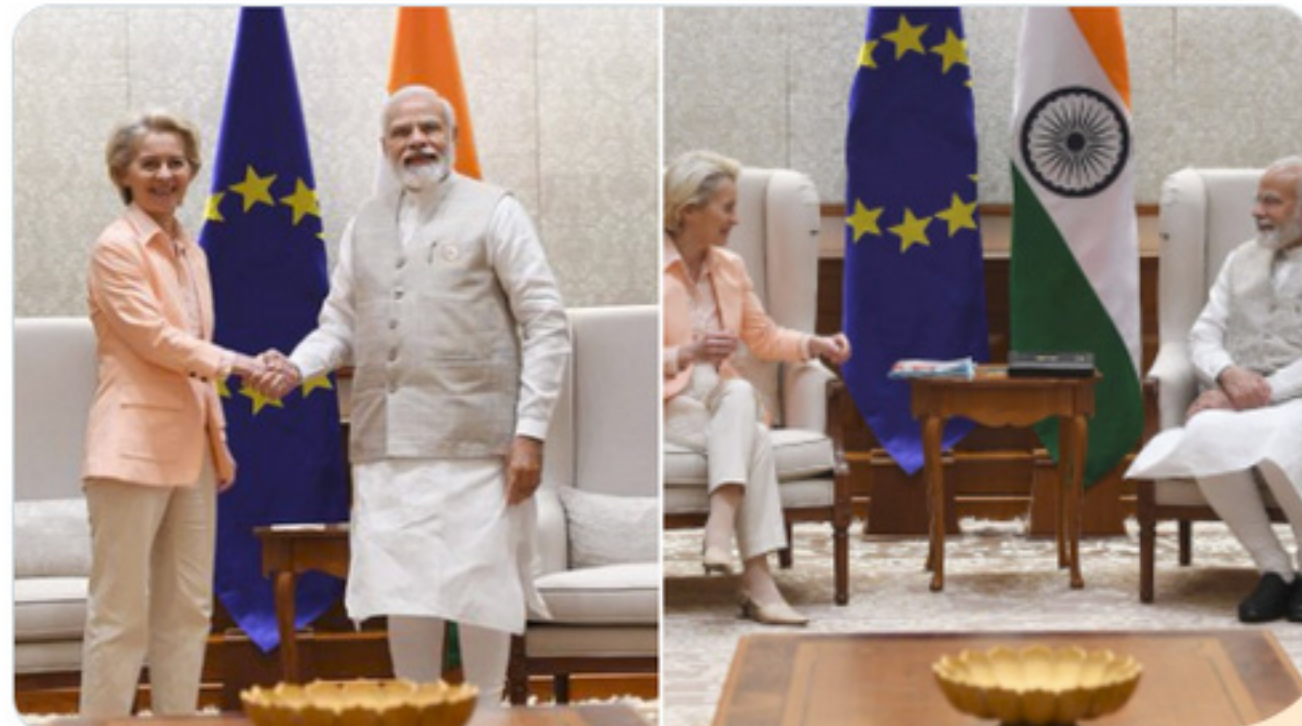
Both leaders discussed broadening of India-EU partnership in political and strategic areas as well as trade, economy, climate, sustainability & digital connectivity.



Arindam Bagchi ✓ @MEAIndia · Apr 25

PM @narendramodi held talks with @EU_Commission President @vonderleyen in New Delhi today.

They reviewed progress in the vibrant India-EU Strategic Partnership & agreed to deepen cooperation in areas of trade, climate, digital technology and people-to-people ties.



India-Australia sign trade pact bilateral trade to reach \$45 bn in 5 years



In April 2022, India and Australia signed an economic cooperation and trade agreement (ECTA) under which Canberra will grant duty-free access to over 95% of tariff lines in its market, including textiles, leather, furniture, jewelry, machinery, and some medical items. The agreement will take four months to implement. After more than a decade, India has finally struck a trade pact with a developed economy.

In the current fiscal year, Australia is India's 17th largest trading partner, and India is Australia's 9th largest trading partner. In five years, bilateral trade in products and services between the two countries is predicted to increase from US\$ 27.5 billion to US\$ 45 billion. India's offer comprises immediate duty removal on 40% of its tariff lines, which account for 85% of Australia's value-added exports to India, as well as the elimination or reduction of tariffs over a 3,5,7, or 10-year period on the remaining 30.3% of its tariff lines.

In the services industry, India benefits from reciprocal post-study work visas for Indian students of two to four years, as well as work and holiday visa arrangements for young professionals. "Post study work visas will provide extended options for working in Australia to eligible Indian graduates, post graduates and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) specialists," said Mr. Piyush Goyal Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles.

(Source: IBEF: April 4, 2022)

Visit of India's Commerce Secretary delegation to Brussels



A delegation led by Commerce Secretary BVR Subrahmanyam came to Brussels on 7-8 April 2022 to hold FTA discussions with EU DG Trade Sabine Weyand along with chief negotiators from India and EU. Talks were successfully held on the FTA, IPA, GIA, market access, and WTO issues. The two sides finalised the next steps in moving ahead with formal negotiations and accelerate the process of achieving a mutually-beneficial India-EU FTA.

India Week 2022 celebrations by the Embassy of India Brussels

Ambassador visit to the University of Liege

H.E. Ambassador Santosh Jha spoke on recent trends in Indian Foreign Policy, joined by Rector Pierre Wolper and Professor Christian Behrendt at the University of Liege. An opportunity to have an engaging interaction with bright young minds on India.





Flanders Investment and Trade Mission to India visit the Embassy of India Brussels, 9 April 2022

A trade interaction and networking event was held at the Embassy of India in Brussels in collaboration with Flanders Investment & Trade (FIT). The FIT Mission to New Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru were presented with an overview on India business environment by Adviser (Industry & Engineering) and First Secretary (Commerce).

Mr. Bart Van den Bossche, Area Manager Central & Southern Asia, FIT gave a brief of the Mission program in India, followed by a discussion by the delegates on their expectations of the trip.



Cultural show 'Sitara' by Bollylicious at Wolubilis, 29 April 2022

Embassy of India Brussels organized a special show 'Sitara' by Belgian dance troupe Bollylicious at Wolubilis Brussels.



A special video message by Mrs. Meenakashi Lekhi on India@75 and 75 years of Indo-Belgian diplomatic ties was also screened before the show.



Celebrating India@75 and 75 years of Indo-Belgian diplomatic ties

H.E. Ambassador Santosh Jha and Mrs. Tanuja Jha felicitated the artists from Bollylicious among thunderous applause from the audience including diplomats, Indian Diaspora and friends of India in Belgium.



Embassy of India Brussels paid homage to gallant Indian Soldiers for their supreme sacrifice in World Wars across 28 memorials in Belgium from 26-29 April 2022



India in Belgium ✓ @IndEmbassyBru · Apr 30

Celebrating

#IndiaAt75

75 yrs of 🇮🇳🇧🇪 diplomatic ties.

@Indembassybru paid homage to gallant Indian soldiers for their supreme sacrifice in World Wars across 28 memorials in Belgium from 26-29 April.

@IndianDiplomacy

@MEAIndia

@santjha

@DDIndialive

@PIB_India



India in Belgium ✓ @IndEmbassyBru · Apr 30

Spl thanks to Mr Peter Slosse Head of Tourism, Ieper, Mr René Declerck, Chairman Ieper Veteran Asso., Mr Gaert Bekaert, Director CWGC, Mr Manuel da Conceicao Lima Local Commander of Tournai, Pierre Bauters President of Patriotic Asso. Tournai & friends from media & civil society.



Embassy of India Brussels' participation in book launch by Department of Indian Languages and Cultures in Ghent



India in Belgium ✓ @IndEmbassyBru · Apr 29

Celebrating

#IndiaAT75

75 yrs 🇮🇳🇧🇪 ties.

@IndEmbassyBru participated in book launch by Department of Indian Languages and Cultures @GentIndia. Text on Classical Sanskrit Grammar coauthored by Dr. Eva & Dr. Gerris launched in presence of Indologists & students.

@santjha

@iccr_hq



Perspective' organized by the Embassy of India Brussels, KU Leuven and IH Leuven



India in Belgium ✓ @IndEmbassyBru · Apr 22

Celebrating

#AzadiKaAmritMahotsav

@IndembBrussels, @KU_Leuven & @IHLeuvenNL organised a Lecture on "Belgo-India Relations in Historical and Contemporary Perspective" as part of #IndiaAt75

& 75 years of 🇮🇳🇧🇪 diplomatic ties celebrations.

@santjha

@IndianDiplomacy

@iccr_hq



**Floral Tribute to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar on his Birth Anniversary at the
Embassy of India Brussels, 14 April 2022**

