

आ नो भद्राः क्रतवो यन्तु विश्वतः  
ऋग्वेद -1.89.

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

Vol. 26, January 2023

### 74th Republic Day Celebration in New Delhi



Republic Day marks the adoption of India's constitution and the country's transition to a republic on January 26, 1950. Every year, the celebrations marking the day feature spectacular military and cultural pageantry. In New Delhi, armed forces personnel march along the Kartavya path in an elaborate display of military might. The epic show on Kartavya path eclipses everything else happening across the country on this auspicious day.





This year, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi invited President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Mr. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi as the Chief Guest on India's 74th Republic Day as part of his State visit to India from 24-26 January 2023. Egypt has also been invited as a 'Guest Country' during India's Presidency of G-20 in 2022-23.





## Glimpses of Embassy of India's Celebration of Republic Day

The 74th Republic Day was celebrated at the Chancery's premises on January 26, 2023. Ambassador Santosh Jha unfurled the national flag and read out the address of the Hon'ble President of India to the nation. It was followed by enthralling cultural performances.





In the evening Mission held a reception at Hotel Steigenberger Wiltcher's. Ambassador addressed the gathering which included guests from the Government of Belgium, the European Union institutions, diplomatic corps in Brussels, members of business community and Indian Diaspora. Cultural performances including vocal rendition of Vande Mataram, a medley of folk and classical instruments and performance of dance forms from different parts of India portrayed India's vibrancy and diversity.





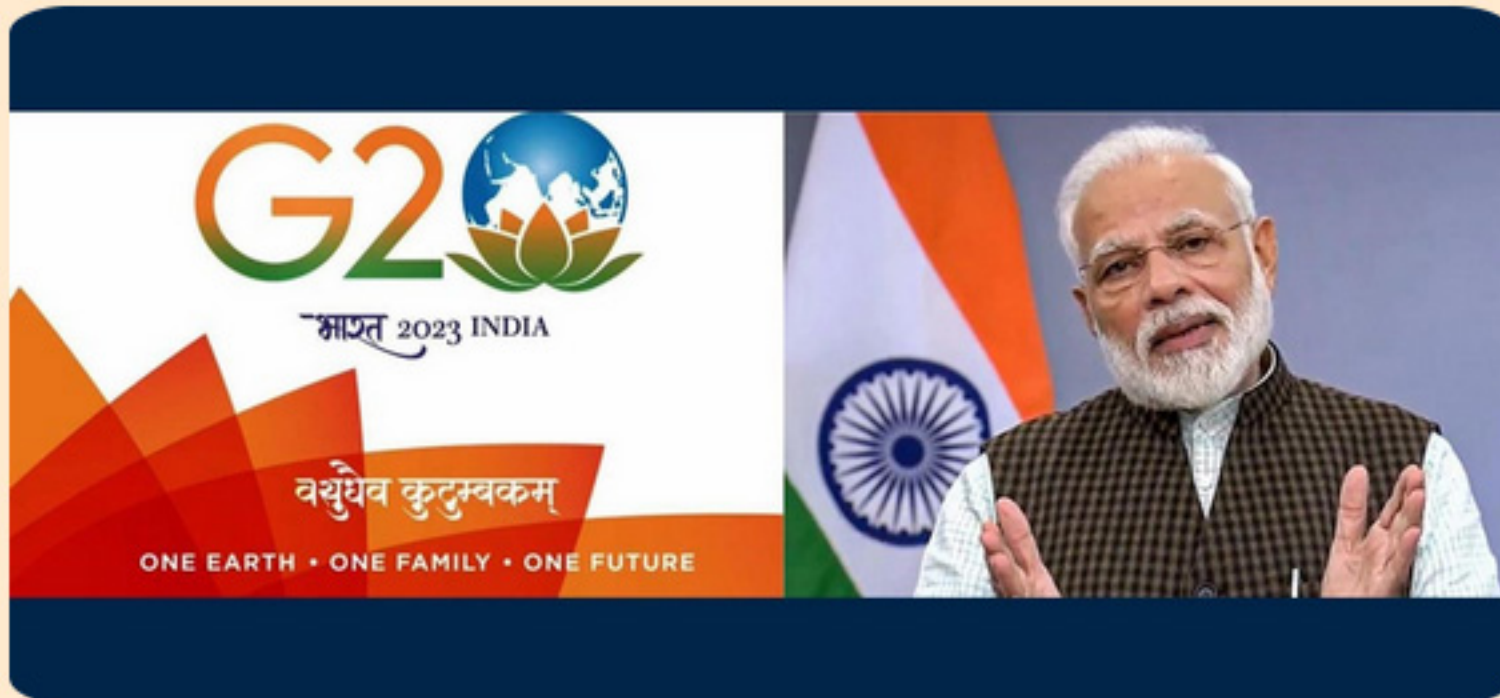


A special millets corner with innovative & healthy Indian millet products was organized to mark International Year of Millets. Guests were also treated to an exhibition of tribal artworks with Saura, Gond & Bhil paintings.





## Cities across India to host #G20India Engagement Group inception meetings



India in Belgium Retweeted



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13

106

296

27.6K



## Upcoming Events

📅 9 <sup>th</sup> - 11 <sup>th</sup> February, 2023	1 <sup>st</sup> Environment and Climate Working Group Meeting  9 <sup>th</sup> - 11 <sup>th</sup> February : 1 <sup>st</sup> Environment and Climate Working Group Meeting	Sherpa Track	📍 Bengaluru
📅 13 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup> February, 2023	1 <sup>st</sup> Agriculture Working Group Meeting	Sherpa Track	📍 Indore
📅 13 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup> February, 2023	1 <sup>st</sup> DEWG  13 <sup>th</sup> February : 1 <sup>st</sup> DEWG - Seminar on Digital Inclusion & Excursion * 14 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup> February : 1 <sup>st</sup> DEWG	Sherpa Track	📍 Lucknow
📅 22 <sup>nd</sup> - 25 <sup>th</sup> February, 2023	1 <sup>st</sup> FMCBG and 2 <sup>nd</sup> FCBD Meeting	Finance Track	📍 Bengaluru
📅 23 <sup>rd</sup> - 25 <sup>th</sup> February, 2023	1 <sup>st</sup> Culture Working Group Meeting  25 <sup>th</sup> February : 1 <sup>st</sup> Culture WG - Side Event & Excursion 23 <sup>rd</sup> - 24 <sup>th</sup> February : 1 <sup>st</sup> Culture Working Group Meeting	Sherpa Track	📍 Khajuraho
📅 1 <sup>st</sup> - 2 <sup>nd</sup> March, 2023	G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting	Ministers Meeting	📍 Delhi
📅 1 <sup>st</sup> - 4 <sup>th</sup> March, 2023	1 <sup>st</sup> Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting	Sherpa Track	📍 Gurugram



## United Nations declares 2023 the International Year of Millets



The United Nations General Assembly has declared the year 2023 'International Year of Millets'. It is the Prime Minister's vision and initiative that led to this United Nations Resolution being adopted with support from more than 70 nations across the globe. It will help in creating awareness throughout the world about the significant role of millets in sustainable agriculture and its benefits as a smart and superfood. India is poised to become the global hub for millets with a production of more than 170 lakh tonnes which makes for more than 80 % of the millets produced in Asia. The earliest evidence for these grains has been found in the Indus civilization and was one of the first plants to be domesticated for food. It is grown in about 131 countries and is the traditional food for around 60 crore people in Asia & Africa.

The Government of India has declared to celebrate IYOM, 2023 to make it a people's movement so that the Indian millets, recipes, and value-added products are accepted globally. The 'International Year of Millets' stands to provide a unique opportunity to increase global production, ensure efficient processing and consumption, promote better utilization of crop rotations and encourage better connectivity throughout food systems to promote millets as a key component of the food basket.

The FAO in a brief message said that the Opening Ceremony of the International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023 hosted by the FAO aims to raise awareness and create momentum for the IYM 2023 by engaging FAO Members and other relevant stakeholders and highlighting the benefits of promoting the sustainable cultivation and consumption of millets.





## 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention 2023



Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention is the flagship event of the Government of India. It provides an important platform to engage and connect with the overseas Indians and to enable the diaspora to interact with each other. The 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention (PBD) was held from 08-10 January 2023 in Indore. The theme of this PBD Convention was "Diaspora: Reliable partners for India's progress in Amrit Kaal". Over 3,500 diaspora members from nearly 70 different countries registered for the PBD Convention.

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu graced the valedictory session of 17th PBD Convention and conferred the Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Awards.

Addressing the gathering, the President said that the Indian Diaspora today has become an important and unique force in the global system. It has grown into an energetic and confident community in every region, and is making stellar contributions to world affairs in leadership positions. Our Diaspora has exhibited extraordinary dedication and hard work, and has overcome many challenges to achieve excellence in all walks of life – including art, literature, politics, sports, business, academics, philanthropy, science and technology.

The President said that over the last two decades, the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas Convention has served as a unique platform to enable fruitful engagement between the Government, people of India and the Diaspora.

The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards symbolise the nation's highest recognition of the Diaspora members for their contributions to India and in their home countries. These awards are significant as they not only show our appreciation and acknowledgment of the achievements of the Pravasis, but also reflect our faith in their resolve to keep India's flag flying high in the world.



Referring the theme of this year's PBD Convention - "Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India's Progress in Amrit Kaal", the President said that it reflects India's desire to make its Diaspora a partner in the achievement of its national developmental goals. She said that in the next 25 years, India is going to embark on an ambitious journey of collective hard-work, sacrifice and intensive development to transform into a self-reliant world leader by 2047, when we would be celebrating the centenary of our independence.



India in Belgium

@IndEmbassyBru

India government organization

Members of the vibrant Indian Diaspora participated in [#PravasiBhartiyaDivas2023](#) celebrations at and Chancery. Shri Debasish Prusty, Cd'A a.i along with Counsellor interacted with the gathering. [#PBD2023](#)  
[#PBDIndore](#)



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## India Hosts Voice of Global South Summit



In a new and unique initiative, India hosted a special virtual Summit on 12-13 January 2023. This "Voice of Global South Summit" under the theme "Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose" envisages bringing together countries of the Global South to share their perspectives and priorities on a common platform. More than 120 countries are being invited to participate in this Summit.

The initiative is inspired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas, and is underpinned by India's philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.

India will work to ensure that the valuable inputs generated from partner countries in the Voice of Global South Summit deliberations receive due cognizance globally.

Further, India's ongoing Presidency of the G20 provides a special and strong opportunity for those countries that are not part of the G20 process to share their ideas and expectations from the G20. This is in line with Prime Minister's statement that India's G20 Presidency will be shaped in consultation with not just our G20 partners, but also our fellow-travellers in the Global South, whose voice often goes unheard.

The Summit envisages ten sessions. Four sessions would be held on 12 January, and six sessions on 13 January. Each session is expected to witness the participation of Leaders/Ministers from 10-20 countries.

The inaugural and concluding sessions would be at Head of State / Government level, and hosted by the Prime Minister. The theme of the Inaugural Leaders' session is "Voice of Global South - for Human-Centric Development" and that of the Concluding Leaders' session is "Unity of Voice-Unity of Purpose".



**The National Green Hydrogen Mission worth US\$ 2.38 billion (Rs. 19,744 crores) approved by the Cabinet**



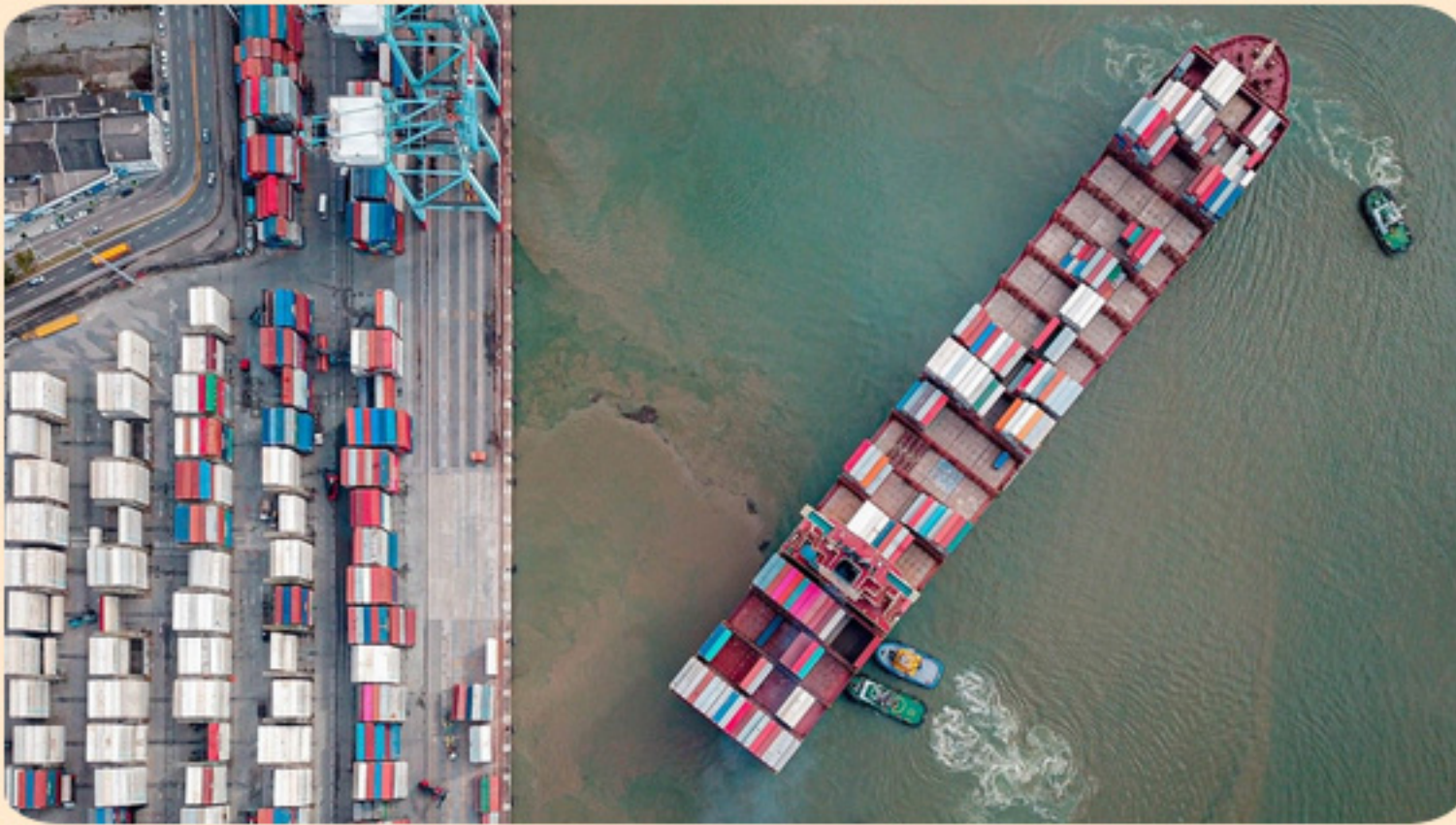
The National Green Hydrogen Mission worth US\$ 2.38 billion (Rs. 19,744 crores) was approved by the Indian Union Cabinet, with an aim to make India a global hub for manufacturing a clean source of energy.

The initial outlay for the mission would be US\$ 2.38 billion (Rs. 19,744 crores), which comprises an outlay for the Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) programme worth US\$ 2.35 billion (Rs. 17,490 crores), US\$ 177 million (Rs. 1,466 crores) for pilot projects, US\$ 48.3 million (Rs. 400 crores) for research and development, and US\$ 46.9 (Rs. 388 crores) for other components of the mission.

The mission aims to promote the development of a green hydrogen production capacity of at least five million metric tonnes (MMT) per annum, along with an additional renewable energy capacity of about 125 gigawatts (GW) in the country by 2030. An investment of around US\$ 97 billion (Rs. 8 trillion) and the creation of over 6 lakh jobs are expected by 2030. The impact of this would be a reduction in the imports of fossil fuels by over US\$ 12 billion (Rs. 1 trillion) and abatement of nearly 50 MMT of annual greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India will be responsible for the overall coordination and implementation of the mission.



## India's merchandise trade crossed the US\$ 1 trillion mark in 2022



The merchandise trade of India crossed the US\$ 1 trillion mark in the calendar year 2022 (CY22), where exports were worth US\$ 450 billion and imports were worth US\$ 723 billion. The exports registered an increase of 13.7% on a year-on-year basis in 2022, while imports increased by 21%. There was a significant jump in exports from India to developed markets like the US, Singapore, Hong Kong, and European countries like The Netherlands, UK, Belgium and Germany.

### India's exports will considerably gain from the India-Australia trade agreement: FIEO

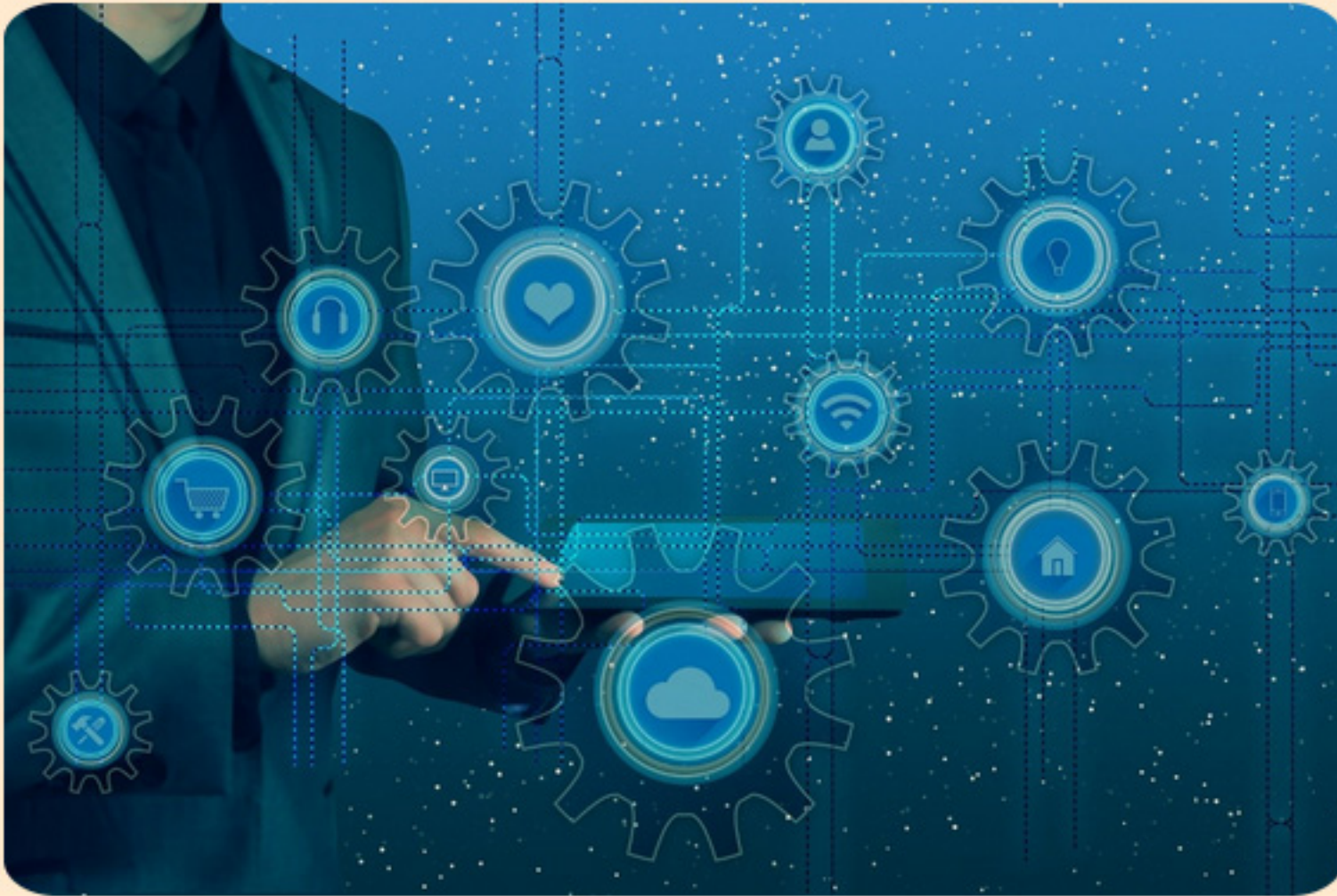


The India-Australia trade agreement (India-Australia Economic Cooperation Trade Agreement) will benefit Indian exports from preferential duty market access in Australia and will benefit India's labour-intensive sectors, including gems and jewellery, textiles, leather, footwear, furniture, food and agricultural products, engineering products, medical devices, automobiles, and specific pharma products. India has granted Australia market access in around 103 sub-sectors and Most Favoured Nation status in 31 sub-sectors from the 11 general service sectors, including business services, communication services, construction and allied engineering services.

Moreover, as part of this agreement, the two nations consented to a separate annex on pharmaceutical products, which will allow for the fast-track approval of proprietary, generic and biosimilar medications. According to estimates, this trade pact would help India add another 10-lakh employment.



**The telecom sector is prepared for 5G and expects to attract US\$ 18 billion (Rs. 1.5 trillion) in investments in 2023**



India's telecom sector is witnessing a surge in reforms as it has successfully connected people with 5G services and managed to decrease the cost of operations. The sector is all set to attract US\$ 18 billion (Rs 1.5 trillion in 2023) worth of investments with many private players in the sector committing billions of dollars worth of investment over the next few years.

According to the Telecom Secretary of India, Mr. K. Rajaraman, 2022 was a great and exciting year because of the launch of 5G and the government will continue to take measures to lower the cost of operations for telecom operators. The structural and procedural reforms in the telecom sector approved by the government like electronic-Know Your Customer (e-KYC), 100% Foreign Direct Investments under the automatic route, Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR), have positively impacted the sector in 2022.



## India's internet industry to reach US\$ 5 trillion valuation by 2030



The Indian internet industry is likely to grow and reach a valuation of US\$ 5 trillion by 2030. India has the second largest internet user base in the world, with around 780 million internet users. India is likely to witness a massive surge in digital advertisement investments instead of driving sales, as most consumers from tier 2 and beyond cities are adopting short video commerce.

## India has the potential to become a world leader in Footwear and leather: Mr. Piyush Goyal



The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles, Government of India, Mr. Piyush Goyal, stated that India has the potential to become a world leader in the footwear and leather sectors, with the efforts of both, government and the industry. The minister expressed that higher exports than last year are being hoped in these sectors. The Minister assured that the concerns about import duties on leather will be taken into consideration and that the government is in full support of setting up testing facilities and laboratories in the country to meet the needs of the industry.



## Mission's International Millets Promotion Event – IYM2023



On January 15, Ambassador inaugurated the India Pavilion at Saveurs & Métiers Expo Namur, the first International Millets promotion event to mark United Nations' International Year of Millets organised by India's Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA). Ambassador welcomed Belgian businesses to sample Indian millet products.





APEDA and Mission also organised the first physical Buyer-Seller Meet in Brussels with Indian exporters of agricultural products, and in particular of Indian millets. At the event Ambassador spoke about the health, climate and sustainability benefits of millets.



## World Hindi Day

On the occasion of World Hindi Day, a poetry recitation competition was organized by the Indian Embassy for the promotion of Hindi and along with the message of the Honorable Prime Minister. An exhibition of Hindi books was also organized.





## Saraswati Puja in Brussels organised by Indian diaspora



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