

**Embassy of India  
Brussels**

**India-Belgium Bilateral Relations**

**Political**

Belgium was among the first European countries to establish diplomatic relations with independent India, in September 1947. India and Belgium are celebrating 70<sup>th</sup> year of establishment of diplomatic relations in 2017.

Belgium supports India's aim for permanent membership to the United Nations Security Council and has welcomed India's aspirations to become a member of the multilateral export control regimes.

The Belgian King, His Majesty King Philippe and Queen Mathilde paid a State visit to India on 5-11 November 2017.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid an Official visit to Belgium on March 30, 2016 at the invitation of Prime Minister of Belgium, Mr. Charles Michel.

Rashtrapatiji Shri Pranab Mukherjee paid a State visit to Belgium from October 2-5, 2013 and jointly inaugurated the prestigious Europalia-India Cultural festival with the King of Belgians. During the visit, five Memorandums of Understanding were signed between the Belgian and the Indian Universities.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh paid an official visit to Belgium from December 9-11, 2010. Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari visited Brussels from October 3-5, 2010 and led the Indian delegation to the ASEM-8 Summit.

External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj held bilateral meeting with H.E. Mr. Didier Reynders, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign & European Affairs on the sidelines of 72nd UNGA in New York on 19 September 2017.

There are regular high-level interactions between the two countries. Minister of Road Transport, Highways and Shipping Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari paid a visit to Belgium from November 19-20, 2014. Gen (Retd) V K Singh, MoS for External Affairs represented India at the World War I centenary commemoration events in October 2014. EAM Shri Salman Khurshid visited Belgium from January 30 to February 3, 2013; Minister of State Smt. Preneet Kaur visited Belgium from April 15-19, 2012.

Chief Justice of India Mr. Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar and Supreme Court judge, Mr. Justice Madan B. Lokur paid a visit to Belgium on 12-15 June 2017 at the invitation of the Constitutional Court of Belgium. They met the Presidents of the Constitutional Courts of Belgium and exchanged views on the functioning of the judiciary and judicial systems in India and Belgium including (a) division and separation of powers; (b) independence of the judiciary with special emphasis on appointment of Judges; and (c) expression of views on the relationship of the judiciary vis-à-vis the European Courts.

Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Dr. Mukul Sangma visited the Federal Region of Wallonia, Belgium, on 16-19 May 2017, accompanied by an official delegation. During the visit, the delegation explored possibilities of collaboration in agriculture, healthcare, sports, science and technology, urban development, ecosystem management, sustainable business, environment and art and culture.

From Belgium, Prime Minister Mr. Guy Verhofstadt visited India from November 2-7, 2006. Belgian Foreign Minister Mr. Didier Reynders visited India in August 2012. Mr Pieter de Crem, Secretary of State for Foreign Trade of Belgium visited India from January 13-18, 2015 and later from February 15-19, 2016.

The Belgian Royal family has traditionally led economic delegations to India. Princess Astride led an economic Mission comprising of 350 CEOs in November 2013 to India. Crown Prince Philippe (incumbent King) led an economic delegation of 350 business leaders to India from March 20-27, 2010. The then King of the Belgians, King Albert II and Queen Paola visited India from November 3-12, 2008.

India and Belgium formalized their Foreign Policy Consultations in March 2016. The biennial dialogue will be held at the level of Secretaries alternatively in India and Belgium.

### **State Visit by the King of the Belgians**

India. Belgium bilateral relations were energized with the State Visit of Their Majesties the King and the Queen of the Belgians to India on 05-11 November 2017. They were accompanied by H.E. Mr. Didier Reynders, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign & European Affairs, H.E. Mr. Geert Bourgeois, Minister-President of the Government Flanders, H.E. Mr. Willy Borsus, Minister-President of the Walloon Government and H.E. Mr. Rudy Demotte, Minister-President of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation Government, and a number of senior officials. A large business and academic delegation also accompanied them. The visit assumed significance as India and Belgium celebrated 70 years of diplomatic relations in 2017.

In addition to the official programme their Majesties inaugurated an exhibition on "India's contribution in the first World War" and launched a book on "Indians in Flanders Fields" related to the World War I. Their Majesties also took part in various business and academic seminars organized during the visit. They also visited Taj Mahal.

In Mumbai, His Majesty called on the Governor of Maharashtra, participated in a remembrance ceremony at the Memorial of the 2008 terrorist attack at the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, visited Oval Maidan for a cricket demonstration, and a cultural programme.

### **Outcome of the visit of Prime Minister to Belgium:**

The official program of Prime Minister Modi visit included a ceremonial welcome, a restricted meeting with Prime Minister Mr. Charles Michel followed by press statements, luncheon with CEOs of key Belgian businesses, activation of Asia's largest fully steerable Optical telescope at Devashtali in Nainital, interaction with Indologists, Parliamentarians, Antwerp World Diamond Centre, and a meeting with the Indian community.

Prime Minister laid wreath at the Maalbeek Metro station in Brussels, where a terrorist attack took place a week before the visit, and offered heartfelt condolences on behalf of India.

PM's visit was the third by any Indian Prime Minister to Belgium (previous visits in 1978 and 2010).

### **Parliamentary Interactions**

Speaker of Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan led a 14-member parliamentary delegation to the Belgian Parliament from June 23-26, 2015.

Speaker of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri Mata Prasad Pandey visited Brussels from December 12-13, 2016 and held meetings with the President of the Belgian Senate Ms. Christine Defraigne and the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives (Lower House).

### **Economic and Commercial**

The 15<sup>th</sup> session of the Joint Economic Commission (JEC) between India and the Belgian-Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU) was held on 29 May 2017 in Luxembourg. The JEC was co-Chaired by Mr. Gaston Stronck, Director for

European and International Economic Affairs of the Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and Mr. Gregoire Curvelier, Deputy Director General for Bilateral Affairs in the Belgian Foreign Ministry on the BLEU side and Ms. Anita Praveen, Joint Secretary Department of Commerce, on the Indian side. The two sides held discussions on wide range of areas of mutual interest to take economic and trade engagement forward.

Bilateral trade between India and Belgium during January-December 2016 amounted to " 12.35 billion (US\$ 13.71 billion) compared to " 11.79 billion (US \$ 13.09 billion) in the previous year. India's exports to Belgium during this period totaled " 4.36 billion (US\$ 4.84 billion) compared to " 4.10 billion (US\$ 4.55 billion) in the corresponding period last year. India's imports from Belgium totaled " 7.99 billion (US\$ 8.87 billion) during this period compared to " 7.69 billion in 2015 (US\$ 8.54 billion). Bilateral trade was dominated by the Gems & Jewellery sector.

India was Belgium's second largest export destination and third largest trade partner outside the EU. During January-June 2017, total bilateral trade amounted to " 6.92 billion (US\$ 7.68 billion) compared to " 6.66 billion (US\$ 7.39 billion) in the previous year. India's exports to Belgium during this period totaled " 2.57 billion (US\$ 2.85 billion) compared to " 2.28 billion (US\$ 2.53 billion) in the corresponding period last year.

The cumulative FDI inflows from Belgium into India amounted to US\$ 1,115 million during April 2000 to June 2017 making it the 22<sup>nd</sup> largest investor in India.

To promote seafood export, India participated in the annual ~~Seafood~~ Seafood Expo Globalq- the world's largest seafood trade event in Brussels on 26-28 April 2017 with the theme ~~Incredible~~ Incredible Seafood from Incredible Indiaq

Indian companies have also been investing in Belgium. Several Indian companies, particularly in the IT and software sectors, such as TCS, Infosys, Tech Mahindra and HCL, have established base in Belgium to cater to the Belgian as well as European markets.

Secretary of State for Foreign Trade of Belgium, Mr. Pieter De Crem led a Trade delegation to Mumbai and Ahmedabad in India from 24-28 April 2017. Mr. Crem's visit marked the formal inauguration of the Brussels-Mumbai Passenger Air Services operated by Brussels Airlines. In Ahmedabad, Mr. De Crem announced opening of a new Belgian Honorary Consulate and visited the Indian Institute for Public Health, Gandhinagar.

Cooperation on training, and coastal and inland shipping between Antwerp Port and Indian Ministry of Shipping : There is an MOU between Indian Ministry of Shipping and Ministry of Public Works, Government of Flanders (Belgium) for cooperation in various areas in maritime sector, which was signed in 1997.

Cooperation on Renewable Energy, Biotechnology and Shipping : An MOU between Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and Belgium (Federal/Regional level for Energy) was signed on September 29, 2015. In order to operationalize the MOU, a Joint Working Group (JWG) has been constituted.

An MoU on cooperation in Biotechnology and Letter of Intent to operationalize an existing MoU on Shipping cooperation was signed in May 2016.

## **Culture**

India and Belgium have a cultural agreement in place since 1973. India was the partner country for the prestigious Europalia-India Cultural Festival held from October 4, 2013 to January 26, 2014. Europalia-India Festival was jointly inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble President of India, along with the King of the Belgians, HM Mr. Philippe. I and Queen of Belgians HM Mrs. Mathilde and President of the European Council, H.E. Mr. Herman Van Rompuy. The festival included nearly 300 events showcasing Indian art and antiquities, music and dance performances, cinema, theatre, literature, as well as cuisine, hosted by about 200 partner venues across Belgium and neighboring countries. Previously, an Indian festival 'TEJAS' organized by ICCR was held in Brussels from October 2006 to January 2007. EAM Shri Salman Khurshid unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi in the office complex of the Governor of the Antwerp province on 30 January 2013. A bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore was unveiled at the Literary Garden in the Faculty of Arts of the Katholic University of Leuven on the occasion of Gurudev's 154th Birth Anniversary on May 7, 2015.

## **University Cooperation**

Around 800 Indian students are pursuing various courses in educational institutions of Belgium, including University of Ghent, Leuven, Antwerp and Brussels. Five MoUs were signed during the State visit of Rashtrapatiiji in 2013, namely: a) MoU between JNU and University of Ghent, b) MoU between Delhi University and University of Ghent, c) MoU between Delhi University and Group T International Engineering Academy of the University of Leuven, Belgium d) MoU between Delhi University and Free University of Brussels (ULB) e) MoU between the University of Hyderabad and University of Ghent.

ICCR has sponsored a Hindi Chair at the University of Ghent since 1988 and at the University of Leuven since 2013 on Contemporary Indian Studies.

### **Commemoration of the First World War**

More than 9,000 Indian troops had made the supreme sacrifice in Flanders fields, Belgium, during the First World War. To commemorate the sacrifice made by Indian soldiers, an Indian Memorial Pillar was installed alongside Menin Gate in Ieper on 12 March 2011, where the annual Armistice Day celebrations are held. The Mission organizes annual commemoration ceremony at the site.

### **People to People contacts**

The Indian Diaspora in Belgium is estimated at 18,000. Of this, nearly 10,000 are Indian citizens. There are about 800 Indian students in various Belgian universities.

### **Useful links:**

<http://www.indembassy.be>

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**India-EU Bilateral Relations**

**Political**

India-EU relations date back to the early 1960s, with India being amongst the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with the European Economic Community. A cooperation agreement signed in 1994 took the bilateral relationship beyond trade and economic cooperation. At the 5th India-EU Summit held at The Hague in 2004, the relationship was upgraded to a Strategic Partnership. The two sides adopted a Joint Action Plan in 2005 (which was reviewed in 2008) that provided for strengthening dialogue and consultation mechanisms in the political and economic spheres, enhancing trade and investment, and bringing peoples and cultures together.

The first India-EU Summit took place in Lisbon in 28 June 2000 and marked a watershed in the evolution of the relationship. Since then, thirteen annual Summits have been held.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Brussels on 30 March 2016 to lead the Indian delegation for the 13th India-EU Summit. The EU side was led by Mr. Donald Tusk, President of the European Council and Mr. Jean Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission. EU High Representative Ms. Federica Mogherini, President of the European Investment Bank, Mr. Werner Hoyer and President of the European Parliament Mr. Martin Schulz also attended the Summit. The Summit saw the adoption of seven outcome documents including a Joint Statement and Agenda for Action 2020. An India-EU Joint Declaration on the fight against terrorism was also adopted at the Summit.

A step forward in the objective to facilitate legal migration between India and the EU was achieved through the endorsement of the India-EU Joint Declaration on Common Agenda for Migration and Mobility at the Summit. Both sides also adopted a Joint declaration on Water Partnership that provides a platform for bilateral cooperation on our Clean Ganga Initiative with a view to harness EU's best practices and technology for the purpose. India and the EU also adopted the Joint Declaration on Clean Energy and

Climate Partnership outlining cooperation mechanisms in areas relating to smart grids, wind energy, International Solar Alliance etc. The release of the first tranche of " 200 million of the total " 450 million loan from the European Investment Bank for the Lucknow Metro project was also finalized during the Summit.

India-EU Strategic Partnership, which is based on democratic values and multiculturalism, was further strengthened during the 14<sup>th</sup> Summit held on 6 October 2017 in New Delhi. The EU side was represented by Mr. Donald Tusk, President of European Council and Mr. Jean Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission. EU High Representative Ms. Federica Mogherini was also present during the Summit meeting.

There were wide range of discussions on foreign and security policy, migration, trade, climate, research and innovation. A Joint Statement was issued by the Leaders which reflected common understanding on these areas and reaffirmed commitment to strengthen the India-EU Strategic Partnership.

The leaders showed their satisfaction at the progress made towards implementing the India-EU Agenda for action 2020.

The two sides reiterated their commitment to a comprehensive approach and cooperation to prevent and counter terrorism. An India-EU Joint Statement on Cooperation in Combating Terrorism was adopted.

Both sides, keeping in view their commitment under Paris Climate Agreement, also adopted India-EU Joint Statement on Clean Energy and Climate Change to implement 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development and lowering of greenhouse gas emissions. Stepping forward, both India and EU agreed to intensify their cooperation in the framework of International Solar Alliance (ISA) including training and affordable finances. A Joint Declaration between the Interim Secretariat of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), and the European Investment Bank (EIB) aimed at mobilizing investments for broad-based deployment of affordable solar energy applications across the 121 prospective member countries of the ISA was adopted.

The two sides also agreed to enhance India-EU cooperation on Urban Development, in terms of an ever increasing urban population, with participation of Indian States and cities, EU Member States and regions/cities, building on regular dialogue on issues such as infrastructure,



energy, sanitation and water management, to promote dialogue and partnership/twinning between local, regional and state entities and adopted a Joint Declaration on Partnership for Smart and Sustainable Urbanization.

During the Summit, the two sides signed documents for (i) implementing Arrangement between the Science & Engineering Research Board (SERB) and the European Research Council(ERC); and (ii) new " 500 million EIB loan agreement for constructing a new line and 96 new trains for Bangalore Metro Phase-II project.

The European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee adopted its first ever Report on EU's Political Relations with India by an overwhelming majority on 13 September 2017. The rapporteur of the Report was Mr. Cristian Dan Preda, a Romanian MEP from the EPP (European People's Party group). The Report demonstrates the coherence of the European Union's policy approach towards India.

European Union High Representative and Vice President H.E. Ms. Federica Mogherini paid an official visit to India from 21-22 April, 2017. EUHR called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. She held delegation level talks with External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj and Minister of State for External Affairs Shri M.J. Akbar. The two sides exchanged views on bilateral, regional; and international issues of mutual interest. The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to deepening their Strategic Partnership. They reviewed progress on the commitments made during 13<sup>th</sup> India-EU Summit in Brussels in March 2016 including in the areas of counter-terrorism, migration and mobility, water partnership, clean energy and climate change action. Condemning the terror attack in Paris on 20 April 2017, External Affairs Minister emphasized that terrorism was the gravest threat to humanity today and both India and EU should strengthen their cooperation to fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and demonstrate their firm resolve to show zero-tolerance for such acts.

On the sidelines of the Bled Strategic Forum in Bled, Slovenia on 5 September 2017, Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri M.J. Akbar met EU High Representative Ms. Federica Mogherini and discussed issues of mutual interest including preparations for the 14<sup>th</sup> India-EU Summit.

The 5<sup>th</sup> round of Foreign and Security Policy Consultations between India and the European Union was held in New Delhi on 25 August 2017. The Indian side was led by Smt. Ruchi Ghanashyam, Secretary (West), while the EU side by Mr. Jean-Christophe Belliard, Deputy Secretary-General for Political Affairs, European External Action Service. The two sides reviewed the entire gamut of India-EU Strategic Partnership and discussed ways to further deepen cooperation in political, economic and security areas.

The 10<sup>th</sup> India-European Union Counter Terrorism Dialogue was held at New Delhi on 30 August 2017. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Mahaveer Singhvi, Joint Secretary for Counter Terrorism at the Ministry of External Affairs of India, while the European Union's delegation was led by Mr. Pawel Herczynski, Director for Security Policy, European External Action Service. During the Dialogue, both sides strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and underscored the need for deepening cooperation to combat terrorism in a long term, sustained and comprehensive manner. They exchanged views and assessments on prevailing terrorist threats in their respective regions including state-sponsored, cross-border terrorism in the Af-Pak region. Discussions were also held regarding the current challenges posed by various terrorist entities, radicalization and violent extremism, Foreign Terrorist Fighters and combating financing of terrorism. Both sides agreed to strengthen institutional linkages between Indian agencies and their European Union counterparts including Europol for closer interaction and cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism. They also agreed to identify relevant training programmes for capacity building of individuals on both sides working in the sphere of countering terrorism and violent extremism. Prospects for deepening counter-terrorism cooperation under the UN and FATF were also emphasized.

The 4<sup>th</sup> India-EU Cyber Dialogue was held in New Delhi on August 29, 2017 at which the two sides reaffirmed their commitment to an open, free, secure, stable, peaceful and accessible cyberspace, enabling economic growth and innovation. In particular, India reaffirmed that the existing principles of international law are, in general, applicable in cyberspace and that there was a need to continue and deepen deliberations on the applicability of International Law to cyberspace and set norms of responsible behavior of states. It also emphasized the significance of various regional international and multilateral initiatives, particularly those initiatives where UN plays a key role, to continue the debate on these

issues as well as in Cyber capacity building. The two sides reaffirmed that the bilateral cyber dialogue provided a strong foundation for existing and future cooperation. Areas of discussion included domestic cyber policy landscape, cyber threats and mitigation, Internet Governance, mechanism on bilateral cooperation and possible cooperation at various international fora and regional for a. The Indian delegation also made a presentation on the 5<sup>th</sup> Global Conference on Cyber Space to be held in New Delhi on November 23-24, 2017. Both sides share the view that they will deepen the dialogues at various levers including through the India-EU dialogues.

A Delegation for Relations with India (D-IN) was formally constituted in the European Parliament (EP) in 2007 to follow relations with India. The Chairperson of the 45 member Delegation in the incumbent European Parliament is Mr. Geoffrey Van Orden. A delegation from the D-IN led by the Chairperson visited India and met the Indian political leadership in February 2017.

The Indian Navy Vessel INS Trishul conducted joint manoeuvres with the Italian Flagship and the EU's Naval Force Operation Atalanta off the coast of Somalia on 4 October 2017. It was the first ever joint India-EU naval exercise.

### **Commercial:**

The EU, as a bloc of 28 countries, continued to be India's largest regional trading partner, while India was the EU's 9<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner in 2016. India's bilateral trade (in both goods and services) with the EU during 2016 (January-December) was " 106.1 billion (US\$ 125.73 billion) [bilateral trade in goods " 77.1 billion (US\$ 91.36 billion) and bilateral trade in service " 29.0 billion (US\$ 34.36 billion)]. India's exports of goods to the EU stood at " 39.3 billion (US\$ 46.57 billion) while India's imports from the EU were valued at " 37.8 billion (US\$ 44.79 billion). India's bilateral trade in goods with the EU during 2017 (January-August) stood at " 56.8 billion (US\$ 67.30 billion) with India's exports valued at " 30.0 billion (US\$ 35.55 billion) and India's imports from the EU at " 26.8 billion (US\$ 31.76 billion).

The EU continued to be one of the largest sources of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for India with FDI inflows from the EU to India valued at " 6.64 billion (US\$ 7.87 billion) in 2015.

India and the EU are negotiating a bilateral Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) since 2007. During the 13<sup>th</sup> India-EU Summit held in Brussels on 30 March 2016, India reiterated its stance of having a balanced agreement on BTIA.

The last India-EU Joint Commission meeting was held in Brussels on 14 July 2017. The Indian side was led by Smt. Anita Praveen, JS, DoC and the EU side was led by Mr Gunnar Wiegand, MD, Asia Pacific, EEAS. The last India-EU Sub- Commission on Trade was held in Brussels on 12 July 2017. The meeting on Trade was co-chaired by Smt. Anita Praveen, JS, DoC from the Indian side and Ms Helena Konig, Director, DG Trade from the EU side. The last India-EU Sub Commission on Economic Cooperation was held at New Delhi on 16 October 2015 chaired by Mrs. Anita Praveen, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, from the Indian side and Mrs. Maria Castillo Fernandez, Head of Division for India, Nepal and Bhutan at the European External Action Service, from the EU. The last Sub Commission on Development Cooperation met on 3 June 2014 in New Delhi.

The 8th meeting of India-EU Macroeconomic and Financial Dialogue was held on 10 June 2016 in Brussels. The meeting was Co-chaired by Mr S. Selvakumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs from India and Ms Elena Flores, Director for International economic and financial relations, DG ECOFIN from the EU.

The last meeting of the Energy Panel was held in New Delhi on 24 October, 2016. Shri Randhir Jaiswal, Joint Secretary (EW), MEA led the Indian delegation. India-EU JWG on Energy Security is the latest sub group created under India-EU Energy Panel. The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the JWG took place in Bruges on 13 July 2017 along with an India-EU Expert Seminar towards an India-EU dialogue on low carbon energy security on 14 July 2017.

The 11<sup>th</sup> India-EU Science and Technology Steering Committee held its meeting in Brussels from 6-8 June 2017. Prof Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, DST from India and Mr. Robert-Jan Smits, Director General for Research and Innovation, DG RTD from the EC were the Co-chairs

The last meeting of the JWG on ICT took place on 13 -14 June 2016 in Brussels. Mr. Rajiv Kumar, Joint Secretary, Deptt. Of Electronics and IT

(DeitY) led the Indian delegation while the EU delegation was led by Mr. Gerard de Graaf, Director, Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT).

European Investment Bank (EIB) is providing a loan of " 450 million for the Lucknow Metro project. EIB has opened its first office for South Asian region headquartered in New Delhi on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2017.

The 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the JWG on Textiles met in Brussels on 13 April 2016. Mrs Sunaina Tomar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles and Mr Luc Devigne, Head of Unit Market Access, Industry, Energy and Raw Materials DG TRADE led India and the EU respectively in the meeting

The 8<sup>th</sup> Joint Working Group on Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology and Medical Devices took place on 14 July 2017 at New Delhi with a meeting of the Pharma Industry on 13 July 2017. The Indian delegation was led by Mr. Sudhansh Pant, Joint Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals and the EU side was led by Mr Andrzej Rys, Director, Directorate General for Health and Food Safety, European Commission

The latest JWG meeting on Environment took place in New Delhi on 29 June 2017 and the Environment Forum meeting was held on 30 June 2017 in New Delhi.

The newly formed India-EU JWG on Water Cooperation as per the MoU signed between India and the EU met in New Delhi on 28 June 2017.

## **Education**

The framework of India-EU cooperation in the fields of education and culture is provided by three Joint Declarations signed in 2010 covering cooperation in the fields of Education and Training, Multilingualism and Culture. The first Senior Officials Meeting on Education and Multilingualism was held at Secretary Level in Brussels on 25 May 2011, followed by a second round in New Delhi on 17 April 2013.

## **Consular**

High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility has been instituted at Secretary Level between the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and EU

DG Home Affairs. At the 13<sup>th</sup> India-EU Summit, India and EU adopted a Joint Declaration on Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM) that facilitates legal migration on both sides.

The 4<sup>th</sup> High Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility was held in Brussels on 4 April 2017. The Indian delegation was led by Secretary (OIA & CPV), Mr. Dnyaneshwar M. Mulay while Director General (Home), Mr. Matthias Ruete led the EU side. The two sides reached an understanding in advancing the Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility, including through technical collaboration and undertaking projects in areas of mutual interest, with a view to better organizing migration and mobility between India and the EU.

### **Culture:**

The India-EU Policy Dialogue on Culture was launched at Secretary Level in New Delhi on 18 April 2013. The EU leadership also participated actively in the Europalia-India festival inaugurated in Brussels on 4 October 2013 by Hon'ble Rashtrapatiji and King Philippe of Belgium. The then President of the European Commission Mr. Jose Manuel Barroso inaugurated the second major exhibition of the Europalia-India Festival titled ~~Indomaniaqon~~ *Indomaniaqon* on 15 October 2013.

The International Day of Yoga is celebrated at the European Parliament each year since 2015. Sri Sri Ravishankar led the curtain raiser of the International Day of Yoga celebrations in 2015. He also led the International Day of Yoga celebrations at the European Parliament in 2016.

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