

INDIA-SWEDEN STRATEGIC COMPASS

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CENTER FOR SOUTH ASIAN AND INDO-PACIFIC AFFAIRS

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INDIA-SWEDEN

INS Tabar Strengthens India-Sweden Maritime Ties

On August 14, the Indian Naval Ship, INS *Tabar*, reached Gothenburg, Sweden, under the command of Captain M.R. Harish. The visit aimed to bolster bilateral relations between India and Sweden, particularly in the maritime domain as well as create new avenues for growth.

During its journey, INS *Tabar* conducted a Maritime Partnership Exercise with the Swedish Navy's HMS *Munter*, involving visual signaling and escort operations. INS *Tabar* is equipped with a versatile range of weapons and sensors and is amongst the earliest stealth frigates of the Indian Navy.

The visit also featured high-level meetings and bilateral professional interactions to enhance best practices between the navies.



A key highlight was the celebration of India's 78th Independence Day, where INS *Tabar* hosted a special reception attended by Swedish officials and the Indian diaspora, among others. A 7.7 km run was also organized to commemorate 77 years of Indian Independence with participation by 77 Indian Navy and Swedish Armed Forces personnel, symbolizing the strong ties between India and Sweden.

Sources: @Indiainsweden August 16-17; BWDefense, August 15.





Partition Horrors Remembrance Day Observed in Stockholm

In 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that “Partition Horrors Remembrance Day” (in Hindi, विभाजन विभीषिका स्मृति दिवस) would be observed annually on August 14, to pay tribute to the millions who lost their lives or were displaced during the Partition of India in 1947. The day serves to remind us to reflect on the horrors of Partition and honor the sacrifices of those who suffered, helping keep their memories alive. The day not only serves as a reminder of the immense hardships faced by displaced families and the loss of lives but also underscores the need to overcome social divisions and promote unity and harmony.

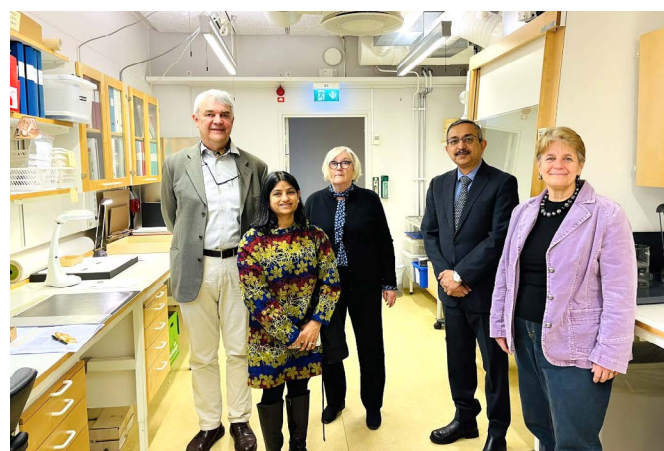
In Stockholm, the Indian Embassy hosted a significant exhibition for Partition Horrors Remembrance Day, attracting a large audience. The event featured engaging discussions led by Chargé d’Affaires Rakesh Tiwari, who interacted with the Indian diaspora to reflect on shared experiences and memories from the partition era. This solemn gathering emphasized the importance of remembering this critical chapter in history and fostering a collective understanding of its lasting effects.

Sources: @IndiainSweden; @EmbassyofIndiaSweden; Hindustan Times, Aug 13 2023.

Indian Relics Found in Sweden

In early 2024, two ancient Indian coins from the Kushan period, dating back 2,000 years, were unearthed in Vellentuna municipality, Sweden, through the remarkable efforts of archaeologists from Stockholm University. This discovery, which sheds light on the fascinating Viking trading networks, adds to the growing evidence of historic links between India and Sweden.

Among other notable findings, a 1,400-year-old Buddha statuette was discovered in Helgö, Indian beads dating back 1,000 years were found in Birka, and Indian spices have been sourced and used in Swedish cuisine for over a millennium.



The discovery sparked enriching discussions with Professors Lindén, Christian, and Holmquist at the Archeological Research Lab, where impressive interdisciplinary scientific techniques were showcased. The collaboration between Indian and Swedish researchers continues to deepen as they explore more ways to uncover the shared cultural heritage.

Sources: @Tanmaya_Lal, July 22; @Tanmaya_Lal, March 1.

Tanmaya Lal Completes His Tenure as Ambassador

On August 5, senior diplomat Tanmaya Lal assumed charge as Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), India. Lal was India’s Ambassador to Sweden and Latvia during December 2020-July 2024. He has also served in various other capacities in the Indian MEA and its missions abroad in the past, including as High Commissioner to Mauritius and Ambassador/DPR to UN in New York. In addition to Stockholm, Port Louis and New York, he has served in Indian Missions in Bonn, Tehran, Vienna, Bangkok, and Nairobi. He has also

headed the UN Economic & Social (UNES) and the East & Southern Africa (E&SA) Divisions.

On his departure, Sweden's Minister for Foreign Affairs Tobias Billström thanked the former ambassador on X (formerly Twitter) for enabling good cooperation between India and Sweden.

Sources: *Print*, July 13; @TobiasBillstrom, August 2; MEA, n.d.

#Plant4Mother Campaign

The Indian Embassy in Sweden partnered with Grönkullanskolan in Stockholm as part of the #Plant4Mother campaign, an initiative focused on environmental stewardship. Chargé d'Affaires, Rakesh Tiwari led the effort, joined by members of the Indian community who participated with great enthusiasm. The



event also saw the involvement of key local figures, including Director of Education Marie Truedsson, Operation Manager Marie Nyhed, and Principal Ulrika Nimstrand, highlighting the shared commitment to nurturing the environment through this collaborative effort.

Source: @EmbassyofIndiaSweden, August 7.

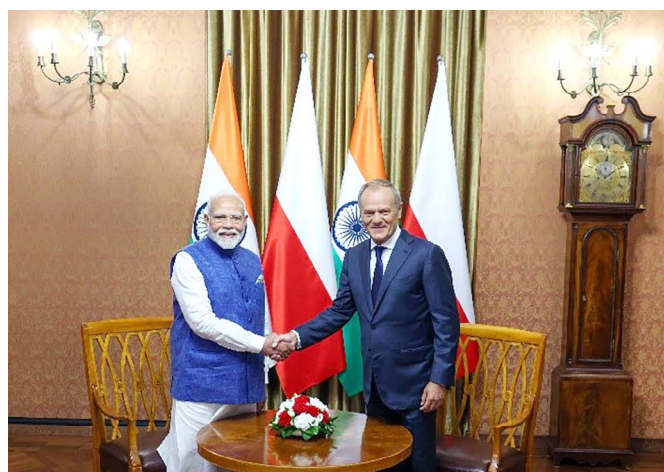
SPECIAL FEATURES

PM Modi's Visit to Poland and Ukraine

In August, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi held security and trade talks with Poland's Donald Tusk in Warsaw en route to war-torn Ukraine. Prime Minister Modi's visit to Poland was the first by an Indian Prime Minister in 45 years. It was also the first prime ministerial visit from India to Ukraine.

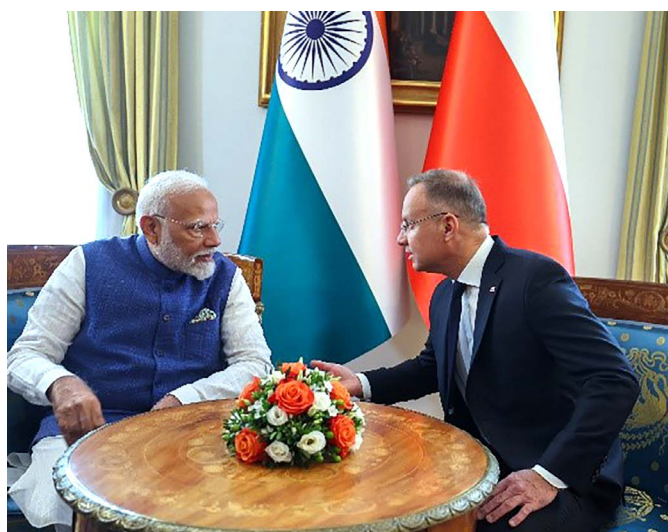
Poland: Elevating Ties to a Strategic Partnership

India and Poland have elevated their bilateral relations to a strategic partnership following extensive talks between Prime Minister Modi and his Polish counterpart, Donald



Tusk, on August 22. As the year 2024 marks 70 years of diplomatic ties between the two sides, the discussion between the two leaders focused on expanding cooperation into the strategic sphere in areas such as defense, security, trade, and digitalization. A four-year action plan was drawn up, covering vital sectors like counter-terrorism, cybersecurity, and health care. PM Modi emphasized the shared values of democracy and the rule of law that form the foundation of India-Poland relations.

Both leaders also expressed their deep concern over the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, condemning the threat or use of nuclear weapons and calling for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in line with international law.



As India and Poland look to enhance their defense and security ties, PM Tusk expressed the readiness to assist in the modernization of India's military equipment, particularly Soviet-era assets like T-72 tanks, which Poland can repair or upgrade. This collaboration is also important for India in terms of its diversification efforts, from defense suppliers and modernizing its armed forces.

PM Modi also met with Polish President Andrzej Duda in Warsaw, where they had what Modi described as a "wonderful discussion on how to strengthen India-Poland ties". The meeting reinforced the mutual commitment to enhancing bilateral relations, including trade and cultural ties, and exploring new avenues for cooperation.

PM Modi's visit to Poland was also marked by his interaction with the Indian diaspora in Warsaw, where he reiterated India's stance that "this is not an era of war," advocating for diplomacy and dialogue as the means to resolve conflicts. This message came ahead of Modi's visit to Ukraine where he met President Volodymyr Zelensky and reiterated India's stance for peace and stability.

PM Modi's visit has not only solidified the strategic partnership between India and Poland, but has also reinforced India's role as a proponent of peace and diplomacy in the region, particularly in the context of the Ukraine conflict. The visit, described by PM Tusk as a "very important day for Indo-Polish relations", indeed marks a significant milestone in the 70 years of diplomatic relations between the two nations.

Sources: *Hindustan Times*, August 22; *Reuters*, August 22; *CNN*, August 22; @PremierRP_en, August 22

Ukraine: A Noteworthy Diplomatic Moment

Prime Minister Modi's visit to Ukraine marks a significant chapter in India's diplomatic history. Against the backdrop of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, the visit underscored India's growing role in global peace initiatives and its commitment to fostering strong bilateral relations.

PM Modi's itinerary included several symbolic engagements: One of the first was his visit to the multimedia memorial dedicated to children who have reportedly been killed since the war began in 2022. Accompanied by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, PM Modi held a silent



prayer and placed a toy in the museum as a mark of respect. The Prime Minister also visited the AV Fomin Botanical Gardens to pay tribute at the Mahatma Gandhi's statue, emphasizing India's enduring commitment to peace and non-violence. His final engagement of the day (August 23) involved a meeting with Ukrainian students learning Hindi, reflecting India's cultural outreach and the importance of people-to-people connection in international relations.

During his discussion with President Zelensky, which marked their fourth meeting, PM Modi focused on revitalizing bilateral relations, particularly in trade, defense, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, and education. The two leaders agreed to reinvigorate the Inter-Governmental Commission, with a special focus on rebuilding economic ties that had weakened due to the conflict. This initiative aims to hold its next meeting by the end of the year, signaling a proactive approach to restoring and expanding the bilateral trade framework.

On the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, PM Modi reiterated India's consistent stance that this is "not an era of war," emphasizing the importance of dialogue and diplomacy over military solutions. He expressed India's deep concern of the humanitarian toll of the conflict, particularly the impact on civilians, and reiterated India's willingness to contribute to any efforts that would lead to a swift resolution of the conflict. He stressed that India is neither



“indifferent” nor “neutral,” but stands firmly for peace.

The Global Peace Summit, which has been a focal point in international discussions on Ukraine, was another key topic. President Zelensky expressed Ukraine’s desire for India’s continued involvement in these peace efforts. Modi and Zelensky discussed various ways to move forward with the peace process, including possible formats beyond the Summit. This discussion reflects India’s potential to play a crucial role in shaping the future course of negotiations, given its recent dialogues with key global leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin.

In addition to diplomatic and economic discussions, Prime Minister Modi’s visit also included the delivery of humanitarian aid. India has already provided 17 consignments of medical aid to Ukraine, and during this visit, Modi handed over about 22 tons of medical support equipment, demonstrating India’s ongoing human-centered commitment to supporting Ukraine.

Four agreements were signed between the two countries, covering community development projects, drug control standards, cultural exchange, and agricultural cooperation: the agreement on cooperation in the fields of Agriculture and Food Industry; the MoU on cooperation in the field of Medical Products Regulation; the MoU on Indian

Humanitarian Grant Assistance for Implementation of High Impact Community Development Projects; and the Programme for Cultural Cooperation for 2024-2028. These agreements are expected to strengthen bilateral ties and also contribute to Ukraine’s reconstruction and recovery. Prime Minister’ Modi’s visit to Ukraine is a testament to India’s commitment to peace, stability and international cooperation. By engaging directly with both Ukraine and Russia, India has positioned itself as a key player in global efforts to end the conflict. The visit also serves as a reminder of the importance of dialogue, diplomacy, and humanitarianism in international relations.

Sources: AP, August 23; Hindustan Times, August 23; Indian Express, August 24; TOI, August 23; Economic Times, August 24

Sweden Adopts First-Ever Security and Defense Space Strategy

On July 4, the Swedish government adopted Sweden’s first defense and security space strategy, titled “The Role of Space in a New Security Environment.” The main aim is to secure Sweden’s defense and security interests “in and through” space, which has become a highly contested area. It also aims to make Sweden a global space hub for allies. Sweden also looks to establish and showcase itself as a capable and responsible stakeholder in this arena.

The strategy is built on four foundational pillars:

1. Ensure Freedom of Action in and through Space: Sweden aims to maintain autonomy in space operations.
2. Create Space Capabilities, Services, and Capacity: Sweden aims to support national defense and crisis preparedness.
3. Become an Active and Responsible International Partner: The goal is to contribute to common security.
4. Conduct a Knowledge-Based Space Policy: Sweden aims to enhance crisis preparedness and total defense.

Overall, the Minister for Defense Pål Jonson’s following statement highlights Sweden’s goals succinctly, “Space is an arena for cooperation but is also increasingly competitive and contested. In concrete terms, this means that we need to be prepared to take technical, political, diplomatic, and military measures when necessary.”

Sources: Defense Industry Europe, July 5; Defense News, July 24

Sweden Attends Its First NATO Summit as a Treaty Ally

Sweden's participation in the NATO Summit held in Washington from July 9 to 11 marks a historic milestone as the country attends its first summit as a full NATO member. Represented by Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson, Minister for Foreign Affairs Tobias Billström, and Minister of Defense Pål Jonson, Sweden's inclusion in the Alliance is seen as a significant boost to both national and regional security.

Prime Minister Kristersson highlighted the strategic importance of Sweden's membership, noting that the country's geostrategic position and military capabilities



enhance NATO's strength: "Sweden is now fully participating in NATO. As a member, Sweden is more secure. By virtue of our geostrategic position and military expertise, we contribute to making NATO stronger, the development in our neighborhood more predictable, and our neighboring countries more secure".

The Washington Summit focused on several crucial issues, including further strengthening NATO's deterrence and defense capabilities and critical global matters as international support for Ukraine, the 2024 Ukrainian mobilization law, relations with Russia, and NATO's evolving weapon use policies. Sweden strongly supported NATO's continued backing of Ukraine, with Prime Minister Kristersson emphasizing that Ukraine's future lay within the Alliance.

In addition to these discussions, the Summit recognized NATO's 75th anniversary, underscoring the Alliance's longstanding commitment to collective defense. Kristersson also pointed out Sweden's involvement in key decisions regarding stronger support for Ukraine, deepening partnerships with the Indo-Pacific, and addressing other

global security challenges like the war in Gaza and the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict.

For Sweden, this NATO Summit is not just a ceremonial first attendance but a strategic engagement, solidifying its role within the Alliance and contributing to international peace and security.

Sources: Government Offices of Sweden, July 8; @SwedishPM Jul 10, 2024.

INDIA-NORDIC

Strengthening India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership

The India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership marks a significant step forward in fostering a sustainable and prosperous future. This collaboration is designed to enhance political ties, expand economic cooperation, promote green growth, create jobs, and address global challenges such as climate change and sustainable energy.

Key areas of cooperation include energy and climate change, environmental and water management, circular economy, sustainable urban development, including smart cities, and enhancing trade and maritime connections.

On August 15, on the occasion of India's 78th Independence Day, Ambassador Manish Prabhat emphasized the importance of the India-Denmark's strong commitment to deepening this collaboration. The event was celebrated with a reception at Gentofte Townhall in Copenhagen, hosted by Ambassador Prabhat and Mrs. Ruchi Narain. The Danish Minister of Industry, Business, and Financial



Affairs, H.E. Mr. Morten Bødskov, attended as the Chief Guest. Minister Bødskov noted Denmark's keen interest in boosting this partnership. He also announced plans for an official visit to India next month (September), underscoring the growing significance of this bilateral relationship.

Sources: @IndiainDenmark Aug 17 2024; MFA Denmark; Down to Earth, November 2, 2021

India-EFTA Partnership at "Arendalsuka"

The trade and economic partnership between India and Norway continues to gain momentum, creating new opportunities for businesses in both countries. This collaboration was recently highlighted at a special session organized by Innovation Norway and the Norwegian-Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NICCI) during "Arendalsuka," Norway's annual political and business festival. Arendalsuka takes place every year in mid-August. For five days, the city of Arendal is filled with a variety of exhibitions and events.



The NICCI event in 2024 focused on the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement between India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), which has significantly enhanced trade and investment prospects for Norwegian companies in India.

Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide, a vocal advocate for



strong India-Norway relations, participated in a panel discussion where he reflected on his first visit to India in 1974 and his more recent trips. He emphasized the vast opportunities that India's economic growth presents for Norwegian enterprises, urging them to take advantage of the expanding Indian market.

Ambassador Acquino Vimal also underscored the Indian Embassy's ongoing support for Norwegian businesses exploring the Indian market. He highlighted the ease of obtaining one-year-multiple-entry e-business visas and five-year paper business visas, which are issued on the same day. The Ambassador encouraged Norwegian companies to visit India, attend trade fairs, and engage with Indian enterprises to further strengthen this growing partnership,

Several business leaders, including the CEOs of Innovation Norway and Norfund, shared their experiences and success stories, illustrating the potential of the India-Norway trade relationship. The session reinforced the importance of this strategic partnership and the mutual benefit it brings to both nations.

Source: @IndiainNorway August 14; Arendalsuka, August 12-16

Empowering Women Entrepreneurs: India and Finland Forge Stronger Business Connections

In a significant event aimed at fostering collaboration and empowering women in business, a 63-member delegation from the Federation of Indian Women Entrepreneurs (FLO) visited Helsinki, Finland. The event, hosted by Business Finland and Helsinki Partners at the Helsinki City Hall, brought together leaders in businesses and innovation to explore opportunities in Finland's dynamic business landscape.

FLO, based in New Delhi, is a prominent all-India organization with over 11,000 members, dedicated to supporting women in entrepreneurship and professional excellence. Through workshops, seminars, and capacity-building programs, FLO has been instrumental in empowering women entrepreneurs across India.

The event featured keynote speeches from industry experts, including the newly appointed India Ambassador to Finland, Mr. Hemant Kotalwar, who highlighted the

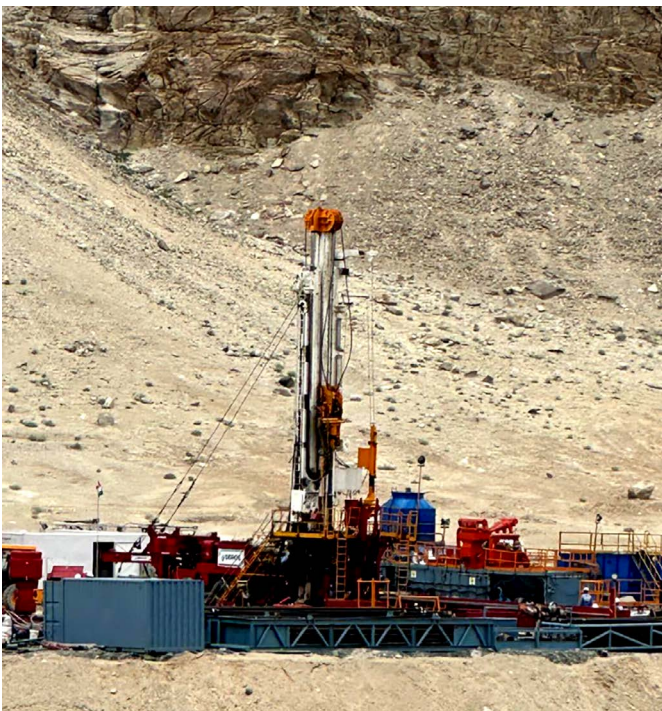


growing opportunities for collaboration between India and Finland. Ms. Nina Kopola, Director General and CEO of Business Finland, also addressed the gathering, providing valuable insights into Finland's innovative business environment and the potential for Indian women entrepreneurs to expand their ventures.

Sources: @IndEmbFinEst August 9; @IndiaInFinland August 8.

India-Iceland Collaboration Advances Geothermal Energy Pilot in Ladakh

Recently, there have been reports that Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), one of the largest oil companies in India, has re-started the drilling operations at India's first geothermal power project, a one-megawatt pilot initiative, in the Puga Valley, about 200 km from Leh.



The initiative is a result of a historic tri-partite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Union Territory Administration Ladakh, LAHDC-Leh and ONGC Energy center signed in 2021. Later, Iceland GeoSurvey (ÍSOR), a renowned global leader in geothermal research and exploration, secured an agreement with the ONGC for the development of the geothermal power plant in the Puga Valley in Ladakh.

By tapping into Iceland's extensive expertise, India is advancing its energy diversification efforts. The Puga Valley project is particularly notable as it represents India's growing emphasis on sustainable energy under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Hardeep Singh Puri, India's Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, highlighted the importance of this project as a step toward the country's energy independence. He praised the joint efforts, noting that this collaboration showcases India's commitment to leveraging international partnerships for sustainable development.

Sources: KashmirLife, July 30; Think Energy, August 9; @HardeepSPuri August 17

INDIA-EU

An Indian PM Visits Austria after 4 Decades

In early July, PM Modi commenced his two-day trip to Austria. It was a momentous visit not only by virtue of being the first visit by an Indian PM to Austria in 41 years but also because 2024 marks the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties between Austria and India. During the visit, Modi met with Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen and held discussions with Chancellor Karl Nehammer.

Chancellor Nehammer and PM Modi talked about the need to upgrade their bilateral partnership to strategic direction. They held an in-depth discussion on the current geopolitical situation in the world, including the conflict in Ukraine or in West Asia.

They have agreed to work together on a number of sectors including infrastructure development, innovation, renewable energy, hydrogen, water and waste management, artificial intelligence (AI), quantum technology



collaborative business-to-business engagement, smart cities, mobility and transportation.

PM Modi also invited Austria to join the International Solar Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, and the Biofuel Alliance. He also extended an invitation to Chancellor Nehammer to visit India at his convenience, which the Chancellor accepted.

PM Modi also addressed leading Austrian and Indian CEOs with Chancellor Nehammer. He highlighted India's fast-growing economy and the opportunities for Austrian businesses in India in the coming years. He also encouraged business leaders to utilize the Make in India initiative for ensuring high-quality and cost-effective manufacturing for both India and world.

PM Modi also met Nobel physics laureate Anton Zeilinger, a Professor of Physics Emeritus at the University of Vienna and a senior scientist at the Institute for Quantum Optics and Quantum Information of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. They discussed the possibilities of quantum technologies, as well as spirituality.

The PM also met four well-known and respected Austrian Indologists Professor Birgit Kellner, Dr Martin Gaenszle, Dr Borayin Larios, and Dr Karin Preisendanz. They discussed views on the diverse facets of Indian history, philosophy, art, and culture, including the roots of Indology in Austria and its impact on intellectual curiosity and scholarship.

He concluded his visit by addressing the Indian diaspora

in Vienna. The Austrian Federal Minister of Labor and Economy Martin Kocher also attended the event. PM Modi congratulated the Indian diaspora for its contributions in strengthening bilateral relations between India and Austria. He drew on the shared democratic values and pluralistic ethos of the two countries, which though geographically distant, have many similarities. He also talked about the strength of India's electoral machinery and its democracy and expressed confidence about India becoming a "Viksit Bharat" (developed country) by 2047.

Sources: NDTV Profit, July 10; Indian Express, July 11; India Today, July 11; Deccan Chronicle, July 11; News on Air, July 11; PIB, July 10

EU Provides Humanitarian Aid to India for Flood Relief

In response to the devastating floods that have recently impacted northern India, Bangladesh, and the Philippines, the EU has approved €2.4 million in humanitarian aid to assist the most affected populations. This funding is crucial in providing immediate relief, including cash assistance, food, access to clean water, sanitation, and other essential services in the hardest-hit areas.

The aid package reflects the EU's ongoing commitment to supporting India during natural disasters. In this instance, €1.2 million has been allocated to India and Bangladesh to help alleviate the suffering in flood-stricken regions. The situation in India has been particularly challenging, with the floods compounding the effects of other recent natural calamities, putting immense pressure on local communities and resources.

In May this year, the EU had also provided about €250,000 in response to a hailstorm and heavy rain that had hit Manipur.

Sources: @EUAmbIndia, July 30; Deccan Herald, May 29; Business Standard, July 30

India-EU Encourage Climate Action Among Youth

The fifth edition of the "Youth Climate Conclave" (YCC) was launched virtually on International Youth Day, August 12, along with the announcement of a Photography Competition (with last date for submission as October 1, 2024). This annual event has become a significant platform for youth engagement in climate action. The



Launch of Youth Climate Conclave and Photography Competition
5th Edition

Calling All Young Changemakers Aged 10-25!

Don't miss the opportunity to be part of the Youth Climate Conclave 5th Edition, where your ideas and actions can shape the future of our planet.

What to Expect?

- Empowerment: Discover your potential to make a difference
- Education: Learn from experts about climate change and sustainability
- Inspiration: Be inspired by youth-led initiatives who are driving real change
- Youth Voices: Share your ideas and perspectives on climate action
- Networking: Connect with like-minded peers and professionals

What's in Store!

- Photography competition
- Display of winning photos at a reputed exhibition
- Residential 2-day capacity building sessions
- Climate Fresh workshops
- Debate competition
- Participation in international platforms like WSDS

Date
12 August 2024

Time
1500-1630 Hrs IST

Platform
WebEx

Register Now and Make a Difference!

For participation and more details, please follow the link: <https://www.teriin.org/project/youth-climate-conclave>

Education for Youth Empowerment, Environment Education and Awareness Division, TERI, 60, Darbari Seth Block, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003

YCC brings together young climate leaders from India and the EU to discuss and develop actionable solutions to pressing environmental challenges.

The YCC is held under the India-EU Clean Energy and Climate Partnership (CECP) project, financed and managed by the Delegation of the EU to India. It emphasizes the importance of empowering young people in the global fight against climate change. Participants can engage with experts, share their innovative ideas, and collaborate on strategies that can be implemented locally and globally. This event underscores the EU's commitment to fostering a new generation of climate-conscious leaders in India, further strengthening the partnership between India and Europe in addressing environmental issues.

The 2024 edition of the YCC is particularly significant as it aligns with India's and the EU's broader goals of enhancing youth participation in sustainable development and climate action. The virtual format allows for broader participation, ensuring that young voices from diverse

backgrounds can contribute to the dialogue.

The YCC events, organized by TERI, this year included a youth photography competition (with the theme: Climate Action for the future we want!), a two-day knowledge enrichment session aligned with TERI's World Sustainable Development Summit 2025, and an exclusive educational excursion aimed at providing evidence-based learning to empower youth in combating climate change.

Source: @Teriin, August 1; TERI; TERI, July 12

Jaishankar & Borrell meet in Laos

In late July, Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell Fontelles on the sidelines of ASEAN meetings in Vientiane. The two leaders were in Laos PDR for the various meetings of the Association of Southeast Nations (ASEAN). Jaishankar participated in the Foreign Ministers' Meetings under the ASEAN framework in the format of ASEAN-India, East Asia Summit (EAS) and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). High Representative Josep Borrell participates in the annual Ministerial Meeting between the EU and ASEAN, as well as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Ministerial Meeting. Foreign ministers from Southeast Asian nations and top diplomats from other key partner countries such as the United States and China were gathered in Laos for the period of three days.

Jaishankar and Borrell discussed enhancing the India-EU ties in areas of trade, clean energy and digital transitions, security and defense, maritime security, and advanced



technologies. The dialogue also provided a platform to exchange views on both regional and global issues.

In his statement on the social media platform X, Borrell expressed his gratitude for Jaishankar's unwavering support in bolstering India-EU relations.

This engagement highlights the ongoing efforts to fortify EU-India relations and tackle global challenges through collaborative and strategic approaches.

Sources : @JosepBorrellF July 27; *Indian Express*, July 27; *UNI*, July 26; *Indian Express*, July 25

EU & India Hold Conference on Combating Online Radicalization

On August 21 and 22, the EU and India held a track 1.5 regional conference in New Delhi to discuss emerging threats in online radicalization and to jointly combat the exploitation of digital spaces by radical non-state actors. It was organized in collaboration with Global Counter-Terrorism Council (GCTC), an international think tank. Experts, policymakers, academia, and law enforcement officials from India, Bangladesh, the Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Europe were present during the event. Speakers included Ambassador Manjeev Puri, Major General Sujeewa Senarath Yapa, and Kate Fitzpatrick, who highlighted the importance of international collaboration to counter radicalization while protecting human rights, and the trans-border character of terrorism.

The EU Ambassador to India Hervé Delphin called for a joint and regional effort to tackle the challenges posed by

terrorism and extremist propaganda, particularly online. He highlighted the EU's commitment to addressing these challenges.

The program also included discussions on themes such as "The link between online and offline extremist behavior" and "Promoting critical thinking in the digital age to combat extremism." Such measures will help prepare strategies for developing resilience in the face of extremist content online.

This joint initiative between the EU and India demonstrates the commitment of both partners to combating terrorism in all its forms by strengthening regional cooperation for a safer cyberspace.

Sources : @EU_in_India, August 19. @EU_in_India, August 21; *Business Standard*, August 20; *News on Air*, August 21; *Hindustan Times*, August 19

INDIA-GLOBAL

India Is the Fastest-Growing Big Economy

According to the latest growth projections in the "World Economic Outlook," a report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), India is expected to grow at 7.0 percent in 2024. India's growth forecast for financial year 2024-25 was revised upward from the previous estimate of 6.8 percent in the April update. This has been largely due to "improved prospects for private consumption, particularly in rural areas." India is the fastest-growing economy among the Emerging Markets and Developing Economies in Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East, Central Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

In July 2024, the IMF updated the "World Economic Outlook," a survey that is usually published twice a year providing analyses of global economic developments during the near and medium term. The report gives an overview and in-depth examination of the world economy, discussing pressing concerns that impact industrial nations, developing countries, and economies in transition.

The latest growth projections showed stronger economic activity in Asia, with India and China accounting for accounts for almost half of the global growth. For 2024,



World Economic Outlook Growth Projections

(Real GDP, annual percent change)	PROJECTIONS		
	2023	2024	2025
World Output	3.3	3.2	3.3
Advanced Economies	1.7	1.7	1.8
United States	2.5	2.6	1.9
Euro Area	0.5	0.9	1.5
Germany	-0.2	0.2	1.3
France	1.1	0.9	1.3
Italy	0.9	0.7	0.9
Spain	2.5	2.4	2.1
Japan	1.9	0.7	1.0
United Kingdom	0.1	0.7	1.5
Canada	1.2	1.3	2.4
Other Advanced Economies	1.8	2.0	2.2
Emerging Market and Developing Economies	4.4	4.3	4.3
Emerging and Developing Asia	5.7	5.4	5.1
China	5.2	5.0	4.5
India	8.2	7.0	6.5
Emerging and Developing Europe	3.2	3.2	2.6
Russia	3.6	3.2	1.5
Latin America and the Caribbean	2.3	1.9	2.7
Brazil	2.9	2.1	2.4
Mexico	3.2	2.2	1.6
Middle East and Central Asia	2.0	2.4	4.0
Saudi Arabia	-0.8	1.7	4.7
Sub-Saharan Africa	3.4	3.7	4.1
Nigeria	2.9	3.1	3.0
South Africa	0.7	0.9	1.2
Memorandum			
Emerging Market and Middle-Income Economies	4.4	4.2	4.2
Low-Income Developing Countries	3.9	4.4	5.3

Source: IMF, World Economic Outlook Update, July 2024

Note: For India, data and forecasts are presented on a fiscal year basis, with FY 2023/2024 (starting in April 2023) shown in the 2023 column. India's growth projections are 7.3 percent in 2024 and 6.5 percent in 2025 based on calendar year.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

IMF.org

China is expected to grow 5.0 percent. In contrast to the growth in these two Asian giants, among the advanced economies, the forecast for the US has been downgraded to 2.6 percent from the 2.7 percent in April. In the Euro area, the 2024 growth forecast has been upped to 0.9 percent from 0.5 in 2023.

On the whole, the IMF expects the world economy to grow at just 3.2 percent in 2024, marginally down from 3.3 percent growth in 2023. However, it highlights that the global economy is continuing to “show resilience, defying fears of stagflation or recession.”

Sources: @IMFNews, July 17; International Monetary Fund, July; IMF Blog, July 16; TOI, July 16; AP, July 16

India Hosts 3rd Edition of India-Japan 2+2 Dialogue

India and Japan held their third “2+2” Dialogue in New Delhi on August 20. This event marks an important milestone, as 2024 marks 10 years since the establishment of the Special Strategic and Global Partnership between the two nations. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Ms. Kamikawa Yoko and Minister of Defense of Japan, Mr. Kihara Minoru had productive discussions with the Minister of Defense of India, Mr. Rajnath Singh and Minister of External Affairs of India, Dr. S. Jaishankar



The dialogue covered a wide range of bilateral and regional issues, emphasizing the importance of India-Japan partnership for peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region, as well as their commitment to maintaining and strengthening a rules-based international order. They noted the progress made in promoting security cooperation including continuing bilateral and multilateral exercises including “Dharma Guardian”, JIMEX, and “Malabar.” They talked about accelerating cooperation on defense technology transfers, including the transfer of Unified Complex Radio Antenna (UNICORN) and related technologies. In this regard, India urged Japan to look into the regulatory bottlenecks that currently exist. They also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest such as concerns on the South China Sea and the ongoing war in Ukraine.

Sources: Print, August 21; Business Standard, August 20



Global Gathering for Heritage Preservation Held in India

India successfully hosted the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee Meeting at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi from July 21 to 31, 2024. The event brought together delegates from around the world to discuss and collaborate on the preservation of cultural, natural, and mixed heritage sites globally. This meeting not only reinforced India's role in global heritage conservation, but also underscored the country's dedication to preserving and promoting its rich cultural legacy on the world stage.

During the inauguration of the session, Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered an inspiring address, highlighting India's deep commitment to heritage conservation. He emphasized India's unparalleled diversity, noting that heritage is not merely a record of history but a shared global consciousness. Modi stressed that India is eager to share its conservation expertise and provide conservation support particularly to nations in the Global South, as demonstrated by India's efforts in countries like Cambodia, Myanmar, and Vietnam.

The Prime Minister also underlined the importance of integrating culture with development, elaborating India's vision of "Vikas Bhi Virasat Bhi," (literally, development together with heritage), which signifies the harmonious

coexistence of tradition and technology in driving national development. In a significant gesture, India pledged a contribution of \$1 million to the UNESCO World Heritage Center. The grant is to be used for capacity building, technical assistance, and the conservation of world heritage sites.

Additionally, Prime Minister Modi announced the proposed inclusion of the historic Moidams – the Mound-Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty – in India's northeast (the Indian state of Assam) in the UNESCO World Heritage List (they were included on July 26). The Moidams were included on July 26, marking India's 43rd World Heritage site.

Importantly, the Committee inscribed 26 new cultural and natural properties on UNESCO's World Heritage List. These properties will be provided the highest level of heritage protection in the world, besides technical and financial assistance by UNESCO. Colombia, Mauritius, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the United Republic of Tanzania have been allocated additional funds (\$235,520) for conservation. The Committee's next session will be held in 2025 in Sofia, Bulgaria. The session concluded with Nauru ratifying the World Heritage Convention and becoming its 196th State Party.

Source: UNESCO, August 1; NDTV, July 21; ET, July 26; PIB, July 21





EDITOR'S NOTE

The year 2024 is proving to be quite memorable for India-Europe relations. First off, PM Modi's multiple visits to the EU member-states of Austria and Poland, as well as Ukraine (which is on the path to EU membership) in a short span of time have highlighted India's push to increase its European outreach beyond the traditional powerhouses such as France or Germany – the stress on Central Europe is evident in these recent trips.

Moreover, Modi's trip to Ukraine will help convey India's strong stance for peace and dialogue, alleviating certain doubts about India's so-called neutrality among some Western policymakers. For Ukraine, too, the trip highlights that the war-torn country's diplomatic efforts are bearing fruits particularly to engage non-Western nations in any future talks with Russia. It is also great optics for India's leadership aims, particularly as India is a natural leading "Voice" for the Global South and a counter to China's Global South influence; and so would be critical in bridging the North-South divide.

Sweden-India ties seem to be moving at a steady rate,

with Sweden's foreign minister already having visited India earlier this year and cooperation in priority sectors of Innovation, sustainability, trade, and investment continuing via foreign office consultations. It would be interesting to see how the two sides take forward their promises to explore cooperation in semiconductors, green steel, and green batteries. There is also potential for increasing naval activities (e.g., perhaps capacity building or naval interoperability) for a strengthened maritime cooperation, as the visit of INS *Tabar* highlights.

Again, for India-Nordic relations, time is ripe to expand cooperation in strategic fields such as maritime cooperation while strengthening high tech-oriented economic ties and a momentum for green transition.

On the whole, India seems intent on leveraging its economic strides and acknowledgement by international institutions like the IMF about its future outlook to push for a diverse and "highly productive" partnership with European partners, be they Sweden, the Nordic states, Ukraine, or the EU as a bloc.

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Disclaimer: The views expressed here are as published in the original sources and not of the ISDP or the SCSA-IPA.

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The Institute for Security and Development Policy is a Stockholm-based independent and non-profit research and policy institute. The Institute is dedicated to expanding understanding of international affairs, particularly the interrelationship between the issue areas of conflict, security and development. The Institute's primary areas of geographic focus are Asia and Europe's neighborhood.

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