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# TODAY'S ANALYSIS

## (04 March 2025)

### TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- INDIA EU RELATIONS
- BIOLUMPI VAXIN
- MCQs



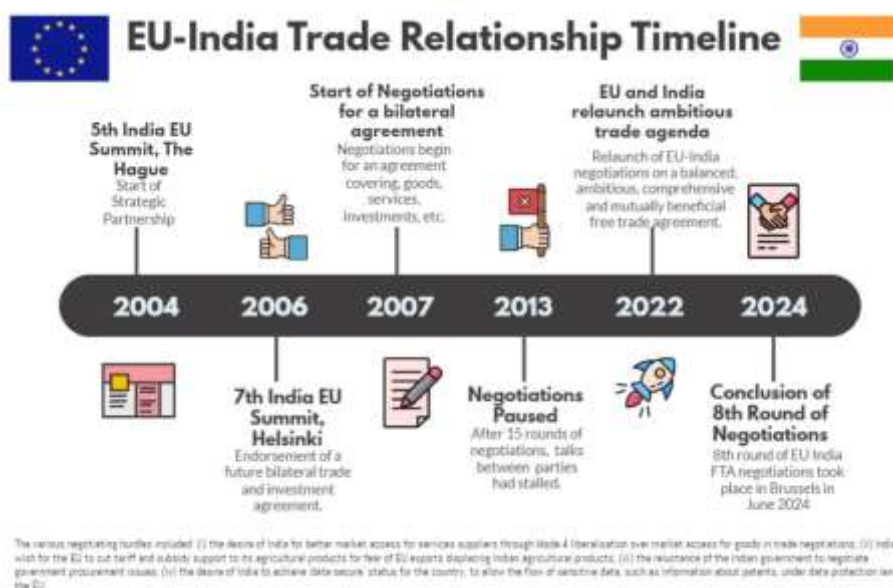
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## INDIA EU RELATIONS

- A delegation of **22 European Commission (EC) members of 27**, led by President Ursula von der Leyen, visited New Delhi for a 2-day visit on **February 27-28, 2025**.
- This marked the **first-ever visit of the EU College of Commissioners** outside Europe since their new mandate and the first visit of this kind in the history of India-EU bilateral ties.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and **President von der Leyen** affirmed that the **EU-India Strategic Partnership** has yielded strong benefits for both regions and for global peace and prosperity.



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## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Strengthening the India-EU Strategic Partnership:**
  - Both leaders committed to **raising the India-EU Strategic Partnership** to new heights, building on **20 years of cooperation** and **over 30 years of collaboration** between India and the European Communities (EC).
  - They emphasized that the **India-EU partnership** has delivered significant benefits and both sides agreed to further enhance their cooperation for the **larger global good**, aligning with shared values and principles.
- **Shared Values and Commitment to Global Peace and Stability:**
  - India and the EU, as the world's largest **democracies** and **open-market economies**, reaffirmed their mutual commitment to shaping a **resilient, multipolar global order**.
  - Their partnership is rooted in the shared commitment to **democracy, rule of law**, and adherence to a **rules-based international order**.
  - They emphasized the need for joint efforts to tackle global challenges, including **climate change, governance of Artificial Intelligence (AI), terrorism, and development finance**.

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- **Strengthening Trade, Technology, and Economic Cooperation:**
  - Both sides **underscored the importance of cooperation in trade and de-risking supply chains**, expanding mutual **investment**, and advancing **emerging technologies**.
  - The **India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC)**, established to promote cooperation between India and the EU on issues like **trade, technology**, and **green transition**, was highlighted for its **progress** in promoting **strategic collaboration**.
- **Negotiating the Free Trade Agreement (FTA):**
  - The leaders tasked their negotiating teams to pursue the conclusion of a **balanced, ambitious, and mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** by end of 2025.
  - They agreed on the importance of removing **trade barriers** and enhancing **market access** to boost **India-EU trade relations**.
  - Additionally, both sides agreed to work towards agreements on **Investment Protection** and **Geographical Indications**.

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- **Collaboration on Critical Technologies:**

- **Semiconductors:** The leaders welcomed progress made in implementing the **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** on **semiconductors** to strengthen supply chains and facilitate talent exchange in the sector.
- **6G Technology:** The leaders endorsed the **MoU** between the **Bharat 6G Alliance** and the **EU 6G Smart Networks and Services Industry Association**, focusing on creating **trusted telecommunications** and **resilient supply chains**.
- **AI and Digital Infrastructure:** Both sides pledged to deepen cooperation on **trusted, sustainable AI, high-performance computing, and Digital Public Infrastructure**, with a focus on green and clean energy technologies.

- **Green and Sustainable Development Cooperation:**

- **Clean Energy:** The leaders agreed to deepen their partnership on **clean hydrogen, offshore wind, and solar energy**.
- The establishment of an **India-EU Green Hydrogen Forum** was welcomed, as well as the **India-EU Business Summit on Offshore Wind Energy**.
- They highlighted **sustainable urban mobility, smart cities, and disaster management** as areas for **enhanced collaboration**.

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- **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC):**

- Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to the **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)**, announced during the **G20 Leaders' Summit** in New Delhi.
- The IMEC initiative will strengthen **infrastructure, trade, and connectivity** between India, the Middle East, and Europe.

- **People-to-People Ties and Migration:**

- Both countries committed to strengthening **people-to-people ties**, particularly in areas such as **higher education, research, sports, and culture**.
- The leaders agreed to promote **legal, safe, and orderly migration** to address labor market needs, especially in the context of India's growing **human capital** and the EU's **demographic challenges**.

- **International Solar Alliance (ISA) and Biofuels Cooperation:**

- The leaders emphasized the importance of deepening collaboration under the framework of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**, and the **Global Biofuels Alliance**.

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- These initiatives aim to accelerate the transition to **clean energy** and promote **disaster resilience**.

- **Defence and Security Cooperation:**

- The leaders emphasized the growing importance of **defence cooperation**, including joint **military exercises** and collaboration between the **Indian Navy** and **EU maritime security entities**.
- India expressed interest in joining projects under the **EU's Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO)** and **engaging in negotiations for a Security of Information Agreement (SoIA)**.
- They also underscored the need for deeper collaboration in **counterterrorism efforts** and tackling **cross-border terrorism** and **terrorism financing**.

- **Commitment to a Free, Open, and Peaceful Indo-Pacific:**

- Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to building a **free, open, peaceful, and prosperous Indo-Pacific**, based on **international law** and **sovereignty**.
- India welcomed the EU's joining of the **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)**, which promotes **marine conservation** and **regional cooperation**.

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- The leaders also committed to exploring **trilateral cooperation**, including in **Africa** and the **Indo-Pacific region**.

- **Global and Regional Issues:**

- The two leaders discussed key international and regional issues, including:
  - **War in Ukraine:** Both sides expressed support for a **just and lasting peace** in Ukraine based on respect for **territorial integrity**, **international law**, and the **UN Charter**.
  - **Middle East Peace:** The leaders reaffirmed their support for the **two-state solution** for Israel and Palestine, emphasizing the importance of peaceful coexistence within recognized borders.

## CONCRETE STEPS TAKEN

- **FTA Negotiations:** Speed up negotiations to conclude the **India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** by the end of 2025.
- **Defense Cooperation:** Hold focused discussions on **defense industry policy** to explore new initiatives and collaboration opportunities.
- **IMEC Progress:** Organize a review meeting to assess the progress of the **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)**.

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- **Maritime Security:** Strengthen **maritime domain awareness** and **interoperability** for better **security cooperation**.
- **Semiconductor and Technology Cooperation:** Convene the next meeting of the **Trade and Technology Council (TTC)** to focus on **semiconductors** and **critical technologies**.
- **Green Energy Cooperation:** Enhance collaboration on **clean and green energy**, with a special focus on **green hydrogen**.
- **Indo-Pacific Cooperation:** Deepen **trilateral cooperation** in the Indo-Pacific region, focusing on **security** and **economic resilience**.
- **Disaster Management:** Strengthen cooperation on **disaster preparedness, response coordination**, and **technical engagement** for resilience.

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE RELATIONSHIP

### Diplomatic Relations:

- **1962:** India and the **European Economic Community (EEC)**, the precursor to the EU, established diplomatic relations.
- **1993:** The **Joint Political Statement** marked a significant step forward, setting the stage for deeper cooperation.

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- **1994:** The **Cooperation Agreement** was signed, laying the foundation for further strengthening ties between India and the European Union.

### Strategic Partnership:

- The **India-EU Strategic Partnership** was formally established during the **5th India-EU Summit in 2004 in The Hague**.
- **15 Summits** have been held between India and the EU since the turn of the millennium, showcasing the evolving relationship.
- The partnership has been upgraded progressively, reflecting the growing significance of the relationship.

## ECONOMIC RELATIONS

### Bilateral Trade in Goods:

- **FY 2023-24:** Total **India-EU trade** in goods amounted to **\$135 billion**, reflecting a **90% increase** in trade over the past decade.
  - **Indian Exports to the EU: \$76 billion.**
  - **Indian Imports from the EU: \$59 billion.**

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## Trade in Services:

- In **2023**, the total **India-EU trade in services** stood at **\$53 billion**.
  - **Indian Exports: \$30 billion.**
  - **Indian Imports: \$23 billion.**

## Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):

- **FDI from the EU (April 2000 - September 2024):** The EU invested **\$117.4 billion** in India, constituting **16.6%** of India's total FDI equity inflows.
- **Indian FDI outflows to the EU: \$40.04 billion** (April 2000 to March 2024).

## TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION

### Science and Technology Cooperation:

- India-EU collaboration operates under the **Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement** signed in **2007**.

### Key Technological Initiatives:

- **Semiconductor R&D:** A **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** was signed in **November 2023** to promote joint **Research and Development (R&D)** efforts.

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- **Artificial Intelligence (AI):** Both parties participated in the **Global AI Summit** in **New Delhi (2023)** to further explore AI collaboration.
- **High-Performance Computing (HPC):** An **Intent of Cooperation** was signed in **November 2022** to advance cooperation in this critical technology.

### Technology Development Focus:

- The partnership aims to counter China's dominance in **critical technologies** like **semiconductors** and **AI**, with a focus on securing technological supply chains and boosting innovation.

## GREEN ENERGY SOLUTIONS

### India-EU Green Hydrogen Cooperation:

- India was the **exclusive partner** at the **European Hydrogen Week** held in **Brussels (November 2024)**, underscoring the growing cooperation in **green hydrogen**.
- The EU played a key role in the **International Conference on Green Hydrogen** held in **Delhi (September 2024)**.
- The **European Investment Bank** committed **€1 billion** to support India's green hydrogen projects.

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## Green Hydrogen Ecosystem:

- India aims to develop a **green hydrogen ecosystem** by **2030**, with **European collaboration**, especially in the areas of **renewable energy** and **hydrogen production**.

## PEOPLE TO PEOPLE TIES

### Indian Diaspora in the EU:

- There has been **significant growth** in the Indian diaspora across the EU, especially among students, researchers, and skilled professionals.

### Erasmus Scholarships:

- Over **6,000 scholarships** have been awarded to Indian students over the past **20 years**, making Indian students among the **top recipients** of these scholarships.

### Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions:

- 2,700 Indian researchers** have been funded under the EU's **Horizon Europe Programme** since **2014**, enhancing India-EU collaboration in research and innovation.

### EU Blue Cards:

- In **2023-24**, **20% of all EU Blue Cards** issued went to **Indian professionals**, reflecting India's growing role in the EU labor market.

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## DEFENCE COOPERATION

### Defence Cooperation:

- **Maritime Security:** The focus is on enhancing security cooperation in the **Indo-Pacific region**, with particular attention to countering piracy and ensuring the protection of sea lanes.
- **First Joint Naval Exercises:** The first India-EU joint naval exercises took place in **October 2023** in the **Gulf of Guinea**, marking a new phase in security cooperation.
- Both sides are working closely on **counter-terrorism, piracy, and natural disaster management**.

## SPACE COOPERATION

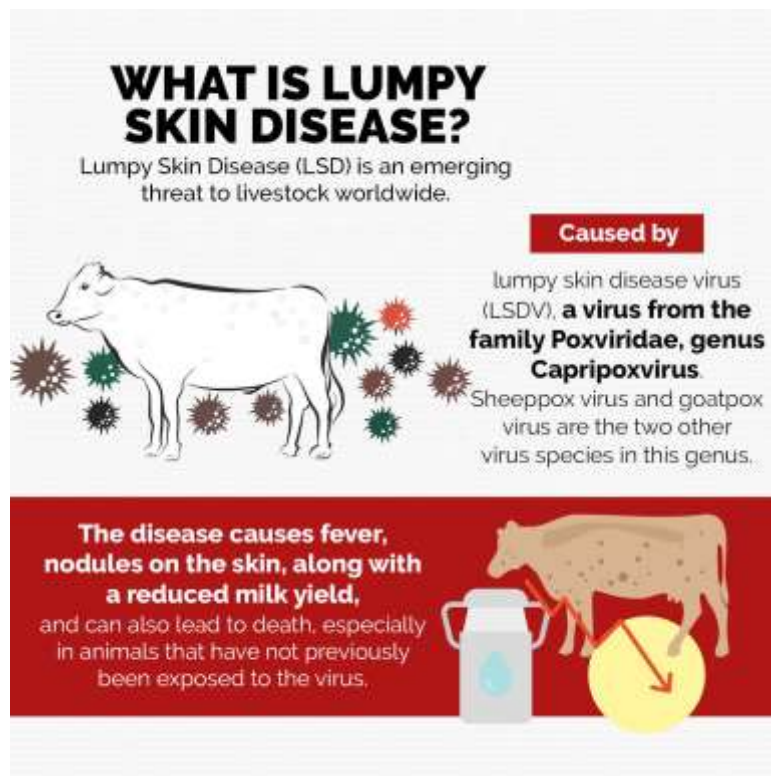
- **ISRO and the European Space Agency (ESA)** have collaborated on significant space missions, including:
  - The **PSLV launch for the PROBA-3 mission** in **December 2024**.
  - Cooperation on the **Chandrayaan-3** and **Aditya-L1** missions.
  - A **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** was signed for cooperation on **India's Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission**, marking a new chapter in space diplomacy.

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## BIOLUMPI VAXIN



- **Biolumpi Vaxin**, developed by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR), is the **world's first vaccine for Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in cattle and buffaloes.**
- It was **developed by Biovet, a group company of Bharat Biotech.**
- Recently, it has received approval from the **Central Drug Standards Control Organization (CDSCO)**, marking a significant advancement in veterinary healthcare in India.

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## KEY FEATURES

- **Global First:**

- Biolumpi Vaxin is the **first-ever DIVA (Differentiating Infected from Vaccinated Animals)** marker vaccine for Lumpy Skin Disease.
- It represents a significant milestone in global veterinary medicine.

- **DIVA Technology:**

- DIVA technology allows **differentiation between infected and vaccinated animals**.
- This helps in effective **disease surveillance** and **control programs**, ensuring that only infected animals are isolated while vaccinated ones can continue to move freely.

- **High Safety and Efficacy:**

- The vaccine has been **rigorously tested** for **quality, safety, and effectiveness** to ensure its suitability for use in cattle and buffaloes.

- **Single-Dose Regimen:**

- It is administered as a **single dose** per year to cattle and buffaloes aged **above 3 months**.

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- **Vaccine Strain:**

- The vaccine is developed using the **Lumpy Skin Disease Virus/Ranchi/2019 strain** sourced from ICAR-NRCE, Hisar.

## BACKGROUND OF LUMPY SKIN DISEASE

- **Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD)** is a viral infection affecting cattle and buffaloes, primarily causing severe economic losses in the dairy and livestock industry.
- **Cause:** The disease is caused by the **Lumpy Skin Disease Virus (LSDV)**, which belongs to the **Poxviridae family**.
- **Spread:** The virus spreads through **blood-sucking vectors** like ticks, mites, houseflies, and mosquitoes. It can also be transmitted through **contaminated water, fodder, and feed**.
- **Symptoms:**
  - Visible lumps or nodules on the skin.
  - Fever, swelling, and lesions.
- **Economic Impact:**
  - **Reduced milk production.**

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- **Infertility** in livestock.
- **Increased mortality** in some cases, leading to **severe economic losses**.



## WHAT IS DIVA?

- **What is DIVA Technology?**
  - DIVA vaccines are designed to differentiate between animals that have been **naturally infected** and those that have been **vaccinated**.
  - This differentiation helps in preventing disease outbreaks while enabling efficient **disease surveillance** and **eradication**.

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- **Advantages of DIVA Vaccines:**

- **Identification of Infected Animals:** Infected animals can be easily identified, and **restrictions** can be imposed only on them, while vaccinated animals are allowed to move freely.
- **Monitoring Vaccine Efficacy:** DIVA vaccines allow monitoring of wild-type virus transmission in vaccinated populations, ensuring the vaccine's effectiveness.

- **Disadvantages of DIVA Vaccines:**

- **Less Effectiveness:** DIVA vaccines may not be as effective as traditional vaccines, potentially leading to incomplete protection.
- **Special Diagnostic Tests:** Special tests are required to distinguish between infected and vaccinated animals. These tests may not be as **sensitive** or **quick** as conventional tests.
- **Complex Development:** Developing DIVA vaccines is a **challenging** process due to the need for precise technology and techniques to differentiate infections.

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## MCQs

1. Consider the following statements and mark the correct one:

1. India & EU established strategic partnership in 2004.

2. The negotiations for a FTA have been re initiated in 2025 after they stalled in 2015

(A) Only 1

(B) Only 2

(C) Both 1 & 2

(D) Neither 1 nor 2



**Ans. (A)**

2. Where was the first India-EU joint naval exercise hosted?

(A) Bay of Bengal

(B) North Sea

(C) Gulf of Guinea

(D) Arabian Sea

**Ans. (C)**

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3. Consider the following statements wrt Lumpy Skin Disease and mark the correct one:

1. It is a viral disease.

2. It is vaccine preventable.

(A) A: Only 1

(B) B: Only 2

(C) C: Both 1 & 2

(D) D: Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans. (C)**

4. Which of the following can be an impact of Lumpy Skin Disease?

1. Reduced milk production.

2. Infertility in livestock.

3. Increased mortality among livestock.

(A) Only 1

(B) Only 2 & 3

(C) Only 3

(D) All of the above

**Ans. (D)**

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