



# India-Luxembourg Virtual Summit

## Why in News

Recently, the **Prime Ministers of India** and the **Grand Duchy of Luxembourg** have held the **first-ever India-Luxembourg Virtual Summit**.

- Both countries have cordial and friendly relations for over more than seven decades since the **establishment of diplomatic relations in 1948**.



## Key Points

- **Focus Areas:**
  - Strengthening **India-Luxembourg relationship in the post-Covid-19 world**, especially in the areas of financial technology, green financing, space applications, digital innovations and start-ups.
- **Promote Multilateralism:**
  - Strengthen cooperation on realising **effective multilateralism and combating global challenges** like the Covid-19 **pandemic**, terrorism and climate change.
- **New Initiatives:**
  - India welcomed **Luxembourg's announcement to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, and also invited it to join the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**.

## ▪ **Agreements Signed at the Summit:**

- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India International Exchange (India INX)** and **Luxembourg Stock Exchange**.
- MoU between State Bank of India (SBI) and Luxembourg Stock Exchange.
  - Both these provide for cooperation in financial services, industry maintenance of orderly markets in securities, ESG (environmental, social and governance) and green finance in the local market.
- MoU between [Invest India](#) and **Luxinnovation**.
  - It provides for support and development of mutual business cooperation, including promotion and facilitation of inbound FDI, coming from or proposed by Indian and Luxembourgish investors.

## **India-Luxembourg Relations**

### ▪ **Economic Relationship:**

- Both countries have a **long-standing cooperation in the steel** sector and the leaders called upon businesses, including SMEs and startups, to **explore further opportunities** for expanding the economic relationship.
- Both nations look forward to the **17<sup>th</sup> Joint Economic Commission (JEC)** between **India and the [Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union](#)** to review the economic and trade relations.

### ▪ **Finance:**

- The **proposed agreement** between the regulatory authorities **Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF)** and the [Securities and Exchange Board of India \(SEBI\)](#) would deepen bilateral cooperation in the financial sector.
- Luxembourg, as a **leading international financial centre in Europe**, can **act as an important bridge** to help connect India's financial services industry with international markets and reach European and global investors.

### ▪ **Space and Digital Cooperation:**

- Both countries have an **ongoing space cooperation**, including in the domain of **satellite broadcasting and communications**.
- **Luxembourg based space companies** have **started utilising the services of India** for launching their satellites into space.
  - In November 2020, [Indian Space Research Organisation \(ISRO\)](#) **launched the [PSLV-C49 mission](#)**, which included 4 satellites from Luxembourg.
- A **cooperation instrument in the area of exploration and [use of outer space for peaceful purposes](#)** is currently under discussion between the two Governments.
- In the wake of the **pandemic**, both India and Luxembourg are **promoting digitalisation** through the ["Digital India"](#) programme and the ["Digital Luxembourg"](#) initiative respectively and agree to explore convergences between the two initiatives.

### ▪ **Higher Education and Research:**

- **Indian National Brain Research Centre** and the **Luxembourg Institute of Health** and the **Luxembourg Centre for Systems Biomedicine** have an ongoing collaboration in the field of **neurodegenerative diseases**.
  - Neurodegenerative diseases are a heterogeneous group of **disorders that are characterised by the progressive degeneration of the structure and function of the central nervous system or peripheral nervous system**.
  - Examples: [Alzheimer's disease](#) and [Parkinson's disease](#).
- **IITs** in Bombay, Kanpur and Madras and the **National Law School of India** have **links** with the **University of Luxembourg** which will be **further expanded** for higher education and research in both countries.

## ▪ Culture and People-to-people Ties:

- In 2019, **Luxembourg** issued a **commemorative stamp to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of [Mahatma Gandhi](#)**.
- Both countries intend to **conclude a Migration and Mobility agreement** to further strengthen mobility as well as an **agreement on an exemption of visas** for holders of diplomatic and official/service passports.

## ▪ EU-India Relations:

- In **July 2020**, a **[virtual summit between India and the European Union](#)** (EU) was held, where India expressed support for further intensification of the India-EU relationship, through strengthening cooperation in areas of common interest in the **[Indo-Pacific region](#)**, and through comprehensive, sustainable and rules-based connectivity.
- **Luxembourg**, as **one of the founding members of the EU**, has **played a constructive role** in supporting stronger India-EU ties, which becomes even more important for the **post-Covid-19 economic recovery**.

## ▪ Multilateral Cooperation:

- Luxembourg **welcomed [India's election to a non-permanent seat](#)** in the **UN Security Council** for the term 2021-2022 and reiterated its **support for the reforms in the UN Security Council**, including its expansion in both categories of permanent and non-permanent membership. It **supports [India's candidature for the permanent membership](#)** of the UN Security Council.
- Luxembourg supported India's entry into the **[Missile Technology Control Regime](#)** (MTCR) and India's participation in the **[Nuclear Suppliers Group](#)** (NSG).
- India supports **Luxembourg's candidatures to the [UN Human Rights Council](#)** for the term 2022-2024.
- Both **condemn [terrorism in all its forms and manifestations](#)** and agree on the need for continued cooperation to support international efforts at the UN and at forums like the **[Financial Action Task Force](#)** (FATF) to prevent and combat terrorism.

## Way Forward

- The **first stand-alone Summit between India and Luxembourg** in the past two decades marks a new phase in the bilateral relations where both countries reaffirmed their commitment towards widening and deepening the spectrum of the bilateral relations and enhancing consultation and coordination in regional and multilateral fora on matters of mutual and global interest.

**[Source: PIB](#)**

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