

# The Blue Moon

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**H.E. JUAN ANGULO**  
AMBASSADOR OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF CHILE

**India & Egypt**  
*elevating ties*

**Marcela Zúñiga**  
*Trade commissioner of  
Chile in India by  
ProChile*

**Foresight** gives  
**direction** to a  
rudderless **boat**

**'Chile is not** 🌶️

**EXCLUSIVE STORY**  
TALK OF ARMING UKRAINE IS  
LIKE ADDING FUEL TO 🔥



**KAMAL SANGHVI**



**HOTSEAT**





# No More Changing of Names

The juggernaut started rolling with several places being renamed. They were names of towns and other places specially named by their Mughal rulers decades ago, but the current ruling disposition was opposed to these names and so started the juggernaut with a handful of people enjoying the change while many others discarded it as an exercise in futility. There was no stopping to the menace till the country's apex court gave a ruling against a PIL aimed at furthering the exercise.

The Supreme Court appropriately rejected a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) aimed at renaming of cities and places saying they were imprints of foreign invaders on these places and rechristening them with their ancient identities was fraught with danger. "Do you want to go back to the past, keep the issue alive and keep the country on the boil? Your fingers are pointed at one community. You must remember India is a secular country, the court told the petitioner. Historical aberrations cant haunt present and future generations of the nation to a point that succeeding generations become prisoners of the past . What is of the greatest importance for the country is the preamble of the Constitution, which professes secularism and maintenance of harmony and fraternity between different sections. The Court further said, "It's a historical fact. Can you wish away invasions from history? We have been invaded several times. Have we not got other problems in our country. What is the point in digging into the past? Can't we move forward and deal with the problems at hand?"

Indeed there is no point in digging into the past and there are several other problems which can be looked into and set right.

Perhaps the Supreme Court's rejection of the PIL is an indication of the fact that law has finally prevailed. No more changing names just for the heck of it. The bureaucracy must understand the implications and the expenses which come with such toying of ideas.

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Unplugged*



**H.E. JUAN ANGULO**  
AMBASSADOR OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF CHILE

# It is time for an FTA with India

## 1.- As Ambassador of Chile what is at the top of your agenda in India ?

**D**ifferent topics are on top of the agenda, from the deepening of the Preferential Trade Agreement in force since 2007 with India, to the conclusion of several agreements in areas such as pharmaceuticals, agriculture, social security, cooperation in S&T, renewable energies and others where we have multiple points of mutual interest. We see an incremental interest of India for our LAC region and as a country we celebrate that and are fully prepared to engage with India in multiple areas of traditional and new cooperation. We would like to see the transformation of our existing PTA into a FTA which would include areas as investment, services and movement of business people that will be definitely beneficial for strengthening our already very good relationship.

## 2.-Do you intend increasing imports from Chile to India and, if yes, what products?

Of course, we are strongly working towards this. For us one of our principal objectives is to increase the exports from Chile to India and strengthen the bilateral commercial relationship between both the countries. To achieve this, the commercial department of the Embassy, ProChile - Delhi plays a principal role, connecting the importers with trusted exporters to bring Chilean offer closer to India. In India the journey of growth and expansion is long and difficult, but also full of opportunities and challenges. It's not only about bringing Chilean products to India, but also about letting the Indian consumers know about Chile and its offers. Today we are working in enhancing our already diverse agricultural offer in terms of fresh fruits ( such as kiwis, cherries, apples, blueberries, pears, grapes and others), dry fruits (such as walnuts, prunes, raisins among others) and also, to improve the visibility and demand of our wines.

But it is essential to diversify the trade, for this reason we are working on the strategy to

penetrate Chilean sea products (considering Chilean salmon as principal product) and other items like creative industries, that we know will make the difference in the future.

### 3.- What are the products Chile exports to India at present ?

India is one of the top importing partners to Chile and ranks number 14 (Source: Trade Map) among the countries importing from Chile. During the year 2021 India imported a total of 1.103 billion USD worth of products from Chile. The main imports from Chile to India constitute of minerals like copper, Iodine and other mineral concentrates, Chile also exports a good number of agricultural products to India including walnuts, apples, kiwis, cherries, and wines

**The top 10 non-mineral Chilean exports to India are shown in the table below:**

Product	Export value in USD
Walnuts	62,055,054.5
Apples	48,089,997.1
Kiwis	21,814,966.9
Paper and cardboard and their manufactures	2,630,672.5
Seeds for planting	2,606,743.0
Cherries	2,456,886.5
Oat Grains	2,395,989.0
Wines	1,655,094.8
Pears	1,649,704.4
Fish fats and oils	1,153,525.1

### 4.- Is there Indian investment in Chile ? Do you intend inviting Indian investment?

There are many areas of interest for investment in Chile and our specialized agency Invest Chile ([investchile.gob.cl](http://investchile.gob.cl)) can provide a wide variety of support and help to Indian companies interested in exploring the opportunities that Chile offers. The all ecosystem is well developed and through the years we have received huge amounts of foreign investments with excellent results in terms of facilities for doing business, legal certainty, return of flows, non discrimination and a good network of treaties to avoid double taxation. In fact the one between India and Chile has been fully approved in both countries. There are already Indian investments in the mining industry, cars and tractors, pharma and consultancy and also in the electrical and renewable energy areas.

### 5.-In which fields would you prefer Indian investment

In term of new investments there are many opportunities such the ones in the areas of energy, including solar, wind and green energy projects, tourism, diverse infrastructure projects (highways, ports and airports), a wide number of agro business related activities, food industry in general and of course the mining sector, where Chile occupies an important position in terms of production, research and transition towards a sustainable mining industry.

### 6.-Are there Chilean investments in India ? Which fields?

According to the numbers of Invest India, Chile has also been investing in the country and is currently ranked 49th in terms of FDI equity inflow to India. Chile made its first FDI to India during the year 2006-07 and by the end of March 2022 had made investments worth USD 151.93 million (INR 721.98 crore). These investments have been made mainly in the fields of Industrial Machinery, Electrical Equipment, Construction Development (Including Townships, housing, built-up infrastructure, and other projects), Mining and Computer software & hardware

SNo.		Amount of FDI Equity Inflow		% age of Total Equity Inflow
		(In INR Crore)	(In USD Million)	
1	Industrial Machinery	183.83	38.81	25.55
2	Electrical Equipment's	157.93	34.69	22.83
3	Construction Development: Townships, housing, built-up infrastructure and construction-development projects	112.24	23.24	15.30
4	Mining	59.69	12.99	8.55
5	Computer software & hardware	56.71	11.45	7.53
	Total	570.39	121.18	79.76

## 'Chile is not Chilli'

Chile is not chili was an event hosted in New Delhi by ProChile, agency of Foreign Ministry of Chile, to promote trade relations between Chile and India.

Leading Indian food, travel and lifestyle writers, influencers and enthusiasts were invited at the dinner reimaged by Chef Vivek Rana, the Executive Chef at The Claridges hotel.

The menu was an amalgamation of the two cultures and the dinner was especially targeted to create awareness among many Indians about Chile, its food and culture.

A survey conducted showed that while Indian trade is very familiar with Chile and the two countries are doing regular business, many Indian consumers were still were not aware of Chile, the country. Many in fact confused Chile with Chili (spice).

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador of Chile to India, Juan Angulo, remarked that "Chile and India share a tremendous relationship that is based on shared values. Economic partnership between the two countries continues to grow and food and tourism are very important parts of this. Indians are slowly getting a taste of Chilean foods and are beginning to appreciate the quality that Chilean produce brings. Chile is bestowed with a unique topography to make Chile a phytosanitary island. This is a primary reason for the high quality of produce that comes from there, Ambassador Angulo added.

Marcela Alejandra Zuniga Alegria, Trade Commissioner of ProChile in India said that the goal of ProChile is to bring Chile closer to India and improve the visibility of Chile, as a country, supplier and partner. ProChile's main objective is to improve bilateral trade between both countries.

We hope that "Chile is not Chili" will provide an opportunity for Indians to know and connect with Chile, its flavours and its people.



President, Droupadi Murmu accepted credentials from Issa Saleh Abdullah Saleh Al Shibani, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on February 24, 2023.



President, Droupadi Murmu accepted credentials from Javier Manuel Paulinich Velarde, Ambassador of the Republic of Peru at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on February 24, 2023.



President, Droupadi Murmu accepted credentials from Lalatiana Accouche, High Commissioner of the Republic of Seychelles at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on February 24, 2023.



President, Droupadi Murmu accepted credentials from Victoria Samuel Aru, Ambassador of the Republic of South Sudan at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on February 24, 2023.



President, Droupadi Murmu accepted credentials from Koy Kuong, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Cambodia at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on February 24, 2023.

# Advt



# India has evolved in Economic Terms



**Ms. Marcela Zúñiga**  
Trade commissioner of  
Chile in India by  
ProChile

**1. When you came to India as Trade Commissioner India ranked in a different position as today in import from Chile, has the position improved after that?**

**M**any changes are happened from my first time in India, and I feel very proud to see how India has evolved positively in economic and trade terms

Chile and India have a long way to walk yet, but the important is see how many positive things have happened in the last years, between both countries

Today, we have a PTA in a new extension process and for another side a significant growth in exports in many products.

We go step by step, but with a strong conviction and decision, because we know that India is the future and for this reason today more than ever, we are working to concentrate all our efforts in improving and enhancing our commercial relations.

I don't like to talk about rankings, because these sometimes they can be very subjective depending on the source, but what I can say with all properly, is about the facts, and the facts show a significant increase in many exportations' products, an upward trend line and very encouraging projections, that, although they are stimulating, also imply a great deal of responsibility and hard work.

**2. What steps have you taken to curtail shipment time (to India). Has the idea of consolidating smaller shipments to India helped? In terms of logistics what solution have you tried?**

In the past couple of years, there have been some serious issues with logistics due to the COVID pandemic phase. The whole world faced extreme scarcity of containers, which resulted in delay in delivery time and also increased shipping cost which became almost

double due to this situation. To curtail it we have thought of few probable solutions, one of which is warehouse shipping or consolidated shipping. This method has been approved but still needs to be implemented. The trial shipments are yet to be dispatched but we hope that this is going to reduce shipping time by at least 15 to 20 times. Another possibility is to re-route the containers through other countries like China or Dubai, this can provide an estimated time advantage of 10 to 15 days in transit. Moreover, as the COVID situation is normalizing, the shipping business is back on track and costs of containers are almost as high as before the pandemic.

**3. What growth in volume of walnuts has been registered during the past two financial years?**

Walnuts from Chile have shown exponential growth in past two year in terms of exports to India, the exports to India of inshell walnuts almost doubled in value during the year 2021, with a total of 60.152 million USD worth of walnuts exported to India as compared to a total of 31.11 million USD worth exported during 2020. (Source: Trademap)

**4. In terms of value Chile has registered an increase from USD 24871140 in 2018 to USD 33697430. What increase do you foresee in the current fiscal in export to India?**

These past few years have been very volatile due to the logistical issues, duty fluctuations and lockdowns and it has given us some eccentric trade curves but if we refer to historical data and analyze growth trends in times of normalcy, we would expect a moderate growth of 10-15% the next year. We are also taking into account that things are still in process of settling down and once they are back to normal 100% we expect the trade to grow at a much faster pace.

**5. What has been the increase in export of dry fruits from Chile to India in the past 2 years?**

The increase in dry fruit exports from Chile to India has been almost 100% if we compare 2021 to 2020. But this has been primarily because of an increase in exports of inshell walnuts. We are also now trying to promote prunes from Chile in India so that it can

diversify the product line and also contribute to the total trade with India.

**6. What has been the overall increase in trade with India after you took over the trade commissioner?**

The total trade between Chile and India (Exports and Imports) rose from 1588 to 2418 million USD during the year 2020 and 2021 respectively. This marks an increase of 52 % in total trade between the two countries.

**7. What are your future plans to increase trade between both Countries?**

Chile and India share excellent political and commercial relations. The trade between Chile and India has been witnessing a healthy year-on-year growth. The exports from Chile to India have also been on the rise, though there have been some exceptional years especially when we were going through COVID pandemic but now as the world is normalizing, we hope that the growth trend will continue for upcoming years. To strengthen the Exports from Chile to India we are making multi directional efforts, where on one hand we are trying to expand the product portfolio offered from Chile and on the other hand we are also trying to popularize the already exported product and also educate the Indian consumers about Chile, about its offers and benefits of the products coming from Chile. We believe that our efforts combined with cooperation and support from the Indian side of trade will definitely result in exponential growth of Chilean exports to India.



# E- learning brings uniformity in education

**Q.1 You graduated in Pharmaceutical sciences from Manipal, but are looking after family business of Banking, Finance and Construction Business, this is a vertical change. How come from medical science you switched to finance? Were you lured by the income in the finance business that you switched ?**

Ans.: I graduated from Manipal from Kasturba Medical College with a degree in Pharmaceutical sciences and that was a natural thing that I would come out and wanted to do something of my own, bubbling with energy, I wanted to do a start-up, so I came back to Bombay, of course I had gone from Bombay. I was going to US for my studies, Masters in pharmaceuticals, industrial pharmacy and an MBA. However, before going I decided to meet my friends and one of my friends was running this industry, a start-up in Wapi. Wapi was a chemical zone and somehow or the other. I saw his industry and then I got hooked on. I started manufacturing bulk drugs in Wapi. That's where

I got into business. We were doing reasonably well. The first two years are always troublesome, we had just broken even. At that point of time my father suffered a heart attack and I took a train as I could not afford a flight at that time. It took me two days to reach Dhanbad. My father got well and he asked me it took you two days to travel when I am sick or you are sick, it will be time consuming. He asked me to join the



family business which was banking and finance firms and hire purchase of mining equipment. But once I got into the business I was settled there never to leave Dhanbad because of the liability and the onus. My dad took some time to recover, about six months. Then I got my shares off the Bombay enterprise and settled down in Dhanbad. I wanted to do something which I got in succession from my family. I wanted to do something of my own. So we started a hire purchase business of leasing and financing adding a new vertical to the business. Hire purchase of coal mining equipment, trucks, dumpers and then into corporate financing. Then my children, I have two sons. My family business was finance and I was in an expansion mode. My wife Sonal is an architect so we started a vertical which was construction. So in the first building, she looked after the designing and implementation part and I took to construction and labour and we made reasonably good money. That grew into a vertical of construction where at any given point we were constructing 100 flats. That is how the new construction wing opened up. We started corporate financing, the employees of mining firms of organisations in Dhanbad.

**Q.2 You have held important positions in Rotary International over the years, what made you stick to Rotary International? Was it the high and lucrative positions that you managed in RI or was it something to do with social service?**

Ans.: No joining Rotary was not aimed at any social service. My father was a Rotarian in a small town and it is natural thing, my father asked me to join it and I joined it more for fellowship, more for meeting people, for meeting big business people of the city to promote my business. Then somewhere down the line some dents took place which changed my view point and then an opportunity of self enhancement. My family was in social service so I kept on moving and gradually became the Director of Rotary International Board.

**Q.3 Your assignments with RI took you to different lands and places away from home, making projects is gigantic task, don't you feel this takes away the quality time from your family?**

Ans.: Oh yes, definitely, I miss out quality time with my children. At times I was away for 20 days.

I started doing large mega projects with major partners which could be replicated by Rotarians across India creating an eco system. It did affect, You do miss your family, but then If you want to do something good it always has a price to pay. This price was there but I think my family understood they loved my passion they said Dad is doing something good my wife had the same opinion that he is doing good in the world, but they supported me because the cause was greater than self, the whole universe supports you and my family did the same. They always supported me.

**Q.4 You signed the "Aman Ki Asha" Agreement between Pakistan and India for helping Pakistani children, India is such a vast country and there are millions who in dearth of money cannot afford to get their infants operated in large hospitals, why not then you begin charity at home?**

Ans.: I did lot of charity at home, lot of heart surgeries. But you know when a child is born, it is neither Indian nor Pakistani, its blood is divine. A child is a child where ever it is born and every child has the basic right, it deserves justice. He has the right to live whether he is born in Pakistan, Bangla Desh or Africa. Borders cannot

draw a line of separation between hearts. The Pakistanis are our own, they belong to us. When a child looks at me and seems to be questioning that I have the quality to give him a suitable life, then should I deny that right to the child? Will that be justified?

Rotary is apolitical. We work in 200 countries, we do not care for religion nor border we look at the humane side and enable every child to live and be educated. When I went to Pakistan there was Jung, a peer of Times of India headed by Mr Jain and Jung was headed by Shahrukh Hassan and we got talking about "Aman ki Asha" I told Mr Hassan that mere poetry will not aid Aman ki Asha, it will function when there is brotherly contact between the people of the two countries. The day a Pakistani child will have Indian blood running in his veins that I call Aman ki Asha. This will happen with heart surgeries. I saved 200 pakistani children's lives. I am extremely proud that I saved 200 children and gave them the opportunity to lead a life which otherwise they wouldn't have had.

**Q.5 You are a pioneer of Vocational Training Centres for Women, namely "Saheli Centres". You have coordinated 11 polio corrective surgery camps and two artificial limb camps. This is commendable, who are the beneficiaries and how you tap them?**

Ans.: I became Governor of my district. Rotary is split into districts, so one district 3250 comprises of Rotary clubs in Bihar and Jharkhand. In those days when I was the governor there was no Jharkhand and I had the opportunity to lead all the Rotary clubs in Bihar. When I was roaming Bihar I saw tremendous opportunity and dearth of facilities for women to enhance their capabilities. So we thought give the women equity and equality so that they bring up their children better. These Saheli Centres are still functioning and thousands of women have benefitted from them. They have found equal space in the society. They have now created huge equity for themselves and their children. The whole community comes up. I have met so many women. They are very proud of that.

Then comes polio. I must say that Rotary alone has the courage and the thought process, they dare to think to eradicate the disease across the world. The first dreaded disease was small pox and the second was polio. Rotary is the only organisation which had the ability the thought process and dared. Several big names

and international organisations came up by Rotary to help in eradication of polio. Bihar and Uttar Pradesh were two States with high number of polio afflictions and

Organisations including UNICEF, WHO, Bill Gates came in to eradicate polio. We started with the world and now there are only two countries lacking.

Rotary helped in restoring over 2000 polio victims back on their feet. Bihar was the last State where polio eradication took place. Bihar was the last state where corrective surgeries were conducted on polio afflicted victims. Bihar and UP were the last states. We did 11 camps and beneficiaries were more than 2000. Polio victim could walk. Apart from surgeries they were provided braces. To straighten out their legs.

Dhanbad has been a centre of accidents being a mining locality causing loss of limbs, also due to road accidents. So with the help of Mahaveer Viklang Sahayta Samiti of Jaipur set up an artificial limbs centre. Ultimately we set up a permanent centre of Jaipur limbs in Dhanbad. They are still functional after 40 years today. There are two- three centres today and one of them is the one opened by me through Rotary Club.

**Q.6 You have co-founded Rotary India Literacy Mission, question arises who are the beneficiaries of these programmes. There are thousands of minor children employed as labour in small time 'dhabas' and even domestic servants and maids or beggars around the cities. What's your strategy to eradicate child labour/beggars. Success of Literary Mission can be measured from the number of child labour engaged in small time eateries and beggars from the cities.**

Ans.: Yes, you said that was our purpose . The question itself is my answer. We started this initiative with my senior and mentor Shekhar Mehta who was past president of Rotary International. One of the previous past presidents Kalyan Bannerjee took up the pledge of total literacy in India. We carried the passion forward. Me and Shekhar conceptualised the programme called T E A C H ! T stands for teachers training, E stands for e-learning, A for adult education, C for child development and H for Happy school.

Under this we had the Child development we had this programme Asha Deep where 60,000 student drop outs have been sent back to school. Train them for six months and bring them back to mainstream government schools. Then the programme for teachers' training, we thought that teachers are nation builders. They need to be constantly skilled. We started teachers' training and we have thousands of teachers who have been retrained or further skills enhanced. We have participated across India in this programme along with other partners like Mahindra Tech, who is one of our partners. E-learning is the greatest order of the day because e-learning gives the opportunity for uniform education across the country. Whether it is a child studying in a small school in Haryana or there is the child studying in a large school in Bombay here comes in the uniformity of education through e-learning. As it is not much verbal and more of audio that is what brings uniformity in education. When you show the video of the solar system, it is identical for both, whether the child is in a city or the child is in a village. E-learning is the greatest success story.

When the pandemic struck, the government of India, the Ministry of Education and NCERT approached Rotary for a software because more than 10 crore children are stuck in Government schools and not able to study. We rose to the opportunity and within six months created a e-learning and audio visual package from class 1 to class ten as per the NCERT curriculum which is now beamed on PMS E-vidya programme and twelve channels of GEO platform and during Covid more than about three to four crore children daily were studying through this programme. NCERT got the world award for running the largest e-learning programme in the world using the Rotary software which NCERT Director S K Mehra commended on the television that it is because of Rotary that we are able to overcome the difficult period. We are now expanding this facility to different States across India we have already succeeded in three States, we are finished doing it in Sikkim, we have started doing with Arunachal Pradesh, finished doing it in Punjab and shortly cover all the States with the e-learning software. Asha Kiran picking school drop outs from the street , training them for six months in make shift school and bringing them back to government schools and monitor them for a year after which they don't leave the schools.

Coming to schooling the government can't do it alone it has to be public- private partnership. Government has built up the infrastructure and now it is our duty to contribute in educating children. At this stage Rotary International Literacy Mission stepped in and said you give us the schools and we will make them happy schools. We have converted 3000 schools across India into happy schools which have all the basic amenities for the students.

Rotary International Literacy Mission believes in enhancing the quality of education and providing all basic amenities in the schools. We have set up e-learning in more than 40000 schools across the country apart from the software we have given to government of India.

We are still working , we have strong tie ups with the government, lot of MoUs with State governments, Ministry of Education, lot of State governments on various platforms. We have also started the skilling programme for women alongwith Mahindra Tech.

The latest thing we are doing is adult literacy. Children are being taken care of but it is the adult illiterate where there is a gap. If there are 25 % of Indians who are illiterate, from them 85% are adults. Now we have developed primer programme, in this programme even a child can educate an adult. One child, one hour a day, 25 days in a month can make any illiterate adult functionally literate. We have tied up with 14 universities and State governments to facilitate adult literacy across India. I can assure you that we will be able to achieve total literacy across India in next five years. Its not too far off. Many organisations have joined us in this effort like Gayatri Pariwar, boy scouts and many others.

It is the job of every citizen, as we lap up the facilities given to us, to contribute in this endeavour. If we don't do it today it will reflect on our own child one day. Its all about living in an ecosystem which is equitable for everybody.

## Cover Story

# Talk of arming Ukraine is like adding fuel to fire Earth being forced on the brink of Third War

By Amit Mittal

**E**ven the talk of supplying sophisticated arms and ammunition to war-ridden Ukraine is like adding fuel to fire which could one day engulf the world in a turbulent third war of its times. It is nothing less of an instigation to incite the West against the East. Term it whatever you will, the much publicised aggression of Russia against Ukraine is nothing but meddling into the muddle of East versus West conflict.

The United States has jumped into the fray with the promise of M1 Abrams followed by a reluctant Germany adding to the confusion. Germany's Leopard 2 are now promised to Ukraine, but how many and when remains a suspense. Germany has about 2000 Leopards spread out amongst European allies, but they can't let them out to Ukraine or any third party as Germany holds all the export licenses for them.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's indecision divided his country too, including his governing coalition and even his own Social Democrat Party. "Free the Leopards!" was the slogan that raged at regular demonstrations outside the German parliament, while inside the debate to send, or not to send tanks, raged amongst German MPs.

As the aggressor in two world wars, many Germans are wary of being the main provider of battle tanks in Ukraine.

Since World War Two, Berlin has been reluctant to take the lead, but as the Europe's biggest economy, that's exactly what allies often look to Germany to do.

Germany feels deep responsibility for the slaughter of millions of Russians during World War One and Two.



Chancellor Olaf Scholz looks east to Moscow, with many party members a bit suspicious of the US and its NATO dominance.

Chancellor Scholz didn't want Germany to be the central facilitator on the battle-tanks-to-Ukraine front. While European countries including the UK, Poland and the Netherlands, say it's clearly the Kremlin that is escalating this conflict, many in Germany say they fear delivering heavy tanks and other offensive weaponry to Ukraine could push Vladimir Putin to even wilder extremes, even the use of nuclear weapons.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz didn't want Germany to stand out and alone in being the main provider of heavy tanks to Ukraine. His sudden U-turn could be because he realised if he continued to hold those tanks back, he could find himself isolated amongst his own allies.

Nonetheless, Germany is amongst the top three single donors of military aid and one of the main providers of humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius announced during a surprise visit to Kyiv to supply Ukraine with at least 100 battle tanks.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz announced the decision to send 14 tanks - and allow other countries to send theirs too - at a cabinet meeting on Wednesday. Germany permitted other countries to send their Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine - which was restricted until now under export regulations.

US President Joe Biden's administration is also expected to announce plans to send at least 30 M1 Abrams tanks.

A Kremlin spokesman earlier said the tanks would "burn like all the rest".

The US and Germany had resisted internal and external pressure to send their tanks to Ukraine for some time. Washington cited the extensive training and maintenance required for the high-tech Abrams.

Germans endured months of political debate about concerns that sending tanks would escalate the conflict and make NATO a direct party to the war with Russia.

German officials had reportedly been insisting they would only agree to the transfer of Leopard 2s to Ukraine if the US also sent M1 Abrams.

However the timing remains unclear, and it could take many months for the US combat vehicles to reach the battlefield.

Britain has already said it will send Challenger Two tanks to Ukraine.

Ukraine is still unlikely to get the 300 modern main battle tanks it says it needs to win the war.

Western tanks - including the UK's Challenger 2, Germany's Leopard 2 and the US-made Abrams - are all seen as superior to their Soviet-era counterparts, like the ubiquitous T-72.

But if half a dozen Western nations each provide 14 tanks, then that would bring the total to nearly 100 - which could make a difference.

A missing element for offensive operations is still air power.

Ukraine has been asking for the West to provide modern fighter jets since the war began. So far, none has been delivered.

Anatoly Antonov, the Russian ambassador to Washington, wrote on Telegram: "If the United States decides to supply tanks, then justifying such a step with arguments about 'defensive weapons' will definitely not work.

"This would be another blatant provocation against the Russian Federation."

More than 30 countries have provided military equipment to Ukraine since the war began in

February 2022.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky has said his forces need Western battle tanks urgently to defend its territory and to push Russian troops out of occupied areas.

Ukraine used Warsaw Pact designed T-72 tanks prior to the invasion, and since February 2022 has received more than 200 T-72s from Poland, the Czech Republic and a small number of other countries.

Announcing the US decision to send 31 Abrams tanks to Ukraine, President Joe Biden described them as "the most capable tanks in the world".

He said the US would start training Ukrainian soldiers to use them immediately but it remains unclear how long it will be until the tanks themselves are delivered.

The Stryker is one of the many armoured vehicles that have been donated to Ukraine. The US recently confirmed that 90 Strykers would soon be dispatched.

Among the other vehicles donated by the US recently were 59 more Bradley infantry fighting vehicles. They were used extensively by US forces in Iraq.

In December, the US also announced it was sending the Patriot missile system to Ukraine. This highly sophisticated system has a range of up to 100km, depending on the type of missile used, and requires specialised training for Ukrainian soldiers, likely to be carried out at a US Army base in Germany.

But the system is expensive to operate. one Patriot missile costs around \$3m.

The US has also provided Nasams (National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System) to Ukraine. The first Nasams arrived in Ukraine in November.

In addition, the UK has provided several air defence systems, including Starstreak, designed to bring down low-flying aircraft at short range.

Germany has also provided air defence systems, including the IRIS-T air defence systems which can hit approaching missiles at an altitude of up to 20km.

Among the long-range rocket launchers sent to Ukraine by the US are the M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System or Himars. Several European countries have also sent similar systems.

Crucially, the range of Himars, and many other systems, varies according to the munitions used, and it is believed that western donors have not provided the ammunition with the longest range.

Australia, Canada and the US were among the countries to send advanced M777 howitzers and ammunition to Ukraine.

The range of the M777 is similar to Russia's Giatsint-B howitzer, and much longer than Russia's D-30 towed gun.

Thousands of NLaw weapons, designed to destroy tanks with a single shot, have also been supplied to Ukraine.

Drones have featured heavily in the conflict so far, with many used for surveillance, targeting and heavy lift operations.

Turkey has sold Bayraktar TB2 armed drones to Ukraine in recent months, whilst the Turkish manufacturer of the system has donated drones to crowd-funding operations in support of Ukraine.

Kyiv believes its forces are now in a position to use more NATO standard equipment.

The UK has agreed to provide 14 Challenger 2 tanks to Ukraine. The Challenger 2 is the British army's main battle tank. The Challenger 2 was built in the 1990s, but is significantly more advanced than other tanks available to Ukraine's armed forces.

# India, Egypt to elevate ties to strategic partnership

India and Egypt agreed on Wednesday, 25 January, 2023, to elevate their bilateral ties to "Strategic Partnership" covering political, security, defence, energy and economic aspects.

Welcoming Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, the Chief Guest at the Republic Day celebrations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said abuse of cyber space by extremist forces is a "growing threat" and both sides agreed to intensify cooperation in this regard.

"India has invited Egypt as a special guest for the G-20 summit which shows our age old relationship. We have decided that under the India-Egypt strategic partnership, we will create a long term structure of cooperation on political, security, economic, and scientific areas," said Prime Minister



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi during their joint statement after a meeting at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on 25 January, 2023**

Modi announcing that the scope for cooperation in Indo-Egypt relation especially in the fields of defence and security is "unlimited".

In his remarks, President El Sisi pointed at relation between the two civilisations that date back to antiquity and said Egypt wishes to welcome more Indian tourists. The two teams signed five MoUs

covering culture, cooperation on youth matters, cyber security, information and technology (IT) and public broadcasting. "I have requested Prime Minister Modi to create permanent channels to enhance digital connections between small and medium scale industries and that will help in improving life of common people. Defence cooperation was part of today's discussion and our joint military exercise is an example of that cooperation," said President El-Sisi.

Prasar Bharati and National Media Authority of Egypt signed a MoU during the formal ceremony at the Hyderabad House.

President El-Sisi arrived in New Delhi on Tuesday evening for a state visit that is being described as historic as he is the first Egyptian President to have been invited as the "Chief Guest" at the Republic Day parade of January 26. India and Egypt are founding partners of the non-aligned movement in world affairs and has defence ties that date back to the 1960s. Prime Minister Modi appreciated that a contingent of Egyptian military personnel will participate in the Republic Day parade in New Delhi on Thursday.

"We are in agreement that terrorism is the biggest threat to humanity. Both countries also agree that strong steps are required to end cross-border terrorism and for that we have to convince the

international community through joint efforts," said PM Modi. President El-Sisi also stated that both sides have firmed up plans for cooperation in cyber security.

"I have expressed my gratitude to the Prime Minister for inviting Egypt to the G-20 summit and I have assured that Egypt will play a constructive role in the summit. We also discussed the issues before the developing economies in the context of global developments," said President El Sisi asking for greater stability in the world economy.

President El-Sisi invited PM Modi to visit Egypt and asked for greater air connectivity between New Delhi and Cairo.



**President Smt. Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi received President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi of the Arab Republic of Egypt in a ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi**



# Cuba National day



**Minister of state for Foreign Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi as the Chief Guest at the function**



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For More Information :

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# Dy. of Royal Cambodian Armed Forces visits India

Lieutenant General Hun Manet, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) and Commander of Royal Cambodian Army along with a delegation is visited India from 2 to 4 February 2023.

This was the maiden visit by any Commander of Royal Cambodian Army and is a milestone in Army to Army relations between both countries.

On 3 February 2023, the General Officer commenced the visit by paying tributes to the fallen heroes of the Indian Armed Forces by laying a wreath at the National War Memorial. He called on Mr Giridhar Aramane, Defence Secretary and was briefed on Indian indigenous defence equipment manufacturing eco-system by the Department of Defence Production (DDP) and the Army Design Bureau. He later called-on VicePresident Jagdeep Dhankar, Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar and Deputy National Security Advisor Mr Vikram Misri.

Later in the day, the visiting General Officer was accorded a Ceremonial reception and Guard of Honour at the South Block lawns after which he called on General Manoj Pande, the Chief of the Army Staff. During the meeting, General Manoj Pande, COAS reaffirmed India's support to Cambodia by offering customised training modules for the Royal Cambodian Army and Lt Gen Hun Manet announced the schedule for the conduct of first Army to Army Staff Talks in Cambodia.

The Indian Army will be conducting tailor made courses in various contemporary subjects at its premier training establishments and deploy a Training team to Cambodia. Both Chiefs signed the 'Terms of Reference' for Staff Talks and exchanged customised training folders.



Lt Gen Hun Manet was scheduled to visit Rajputana Rifles Regimental Centre Delhi Cantt, to witness a display of indigenous defence equipment. He was also scheduled to call-on General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Defence Staff prior to his departure from New Delhi.

India and Cambodia have shared centuries old cultural, religious and people to people connect. Cambodia remains a key partner in India's 'Act East' policy. Both nations share cordial relations in the field of defence and security. Defence Cooperation between both countries is governed by Bilateral Defence Cooperation Agreement signed in 2007.

Military relations between India and Cambodia have grown over the recent past and are planned to expand in various fields such as training cooperation, Counter-IED, demining and UN Peacekeeping. Bilateral mechanism between both the Armies is being institutionalised by means of Army to Army Staff Talks which will enhance the defence cooperation between the two countries.

Direct relationship with the present day Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) was established by the Indian Battalions (1 ASSAM Regt and 4 JAK RIF) forming part of UNTAC (UN Transition Authority in Cambodia) after the Paris Peace accord in 1991.

The visit by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to Cambodia in June 2018 and November 2022 provided fresh impetus to further elevate the bilateral defence cooperation to a higher level.

## Exchange programs with foreign varsities to promote Yoga and Traditional Medicine

The Ministry of Ayush has provisioned the exchange of experts in traditional medicines and students with foreign universities, under the MoUs signed between the autonomous bodies under the Ministry of Ayush and foreign Universities/Authorities to promote Yoga, Ayurveda and Traditional Medicine on the International scale.

The Ministry of Ayush has signed 24 country-to-country level MoUs, 40 Institute level MoUs and 15 Ayush Academic Chair MoUs with foreign nations. The Ministry of Ayush, for the promotion and propagation Ayush system abroad, offers scholarships to eligible foreign nationals for undertaking degree courses in Ayush systems in premier Institutes in India under its International Ayush Fellowship Programme with the aim of achieving recognition and acceptance of our Traditional Medicine Systems abroad.

The Ministry of Ayush also collaborates with foreign universities by signing Institute level MoUs for establishing Ayush Academic Chairs abroad. At present, 03 active Ayush Academic Chairs have been set up at Hamdard University (Bangladesh), the University of Latvia (Latvia), the University of Mauritius (Mauritius). The Ministry of Ayush exchanges International experts and officers to and fro India.

The Ministry has collaborated with the Ministry of Education to include Yoga, Ayurveda and Traditional Medicine in the school curriculum at the national level.

# Chilean Government launches new plan to stimulate investment in Chile



Chile has successfully attracted Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) though it has a small domestic market. The country's market-oriented policies have created significant opportunities.

The strategy includes six areas of action to boost growth from September of this year. The goal is to increase investment by five percentage points by 2023.

Chile's government presented the "Let's Invest in Chile" plan, a package of measures that aims to increase investment by five percentage points next year.

The plan came into effect from September this year consists of 28 measures divided into six areas of action: providing tax incentives for private investment; improving access to financing; improving public investment; promoting foreign investment; enhancing the effectiveness of regulation and permit procedures and promoting public-private partnerships for investment.

President Gabriel Boric explained at the launch, "I'm happy to see representatives from the private sphere, from workers' organizations and from the government working together to move forward with this pro-investment agenda, due to the difficult external and internal conditions that we are experiencing in Chile and throughout the world. We have to proactively take on the task of facing up to and changing them, to turn the forecasts on their heads. For this, we require the collaboration of the public and private sectors."

Treasury Minister Mario Marcel emphasized that "in order to recover the path of growth and a better quality of life for all Chilean people in a sustainable way, it is fundamental to create the conditions for investment to grow. President Boric has therefore tasked us with pushing forward an

ambitious agenda, which would allow us to stimulate investment, generating employment, but which at the same time allows us to speed up the transition to a green economy.”

Economy Minister Nicolás Grau added that both the global and domestic scenarios make it essential to reduce information asymmetries and risk perception among potential foreign investors through more direct dialogue. “We therefore want to strengthen the international presence and capabilities of the InvestChile team, so that they can better develop and promote foreign direct investment,” he stressed.

InvestChile executive director Karla Flores explained that the plan is focused on promoting the arrival of more and better foreign investment to Chile.

“The reopening of InvestChile offices in Europe and North America will allow us to boost a market that accounts for 60% of foreign direct investment stock in Chile, so it’s very good news. This, along with the announcement that we will be strengthening the InvestChile team, will undoubtedly lead to an increase in investment, which will boost our economy and generate more and better jobs for the Chilean people,” Ms. Flores said.

Here is a summary of the measures:

### **Tax incentives for private investment**

1. Amendment to the compensation mechanism for deferring income tax payment through companies with passive income.
2. Creation of a tax incentive for projects with a multiplier effect or green projects. A US\$500 million tax credit fund for first category tax will be created, to be allocated to investment projects with a high multiplier effect.
3. A temporary semi-instantaneous depreciation mechanism will be applied during 2023. An extraordinary semi-instantaneous depreciation period will be opened for the whole of 2023, similar to the one that was opened during the 2020 tax reform.
4. Changes with respect to the treatment of tax losses will be postponed from coming into force. Losses can thus be allocated for all taxable income until 2024; in 2025, losses worth up to 80% of taxable income may be allocated; in 2026, up to 65%; and from 2027 onwards, the allocation of losses worth up to 50% of taxable income will come into force.
5. The ad valorem rate for new and expanding copper projects will be reduced. New copper mining projects will be exempt from paying ad valorem tax for five years, so margins will not be impacted at the time that investment decisions are being made.
6. The reduction in first category tax for SMEs will be extended for two years. In 2023, a rate of 15% will be maintained, while in 2024 the rate will be 20%.
7. Elimination of the changes in the taxation of leasing contracts. The taxation of leasing contracts will be restored, such that the lessee can continue deducting the fees paid or accrued within the fiscal year as a deductible expense and the lessor will be able to depreciate those goods that are registered as assets.

### **Improvements in access to financing**

1. The State will guarantee financing of 10% of the mortgage deposit for buying a first home. This will allow banks to provide financing for the other 90%, with no additional costs for provisions to cover the credit risk. This will also mean lower savings requirements and greater dynamism in the real estate market.

2. Extension of the financing coverage for the purchase of new homes up to 100%, in case of auction of the property. The beneficiaries of this measure will be debtors who apply the DS01 and DS19 Section 3 subsidies, which correspond to homes worth more than UF 1,600.

3. CORFO second-tier credit program. In 2022, 64 billion Chilean pesos (around US\$70 million) will be allocated to refinance loans granted by banks and other non-financial institutions to the projects of small and medium-sized companies. In 2023, an additional 69 billion Chilean pesos (around US\$76 million) will be allocated to green hydrogen projects and implementing the Chile Apoya (Chile Supports) Plan.

### **Improving public investment: Infrastructure for development**

1. Increase in public investment in 2023 and improvement in administrative processes. Basic public investment spending will grow 10% in 2023 compared to 2022. The Temporary Emergency Fund (FET) will also be replaced by a US\$1.84 billion Infrastructure for Development Program. Total public investment will thus be 30% more in 2023 than in 2021.

2. The Public Investment Rules, Instructions and Procedures (NIP) will be updated in order to simplify the procedures for less complex works. This measure will be implemented in November 2022, and the delay in smaller projects is expected to drop by half.

3. Update of circular 33 in order to simplify the process for authorizing conservations. Conservations are investment projects that involve an amount of up to 30% of the cost of the total work. The Social Development Ministry will be in charge of the measure, and it will be implemented from January 2023.

4. Recovery of unfinished public works. A redesign of the process whereby a company stops work on a project in order to cut the time for resuming work and reduce the impact on its progress.

5. Extension of the polynomial readjustment coverage. In August, the Public Works Ministry began to extend polynomial readjustment coverage for public infrastructure contracts. This is an adjustment in payments that reflects the variation experienced in the cost of materials in works tendered by the ministry. Implementation will start with the tenders for new contracts from September 2022.

6. The regional investment portfolio will be coordinated with regional governments. A joint work agreement will be signed between regional and central authorities to plan how public investments are carried out each year. Portfolio of investments with integrated production chains – a monitoring committee will be set up to the public investment used for other productive investment projects.

7. BancoEstado Confirming: Banco Estado will introduce a confirming tool which makes it possible to bring forward the payment of invoices to suppliers, through simple and fast operations. The Public Works Ministry will implement the use of this tool among 663 contractors from September 2022.

8. Acceleration of the construction of high-standard bike lanes. High-standard projects will be developed to install 190 km of bike routes in cities with atmospheric decontamination plans.

9. Technical cooperation between the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) and regional governments. Technical collaboration will be set up from the last quarter of 2022 that will aim to evaluate the management capacity of regional government, identify technical shortfalls for carrying out investment and implement capacity building among teams.

### **Promoting foreign investment**

1. Investment attaché offices will be reopened abroad. Investment attaché offices will reopen in Europe and North America during the fourth quarter of 2022. These markets account for 60% of foreign direct investment (FDI) stock in Chile. It is hoped that this measure will allow projects worth

more than US\$1.5 billion to be undertaken in 2023.

2. The investment promotion team will be strengthened. The institutional structure and main functions of the agency will be ready during September 2022. It is expected that the number of investment projects will be significantly increased and that the projects already under evaluation will be made more viable. Additional investment of more than US\$2 billion is estimated for 2023.

### **Improvements to the effectiveness of regulation and permit procedures**

1. The Economy Ministry's Large-Scale Projects Office will be strengthened. Greater resources will be provided for the digitalization of processes, with emphasis on strategic projects for the decarbonization of the energy matrix and the fair socio-ecological transition.

2. Fund for strengthening critical services in the processing of projects. A special fund will be created in the 2023 budget to speed up the processing of the permits required for undertaking investments.

3. A coordinating agency will be created to implement a single point of contact for sectoral permits from 2023. A committee of experts will be entrusted with the design of a new institutional framework that effectively coordinates the granting of sectoral permits by the State.

### **Public-private partnerships for investment**

1. Public-private work for promoting investment. Four public-private working groups will be convened in sectors such as construction, energy, transport and mining to create a set of measures that will reduce the number of stalled construction projects and create more favorable conditions for forthcoming projects.

2. Regional public investment operating committee under the coordination of the Economy Ministry. A permanent working group will be set up between the Energy, Mining and Economy Ministries, InvestChile and the development and investment divisions of each regional government to periodically monitor the progress of projects in each region.

3. Public security in productive work. A working group for collaboration and coordination between the agencies responsible for public order and productive organizations will be convened. This proposal is aligned with different trade associations, such as the trade association of electricity generators (Generadoras de Chile), the Federation of Chilean Industry (SOFOFA), and the Confederation of Production and Commerce (CPC).



# Digitization of Courts

The Government has launched the e-Courts Integrated Mission Mode Project in the country for computerization of District and subordinate courts with the objective of improving access to justice using technology.

As part of the National implementation since 2007 for based on the "National Policy Information and Judiciary". E-Courts project e-Committee Supreme of Justice. Phase I of the during 2011-2015. Phase II started in 2015 under District & Subordinate been computerised.



e-Governance Plan, the project is under ICT development of the Indian Judiciary and Action Plan for Implementation of Communication Technology in the Indian is being implemented in association with Court of India and Department project was implemented of the project which 18,735 courts have

During Phase II of the project, one video equipment each has been provided to all Court Complexes including taluk level courts and funds have been sanctioned for additional VC equipment for 14,443 court rooms. Funds for setting up 2506 VC Cabins have been made available. Additional 1500 VC Licenses have been acquired. VC facilities are already enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails.

e - C o u r t s  
c o n f e r e n c e

## Following initiatives have been taken under e-Courts project -

- i. Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project connectivity has been provided to 99.4% (2976 out of earmarked 2994) of total Court Complexes across India with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed.
- ii. Case Information Software (CIS) is based on Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) which has been developed by NIC. Currently CIS National Core Version 3.2 is being implemented in District Courts and the CIS National Core Version 1.0 is being implemented for the High Courts.
- iii. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is a database of orders, judgments, and cases, created as an online platform under the e-Courts Project. It provides information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of all computerized district and subordinate courts of the country. Litigants can access case status information in respect of over 21.99 crore cases and more than 20.10 crore orders / judgments (as on 02.01.2023). Open APIs have been introduced in 2020 to allow Central and State Governments and institutional litigants including local bodies to access NJDG data to improve pendency monitoring and compliance.
- iv. As part of e-Courts project, 7 platforms have been created to provide real time information on case status, cause lists, judgements to lawyers/Litigants through SMS Push and Pull (2,00,000 SMS sent daily), Email (2,50,000 sent daily), multilingual and tactile e-Courts services Portal (35 lakh

hits daily), JSC (Judicial Service centres) and Info Kiosks. In addition, Electronic Case Management Tools (ECMT) have been created with Mobile App for lawyers (total 1.50 cr. downloads till 31st October 2022) and JustIS app for judges (18,407 downloads till 31st December 2022). JustIS mobile app is now available in iOS as well.

v. 21 Virtual Courts in 17 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 2.40 crore cases have been handled by 21 virtual courts and in more than 32 lakhs (32,62,303) cases online fine of more than Rs. 347.86 crore has been realised till 02.01.2023.

vi. The Supreme Court of India emerged as a global leader by conducting 3,79,954 hearings (till 24.12.2022 since the beginning of lockdown period). The High Courts (76,62,243 cases and Subordinate Courts 1,68,47,529 cases) have conducted 2.45 crore virtual hearings till 24.12.2022.

vii. VC facilities have also been enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails. Funds for 2506 VC cabins and VC equipment for 14,443 courtrooms have also been released. 1500 VC licenses have been procured to promote virtual hearings. A sum of Rs. 7.60 crore has been released for procurement of 1732 Document Visualizers.

viii. New e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers with upgraded features. Draft e-Filing rules have been formulated and circulated to the High Courts for adoption. A total of 19 High Courts have adopted the model rules of e-Filing as on 31.12.2022.

ix. e-Filing of cases requires the

option for electronic payment of fees which includes court fees, fines and penalties which are directly payable to the Consolidated Fund. A total of 20 High Courts have implemented e-payments in their respective jurisdictions. The Court Fees Act has been amended in 22 High Courts till 31.12.2022.

x. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) has been launched for technology enabled process serving and issuing of summons. It has currently been implemented in 28 States/ UTs.

xi. A new "Judgment Search" portal has been started with features such as search by Bench, Case Type, Case Number, Year, Petitioner/ Respondent Name, Judge Name, Act, Section, Decision: From Date, To Date and Full Text Search. This facility is being provided free of cost to all.

xii. To make effective use of database created through National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) and to make the information available to public 39 LED Display Message Sign Board System called Justice Clocks, have been installed in 25 High Courts.

xiii. Towards creating widespread awareness and familiarization of e-Filing and e-Courts services and to address "skill divide", a manual on e-Filing and a Brochure on "How to register for e-Filing" has been made available in English, Hindi and 11 regional languages for the use of the lawyers. A YouTube channel has been created in the name of the e-Court services with video tutorials on e-Filing. The e-Committee of the Supreme Court of India has conducted trainings and awareness programmes on the ICT services. These programmes have covered nearly 5,13,080 stakeholders, including High Court Judges, Judges of the District Judiciary, Court Staff, Master Trainers among Judges/DSA, Technical Staff of High Courts, and Advocates.

The phase II of the project is nearing its completion and DPR for e-Courts Phase III has been finalized and approved by e-Committee, Supreme Court of India. Phase III of the e-Courts project mentions a judicial system that is more affordable, accessible, cost-effective, predictable, reliable, and transparent for every individual who seeks justice or is part of the delivery of justice in India. DPR of e-Courts Phase III mentions various new features such as Digital and Paperless Courts aimed at bringing court proceedings under a digital format in a court; Online Court focussing on eliminating the presence of litigants or lawyers in the court ; expansion of scope of Virtual Courts beyond adjudication of Traffic Violations ; use of emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence and its subsets like Optical Character Recognition (OCR) for analysis of case pendency, forecasting future litigation.

# Indian Rlys to run 35 Hydrogen trains

Indian Railways (IR) has envisaged to run 35 Hydrogen trains under “Hydrogen for Heritage” at an estimated cost of ₹ 80 crore per train and ground infrastructure of ₹ 70 crore per route on various heritage/hill routes.

IR has also awarded a pilot project for retro fitment of Hydrogen Fuel cell on existing Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU) rake along with ground infrastructure at the cost of ₹ 111.83 crore which is planned to be run on Jind –Sonipat section of Northern Railway.

Field trials of the first prototype on Jind –Sonipat section of Northern Railway is expected to commence in 2023-2024.

The running cost of Hydrogen fuel based train is not established in IR scenario. It is estimated that the initial running cost of Hydrogen fuel train-set will be higher which will subsequently reduce with increase in number of trains. Further, the use of Hydrogen as fuel provides larger benefits in the direction of green transportation technology to support zero carbon emission goals as a clean energy source.

## Vice President inaugurates the 36th Surajkund International Crafts Mela

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the 36th Surajkund International Crafts Mela at Faridabad, Haryana.

On this occasion, he urged everyone to consider locally produced handicraft items when looking for gifts to their friends and relatives. He underscored that such an approach would not only help in conservation of many unique art forms but also enhance the economic condition of our talented artisans & craftsmen.

On arrival at Surajkund Mela, Dhankhar and Dr Sudesh Dhankhar visited the zone of the Partner Nation (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation), the zone of the North Eastern Region, which is the Theme State for this year and the unique ‘Apna Ghar’, a traditional Haryanvi home, showcasing the ethnic and traditional vibe of the region

The Vice President described the Surajkund Mela as an amazing display of the incredible diversity and heritage of India's craftsmanship. Referring to various innovative steps such as Mudra Yojana, One District, One Product and Unity Malls, Vice President Dhankhar said that the Government is committed to promote Indian craft, handlooms and folk art through all possible means.

The Vice President said that North eastern states are very important stakeholders in India's look-east & act-east policy. Describing India as a bright spot of opportunity and investment, He praised the contribution of India's artisans and craftsmen in making an ‘Atma-nirbhar Bharat’.

The Surajkund International Crafts Mela 2023 inaugurated by the Vice President today will be open upto 19th February 2023 at Surajkund, Haryana.

The Chief Minister of Haryana, Manohar Lal, senior government officials, diplomats and people's representatives from the area attended the event.

# Roof top Solar Portal available to residential consumers

With the launch of the National Portal for Rooftop Solar ([www.solarrooftop.gov.in](http://www.solarrooftop.gov.in)) on 30.7.2022, it has become simple and easy for a residential consumer to apply and get the rooftop solar installed under Rooftop Solar Programme Ph-II providing central financial assistance.

After installation and inspection of the system, the subsidy is released directly into the bank account of the consumer. The entire process of registration of the application to release of subsidy in the consumer's bank account can be tracked online on the Portal.

Residential consumers from any part of the country including Banaskantha, Gujarat; Araria, Bihar; and Jammu & Kashmir can apply on the National Portal. The consumers can select any vendor registered with the local distribution company, solar modules of quality and efficiency, solar inverters and other balance of plants and equipment. The rate of rooftop solar plants is decided mutually by the vendor and the consumer.

DISCOMs role is limited to issuing technical feasibility approval, installation of net-meter and inspection of the system.

The magazine writes about international relations, bilateral trade, visiting foreign dignitaries and much more.

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Reaches out to over 150 Embassies/High Commissions in New Delhi and online over 200 Countries, foreign institutions, international and domestic chambers of commerce and industry.



# Foresight gives direction to a rudderless boat

by **Gabriel Del Castillo**

*President*

*Institute of the Future*

The discussion is on foresight and its importance. It is a matter thought of before the future comes in and draws us into several crises. climate change, the answer is with future course of action. subject are often criticised for expected of them, because and lacking foresight.

Let alone the impact of the was prepared, even those perfect like Europe, they failed crisis as a result of Ukraine war.

Economists come up with as they never had the foresight of



When we talk of sustainable development goals, it is again planning with or without foresight, it is without knowing the future, planning is done leading to fiasco, at times larger than anticipated. For instance aging population of UK, an issue which is not given a thought. They are pushed to the future without any foresight.

Foresight might sound ridiculous when talking of consumers buying something in the market. The seller cannot imagine in advance what the consumer would like to have, again a question of foresight.

We must learn to anticipate of what can come or foresight, only then we can prepare to meet the challenge. The sanctions against Russia for the invasion of Ukraine have led to energy prices of European countries go up leading to hardships for their people is an example of action without foresight.

When thinking of the future, it must be looked at with all different features like the eye of a dragonfly which can look in different directions and is aware of what happens around.

There are organizations engaging with future like Institute for future in California, the school of international futures in London, the centre for strategic futures in Singapore. There are companies which have features thinking about what's going to happen in the next ten years for the company, the next 20 or 30. Same goes for universities where things are happening as in the University of Turkey, in Finland the future of humanity institute in the University of Oxford. The Danish design centre or the forum for the future are pioneering different creative ways to co-create possible ideas about the future and spark movements to shape a better future.

Whether it is reacting to Covid 19 or always difficult because it is dealing Governments dealing with the being unable to do what was they were dealing with future

pandemic for which no one who thought they were to see the oncoming energy

forecasts, but they fail miserably the oncoming war.



# Print Leaves a Lasting Impression!

You have read many articles decrying the death of print. These articles tend to shout about the benefits of e-readers, digital magazines, vlogs, and blogging websites. If you were to read all of these articles, you would soon come away with the impression that nobody prints anything anymore.

- ◇ That Tactile Feel, which is not possible in Digital format
- ◇ The Images Have Punch
- ◇ In-Depth Articles
- ◇ Interviews And Spotlights
- ◇ Genuine Reviews
- ◇ With a printed magazine, you can include full page adverts that catch the eye, and you can also add inserts. Inserts are thin, flyer-like adverts inserted between the pages of your magazine.
- ◇ No Necessary to be Tech savvy

