



Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal to Visit Brussels for Crucial India-EU FTA Talks

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Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, is scheduled to visit Brussels for a significant two-day official trip from 8-9 January 2026. The visit underscores the intensifying diplomatic and technical engagements between New Delhi and Brussels, signalling a decisive push toward concluding the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

The talks come at a historic juncture for India-EU economic relations. The negotiations were ambitiously re-launched in June 2022 after a hiatus of over nine years, reflecting a renewed mutual commitment to deepen economic integration. Since the resumption, the two sides have held 14 rounds of intense negotiations and several high level dialogues at Ministerial level, with the latest interaction in December 2025.

The European Union is currently India's largest trading partner and a key investor, with bilateral trade in goods significantly bolstered in the 2024-25 fiscal year. This agreement is envisioned not just as a trade deal, but as a comprehensive partnership, that addresses modern economic realities.

During the visit, Shri Goyal will hold high-level dialogues with the European Union's Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security, Mr. Maroš Šefčovič. The primary objective of these interactions is to provide strategic guidance to the negotiating teams, resolve pending issues, and expedite the conclusion of a balanced and ambitious agreement.

The leaders are expected to carry out detailed deliberations across key areas of the proposed agreement, aiming to narrow divergences and ensure clarity on outstanding matters. The Ministerial engagement follows a week of intensive deliberations in Brussels, building upon the groundwork laid during high-level discussions held earlier this week (6-7 January 2026) between India's Commerce Secretary, Shri Rajesh Agrawal, and the Director-General for Trade of the European Commission, Ms. Sabine Weyand.

A central pillar of India's negotiation strategy, guided by the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, is to secure an agreement that translates into tangible benefits for the common man. India is pushing for zero-duty access for its labor-intensive sectors—such as textiles, leather, apparel, gems and jewellery, and handicrafts.

Both India and the EU have expressed strong political resolve to deliver a comprehensive deal. The upcoming talks are expected to reaffirm the commitment of both sides to a rules-based trading framework and a modern economic partnership that safeguards the interests of farmers and MSMEs while integrating Indian industries into global supply chains.

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