

EU relief to India...

THE INITIATIVE FOR the agenda was announced by EU President Ursula von der Leyen in her political guidelines for 2024-29 to better coordinate bilateral cooperation and help tackle major global challenges.

The EU President also had a telephonic conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. During the talk, Modi conveyed appreciation for the adoption of the agenda. Both leaders also reaffirmed their commitment for the conclusion of the India-EU FTA by the end of the year.

This new agenda also has an element of skills mobility with the pilot European Legal Gateway Office to facilitate labour mobility. It proposes developing a comprehensive mobility cooperation framework covering study, work, and research.

Another focus of it is reinforcing supply chains while promoting critical emerging technologies and engagement on digital issues, with particular attention to strengthening economic security within the Trade and Technology Council (TTC).

This new strategy also proposes deepening tech cooperation, including a potential EU-India startup partnership, and invites India to associate with Horizon Europe programme.

It suggests ambitious initia-



EU president Ursula von der Leyen

tives for decarbonisation and the clean transition, such as intensifying cooperation on renewables, developing green hydrogen capabilities and expanding green finance. Strengthening food security and health, climate and disaster resilience are other items on the agenda apart from security and defence.

The agenda also emphasises strengthening regional connectivity initiatives, such as the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor and advances Global Gateway and EU-India trilateral cooperation with and in third countries. It aims to enhance cooperation with India in multilateral forums.