

## India-Bavaria Relations

**General:** Germany is a strategic partner for India within the EU and the two countries enjoy close, friendly and growing all-round relationship, both bilaterally and in the multi-lateral context. Germany is the regional leader for trade, investments, and technical knowhow/collaborations for India. In a way, the State of Bavaria could well be considered as an engine-within-engine driving the overall Indo-German relationship.

The People of Bavaria have tremendous goodwill, respect and affection for India. They have historically encouraged promotion of mutual awareness including study of Indian history and philosophy at their major universities. The centre of Indology at the Ludwig Maxmilia University in Munich is amongst the oldest in Europe. The year 2005 marked the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of trading contacts between Bavaria and India, when Bavarian business families from the cities of Augsburg/Nuremberg sponsored German trade missions to India as part of a Portuguese voyage in 1505. An important think tank called the 'Indien Institute' has been working in Munich for over 80 years now. The famous Bavarian company Siemens constructed the first telegraph line between Calcutta and London in 1866. Built on such solid foundation, the Indo-Bavarian bilateral relationship has been growing exponentially over the last several years, especially since the opening-up of the Indian economy in the early 1990s.

### Political Relations :

**Important Visits from India to Bavaria** included (i) Prime Minister **Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee** in May, 2003; (ii) Chief Minister of Haryana **Shri Om Prakash Chautala** in November, 2004; (iii) **Shri E.V.K.S. Elangoven**, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry in October, 2005; (iv) **Shri Kawkab Hameed**, Tourism Minister of UP in November, 2005; (v) **Shri B.S. Yediyurappa**, the then Deputy CM of Karnataka, accompanied by **Shri K.S. Naidu**, the State Minister for Small Scale Industries, in April, 2006; (vi) **Smt. Ambika Soni**, Minister for Tourism and Culture in October, 2006; (vii) **Shri S.K. Shinde**, Union Minister for Power in November, 2006; (viii) **Smt. Panabaka Laksmi**, MOS Health and Family Welfare in June, 2007; (ix) **Shri C. Chennigappa**, Karnataka Minister of Forest, Ecology and Environment in June, 2007; (x) **Shri P. Chidambaram**, Minister of Finance in September, 2007; (xi) **Dr. Debesh Das**, Minister of IT of West Bengal in Jan. 2008; (xii) **Shri Subodh Kant Sahai**, MOS for Food Processing Industry in Feb. 2008; (xiii) **Shri Nirupam Sen**, West Bengal Minister for Commerce and Industries in April, 2008; (xiv) **Shri N.D. Tiwari**, Governor of Andhra Pradesh, November, 2008; (xv) **Shri Anand Sharma**, Minister of Commerce and Industry, June 2009; (xvi) **Shri Murugesh R. Nirani**, Minister for Large and Medium Industries, Karnataka, June 2009; (xvii) **Shri Kapil Sibal**, Hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development, June 2009; (xviii) **Shri Prithviraj Chauhan**, Hon'ble Minister of State for Science and Technology, June 2009; (xix) **Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, CM Madhya Pradesh, June 2010; (xx) **Hon'ble Minister of Power & Environment of Goa**, June 2010; (xi) **Shri. Arjun Munda**, Chief Minister of Jharkhand, April 2011; (xii) **Dr. Farooq Abdullah**, Union Minister for New & Renewable Energy, June 2011; (xiii) **Mr. Shibu Baby John**, Minister for Labour and Rehabilitation, Kerala visited Bavaria in

November 2011 **(xiv) Mr. P. J Joseph**, Minister for Water Resources, Kerala and **Mr. Umesh V. Katti** Minister for Agriculture, Karnataka, February 2012 and **(xv) Mr Anand Sharma**, Minister of Commerce & Industry January, 2013 **(xvi) Mr K. Chiranjeevi**, Minister for Tourism in March, 2013 **(xvi) Mr Ajay Vishnoi**, Minister for Animal Husbandry, Madhya Pradesh **(xvii) Hon'ble Minister for Communication & IT, Mr Ravi Shankar Prasad** in September, 2014.

**Key Visits from the State of Bavaria to India** included **(i)** Minister-President of Bavaria, **Dr. Edmund Stoiber** in February 2004; **(ii) Mr. Erwin Huber**, Minister of Economic Affairs, Infrastructure, Transport and Technology in October-November, 2006; **(iii) Minister-President Dr. Edmund Stoiber** in April, 2007; **(iv) Dr. Werner Schnappauf**, Bavarian Minister of Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection in May, 2007; **(v)** A high-level 7-member delegation from the Bavarian Ministry of Health and Consumer Protection in Jan., 2008; **(vi)** 40-member business delegation led by **Mr. Hans Runck**, the mission-head from the Bavarian Ministry of Economy in November, 2008; **(vii) Ms. Emilia Mueller**, Bavarian State Minister for Federal and European Affairs, July 2009; **(viii) Dr. Wolfgang Heubisch**, Bavarian State Minister for Science, Research and Art, February 2010; **(ix) Deputy mayor of Nuremberg** visited Mumbai in December 2010. **(x) Visit of a 40 member delegation from the Bavarian Economic Ministry to India in February 2011** led by the permanent secretary in the Bavarian Economic Ministry Dr. Hans Schleicher **(xi) Dr. Markus Soeder, Bavarian Minister for Environment and Health**, visited Bangalore and Kolkata from 17-21 April **(xii) Bavarian Deputy Minister President and Minister of Economic Affairs, Infrastructure, Transport and Technology, Mr. Martin Zeil**, went on a bilateral visit to Bangalore in June 2012 to participate in the Global Investors Summit (GIM) organised by the Government of Karnataka in Bangalore. **(xiii)** A 27 member delegation from the Bavarian Parliament led by Prof. Ursula Maennle, Chairperson of the Federal and European Affairs Committee, visited Delhi, Kolkata and Bangalore during 4-12 February 2012 **(xiv)** A business delegation led by **Ms Katja Hessel**, Deputy Minister for Finance & Affairs visited India in February, 2013

### **Commercial Relations**

**India-Bavaria Trade and Economic Ties:** Within Germany, Bavaria is a major driving force for the fast growing trade and economic ties between India and Germany. India's two way trade with Bavaria went up from € 731 million in the year 2002 to € 2243 million in the year 2013, registering a cumulative increase of 207% per cent. During the period 2002 to 2013, Indian exports to Bavaria have increased from € 286 million to € 943 million, whereas Indian imports from Bavaria surged from € 445 million to € 1.3 billion. In the year 2013, the share of Indo-Bavarian two-way trade was around 15 % of the total Indo-German bilateral trade.

Bavaria-based companies have traditionally considered India as a reliable and promising economic partner. At present, some 350 Bavarian companies have their business ventures in India in different fields. Some of the big names include Siemens,

BMW, Audi, MAN, Adidas, Allianz AG, Munich Re, EADS, Infineon, Wacker Chemie, Osram, Linde, etc.

**Increasing Business Visas:** In 2013, this Post issued more than 53,000 Visas of which over 16,000 were Business Visas. This gives an idea of the Bavarian Business interest in India.

Besides encouraging German companies towards India, Bavaria is also very keen to project their State as a preferred destination for potential Indian investments. For this, they opened a representation office of **Invest-in-Bavaria in Bangalore** in 2001, which has been upgraded to full representation last year. Their main Chambers of Commerce and Industry remain actively involved in promoting business awareness through seminars, round-tables, and sector-specific presentations. At present, there are over 50 Indian companies which have invested in Bavaria and the big names are: TCS, Wipro, L&T Infotech, Dr. Reddy's Lab, Torrent Pharma, Graphite India, Sona Group, etc.

**German Centre, Gurgaon:** For facilitating mutual investments, the Bavarian Landes Bank (BLB) in collaboration with the Baden-Wuerttemberg Landes Bank (LBBW) have set-up the German Centre in Gurgaon. The centre has become operational since December, 2008 with an area of over 8,000 sq. mts. in a centrally located building in Gurgaon.

**Bavaria-Bengal Football Cooperation:** Reputed Bavarian Soccer Club, FC Bayern Munich has entered into some arrangement with the Football Clubs from India for cooperation in training and coaching.

### **Cultural Relations :**

**India-Bavaria Cultural and Educational Relations:** Bavarians have a long standing and genuine affinity for Indian history, culture and tradition. Their Universities have produced several well-known Indologists. The Indology Department at the Ludwig Maximilian University (LMU), Munich, is amongst the oldest in Germany. The Wurzburg University established a Centre for Modern Indian Studies under the German Academic Exchange Services with a special programme called 'A new passage to India'. Bavaria has a series of centres teaching Indian classical dances, yoga, meditation and promoting ayurveda. Indian food is also highly popular. Munich has the reputation of having several well-run Indian restaurants. Bollywood is becoming increasingly popular. There are several local groups promoting Bollywood dancing. The well-known '*Indien Institute*' has been operating from Munich ever since early 1920s and organises cultural and educational programmes regularly. An interesting aspect of the cultural cooperation between India and Bavaria may be seen in the enthusiasm of the City of Koenigsbrunn who have installed the Mahatma Gandhi Statue in their Town Hall in 2010.

**Cooperation in Higher Education :** German Universities in general and the Bavarian Universities in particular are keen to have greater exchanges of scholars, researchers and students in all fields more so in science and technology. For this, the Hof University of Applied Science has set up a Bavarian-Indian Centre for Business and University Cooperation (BayIND) in July 2009, with an objective to coordinate and promote cooperation between Bavarian and Indian Universities. BayIND is supported by the Bavarian State Ministry of Science, Research and Arts and the Association of the Bavarian Business (VBW). Currently, there are over 8,000 Indian students in various universities and educational institutions in Germany and out of this around 850 Indian students are studying in Bavaria. Bavaria is also promoting an increased number of their students going to India for higher studies. They have instituted three annual Minister-President's scholarships for Bavarian students to study in India. There is also a School to School cooperation between the Koenigsbrunn Gymnasium School with Don Bosco School of Mysore.

**Cooperation in Vocational Training :** During the April, 2013 visit of Prime Minister to Germany for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of India-Germany Intergovernmental consultations, many useful MoUs were signed in the areas of Vocational Training and Education, etc with entities from Bavaria such as Hof University and Bavarian Employers Association.

**Bavaria-Karnataka Cooperation MoU:** During the visit of former Minister-President of Bavaria, Dr. Edmund Stoiber to Karnataka in April, 2007, he signed an MoU with the Hon'ble Chief of Minister of Karnataka, Shri H.D. Kumaraswamy for enhanced State-to-State cooperation in the fields of commerce, industry, technology, research, infrastructure, tourism and other related areas. With a view to implementing the objectives of the MoU, the two States (represented by Shri Muruges R. Nirani, Minister for Large and Medium Industries, Government of Karnataka and Ms. Emilia Mueller, State Minister for Federal and European Affairs in the Bavarian State Chancellery) have signed a concrete action plan on June 30, 2009, in the margins of the Global India Business Meet (GIBM) 2009 in Munich. The Bavarian State Minister for Federal and European Affairs, Ms. Emilia Mueller, visited Karnataka in July 2009 and signed an implementation programme for joint action on clearly identified projects. The MoU focuses on enhanced cooperation in the areas of science and research, environment, industry, film and media, and education.

**S & T co-operation :** The elite Fraunhofer Society established its representative office in India at Bangalore on 30 October, 2012.

### **Indian Community:**

**Indian Community in Bavaria:** According to official figures, Bavaria is home to around [18,000 NRIs/PIOs](#) in the State of Bavaria. The NRI/PIO community in Bavaria includes IT professionals; businessmen and traders; restaurant operators; students and researchers. The Indian community generally commands a great deal of respect for being hard working, progressive, open-minded and tolerant. [There are about 1,000 Indian students in Bavaria.](#)

**Air Links:** Bavarian capital Munich is emerging as an important hub for connecting Indian Travellers to various parts of Europe and North America and vice-a-versa. Lufthansa currently operates as many as 12 flights per week from Munich to Delhi (daily) and to Mumbai (5 days a week).

**Useful Resources:**

Consulate General of India, Munich website:

<http://www.cgimunich.com/>

Consulate General of India, Munich Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Indian-Consulate-Munich/203702946316939>

Monthly publication of CGI Munich "India Economic News":

[http://www.cgimunich.com/news\\_letter.php](http://www.cgimunich.com/news_letter.php)

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