

**Ministry of External Affairs  
EW Division**

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**India-EU Relations**

India-EU relations date back to the early 1960s with India being amongst the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with the European Economic Community in 1962. A Joint Political statement signed in 1993 followed by the Cooperation Agreement between India and the EU in 1994 expanded ties from the pillar of trade and economic cooperation and enabled political dialogue and annual ministerial meetings.

2. Over the years, a multi-tiered institutional architecture for cooperation with the EU has been created with the Summit at its apex. The first India-EU Summit was held in Lisbon on 28 June 2000 which marked a watershed in the development of the relationship. Since then, fourteen annual bilateral Summits have been held between India and the EU. The relationship was upgraded to a 'Strategic Partnership' during the 5th India-EU Summit held at The Hague in 2004. The 14th Summit was held on 6 October 2017 in New Delhi.

3. On 20 November 2018, EU's strategy on India entitled "A Partnership for Sustainable Modernization and Rules-based Global Order" was issued by the European Commission and the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. It views India as an emerging global power that plays a key role in the current multipolar world and a factor of stability in a complex region and calls for greater India-EU political, security and defence cooperation.

4. India-EU Agenda for Action 2020 endorsed by the 13<sup>th</sup> India-EU Summit in March 2016 serves as a framework for exchanges and cooperation between India and EU in various sectors. The bilateral Strategic Partnership encompasses thirty one dialogue mechanisms covering a wide range of issues including trade, energy security, science & research, non-proliferation and disarmament, counter terrorism, cyber security, counter-piracy, migration and mobility, etc.

**High Level Engagements**

5. The 14th India-EU summit was held in New Delhi on 6 October 2017. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led the Indian delegation while the European Council President, Mr. Donald Tusk and European Commission President, Mr. Jean Claude Juncker led the EU side, joined by the EU High Representative (EUHR) Ms. Federica Mogherini. India and EU leadership had also met on the sidelines of the G20 Summit on 1 December 2018 in Buenos Aires.

6. At the 14th India-EU Summit in 2017, the leaders adopted a Joint Statement,

reaffirming their commitment to strengthening the EU-India strategic partnership. Leaders also reaffirmed stepping up cooperation in tackling terrorism and adopted the Joint Statement on Cooperation in Combating Terrorism. The Leaders resolved to promote the global clean and low greenhouse gas emission energy transition, towards sustainable, affordable, reliable and modern energy services and adopted the Joint Statement on Clean Energy and Climate Change and a Joint Declaration on partnership for smart and sustainable urbanization.

7. During the Summit, other agreements concluded were: Implementing Arrangement between the Science & Engineering Research Board (SERB) and the European Research Council (ERC); € 500 million European Investment Bank (EIB) loan agreement for Bangalore Metro Phase-II Project; and Joint Declaration between the Interim Secretariat of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), and the EIB aimed at mobilizing investments for broad-based deployment of affordable solar energy applications in ISA member countries.

8. External Affairs Minister (EAM) visited Brussels on 17 February 2020, when he interacted with the EU Foreign Affairs Council comprising all 27 member states, and met the President of the European Council, Vice President & Commissioners of the European Commission, Foreign Minister of Belgium and interacted with members of the European Parliament. Earlier, EAM had traveled to Brussels on 30 August 2019 and held a meeting with the EU High Representative for Foreign & Security Policy (HRVP), Ms. Federica Mogherini, the President of the of the European Parliament, and the Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management. The then EAM had also visited Brussels from 20–22 June 2018, when he met the EU HRVP, Ms. Federica Mogherini; President of the European Commission, Mr. Jean Claude Juncker, and President of the EU Parliament, Mr. Antonio Tajani.

9. EU High Representative for Foreign & Security Policy & Vice President of the Commission, Mr. Josep Borrell visited India from 16-18 January 2020, when he participated in Raisina Dialogue 2020, called on Prime Minister, held 26<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting with EAM and met with the Defence Minister to discuss the India-EU relations.

10. Soon after assuming charge of the new President of the European Commission, the PM and the new President of the European Commission, Ms. Ursula von der Leyen spoke over telephone on 2 December 2019 and exchanged views on strengthening the India-EU partnership. On 21 December 2019, the PM and the new President of the European Council, Mr. Charles Michel held a telephonic conversation and affirmed their interest in developing further the India-EU relations.

## **Political/ Security**

11. The 6<sup>th</sup> India-EU Foreign Policy and Security Consultations were held in Brussels on 18 September 2018 to review the ways and means of strengthening India-EU Strategic Partnership. At the India-EU Strategic Partnership Review Meeting held in New Delhi on 8 November 2019, Deputy Secretary General, Mr. Christopher Leffler and Secretary (West) reviewed all aspects of India-EU relationship. A bilateral dialogue on counter-terrorism meets from time to time to discuss cooperation in the area of countering terrorism, violent extremism and related areas.

## **Trade and Investment**

12 The EU as a whole was India's largest trading partner while India was EU's 9th largest trading partner in 2018. India's bilateral trade with the EU in 2018-19 stood at \$ 115.6 billion with India's exports valued at \$ 57.17 billion and India's imports from the EU totaled \$ 58.42 billion. India is also the fourth largest service exporter to the EU and the sixth largest destination for service exports from the EU.

13. EU is the largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India. Over the period April 2000 to June 2018, FDI equity flows from the EU countries into India totaled \$ 90.7 billion, which is about 24% of the total FDI inflows to India. An Investment Facilitation Mechanism promotes and facilitates FDI inflows from the EU. The European Investment Bank opened its office in New Delhi in March 2017 and has extended credits for various projects in India. Indian investments into the EU are estimated at Euro 50 billion.

14. An India-EU Joint Commission on economic and commercial matters meets annually to oversee trade and economic relations, together with its three sub-Commissions on trade, economic and developmental cooperation and a Working Group on SPS & TBT. The last meeting of the sub-Commission on trade was held in June 2019 in Brussels. A Dialogue on Financial Services Regulation and macro-economic issues meets periodically. A Joint Working Group on agriculture and marine products discusses trade issues in these sectors. India-EU Energy Panel deals with energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy security, and clean coal matters. India-EU also have separate Joint Working Groups/ dialogue on water, pharmaceuticals, bio-technology, textiles & clothing, and civil aviation. In September 2019, India and the EU signed an Administrative Arrangement on cooperation in the field of railways.

15. India and the EU have negotiated a bilateral Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) in the past. The two sides are consulting on the subject following the assuming charge by the new European Commission in

December 2019, including during a meeting between the Commerce & Industry Minister and the EU Commissioner for Trade in January 2020 in Davos.

### **Defence**

16. India and EU have gradually enhanced bilateral exchanges and cooperation in the field of defence & security. This includes mutual ship visits, collaboration in escorting humanitarian aid ships and exchanges among military officials, including the EU Military Committee. The new Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region in New Delhi (IFC-IOR) has recently been linked-up with the Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSC-HOA) established by the EU Naval Force (NAVFOR).

### **Mobility/ Migration**

17. A Joint Declaration on Common Agenda on Migration & Mobility (CAMM) was adopted at the 13<sup>th</sup> India-EU Summit. India-EU High Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility (HLDMM) discusses issues of mutual interest in the context of migration and mobility. The fifth meeting of this Dialogue was held on 10 July 2019 in New Delhi.

### **Science, Research and Innovation**

18. India-EU Science & Technology Steering Committee meets annually to review scientific cooperation. It held its 12<sup>th</sup> meeting on 1 March 2019 in New Delhi which identified a number of areas for collaboration such as smart grids, bio-economy, health research, polar science and cyber systems. A Joint Working Group on Information & Communication Technologies discusses sectoral issues which last met in September 2019 in Brussels. A Joint Working Group on Environment also meets periodically to discuss cooperation in this sector.

19. Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and the European Commission (EC) have established a co-funding mechanism (CFM) to support joint research projects selected under European Research & Innovation Framework Program 'Horizon 2020' related to climate change and polar research. In June 2018, India and the EU signed a Joint Declaration of Intent on resource efficiency.

20. India and European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) signed a cooperation agreement in the field of fusion energy research in 2009. India is a participant in ITER, an experimental fusion reactor facility in Cadarache (France) to prove the feasibility of nuclear fusion as a future source of energy. Dr. R.B. Grover, Member, AEC led the Indian delegation to the 24<sup>th</sup> ITER Council (IC-24) and heads of delegation meetings held in June 2019 at Cadarache.

21. ISRO has a long standing cooperation with the European Union, since 1970s.

ISRO and the European Space Agency are working towards enhancing cooperation in earth observation. A Joint Working Group (JWG) identifies cooperation opportunities in areas such as earth science, space science, space technology and integrated applications. A Cooperation Arrangement between the European Commission and the Department of Space pertaining to the Copernicus programme signed in March 2018 provides a framework for the exchange of data and wider cooperation in the space sector.

### **Parliamentary Interaction**

22. There have been occasional parliamentary exchanges between India and the EU. The European Parliament constituted a Delegation for Relations with India in 2007. A bilateral exchange comprising 13 Members of the European Parliament visited India from 28 October–2 November 2018, where they met the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha (Lower House), and the Ministers of Commerce, Power, Housing and Urban Affairs. Earlier, a 7-member Indian parliamentary delegation led by Speaker, Lok Sabha (Lower House) visited Brussels in June 2015.

### **Culture & Education**

23. India-EU Joint Declarations of 2010 cover cooperation in the fields of education & training, and multilingualism. Senior official meetings review periodically initiatives and cooperation in the field of education and languages. Indian students avail Erasmus+ scholarship for studies in EU countries.

24. India and the EU have a dialogue on culture to discuss cooperation in the field of cultural exchanges. In this context, festivals of culture (e.g. Europalia-India festival), exchanges on heritage such as yoga & ayurveda, and other activities are taken up between the two sides.

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