

India-Poland Relations

I. Political Relations

India and Poland share a long-standing friendly relationship, marked by high level political contacts, vibrant economic engagement and traditional cultural links. Diplomatic relations were established in 1954, leading to the opening of the Indian Embassy in Warsaw in 1957. The two countries shared common ideological perceptions, based on their opposition to colonialism, imperialism and racism. During the Communist era, bilateral relations were close and cordial, with regular high level visits (five VVIP visits from India – beginning with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in 1955 - and four from Poland), coupled with planned trade and economic interactions by state trading organizations, underpinned by the rupee clearing arrangements.

The relationship continued to remain close after Poland chose the democratic path in 1989. A cordial political relationship has emerged in the current century, particularly after Poland joined the EU in 2004, and became one of India's key economic partners in Central Europe.

Visits

Over the decades, India and Poland have had robust exchanges at the level of Heads of State and Government. After democracy came to Poland in 1990, high-level contacts continued with the visits of Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski (1998) and Polish PM Leszek Miller (2003). The President of India, Smt. Pratibha Patil, visited Poland in April 2009, and Polish PM Donald Tusk paid a state visit to India in September 2010. Vice President of India, Shri M. Hamid Ansari visited Poland in April, 2017. Krzysztof Szczerski, Secretary of State and Chief of the Cabinet of the President of Poland visited India in January 2019. EAM paid an official visit in August 2019.

Vice President's visit to Poland: The then Vice President, Shri Hamid Ansari, visited Poland on an official visit in April 2017, leading a high-level delegation, including Shri Giriraj Singh, Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and four Members of Parliament from both Houses – Shri Sita Ram Yechuri, Shri D.P. Tripathi, Shri Vivek K. Tankha and Shri Thupstan Chhewang. During the visit, the HVP held extensive talks with the Prime Minister, President and the Marshal (Speaker) of the Senate (Upper House). The Hon'ble Vice President addressed, jointly with the Polish Prime Minister, an Indo-Polish Business Summit at the Ministry of Economic Development in Warsaw. He delivered a keynote address on 'Seven Decades of Indian Democracy' at the University of Warsaw and interacted with the Polish scholars and students. The HVP interacted with the members of the Indian community, Indologists and Association of Poles at Reception hosted by Ambassador. He also visited the Warsaw Uprising Museum and formally inaugurated the newly-built Embassy complex in Warsaw. During the visit, an agreement on cooperation in agriculture and allied sector was signed.

Visit of EAM to Poland: EAM Dr S. Jaishankar visited Poland from 28-29 August 2019. The last visit by Minister of External Affairs was in 1987. EAM held delegation-level talks with his Polish counterpart Jacek Czaputowicz covering bilateral and regional issues of importance. Both the Ministers jointly addressed the media after the talks. In the Joint Statement, Poland emphasized India's role as a prominent regional power, an active and significant player in G20 and in the United Nations, as well as its key partner in South Asia. India emphasized Poland's role as an important member of the European Union and a leader of Central and Eastern Europe. During the visit, EAM also called on Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki and Deputy Prime Minister Piotr Glinski.

Visit of Krzysztof Szczerski, Secretary of State and Chief of the Cabinet of the President to India: Krzysztof Szczerski visited India in January 2019. He met EAM, MoS(VKS) and MoS(Independent Charge) for Culture and Tourism. The agenda of his visit was to discuss and formulate a calendar of high-level visits, including the long-pending visit by the President of Poland to India, in order to elevate the bilateral relationship to a higher level.

Agreements: A number of bilateral agreements are operational, including: Agreement on Cultural Cooperation (1957); Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation (1981); Agreement on Cooperation in Science and Technology (1993); Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations (1996); Agreement on

Promotion and Protection of Investments (1996); Agreement on Cooperation in Combating Organized Crime and International Terrorism (2003); MOU on Defence Cooperation (2003); Extradition Treaty (2003); Agreement on Economic Cooperation (2006); Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Health Care and Medical Science (2009); and Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Tourism (2009) ; Agreement on Audio-Visual Coproduction (2012); Protocol on Amending the Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes and Income (2013); Agreement on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic Passports (2015); Agreement on Cooperation in Agriculture and Allied Sectors (2017); and Cooperation in the Area of Coal Mining (2019).

Parliamentary Exchanges

Contacts between the Indian and Polish Parliaments were established after the overthrow of the Communist system in 1989. Polish parliamentary delegations have visited India in December 1992, March 2000, January 2003 and December 2004. Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri Manohar Joshi, led a multi-party Parliamentary delegation to Poland in May 2002. Subsequently, a Parliamentary Friendship Group with Poland was constituted in both the Parliaments.

Foreign Office Consultations

Both sides have been regularly engaging in Foreign Office Consultations since 1996. The 8th FOCs were held in Delhi in January 2018 co-chaired by Secretary (West) and the Polish Deputy Foreign Minister (in-charge of Asia) Marek Magierowski. The talks focused on high-level bilateral visits, economic cooperation, co-ordination in international fora, the migration crisis, Brexit, the crisis in Ukraine and the situation in South Asia.

II. Economic & commercial Relations

Poland is India's largest trade partner and export destination in the Central European region, with bilateral trade growing almost seven-fold over the last ten years. As per Indian statistics, the overall value of bilateral trade in 2019 was US\$ 2.36 billion. India's export to Poland contributed to 0.48% of overall India's export. Only 0.15% of India's import was covered by Poland in 2019. As per the statistics, the increase of bilateral trade by 2.5% was visible in 2019 in comparison with previous years.

Indian Statistics:

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
India's Exports	1050	1025	1197	1541	1572
India's imports	635	569	691	766	793
Trade turnover	1686	1594	1888	2308	2365

Source: Department of Commerce (In US\$ Million)

Polish Statistics:

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (upto Oct.)
Import from India	1747	2099	2444	2136	1811
Export to India	464	669	736	818	619
Total turnover	2,211	2,769	3,180	2,955	2,430

Source: Central Statistical Office of Poland (in US\$ Million)

Investment

Indian investments in Poland are valued at over **US\$3 billion** which comprises companies such as ArcelorMittal, Videocon, Escorts, Strides Arcolab, Ranbaxy, EsselPropack, KPIT Cummins, Zensar

Technologies Ltd, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Technologies Ltd, Infosys and Wipro, Jindal Stainless, Berger Paints India, UFLEX and Glenmark Pharmaceuticals, Rishab Instruments (acquired Lumel) and CRISIL.

Total Polish investment in India is estimated at **US\$ 672 million**. Important Polish companies present in India : TZMO S.A. (sanitary equipment USD 200 million), CanPack (packaging, USD 200 million), Famur (mining, USD 75 million), GeofizykaToruń (geology, USD 50 million), Ekolog (green technology, USD 50 million), Solaris (green transport, USD 50 million), BBT (defense USD 50million), Meble Forte (furniture, USD 2.3 million), Thaiger Nutraceuticals (nutrition, USD 0.6 million), Maflow (autoparts, under assessment), Inglot (cosmetics, under assessment).

Sectoral Collaboration

Agro and Food processing sectors: Poland possesses world class food processing including preservation/storage technologies while India is one of the largest producers for many fruits, dairy and Agro products. There have been important visits. An MoU on Agriculture for technical and institutional cooperation was signed between both countries during the visit of Vice President of India to Poland in April 2017.

IT/ICTSector: Around thirteen Indian IT companies, employing more than 10,000 professionals, are currently active in Poland and are operating also their Europe operation from here. Indian IT companies including Infosys and HCL have strong presence in Poland.

Textile Sector: India has presently a share of only 3.73% overall in the Polish Textile and Apparel Imports (valued at US\$ 400 million). There is of course, much potential for increase in its exports, provided conducive circumstances are created for Indian Exporters. Presently, about 30-40% of goods exported by India to Poland are re-exported to other EU Countries

Mining/energy sector, Poland possesses reputed clean coal technologies and Polish public sector companies have played a substantial role in development of mining and power sectors in India. Coal India Limited's trainee engineers received training in Polish mines which specializes in intelligent mining. India and Poland signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 4 February 2019, in New Delhi to enhance bilateral cooperation in the coal and mining sector.

Pharmaceutical and chemicals Sector – Given Poland's strategic location, shortages in healthcare personnel and 25% growth in pharma market in last 5 years, there are good opportunities for Indian exporters and investors.

III Cultural and Educational Relations

There is a strong tradition of Indology studies in Poland, with Polish scholars having translated Sanskrit into Polish as early as in the 19th Century. Sanskrit was being studied at the 600 year old Jagiellonian University in Krakow (the oldest in Poland) in 1860-61, with a Chair of Sanskrit being established there in 1893. The Indology Department of the Oriental Institute at the University of Warsaw (established in 1932) is the largest centre for Indian studies in Central Europe. Study of Indian languages, literature, culture and Indology is also pursued at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan and the Wroclaw University. ICCR sponsored the first Central & Eastern European regional conference of Indology in Warsaw University in September 2005 in which 19 scholars from 11 countries participated. A Hindi Chair is in place at the University of Warsaw. An MoU for establishment of an ICCR chair of Indian studies at the Jagiellonian University, Krakow for the period 2017-18 to 2019-2020 was signed in February 2017 and Professor Rohit Wanchoo has joined the University.

Mission organised the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi October 2, 2019. Polish Post (Poczta Polska) issued a Commemorative Stamp on the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhiji which was released on the occasion.

On the occasion of 550th Prakash Purab of Guru Nanak Dev ji, Mission and Gurudwara Sahib of Poland jointly organised two functions at Gurudwara Sahib, Poland - one on 10 November 2019 and the second on 12 November 2019.

Yoga

The first International Day of Yoga was organized in 21 cities in Poland on June 21, 2015. An estimated 11000 people participated in public events. The flagship event was held in the capital city Warsaw. Several Polish celebrities and 'yoga ambassadors' have joined the Yoga movement. Currently around 1000 centres and 8,000 teachers are propagating Yoga in Poland. There are over 3,00,000 yoga practitioners in the country. The IDY is celebrated every year in Warsaw and several other cities of Poland. The 5th IDY was celebrated in June 2019.

IV Consular Relations

Visas: Poland had been included in e-visa scheme with effect from August 15, 2015 and now rising number of Poles are availing e-visa facilities. In 2019, 26,061 Poles availed of Indian visa services (Regular 3017 and e-visas 23,044).

Indian Community: Estimated at approximately 10,000, the Indian community in Poland consists of traders (textiles, garments and electronics) who came after the collapse of communism, and professionals with multinational or Indian companies and software/IT experts, including rising number of Indian students. There are over 100 Indian restaurants in Poland.

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