

**Embassy of India
Brussels
India-Luxembourg Bilateral Relations**

India and Luxembourg enjoy warm, close and friendly ties since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1948. Bilateral relations between India and Luxembourg are founded on their shared commitment to the Rule of Law and democratic values, appreciation of each other's concerns and commonality of views on major bilateral and multilateral issues. Luxembourg opened its Embassy in Delhi in 2002 and has Honorary Consulates in Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai.

Political Relations:

From India, Rashtrapati Shri K.R. Narayanan paid a State visit to Luxembourg in 1998. Minister of State for External Affairs Gen. (Retd) Dr. V. K. Singh led the Indian delegation to the 12th Asia-Europe Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Luxembourg from 4-7 November 2015. Earlier, Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur, visited Luxembourg on 18 April, 2012. An Indian delegation led by Minister for Steel, Chaudhary Birender Singh visited Luxembourg from 28-29 August 2016. Minister of State (IC) for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Prakash Javadekar visited Luxembourg to attend the Major Economies Forum from 18-19 July 2015.

From Luxembourg, the then Grand Duke Jean (father of the incumbent Grand Duke Henri) visited India in March 1983 along with the Grand Duchess. The incumbent Grand Duke Henri led an economic delegation to India in May 1995 as the then Crown Prince.

Foreign Minister of Luxembourg Mr. Jean Asselborn paid an official visit to India in March 2015 and held bilateral consultations with EAM. Mr. Asselborn also attended the 11th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in New Delhi in November 2013. Mr. Jean Claude Juncker, as the Prime Minister of Luxembourg paid an official visit to India in 1999. Deputy Prime Minister of Luxembourg (in-charge of economy) Mr. Etienne Schneider led a Trade Mission from 29 Feb 29- 4 March, 2016 to India.

Earlier, Mr Georges Wohlfart, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Luxembourg visited India in October 1995, May 1996 and April 1997. Mr. Jeannot Krecke, Luxembourg's Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade led an economic delegation visited India in 2007 and from 9-14 January 2010. Mr. Luc Frieden, Minister of Budget and Treasury visited India in January 2007.

Parliamentary Interactions

The President of the Chamber of Deputies of Luxembourg Mr. Laurent Mosar led a Parliamentary delegation to India from 28 February - 2 March 2012. Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha Smt. Meira Kumar led a high level Parliamentary Delegation to Luxembourg from 10-13 June 2010.

Economic & Commercial relations:

The main vehicle of India's bilateral economic interaction with Luxembourg is the biennial Economic Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) between India and the Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union. Several areas of bilateral economic relations are discussed under this framework including market access issues and cooperation in a

wide range of sectors. The 14th JCM took place in New Delhi on 28th September 2015.

In the current year, during January-August 2016, bilateral trade between India and Luxembourg stood at € 28.78 million (US \$ 31.95 million) as against € 31.88 million (US \$ 35.38 million) during the same period in 2015. India's exports to Luxembourg mainly consisted of engineering products, textiles and garments, and chemicals while India mainly imported engineering goods, base metals and plastics and articles.

FDI flows from Luxembourg to India between April 2000 and September 2016 were about US\$ 2,104 million, making it the 14th most important investor in India. Luxembourg invests in computer software/hardware, chemicals, steel and in the automobiles sectors.

Luxembourg is one of the world's most important financial centers. 74 Indian companies have raised capital by issuing Global Depositary Receipts (GDRs) at the Luxembourg Stock Exchange.

Cargolux, Luxembourg based leading all-cargo airline, commenced its operations from Mumbai from May 2016, besides its ongoing operations from Chennai since 2015.

Indian Community in Luxembourg:

The Indian Diaspora in Luxembourg consists of highly skilled workers and numbers around 1200. Indian students are pursuing research and post-doctoral studies in the University of Luxembourg. In March 2009, an Indian Business Chamber of Luxembourg (IBCL) was constituted to promote commercial relations between India and Luxembourg. The Chamber facilitates business activities and assists Indian companies in the setting up of business ventures in Luxembourg.

The Indian Association Luxembourg celebrated its silver jubilee on 26 October 2016. The event was graced by Hon'ble Prime Minister of Luxembourg, Mr. Xavier Bettel.

Useful Resources:

Website: <http://www.indembassy.be>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/IndEmbassyBrussels>

Twitter Account & handle of India in Belgium: <https://twitter.com/IndEmbassyBru>

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