

## **India - Poland Relations**

India and Poland established diplomatic relations 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. In this period, significant exchanges continued in defence, science and technology, and culture.

Over the decades, India and Poland have had robust exchanges at the level of Heads of State and Government. Earlier major visits from India to Poland include: Presidents V.V. Giri (1970), Zail Singh (1986), S.D.Sharma (1996) and Prime Ministers Jawaharlal Nehru (1955), Indira Gandhi (1967) and Morarji Desai (1979). From the Polish side, visits include: Presidents Alexander Kwasniewski (1998), Lech Walesa (1994 and 1998), Prime Ministers Cyrankiewicz (1957) and Jaroszewicz (1973), Polish United Workers' Party First Secretary Gierek (1977) and Gen. Jaruzelski (1985). After democracy came to Poland in 1990, high-level contacts continued with the visits of Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski in January 1998 and Polish PM Leszek Miller in February 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.

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 Organised 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). A Cultural Exchange Programme (2010-14) signed during PM Tusk's visit to India has lapsed and is sought to be renewed for 2016-17.

### **Commercial Relations**

Poland is India's largest trade partner and export destination in the east European region, with bilateral trade growing almost seven-fold over the last ten years. In 2014, bilateral trade was US\$ 2.4 billion [Indian exports – USD 1.8 billion; Indian imports – USD 0.6 billion). Trade levels are estimated to have remained at US\$ 2.2 billion in 2015. India's major exports have been tobacco, processed minerals, chemicals, rubber, plastic, machinery, drugs, transport equipment, and ready-made cotton garments. Major imports from Poland have been iron and steel, metaliferous ores and metal scraps, transport equipment and machinery (except electrical and coal).

The bilateral trade figures for the last few years are below:

(In US\$ Million)

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 (estimated)
<b>India's exports</b>	740	1035	1350	1240	1470	1806	1771
<b>India's imports</b>	310	357	523	665	491	624	462
<b>Trade turnover</b>	1050	1392	1873	1905	1961	2430	2233

Source: Polish Statistical Office, GUS

Indian investments in Poland are over US\$ 3 billion and include ArcelorMittal, Videocon, Escorts, Strides Arcolab, Reliance Industries, Ranbaxy, EsselPropack, KPIT Cummins, Zensar Technologies Ltd, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Technologies Ltd, HCL Technologies, Infosys and Wipro, Jindal Stainless, Berger Paints India, UFLEX and Glenmark Pharmaceuticals. Polish companies that operate in India include TorunskieZakladyMaterialowOpatrunkowych (TZMO) in Dindigul (manufacturing hygiene and sanitary products), Can-Pack Poland in Aurangabad (manufacturing metal packaging), Geofizyka Torun and Famur Group. Total Polish investment is about US\$ 600 million.

India Show at Poznan (June 2014): India showcased its engineering prowess in the 'India Show' at Poznan, Poland in June 2014, in which more than 100 Indian engineering companies, chiefly from the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises sector, participated. The event coincided with ITM Poznan, Poland's biggest technology and machine tools fair and was coordinated by EEPC and Ministry of Commerce and Department of Heavy Industries. India was granted 'Partner Country' status by the Government of Poland.

Engineering Sector Collaboration: Polish public sector companies have, in the past, played a substantial role in development of mining and power sectors in India. They have collaborated in reorganization of some Indian collieries, besides supplying mining machinery, equipment, technical know-how and training.

Vibrant Gujarat Summit: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy of Poland, Mr. JanuszPiechocinski, led a large business delegation to India in January 2015 to attend the Vibrant Gujarat Summit in Gandhinagar and met with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the Chief Minister of Gujarat. A number of areas of cooperation were discussed in the meeting with PM, including coal and mining, food processing, automobiles, defence and IT. Ms. KatarzynaKacperczyk, Under Secretary of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, accompanied the Deputy Prime Minister.

Make in India and Go India: On March 25, 2015, the 'Make in India' campaign was formally launched in Warsaw. Speaking to a distinguished gathering at a 'Make in India' evening, the Chief Guest, Polish Deputy Minister of Economy, Mr Jerzy Pietrewicz, applauded India's outreach programmes in Poland and underlined the Polish government's complete support. MrPietrewicz said that he was personally enthused by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for transforming India into an economic behemoth. In response to India's initiative,

Poland's Deputy Prime Minister Piechocinski, announced a 'Go India' programme in April 2015 that will facilitate and incentivise Polish companies to engage with India.

Joint Commission in Warsaw (June 2015):The fourth Session of the India-Poland Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation (JCEC) was held in Warsaw, on June 15, 2015. The commission was co-chaired by Shri Amitabh Kant, Secretary, and Mr Jerzy Pietreiwicz, Secretary of State, Ministry of Economy of Poland. The highlight of the protocol was the setting of an ambitious trade target of USD 5 billion by 2018 (2014 level: USD 2.3 billion). The Commission detailed a plan for stepping up investments and identified a series of actions to raise bilateral economic cooperation. On June 12-13, 2015, the three newly created bilateral Joint Working Groups on Coal, IT and Food Processing also met and identified specific areas of cooperation in their respective domains.

First Poland-India IT forum in Krakow (July 2015):The flagship, Digital India programme, unveiled in India on July 1, 2015 was showcased at the first Poland India IT Forum in Krakow on July 8 – 9, 2015. The IT Forum was held at the premises of AGH University of Science and Technology in Krakow and was jointly organised by Malopolska Region, Poland India Business Council, the AGH University. It was supported by the Ministry of Administration and Digitization of Poland and the Embassy of India, Warsaw. The aim of the forum was to highlight the growing engagement in the IT sectors between Indian and Poland and find synergies for future cooperation. On July 8, Dr N.R. Narayana Murthy, co-founder of Infosys, was honoured with a Doctor Honoris Causa by the AGH University.

India's IT & ICT Sector in Poland: Indian companies have sensed opportunities in Poland for over a decade and have made it a destination of choice for near-shoring operations targeted at Europe. 11 Indian companies with employment of 5000 people are currently active in Poland

Poland a Partner country for Progressive Punjab (July & October 2015):Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab, Shri Sukhbir Singh Badal led a strong 9-member official and business contingent to Poland from July 27 to 29 and had multiple and substantive interactions with Polish Ministers, regional leaders and senior government officials in Warsaw and Lublin. As announced by the Polish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy, Mr Janusz Piechocinski, at a joint media interaction during the visit, Poland became a partner country for the 'Progressive Punjab Investors Summit' held in October 2015 in Mohali, Punjab. Subsequently, a delegation led by State Secretary Jerzy Pietrewicz participated as a Partner Country in the Punjab Summit, where a bilateral agreement was signed between the State of Punjab and the Lubelskie region.

India Central - Europe Business Forum in Bengaluru:Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Leszek Soczewica, accompanied by a high level delegation comprising of senior officials and businessmen, visited India to participate in the India Central - Europe Business Forum in Bengaluru (October 05-06, 2015).

State Level Relations:Apart from bilateral relations between Punjab and Lubelskie region, formal State-to-State relations exist between the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh and Malopolska; and between Maharashtra and Wielkopolska. We plan to promote relations between Uttarakhand and Opole. Polish business delegations have visited and promoted business relations in several states, particularly Gujarat and Karnataka.

Make in India Week in Mumbai: First Deputy Prime Minister of Poland, Prof. Piotr Glinski, led a strong delegation of more than 50 officials and businessmen for the Make in India Week in February 2016. Prof. Glinski called on Prime Minister Modi and discussed a roadmap of bilateral economic cooperation. He also held meetings with the Indian Ministers of Finance, Commerce, Coal and Steel. To promote relations with Indian states, DPM Glinski also met with the Chief Ministers of Maharashtra and Haryana. The Polish delegation interacted with captains of Indian industry and also held meetings with the Minister for Food Processing of India. The Polish Deputy PM addressed a seminar on future vistas for Indo-Polish cooperation and also spoke at a sectoral seminar on power and coal.

Asian Mining Congress in Kolkata: Deputy Minister for Development Domagalski visited Kolkata with a group of Polish companies to attend the 6<sup>th</sup> Asian Mining Congress on February 22-25, 2016. He participated in seminars and had several interactions with Indian companies in the coal and mining sector.

### **Cultural Relations:**

Indology: There is a strong tradition of Indology studies in Poland, with Polish scholars having translated Sanskrit into Polish as early as in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Sanskrit was being studied at the 600 year old Jagellonian University in Krakow (the oldest in Poland) in 1860-61 with a Chair of Sanskrit being established in 1893. The Indology Department of the Oriental Institute at the University of Warsaw (established in 1932) is the biggest centre for Indian studies. The ICCR funds two Indian Professors, who are teaching Hindi and Tamil at the Warsaw 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 Tamil Chair and a Hindi Chair are in place at the Jagiellonian University and Warsaw University respectively. The Tamil Chair at Jagiellonian University will also be shared by Warsaw University from academic year 2016-17.

Students exchange: Students from Poland are given scholarships under ICCR schemes to study in India every year. Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra also provides four scholarships to Polish students to study Hindi in Agra. Polish candidates have also utilized the training slots under the ITEC Programme. Indian students have been studying in Poland on private basis in areas such as medicine, engineering, town planning, ship-building, and coal-mining. The number of such students has climbed to about 600.

Cultural exchanges: Polish journalists, academics and other opinion-makers have visited India under ICCR's 'Distinguished Visitors Programme'. Over the years, several cultural troupes have visited Poland and staged performances in many Polish cities. From the Polish side, several musical, art and film shows have been organized in India. An active Polish Cultural Institute functions within the Polish Mission in New Delhi, with its premises in JorBagh.

Incredible India Road Shows in Poland (July 2015): Ministry of Tourism with support of the Embassy organised Road shows in Krakow and Warsaw on July 09 and 10 respectively inviting Polish tourists to enjoy the richness and diversity of a resurgent India. Around 18 tour and travel operators from India participated in the events.

Yoga: The International Day of Yoga was organised in 21 cities in Poland on June 21, 2015. An estimated 8000 people participated in public events. The flagship event was held in the capital city Warsaw. Three Polish celebrities, 'yoga ambassadors', attended the event in Warsaw. Their involvement generated a tremendous buzz in the local media in the run-up to the event. PIOs showed enthusiastic support for the event. After the event, dozens of TV and print stories appeared on IDY, apart from a great deal of coverage in social media. Newsweek in Poland put up a popular 3 minute video report on its website. Currently there are around 1000 yoga teachers in Poland.

Films: Poland is becoming a major destination for shooting of Indian films. We expect this will boost tourism and cultural interaction between the two countries. *Bangistan, Aazaan, Fanaa, Yah Jo Hai Mohabbat, Kick, Shaandaar* are some of the Bollywood were shot in Poland.

Gandhi's bust: A bust of Mahatma Gandhi has been placed in the library of Warsaw University. It was unveiled on May 23, 2002 by the Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Manohar Joshi.

Good Maharaja Square: A monument commemorating Jam Saheb Digvijaysinhji Ranjitsinhji Jadeja of Nawanagar, was unveiled on 31 October, 2014 at the Square of the Good Maharaja, Ochota District, Warsaw, Poland.

Streets commemorating Indian leaders: Three streets in Warsaw are named after Indian leaders - Mahatma Gandhi, Indira Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore. Krakow and Lodz also have streets named after Mahatma Gandhi.

60 years of diplomatic contact: 2014 assumed special significance in our bilateral relationship as its being the 60<sup>th</sup> year of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Poland. To commemorate this historic event, a series of outreach activities including seminars, film weeks, performing arts, business forums, cuisine festivals, exhibitions, etc were held in both the countries.

New Embassy premises: The Embassy has shifted to its new Chancery complex, measuring 9,657 square meters, in August 2015. The Chancery is located at the heart of Warsaw. It faces the Summer Palace of the world famous Lazienki Park on two sides.

Visas: The Embassy of India in Warsaw issues around 20,000 visas annually, for Poland and Lithuania. Poland has been included in e-TV scheme of Government of India with effect from August 15, 2015. Under the scheme, around 2700 Polish nationals have entered into India till the end of 2015.

### **Indian Community:**

Estimated at approximately 3,000, the Indian community in Poland consists of traders (textiles, garments, electronics) who came after the collapse of communism, and professionals with multinational or Indian companies and software/IT experts. There are about 60 Indian restaurants in Poland, more than 30 in Warsaw alone. The number of Indian students in Poland has grown to over 600. Several community organisations have come up and are supported by the Embassy.

## **Useful Resources:**

Embassy of India, Warsaw website:

<http://www.indembwarsaw.pl/>

Embassy of India, Warsaw Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/embassyofindiawarsaw>

Embassy of India, Warsaw, Twitter page:

[twitter.com/@IndiaPoland](https://twitter.com/IndiaPoland)

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