

India-Germany Relations

Bilateral relations between India and Germany are founded on common democratic principles and are marked by a high degree of trust and mutual respect. India was amongst the first countries to establish diplomatic ties with the Federal Republic of Germany after the Second World War. Relations grew significantly following the end of the Cold War and the reunification of Germany. In the last decade, both economic and political interaction between India and Germany has increased significantly. Today, Germany is amongst India's most important partners both bilaterally and in the global context.

2. India and Germany have a "Strategic Partnership" since 2001, which has been further strengthened with the Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC) at the level of Head of Governments (*German Chancellor and PM*) which allows for a comprehensive review of Cooperation and identification of new areas of engagement. India is amongst a select group of countries with which Germany has such a high-level Consultations. The 4th IGC was held in Berlin on May 30, 2017 wherein 12 Cooperation documents in various sectors were signed. The 5th IGC, was held in Delhi on Nov. 1, 2019 during which 21 MoUs/Agreements were signed in diverse areas of engagement including some of the new and emerging areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Space, Smart Cities, Urban Green Mobility etc.

High-level Visits

3. German Chancellor Ms. Angela Merkel led a high level Cabinet and business delegation to India and held bilateral meetings on 1st November 2019 in Delhi.

4. Regular visits take place from both sides, including at the highest level. PM Shri Narendra Modi undertook his first official visit to Germany in April 2015, when India was the Partner Country at the Hannover Messe-2015. PM visited Germany twice in 2017: for a bilateral visit on May 29-30, 2017 to Berlin for the 4th Inter-Governmental Consultations and to attend the G20 Summit on July 06-07, 2018. At the invitation of Chancellor Merkel, PM paid a short official visit to Berlin on April 20, 2018. German President Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier undertook 5-day State Visit to India in March 2018 during which he visited Delhi, Varanasi and Chennai. Chancellor Merkel has visited India in 2007, 2011, 2015 and 2019.

5. PM and Chancellor Merkel meet regularly for bilateral meetings in India and Germany or on the side-lines of multilateral meetings. PM and Chancellor Merkel have met on the side-lines of the G20 Summits in Argentina (December 2018) and in Japan (June 2019). The two leaders exchanged pleasantries at the G7 Summit in August 2019 and the UNGA in September 2019.

Parliamentary Exchanges

6. There is an Indo-German Parliamentary Friendship Group, in German Bundestag since 1971. The Indo-German Parliamentary Friendship Group (constituted in May 2018) for the present term of German Parliament consists of 24 Members from all the six parties represented in the German Parliament. Visit by Parliamentarians from both sides take place regularly. A Goodwill Parliamentary Delegation from India led by Mr. Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs visited Berlin from October 17-19, 2018.

Sister States

7. Some States and Cities of India and Germany have entered into twinning arrangements. Karnataka and Bavaria have Sister State arrangement since 2007. Mumbai and Stuttgart are sister cities since 1968. In January 2015, Maharashtra and Baden-Wurttemberg signed an MoU to establish a Sister State relationship.

Institutional Cooperation Arrangements

8. Several institutionalized arrangements exist between India and Germany to discuss bilateral and global issues of interest namely, Foreign Office Consultations, High Defence Committee, Indo-German Energy Forum, Indo-German Environment Forum, S&T Committee, and Joint Working Groups in various fields, including skill development, automotive, agriculture, coal, tourism, water and waste management.

9. Both countries consult each other and coordinate positions in multilateral fora including G-20 and in the UN on global issues such as climate change, sustainable development, etc. There have been consultations between the two countries on regional and international issues such as UN issues, International Cyber Issues, Disarmament & Non-proliferation, Export Control, East Asia, Eurasia, Africa etc.

Defence Cooperation

10. India-Germany Defence Cooperation Agreement (2006) provides a framework for bilateral defence cooperation. The then, German Defence Minister Ms. Ursula von der Leyen visited India in May 2015 and Raksha Mantri visited Berlin in February 2019. To further enhance the Defence Industry and defence cooperation between Germany and India, an Arrangement on Implementation of the Agreement of 6th October 2006 concerning Bilateral Defence Cooperation was signed on February 12, 2019 during the visit of Raksha Mantri to Berlin.

Economic & Commercial Relations

11. Germany is India's largest trading partner in Europe. Bilateral trade grew from Euro 15.96 billion to Euro 20.41 bn in 2018. In the period January to November 2019, total bilateral trade stood at Euro 19.35 bn. Germany is the 7th largest foreign direct investor in India since April 2000. Germany's total FDI in India from April 2000 until June 2019 amounted to US\$ 11.9 billion.

12. Facilitating Trade: A Fast-Track System for German companies has been operating in Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade

(DPIIT) since March 2016. India and Germany signed a Joint Statement on April 1, 2019 to set up a Fast-Track system for Indian Companies in Germany. To facilitate the entry of German Mittelstand (*Medium Sized Companies*) in India, the Embassy of India, Berlin runs the Make in India Mittelstand (MIIM) Programme since September 2015. Currently, 135 German Mittelstand (MSMEs) companies are being facilitated through MIIM Programme for market entry and investment in India.

Science & Technology

13. Indo-German Science & Technology cooperation started with the signing of the Intergovernmental S&T Cooperation Agreement in 1971 and 1974. There are more than 150 joint S&T research projects and 70 direct partnerships between Universities of both countries. India's scientific establishments have close partnerships with German R&D institutions, including the Max Planck Society, Fraunhofer Laboratories and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

Culture

14. India and Germany have a long tradition of academic and cultural exchange. Max Mueller was the first scholar of Indo-European languages to translate and publish the Upanishads and the Rigveda. German interest in the Indian philosophy and languages resulted in the setting up of the first Chair of Indology at the University of Bonn in 1818. The Government of India has funded 31 short term rotating chairs of Indian studies in German Universities so far. There has been growing interest in Germany in Indian dance, music and literature, as well as motion picture and TV industry. Indian films and artists regularly feature at the Berlin International Film Festival and at Indian Film festivals held in other parts of Germany.

Development Cooperation

15. Germany has been an important development cooperation partner for several decades. Total bilateral Technical and Financial Cooperation since it began in 1958, amounts to approx. Euro 17 billion. Energy, sustainable economic development and environment & management of natural resources are priority areas.

16. Financial assistance from Germany is mainly as soft loan, composite loans or grants routed through KfW, German Government's Development Bank. Technical assistance is provided through GIZ, German Government's development agency. Major projects are in the sectors of energy (*Renewables, Green Energy Corridor*), Indo-German Solar Partnership, Skill Development and Sustainable urban development (water/sanitation/waste, climate friendly urban mobility, smart cities).

Indians in Germany

17. There are about 1.7 lakh Indians and people of Indian origin in Germany. The Indian diaspora mainly comprises of professionals, technocrats, businessmen/traders and nurses. There has been an increase in the last few years in the number of qualified Indian professionals in Germany in the fields of IT, banking, finance, etc. There are a number of

Indian associations in Germany. Around 17,500 Indian students are pursuing various courses in Germany.

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