

Ministry of External Affairs

EW Division

India-European Union Bilateral Relations

The relationship between India and the European Union (EU) are based on shared values and principles such as democracy, rule of law, rules based international order and multilateralism. The ties are multifaceted and cover a broad spectrum of topics including trade, investment, climate change, science and technology, artificial intelligence, connectivity, agriculture and marine.

I. Political

2. India-EU bilateral 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. The Joint Political Statement signed in 1993 coupled with a Cooperation Agreement signed in 1994 opened the way for strengthening the bilateral ties. A multi-tiered institutional architecture of cooperation has since been created, presided over by the India-EU Summit since 2000. The first India-EU Summit took place on 28 June 2000 in Lisbon and marked a watershed in the evolution of the relationship. The relationship was upgraded to a 'Strategic Partnership' during the 5th India-EU Summit held in 2004 in The Hague. As on date, 15 Summits have been held between India and EU.

3. **15th India-EU Summit:** The 15th India-EU summit was held in virtual mode on 15 July 2020. Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi represented the Indian side while the European Council President H.E. Charles Michel and the European Commission President H.E Ursula von der Leyen represented the EU. External Affairs Minister of India (EAM) Dr. S. Jaishankar and High Representative / Vice President (HRVP) for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Mr. Joseph Borrell also attended the summit.

4. The summit covered, among others, joint response to the Covid pandemic, strengthening India-EU Strategic Partnership and its various dimensions, as well as convergences and collaboration on the global arena covering multilateralism, international organizations and contemporary developments.

5. During the summit, the leaders affirmed their strong interest and full commitment to develop the India-EU strategic partnership to new levels. The following five documents were concluded during the virtual summit: i) the Joint Political Statement; ii) the India-EU Strategic Partnership: Roadmap to 2025; iii) Signing of the India-European Atomic Energy Community Agreement on research and development cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy; iv) Renewal of Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement for another 5 years; and v) Joint Declaration on Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy.

6. Other than the Summit, there are regular high-level interaction between the leaders of India and the EU. The Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a telecon with the European Council President H.E. Charles Michel on 07 May 2020 to discuss issues of mutual interest. Further, Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a telcon with the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen on 03 December 2019, 24 March 2020 and recently on 03 May 2021 to discuss ways to further strengthen ties between India and the EU including trade and investment.

7. **Visit of Vice President:** Vice-President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu led the Indian delegation to the 12th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) on 18-19 October 2018 in Brussels under the theme "Global Partners for Global Challenges." During his intervention at the Summit Plenary, the Vice President stated that India valued ASEM as a platform that brings together leadership of Asia and Europe to exchange views and address global challenges.

8. **Ministerial Meetings:** EAM met HRVP Borrell on the sidelines of the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in London 04 May 2021. EAM and HRVP discussed, among others, the preparations for the forthcoming India-EU Leaders' Meeting scheduled to be held in Porto on 08 May 2021 and also exchanged views on Indo-Pacific and Afghanistan. A joint press statement on Afghanistan was also issued.

9. On 23 April 2021, EAM had a virtual meeting with Ms. Margrethe Vestager, Executive Vice President of the European Commission for a Europe fit for the Digital Age and discussed, among other issues, digital cooperation between India and the EU.

10. **26th India-EU Ministerial Meeting:** EAM and HRVP Borrell met for the 26th Ministerial Meeting on 17 January 2020 when the latter visited India to participate in the Raisina Dialogue. During the meeting HRVP extended an invitation to EAM to address Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) of the European Union on 17 February 2020. EAM accepted the invitation and addressed the FAC on 17 February 2020. During the visit, he also called on President of the European Council Mr. Charles Michel. EAM also met, Executive Vice President for European Green Deal Mr. Frans Timmermans, Commissioner for Trade Mr. Phil Hogan, Commissioner for International Partnership and Ms. Jutta Urpilainen.

11. EAM visited Brussels on 30 August 2019 and met the President of the European Parliament Mr. David Maria Sassoli, then HRVP Ms. Federica Mogherini and the EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid & Crisis Management Mr. Christos Stylianides, and exchanged views on bilateral, regional and international issues. EAM and HRVP Mogherini also met on 1 August 2019 on the side-lines of the East Asia Summit in Bangkok.

12. Former Minister of External Affairs Smt. Sushma Swaraj and HRVP Mogherini met for the 25th Ministerial Meeting on 22 June 2018 in Brussels. During the meeting, the two sides discussed India-EU foreign policy and

security cooperation and exchanged views on regional and international affairs. During her visit, EAM also led the International Day of Yoga celebrations at the European Parliament on 21 June 2018.

13. **Parliamentary Interaction:** Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha Shri Om Birla met the President of the European Parliament David Sassoli in virtual mode on 13 January 2021 to discuss issues of mutual interest including enhancing parliamentary interaction. 27 Members of the European Parliament (MEPS) belonging to various groups visited India in their personal capacities and they met with the Prime Minister, National Security Advisor and EAM on 28 October, 2019. During their visit, they also visited Kashmir. Earlier, Dr. Syed Kamal, Co-Chairman of the European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) group in the European Parliament led a delegation of 13 MEPs to Bengaluru and Delhi on 28 October to 2 November 2018. During their visit, the delegation met the Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha and some Members of Parliament as well as Ministers of Commerce, Power, Housing and Urban Affairs. The European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee led by its Chairman MEP Mr. David McAllister, the Delegation for Relations with India led by its Chair MEP Mr. Geoffrey Van Orden and the European Parliament Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection led by Ms. Vicky Ford (IMCO chair) visited India on 20-23 February 2017.

14. **Foreign Policy Consultations:** The 7th round of Foreign Policy and Security Consultations (FPSC) between India and the European Union were held on 22 October 2020 in virtual mode. Indian side was led by Secretary (West), while the EU side by Deputy Secretary-General for Political Affairs, European External Action Service (EEAS). The two sides reviewed the India-EU Strategic Partnership, discussed political and economic relations and exchanged views on regional and global issues of interest. The second informal Strategic Partnership Review meeting was held in New Delhi on 8 November 2019 and Secretary (East) led the Indian side and Deputy Secretary General for Economic Affairs led the EU side.

15. **Bilateral Dialogues:** India and EU have institutionalized political dialogues, *inter alia*, on Counter-Terrorism, Cyber Security, Migration and Mobility, Maritime Security, Human Rights, Non-Proliferation and Disarmament. The two sides meet regularly to discuss bilateral cooperation and international developments in these areas.

II. Trade & Investment

16. In 2020, India was the EU's 10th largest trading partner accounting for 1.8% of EU's total bilateral trade in goods. India-EU bilateral trade in goods in 2020 was valued at Euro 65.30 billion (Euro 33.1 billion exports from India and Euro 32.2 billion imports to India). India-EU Bilateral Trade in Goods in the recent years as follows:

(value in billion euros)

Year	Indian Exports	Indian Imports	Total
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			Trade
2015	31.58	32.82	64.40
2016	31.92	33.80	65.71
2017	36.00	37.05	73.05
2018	37.82	40.11	77.93
2019	39.55	38.23	77.79
2020	33.10	33.20	65.30

17. During 2019, India-EU bilateral trade in services was valued at Euro 32.6 billion (Euro 17.7 billion exports from India and Euro 14.8 billion imports to India). It registered an increase of 5 % compared to bilateral trade of Euro 31.02 billion in 2018 (*Source: Eurostat*). Overall, EU is India's second largest trade partner in goods and services. India-EU Bilateral Trade in Services in the recent years as follows:

(value in billion euros)			
Year	Indian Exports	Indian Imports	Total Trade
2017	14.04	13.57	27.61
2018	16.12	14.90	31.02
2019	17.75	14.83	32.58

18. The EU's share in foreign investment inflows to India more than doubled from 8% to 18% in the last decade making the EU India's largest source of FDI. During April 2000 to September 2020, FDI inflows from the EU to India totaled USD 86.82 billion (*Source: DPIIT*). Some 6,000 European companies are present in India, providing directly 1.7 million jobs and indirectly 5 million jobs in a broad range of sectors. Indian investments in the EU are estimated at around Euro 50 billion. India and EU have also established an Investment Facilitation Mechanism (IFM) in 2017 under which Invest India has created a single window entry point for EU companies proposing to invest in India.

19. The negotiations for a Broad-based Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) were held between 2007 to 2013 but have remained dormant/suspended since then. In order to provide political guidance to the negotiations, it was decided at the 15th India-EU Summit to establish a High-Level Dialogue on Trade and Investment (HLDTI) at the level of CIM and EU's Trade Commissioner.

20. The first HLDTI was held on 5 February 2021 and the second HLDTI was held on 29 April 2021. During the meeting, both sides discussed the bilateral trade and investment relations, multilateral issues of mutual interest, market access issues, improving conditions for traders and investors on both sides as well as strengthening supply chain linkages.

21. Trade and Economic issues are also discussed through the India-EU Joint Commission led by Commerce Secretary and EU's Director General for Trade. The last Meeting took place on 14 July 2017. The Joint Commission has 3 Sub Commissions on Trade, Economic Cooperation and Development Cooperation. The Sub-Commission on Trade met last in November 2020; the

Sub-Commission on Economic Cooperation met last on 11 April 2018; and the Sub-Commission on Development Cooperation has ceased its meetings since its last one in June 2014.

22. There are also Joint Working Groups/Technical Working Groups on Sanitary/Phyto-Sanitary measures (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT); on Agriculture and Marine Products; on Plant Health; on Animal Health, on Textiles; on IPR; on Macro-Economic and Financial Services Dialogue and on Pharmaceuticals, Bio-technology and Medical Devices.

III. Sectoral Cooperation:

23. India and the EU have cooperation in various sectors including Agriculture & Marine, energy, environment, water, Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology & Medical Devices, Science & Technology, science and technology, Infrastructure, Information & Communications Technology and aviation.

24. **European Investment Bank:** European Investment Bank (EIB) is providing loans for Lucknow, Bangalore and Pune Metro Projects. It will also fund metro projects in Bhopal and Kanpur. EIB opened its first office for the South Asian Region headquartered in New Delhi on 30 March 2017.

IV. Consular

25. At the 13th India-EU Summit, the leaders adopted a Joint Declaration on Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM) that facilitates legal migration on both sides. A High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility has been instituted and held its 5th meeting on 11 July 2019 in New Delhi at which the two sides reaffirmed that migration and mobility are important dimensions of the strategic partnership between India and the EU and exchanged views on future initiatives aimed at realising the full potential of further strengthening cooperation.

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