

India-European Union Bilateral Relations

The relationship between India and the European Union (EU) is 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, digital, connectivity and agriculture.

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 the 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 it marked a watershed in the evolution of the ties. The relationship was upgraded to a 'Strategic Partnership' during the 5th India-EU Summit held in The Hague. As on date, 15 Summits have been held between India and the EU.

High Level Engagements

3. **15th India-EU Summit:** The 15th India-EU summit was held in virtual mode on 15 July 2020. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi represented the Indian side, and the European Council President H.E. Mr. Charles Michel and the European Commission President H.E. Ms. Ursula von der Leyen represented the EU. External Affairs Minister of India (EAM), Dr. S. Jaishankar, and High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice President (HRVP), Mr. Josep Borrell, also attended the summit. It saw adoption of a wide ranging joint statement and also an India-EU Strategic Partnership Roadmap for 2025. An Agreement on Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation was signed and another Agreement on S&T Cooperation was extended for a further period of 5 years. Both sides also issued a Joint Declaration on Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy.

4. **India-EU Leaders' Meeting:** In continuation of the highly successful 15th India-EU Summit, the first ever India-EU Leaders' Meeting was held on 08 May 2021 in hybrid mode in Porto, Portugal with the participation of Prime Minister, leaders of all the 27 EU Member States as well as the President of the European Council and President of the European Commission. During the meeting, the leaders welcomed the decision to resume negotiations for balanced and comprehensive free trade and investment agreements; launched an ambitious and comprehensive 'Connectivity Partnership' which is focused on enhancing digital, energy, transport and people-to-people connectivity; and reiterated their commitment to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and agreed to strengthen joint efforts for mitigation, adaptation and resilience to the impacts of climate change.

5. **Visit of President of the European Commission to India:** The President of the European Commission H.E. Ms. Ursula von der Leyen paid an official visit to India on 24-25 April 2022. This was her first visit to India as the President of the

European Commission. During her meeting with the Prime Minister, they announced the establishment of an India-EU Trade and Technology Council. She also called on President of India H.E. Shri Ram Nath Kovind and had a meeting with External Affairs Minister. During the visit, she participated at the Raisina Dialogue as Chief Guest and delivered the inaugural address.

6. Other than the Summit, there are regular high-level interactions between the leaders of India and the EU. Prime Minister met President of the European Council and President of the European Commission on the sidelines of G-20 meeting in Rome in October 2021 and also on the sidelines of the G-7 meeting in Germany in June 2022.

7. **Ministerial Meetings:** There has been frequent interaction at the Ministerial / Commissioner level between India and the EU. EAM met the EU HRVP in August 2022 in Cambodia; in July 2022 in Bali on the sidelines of G-20 Foreign Ministers' meeting; in February 2022 in Paris on the sidelines on Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum; in July 2021 in Tashkent on the sidelines of International Conference on Regional Connectivity of Central and South Asia; in June 2021 in Rome on the sidelines of G-20 meeting; and in May 2021 in London where a Joint Press Statement on Afghanistan was issued. EAM also met H.E. Ms. Jutta Urpilainen, the European Commissioner for International Partnerships in February 2022 in Paris and also in June 2021 in Rome. EAM also participated in the informal meeting of the EU Foreign Ministers (Gymnich) in Slovenia in September 2021.

8. Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs Food & Public Distribution and Textiles (CIM) of India, Shri Piyush Goyal, visited Brussels in June 2022. During his meeting with counterpart, Executive Vice President (EVP) of the European Commission for An Economy that Works for People and Commissioner for Trade, H.E. Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis on 17 June, they formally re-launched the negotiations for a India-EU Free Trade Agreement; a standalone Investment Protection Agreement; and a Geographical Indications Agreement. They also met on the sidelines of the 12th Ministerial Conference of WTO in Geneva in June 2022 and on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos in May 2022.

9. Minister of Railways, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology of India, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, visited Brussels in June 2022. During the visit, he met H.E. Ms. Margrethe Vestager, Executive Vice President of the European Commission for A Europe Fit for the Digital Age and European Commissioner for Competition on 16 June 2022.

10. **Parliamentary Interaction:** Six Members of the European Parliament's (EP) Committee on International Trade (INTA), led by its Chair H.E. Mr. Bernd Lange, along with the Chair of EP Delegation for India (D-IN), H.E. Mr. Soren Gade, visited India from 11-13 April 2022 and had meetings with various interlocutors. Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha Shri Om Birla met with then President of the European Parliament H.E. Mr. David Sassoli in virtual mode on 13 January 2021 to discuss issues of mutual interest including enhancing parliamentary interaction.

Political and Security Dialogues

11. **Foreign Policy Consultations:** The 9th round of Foreign Policy and Security Consultations between India and the European Union were held in New Delhi on 22 November 2022. The consultations were co-chaired by Secretary (West), Ministry of

External Affairs, and Deputy Secretary General for Political Affairs, European External Action Service. They took stock of key bilateral developments, including the India-EU Trade and Technology Council and also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest.

12. **Strategic Partnership Review Meeting:**The 3rd round of the India-EU Strategic Partnership Review Meeting was held in October 2021 in Brussels. It was co-chaired by Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, and Deputy Secretary-General for Global and Economic Issues at the European External Action Service. Both sides reviewed the India-EU Strategic Partnership, discussed political and economic relations and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest.

13. **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

14. In 2021, India was the EU's 10th largest trading partner accounting for around 2% of EU's total bilateral trade in goods. India-EU bilateral trade in goods in 2021 was valued at Euro 88.10 billion (Euro 46.2 billion exports from India and Euro 41.9 billion imports to India). India-EU Bilateral Trade in Goods in recent years is as follows:

(value in billion Euros)

Year	Indian Exports	Indian Imports	Total Trade
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
2021	46.2	41.9	88.10

15. During 2020, India-EU bilateral trade in services was valued at Euro 30.4 billion (Euro 17.3 billion exports from India and Euro 13.1 billion imports to India). Overall, the EU is India's second largest trade partner in goods and services. India-EU Bilateral Trade in Services in recent years is 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
2020	17.30	13.10	30.40

16. 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 1.7 million jobs directly and 5 million jobs indirectly 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.

17. The negotiations for a Broad-based Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) were held between 2007 to 2013 but remained dormant till 2021. 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 at the level of CIM and EU's Trade Commissioner. Subsequent to the two meetings of the High Level Dialogue in February and April 2021, both sides agreed to resume negotiations for a balanced and comprehensive free trade and investment agreements. It was also decided that negotiations on both the Trade and Investment Agreements would be pursued on parallel tracks with an intention to achieve early conclusion of both agreements together.

18. 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 Joint Commission has 3 Sub Commissions on Trade, Economic Cooperation and Development Cooperation. 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:

19. 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.

20. **European Investment Bank:** European Investment Bank's (EIB) is providing loans for Lucknow, Bangalore, Bhopal, Kanpur and Pune Metro Projects. EIB opened its first office for the South Asian Region headquartered in New Delhi on 30 March 2017.

IV. Consular

21. 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 6th meeting on 27 October 2022 in Brussels 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 realizing the full potential of further strengthening cooperation.

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