

**Embassy of India
Berlin**

India-Germany Relations

India was amongst the first countries to establish diplomatic ties with the Federal Republic of Germany after the Second World War. India and Germany have a 'Strategic Partnership' since 2001, which has been further strengthened with the inception of the Intergovernmental Consultations (IGC) in 2011 at the level of Head of Governments which allows for a comprehensive review of cooperation and identification of areas of engagement. India is amongst a select group of countries with which Germany has such a dialogue mechanism. Economic Cooperation is one of the main pillars of India Germany relationship. India and Germany share a multifaceted relationship across a diverse range of areas including political, defense and security, economic, science and technology, education, cultural and people to people exchanges.

2. **High level exchanges:** India and Germany have had regular exchange of visits 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 Modi visited Germany twice in 2017: the first was a bilateral visit on May 29-30, 2017 to Berlin for the 4th Intergovernmental Consultations and was followed by a visit on July 6-8, 2017 to Hamburg to attend the G20 Summit. At the invitation of Chancellor Merkel, PM visited Berlin for a short official visit in April 20, 2018, on his return journey from CHOGM Summit in London. PM and Chancellor met on Dec 01, 2018 on the sidelines of G20 Summit in Buenos Aires. German President Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier paid a 5 day State Visit to India in March 2018. Chancellor Merkel visited India in 2007, 2011 and in October 2015. German Defence Minister Von der Leyen visited India in 2015.

3. **Parliamentary Exchanges:** 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 21 Members from all the six parties represented in the German Parliament and is led by Mr. Dirk Wiese, MP. A Goodwill Delegation of Members of Parliament visited Germany from October 17-19, 2018. The 9 member bipartisan delegation, led by Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, consisted of 6 members from the Lok Sabha and 2 members from the Rajya Sabha. This was the first visit of a Parliamentary Delegation from India to Germany in the current term of the two houses of the Parliament. The Delegation met with the Vice President of Bundestag, Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Digitalization and the Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Bundestag on October 18 and 19th, 2018. A German Parliamentary Delegation had visited India in 2015.

4. **Convergence on global issues:** India and Germany work together within the G4 framework for UN reforms. Germany has provided consistent support to India's candidature for the membership of Multilateral Export Control regimes. India and Germany share similar concerns on Terrorism and support early conclusion of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

5. **Sister States:** Some States and Cities of India and Germany have entered into twinning arrangements. Karnataka and Bavaria have Sister States 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.

6. **Defence Cooperation:** India-Germany Defence Cooperation Agreement (2006) provides a framework for bilateral defence cooperation. The defence dialogue mechanisms include High Defence Committee meetings at the level of Defence Secretaries. Both sides had detailed discussion on defence cooperation during the visit of German Defence Minister to India in May 2015. There are regular visits of Defence Personnel between the countries. Delegations of the National Defence College (NDC) visited Germany in 2017 and 2018. German companies export defence related equipment and machinery parts to our Ministry of Defence.

7. **Economic & Commercial Relations:** Germany is India's largest trading partner in Europe. India was ranked 26th in Germany's global trade during 2017. Bilateral trade increased to US\$ 21.98 bn (2017-18), a growth of 17.15%. In 2017-18, India's exports were worth US\$ 8.68 billion to Germany and imports were worth US\$ 13.29 billion. Germany is the 7th largest foreign direct investor in India. Germany's total FDI in India from April 2000 until June 2018 amounted to US\$ 10.99 billion. There are more than 1700 German companies active in India and over 600 Indo-German Joint Ventures in operation. German investments in India are mainly in the sectors of transportation, electrical equipment, metallurgical industries, services sector (particularly insurance), chemicals, construction activity, trading and automobiles. Indian Corporate entities have invested over US\$ 7 billion in Germany. There are around 200 Indian companies operating in Germany. Important sectors in Germany for Indian investments are IT, automotive, pharma and biotech. Germany has been an important development cooperation partner since 1958. Total bilateral Technical and Financial Cooperation, amounts to €16.98 billion. Energy, sustainable economic development and environment & management of natural resources are priority areas under development cooperation.

8. **Facilitating Trade:** A Fast-Track System for German companies has been set up in Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), as agreed between the two sides at the 3rd Inter Governmental Consultations in 2015. To facilitate the entry of German Mittelstand in India, the Embassy of India, Berlin

had launched the Make in India Mittelstand (MIIM) Programme in September 2015. Currently, 123 German Mittelstand (MSMEs) companies are being facilitated through MIIM Programme for their market entry and investment in India.

9. Science & Technology: The Indo-German Science & Technology cooperative program is implemented under an Inter-governmental Agreement on “Cooperation in Scientific Research and Technological Development” signed on May 1974. India's scientific establishments have close partnerships with premier German R&D institutions, including the Max Planck Society, Fraunhofer Institutions, Leibniz association, Helmholtz association and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Through an agreement signed in 2010 the bilateral Indo-German Science and Technology Centre (IGSTC) was established as a flagship initiative of Government of India (DST) and Government of Germany (BMBF) to promote research partnership of industrial relevance. IGSTC started operating from Gurgaon in 2011. Both the Governments in 2015 agreed to extend the IGSTC for another five years starting from 2017 with a doubling of funding from Euro 2 million to 4 million from each side. India has invested in major science projects in Germany such as the Facility for Anti-Proton and Ion Research (FAIR) at Darmstadt and the Deutsche Elektronen Synchrotron (DESY) for experiments in advanced materials and particle physics. DST and DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) are also jointly supporting an Indo-German Centre on Sustainability at IIT Madras with RWTH Aachen University, TU9 and CAU, Kiel from German side. DST-DAAD Project based Personnel Exchange Programme (PPP) launched in 1998 has expanded to more than 325 joint research projects enabling focused interaction through exchange of about 600 scientists/ research students from each side. The Program has resulted in more than 700 joint publications; and participation of more than 2000 PhD students from both sides. The GIAN Initiative has been well-received in Germany and so far around 90 German academicians have been selected for courses in higher educational institutes of India.

10. Culture: India and Germany have a long tradition of academic and cultural exchange. There is 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 other festivals across Germany. Germany's Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and Media, Dr. Monika Gruetters visited India in September 2018 and met with MoS Culture Shri Mahesh Sharma and MoS Information and Broadcasting Col. Shri Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore. A delegation from Ministry of Information & Broadcasting led by Mr. Karan Johar participated at the Berlin Film Festival (Berlinale) in February 2018. The Indo-German Society is engaged in promoting inter-cultural understanding by bringing together people of both countries and conveying information about modern India to the German public.

11. **Indians in Germany:** There are nearly 1.5 lakh people of Indian origin (2017 figures) 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 the fields of IT, banking, finance, etc. There are a number of Indian organizations and associations in Germany.