

**Embassy of India
Helsinki**

India – Finland Bilateral Relations

Finland and India have traditionally enjoyed warm and friendly relations. In recent years, bilateral relations have acquired diversity with collaboration in research, innovation, and investments by both sides. The Indian community in Finland is vibrant and well-placed. Indian culture and yoga are very popular in Finland.

High-level visits - Prime Ministers

- Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru visited Finland in 1957
- Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi visited in 1983.
- Prime Minister Pt. Manmohan Singh came to Finland in 2006.
- Mr. Vieno Johannes Sukselainen in 1960 - First Prime Minister of Finland to visit India
- Prime Minister Mr. Kalevi Sorsa in 1984.
- Prime Minister Mr. Matti Vanhanen visited India in March 2006, February 2008 and February 2010 (last two occasions to attend Delhi Sustainable Development Summit).
- Prime Minister Mr. Juha Sipilä: Feb 2016 (for Make in India week)

Presidential Visits

- President of Finland Mr. Urho Kekkonen visited India in 1965
- President Mr. Mauno Koivisto in 1987
- President Mr. Martti Ahtisaari in 1996.
- President Mrs. Tarja Halonen visited India in January 2007, February 2009 and February 2012 to attend the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit.
- President Shri V.V. Giri visited Finland in 1971
- President Shri R. Venkataraman in 1988.
- President Shri Pranab Mukherjee: October 2014

President Shri Pranab Mukherjee, paid a State Visit to Finland on 14-16 October 2014 accompanied by Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, four Members of Parliament, Officials, academicians and a business delegation. He met his counterpart President Mr. Sauli Niinistö, Prime Minister Mr. Alexander Stubb, Foreign Minister Dr. Erkki Tuomioja and Speaker of the Parliament and addressed a Business Seminar. Agreements for cooperation in New and Renewable Energy, Biotechnology, Civil Nuclear Research, Meteorology, Healthcare and Education were signed during the visit.

Prime Minister Mr. Juha Sipilä visited India from 12 to 14 February, 2016 to participate in the "Make in India Week" in Mumbai along with a business delegation. He met Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Union Ministers of Finance, MOS(IC) for Commerce and Industry, MOS(IC) for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy, and the Chief Ministers of Maharashtra and Gujarat respectively.

On 17 April 2018, PM interacted with his counterparts from five Nordic countries, at the first India-Nordic Summit in Stockholm. PM Juha Sipila of Finland participated in the Summit and had a bilateral meeting with our PM during which ongoing bilateral cooperation was reviewed. Both sides agreed to cooperate in areas such as energy, vocational education, space and enhance ongoing levels of trade and investment.

Parliamentary Exchanges

- Mr. Eero Heinaluoma, Speaker of Parliament visited India in April, 2012.
- Mr. G.S. Dhillon, Speaker (Lok Sabha) visited Finland in 1957
- Mr. Balram Jhakar, Speaker (Lok Sabha) in 1986
- Mr. P.A. Sangma, Speaker (Lok Sabha) in 1997
- Mr. Manohar Joshi, Speaker (Lok Sabha) in 2003
- Mr. Somnath Chatterjee, Speaker (Lok Sabha) in June 2006.
- Ms. Sumitra Mahajan, Speaker (Lok Sabha) on 17-18 June, 2018.

Speaker's visit:

Ms. Sumitra Mahajan, Hon'ble Speaker Lok Sabha was in Helsinki, Finland on June 17-18, 2018 accompanied by six members of Parliament and officials met Mrs. Paula Risikko, Speaker of Finland Parliament on June 18, 2018 in Finnish Parliament and interacted with members of the Indian community.

Ministerial visits:

- Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Erkki Tuomioja visited India in May 2013;
- Minister for International Development Mr. Pekka Haavisto attended ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in India in November, 2013;
- Minister for European Affairs and Foreign Trade Mr. Alexander Stubb visited with a business delegation in October, 2013.
- Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy and Mines visited Finland 3-5 November, 2016.,
- Mr. Kimmo Tiilikainen, Minister of Housing, Energy and the Environment visited India 3-5 October, 2017.
- Shri M.J. Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs visited Finland 5-7 November, 2017.
- Ms. Anne Berner, Minister for Transport and Communication visited India 13-14 November, 2017.
- Mr. Timo Soini, Foreign Minister of Finland visited India from 22-24 November for fourth Global Conference on Cyber Security (GCCS) in New Delhi. He met EAM and MOS(MJA).
- Mr. Kimmo Tiilikainen, Finland's Minister of Housing, Energy and Environment visited India 19-20 April 2018
- Ms. Anne-Mari Virolainen, Minister of Foreign Trade and Development visited India 29 Nov- 2 Dec 2018.

Foreign Office Consultations

Discussions on bilateral matters, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest are held regularly at the level of Secretary in Ministry of External Affairs and Director General

in the Finnish Foreign Ministry. The last FOC was in India on 6 October 2016, led by Secretary (West). The next FOC is due to be held in Helsinki.

Ms. Anne Marie Virolainen, Finland's Minister of Trade and Development visited India from 29 November - 2 December and will participate in the Bengaluru Tech Summit, accompanied by a business delegation of nearly 25 companies.

Bilateral Agreements:

- i. Trade Agreement (1967); replaced by Economic Cooperation Agreement signed in March 2010.
- ii. Setting up India-Finland Joint Commission (1974).
- iii. Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation (1983); amended January 2010.
- iv. Cultural Agreement (1983).
- v. Memorandum of Understanding on Textiles (1993).
- vi. Air Services Agreement signed 1995, modified in May 2006.
- vii. Bilateral agreement on Promotion & Protection of Investments signed 2002.
- viii. Agreement for Cooperation in Science & Technology 2008.
- ix. MoU for cooperation on Information Security January 2010.
- x. MoU for Cooperation in Road Transport May 10, 2010.
- xi. Social Security Agreement June 2012 and implemented w.e.f. August 1, 2014.
- xii. Arrangement for Cooperation in Nuclear and Radiation Safety Regulation October 2014.
- xiii. MoU for cooperation in Renewable Energy October 2014.
- xiv. MoU for cooperation in Biotechnology in October 2014.
- xv. Implementing Arrangement for cooperation in Atmospheric Environment in October 2014.
- xvi. Gainful Occupation for Family Members of Members of a Diplomatic Mission or Consular Post on 1st August, 2016.
- xvii. Agreement for visa waiver for diplomatic passport holders on 6 November, 2017.
- xviii. MoU on Establishment of ICCR Chair of Indian Culture and Society, 20 August, 2018.

Economic and Commercial Relations

India's trade in goods with Finland crossed \$ One billion and is in Finland's favour. Trade in services is growing and crossed US\$1.3 billion in 2017-18 with many Indian IT companies positioned in Finland.

Finland is India's 60th largest trade partner globally, and the 10th largest within the EU (Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India 2017). Similarly, India is Finland's 23rd largest trade partner globally, and the fifth largest within Asia (Finnish Customs 2017).

Main export items from India: Electronic goods, mineral fuels and mineral oils, ready-made garments, cotton including accessories, pharmaceuticals & fine chemicals, articles of iron and steel, machinery and instrument, coffee, rubber, iron and steel, organic chemicals and nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances and parts thereof.

Major imports of India from Finland: Electrical machinery and equipment, nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances, paper and paper board, iron and

steel, pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material, pulp and waste paper, vehicles and transport equipment etc.

(in US\$ million)

Financial Year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Exports to Finland	248.60	272.67	282.55
Imports from Finland	1002.37	1011.67	1401.33
Total Trade	1251.14	1284.34	1683.87

Source: Ministry of Commerce, Government of India

Investments:

As per FDI statistics (DIPP, India) Finnish companies invested US\$ 419 million between April, 2000 to July, 2017. Within the EU, Finland ranks 12th among countries investing in India (Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India 2017).

India's investments in Finland have crossed US\$900 million including some acquisitions. In March 2017 India's largest auto component company Mitherson Sumi Systems (MSSL) acquired 93.75% stake in Finland-based PKC Group for around Euro 571 million (\$ 620 million or Rs 4112 crores). This is the largest Indian investment and acquisition in Finland. In 2012 Indian company Trivitron Healthcare, acquired Ani Labsystems – a group consisting Ani Biotech, Ani Labsystems, Biopoint and K3, which manufacture medical testing equipment. Mahindra Holidays and Resorts has invested in the Finnish company 'Holiday Club Resorts Oy', acquiring over 95 % of the company's shares. Infosys, India acquired Finland's Fluido Oy in Sept. 2018 for Euros 65 million.

More than 100 Finnish companies have operations in India, including through investments. Nokia, Kone, Wartsila, UPM, Fortum, Metso, Huhtamaki, Salcomp, Ahlstrom, etc. have set-up their manufacturing facilities in India. Finnish IT companies Tieto and F-Secure have established operations in India. Nokia has offices in Gurgaon, Bangalore, Mumbai and Chennai, and a Global R&D center in Bengaluru with 3000 employees.

About 30 Indian companies, mainly in the software and consultancy sector are active in Finland. Among them are TCS, WIPRO, Infosys, L&T InfoTech, Tech-Mahindra, HCL Technologies and others.

R & D and Technology cooperation

There are ongoing bilateral programs for industrial R & D cooperation supported by India's Department of Science and Technology and Department of Biotechnology; and the counterpart Finnish organisations. Finnish Meteorological Institute and Indian Meteorological Department, TERI and others in India, are doing joint studies about climate change, air quality, air pollution etc in India. Two Finnish commercial and micro-satellites were launched in 2017 & 2018 through ISRO. Another will be launched in November 2018. Indian start-ups participated for the first time in SLUSH in Helsinki in Nov-Dec 2018, one of the world's largest events to connect start-ups with investors.

Cultural Relations

Finland is very receptive to Indian culture. There are several Indian dance schools and Yoga schools. Cultural events are organised regularly by Indian Associations and other cultural organisations promoting Indian dance and music (both classical as well as contemporary). Finnish India Society has been active since 1956. Embassy has been organising International Day of Yoga for three years. Third edition of India Day was organized in Helsinki on 26 August 2018 attended by more than 10,000 persons. The fourth edition will be held on 18 August 2019 in Kaisaniemi Park, Helsinki.

Tourism

In 2016, 18,371 Finnish tourists visited India especially to Goa and Kerala, though other destinations are becoming popular. There are direct Finnair flights from Helsinki to New Delhi, E- Tourist Visa scheme is available since 1 January 2010 for Finnish citizens has enhanced mobility. India Tourist Office organises Road Shows in Helsinki regularly and participates in the annual Tourism Fair MATKA in Helsinki every year.

Indian Community:

The Indian community in Finland stands at 11,780. There were about 5016 Indian citizens and 6595 PIOs as of end of 2016. They live in mostly in Helsinki and suburbs. Majority of Indians who had settled immigrated during 1980s and 1990s are engaged in the restaurant business. In recent years, many Indian professionals, joined Finnish high-tech and IT companies like Nokia and Indian companies like TCS, WIPRO, L&T, Infosys, HCL, Mahindra InfoTech.

There are a some Indian/PIO academics working in Finnish universities. The number of Indian students at Finnish universities is currently at 779. They are pursuing Masters and Doctoral programmes in Computer Science, ICT, Engineering and biotech. Since August 2017, non-EU students are being charged a tuition fee. Finnish universities and universities of applied sciences offer some scholarships.

Useful Resources:

Embassy of India, Finland website:

www.indianembassy.fi

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

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/IndEmbFinEst>
