

Ministry of External Affairs

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. 2019 marked 70 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

High-level visits - Prime Ministers

- Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru Finland in 1957
- Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi in 1983.
- Prime Minister Pt. Manmohan Singh in 2006.
- Mr. Vieno Johannes Sukselainen in 1960 - First Prime Minister of Finland
- 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 in 1965
- President Mr. Mauno Koivisto in 1987
- President Mr. Martti Ahtisaari in 1996.
- President Mrs. Tarja Halonen in January 2007, February 2009 and February 2012 to attend the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit.
- President Shri V.V. Giri 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. Agreements for cooperation in New and Renewable Energy, Biotechnology, Civil Nuclear Research, Meteorology, Healthcare and Education were signed during the visit.

Former 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.

On 17 April 2018, PM interacted with his counterparts from five Nordic countries, at the first India-Nordic Summit in Stockholm. Then PM Juha Sipilä 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 energy, vocational education, space and enhance trade and investment.

Parliamentary Exchanges

- Mr. Eero Heinäluoma, 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.
- 10 MPs of Finland's Finance Committee led by Mr Johannes Koskinen visited India from 23-27 February 2020.

Foreign Minister's Visits

Dr. Erkki Tuomioja, Foreign Minister, visited India in May 2013. Shri Jaswant Singh, External Affairs Minister visited Finland in December 1999 for the 12th EU Troika Ministerial Meeting.

Mr. Timo Soini, Foreign Minister of Finland visited India from 22-24 November, 2017 for fourth Global Conference on Cyber Security (GCCS) in New Delhi.

External Affairs Minister, Dr S. Jaishankar visited Finland from 19 to 21 September 2019 on the occasion of 70 Years of diplomatic relation and 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. He met President Mr Sauli Niinistö, Prime Minister Mr Antti Rinne, Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Pekka Haavisto, Foreign Affairs Committee and Ms Tuula Haatainen, First Deputy Speaker of Parliament. At the Finnish Institute of International Affairs, he spoke about "India and the World: Priorities of India's Foreign Policy". Along with FM Pekka Haavisto, he unveiled the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Helsinki.

In November 2019, Mr. Pekka Haavisto, Finland's Foreign Minister visited India. He inaugurated a new factory of KONE elevators in Chennai and met EAM and Finance Minister.

Parliamentary Exchanges:

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 and interacted with members of the Indian community.

10 MPs of Finland's Finance Committee led by Mr. Johannes Koskinen visited India from 23-27 February 2020.

Other Ministerial visits since 2016:

- 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 and April 2018
- Shri M.J. Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs visited Finland 5-7 November, 2017.
- Ms. Anne Berner, Minister for Transport and Communications visited India 13-14 November, 2017.
- Karnataka's Minister of IT, biotech and S & T, Shri K J George visited Finland 26 August 2018.
- Ms. Anne-Mari Virolainen, Finland's Minister of Trade and Development visited India 29 November - 2 December 2018 accompanied by 25 companies.
- Minister of Employment, Mr. Timo Harakka, visited India on 18-22 November 2019 to explore opportunities in Smart Mobility, Digitalization and AI. He visited Delhi and Bengaluru and participated in the Bengaluru Tech Summit. He was accompanied by 16 companies from engineering, finance and design sectors. One important focus area of

his visit was to promote Talent Boost, a program which seeks to attract foreign talent to Finland, particularly in tech-based industries.

Foreign Office Consultations

Discussions on bilateral matters, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest are held regularly. The 10th FOC was in Helsinki on 4 March 2019 led by Secretary (West) and Finland's Permanent Secretary of State.

Bilateral Agreements:

- Economic Cooperation Agreement signed in March 2010.
- Setting up India-Finland Joint Commission (1974).
- Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation (1983); amended January 2010.
- Cultural Agreement (1983).
- Memorandum of Understanding on Textiles (1993).
- Air Services Agreement signed 1995, modified in May 2006.
- Bilateral agreement on Promotion & Protection of Investments signed 2002 – Expired.
- Agreement for Cooperation in Science & Technology 2008.
- MoU for cooperation on Information Security January 2010.
- MoU for Cooperation in Road Transport May 10, 2010.
- Social Security Agreement June 2012 and implemented w.e.f. August 1, 2014.
- Arrangement for Cooperation in Nuclear and Radiation Safety Regulation October 2014.
- MoU for cooperation in Renewable Energy October 2014.
- MoU for cooperation in Biotechnology in October 2014 – Renewed Nov 2018.
- Implementing Arrangement for cooperation in Atmospheric Environment in October 2014.
- Gainful Occupation for Family Members of Members of a Diplomatic Mission or Consular Post on 1st August, 2016.
- Agreement for visa waiver for diplomatic passport holders on 6 November, 2017.
- MoU on Establishment of ICCR Chair of Indian Culture and Society, 20 August, 2018.
- MoU for cooperation in Cyber Security – Jan 2019.
- MoU for cooperation in space launch and peaceful uses of outer space – Jan 2019.
- MoU for cooperation in vocational education Training – March 2019.
- MOU for R&D Cooperation between DST India and Business Finland - August 2019
- MOU for Cooperation in Tourism between Ministry of Tourism, India and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Finland, November 2019
- Joint Declaration of Intent between Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, India and Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Finland for Cooperation in Digitalization, November 2019
- MOU for Cooperation in Defence Production, Procurement, R&D of Defence Equipment, January 2020.
- MoU on cooperation in Environment, November 2020
- MoU on Cooperation in Geology/Mining, December 2020

Economic and Commercial Relations

India's trade in goods with Finland crossed US\$ One billion (Euros 870 million) and is in Finland's favour. Trade in services is growing and crossed US\$ 1.5 billion (Euros 1.3 billion) with many Indian IT companies positioned in Finland.

Finland's top imported goods from India (Jan-Dec 2019):

- Articles of apparel and clothing accessories
- Medicinal, pharmaceutical products
- Textile yarn, fabrics, made up articles
- Machinery for special industries
- Electric machinery and parts

India's top imported goods from Finland (Jan-Dec 2018):

- Electric machinery and parts
- Paperboard and articles thereof
- Machinery for special industries
- Power generating machinery and equipment
- General Industrial Machinery

Trade in Goods in EUR million			
Financial Year	2017	2018	2019
Finland to India	538.23	544.23	509.36
India to Finland	341.58	354.85	355.27
Total Trade in Goods	879.81	899.08	864.63

Source: Finnish Customs

Trade in Services in EUR million			
Financial Year	2017	2018	2019
Imports (Finland to India)	773	529	422
Exports (India to Finland)	607	661	826
Total Services Trade	1,380	1,190	1,248

Source: Statistics Finland

Investments

As per DPIIT, Finnish companies invested US\$ 497 million between April, 2000 to December, 2019. Actual investment will be higher as many Finnish companies have been in India since 1980s or 1990s. Within the EU, Finland ranks 12th among countries investing in India (Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India 2019). 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. A JV between Numaligarh Refinery Ltd., Finnish companies, Fortum and Chempolis is building a biorefinery in Assam.

India's investments in Finland have crossed US\$ One billion including acquisitions. About 35 Indian companies, mainly in the software and consultancy sector are active in Finland. Motherson Sumi Systems (MSSL) acquired PKC Group (\$ 620 million). Triviron Healthcare, acquired Ani Labsystems. Mahindra Holidays and Resorts invested in the 'Holiday Club Resorts Oy'. Infosys, India acquired Finland's Fluidio Oy.

Information Technology and Emerging Technology

A Joint Declaration of Intent signed between MEITY and Minister of Economy in Finland on cooperation in the field of Digitalisation was signed in November 2019. The document provides for cooperation in information exchange between public and private entities of both countries in the field of digital development, strengthening collaboration in the fields of eGovernment, m-Governance, smart infrastructure, eHealth and e-Education, promoting emerging technologies such as AI, Cloud Computing, Big Data, Internet of Things, Blockchain, etc., promoting cooperation in Electronics Systems Design and Manufacturing, among other things. Both sides have nominated a coordinator for the purpose of implementing the JDI.

Science & Technology

An agreement for Cooperation in S&T was signed in February 2008 for development of innovation policies, exchange of information and scientists and R&D collaboration. Under this Agreement, Business Finland has an agreement with DST & Department of Biotechnology to promote joint R &D cooperation in the fields of science, biotechnology and wider technology domain. Under the Agreement, a Joint S & T committee representing both sides was formed to drive discussions on mutual areas of interests. The 4th Joint Committee Meeting was virtually held on 17th November 2020, Chaired by Secretary (DST) and Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment. The Joint Committee identified 5G, sustainability and quantum computing as topics of interest.

5G/6G

Finland is a leader in 5G/6G technology and Nokia is a world leader in providing the associated infrastructure. Top Indian IT companies are looking to collaborate in this sector. During the 4th Joint Committee meeting on S & T in November 2020, 5G was identified as one of the three areas for future collaboration between India and Finland.

Wipro Limited, signed an MoU with the University of Oulu, Finland, on 19 November 2019 to collaborate in wireless communications in 5G/6G. University's 6G flagship program, is the world's first major 6G research program which also supports industry in identifying new 5G – enabled business opportunities. Together, Wipro and Oulu University will create technology pilots to address industry and customer requirements.

In addition, Tech Mahindra and Business Finland signed an MoU for research and development in 5G and 6G, on 21 November 2019. Under this collaboration, Tech Mahindra will set-up an innovation lab in Finland, develop, pilot and implement state of the art digital products and services for Finnish universities, research institutions, government and companies.

Environment

There are successful partnerships from 2004 between Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI), India Meteorological Department (IMD) and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in air quality including capacity building. The Ministries of Environment of India and Finland signed an MoU for Cooperation in November 2020.

Cooperation in Education

Finland is a global leader in education scoring consistently on several parameters. There have been tie-ups between private firms for exchange of best practices in early childhood and K-12 education. There is an MoU between a Consortium of ten Finnish Universities and twenty-three Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) for cooperation in higher education sector. Moreover, Finland is emerging as a favourable good destination for vocational and higher education for Indian students.

Vocational Education and Skill Development

Like other Scandinavian countries, Finland is renowned for vocational education. An MoU between NSDC India and EDUFI in the Finnish Ministry of Education for Cooperation in Vocational Education Training was signed in January 2019. CEO, NSDC visited Finland in Oct. 2018 and identified tourism, catering, health, sports, technology, communications and transportation as possible areas of skilling. NSDC and Omnia (international commercial arm of four Finnish vocational education providers) signed an MOU for capacity building, joint certification courses; and entrepreneurship modules.

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 and annual cultural festival “India Day” since 2016. The fourth edition held on 18 August 2019 in Kaisaniemi Park, Helsinki with 15000 participating.

A lifesize statue of Mahatma Gandhi gifted by ICCR to Government of Finland was unveiled by EAM and Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto on 20 September 2019 to mark Gandhi’s 150th anniversary.

Tourism

The favorite destinations of Finnish tourists are Goa, Kerala and the Golden Triangle though other destinations are also becoming popular. E-visa’ facility boosted tourism from Finland. 4685 e-Visas and 1850 regular visas were issued in 2019. Covid-19 has severely impacted the tourist traffic in 2020.

Indian Community:

There are around 14,490 (end of 2019) persons of Indian origin. (6751 NRIs and 7739 OCIs in Finland). Most live in the capital Helsinki and surrounding regions. Most Indians who settled during 1980s and 1990s were from Punjab and are engaged mostly in the restaurant business. In recent years, Indian professionals are being employed in high-tech companies such as Nokia, Microsoft and Indian IT companies like TCS, WIPRO, L&T, Infosys, HCL, Mahindra InfoTech and others in Finland. Some Indian/PIO academics are working in Finnish universities. 13 registered Indian Associations in Finland are actively promoting Indian culture. All 13 organisations are under an informal umbrella called ‘Friends of India Finland’ to bring more synergy to their effort to promote people-to-people contact and Indian culture in Finland.

Indian Students

The number of Indian students at Finnish universities has grown in recent years. Currently about 1050 Indian students are pursuing higher education. About half are pursuing Master's degrees and the other are in doctorate programmes. Tuition Fee for non-EU students was introduced in 2017. Some are getting scholarships.

Useful Resources:

Embassy of India, Finland website: www.indembhelsinki.gov.in

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

Twitter: [@IndEmbFinEst](https://twitter.com/IndEmbFinEst)

Instagram Account: https://www.instagram.com/india_in_finland/
