

## India-Germany Relations

Given its key role in the EU as well as the strength of our bilateral relations, Germany is one of India's most important partners in Europe. India was also among the first countries to establish diplomatic ties with the Federal Republic of Germany after the Second World War. On 07 March 2021, India and Germany marked the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

2. Since May 2000, India and Germany have had a 'Strategic Partnership' which has been further strengthened with the launch of Intergovernmental Consultations (IGC) in 2011 at the level of Heads of Government. The IGC framework allows for a comprehensive review of cooperation and identification of new areas of engagement at the Cabinet level. India is among a select group of countries with which Germany has such a dialogue mechanism. The 6<sup>th</sup> IGC was held in Berlin on 02 May 2022 and the 7<sup>th</sup> IGC is proposed to be held later this year.

3. As the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> largest economies in the world respectively, Germany and India share a robust economic and developmental partnership. Besides strong economic ties, both countries have a shared interest in upholding democratic values, the rules-based international order, and multilateralism as well as the reform of multilateral institutions. Both sides have also acknowledged the need to further deepen bilateral security and defense cooperation to jointly address global security challenges.

4. **6<sup>th</sup> Inter-Governmental Consultations:** Prime Minister (PM) visited Berlin on 02 May 2022 to co-chair the 6<sup>th</sup> IGC with Chancellor Olaf Scholz where he was accompanied by External Affairs Minister, Finance Minister, National Security Advisor and Minister of State (I/C) for Science & Technology. Several agreements were signed in diverse fields such as agroecology, forest landscape restoration, renewable energy, triangular development cooperation, migration and mobility, and health. The Prime Minister and Chancellor also signed a Joint Declaration of

Intent on a Green and Sustainable Development Partnership (GSDP).

### **High-level Engagements**

5. There are regular high-level contacts between India and Germany. PM and Chancellor meet regularly for bilateral meetings and on the sidelines of multilateral summits. In the last two years alone, both leaders met six times. The latest interaction was held on the sidelines of the G7 Summit held in Apulia, Italy on 14 June 2024 where the two leaders briefly met. Prior to the G7 Summit in Italy, both sides reviewed progress in the bilateral Strategic Partnership on the sidelines of the G20 Summit held in New Delhi on 10 September 2023 and discussed ways to deepen cooperation in areas like defence, green and sustainable development, critical minerals, mobility of skilled personnel and education. Prior to the G-20 Summit in New Delhi, both leaders also met on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Hiroshima in May 2023 and during the State visit of Chancellor Scholz to India from 25-26 February 2023. The State visit of Chancellor Scholz was the first stand-alone visit by a German Chancellor to India since the creation of the IGC framework.

6. In 2022, following the 6th IGC summit, the Prime Minister visited Munich from 26-28 June 2022 to attend the 48th G7 Summit under the German Presidency at Schloss Elmau. Prime Minister and Chancellor also interacted on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Bali from 15-16 November 2022. On January 05 2022 PM had a telephone call with Chancellor Olaf Scholz, which was the first engagement between the two leaders after the formation of the new Federal Government in Germany, during which they reviewed the potential of ongoing cooperation. Prior to this phone call, the two leaders had also met on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Rome on 31 October 2021.

7. PM also visited Germany in 2017 to co-chair the 5<sup>th</sup> IGC in May 2017 and to attend the G20 Summit in Hamburg in July 2017. Before this, he visited Germany in 2015 to attend the Hannover Messe where India was the Partner Country and the Make in India campaign was launched to an international

audience.

8. Former Chancellor Merkel visited India four times – in 2019 (5<sup>th</sup> IGC), 2015 (3<sup>rd</sup> IGC), 2011 (1<sup>st</sup> IGC) and 2007. German President Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier travelled to India on a 5-day State Visit from 22-25 March 2018. Besides Delhi, he visited Varanasi and Chennai. During his visit, he met the President, Vice President, Prime Minister and EAM and visited Banaras Hindu University, Delhi University and IIT Madras.

### **Ministerial Visits**

9. Bilateral exchanges at the Ministerial level take place regularly. EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar visited Berlin on a 2-day visit from 10-11 September 2024. This was his third visit as Minister to Berlin. During the visit EAM called on the Chancellor and met with the Federal Foreign Minister, Federal Defence Minister, Foreign and Security Policy Advisor to the Chancellor as well as Members of Bundestag to review the entire gamut of bilateral relations between India and Germany. EAM also participated as the Guest of Honor on the business day at the Annual Ambassadors Conference of the German Head of Missions at the Federal Foreign Office to address the business and industry leaders of Germany. Further EAM participated as the key note speaker at the 'MSC in Berlin' event, which is a round table discussion with select German decision-makers and leading foreign and security policy experts organized by the Munich Security Conference. Prior to visiting Berlin in September 2024, EAM visited Germany for the Munich Security Conference from February 16-18, 2024, G7 Summit in June 2022, the 6th IGC in May 2022 and the Munich Security Conference in February 2022. In 2023, there were 2 Ministerial visits from India and 9 Ministerial visits from the German side, most of which were in connection with the G20 Ministerial meetings.

10. Other Ministerial visits included the visit of Minister for New and Renewable Energy Shri Pralhad Joshi to the Hamburg Sustainability Conference on 7-8 October 2024 during which he will meet with Dr. Robert Habeck, German Vice Chancellor & Federal Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate Action and

discussed ways to expand existing collaboration in renewable energy. Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas Shri Hardeep Singh Puri visited Berlin on 7 November 2023 and met with Minister Habeck. Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, visited Berlin in May 2023, to participate in the Petersberg Climate Dialogue. In 2019, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, then Minister of Defence visited Berlin for a bilateral meeting. Furthermore, the Chief Justice of India Dr. D.Y. Chandrachud visited Germany in June 2023 at the invitation of the President of the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany. Former Chief Justices of India, Justice N.V. Ramana and Justice U.U. Lalit, also made official visits in June and October 2022 (respectively) to meet the President of the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany.

11. From the German Side, Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock visited India from 05-06 December 2022 for an official visit and from March 01-03, 2023 to attend the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting. During her visit in December 2022, an agreement was signed on a Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership (MMPA) with the objective of creating of favorable regulatory and visa regime for Indians towards accessing the labour market of Germany. The agreement has specific provisions to facilitate mobility and employment opportunities for fostering the exchange of skills and talents. The first meeting of the JWG on the implementation of the provisions of the MMPA took place in New Delhi in November 2023.

12. Other Ministerial visits from Germany to India at the Federal level include the visit of Ms Svenja Schulze, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development from September 16-18, 2024 to attend RE-INVEST 2024 in Gandhinagar, the visit of Defence Minister, Boris Pistorius from June 05-08, 2023, and of Ms Svenja Schulze on June 09-13, 2023 to attend G20 Development Ministers' Meeting in Varanasi. Further, Hubertus Heil, German Federal Minister of Labour from July 17-22, 2023 attended the G20 Labour Ministers' Meeting in Indore. Subsequently, this was followed by the visit of the German Vice-Chancellor and Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Robert Habeck, from July 20-23, 2023 to attend the G20 Energy Ministers' Meeting and the visit

of the German Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Steffi Lemke from July 25-28, 2023 for the G20 Environment Minister' Meeting. Prior to this, Mr Christian Lindner, German Finance Minister visited India from February 23-25, 2023 to participate in the G20 Finance Minister' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting in Bengaluru. The German National Security Advisor Jens Plötner also visited India in October 2024, February 2023 and in March 2022.

### **Parliamentary Exchanges**

13. On the German side, the Indo-German Parliamentary Friendship Group, which was established in the Bundestag in 1971, has contributed to the strengthening of links between the two Parliaments. The Indo-German Parliamentary Friendship Group for the current 20th term of the German Parliament consists of 34 members from all parties represented in the Bundestag. 5 members of the Parliamentary Friendship Group visited New Delhi, Kerala and Telangana from 28 January-04 February 2023. During the visit, they met Ministers for Environment, Forests and Climate Change; External Affairs; Power & New and Renewable Energy; and Commerce and Industry. They also called on the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and met the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Empowerment of Women. Before this, the last visit of the Parliamentary Friendship Group to India was from 03-08 February 2020 during which the delegation visited Kolkata and Delhi. In 2023, a number of Parliamentary Committees and Parliamentarians visited India to meet their counterparts and attend important conferences/events.

14. On June 22, 2021, the Indo-German Parliamentary Friendship Group of the Bundestag celebrated its 50th anniversary. The event was commemorated at the Bundestag premises, with virtual addresses from Minister of State, External Affairs, Shri. V. Muraleedharan, the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs Shri. P.P. Choudhary, and an address from the Federal Minister of State at the German Foreign Office Mr. Niels Annen.

## **Institutional Cooperation Arrangements**

15. Several institutional arrangements exist between India and Germany to discuss bilateral and global issues of interest, namely, Foreign Office Consultations, High Defence Committee, Indo-German Energy Forum, Indo-German Environment Forum, S&T Committee, and Joint Working Groups in various fields, including skill development, automotive, agriculture, tourism, water and waste management. The last Foreign Office Consultations headed by Foreign Secretary were held in July 2024 in New Delhi. Further, the Indo-German Track 1.5 Dialogue was launched in 2019 with an aim to strengthen dialogue between think tanks and policy makers of India and Germany. Partners on the German side are the German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) and the German Federal Foreign Office. The Indian partner institutions are the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) and the Ministry of External Affairs, India. So far, three rounds of Dialogues have taken place. The first Dialogue was held at Sapru House in New Delhi on 1 November 2019, second and third rounds of the Dialogue took place virtually on 27 November 2020 and 24 February 2022 respectively. The fourth round of the Dialogue is scheduled to be held in Berlin in November 2024.

## **Multilateral Cooperation**

16. Both countries consult each other and coordinate positions in multilateral fora including G20 and in the UN on global issues such as Climate Change and Sustainable Development. There have been consultations between the two countries on various subjects including UN issues and international cyber issues.

17. Germany and India support each other on UNSC expansion within the framework of the G4. The last meeting of the G4 at the level of Foreign Ministers was held on the sidelines of the 78th UNGA in September 2023, and at the

working level, a G4 Director General meeting was held in February 2023.

18. In April 2021, the German Federal Cabinet approved the signing of the amended framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), thereby confirming Germany's accession to the ISA. On 10 September 2021, during their visit to Delhi, Parliamentary State Secretaries from the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development handed over the Instrument of Accession to Secretary (Economic Relations), MEA. Germany also joined the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) in February 2020 and participated in the first Governing Council meeting in March 2020.

### **Security Cooperation**

19. The MoU on Security Cooperation signed at the 3rd IGC held in Delhi in 2015 defines bilateral collaboration in this field. There are dialogue mechanisms on various aspects of security, including the Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism (last meeting held in Berlin in May 2023); Cyber Consultations (last meeting held in Berlin in April 2022); UN Consultations (last meeting held in Berlin in April 2024). With increasing use of new and disruptive technologies by terror groups, the signing of the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty between India and Germany will ensure greater synergy between the two countries in countering terror by sharing intelligence and coordinating joint operations.

### **Defence Cooperation**

20. Bilateral Defence Cooperation Agreement signed in September 2006 provides the framework for bilateral defence ties. To further enhance the Defence Industry and Defence Cooperation between Germany and India, the Arrangement on Implementation of the Agreement of 2006 concerning Bilateral Defence Cooperation was signed in February 2019 in Berlin.

21. The defence dialogue mechanisms include High Defence Committee Meetings at Defence Secretary level, Military Cooperation Sub-Group Meeting and Defence Technical Sub-Group Committee Meeting. The 17<sup>th</sup> India-Germany Military Cooperation Sub-Group (MCSG) Meeting was conducted on October 1 in Berlin. The 11<sup>th</sup> HDC meeting between Defence Secretary and State Secretary was held in Berlin on 27 February 2024. Prior to this, the 16<sup>th</sup> Military Co-operation Sub-Group meeting was held from 05 to 06 December 2023 in New Delhi to finalise the Annual Programme for 2024.

22. **High Level Defence Visits:** German Federal Minister of Defence Mr Boris Pistorius visited India from 05-08 June 2023, where he had a bilateral meeting with Raksha Mantri on 06 June 2023 to review bilateral defence cooperation and explored ways to enhance the collaboration, particularly defence industrial partnership. He also visited Headquarters, Western Naval Command, Mumbai on 07 June, 2023, where he interacted with Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Flag Officer Commanding-in Chief, Western Naval Command and was briefed about the role of the Command, followed by visits to the latest indigenous warship INS Mormugao and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. From the German side, a delegation led by Mr Jasper Wieck, Political Director, German Federal Ministry of Defence visited New Delhi from 18 to 19 January 2024, where they met the Dy NSA, Defence Secretary and the Vice Chief of Naval Staff among others.

23. Lt Gen Ingo Gerhartz, Chief of German Air Force visited India from 08-11 August, 2023 where he interacted with Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari and provided impetus to bilateral defence cooperation between the two Air Forces. German CHOD/CDS Gen Eberhard Zorn visited India in March 2019 as part of his familiarisation/inauguration visit to South Asia. Former German Naval Chief Vice Admiral Kay-Achim Schönbach visited India in January 2022.

24. Two officers of the German Navy also participated in Exercise MILAN carried out by the Indian Navy at Vishakhapatnam from 19 to 27 February 2024 as observers.



25. **Ship visits/Passex:** INS TEG participated in Hamburg Port Festival in 2012 and INS TARANGINI participated in Hanse Sail Rostock/ Sail Bremerhaven in August 2015. Two Indian Navy ships INS TARKASH and INS TABAR transited through Kiel Canal in July 2019 and July 2021 respectively. German naval frigate *Bayern* conducted a PASSEX with INS TRIKAND on 26 August 2021 and made a port call at Mumbai on 21 January 2022 as part of its seven-month deployment to the Indo-Pacific. The Indo-Pacific deployment of the German Frigate (Baden-Württemberg) along with a service support ship (Frankfurt Am Main) commenced from May 2024. These German Naval Ships participated in Ex RIMPAC in US from June - August 2024, took part in the Pacific Security Maritime Exchange (PSMX) in concert with US, Japan and South Korea, followed by Port Calls at Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. The German naval ships will carry out a joint exercise with the Indian Navy in India from 21 to 25 October 2024 followed by harbouring at Goa from 26 to 29 October 2024.

26. **Navy:** The Indian Naval Ship TABAR made a Port Call at Hamburg from 17 to 20 July 2024 and thereafter proceeded to St Petersburg, Russia through the Kiel Canal. On its return journey, it carried out PASSEX with a German Navy Anti Submarine Warfare Helicopter in the North Sea on 04/05 August 2024.

27. **Air Force:** The Indian Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, PVSM, AVSM, VM, ADC visited Berlin to attend the Innovation and Leadership in Aerospace (ILA) Berlin Air Show from 05 to 09 June 2024. He also carried out a sortie in a Euro Fighter along with the German Chief of Air Force during this visit. The German Air Force participated in Ex PITCH BLACK in Australia from July - August in 2024. Subsequently, the German Air Force took part in the first bilateral exercise Ex TARANG SHAKTI-1 with the Indian Air Force, along with Air Forces from UK, France and Spain, at Sulur, Tamil Nadu from 08 to 13 August 2024. The German Chief of Air Force, Lt Gen Ingo Gerhartz also attended this exercise.

### **Economic & Commercial Relations**

28. Germany continued to be the 12th largest trading partner for India also in 2023-24. In 2021-22, it was India's 11th largest trading partner for India and the 7th largest trading partner in 2020-21. India constituted about 1% of Germany's

total foreign trade in 2023 and Germany constituted over 2.37 % of India's foreign trade in 2023-24 (2.24 in 2022-23 and 2.4% in 2021-22). While the balance of trade has been in favour of Germany, bilateral trade has experienced continuous growth over the last few years.

29. As per the figures from Destatis (Statistisches Bundesamt) which is the Federal Statistical Office of Germany, trade with India touched an all-time high of US\$ 33.33 billion (+5.84%) with exports from India at US\$ 15.48 billion (-2.3%) and imports to India from Germany at US\$ 17.85 billion (+14.2%) in Calendar Year 2023. India was Germany's 23rd largest trading partner in 2023.

30. Major Indian exports to Germany include electrical products and auto components, textile and garments, chemicals, pharma, electronics, metal/metal products, food/beverages and tobacco and leather/leather goods, optical and medical apparatus. Germany is an export-led economy and major exports to India include machinery, automobiles/auto components, aircraft & aviation parts, chemicals, data processing equipment, and electric equipment.

### **Investment**

31. Germany is the 9<sup>th</sup> largest foreign direct investor in India with a cumulative FDI in India of US\$ 14.5 bn. from April 2000 to December 2023. German investments in India in FY 2023-224 were USD 507 mn (US\$ 547 million in FY 2022-23 and US \$ 728 mn in FY 2021-22). As per the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce, there are more than 2000 German companies active in India. German investments in India have been mainly in transportation, electrical equipment, metallurgical industries, services sector (particularly insurance), chemicals, construction activity, trading and automobiles. Most major German companies including the automobile and machinery giants are present in India. India offers significant prospects for cooperation with Germany, including in the areas of infrastructure, energy, and environmental and high technology.

32. German Mittelstand (SME) companies comprising over 90% of the German manufacturing sector are known as the backbone of the German economy. There

has been a targeted effort to attract the Mittelstand's investment to India through the Embassy's Make in India Mittelstand (MIIM) Program. The MIIM is a Market Entry Support Programme for German Mittelstand (SMEs) and Family-Owned Companies being implemented by Embassy of India to support high potential Mittelstand companies with medium to long-term potential for manufacturing in India. Currently, 218 companies are being facilitated through this MIIM programme with a declared investment of over 1.74 billion Euros. Many of these companies (over 30) are hidden champions, which are global market leaders in niche products/technologies.

33. Indian investments in Germany have shown an increase in the last few years. Besides trading, Indian companies are setting up value chain activities in Germany, manufacturing goods and services locally as well as engaging in R&D and innovation activities. More than 215 Indian companies are operating in Germany. Sectors such as IT, automotive, pharma, biotech and manufacturing have received a major portion of Indian investments.

34. Both countries have taken steps to ensure investors' interests are duly safeguarded. The Fast Track Mechanism (FTM) in India is operational since March 2016 and is led by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), New Delhi to resolve issues faced by German investors in India. Similarly, a FTM for addressing issues faced by Indian Companies operating in Germany was set up by German Ministry for Economic Affairs & Energy (BMWi) in April 2019. The mechanism was announced in 2019 at the 5th IGC which started meeting since 2020 and the last meeting was held in March 2024.

### **Bilateral Cooperation**

35. During the 6<sup>th</sup> IGC held on 2 May 2022, India signed eight Government-to-Government agreements with Germany focusing on green and sustainable development, green hydrogen, solar/renewable partnership, agro-ecology, forest landscape restoration etc. In addition, six cooperation agreements were signed on the sidelines between Indian and German institutions focusing on medical product regulations, biosafety labs, migration and mobility, occupational safety &

health etc. During his visit to India in February 2023, the German Chancellor Mr. Olaf Scholz led a high-level business delegation comprising CEOs of major German companies such as Siemens and SAP. The visit enabled both sides to take stock of the progress on the key outcomes of the 6th IGC, strengthen security and defence cooperation, work towards closer economic ties, enhance the opportunities for the mobility of talent and give strategic guidance to ongoing collaboration in science and technology. Prime Minister and the German Chancellor also jointly addressed a Business Round table comprising top industry leaders from both sides during this visit and released a common paper titled "India-Germany Vision to Enhance Cooperation in Innovation and Technology", which focuses on scientific and economic collaboration. Chancellor's visit also focused on cooperation on green hydrogen with a letter of intent signed between the Department of Science & Technology and Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy System. Further, two other commercial agreements between private organizations were signed in the renewable energy sector. The Chancellor also held business meetings in Bangalore including site visits to SAP Labs and Sun Mobility, which produces replaceable batteries for electric vehicles.

36. Important bilateral agreements between India and Germany are the Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation (DTAA), which came into force in 1996, and the Comprehensive Agreement on Social Security, which entered into force with effect from May 2017. Economic issues used to be discussed between India and Germany at the Joint Commission on Industrial and Economic Cooperation (JC) which focused on trade, investment, and technological collaboration. The last JC meeting was held in New Delhi in September 2010. Since the launch of the IGC in 2011, economic issues have been discussed at the IGC. There are fifteen Joint Working Groups (JWGs) between India and Germany in different sectors including Agriculture, Automotive, Energy, Coal, Tourism, Vocational Education, Standardisation/Product Safety, Environment, Water & Waste Management, Urban Development, Climate Change, Health, Traditional Medicine, Biodiversity and Railways. The JWGs meet regularly, mostly annually, alternately in India and Germany.

## **Energy**

37. **Energy** is one of the priority areas of bilateral cooperation with Germany. The Indo-German Energy Forum (IGEF) held at Secretary level has been promoting cooperation in energy security, energy efficiency, renewable energy, investment in energy projects and collaborations in R&D, taking into account the environmental challenges of sustainable development. The Forum has four Working Groups viz. (i) Flexibilisation of Existing Thermal Power Plants (which works towards making thermal power plants more 'flexible' -i.e., easy adjustment output over short intervals) (ii) Renewable Energy (iii) Energy Efficiency and (iv) Green Energy Grid Integration.

38. During the 6<sup>th</sup> IGC on 02 May 2022 in Berlin, a Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) on 'Indo-German Green Hydrogen Task Force' was signed between the Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK), Germany and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), India to strengthen cooperation in production, utilization, storage and distribution of Green Hydrogen. The purpose of the Task Force is to strengthen the cooperation in building enabling frameworks for projects, regulations and standards, trade, joint research and development (R&D) projects, exchange ideas on sectoral developments, and translate practical insights into recommendations for the bilateral political dialogue. The administrative support to the Task Force is provided by the Indo-German Energy Forum (IGEF). Four sub-working groups were constituted under this Task Force, namely, (i) Plant engineering & production of Green Hydrogen; (ii) Quality Infrastructure & Legal Framework; (iii) Finance, Insurance Industry & Trading; (iv) Transportation, Storage and Consumption. The original term of the Task Force which ended in May 2024 has been agreed to be extended till December 2024 or till a Joint Working Group on Green hydrogen is constituted, whichever is earlier.

39. India has proposed to sign a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with Germany on establishing a bilateral mechanism under Article 6.2 of Paris Agreement, which will facilitate diffusion of decarbonizing technologies, equipment and infrastructure as well as implementation of mitigation actions,

thereby contributing to achievement of nationally determined contributions of both countries. MNRE hosted a German delegation in New Delhi on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2024 for discussions on the proposed MoC.

40. India has also invited Germany to join the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA), which was launched in September 2023 on the sidelines of India's G20 presidency. The GBA, a multi-stake holder alliance of governments, international organizations and industries, is an initiative by India as the G20 Chair, to bring together consumers and producers of biofuels and drive development and deployment of biofuels. The Alliance intends to expedite the global uptake of biofuels through facilitating capacity-building exercises across the value chain, providing technical support for national programs, promoting policy lessons-sharing, intensifying utilization of sustainable biofuels through the participation of a wide spectrum of stakeholders. It presently has 22 member countries.

### **Vocational Education**

41. Germany is one of India's important partners in **vocational education & training**. India and Germany are working on the areas for cooperation identified at the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Indo-German Joint Working Group held on 7 December 2022 in New Delhi including setting up cluster-oriented structures in India; strengthening of industry-oriented approaches for dual VET, Indo-German initiative for technical education together with MSDE/BMZ/Siemens, and development of demand-oriented VET model for India. Both sides explored new areas of collaboration including skilled gap mapping of professionals from India to facilitate migration and mobility of such professionals from India to Germany. The 13<sup>th</sup> JWG meeting took place in Berlin on July 27 2023, with discussions focusing on developments in various ongoing VET projects in India and possibilities of further enhancing skilled labour migration from India to Germany in various sectors.

### **Agriculture**

42. In **agriculture**, India and Germany are currently working in the areas of

strengthening post-harvest infrastructure including setting up cold chain infrastructure in India; agricultural mechanisation; livestock breeding; food processing infrastructure; food safety & risk assessment; seed development; veterinary cooperation; dairy research; vocational training in the agricultural sector; enhancing efficiency of domestic distribution, and improving export capability of India's agricultural sector. Germany has invited Indian experts to visit Germany for further cooperation on AI and digitalization in agriculture. The 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the JWG took place on 2 March 2021.

### **Emerging Sectors**

43. India and Germany are furthering cooperation in the areas of application of artificial intelligence and digital technologies, health, agriculture, the manufacturing sector, services, and the social sector. Other areas include the management of urban waste, environmentally friendly means of urban mobility, and conservation of the environment. Both sides are also working on having greater facilitation and interaction between Start-Ups.

### **APK 2024**

44. The 18<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Conference of German business (APK) is scheduled to be held from 25-26 October 2024 in New Delhi. Since 1986, the Asia-Pacific Conference of German Business (APK) has been the flagship event organised once in two years by the Asia-Pacific Committee of German Business (APA), bilateral chambers of commerce and the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) with a view to promote the economic ties between Germany and the Asia-Pacific region.

45. The APK is co-chaired by the Minister, BMWK and the APA-Chairman. The event has been attracting hundreds of top CEOs and Government representatives from Germany and the Asia-Pacific region and providing them a platform to discuss business mega-trends.

46. APK is an effective platform to promote India as a preferred destination for German investors, to discuss current mega-trends such as diversification and

resilience of supply chains, the green transition of the economy and to strengthen Indo-German business ties. The conference provides a unique opportunity for companies from India to engage in dialogue with representatives from around 500 German companies – including board members of some of the leading German conglomerates and representatives of innovative SMEs. It will also open up many opportunities to promote India as a preferred destination for investment and innovation.

47. Germany participated as a partner country in RE-INVEST 2024. A German business delegation was led by Ms Svenja Schulze, the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development. Both sides launched the Indo-German Platform for Investments in Renewable Energies Globally at RE-INVEST 2024.

### **Development Cooperation**

48. German development cooperation has been and remains an important component of bilateral economic relations for the last 60 years. The total volume of bilateral technical and financial cooperation by the end of 2023 amounted to about Euro 24 billion. Germany has also made at least Euro 10 billion of new and additional commitments till 2030 under the GSDP whose projects include trilateral development cooperation (TDC), solar partnership, solar alliance and agro-ecology. In 2023, the German Government has committed a total volume of Euro 1.05 billion for new funding for developmental projects and programmes. This includes Euro 995.8 mn. for financial cooperation projects, Euro 42 mn. for technical cooperation and Euro 9.6 mn. for the special initiative focusing on the transformation of agricultural and food Systems. Under the GSDP, development cooperation will support R&D, technology transfer and other intervention in the areas of energy efficiency, sustainable urban development, green mobility, climate change mitigation and adaptation, forest and biodiversity conservation, etc. India is also receiving support for reforestation under International Climate Initiative (IKI), which is part of the German government's international climate finance commitment.

49. Germany currently provides bilateral assistance in the form of technical



and financial assistance in the areas of (i) energy, (ii) environment and management of natural resources and (iii) sustainable urban development. Financial Assistance from Germany has been provided mainly as soft loans, composite loans (soft loans combined with commercial loans) as well as grants routed through KfW, the German Government's Development Bank. The year 2023 marked two anniversaries of KfW Development Bank in India, namely 75 years of KfW Group and 65 years of Financial Cooperation with India.

50. Some of the examples of fruitful collaboration with Germany are the Nagpur Metro Rail project, Green Energy Corridor Projects in various states (such as Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh & Tamil Nadu), and Urban Mobility (Integrated Water Transport in Kochi). There are 30 Technical Assistance ongoing projects in collaboration with GIZ. The Indo-German Solar Energy Partnership has been supporting India's target of achieving 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030. Indo-German partnership on Green Urban Mobility is also an important flagship programme to finance projects for efficient public transport systems. BMZ has also recently agreed to collaborate for Metro Surat. The most recent Annual Meeting of Indo-German Negotiations on Development Cooperation was held in September 2024 in New Delhi.

51. India and Germany have agreed to intensify their strategic dialogue and outline new goals and targets within the framework of the GSDP that may be politically endorsed at the next India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations in 2024. As mentioned earlier, India and Germany are working together on Triangular Development Cooperation (TDC), by pooling strengths and experiences in development cooperation to offer sustainable, viable and inclusive projects in third countries to support the achievement of SDGs and climate targets. The TDC has been progressing well with pilot projects with Ghana, Cameroon, Malawi and Benin on agriculture and with Peru on developing a geospatial portal prototype for social programmes. India is also working with Germany's support on millets in Ethiopia and Madagascar.

### **International Trade Fairs**

52. Germany is also known as the country of trade fairs, being host to some of the largest international trade fairs. Indian companies are regular participants in some of the major trade fairs, which include the Hannover Industrial Trade Fair (Automation, Machinery, Digital factory and Logistics). In recent years, India is the only country to have been selected twice as a partner for the Hannover Messe, which is one of Europe's largest industry and innovation expos. India was the Partner Country of the Hannover Messe in 2015 during the Hon'ble PM's visit to Germany where the Make in India programme was launched for a global audience.

53. Some of the important trade fairs for India are as follows: **International Tourism Börse (ITB)**, the world's largest tourism trade fair; **Agritechnica**, a globally recognized exhibition for agricultural machinery and equipment; **Hannover Messe**, one of the world's largest trade fairs dedicated to industrial technology; **IAA Transportation**, a prominent event showcasing innovations in logistics, transportation and related technologies; **Ambiente**, an international consumer goods fair; **ANUGA** the largest food and beverages fair in the world; **Medica**, the world's largest trade fair for medical technology, electro medical equipment, laboratory equipment, diagnostics and pharmaceuticals.

### **Railways**

54. India and Germany have had long-standing cooperation in the field of railways. German company Siemens is supporting the sustainable transformation of India's transportation sector as India seeks to almost double freight capacity on its railway. Siemens Mobility has been recently awarded a Euro 3 billion project in India for delivering 1,200 electric locomotives and providing 35 years of full-service maintenance. This is the single largest locomotive order in the history of Siemens Mobility and the single largest order in the history of Siemens India. This order shows a firm commitment of the Indian Railways to achieve 100% electrification of rail traffic in India.

55. Deutsche Bahn International Operations, a part of the Deutsche Bahn E.C.O. Group, has been awarded a contract to manage the operation and maintenance of India's first regional rapid transit system by National Capital Territory Transport Corporation in July 2022.

### **Science & Technology**

56. In 2024, India and Germany are celebrating the 50th anniversary of Indo-German S&T cooperation, that began in May 1974 under an Inter-Governmental Agreement on 'Cooperation in Scientific Research and Technological Development'. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) are the nodal agencies for overall coordination. Both sides witnesses Golden Jubilee events celebrating 50 years of Indo-German S&T cooperation during May 2024 in Darmstadt from the Germany and during October 2024 in New Delhi. An apex Indo-German Committee on S&T, established in 1994 coordinates the implementation of cooperation and reviews joint activities. The last meeting of the Indo-German Joint Committee on S&T was held in Berlin in 2017.

57. 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. The former Minister of Science & Technology, Mr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the India-centric PETRA-III beamline at DESY in September 2016. A five-year continuation (Phase II) of the collaboration took effect in September 2019. So far, more than 750 scientists from India have visited DESY for experiments (including multiple visits) from 50 different institutes and performed 260 experiments (843 days in total).

58. The jointly funded Indo-German Science and Technology Centre (IGSTC) was set up in Gurgaon in September 2008. A Joint Declaration was signed during the 3rd IGC in 2015 to extend the tenure of the IGSTC until March 2022 (with a

provision for automatic renewal) with increased funding up to a maximum of Euro 4 million per year on the principles of activity matching funding by each side as per national rules of the respective country. A total of 49 projects (38 completed and 11 ongoing) have been supported in national priority areas such as Advanced Manufacturing (Make in India), Embedded System and ICT (Digital India), Sustainable Energy/Environment, Biotechnology/Bio economy (Food Security), Bio-Medical Technology (Healthy India), Water and Wastewater Technology (Clean India), Smart Cities, etc.

59. IGSTC has also launched new funding programmes like Women Involvement in Science and Engineering Research (WISER, to facilitate lateral entry for women in ongoing S&T projects), Paired Early Career Fellowship in Applied Research (PECFAR, to create avenues for a two-way exchange of young researchers in pairs) and Industrial fellowship programme to encourage young Indian researchers towards German industrial ecosystems.

60. Various programmes of S&T collaboration exist between different Indian research Institutes, such as Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR), Indian Institute of Science Education Research (IISER) and Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) with German research Institutes such as Max Planck Society (MPG), Helmholtz Association, Leibniz Association and German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Further cooperation mechanisms include the following:

- Department of Biotechnology is an Associate member of the European Molecular Biology Conference (EMBC) which provides postdoctoral fellowship, and funds to conduct research and organize conferences, symposia and workshops.
- MPG, through its Partner Group Programmes, Mobility grants, kick-off workshops, Indo-German Max Planck Centre on Computer Science (IMPECS) and Indo-German Max Planck-NCBS Centre for Research on Lipids, plays an important role in the research map of India. Currently,

under the MoU signed in 2020 between IISERs and MPG, a student exchange programme is being implemented, wherein the final year BS-MS integrated programme students of IISERs can spend 8-9 months to conduct research dissertation work at various Max Planck Institutes in Germany.

- In 2022, DST and the German Research Foundation (DFG) have jointly launched the International Research Training Group (IRTG) programme to promote top-level research cooperation and support the mobility of early career researchers. The first of its kind research consortium model is expected to be executed among researchers of Würzburg University, Germany and IISER Thiruvananthapuram, India on photoluminescence on supramolecular matrices from the last quarter of 2024.
- MoU for cooperation in the field of Medical Science and Health Research has been extended for 5 years in 2021 between ICMR & German Research Foundation (DFG).
- DAAD supports Indian students' mobility through Combined Study and Practice Stays for Engineers from Developing Countries (KOSPICE) student exchange programme, Working Internships in Science and Engineering (WISE) programme and Research Grant programme for doctoral study in Germany. DST and DAAD are also jointly supporting an Indo-German Centre on Sustainability at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras. DAAD is also funding "Global Water and Climate Adaptation Center", (also referred to as ABCD Center, after the first letters of the 4 participating locations in 3 countries on 2 continents, viz., Aachen, Bangkok, Chennai and Dresden) whose key objective is the scientific training of future environmental leaders, who will enable the transfer of research into practice. The Centre would deal with climate adaptation measures in the Global South, especially in the water sector. The establishment of the ABCD-Center is expected to make a significant contribution to tackling

global challenges with excellent research and innovative teaching.

- Under the Indo-German Science & Technology Cooperation Programme, the DST along with the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany organizes “Indo-German Frontiers of Engineering, INDOGFOE” Symposium alternatively in India and Germany. So far, 12 such symposia, were organized, aimed at bringing together outstanding, early-career German and Indian engineers and scientists from industry, universities, and other research institutions. The highly interdisciplinary symposia enable scholars and scientists to establish long-term bi-national cooperation that strengthen the scientific relationship between India and Germany. The next INDOGFOE Symposium will take place in India in 2024.
- An MoU was signed between the CSIR labs and the Fraunhofer Gesellschaft through the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) to promote, establish and expand technological cooperation on 31 October 2019 for 3 years to be automatically renewed every 3 years.
- Collaboration between the Indian Ministry of Earth Sciences and the Leibniz Association in the area of Marine Science and Technology research.

### **Migration & Mobility**

61. Germany is facing a severe shortage of workers, especially in blue collar occupations. India places a high priority on facilitating movement of students, apprentices and workers aiming to take up employment in Germany, collaboration to provide dual vocational training to Indian students as per German standards with the aim of accelerating mobility of skilled workers, and taking other measures to promote fair migration for employment purposes. Bilateral cooperation in this area has been expanding at several fronts- between

Central Governments, agencies of Central/State governments and among private enablers. The Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement (MMPA) concluded in December, 2022 provides broad policy direction to this cooperation. In particular, Germany has been facing a shortage of nurses and has been looking beyond its borders to other non-EU countries such as India to recruit nurses. In December 2021, a placement agreement was signed between the German Federal Employment Agency (BA) and NORKA Roots, an agency of the Government of Kerala regarding the migration of skilled health and care workers. Telangana (TOMCOM, the state-owned recruitment agency) has also recently signed a similar placement agreement with BA for Nurses. Maharashtra and Baden Württemberg have recently signed an MOU for cooperation on skilling and migration.

62. Germany's Skilled Migration Act, which came into force in March 2020, has broadened opportunities for professionals with qualifications from non-EU countries like India to work in Germany. The Act removed skilled immigration restrictions to occupations experiencing skills' shortage in Germany and checks on availability of suitable applicants in Germany or the EU. In 2023, the German Cabinet passed a law to further liberalise the Skilled Immigration Act. It is effective in phases from November 2023. Furthermore, the facilitation of return of illegal migrants also forms an important element of the MMPA and both sides agreed to ensure returns of Indian nationals who were not found to hold any legal residency in Germany. Since, the implementation of the agreement, the Indian side has issued more than 217 Emergency Travel Documents (ETDs) under specific request by the German immigration authorities.

### **Sister State/City Arrangements**

63. The States of Karnataka and Bavaria, Maharashtra and Baden-Wuerttemberg, and the cities of Mumbai and Stuttgart have twinning arrangements. The city of Aurangabad and Ingolstadt (Bavaria) signed a Letter of Intent for a Sister City Partnership in April 2022. Twin city relations between Coimbatore and Esslingen were established in 2016 while North Rhine

Westphalia has close relations with West Bengal.

64. The States of Bavaria and Hamburg have representative offices in Mumbai and Bengaluru. Several German cities including Karlsruhe have representative offices in Pune. Pune and the city-state of Bremen have an informal cooperation agreement. Himachal Pradesh and Rhineland Palatinate are discussing closer cooperation.

### **Culture**

65. India and Germany have a long-standing history of cultural and intellectual exchange across literature, film, music, academia, yoga and Ayurveda. Nobel Laureate Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore is widely credited with first establishing an important cultural bridge between the two countries via his visits to Germany in 1921, 1926, and 1930 and subsequent work in literature, philosophy, academia and music. In May 2024, the Tagore Centre partnered with the Duisburg Philharmonic to host a series of concerts to make 30 years of the Tagore Centre in Germany, and the centenary of Austrian composer Alexander Zemlinsky's Lyrical Symphony, which was based on Tagore's poems. Similarly, the popularity of Indian films in Germany can be traced back to the actor and director Himanshu Rai who collaborated with German director Franz Osten on several silent films. The Indian film festivals held annually in Berlin and Stuttgart draw on this tradition and continually attract large audiences.

66. In August 2023, Ms. Claudia Roth, State Minister for Culture and Media visited India in connection with the G20 Cultural Ministers Meeting. Ms Roth visited several cultural institutions and heritage sites in Mumbai and Varanasi with the intention to deepen cultural relations between India and Germany, particularly in conjunction with sustainable initiatives in film and media. In June 2023, during his visit to Berlin & Bad Meinberg, then President ICCR, Dr Vinay Sahasrabudhe visited several institutions and met with key stakeholders in the areas of Indology, Ayurveda, yoga, Buddhism and literature with the view to



strengthening India's soft power and cultural outreach.

67. In 2023, the highlight of Indo-German cultural collaboration was the 'Namaste Berlin' event held on August 5, 2023. The daylong event was organized by the Tagore Centre in collaboration with the Kultursommerfestival, and the Berlin Senate Department of Culture and Community on the PPP model with 70% funding provided by Kultursommerfestival. The event included concerts of classical and contemporary Indian music, folk dances, street food from various states, yoga & Vedic sound healing workshops, Panchatantra storytelling in German, as well as screening of Indian movies and Q&A sessions with mainstream Indian actors & directors. Around 7,000 participants attended the event over the course of 1 day.

68. Yoga continues to be immensely popular amongst Germans, with yoga schools, institutes and studios present in all major cities. In June 2024, the International Day of Yoga event organized in front of in Dresden at the iconic Neumarkt in partnership with the City of Dresden & Free State of Saxony witnessed overwhelming participation of over 750 enthusiasts despite heavy rain. The event was opened with devotional songs by the visually-impaired German singer Cass Mae who was first recognized by the Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi in his podcast, Mann ki Baat.

69. Another major cultural collaboration was the 'Days of Open Doors' event organized by the Embassy and TTC in association with the German Foreign Office on November 19 & 20, 2023. The event was attended by Foreign Minister Ms. Annalena Baerbock. Around 11,500 visitors attended the multi-faceted event which showcased Indian street food, classical and contemporary music, tribal art and handicrafts from Madhya Pradesh, Assam and Rajasthan, Ayurveda, and Panchatantra for children. Over the course of August 2023, activities conducted by the Tagore Centre saw a cumulative physical footfall of 20,000 visitors and social media engagement with over 150,000 unique accounts.

70. The historical connection between India and Germany was further

strengthened by the installation of a nearly life-sized replica (10m high and 6m wide) of the Sanchi Stupa outside the prestigious Humboldt Forum in the historic heart of Berlin in the Museum District. Craftsmen from India worked alongside German architects and engineers to ensure the replica is true to the original whilst being suited to the German landscape. Furthermore, a Memorandum of Understanding for museum cooperation between the National Museum, the National Gallery of Modern Art & Indian Museum Kolkata, and Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation & Stiftung (Foundation) Humboldt Forum in Berliner Schloss was signed during the 5th India-Germany IGC held in Delhi on November 1, 2019. The MoU envisages cooperation for capacity building in the fields of restoration, conservation, education, and digital infrastructure.

71. The cultural relationship between India and Germany in the 21st century is further supported by established networks in socio-cultural fields. The Max Mueller Bhavan in India imparts German language training in cities across India. The Indo-German Society (DIG) in Germany promotes intercultural understanding by bringing people together through its network of around 20 Chapters. The DIG organizes the DIG Chain tour every year during which an ICCR-sponsored cultural troupe tours between 8-9 German cities. ICCR sponsored a 4-member Rajasthani folk dance group for the DIG Chain Tour 2023.

72. An MoU to establish the ICCR Chair of Indian Music at the Hannover University of Music, Drama, and Media (Hildesheim) was signed in March 2024. Negotiations are underway to sign a similar MoU establishing an academic chair at TU Dresden. ICCR's academic and distinguished visitors' programs and scholarship/fellowship schemes play a key role in strengthening cultural relations by encouraging cooperation in the fields of culture, media, entertainment, and education.

73. Several research institutions and hospitals in Germany have been working towards increasing awareness about Ayurveda and getting it acknowledged as a system of complementary medicine in Germany through international exchanges, symposiums, research projects and clinical trials. Ayurveda events hosted by the

Mission have seen excellent participation by both medical professionals and wellness enthusiasts.

### **Higher Education**

74. There are approximately 49,483 (2024) Indian students who are studying in Germany, a number which has doubled in the last 4 years. Indian students are the largest cohort of international students in German Universities, many of whom are pursuing their Master and Doctoral studies in Science, Engineering and Technology. The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) facilitates joint research, training and exchange of young scientists/research scholars. Indo-German Partnership in Higher Education was signed between Ministry of Education (MoE) and Germany's Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) with UGC and DAAD as implementing partners from India and Germany respectively, at the 3rd IGC. The MoU between DAAD and UGC for the second phase of implementation of the programme (2020-24) was signed during the 5th IGC in November 2019. At present, there are nine active programmes under this MoU.

74. The GIAN (Global Initiative of Academic Networks) initiative of MoE has been well received in Germany. So far, 105 courses were approved from Germany. Further, visiting Advanced Joint Research (VAJRA) from DST and Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) from MoE and New Passage to India (from the German side) are instruments of faculty exchange and student mobility between India and Germany.

75. Indo-German Programme (IGP) on Higher Education: The signing of the MoUs German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) - Indian Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) (incl. funding commitment: 3.5 million EUR per side for 4 years) and German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) – University Grants Commission (UGC) took place on the fringes of the Indo-German government consultations on 1 November 2019 in New Delhi. In June 2020, the selection meeting for the second funding phase of the Indo-German partnerships took place, where 9 partnerships were selected for the

funding period 2020-2024.

76. A joint Master's programme on sustainability in 'Water Security & Global Change' was launched in August 2024 between IIT Madras, RWTH Aachen and TU Dresden and is the first-ever Indo-German joint degree. The signing of the agreement took place in April 2024. The degree is awarded as a Master of Science and is equivalent to a Master of Technology.

### **Indian Diaspora**

77. There are around 2.46 lakh (December 2023) Indian passport holders and Indian-origin people (about 1.93 lakh NRIs/Indian Passport holders and around 52,864 PIOs) in Germany.

78. The Indian diaspora mainly consists of professionals, researchers and scientists, businessmen, nurses and students. There has been a significant increase in the last few years in the number of qualified Indian professionals in the fields of IT, banking and finance.

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***As on October 23, 2024***