

INDIA-LATVIA RELATIONS

Introduction:

India and Latvia have warm and friendly relations. India recognized Latvia as a sovereign and independent State in 1991. Diplomatic relations were established shortly thereafter in 1992. India and Latvia celebrated 30 years of establishment of diplomatic relations during 2022.

Latvia opened an Embassy in New Delhi in 2014. The Embassy of India was opened in Riga in July 2024. H.E Ambassador Namrata S. Kumar took charge as the first resident Ambassador of India to Latvia in March 2025.

Bilateral relations between India and Latvia are marked by a broad understanding on issues of mutual interest. The two countries have established mechanisms for exchanging views on bilateral, regional, and multilateral issues.

There have been several high-level visits and interactions between India and Latvia over the last three decades of bilateral relations.

Recent Visits and Interactions:

A. Parliamentary Delegations:

In May 2025, a delegation of Members of Parliament of India, led by Hon'ble Member of Parliament Ms. Kanimozhi Karunanidhi visited Riga. The delegation held meetings with the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee and Friendship Group of Parliamentarians for India. In a special event organized for the Indian community, the delegation met and interacted with members of the Indian community in Latvia.

In 2018, the then Speaker of Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan visited Latvia.

B. President/ Vice President:

In August 2019, Vice President Venkaiah Naidu visited Latvia. He met President Egils Levits and Prime Minister Krišjānis Kariņš. In March 2019, President Raimonds Vējonis and Rashtrapati Rāmnāth Kōvīnd had a brief interaction during the visit of the latter to Croatia.

C. Prime Minister:

In May 2021, Prime Minister of Latvia Arturs Krišjānis Kariņš participated in the virtually held India-EU Summit, during which he interacted with the Prime Minister of India.

In 2017, Prime Minister Māris Kučinskis visited India and met Prime Minister. The visiting PM attended the 'World Food India 2017' event.

D. Foreign Minister:

In March 2025, Foreign Minister Baiba Braže visited India and participated in the 10th edition of the Raisina Dialogue. She met EAM and discussed issues of bilateral cooperation.

In March 2024, the then Foreign Minister of Latvia, Mr. Krišjānis Kariņš, visited India, to participate in the Raisina Dialogue and the CII India-Europe Business and Sustainability Conclave, as part of the Nordic-Baltic cooperation (NB8).

In May 2023, on the sidelines of the EU Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum, EAM met the then Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkēvičs. In March 2021, EAM and FM Rinkēvičs had a telephone conversation.

FM Rinkēvičs participated in the 1st India-Nordic-Baltic Conclave (virtual format) in November 2020. Earlier, in January 2020, he participated in the 5th Raisina Dialogue and met EAM.

Other visits include that of the Parliamentary State Secretary in Ministry of Foreign Affairs Gunda Reire in March 2023, to participate in the Raisina Dialogue.

Bilateral Institutional Cooperation Mechanisms:

There are regular Foreign Office Consultations between India and Latvia. The 8th round was held in Delhi in November 2022, co-chaired by Secretary (West) and State Secretary for Foreign Affairs respectively.

A number of agreements on cooperation in various fields have been signed. These include: Economic & Technical Cooperation (1995), Culture, Arts, Education, Science, Mass Media and Sports (1995), Air Services (1997), Commission on Trade, Economic, S&T & Culture (2001), Cultural Exchange Programme (2006), Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement (2010), Health (2012), Avoidance of Double Taxation and Tax Evasion (2013), Cultural Exchange (2019), and between Chambers of Commerce (2019).

Other Mechanisms: The first meeting under the India-Nordic-Baltic Conclave mechanism, was held virtually in November 2020 under the theme 'An Innovation-driven Partnership for Growth in a New World'.

Economic and Commercial:

Trade: Bilateral trade between India and Latvia stood at USD 439.42 million during 2024, an increase of 11.1%, indicating that that larger trend has been positive. Indian exports were around USD 224.81 million, and imports stood at 214.61 million in 2024.

Major items of export to Latvia: Machinery and mechanical appliances, Electrical Equipment, Pharmaceuticals, plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof; Base

metals and articles of base metals; Textiles and textile articles; Products of the chemical and allied industries; and Vegetable products etc.

Major items of import from Latvia: Base metals and articles of base metals; Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; Wood and articles of wood; Products of the chemical and allied industries; and Optical instruments and apparatus (inc. medical); clocks and watches etc.

Investment: In 2022, Tech Mahindra acquired Com Tec Co IT Ltd (CTC) which has development centres in Latvia and Belarus. Sweden based Domsjö Fabriker of Aditya Birla group has a subsidiary Domse Latvia. Tech Mahindra opened a Business Process Services center in Riga in 2024.

Business Delegation Visits:

In May 2025, a delegation of Indian businesses organized an exhibition dedicated to India, and titled "India Expo", at the International Exhibition Center in Riga.

During the visit of Foreign Minister Baiba Braže to India in March 2025, she delivered the keynote address at the CII India - Europe Business Exchange Program. The Foreign Minister was accompanied by a strong business delegation that held meetings with Indian counterparts in New Delhi and Karnataka. Space cooperation with ISRO was also discussed.

In February 2025, a delegation of tour operators and travel experts from India participated at the BaltTour Exhibition in Riga. The visiting delegation set up an India Pavilion at the exhibition.

In August 2024, a delegation of more than 60 members of the Federation of the Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry Ladies Organisation (FICCI FLO) visited Latvia. They met Dace Melbarde, the Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia, who highlighted the positive dynamics of bilateral relations, growing interest of Indian companies in Latvia and the opening of the Embassy of India in Riga.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Economics of Latvia Jurgis Miezainis visited India to attend 2nd CII-India-Nordic-Baltic Business Conclave in November 2023.

On 1 March 2023, CEO of Riga Techgirls, Ms. Anna Andersone, took part at the CII-India-Europe Business and Sustainability Conclave session on "Education and Skill Development: Leveraging Complementarities". Riga TechGirls aims to encourage women to acquire new knowledge, so that they would become not only users but also creators of technologies.

Latvia participated in the India-Europe-29 Business Forum in November 2019. Major Latvian companies including Latvia Mobile Telecom (LMT), SAF Tehnika (digital Microwave Data transmission equipment) and the Latvian Space Industry Association participated at the

India-Nordic-Baltic Conclave in November 2020. ASSOCHAM and CII concluded MOUs with the Latvian Chamber of Commerce during the visit of the Vice President to Latvia in 2019.

ICT, cyber security, agritech, food processing, pharmaceuticals, fisheries, waste management, hygiene are potential areas of collaboration.

Cultural and Academic Ties:

The University of Latvia established a 'Centre for Indian Studies and Culture' in 2013. The Centre organises Yoga and Hindi classes. The University, in collaboration with the Arya Vaidya Pharmacy, Coimbatore has been conducting a 3-month Diploma course in Introduction to Ayurveda since 2015. Ministry of AYUSH sponsored an Ayurveda Chair at the University of Latvia in Riga from 2018 to 2024.

A Centre for Baltic Studies was established at the Dev Sanskriti Vishwa Vidyalaya in Haridwar in 2016. The University has signed cooperation agreements with several universities in Latvia, including the Riga Technical University, University of Latvia and Turība University. The University hosted an e-Global conference on 'India-Latvia: A Personal Bond' in November 2020.

A MoU on research collaboration on Ayurvedic management of Type-2 diabetes was signed between the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) Ministry of Ayush and University of Latvia and Arya Vaidya Pharmacy, Baltics SIA Latvia in December 2020.

Around 35 Latvians have availed of ITEC training slots in the last 12 years, mostly for the Audit and Parliamentary studies courses.

A permanent exhibition Art of India, curated with the support of Embassy of India in Stockholm, and the Indian diaspora in Latvia, was inaugurated at the Art Museum RIGA BOURSE in Riga in October 2024. An exhibition on India titled 'The Land of Tradition' was organized at the same Museum in January 2023. The Museum has the largest collection of artefacts from India in the Baltics.

A bust of Mahatma Gandhi, gifted by ICCR, was unveiled at the National Library of Latvia during the visit of the Vice President to Latvia in 2019. The two sides also signed a Cultural Exchange Programme during the visit.

People-to-People Relations:

The Indian population in Latvia is estimated to be around 5,900. This includes nearly 3,514 Indian students studying mainly medicine and engineering in Latvia, and working professionals in the IT and business process sectors.

During the visit of the Parliamentary Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Gunda Reire to India in March 2023, members of Riga TechGirls, a women's rights organization with focus on technology, and promoting equality and inclusion, accompanied her. The organization held workshops with girls from disadvantaged backgrounds.

In March 2021, the Latvian shooting team participated at the World Shooting Championship held in New Delhi. In April 2021, the Indian women's tennis team competed against Latvia in the Billie Jean King play offs in Jūrmala.

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