

**Embassy of India
Berlin**

India-Germany Bilateral 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 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. On 18 May, 2000, India and Germany signed the Agenda for the Indo-German Partnership in the 21st Century. The year 2025 marks successful completion of 25 years of India-Germany Strategic Partnership.

2. Strategic Partnership between India and Germany 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 7th IGC was held on October 25, 2024 in New Delhi.

3. As the 3rd and 4th 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 are committed to further deepening bilateral security and defense cooperation to jointly address global security challenges.

4. **7th Inter-Governmental Consultations (October 2024):** Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz visited India to co-chair the 7th IGC with Prime Minister (PM) where he was accompanied by the Minister of Economic Affairs & Climate Action, Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs, Federal Minister of Labour & Social Affairs and Federal Minister of Education & Research. Held under the motto "Growing Together with Innovation, Mobility and Sustainability", several agreements were signed during the 7th IGC in diverse fields including green energy, security, urban mobility, health, education & research, people-to-people ties and labour. Recalling the outcomes of the 6th IGC and various agreements concluded by the two sides thereafter, both Governments launched the "Indo-German Green Hydrogen Road Map", the "India-Germany Innovation and Technology Partnership Road Map" and the Green & Sustainable Development Partnership (GSDP) Dashboard which showcases intensive cooperation between Germany and India under GSDP.

5. **18th Asia-Pacific Conference of German Business (APK):** The 18th APK was held from 24 to 26 October, 2024 in New Delhi. PM and Chancellor addressed the Conference

and expressed confidence in the platform to showcase immense opportunities for businesses.

High-level Engagements

6. 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.

7. Former Chancellor Merkel visited India in 2007, 2011 (1st IGC) and 2015 (3rd IGC). PM 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. PM also visited Germany in 2017 to co-chair the 5th IGC in May 2017 and to attend the G20 Summit in Hamburg in July 2017.

8. German President Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier traveled 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. Former Chancellor Merkel visited India in 2019 for 5th IGC. PM and Chancellor Merkel met on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Rome on 31 October 2021.

9. In 2022, following the 6th IGC summit, 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.

10. Both leaders also met 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. They also met on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Hiroshima in May 2023.

11. Preceding the 7th IGC, PM and Chancellor interacted on the sidelines of the G7 Summit held in Apulia, Italy on 14 June 2024. 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. Prime Minister spoke to Federal Chancellor Friedrich Merz on May 20, 2025 and congratulated him on assuming office. Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen the Strategic Partnership. On June 17, 2025, Prime Minister met Chancellor Merz on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Kananaskis, Canada and reviewed the sustained momentum in bilateral partnership.

Ministerial Visits:

12. **EAM level exchange:** Bilateral exchanges at the Ministerial level take place regularly. EAM visited Germany for Munich Security Conference in February 2022, the 6th IGC in May 2022, and the G7 Summit in June 2022. In 2023, there were two Ministerial visits from India and nine Ministerial visits from the German side, most of

which were in connection with the G20 Ministerial meetings. EAM visited Germany for attending Munich Security Conference from February 16-18, 2024 and also visited Berlin on a 2-day visit from 10-11 September 2024. He attended the German Unity Day celebrations hosted by the German Embassy in New Delhi on November 13, 2024 as the Chief Guest and visited Munich to participate in the Munich Security Conference 2025 from 14-15 February 2025. During the visit to Munich in February 2025, EAM met with the Federal Defence Minister and also met Minister-President of Bavaria, Mr. Markus Söder and discussed the bilateral relations. He also met with Mr. Johann Wadephul, along with other CDU leaders, on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference. EAM visited Germany from 23-25 May 2025, with the visit coinciding with the celebration of 25 years of the Strategic Partnership between India and Germany. During his visit, EAM called on Chancellor Merz, and held extensive discussions with Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul as well as with Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy Katherina Reiche and with Foreign & Security Policy Advisor to the Federal Chancellor, Günter Sautter. EAM also engaged with Members of the German Parliament, Foreign and Security policy experts and members of Indian community.

13. **Other Ministerial visits:** Other Ministerial visits included the visit of Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, then Minister of Defence to Berlin for a bilateral meeting in 2019. Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, visited Berlin in May 2023 to participate in the Petersberg Climate Dialogue. Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas Shri Hardeep Singh Puri visited Berlin on 07 November 2023 and met with Vice Chancellor & Federal Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Dr. Robert Habeck. Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Shri Pralhad Joshi visited Germany to attend the Hamburg Sustainability Conference on 07-08 October 2024 during which he met with Dr. Robert Habeck.

14. Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Railways, Electronics & IT, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw in November 2024 to attend News9 Global Summit in Stuttgart. Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region Shri. Jyotiraditya Scindia visited Germany in November 2024 to participate in the “International Digital Dialogues Conference-Shaping digital policy together” in Berlin and also as Guest of Honour at the News9 Global Summit in Stuttgart. Union Textile Minister, Shri Giriraj Singh had visited Germany in January 2025 to participate in Heimtextil 2025 (a Global symposium on Textiles) and addressed the global investors.

15. **Visits of Chief Ministers from India:** Apart from the Union level visits, Chief Ministers of Rajasthan (Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma in October 2024) and Madhya Pradesh (Shri. Mohan Yadav in December 2024) have also visited Germany.

16. **Interaction between Judiciary:** 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. 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.

17. 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.

18. Other Ministerial visits from Germany to India at the Federal level include the visit of Mr Christian Lindner, German Finance Minister from February 23-25, 2023 to participate in the G20 Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting in Bengaluru, Boris Pistorius, German Defence Minister from June 05-08, 2023, Svenja Schulze, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development on June 09-13, 2023 to attend G20 Development Ministers' Meeting in Varanasi and Hubertus Heil, German Federal Minister of Labour for the G20 Labour Ministers' Meeting in Indore from July 17-22, 2023. 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. Ms Svenja Schulze, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development also visited India from September 16-18, 2024 to attend RE-INVEST 2024 in Gandhinagar,

19. **Visits of Foreign and Security Policy Advisor to the Federal Chancellor:** Mr. Jens Plötnner visited India in March 2022, February 2023, October 2024 and April 2025, with the last visit being his farewell call to the Indian side.

20. Minister-President of Bavaria, Markus Söder, visited India in April 2025 and met with EAM and Union Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh.

Parliamentary Exchanges

21. 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 last Indo-German Parliamentary Friendship Group (PFG) for the 20th term of the German Parliament (latest) consisted of 34 members from all parties represented in the Bundestag. Five members of the PFG 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 PFG 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.

22. On June 22, 2021, the Indo-German PFG 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.

23. **Visit of All-Party Parliamentary Delegation:** An All-Party Parliamentary Delegation, led by Shri. Ravi Shankar Prasad, Member of Parliament, visited Germany from June 05-07, 2025 and was marked by high-level engagements with Foreign Minister Wadephul, Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee of Bundestag, Armin Laschet, senior political leaders and Members of the Bundestag as well as with leading think-tanks and representatives of the Indian community.

Institutional Cooperation Arrangements

24. 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.

25. The Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) co-chaired by Foreign Secretary was held in July 2024 in New Delhi.

26. A Track 1.5 Strategic Dialogue has been established to enable key stakeholders to enhance their mutual understanding of national, regional and strategic interests, the last meeting was held in November 2024 in Berlin, attended by ICWA and RIS on the Indian side and GIGA and SWP Berlin from the German side. CCCS and MERICS held China Consultations in New Delhi in December 2023, Indo-German Policy Planning Dialogue was also held in May 2023. The Indo-German Dialogue on China Policy was held on 13-14 May 2025 in Berlin.

Multilateral Cooperation

27. 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.

28. Germany and India support each other on UNSC expansion within the framework of the G4.

29. 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. Germany also joined the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) in February 2020.

Security Cooperation

30. **MLAT:** During the 7th IGC, India and Germany concluded the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) with a view to ensuring closer collaboration to prevent, suppress, investigate and prosecute criminals. 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, Cyber Consultations and UN Consultations.

Defence Cooperation

31. 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.

32. **Ministerial-Level 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. He also visited Headquarters, Western Naval Command, Mumbai on 07 June, 2023, followed by visits to the latest indigenous warship INS Mormugao and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd.

33. **Other High-level Visits:** 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. Lt Gen Ingo Gerhartz, Chief of German Air Force visited India from 08-11 August, 2023. 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. Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan interacted with General Carsten Breuer, Chief of Defence of Germany, in June 2025.

34. **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.

35. **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.

36. **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. 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

Trade

37. Germany was the 8th largest trading partner for India in 2024-25. Germany is India's largest trading partner in EU. While the balance of trade has been in favour of Germany, bilateral trade has experienced continuous growth over the last few years.

38. In FY 2024-25, India-Germany bilateral trade in goods touched an all-time high of US\$ 34.58 billion, with exports from India at US\$ 15.73 billion, and imports to India from Germany at US\$ 18.85 billion, as per the figures from the Federal Statistical Office (*Destatis*). Germany accounts for roughly one-fourth of India's trade with the European Union, reinforcing its position as India's leading EU trading partner. As per figures from the German Central Bank (*Bundesbank*), India-Germany trade in services rose by 12.44% year-on-year, reaching a record US\$ 16.65 billion. India's services exports to Germany were US\$ 10.13 billion and India's services imports from Germany were approx. US\$ 6.52 billion.

39. Major Indian exports to Germany include machinery, clothing, chemical products, pharmaceutical products, coal and petroleum products, steel and other metals, data processing equipment, electrical and optical products, leather and leather products, electrical equipment, and textiles. Major exports from Germany to India include machinery, vehicles and parts, chemical products, data processing equipment, electrical and optical products, electrical equipment, metals and metal products; collection, treatment and disposal of waste and recyclables, rubber and plastic products, and pharmaceutical products.

Investment

40. Germany is the 9th largest Foreign Direct Investor (FDI) in India with a cumulative FDI in India of US\$ 14.89 billion from April 2000 to September 2024. German investments in India in FY 2023-24 were US\$ 505 million (US\$ 547 million in FY 2022-23 and US \$ 728 million 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, Environmental and High Technology.

41. German Mittelstand (SME) companies, comprising over 90% of the German manufacturing sector, are known as the backbone of the German economy. The Embassy's Make in India Mittelstand (MIIM) Program 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, over 224 companies are being facilitated through the MIIM programme with a declared investment

of over € 2.14 billion. Many of these companies (over 30) are hidden champions, which are global market leaders in niche products/technologies.

42. 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. As of 2023, 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.

43. 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.

Bilateral Cooperation

44. During the 7th IGC held on 25 October 2024 in New Delhi, both countries signed multiple agreements in sectors ranging from Employment and Labour, Green Urban Mobility, Skill Development & Vocational Education and Training, and R&D on advanced materials. Both countries also launched the Indo-German Green Hydrogen Roadmap, the Roadmap on Innovation and Technology and the Green and Sustainable Development Partnership (GSDP) Dashboard. The Prime Minister and the Chancellor co-chaired the meeting of the India-Germany CEO Forum which serves as a high-level platform to engage business and industry leaders from both countries. In addition, cooperation agreements were signed on the side-lines between Indian and German institutions focusing on start-ups, environment, science and technology, health, education and research.

45. 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. 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 and Waste Management, Urban Development, Climate Change, Health, Traditional Medicine, Biodiversity and Railways.

Energy

46. 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.

47. 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 during the 6th IGC on 02 May 2022 in Berlin, to strengthen cooperation in production, utilization, storage and distribution of Green Hydrogen. As agreed under the Green Hydrogen Roadmap, a Joint Working Group on Green Hydrogen has replaced the original Green Hydrogen Task Force.

48. During the 4th Global RE-INVEST Renewable Energy Investors Meet & Expo held in September 2024 in Gandhinagar with Germany as a partner country and the German business delegation led by Ms Svenja Schulze, the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), both countries launched the 'India-Germany Platform for Investments in Renewable Energy Worldwide' as a key initiative to fast-track renewable energy investments.

Vocational Education

49. Germany is one of India's important partners in Vocational Education & Training (VET). India and Germany are working on setting up cluster-oriented structures in India, strengthening industry oriented approaches for dual VET, Indo-German initiative for technical education together jointly with MSDE/BMZ/Siemens and development of demand-oriented VET model for India. An MoU to further broaden and enhance cooperation in the sector was signed during the 7th IGC.

Agriculture

50. 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 Agricultural Sector; enhancing efficiency of domestic distribution and improving export capability of India's Agricultural sector.

Emerging Sectors

51. 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. During the 7th IGC both Governments agreed to focus on collaboration in innovation, skill development and critical and emerging technologies.

APK 2024

52. The 18th Asia Pacific Conference of German business (APK) was held from 24-26 October 2024 in New Delhi. Speaking at the Conference, PM remarked that as two of the world's leading economies, India and Germany can become a force for global good and that the Focus on India document provides a blueprint for this.

53. 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 provided a unique opportunity for companies from India to engage in dialogue with representatives from around 500 German companies. A Defence Round Table was also organized on the sidelines of APK 2024 to enhance cooperation in defence production.

Development Cooperation

54. Under the Green and Sustainable Development Partnership (GSDP), development cooperation has been supporting 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 and triangular development cooperation. Under the umbrella of GSDP, India and Germany signed the lighthouse on agroecology, on renewable energies, triangular cooperation and sustainable urban mobility for all and launched the Indo-German Green Hydrogen Roadmap. A publicly available web-based GSDP Dashboard has been launched during the 7th IGC to showcase milestones, take stock of progress and exemplify GSDP related impact.

55. 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 and 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.

International Trade Fairs

56. 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 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 Hon'ble PM's visit to Germany where the Make in India was launched for the global audience. The ITB (Tourism), Berlin Air Show, Anuga Food fair, Ambiente Fair for Consumer Goods are amongst the other important trade fairs with respect to Indian participation.

Migration & Mobility

57. 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 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. The German Government also published a 'Skilled Labour Strategy: India' in October 2024 to further attract and facilitate skilled immigration.

58. **Consular Dialogue:** The 1st India-Germany Consular Dialogue was held on May 06, 2025 in Berlin.

Science & Technology

59. The year 2024 marked the 50th anniversary of the 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 marked 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.

60. 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).

61. 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 increased funding up to a maximum of € 4 million per year. A total of 49 projects 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.

62. 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.

63. 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).

Sister State/City Arrangements

64. 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.

65. The States of Bavaria and Hamburg have representative offices in Mumbai and Bengaluru. Several German cities including Karlsruhe have representative offices in Pune.

Culture

66. 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 in Berlin and Stuttgart draw on this tradition and continually attract large audiences.

67. 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.

68. 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.

69. 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. 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.

70. 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.

71. The first ever Indian Film Festival organized by the Embassy, was held in January 2025, becoming one of the largest non-commercial Indian Film Festival abroad.

Higher Education

72. 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.

73. 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.

74. 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 sidelines of the Indo-German government consultations on 1 November 2019 in New Delhi.

75. 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.

Indian Diaspora

76. There are around 2.75 lakh (December 2024) Indian passport holders and Indian-origin people in Germany with more than 50,000 students. The Indian diaspora mainly consists of professionals, researchers and scientists, businesspeople, 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.
