

**Embassy of India**  
**Brussels**  
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**India-EU Bilateral Relations**

**POLITICAL**

India-EU bilateral relations date back to the early 1960s with India being amongst the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with the European Economic Community in 1962.

A Cooperation Agreement signed in 1994 took the bilateral relationship beyond trade and economic cooperation. The Cooperation Agreement together with the Joint Political Statement signed in 1993, opened the way for annual ministerial meetings and a broad political dialogue. A multi-tiered institutional architecture of cooperation has since been created, presided over by the India-EU Summit since 2000. The first India-EU Summit took place on 28 June 2000 in Lisbon and marked a watershed in the evolution of the relationship.

The relationship was upgraded to a 'Strategic Partnership' during the 5th India-EU Summit held in 2004 in The Hague.

The 14<sup>th</sup> India-EU Summit was held on 6 October 2017 in New Delhi.

In December 2018, EU adopted a Joint Communication that sets out the EU's vision for a strategy to strengthen cooperation and partnership with India.

**14<sup>th</sup> India-EU Summit**

The 14th India-EU summit was held in New Delhi on 6 October 2017. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led the Indian delegation while European Council President Mr. Donald Tusk and European Commission President Mr. Jean Claude Juncker led the EU side. EU HR Ms. Federica Mogherini also attended the Summit meeting.

The Leaders held wide ranging discussions on foreign and security policy, migration, trade, climate, research and innovation. A Joint Statement was adopted by the Leaders which reflected common understanding on these areas and reaffirmed commitment to strengthen the India-EU Strategic Partnership.

The Leaders showed their satisfaction at the progress made towards implementing the India-EU Agenda for action 2020.

The two sides reiterated their commitment to a comprehensive approach and cooperation to prevent and counter terrorism and an India-EU Joint Statement on Cooperation in Combating Terrorism was adopted by the Leaders.

Both sides, keeping in view their commitment under Paris Climate Agreement, also adopted India-EU Joint Statement on Clean Energy and Climate Change to implement 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development and lowering of greenhouse gas emissions. Stepping forward, both India and EU agreed to intensify their cooperation in the framework of International Solar Alliance (ISA) including training and affordable finances. A Joint Declaration between the Interim Secretariat of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), and the European Investment Bank (EIB) aimed at mobilizing investments for broad-based deployment of affordable solar energy applications across the 121 prospective member countries of the ISA was adopted.

The leaders also agreed to enhance India-EU cooperation on Urban Development with participation of Indian States and cities, EU Member States and regions/cities, building for dialogue on issues such as infrastructure, energy, sanitation and water management and adopted a Joint Declaration on Partnership for Smart and Sustainable Urbanization.

During the Summit, the two sides signed (i) implementing Arrangement between the Science & Engineering Research Board (SERB) and the European Research Council (ERC); and (ii) new euro 500 million EIB loan agreement for constructing a new line and 96 new trains for Bangalore Metro Phase-II project.

### **Leaders' meeting on the margins of G20**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met the two leaders again on 1 December 2018 on the margins of the G20 Summit in Buenos Aires. The discussions between the Leaders focussed on strengthening India-EU relations, including joint efforts to counter terrorism.

### **25<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting**

Minister of External Affairs Smt. Sushma Swaraj and EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs Ms. Federica Mogherini met for the 25<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on 22 June 2018 in Brussels. During the meeting, the two sides discussed India-EU foreign policy and security cooperation and exchanged views on regional and international affairs. During her visit, EAM

also led the International Day of Yoga celebrations at the European Parliament on 21 June 2018.

### **Visit of Vice President – ASEM12**

Vice-President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu led the Indian delegation to the 12<sup>th</sup> Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) on 18-19 October 2018 in Brussels under the theme “Global Partners for Global Challenges.” During his intervention at the Summit Plenary, Vice President stated that India valued ASEM as a platform that brings together leadership of Asia and Europe to exchange views and address global challenges.

### **Parliamentary Interaction**

The European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee led by its Chairman MEP Mr. David McAllister, the Delegation for Relations with India led by its Chair MEP Mr. Geoffrey Van Orden and the European Parliament Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection led by Ms Vicky Ford (IMCO chair) visited India on 20-23 February 2017.

### **Foreign Policy Consultations**

The 6<sup>th</sup> round of Foreign Policy and Security Consultations between India and the European Union were held on 18 September 2018; the Indian side was led by Mrs. Ruchi Ghanashyam, Secretary (West), while the EU side by Mr. Jean-Christophe Belliard, Deputy Secretary-General for Political Affairs, European External Action Service. The two sides reviewed the India-EU Strategic Partnership, discussed political and economic relations and exchanged views on regional and global issues of interest.

### **Bilateral Dialogues**

India and EU have institutionalized dialogues, inter alia, on Counter-Terrorism, Cyber Security and Non-Proliferation and Disarmament. The two sides meet annually to discuss bilateral cooperation.

### **TRADE & INVESTMENT**

The EU is India's largest regional trading partner while India was the EU's 9<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner in 2017. India's bilateral trade (both in goods and services) with EU in 2017 (Jan-Dec) stood at €117.2billion (\$132.44 billion) which include bilateral trade in goods of €85.9billion (\$97.01) and trade in services €31.3 billion (\$35.37billion), India's exports in goods in 2017 stood at €44.2billion (\$49.95 billion) while India's imports from the EU at

€41.7billion (\$47.12 billion). In 2017, the trade balance in goods was in India's favour by €2.5 billion (\$2.83 billion).

India's bilateral trade in goods for the period Jan-Oct 2018 with the EU stood at €76.3billion with India's exports valued at €38.9billion and imports at €37.4.

The EU continued to be one of the largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for India with inflows valued at €5.054 billion (\$5.71billion) in 2017.

In order to diversify and boost our bilateral trade, India and the EU are negotiating a bilateral Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) since 2007. During the last India-EU Summit held in October 2017, the two sides expressed their shared commitment to strengthen the bilateral economic partnership.

In order to promote and facilitate investment flow from the EU, an Investment Facilitation Mechanism has been established in July 2017 for close coordination.

The India-EU Joint Commission dealing with economic and commercial issues meets annually, as do its three Sub-Commissions on Trade, Economic and Development Cooperation.

A Macroeconomic Dialogue on Financial Services Regulations has also been instituted and takes place annually.

### **Agriculture & Marine**

The 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the India-EU Joint Working Group on Agriculture and Marine products was held on 14 November 2017 in New Delhi and discussed bilateral issues related to trade in agricultural and marine products.

## **SECTORAL COOPERATION**

### **Infrastructure**

EU Commissioner for Transport Ms. Violeta Bulc visited India in December 2017 and delivered a keynote address at the Business Roundtable "India's Modernisation Agenda: Opportunities and Challenges for European Transport Companies." During her visit, she met the Ministers of Railways, Road Transport & Highways and Shipping, Civil Aviation and Minister of State for Housing and Urban Development.

The European Investment Bank (EIB) opened its first office for South Asian region in March 2017, headquartered in New Delhi. The EIB has agreed to extend loans of Euro 450 million for the Lucknow Metro Project and Euro 500 million for the Bangalore Metro Phase II Project.

## **Energy**

The India-EU Energy Panel which was constituted at the 5<sup>th</sup> India-EU Summit at The Hague in 2004 has met seven times in the past. Joint Working Groups have been constituted under the Panel to deal with Coal, Clean Coal Technology, Energy Efficiency/Renewable Energy.

## **Environment**

The India-EU Joint Working Group on Environment, which deals with prevention of pollution, waste minimization, protection of biological diversity, sustainable forest management, environmental education etc held its 9<sup>th</sup> meeting on 29 June 2017 in New Delhi. The meeting was followed by the India-EU Environment Forum on 30 June 2017.

EU Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Mr Karmenu Vella led a Circular Economy Mission to India on 3-7 September 2018 aimed at further deepening India-EU Cooperation in policy formulation and fostering business opportunities in the sector.

## **Water**

The newly formed India-EU Joint Working Group on Water Cooperation met for the first time on 28 June 2017 in New Delhi and identified priority areas for cooperation, viz. collaboration in research, innovation and technology, sustainable development of river basin, water governance, solar pumping for irrigation etc.

## **Science & Technology**

The India-EU Science and Technology Steering Committee, which meets annually, held its 11<sup>th</sup> meeting on 6-8 June 2017 in Brussels.

## **Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology & Medical Devices**

The 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the India-EU Joint Working Group on pharmaceuticals biotechnology and medical devices was held on 27-28 September 2018 in Brussels. During the meeting, the two sides discussed issues relevant for

the enhancement of collaboration and engagement in multilateral fora that could be further strengthened for mutual benefit.

## **ICT**

A Dialogue on Information & Communications Technology has been instituted and the last meeting of the Joint Working Group on ICT took place on 20-21 March 2018 in New Delhi.

## **Aviation**

The Horizontal Agreement on Civil Aviation between India and the EU, which was signed in 2008 became operational in February 2018.

## **CONSULAR**

At the 13<sup>th</sup> India-EU Summit, a Joint Declaration on Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM) that facilitates legal migration on both sides was adopted by the leaders. A High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility has been instituted and held its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting was held in Brussels on 4 April 2017 in Brussels at which the two sides reached an understanding in advancing the Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility, including through technical collaboration and undertaking projects in areas of mutual interest.

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