

## **India-European Union Bilateral Relations**

The relationship between India and the European Union (EU) is based on shared values and principles such as democracy, rule of law, rules based international order and multilateralism. The ties are multifaceted and cover a broad spectrum of topics including trade, investment, climate change, science and technology, digital, connectivity and agriculture.

### **I. Political**

2. 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. The Joint Political Statement signed in 1993 coupled with the Cooperation Agreement signed in 1994 opened the way for strengthening the bilateral ties. 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 in June 2000 in Lisbon and it marked a watershed in the evolution of the ties. The relationship was upgraded to a 'Strategic Partnership' during the 5<sup>th</sup> India-EU Summit held in 2004 in The Hague. As on date, 15 Summits have been held between India and the EU.

### **High Level Engagements**

3. There are regular high level engagements between India and the EU through the India – EU Summits. Both sides also organized the India – EU Leaders' Meeting in May 2021 with the participation of leaders of the 27 EU Member States. In addition, leaders regularly meet on the sidelines of multilateral and plurilateral meetings like the G7 and the G20.

4. The **15<sup>th</sup> India-EU summit** was held in virtual mode on 15 July 2020. At the Summit, the leaders inter alia endorsed the 'India-EU Strategic Partnership: A Roadmap to 2025' as a common roadmap to guide joint action and further strengthen the EU-India Strategic Partnership. An Agreement on Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation was signed and another Agreement on S&T Cooperation was extended for a further period of 5 years. Both sides also issued a Joint Declaration on Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy.

5. **India-EU Leaders' Meeting:** The first ever India-EU Leaders' Meeting was held on 08 May 2021 in hybrid mode in Porto, Portugal with the participation of Prime Minister, leaders of all the 27 EU Member States as well as the Presidents of the European Council and the European Commission. During the meeting, the leaders welcomed the decision to resume negotiations for balanced and comprehensive free trade and investment agreements; launched an ambitious and comprehensive 'Connectivity Partnership' focused on enhancing digital, energy, transport and people-to-people connectivity; and reiterated their commitment to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and agreed to strengthen joint efforts for mitigation, adaptation and resilience to the impacts of climate change.



6. **Visit of President of the European Commission to India:** The President of the European Commission H.E. Ms. Ursula von der Leyen paid an official visit to India on 24-25 April 2022. This was her first visit to India as the President of the European Commission. During her meeting with the Prime Minister, they announced the establishment of an India-EU Trade and Technology Council. She also called on then President of India H.E. Shri Ram Nath Kovind and had a meeting with External Affairs Minister. During the visit, she participated at the Raisina Dialogue as Chief Guest and delivered the inaugural address.

7. Other than the Summit, there are regular high-level interactions between the leaders of India and the EU. Prime Minister met President of the European Council and President of the European Commission on the sidelines of G-20 Summit in New Delhi in September 2023, in Rome in October 2021 and also on the sidelines of the G-7 meeting in Germany in June 2022.

8. **India – EU Trade and Technology Council:** The India – EU TTC was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President of the European Commission Ms Ursula von der Leyen during their meeting in April 2022. The TTC was setup as a strategic coordination mechanism which will allow both partners to tackle challenges at the nexus of trade, trusted technology, and security, and thus deepening cooperation in these fields. The India-EU TTC met in Brussels on 16 May 2023. The meeting was co-chaired by European Commission Executive Vice- Presidents Margrethe Vestager and Valdis Dombrovskis, with Indian Ministers Dr. S Jaishankar, Piyush Goyal and Minister of State Shri. Rajeev Chandrashekhar and joined by High Representative/Vice-President Josep Borrell and European Commissioner Thierry Breton. The TTC principals from both sides met virtually on 24 November 2023 and took stock of the progress achieved in the different work streams.

9. **Ministerial Meetings:** Apart from the Summit-level meetings and the TTC mechanism, there are regular ministerial-level meetings both standalone and on the sidelines of other events where both sides participate. While these meetings have been mainly on foreign policy and trade and investments, with closer relations in other areas, there are also regular ministerial-level meetings in the sectors of environment and climate change, technology, and connectivity

10. EAM has met HRVP Borrell twelve times since January 2020. In 2023, the ministers met on the sidelines of the ASEAN Regional Forum Meeting (Jakarta, July 2023), during the India – EU TTC (Brussels, 16 May 2023), and during the G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting (FMM) (Delhi, 1 March 2023). In 2021, the EAM and HRVP met in Bled, Slovenia on 3 September 2021 when EAM was invited by the Slovenian Presidency of the European Council to participate in the Gymnich meeting – an informal meeting of the foreign ministers of EU member states – in the context of the EU's adoption of its Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo Pacific. In the context of the India – EU Connectivity Partnership and development cooperation, EAM has met Ms Jutta Urpilainen, European Commissioner for International Partnerships (INTPA) on the sidelines of



the G20 Development Ministers Meeting in Varanasi on 11 June 2023, during the EU IPMF in Paris on 22 February 2022 and during the G20 FMM in Rome in June 2021 and in Brussels in February 2020.

11. There have been regular meetings between CIM and his counterpart Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice President of the European Commission for An Economy that Works for People and Commissioner for Trade (EVPD) during the 3<sup>rd</sup> India – EU High Level Dialogue on Trade and Investments (HLDTI) held in Delhi on 26 August 2023. They also met during the TTC meeting in Brussels on 16 May 2023. CIM met EVPD on the sidelines of the G20 ministerial meeting in Bali in September 2022. They formally re-launched the negotiations for an India – EU FTA, a standalone Investment Protection Agreement and a Geographical Indications Agreement when they met in Brussels on 17-18 June 2022.

12. During India's Presidency of the G20 in 2023, there were regular visits of EU Commissioners for G20 ministerial meetings in India and bilateral meetings with their counterparts were held on the sidelines. These visits include that of European Commissioner for Economy Mr. Paolo Gentiloni (23 February 2023), European Commissioner for International Partnerships Ms. Jutta Urpilainen (Varanasi, 11-12 June 2023), European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights Mr. Nicolas Schmit (Indore, 20-21 July 2023), European Commissioner for Energy Ms. Kadri Simson (Goa, 20-23 July 2023), European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries Mr. Virginijus Sinkevičius (Chennai, 28 July 2023), and European Commissioner for Equality Ms. Helena Dalli (Gandhinagar, 2 August 2023).

13. **Parliamentary Interaction:** A delegation of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) visited India from 18-20 December 2023. The delegation comprised of MEPs from two committees of the European Parliament viz., Delegation for Relations with India (D-IN) and the Sub-Committee on Security and Defence (SEDE). The 15th Inter Parliamentary Meeting between the Members of the Lok Sabha and the European Parliament's (EP) Delegation for India (D-IN) was held during the visit. Earlier, the Chair of D-IN, Mr. Morten Lokkegaard, visited India from 25 February to 03 March 2023 and had meetings with various interlocutors including Speaker of Lok Sabha Shri Om Birla and also Shri P.P. Chaudhary, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs. Further, six Members of EP's Committee on International Trade (INTA), led by its Chair Mr. Bernd Lange, along with then Chair of EP Delegation for India (D-IN), Mr. Soren Gade, visited India from 11-13 April 2022 and had meetings with various interlocutors. Moreover, Speaker of Lok Sabha Shri Om Birla met with then President of the European Parliament Mr. David Sassoli in virtual mode on 13 January 2021 to discuss issues of mutual interest including enhancing parliamentary interaction.

### **Political and Security Dialogues**

14. **Foreign Policy Consultations:** The 9<sup>th</sup> round of Foreign Policy and Security Consultations between India and the European Union were held in New Delhi on 22 November 2022. The consultations were co-chaired by Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, and Deputy Secretary General for Political Affairs, European External Action Service. They took



stock of key bilateral developments, including the India-EU Trade and Technology Council and also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest.

**15. Strategic Partnership Review Meeting:** The 4<sup>th</sup> round of the India-EU Strategic Partnership Review Meeting was held on 08 May 2023 in New Delhi. It was co-chaired by Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, and Deputy Secretary- General for Global and Economic Issues at the European External Action Service. Both sides reviewed the India-EU Strategic Partnership, discussed political and economic relations and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest.

**16. Bilateral Dialogues:** India and EU have institutionalized political dialogues, *inter alia*, on Counter-Terrorism, Cyber Security, Migration and Mobility, Maritime Security, Human Rights, Non-Proliferation and Disarmament. The two sides meet regularly to discuss bilateral cooperation and international developments in these areas.

## **II. Trade & Investment**

17. In 2022, India was the EU's 10<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner accounting for around 2.2 % of EU's total bilateral trade in goods. India-EU bilateral trade in goods in 2022 was valued at around Euro 115 billion (Euro 67.40 billion exports from India and Euro 47.60 billion imports to India), which was more than 30% compared to the trade value of 2021 (*Source: Eurostat*). India-EU Bilateral Trade in Goods in recent years is as follows:

(value in billion Euros)

<b>Year</b>	<b>Exports to the EU</b>	<b>Imports from the EU</b>	<b>Total Trade</b>
2017	36.00	37.05	73.05
2018	37.82	40.11	77.93
2019	39.55	38.23	77.79
2020	33.10	33.20	65.30
2021	46.20	41.9	88.10
2022	67.40	47.66	115.06

18. During 2021, India-EU bilateral trade in services was valued at EUR 36.6 billion comprising EUR 18.5 billion exports from India and EUR 18.1 billion imports to India. It registered a hike of 20.20% compared to bilateral trade of EUR 30.4 billion in 2020 (*Source: Eurostat*). India-EU Bilateral Trade in Services in recent years is as follows:

(value in billion Euros)

<b>Year</b>	<b>Exports to the EU</b>	<b>Imports from the EU</b>	<b>Total Trade</b>
2017	14.04	13.57	27.61
2018	16.12	14.90	31.02
2019	17.75	14.83	32.58
2020	17.30	13.10	30.40
2021	18.49	18.07	36.56



19. The EU's share in foreign investment inflows to India more than doubled from 8% to 18% in the last decade making the EU India's largest source of FDI. During April 2000 to December 2022, FDI inflows from the EU to India were USD 101.3 billion (*Source: DPIIT*). Some 6,000 European companies are present in India, providing 1.7 million jobs directly and 5 million jobs indirectly in a broad range of sectors. Indian investments in the EU are estimated at around Euro 50 billion. India and EU have also established an Investment Facilitation Mechanism (IFM) in 2017 under which Invest India has created a single window entry point for EU companies proposing to invest in India.

20. The negotiations for a Broad-based Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement were held between 2007 to 2013, but remained dormant till 2021. In order to provide political guidance to the negotiations, it was decided, at the 15<sup>th</sup> India-EU Summit, to establish a High-Level Dialogue on Trade and Investment. Subsequent to the two meetings of the High Level Dialogue in February and April 2021, both sides agreed to resume negotiations for a balanced and comprehensive free trade and investment agreements. As on date, 7 rounds of negotiations have been completed.

21. Trade and Economic issues are also discussed through the India-EU Joint Commission led by Commerce Secretary and EU's Director General for Trade. The Joint Commission has 3 Sub Commissions on Trade, Economic Cooperation and Development Cooperation. There are also Joint Working Groups/Technical Working Groups on Sanitary/Phyto-Sanitary measures and Technical Barriers to Trade; on Agriculture and Marine Products; on Plant Health; on Animal Health, on Textiles; on IPR; on Macro-Economic and Financial Services Dialogue and on Pharmaceuticals, Bio-technology and Medical Devices.

### **III. Sectoral Cooperation:**

22. India and the EU have cooperation in various sectors including Agriculture & Marine, Energy, Environment, Water, Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology & Medical Devices, Science & Technology, Science and Technology, Infrastructure, Information & Communications Technology and aviation.

23. **Connectivity:** The India - EU Connectivity Partnership was launched during the India-EU Leaders' Meeting held on 8 May 2021. The partnership is focused on outlining the norms, standards and principles that underpin the approach of India and the EU to connectivity as a whole. It also outlines various areas of cooperation on connectivity including cooperation in third countries. The focus areas are transport, digital, energy networks, and flow of people, goods, services, data and capital. On the sidelines of the G20 Leaders' Summit in New Delhi in September 2023, leaders of India, European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Saudi Arabia, UAE and US announced an MOU committing to work together to develop a new India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).

24. **European Investment Bank:** EIB opened its first office for the South Asian Region headquartered in New Delhi on 30 March 2017. European Investment Bank's (EIB) is providing loans for Lucknow,

Bangalore, Bhopal, Kanpur and Pune Metro Projects.

#### **IV. Consular**

25. At the 13<sup>th</sup> India-EU Summit, the leaders adopted a Joint Declaration on Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM) that facilitates legal migration on both sides. A High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility has been instituted and held its 7<sup>th</sup> meeting in October 2023 in New Delhi at which the two sides reaffirmed that migration and mobility are one of the most important dimensions of the strategic partnership, and exchanged views on future initiatives aimed at realizing the full potential of further strengthening cooperation.

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