

Embassy of India  
Brussels

**India-EU**  
**Brief on Bilateral Relations**

India-EU 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 Joint Political Statement signed in 1993 followed by the Cooperation Agreement in 1994 expanded India-EU ties from the pillar of trade and economic cooperation and enabled political dialogue and annual ministerial meetings.

2. Over the years, a multi-tiered institutional architecture for bilateral cooperation has been established with the Summit at its apex. The first India-EU Summit was held in Lisbon on 28 June 2000 which marked a watershed in the development of the relationship. Since then, fourteen annual bilateral Summits have taken place between India and the EU. The relationship was upgraded to a 'Strategic Partnership' during the 5th India-EU Summit held at The Hague in 2004. The 14th Summit was held on 6 October 2017 in New Delhi.

3. On 20 November 2018, EU's strategy on India entitled "A Partnership for Sustainable Modernization and Rules-based Global Order" was adopted by the EU. It views India as an emerging global power that plays a key role in the current multipolar world and a factor of stability in a complex region and calls for greater India-EU political, security and defence cooperation.

4. India-EU Agenda for Action 2020 endorsed during the 13<sup>th</sup> India-EU Summit in March 2016 serves as a framework for exchanges and cooperation between India and EU in various sectors. The bilateral Strategic Partnership encompasses thirty-one dialogue mechanisms covering a wide range of issues including trade, energy security, science and research, non-proliferation and disarmament, counter terrorism, cyber security, counter-piracy, migration and mobility, etc.

**High Level Engagements**

5. The 14th India-EU summit was held in New Delhi on 6 October 2017. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led the Indian delegation while the European Council President Mr. Donald Tusk and European Commission President Mr. Jean Claude Juncker led the EU side, joined by High

Representative/Vice President (HRVP) for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Ms. Federica Mogherini. India and EU leadership had also met on the sidelines of the G20 Summit on 1 December 2018 in Buenos Aires.

6. During the 14th India-EU Summit, the leaders adopted a Joint Statement, reaffirming their commitment to strengthening the India-EU strategic partnership. Leaders also reaffirmed stepping up cooperation in tackling terrorism and adopted the Joint Statement on Cooperation in Combating Terrorism. The Leaders resolved to promote the global clean and low greenhouse gas emission energy transition, towards sustainable, affordable, reliable and modern energy services and adopted the Joint Statement on Clean Energy and Climate Change and a Joint Declaration on partnership for smart and sustainable urbanization.

7. Other agreements concluded during the Summit were: Implementing Arrangement between the Science & Engineering Research Board (SERB) and the European Research Council (ERC); € 500 million European Investment Bank (EIB) loan agreement for Bangalore Metro Phase-II Project; and Joint Declaration between the Interim Secretariat of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), and the EIB aimed at mobilizing investments for broad-based deployment of affordable solar energy applications in ISA member countries.

8. Soon after assuming charge as the new President of the European Commission, the PM and the new President of the European Commission, Ms. Ursula von der Leyen spoke over telephone on 2 December 2019 and exchanged views on strengthening the India-EU partnership. On 21 December 2019, the PM and the new President of the European Council, Mr. Charles Michel held a telephonic conversation and affirmed their interest in enhancing bilateral relations.

9. 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 Challenge.” 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.

10. External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. S. Jaishankar visited Brussels on 17 February 2020 and interacted with the EU Foreign Affairs Council comprising all 27 member states, met the President of the European Council, Vice President & Commissioners of the European Commission, Foreign Minister of Belgium and also engaged with members of the

European Parliament. Earlier, EAM had traveled to Brussels on 30 August 2019 and held a meeting with the HRVP Ms. Federica Mogherini, the President of the of the European Parliament, and the Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management.

11. The then EAM Smt. Sushma Swaraj had also visited Brussels from 20–22 June 2018, during which she called on the President of the European Commission Mr. Jean Claude Juncker and President of the EU Parliament Mr. Antonio Tajani and held bilateral consultations with her counterpart HRVP Ms. Federica Mogherini.

12. HRVP Mr. Josep Borrell visited India from 16-18 January 2020 and participated in Raisina Dialogue 2020, called on Prime Minister, held 26<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting with EAM and met the Defence Minister.

### **Foreign Policy & Security Issues**

13. The 6<sup>th</sup> India-EU Foreign Policy and Security Consultations were held in Brussels on 18 September 2018 to review the India-EU Strategic Partnership co-chaired by Secretary (West) Ms. Ruchi Ghanashyam and DSG Mr. Jean-Christophe Belliard. At the India-EU Strategic Partnership Review Meeting held in New Delhi on 8 November 2019, Secretary (West) and DSG Mr. Christopher Leffler reviewed all aspects of India-EU relationship. The two sides regularly deliberate on important foreign policy and security issues, viz. counter-terrorism, cyber security, migration and mobility, etc.

### **Trade and Investment**

14. In 2019, the EU was India's largest trading partner while India was EU's 10<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner. India's bilateral trade with the EU in 2019 stood at Euro 77.8 billion (\$ 87.1b); India's exports valued at Euro 39.6 billion (\$44.3b) and imports at Euro 38.2 billion (\$42.8b). Trade in goods between India and the EU increased by 72% in the last decade. Trade in Services between India and EU in 2018 stood at Euro 29.6 billion (\$34.9b); India's exports valued at Euro 15.4 billion (\$17.2b) and imports at Euro 14.2 billion ((\$15.9b).

15. EU is the largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India. Over the period April 2000 to March 2020, FDI equity flows from the EU countries into India totaled \$ 81.3 billion, which is about 17.3% of the total FDI inflows to India. Some 6000 EU companies in a broad range of sectors are present in India. Indian companies have invested about Euro 50 billion

in the EU since 2000. An Investment Facilitation Mechanism promotes and facilitates FDI inflows from the EU. The European Investment Bank opened its office in New Delhi in March 2017 and has extended credits for various projects in India.

16. An India-EU Joint Commission on economic and commercial matters meets annually to oversee trade and economic relations, together with its three sub-Commissions on trade, economic and developmental cooperation and a Working Group on SPS & TBT. The last meeting of the sub-Commission on trade was held in June 2019 in Brussels. A Dialogue on Financial Services Regulation and macro-economic issues meets periodically. A Joint Working Group on agriculture and marine products discusses trade issues in these sectors. India–EU Energy Panel deals with energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy security, and clean coal matters. India–EU also have separate Joint Working Groups/ dialogue on water, pharmaceuticals, bio-technology, textiles & clothing, and civil aviation. In September 2019, India and the EU signed an Administrative Arrangement on cooperation in the field of railways.

17. Negotiations between India and the EU for a bilateral Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA), which began in 2007, have not progressed since 2013 due to varying level of ambitions. The two sides are in the process of stock-taking various elements of their bilateral ambitions and consulting each other.

### **Defence**

18. India and EU have gradually enhanced bilateral exchanges and cooperation in the field of defence and security. This includes mutual ship visits, collaboration in escorting humanitarian aid ships and exchanges among military officials, including the EU Military Committee. The new Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region in New Delhi (IFC-IOR) has recently been linked-up with the Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSC-HOA) established by the EU Naval Force (NAVFOR).

### **Migration & Mobility**

19. A Joint Declaration on Common Agenda on Migration & Mobility (CAMM) was adopted at the 13<sup>th</sup> India-EU Summit. India-EU High Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility (HLDMM) discusses issues of mutual interest in the context of migration and mobility. The fifth meeting of this Dialogue was held on 10 July 2019 in New Delhi.

## **Science, Research and Innovation**

20. India-EU Science & Technology Steering Committee meets annually to review scientific cooperation. It held its 12<sup>th</sup> meeting on 1 March 2019 in New Delhi which identified a number of areas for collaboration such as smart grids, bio-economy, health research, polar science and cyber systems. The Joint Working Group on Information & Communication Technologies which deliberates on sectoral issues, last met in September 2019 in Brussels. The Joint Working Group on Environment also meets periodically.

21. Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and the European Commission (EC) have established a co-funding mechanism (CFM) to support joint research projects selected under European Research & Innovation Framework Program 'Horizon 2020' related to climate change and polar research. In June 2018, India and the EU signed a Joint Declaration of Intent on Resource Efficiency.

22. ISRO has a long-standing cooperation with the European Union, since 1970s. ISRO and the European Space Agency are working towards enhancing cooperation in earth observation. A Joint Working Group (JWG) identifies cooperation opportunities in areas such as earth science, space science, space technology and integrated applications. A Cooperation Arrangement between the European Commission and the Department of Space pertaining to the Copernicus programme signed in March 2018 provides a framework for the exchange of data and wider cooperation in the space sector.

## **Parliamentary Interaction**

23. There have been occasional parliamentary exchanges between India and the EU. Thirteen Members of the European Parliament visited India from 28 October–2 November 2018 and met the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha (Lower House), and the Ministers of Commerce, Power, Housing and Urban Affairs. Three European Parliamentary Committees' delegations had earlier visited India on 20-24 February 2017 – Foreign Affairs Committee led by its Chairman MEP Mr. David McAllister; Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection led by its Chairperson MEP Ms. Vicky Ford; and D-IN led by its Chairman MEP Mr Geoffrey Van Orden. Earlier, a 7-member Indian parliamentary delegation led by Speaker, Lok Sabha (Lower House) visited Brussels in June 2015. Since 2007, the European Parliament constitutes a Delegation for Relations with India (D-IN) for the term of the Parliament.

## **Culture & Education**

24. India-EU Joint Declarations of 2010 cover cooperation in the fields of education & training, and multilingualism. Senior official meetings review periodically initiatives and cooperation in the field of education and languages. Indian students avail Erasmus+ scholarship for studies in EU countries.

25. India and the EU have a dialogue on culture to discuss cooperation in the field of cultural exchanges. In this context, festivals of culture (e.g. Europalia-India festival), exchanges on heritage such as yoga and ayurveda, and other activities are taken up between the two sides.

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