

## India-Germany Relations

India-German relations refers to the series of bilateral relations between the republic of India and Germany.

Bilateral relations have been traditionally strong due to commercial, cultural and technological cooperation, marked by a high degree of trust and mutual respect.

This article will give details about the India-Germany Relations within the context of the UPSC Exams.

### History of India-Germany Relations

Although under the rule of the British Empire at the time, the first semblance of the Indo-Germanic relations was when independence activists sought Imperial Germany's help in liberating India during World War I. In addition, Indian troops in the British Army also fought against Germany at the time

During World War II, Subash Chandra Bose sought Nazi Germany's assistance by seeking military assistance. The Indische Legion was formed to serve as a liberation force for British-ruled India and was principally made up of British Indian prisoners of war and expatriates in Europe.

The newly formed Republic of India was one of the first nations to end the State of War with Germany after World War II and did not claim war reparations from Germany although 24,000 soldiers serving in the British Indian Army died in the campaign to fight Nazi Germany.

India maintained diplomatic relations with both West Germany and East Germany and supported their reunification in 1990.

West Germany condemned India for liberating Goa from Portuguese rule in 1961 and supported Portugal's dictatorial regime under Salazar against India while its Eastern counterpart was more sympathetic to India's action.

This was largely due to Cold War politics at the time when East Germany was under the influence of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact while Western Germany was aligned with NATO and the USA.

Following the reunification of Germany after the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, relations between Indian have been largely cordial and warm in the ensuing years marked by high level visits and strategic ties.

## Strategic Ties

The India-Germany strategic relationship is limited by the insignificance of German geopolitical influence in Asian affairs. Contrary to France and the UK, Germany has no strategic footprint in Asia.

Over the past decade, Indo-German trade grew in volume but dropped in importance. According to Indian Ministry of Commerce MX data: Total trade between India and Germany was \$5.5 billion (3.8% share of Indian trade and ranked 6) and \$7.3 billion (2.41% ranked 10) in 2013. Indian imports from Germany were \$2.92 billion (3.73% ranked 6) in 2004 and

India and Germany both seek to become permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and have joined with Japan and Brazil to coordinate their efforts via the G4 collective.

## Cultural relations Between India and Germany

India and Germany have long academic and cultural relations. Max Mueller was the first scholar of Indeo-European languages to translate and publish the Upanishads and the Rigveda. German interest in the Indian philosophy and languages led to the setting up of the first Chair of Indology at the University of Bonn in 1818.

The Indian government has funded 31 short term rotating chairs of Indian studies in German Universities so far. Indian films and artists regularly feature at the Berlin International Film Festival and at Indian Film festivals held in other parts of Germany.

## Defence and Trade Cooperation.

India and Germany maintain an ongoing dialogue in the areas of commercial maritime security and cooperation in the field of anti-terrorism. The Indian Navy and the German Navy conducted joint-exercises in 2008 for the first time, following an anti-piracy co-operation agreement between the two nations signed in 2006.

Germany's military is principally structured to defend Eastern Europe and to support NATO operations in the Western European theatre of operations. Unlike the UK and France, Germany not only does not have any sovereign territories in the Indo-Pacific region but is also incapable of power projection.

Germany is India's largest trading partner in Europe. Germany is the 8th largest foreign direct investor (FDI) in India. Germany's FDI totaled about 5.2 billion USD during the period 2000-2012, constituting about 3% of total FDI to India. Indian investments in Germany have seen sharp increases in the last few years.

