

Brief on India-EU 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 and investment, technology and innovation, security and defence, connectivity and global issues.

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.

Leader-level Engagements

3. The multi- tiered institutional architecture of cooperation is 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 moment in the evolution of the ties. The relationship was upgraded to a 'Strategic Partnership' during the 5th India- EU Summit held in 2004 in The Hague. As on date, 16 Summits have been held between India and the EU.

4. There have been regular high-level engagements between India and the EU. The Summits are co-chaired by Prime Minister and the Presidents of the European Council and the European Commission. The 16th Summit was held in January 2026 when the Presidents of the European Council (H.E. Mr. António Costa) and the European Commission (H.E. Ms. Ursula von der Leyen) paid a State Visit to India (25-27 January 2026) as the Guests of Honour for the 77th Republic Day celebrations. At the Summit, the Leaders announced the successful conclusion of negotiations of the landmark India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and adopted the "Towards 2030: India-EU Joint Comprehensive Strategic Agenda" to elevate the strategic partnership to a higher level and set the trajectory for advancing the relations.

5. The India-EU Leaders' Meeting – with the participation of leaders of the 27 EU Member States - was organized in Porto (PM participated virtually) in May 2021. Subsequently, President von der Leyen visited India in April 2022, and in September 2023 along with the then President of European Council Charles Michel to attend the G20 Leaders' Summit. In addition, the leaders have regularly met on the sidelines of multilateral and plurilateral meetings like the G7 and the G20, most recently in June 2026 at the G7 Summit in Évian, and earlier in Sweden in May 2026 at the European Round Table for Industry. PM spoke telephonically with President von der Leyen and President Costa in September 2025. PM had also spoken telephonically with President Costa in January 2025.

6. On 27- 28 February 2025, President von der Leyen along with the College of Commissioners (21 Commissioners) paid a landmark visit to India. This was the first visit of the College of Commissioners outside the European continent since the start of their new mandate, and also the first such visit in the history of India- EU bilateral ties. Apart from PM's interactions with President von der Leyen, there were intensive engagements at the level of Ministers and Commissioners. 20 bilateral meetings were held between EU Commissioners and their counterpart Indian Ministers leading to productive discussions in diverse areas. The two sides discussed ways of intensifying cooperation in trade and de- risking of supply chains, investment, emerging critical technologies, innovation, talent, digital and green industrial transition, space, disaster management, defence and people- to- people contacts. The College of Commissioners visit established a systemic comfort and working relationship among our teams and various Ministries, leading to a "whole of government approach". The historic College of Commissioners visit facilitated a whole-of-government approach to advance India-EU ties.

Trade and Technology Council

7. The India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC), established by PM Modi and President von der Leyen in April 2022 as a key platform to address challenges and deepen collaboration in the areas of trade, trusted technology and security, met for the third time in Brussels on 15 July 2026. The meeting was co-chaired, on the Indian side, by External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. S. Jaishankar, Commerce and Industry Minister (CIM) Mr. Piyush Goyal, and Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Mr. Jitin Prasada. On the EU side, it was co-chaired by European Commission Executive Vice-President for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy Ms. Henna Virkkunen, Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security, Interinstitutional Relations and Transparency Mr. Maroš Šefčovič and Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation Ms. Ekaterina Zaharieva. Discussions were held on Strategic Technologies, Digital Governance, and Digital Connectivity; Clean and Green Technologies; and Trade, Investment and Resilient Value Chains. On the sidelines of the 3rd TTC meeting, the three Ministers also called on President Costa on 14 July 2026. The first two TTC meetings were held in New Delhi in February 2025, and in Brussels in May 2023.

Other Ministerial Engagements

8. There have been regular interactions at Ministerial / Commissioner- level between India and the EU. EAM met EU High Representative and Vice President (HRVP) Ms. Kaja Kallas (14 July) and Commissioner for International Partnerships Mr. Josef Síkela (15 July) on the sidelines of the 3rd TTC meeting. He attended the informal meeting of the EU Foreign Ministers (Gymnich) in Cyprus in May 2026, and interacted with EU HRVP on the margins. During his official visit to Brussels on 15-16 March 2026, EAM interacted with the 27 EU Foreign Ministers at the EU Foreign Affairs Council; called on President Costa and President

von der Leyen; as well as held a bilateral meeting HRVP. EAM interacted with HRVP on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference in February 2026, and in March 2026 on telephone. During the 16th India-EU Summit in January 2026 in New Delhi, EAM had called on President Costa and President von der Leyen, and had also met HRVP. They also met at the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Niagara in November 2025; at the UNGA in September 2025; and in Brussels in June 2025 for the first edition of the India-EU Strategic Dialogue. During his visit to Brussels in June 2025, EAM had called on President von der Leyen; met President of the European Parliament; met EU Commissioners for Trade, International Partnerships, and Defence and Space; and exchanged views with Members of the European Parliament. He met HRVP in February 2025 during the G20 FMM in Johannesburg; spoke to HRVP telephonically in December 2024; and spoke to HRVP twice in the aftermath of Operation Sindoor in May 2025.

9. CIM has regularly met his counterpart the European Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security Mr. Maroš Šefčovič, including to advance the India-EU FTA and broader economic cooperation. On the sidelines of the recently concluded 3rd TTC meeting, CIM met Commissioner Šefčovič, and Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Mr. Christophe Hansen, and Commissioner for Climate, Net-Zero and Clean Growth Mr. Wopke Hoekstra. CIM met Commissioner Šefčovič in March 2026 on the sidelines of the 14th WTO Ministerial Conference in Yaoundé, and on the margins of the 16th India-EU Summit in New Delhi in January 2026. The EU Commissioner for Trade met CIM during his visit to Delhi in December 2025, where he also met EAM and Finance Minister. In October 2025, CIM met EU Commissioner for Economy and Productivity in Berlin and EU Executive Vice-President Ms. Teresa Ribera on the sidelines of UNCTAD16 in Geneva.

10. Interactions and meetings of Indian Ministers and EU Commissioners have also taken place separately, including on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in New Delhi in September 2023, and on the margins of major multilateral and plurilateral events.

Parliamentary Exchanges

11. Regular parliamentary exchanges are an important facet of the strategic partnership and pave the way for continuous dialogue between the two sides. The European Parliament Delegation for relations with India (D-IN), chaired by Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Ms. Angelika Niebler, concluded a three-day official visit to New Delhi and Bengaluru recently, from 30 March to 1 April 2026. The delegation held the 16th India-EU Inter-Parliamentary Meeting (IPM) with the newly established India-European Parliament Parliamentary Friendship Group of the Indian Parliament, and met with the Lok Sabha Speaker, EAM and CIM on the sidelines.

12. Earlier, Members of the European Parliament's International Trade Committee, including the Chair of Delegation for Relations with India, MEP Ms. Angelika Niebler, visited

India from 27 to 29 October 2025. They met EAM, CIM, FM, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Vice-Chair NITI Aayog, and Chairman of Standing Committee on External Affairs during the visit. In September 2025, during the visit of Vice-Chair of NITI Aayog Mr. Suman Bery to Brussels, he exchanged views with Members of the European Parliament. An All-Party Parliamentary delegation led by Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad visited Brussels in June 2025. During the visit, they met with the Vice-President of the European Parliament and interacted with key MEPs. A delegation with Members of the European Parliament from the Internal Market Committee (IMCO) visited India in January 2025 while those from the Delegation for Relations with India (D-IN) and Security and Defence (SEDE) Committee visited in December 2023 and participated in the 15th India-EU IPM. European Parliament Chair of the D-IN visited India in March 2025, when she met Secretary (West). The then Vice-President of the European Parliament Ms. Nicola Beer represented the European Parliament at the Parliament20 Summit, during India's G20 Presidency, hosted by the Indian Parliament in October 2023 under the theme 'Parliaments for One Earth, One Family, One Future'.

Trade and Commerce

13. The EU is India's one of the largest trading partners, with bilateral trade in goods and services growing steadily over the years. Conclusion of FTA negotiations in January 2026 was an important milestone. With a combined market estimated at over US\$ 24 trillion, bringing unparalleled opportunities for the 2 billion people of India and the EU, the FTA unlocks significant potential for trade and innovation. Bilateral merchandise trade between India and the EU has demonstrated sustained growth, valued approximately at US\$ 135 billion in 2025-26, with India exporting roughly US\$ 70 billion to the EU. India-EU trade in services reached US\$ 83.10 billion in 2024. The EU is a leading foreign investor in India. The EU FDI investments in India reached US\$ 126 billion in 2025, and around 6,000 European companies are present in India.

Other Dialogue Mechanisms

14. India and EU have bilateral institutional dialogue mechanisms at Secretary- level viz. Foreign Policy and Security Consultations, Strategic Partnership Review, Energy Panel, Macroeconomic Dialogue and the Science and Technology Steering Committee. Other dialogue mechanisms at senior officials level include those in the areas of Security and Defence, Maritime Security, Cyber, Counterterrorism, Non- proliferation and Disarmament, Renewable Energy, Energy Security, Energy Efficiency, Pharmaceuticals, Agriculture, Plant and Animal Health, and Ayurveda. Several other dialogue mechanisms have been subsumed under the TTC mechanism.

15. At the 16th India-EU Summit, both sides agreed on a Security and Defence Partnership to strengthen dialogue and cooperation in security and defence, including maritime security,

defence industry and technology, cyber and hybrid threats, space and counterterrorism. India and the EU conducted joint naval exercises in the Indian Ocean in June 2025, the Gulf of Guinea in October 2023 and in the Gulf of Aden in June 2021. Following an invitation by PM Modi to President von der Leyen, the EU joined the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) in 2023. The EU is also a dialogue partner of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) since October 2023. Both sides have agreed in-principle to establish regular bilateral consultations on the Indo-Pacific. EAM participated in the EU Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum in Stockholm (2023) and Paris (2022). Secretary (West) had represented at the 4th edition held in November 2025 in Brussels.

Energy and Climate

16. India-EU Clean Energy and Climate Partnership established in 2016 focuses on clean energy and climate- friendly technologies with a detailed work programme covering renewable energy, energy efficiency, smart grids and energy markets, energy security and other cross cutting issues. Green Hydrogen, offshore wind energy, development of gas infrastructure in India, and reduction of methane emission are emerging areas of cooperation. The EU is a partner organization to the International Solar Alliance since 2018, and joined the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure in March 2021 focusing inter alia on climate- smart infrastructure in South Asia and on trilateral cooperation in Small Island Developing States. A Green Hydrogen Task Force was constituted at the 16th India-EU Summit to foster innovation, knowledge sharing, and technological cooperation on green hydrogen.

17. India- EU Water Partnership adopted in 2016 discusses latest developments on water policies in India and the EU. The 6th India-EU Water Forum was held in New Delhi in September 2024 with a focus on research projects on water, waste water treatment and drinking water purification.

Connectivity

18. India-EU Connectivity Partnership launched in 2021 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, EU, France, Germany, Italy, Saudi Arabia, UAE and the US announced an MOU committing to work together to develop a new India- Middle East- Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).

Science and Technology

19. Bilateral science and technology cooperation is carried out within the S&T Cooperation Agreement signed in 2007. The agreement was renewed in 2025 for a further period of 5 years. An agreement for R&D cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy was signed between Department of Atomic Energy and EURATOM in July 2020. India joined CERN, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research, as an associate member in 2017. India and the EU are both signatories to the ITER Agreement and participate in the construction of the experimental fusion reactor facility. Both sides are also deepening their cooperation under research and innovation, with formal negotiations on India's association to Horizon Europe having commenced in July 2026.

Space Cooperation

20. India-EU cooperation in space dates back to the 1980s when Indian satellites used Europe's Ariane launchers. Space technology including on earth observation, satellite navigation, space surveillance, and communication and advance collaboration including on space security are some areas of ongoing cooperation. ISRO and European Space Agency (ESA) have signed cross-support arrangements and have exchanged navigation, operations, and data handling support during key missions like Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya-L1. ESA's Proba- 3 Mission was successfully launched by ISRO's PSLV- XL in December 2024. The inaugural India-EU Space Dialogue took place in Brussels in November 2025. In May 2025, ISRO and ESA signed a Joint Statement of Intent on Cooperation for human space exploration.

Skills and Mobility

21. India-EU Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility provides a framework for cooperation on joint objectives, recommendations and actions with a focus on promoting regular migration at relevant skill levels, cooperation on social security issues, and combating irregular migration. Both sides signed an MoU on Comprehensive Framework on Co-operation on Mobility at the 16th India-EU Summit. The pilot European Legal Gateway Office in India was formally launched by EAM and the Executive Vice-President Henna Virkkunen in February 2026.

22. India-EU bilateral ties have expanded to include a wide range of topics including political and security issues, trade and investment, climate change and clean energy, digital transition, critical and emerging technology, sustainable urbanization and environment, information and communications technology, research and innovation, space and nuclear, health, agriculture and food security and education and culture.

Key resources:

- i. India - EU Joint Statement on the State Visit of President of the European Council, and President of the European Commission to India, and the 16th India-EU Summit (January 25–27, 2026)
- ii. [Towards 2030: A Joint India-European Union Comprehensive Strategic Agenda](#)

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