

\*\*\*

### **India-Germany Bilateral Relations**

Given its key role in the EU and the strength of our bilateral relations, Germany is one of India's most important partners in Europe. India was also among the first countries to establish diplomatic ties with the Federal Republic of Germany after the Second World War, on 07 March 1951. The year 2026 marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. On 18 May 2000, India and Germany signed the Agenda for the Indo-German Partnership in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. This laid the foundation of a Strategic Partnership between the two countries, which completed 25 years of success in 2025. EAM and Foreign Minister Mr. Johann Wadephul launched an official logo commemorating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Strategic Partnership in May 2025.

2. The Strategic Partnership between India and Germany has been further strengthened with the launch of Intergovernmental Consultations (IGC) in 2011, at the level of Heads of Government (**HoG**). The IGC framework allows for a comprehensive review of cooperation and identification of new areas of engagement at the Cabinet level. India is among a select group of countries with which Germany has such a dialogue mechanism, including Poland, China, the United Kingdom, Brazil, and Israel. The 7<sup>th</sup> IGC was held on October 25, 2024, in New Delhi, and was co-chaired by former Chancellor Olaf Scholz and PM Narendra Modi. The 8<sup>th</sup> IGC is expected to be held in Germany later this year.

3. As the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> largest economies in the world, respectively, Germany and India share a robust economic and developmental partnership. Besides strong economic ties, both countries have a shared interest in upholding democratic values, the rules-based international order and multilateralism, as well as the reform of multilateral institutions. Both sides have also acknowledged the need to further deepen bilateral security and defence cooperation to jointly address global security challenges.

4. **7<sup>th</sup> Inter-Governmental Consultations (October 2024):** Former Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz visited India, from 24-26 October, 2024, to co-chair the 7<sup>th</sup> IGC with PM Narendra Modi, where he was accompanied by the Minister of Economic Affairs & Climate Action, Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs, Federal Minister of Labour & Social Affairs and Federal Minister of Education & Research. Held under the motto "Growing Together with Innovation, Mobility and Sustainability", several agreements were signed during the 7<sup>th</sup> IGC in diverse fields including green energy, security, urban mobility, health, education & research, people-to-people ties and labour. Both Governments launched the "Indo-German Green Hydrogen Road Map", the "India-Germany Innovation and Technology Partnership Road Map" and the Green & Sustainable Development Partnership (GSDP) Dashboard which showcases intensive cooperation between Germany and India under GSDP.

5. **18<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Conference of German Business (APK):** The 18<sup>th</sup> APK was held on sidelines of the 7<sup>th</sup> IGC from 24 to 26 October, 2024 in New Delhi. PM and then Chancellor

Scholz addressed the Conference and expressed confidence in the platform to showcase immense opportunities for businesses and industry.

### **High-level Engagements**

6. There are regular high-level contacts between India and Germany. PM and Chancellor meet regularly for bilateral meetings and on the sidelines of multilateral summits, in addition to the biannual IGC meetings.

7. PM visited Germany in 2015 to attend the Hannover Messe where India was the Partner Country and the Make in India campaign was launched to an international audience. PM also visited Germany in 2017 to co-chair the 5<sup>th</sup> IGC in May 2017 and to attend the G20 Summit in Hamburg in July 2017.

8. German President Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier traveled to India on a 5-day State Visit from 22-25 March 2018. Besides New Delhi, he visited Varanasi and Chennai. During his visit, he met the President, Vice President, Prime Minister, and EAM, and visited Banaras Hindu University, Delhi University and IIT Madras. Former Chancellor Merkel visited India in 2019 for 5<sup>th</sup> IGC. PM and Chancellor Merkel met on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Rome on 31 October 2021.

9. In 2022, following the 6<sup>th</sup> IGC summit, the Prime Minister visited Munich from 26-28 June 2022 to attend the 48<sup>th</sup> G7 Summit under the German Presidency at Schloss Elmau. Prime Minister and former Chancellor Scholz also interacted on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Bali from 15-16 November 2022.

10. Both leaders also met during the State visit of then Chancellor Scholz to India from 25-26 February 2023. It was the first stand-alone visit by a German Chancellor to India since the creation of the IGC framework. They also met on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Hiroshima in May 2023. Prior to the G7 Summit in Italy, both sides reviewed progress in the bilateral Strategic Partnership on the sidelines of the G20 Summit held in New Delhi on 10 September 2023 and discussed ways to deepen cooperation in areas like Defence, Green and Sustainable Development, Critical Minerals, Mobility of Skilled Personnel and Education. Preceding the 7<sup>th</sup> IGC, PM and former Chancellor Scholz interacted on the sidelines of the G7 Summit held in Apulia, Italy on 14 June 2024.

11. The new coalition government, consisting of the political parties CDU/CSU and SPD, was sworn in on 6 May, 2025. Soon thereafter, Prime Minister spoke to Federal Chancellor Friedrich Merz on 20 May 2025 and congratulated him on assuming office. Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen the Strategic Partnership. On 17 June 2025, Prime Minister met Chancellor Merz, on the sidelines of G7 Summit in Kananaskis, Canada and reviewed the sustained momentum in bilateral relationship. Prime Minister thanked the Chancellor for Germany's strong expression of solidarity with and support for India's actions in the fight against terrorism. PM also extended invitation to Chancellor to visit India. The two leaders also met on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Johannesburg on 22 November, 2025.

**12. Chancellor's visit to India:** German Chancellor Friedrich Merz's official visit to India from January 12–13, 2026, marked a significant milestone as his first-ever visit to Asia as Chancellor, signifying a strategic departure from the past and a clear intent to prioritise India as a key partner in the Asia-Pacific. Chancellor Merz visited Ahmedabad and Bengaluru as part of his two day visit. In Ahmedabad, the visit elements included bilateral delegation-level talks and restricted talks between PM Modi and Chancellor Merz, participation in the CEO Forum with the presence of 23 CEOs from Germany, apart from visits to Sabarmati Ashram and participation in the International Kite festival along with PM Modi. Colourful photos of PM and Chancellor Merz at the Kite Festival, including a jeep ride, characterised a high-impact visual diplomacy. This had wide publicity in the Indian, German, and International Press. Substantively, the trip yielded an impressive 27 deliverables, comprising 19 MoUs/JDIs and 8 key announcements, including a transformative declaration of intent for a roadmap on defence industrial cooperation, a critical minerals partnership, and a semiconductor ecosystem agreement. Furthermore, in a major move to bolster people-to-people ties, the Chancellor announced visa-free airport transit for Indian passport holders, which subsequently took effect from 3 June 2026.

### **Ministerial Visits**

**13. EAM level exchange:** EAM participated in the Munich Security Conference (MSC) 2026, wherein he delivered a speech at the MSC'26, speaking with German FM Johann Wadephul on *Navigating Uncertainty: India and Germany in a World in Disarray*. EAM remarked that "We still have an order. It's messy, it's imperfect, it has a lot of room for betterment. But it's still there." On the sidelines, EAM also held conversations with several global leaders, including MSC chairperson Wolfgang Ischinger, Bundestag CDU representative Jens Spahn, EU High Representative Kaja Kallas, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, among others state leaders, and engaged with his counterparts from G7 and G4 countries. Prior to this, EAM also participated in the Munich Security Conference 2025 from 14-15 February 2025, during which he met with Mr. Johann Wadephul, Federal Defence Minister Boris Pistorius and Minister-President of Bavaria, Mr. Markus Söder to discuss bilateral relations.

**14.** EAM held a joint telephone call with Foreign Minister Mr. Johann Wadephul and French Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs Mr. Jean-Noël Barrot on 07 May 2025 and discussed ensuring zero tolerance for terrorism. Incidentally this call happened on the very same day when FM Wadephul assumed charge as the FM of Germany. EAM visited Germany from 22-24 May, 2025, coinciding with the celebration of 25 years of Strategic Partnership between India and Germany. EAM called on Chancellor Merz, conveying Prime Minister's greetings to the new government. EAM held extensive discussions with his counterpart, FM Wadephul as well as with Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy Katherina Reiche and Foreign & Security Policy Advisor to the Federal Chancellor, Günter Sautter. EAM also engaged with Members of the German Parliament, Foreign and Security policy experts and members of Indian community. Discussions focused on enhancing talent linkages, industry partnerships, joint collaboration to build resilient supply chains, and combating terrorism. EAM met FM Wadephul on November 11, 2025 on the sidelines

of G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Niagara, Canada. The two leaders held discussions on advancing India-EU ties and India-Germany Strategic Partnership, and exchanged views on developments in the Middle East, the Indo-Pacific, and Afghanistan. On 7 January, 2026, EAM met with European leaders, including FM Johann Wadephul, in a Weimar Triangle format meeting held in Paris, held between the foreign ministers of Germany, France, and Poland to discuss support for Ukraine. After the meeting, EAM joined the Weimar Triangle talks to discuss issues pertaining to strengthening EU-India relations, and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

**15.** EAM spoke to FM Wadephul on 10 March 2026 and discussed about the ongoing conflict between Iran and USA-Israel. EAM and FM Wadephul also met in Brussels, on March 16, wherein the two leaders exchanged valuable notes on the West Asia conflict, and reviewed various aspects of bilateral cooperation. On March 23, the two leaders held a conversation on the same issue, and agreed to stay in close contact amid evolving developments. The two leaders also met on 26 March 2026 on the sidelines of the G7 Foreign Ministers meet held in France, during which they exchanged diplomatic ways to resolve the West Asia conflict. FM Wadephul noted on social media X, that "Our frequent exchanges are a sign of the strong partnership between India & Germany".

**16. Pahalgam Terror Attack:** Germany strongly condemned the Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir. Former Chancellor Scholz, Foreign Minister Baerbock and Defence Minister Pistorius condemned the attack and expressed deepest condolences. Federal President Steinmeier sent a condolence message to Hon'ble President of India, reiterating Germany's solidarity with India. During EAM's visit (May 2025), FM Wadephul condemned the attack and stated that India has every right to defend itself against terrorism. During the visit (June 2025) of an All-Party Parliamentary Delegation to Germany, FM Wadephul reiterated strong condemnation of terrorist attacks and reassured Germany's support to India. During the Parliamentary debate following Operation Sindoor on July 28, 2025, EAM appreciated Germany's solidarity with India wherein Germany had mentioned that India has every right to defend itself against terrorism and Germany will support India in its fight against terrorism.

**17. Other Ministerial visits:** During his three-day visit to Germany (20-23 April 2026), Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh advanced bilateral defence cooperation through the signing of a roadmap on joint defence production and discussions on submarine collaboration. Together with German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius, he visited the ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems (TKMS) shipyard in Kiel and reviewed the proposed project for six submarines for the Indian Navy. Finance Minister Ms. Nirmala Sitharam participated in MSC 2026, and met her counterpart, German Vice-Chancellor Lars Klingbeil; Christine Lagarde, President of the European Central Bank, among others. Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman had also visited Berlin previously, in 2019 for a bilateral meeting, in her capacity as India's Minister of Defence.

**18.** In February 2026, Union Tourism Minister visited Berlin to attend events held around ITB Berlin 2026 (3-5 March). During the visit, he participated in the UN Tourism Ministers' Summit, where global leaders discussed the future of sustainable and responsible tourism. At ITB Berlin 2026, he inaugurated the "Incredible India Pavilion"

showcasing Indian tourism and held several productive B2B meetings. On the sidelines, the Union minister held several bilateral meetings, including with Christoph Ploß, Federal Government Commissioner for Tourism, with Indonesia's Tourism Minister H.E. Widiyanti Puri Wardhana, and participated in an evening interaction with the German Association of Tour Operators hosted by Ambassador Ajit Gupte at the Embassy of India in Berlin.

18. In 2025, Commerce & Industry Minister Shri. Piyush Goyal visited Germany from 22-24 October, 2025, and held discussions with his counterpart Ms. Katherina Reiche, apart from meeting business leaders in Germany. Union Textile Minister, Shri Giriraj Singh had visited Germany in January 2025 to participate in Heimtextil 2025 (a Global symposium on Textiles) and had addressed the global investors for investing in Indian textile industry. Previously, Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Railways, Electronics & IT, Shri. Ashwini Vaishnaw visited Germany in November 2024 to attend News9 Global Summit in Stuttgart. Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region Shri. Jyotiraditya Scindia visited in November 2024 to participate in the "International Digital Dialogues Conference-Shaping digital policy together" in Berlin and also as Guest of Honour at the News9 Global Summit in Stuttgart. Pralhad Joshi visited Germany to attend the Hamburg Sustainability Conference on 07-08 October 2024 during which he met with Dr. Robert Habeck and discussed ways to expand existing collaboration in renewable energy.

19. **Visits of Chief Ministers from India:** Apart from the Union level visits, Chief Ministers of Rajasthan (Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma in October 2024), Madhya Pradesh (Shri Mohan Yadav in December 2024) and Tamil Nadu (Shri M.K. Stalin from 30 August-02 September 2025) have also visited Germany to attract investments. In February 2026, A high-level delegation from Uttar Pradesh, led by Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, visited Germany to participate in a business roundtable in Frankfurt to strengthen investment outreach and to promote Uttar Pradesh as a preferred global destination for manufacturing and investment. The delegation visit saw MoU being signed between Motherson and UP government for further collaboration, investment and industrial growth, and meetings with H.E. Ms. Karin Müller, State Secretary, Hessen state.

20. **Interaction between Judiciary:** The-then Chief Justice of India Dr. D.Y. Chandrachud visited Germany in June 2023 at the invitation of the President of the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany. Furthermore, former Chief Justices of India, Justice N.V. Ramana and Justice U.U. Lalit, also made official visits in June and October 2022 respectively, to meet the President of the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany.

### **Visits from Germany**

21. **Visits of German Federal Foreign Ministers:** Former Federal Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock visited India from 05-06 December 2022 for an official visit, and from March 01-03, 2023 to attend the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting. Federal Foreign Minister

Johann Wadephul visited India from 01-03 September 2025. During the visit, FM called on Prime Minister and held delegation-level talks with EAM. The two sides agreed on gratis visas for short-term school and college visits between the countries to further promote student exchanges and education ties. The Minister also met with Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal.

22. **Other Ministerial visits from Germany:** Ministerial visits from Germany to India at the Federal level include the visit of Mr Christian Lindner, then German Finance Minister from February 23-25, 2023 to participate in the G20 Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting in Bengaluru, Boris Pistorius, German Defence Minister from June 05-08, 2023, Svenja Schulze, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development on June 09-13, 2023 to attend G20 Development Ministers' Meeting in Varanasi and Hubertus Heil, German Federal Minister of Labour for the G20 Labour Ministers' Meeting in Indore from July 17-22, 2023. This was followed by the visit of the German Vice-Chancellor and Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Robert Habeck, from July 20-23, 2023 to attend the G20 Energy Ministers' Meeting and the visit of the German Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Steffi Lemke from July 25-28, 2023 for the G20 Environment Minister' Meeting. Ms Svenja Schulze, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development also visited India from September 16-18, 2024 to attend RE-INVEST 2024 in Gandhinagar.

23. **Visits of Foreign and Security Policy Advisor to the Federal Chancellor:** Mr. Jens Plötner, the then Foreign and Security Policy Advisor to the Chancellor, visited India in March 2022, February 2023, October 2024 and April 2025, with the last visit being his farewell call. On 21 July 2025, NSA and Günter Sautter, Foreign and Security Policy Advisor, had a telephone conversation and discussed closer bilateral cooperation.

24. **Visit of Minister-President:** Minister-President of Bavaria, Markus Söder, visited India in April 2025 and met with EAM and Union Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh. Jürgen Hardt, MP and Spokesperson (Foreign Affairs) for CDU Parliamentary Group, visited India from 04-10 August 2025 and met with EAM on 05 August 2025.

### **Parliamentary Exchanges**

25. The current Indo-German PFG for the 21<sup>st</sup> term of the German Parliament consists of 22 members from five different political parties represented in the Bundestag. In October 2025, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha Shri. Harivansh held a bilateral meeting with the Vice President of the Bundestag, Mr. Omid Nouripour on the sidelines of the 11<sup>th</sup> G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20) in South Africa and discussed the potential for more cooperation. Thereafter, from 8 to 12 December 2025 a delegation of the Interior Affairs Committee of Bundestag visited India, consisting of the Members of Parliament Josef Oster (Head of Delegation), Tijen Ataoğlu, Daniel Kölbl (all CDU/CSU), Steffen Janich (AfD), and Prof. Dr. Lars Castellucci (SPD). In New Delhi, discussions focused on security policy, including counter-terrorism and disinformation. Meetings in Kochi addressed skilled migration under the Germany-India Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement, while the final leg in Hyderabad focused on economic relations and

interactions with institutions such as GIZ and the Goethe-Institut. Following the success of Operation Sindoor, PM Narendra Modi had proposed the formation of Parliamentary Friendship Groups to enhance engagement between India & other nations. Accordingly, in February 2026, Shri Sanjay Kumar Jha (MP, Rajya Sabha) was appointed as the Group Leader of the PFG for Germany.

26. **Visit of All-Party Parliamentary Delegation:** An All-Party Parliamentary Delegation, led by Shri. Ravi Shankar Prasad, Member of Parliament, visited Germany from June 05-07, 2025 and reiterated India's resolute commitment to the policy of zero tolerance on the issue of cross-border terrorism. The visit was marked by high-level engagements with Foreign Minister Wadephul, Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee of Bundestag, Mr. Armin Laschet, senior political leaders and Members of the Bundestag as well as with leading think-tanks and representatives of the Indian community.

### **Institutional Cooperation Arrangements**

27. Several institutional arrangements exist between India and Germany to discuss bilateral and global issues of interest, namely, Foreign Office Consultations, High Defence Committee, Indo-German Energy Forum, Indo-German Environment Forum, S&T Committee, and Joint Working Groups in various fields, including skill development, automotive, agriculture, tourism, water and waste management.

28. The Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) co-chaired by Foreign Secretary were held on 15 July, 2024 in New Delhi. Foreign Secretary (**FS**) visited Berlin in April 2026 for FOC 2026, co-chaired with Dr. Géza Andreas von Geyr, State Secretary of the German Foreign Office, in Berlin. During the visit, FS also met German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul. The two sides took stock of the current status and the full spectrum of bilateral relations and explored avenues for further deepening the India-Germany Strategic Partnership.

29. A Track 1.5 Strategic Dialogue has been established to enable key stakeholders to enhance their mutual understanding of national, regional and strategic interests. The last meeting of the Dialogue was held in November 2024 in Berlin, attended by ICWA and RIS on the Indian side and GIGA and SWP Berlin from the German side.

30. CCCS and MERICS held China Consultations in New Delhi in December 2023, Indo-German Policy Planning Dialogue was also held in May 2023. So far, three rounds of Dialogues have taken place. The first Dialogue was held at Sapru House in New Delhi on 1 November 2019, while the second and third rounds happened virtually on 27 November 2020 and 24 February 2022 respectively. The Indo-German Track 1.5 Dialogue on China Policy was held on 13-14 May 2025 in Berlin.

### **Multilateral Cooperation**

31. Both countries consult each other and coordinate positions in multilateral fora including G20 and in the UN on global issues such as Climate Change, Sustainable Development, and international cyber issues.

32. Germany and India support each other on UNSC expansion within the framework of the G4. The last meeting of the G4 at the level of Foreign Ministers was held on the sidelines of the 80<sup>th</sup> UNGA in New York, in September 2025, and at the working level, a G4 Director General meeting was held in June 2025.

33. Germany joined the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) in February 2020 and in April 2021, the German Federal Cabinet approved the signing of the amended framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), thereby confirming Germany's accession to the ISA.

### **Security Cooperation**

34. **MLAT:** During the 7<sup>th</sup> IGC, India and Germany concluded the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) with a view to ensuring closer collaboration to prevent, suppress, investigate and prosecute criminals. India and Germany have dialogue mechanisms on various aspects of security, including the Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism and Cyber Consultations (last meeting held in Berlin in April 2022). The 10<sup>th</sup> round of JWG on Counter-Terrorism between India and Germany was held on 27 November 2025. During the meeting, both sides condemned terrorism in all forms, including the Pahalgam terrorist attack (22 April, 2025) and the Delhi Red Fort terror attack (10 November 2025). They exchanged their views of threat assessment in respective countries, counter-terrorism policies, along with its challenges, and reiterated commitment to strengthening cooperation in multilateral fora like FATF and the UN.

### **Defence Cooperation**

35. Bilateral Defence Cooperation Agreement signed in September 2006 provides the framework for bilateral defence ties. To further enhance defence cooperation, the Arrangement on Implementation of the 2006 Agreement was signed in February 2019 in Berlin. There are several defence dialogue mechanisms for cooperation between India and Germany, including High Defence Committee (HDC) Meetings at Defence Secretary level, Military Cooperation Sub-Group Meeting (MCSG) and Defence Technical Sub-Group Committee Meeting. On 12 January, 2026, during the visit of Chancellor Merz to India, the two leaders welcomed the signing of a Joint Declaration of Intent to develop a Defence Industrial Cooperation Roadmap to promote long-term industry-level collaboration, including technology partnerships, co-development and co-production of defence platforms and equipment.

**36. Military Cooperation Sub-Group meeting:** The 18<sup>th</sup> India-Germany MCSG meeting was conducted from 29-30 September 2025 in New Delhi.

**37. High Defence Committee meeting:** The 12<sup>th</sup> HDC Meeting co-chaired by Shri. Rajesh Kumar Singh, Defence Secretary of India and Mr. Jens Plötner, State Secretary, German Federal Ministry of Defence, was held in New Delhi on 18 November 2025. The co-chairs reviewed the bilateral defence collaboration, identified priority areas for co-development and co-production, and reiterated commitment to military cooperation through joint exercises, strategic exchanges and training interaction.

38. **Ministerial-Level Visits:** Raksha Mantri (**RM**) Rajnath Singh conducted a three-day visit (20-23 April 2026) to Germany to advance defence cooperation. The visit saw the signing of a roadmap on joint defence production and a new training arrangement for UN peacekeeping cooperation. He also met German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius in Kiel, where both leaders toured the TKMS shipyard and held discussions on a major submarine contract with TKMS, considered the frontrunner to build six new submarines for the Indian Navy. Prior to this, in June 2023, German Defence Minister Mr Boris Pistorius visited India and held bilateral meeting with Raksha Mantri to review bilateral defence cooperation and enhance defence industrial partnership.

39. **Other High-level Visits:** Mr Jasper Wieck, Political Director, German Federal Ministry of Defence visited New Delhi from 18 to 19 January 2024, where he met the Deputy NSA, Defence Secretary and the Vice Chief of Naval Staff among others. He also visited New Delhi on 22 July 2025, where he met Foreign Secretary, Defence Secretary, Military Advisor to NSA and ACNS (Submarines). He held wide-ranging discussions on strengthening cooperation in capacity building and capability enhancement. Both sides reaffirmed commitment to deepening defence ties. Lt Gen Thorsten Poschwatta, Commander, Centre for German Air Operations visited the Aero India defence exhibition at Bengaluru from 10-14 February 2025. During this visit, he had a bilateral meeting with Lt Gen DS Rana, DG DIA.

40. **Ship visits/Passex:** Indian Navy ships INS TARKASH in July 2019, INS TABAR in July 2021, INS TUSHIL in December 2024 and INS TAMAL in July 2025 transited through Kiel Canal, Germany. INS TABAR made a port call at Hamburg, Germany from 17 to 20 July 2024. This was the first port call in Germany by an Indian Naval Ship since 2007. During his visit to India in October 2024, former Chancellor Olaf Scholz, and former Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, traveled to Goa, where the German Frigate (*Baden-Württemberg*), along with a combat support ship (*Frankfurt Am Main*) made a scheduled port call as part of their Indo-Pacific deployment, which commenced from May 2024. These German Naval Ships carried out a joint exercise (PMX) with INS DELHI in Indian Ocean from 21 to 25 October 2024 and harboured at Goa from 26 to 29 October 2024. Germany participated in the MILAN exercise, held in February 2026 alongside International Fleet Review 2026, in which Germany participated with naval assets. Germany also participated in Exercise MALABAR 2025.

41. **Defence Seminars:** The first Defence Roundtable conference was held at New Delhi on 24 October 2024 on the sidelines of the Asia Pacific Conference of German Business (APK) 2024, conducted by Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) in concert with Federal Association of the German Security and Defence Industry (BDSV). Subsequently, a Defence Seminar cum Exhibition was conducted in Berlin, Germany on 10 April 2025 by BDSV in collaboration with SIDM. The third edition of the Defence Roundtable conference was held in New Delhi, on 18 November 2025. The HDC delegation, along with MoD officials, Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) representatives, and representatives from 30 Indian and German defence companies participated in the roundtable, and explored possibilities for future defence cooperation. On 24 February,

2026, Embassy of India in Berlin hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> Defence Seminar in Nürnberg to promote India–Germany defence industrial cooperation. The Seminar brought together senior government and industry leaders, as well as defence companies of India and Germany, to boost collaboration in defence production, AI, drones, counter-drone systems, electronic warfare and next generation technologies.

42. **Eurodrone Programme:** During the 11<sup>th</sup> HDC meeting (February 2024), the German side invited India to apply for observer status in the Eurodrone Programme of OCCAR, an international organisation involved in various cooperative defence equipment programmes. The current OCCAR Member States are Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom. The Indian side responded and was admitted as observer state in this programme in January 2025. India has nominated DRDO as the lead agency for interaction and coordination with OCCAR Eurodrone Programme Working Group (PWG).

### **Economic & Commercial Relations**

43. **The EU-India Free Trade Agreement** was concluded on 27 January 2026, at the 16th India–EU Summit, marking a historic milestone in India–EU economic relations and trade engagement. India, under the agreement, has secured unprecedented market access for more than 99% of Indian exports by trade value to the EU, and also comprehensively covers trade in services, trade remedies, rules of origin, social security arrangements, mobility framework for skilled professionals, as well as emerging areas such as SMEs and digital trade, amongst others. The FTA received broad support across Germany's political spectrum and business community for several reasons. First, it excludes sensitive agricultural products, which helped secure French backing and avoided the protests that faced the Mercosur deal. Second, the rising American protectionism under Trump seemingly created urgency to complete the negotiations. Third, the deal aligns with Germany's goal to diversify supply chains away from China. German export-oriented industries, especially automotive and mechanical engineering, see India as an important new market. The agreement signifies Germany's effort to adapt to a changing global trade environment with multiple trading partners rather than dependence on single markets like China or the United States.

### **Trade**

44. Germany was the 8<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner for India in 2024-25. Germany is India's largest trading partner in EU. India constituted about 1% of Germany's total foreign trade in 2025 and Germany constituted over 2.37 % of India's foreign trade in 2024-25 (2.29% in 2023-24 and 2.24% in 2022-23). While the balance of trade has been in favour of Germany, bilateral trade has experienced continuous growth over the last few years. Total bilateral trade in FY2024-25, goods and services combined reached US\$ 51.23 bn.

45. Bilateral trade in goods and services has touched an all-time high of US\$ 52.13 billion in 2025. As per Destatis, Bilateral trade in goods stood at an all-time high of US\$ 35.37 billion in 2025, with exports from India at US\$ 16.95 billion, and imports to India

from Germany at US\$ 18.43 billion. India was Germany's 22nd largest trading partner in 2024. Germany accounts for roughly one-fourth of India's trade with the European Union, reinforcing its position as India's leading EU trading partner. During the period April – December 2025, bilateral trade in goods increased by 3.36% compared to the same period in 2024, reaching US\$ 26.83 billion. During this period, Indian exports to Germany reached US\$ 12.78 billion, marking an increase of 11.02%, while Indian imports from Germany stood at US\$ 15.05 billion, reflecting a decline of 2.75% compared to the same period in 2024.

46. As per figures from Bundesbank, bilateral trade in services reached US\$ 16.76 billion in 2025. Indian services exports to Germany were US\$ 10.36 billion and Indian services imports from Germany were US\$ 6.40 billion. During April – December 2025, bilateral trade in services stood at US\$ 12.59 billion (-5.48%). In this period, Indian services exports to Germany were US\$ 7.83 billion (-8.82%) and Indian imports were US\$ 4.76 billion (-3.37%).

47. Major Indian exports to Germany include machinery, clothing, chemical products, pharmaceutical products, coal and petroleum products, steel and other metals, data processing equipment, electrical and optical products, leather and leather products, electrical equipment, and textiles. Germany is an export-led economy and major exports to India include machinery, vehicles and parts, chemical products, data processing equipment, electrical and optical products, electrical equipment, metals and metal products; collection, treatment and disposal of waste and recyclables, rubber and plastic products, and pharmaceutical products.

## **Investment**

48. Germany is the 10th largest foreign direct investor in India with a cumulative FDI in India of US\$ 15.50 billion from April 2000 to December 2025. German investments in India in FY 2024-25 were US\$ 469 million. (US\$ 505 in 2023-24 and US\$ 547 million. in FY 2022-23). While consistent, these inflows fall short of the potential between the two major economies. Based on Mission's research, German companies announced fresh investment commitments exceeding US\$ 6.91 billion since 2024 across sectors like automotive, chemicals, manufacturing and services. As per the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce, there are more than 2000 German companies active in India. German investments in India have been mainly in transportation, electrical equipment, metallurgical industries, services sector (particularly insurance), chemicals, construction activity, trading and automobiles. Most major German companies including the automobile and machinery giants are present in India. India offers significant prospects for cooperation with Germany, including in the areas of infrastructure, energy, and environmental and high technology.

49. German Mittelstand (SME) companies, comprising over 90% of the German manufacturing sector, are known as the backbone of the German economy. There has been a targeted effort to attract the Mittelstand's investment to India through the

Embassy's Make in India Mittelstand (MIIM) Program. The MIIM is a Market Entry Support Programme for German Mittelstand companies, being implemented by the Embassy of India since September 2015 to support high-potential Mittelstand companies with medium to long-term potential for manufacturing in India. The programme is currently facilitating 262 German member companies with their investments in India, covering a total declared investment volume of US\$ 2.3 billion. Many of these companies (over 30) are hidden champions, which are global market leaders in niche products/technologies.

50. Indian investments in Germany have shown an increase in the last few years. Besides trading, Indian companies are setting up value chain activities in Germany, manufacturing goods and services locally as well as engaging in R&D and innovation activities. More than 215 Indian companies are operating in Germany. Sectors such as IT, automotive, pharma, biotech and manufacturing have received a major portion of Indian investments.

51. Both countries have taken steps to ensure investors' interests are duly safeguarded. India and Germany have two Fast Track Mechanisms (FTM), namely one in India and the other in Germany for resolving issues faced by investors in each other's country. FTM for German companies in India is operational since March 2016 led by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and the German Embassy in New Delhi. Similarly, an FTM for addressing issues faced by Indian Companies operating in Germany has been set up in the German Ministry for Economic Affairs & Energy (BMWE) in April 2019, with the review meetings at the level of State Secretary, BMWE and the Indian Ambassador to Germany. While there are investor-related issues dealt with in the German FTM in India, there have been no cases of issues so far faced by Indian Investors in Germany under the Indian FTM in Germany. *Invest India* functions as the Secretariat for the FTMs. The 11th Meeting of the German FTM in India was held on 25 April 2025.

52. There are sixteen Joint Working Groups (JWGs) between India and Germany in different sectors, including Agriculture, Automotive, Energy, Coal, Tourism, Vocational Education, Standardisation/Product Safety, Environment, Water & Waste Management, Urban Development, Climate Change, Health, Traditional Medicine, Biodiversity, Railways and Migration & Return. The JWGs meet regularly, mostly annually, alternately in India and Germany. Several high-level bilateral engagements were successfully conducted in 2025 and these include (i) Joint Working Group (JWG) on Agriculture held in March 2025, New Delhi (previous meeting in 2021) (ii) JWG on Circular Economy which convened in Berlin on 1 April 2025, after a gap since 2019 (iii) Second meeting of the JWG on Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement (MMPA) held on 8 April 2025 in Berlin (iv) Inaugural meeting of the Subcommittee on Skilled Migration held on 9 April 2025 in Berlin (v) JWG on Quality Infrastructure held in 15-16 July 2025 in New Delhi, (vi) 3rd Joint Working Group on Alternative Medicine was held on 18 November 2025 in Berlin, (vii) 2nd Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Labour Migration held in November 2025 in hybrid mode.

## **Energy**

53. Energy is one of the priority areas of bilateral cooperation with Germany. The Indo-German Energy Forum (**IGEF**) held at Secretary level between the Ministry of Power (**MoP**) and BMWE has been promoting cooperation in energy security, energy efficiency, renewable energy, investment in energy projects and collaborations in R&D, taking into account the environmental challenges of sustainable development. The Forum has five Working Groups, viz. (i) Flexibilisation of Existing Thermal Power Plants (ii) Renewable Energies (iii) Energy Efficiency and (iv) Green Energy Financing and Grid Integration and (v) Green Hydrogen. Sub-groups under the IGEF have been meeting regularly. During the Seventh Intergovernmental Consultations in October 2024, the Indo-German Green Hydrogen Roadmap was announced and a permanent Green Hydrogen Subgroup under the Indo-German Energy Forum was established.

54. During the German Chancellor's recent visit to India, a MoU on deepening collaboration between the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) and the German Technical and Scientific Association for Gas and Water Industries (DVGW) for knowledge sharing on hydrogen safety standards, technical rules, and regulatory frameworks. An offtake agreement was also finalized for the supply of up to 500,000 tons per year of Green Ammonia from AM Green to German company Uniper Global Commodities.

55. Germany is one of India's important partners in vocational education & training. India and Germany are working on areas for cooperation, including setting up cluster-oriented structures in India; strengthening of industry-oriented approaches for dual VET, Indo-German initiative for technical education together jointly with MSDE/BMZ/Siemens, and development of a demand-oriented VET model for India. Both sides explored new areas of collaboration, including skilled gap mapping of professionals from India with a view to facilitating migration and mobility of such professionals from India to Germany.

56. Airbus announced major milestones during its board members' four-day visit to India from September 29 to October 2, 2025. On September 30, 2025, Airbus and Air India inaugurated a pilot training centre in Gurugram aimed at training over 5,000 pilots, and on October 1, 2025, Airbus and Tata Advanced Systems unveiled India's first private helicopter Final Assembly Line in Karnataka for the H125. During the visit, Mr. Rene Obermann, Chairman of Airbus had a meeting with Hon'ble Prime Minister on 30 September 2025. Earlier to this visit the company awarded Mahindra Aerostructures the contract for the H125 helicopter fuselage, strengthening rotorcraft manufacturing under the 'Make in India' initiative on August 28, 2025.

57. In agriculture, India and Germany are currently working in the areas of strengthening post-harvest infrastructure including setting up cold chain infrastructure in India; agricultural mechanisation; livestock breeding; food processing infrastructure; food safety & risk assessment; seed development; veterinary cooperation; dairy research; vocational training in agricultural sector; enhancing efficiency of domestic distribution and improving export capability of India's agricultural sector. Germany has invited Indian

experts to visit Germany for furthering cooperation in AI, digitalisation. The 8th meeting of the Indo-German Joint Working Group on Agriculture, Food Industry and Consumer Protection took place on 19 March 2025 in Delhi.

58. India and Germany are furthering cooperation in the areas of application of artificial intelligence and digital technologies, health, agriculture, manufacturing sector, services, and the social sector. Other areas include management of urban waste, environmentally friendly means of urban mobility, and conservation of environment. Both sides are working towards increasing facilitation and interaction between Start-Ups.

59. Germany was the Partner Country for the 4th Global RE-INVEST Renewable Energy Investors Meet & Expo held in September 2024 in Gandhinagar. Ms Svenja Schulze, the then Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, led a business delegation to the event, and both countries launched the 'India-Germany Platform for investments in Renewable Energy Worldwide' as a key initiative to fast-track renewable energy investments.

### **Bilateral Cooperation**

60. At the 7th Inter-governmental Consultations (IGC) held on 25 October 2024 in New Delhi, both countries signed multiple MoUs and agreements ranging from employment and labour, green urban mobility, skill development & vocational education and training, and R&D on advanced materials. Both countries launched the Indo-German Green Hydrogen Roadmap, the Green and Sustainable Development Partnership (GSDP) Dashboard, and the Roadmap on Innovation and Technology. In addition, cooperation agreements were signed on the sidelines between Indian and German institutions focusing on start-ups, environment, science and technology, health and education & research. The 18th Asia-Pacific Conference of German Business (APK) and a Defence Roundtable took place in New Delhi in parallel to the 7th IGC. The Triangular Development Cooperation (TDC) which pools strengths and experiences in development cooperation to offer sustainable, viable and inclusive projects in third countries to support the achievement of SDGs and climate targets since 2022. New funding commitments of € 1.24 billion under the GSDP, supporting priority projects in renewable energies, green hydrogen, PM e-Bus Sewa, and climate-resilient urban infrastructure was announced during the recent visit of German Chancellor to India in January 2026.

61. Important bilateral agreements between India and Germany are the Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation (DTAA), Comprehensive Agreement on Social Security, Renewable Energy Partnership, Green Energy Corridor, Green Urban Mobility, Railways, Start-ups, AI and Health. Economic issues used to be discussed between India and Germany at the Joint Commission on Industrial and Economic Cooperation (JC) which focused on trade, investment, and technological collaboration. The last JC meeting was held in New Delhi in September 2010. Since the launch of the IGC in 2011, economic issues have been discussed at the IGC.

**62. Development Cooperation:** German development cooperation has been and remains an important component of bilateral economic relations for the last 60 years. Germany provides bilateral assistance in the form of technical and financial assistance in the areas of (i) energy, (ii) environment and management of natural resources and (iii) sustainable urban development. Financial Assistance from Germany has been provided mainly as soft loans, composite loans (soft loans combined with commercial loans) as well as grants routed through KfW, the German Government's Development Bank. Key projects in development cooperation include the Nagpur Metro Rail, Green Energy Corridor projects across several Indian states (such as Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh & Tamil Nadu), and Integrated Water Transport in Kochi, alongside around 30 technical assistance projects implemented with GIZ. The Indo-German Solar Energy Partnership supports India's target of 500 GW renewable energy capacity by 2030, while the Green Urban Mobility Partnership promotes efficient public transport systems.

**63. International Trade Fair:** Germany is also known as the country of trade fairs, being host to some of the largest international trade fairs. Indian companies are regular participants in some of the major trade fairs, which include Hannover Industrial Trade Fair (Automation, Machinery, Digital factory and Logistics). In recent years, India is the only country to have been selected twice as a partner for the Hannover Messe, which is one of Europe's largest industry and innovation expos. India was the Partner Country of the Hannover Messe in 2015 during Hon'ble PM's visit to Germany where the Make in India was launched for the global audience. The ITB (Tourism), Berlin Air Show, Anuga Food fair, Ambiente Fair for Consumer Goods are amongst the other important trade fairs with respect to Indian participation. Other Fairs in which India participated as a partner country include Anuga Food Fair (2017) and Ambiente (2019). India participated as Partner Country in the Biofach Fair in Nuremberg (10-13 February 2026).

### **Skill Development and Legal Mobility & Migration**

64. India places a high priority on facilitating the movement of students, apprentices and workers aiming to take up employment in Germany, collaboration for providing dual vocational training to Indian students as per German standards, with the aim of accelerating the mobility of skilled workers and taking other measures to promote fair migration for employment purposes. Bilateral cooperation in this area has been expanding at several fronts- between Central Governments, agencies of Central/State governments and among private enablers. A placement agreement was signed between the German Federal Employment Agency (BA) and the State of Kerala regarding the migration of skilled health and care workers in December 2021. In February 2024, this agreement was amended to extend the cooperation beyond placement to include those intending to start vocational training as registered nurses in Germany. The state of Telangana has also recently signed an agreement with BA to integrate qualified health professionals or those with a professional degree into employment as a registered general nurse in Germany. The Mission is supporting efforts to reach a G2G arrangement at the federal level, between the Federal Employment Agency on the German side and a Central Government-approved recruitment agency on the Indian side. Presently, several private recruitment agencies are

active on both sides.

65. The Indo-German Agreement on a Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership (MMPA) signed on 5 December 2022, entered into force on 7 March 2023. The MMPA was the first comprehensive migration agreement of this kind and provides a broad policy direction for this cooperation. The second meeting of the MMPA and the first meeting of the Sub-Committee on Labour Migration were held in Berlin on 8 April 2025 and 9 April 2025, respectively. German Government released a "*Skilled Labour Strategy: India*" on 16 October 2024. India is the first country for which Germany has issued such a strategy. The document outlines Germany's efforts to enhance skilled labour recruitment from India, aiming to address Germany's labour shortages while offering opportunities to Indian professionals. It details the German strategy for targeted outreach, better placement and effective matching of Indian skilled workers and companies in Germany, support for learning the German language in India, and streamlining the recognition of Indian qualifications.

66. On 3 June, Germany exempted Indian nationals transiting through German airports enroute to a third country from the airport transit visa requirement, in accordance with an announcement made during Chancellor Friedrich Merz's Official visit to India in January 2026.

### **Railways**

67. India and Germany have had long-standing cooperation in the field of railways. German company Siemens is supporting the sustainable transformation of India's transportation sector as India seeks to almost double freight capacity on its railway. Deutsche Bahn International Operations, a part of the Deutsche Bahn E.C.O. Group, was awarded a contract to manage the operation and maintenance of India's first regional rapid transit system by National Capital Territory Transport Corporation in July 2022 for 12 years. In January 2023, Siemens Mobility has been awarded a € 3 billion project in India for delivering 1,200 electric locomotives and providing 35 years of full-service maintenance. This is the single largest locomotive order in the history of Siemens Mobility and the single largest order in the history of Siemens India. PM inaugurated this locomotive manufacturing plant in Dahod Gujarat on 26 May 2025. In June 2025, a Siemens consortium has been awarded a \$475.2 million contract by National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) for equipping India's first High-Speed rail project.

### **Consular Dialogue:**

68. The 1<sup>st</sup> India-Germany Consular Dialogue was held on May 06, 2025 in Berlin. Both sides discussed visa, consular and other outstanding issues facing nationals in both countries.

### **Science & Technology**

69. The year 2024 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Indo-German S&T cooperation. An apex Indo-German Committee on S&T, established in 1994 coordinates the

implementation of cooperation and reviews joint activities. The 12th Indo-German Joint Committee on S&T was held in New Delhi in November 2025. Discussions focused on expanding research collaboration and deepening joint participation in major international science infrastructure, such as Facility for Anti-Proton and Ion Research (FAIR) and Deutsche Elektronen Synchrotron (DESY). The 12<sup>th</sup> JSTC meeting marked a vital step in revitalising the bilateral engagement between the two countries, towards a mission-driven, future-ready scientific cooperation.

70. India has invested in major science projects in Germany, such as the FAIR and DESY, for experiments in advanced materials and particle physics. The former Minister of Science & Technology, Mr. Harsh Vardhan, inaugurated the India-centric PETRA-III beamline at DESY in September 2016. A five-year continuation (Phase II) of the collaboration took effect in September 2019. So far, more than 750 scientists from India have visited DESY for experiments (including multiple visits) from 50 different institutes and performed 260 experiments (843 days in total).

71. The jointly funded Indo-German Science and Technology Centre (IGSTC) was set up in Gurgaon in September 2008. A Joint Declaration was signed during the German Chancellor's visit to India in January 2026 to automatically extend the tenure of the IGSTC for five-year periods starting March 2027 with increased funding up to a maximum of € 4 million per year. A total of 61 projects have been supported in national priority areas such as Advanced Manufacturing (Make in India), Embedded Systems and ICT (Digital India), Sustainable Energy/Environment, Biotechnology/Bio economy (Food Security), Bio-Medical Technology (Healthy India), Water and Wastewater Technology (Clean India), Smart Cities, etc. Of the total 61 projects, 48 have already been completed and 13 are ongoing. Through this, 2000+ institutions, industry, research labs and 7000+ individuals have been engaged and the processes have been facilitated for 6 patents and have generated 798 publications with 17169 citations.

72. IGSTC has also launched new funding programmes like Women Involvement in Science and Engineering Research (WISER, to facilitate lateral entry for women in ongoing S&T projects, Paired Early Career Fellowship in Applied Research (PECFAR, to create avenues for a two-way exchange of young researchers in pairs and the Industrial Fellowship Programme to encourage young Indian researchers towards German industrial ecosystems.

73. Various programmes of S&T collaboration exist between different Indian research Institutes, such as Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Council for Medical Research (**ICMR**), Indian Institute of Science Education Research (**IISER**) and Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (**CSIR**) with German research Institutes such as Max Planck Society (**MPG**), Helmholtz Association, Leibniz Association and German Academic Exchange Service (**DAAD**).

74. **Space cooperation:** India and Germany share strong relations in the field of space cooperation. An MoU was signed between ISRO and the German Aerospace Centre, DLR, in 1974. The relationship has been further strengthened through high-level visits, including the visit of German Foreign Minister Johann Wadepful to the ISRO campus in

September 2025, wherein the countries discussed further technical cooperation in civilian space activity.

### **Sister State/City Arrangements**

75. The States of Karnataka and Bavaria, Maharashtra and Baden-Württemberg, and the cities of Mumbai and Stuttgart have twinning arrangements. The city of Aurangabad and Ingolstadt (Bavaria) signed a Letter of Intent for a Sister City Partnership in April 2022. Twin city relations between Coimbatore and Esslingen were established in 2016, while North Rhine Westphalia has close relations with West Bengal. Karnataka and Berlin renewed a JDI in July 2025 to deepen cooperation in startups, innovation, and talent exchange, with Berlin set to open a foreign office in Bengaluru in 2026. IIT Roorkee and the University of Potsdam formalized their collaboration in 2025, focusing on clean energy, materials science, and student exchange, with plans for a broader state-level partnership.

76. The States of Bavaria and Hamburg have representative offices in Mumbai and Bengaluru. Several German cities, including Karlsruhe, have representative offices in Pune. Pune and the city-state of Bremen have an informal cooperation agreement. Himachal Pradesh and Rhineland Palatinate are discussing closer cooperation.

### **Culture**

77. India and Germany have a long-standing history of cultural and intellectual exchange across literature, film, music, academia, yoga and Ayurveda. Nobel Laureate Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore is widely credited with first establishing an important cultural bridge between the two countries via his visits to Germany in 1921, 1926, and 1930 and subsequent work in literature, philosophy, academia and music. In May 2024, the Tagore Centre partnered with the Duisburg Philharmonic to host a series of concerts to mark 30 years of the Tagore Centre in Germany, and the centenary of Austrian composer Alexander Zemlinsky's Lyrical Symphony, which was based on Tagore's poems. Similarly, the popularity of Indian films in Germany can be traced back to the actor and director Himanshu Rai, who collaborated with German director Franz Osten on several silent films. The Indian film festivals held annually in Berlin and Stuttgart draw on this tradition and continually attract large audiences.

78. Yoga continues to be immensely popular amongst Germans, with yoga schools, institutes and studios present in all major cities. A series of 11 events was conducted by the Mission and The Tagore Centre to mark the 11<sup>th</sup> IDY, bringing together diplomats, members of the diaspora, German yoga enthusiasts and Yoga practitioners. The series of events included serene Yoga sessions held on boats on Wannsee Lake, an IDY celebration on the scenic Binz beach and several yoga sessions conducted in front of German landmarks such as Brandenburg Gate, Reichstag, East Side Gallery (Berlin Wall) and other iconic locations. Further, an online photo competition was organized to promote yoga in Germany. The visually-impaired German singer Cass Mae was first recognized by the Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi in his podcast, *Mann ki Baat*. Cass Mae is known for her renditions of Indian songs and bhajans in multiple languages. Her growing popularity reflects the openness exhibited by the German youth for Indian art and culture.

Ambassador met her on 05 August 2025 in the Mission premises.

79. The historical connection between India and Germany was further strengthened by the installation of a nearly life-sized replica (10m high and 6m wide) of the Sanchi Stupa outside the prestigious Humboldt Forum in the historic heart of Berlin in the Museum District. Craftsmen from India worked alongside German architects and engineers to ensure the replica is true to the original whilst being suited to the German landscape. In January 2026, German ethnomusicologist Dr Lars-Christian Koch, who has extensively written on Buddhist music and Indian culture was awarded the Padma Shri award in 2026, one of the highest civilian awards of India.

80. The cultural relationship between India and Germany in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is further supported by established networks in socio-cultural fields. The Max Mueller Bhavan in India imparts German language training in cities across India. The Indo-German Society (DIG) in Germany promotes intercultural understanding by bringing people together through its network of around 20 Chapters. The DIG organizes the DIG Chain tour every year during which an ICCR-sponsored cultural troupe tours between 8-9 German cities.

81. An MoU to establish the ICCR Chair of Indian Music at Centre for World Music, University of Hildesheim was signed in March 2024. ICCR's academic and distinguished visitors' programs and scholarship/fellowship schemes play a key role in strengthening cultural relations by encouraging cooperation in the fields of culture, media, entertainment, and education.

82. Several research institutions and hospitals in Germany have been working towards increasing awareness about Ayurveda and getting it acknowledged as a system of complementary medicine in Germany through international exchanges, symposiums, research projects and clinical trials. Ayurveda events hosted by the Mission have seen excellent participation by both medical professionals and wellness enthusiasts.

83. The first ever Indian Film Festival organized by the Embassy, was held in January 2025, becoming one of the largest non-commercial Indian Film Festival abroad. In June 2025, The Mission and The Tagore Centre hosted a series of performances of Indian Swan Lake in collaboration with Musikfestpiele Potsdam Sansoucci, L'arte del Mondo, Kunststiftung NRW and other German partners. Blending Odissi, Ballet and live orchestra, the production created by Werner Ehrhardt and choreographed by Aruna Mohanty, the project reimaged Swan Lake through story of Nala & Damayanti from the Indian epic, Mahabharata.

84. The Mission and the Tagore Centre organized a *Bharat Day* Parade featuring cultural performances and upto 5000 persons marching through central Berlin on 16 August 2025.

### **Higher Education**

85. There are around 60,000 Indian students who are studying in Germany, as on date, a number which has tripled in the last 5 years. Indian students are the largest cohort of international students in German Universities, many of whom are pursuing their Master

and Doctoral studies in Science, Engineering and Technology. The German Academic Exchange Service (**DAAD**) facilitates joint research, training and exchange of young scientists/research scholars. Indo-German Partnership in Higher Education was signed between Ministry of Education (**MoE**) and Germany's Federal Ministry for Education and Research (**BMBF**) with UGC and DAAD as implementing partners from India and Germany respectively, at the 3<sup>rd</sup> IGC. The MoU between DAAD and UGC for the second phase of implementation of the programme (2020-24) was signed during the 5<sup>th</sup> IGC in November 2019.

86. The GIAN (Global Initiative of Academic Networks) initiative of MoE has been well received in Germany. So far, 105 courses were approved from Germany. Further, visiting Advanced Joint Research (**VAJRA**) from DST and Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (**SPARC**) from MoE and New Passage to India (from the German side) are instruments of faculty exchange and student mobility between India and Germany.

87. Indo-German Programme (**IGP**) on Higher Education: The signing of the MoUs between the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) - Indian Ministry of Human Resource Development (**MHRD**) (incl. funding commitment: 3.5 million EUR per side for 4 years) and German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) – University Grants Commission (UGC) took place on the sidelines of the Indo-German Government Consultations on 1 November 2019 in New Delhi. In June 2020, the selection meeting for the second funding phase of the Indo-German partnerships took place, where 9 partnerships were selected for the funding period 2020-2024.

88. India and Germany have intensified higher University collaboration in the last ten years, by signing MoUs between universities for offering joint and dual degree programmes. At present, five such academic programmes based on seven MoUs have been operationalised, while several more are in the pipeline.

### **Indian Diaspora**

1 89. There are close to 3,22,000 Indian passport holders and Indian-origin people in Germany with around 60,000 students. The Indian diaspora mainly consists of professionals, researchers and scientists, business people, nurses and students. There has been a significant increase in the last few years in the number of qualified Indian professionals in the fields of IT, banking and finance

\*\*\*

***As on 15 June, 2026***