

India-Latvia Relations

Introduction:

India and Latvia have warm and friendly relations. India recognized Latvia as a sovereign and independent State in 1991. Diplomatic relations were established shortly thereafter in 1992. India and Latvia celebrated 30 years of establishment of diplomatic relations during 2022.

Latvia opened an Embassy in New Delhi in 2014. The Embassy of India was opened in Riga in July 2024. H.E Ambassador Namrata S. Kumar took charge as the first resident Ambassador of India to Latvia in March 2025.

Bilateral relations between India and Latvia are marked by a broad understanding on issues of mutual interest. The two countries have established mechanisms for exchanging views on bilateral, regional, and multilateral issues.

There have been several high-level visits and interactions between India and Latvia over the last three decades of bilateral relations.

Recent Visits and Interactions:

1. Parliamentary Delegations:

- In May 2025, a delegation of Members of Parliament of India, led by Hon'ble Member of Parliament Ms. Kanimozhi Karunanidhi visited Riga. The delegation held meetings with the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee and Friendship Group of Parliamentarians for India. In a special event organized for the Indian community, the delegation met and interacted with members of the Indian community in Latvia.
- In 2018, the then Speaker of Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan visited Latvia.

2. President/ Vice President:

- In August 2019, Vice President Venkaiah Naidu visited Latvia. He met President Egils Levits and Prime Minister Krišjānis Kariņš.
- In March 2019, President Raimonds Vējonis and Rashtrapati Rām Nath Kovind had a brief interaction during the visit of the latter to Croatia.

3. **Prime Minister:**

- In May 2021, Prime Minister of Latvia Arturs Krišjānis Kariņš participated in the virtually held India-EU Summit, during which he interacted with the Prime Minister of India.
- In 2017, Prime Minister Māris Kučinskis visited India and met Prime Minister. The visiting PM attended the 'World Food India 2017' event.

4. **Foreign Minister:**

- On 16 March 2026, EAM and Foreign Minister Baiba Braže exchanged notes during EAM's participation at the EU Council's Foreign Ministers' meeting in Brussels.
- In March 2025, Foreign Minister Baiba Braže visited India and participated in the 10th edition of the Raisina Dialogue. She met EAM and discussed issues of bilateral cooperation.
- In March 2024, the then Foreign Minister of Latvia, Mr. Krišjānis Kariņš, visited India, to participate in the Raisina Dialogue and the CII India-Europe Business and Sustainability Conclave, as part of the Nordic-Baltic cooperation (NB8).
- In May 2023, on the sidelines of the EU Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum, EAM met the then Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkēvičs.
- In March 2021, EAM and FM Rinkēvičs had a telephone conversation.
- Foreign Minister Rinkēvičs participated in the 1st India-Nordic-Baltic Conclave (virtual format) in November 2020.

- Foreign Minister Rinkēvičs participated in the 5th Raisina Dialogue and met EAM in January 2020.

4. **Other Ministerial visits:**

- In February 2026, Minister for Smart Administration & Regional Development Mr. Raimonds Cudars participated on behalf of the Latvian PM Evika Silina at the India AI Impact Summit in New Delhi. He also met Minister of State for Electronics & IT Mr. Jitin Prasada.

Bilateral Institutional Cooperation Mechanisms:

A. **Foreign Office Consultations:**

- The 9th Round was held in Riga in November 2025, co-chaired by Mr. Sibi George, Secretary (West), and Mr. Andžejš Viļumsons, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, respectively.

B. **Cultural Exchange Programs:**

- Agreement for Cooperation in Culture, Arts, Education, Science, Mass Media and Sports was signed in 1995, within that, the Cultural Exchange Program (CEP) for 2026-29 was signed in Riga on 20 March 2026.

C. **Multilateral Consultations:**

- The 1st India Latvia Multilateral Consultations were held on 15 December 2025. The Indian Delegation was led by Ms. Nabanita Chakrabarti, Joint Secretary (UNP), and the Latvian Delegation was led by Mr. Juris Pekalis, Director General, Directorate of Security Policy and International Organizations.

D. **Parliamentary Cooperation:**

- Latvian Parliament (Saeima) has a Friendship Group promoting cooperation with the Parliament of India. In May 2025, the visiting all party Parliamentary Delegation from India met Ms. Ingrida Circene, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Group promoting cooperation with the Parliament of India.

- The Parliament of India established the India-Baltic Parliamentary Friendship Group to strengthen inter-parliamentary cooperation with Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania which consists of Members of Parliament drawn from both houses (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) across multiple political parties and is led by Member of Parliament Shri P V Midhun Reddy (Lok Sabha MP from YSRCP).

E. Other Cooperation Mechanisms:

- The Parliamentary Secretary for Economics of Latvia Jurgis Miezinis visited India to attend 2nd CII-India-Nordic-Baltic Business Conclave in November 2023. This held in New Delhi and focused on the theme 'Creating Partnership for Future'.
- On 1 March 2023, CEO of Riga Techgirls, Ms. Anna Andersone, took part at the CII-India-Europe Business and Sustainability Conclave session on "Education and Skill Development: Leveraging Complementarities". Riga TechGirls aims to encourage women to acquire new knowledge, so that they would become not only users but also creators of technologies.
- Latvia participated in the India-Europe-29 Business Forum in November 2019. Major Latvian companies including Latvia Mobile Telecom (LMT), SAF Tehnika (digital Microwave Data transmission equipment) and the Latvian Space Industry Association participated at the India-Nordic-Baltic Conclave in November 2020. ASSOCHAM and CII concluded MOUs with the Latvian Chamber of Commerce during the visit of the Vice President to Latvia in 2019.
- The first meeting under the India-Nordic-Baltic Conclave mechanism, was held virtually in November 2020 under the theme 'An Innovation-driven Partnership for Growth in a New World'.

E: Agreements & MoUs:

A number of agreements on cooperation in various fields have been signed between India and Latvia since establishment of the diplomatic relations between the two countries. These include: Economic & Technical Cooperation (1995), Cooperation in Culture, Arts, Education, Science, Mass Media and Sports (1995), Air Services Agreement (1997), Establishment of Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, S&T & Culture (2001), Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement (2010), Health (2012),

Avoidance of Double Taxation and Tax Evasion (2013), Memorandum of Understanding has between the Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) and ASSOCHAM and CII (2019), Air Baltic code-share Agreement with Air India (2025). The Cultural Exchange Program for 2026-29 was signed recently on 20 March 2026 in Riga.

Economic and Commercial:

- **Trade:** Bilateral trade between India and Latvia stood at **US\$ 475.66 million** during FY 2025-26 as compared to US \$ 472.94 million in 2024-25. During FY 2025-26, Indian exports stood at **US\$ 311.61 million** and imports at **US\$ 164.05 million**.
- **Major items of export to Latvia in FY 2025-26:** Pharmaceutical products; Rubber and articles thereof; Electrical machinery and equipment; Miscellaneous chemical products; and Plastics and articles thereof.
- **Major items of import from Latvia in FY 2025-26:** Inorganic chemicals, organic or inorganic compounds of precious metals, of rare earth metals, or radioactive elements or of isotopes; Aluminium and articles thereof; Wood and article of wood, wood charcoal; Electrical machinery and equipment; and Animal or vegetable fats and oils.
- **Investment:** In 2022, Tech Mahindra acquired Com Tec Co IT Ltd (CTC) which has Development Centers in Latvia and Belarus. Sweden based Domsjö Fabriker of Aditya Birla group has a subsidiary Domse Latvia. Tech Mahindra opened a Business Process Services center in Riga in 2024. Indian Diaspora members living in Latvia for over 3-4 decades have established successful businesses in Latvia which include Unifarma, DHK Trading, Musk Trading, Evening Show Entertainment and Restaurants. At the same time, several Latvian companies operate in India, including MikroTik, SAF Tehnika, Valmieras Stikla šķiedra, Olainfarm, Olpha and Biolmars, DeskTime and Fixar.
- **Transport & Connectivity:** In December 2025, Air India and Air Baltic signed a code-share Agreement for operating AI designator flights to the Baltic Region via select Air India gateways in Europe.
- ICT, cyber security, agri-tech, food processing, pharmaceuticals, fisheries, waste management and hygiene are potential areas of collaboration.

Business Delegation Visits:

- In February 2026, Tour Operators from India participated in BaltTour Exhibition in Riga.
- In September 2025, representatives from the medical and pharmaceutical industry of Latvia participated in the MedTech Expo 2025 in New Delhi.
- In May 2025, a delegation of Indian businesses organized an exhibition dedicated to India, and titled "India Expo", at the International Exhibition Center in Riga.
- Business Delegation consisting of representatives from Latvian Space Industry Association (LAIK), Mr Mihails Ščepanskis, CEO of Deep Space Energy, and Mr Pavels Razmajs from Eventech accompanied Latvian Foreign Minister Baiba Braže during her visit in March 2025. During the visit, the Mission coordinated meetings with Indian counterparts in New Delhi and Karnataka. Space cooperation with ISRO was also discussed.
- In February 2025, a delegation of tour operators and travel experts from India participated at the BaltTour Exhibition in Riga. The visiting delegation set up an India Pavilion at the exhibition.
- In August 2024, a delegation of more than 60 members of the Federation of the Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry Ladies Organization (FICCI FLO) visited Latvia. They met Dace Melbarde, the Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia, who highlighted the positive dynamics of bilateral relations, growing interest of Indian companies in Latvia and the opening of the Embassy of India in Riga.

Visit of Cultural and Educational Delegations:

- ICCR empanelled five-member all women instrumental group paid visit to Riga from 02-04 February 2026. They were especially deputed for performing at Embassy's Republic Day Reception event.
- First international screening of the documentary on India's blind women cricket team co-directed and produced by Ms. Shanthi Mohan, was organized in Riga on 8 September 2025.

- ITEC: About 50 professionals from Latvian have participated in Government of India's (MEA's) ITEC Courses including Mr Ivars Lasis, the current Under-Secretary of State - Political Director, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia.

Cultural and Academic Ties:

- India Corners were established in National Library of Latvia (NLL) and Rīgas Stradiņa Universitāte (RSU) in 2026.
- Geeta Mahotsav was mentioned in PM's Mann Ki Baat's 128th edition aired on 30 November 2025. Bharat Natyam dancers from Latvian, Lithuanian and Estonian nationality participated in celebrating Geeta Mahotsav in Latvia.
- A permanent exhibition Art of India, curated with the support of Embassy of India in Stockholm, and the Indian diaspora in Latvia, was inaugurated at the Art Museum RIGA BOURSE in Riga in October 2024. An exhibition on India titled 'The Land of Tradition' was organized at the same Museum in January 2023. The Museum has the largest collection of artefacts from India in the Baltics.
- A MoU on research collaboration on Ayurvedic management of Type-2 diabetes was signed between the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) Ministry of Ayush and University of Latvia and Arya Vaidya Pharmacy, Baltics SIA Latvia in December 2020. Currently being revived in Riga Stradins University
- During the visit of the Parliamentary Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Gunda Reire to India in March 2023, members of Riga TechGirls, a women's rights organization with focus on technology, and promoting equality and inclusion, accompanied her. The organization held workshops with girls from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- A Centre for Baltic Studies was established at the Dev Sanskriti Vishwa Vidyalaya in Haridwar in 2016. The University has signed cooperation agreements with several universities in Latvia, including the Riga Technical University, University of Latvia and Turība University. The University hosted an e-Global conference on 'India-Latvia: A Personal Bond' in November 2020.
- A bust of Mahatma Gandhi, gifted by ICCR, was unveiled at the National Library of Latvia during the visit of the Vice President to Latvia in 2019. The two sides also signed a Cultural Exchange Programme during the visit.

- The University of Latvia established a 'Centre for Indian Studies and Culture' in 2013. The Centre organises Yoga and Hindi classes. The University, in collaboration with the Arya Vaidya Pharmacy, Coimbatore has been conducting a 3-month Diploma course in Introduction to Ayurveda since 2015. Ministry of AYUSH sponsored an Ayurveda Chair at the University of Latvia in Riga from 2018 to 2024.

Sports Ties:

- A four member delegation of Latvian Paralympians won three gold medals and one silver medal at the World Para Athletics Championships, which took place in India from 27 September till 05 October 2025.
- In March 2021, the Latvian shooting team participated at the World Shooting Championship held in New Delhi. In April 2021, the Indian women's tennis team competed against Latvia in the Billie Jean King play offs in Jūrmala.

Indian Diaspora in Latvia:

- As per the MFA Latvia's data, the members of Indian Diaspora in Latvia are estimated to be around 6,000. This includes nearly 3,495 Indian students studying mainly medicine and engineering in Latvia, and working professionals in the IT and business process sectors.

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