



India-Germany

 drishtiias.com/printpdf/india-germany-1

“Engaging Germany” This article is based on which was published in Indian Express on 05/11/2019. It talks about the various narratives of Indo-German relations.

Recently, German Chancellor Angela Merkel visited India to participate in the 5th Biennial Indo-German Intergovernmental Consultations (IGC).

Background

- **first country diplomatic recognition.** India was the to end the state of war with Germany in 1951, and therefore was among the first countries to grant the Federal Republic of Germany
- Germany established its Consulate General in Mumbai in 1951, leading to the establishment of a full-fledged Embassy in New Delhi in 1952.
- **'Strategic Partnership'** India and Germany maintain a since 2000-01.
- **st'Agenda for the Indo-German Partnership in the 21 Century'** In May 2000, both countries adopted the , which includes regular meetings of both Heads of Government as well as annual meetings of the Foreign Ministers.

Why Germany-India Convergence?

- **Asian stability** Germany consider India a pillar of and a country that shares European political values (Equality, Liberty, Fraternity and Democratic values).
- - Brexit Movement in UK
 - Trade War between the US and China
 - Unpredictability of US security policies
 - Rapid economic expansion of China into Europe.
 - Increasing assertiveness of the Sino-Russian political axis

Germany is struggling to cope with deepening uncertainties – economic, political and security – in its own neighbourhood and the world, because of the following reasons:

- Presently, Berlin is under pressure to take larger responsibilities for regional stability and contribute more to the maintenance of the global order..
- In the mid of great power rivalry between US, China and Russia, Germany is looking to diversify its global partnerships beyond the Euro-Atlantic space and seeks to bring India into its larger geopolitical calculus.

Highlights of Recent Visit

pacts Artificial Intelligence (AI) The recent visit of Angela Merkel highlights the expanding European interest in partnering Delhi and its increasing role in geo-politics. The two countries signed in the fields of space, civil aviation, maritime technology, medicine, education, agriculture and.

- **Defence:**

The countries agreed to work on bilateral and multilateral platforms to counter terrorism and extremism.

India has invited Germany to take advantage of opportunities in defence sector in the upcoming defence corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

- **Economic: European Union.** India and Germany agreed to deepen efforts to resume stalled negotiations for a free trade agreement between India and the

- **Climate Change:**

Germany expressed its readiness to provide 1.1 billion dollar to India for green urban mobility.

Germany has agreed to provide financial support to climate initiatives aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

- **Stand on International Issue: United Nations (UN) Security Council.**

World Trade Organisation (WTO) The two nations also stressed on restoring full functioning of the dispute settlement system and reforming the organisation without undermining its fundamental principles such as Special & Differential Treatment etc.

Germany agreed to continue cooperation to expedite reforms in the

Importance of Germany for India

- **Bilateral Trade:**

- **Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA)** Germany's role in reviving the India-EU free trade talks i.e will be very crucial.
- Germany has also agreed to intensify efforts for an early conclusion of an investment protection agreement between the EU and India.

Germany is India's largest trading partner in Europe. Indian exports to Germany focus on the textile sector, followed by chemical products, electrical engineering products, metal and leather goods and foodstuffs.

- **Investment:**

- Conversely, direct investment in Germany by Indian firms (Estimated Stock of FDI) have now reached 4.2 billion euros.
- **'Make in India'** India can be a hot destination for German companies to invest and contribute in program.

In December 2018, German direct investment in India totalled around 11.4 billion US dollars. However, there has been a slump in investment in 2019 amidst global slowdown.

- **Terrorism:**

Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. Germany supports India led movement for the adoption of India and Germany have shown their firm commitment to fight against the terrorism.

- **NSG Membership:** Germany has supported India's membership bid in the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

- **G4 Grouping:United Nations Security Council.** India and Germany are members of G-4 along with Brazil and Japan. The G4 nations support each other's bids for permanent seats on the

- **Science and Technology:**

There are more than 1000 Indian postgraduate students in Germany and India constitute the second largest group of foreign PhD students after the Chinese. Germany is India's second most important research partner worldwide, after the United States. This is reflected in the large number of joint Indo-German scientific publications.

- **Renewable Energy**

International Solar Alliance. Germany can play an active role in India led : Germany, despite being among the countries with the least sunshine hours in the world, is one of the largest solar power producers across the globe.

Challenges

- **Economic Liberalization:**

Germany and EU bat for more liberal labour regulations. Germany and European Union are sceptical about India's trade liberalization measures.

- **Kashmir Lockdown:"shared political values"**

Merkel's cautious public comment on the unsustainability of the current situation in Kashmir is a timely reminder that India's friends will find it hard to keep quiet if matters don't improve soon.

Germany is concerned about Kashmir lockdown and the rights of minorities in India and has begun to cast a shadow over the (freedom and the rights of minorities) with India.

- **Technical Issues in Trade Regulation:testing requirement** India had recently celebrated remarkable improvements in the ease of doing business, indicating its willingness to remove bureaucratic hurdles. However, technical regulations in trade like are real burden for German Companies.

Conclusion

In multipolar world order, convergence of India and Germany will be a win-win situation for both the countries due to uncertainties created by US policies and increasing assertiveness of Sino-Russian political axis. Post Brexit, Germany will become a more important player in European Union. Therefore, engaging Germany is not just about India's bilateral relations with it. It is about collaborating with the Germany led EU as a whole.

Drishti Input

In the phase of Brexit uncertainty, explain the relevance of Indo-Germany relations in geo-political order.