



## India - Germany

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### Why in News

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**German Chancellor Angela Merkel visited India** from 31<sup>st</sup> October - 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019 for the **fifth round of Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC)**.

- Intergovernmental Consultations (IGC) are held at the level of **Head of Governments** which allows for a comprehensive review of cooperation and identification of fresh areas of engagement.
- India is amongst a select group of countries with which Germany has such a dialogue mechanism.
- It is a unique mechanism which has helped deepen the bilateral relations between India and Germany in several fields such as new and advanced technology, smart cities, inland waterways, environmental protection etc.

### Key Highlights

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- **Pacts signed** in fields such as space, civil aviation, maritime technology, medicine, education, agriculture and **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**.
- **Cooperation in Defence**
  - India has invited Germany to take advantage of opportunities in defence sector in the upcoming defence corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
  - The countries agreed to work on bilateral and multilateral platforms to counter terrorism and extremism.
- **Stand on International Issues**
  - To continue cooperation to expedite reforms in the United Nations (**UN Security Council**).
  - Stressed on restoring full functioning of the **World Trade Organisation (WTO)** dispute settlement system and reforming the organisation without undermining its fundamental principles such as **Special & Differential Treatment** etc.

- **Climate Change**
  - Agreed to provide financial support to climate initiatives aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
  - Germany expressed its readiness to provide 1.1 billion dollar to India for green urban mobility.
- **Economic Sector**
  - To deepen efforts to restart negotiations between the European Union (EU) and India on the **Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA)**.
- **Science and Technology**
  - To conduct joint research on the development and use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).
  - To identify best possible approaches on **cyber security**.

## India - Germany Ties

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- India and Germany have a '**Strategic Partnership**' since 2001.
- Germany is India's largest trading partner in Europe.
- 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 United Nations Security Council.
- Both countries are also members of the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**.

**Source: TH**