



Indo-German Partnership for Indo-Pacific

This editorial is based on [“Setting Sail For A Powerful India-German Partnership”](#) which was published in The Hindu on 22/01/2022. It talks about the significance of the Indo-Pacific region from Germany’s point of view and how India can prove as a key strategic partner for Germany in this field.

For Prelims: India-Germany Relations, India-EU BTIA, G7 countries, G20 countries, Indo-Pacific Region, European Union

For Mains: India-Germany Relations, Significance of Indo-Pacific region for India and Germany, Scopes of Cooperation between India and Germany.

Germany has realised that the world’s political and economic centre of gravity is, to a large degree, shifting to the [Indo-Pacific region](#), with India as a key player, strategic partner and long-standing democratic friend at the hub.

After having visited Japan, Australia, Vietnam, Singapore and other countries in the Indo-Pacific region, the German Navy frigate **Bayern** recently landed in Mumbai. On close inspection, this marks a **remarkable step for Indo-German relations**. The visit of Bayern signifies a concrete outcome of the Indo-Pacific Policy Guidelines that Germany adopted in 2020.

India, Germany and Indo-Pacific Region

- **Indo-German Ties:** The [bilateral relations between India and Germany](#) are founded on common democratic principles. India was **amongst the first countries to establish diplomatic ties** with the Federal Republic of Germany after the [Second World War](#).
 - Germany cooperates with India to the tune of **1.3 billion Euros a year in development projects**, 90% of which serves the purpose of **fighting climate change, saving natural resources** as well as promoting clean and green energy.
 - Germany has also been supporting the **construction of a huge solar plant in Maharashtra** with a capacity of 125 Megawatt which generates annual CO2 savings of 155,000 tons.
 - After the appointment of new Chancellor of Germany in December 2021, India and Germany agreed that as major democracies and strategic partners, they will step up their **cooperation to tackle common challenges, with climate change on top of the agenda**.
- **Economic Cooperation - A Challenge:** There is a problem of the **lack of a separate [bilateral investment treaty](#)** between the two countries. Germany has a Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) with India via EU, it **does not have the competence to negotiate it separately**.
 - Also, Germany is particularly **sceptical about India’s trade liberalization measures**, it bats for more liberal labour regulations.

- **Indo-Pacific Region - Significance:** The Indo-Pacific, with India as its centrepiece, looms large in Germany's and the [European Union's](#) foreign policy.
 - The Indo-Pacific region is **home to around 65% of the global population** and 20 of the world's 33 megacities.
 - The region **accounts for 62% of global GDP and 46% of the world's merchandise trade.**
 - It is also the source of **more than half of all global carbon emissions** which makes the region's countries key partners in tackling global challenges such as climate change and sustainable energy production and consumption.
- **Germany and Indo-Pacific:** Germany is determined to contribute to buttressing the rules-based international order.
 - Within the **German Indo-Pacific guidelines**, India is mentioned for the enhancement of engagement and fulfilment of objectives. India should now be an important node while discussing issues relating to international security.
 - **India is a maritime powerhouse** and a strong advocate for free and inclusive trade — and, therefore, **a primary partner for Germany** (eventually the EU) on this mission.

Way Forward

- **Strengthening Indo-German Relations:** Germany views **India as an important partner for resolving global issues**, including climate change, food security, energy and international peace and security.
 - Also, the **new coalition government formed in Germany** offers an opportunity for India to strengthen the strategic partnership between the two.
 - Germany is **keen to implement connectivity projects**, through the European Union, **to counter China**. The coalition sees the **conclusion of an [India-EU BTIA](#) as an important aspect** that will help develop relations.
- **Scope of Economic Cooperation:** India and Germany must realise the cooperative goals of the Intellectual Property guidelines and **must involve businesses**.
 - **German companies must be encouraged to use the liberalised PLI scheme** to establish manufacturing hubs in India.
 - Germany has committed 250 million euro in loans to Africa for a vaccine production facility, if implemented with India such a facility can be established in the underserved East African region.
- **Sharing Responsibilities in the Indo-Pacific Region:** As much as India, Germany is a trading nation. More than 20% of German trade is conducted in the Indo-Pacific neighbourhood.
 - This is why Germany and India share a **responsibility to maintain and support stability, prosperity and freedom** in this part of the world. Both India and Europe's key interests are at stake when championing a free and open Indo-Pacific.
- **An Opportunity to Coordinate:** Germany recognises that no global problem can be solved without India's active involvement.
 - In 2022, **Germany will hold the [G7 Presidency](#)**, and from December 2022, **India will also assume the same role** for the [G20](#). This is an **opportunity for joint and coordinated action**.
- **Together Towards Sustainable Development:** No country receives more financial support from Germany in tackling climate change than India.
 - What world leaders agreed upon at [COP26 in Glasgow](#), Germany and India are putting into practice.
 - Together the two countries can **work on a sustainable path for India's growth that will benefit both of them**.

Conclusion

India and Germany are setting sail for a powerful partnership, in calm waters and heavy seas alike. The two must think afresh to engage more closely in areas of complementarity.

Drishti Mains Question

Discuss how Indo-German collaboration can create a win-win situation for both the countries in fulfilling

their respective visions for the Indo-Pacific region.

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