



## India-Lithuania Relations

**For Prelims:** Klaipeda port, [Baltic Countries](#), [Sagarmala Project](#), [India's ITEC program](#), Neighboring Countries of Lithuania.

**For Mains:** Major Aspects of India-Lithuania Relations.

[Source: PIB](#)

### Why in News?

Recently, Indian Minister of State for **Ports, Shipping, and Waterways** and **Vice Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania**, convened in New Delhi to bolster the **maritime bilateral relations between India and Lithuania**.

### What are the Major Highlights of the Meeting?

- **Resident Mission Inauguration in Vilnius:** The inauguration of **India's Resident Mission in Vilnius was commended**, highlighting it as a significant step affirming India's commitment to strengthening bilateral relations with Lithuania.
- **Bilateral Trade Growth:** India emphasized the **positive trajectory of bilateral trade, citing a consistent increase to USD 472 million by the fiscal year 2022-23**, signifying a steady rise in economic collaboration between the two nations.
- **Collaboration on Port Infrastructure and Klaipeda Port's Advantages:** Discussions centered on exploring collaboration opportunities, **leveraging India's expertise in [port infrastructure development](#)**.
  - This collaboration is aimed at **capitalizing on Lithuania's strategic location** as a gateway to vital industrial areas in Eastern Europe.
  - The spotlight was on the **unique advantages of Klaipeda port**, notably its **year-round ice-free status**.
    - As the **leading [Baltic port for container transshipment](#)**, it holds a pivotal position in facilitating trade, boasting advantageous land connections to key industrial zones in Eastern Europe.
- **Diverse Investment Opportunities:** India presented a spectrum of investment avenues to Lithuania across various sectors, including **Port Modernization (PPP), Port Connectivity, Coastal Shipping, [Maritime Technology](#), [Sagarmala Project](#), and [Decarbonization](#) initiatives**, aiming to foster comprehensive economic partnerships and sustainable growth.

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## What are the Major Aspects of India-Lithuania Relations?

### ▪ Historical Ties

- **Linguistic Similarities:** Lithuanian and [Sanskrit](#) languages share linguistic commonalities, suggesting ancient connections.
  - Pre-Christian Lithuania worshiped nature and revered a trinity of gods - **Perkunas, Patrimpas, and Pikuolis**.
- **Intellectual Exchange:** Vydunas, a 19th-century philosopher, drew parallels between **Lithuanian and Hindu spiritual culture**, creating a philosophical system inspired by Vedanta.
  - Lithuanian travelers like **Antanas Poska and Matas Salcius** delved into Sanskrit and Indian culture in the 1930s and 1940s.
  - **Sanskrit became part of Vilnius University's academic curriculum** in the 1970s, fostering academic ties between India and Lithuania.

### ▪ Political Relations:

- **Recognition:** India acknowledged **Lithuania's independence from the USSR in 1991**, establishing diplomatic relations in **1992**.
- **Embassy and Consulates:** Lithuania opened its Embassy in New Delhi in 2008 and maintains three Honorary Consuls in India.
  - An Honorary Consul of India has operated in Vilnius since 2014.
- **India-Lithuania Forum:** Initiated in 2010, fostering multi-dimensional ties encompassing culture, education, business, and science.

### ▪ Trade Dynamics:

- **Major Indian imports From Lithuania:** Edible vegetables, wood and articles of wood, textiles, electrical machinery and equipment, iron and steel, optical, photographic and measuring instruments.

- **Major Indian Exports to Lithuania:** Nuclear boilers and reactors, pharmaceutical products, fish, organic chemicals, tobacco and manufactured tobacco, textile articles, iron and steel.
- **Cultural Engagement**
  - **Yoga and Spiritual Interests:** Lithuanians exhibit keen interest in Indian cultural traditions, particularly Yoga. Celebrations of [International Yoga Day](#) are widespread in Lithuania.
  - **Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) Program:** Over 400 Lithuanian nominees attended various courses under [India's ITEC program](#), fostering mutual learning and cooperation.

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