

## India Europe Relationship

### Why in News?

Recently , EU's College of Commissioners led by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen visited India.

### How has the India - Europe Relationship evolved?

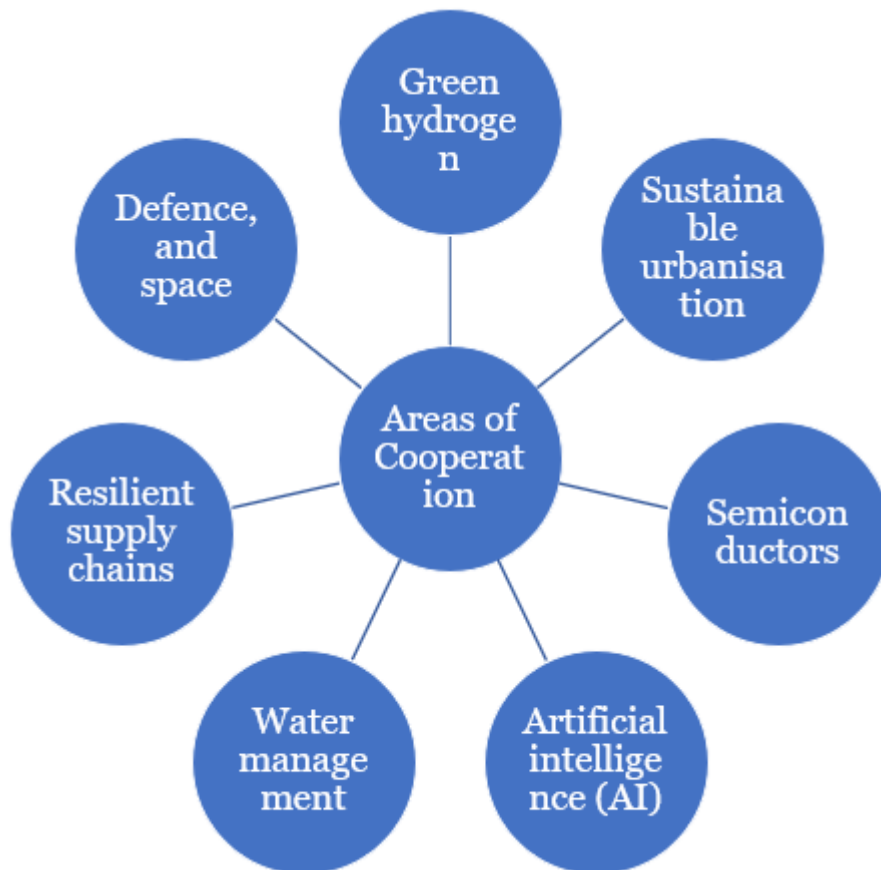
- **First diplomatic relation** - India established diplomatic relations with the European Economic Community — the first pillar of the future European Union — back in 1962.
  - Joint Political Statement was signed in 1993
  - Cooperation Agreement was signed in 1994
- **India-EU Summits** - The first Summit was held in Lisbon in June 2000 and 15 of which have been held so far.
- **Strategic Partnership** - The bilateral relationship was upgraded to a Strategic Partnership at the 5th India -EU Summit in The Hague in 2004.
- **India - EU Trade** - EU is India's largest trading partner in goods, and bilateral trade has increased 90% over the past decade.
- **Goods trade** - Bilateral trade in goods was \$135 billion in FY 2023-24, with Indian exports to the EU accounting for \$76 billion and imports for \$59 billion.
- **Services trade** - Bilateral trade in services in 2023 stood at \$53 billion, comprising Indian exports of \$30 billion and imports of \$23 billion.
- **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** - Cumulative FDI flows from the EU during the period April 2000 to September 2024 was \$117.4 billion, which represented 16.6% of the total FDI equity inflow.
- Indian FDI outflows to the EU are valued at approximately \$40.04 billion for the period April 2000 to March 2024.
- **Technology cooperation** - Bilateral science and technology cooperation is carried out within the framework of the Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement of 2007.
- **Clean Energy and Climate Partnership** - India-EU Clean Energy and Climate Partnership was agreed at the EU-India Summit on 30 March 2016.
- **High Performance Computing (HPC) Cooperation** - The India-EU Intent of Cooperation in High Performance Computing (HPC) was signed in November 2022.
- **India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC)** - It was established in 2022 as a strategic coordination mechanism to tackle challenges at the nexus of trade, trusted technology, and security.



### **India EU TTC Areas of Cooperation**

*The First Ministerial Meeting of the TTC was held in May 2023.*

*Initiative for Critical and Emerging Technologies was signed with the US and the Technology Security Initiative with the United Kingdom.*



- **People-to-people ties** - The growing Indian diaspora in the EU contains large numbers of students, researchers, and skilled professionals.
- Indian professionals received the largest share — more than 20% — of EU Blue Cards issued in 2023-24.
- **Defence partnership** - India and the EU are strengthening their defence cooperation, specially in maritime security and the Indo-Pacific region under ESIWA+ (Enhanced Security in and with Asia) security programme.
- **Space collaboration** - The Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO's) PSLV successfully launched the EU's PROBA-3 mission in December 2024.
- ISRO and the European Space Agency (ESA) have cooperated on the Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya-L1 missions, and signed an MoU for cooperation on Gaganyaan, India's human spaceflight mission.
- **Erasmus scholarships** - Over the last 20 years, more than 6,000 Erasmus scholarships have been awarded to Indian students, making them among the top recipients of the scholarships.
- **Marie - Curie Scholarship** - More than 2,700 Indian researchers have been funded by Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (part of the EU's research and innovation programme Horizon Europe) since 2014 — the most in the world.

### What are the recent developments?

- **Meeting at the leaders' level** - Prime Minister Narendra Modi and EC President Ursula von der Leyen have met at least seven times in the past.

- **Presidential visit** - The EC President paid an official visit to India in April 2022, during which she participated in the Raisina Dialogue as Chief Guest
- **Roadmap** - The India-EU Strategic Partnership , A Roadmap to 2025, was adopted at the last India-EU Summit in July 2020.
- **FTA negotiation** - At the Leaders' Meeting in May 2021, the two sides announced the resumption of negotiations for a comprehensive free trade and investment agreement.
- **Connectivity partnership** - Brussels and New Delhi have committed to increase cooperation on connectivity initiatives by signing the "EU-India Connectivity Partnership" in 2021.
- **Semiconductor MoU** - In November 2023, the two sides signed a Memorandum of Understanding on semiconductor R&D cooperation.
- **GPAI Summit** - EU participated in the Global Partnership on AI Summit in New Delhi in 2024.
- **3rd phase of Climate and Energy partnership** - The third phase of the Partnership (2025-2028) focuses on green hydrogen, offshore wind energy, electricity market integration, energy efficiency and climate diplomacy, driving a sustainable, interconnected energy future.
- **Green Hydrogen Cooperation** - India-EU Green Hydrogen Cooperation initiative in 2024 facilitates cooperation in infrastructure, technology development.
  - The European Investment Bank has committed to supporting Indian hydrogen projects with funding of 1 billion euros.
- Indian and European companies are collaborating in the renewable and hydrogen sectors with the aim of developing a green hydrogen ecosystem in India by 2030.

## Reference

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