

## India-Germany Ties

### Why in news?

*German Foreign Minister's visit to India and talks with Indian External Affairs Minister have set the stage for a more updated bilateral relationship.*

### What is the recent development?

- The two sides signed an agreement on mobility and migration that boosts travel for students, researchers and investors and businesses.
- The meeting was preceded by Germany's agreement to fund renewable energy projects worth a billion Euros.
- The year 2022 has seen intense high-level engagement, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi made two visits to Germany
  1. The India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations with Chancellor Olaf Scholz in Berlin and
  2. The G-7 outreach summit in Bavaria.
- The leaders also met at the G-20 summit in Bali.
- In 2023, German Foreign Minister is expected to be in Delhi, in spring, and again in September for the G-20 summit in India.

### What is the history of India-Germany bilateral relations?

- India was amongst the first countries to establish diplomatic ties with the Federal Republic of Germany after the Second World War.
- Relations grew significantly following the end of the Cold War and the reunification of Germany.
- Today, Germany is amongst India's most important partners both bilaterally and in the global context.
- India and Germany have a "Strategic Partnership" since 2001, which has been further strengthened with the Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC) at the level of Head of Governments (German Chancellor and PM).
- This Inter-Governmental Consultations allow for a comprehensive review of Cooperation and identification of new areas of engagement.
- India is amongst a select group of countries with which Germany has such a high-level Consultations.
- In the 4th IGC (Berlin, 2017), 12 Cooperation documents in various sectors were signed.
- In the 5th IGC (Delhi, 2019), 21 MoUs/ Agreements were signed in diverse areas of engagement including some of the new and emerging areas such as Smart Cities, Urban Green Mobility, AI, Space, etc.

## How do both the nations support each other?

- Both India and Germany have been part of the 'G-4' grouping since 2005, and they are pushing for UN Security Council reform since then.
- India-Germany Defence Cooperation Agreement (2006) provides a framework for bilateral defence cooperation.

## What is the test?

- The substance of the relationship will be tested in continuing differences over the war in Ukraine.
- India says that its imports of Russian oil, a national interest necessity, remain a fraction of the fossil fuels Europe continues to buy.
- While this may be correct, it is also true that the European Union countries have cut all other links with Moscow.
- Falling fuel imports are likely to drop further once the launch of the "[oil price cap](#)" for seaborne imports kicks in.
- On the other hand, India's imports of Russian oil have soared to a whopping 21-fold increase, making Russia India's biggest supplier.
- Germany is looking forward for a geopolitical transition post Russia's war in Ukraine, and it has accused Russian President of "shattering" an international peace architecture.
- For India, which inherits the G-20 presidency in this year, it will be necessary to work more closely with Germany to bring all western partners on board with Mr. Modi's plans to forge "global unity".
- This must be done without letting the deep divisions with Russia derail consensus on important tasks such as fighting climate change, inequality, poverty and the digital divide.

## Reference

1. [The Hindu | Intense engagement: On India-Germany ties](#)
2. [Ministry of External Affairs | India-Germany Relations](#)

