

India- Italy Relations

Why in news?

On the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Italy and India, the India-Italy Summit on March 2023 marked a turning point in the relations between the two countries.

What is the history of India-Italy relationship?

- **Political Relations** - Political relations between India and Italy were established in 1947.
- A total of 15 MoUs covering areas like energy, media, finance, ship building were signed in the 2020 Summit.
- **Economic Relations** - Italy is among India's top 5 trading partners in the EU.
- Italy ranks 18th in FDI inflows in India during April 2000 to December 2020 with FDI inflow of US \$ 3.02 billion during this period.
- Italy and India have already intensified their collaboration, bringing bilateral trade to a record figure of around 15 billion euros in 2022, doubling the figure recorded in 2020.
- India ranks 19th as country of origin of Italian imports, accounting for 1.2% of Italian imports.
- **Defence** - Milan – a biennial naval exercise between India and Italy.
- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Tabar, the Navy's Talwar-class Russian built frigate, has just concluded a two-day naval exercise with the Italian Navy in the Tyrrhenian Sea.
- India - Italy Military Cooperation Group (MCG) is a forum established to boost defence cooperation between India and Italy.
- **Cultural Exchange** - The agreement for cultural cooperation was signed in 1976.
- There are around 10 Universities/higher education institutions in Italy with highly qualified faculties which conduct courses in Indian art, history and languages.
- **Science and Technology** - An Agreement on S&T Co-operation exists since 1978.
- A significant bilateral initiative under the S&T Cooperation Agreement is the India-Trento Programme for Advanced Research (ITPAR)
- **Indian Community in Italy** - The Indian community in Italy (estimated at 2.5 lakhs including PIOs) is the third largest community of Indians in Europe after UK and the Netherlands.
- Indian community is the 5th largest foreign community in Italy.

What are the recent developments in India-Italy relationship?

- The elevation of bilateral relations to a strategic partnership has been established for the first time in 2023.
- In recent years, Italy has joined all the multilateral initiatives promoted by India, from the [Indian Ocean Rim Association \(IORA\)](#) to the [Coalition for Disaster Relief Infrastructure \(CDRI\)](#), to the [International Solar Alliance](#) .

- European-Indian strategic partnership aims to support the ongoing negotiations for Free Trade Agreements and agreements on investment protection and geographical indication protection.
- In scientific research and technology, the partnership between the two countries has registered the launch of 13 new joint projects.
- **Mobility:** There is a significant increase in the flow of Indian students and workers in Italy with Indian community exceeding a figure of 2,00,000 — the *highest in the European Union*.

References

1. [The Indian Express | India-Italy friends in a turbulent world](#)
2. [Ministry of External Affairs | India Italy Relations](#)

