

FROM THE INTERNS DESK- NOV 2024

India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations 2024

Hey there! I'm Vaishnavi Keer, an intern at the Hamburg Representation Mumbai, and a part of my Internship responsibilities this month was to summarize the India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations that took place in October 2024. Which is why, in this month's 'From the Interns Desk' section of the Newsletter, we'll explore key topics of discussions at the IGC 2024, the agreements between India and Germany and joint statements provided by both the countries.

The 7th India-Germany Intergovernmental Consultations in October 2024 marked a significant strengthening of strategic ties between the two nations, with detailed discussions and commitments across numerous fields. The leaders of both the countries, Mr. Narendra Modi, the Indian Prime Minister and Mr. Olaf Scholz, the German Chancellor comprehensively reviewed the progress made in India-Germany strategic partnership in the areas of defence, security, technology and innovation, energy, green and sustainable development. To expand and elevate the India-Germany relations, new initiatives in areas of AI, semi-conductors and clean energy were taken.

Here's a comprehensive overview of IGC 2024:

1. Partnership for a Sustainable Future

- **Climate and Energy Cooperation:** India and Germany reinforced their commitment to combating climate change, emphasizing renewable energy and hydrogen technology. Both sides signed the 'Indo-German Hydrogen Roadmap' agreement. They plan to co-invest in solar and wind projects and further hydrogen-based energy systems.
- **Green Development Initiatives:** Joint ventures will be established to advance green urban development, smart city technologies, and sustainable infrastructure. Both sides are exploring ways to make supply chains more environmentally friendly, reducing carbon footprints.

2. Relations between the European Union (EU) and India

- Germany pledged support for deeper EU-India relations, highlighting the need to finalize the Free Trade Agreement, Investment Protection Agreement, and Geographical Indications Agreement. The partnership aims to boost economic ties and facilitate smooth trade and technology transfer.
- The leaders also emphasized the importance of the India-EU Trade and Technology Council, which serves as a hub for advancing collaboration in tech and trade.

3. Security Cooperation and Global Challenges

- **Ukraine Conflict:** Both nations expressed grave concern over the ongoing Ukraine war, calling for adherence to international law and emphasizing sovereignty and territorial integrity. They also discussed the conflict's implications for global energy and food security.
- **Middle East and Terrorism:** There was a strong condemnation of terror activities by Hamas in October 2024. The leaders underscored the need for humanitarian assistance in Gaza and reiterated their shared commitment to counterterrorism measures.

- Under 'The Mutual and Legal Assistance Treaty in Criminal Matters', this treaty facilitates legal collaboration for investigating and prosecuting crime, including counter-terrorism, enhancing judicial cooperation and sharing of intelligence and evidence.

4. Defence and Strategic Cooperation

- Indo-Pacific Security: Recognizing the strategic importance of the Indo-Pacific, India and Germany agreed on increased maritime cooperation and support for a free and open region in accordance with international law. Germany plans to deploy a permanent liaison officer in India's Information Fusion Centre for enhanced maritime monitoring.
- Military and Peacekeeping: Expanded military collaboration includes defence industrial partnerships, technology transfers, and joint research projects. Cooperation between their respective UN Peacekeeping Training Centres was also discussed.
- Agreement on 'Exchange and Mutual Protection of Classified Information', a legal framework for facilitating collaboration between Indian and German entities, with specific guidelines for handling, protecting, and transmitting classified information.

5. Critical and Emerging Technologies

- As laid down by the 'Roadmap on Innovation and Technology', both countries are investing in critical technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), quantum computing, and cybersecurity. They will establish research hubs to foster innovation and technology transfer.
- Efforts will be made to regulate these emerging technologies responsibly, ensuring they contribute to economic growth while mitigating risks.

6. Science, Research, and Innovation

- Academic and Research Ties: There will be an increase in academic exchanges and joint research projects in sectors like biotechnology, space research, and renewable energy. Scholarships and research grants will be expanded to facilitate student and scientist mobility.
- Both parties signed a 'Joint Declaration of Intent for Joint Co-Operation in Research and Development on Advanced Materials'
- Space Cooperation: Both nations are collaborating on satellite technology, space exploration, and remote sensing applications for climate monitoring.

7. Trade and Economic Collaboration

- India and Germany are committed to expanding bilateral trade, focusing on sectors like automotive, renewable energy, and digital transformation. They also discussed creating resilient and secure supply chains for critical goods.
- The discussions included measures to facilitate German investment in India and ways to streamline regulatory frameworks for businesses.

8. Strengthening Labour Markets and Employment

- The new Fachkräfte Strategie outlines Germany's approach to addressing labour shortages by easing immigration processes for skilled Indian professionals, especially in healthcare, IT, and engineering. Programs for skills recognition and professional integration were emphasized.
- 'Joint Declaration of Intent in Field of Employment and Labour' was signed

- According to the signed MoU of 'Co-operation on Skill Development and Vocational Education and Training', there will be initiatives to enhance workforce training and ensure mutual recognition of professional qualifications.

9. Mobility and People-to-People Ties

- **Migration and Mobility Partnership:** A new agreement was signed to make migration between the two countries smoother, enhancing opportunities for students, researchers, and professionals.
- An agreement called the 'Joint Declaration of Intent on the Indo-German Green Mobility Partnership for all'. This partnership aims to make it easier for skilled Indian workers to find employment in Germany.
- **Cultural and Academic Exchanges:** Efforts to deepen cultural understanding were discussed, including joint cultural festivals, academic partnerships, and language programs.

10. Multilateral Cooperation (Zusammenarbeit mit Indien in multilateralen Foren)

- **United Nations and Global Governance:** Both nations stressed the importance of reforming global institutions to reflect contemporary realities. India's candidacy for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council received German support.
- **Coordination on Global Issues:** Topics like cybersecurity, climate change, and sustainable development were discussed, with both nations advocating for coordinated action in multilateral forums like the G20 and BRICS.

11. Coordination of German India Policy (Koordinierung der deutschen Indien-Politik)

- Germany aims to ensure seamless integration of its India policy across federal and state levels. A coordinated approach involving government ministries, economic actors, and civil society is being developed to ensure effective bilateral engagement.

