Embassy of India Germany

India- Germany Bilateral Relations

INDIA- GERMANY BILATERAL RELATIONS

Given its key role in the EU as well as the strength of our bilateral relations, Germany is one of India's most important partners in Europe. India was also among the first countries to establish diplomatic ties with the Federal Republic of Germany after the Second World War. On March 7, 2021, India and Germany marked the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

- 2. India and Germany have a 'Strategic Partnership' since May 2000, which has been further strengthened with the launch of Intergovernmental Consultations (IGC) in 2011 at the level of Heads of Government which allows for a comprehensive review of cooperation and identification of new areas of engagement. India is among a select group of countries with which Germany has such a dialogue mechanism. The 6th Inter-Governmental Consultations were held in Berlin on May 2, 2022.
- **3.** As the 4th and 5th largest economies in the world respectively, Germany and India share a robust economic and developmental partnership. Besides strong economic ties, both countries have a shared interest in upholding democratic values, the rules-based international order, multilateralism as well as the reform of multilateral institutions.
- 4. 6th Inter-Governmental Consultations: Prime Minister visited Berlin on 2 May 2022 to co-chair the 6th IGC with Chancellor Olaf Scholz where he was accompanied by External Affairs Minister, Finance Minister, National Security Advisor and Minister of State (I/C) for Science & Technology. A total of 14 agreements were signed in diverse fields such as green partnership, development cooperation, renewable energy, migration and mobility, economic cooperation and agriculture. Prime Minister and Chancellor also signed a Joint Declaration of Intent on a Green and Sustainable Development Partnership.

High-level Engagements:

- There are regular high-level contacts between India and Germany. Prime Minister and Chancellor meet regularly for bilateral meetings and on the sidelines of multilateral meetings. Following the 6th IGC summit, Prime Minister also visited Munich from 26-28 June 2022 to attend the 48th G7 Summit under German Presidency at Schloss Elmau. Prime Minister and Chancellor also interacted on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Bali in November 2022. On January 05, 2022, Prime Minister had a telephone call with Chancellor Olaf Scholz, which was the first engagement between the two leaders after the formation of the new Federal Government in Germany, during which they reviewed the potential of ongoing cooperation and discussed ways in which both sides can strengthen investment and trade links, and how they can diversify cooperation and exchanges in new areas. Prior to this phone call, the two leaders had met on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Rome on October 31, 2021.
- 6. Prime Minister also visited Germany in 2017 to co-chair the IGC in May 2017 and to attend the G20 Summit in Hamburg in July, 2017. Prior to this, he, visited Germany in 2015 to attend the Hannover Messe where India was the Partner Country and the Make in India campaign was launched to an international audience.
- 7. Former Chancellor Merkel visited India four times in 2019 (5th IGC), 2015 (3rd IGC), 2011 (1st IGC) and 2007. German President Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier travelled to India on a 5- day State Visit from March 22-25, 2018. Besides Delhi, he visited Varanasi and Chennai. During his visit, he met with President, Vice President, Prime Minister and EAM and visited Banaras Hindu University, Delhi University and IIT Madras.

Ministerial Visits:

8. Bilateral exchanges at Ministerial level take place regularly. Before his visit to Germany for the G7 Summit and the 6th IGC, EAM attended the Munich Security Conference from February 18-22, 2022, during which he met German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock. Before the outbreak of the COVID pandemic, EAM had also attended the Munich Security Conference in February 2020 and had followed it up with a Working Visit to Berlin, during which he met the German Foreign, Economy and

Defence Ministers. Ministerial visits from Germany to India at the federal level include a visit by the Minister of State in the Federal Foreign Office, Dr Tobias Lindner, to attend the 7th Raisina Dialogue in Delhi in April 2022. Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, then Minister of Defence visited Berlin in February 2019 for a bilateral meeting. Former Chief Justice of India, Justice N.V. Ramana made an official visit in June 2022 to deliver the inaugural address at Indo-German Chamber of Commerce. Subsequently, Former Chief Justice U. U. Lalit visited Germany in October 2022 and met the President of the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany.

- 9. Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock will visit India from 5-6 December 5-6, 2022. Ministerial visits from Germany to India at the Federal level in 2019-20 include a visit by Dr. Gerd Mueller, then Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development to Assam (rice and tea plantations, stone quarry) and Delhi in February 2020. Mr. Niels Annen, former MoS for Foreign Affairs visited Delhi in January 2020 to attend the Raisina Dialogue and for a familiarisation visit in July 2019 and Ms. Svenja Schulze, former Environment Minister attended the 3rd Indo-German Environment Forum in Delhi in February 2019.
- 10. Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development visited India in April 2022 on a 2-day visit. During the visit he called on the then Foreign Secretary and held talks with officials from India's Environment, Power, Renewable and Coal Ministries. On September 9-10, 2021, former Parliamentary State Secretaries from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Mr. Norbert Barthle and Dr. (Ms.) Maria Flachsbarth visited Delhi and held meetings with Minister of New and Renewable Energy and with Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

Parliamentary Exchanges:

11. On the German side, the Indo-German Parliamentary Friendship Group, which was established in the Bundestag in 1971, has contributed to the strengthening of links between the two Parliaments. The Indo-German Parliamentary Friendship Group for the current 20th term of the German Parliament consists of 34 members from all parties represented in the

Bundestag. The Parliamentary Group visited India (Kolkata and Delhi) from February 03-08, 2020, prior to which they visited India in 2015.

- **12.** Several Parliamentarians from both sides have visited recent times. A Goodwill Parliamentary Delegation from India led by Shri. Arjun Ram Meghwal, then Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, visited Berlin from October 17-19, 2018.
- **13.** On June 22, 2021, the Indo-German Parliamentary Friendship Group of the Bundestag celebrated its 50th anniversary. The event was commemorated at the Bundestag premises, with virtual addresses from Minister of State, External Affairs, Shri. V. Muraleedharan and the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs Shri. P.P. Choudhary, and an address from the Federal Minister of State at the German Foreign Office Mr. Niels Annen.

Institutional Cooperation Arrangements:

- **14.** Several institutional arrangements exist between India and Germany to discuss bilateral and global issues of interest, namely, Foreign Office Consultations, High Defence Committee, Indo-German Energy Forum, Indo-German Environment Forum, S&T Committee, and Joint Working Groups in various fields, including skill development, automotive, agriculture, tourism, water and waste management. A Track 1.5 Strategic Dialogue has been established to enable key stakeholders to enhance their mutual understanding of national, regional and strategicinterests.
- **15.** Both countries consult each other and coordinate positions in multilateral fora including G20 and in the UN on global issues such as Climate Change and Sustainable Development. There have been consultations between the two countries on various subjects such as UN issues and international cyber issues.

Multilateral Cooperation:

16. Germany and India support each other on UNSC expansion within the framework of the G4. The last meeting of the G4 was held at the level of Foreign Ministers on the side-lines of the 77th UNGA in September 2022. Germany joined the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) in February 2020 and

participated in the first Governing Council meeting in March2020.

17. In April 2021, the German Federal Cabinet approved the signing of the amended framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), and thereby confirming Germany's accession to the ISA. On September 10, 2021, during their visit to Delhi, Parliamentary State Secretaries from the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development handed over the Instrument of Accession to Secretary (Economic Relations), MEA.

Security Cooperation:

18. The MoU on Security Cooperation signed at the 3rd IGC held in Delhi in 2015 defines bilateral collaboration in this field. There are dialogue mechanisms on various aspects of security, including Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism (last meeting held in 2019); Cyber Consultations (last meeting held in Berlin in April 2022); UN Consultations (last meeting held in Berlin in September 2022).

Defence Cooperation:

- 19. Bilateral Defence Cooperation Agreement signed in September 2006 provides the framework for bilateral defence ties. To further enhance the Defence Industry and Defence Cooperation between Germany and India, the Arrangement on Implementation of the Agreement of 2006 concerning Bilateral Defence Cooperation was signed in February 2019 in Berlin.
- **20.** The then German Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen visited India in May 2015 and former Raksha Mantri Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman visited Berlin in February 2019.
- **21.** The defence dialogue mechanisms include High Defence Committee Meetings at Defence Secretary level, Military Cooperation Sub-Group Meeting and Defence Technical Sub- Group Committee Meeting. The 10th HDC meeting between Defence Secretary and State Secretary was held via video conference on January 12, 2021, and next HDC meeting is scheduled to be held on January 09-10, 2023, in Berlin. The 14th Military Co-operation Sub-Group meeting was held on December 13-15, 2021, in New Delhi and next meeting is expected soon.

The Defence Technical Sub-Group meeting is likely to be heldafter the next HDC.

22. High level Defence Visits:

- a. German CHOD/CDS Gen Eberhard Zorn had visited India in March 2019 as part of his familiarisation/inauguration visit to South Asia.
- b. Former German Naval Chief Vice Admiral Kay-Achim Schönbach visited India in Jan 2022.

23. Ship visits/Passex:

- a. INS TEG participated in Hamburg Port Festival in 2012 and INS TARANGINI participated in Hanse Sail Rostock/ Sail Bremerhaven in August 2015.
- b. Two Indian Navy ships INS TARKASH and INS TABAR were transited through Kiel Canal in July 2019 and July 2021 respectively.
- c. German naval frigate 'BAYERN' conducted a PASSEX with INS TRIKAND on August 26, 2021, and made a port call at Mumbai on January 21, 2022, as a part of its seven-month deployment to the Indo-Pacific.
- **24.** Delegations of the National Defence College (NDC) have been regularly visiting Germany (2017, 2018 and 2021). Recently, a 17-member delegation from NDC visited Germany in June 2022. Further, Delegations from College of Defence Management (CDM) and from the Army War College visited Germany in 2018 & 2019 respectively.

Economic & Commercial Relations:

- **25.** Germany is India's largest trading partner in Europe and has consistently been among India's top (10-12) global partners. Germany was also the 11th largest trading partner in FY 2021-22 (12th during FY 2022-23 up to August 2022). (*Source: DoC*)
- **26. Bilateral trade** in 2021-22 was USD 24.85 billion registering an increase of 14.2% over FY 2020-21. Indian exports during this period increased by 21.6% reaching USD 9.88 billion

- and Indian imports increased by 9.7% to USD 14.97 billion. During 2022-23 (until August 2022), bilateral trade was USD 10.81 billion, an increase of 9.32% over the corresponding period in FY 2021-22. Indian exports with USD 4.32 billion during this period witnessed an increase of about 15.2% and Indian imports with USD 6.49 billion registered an increase of 5.7%. (Source: DoC)
- **27.** German investments in India: Germany is the 9th largest FDI source for India. The total FDI from Germany to India from April 2000-June 2022 is over USD 13 billion. During 2021-22, German FDI was USD 728 million. In FY 2022-23 (up to June 2022), German FDI in India was USD 89 million. (Source: DPIIT). As per Indo-German Chamber of Commerce, there are more than 1,700 German companies in India. German investments in India have been mainly in sectors of transportation, electrical equipment, metallurgical insurance), industries. services sector (particularly chemicals. construction activity, trading and automobiles.
- Recent German investments in India include announcement of Robert Bosch in February 2022 to invest a total of USD 125 million in India in the next five years towards the localization of advanced automotive technologies and in building digital platforms like Mobility Marketplace and Mobility Cloud Platform. German packaging solution provider Multivac invested USD 7.4 million to establish a production site in Ghiloth, Rajasthan. In 2021, German automotive components manufacturer Webasto, invested USD 33.9 million to set up a sunroofs manufacturing facility in Pune. German lifestyle brand Birkenstock launched its 1774 collection through the e- commerce route with an Indian partner, Seva Group. Bayer, a German agrochemical group, launched a new manufacturing plant at Vapi, Gujarat with an investment of USD 28 million. German auto component major ZF Friedrichshafen AG has lined up a Euro 200 million investments in India to increase its share in connected and autonomous technologies adopted by automakers and a fifth of the investment volume will be allocated for a tech centre in Hyderabad for doing global R&D work for the company. Verbio has launched its first and India's largest bio- CNG plant in Punjab, primarily paddy stubble and was

inaugurated in October 2022. The plant uses agricultural residues.

- 29. Indian investments in Germany: As per CII, there are more than 213 Indian companies operating in Germany, and are involved in trading, manufacturing, R&D and innovation, and services. Indian companies have invested in Germany mainly through Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A). Investments are mostly in IT, automotive, pharma, biotech and manufacturing. The penetration of Indian software companies in German market is increasing. Major clusters of Indian companies are in the States of North Rhine Westphalia, Hesse, Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg.
- 30. Recent Indian investments in Germany include an announcement of Wipro Limited to set up a Digital Innovation Hub in Düsseldorf, acquisition of full-service IT provider Postbank Systems AG from Deutsche Bank by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), the opening of a new Digital Innovation Centre in Dusseldorf by Infosys to support their clients in digital transformation, JBM Group's acquisition of majority stake in German auto components manufacturer Linde-Wiemann GmbH, the establishment of the first global R&D Centre near Munich by Hero MotoCorp and L&T's acquisition of German IT firm Nielsen + Partner to strengthen its banking and financial services software segment.
- **31. Fast Track Mechanism** is in place by DPIIT and German Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) to address issues/grievances of companies in India and Germany. The mechanism was announced in 2019 at the 5th IGC which started meeting since 2020. The last meeting was held in January 2021.
- **32.** A market entry support programme, the 'Make in India Mittelstand' (MIIM) for German Mittelstand (SMEs) and Family-Owned Businesses is being implemented by Embassy of India, Berlin to support high potential Mittelstand companies with medium to long term potential for manufacturing in India. As of date, 152 companies are being facilitated through this programme with a declared investment of nearly Euro 1.47 billion. More than 30 of these companies

are 'hidden champions' that are world market leaders in niche products/technologies.

33. Both countries see mutual benefit in an India-EU Free Trade Agreement and Investment Protection Agreement and announced their desire to progress on the Agreements during the 5th IGC.

Development Cooperation:

- **34.** Germany has been an important development cooperation partner for several decades. The last negotiations were held in November 2021. Germany has committed a total of 1.2 billion Euro as new funding for 2021 [ie. Euro 1185 million for FC & Euro 23.96 million for TC)]. Total volume of bilateral technical and financial cooperation by the end of 2021 amounts to Euro 21.8 bn. Energy, sustainable economic and urban development, environment & management of natural resources are priority areas.
- 35. Financial assistance from Germany is mainly as soft loans, composite loans or grants routed through KfW, German Government's Development Bank. Technical assistance is provided through GIZ, German Government's development agency. Major strategic projects are in the sectors of energy (renewables, Green Energy Corridor), Indo-German Solar Partnership, Skill Development and sustainable urban development (water/sanitation/waste, climate friendly urban mobility, smart cities).

Science & Technology:

36. Science Bilateral and Technology cooperation is implemented under an Inter-Governmental Agreement on *'Cooperation* Scientific and *Technological* inResearch Development' signed in May 1974. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) are the nodal agencies for overall coordination. An apex Indo-German Committee on S&T. established in 1994 coordinates the implementation of cooperation and reviews joint activities. The last meeting of the Indo-German Joint Committee on S&T was held in Berlin in 2017.

- **37.** India has invested in major science projects in Germany such as the Facility for Anti-Proton and Ion Research (FAIR) at Darmstadt and the Deutsche Elektronen Synchrotron (DESY) for experiments in advanced materials and particle physics. The hon'ble Technology, Mr. Harsh Vardhan Minister of Science & inaugurated the India-centric PETRA-III beamline at DESY in September 2016. A five-year continuation (Phase II) of the collaboration took effect in September 2019. So far, more than 750 scientists from India visited DESY for experiments (including multiple visits) from 50 different institutes and performed 260 843 days in total. More experiments making up to 180 resulted until May 2020 based on the publications had collaboration with DESY.
- The jointly funded Indo-German Science and Technology 38. Centre (IGSTC) was set up in Gurgaon in September 2008. Joint Declaration was signed during the 3rd IGC in 2015 to extend the tenure of the IGSTC until March 2022 (with a provision for automatic renewal) with increased funding up to a maximum of Euro 4 million per year on the principles of activity matching funding by each side as per national rules of the respective country. A total of 40 projects (21 completed and 19 ongoing) have been supported on various themes of national priority areas such as Advanced Manufacturing (Make in India), Embedded System and ICT (Digital India). Sustainable Energy/Environment, Biotechnology/Bioeconomy Security), **Bio-Medical** (Food Technology (Healthy India)/Water and Wastewater Technology (Clean India), Smart Cities, etc.
- 39. IGSTC has launched new funding programmes like Women Involvement in Science and Engineering Research (WISER, to facilitate lateral entry for women in ongoing S&T projects), Paired Early Career Fellowship in Applied Research (PECFAR, to create avenues for a two-way exchange of young researchers in pairs) and Industrial fellowship program to encourage young Indian researchers towards German industrial ecosystems.
- **40.** Various programmes of S&T collaboration exist between different Indian research Institutes, such as Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Council for Medical

Research (ICMR), Indian Institute of Science Education Research (IISER) and Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) with German research Institutes such as Max Planck Society (MPG), Helmholtz Association, Leibniz Association and German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD):-

- a) Department of Biotechnology is an Associate member of the European Molecular Biology Conference (EMBC) which provides postdoctoral fellowship, and funds to conduct research and organize conferences, symposia and workshops.
- b) MPG, through its Partner Group Programmes, Mobility grants, kick-off workshops, Indo-German Max Planck Centre on Computer Science (IMPECS) and Indo-German Max Planck-NCBS Centre for Research on Lipids, plays an important role in the research map of India. Currently, under the MoU signed in 2020 between IISERs and MPG, a student exchange program is being implemented, wherein the final year BS-MS integrated program students of IISERs can spend 8-9 months to conduct research dissertation work at various Max Plank Institutes in Germany.
- c) In 2022, DST and the German Research Foundation (DFG) have jointly launched the International Research Training Group (IRTG) program to promote top-level research cooperation and support the mobility of early career researchers.
- d) DAAD supports Indian students' mobility through Combined Study and Practice Stays for Engineers from Developing Countries (KOSPIE) student exchange program, Working Internships in Science and Engineering (WISE) program and Research Grant program for doctoral study in Germany. DST and DAAD are also jointly supporting an Indo-German Centre on Sustainability at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras. DAAD is also funding "Global Water and Climate Adaptation Center", (also referred to as ABCD Center, after the first letters of the 4 participating locations in 3 countries on 2 continents, viz., Aachen, Bangkok, Chennai and Dresden) whose key objective is the scientific training of future environmental leaders, who will enable the transfer of research into practice. The Centre would deal with climate adaptation measures in the Global South, especially in the water

- sector. The establishment of the ABCD-Center is expected to make a significant contribution to tackling global challenges with excellent research and innovative teaching.
- e) Under the Indo-German Science & Technology Cooperation Programme, the DST along with the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany organizes "Indo-German Frontiers of Engineering, INDOGFOE" Symposium alternatively in India and Germany. So far, 12 such symposia, were organized, aimed at bringing together outstanding, early-career German and Indian engineers and scientists from industry, universities, and other research institutions. The highly interdisciplinary symposia enable scholars and scientists to establish long-term bi-national cooperations that strengthen the scientific relationship between India and Germany.

Sister State/City Arrangements:

- 41. The States of Karnataka and Bavaria, Maharashtra and Baden-Wuerttemberg, and the cities of Mumbai and Stuttgart have twinning arrangements. The city of Aurangabad and Ingolstadt (Bavaria) signed a Letter of Intent for a Sister City Partnership in April 2022. Twin city relations between Coimbatore and Esslingen were established in 2016.
- 42. The States of Bavaria and Hamburg have representative offices in Mumbai and Bengaluru. Several German cities including Karlsruhe have representative offices in Pune. North Rhine Westphalia has close relations with West Bengal. Pune and the city-state of Bremen have an informal cooperation agreement. Himachal Pradesh and Rhineland Palatinate are discussing closer cooperation.

Culture:

43. The longstanding cultural relations between India and Germany are strengthened by the cultural and intellectual exchanges between the two countries. The systematic and academic study of Indian literature, especially Vedas and Upanishads, and also translation of famous works from Sanskrit to German language significantly contributed to the better understanding of India and its culture. Most importantly, the translation of Kalidasa's 'Shakuntala' in 1791

initiated institution-based scientific research on sacred Indian texts giving Germans an insight into Indian philosophy and literature. Max Mueller was the first scholar of Indo-European languages to translate and publish Upanishads and Rigveda. The Max Mueller Bhavan (Goethe Institute), counterpart of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) in India, imparts German language training in cities across India.

- 44. The visit of Nobel Laureate Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore to Germany in 1921, 1926 and 1930 was one of the most important bridges of cultural and intellectual exchange between India and Germany. Gurudev Tagore's impassioned lectures inspired Germans that portrayed the universal relevance of Indian culture and spirituality.
- 45. The cultural relationship between India and Germany in the 21st century has been supported by established networks in socio-cultural fields. The Indo-German Society (DIG) promotes inter-cultural understanding by bringing together people of both countries through its network with around 20 Chapters. The Gisela Bonn Award, administered by the DIG, is conferred on a German national who significantly contributed towards promotion of Indo-German friendship. The award for 2021 was presented to Prof. Dr. Hans Harder from Heidelberg University at a ceremony held in Hannover onOctober 1, 2022.
- 46. The contemporary cultural exchange between India and Germany endeavours to strengthen cultural relations by encouraging cooperation in the field of culture, media, entertainment and education. German exponents of music, Mr. Peter Pannke and Mr. Carsten Wicke have been awarded ICCR Senior Fellowships to undertake research on Indian classical music forms. Furthermore, Mr. Falco Cornelius and Mr. Karsten Frederik Serra, young entrepreneurs from Germany, visited India in October 2022 under ICCR's Gen-Next Democracy Network Programme.
- 47. The popularity of Indian films in Germany, especially Bollywood films, can be traced back to the unique collaboration between Himanshu Rai and Director Franz Osten that produced the film 'The Light of Asia' under the banner of Bombay Talkies in 1924. The increased interest in Indian films

manifests in the exclusive Indian Film Festival, Stuttgart and Indo-German Film Week in Berlin which witness a huge turnout regularly.

- **48.** There is immense interest in contemporary Indian literature and theatre. Literary works and plays of renowned authors in Indian languages have been translated and published by German publishers.
- 49. Ayurveda, the Indian traditional system of medicine, is being acknowledged as a complementary system of medicine in Germany. Several research institutions in Germany have been contributing to this development through international exchanges and research projects. The holistic approach of Yoga in health care and well-being has led many Germans to embrace Yoga. The presence of Yoga schools in almost all the cities of Germany has made Yoga accessible to the people. The International Day of Yoga 2022 was organized in Erfurt, capital city of the federal state of Thuringia, with an objective to raise awareness of Yoga and its benefits among school children. The event witnessed a huge footfall of school students from Thuringia.
- **50.** The Memorandum of Understanding for museum cooperation signed during the 5th IGC envisages cooperation for capacity building in fields of restoration, conservation, education and digital infrastructure.

Higher Education:

- **51.** There are approximately 34,134 (2022) Indian students who are studying in Germany, a number which is rising each year. Around 800 German students are studying or doing internships in India.
- **52.** The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) facilitates joint research, training and exchange of young scientists/research scholars. Indo-German Partnership in Higher Education was signed between Ministry of Education (MoE) and Germany's Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) with UGC and DAAD as implementing partners from India and Germany respectively, at the 3rd IGC. The MoU between DAAD and UGC for the second phase of implementation of the programme (2020-24) was signed during

- the 5th IGC in November 2019. Nine programmes arecurrently active under this MoU.
- **53.** The GIAN (Global Initiative of Academic Networks) initiative of MoE has been well received in Germany. So far, 125 courses were approved from Germany.
- **54.** Visiting Advanced **J**oint Research (VA**J**RA) from DST and Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) from MoE and New Passage to India (from the German side) are instruments of faculty exchange and student mobility between India and Germany.

Indian Diaspora:

- **55.** There are around 2.03 lakh (December 2021) Indian passport holders and Indian-origin people (about 1.60 lakh NRIs/Indian Passport holders and around 43,000 PIOs) in Germany.
- **56.** The Indian diaspora mainly consists of professionals, researchers and scientists, businessmen, nurses and students. There has been a significant increase in the last few years in the number of qualified Indian professionals in the fields of IT, banking, finance, etc.

Source: Embassy of India, Germany Web site Nov 2022.