**India-Poland Relations**

**Political Relations:**

India-Poland relations are deep rooted and have traditionally been close, friendly and characterized by goodwill and cooperation. There are no major disagreements of a bilateral nature, and there has been cooperation between the two countries in the international fora.

Since the 15th century, a number of Polish writers, soldiers and missionaries have visited India. During the 19th century, several Sanskrit classics were translated into Polish. A "History of Ancient India" in Polish was one of the first of its kind to be published in Europe in 1820. A Chair of Sanskrit was set up at the Jagiellonian University of Krakow as far back as 1893. At the beginning of the 20th century, the Polish painter Norblin was commissioned by the Maharaja of Jodhpur to decorate the Umaid Bhavan Palace where his painting can still be seen. Feliks Topolski's oil painting of Mahatma Gandhi's assassination has adorned Rashtrapati Bhawan.

During World War II, the then Jam Sahib of Nawanagar had extended hospitality to some 6,000 Polish orphans released from Siberia. They have formed the World Association of Poles from India. Despite their advancing years, the members of the Association had donated funds for relief and rehabilitation after the Gujarat earthquake in January 2001.

India and Poland established diplomatic relations in 1954 and the Indian Embassy in Warsaw was opened in 1957. The two countries shared common ideological perceptions, based on their opposition to colonialism, imperialism and racism.

**Head of State/Government level visits:**

Earlier major visits from our side to Poland include: Presidents V.V. Giri (1970), Zail Singh (1986), S.D.Sharma (1996) and Prime Ministers Jawaharlal Nehru (1955), Indira Gandhi (1967) and Morarji Desai (1979). From the Polish side, visits include: Presidents Alexander Kwasniewski (1998), Lech Walesa (1994) and (1998), Prime Ministers Cyrankieweicz (1957) and Jaroszewicz (1973) and Polish United Workers’ Party First Secretaries Gierek (1977) and Gen. Jaruszelski (1985).

The Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski paid a State visit to India in January 1998. The Polish PM Leszek Miller paid a State Visit to India in February 2003. The President of India Smt. Pratibha Patil visited Poland in April 2009. The Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk paid a state visit to India in September 2010.

**Other Exchange of visits:**

* The Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Anand Sharma, visited Poland in June 2006. Coal Minister Shri Sriprakash Jaiswal visited Poland on June 20- 22, 2011.
* The Polish Foreign Minister Mr. Radoslaw Sikorski visited India on July 11-12, 2011.
* The Culture Minister of Poland, Mr. Bogdan Zdrojewski visited India from November 1-5, 2011. He again visited India in November 2012 to attend the Goa International Film Festival.
* The Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland Ms. Beata Stelmach visited India in November 2011.
* Minister of Information & Broadcasting Smt. Ambika Soni visited Poland on 02-04 July 2012.
* Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur visited Poland from 27-31 January 2013. Shri Suresh Goel, DG, ICCR, visited Poland from 19-21 June 2013. Shri Janardan Dwivedi, MP and Hindi scholar, visited Poland in June 2013.
* Minister of Steel Shri Beni Prasad Verma led a delegation to Poland from 27-31 October 2013 to explore opportunities between the two countries in areas of coal mining and technology. He met the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy of Poland Mr. Jerzy Witold Pietrewicz.
* Foreign Minister of Poland Mr. Radoslaw Sikorski Sikorski visited India to attend the 11th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ meeting held in New Delhi from 11-12 November 2013. Mr. Sikorshi met EAM on the sidelines of ASEM FMM11 on 10 November 2013.
* Minister of Environment and Forests Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan led a delegation to attend the UN Climate Change Conference COP 19 and CMP 9 in Warsaw from 19-24 November 2013.
* Polish Secretary of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Katarzyna Kacperczyk, visited India in February 2014 to attend the India-Poland Energy Summit. He also met Secretary (West) in New Delhi.
* Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr. Tadeusz Nalewajk, led a delegation to India in September 2014.
* Deputy Minister of Economy of Poland Mr. Jerzy Pietrewicz headed a business delegation to India from 12-18 December 2014 and met with the Union Minister of Steel and Mines Narendra Singh Tomar and representatives of Indian business in Delhi.
* Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy of Poland, Mr. Janusz Piechocinski, led a large business delegation to India from 10-12 January 2015 to attend the Vibrant Gujarat Summit in Gandhinagar and met with the Hon’ble Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of Gujarat. Ms. [Katarzyna Kacperczyk, Under Secretary of State](http://www.msz.gov.pl/en/ministry/senior_officials/katarzyna_kacperczyk/) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, accompanied the Deputy Prime Minister.

**Agreements:**

The following is a list of operational agreements between India and Poland:

(i) Agreement on Cultural Cooperation (1957)

(ii) Bilateral Agreement on Shipping (1960; still valid but moribund)

(iii) Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation (1981)

(iv) Agreement on Cooperation in Science and Technology (1993)

(v) Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations (1996)

(vi) Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investments (1996)

(vii) Agreement on Cooperation in Combating Organised Crime and International Terrorism (2003)

(viii) MOU on Defence Cooperation (2003; JWG meets regularly), an

addendum to this was signed on 30 May 2011 by which this agreement has been indefinitely extended.

(ix) Extradition Treaty (2003)

(x) Agreement on Economic Cooperation (2006)

(xi) Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Heath Care and Medical Science (2009)

(xii) Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Tourism (2009)

(xiii) Agreement on Audio-visual Co-production (2012)

**Economic and Commercial Cooperation:**

After the signing of the new Economic Agreement in May 2006, the first meeting of the new Joint Commission was held in India in May 2008, the second session in Poland on May 25, 2011 and the third session on 8 October 2013 in New Delhi.

In 2013, bilateral trade was US$ 1.961 billion (Indian exports - USD 1.470 bn, and Indian imports - USD 0.491 bn). Our major exports have been cotton, textiles, chemical products, electromechanical appliances, vehicles, air ships and vessels. Major imports from Poland have been electromechanical appliances, mineral products, chemical products, etc. The bilateral trade figures for last few years is given below:

(In US$ Million)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year | India's Export | India's Import | Total |
| 2010 | 1035 | 357 | 1392 |
| 2011 | 1350 | 523 | 1873 |
| 2012 | 1240 | 665 | 1905 |
| 2013 | 1470 | 491 | 1961 |
| 2014 (January-October) | 1481 | 460 | 1941 |

Source: Central Statistical Organisation, Poland

The Indian investments in Poland are over US$ 3 billion and include ArcelorMittal, Videocon, Escorts, Strides Arcolab, Reliance Industries, Ranbaxy, Essel Propack, KPIT Cummins, Zensar Technologies Ltd, Infosys and Wipro, Jindal Stainless, Berger Paints India, UFLEX Glenmark Pharmaceuticals, Flemingo Duty Free, Rishabh Instruments etc. The Polish companies that operate in India include Torunskie Zaklady Materialow Opatrunkowych (TZMO) in Dindigul (manufacturing hygiene sanitary products) Can-Pack Poland in Aurangabad (manufacturing metal packaging), Inglot (cosmetic products), Geofyzika (seismic surveys for oil companies)

**Cultural & Education:**

There is a strong tradition of Indology studies in Poland. The Jagiellonian University has an active Indology Department with a popular 5-year post-graduate in Indology. Hindi is also taught. The Indology Department of the Oriental Institute at the University of Warsaw (established in 1932) is the biggest centre for Indian studies. ICCR funds two Indian professors, who teach Hindi and Tamil at the Warsaw University and Tamil at the Jagiellonian University. The first Indology Conference for Central and East European Countries was held in Warsaw in September 2005.

Embassy regularly organizes Indian cultural programmes in Poland with the help of ICCR. Embassy also offers scholarships to Polish professionals under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme and Polish students under ICCR and Kendriya Hindi Sansanthan, Agra, scholarship schemes.

2014 assumed special importance in the bilateral relationship in view of its being the 60th year of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Poland. A series of outreach activities including seminars, film weeks, performing arts, business forums, cuisine festivals, exhibitions, etc. were orgaised in both the countries to commemorate this historic event.

**Indian Community:**

There are some 2,500 Indians in Poland, mainly in private business. Others work in multinational companies and banks. The Embassy of India in Warsaw issues over 20,000 visas annually.

**Useful Resources:**

For more information and latest updates please visit

Embassy of India, Warsaw website: http://www.indembwarsaw.pl/

Embassy of India, Warsaw Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/embassyofindiawarsaw

Embassy of India, Warsaw, Twitter page: [twitter.com/@IndiaPoland](mailto:twitter.com/@IndiaPoland)

-----

**January 2015**