

Brief Embassy Report on Bilateral Relations – ITJ Division, DGCI&S, Kolkata.

India – Poland Bilateral Relations

A. Introduction

1. Indian Trade Journal (ITJ) division of the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS) brings out weekly publication on Embassy Profile Report providing information on recent policy changes and happenings in other countries that may be of interest to the Indian trading community. This is the Embassy Profile Report for 25.06.2025 depicting the Embassy of Poland.

2. India & Poland share a long-standing friendly relationship, marked by high level political contacts and vibrant economic engagement. Diplomatic relations were established in 1954, leading to the opening of the Indian Embassy in Warsaw in 1957. The two countries shared common ideological perceptions, based on their opposition to colonialism, imperialism and racism. During the Communist era, bilateral relations were close and cordial, with regular high level visits (several VVIP visits from India – beginning with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in 1955 - and four from Poland), coupled with planned trade and economic interactions by state trading organizations, underpinned by the rupee clearing arrangements.

3. The relationship continued to remain close after Poland chose the democratic path in 1989. India and Poland transitioned to hard currency trading arrangements that were sustained by rising levels of trade as both economies grew in size and heft. A cordial political relationship has emerged in the current century, particularly after Poland joined the EU in 2004, and became India's key economic partner in Central Europe.

B. Commercial Relations (Trade and Foreign Investment) – Recent facts & figures

4. Poland continues to be India's largest trading & investment partner in Central & Eastern Europe. As a trading country partner of India, and as per latest compiled and available statistics with DGCI&S, India's exports to Poland during 2024-25 recorded at 2618.56 million USD and India's imports from Poland during the same reference period was at 1266.28 million USD. India's imports from Poland were significantly high in 2023-24.

Export-Import statistics from 2020-21 to 2024-25

(USD Million)

Year	Total trade	Import	Export
2020-21	2359.02	706.35	1652.67
2021-22	3848.73	1124.79	2723.94
2022-23	3689.51	1366.40	2323.11
2023-24	3941.13	1504.29	2436.84
2024-25	3884.84	1266.28	2618.56

(Source: Department of Commerce, India)

5. The top 10 items of Indian export include: (i) Textiles and textile articles (ii) Base metals and articles thereof (iii) Products of chemical industry (iv) Machinery and mechanical appliances, electrical and electro-technical equipment (v) Footwear, headgear (vi) Transport equipment (vii) Plastic, rubber and materials thereof (viii) Prepared foodstuff (ix) Articles of stone, ceramic products, glass (x) Vegetable products. The top 10 items of Indian import from Poland include: (i) Machinery and mechanical appliances, electrical and electro-technical equipment (ii) Mineral products (iii) Base metals and articles (iv) Plastic, rubber and articles thereof (v) Products of chemical industry (vi) Optical, photographic, measuring, checking instruments etc. (vii) Transport equipment (viii) Miscellaneous manufactured articles (ix) Pulp of wood, paper, and similar (x) Articles of stone, ceramic, glass.

6. Investment: Indian investment in Poland has been steadily growing over the years and is now estimated over USD 3 billion. Indian companies are partners in the development of Poland and have created a substantial number of jobs locally, especially Indian IT companies which have invested in Poland and are estimated to employ nearly 10,000 Polish nationals. Indian companies operating in Poland include those of the IT and outsourcing sectors, such as Gen pact, Infosys, KPIT-Info systems, HCL, Tata Consultancy Services, Wipro, L&T Tech and Zensar Technologies. Other Indian companies having a presence in Poland include UFLEX, Essel Propack, VVF etc. Some companies that have entered the Polish market through acquisitions include Berger Paints India, Escorts, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals, Lambda Therapeutics Research, Lumel SA and Tata Global Beverages. Total Polish investment in India is estimated at USD 685 million. EKOLOG, a firm that focuses on clean technologies, entered the Indian market in 2016 and won a tender to build an Integrated Solid Waste Management Center for the Bengaluru airport. The Polish bus-making company, Solaris – one of the leading producers of electric buses in Europe – has entered into a joint venture with an Indian counterpart, JBM Auto, to produce these kinds of vehicles for the Indian market.

C. Sectoral Collaboration

Mining/energy sector: Poland possesses reputed clean coal technologies and Polish public sector companies have played a substantial role in development of mining and power sectors in India. Trainee engineers from M/s Coal India Limited were trained in Polish mines that specialized in intelligent mining. India and Poland signed a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance bilateral cooperation in the coal and mining sector.

Agro-food Processing: Polish capabilities and advanced technologies in the food processing industry is well recognized. Polish food processing companies and entrepreneurs could participate in the Mega Food Parks being set up in India. A Joint Working Group on Food Processing has been set up.

IT and ICT: Indian and Polish IT & ICT companies complement rather than compete with one another, as manifested by the presence of a significant number of blue-chip Indian IT companies in Poland. Around 11 Indian IT companies, employing more than 10,000 professionals, are currently active in Poland and operate their Europe operation from Poland. Growth in the Polish IT industry is driven by rising incomes, investment in data networks, high levels of computer literacy support and

retail hardware demand. Indian companies have gauged opportunities in Poland for over a decade and have made it a destination of choice for near-shoring operations targeted at Europe. Infosys and HCL have a strong presence in Poland.

Pharmaceutical and chemicals Sector: The chemical Industry is one of the major sectors of the Polish economy and Poland is a net importer of chemicals. Chemical products figures in top 5 exports items from India to Poland with organic chemicals taking the lead. Given Poland's strategic location, shortages in health care personnel and 25% growth in pharmaceuticals market in recent years, there are good opportunities for Indian exporters and investors. OTC drugs, food supplements and generic drugs are specific areas of opportunities. Poland is dependent on India for active substances for critical medicines and imports raw materials for the production of antibiotics - salt of erythromycin (for the treatment of respiratory tract infections, skin, urinary tract infections and postoperative infections), acyclovir (for shingles and herpes); neomycin used for wound infections and rifampicin for tuberculosis.

Textile Sector: Textile continues to be the largest segment in the Indian exports to Poland. Polish imports of textiles and textile articles from India was of USD 645 million in 2023 marking a substantial growth over the last decade. However, there exists much potential to enhance our exports in the textiles sector provided a conducive environment is created for Indian exporters.

Engineering Sector: Polish public sector companies played a substantial role in development of mining and power sectors in India. They have collaborated in reorganization of some Indian collieries, besides supplying mining machinery, equipment, technical know-how and training.

Sub-national Partnership: Six State-to-State cooperation/partnerships agreements, with an emphasis on economic and commercial cooperation exist between India and Poland.

D. Other Major Areas of Cooperation

India and Poland have signed multiple Agreements/ MoUs covering areas such as Education, Tourism, Defence Production, Environment, Industrial research, Development & Innovation, Space, Renewable Energy, Civil Aviation, Cooperation in Geology/Mining.

Agreements: A number of bilateral agreements are operational that include: Agreement on Cultural Cooperation (1957); Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation (1989); Agreement on Cooperation in Science and Technology (1993); Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations (1996); Agreement on Cooperation in Combating Organized Crime and International Terrorism (2003); MOU on Defence Cooperation (2003); Extradition Treaty (2003); Agreement on Economic Cooperation (2006); Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Healthcare and Medical Sciences (2009); Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Tourism (2009); Agreement on audio-visual co-production (2012); Protocol on amending the agreement on avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes and income (2013); Agreement on exemption from visa requirement for holders of diplomatic passports (2015); Agreement on cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors (2017); Cooperation in the area of Coal Mining (2019); Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Criminal Matters (2022) and Agreement on engagement in the gainful occupation by family members of a

member of a diplomatic mission or consular post (2022). India-Poland Social Security Agreement and Administrative Arrangement to the Social Security Agreement was signed on 25 November 2024 in Warsaw.

Foreign Office Consultations: Both sides have been regularly engaging in Foreign Office Consultations (FOCs) since 1996. The 10th Foreign Office Consultations between India & Poland were held in Warsaw on December 12, 2022. From the Polish side, the meeting was chaired by Mr. Marcin Przydacz, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland and from the Indian side by Mr. Sanjay Verma, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs. The talks focused on high-level bilateral visits, economic cooperation, consular matters, co-ordination in international fora, regional geopolitical situation etc. A bilateral agreement on gainful occupation by family members of members of diplomatic missions and posts was also signed on this occasion.

Policy Planning Dialogue : The second India-Poland Policy Planning Dialogue (PPD) was held in Warsaw on 18 February 2025 between delegations led by Mr. S. Raghuram, Joint Secretary(PP&R), MEA and Mr. Lukasz Pawlowski, Director (Strategy), MFA. The first India-Poland PPD was held in virtual mode on 24 March 2021 between Mr. Anupam Ray, JS(PP&R), MEA and Mr. Maciej Pisarski, Director(Strategy), MFA.

Indology: There is a strong tradition of Indology studies in Poland, with Polish scholars having translated Sanskrit into Polish as early as in the 19th Century. Sanskrit was being studied at the 600 year old Jagiellonian University in Krakow (the oldest in Poland) in 1860-61, with a Chair of Sanskrit established there in 1893. The Indology Department of the Oriental Institute at the University of Warsaw (established in 1932) is the biggest center for Indian studies in Central Europe. Study of Indian languages, literature, culture and Indology is also pursued at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan and the University of Wroclaw. ICCR sponsored the first Central & Eastern European regional conference of Indology in Warsaw University in September 2005 in which 19 scholars from 11 countries participated. An MoU for the establishment of an ICCR Chair of Indian studies at the Jagiellonian University, Krakow was signed in February 2017 and three Indian Professors were appointed as ICCR Chair Professors since the signing of the MOU.

Yoga: Poland has over 100-year history of yoga. It is estimated that there are over 300,000 yoga practitioners in Poland, with about 1,000 yoga centers and 8,000 teachers propagating Yoga in Poland. The Association of Schools of Yoga, started in 2013 with 11 yoga schools, has now 50 yoga schools under its umbrella. The Art of Living Foundation, Brahma Kumaris and the Iyengar Yoga Association are some of the prominent associations promoting yoga in Poland. The International Day of Yoga is celebrated every year with much enthusiasm and participation at different cities of Poland.

Good Maharaja Connection: A monument, commemorating Jam Saheb Digvijaysinhji Ranjitsinhji Jadeja of Nawanganar, was unveiled in October, 2014 at the Square of the Good Maharaja, Ochota District, Warsaw, Poland. Another plaque commemorating the Valivade- Kolhapur camp at which another 5000 Polish refugees had found refuge, near the Monte Casino War Memorial was inaugurated in November 2017 in Warsaw. Eight Polish primary and secondary schools are named after Jam Saheb, known as 'Good Maharaja' in Poland. The Maharaja accepted more than 1000 Polish refugees, mainly children, as they escaped the depredations of the Second World War in the 1940s. The surviving Polish children have formed an Association of Poles, which meets on an annual basis in one of the major Polish cities. In coordination and with the support of ICCR, the Embassy organized a commemorative

event entitled "Remembering the Good Maharajas", in the Old Orangery of the iconic Royal Lazienki park on July 5, 2022. The deputy Foreign Minister, Deputy Speaker and Governor of Mazovia represented the Polish side at this event. Representatives of the Jam Saheb of Nawanagar and the Kolhapur Royal Family came from India to attend this event which witnessed participation by ICCR President Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe. The first visit of a 20-member Polish youth delegation to India under the Jam Saheb Memorial Youth Exchange Programme, announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his official visit to Poland in August 2024, took place from 19-27 February 2025.

Consular Relations

Honorary Consulate: Since January 2018, India has an Honorary Consulate in Wroclaw and another Honorary Consulate General was opened in Krakow in August 2024. In addition to the Polish Embassy in New Delhi and the Consulate General in Mumbai, Poland has two Honorary Consulates in Kolkata and Bengaluru.

Indian Community: Estimated at approximately 25,000 the Indian community in Poland consists of traders (textiles, garments and electronics) who came after the collapse of communism and professionals working with multinational and Indian companies and software /IT businesses. Approximately 5000 students are currently pursuing studies in various universities in Poland. More than 100 Indian restaurants operate in Poland.

Source: www.mea.gov.in