

General Studies-2; Topic– Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests

Indo-German Development Cooperation

1) Introduction

- Bilateral relations between India and Germany are founded on common democratic principles and are marked by a high degree of trust and mutual respect.
- India was one of the first nations to recognise the young Federal Republic of Germany in 1951.
- Today, Germany is amongst India's most important partners both bilaterally and in the global context.

2) Development Cooperation

- After the devastation of World War II — the two countries entered into diplomatic relations almost immediately.
- Both countries soon started concrete economic development cooperation, which continues till today.
- 2018 marks the 60th anniversary of the strategic relationship.
- In the early years the joint projects targeted industrial growth, poverty reduction and rural development.
- In the 1960s German development cooperation supported the agricultural revolution in the Nilgiris.
- The know-how and expertise that Germany shares with India is the main value-add of this cooperation.
- IIT Madras and Polio immunisation programme were set up with financial contribution from Germany.
- Germany's Official Development Assistance (ODA) towards India, are in sync with India's priority sectors and SDG 2030 including solar energy, smart cities, and environment.

3) Commonalities between the two Countries

- Both share common values and constitutional principles, and our relationship has always been based on great mutual respect and understanding.
- Today, India is one of the biggest and fastest-growing economies, and Germany is the biggest economy in Europe.
- Both are natural partners making a joint effort for prosperity, while ensuring that they safeguard the environment etc.
- India is Germany's biggest development partner with a proven track record of success.
- Now, the areas of focus are renewable energy and energy efficiency, sustainable urban development, environment protection and resource management.

4) Mutual Cooperation

- Our bilateral relations contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which seek to end poverty and create a more inclusive and equitable world.
- **Clean Ganga Initiative**
 - a. The Ganga, like Germany's Rhine River, had faced abuse for decades, with untreated industrial and domestic waste flowing into them, causing major pollution and the extinction of marine life.

b. Germany pledges a loan of Rs 970 crore to strengthen sewage water treatment infrastructure in Uttarakhand.

- **Energy Matters**

a. India and Germany cooperate closely on energy matters.

b. In 2006, the Indo-German Energy Forum was set up to promote cooperation in this field.

c. In 2013, the Maharashtra Power Generation Cooperation Limited, supported by German funds, set up a 125 Megawatt solar photovoltaic power plant in Sakri.

d. German development cooperation has given loans worth Rs 9,300 crore for our strategic Green Energy Corridors project.

e. This will ensure the supply of clean electricity to millions of Indians while reducing network losses and improving the carbon footprint.

- **Green Mobility**

a. Green mobility is one of the key issues for the future of our countries.

b. Germany pledged up to Rs 8,900 crore over five years to improve solid and liquid waste management and for Metro in Nagpur, which is the single biggest project of German financial cooperation in India.

c. Germany has partnered with three smart cities — Bhubaneswar, Kochi and Coimbatore — to provide sustainable urban public transport.

- These projects stand for around 190 already successful or promising cooperation projects of India and Germany today.

5) Way Forward

- We need to work towards further strengthening the bilateral relations between the two nations.
- With increasing environmental degradation and adverse effects of global warming, we need to actively protect our habitat and cooperate closely on this matter internationally.
- Both countries must work as equal partners to tackle global development challenges.
- Germany has technological capacity to cater to the needs of the huge Indian market.
- Germany must continue to create innovative solutions with India for the future, for the benefit of both of our societies and the world at large.