

Embassy of India
Tallinn

India-Estonia Bilateral Relations

India first recognised Estonia on 22 September, 1921 when Estonia was admitted into the League of Nations. India re-recognised the Republic of Estonia on 9 September 1991, a month after it declared its independence from the Soviet Union. Diplomatic relations were established on 2 December 1991. Bilateral relations are cordial and friendly. Since 1991, Embassy of India, Helsinki (Finland) was concurrently accredited to Estonia. The Embassy of India in Tallinn was opened on 28 December, 2021 headed by a Cd'A a.i. The first Resident Ambassador Shri Ajaneesh Kumar, presented his credentials on 26 April, 2022. Government of Estonia opened its Embassy in New Delhi headed by a C.d'A in February 2012. The first resident Ambassador presented his credentials on 22 February, 2013.

Launch of Mission Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE)

In the spirit of the existing warm and friendly relations between the two countries, Estonia, one of the 11 nations, sent a video message of congratulation by Prime Minister Kaja Kallas on the occasion of official launch of Mission Lifestyle For Environment (LiFE) event at Kevadia, Gujarat. The video message was played along with that of others' at the event on 20 October, 2022.

High level engagements

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met Estonia's President Ms. Kersti Kaljulaid on the sidelines of UNGA in New York in September 2019.
- Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, visited Estonia on 20-21 August, 2019.
- Prime Minister of Estonia, Mr. Andrus Ansip visited India, on a private visit, on 16-17 July, 2012 enroute to Afghanistan.
- President Mr. Lennart-Georg Meri made a State visit to India in February 1999.
- Prime Minister Shri P.V.Narasimha Rao and President of Estonia Mr. Lennart-Georg Meri met in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

Visits of Estonian Foreign Ministers to India

- Mr. Margus Tsahkna, 21-23 February, 2024
- Mr. Urmas Reinsalu, 15-16 January, 2020
- Mr. Urmas Paet February 2013 (to inaugurate Embassy of Estonia)
- Mr. Urmas Paet November 2008
- Mr. Trivimi Velliste October 1993

Visits of Indian Foreign Ministers to Estonia

- MOS External Affairs (MJA) 27-28 May, 2017
- MOS(EA), Smt. Preneet Kaur in March 2011.
- MOS (EA) Shri Digvijay Singh in November 2003
- MOS(EA) Shri Salman Khurshid in August 1995

Meetings of Foreign Ministers

- EAM met with FM Mr. Margus Tsahkna on 8 December, 2024 in Bahrain on the sidelines of the International Institute for Strategic Studies' Manama Dialogue 2024.
- EAM met FM Mr. Margus Tsahkna during his visit to Delhi on 21-23 February, 2024 to attend the Raisina Dialogue.
- EAM met FM Mr. Urmas Reinsalu on 23 September, 2022 on the sidelines of UNGA in New York.
- On 18 August, 2021 EAM met Estonian FM Ms. Eva-Mria Liimets in New York
- EAM Smt. Sushma Swaraj met FM Mr. Sven Mikser on 25 September, 2018 in New York.
- MoS(EA) Gen. V.K. Singh met FM Mr. Sven Mikser in November 2017 in Myanmar on the sidelines of ASEM.
- MOS(MJA) met FM Mr. Sven Mikser in September 2017 in New York

Other Ministerial Visits from Estonia

- Minister of Regional Affairs and Agriculture Ms. Piret Hartman with an accompanying business delegation on 2-7 December, 2024 which participated in SIAL India 2024.
- Minister of Economic Affairs and Information Technology, Mr. Tiit Riisalo took part in the Global Vibrant Gujarat Summit on 10-12 January, 2024. He was the keynote speaker at one of the seminars.
- Minister of IT and Entrepreneurship, Ms. Urve Palo on 8-12 March, 2018
- Minister for Economic Affairs and Communications, Mr. Juhana Parts on 3-8 February 2014.
- Minister for Education and Research Mr. Jaak Aaviksoo visited India in October 2013.

- Minister for Justice, Mr. Hanno Pevkur on 9-11 December, 2013.
- Minister for Education and Research, Mr. Jaak Aaviksoo from 28 September – 1 October, 2012.

Other Ministerial Visits from India

- Karnataka's Minister of IT, Bio-Tech, S&T and Industries, Shri K.J. George visited on 28 August, 2018.
- Minister for Law and Justice & IT, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad on 11-13 September, 2016.
- Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan on 20-22 September, 2013.
- MOS Petroleum and Natural Gas, Smt. Lakshmi Panabaka (with a delegation from ONGC and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.) in June, 2013
- MOS Corporate Affairs, Shri Sachin Pilot in April 2013
- Minister of Communications and IT, Shri Kapil Sibal on 19 September, 2011
- Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Shri Praful Patel in October 2011

Parliamentary Contacts

- Chair of India-Estonia Parliamentary Group, Mr. Sven Sester and three other MPs visited India in Jan-Feb 2020.
- An 11-member delegation led by Mr. Marko Mihkelson, Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee of the Estonian Parliament visited India in March 2012.
- Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri P.K.Bansal and MPs visited Estonia in June 2011.
- President (Speaker) of Riigikogu (Parliament) of Estonia, Mrs. Ene Ergma led a 10-member Parliamentary Group to India in April 2010.
- Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee met President Speaker of Parliament Mr. Toomas Varek in June 2006.

Parliamentary Friendship Group

Estonia-India Parliamentary Friendship Group was set up by the 15th Riigikogu (Parliament) with 17 MPs and former Foreign Minister Mr. Urmas Reinsalu as the Chairman.

Foreign Office Consultation

A Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) was signed in August 1995. Since the first FOC in September 2001 in Tallinn, so far 12 FOCs have been held, alternately in Tallinn and New Delhi. The 12th FOC was held in New Delhi on 12 April, 2023.

Bilateral Agreements

- Declaration of Principles of Cooperation (entered into force in October, 1993)
- Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation (signed in October, 1993; entered into force in October, 2004)
- Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation (signed on 14 October, 1993; entered into force in March, 2000)
- Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations (signed in August 1995)
- Agreement on Cooperation in the Spheres of Culture, Education, Science, Sports, Arts, Mass Media, Tourism and Youth Affairs (signed in October, 1993; entered into force in November, 1999)
- Agreement on Cooperation in Science & Technology (signed in February, 1999; entered into force in August, 1999)
- Joint Business Council Agreement between FICCI & Estonian Chamber of Commerce (signed in February 1999)
- Agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion (DTAA) (signed in September, 2011)
- MOU on Cooperation in Biotechnology and Higher Education (signed in October 2013)
- MOU on Cooperation on Capacity Building etc. in e-Governance (signed in February 2014)
- Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons (signed in Nov, 2016; effective in Mar, 2017).
- MOU on cooperation in ICT, e-Gov, Cyber Security between the State of Telangana and the Government of the Republic of Estonia signed in October 2018.
- MOU for Cooperation in e-Governance and emerging digital technologies (signed in August 2019)
- MOU for Cooperation in Cyber Security (signed in August 2019). Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) extends the current MOU for another period of 3 years, with the provision for further extension.
- MOU for Waiver of Visas for diplomatic passport holders (signed in August 2019)
- Mutual Recognition of Vaccine Certificate (MRVC) through exchange of Note Verbales (Oct 2021)

Inaugural India-Estonia Cyber Dialogue

The inaugural India-Estonia Cyber Dialogue was held on June 17, 2024 in Tallinn. The 6-member Indian delegation was led by Mr. Amit A. Shukla, Joint Secretary, Cyber Diplomacy Division, Ministry of External Affairs, while the 8-member Estonian delegation was led by Mr. Tanel Sepp, Ambassador-at-Large for Cyber Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of the Republic of Estonia.

Estonia-India Business Forum

There exists an agreement establishing a Joint Business Council (JBC) between FICCI and Estonian Chamber of Commerce (KODA)

Bilateral Trade in Goods

(In EUR million)

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Upto October 2024
India's Exports to Estonia	32.87	31.87	45.61	30.33	41.00	93.64	42.1	75.12
India's Import from Estonia	57.75	86.44	54.19	64.77	97.80	123.85	79.9	62.37
Total Bilateral trade	90.62	118.31	99.80	95.10	138.80	217.49	122	137.49

Bilateral Trade in Services

(In EUR million)

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Upto September 2024
India Imports from Estonia	10.0	8.4	14.6	7.7	15.60	19.50	24.2	70.5
India exports to Estonia	7.7	8.9	9.4	8.1	11.80	19.90	15.8	14.0
Total	17.7	17.3	24.0	15.8	27.40	39.40	40.00	84.5

Indian Investment in Estonia

Indian FDI in Estonia stands as EUR 8.5 Mln (source: Bank of Estonia, September 2024).

Estonian Investment in India

Estonian FDI in India from April 2000 to September 2024 was US\$ 4.04 million. (source: DPIIT, September, 2024)

Non Ministerial Commercial delegations from Estonia

- Under Secretary for Economic and Development Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ms. Mariin Ratnik visited New Delhi on 22-23 November, 2024 along with a small 2-member business delegation.

Non Ministerial Commercial delegations from India

- Visit of a 10-member Defence Delegation led by PHD Chamber of Commerce visited Tallinn on 22-24 May, 2024.
- 15-member delegation from 11 companies of India visited Tallinn to participated in the Latitude59 event on 18-20 May, 2024.
- A 2-member delegation from National Stock Exchange, Mumbai visited Tallinn in February 2024.
- A 2-member delegation from National Health Authority visited Estonia on 1-3 November 2024.
- First-ever FICCI FLO delegation, led by Ms. Joysree Das Verma and comprising of 64 other members including 8 former FICCI FLO Presidents visited Estonia on 11-14 August, 2024.

Culture

- On the occasion of the 78th Independence Day of India, an ICCR sponsored Jhankar Bollywood Dance Company visited Estonia on 14-20 August, 2024.
- On the occasion of the 74th Republic Day of India, an ICCR sponsored Rajasthani Folk Music and Dance troupe – Panihari Lok Sangeet Sansthan visited Estonia on 25-30 January, 2023.
- To commemorate the 77th Independence Day of India, a 7-member ICCR sponsored Tanusree Shankar Dance Company visited Estonia on 24-25 August, 2023.
- A 15-member cultural delegation from Estonia visited on 03-12 February, 2024 to participate in the 37th Surajkund International Crafts Mela 2024 organized in Surajkund, Haryana.

Indian Community

- As per information provided by the Estonian Government till August 2024, there were over 1800 Indian citizens in Estonia holding temporary or long term residence permit.
- An Indian Association of Estonia was formally constituted in September, 2022 and has been actively organising cultural events from time to time.
- As per information provided by the Estonian government till August 2024, there were 83 Indian students studying in Estonia.