



## India - Switzerland relationship

### Why in news?

\n\n

The President of the Swiss Confederation is set to visit India to hold extensive talks on a range of issues in bilateral relationship.

\n\n

### How has India-Swiss relationship been?

\n\n

- \n
- Switzerland's favourable gesture to India started off with the swift recognition of India's independence in 1947.  
\n
- Subsequently, the conclusion of the **Treaty of Friendship in 1948** officially laid the foundations for diplomatic engagement between the two countries.  
\n
- Numerous agreements in a wide range of areas have been concluded between the two countries.  
\n
- These include trade, investment, development cooperation, education, visas, migration, air transport and science and technology.  
\n
- The recent joint declaration on the mutual **automatic exchange of financial account information** gains ground on India's fight against black money.  
\n
- India has been one of Switzerland's most important **trading partners** in Asia, and Switzerland is the 11th largest **foreign investor** in India.  
\n
- Swiss direct investment in India had led to the creation of around 1,00,000 jobs.  
\n

\n\n

## What are the future prospects?

\n\n

- \n
  - The upcoming visit aims at deepening the cooperation to address global challenges for the benefit of both the countries.
  - \n
  - The mutual opportunities offered by openness and cooperation gains significance in a time of increasing nationalism and protectionism in global nations.
  - \n
  - The **free trade** and economic agreements being negotiated by the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and India, holds good for India and Swiss.
  - \n
  - **Climate Policy** - Unpredictable monsoon rains and the melting of glaciers (in the Himalayas and the Alps) are issues of common concern.
  - \n
  - This holds scope for cooperation in the areas of climate change, sustainable development, water management and energy.
  - \n
  - **Energy** - India and Switzerland share common priorities in boosting the share of renewables in their energy mix.
  - \n
  - A number of joint projects are already under way in energy efficiency and renewable energies and holds further potential as well.
  - \n
  - One of them is CapaCITIES, where Switzerland is helping municipal authorities in India to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
  - \n
  - **Infrastructure** - The world's longest railway tunnel, the Gotthard base tunnel, was recently opened in Switzerland.
  - \n
  - Switzerland's experience in this major rail infrastructure project can best be used by India for its public transport vision.
  - \n
  - **Tourism, vocational education and training, digitalisation** are also expected to be on the agenda.
  - \n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: Indian Express**

\n



**IAS PARLIAMENT**

*Information is Empowering*

A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative