

India and Germany agree to cooperate on trade, energy, science and technology

Some progress in bringing India back into the fold.

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Acknowledging Germany as one of India's biggest trading partners, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in his opening remarks at a joint press interaction with Chancellor Angela Merkel said both countries have agreed to cooperate more effectively in key sectors like energy, science and technology and trade.

Commending the excellent bilateral ties between the two countries, Dr. Singh said that both were working "to strengthen our strategic partnership".

"My visit here reflects our continued interest and commitment to work with Germany under Chancellor Merkel in order to further broaden and deepen our understanding on various bilateral and international issues," Dr. Singh said, adding that he had had very useful discussions with Chancellor Merkel on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern to New Delhi and Berlin.

Asked what had been Merkel's reaction to the negotiations concerning the Indo-U.S. civilian nuclear deal, Dr. Singh said that he had briefed her about the latest developments vis-a-vis the ongoing deliberations at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and with Washington, and Merkel had said that Germany would be supportive of India's endeavours to acquire civilian nuclear energy after the United States formally confirmed the ratification of the agreement signed on July 18, 2005.

On the developments in Iran and Nepal, both leaders said that they had taken note of it.

Prime Minister Singh also said that the rapid growth of the Indian economy offered significant opportunities to both sides to transform their economic ties.

He said that the Hannover Trade Fair with India as the partner country and the Indo-German Business Summit, to be held on Monday, would provide a further momentum to economic cooperation, especially in the manufacturing and infrastructure sectors.

The setting up of a high level Indo-German Energy Forum with participation of both governments, as well as public and private sectors, would enable both countries to focus on practical cooperation in the fields of energy efficiency, clean coal technology and renewable energy.

India and Germany, he also said, have agreed to work actively toward setting up a jointly funded Indo-German Science Centre in Delhi.

Both leaders, Dr. Singh said shared a common perspective on terrorism, and India looked forward to Germany's cooperation on counter-terrorism.

"Our two countries also have a common vision of a cooperative, rule-based multi-polar world order. During our discussions, we re-iterated our mutual determination to continue efforts within the framework of the G-4 for the reform and expansion of the UN Security Council without which the overall reform of the United Nations will remain incomplete," the Prime Minister said.