



A MIRACLE OF UNITY

THIS YEAR, ON OCTOBER 3, the Germans celebrate a turning point in their history: 30 years of reunification of East and West Germany. On this day, in 1990, Germany was finally reunited, after 40 years of separation and Cold War. This ‘miracle’ of unity would not have been possible without the courageous, peaceful protests of citizens in former East Germany, nor without the support and trust of the former Allied Powers, the countries of Europe, and the international

community. Germany’s unification went hand in hand with an ever-closer European Union, delivering unprecedented peace and prosperity for our continent. Nothing symbolises this more than the reconciliation between France and Germany, who have, respectively, become each other’s closest friends and partners.

During the present time of great uncertainty, as the whole world is taken to task by a ruthless pandemic and is facing dire economic fallout, we draw inspiration from the strength that comes from unity.

The reunification of Germany would never have come about without the courageous, peaceful protests of citizens in former East Germany, nor without the support and trust of the former Allied Powers, the countries of Europe, and the international community, says **Walter J. Lindner**, German Ambassador to India

Our historical experience has taught us, that to achieve this, we need creativity, wisdom, and, above all, public engagement and multilateral cooperation.

Germany and India enjoy a strong strategic partnership, driven by regular consultations at the top level. We work together in many areas, from trade and investment to climate change, education, science, and development. We also cooperate on the world stage such as the United Nations, the G20 and the World Health Organisation.

Every year, we celebrated this historical event with many of you, at our Embassies and Consulates, at our Oktoberfest, and various other events. During Corona times, this is not possible. So the Embassy and our four German Consulates have come up with a rather unique surprise: a re-make of the epic Scorpions song ‘Wind Of Change’, performed by German and Indian musicians. You can find it on YouTube under <https://www.youtube.com/c/GermanyinIndia>.

SWEET, SWEET MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS!

As Germany celebrates 30 years of reunification, the four Consul Generals of the German Missions across India look back at the eventful time that finds its place not only in history books but is also etched boldly in their own minds and hearts

On October 3, 1990, everything was just fantastic...



“I was born in 1960 in Bonn, West Germany during the Cold War era. The Berlin Wall and the division of Europe seemed absolute and unchangeable events to me. At the time when people were protesting on the streets in East Germany, I was a law student in the midst of writing my final exams. It was nearly impossible to concentrate on my exams. Things were happening so fast and suddenly, one day, the Berlin Wall fell! I must admit I cried when I saw the pictures, and I still do so today. When I remember this time, I am filled with so much emotion. On the day of reunification, I was in Helsinki, Finland, as an intern at the German Embassy and I could see up close what the final days of the GDR looked like as they were closing their Embassy and Cultural Institute. On October 3, 1990, everything was just fantastic and a ride into the unknown future of a reunited Germany began.”
— **Achim Burkart**
German Consul General in Bengaluru

1989 and 1990 were breathtaking years...

“The Fall of the Berlin Wall and the German Reunification coincided with my decision to join the German Foreign Service. 1989 and 1990 were breathtaking years. It was history in the making. Looking back, I am very happy that the reunited Germany stayed and stays firmly rooted in Europe. Cooperation and partnership for peace and prosperity are lasting pillars of our foreign policy. They also shape our close relationship with India.”
— **Karin Stoll**
German Consul General in Chennai



A united Germany can only prosper by striving for an ever closer EU...

“As a Berliner, I have the most vivid memories of the short period of time, from the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, to the reunification of Germany on October 3, 1990. That night, celebrating with thousands of Germans and non-Germans in front of the Brandenburg Gate just reinforced my conviction: A united Germany can only prosper and live up to her historic responsibilities by striving for an ever-closer European Union.”
— **Manfred Auster**
German Consul General in Kolkata

The moments of joy will be enshrined, forever, in my memory...

“October 3, 1990! I was posted in Tokyo at that time. Hence, I was unfortunately only a distant spectator of this historic event. But I was overwhelmed by the wide sympathy and the excellent media coverage of the celebrations at the Brandenburg Gate, Berlin, in Japan on this occasion. The vivid moments of joy at the celebrations will be enshrined forever in my memory.”
— **Dr. Juergen Morhard**
German Consul General in Mumbai



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LET US BE STRONG AND RESILIENT

Just as a reunified Germany was possible with the courage, strength and resilience of the people, **Dr. Juergen Morhard**, Consul General of Federal Republic of Germany in Mumbai, says that another kind of strength, resilience and unity is the need of the hour

FREEDOM IS THE MOST PRECIOUS POSSESSION. And although we commemorate thirty years of a reunified Germany this year, the pandemic has unfortunately driven us into a state of temporary confinement. We are all adjusting to what some people like to call *the new normal*: a time characterised by masks, sanitizers, and gloves. The elegant and safe *namaste* has replaced the firm handshake, the home space has replaced the office, and while the virus is running wild, the world is trying hard to get back on its feet. The German Embassies and Consulates have been busy, too – from arranging repatriation flights to facilitating exports of medicines, from assisting German companies in India to start anew to reopening our range of services in a gradual and cautious manner – taking care of our staff members and the visa applicants by adopting safe SOPs, also in line with government restrictions, so that nobody catches the virus.

As we take in our stride the virus and its impact, we are also excited about favourable times. Later this year, the DSB International School (German School Mumbai) will have a new address. The school is relocating to a new purpose-built campus, which will ensure a sustainable learning environment and allow for modern and innovative teaching: custom-designed spacious classrooms, a sports area with a swimming pool, and carefully planned internal spaces will provide for a rich learning environment. With the French International School and DSB International School under one roof, one can look forward to a hi-tech Euro-Campus in the heart of Mumbai city.



Another milestone in the field of education is the diamond anniversary of DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst) or the German Academic Exchange Service that turns sixty this year. The organisation has done significant work since its inception in India in 1960. A brief look back at history shows that DAAD has a long tradition of uniting people and academia. DAAD provides information about higher education and research in Germany, administers a large variety of scholarships to students, scholars, post-docs, and senior researchers from both India and Germany.

On the trade front, the past three months saw us more engaged with the German industry than ever before. Together with the German business and industry associations, the Consulate has initiated

and been a part of many conversations and discussions on the impact of COVID-19 on Indo-German trade and the challenges faced by German companies in India. These are testing times, but it is in times like these that partnerships and cooperation shine. I take this opportunity to thank all levels of Indian state governments in our jurisdiction who guided us well and continue to do so in these challenging times of COVID-19.

So while Germany celebrates thirty years of reunification, today, there's a need for another kind of global unity – for nations to come together for a greater good: to fight global issues like climate change, and of course, the pandemic. We remain optimistic that this, too, we shall overcome. After all, it is said that tough times don't last. And we'd like to hold on to that thought.

FAST FACTS



Brandenburg Gate, West Berlin

Germany (officially the Federal Republic of Germany) is a country located in Central Western Europe, which lies between the Baltic and North Seas to the north; and the Alps, Lake Constance, and the High Rhine to the south. It borders Denmark to the north, Poland and the Czech Republic to the east, Austria and Switzerland to the south, France to the southwest, and Luxembourg, Belgium, and The Netherlands to the west.

A founding member of the European Economic Community in 1957 and the European Union in 1993, Germany is a part of the Schengen Area, and a became co-founder of the Eurozone in 1999. Germany is a member of the United Nations, NATO, the G7, the G20, and the OECD.

Known for its rich cultural history, Germany has been continuously the home of influential and successful artists, philosophers, musicians, sportspeople, entrepreneurs, scientists, engineers, and inventors.

Germany has over 2 millennia of history. Berlin, its capital, is home to art and nightlife scenes, the Brandenburg Gate, and many sites relating to WWII. Munich is known for its Oktoberfest and beer halls, including the 16th-century Hofbräuhaus. Frankfurt, with its skyscrapers, houses the European Central Bank.

- Full Name:** Federal Republic of Germany
- Capital:** Berlin (also the largest city)
- Other Major Cities:** Munich, Hamburg, Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Dresden, Leipzig, Cologne
- Government:** Federal Parliamentary Republic
- President (Head of State):** Frank-Walter Steinmeier
- Chancellor (Head of Government):** Angela Merkel
- Reunification of Germany (National Day):** October 3, 1990
- Anthem:** Das Lied der Deutschen (The Song of the Germans)
- Area:** Total 357,022 sq km (137,847 sq mi)
- Population:** 83,166,711 (2019 estimate)
- GDP (PPP):** Total \$4.444 trillion
Per capita \$46,653 (2019 estimate)
- Currency:** Euro
1 Euro = 1.17 USD
1 Euro = 86.20 Indian Rupees
- National Flower:** Blue Cornflower (Knapweed)
- Official Bird & Animal:** Bundesadler (Black Eagle)
- Time Zone:** GMT +1
- Internet TLD:** .de and .eu
- Calling Code:** +49
- Driving:** On the right



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FORGING AHEAD INTO THE FUTURE



The story began long back when Ravi Technoforge Pvt. Ltd., was known as Saurashtra Iron Forging Pvt. Ltd. Today, it is a well-established and well-known engineering and manufacturing company situated at Pipaliya village of Rajkot district, in the western part of Gujarat. It produces high precision forged and turned bearing races and other forged components. Making humble beginnings, today RTL stands tall at 30,000 MT per annum capacity with state-of-the-art facilities spread over Ten acres of land and exports to Ten Countries including Germany.



The year was 1990, when the founder of the company, Mr. Amrutlal Bharadia established RTL. Starting off as a small contractor with the Birla Group of Companies in Porbandar, Mr Amrutlal Bharadia always aspired to develop high precision manufacturing facilities. In 1990, as the Indian market was opening up, he seized the opportunity to shift from contracting to manufacturing and also shifted base to Rajkot, which was emerging as a hub for forged and machined components for India as well as the world. Since then the company has grown because of his hard work of almost three decades and the able support of his younger brother, Mr. Rajesh Bharadia, an engineer with a passion for quality, automation and technology.

RTL started production of bearing rings in 1992 at its Shapar Plant. With production, also began the struggle with quality issues, competition, unknown products and market conditions. With consistent efforts, RTL established its presence as one of the preferred quality suppliers to SKF and FAG (now Schaeffler) in India. Looking at the quality and delivery performance of RTL, it was selected by SKF Germany as its supplier and the first export business started with SKF Germany in 2006. There after, there was no looking back. Over the years, RTL expanded to other European countries and USA under the chairmanship of Mr. Amrutlal, who relentlessly worked towards development of world class facilities, people and system.

Mr. Rajesh Bharadia, Joint Managing Director was instrumental in achieving automation, system implementation, quality, new products and outreach to new markets and customers. In 2010, while setting up new facility, the visionary Chairman of the company, Mr. Amrutlal and Mr. Rajesh knew the importance of developing quality products and consistency in supply for which latest technology machinery were required. Hence, they selected Sakamura and Manyo of Japan and Wagner of Germany and imported machines to augment production levels and deliver wide variety of products.



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The company went through two economic recessions in the last decade yet emerged stronger. It is still withstanding the current turbulent times of Covid-19. This year RTL not only won large export orders from new customers in Germany, USA and other parts of Europe, but also initiated activities for foreign collaboration to get investment and bring new technology and business to the company and further augment its presence in the value chain as a top-quality supplier. The vision of both promoters gives fuel to RTL's journey. With this strength, the journey continues.



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Hydrogen Energy – A Roadmap To The Future

In the post-COVID-19 era, dramatic changes will be the need of the hour if we are to win against climate change. Germany has taken the first big step by announcing an ambitious hydrogen roadmap. India is following suit, slowly but surely, and has the promise to leapfrog to the waste-to-wealth and hydrogen reality, says **Siddharth R. Mayur**

HYDROGEN, THEY SAY, is the new oil, and that being true, Germany is going to be the new Mecca for energy. German engineering’s contribution to building a better world and furthering human progress is indispensable, and the new innovations on the hydrogen pathway by German companies and institutes promise to usher in a new energy revolution in the world.

The dynamic transition from a fossil-based world to a de-carbonised one adopted by Germany will be a role model for the rest of the world. India, which is emerging as one of the largest emitters of greenhouse gases, has a lot to benefit from the close ties that it enjoys with Germany.

Technologies in waste management, the power to fuels, green hydrogen, fuel cells, solid-state and salt batteries hold a very large potential for cooperation. Germany as a technology provider, and India as an inexpensive manufacturing hub and one of the largest markets to commercialise, these technologies present a very interesting synergy.

German technology clubbed with Indian entrepreneurship can create a sustainable hydrogen economy model. India, with its vast



renewable potential, and an even bigger market for energy needs, can benefit from importing hydrogen generation, storage, dispensation, and utilisation technologies from Germany, and in turn, provide green hydrogen to Germany. India has the advantage of large market size, and emerging technology companies like Enapter, Sunfire, and mPower, together with German institutes like Fraunhofer Institute, can play an important role in the technology exchange with Indian

counterparts. As a matter of fact, there already exist successful ventures of German companies with Indian entrepreneurs in the field of hydrogen and fuel cells.

It is an idea whose time has come. In the post-COVID-19 era, dramatic changes will be the need of the hour if we are to win against climate change. Germany has taken the first big step by announcing an ambitious hydrogen roadmap. India is following suit, slowly but surely, and has the promise to leapfrog to the waste-to-wealth and hydrogen reality.

These are exciting times, despite the gloom of the virus. The world around us is ready for a fundamental change. On October 3, we celebrate 30 years of the reunification of Germany. This month also marks the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, who encouraged everyone to *be the change*. Germany and India must unite to *be the change*, and bring about a cleaner new world.

The author is a participant of the ‘Energy Transition–German Hydrogen Policy’ themed-trip organised by the German Federal Foreign Office, and founder of h2e Power Systems, India’s first Fuel Cell & Green Hydrogen company.



People from East and West Germany gathering at the Berlin Wall

OCTOBER 3, 1990 A RED LETTER DAY

Just under a year after the destruction of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989, East and West Germany reunited after 45 years, on what is known today as ‘Unity Day’

SINCE 1945, when Soviet forces occupied eastern Germany; and the United States and other Allied forces occupied the western half of the nation at the close of World War II; divided Germany had come to serve as one of the most enduring symbols of the Cold War.

Some of the most dramatic episodes of the Cold War took place there. The Berlin Blockade (June 1948–May 1949), during which the Soviet Union blocked all ground travel into West Berlin, and the construction of the Berlin Wall in 1961 were perhaps the most famous. With the gradual waning of Soviet power in the late 1980s, the Communist Party

in East Germany began to lose its grip on power. Tens of thousands of East Germans began to flee the nation and by late 1989 the Berlin Wall started to come down.

Shortly thereafter, talks between East and West German officials, joined by officials from the United States, Great Britain, France, and the USSR, began to explore the possibility of reunification. Two months following reunification, all-German elections took place and Helmut Kohl became the first Chancellor of the reunified Germany. Although this action came more than a year before the dissolution of the Soviet Union, for many observers the reunification of Germany effectively marked the end of the Cold War.

BERLIN A Political Centre

Even in the Unification Treaty it was determined that Berlin be the capital. On June 20, 1991, the Deutsche Bundestag passed a resolution to also move the Seat of Government and Parliament from Bonn – since 1949 the capital of the Federal Republic – to Berlin. Since the move in 1999, Germany once again has in Berlin a pulsating political centre that bears comparison with the major cities of the big European neighbouring states. In addition to the newly designed Reichstag building, symbols of this are the Chancellery and the open Brandenburg Gate, which represents the overcoming of the country’s division. For a while, there had been fears that the Government’s move to Berlin could become an expression of new German megalomania, with which the country’s economic and political weight would upset the status quo in Europe again. These fears proved to be wrong. Rather, German Unity was to be the initial spark that led to the overcoming of the division of Europe into east and west.

As such, Germany actually played a pioneering role in the political and economic integration of the continent. In addition, it gave up one of the most important instruments and symbols in the unification process, the Deutschmark, to create a European Monetary Union, the Eurozone, which would not exist without Germany. Nor, despite their being heavily involved in the unification process, have the various federal governments since 1990 ever lost sight of European integration, but have played an active role in its development, which culminated in the Lisbon process.

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