

**Consulate General of India
Frankfurt**

General and Bilateral Brief-Saarland/India

The Saarland is one of the sixteen states of the Federal Republic of Germany. Its capital is Saarbrücken. In terms of both area and population size, apart from the city-states of Berlin, Bremen and Hamburg, it is Germany's smallest state. Positioned in the Southwest of Germany bordering France and Luxembourg, Saarland boasts beautiful landscapes and a low cost of living. From 1947 to 1956 the Saarland was a French-occupied territory separate from the rest of Germany. From a traditional mining and steel location, the state of Saarland has evolved into a modern, international business region. Short distances and friendly people who are committed to their communities – that's what modern, vibrant Saarland is all about.

Salient Features

1. Geography: The Saarland is located in the southwest of the Federal Republic of Germany. One third of the Saarland area is covered with deciduous mixed forest. This means that Saarland, together with Hesse and Baden-Württemberg, has the largest percentage of forest land in Germany. The Saarland stretches over parts of the Hunsrück with the Black Forest Hochwald, the Lorraine stratum and the Saar-Nahe-Berglandes. In addition, the foothills of the Palatinate Forest penetrate far into the country. The highest point is the Dollberg (695 m), north of Nonnweiler; the second highest is the Schimmelkopf (694.8 m) in the Black Forest. Other important areas are the Bliesgau and the Saargau with their fertile limestone soils. The most important river is the Saar, which has its middle and lower reaches in the Saarland and has given the country its name. Within the Saarland border, however, the Blies has around 97 kilometers, the largest river length. Other important rivers are Prims, Nied and Nahe. The climate is temperate oceanic. Rainfall averages 800 liters per square meter. Saarland is also one of the warmest regions in Germany.

2. Demography: Saarland is the most religious state in Germany. The adherents of the Catholic Church comprise 59.8% of the population. 18.4% of the Saarlandic population adhere to the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD). 21.8% are not affiliated with one of these churches. Saarland has the highest concentration of Roman Catholics of any German state, and is one of two states (the other being Bavaria) in which Catholics form an absolute majority (over 50%).

3. Art and Culture: The Saarland has a wide variety of museums/Galleries/Theatres in different areas of interest for the tourists. There are beautiful Parks and zoological garden for children and youth. Saarland is a region where life is good. In addition to the leisure and tourist offer, the attractive location between France, Luxembourg and the rest of Germany and the attractive landscape also speak the low cost of living and housing for the Saarland. In the country with the highest home density own living space is still affordable.

People in Saarland speaks namely several dialects. The French language has a special standing in Saarland due to the fact that France sought to incorporate the region into the French state shortly after World War II and subsequently pressed the Federal German government to promote French as a second language in schools. Today, a large part of the population is able to speak French, and it is compulsory at many schools. Saarbrücken is also home to a bilingual "Deutsch-Französisches Gymnasium" (German-French high school).

4. Government: Except for the period between 1985 and 1999 – when the center-left Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) held a majority of seats in the Landtag (state diet) – the center-right Christian Democratic Union (CDU) has governed the Saarland, either alone or in coalition. The Saarland is currently governed by a CDU-SPD grand coalition. On 26 March 2017, the CDU surprisingly won the most recent state election with a considerable lead (the next one is slated for sometime in 2022). According to the final result, the party got 40.7 per cent (plus 5.5 per cent) of the votes while the SPD got 29.6 per cent (minus 1.0 per cent), the Left-wing Party 12.8 per cent (minus 3.3 per cent), and the right-wing populist AfD 6.2 per cent (was not founded until 06 February 2013). Meanwhile, neither the Greens (4.0 per cent – minus 1.0 per cent) nor the FDP (3.3 per cent – plus 2.1 per cent) managed to make it into the state parliament. The turnout increased from 61.6 per cent in the last state election to 70.4 per cent.

5. Trade, Economy, and Industry: Reflecting Saarland's overall size structure, its economy is rather small compared to other German states. In 2015, the average unemployment rate in Saarland stood at 7.2%, slightly above the national average of 6.4%. From an overall perspective, Saarland's economic sector has undergone significant changes over the past decades. Having been dominated by mining and steel-producing industries until the 1960s, the Saarland transformed into a region featuring diverse industrial branches and a significant services sector. At present, the automotive industry (both car manufacturing and equipment supply), mechanical engineering, steel production, but also medicine technology, the ceramic industry, pharmaceuticals, and information and communication technologies characterize the regional economy. Saarland has a positive trade balance, and the annual growth rate since 2003 indicates a positive long-term trend (3.4%). Saarbrücken is the economic centre of the region. With its more than 15.000 business enterprises, the state capital of the Saarland is the economic heart of the area and has become an important point of reference for the Saar-Lor-Lux region. Many industrial corporations and service providers are headquartered in the state capital. The successful economy of the area is built on a highly skilled workforce.

6. Higher Education: Six universities (the Saarland University, the University of Applied Sciences (HTW), the Saar Academy of Music and the Academy of Fine Arts (HBKSaar), to name a few) with 20.000 students make Saarbrücken an important university and research town. The Saarland University offers a wide range of courses in a variety of different subjects and has gained international recognition in a number of fields: the Saarbrücken Graduate School of Computer Sciences was chosen for funding twice by the Excellence Initiative and both the Graduate School of Material Sciences and the Graduate School of Biomedicine have earned acclaim for their research. The DFKI – German Research Centre for Artificial Intelligence is located in Saarbrücken and is one of the leading business-related research centers in the field of innovative software technology in Germany. The Max Planck Institutes for Computer Sciences and for Software Systems are also first-rate academic institutions and have attracted international attention for their scientific papers, development of software systems and support of young talents.

Important website links for more information on Saarland

1. Information on the state, Saarland.de, Official website with information on Saarland : **www.saarland.de**
Saarland University: Information for students from abroad: **www.uni-saarland.de/international/in.html**
2. Information for immigrants:
Central point of contact for having your foreign qualifications recognised: **www.saaris.de/welcome-center/anerkennung-ausl-abschluesse-1/**
Immigration and integration Saarbrücken: **www.saarbruecken.de/en**
IHK Saarland: Information on vocational training and work for qualified professionals in Saarland: **www.saarland.ihk.de**
3. Welcome Center :Information for international migrants: **willkommen.saarland/en/the-saarland-welcome-center/**

India-Saarland bilateral relations

1) Overview: Only little activity by Indian companies can be monitored in Saarland which, however, has been of high volume in the past. Around 5 Indian major companies are active in Saarland. Their activity mainly takes place in the sectors steel, gas, and engineering.

2) Recent Indian Investments in Saarland:

The most significant M&A / investment activities of Indian companies in Saarland over the past years were as follows:

- In 2007, German RAG AG sold its majority stake in Saarland-based Saar Ferngas AG (gas) to **Arcelor Mittal** for € 367 million.
- In December 2008, **Arcelor Mittal** sold 18% of its 51% stake in Dillinger Hütte Saarstahl AG for € 777 million.
- No Indian Investments in Saarland in 2015 and 2016

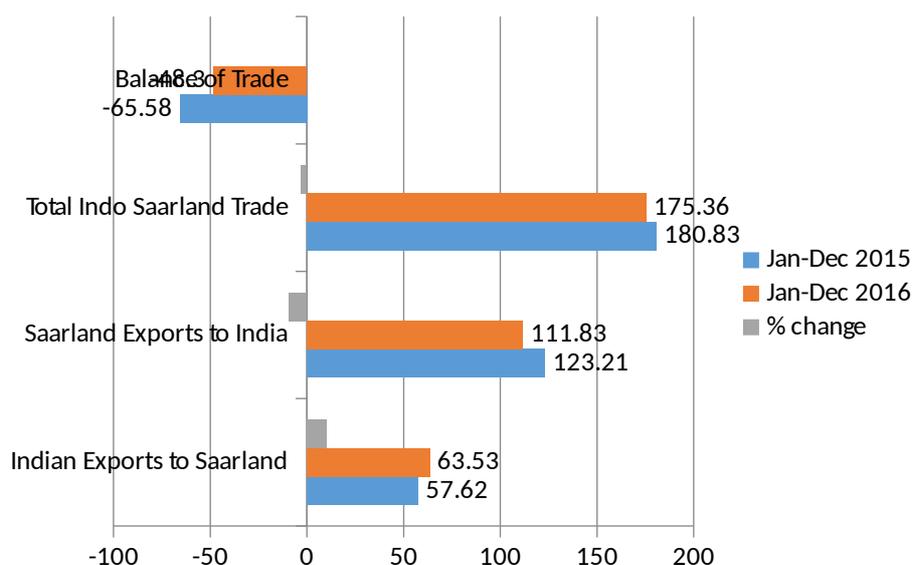
3) Activities of selected German Majors (with Headquarters in Saarland) in India:

- **Villeroy & Boch AG** (Mettlach), a 256-year-old, world-renowned manufacturer and marketer of high-quality ceramic products, has entered the Indian market by opening its first outlet in Hyderabad in 2007. Through its Indian partner Spa Luxury Lifestyle Ltd., Villeroy & Boch opened further boutiques in Mumbai, New Delhi, Gurgaon, Chennai, Bangalore, and Kolkata in the past few years. In June 2013, Vileroy & Boch announced that it has signed a joint venture agreement with Genesis Luxury Fashion.

The joint venture with Genesis will exclusively manage the distribution of Villeroy & Boch tableware products in India. The JV plans to open three Villeroy & Boch stores nationwide in 2013, and then to ramp up to have over the next five years to a total of 16.

- **HYDAC INTERNATIONAL** GmbH (Sulzbach/Saar), a fluid technology engineering company with 10 sales offices in Germany, over 40 overseas companies and 5,000 employees, has a fully-owned subsidiary in Mumbai. HYDAC (India) Pvt. Ltd. was opened in 1994. India is a manufacturing location for HYDAC INTERNATIONAL, especially in the sectors of fluid power, hydraulic and electronic drives, monitoring and control.
- **Dillinger Hütte Group** (Dillingen/Saar), a leading European heavy plate producer and the biggest Saarland-based company, is represented in India through M/S R.S. Jhaveri & Co. India (Mumbai). Apart from this, the company operates in India through its recently inaugurated subsidiary Dillinger India Steel Service Center located at Khopoli.
- **Usapharm** GmbH & Co. Kg. (Saarbrücken), a leading German eye remedy producer, opened its first subsidiary in India in March 2008. Usapharm India Pvt. Ltd., employes around 20 people in four distribution centres in Kolkata, Mumbai, Bangalore, and Lucknow. Usapharm India Pvt. Ltd., focuses on the sales and distribution of five kinds of eye remedies in India that are produced in Saarland.
- No Indian Investments by companies with HQs in Saarland in India in 2015 and 2016

4) Indo – Saarland Trade 2015 / 2016 (In million Euro)



Top 5 Indian Exports to Saarland 2016	Top 5 Indian Imports from Saarland 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chassis bodies, engines, parts and accessories for motor vehicles, etc. • Footwear • Tools and cutlery of base metals • Articles of metal, misc. • Pumps and compressors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chassis, bodies, engines, parts and accessories for motor vehicles, etc. • Plates and sheets of iron or steel • Machinery, misc. • Motors and engines • Taps and valves

- In 2016, Saarland accounted for 1.14 % of all German exports to India; and 0.83 % of all Indian exports to Germany

5) Major Trade Delegation:

i) Delegation from India to Saarland

- A delegation of the Electronics and Computer Software Export Council (ESC), led by Mr. Deepak Kumar Sareen, Executive Director, ESC, visited Saarbrücken. The visit aimed at inviting Saarland officials as well as IT companies from Saarland to the trade fair Indiasoft, (9 December 2010)
- No delegations from India to Saarland in 2015 and 2016

ii) Delegations from Saarland to India

- Indo-German Exchange Programme - German students from Saarland visited Puducherry, September 2008.
- A 12-member business delegation from Saarland led by State Secretary, Ministry for Economic Affairs, Mr. Joachim Kiefaber visited Pune to attend the Indiasoft trade fair. Furthermore, the visit aimed at exploring the possibilities of business and institutional links between companies and organizations in Pune and Saarland, 24 –27 March 2011.
- No delegations from Saarland to India in 2015 and 2016

6) India-Saarland Cultural Relations: Germany is one of the fastest growing Cricketing nations and the Indians are contributing enormously to its growth. The Deutsche Cricket Bund or The German Cricket Federation is the national governing body for cricket in Germany. It is commonly known as the DCB. Its current headquarters is in Passau, Germany. DCB organized University Cricket Championship with the support of Universitys Sports Club Saarland e.v.(USC Saar) and in cooperation with T.V. St.Ingbert in 2017. 6 Universities participated in the tournament, they are: Universität des Saarlandes, Hochschule Rhein-Waal ,Hochschule Bremerhaven, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena, Universität Rostock,Universität Darmstadt. Indian students were also part of the organising committee.

7) Cooperation in higher education and Vocational Training: Saarland is a small state with around 3 Colleges and Universities, the most prominent being University of Saarland in the capital city of Saarbruecken.

As per the data obtained from concerned State authorities, the number of Indian students as on December 2017 in Saarland is 182.