

**Consulate General of India
Frankfurt**

General and Bilateral Brief-Rhineland-Palatinate / India

Rhineland-Palatinate (German: Rheinland-Pfalz, RLP) is one of Europe's high tech regions, with above-average economic strength and a focus on export. Its state capital and largest city is Mainz. RLP is located in western Germany and was formed after World War II by the French military government from parts of regions historically not belonging together. The state has developed its own identity since, built on its natural and cultural heritage of extensive wine growing, picturesque landscapes and its many castles. The extensive modernized network of autobahns and federal highways, the convenient rail connections between the cities of Mainz, Kaiserslautern, Trier, Ludwigshafen and Koblenz, the major waterways Rhine and Mosel, as well as the state's proximity to three economically powerful centers - the Rhine-Main, Rhine-Neckar and Rhine-Ruhr regions - have created optimal framework conditions for the development of RLP into one of Germany's most dynamic regions.

Salient Features

1. Geography: Rhineland-Palatinate shares international borders with France, Luxemburg and Belgium. Within Germany it neighbours are Baden-Württemberg, Hesse, Northrhine-Westphalia and the Saarland. It is the ninth largest state by area. One of the most beautiful landscapes in Germany - and the world - is the stretch of the Rhine Valley between Bingen and Bonn. Dotted with castles, it is steeped in legend, and its praises have been sung by countless poets, painters and musicians. Here and in the valley of the Mosel River grow wines which are prized by connoisseurs all over the world. The other tributaries of the Rhine - the Nahe, Lahn and Ahr rivers - are likewise very scenic wine-growing regions. At the foot of the Palatinate Forest runs the "German Wine Route".

2. Demography: As of 2015, 42.2% of the population of the state adhered to the Roman Catholic Church and 28.5% to the Evangelical Church in Germany. 29.2% of the population is irreligious or adheres to other religions. Muslims made up 2.5% of the total.

3. Art and Culture: The Rhine Valley is among the most important cultural regions in Europe. A rich heritage of art and culture is the hallmark of the Romantic Rhine. There are a number of Castles, Architectural Sites & Monuments, Museums and Concerts to visit. Family-friendly infrastructures, excellent schools, universities and educational institutions as well as beautiful natural and cultural landscapes and the mighty rivers Rhine and Moselle make Rhineland-Palatinate a lovely place to be.

4. Government: RLP has been governed by an SPD-FDP-Greens coalition since 18 May 2016. The SPD got 36.2 per cent, the CDU 31.8 per cent, the FDP 6.2 per cent, the Greens 5.2 per cent, the Left-wing Party 2.8 per cent (not enough to enter parliament), and the right-wing populist AfD 12.8 per cent. The Minister President of the state is Ms. Malu Dreyer (SPD).

5. Trade, Economy, and Industry: Products from the state of Rhineland-Palatinate are in high demand on both domestic and international markets. With an export rate of roughly 50 percent, it ranks first in this category among Germany's states.

Its economy is remarkably diversified: Rhineland-Palatinate is a wine-growing center (two thirds of the country's wine comes from here) and an important wood producer as well as a major center of the chemical industry and a leading supplier of automobile components.

Distinctive regional industries include the gemstone industry in Idar-Oberstein, ceramic and glass products from the Westerwald, and the leather industry of the Hunsrück and the Palatinate. Small and medium-sized businesses form the backbone of the Rhineland-Palatinate economy. The state's principal industrial employer is the chemical and plastics processing industry: BASF in Ludwigshafen is Europe's largest chemical factory complex and Rhineland-Palatinate's largest manufacturing firm. Also situated on the Rhine are the state's four next-largest companies: Boehringer (pharmaceuticals) in Ingelheim, Joh. A. Benckiser (chemicals, cosmetics) in Ludwigshafen, SGE Deutsche Holding (construction) in Ludwigshafen and the Schott Glassworks in Mainz. Europe's largest television network, ZDF (Channel Two), has its headquarters in Mainz.

7. Agriculture and viticulture: RLP is Germany's leading producer of wine in terms of grape cultivation and wine export. Its capital, Mainz, may be called the capital of the German wine industry. Of thirteen wine regions producing quality wine in Germany, six (Rheinhessen, Pfalz, Mosel, Nahe, Mittelrhein and Ahr) are located in Rhineland-Palatinate, with 65% to 70% of the production of wine grapes in Germany having their origin within the state. The worldwide leader in sparkling wine production, producing 245 million bottles in 2006, is the renowned Schloss Wachenheim Group. This company is headquartered in Trier, with operations in several locations in Rhineland-Palatinate.

6. Higher Education: RLP has a very diverse higher education landscape that is known for its innovative research, modern instruction and wide-ranging selection of courses of study including in engineering, medicine, natural sciences and economics as well as the social sciences and humanities, design, art and music. One can pursue a wide range of fields of study at five universities, seven technical universities, as well as private colleges and schools of public administration. The universities meet international standards and offer bachelor and master degrees as well as strong connections to other universities around the world. **(Annexure I)**

Important website links for more information on RLP

- 1. Information on the state RLP.de:** Official website offering information on Rhineland-Palatinate **www.rlp.de/de/startseite/**

Rhineland-Palatinate Location Finder, Database containing available commercial sites in Rhineland-Palatinate: **www.standortfinder.rlp.de**

The Investment and Economic Development Bank of Rheinland-Pfalz (ISB), Information on funding available for individuals wishing to set up their own business: **isb.rlp.de/en/home/**

- 2. Information for immigrants**

The official state portal with information for qualified professionals:

www.fachkraefte.rlp.de/en/start/

Information about integration and immigration : **mifkjf.rlp.de/integration/**

Central point of initial contact for having your foreign professional qualifications recognized:
www.iq-rlp.de/beratungsangebote

3. Welcome Center Rhineland-Palatinate: welcomecenter.rlp.de/english/

India-RLP bilateral relations

1) Overview: Around 10 Indian major companies are active in Rhineland-Palatinate. Among others, plastic molded goods producer Arrowplast Pvt. Ltd. has a subsidiary in the city of Landau and IT vendor Thinksoft Global Services Ltd. has a subsidiary in Bad Kreuznach. Furthermore Ruia Group and Bharat Forge are represented in Rhineland-Palatinate.

In order to further strengthen the economic relations between Rhineland-Palatinate and India, the Federal State had initiated a project which so far had been unique in Germany: The Investitions- und Strukturbank Rheinland-Pfalz (ISB) GmbH (Investment and Economic Development Bank of Rhineland-Palatinate), the state's central economic development organization, set up an India Contact Office in Mainz, which was inaugurated on 21 April 2008, and a counterpart in Pune, that was inaugurated on 1 July 2008. However, the office in Pune was closed in 2011, while the office in Mainz remained open. The office in Mainz aims at supporting Indian companies as well as companies from Rhineland-Palatinate with their business efforts in Rhineland Palatinate and India respectively.

2) Recent Indian Investments in Rhineland-Palatinate:

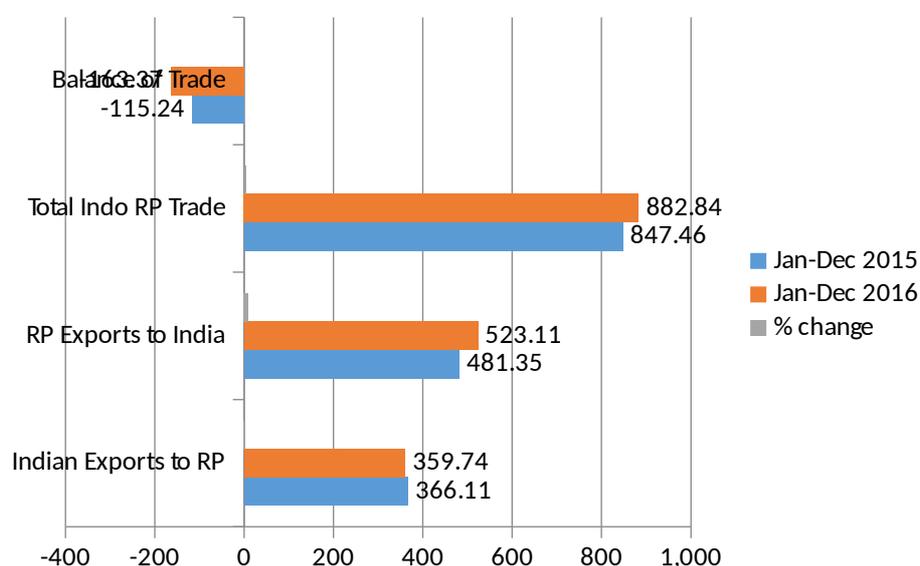
- No Indian Investments in Rhineland-Palatinate in 2015 and 2016

3) Activities of selected German Majors (with Headquarters in Rhineland-Palatinate) in India:

- Ludwigshafen-based chemical major BASF unveiled its largest construction chemicals plant in India at Nellore in Andhra Pradesh. This is also BASF's fifth construction chemicals plant in India. With its state-of-the-art technology, the plant will enable BASF to respond in a timely way to customers' needs in the Southern part of India and to support them with high performance solutions in the highly competitive market, according to the company. (April 2015)
- Ludwigshafen-based BASF unveiled its largest construction chemicals plant in India at Nellore. This is BASF's fifth construction chemicals plant in the country. With its state-of-the-art technology and strategically located close to regional growth centers, the plant will enable BASF to respond in a timely fashion to customers' needs in the Southern part of India and to support them with high-performance solutions in the highly competitive market, according to a press release. (August 2016)
- Kirn-based medium-sized engineering company Simona has established a new sales subsidiary in India. The newly created organization will focus on providing products and services (semi-finished parts and pipes & fittings) for various applications, in India and also to the neighbouring region. The company's headquarters will be located in Mumbai, with regional offices in Ahmedabad, New Delhi and Chennai. (September 2016)

- Lupin Ltd, India's third largest drugmaker formed an alliance with Ingelheimbased pharma major Boehringer Ingelheim GmbH to co-market the latter's diabetic drug empagliflozin in India. As per the agreement, Lupin will market and sell empagliflozin under a separate brand name Gigtulio which will be promoted by Lupin's specialty field force. Boehringer Ingelheim will continue to sell empagliflozin under the brand name Jardiance through its existing sales force and network. (October 2016)
- BASF SE (Ludwigshafen) intends to expand its capacity for the microcellular specialty polyurethane "Cellasto" in order to meet the growing demand, especially from the automotive industry in Southeast Asia. For this purpose, a new production line will be set up at the Indian site in Dahej (Gujarat). At the same time, the previous TPU production in Dahej is to be discontinued. (November 2017)

4) Indo – Rhineland-Palatinate Trade 2015 / 2016:



- **Top 5 Indian Exports to RLP in 2016:**

- Basic pharmaceutical products
- Footwear
- Prefabricated chemicals, misc.
- Jewellery, goldsmith's or silversmith's wares
- Paints, varnishes and mastics

- **Top 5 Indian Imports from RLP in 2016:**

- Prefabricated chemicals, misc.
- Machinery for mining, quarrying and construction
- Basic pharmaceutical products
- Chemical end products, misc.
- Plastics

- In 2016, Rhineland-Palatinate accounted for 5.34 % of all German exports to India; and 4.72 % of all Indian exports to Germany.

5) Major Trade Delegations:

i) Delegation from India to RLP

- A delegation led by Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, Hon'ble Minister of State (IC), AYUSH, visited Germany from 14th-20th October 2016 in order to promote Ayurveda. During his visit he had meetings with renowned Ayurveda experts and visited prominent Ayurveda institutes in Bad Ems and Birstein. Hon'ble Minister attended the 2nd European World Ayurveda Congress in Koblenz which was organised by the European Ayurveda Association e.V. Germany in cooperation with the Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India, from 15-16 October. Hon'ble Minister further had meetings with relevant Ministers in Berlin.

ii) Delegations from RLP to India

- From 19-27 November 2016, Dr. Volker Wissing, Minister for Economic Affairs of the State of Rhineland Palatinate led 30-member high-level business delegation to India. The visit marked the first major economic visit of the Minister outside Europe. The main purpose of the delegation visit was to connect with representatives from industry, science and politics and to attract investments to the State of Rhineland Palatinate. The delegation visited New Delhi, Mumbai, Pune and Ahmedabad.

6) Bilateral Cultural relations: Ayurveda, the traditional healing treatment from India is very popular in the state of RLP. The 2nd European World Ayurveda Congress (2EWAC) in Koblenz was organised by European Ayurveda Association e.V. (EUAA) Germany in cooperation with the Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India from 15-16 October, 2016. The aim of the 2EWAC was to promote Ayurveda. A delegation led by Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, Hon'ble Minister of State (IC), AYUSH, visited Germany to attend the Ayurveda Congress. During his visit Hon'ble Minister also visited Maharishi Ayurveda Private Clinic Bad Ems. The clinic has many Indian doctors, specialized in Ayurveda. Bad Ems has an age-old spa tradition. With its famous thermal springs it is a ideal place for natural healing methods. Currently a proposal is under consideration in the Ministry of Ayush for collaboration between Ministry of Ayush, a German medical university and Maharishi Ayurveda Private Clinic, Bad Ems to carry out research studies. DIG Mainz (the German-Indian Society e.V.) was founded in 1994 to foster relations between India and Germany. The endeavor of the society is to bring the German public closer to the Indian culture, religions, economy, politics, through many events, such as lectures, readings, music and dance performances over the years,

7) Cooperation in higher education and Vocational Training: Cooperation with RLP in the field of education is constructive. It has around 18 educational colleges and universities including Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, TU Kaiserslautern. Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz has department of Indology.

The universities/institutes with higher enrolment of Indian students are – Technical University of Kaiserslautern. As per the data obtained from concerned State authorities, the number of Indian students as on December 2017 in RLP is 655. Indian Students association Kaiserslautern is active in RLP.

Annexure I

Universities and colleges in Rhineland-Palatinate

Rank	University	Location
1	Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz	Mainz ...
2	Technische Universität Kaiserslautern	Kaiserslautern
3	Universität Trier	Trier
4	Universität Koblenz-Landau	Koblenz ...
5	Hochschule Trier	Trier ...
6	Hochschule Kaiserslautern	Kaiserslautern
7	Hochschule Mainz	Mainz
8	WHU - Otto Beisheim School of Management	Vallendar
9	Fachhochschule Koblenz	Koblenz ...
10	TH Bingen	Bingen
11	Hochschule Worms	Worms
12	Hochschule Ludwigshafen am Rhein	Ludwigshafen
13	Deutsche Universität für Verwaltungswissenschaften Speyer	Speyer
14	Philosophisch-Theologische Hochschule Vallendar	Vallendar
15	Katholische Hochschule Mainz	Mainz
16	Hochschule für öffentliche Verwaltung Rheinland-Pfalz	Mayen
17	Hochschule der Deutschen Bundesbank	Hachenburg
18	Hochschule für Finanzen und Landesfinanzschule	Edenkoben

