

## BELGIUM

Belgium, a country in Western Europe is known for medieval towns. The country has distinctive regions including Dutch speaking Flanders to the north, French speaking Wallonia to the South and a Germany speaking community to the east.

Belgium is a federal constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary system of governance. It is divided into three regions and three communities that exist next to each other. Its two largest regions are the Dutch-speaking region of Flanders in the north and the French-speaking southern region of Wallonia.

The region of Flanders became well known for producing textile, specifically, linen. On the other, the region of Wallonia had displayed a well-established skill in the field of metallurgy.

Belgium is shared between the Atlantic European and Central European provinces of the Circumboreal Region within the Boreal Kingdom because of its high population density, industrialization and its location in the centre of Western Europe, Belgium still faces some environmental problems. Belgium moreover has one of Europe's highest waste recycling rates. In particular, the Flemish region of Belgium has the highest waste diversion rate in Europe.

Belgium is one of the most industrialized countries in Europe, with industries including metal manufacturing, food production, and construction.

The diplomatic relations between India and Belgium were established in 1948 and the bilateral relations are cordial and friendly. India's IT & Telecom sector is well represented in Belgium. Several Indian companies in the chemicals sector have also established offices/warehousing facilities in Belgium, particularly near the port city of Antwerp. Belgian business interests in India cover dredging, chemicals, engineering goods, banking and finance, electronics and software, fertilisers, and biotechnology.

The capital is Brussels, a region comprising the municipalities. The currency is Euro and the official language is Dutch, French, German.

Antwerp is an important city and one of the busiest port in terms of cargo tonnage.

### **Exports from India**

mineral products, textiles etc

### **Imported by India**

gems & jewellery, chemicals & chemical products, machinery & mechanical appliances, base metals & articles, plastic products etc.

### **Clusters**

Brussels, Wallonia and Flanders

Pharmaceutical Cluster

Food Cluster

Diamond cluster

## **Indian companies**

Indian companies, particularly in the IT and software sectors, such as TCS, Infosys, Tech Mahindra and HCL, have established base in Belgium to cater to the Belgian as well as European markets.

## **Chamber of commerce**

The International Development Office

VOKA Chamber of Commerce Halle - Vilvoorde

Voka - Antwerp Waasland Chamber of Commerce

Chamber of Commerce Mechelen (Voka)

East Flanders Chamber of Commerce Belgium