

In the last week of May Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Germany. He asked the German chancellor to help India to develop its infrastructure with investments in sectors like roads, railways, civilian air traffic and modern communication technology. Merkel agreed to a development budget within the frame work of fourth German-Indian governments Consultation worth a billion Euros each year.

Germany is the largest trade partner for India in the EU with around 17 billion Euros and one of the leading sources of foreign direct Investment. German companies have invested a whopping Rs. 53,000 crore in India since 2010. There are more than 1600 German companies and 600 joint ventures operating in India. Germany is already supporting India's programmes like Make in India, Clean India, Skill India, Digital India and smart cities. During present visit both the countries signed 12 agreements related to the above programmes in addition to one on railway safety.

German envy in Delhi, Martin Ney said that Germany is ready to conclude a government to government agreement with India in defence procurement as India is a strategic partner for Germany. He also said that "Germany is highly interested in Indian Ocean region", and "is with India in ensuring stability in Afghanistan".

The day after Modi left for Spain, Chinese premier Li Keqiang arrived in Berlin. Several bilateral agreements were signed. It was reported that the issue came up in private discussions is a common position in advance of G-20 summit.

Germany's relations with China are more extensive than any other country outside the EU. Germany's trade with China is ahead of both France and Britain with about 170 billion Euros. Germany's Deutsche Bank agreed with China Development Bank to provide a 3 billion Euro loan to the 'New silk road', which plans to construct a series of ports, roads and railways to connect China with Europe.

These visits from two big countries of Asia gained importance in the background of the comment made by the German chancellor Angela Merkel that "the US was no longer a reliable ally and Europe had to take matters into its own hands".

This is not an outburst at the deterioration of transatlantic relations. German foreign minister Sigmar Gabriel announced on March 24 that "a new orientation" for Germany's "Asia policy" is being formulated.

On April 5 & 6, the foreign Minister brought together Germany's 40 ambassadors in the Indian Ocean region for a conference in Sri Lanka to inform about the new global orientation of German policy. The theme is that the rising states of Asia assume key position and it is necessary "to organise them more strategically so as to do justice to this region of 4 billion people and growing markets. So it was decided to build an Asian department in the foreign ministry for the 'first time'.

Moreover, Gabriel declared at the annual meeting of Asia-Pacific Business Association: "Asia is a key region for our future at home, because the routes to resolve our global challenges are no longer be developed only by the old structures from the Post-World War II period. Rather, the routes to resolve our global challenges ran through Asia".

Germany's military interests in this region are not a secret. In Colombo conference State secretary Marcus Ederer said: "Europe is no longer a security dwarf; we have been critical in achieving a nuclear deal with Iran, we help stabilise Somalia; we offer humanitarian help and assistance to Yemen, deterring piracy off Somaliawe should further enhance our security co-operation with partners in this region".

It seems that Germany aims to intervene in the US's pivot to Asia policy, which is designed to encircle and isolate China and for direct military attack on North Korea and Iran. Though the statements of Gabriel and Ederer express the ambitions of German imperialism, it could not match the naval might of US imperialism in the Indian Ocean. Even a section of the German ruling elite is sceptical.

Yet it again proves that the economic and trade interests would be followed by the military interests and that leads to conflicts among the imperialist powers. It leads to wars, occupation and subjugation of the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America.
