

**High Commission of India**  
**Brunei Darussalam**

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**BRIEF ON INDIA-BRUNEI BILATERAL RELATIONS**

1. **Background:** Negara Brunei Darussalam, i.e., “State of Brunei - Abode of Peace”, or “Brunei Darussalam”, or simply “Brunei”, is one of the oldest continuing monarchies in the world and one of the few executive ones. Its earliest known history dates back to 6<sup>th</sup> century, when Brunei was called “Puni” (possibly a distortion of the Sanskrit “Baruni”), or “Poli”. Brunei, then a Hindu-Buddhist kingdom, had linkages with the famed Sri Vijaya and Majapahit empires of the region, as well as with China. In the late 14<sup>th</sup> century, Brunei converted into an Islamic Sultanate when its ruler, Awang Alak Betatar, married a Muslim Johore princess from Malacca, and embraced Islam to become Brunei’s first Sultan – Mohammed Shah. Malay customs, rituals and culture have much of Indian-Hindu origin.

2. The contacts between India and Brunei have historical and cultural roots as extension of India’s relations with peninsular Malaysia and the Indonesian Island.

**Political**

3 **The heart of the relationship:** The main elements binding the two countries are: (i) Brunei being an important source of crude oil for India and its contribution to our energy security; (ii) Brunei’s role as an important ASEAN country gained prominence with the hosting of 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit and 8<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit in Brunei Darussalam on 10 October 2013 which was attended by the Prime Minister of India; Dr Manmohan Singh; (iii) Brunei was the Country Coordinator for India- ASEAN from 2012 to 2015; and (iv) Brunei has an 11,500-strong Indian community.

4 **Establishment of Diplomatic Relations:** Brunei became fully independent on 1 January 1984. India felicitated and welcomed the independence of Brunei. Smt Mohsina Kidwai, the then Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, led the Indian delegation to the Independence Day celebrations of Brunei.

5. Diplomatic relations between India and Brunei were established in May 1984. The interest in upgrading bilateral relations started in friendly meetings between late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and the Sultan of Brunei at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) Summits, etc. In response to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi’s invitation, the Sultan of Brunei paid a State visit to India in September 1992. The Indian resident diplomatic mission was opened in Brunei on 18 May 1993. The first High Commissioner of India to Brunei was Brigadier (Retd) Sawai Bhawani Singh, the former Maharaja of Jaipur. He was in this post from 28 June 1993 to 27 December 1996. Prior to the establishment of Resident Mission in Brunei, our Mission in Kuala Lumpur was concurrently accredited to Brunei.

6. Brunei set up its resident High Commission in India on 12 August 1992 headed by an Acting High Commissioner. Prior to that, Brunei's High Commissioner in Malaysia, Pengiran Haji Abdul Momin, was concurrently accredited to India and had presented his credentials to the President of India on 24 November 1990. Dato Adanan Haji Buntar served as the first resident High Commissioner of Brunei in India.

7. By virtue of their common membership of UN, NAM, Commonwealth and ARF etc and as countries with strong traditional and cultural ties, Brunei and India have come closer to each other. Among the component parts of the Brunei Government and the royal family, the Sultan has been the strongest votary of close relations with India and has supported the Indian community in Brunei. Brunei and India enjoy a fair degree of commonality in their perceptions of major international issues. Brunei has been supportive of India's 'Look East' policy and also shown keen interest in the 'Act East Policy' of the Government and in expansion and deepening of cooperation with ASEAN. Brunei took over as Country Coordinator for India in ASEAN from July 2012 for three years till June 2015 and played an important role in bringing India closer to ASEAN during its tenure. Brunei has been supportive of India in ASEAN.

### **Brunei's Stand on issues of importance to India:**

8. **Permanent membership of UN Security Council:** In the Joint Communiqué issued during the Sultan's State visit to India in 2008, Brunei expressed its support to India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council using the formulation "The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to the United Nations and stressed the need for urgent reforms so that the world body can truly reflect the political, economic and social realities of the 21st century. They underlined the importance of early reform of the United Nations Security Council, including its expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories, with a view to enhancing its transparency and effectiveness. In this context, Brunei Darussalam supports India's intention to be one of the candidates for permanent membership of the expanded UN Security Council."

9. **Kashmir:** Brunei has taken the position that the Kashmir issue should be resolved bilaterally between India and Pakistan. At the OIC, Brunei takes a minimalist approach and goes along with the unanimous resolutions and pronouncements including the resolutions on Kashmir.

10. **Support to India's candidatures:** Brunei has usually strongly supported India's candidates seeking elections to various posts in the UN and other International Organizations. In the re-election of Justice Dalveer Bhandari to ICJ in Nov 2017, Brunei initially supported the British candidate but later voted for Justice Bhandari in the final round.

11. **India's nuclear tests in 1998:** In a letter dated 15 June 1998 (which was in reply to our PM's letter of 16 May 1998), the Sultan of Brunei wrote "whilst taking note of India's position on this matter", (Brunei) hoped that "India will remain committed to a speedy process of nuclear disarmament leading to the elimination of nuclear weapons throughout the world". He also noted "India's preparedness to consider negotiating the provisions" of CTBT and NPT. Brunei is a signatory to NPT.

### 12. **Exchange of Head of State/Government visits:**

#### **From Brunei:**

- i. The Sultan of Brunei Haji Hassanal Bolkiah accompanied by Her Majesty paid a State visit to India on 15-18 September 1992. This was the first ever State visit paid by the Sultan of Brunei to India. During the visit, both countries decided to set up

Resident High Commissions in each other's capitals and to exchange delegations to identify areas of cooperation.

- ii. At the invitation of the President of India the Sultan of Brunei paid a four-day State visit to India on 20-23 May 2008, which was a landmark development in India-Brunei relations. The visit took place after more than 15 years since his last visit to India. The Sultan met various Indian leaders and held discussions with the Prime Minister on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. During the visit, the following five important MoUs/Agreements were signed: (i) Agreement on Reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investments; (ii) MoU on Cooperation in Information and Communication Technology; (iii) MoU on Cooperation in the fields of Culture, Arts and Sports; (iv) MoU on the Establishment of Joint Trade Committee; (v) Renewal of MoU on Cooperation in the Operation of the Telemetry Tracking and Telecomm and Station for Satellite and Launch Vehicles and for Cooperation in the field of Space Research Science and Applications.
- iii. The Sultan of Brunei also visited India to participate in the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit held in New Delhi on 20-21 December 2012. He was accompanied by a high-level delegation which included the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II and Minister of Finance II.
- iv. The Sultan of Brunei visited India with a high level delegation to participate in the Special Summit to commemorate 25 years of ASEAN-India Partnership Dialogue on 25 January 2018. Apart from the commemorative summit, the Sultan also participated in a Leaders Retreat and a bilateral meeting with Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi.. He also witnessed the Republic Day Parade on 26 January along with the Heads of State and Governments of all the other ASEAN Member States.

#### **From India:**

- i. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh led the Indian delegation to the 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit and 8<sup>th</sup> EAS Summit held in Brunei on 9-10 October 2013. The delegation included NSA, Secretary (East) and Principal Secretary to PM. This was the first-ever visit of Prime Minister of India to Brunei. [Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh had previously met the Sultan of Brunei on the side-lines of 10th India-ASEAN Summit held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 18-20 November 2012].
  - ii. There has been no bilateral level visits at the level of Head of State/Government from India to Brunei
- 13 PM and Sultan's meeting at ASEAN-India Summits:** Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister, and the Sultan first met on the sidelines of 25<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit at Nay Pyi Taw on 12 November 2014. The two leaders held bilateral discussions on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit 2017 on 14 November 2017 in Manila. They also met during the Commemorative Summit to mark 25 years of held in New Delhi.

#### **14 Visit of Hon'ble Vice President of India to Brunei.**

Visit of Hon'ble Vice President of India to Brunei Feb 1-3, 2016: Hon'ble Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari visited Brunei from Feb 1-3, 2016. This was the highest level bilateral visit from India to Brunei. During the visit, Hon'ble Vice President called on HM, the Sultan, and the Crown Prince. The Speaker of the Legislative Council of Brunei called on him. Three MOUs viz. on

Defence Cooperation, Cooperation in Health Sector and on Cooperation in Youth Affairs and Sports were signed. Hon'ble Vice President delivered a lecture at the University of Brunei Darussalam (UBD) on the topic: "India and Brunei: Partners in Peace and Prosperity". Members of the Brunei India Friendship Association (BIFA) as well as Indian Chamber of Commerce also called on the Hon'ble Vice President.

15. **Exchange of Ministerial/Official visits:**

**From India:**

- i. Smt Mohsina Kidwai, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, represented India at the Independence Day celebrations of Brunei in February 1984.
- ii. Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri K. Natwar Singh visited Brunei (and Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore) in March 1987 and had a useful exchange of views on various matters of bilateral interest and regional issues.
- iii. Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid, visited Brunei in February 1993.
- iv. Minister of State for Tourism, Smt Sukhbans Kaur, visited Brunei in 1995.
- v. Shri K. Raghunath, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, visited Brunei on 1-2 May 1996 for the Second Meeting of Indo-Brunei Joint Committee.
- vi. Shri S T Devare, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs, visited Brunei in July 1998 for bilateral consultations on matters of mutual interest as part of the ongoing process.
- vii. The External Affairs Minister held a bilateral meeting with the Foreign Minister of Brunei during ARF/ASEAN PMC meetings in Singapore in July 1999.
- viii. An Indian petroleum delegation led by Chairman, Indian Oil Corporation, visited Brunei in July 2000.
- ix. India participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Science & Technology Week organized in Brunei on 17-21 September 2001. Seven scientists and two officials from Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), Department of Science & Technology, New Delhi, participated in the event.
- x. A 5-member Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Shri Mohammad Anwarul Haque, MP, visited Brunei on 1-3 February 2002 to brief the Brunei side about the situation in South Asia and India's continued efforts in the war against terrorism. The delegation held meetings with the Sultan of Brunei, Foreign Minister and Home Minister etc.
- xi. Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Omar Abdullah visited Brunei in May 2002.
- xii. External Affairs Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha visited Brunei in July 2002 in connection with ASEAN Annual Ministerial Meeting.

- xiii. Commerce and Industry Minister, Shri Murasoli Maran visited Brunei in September 2002.
- xiv. Dr. Sheel Kant Sharma, Additional Secretary (IO) in the Ministry of External Affairs visited Brunei on 5-7 May 2004 as the Special Envoy of the External Affairs Minister and held an audience with Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Foreign Minister of Brunei on ARF related issues.
- xv. A team of four scientists from the Indian Space Research Organization successfully monitored the launching of the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) from its TTC Centre in Brunei Darussalam on 20 September 2004.
- xvi. A group of ten Indian media representatives visited Brunei in October 2005 under ASEAN-Media Exchange Programme.
- xvii. Dr Shakeel Ahmad, Minister of State for Communications & IT, visited Brunei in September 2006 to participate in the Second TELMIN + India Meeting.
- xviii. Shri GK Pillai, Commerce Secretary led a delegation for the ASEAN Senior Economic Ministers-India Consultations held in Brunei on 5-7 August 2008 and concluded the negotiations on India-ASEAN FTA on Trade in Goods.
- xix. Shri Vyalar Ravi, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs visited Brunei on 13-14 December 2009 in connection with the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas – PBD 2010.
- xx. Shri Sultan Ahmed, Minister of State for Tourism, visited Brunei on 24-27 January 2010 to attend the ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF) 2010.
- xxi. Shri RPN Singh, Minister of State for Petroleum & Natural Gas, visited Brunei on 19-21 September 2011 to attend the 29<sup>th</sup>ASEAN Ministers of Energy Meeting (AMEM).
- xxii. Shri E. Ahamed, Minister of State for External Affairs, visited Brunei on 24-26 September 2011.
- xxiii. Shri SM Krishna, External Affairs Minister (EAM), visited Brunei on 19-20 October 2012. This was the first time that EAM visited Brunei on a bilateral visit.
- xxiv. Vice Admiral Anil Chopra, FOC Eastern Naval Command, Indian Navy, paid a visit to Brunei in connection with the ASEAN plus Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief and Medical Medicine Exercise (HADR & MM Ex) in Brunei on 10-22 June 2013 in which INS Gharial also participated.
- xxv. Additional Director General, Indian Coast Guard, Shri Rajendra Singh, visited Brunei in conjunction with the goodwill visit of Indian Coast Guard Ship ICGS “SAGAR” to Brunei on 9-12 March 2014.
- xxvi. Vice Admiral Satish Soni, FOC Eastern Naval Command, Indian Navy, visited Brunei to coincide with the goodwill visit of INS Shakti to Brunei on 8-11 August 2014.

- xxvii. Shri Ravi Shanker Prasad, Minister of Communications & IT and Law & Justice, accompanied by a high-level delegation, visited Brunei to attend the Asia Pacific Tele-community ICT Ministerial Meeting held in Brunei on 10-11 September 2014.
- xxviii. Shri Gurjit Singh, Ambassador of India to Indonesia and ASEAN, visited Brunei on 23-24 June 2014 to attend the 16<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-INDIA Senior Officials (SOM) Meeting to prepare for the ASEAN Summit to be held in Nay Pi Taw in Myanmar.
- xxix. A team from ISRO visited Brunei in March-April 2014 in connection with tracking and telemetry of PSLV C-24 Satellite launched by ISRO on 4 April 2014. Another team from ISRO visited Brunei in September-October 2014 in connection with tracking and telemetry of PSLV C-26 Satellite launched by ISRO on 14 October 2014.
- xxx. Commander Shashank Sharma from the Ministry of Defence, visited Brunei on 28-30 October 2014 to attend the 9<sup>th</sup> ADMM Plus meeting on Expert Working Group on Maritime Security and Table Top Exercise on Maritime Security.
- xxxi. Shri Navin Kumar, Director, Ministry of Defence and Cdr Jitendra Dixit visited Brunei on 2-6 February 2015 to participate in the Initial Planning Conference (IPC) of the field training exercise in Maritime Security and Counter Terrorism.
- xxxii. Shri Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, visited Brunei On 7-8 March 2015 to have Bilateral Consultations with Brunei's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. This was the first bilateral consultation after the last FOCs on 3 December 2011. Brunei delegation was led by Dato Erywan, Permanent Secretary (ASEAN) and included Permanent Secretaries for Trade, Politics II and International Organizations. Secretary (East) was also received by Pehin Lim, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II. He also had a meeting with the think-tank Institute of Strategic Studies.
- xxxiii. A 16-member NDC delegation visited Brunei on 18-21 May 2015. The delegation included four officers from Bhutan, Japan, Myanmar and Tanzania and called on the Deputy Minister of Defence and Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces etc.
- xxxiv. Visit of the RCEP delegation: A 12 member delegation led by Shri Arvind Mehta, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce attended the 11<sup>th</sup> round of Regional Comprehensive Partnership (RCEP) Negotiations in Brunei from Feb 15-19, 2016.
- xxxv. Scientists/ Engineers from ISRO have been visiting Brunei in connection with tracking the path of ISRO Satellites. A team from ISRO visited Brunei in February-March 2015 in connection with tracking and telemetry of PSLV C-27/IRNSS 1D Satellite launched by ISRO in the second week of March 2015.
- xxxvi. Two ISRO teams visited Brunei in August and September 2015 in connection with tracking of the path of ISRO satellites GSLV-D6/GSAT launched on 27 August 2015 and PSLV-C30/ASTROSAT satellite, India's Multi Wavelength Space Observatory along with six foreign customer satellites, launched on 28 September 2015. ISRO teams also visited Brunei in Nov 2015 in connection with launch of PSLV-C 29, in Jan 2016 in connection with the launch of PSLV- C-31/IRNSS-IE and in April 2016 in connection with the launch of PSLV- C33/IRNSS-IG.

- xxxvii. A four-member team from ISRO was in Brunei for supporting launch of GSLV F05 / INSAT 3DR mission which was launched successfully on 08 September 2016.
- xxxviii. A two-member official delegation from the Ministry of Finance visited Brunei on 10 & 11 January 2017 for discussions on Tax Information Exchange Agreement between India and Brunei.
- xxxix. A 16-member delegation, which included participants from US, France, Afghanistan and Uganda, led by Major General Sunil Srivastava from the National Defence College (NDC) was on study tour to Brunei from 21 to 26 May 2017. During their visit, they called on Minister of Education, Deputy Defence Minister, Commander of RBAF, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Permanent Secretary (Technical and Professional), Ministry of Development.
- xl. A three-member team from ISRO was in Brunei from 25 May to 6 June 2017 for supporting the launch of GSLV MKIII-D1 - GSAT-19 which was launched on 5 June 2017.
- xli. A 3-member delegation led by Mrs Pramila Rani Brahma, Minister of Environment and Forests, Minister of State, Government of Assam, visited Brunei from 13 to 15 December 2017 to extend invitation to Dato Ali Apong, Minister for Primary Resources and Tourism, for Global Investors' Summit - Advantage Assam from 3 to 4 February 2018, in Guwahati, Assam.
- xlii. A 2-member ISRO team was in Brunei from 15 March to 06 April 2018 to provide pre and post launch support for GSLV 08 and GSTA6 launch vehicles.
- xliii. Smt Meenakshi Sharma (Joint Secretary (Tourism), Ministry of Tourism and Smt Kanchan Kukreja, Director, Regional Tourism Office, Singapore visited Brunei on 5 July 2018 to attend the ASEAN-India JWG on Tourism.
- xliv. The Indian Women's Rugby Team visited Brunei from 20-21 October 2018 to participate in the Asia Rugby Women's 7s Trophy 2018.
- xlv. A four-member team from ISRO was in Brunei from 31<sup>st</sup> October to 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018 for supporting the launch of GSLV MKIII D2 which was launched successfully on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

**From Brunei:**

- i. Brunei sent a delegation to attend the funeral of the late Prime Minister, Smt Indira Gandhi, in 1984.
- ii. Brunei's High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur (who was accredited to India), Pengiran Haji Abdul Momin, attended the funeral of the then Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, in 1991.
- iii. Brunei's Minister of Communications, Dato Haji Zakaria visited India on 9-12 January 1995 at the invitation of the Indian Civil Aviation Minister. During the visit, a MOU was signed to discuss matters relating to the conclusion of an Air Services Agreement and introduction of scheduled air services between the two countries. The two sides also

finalized the text of the Air Services Agreement, which was initialled by Leaders of the two delegations.

- iv. Pehin Lim Jock Seng, then Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, visited India in February 1995. During the visit, the two sides decided to establish a Joint Committee to exchange views on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern. It was also decided that the committee, at the level of senior officials, will meet periodically in each other's capital.
- v. Minister of Communications, Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Zakaria visited India in November 1995. During the visit, an Air Services Agreement between the two countries was signed on 6 November 1995.
- vi. Minister for Education & Health and Chairperson of the Brunei Investment Agency (BIA) visited India in July 1999.
- vii. HRH Princess Masna, Sultan's sister and Ambassador-at-large in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, visited India in April 2000.
- viii. Dato Abdullah, Permanent Secretary in Ministry of Communications led a delegation to Bangalore on 2-4 March 2003 to see Indian IT facilities.
- ix. Pehin Haji Awang Mohd Ali, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, led a delegation of four members to attend the Third India-ASEAN Business Summit held in New Delhi on 19 October and in Chennai on 20-21 October 2004. Three teams consisting of four members each took part in the First India-ASEAN Motor Car Rally 2004 from Guwahati to Batam (Indonesia).
- x. Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II, Pehin Lim Jock Seng, paid an official visit to India on 10-14 October 2006. He held meetings with Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E. Ahamed, Minister of State for Communications & IT, Dr Shakeel Ahmad and Minister of Defence. He participated in a Roundtable at FICCI and also visited the Software Technology Park in NOIDA. He also called on the Leader of Opposition, Shri L.K Advani. Dr Shakeel Ahmad, Minister of State for Communications & IT participated in the 2nd TELMIN + India Meeting which reviewed the ongoing partnership between ASEAN and India in the field of Information and Communication Technology. On the sidelines of the meeting, MOS (C&IT) also held bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Brunei, China, Japan, Myanmar and South Korea.
- xi. A delegation from the Brunei Investment Agency visited Delhi and Mumbai on 2-3 August 2007.
- xii. Deputy Minister of Communications, Dato Mohd Yusof attended the ICT Forum organized by the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organizations in Kochi on 15-18 April 2008.
- xiii. A nine-member delegation from the Ministry of Communications of Brunei, headed by Dato Eusoff Agakia, Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, paid a working visit to India on 7-11 April 2008.

- xiv. Bruneian Deputy Minister of Defence visited India in 2010 and 2012 to participate in the DEFEXO exhibitions and called on Raksha Mantri and Minister of State for Defence.
- xv. Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II, Pehin Lim Jock Seng, led the Bruneian delegation to the 2<sup>nd</sup> India-ASEAN Business Fair in December 2012 in New Delhi which included Pehin Mahdini, the Chairman of Brunei India Friendship Association (BIFA) and Mr Nazeer Ahmed Zakaria, President of Indian Chamber of Commerce in Brunei.
- xvi. Minister of Development, Pehin Hj Suyoi and a 4-member delegation visited India to attend ASEAN-India Environment Ministers Meeting in New Delhi on 6-7 September 2012.
- xvii. Datin Masrainah, Ambassador (Special Duties), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade along with two officials from the Ministry attended the Fourth Meeting of the ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group (AIEPG) on 16-22 September 2012 in Kochi, Kerala.
- xviii. Dato Paduka Hj Ali Apong, Chairman of the Brunei Economic Development Board and Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, visited India on 2-5 September 2013 to explore possibilities of Indian pharmaceutical companies in the Brunei Halal Brand and possible manufacture in Brunei for the region.
- xix. HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, visited India to attend the ASEAN-European Ministerial Meeting (ASEM) held in New Delhi on 11-12 November 2013.
- xx. A journalist from Borneo Bulletin, Abdul Hakim, visited India to cover Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair organized by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts from 17-20 February 2014 in New Delhi.
- xxi. Brunei's national cyclists Mohd Nurjamri Johari and Muhammad Rafiuddin Zikaria, visited India to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mountain Bike (MTB) Kerala International Cycling Competition held on 16 February 2014.
- xxii. Dato Erywan, Permanent Secretary (ASEAN) at Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, visited India to represent Brunei at Delhi Dialogue VI held in New Delhi on 6-7 March 2014.
- xxiii. Two journalists from Brunei, each representing Borneo Bulletin and the Brunei Times, visited India on 5-11 March 2014 to cover the Delhi Dialogue VI as part of Familiarization Visit by Editors/Senior Journalists from ASEAN countries under ASEAN-India Media Exchange Programme 2012-14.
- xxiv. The Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Major General Dato Paduka Seri Mohd Tawih Abdullah attended the biennial 10th International Aerospace Exposition 'Aero India 2015' held in Bengaluru on 18-21 February 2015. During the visit, he paid a courtesy call on Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha, Chairman of the Chief of Staff Committee (COSC) of the Indian Armed Forces.
- xxv. A 34-member delegation (all course-mates) from the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) Command Staff College, which included 15 foreign defence officers, visited India on a study tour on 10-17 May 2015.

- xxvi. A 15-member student delegation visited India under the India-ASEAN Student Exchange Programme from 6-18 September 2015.
- xxvii. Two Journalists from Brunei, Mr Aaron Cosmas Wong Alwines from Brunei Times and Mr Haji Muhammad Ruzaini bin Haji Daud from Media Permata visited India under the Familiarization programme for ASEAN Journalist coinciding with the Delhi Dialogue VIII in Feb 2016.
- xxviii. Deputy Minister of Defence, First Admiral (Rtd) Dato Abdul Aziz attended the Defexpo India 2016 in Goa March 28 to March 31, 2016.
- xxix. Pehin Haji Awang Abu Bakar, Minister of Home Affairs accompanied by an official delegation attended the First Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) in New Delhi from 3 to 5 November 2016.
- xxx. Pehin Lim Jock Seng, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II, Pehin Yasmin, Minister of Energy & Industry and Amin Liew, Deputy Minister of Finance visited India from 9 to 12 November 2016. During their visit they met Gen (Rtd) V K Singh, Minister of State of External Affairs and with Mr Piyush Goel, Minister of State for Power, Coal and New and Renewable Energy.
- xxxi. Two officers from the Ministry of Education, Director of Technology, University Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA); Director, International Relations, University of Technology of Brunei (UTB); and Head of Global Services from Politeknik Brunei participated in the FICCI Higher Education Summit 2016 from 10 to 12 November 2016 in New Delhi.
- xxxii. A four-member delegation departed for India on 20 November 2016 to participate in the Asean-India Students Exchange Programme from 20-29 November 2016 at Mumbai.
- xxxiii. Mr Zakaria Serudin, Permanent Secretary; Ms Siti Ajar Haji Yusop, Acting Assistant Director; and Ms Rosmah Hj Mohamad Shah, Senior Medicinal Chemist in the Ministry of Health attended the Indian Pharmaceuticals and Healthcare Expo Exhibition (IPHEX), Hyderabad, from 27 to 29 April 2017.
- xxxiv. Dato Erywan, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade attended the Delhi Dialogue IX in New Delhi on 4-5 July 2017. During his visit, he met Gen V K Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, on 4 July 2017.
- xxxv. Pehin Lim Jock Seng, Bruneian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade II visited India as part of the official delegation headed by the Sultan of Brunei for the Special Summit to commemorate 25 years of ASEAN-India Partnership Dialogue in New Delhi from 21-26 January 2018. He held bilateral meeting with Hon'ble EAM during the visit. He also participated in the ASEAN-India Trade and Investment Forum on January 2018 organised by MEA with CII.
- xxxvi. Dato Paduka Haji Matsatejo bin Sowkiaw, Deputy Minister for Energy and Industry visited New Delhi from 10-12 April 2018 to attend the 16<sup>th</sup> International Energy Summit. During the visit, he held bilateral meeting with Minister, Petroleum and Natural Gas, HE Shri Dharmendra Pradhan. He also visited UIDAI and NASSCOM offices to be briefed

on India's Digital push to provide biometric based ID Cards to all its citizens and on the latest developments in the Indian ICT sector respectively.

- xxxvii. Dato Paduka Abdul Mutalib, Minister for Communications visited India from 18-24 July 2018 to participate in the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Delhi Dialogue. During the visit, the Minister signed an MoU on Cooperation in the field of Telemetry Tracking and Training between the two countries with EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj. He also visited Bengaluru and the facilities of ISRO, WIPRO and Infosys.

**16. Ministerial/Official visits from India to Brunei in 2013 when Brunei was Chairman of ASEAN:**

- i. Shri Pinak Ranjan Chakravarti, Secretary (ER), MEA, led the Indian delegation to the ASEAN SOM and ASEAN ARF meetings in Brunei on 21-24 May 2013.
- ii. Shri Salman Khurshid, External Affairs Minister, visited Brunei from 28 June to 2 July 2013 to participate in ASEAN-India Post-Ministerial Conference / 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and 3<sup>rd</sup> East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers' Meeting.
- iii. Shri Anand Sharma, Commerce & Industry Minister, led an Indian delegation to 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Economic Ministers' meeting in Brunei on 17-21 August 2013. The delegates participated in Prep ASEAN-India TNC & SEOM preparatory meeting also.
- iv. Shri Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Defence and Youth Affairs and Sports (IC), attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus in Brunei on 28-29 August 2013.
- v. Shri Viswanathan Perumal, Member of Parliament, led the Indian delegation to the 34<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Association (AIPA) meeting hosted by Brunei on 18-22 September 2013.
- vi. Shri Ashok Kantha, Secretary (East), visited Brunei on 29 September – 1 October 2013 to attend the EAS Senior Official Meeting to prepare for the EAS Summit in October 2013.
- vii. Smt Sripriya Ranganathan, Joint Secretary (SAARC), visited Brunei to attend the ARF Workshop and Regional Dialogue on Regional Security Framework in Bandar Seri Begawan on 14-15 November 2013.
- viii. There were also visits by several other Indian delegations including delegations from Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Commerce to attend ASEAN Defence and RCEP related meetings held in Brunei.

17. **Joint Committee Meeting:** Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei, Dato Lim Jock Seng (former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II), visited India in February 1995. During the visit, the two sides decided to establish a Joint Committee to exchange views on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern. It was also decided that the committee, at the level of senior officials, will meet periodically in each other's capital.

18. The meetings of the India-Brunei Joint Committee for Foreign Office Consultations have so far held six meetings; three in New Delhi in 1995, 1998 and 2005; and three in Brunei in 1996, March 2002 and December 2011.

19. At the last JCM held in December 2011, the discussions were on the exchange of visits, review of sectoral cooperation in the fields of shipping, education, ICT, agriculture, trade, economy, tourism, consular, legal (draft on mutual legal assistance on criminal matters). Among regional and international matters, our side briefed the Brunei side on the situation in South Asia/SAARC and on our request, Brunei side gave a briefing on the situation in South East Asia including South China Sea and Asia Pacific). There was also a discussion on ASEAN matters. The next meeting is to be held in New Delhi for which dates are not yet decided.

20. **MOUs/Agreements:** The two countries have signed various MOUs and Agreements of mutual interest. The details are as follows:

- (i) **Establishment of Joint Committee to exchange views on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.** The two countries agreed, in February 1995 during the visit of the then Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam Pehin Lim Jock Seng (and former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II), to set up the Joint Committee in keeping with a desire for expanding bilateral relations with Brunei. The committee at the level of senior officials will meet periodically in each other's capital. The last JCM was held in December 2011 in Brunei and the next JCM is to be held in New Delhi for which dates are yet to be scheduled.
- (ii) **MoU on the Establishment of Joint Trade Committee:** signed on 22 May 2008; was valid for five years and thereafter, automatically renewable for another five years. First Joint Trade Committee meeting between India and Brunei was held on 05 September 2018 in Brunei.
- (iii) **Revival of Air Service Agreement between India and Brunei:** An Air Services Agreement between the two countries was signed on 6 November 1995 and on 4 November 1995, the inaugural flight of Royal Brunei Airlines started operations linking Bandar Seri Begawan, the capital of Brunei, and Calcutta. On this occasion, Minister of Communications Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Zakaria visited India. In Calcutta, the Minister called on the Chief Minister of West Bengal Shri Jyoti Basu. He also visited Delhi during which he signed the Air Services Agreement. Royal Brunei (RB) Airlines was operating flights twice a week to Kolkata. However, the operation was discontinued in October 2004 due to economic unviability. There is interest to renew the ASA on both sides. To this effect, a MoU on proposed changes to the existing ASA was signed on 17 December 2017 by both sides and is to come into effect after the Bruneian side completes internal procedures to approve the changes. The Indian side has already approved the MoU and is in the process of being approved by the Bruneian side. After the MoU is approved and comes into effect, its terms will be negotiated for inclusion in the final draft of the revised ASA before its formal signing.
- (iv) **Agreement on Reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investments** - Valid till May 2018. The revised agreement incorporating the Joint Interpretative Statements in consonance with the provisions of Article 31 (2) and Article 31 (3) (a) and (b) of the Vienna convention of Law of Treaties 1969 has been sent to the Government of Brunei Darussalam for their concurrence.

- (v) **MoU on Cooperation in the fields of Culture, Arts and Sports;** MoU was signed during the visit of Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri Hamid Ansari to Brunei in February 2016.
- (vi) **MoU on Cooperation in Health:** MoU was signed during the visit of Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri Hamid Ansari to Brunei in February 2016.
- (vii) **MoU on Cooperation in Defence:** MoU was signed during the visit of Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri Hamid Ansari to Brunei in February 2016.

21. **Pending Agreements/MOUs**

- (i) **MoU on Cooperation in the field of Shipping and Ports:** The draft MoU is in the process of being finalised by both sides.
- (ii) **Agreement for the Exchange of Information and Assistance in Collection with respect of Taxes (AEI&ACT):** The draft agreement has been finalised and internal approval procedures completed from the Indian side. The same is proposed to be signed in New Delhi in September/October 2018 between the Chairman, CBDT, Ministry of Finance, Govt of India and by the High Commissioner of Brunei in New Delhi.
- (iii) **MoU on Air Services (for renewal):** Internal procedures relating to bringing into effect the MoU, finalised to incorporate changes in the exiting agreement on air services, signed on 7 November 2017 at Colombo between Authorities of India and Brunei have been completed on the Indian side and is pending confirmation from the Bruneian side.
- (iv) **MoU on Cooperation in field of Information and Communication Technology:** The existing agreement which is due for renewal since May 2013 needs to be re-negotiated as the Government of India have bifurcated the subjects of Information Technology and Communication into two Ministries. Therefore, two new MoUs are to be negotiated between the Ministry of Communications, Government of Brunei and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology and Department of Telecommunications under the Ministry of Communications, Government of India.
- (v) **Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters:** the draft MoU is in the process of finalization.

**Defence:**

22. Over the past several years, the relations and cooperation between the two countries has been expanding and deepening. This includes regular high level defence exchanges and exchange of views, visit of naval and coast guard ships, training, participation in each other's defence exhibitions/expositions etc.

23. India participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brunei International Defence Exhibition (BRIDEX 2009, 12-16 August 2009). The Indian pavilion was adjudged the 'Overall Best Booth'. Two Indian Naval Ships, INS Airavat and INS Khukri paid goodwill visits which coincided with the Brunei International Defence Exhibition 2009. They also participated in professional exercises with the Royal Brunei Navy. India also participated in BRIDEX 2011.

24. **Visit of Indian Navy Ships:**

- a. Two Indian Naval Ships INS Rana and INS Kulish from the Eastern Fleet of the Indian Navy paid a goodwill visit to Brunei on 1-4 June 2006.
- b. Two Indian Naval Ships, INS Gharial and INS Kulish visited Brunei on 18-20 October 2008 for a goodwill visit.
- c. Two Indian Naval Ships, INS Airavat and INS Khukri paid goodwill visits which coincided with the Brunei International Defence Exhibition 2009.
- d. Indian Navy Ships INS Ranvir and INS Jyoti visited Brunei in May 2011 on goodwill visits.
- e. Indian Coast Guard Ship Sagar, the first by an Indian Coast Guard vessel, visited Brunei on 27-30 June 2011.
- f. INS Airavat visited Brunei on 4-9 July 2011 to participate in the first-ever Brunei International Fleet Review to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Royal Brunei Armed Forces.
- g. INS Gharial participated in the ASEAN Plus Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief and Medical Medicine Exercise (HADR & MM Ex) in Brunei on 10-22 June 2013. Vice Admiral Anil Chopra, FOC (Eastern Naval Command) also paid a visit to Brunei in connection with the HADR & MM Exercise.
- h. Indian Coast Guard Ship ICGS "SAGAR" paid a goodwill visit to Brunei on 9-12 March 2014. Additional Director General Rajendra Singh, Indian Coast Guard, visited Brunei in conjunction with this visit which was hosted by Royal Brunei Police Force.
- i. Indian Naval Supply Ship "INS Shakti" paid a goodwill visit to Brunei on 8-11 August 2014. Vice Admiral Satish Soni, F-O-C Eastern Command, Indian Navy, visited Brunei to coincide with this important visit.
- j. INS-Airavat participates in ADMM Plus Exercise: The Indian Naval Ship (INS) Airavat led by Commander Jayant Mahadik participated in the ADMM Plus (ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus) Exercise on Maritime Security and Counter Terrorism (Ex MS & CT) in Brunei from 01-05 May 2016.
- k. To celebrate 25 years of ASEAN-India Partnership, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Satpura visited Muara Port of Brunei from 25 to 28 November 2017. Upon departure from Muara Port, INS Satpura engaged in a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with RBN ships which included helicopter flights by the Indian Navy's helicopters.

**25. Visit of Royal Brunei Navy Ships to India:**

- a. A Bruneian ship – 'KDB Darulaman' - participated in MILAN 2012 (Andaman).
- b. Royal Brunei Navy's Ship "KP 80 DARU TTAQWA" visited India (Mumbai) in August 2014.

**26. Defence Exhibitions in India:**

- (i) Bruneian Deputy Minister of Defence visited India in 2010 and 2012 to participate in the DEFEXPO exhibitions and called on Raksha Mantri and Minister of State for Defence.
- (ii) The commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Major General Dato Paduka Seri Mohd Tawih Abdullah attended the biennial 10th International Aerospace Exposition 'Aero India 2015' held in Bengaluru on 18-21 February 2015. During the visit, he paid a courtesy call on Air Chief Marshal

Arup Raha, Chairman of the Chief of Staff Committee (COSC) of the Indian Armed Forces.

- (iii) First Admiral Dato Abdul Aziz, Deputy Minister for Defence along with two officials attended the Aero India 2017 on 14-15 February 2017 in Bengaluru.
- (iv) A three member delegation from the Royal Brunei Armed Forces and Ministry of Defence, Government of Brunei participated in the DEFEXPO – 2018 from 11-14 April at Chennai.

## 27. **Participation in Defence Courses:**

- (i) The officers from Indian armed forces have regularly attended the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Command Staff Course at Staff College, Brunei. Major Manish Chauhan had done this course in 2012. Major Yogesh Mehta from Indian Army attended this Course from January to October 2013, when he was awarded the Overall Excellence Medal amongst all the officers from participating countries. During January to October 2014, Major Akhil Dogra, Battery Commander, Indian Army, underwent the same course. Currently, Lt Cdr Gaurav Rana from Indian Navy is completed the Course for the January to October 2015. Squadron Leader Jagvindra Singh completed the Command Staff Course at Staff College, Brunei from Jan 2016 to Oct 2016. Sqn Ldr Varun Singh, Indian Air Force, attended the Course from Jan 2017 to Oct 2017. Currently, Sqn Ldr Raman Kutty Ranjith from IAF is undergoing the RBAF Command Staff Course in Brunei from Jan-Oct 2018.
- (ii) Commander of the Royal Brunei Air Force attended the senior officers' course at the National Defence College (NDC) of India in 2001. A Bruneian Officer – the Defence Adviser in Brunei Embassy in Washington has done NDC course in India in 2014, under ITEC's self-financing scheme.

28. **Telemetry, Tracking and Command (TTC) Station:** A bilateral agreement was signed in August 1997 for the setting up of ISRO's TTC Station in Brunei which was established in February-March 1999 and has been functioning very actively since then. From time to time, scientists from ISRO visit Brunei to track the path of the satellites launched by ISRO, the latest being GSLV-D6/GSAT launched on 27 August 2015 and PSLV-C30/ASTROSAT satellite, India's Multi Wavelength Space Observatory along with six foreign customer satellites launched on 28 September 2015. The Brunei side has extended its full cooperation with regard to setting up and continued functioning of TTC Station in Brunei. The current MoU on Cooperation in Telemetry Tracking etc, which expired in May 2013 and was renewed after inclusion of new clauses on 20 July 2018 in New Delhi through a fresh MoU signed by Smt Sushma Swaraj, Hon'ble EAM and Dato Abdul Mutalib, Bruneian Minister for Communications. At the request of the Indian side, the Bruneian side has agreed to identify suitable land .

## 29 **Events to Commemorate 25 years of ASEAN-India Partnership Dialogue:**

**India-ASEAN Youth Summit in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India, from 14 to 19 August 2017:** A 9-member youth delegation participated in the India-ASEAN Youth Summit in Bhopal.

**ASEAN-India Artists Camp in Udaipur, Rajasthan, India, from 20 to 29 September 2017:** Mr Pengiran Khamarol Zaman bin Pengiran Haji Tajuddin, well known Bruneian artist, was the Bruneian nominee for the Artists' Camp.

**ASEAN-India Music Festival at Purana Qila, New Delhi, from 6 to 8 October 2017:** "A Band Once", a Bruneian pop band, played at the ASEAN-India Music Festival; and was met with acclaim.

**Visit of INS Satpura from 25 to 28 November 2017:** Indian Naval Ship (INS) Satpura visited Muara Port of Brunei from 25 to 28 November 2017. The two navies held professional exchanges on board INS Satpura to learn best practices from each other. The High Commission of India and INS Satpura hosted an on-board reception on 27 November 2017 at which First Admiral Pengiran Dato Seri Pahlawan Norazmi bin Pengiran Haji Mohamed, Chief of Royal Brunei Navy, was the Chief Guest. Over 70 children with their parents and teachers of the Pusat Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam, a non-governmental charity organization which provides education, rehabilitation and training to children with special needs, visited INS Satpura on 28 November 2017. Upon departure from Muara Port, INS Satpura engaged in a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with RBN ships which included helicopter flights by the Indian Navy's helicopters. Print media coverage of the 2 events is attached.

**ASEAN-India Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) in Singapore on 6-7 January, 2018:** A 13-member Indian delegation from Brunei Darussalam participated in the PBD in Singapore and met with Smt Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister.

**'Sugar n Spice', Bollywood dance troupe performed in Brunei on 12 & 13 January 2018:** Sugar n Spice, a 14-member popular dance and music troupe, visited Brunei Darussalam from 10 to 14 January 2018 Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-large in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Brunei Darussalam, was the Chief Guest at the public performance held on 12 January 2018.

**ASEAN-India Student Exchange Programme from 14 to 23 January 2018:** 23 young students from Brunei Darussalam visited India under the ASEAN-India Student Exchange Programme.

**ASEAN-India Ramayana Festival 23-28 January 2018:** A 12-member Bruneian traditional dance troupe visited India to participate in the Ramayana Festival and performed traditional dance items in New Delhi and Kolkata.

30. **India-Brunei Bilateral Trade:** Following is the latest India-Brunei trade data:

(USD \$ million)

	Jan to Dec 2016			Jan to Dec 2017			Growth % of Export	Growth % of Import
	Export	Import	Total	Export	Import	Total		
Brunei's trade with India	464.93	58.5	523.4	460.1	174.6	634.7	-1.04%	198.1%

Brunei's total global trade	5145.6	2687.3	7832.9	5842.4	3192.7	9035.1	13.5%	18.8%
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Source - Brunei Department of Economic Planning and Development

(USD \$ million)

	Apr 16- Mar 17			Apr 17 – Mar 18				
	Export	Import	Total	Export	Import	Total	Growth % of Export	Growth % of Import
Brunei's trade with India	384.36	275.,85	660.21	465,58	303.37	768.95	21.13%	10%

(Source: Dept. of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India)

**Table 1. Bilateral Trade between Brunei Darussalam with India for the year 2013-2018**

(USD Million)

Year	Export	Import	Total Trade
2014	964.9	46.7	1,011.6
2015	624.0	40.6	664.7
2016	464.93	58.5	523.4
2017	460.1	174.6	634.7
2018 (Jan-Apr)	170.4	35.8	206.2

31. Our main exports to Brunei consist of transport equipment, meat and meat products and gems & jewellery. There has not been any significant increase in exports from India to Brunei. The reasons for lower level of exports to Brunei have been - relatively high shipping costs, and Brunei's small market and population base of approximately 4,21,000 (2017). Several consumer goods from India are also received in Brunei through re-exports via Malaysia and Singapore.

32. India is one of the largest importers of crude oil from Brunei and is importing Crude oil worth between US \$ 500 million and US 1 billion approximately every year. During the last three years, the average volume of crude oil imports from Brunei has remained between 1.2 and 1.6 million metric tonnes. However, in monetary terms, the value varies between US\$ 824 million in 2013-14 to US\$ 481 million in 2015-2016, US\$ 650 million in fiscal year 2016-17 and . US\$ 434 million in 2017-18.

33. **Business delegations:** From Brunei, there have been regular visits of individual businessmen or commercial delegations particularly crude oil exporters and Buffalo meat importers to India. The Mission issues approximately 150 business visas to the Bruneian business persons every year.

34. **Trade Fairs:** A few Bruneian businessmen have participated in trade fairs in India in the health and IT services sectors. However, they go only when full hospitality and air fares are offered. Indian participation in Bruneian trade fairs has minimal.

35. **Indian companies in Brunei:** There are a few Indian companies which have invested in Brunei. These include a) **Comquest Sdn Bhd**, an Innovative JV between Bahwan CyberTek (BCT), an India headquartered, global software and services provider and Telekom Brunei Berhad (TelBru), a leading fixed line and Internet service provider of Brunei Darussalam, established in 2012. . Comquest currently employs over 85 employees, mostly locals. The flagship product of Comquest is a 24x7x365 Non-Emergency contact center service called Talian Darussalam 123 (TD123) on behalf of the Government of Brunei. b) **Polygel (B)** is a JV established in Brunei in Jan 2016 with a 65% share from the Indian company, M/s Polygel Industries, Mumbai and 35% share by the local Ministry of Finance. The Indian investment is USD 10 mn and the Bruneian share is USD 5.5 mn. The company is in the process of setting up its production unit in Brunei and is expected to commence production sometime in mid-2018. The company will be producing industrial chemical adhesives, which will be used as antioxidant and adhesive agent in plastics, paints, concrete, inks and dyes etc. The product, will be for local use as well as for export to other countries in the region. c) **Nazmi Textiles** is the largest Indian textile retail investment in Brunei with about 10 outlets. The company has also diversified into furniture business. The owner, Mr Nazeer Ahmed Zakariah was awarded the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awardee in 2016. Two major Indian automobile companies, M/S Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra have their local distributors. Tata Motors is represented by Worldwide motors (a division of GHK group) and Mahindra Motors by United Motors. Other Indian business presence in Brunei are of lesser profile and include 6-7 construction companies, retail outlets in textiles, groceries, sports goods, restaurants, electronics, hardware, shoes, small and medium departmental stores, mini-marts, hairdressers, mechanics etc.

36. **ITEC Programme:** Out of the 4 ITEC slots allotted to Brunei in 2017-18, only 2 slots were utilized. This year also 4 ITEC slots have been allotted to Brunei for 2017-18. Approximately 40 nominees from Brunei have attended various ITEC courses. Majority of these nominees are from the Audit Department of Government of Brunei.

37 **Cultural:** There have been frequent visits by cultural troupes from India to Brunei, sponsored by ICCR. Visits by cultural troupes for our National Day celebrations each year are a regular feature. Brunei

### **Indian Community in Brunei Darussalam:**

38. The discovery of oil in Brunei in 1929 brought a number of Indians to Brunei to work in the hydrocarbon sector and allied services. Currently, there are approximately 11,500 Indian nationals living and working in Brunei. Late Shri Mohinder Singh, a Bruneian citizen of India origin, was awarded the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA) 2010 in acknowledgement of his outstanding achievements in the field of community service. Mr. Nazir Ahmed Zakariah was also awarded the Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Award 2017 in January this year. There is an Indian Chamber of Commerce (comprising Indian and some Brunei businesspersons and professionals) and other Indian socio-cultural Associations such as Bandar Seri Begawan Indian Association, Indian Association Belait, Malayali Association and Indian Tamil Association. The Brunei-India Friendship Association (BIFA)

was launched in 2009. Majority of the doctors in Brunei are from India. Other professionals from India include teachers, engineers, IT professionals, bankers etc. Indian businessmen have a near monopoly in textiles. The Indian professionals, though do not have any professional body or association of their own (due to local restrictions); however, they keep meeting socially or as part of other Indian socio-cultural Associations. Indian cultural functions continue to be held in Brunei in the two main districts in the country i.e. capital Bandar Seri Begawan and Kuala Belait district where most of Indian community resides.

39. **State-wise percentage of Indian community:** There are about 11500 Indians living and working in Brunei. The approximate, state-wise percentage of the Indian community is as follows: Tamil Nadu 41.01%, UP 16.07%, Kerala 10.00%, Maharashtra 5.36%, Karnataka 4.29%, Punjab 4.20%, AP 3.57%, and Orissa 1.76%, Gujarat 1.43%, Pondicherry 1.43%, Delhi 1.29%, Rajasthan 1.07% and WB 1.01% etc.

HCI Brunei  
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