

India-Türkiye Relations

There are historical connections between India and Türkiye. Diplomatic relations were established and Ambassadors exchanged in 1948.

High Level Visits

High level bilateral exchanges include the visit of the President of Türkiye, Recep Tayyip Erdogan to India to attend the G20 Summit in New Delhi from 9-10 September 2023. A bilateral meeting was held between Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President Erdogan on the sidelines of the Summit. Discussions took place on bilateral cooperation potential in areas like trade and investment, defence and security, civil aviation, and shipping. Earlier, President Erdogan paid a state visit to India in 2017. Besides high level political engagements, President Erdogan was conferred an honorary degree by Jamia Milia Islamia University during the visit. Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the G20 Summit held in Antalya, Türkiye in November 2015.

PM Modi met President Erdogan on the sidelines of COP 28 on 1 December 2023 in Dubai. Both leaders also met during SCO Summit in Samarkand (Uzbekistan) on 16 September 2022, during G-20 Summit in Osaka in June 2019, on the sidelines of BRICs Plus meeting in Johannesburg in July 2018 and G20 Summit in Hangzhou in September 2016.

EAM held bilateral talks with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan on the sidelines of ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting, 2024 in Vientiane on 27 July 2024. Earlier, EAM held bilateral meeting with the then Turkish Foreign Minister Mr. Mevlut Cavusoglu during his visit to New Delhi from 1-2 March 2023 to attend G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting. EAM also met Foreign Minister Cavusoglu on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York on 20 September 2022. Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan sent a video message for the Foreign Ministers' Session of the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit (VOGSS 3.0) hosted by India on 17 August 2024. Turkish Deputy Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Mr. Ahmet Berat Conkar also sent a video message for the Energy Ministers' Session of the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit (VOGSS 3.0).

Previous exchange of bilateral visits: The visit by the first Prime Minister of India Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in 1960 was the first prime ministerial visit to Türkiye. In 1965, Vice President Dr. Zakir Hussain visited Türkiye. Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal visited India in 1986; Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi paid a return visit to Türkiye in 1988; visit of Turkish President General Kenan Evren in 1989; visit by President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma in 1993; Turkish President Suleyman Demirel in 1995; the State visit by President K. R. Narayanan in September 1998; and the visit by Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit in April 2000. Vice President Krishan Kant visited Türkiye in October 1998 representing India on the occasion of the 75th anniversary

celebrations of the Turkish Republic. Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee visited Türkiye in September 2003. The then Turkish PM Recep Tayyip Erdogan visited India in 2008 and the then Turkish President Abdullah Gul visited India in 2010. Vice President Hamid Ansari visited Türkiye in October 2011. President Pranab Mukherjee visited Türkiye in October 2013; EAM S. M. Krishna visited Türkiye to attend the 4th UN Conference on LDCs held in Istanbul in May 2011 and again visited Türkiye in November 2011 to attend Istanbul Conference for 'Afghanistan Security and Cooperation in the Heart of Asia'; EAM Salman Khurshid visited Türkiye on 24 July 2013 and met Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu. EAM Sushma Swaraj visited Türkiye from 15-16 January 2015 and held bilateral meeting with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu on 16 January 2015; Foreign Minister Cavusoglu made a brief transit visit in Delhi in March 2015; Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen. (Retd) V.K. Singh participated in April 2015 in the 100th anniversary ceremonies of the Canakkale Land and Sea battles. Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu paid an official visit to India on 18-19 August 2016.

Parliamentary Exchanges and other Mechanisms

There have been exchanges of parliamentary delegations between the two countries. Members of Parliament have also been interacting with each other at multilateral parliamentary conferences. The Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (GNAT) has had Türkiye-India Parliamentary Friendship Groups in the successive Parliaments. The first group was established during the 13th Legislative Year between 1965-1969. Following the general elections in May 2023, new Türkiye-India Parliamentary Friendship Group has been formed, which consists of 21 members. The current Chair of the Türkiye-India Parliamentary Friendship Group is Mr. Mehmet Galip Ensarioglu, a senior Member of Parliament from the ruling AK Party.

Foreign Office Consultations (FOCs) at Secretary (Deputy Foreign Minister) level were institutionalized through a Protocol signed in April 2000. The last round of consultations was held on 10 June 2022 in Ankara. The 4th meeting of the Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism was held in Ankara on 4 July 2019. A new bilateral mechanism 'India-Türkiye Policy Planning Dialogue' was institutionalized between the two Foreign Ministries with the first round held virtually on 22 October 2020.

Economic & Commercial Relations

The India-Türkiye economic and commercial cooperation constitutes an important dimension of the bilateral relationship. Bilateral Trade Agreement between India and Türkiye was signed in 1973, followed by an Agreement on setting up an India-Türkiye Joint Commission on Economic and Technical Cooperation (JCETC) in 1983. Under this Agreement, JCETC meetings are held alternately in India and Türkiye. Co-chaired by the trade ministers of the two countries, the last (10th) session of JCETC was held in New Delhi in January 2014.

India's economic engagement with Türkiye has acquired new momentum in recent years with considerable increase in India-Türkiye trade, which crossed USD 13.80 billion in 2022-23. India's bilateral trade with Türkiye in FY 2023-24 stood at USD 10.43 billion, with India's exports to Türkiye at USD 6.65 billion and India's import from Türkiye at USD 3.78 billion. (Source: DoC, India)

Total FDI from Türkiye to India stood at USD 227.5 million for the period April 2000-December 2023 and total Indian investment in Türkiye stood at around USD 200 million for the period August 2000-March 2024. (Source: DPIIT, India)

India-Turkiye bilateral trade

Values in USD Millions

Years	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
India's Exports	5452.45	4969.47	3,952.89	8,716.13	9,609.67	6,650
% Growth	7.11	-8.86	-20.46	120.50	10.25	-
India's imports	2388.26	2116.56	1467.33	1,996.75	4,208.84	3,780
% Growth	10.42	-11.38	-30.67	55.31	110.78	-
Total trade	7840.71	7086.03	5,420.22	10,712.88	13,818.51	10,430

(Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India)

Operation Dost

In the wake of the 6 February 2023 earthquakes in southern Türkiye, India made a humanitarian assistance initiative named "Operation Dost" [Operation Friend], consisting of search and rescue teams from India's National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and a mobile field hospital set up by the Indian Army. Over 250 trained Indian personnel were brought to Türkiye along with specialized equipment, vehicles and relief material in six C-17 military aircraft, who actively worked in search and rescue operations and provided medical treatment through a self-contained field hospital equipped to perform even life and limb-saving surgeries. Operation Dost was among the earliest foreign help to arrive in Türkiye. India also sent medical equipment and relief material to Türkiye in these difficult times as a mark of solidarity with the people of Türkiye.

Cultural Relations

India and Türkiye have traditionally shared cultural linkages. Cultural performances, film shows, exhibitions, seminars, outreach to universities are being organized from time to time. A Festival of India in Türkiye, India by the Bosphorus, was held in March-April 2019 showcasing Indian dance, music, food and fashion in major cities in Türkiye. Several events were organized in connection with Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (India@75). The Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) sponsored a Gujarati folk dance group 'Saptak' visited Bursa (Türkiye) in the 34th International Golden Karagoz Folk Competition in July 2022. Teaching and learning of Turkish and Indian languages are also being encouraged and facilitated in each other's countries. There is Indology Department in Ankara University and ICCR Hindi Chair was established in the Indology Department of Ankara University in 1998. India Studies Centres have been established at several universities in Türkiye - METU, Giresum, Kayseri, Malatya, Cag, Istanbul and Koc Universities.

Indian Community

There are currently around 3000 estimated Indian nationals in Türkiye. Out of these, around 1850 are in Istanbul and adjoining provinces, around 250 in Ankara and remaining spread out across other provinces. They are mainly working in commercial organizations, banks and computer firms, universities etc. There are currently around 400 Indian students in Turkiye.

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