

## **India-Turkey Relations**

### **Bilateral**

There are deep historical connection between India and Turkey. The first exchange of diplomatic missions between the Ottoman Sultans and the Muslim rulers of the sub-continent dates back to the years 1481-82. India and Turkey also have a cultural overlap. The Turkic impact on India in areas such as language, culture and civilization, art and architecture, and costumes and cuisine was considerable. The Sufi philosophy of Mevlana Jelaluddin Rumi found a natural resonance in the Indian sub-continent with its own traditions of Sufism and the Bhakti movement. There are also over 9000 words common in Hindustani and Turkish Languages.

More recent historical contacts between India and Turkey were reflected in the medical mission led by renowned Indian freedom fighter, Dr. M.A. Ansari, to Turkey in 1912 during the Balkan Wars. India also extended support in the 1920s to Turkey's War of Independence and the formation of the Turkish republic. Mahatma Gandhi himself took a stand against the injustices inflicted on Turkey at the end of World War-I

Bilateral relations have been strengthened by the exchange of visits of leaders of both countries in recent times. These include visits by the Turkish PM Recep Tayyip Erdogan to India in 2008 and Turkish President Abdullah Gul to India in 2010. Hon'ble Vice President Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari visited Turkey from October 10-15, 2011. Several ministerial level visits were exchanged during 2012-13, including visits by Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Minister for New and Renewable Energy and Shri Salman Khurshid, EAM.

Rashtrapatiji Shri Pranab Mukherjee visited Turkey during October 5-7, 2013 at the invitation of the President of Turkey. Five inter-governmental agreements were signed during the visit, along with six agreements in the education sector viz., MoU between NSIC and Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization (KOSGEB); Protocol between All India Radio & Turkish Radio & TV Corporation (TRT); Protocol between Department of Science & Technology (DST) & Scientific & Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK); Protocol between Doordarshan & TRT; Protocol in the field of Archives between Govt. of India & Govt. of Turkey ; MoU between Jamia Millia Islamia &

Kadir Has University, Turkey; MoU between Delhi University & Kadir Has University, Turkey; MoU between Mevlana University, Turkey & University of Hyderabad; MoU between Jamia Millia Islamia & Istanbul University; MoU between Delhi University & Ataturk University, Turkey; MoU between JNU & Kadir Has University, Turkey.

Foreign Office Consultations (FOCs) at Secretary-level were institutionalized through a Protocol signed in April, 2000. The last round was held on February 19, 2013 in New Delhi. Both sides held the Working Level consultations on Central Asia in Turkey in July, 2012. A Protocol on setting up a Joint Working Group on combating Terrorism was signed during our PM's visit in September, 2003. Dialogue between the National Security Councils has been taking place since 2001 at the level of the Secretary General MGK (Turkish National Security Council) and NSA/Deputy NSA. India has participated in the Istanbul Process for Afghanistan.

An India military delegation led by ADG (C&W), Maj. Gen Shokin Chauhan, YSM, SM, VSM and two band pipers from SIKH Regt., participated in the Gallipoli Commemoration ceremonies of 24-25 April, 2014

### **Economic & Commercial Relations:**

India-Turkey economic and commercial cooperation has deepened over the years and constitutes an important dimension of the bilateral relationship. Several bilateral agreements and institutional mechanisms, at the governmental level as well as B2B provide the framework for strengthening economic and commercial ties.

The Bilateral Trade Agreement between India and Turkey was signed in 1973. This was followed by an Agreement on setting up an India–Turkey Joint Commission on Economic and Technical Cooperation (JCETC) in 1983. Under this Agreement, JCETC meetings are held alternately in India and Turkey. The India-Turkey Joint Business Council (JBC) between Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey (DEIK) was set up in 1996. The 10<sup>th</sup> session of the JC ETC was held in New Delhi in January, 2014. The Indian Delegation was led by Shri Anand Sharma, the then Minister for Commerce and Industry of India and the Turkish Delegation by H.E. Mr. Nihat Zeybekci, Minister for Economy of the Republic of Turkey.

In a public diplomacy initiative, the first Turkish-English bilingual version issue of the “Doing Business with India” and “Doing business with Turkey” was brought out by the Mission to assist entrepreneurs in both countries.

Turkish Chamber of Commerce and Industry TUSKON organized the Indian Turkey – CIS Business Forum for a delegation from the FICCI and the India-Turkey Business Association (ITBA) in Istanbul during December 6-7, 2013. 29 Indian entrepreneurs and over 100 Turkish businessmen participated in the Forum’s meetings.

India has been granted status of “Focus Country” by Turkish Government in “Izmir International Fair 2014” to be held from August 29 to September 2, 2014 in Izmir, Turkey. A large number of Indian companies would be participating in the Fair under FICCI

### **Investments:**

More than 150 companies with Indian capital have registered businesses in Turkey in the form of joint ventures, trade and representative offices. These include M/s Polyplex, GMR Infrastructure, TATA Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra, Reliance, Ispat, Aditya Birla Group, Tractors and Farm Equipment Ltd., Jain Irrigation, Wipro and Dabur.

Turkey ranks 41<sup>st</sup> overall in terms of FDI inflows to India. Cumulative Turkish direct investment into India amounts to USD 87.18 million (April 2000 – April 2014) accounting for 0.04% of total FDI inflows. Turkish companies having presence in India include LIMAK Construction, Fernas, SARAR, SOKTAS and IZOPOLI-KINGSPAN, and HIDROMAS. A consortium formed by the Nas Aviation Services India Ltd and the Turkish airport ground services provider Celebi won a tender to provide ground services for 10 years at Mumbai International airport in India. Fernas, a Turkish infrastructure company mainly operating in pipeline sector, has won a contract for laying and commissioning a segment the GAIL pipeline in Gujarat.

Bilateral India-Turkey trade has increased significantly in the preceding decade and a half. The major items of Indian exports to Turkey include: cotton and synthetic yarn, organic dyes, organic chemicals, denim, steel, granite, antibiotics, carpets, unwrought zinc, sesame seed, TV CRTs, mobile handsets, clothing and apparel. Turkey’s exports to India include: auto components, marble, textile machinery, handlooms, denim, carpets, cumin seed, minerals (vermiculite, perlite and chlorites), and fittings and steel products.

### **Bilateral Trade Figures:**

	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
India's Exports	1539.20	2749.15	3547.26	3963.66	4432.48
% growth		78.61	29.03	11.74	11.83
India's Imports	1603.64	821.06	1021.91	2034.18	760.74
% growth		-48.8	24.46	99.06	-62.6
Total Trade	3142.84	3570.21	4569.17	5997.84	5193.21
% growth		13.6	27.98	31.27	-13.42

*Source : Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Gol*

### **Indian Community in Turkey:**

Indian Community in Turkey is small, and consists of nearly 200 persons mostly working in business establishments and universities in Istanbul and Ankara. State Bank of India has a representative office in Istanbul. Turkish Airlines (in a code sharing arrangement with Air India) operates daily flights from Istanbul to Mumbai and Delhi.

ICCR has a Hindi Chair at the Indology Department of Ankara University and presently a Professor from India is in position, teaching more than 50 local students. The Mission celebrates ITEC Day every year with ITEC alumni of Turkish nationality to exchange views. This year, ITEC Day was celebrated in May wherein a good number of ITEC alumni participated showing their appreciation towards the granting of scholarship.

### **Useful Resources:**

For more information and latest updates, please visit

Embassy of India, Ankara website:

<http://www.indembassy.org.tr>

Embassy of India, Ankara Facebook page

<http://www.facebook.com/EmbassyofIndiaAnkara>

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