

India - Indonesia Relations

India and Indonesia have shared two millennia of close cultural and commercial contacts. The Hindu, Buddhist and later Muslim faith travelled to Indonesia from the shores of India. The Indonesian folk art and dramas are based on stories from the great epics of Ramayana and Mahabharata. The shared culture, colonial history and post-independence goals of political sovereignty, economic self-sufficiency and independent foreign policy have unifying effect on the bilateral relations.

Political Relations

During our respective struggles for independence, the national leaderships of India and Indonesia led by Jawaharlal Nehru and President Sukarno collaborated closely in supporting the cause of Asian and African independence and later laid the foundation of the Afro-Asian and Non-Aligned Movements at the Bandung Conference in 1955. Since the adoption of India's 'Look East Policy' in 1991, there has been a rapid development of bilateral relations in political, security, defence, commercial and cultural fields. The current Government wants to further deepen the relationship with East Asia and has therefore rightly titled its policy as "Act East".

State Visit of President Yudhoyono in January 2011: During the State Visit of President Mr S. B. Yudhoyono to India in 2005, the two countries signed a Joint Declaration on Establishing a Strategic Partnership. In January 2011, President Yudhoyono visited India as the Chief Guest on the occasion of India's Republic Day. During the visit, 16 Inter-Governmental Agreements were signed which included an Extradition Treaty, Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, an MoU on Establishing a Biennial Trade Ministers' Forum, an MoU on Cooperation in Oil and Gas, an MoU on Science and Technology Cooperation, and a Cultural Exchange Programme. In addition, during the visit, it was agreed to set up an Eminent Persons Group and to organize regular meetings of Defense, Home, Oil and Gas, Coal, Power, Renewable Energy, Science and Technology, Tourism, Health and Education Ministers. India and Indonesia agreed to launch negotiations for a Bilateral Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement. The two sides also agreed to organize a Trade and Investment Forum, an Energy Forum and a CEO's Forum alternately in either country.

State visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in October 2013: Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Indonesia on 10-12 October 2013. During the visit, MOUs on the issues such as combating illicit trafficking in Narcotic drugs; cooperation in disaster management; and cooperation in combating corruption were signed. Both leaders agreed to adopt a five-pronged initiative for strengthening the Strategic Partnership in the areas of Strategic Engagement, Defence and Security Cooperation, Comprehensive Economic Partnership, Cultural and People-to-People Links and Cooperation in Responding to Common Challenges.

Recent meetings at Summit & Ministerial Level: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met President Mr. Joko Widodo of Indonesia in Nay Pyi Taw on 13 November 2014 on the sidelines of 25th ASEAN summit. Both countries agreed to increase trade and investment and increase exchange between business and political leadership.

Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs and Indian Overseas Affairs visited Jakarta to participate in the 60th Asian African Conference Commemoration (AACC) during 21-24 April 2015. She met with Mr. Muhammad Jusuf Kalla, Vice President of Indonesia and Ms. Megawati Soekarnoputri, former President of Indonesia and Chairperson of PDI-P on the sidelines of AACC. General (Retd). Vijay Kumar Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, visited Indonesia two times in 2015. The first visit of MOS(VKS) was for participation in the Ministerial level meeting of 60th AACC in Jakarta. MOS(VKS) held talks with Ms. Retno Lestari Priansari Marsudi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Indonesia on the sidelines of AACC. He again visited Padang, Indonesia, for participating in IORA Council of Ministers Meeting from 22-23 October 2015.

There were several visits from Indonesian side as well. Dr. Fadli Zon, Vice Chairman of House of Representatives visited India from 11-14 June 2015. He had meetings with Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India, Mr. Venkaiah Naidu, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Mrs. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs, and Dr. Nasim Zaidi, Chief Election Commissioner. Prof. Dr. Sri Adiningsih, Chairperson of the Presidential Advisory Council Republic of Indonesia paid a working visit to New Delhi and Chennai on 22-25 June 2015. The Minister of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia, Mr. Anies Baswedan visited India in September 2015 and held meeting Dr. Mahesh Sharma Minister of State for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation. An Indonesian delegation from People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) led by Mr. Rambe Kamarul Zaman visited India in 2-6 October 2015. A delegation from DPR Commission I visited India from 6-12 December 2015 which was followed by the visit of delegation from DPD from 10-16 December 2015. Ms. Esti Andayani, Director General of Public Diplomacy and Information, Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited India from 16-18 December 2015.

Visit of Vice President of India in November 2015 : Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India visited Indonesia from 1-4 November 2015. The visit of Vice President helped in reinvigorating our dialogue at a crucial juncture as both India and Indonesia are embarking upon a phase of rapid economic progress. Vice President held talks with Mr. Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia, Mr. Jusuf Kalla, Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia, Mr. Zulkifli Hasan, Chairman of MPR, Mr. Irman Gusman, Chairman of DPD, Mr. I Made Mangku Pastika, Governor Bali, leaders of Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) and Mohamadiyah, prominent Muslim social organizations of Indonesia. Vice President unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Udayana University, Bali. Three MOUs were signed during the visit of Vice President viz.

- i. MOU on cooperation in the field of Culture
- ii. MOU on cooperation in new and renewal energy
- iii. MOU for establishment of an Ayurveda Chair in Faculty of Medicine at Sudirman Campus, Denpasar, Bali

Foreign Office Consultation and Joint Working Groups: The Third Foreign Office Consultation (FOC) between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia and the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India was held in Jakarta on 17 December 2015. The two sides have instituted several Joint Working Groups (JWGs) to look into varied aspects of bilateral cooperation. Following JWGs were held in 2015:

- a. JWG on Health on 12 August 2015
- b. JWG on Counter-Terrorism on 27-28 October 2015
- c. JWG on Agriculture on 18 November 2015; and
- d. JWG on Coal on 23 November 2015.

Economic and Commercial Relations

Indonesia has emerged to become the second largest trading partner of India in the ASEAN region. Bilateral trade has increased from US\$ 6.9 billion in 2007-08 to US\$ 19.03 billion in 2014-15. India is the largest buyer of crude palm oil from Indonesia and imports coal, minerals, rubber, pulp and paper and hydrocarbons reserves. India exports refined petroleum products, maize, commercial vehicles, telecommunication equipment, oil seeds, animal feed, cotton, steel products and plastics to Indonesia. India also exports pharmaceuticals in bulk and formulations to Indonesia.

During President Yudhoyono's State visit to India in January 2011, 16 Inter-governmental agreements and 18 business deals for a total value of US\$ 15 billion were signed. During PM's visit to Indonesia in October 2013, it was agreed to establish a high-level task force to effectively monitor implementation of these MoUs; facilitate investments in each other's national infrastructure development plans and identify specific projects for joint investments in India, Indonesia and third countries. In November 2015, President Joko Widodo appointed Mr. Ignatius Johan, Transport Minister as a Liaison to oversee all trade and investment related issues with India.

The Mission organized several interactive sessions of India Business Forum (IBF), which is representative organization of all the Indian business interests in Indonesia, with the investment board, local chambers of commerce, regional governments as well as the visiting Indian government and industry delegations. In the recent past, a number of commercial events/visits have been organized/coordinated by the Embassy. The Mission, during the last two years, has prepared a number of market studies which were shared with the Department of Commerce, Industry associations and other stakeholders in India.

Cultural Relations

There is an active cultural exchange between the two countries. The Mission operates Jawaharlal Nehru Indian Cultural Centre (JNICC) which holds regular classes of Indian classical music, Indian classical dances (Kathak and Bharatnatyam), Yoga, and also teaches Hindi and Tamil languages.

A Facebook page of the Embassy of India and a Twitter account has been created to connect with the younger generation of Indonesian people who are among the largest users of social media in the world. The Embassy produced two YouTube videos titled "Old Heritage New Partnerships" and "India-Indonesia-An Enduring Relationship" and brought out various publications on India highlighting our strengths. A special publication titled "Studying in India" in Bahasa language was also brought out to facilitate Indonesian students wishing to pursue higher studies in India. The Mission has brought out 16 publications on the various topical issues related to commerce, culture, yoga, bilateral relations etc. in Bahasa Indonesia to address the large number of Indonesian people.

Sahabat India: Festival of India in Indonesia 2015: 'Sahabat India -The Festival of India in Indonesia' was inaugurated on 26 January 2015 by H.E. Ms. Megawati Soekarnoputri, former President of Indonesia. The festival was organized from 26 January to 15 August 2015. During the Festival of India, more than 35 different events such as folk dances, dance drama, puppet show, musical shows, exhibitions, seminars, mall promotions, screening of Bollywood cinema, documentaries and the like were organized in several prestigious locations in Jakarta. Besides, Embassy organized segments of the festival in fifteen other cities in Indonesia, including Bali, Yogyakarta, Bandung, Surabaya, Surakarta and Medan. This helped the people of Indonesia in different cities to have a glimpse of India, which would foster greater understanding. Embassy has also produced three YouTube videos on different aspects of "Sahabat India – The Festival of India in Indonesia-2015".

International Day of Yoga: The International Day of Yoga (IDY) was celebrated with enthusiasm and fervour in the four cities of Jakarta, Bali, Medan and Surabaya in Indonesia on 21 June morning. It was a grand success as around 10000 persons of different age groups and professions participated in the celebrations held in Jakarta, Bali, Medan and Surabaya. The Mission has also brought out one YouTube video on the first International Day of Yoga.

Indian Community in Indonesia

There are around 100,000 Indonesians of Indian origin in Indonesia mostly concentrated in Greater Jakarta, Medan, Surabaya and Bandung. They are mainly engaged in trade dealing in textiles and sports goods. There are around 10,000 Indian nationals living in Indonesia including engineers, consultants, chartered accountants, bankers and other professionals. The Indian community is very well regarded in Indonesia, is generally prosperous and includes individuals holding senior positions in local and multinational companies. The Embassy in August 2012, established an Indian Cultural Forum (ICF) which is umbrella organization of thirty-one Indian social organizations.

Useful Resources:

Embassy of India, Jakarta website:
<http://www.indianembassyjakarta.com/>

Embassy of India, Jakarta Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/IndiainIndonesia>

Embassy of India, Jakarta Twitter account:
<https://twitter.com/@IndianEmbJkt>

Embassy of India, Jakarta YouTube channel:
<http://www.youtube.com/user/IndianEmbJkt>

India Global- AIR FM Gold Program featuring India and Indonesia Relations:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YM6DXyyHIkM>

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