

India-DPRK Relations

Political:

The relations between India and DPRK have been cordial. There has, however, been a decline in political interactions and functional exchanges during the post cold war years. A variety of factors contributed to the decline in warmth of these relations which, inter alia, include:

- India's concern over DPRK's military and nuclear cooperation with Pakistan;
- Progress in bilateral economic relations between India and ROK;
- A perception in both public and private sectors that there exists no immediate benefit in developing economic and trade relations with DPRK; and
- DPRK's adherence to communist totalitarian ideology and refusal to adapt to the emerging new international trends.

Establishment of Diplomatic Relations:

The consular relations with DPRK were set up on March 1, 1962. However, the diplomatic relations between the two countries were established on December 10, 1973. The current year is 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations with DPRK.

As members of the Non-Aligned Movement, there is a commonality of views between the two on many international issues, e.g. Disarmament, South-South Cooperation, etc. Both sides continue to work closely at international fora, including UN and other international organizations, and support each other on various issues of bilateral and international interests. India welcomed the North-South Joint Declaration of June 15, 2000 and favors reduction of tension in the Korean peninsula and reunification of the two Koreas through peaceful means and through direct dialogue between them. Regular and meaningful exchange of views on bilateral issues of mutual interest and concern, were conducted through mechanism of Foreign Office Consultations. The last FOC meeting was held in Pyongyang on September 12-14, 2011. India was represented by Shri Sanjay Singh, Secretary (East) and DPRK side by Mr Pak Gil Yon, Vice Foreign Minister of DPRK.

DPRK's Position on our UNSC's permanent membership:

DPRK supports India's candidature for the permanent membership of UNSC. They have articulated and reconfirmed their support during the Foreign Office Consultation (FOC) in May 2007 and also during mission's interactions with the local foreign office. They also said that they support the candidature of Brazil, Germany and India among G-4 countries. However, DPRK reiterated its strong opposition to the candidature of Japan. It also indicated its preference to a consensus decision on the UNSC Reform in view of its opposition to Japan's entry into the UNSC.

DPRK's support to our other candidatures:

Apart from our permanent membership of UNSC, DPRK has been supporting India in the international arena. In the last two years alone, DPRK has confirmed its support in the following cases:

- For UNSC *non-permanent seat* for 2011-2012
- For the post of Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- For election to the Council of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
- Re-election to the Council of International Maritime Organization (IMO) under Article 17 (B) of the IMO Convention
- Indirect support to Controller and Auditor General of India to audit International Organization for Migration (IOM) for 2010-2012 [*Though DPRK was not a member of IOM, it promised soliciting support for India's candidature from other friendly countries.*]
- Election to the Executive Council of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO
- Election to the Executive Board of UNESCO
- For election to the Council of Administration (CA) of the Universal Postal Union (UPU)
- Re-election to the Postal Operations Council (POC) of the UPU
- Election to the Committee on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) for the term 2011-2013
- For appointment to the Joint Inspection Unit for 2013-17
- To additional agendas put forth by India for the 17th Meeting of the Parties to the UN Climate Change Agreement
- For India's candidature to the re-election of the Council of Administrations(CA) and the Postal Operations Council (POC)
- For Indian candidature in the International Court of Justice
- For hosting the 36th International Geological Congress in India
- Indian candidature for Directorship of the International Hydrographic Bureau
- For India's candidature for regional Director of WHO in South East-Asia Regional Office (SEARO) to be held in Sept 2013

In return, India has: (i) supported assistance proposals for DPRK which came up before the WFP and the UNFPA; (ii) supported resumption of UNDP activities in DPRK during the first regular session of the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA held in New York in January 2009; and (iii) abstained from voting whenever resolutions on Human Rights issues against DPRK were sponsored at the international fora.

Bilateral Visits:

Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma, Vice President visited DPRK (April, 1992) at the invitation of DPRK Vice President who visited India in May 1991. The last high-level visit from India to DPRK was by Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, MOS for Information & Broadcasting (September, 1998) to attend 6th Pyongyang Film Festival. Since then there have been no high-level visits between the two countries. However, at the invitation of the Lok Sabha

Speaker, a two-member delegation headed by Jang Chol, Vice-Chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly of DPRK visited India to participate in the International Parliamentary Conference, which was organised to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Parliament of India in New Delhi in January 2003. For Foreign Office Consultations, from DPRK side, Mr. Pak Gil Yon, Vice Foreign Minister visited Delhi in April 2000 and then Mr. Kim Yong Il, Vice Foreign Minister visited Delhi in May 2007 and August 2009. From the Indian side, Shri Rajiv Sikri, Secretary (East) visited DPRK in June 2005, followed by Shri N. Ravi, Secretary (East) in May 2008. Shri Jawhar Sircar, Secretary, Ministry of Culture visited DPRK in March 2010. The last high level visit was undertaken by Shri Sanjay Singh, Secretary(East) for Foreign Office Consultation in September 2011.

Humanitarian/Emergency Assistance:

India has been extending humanitarian assistance to DPRK on account of the latter's food shortages and in the wake of natural calamities. The assistance provided from India consisted of consignment of blankets, rice, wheat, baby food, polythene sheets, etc. India has donated white rice to DPRK on several occasions: 2,000 MT in September, 2002; 1000 MT in July 2004; 2000 MT in January 2006; and 2000 MT in February 2008. In addition, 200,000 Dexamethasone 4 mg. (1 ml injection); and medicines for the victims of the Ryongchon train blast were also provided to the DPRK.

India donated US\$ 1.00 million to WFP's emergency operations in DPRK, a contribution which was used to purchase 900 metric tons of soya beans and 450 tons of wheat in response to DPRK's request for urgent humanitarian food assistance.

DPRK Government donated US\$ 30,000 in the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund for the relief of the people affected by the Tsunami that hit India in December 2004.

ITEC Assistance and Programme:

As part of its commitment and focus on enhancing programmes of cooperation with the developing world, India has been providing regular assistance to DPRK under its Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme, ITEC. The number of slots allotted to DPRK is as follows:

Till 2003-2004	:	05
From 2004-2005:		10
From 2005-2006:		13
From 2008-2009:		18
From 2011-2012:		10
From 2012-2013 :		10

In addition to the above, India has been providing two slots annually for training of the DPRK armed personnel at the Indian defence institutions.

In case of civilian courses, candidates from DPRK have a special inclination for attending courses related to IT and English language training.

Overall, ITEC Programme in respect of DPRK has been running successfully with minor hiccups, such as: (i) Underutilization of slots (ii) Non-availability of English knowing

candidates to undertake the desired courses; (iii) Inordinate delays in issue of passports by DPRK authorities to their selected candidates; and (iv) Time required for getting visa clearance from Delhi.

Education and Culture:

A two-member delegation led by Shri Jawhar Sircar, Secretary, Ministry of Culture visited Pyongyang on March 23-25, 2010 to sign the 11th Cultural Exchange Programme between India and DPRK for the period 2010-2012. The first such Programme was signed on July 2, 1976 and the 10th CEP was signed on September 18, 2003 at New Delhi during the visit of a three-member delegation led by Mr. Jon Yong Jin, Vice Chairman of the DPRK Committee of Cultural Relationship with Foreign Countries and it expired in September 2006. Despite the best efforts by both sides to finalize the CEP for 2007-2010, this could not be done for want of clearances on the changes proposed by both sides. Finally, the 11th CEP was signed on March 24, 2010 with the revised validity as 2010-2012.

In April 2007, India participated in the biennial April Spring Friendship Art Festival with a group of folk dancers from UP. However, for April 2009 Festival, participation by a 14-member Sarabhuj Group from West Bengal (nominated by ICCR) was denied visa by the DPRK side to stop the Group's participation in their festival owing to its low-level performance and meager reputation.

Like in previous years, India participated in the 11th Pyongyang International Film Festival in September 2008 with five films, out of which "Ek Nadir Galpo" (Tale of a river) in Begali won the award for its music in the form of a certificate and a trophy, which were then forwarded to Directorate of Film Festivals. In 2010 as well, India participated at the 12th Pyongyang International Film Festival from September 17-24. During the event, Indian feature film "For Real" (in English) won a special prize. India participated in 13th Pyongyang International Film Festival with three films in September 2012.

The Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries (CCRFC) of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which is a counterpart of our ICCR, has established Friendship Association/Societies with friendly countries for promotion of bilateral cultural relations. The Korea-India Friendship Society was established in February 1970 for fostering friendly relations and projecting India's cultural image in the DPRK. The Society has been active in promoting bilateral relations between the two countries and is the nodal point for interaction between this Mission and the CCRFC.

The Society regularly organizes activities such as - Friendship gatherings on the occasion of India's Independence Day and Republic Day; screening of Indian feature films/documentaries in schools and institutions; telecasting of documentary films on Korean TV and relay of Indian music on radio during our National Days; visits to Korea-India Friendship Wasan Middle School; visits to Korea-India Friendship Agricultural Farm; cultural performances by school children on the eve of National Days; and visits to places of historical and cultural importance in the DPRK.

Department of Culture has been sanctioning Grant-in-Aid to the tune of Rs. 50,000/- to the Korea-India Friendship Society during the last few years. As the economy of DPRK has been in a bad shape for the last few years due to natural calamities and international sanctions, the Korea-India Friendship Society has been finding it difficult to

secure enough funds from the DPRK side to organize activities for promotion of bilateral cultural relations. Therefore, in order to encourage the Society to undertake increased activities, we have given Euro 2000.00 to the Society as Grant-in-aid sanctioned by the Ministry of Culture for 2010-2011.

Commercial and Economic Relations:

Our commercial and economic relations with DPRK do not appear to be moving anywhere and there are no credible figures available for India's trade volume with DPRK. There are apprehensions among the Indian businessmen to engage with DPRK companies in a direct import-export business mainly on account of shortage of foreign exchange with DPRK, non-availability of direct shipping and non-guarantee of payments through an established banking and insurance system. These are the main factors responsible for lack of enthusiasm among Indian exporters in exploring this market. However, based on informal reports, following were the trade figures up to 2006-07, after which all our efforts to solicit trade data from DPRK's M/o. Foreign Trade have been in vain:

India-DPRK Bilateral Trade (in US \$)

Year	Export	Import	Total
2011-12	305,963.92	489,319.49	795,283.41

In order to make a fresh beginning and to undertake market expansion activities as suggested by Secretary (ER) in May 2010, for the first time, Embassy of India participated in the 6th Pyongyang Autumn International Trade Fair held from October 18-21, 2010 and September 24-27, 2011. As an important feature of relationship between the two countries, we showcased India's business potential and its investor-friendly environment by displaying business publications, trade brochures, investment-related catalogues at the Fair. In addition, compilation of a very useful brochure sent by ITP Division "India: Dynamic Business Partner and Investor-friendly destination" in Korean language was done to target generally non-English speaking Korean businessmen.

Indian Community

There are ten Indians who are working with various UN and International Organizations in Pyongyang.

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