

## **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 subcontinent 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.

The mid-sessional Foreign Office Consultations between the Republic of India and the Republic of Turkey were held in Ankara on 28 November 2014. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Rahul Chhabra, Joint Secretary (Central Europe) of the Ministry of External Affairs of India, and the Turkish delegation was led by Ambassador Sakir Ozkan Torunlar, Director General (South Asia), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey. The talks covered the entire range of bilateral relations including political, commercial, investment and technical cooperation. The two sides also exchanged views on issues of regional and international importance.

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 10th session of the JCETC 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.

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.

Economic and commercial relations between the two countries received further impetus with the participation of commercial delegations in events in both the countries. India participated in the 83<sup>rd</sup> Izmir International Fair in Izmir during 28 August to 2 September, 2014 as "Focus Country". More than 50 Indian companies participated in the fair under the banner of FICCI, showcasing wide range of Indian products. The year has also witnessed a robust exchange of business and trade delegations, which served as a catalyst in enhancing the India-Turkey bilateral trade. High-level business delegations from Federation of India Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC), Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), Bombay Industries Association and India Tourism visited Istanbul. Leading Istanbul Chambers of Business and Industry, Turkish Confederation of Businessman and Industrialists (TUSKON) and MÜSİAD visited India during the year.

The “Make in India” campaign is being publicized through interactions with the local Chambers of Commerce, commercial institutions and business community. The project was made more effective with bilingual (translated in Turkish) presentation.

### **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 Polypex, GMR Infrastructure, TATA Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra , Reliance, Ispat, Aditya Birla Group, Tractors and Farm Equipment Ltd., Jain Irrigation, Wipro and Dabur. Dabur India Ltd has acquired 100% stake in HobiKozmetic Group, a Turkish personal care products company for Rs.323.78 crores (US\$ 69 million approx.), Turkish company SmartSoft started to provide consultancy services in India in projects to develop national transportation payment systems in Bangalore.

Turkey ranks 41st overall in terms of FDI inflows to India. Cumulative Turkish directinvestment 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 (In USD Million):

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15 (April-September)
India’s Exports	2749.15	3547.26	3963.66	4432.48	2842.67
% Growth	78.61	29.03	11.74	11.83	
India’s imports	821.06	1021.91	2034.18	760.74	747.14
% Growth	-48.8	24.46	99.06	-62.6	
Total trade	3570.21	4569.17	5997.84	5193.21	3589.81
% Growth	13.6	27.98	31.27	-13.42	

*Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, GOI*

According to Turkstat, during January-November 2014 India’s export to Turkey was US \$ 6.287 billion and India’s import from Turkey was US \$ 542.6 million.

### **Cultural:**

With a view to deepen cultural bonds and strengthen people-to-people contacts, a diverse array of events were held during the year. Banyan Tree’s flagship Sufi and Mystic Music festival – ‘Ruhaniyat’ was organized for the first time abroad in

Istanbul on 17 May 2014. Festival of Lights-Diwali, Festival of Colours-Holi and Colours of India, supported by the Consulate, were organized with participation of the Turkish society. The Turkish edition of Ambassador Pascal Alan Nazareth's book on Gandhi's Outstanding Leadership was released at the prestigious Koç University. Four Professors from the Yunus Emre Foundation went to India in September 2014 for teaching Turkish Language in Jamia Millia Islamia.

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 on 5 November 2014 wherein a good number of ITEC alumni participated showing their appreciation towards the granting of scholarship.

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

The 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.

### **Useful Resources:**

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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**December 2014**