

## **India-Georgia Bilateral Brief**

### **Overview**

India recognized Georgia's independence in December 1991 and operationalized the resident mission in July 2024. Before 2024, the Indian Embassy in Yerevan was concurrently accredited to Georgia. The Georgia opened its Embassy in Delhi in 2009.

### **Historical Background**

2. Indian folklore, especially Panchatantra, influenced Georgian folk legends. Georgians served in the Mughal Courts. 19<sup>th</sup> century Georgian painter Niko Pirosmani's depicted India in his "Hunting in India" artwork. The Queen St. Ketevan relics discovered in Goa's St. Augustine Church. A part of the relic was handed over to Georgia in 2021 by EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar.

### **Important visits**

3. EAM, Dr. S. Jaishankar, visited Georgia in July 2021 and met Georgian President, PM and FM. Georgian Foreign Minister visited India in 2010. Georgia participated in VOGSS in January and November 2023; and August 2024. Recently, Georgian Foreign Minister, H.E. Maka Botchorishvili visited India in March 2025 to participate in the Raisina Dialogue and met External Affairs Minister.

### **Institutional mechanisms**

4. Bilateral dialogue between India and Georgia is conducted through the mechanism of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) and Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC). The 7<sup>th</sup> FOC was held in New Delhi in November 2023. The 3<sup>rd</sup> IGC was held in New Delhi in September 2017. Secretary (West) and Georgian DFM co-chair the IGC.

### **Trade and Economic Relations**

5. The bilateral trade between India and Georgia has remained robust but much below potential. The trade figures for the last 5 years are as follows:

*All figures in million USD*

	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>
<b>Indian Export</b>	82.77	99.32	163.91	265.31	197.49
<b>Indian Import</b>	11.40	86.90	196.64	167.04	100.98
<b>Total</b>	94.17	186.22	360.55	432.35	298.46

*Source: DGCI&S, DGFT*

6. Poti Port in the Black Sea is the only sea connectivity route available for shipment to Georgia. The major export commodities from India are: meat, rice, tobacco, medicines and polycetals etc. The major import commodities are: aluminum waste and scrap, petroleum coke, copper waste and scrap, unwrought lead etc.

7. The Indian commercial flight, Indigo, has increased its frequency of flight between the two cities from August 2024 (now daily). India and Georgia launched a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Feasibility Study in April 2017 which was completed in January 2019. The FTA negotiations are yet to take place.

8. There are sizeable Indian investments in Georgia - approximately to the tune of USD 769 million in Steel, infrastructure, agriculture and service sectors. Major Indian investors are Tata Power, Geo Steel and Jindal Petroleum. In March 2022 KEC International Limited won tender for construction of 103 Km long Overhead Transmission Lines in Georgia. Apart from this, there are individual investors from India, mostly from Punjab (around 150), who have acquired agricultural land for cultivation in Georgia.

### **ITEC & ICCR Scholarships**

9. Georgian nationals visit India for various short-term courses

under ITEC scholarships. 20 ITEC slots are being offered to Georgia annually. ICCR Scholarships are also offered to Georgian nationals to pursue undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Indian Universities. Kendriya Hindi Sansthan (KHS) offers scholarships to study Hindi in India. Apart from this, SSIFS organizes training courses for Georgian Diplomats. So far, 23 Georgian diplomats have undergone training at SSIFS.

### **Cultural Cooperation**

10. Agreement between India and Georgia on Cooperation in the fields of Culture, Education, Science, Sports and Youth was signed in March 2010. The agreement expired in March 2020. The new agreement is under consideration.

11. Georgia participates regularly in the 'Annual Surajkund Mela'. A 'Gandhi Foundation Georgia' was launched in Tbilisi in June 2014 at the Institute of Multi Task Diplomacy.

12. Bollywood films are very popular in Georgia. Raj Kapoor is a household name. The Georgian government launched an incentive programme offering a 20% cash rebate on qualified expenses incurred for film shooting in Georgia.

### **Indian Community**

13. Georgia hosts more than 25,000 medical students studying in 25 Universities. There is a sizable Indian community. In recent years, many Indians have brought investment from Gulf countries and started mid-size businesses such as restaurants, hotels, etc.

14. Georgia has also become an important tourist destination for Indians, around 1,25,000 tourists visited Georgia last year.

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**March 2025**