

India-Türkiye Bilateral Relations

Historical Relations

There are historical connections between India and Türkiye. The Sufi Philosophy of Mevlana Jelaluddin Rumi found resonance in the Indian sub-continent with its own traditions of Sufism and the Bhakti movement. There are many words common in Hindi and Turkish languages. More recent historical contacts between India and Türkiye were reflected in the medical mission led by renowned Indian freedom fighter, Dr. M.A. Ansari, to Türkiye in 1912 during the Balkan Wars and the Khilafat movement (1919-1924). India also extended support in the 1920s to Türkiye's War of Independence and the formation of the Turkish Republic. Mahatma Gandhi himself took a stand against the injustices inflicted on Türkiye at the end of World War-I.

High Level Visits

High level bilateral exchanges include the visit of the President of Türkiye, Recep Tayyip Erdogan to India to attend the G20 Summit in New Delhi from 9-10 September 2023. A bilateral meeting was held between Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi and President Erdogan on the sidelines of the Summit. Discussions took place on bilateral cooperation potential in areas like trade and investment, defence and security, civil aviation, and shipping. Earlier, President Erdogan paid a state visit to India in 2017. Besides high level political engagements, President Erdogan was conferred an honorary degree by Jamia Milia Islamia University during the visit. Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the G20 Summit held in Antalya, Türkiye in November 2015.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met President Erdogan on the sidelines of COP 28 on 1 December 2023 in Dubai. Both leaders met during SCO Summit in Samarkand (Uzbekistan) on 16 September 2022, during G-20 Summit in Osaka in June 2019, on the sidelines of BRICs Plus meeting in Johannesburg in July 2018 and G20 Summit in Hangzhou in September 2016.

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar held bilateral meeting with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan on the sidelines of ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting, 2024 in Vientiane on 27 July 2024. Earlier, EAM held bilateral meeting with the then Turkish Foreign Minister Mr. Mevlut Cavusoglu during his visit to New Delhi from 1-2 March 2023 to attend G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting. EAM also met Foreign Minister Cavusoglu on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York on 20 September 2022. Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan sent a video message for the Foreign Ministers' Session of the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit (VOGSS 3.0) hosted by India on 17 August 2024. Turkish Deputy Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Mr. Ahmet Berat Conkar also sent a video message for the Energy Ministers' Session of the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit (VOGSS 3.0). Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Mr. Hardeep S.Puri met Turkish Minister of Energy Mr. Alparslan Bayraktar on the sidelines of the Gastech 2024 Conference in Houston, USA on 17 September 2024. Secretary (West) Mr. Tanmaya Lal had a bilateral meeting with Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Dr. Nuh Yilmaz on the sidelines of UNGA in New York in September 2024.

Previous Exchange of Bilateral Visits: The visit by the first Prime Minister of India Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in 1960 was the first prime ministerial visit to Türkiye. In 1965, Vice President Dr. Zakir Hussain visited Türkiye. Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal visited India in 1986; Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi paid a return visit to Türkiye in 1988; Turkish President General Kenan Evren visited India in 1989; President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma visited Türkiye in 1993; Turkish President Suleyman Demirel Visited India in 1995; President K. R. Narayanan paid a State visit to Türkiye in September 1998; Vice President Krishan Kant visited Türkiye in October 1998

representing India on the occasion of the 75th anniversary celebrations of the Turkish Republic; and Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit visited India in April 2000. Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee visited Türkiye in September 2003. The then Turkish PM Recep Tayyip Erdogan visited India in 2008 and the then Turkish President Abdullah Gul visited India in 2010. Vice President Hamid Ansari visited Türkiye in October 2011. President of India Pranab Mukherjee visited Türkiye in October 2013; EAM S.M.Krishna visited Türkiye to attend the 4th UN Conference on LDCs held in Istanbul in May 2011 and again visited Türkiye in November 2011 to attend Istanbul Conference for 'Afghanistan Security and Cooperation in the Heart of Asia'; EAM Salman Khurshid visited Türkiye on 24 July 2013 and met Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu. EAM Sushma Swaraj visited Türkiye from 15-16 January 2015 and held bilateral meeting with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu on 16 January 2015; Foreign Minister Cavusoglu made a brief transit visit in Delhi in March 2015; Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen. (Retd) V.K. Singh participated in April 2015 in the 100th anniversary ceremonies of the Canakkale Land and Sea battles. Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu paid an official visit to India on 18-19 August 2016.

Parliamentary Exchanges

There have been exchanges of Parliamentary Delegations between the two countries. Speaker of Lok Sabha Mr. Somnath Chatterjee visited Türkiye in June 2005. A multi-party Indian Parliamentary delegation consisting of Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources Mr. Pawan Kumar Bansal, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Planning Mr. V. Narayanasamy and seven Members of Parliament paid a goodwill visit to Türkiye from 20-23 January 2010. Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye Mr. Numan Kurtulmus visited India to attend P20 during India's G20 Presidency in October 2023 and met with Vice President and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Mr. Jagdeep Dhankar on the sidelines. Members of Parliament have also been interacting with each other at multilateral Parliamentary Conferences.

The Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (GNAT) had Türkiye-India Parliamentary Friendship Group in the successive Parliaments. The first group was established during the 13th Legislative Year between 1965-1969. Following the general elections in May 2023, new Türkiye-India Parliamentary Friendship Group has been formed, which consists of 15 members. The current Chair of the Türkiye-India Parliamentary Friendship Group is Mr. Mehmet Galip Ensarioğlu, a senior Member of Parliament from the ruling AK Party.

Bilateral Institutional Mechanism

Foreign Office Consultations (FOCs) at Secretary (Deputy Foreign Minister) level were institutionalized through a Protocol signed in April 2000. The 12th round of Foreign Office Consultations (FoC) were held in New Delhi on 8 April 2026. The Indian delegation was led by Sibi George, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, while the Turkish delegation was headed by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Berris Ekinci. The 4th meeting of the Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism was held in Ankara on 4 July 2019. A new bilateral mechanism 'India-Türkiye Policy Planning Dialogue' was institutionalized between the two Foreign Ministries with the first round held virtually on 22 October 2020.

An international conference on India-Türkiye Relations: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives at the Foundation for Political Economic and Social Research (SETA) Ankara, on 26-27 February 2025 was organized by Embassy in collaboration with SETA and India's International Dialogue & Diplomacy Foundation (IDDF).

Economic & Commercial Relations

The India-Türkiye economic and commercial cooperation constitutes an important dimension of the bilateral relationship. Bilateral Trade Agreement between India and Türkiye was signed in

1973, followed by an Agreement on setting up an India–Türkiye Joint Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation (JCETC) in 1983. Under this Agreement, JCETC meetings are held alternately in India and Türkiye. Co-chaired by the trade ministers of the two countries, the last (10th) session of JCETC was held in New Delhi in January 2014.

India's economic engagement with Türkiye has acquired new momentum in recent years with considerable increase in India-Türkiye trade. Bilateral trade grew by 28.99% during FY 2022-23, crossing USD 13.80 billion making Türkiye India's 26th largest trading partner and 13th largest export destination with total exports at USD 9.6 bn (2.3% of total export). India's bilateral trade with Türkiye in FY 2025-26 stood at USD 6.88 billion, making Türkiye India's 40th largest trading partner and 28th largest export destination with total exports at USD 4.54 billion (1.03% of total export) while India's import from Türkiye stood at USD 3.78 billion. (Source: DoC, India)

The top principal commodities of Export to Turkey during 2025-26: Iron and steel (USD 446 million); Auto components and parts (USD 302 million); Telecom instruments (USD 217 million); Manmade Yarn, Fabrics, Made ups (USD 212 million) and Electric Machinery and Equipment (USD 190 million)

The top principal commodities of Import from Turkey during 2025-26: Petroleum: crude (USD 351 million); Electric Machinery and Equipment (USD 329 million); Granite, natural stone, and products (USD 190 million.); Inorganic chemicals (USD 155 million.) and Industrial Machinery For Dairy Etc (USD 154 million.)

India-Türkiye Bilateral Trade

Values in USD Millions

Years	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
India's Exports	4969.47	3,952.89	8,716.13	9,609.67	6,650	5716.53	4544.88
% Growth	-8.86	-20.46	120.50	10.25	-30.75	-14.10	-20.50
India's Imports	2116.56	1467.33	1,996.75	4,208.84	3,780	2994.61	2342.78
% Growth	-11.38	-30.67	55.31	110.78	-10.18	-20.78	-21.73
Total trade	7086.03	5,420.22	10,712.88	13,818.51	10,430	8711.14	6887.65

(Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India)

Bilateral Investment

As per Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, India, during April 2000-December 2025, total FDI from Türkiye to India amounts to USD 255.78 million and as per Department of Economic Affairs, total Indian investment in Türkiye stands at USD 214 million for the period April 2000- February 2026 and total Indian investment in Türkiye was USD 151 million (as per the Central Bank of Türkiye).

Defence Cooperation

India and Türkiye have progressively strengthened their defence ties through structured engagements and military exchanges. These interactions have enhanced professional collaboration and strategic understanding between the armed forces. Defence industry cooperation is also growing, with both countries exploring opportunities for trade, technology transfer and joint ventures in key sectors. Participation in international defence expos and increasing business-to-business engagement reflects on the expanding collaboration. Beyond strategic partnerships, historical ties between the two nations highlight a shared legacy of military history and cultural connections. Cooperation in areas such as maritime security, counter-terrorism, and emerging defence technologies offers promising avenues for deeper engagement.

Operation Dost

In the wake of the 6 February 2023 earthquakes in southern Türkiye, India made a humanitarian assistance initiative named “Operation Dost” [Operation Friend], consisting of search and rescue teams from India’s National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and a mobile field hospital set up by the Indian Army. Over 250 trained Indian personnel were brought to Türkiye along with specialized equipment, vehicles and relief material in six C-17 military aircraft, who actively worked in search and rescue operations and provided medical treatment through a self-contained field hospital equipped to perform even life and limb-saving surgeries. Operation Dost was among the earliest foreign help to arrive in Türkiye, as a mark of solidarity with the people of Türkiye.

Education & Cultural Relations

India and Türkiye have traditionally shared cultural linkages. Cultural performances, film shows, exhibitions, seminars, outreach to universities are being organized from time to time. A Festival of India in Türkiye, India by the Bosphorus, was held in March-April 2019 showcasing Indian dance, music, food and fashion in major cities in Türkiye. Several events were organized in connection with Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (India@75). The Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) sponsored a Gujarati folk dance group ‘Saptak’ visited Bursa (Türkiye) in the 34th International Golden Karagoz Folk Competition in July 2022. Teaching and learning of Turkish and Indian languages are also being encouraged and facilitated in each other’s countries. There is Indology Department in Ankara University and ICCR Hindi Chair was established in the Indology Department of Ankara University in 1998. India Studies Centres have been established at several universities in Türkiye - METU, Giresun, Kayseri, Malatya, Cag, Istanbul and Koc Universities.

A historic gathering took place at Ankara University’s Muzaffer Göker Conference Hall in May 2026, celebrating “90 Years of Turkish Indology under the theme: Historical Foundations and Contemporary Dynamics in Türkiye–India Relations”. This landmark symposium brought together academicians, students and Indologists from different parts of Türkiye. The event also featured an exhibition of Rabindranath Tagore paintings, photographs of Indian Culture and a mehndi (henna) counter, promoting cultural ties between India and Türkiye. Additionally, the ICCR Hindi Chair at Ankara University was also highlighted for its contribution to academic engagement since 1989. The Department of Indology has been acting as a bridge for exchange of knowledge and strengthening academic and cultural understanding between India and Türkiye Since 1935-36.

In the cultural sphere, an India-Türkiye Roundtable on cooperation in films and cinema was held in Istanbul, as part of Istanbul Film Festival’s ‘Meetings on the Bridge’. The round table discussion were led by Ambassador Sh. Muktesh Pardeshi and Director General Birol Güven of the Ministry of Culture & Tourism and both sides deliberated on a roadmap of cooperation to enable more interaction between the industry ecosystems of both countries.

Scholarships

(i) The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarship is a prestigious initiative by the Government of India designed to foster global cultural exchange and educational ties. ICCR Scholarships are offered to Türkiye and are encouraged to utilize all these slots. Government of India has also allocated 2 slots in Academic Year 2026-27 under Atal Bihari Vajpayee General Scholarship (UG, PG & Ph.D) & 10 slots to pursuing studies in Indian Culture including Dance and Music, Theater, performing art, Sculpture, Indian Language, Indian Cuisine etc. and 2 slots to pursuing one year diploma course in Yoga. In addition, Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra is inviting application form annually under the scheme of "Propagation of Hindi Abroad at Kendriya Hindi Sansthan".

(ii) The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) is the leading capacity building platform of the Ministry Of External Affairs, Government of India. The programme provides fully funded professional training to international candidates at premier Indian institutions. During the visit of then-Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to Türkiye in September 2003, he announced the award of ITEC slots to Turkish scholars, with 25 slots being allocated to Türkiye every year.

Indian Community

There are currently around 3686 estimated Indian nationals in Türkiye. Out of these, around 2286 are in Istanbul and adjoining provinces, around 150 in Ankara and remaining spread out across other provinces. Most of them are working in commercial organizations, banks and computer firms. A number of Indians work in the faculty of several Turkish Universities. There are over 246 Indian students in Türkiye, mostly in Theology and on Turkish scholarships.

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