

India - Yemen Bilateral Relations

India was one of the early countries to have actively supported Yemen's independence from the British and was one of the first countries to recognize Yemen Arab Republic (YAR) in 1962 and People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) in 1967. In 1990, YAR and PDRY merged to become Republic of Yemen.

Political

2. India's relations with Yemen go back over many centuries. In 19th and 20th century, Aden, Mocha and Kamaran Islands became the transit or transshipment point for Haj pilgrims. Southern Yemen was a British protectorate administered by the Bombay Presidency during which time an Indian garrison was serving whilst rupee was the official tender. During pre-independence India, Aden became a port of call for many prominent Indians when Netaji Bose, Mahatma Gandhi, Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya, Sarojini Naidu among others had visited.

3. India's championship of independence and recognition of Yemen Arab Republic and People's Democratic Republic of Yemen laid the foundation for a relationship in the post-colonial era that began to deepen during the 1980s. Yemen is a member of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), among others. There has been a series of bilateral meetings at the ministerial/official level :

Visits/Meetings

- Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh visited India in March 1999 and Indian Vice President Shri Krishan Kant visited Yemen in October 1999 for bilateral exchange and talks.
- In July 2017, Abdulmalik Abdujalil Al-Mekhlafy, the then Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Yemen, visited New Delhi.
- In 2019, on the sidelines of the 18th Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement held in Baku, Hon'ble External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar (EAM) met with then Yemeni Foreign Minister Mohammed Al-Hadrami.
- In September 2021, on the sidelines of 76th UNGA meeting, EAM met with the then Yemeni Foreign Minister of Yemen Dr. Ahmed Awad Bin Mubarak.
- In May 2022, Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan, met with the then Foreign Minister of Yemen Ahmed Awad Bin Mubarak in New York.
- In September 2022, on the sidelines of 77th UNGA meeting, EAM met with the then Foreign Minister of Yemen Ahmed Awad Bin Mubarak.
- In January 2023, Yemeni Education Minister Mr. Tareq Al-Akbari participated in the 1st Voice of Global South Summit held virtually.
- In March 2023, Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Rajkumar Ranjan Singh met with the Yemeni Foreign Minister Ahmad bin Mubarak in Doha.
- Yemeni Education Minister Mr. Tareq Al-Akbari participated in the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit held in August 2024.

- On August 20-22, 2024, the Ambassador of India to Yemen, based in Riyadh holding concurrent charge, visited Aden to present his credentials to Yemeni President Dr. Rashad bin Al-Alimi.
- In September 2024, EAM met Vice President of Yemen Major General Aidarous Qassem Al-Zubaidi, on the sidelines of the 79th UNGA in New York.
- In November 2024, the Ambassador of India to Yemen Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan met Vice President of Yemen Major General Aidarous Qassem Al-Zubaidi in Riyadh.
- In January 2025, Ambassador met Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr. Shaya Mohsin Zindani in Riyadh.
- In February 2025, a Yemeni delegation led by Yemeni Defence Minister Lieutenant General Mohsen Mohammed Al-Daeri participated in the Aero India 2025 held in Bengaluru.
- On Jun 30, 2025 Ambassador of India called on Vice President of the Presidential Leadership Council of Yemen, Maj. Gen. Aidarous Al-Zubaidi in Riyadh.
- On August 10, 2025 Ambassador of India called on Chairman of the Presidential Leadership Council of Yemen, Dr. Rashad al-Alimi in Riyadh.
- On Jan 31, 2026 a Yemeni delegation led by Mustapha Ahmed Mohamed Noman, Yemeni Vice Foreign Minister, visited Delhi to attend 2nd India-Arab Foreign Ministers' Meeting (IAFMM).
- On May 7, 2026, Mr. Waleed Mohammed Al Qadimi, Minister of State, led the Yemeni delegation in 10th Indian Ocean Dialogue held in New Delhi.
- A Yemeni delegation led Mr. Awsan Abdullah Al-Aud, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Yemen visit India to participate in the IORA _ CSO Meeting held on 15-16 June in New Delhi.
- On June 09, 2026, Ambassador called on the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Yemen, H.E. Dr. Shaya Mohsin Zindani in Riyadh.

4. A range of bilateral agreements exist, which encompasses cooperation/ agreement in economic and technical cooperation, air services, agriculture and allied sector, cultural, bilateral investment promotion, health and medicine, oil and gas industry and education exchange.

Recent Major Developments:

5. India has opened its representative office in Aden, Yemen w.e.f 1st Oct, 2025 to ease consular services in Yemen. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Yemen welcomed the move by Republic of India to establish a representative office in Aden. The Ministry affirmed that opening India's office in Aden marks a positive step reflecting the strong Yemeni-Indian relations and mutual commitment to deepen cooperation in Political, economic, and cultural fields.

Commercial and Trade

6. The total bilateral trade between India and Yemen for FY 2024-25 is USD 1.00 billion, as per statistics of Department of Commerce, GOI. The total export to Yemen during FY 2024-25 is USD 0.85 billion and total import is USD 0.15 billion. For Yemen, India is the 2nd largest trading partner after China.

7. India exports rice, wheat, sugar, drug formulations, ceramics and allied products, processed fruits and juices, textile materials, petroleum products, yarn and fabrics etc. to Yemen. On the other hand, India imports iron and steel, petroleum, telecom instruments, aluminium and articles thereof, lead and allied products, electric machinery and equipment, copper and articles thereof, raw hides and skins from Yemen. India ranks among the top in Pharma imports of Yemen with Ranbaxy, Cipla, Sun Pharma, Alkem Laboratory Ltd., Cadilla, Wockhardt, Glenmarc, Kopran Laboratories Ltd., Orchid, Medley and Biocon among others active in Yemen's market.

8. India has in the past shown interest in tapping the main Yemeni industry of petroleum and natural gas. In the past, Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Reliance and Mangalore Refineries have imported Yemeni crude oil, and Reliance, Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation and Oil India Limited, Indian Oil Corporation in a consortium had been allocated blocks in Yemen.

Defence

9. Cooperation between India and Yemen in the realms of security and defence started with training of Yemeni Republic Guards in 2008. The defence ties between the two countries cover variety of fields including Joint Exercises like MILAN, training of Yemen officers, cadets and soldiers in Indian Armed Forces Training Establishments at both junior and senior levels including training in specialist fields.

10. In February 2025, a Yemeni delegation led by Yemeni Defence Minister Lieutenant General Mohsen Mohammed Al-Daeri participated in the Aero India 2025 held in Bengaluru.

11. In the past, in 2015, the maritime routes between India and Yemen were activated for carrying out evacuation operation from Yemen (Operation Rahat). This was achieved as a result of close maritime cooperation with the countries of the region. Majority of Indian trade passes through the Arabian Sea and also the Red Sea.

ITEC/ICCR Scholarships

12. India offers scholarships under various schemes under the aegis of ICCR for pursuing graduate, post graduate and doctoral programmes. Under ITEC programme, India provides civilian training to Yemen for capacity buildings. In 2021-22, 58 Yemeni students received ICCR scholarship to study in India, in the year 2022-23, 49 Students availed the scholarships to study in India, in the Year 2024-25, 58 Students availed the scholarships to study in India and for the year 2025-26, 57 Yemeni students have been granted scholarships.

Indian community

13. India and Yemen cherish a rich blend of contacts spanning many centuries. Since independence, many Indians have taken up Yemeni citizenship – married into Yemeni communities. Sizable populations among them follow Indian customs and traditions. The state (province) of Hadramout in Yemen has had and continues to have strong linkage with the Deccan (India).

14. The cross border contacts have culminated in nearly 300,000 (approx.) Indians of Yemeni origin prominent in Hyderabad and its contiguous cities in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Karnataka. Likewise there is a strong 200,000 (approx.) Indian origin diaspora in the provinces of Aden, Hadramout, Hodeidah, Taiz and Sana'a. Indian Associations in Sana'a, Aden, Taiz and Hodeidah were active in organizing social and cultural functions. Aden's Indian Association is the oldest, founded during the British rule.

15. Under Operation Rahat, the Government of India had evacuated the majority of Indian community from Yemen following an escalation in conflict. Approximately 3000-4000 Indian nationals currently reside in Yemen.

Humanitarian Assistance

16. As a long standing friend of Yemen, India has always prioritized the humanitarian needs of Yemen and has extended humanitarian assistance to Yemen through the supply of medicines and food commodities in the past.

17. As part of India's Vaccine Maitri Initiative, 360,000 Covid-19 vaccine doses via COVAX facility were supplied to Yemen in March 2021. Since April 2022, India has also exported more than 250,000 tons of wheat to Yemen to mitigate the adverse impact of supply changes in the global commodity markets on Yemen.

18. In February 2025, in a ceremony at Port Aden, the Ambassador handed over essential medicines and medical equipment of approximately 25 tons to Yemeni Health Minister Dr. Qassem Mohammed Buhaybeh. The consignment was shipped from India at the request of the Yemeni Government by Indian Coast Guard Ship Sujeet.

19. In November 2025, An Indian delegation led by the Ambassador visited Aden, Yemen, from 24 to 25 November 2025. During the visit, the Ambassador handed over approximately 67 tons of essential medicines to the people of Yemen at the port of Aden. The consignment was shipped from India at the request of the Yemeni Government by INS Chennai.

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