

India-Indonesia Bilateral Relations

India and Indonesia have shared two millennia of close cultural and commercial contacts. The Hindu, Buddhist and later Muslim faith travelled to Indonesia from the shores of India. The Indonesian folk art and dramas are based on stories from the great epics of Ramayana and Mahabharata. The shared culture, colonial history and post-independence goals of political sovereignty, economic self-sufficiency and independent foreign policy have unifying effect on the bilateral relations.

Political Relations

India and Indonesia have shared two millennia of close cultural and commercial contacts. During our respective struggles for independence, the national leaderships of India and Indonesia led by Jawaharlal Nehru and President Sukarno collaborated closely in supporting the cause of Asian and African independence and later laid the foundation of the Afro-Asian and Non-Aligned Movements at the Bandung Conference in 1955. Since the adoption of India's 'Look East Policy' in 1991, there has been a rapid development of bilateral relations in political, security, defence, commercial and cultural fields. The current Government wants to further deepen the relationship with East Asia and has therefore rightly titled its policy as "Act East".

The fact that there have been as many as ten Heads of State/Government visits both ways since 2000 stands ample testimony to the intensification of bilateral ties. There has also been a regular exchange of visits at level of Ministers. A Joint Commission process co-chaired by the Foreign Ministers of the two countries is in place. Both sides have instituted the mechanism of Foreign Office Consultations.

State Visit of President Yudhoyono in January 2011

During the State Visit of President Yudhoyono to India in 2005, the two countries signed a Joint Declaration on Establishing a Strategic Partnership. In January 2011, President Yudhoyono visited India as the Chief Guest on the occasion of India's Republic Day. During the visit, 16 Inter-Governmental Agreements were signed which included an Extradition Treaty, Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, an MoU on Establishing a Biennial Trade Ministers' Forum, an MoU on Cooperation in Oil and Gas, an MoU on Science and Technology Cooperation, and a Cultural Exchange Programme.

In addition, during the visit, it was agreed to set up an Eminent Persons Group to develop a Vision Statement 2025 for bilateral relations, to hold special events to celebrate 'Six Decades of Diplomatic Relations between the two countries' and to organise regular meetings of Defense, Home, Oil and Gas, Coal, Power, Renewable Energy, Science and Technology, Tourism, Health and Education Ministers. India and Indonesia agreed to launch negotiations for a Bilateral Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement. The two sides also agreed to organize a Trade and Investment Forum, an Energy Forum and a CEO's Forum alternately in either country. The two sides announced their intention to promote cultural and people to people contacts by

organizing cultural festivals. India announced the introduction of Tourist Visa on Arrival Facilities for Indonesian nationals during the visit.

State visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's in October 2013

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Indonesia on 10-12 October 2013. During the visit, both the leaders reviewed progress in bilateral relations since the elevation of the bilateral relationship to the strategic level and also exchanged views on regional and international issues such as global financial crisis, ASEAN, EAS, G-20 etc. MOUs on the issues such as combating illicit trafficking in Narcotic drugs; cooperation in disaster management; and cooperation in combating corruption were signed. Both leaders agreed to adopt a five-pronged initiative for strengthening the Strategic Partnership in the areas of Strategic Engagement, Defence and Security Cooperation, Comprehensive Economic Partnership, Cultural and People-to-People Links and Cooperation in Responding to Common Challenges.

Recent meetings at Summit & Ministerial Level

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met President Joko Widodo of Indonesia in Nay Pyi Taw on 13 November 2014 on the sidelines of 25th ASEAN summit. Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated President Joko Widodo on becoming seventh President of Indonesia. Both countries agreed to increase trade and investment and increased exchange between business and political leadership.

External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj met Foreign Minister Dr. Marty Natalegawa of Indonesia on the sidelines of 47th ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 9 August 2014. EAM visited Indonesia from 21-25 April, 2015 to take part in the Summit meeting of the 60th Asian African Commemoration Conference. On the sidelines of the meeting EAM met Mr. Jusuf Kala, Vice-President of Indonesia and Ms. Megawati Soekarnoputri former President & Chairperson PDI-P. Minister of State for External Affairs Gen. (Retd) V. K. Singh visited Jakarta on 20 April, 2015 to attend the Ministerial Meeting of 60th Asian African Commemoration Conference. On the sidelines of the Conference he met Indonesian Foreign Minister Ms. Retno Lestari Priansari Marsudi.

Foreign Office Consultation

The Second Foreign Office Consultation between senior officials of Ministry of External Affairs of India and Indonesia took place in New Delhi on 15 December 2014 in which issues of bilateral interests were discussed.

Economic and Commercial Relations

Indonesia has emerged to become the second largest trading partner of India in the ASEAN region. Bilateral trade has increased from US\$ 6.9 billion in 2007-08 to US\$ 20 billion in 2013-14. The bilateral trade in 2014-15 (April-Nov) amount to about US \$13 billion. India is the largest buyer of crude palm oil from Indonesia and imports coal, minerals, rubber, pulp and paper and hydrocarbons reserves. India exports refined petroleum products, maize, commercial vehicles, telecommunication equipment, oil seeds, animal feed, cotton, steel products and plastics to Indonesia. India also exports pharmaceuticals in bulk and formulations to Indonesia.

During President Yudhoyono's State visit to India in January 2011, 16 Inter-governmental agreements and 18 business deals for a total value of US\$ 15 billion were signed. During PM's visit to Indonesia in October 2013, it was agreed to establish a high-level task force to effectively monitor implementation of these MoUs; facilitate investment in each other's national infrastructure development plans, including through PPP mode; and identify specific projects for joint investment in India, Indonesia and third countries.

In order to further deepen economic engagement between the two countries, the Indian Embassy in Jakarta launched the India Business Forum (IBF) on 18 July 2012. The Forum has brought together Indian CEOs, entrepreneurs and professionals in Indonesia for a concerted effort towards an enhanced economic engagement with Indonesia. It has emerged as a platform to discuss and suggest ways and means to achieve closer economic cooperation. The Mission has organized several interactive sessions of IBF with the investment board, local chambers of commerce, regional governments as well as the visiting Indian government and industry delegations. In the recent past, a number of commercial events/visits have been organized/coordinated by the Embassy.

Indian companies have made significant investments in infrastructure, power, textiles, steel, automotive, mining machinery, banking and consumer goods sectors. In comparison, Indonesia's investment in India is limited. In order to encourage India's exports to Indonesia, the Mission, during the last two years, prepared a number of market studies which were shared with the Department of Commerce, Industry associations and other stakeholders in India.

Cultural Relations

There is an active cultural exchange between the two countries. The Mission operates Jawaharlal Nehru Indian Cultural Centre (JNICC) which holds regular classes of Indian classical music, Indian classical dances (Kathak and Bharatnatyam), Yoga, and also teaches Hindi and Tamil languages.

A Facebook page of the Embassy of India and a Twitter account has been created to connect with the younger generation of Indonesian people who are among the largest

users of social media in the world. The Embassy produced two You Tube video's titled "Old Heritage New Partnerships" and "India-Indonesia-An Enduring Relationship" and brought out various publications on India highlighting our strengths. A special publication titled "Studying in India" in Bahasa language was also brought out to facilitate Indonesian students wishing to pursue higher studies in India. The list of publications brought out by Embassy of India.

- 1) Scripting Future Histories – English & Bahasa (General Publication on India)
- 2) India-ASEAN in Focus- English- (Brought out during India-ASEAN 20 years commemorative events in Indonesia)
- 3) India-ASEAN Partnership (English) -Commemorating 20 years (Brought out during India-ASEAN 20 years commemorative events in Indonesia)
- 4) Yoga for Beginners & Intermediate Level- English
- 5) Weave of Friendship- English (Publication brought out during Centenary year of Indian Cinema celebrations)
- 6) Studying in India-English & Bahasa
- 7) Essential Elements of Kathak- English & Bahasa
- 8) Women by Women Exhibition Catalogue (Brought out during Women on Women Exhibition)
- 9) Gandhi's outstanding leadership- Bahasa
- 10) India-Indonesia Economic Engagement –Challenges and Way Forward-English
- 11) India-Indonesia: Meningkatkan Kerjasama Pembangunan, 50 years of ITEC (India-Indonesia: Development Cooperation Partnership, 50 Years of ITEC)- Bahasa (December 2014)
- 12) India Menulis Sejarah Masa Depan (India: Scripting Future Histories) – Bahasa (New Edition January 2015)
- 13) India: Sebuah Perjalanan Spritual (India: A spiritual Journey)- Bahasa (January 2015)
- 14) "Wanita India" (Indian Women) in Bahasa in cooperation with Public Diplomacy Division of MEA
- 15) Perjalanan Menelusuri Sejarah: Cerita Indonesia Dan India - a comic book focusing on the historic India Indonesia relationship (21 June 2015)

Sahabat India: Festival of India in Indonesia 2015

In a glittering press conference on 14 January 2015 Shri Gurjit Singh, Ambassador of India to Indonesia and Timor Leste launched the Festival of India in Indonesia with the slogan "Sahabat India" meaning 'trustful, loyal, true friend'. Sahabat India -The Festival of India in Indonesia was inaugurated on 26th January 2015 by H.E. Ms. Megawati Soekarnoputri, former President of Indonesia, in presence H.E. Mr. Rachmat Goebel, Trade Minister of Indonesia and H.E. Mr. Gurjit Singh, Ambassador of India. The festival was organized from January to June 2015. During the Festival of India, folk dances, dance drama, puppet show, musical shows, exhibitions, seminars, mall promotions, screening of Bollywood cinema, documentaries and the like will be held in several prestigious locations in Jakarta. Besides, Embassy organized segments of the festival in fifteen other cities in Indonesia, including Bali, Yogyakarta, Bandung,

Surabaya, Surakarta, Semarang, Bogor, Serang, Purwakarta, Makassar Balikpapan, Manado, Medan, Padang, Banda Aceh and Palembang. This helped the people of Indonesia in different cities to have a glimpse of India, which would foster greater understanding.

International Day of Yoga

The IDY was celebrated with enthusiasm and fervor in the four cities of Jakarta, Bali, Medan and Surabaya in Indonesia on 21 June morning. It was a grand success as around 10000 persons of different age groups and professions participated in the celebrations held in Jakarta, Bali, Medan and Surabaya.

Indian Community in Indonesia

There are around 100,000 Indonesians of Indian origin in Indonesia mostly concentrated in Greater Jakarta, Medan, Surabaya and Bandung. They are mainly engaged in trade dealing in textiles and sports goods. There are around 10,000 Indian nationals living in Indonesia including engineers, consultants, chartered accountants, bankers and other professionals. The Indian community is very well regarded in Indonesia, is generally prosperous and includes individuals holding senior positions in local and multinational companies. The Embassy in August 2012, established an Indian Cultural Forum (ICF) which is umbrella organization of thirty-one Indian social organizations.

Useful Resources

Embassy of India, Jakarta website:
<http://www.indianembassyjakarta.com/>

Embassy of India, Jakarta Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/IndiainIndonesia>

Embassy of India, Jakarta Twitter account:
<https://twitter.com/@IndianEmbJkt>

Embassy of India, Jakarta YouTube channel:
<http://www.youtube.com/user/IndianEmbJkt>

India Global- AIR FM Gold Program featuring India and Indonesia Relations:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YM6DXyyHlKM>

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