

Brief Embassy Report on Bilateral Relations – ITJ Division, DGCIS, Kolkata.

India-Turkey Bilateral Relations

A. Introduction

1. Indian Trade Journal (ITJ) division of the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS) brings out weekly publication on Embassy Profile Report providing information on recent policy changes and happenings in other countries that may be of interest to the Indian trading community. This is the Embassy Profile Report for 24.06.2026 depicting the Embassy of Turkey.
2. India-Turkey relations have historically been cordial with sporadic tensions arising every once in a while. With India's Operation Dost to help the earthquake-hit regions of Turkey and Syria, the friendship has been appreciated by both countries.
3. The bilateral relations between the countries have generally been warm and cordial with occasional tensions arising from Turkey's support of Pakistan and comments on Kashmir. Although Turkey and India have different histories, demography, economies, and populations, they share many characteristics. They are both republics that were established in the 20th century and have made significant economic and technical advancements.
4. Turkey's ties with India have generally improved since 1948, especially in recent years, as a result of ongoing multifaceted foreign policy changes.

B. High Level Visits

5. High level bilateral exchanges include the visit of the President of Turkey, 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 Shri Narendra Modi and President Erdogan on the sidelines of the Summit. Discussions took place on bilateral cooperation potential in areas like trade and investment, defense 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.
6. PM Modi met President Erdogan on the sidelines of COP 28 on 1 December 2023 in Dubai. Both leaders also 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.
7. EAM held bilateral talks 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.

C. Commercial Relations (Trade and Foreign Investment) – Recent facts & figures

8. The India-Turkey economic and commercial cooperation constitutes an important dimension of the bilateral relationship. Bilateral Trade Agreement between India and Turkey was signed in 1973, 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. Co-chaired by the trade ministers of the two countries, the last (10th) session of JCETC was held in New Delhi in January 2014.

9. India's economic engagement with Turkey has acquired new momentum in recent years with considerable increase in India-Turkey trade, which crossed USD 13.80 billion in 2022-23. India's bilateral trade with Turkey in FY 2023-24 stood at USD 10.43 billion, with India's exports to Turkey at USD 6.65 billion and India's import from Turkey at USD 3.78 billion. *(Source: DGCI&S, India)*

10. Total FDI from Turkey to India stood at USD 227.5 million for the period April 2000-December 2023 and total Indian investment in Turkey stood at around USD 200 million for the period August 2000-March 2024. *(Source: DPIIT, India)*

The export-import statistics for the last five years as per India's Ministry of Commerce data bank are as follows:

The Export-Import statistics from 2021-2022 to 2025-26

(US Dollar Million)

Year	Total Trade	Import	Export
2021-22	10712.88	1996.75	8716.13
2022-23	13818.51	4208.84	9609.67
2023-24	10434.92	3780.29	6654.63
2024-25	8709.81	2993.27	5716.54
2025-26	6887.65	2342.78	4544.88

(Source: DGCI&S, India)

D. Operation Dost

In the wake of the 6 February 2023 earthquakes in southern Turkey, 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 Turkey 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 Turkey. India also sent medical equipment and relief material to Turkey in these difficult times as a mark of solidarity with the people of Turkey.

E. Cultural Relations

India and Turkey 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 Turkey, India by the Bosphorus, was held in March-April 2019 showcasing Indian dance, music, food and fashion in major cities in Turkey. 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 (Turkey) 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 Centers have been established at several universities in Turkey - METU, Giresun, Kayseri, Malatya, Cag, Istanbul and Koc Universities.

F. Indian Community

There are currently around 3000 estimated Indian nationals in Turkey. Out of these, around 1850 are in Istanbul and adjoining provinces, around 250 in Ankara and remaining spread out across other provinces. They are mainly working in commercial organizations, banks and computer firms, universities etc. There are currently around 400 Indian students in Turkey.

Source: www.mea.gov.in