

Brief Embassy Report on Bilateral Relations – ITJ Division, DGCI&S, Kolkata. India-Oman Bilateral Relation

A. Introduction

1. Indian Trade Journal (ITJ) division of the Directorate 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 11.03.2026 depicting the Embassy of Oman.
2. Oman is a crucial pillar of India's West Asia Policy and its oldest regional strategic partner. The political engagement between the two countries has increasingly taken on a more strategic shape. India and Oman have maintained steady diplomatic contact through regular high-level engagements.
3. The Sultanate of Oman is a strategic partner of India and an important interlocutor at the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Arab League, and Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) fora. India and Oman are linked by geography, history, and culture and enjoy warm and cordial relations. While people-to-people contact between India and Oman can be traced back 5000 years, diplomatic relations were established in 1955, and the relationship was upgraded to a Strategic Partnership in 2008.

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

4. The economic and commercial relations between India and Oman are robust and buoyant. Bilateral trade during FY 2023-2024 reached USD 8.95 billion and for the FY 2024-25 reached 10.61 USD billion. Oman is India's 29th largest export market and 25th largest source of import for the FY 2024-2025. Overall, Oman is India's 28th largest trading partner in FY 2024-2025. India is the 4th largest source of Oman's imports for the year FY 2024-2025 for non-oil imports and 3rd largest market for Oman's non-oil exports. Bilateral investment flows have been robust, as reflected in numerous joint ventures, established both in India and Oman. There are over 6,000 India-Oman joint ventures present in Oman, estimated to adding USD 7.5 billion to Oman's economy in form of the total capital investment over a long period, encompassing not just formal outward direct investment of USD 675 million, but also the total value of all capital committed to JVs in different sectors and the third country investments made into Oman by Indian investors. The cumulative FDI equity inflow from Oman to India during April 2000 to March 2025 is USD 605.57 million.

Export-Import statistics from 2021-22 to 2025-26 (up to Dec'25)

(USD Billion)

Year	Total trade	Import	Export
2021-22	9.99	6.84	3.15
2022-23	12.39	7.91	4.48
2023-24	8.95	4.52	4.43
2024-25	10.61	6.55	4.06
2025-26 (up to Dec'25)	8.06	4.87	3.19

(Source: Department of Commerce, India)

5. Main items of India's exports to Oman: Light oils and preparations, aluminum oxide (other than artificial corundum), and rice, along with boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances and their parts. India also exported airplanes and other aircraft and spacecraft, electrical machinery and equipment and their components, as well as beauty and make-up preparations, plastics and articles thereof, iron and steel, and ceramic products.

6. Main items of India's imports from Oman: Energy and industrial inputs, underscoring the synergy of the two economies. The principal import items included crude petroleum oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG), which together account for a significant portion of the bilateral trade value. Other major imports comprised urea (including fertilizer grade), organic chemicals, anhydrous ammonia, and sulphur. India also imported earth and stone, plastering materials, lime, plastics in primary forms, airplanes and other aircraft, and iron ores and concentrates (non-agglomerated).

7. Oman-India Joint Investment Fund (OIJIF) is a 50-50 Joint Venture between the State Bank of India and the erstwhile State General Reserve Fund (SGRF) of Oman. It was set up in July 2010 as a special purpose vehicle (SPV) to invest in India. OIJIF commenced its operations in 2011 with an initial seed capital of USD 100 million, fully invested across seven Indian companies from diversified sectors. After successful utilization of funds under Tranche I and II, the 3rd Oman-India Joint Investment Fund (OIJIF) tranche worth 300 million dollars was announced during the visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik to India on 16 December 2023.

8. Several Indian firms have set up manufacturing units in Oman as joint ventures or in Special Economic Zones in various sectors like green hydrogen, green ammonia, green steel, construction and engineering, waste management, logistics, manufacturing, finance and capital, software solutions, communications, oil and gas etc.

C. Agreements and Bilateral Cooperation mechanisms:

9. Several Agreements/ Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) have been signed between India and Oman cover cooperation in Digital Payment Systems; Health; Tourism; Information Technology; Military Cooperation; Peaceful uses of Outer Space; Visa Exemption for diplomats/officials; Legal and Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters; Extradition; legal and judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters; Agriculture; Civil Aviation; Avoidance of Double Taxation; Standards and Measures; Manpower; Maritime Issues; Maritime Transport; Joint Investment Fund; and Cultural Cooperation. There are also MoUs for Cooperation between Oman's National Defence College (NDC) and the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) of India; Cooperation between FSI and Omani Diplomatic Institute; and State Audit Institution of Oman and the Office of Comptroller and Auditor General of India. Protocol to amend DTAA was also signed during the visit of Commerce and Industry Minister to Oman on 27-28 January 2025.

10. During the visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik to India in Dec. 2023, various MoUs/agreements inked were MoU for cooperation in IT, MoU between the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and the National Center for Financial Information (FNCI) on intelligence exchange related to money laundering, associated predicate offenses, and terrorism financing, MoU in the field of Culture, MoU for the establishment of the ICCR Chair of Indian Studies-Hindi Language at Dhofar University and an Agreement addressing the gainful employment of accompanying persons of official employees.

11. Oman is India's closest defence partner in Gulf region and defence cooperation has emerged as a key pillar of the strategic partnership between India and Oman. Oman is the first Gulf country with which all the three wings of India's defence forces hold joint exercises. In recent years, both countries have cooperated in ensuring maritime security in the Indian Ocean region. On 30 July – 03 August, 2023, Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff of India led a delegation to Oman and held important bilateral meetings. The first ever India-Oman Defence Industrial Seminar was held in Muscat on 24 September 2023. H.E. Dr. Mohammed bin Nasir, the Secretary General, MoD, Sultanate of Oman and Air Vice Marshal Khamis Hammad Al-Ghafri, Commander Royal Air Force of Oman visited India in 2023 and 2025 respectively for AERO India International exhibition. The 13th edition of Joint Military Cooperation Committee (JMCC) between India and Oman was held in New Delhi on 24 November 2025. The 6th High Level Meeting between Indian Coast Guard and Royal Oman Police Coast Guard was held in Muscat from 29-30 April 2025, the ICG delegation was led by Director General S Paramesh, DG ICG and ROPCG was represented by Colonel Abdul Aziz Al Jabari, Commander ROPCG. There are regular Staff Talks at service level between the respective services.

12. During the visit of Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan (MOSVM) in October 2022, the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to link the payment systems between the two countries. Another MOU between Oman News Agency and Asia News International was exchanged. The MOU facilitates the exchange of news and information between both countries.

13. During the visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik to India in Dec. 2023, various MoUs/agreements inked were MoU for cooperation in IT, MoU between the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and the National Center for Financial Information (FNCI) on intelligence exchange related to money laundering, associated predicate offenses, and terrorism financing, MoU in the field of Culture, MoU for the establishment of the ICCR Chair of Indian Studies-Hindi Language at Dhofar University and an Agreement addressing the gainful employment of accompanying persons of official employees.

14. As a mark of special friendship, India extended an invitation to the sultanate of Oman to participate in the G20 Summit and meetings as a guest country during India's Presidency in 2023. Oman actively participated in more than 150 meetings of the Working Groups, and 9 Omani Ministers travelled to India to participate in G20 Ministerial Meetings. HH Sayyid Asaad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations & Cooperation Affairs and Personal Representative of His Majesty Sultan represented Oman in the G20 Summit held on 09-10 September 2023.

15. At the HOS/HOG level, PM Modi and Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik held phone conversations in April 2020 and February 2021, discussing COVID-19 and bilateral cooperation. On 11 June 2024, PM Modi received a congratulatory call from His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on his re- appointment as Prime Minister of India. EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar held telecons with Oman's Foreign Minister in October 2023, February 2024 and June 2024.

16. India and Oman share a close cultural bond rooted in millennia-old people-to-people exchanges and the presence of a substantial Indian community in Oman. A notable event was the announcement of the Gandhi Peace Prize for 2019, awarded to the Late HM Sultan Qaboos in March 2021, fostering immense goodwill for India.

17. Indian Embassy, in association with the National Archives of India (NAI), conducted a first of its kind special digitization and oral history project, titled 'The Oman Collection – Archival Heritage of the Indian Community in Oman' from 19 to 27 May 2024. Under this project, digitization of over 7,000 historical records of 32 old Indian diaspora families living in Oman for more than 250 years was done. These documents included personal diaries, account books, trade invoices, passports, letters, etc. These documents, dating from 1838 to early 20th century, were in English, Arabic, Gujarati and Hindi.

18. Oman hosts a sizeable Indian community totalling approximately 676,781 (Males: 515,917; Females: 160,864) as on 25 August 2025, according to the Govt. of Oman. 519,609 Indian nationals hold work visas, according to National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) data from October 2025. Some Indian families have established roots in Oman for more than 150-200 years. As of November 2025, 2052 individuals of Indian origin possess Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cards. Thousands of Indians work as doctors, engineers, chartered accountants, teachers, lecturers, nurses, managers, etc. The role played by the Indian expatriate community in building Oman is often acknowledged by Omani Government. 22 Indian schools are offering a curriculum catering to the educational needs of more than 48000 students.

19. Indian community in Oman is organized under Indian Social clubs in Muscat, Salalah, Sohar, and Sur. These clubs have several sub-groups called Linguistic Wings which cater to their members' cultural and social needs.

20. The Hindu merchant community has two temples, one over a century old, and cremation grounds. Churches have been permitted, and a Gurudwara has been there for over two decades, along with at least two other temporary structures used as Gurudwaras. Indian Embassy receives good support from local authorities in delivering services aimed at the welfare of the Indian community in Oman.

21. Outstanding contributions of Indians and People of Indian Origin in Oman to the strengthening of our bilateral relations have been recognized by the Government of India through Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards. The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awardees from Oman are: Shri KanaksiKhimji (2003), Dr. P.Mohamed Ali(2004), P.N.C.Menon(2009), S.K.Virmani (2010), KiranAsher(2012) R.MParakh(2015) and Dr.VinodanV.T.(2019).

Source: www.mea.gov.in