

## **India-DPR Korea Relations**

### **Political Relations**

1. Relations between India and DPR Korea have been generally characterised by friendship, cooperation and understanding. The consular relations with DPRK were set up on 1 March 1962. The diplomatic relations between the two countries were established on 10 December 1973.

2. As members of the Non-Aligned Movement, there is a commonality of views between the two on many international issues. Both sides continue to work closely in international fora and support each other on various issues of bilateral and international interests.

3. Regular and meaningful exchange of views on bilateral issues of mutual interest and concern are conducted through mechanism of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC). The first JS-DG level Talks were held in Pyongyang during 2-4 April 2013. After a gap of nearly 5 years, FOC was held in New Delhi on 26 April 2016. India, however, strongly condemned DPR Korea's nuclear tests and frequent ballistic missile tests and also urged DPR Korea to restrain from further nuclear and ballistic missile tests to ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

4. India welcomed the inter-Korean Summit meeting held at Panmunjom on 27 April 2018 and in Pyongyang in September 2018 and the historic summit held on 12 June 2018 between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and hoped that such engagement will help in reducing tensions and pave the way for lasting peace and reconciliation in the Korean Peninsula. India supports all efforts to bring about peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula through dialogue and diplomacy. India also hopes that all efforts to find resolution of the Korean Peninsula issue will also include addressing concerns about the proliferation linkages of DPRK's nuclear and missile programme in India's neighbourhood.

### **5. Important Bilateral Treaties and Agreements with brief notes**

- i) Agreement between DPRK and India on Cooperation in the field of Science & Technology signed on 8 May 1991 (initially valid for 5 years unless decided for its termination by any of the parties).
- ii) Agreement on Scientific Cooperation between State Academy of DPRK and Indian National Science Academy signed on 14 June 1994 (initially valid for two years and then to be automatically extended for five years if not terminated by either of the parties).
- iii) Protocol on Cooperation between the Ministry of External Affairs of India and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of DPRK signed on 17 February 1998 (initially valid for five years and then to be automatically extended for a

- further period of five years unless decided for its termination by any of the parties).
- iv) First Cultural Agreement between India and DPRK was signed in 1976. The 11<sup>th</sup> Cultural Exchange Programme for 2010-12 was signed during the visit of Secretary, Ministry of Culture, from 23-25 March 2010. The 12<sup>th</sup> Cultural Exchange Programme between India and DPR Korea is in the final draft stage.
  - v) An Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Information between India and DPRK was signed in April 2006. Under Article IX of the Agreement, a Joint Committee was to be set up to review the progress of the Agreement. The Indian side formed a Committee in November 2006.

## **6. Bilateral Visits – Brief details of important two-way visits**

### **(From India to DPRK)**

1. Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma, Vice President (April 1992) at the invitation of DPRK Vice President who visited India in May 1991.
2. Shri H.S. Surjeet, General Secretary of CPI (M) – (April 1993) at the invitation of Central Committee of Workers' Party of Korea.
3. Shri Jyoti Basu, Chief Minister of West Bengal (May 1994) at the invitation of Central Committee of Workers' Party of Korea.
4. Shri P. Shiv Shanker, Governor of Sikkim (August 1995) to participate on the Liberation Day of Korea.
5. Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, MOS for I&B (September 1998) to attend 6<sup>th</sup> Pyongyang Film Festival.
6. Shri Rajiv Sikri, Secretary (East) and Shri Ashok K. Kantha, Joint Secretary (EA) (June 2005) in connection with the Foreign Office Consultations (FOC).
7. Shri N. Ravi, Secretary(East) visited in May 2008.
8. Shri Jawhar Sircar, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, visited in March 2010.
9. Shri Sanjay Singh, Secretary (East) and Shri Sandeep Chakravorty Director(EA) visited Pyongyang in September 2011 for Foreign Office Consultations (FOC).
10. Shri Gautam H. Bambawale, JS (EA) and Shri Vijai Kumar, DS(EA), Ministry of External Affairs visited Pyongyang for 1<sup>st</sup> JS-DG level talks during 3-6 April 2013.
11. A three-member delegation of Hon'ble MPs - Sh. Sitaram V. Yechuri (RS); Sh. Tarun Vijay (RS); and Muhammed Hamdullah Sayeed (LS) - and Sh. Vijai Kumar, DS(EA) - participated in the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Victory in the Fatherland Liberation War during 26-29 July 2013.
12. Minister of State for External Affairs General Dr. V.K. Singh (Retd) visited DPRK from 15 to 17 May 2018 and held discussions with the H.E. Mr. Kim Yong Dae, Vice President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, H.E. Mr. Ri Yong Ho, Foreign Minister, H.E. Mr. Pak Chun Nam, Minister of Culture and Mr. Choe Hui Chol, Vice Foreign Minister of DPRK on a range of issues covering political, regional, economic, educational and cultural cooperation between the two countries

## **7. High Level visits from DPRK to India**

1. Mr. Li Gun Mo, Prime Minister (February 1988) on a goodwill visit.
2. Mr. Li Jong Ok, Vice President of DPRK (May 1991 and March 1993).
3. Mr. Yang Hyong Sop, Chairman, Supreme People's Assembly (April, 1998).
4. Mr. Choe Thae Bok, Chairman of SPA as Secretary of Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (October 1998).
5. Mr. Pak Gil Yon, Vice Foreign Minister (April 2000).
6. Mr. Jang Chol, Vice-Chairman of Supreme People's Assembly (January 2003).
7. Mr. Choe Chang Sik, Vice Minister of Public Health in November 2005 to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> GAVI Partners' Meeting held in New Delhi.
8. Mr. Ma Chol Su, Director of 4<sup>th</sup> Department in the DPRK Ministry of Foreign Affairs (March 2006) to discuss bilateral matters with JS (EA).
9. Mr. Ri Ju Kwan, Vice-Chairman of the DPRK Information Committee (April 2006) to sign the Agreement on Cooperation in the field on Information.
10. Mr Kim Yong Il, Vice Foreign Minister, visited Delhi in May 2007 and August 2009.
11. Mr. Ri Su Yong, Foreign Minister of DPR Korea on a bilateral and stand-alone visit (12-14 April 2015) – the first ever Ministerial-level visit from DPR Korea in nearly three decades.
12. Mr. Ri. Gil Song, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of DPR Korea for Foreign Office Consultation in April 2016.
13. Mr. Kang Il Sop, Chairman of the State Commission for Emergency & Disaster Management of DPRK to attend the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction from 2-5 November 2016.

## **8. Meetings on the Margins of Multilateral Fora**

Minister of State for External Affairs General Dr. V.K. Singh (Retd) met with DPRK Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Ri Yong Ho on 3 August 2018 in Singapore on the margins of the ASEAN Regional Forum in Singapore and discussed issues of mutual interest.

## **9. ITEC Assistance and programmes**

DPRK has been using the scholarship under the ITEC programme. Ministry offered a total of 15 ITEC slots during 2014-2015 and DPRK had utilized 14 slots. Ministry allotted 30 ITEC slots to DPR Korea for the Financial Year 2015-2016. For 2016-17 and 2017-18, Ministry allocated 25 and 20 ITEC slots, but the slots could not be utilised. For 2018-19, 4 slots have been allotted which are being processed for utilisation.

In September 2001, DPRK Diplomat attended the Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) at the Foreign Service Institute. Two female diplomats of DPRK were trained in 2006.

## **10. Commercial and Economic Relations**

Due to UNSC sanctions resolutions, trade except food and medicine, with DPRK with effect from April 2017 is restricted. The bilateral trade has declined considerably due to the UN Sanctions.

## **11. Humanitarian Assistance**

India has been extending humanitarian assistance to DPRK, which has suffered food shortages during the last few years as a result of natural calamities. The DPRK authorities have expressed their gratitude for India's humanitarian assistance to them from time to time. The assistance provided from India consisted of consignment of blankets, rice, wheat, baby food, polythene sheets, etc. In the past, India donated 2,000 MT of white rice in September 2002 and 1000 MT of rice in July 2004. 200,000 Dexamethasone 4 mg. (1 ml injection) were also provided to the DPRK. India also donated medicines for the victims of the Ryongchon train blast. DPRK was also provided 2,000 MT of rice in January 2006 as gift of Government and people of India. India had also provided food assistance worth US\$ 1.00 million through WFP in 2011. Government of India once again provided food assistance in the form of soybeans to DPR Korea worth US \$ 1 million through WFP in 2016.

DPRK Government donated US\$ 30,000 to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund for the relief of the people affected by the Tsunami that hit India in December 2004.

## **12. Cultural Relations - Incoming and outgoing cultural troupes**

Under the Cultural Agreement between India and DPRK signed in 1976, ICCR used to send cultural troupes to the April Spring Friendship Art Festival in Pyongyang every year. The Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) between Government of India and the Government of the DPR Korea for the next three years is in the final stage of signing.

## **13. Pyongyang International Film Festivals**

India has been participating in this biennial Pyongyang International Film Festival (PIFF) on a regular basis. Koreans are fond of Indian feature films and popular films are admired and fondly remembered by the Korean public and authorities.

India participated in the 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> PIFF in September 2014, 2016 and 2018. At the 14<sup>th</sup> PIFF organizers screened a total of 8 Indian feature films. Sanjay Bhansali's "Ram Leela" and Anil Sharma's "Singh Sahab the Great" won the best technology and special awards respectively. The 15<sup>th</sup> PIFF was held in September 2016 and Indian feature film "Masaan" won the best music award whereas "Ram Singh Charlie" won the best screenplay award. Shri P.C. Sharma, one Indian film director, was a member of jury for the 15<sup>th</sup> PIFF. At the 16<sup>th</sup> PIFF Indian feature

Film ' Search For Self 'won the Best Photography Award and Film " Rustom' won Special Award of the organizing Committee.

**14. Korea-India Friendship Association**

The Korea-India Friendship Association (KIFA) was established in February 1970 by the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries (CCRFC) to foster friendly relations and to project India's cultural image in DPRK. The Association is the nodal point for interaction between the Mission and the CCRFC, which is the counterpart of our ICCR. The Association has been organizing events from time to time for promoting relations between the two countries. India annually gifts computers, TVs, fertilizers, sports goods, education aids, PVC pipes etc to several Korean Institutes through KIFA. There is an India -Korea Friendship School, Factory Unit and a farm.

**15. 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and DPRK**

This year the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of establishment of bilateral relations is being celebrated with several activities.

**16. Indian Community**

There are very few Indians presently living in DPR Korea .Most of them are working for UN Agencies viz. UNDP, UNICEF, and WFP, WHO and UNFPA and International NGOs, including members of their families.

**17. Air links with India/Convenient Travel Routes**

There is no direct air connection between India and DPRK. One can travel via Shanghai , Beijing or Vladivostok. Air Koryo operates flights five days in a week from Beijing (except on Sunday and Wednesday). Air Koryo also operates flights to Shanghai, Shenyang and Vladivostok to and fro Pyongyang on few days of the week. Train service between Beijing to Pyongyang is four times a week (Monday/Thursday Korean train and Wednesday/Saturday Chinese train). Air China has flights to Pyongyang from Beijing on few days of the week.

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