

India-Indonesia Bilateral Brief

India-Indonesia Bilateral Relations

India and Indonesia have shared two millenia of close cultural and commercial contacts. The Hindu, Buddhist and later Muslim faith travelled to Indonesia from the shores of India. 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

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met with the President of Indonesia Mr. Joko Widodo on the sidelines of ASEAN Summit in Bangkok on 3 November 2019 during which the two leaders discussed to work closely to deal with the threats of terrorism and extremism.

The two leaders also met on the sidelines of G20 Summit at INTEX Osaka, Japan on 29 June 2019 where they discussed about enhancing economic and maritime cooperation between the two countries.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Jakarta on 29-30 May 2018 at the invitation of the President of Indonesia Mr. Joko Widodo. During this visit, both Leaders agreed to strengthen cooperation in all areas by establishing a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** to take Indonesia and India's bilateral relationship into a new era.

President of Indonesia Mr. Joko Widodo visited New Delhi from 25-26 January, 2018 to be Chief Guest at the 69th Republic day celebrations of India along with other Heads of States of ASEAN countries and to participate in the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit.

Mr. Joko Widodo, President of Indonesia paid a State visit to India from 12-13 December, 2016 at the invitation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. President Joko Widodo and Prime Minister Modi held bilateral talks.

Other Important Ministerial Visits

Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister (EAM) paid an official visit to Indonesia on 5th September 2019. This was EAM's first bilateral visit in the ASEAN region and maiden visit to Indonesia, after assuming charge as External Affairs Minister.

Raksha Mantri Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman visited Indonesia from 21-24 October 2018 for bilateral talks on defence.

External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt. Sushma Swaraj visited Jakarta for the 5th Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) between India and Indonesia and for the ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT) meeting on 5-6 January 2018.

Parliamentary Exchanges

There are regular Parliamentary exchanges between two countries. This year, a 10-member Parliamentary Delegation of Commission I (Law, Politics and Government) of the House of Representatives of Aceh Province, Indonesia visited India from 14-20 July 2019. Dr. Agus Hermanto, Deputy Speaker of National House of Representative for Industry and Development visited India on 19-23 August 2019.

Celebrating 70th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations

The Embassy, in association with Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, Embassy of India jointly hosted the inaugural event to flag-off the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Republic of India and Indonesia. A commemorative stamp cover on the 70th Anniversary was also released by PT. Pos Indonesia. The Embassy, along with Nahdlatul Ulama Indonesia (NU) jointly hosted Buka Puasa (Iftar) celebrations at the NU Central Office in Jakarta on 17 May 2019.

In association with Ministry of Tourism of India and Indonesia, the Embassy organised two-day event in Jakarta on 29-30 August 2019 which comprised of 1st India-Indonesia Tourism Seminar, India Tourism Road show on 29 August 2019. On 30 August 2019, a mega public event 'Welcome to Incredible India' was jointly inaugurated by senior officials of Ministry of Tourism of both countries at Pacific Place Mall.

Samudra Maitri: Following the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami in Palu and Donggala of Western Sulawesi province of Indonesia on 28th September 2018, **Operation Samudra Maitri**, the operation for humanitarian assistance for the victims of earthquake and tsunami was launched on 3rd October after Indonesia's acceptance for international aid. India sent 2 IAF aircrafts carrying onboard medical personnel and relief material to the affected area. 3 Indian ships also arrived at Jakarta with more medical supplies for the affected people.

Commercial relations

Indonesia has emerged as the second largest trading partner of India in the ASEAN region. Bilateral trade has increased from US\$ 4.3 billion in 2005-06 to US\$ 21 billion in 2018-19. India is the second largest buyer of coal and crude palm oil from Indonesia and imports minerals, rubber, pulp and paper and hydrocarbons reserves. India exports refined petroleum products, commercial vehicles, telecommunication equipment, agriculture commodities, bovine meat, steel products and plastics to Indonesia.

There are about 30 Indian investments / Joint Ventures in Indonesia. As per Indonesian authorities, Indian investment in Indonesia is 995.18 million in 2215 projects during 2000-2018. Indonesia's investment in India is US\$ 629.16 million (April 2000-March 2019).

Cultural Relations

The Mission operates Jawaharlal Nehru Indian Cultural Centre (JNICC) which conducts regular classes of Indian classical music and Yoga. JNICC also organizes all major festivals of India like Holi, Ganesh Mahotsav, Navratri, Durga Pooja, Diwali and more in order to constantly engage with the Indian Community of Indonesia. For past 4 years, JNICC has been coordinating the celebration of International Day of Yoga in Indonesia and Timor Leste.

India Cultural Week: Embassy of India in association with the City Governments and the Universities, organise Indian Culture Week in different cities of Indonesia. The programmes during the Indian Cultural Weeks showcase different facets of Indian tourism, art, culture, music, food, Yoga and films spread over the week. Five India Cultural Weeks have been organised in Indonesia – Bandung, Malang, Surabaya, Yogyakarta, Balikpapan

Education:Indonesia is a major recipient of ITEC and TCS of Colombo Plan scholarships. For 2019-2020, 100 slots are available for Indonesians. Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) offers 20 scholarships every year to Indonesian students for pursuing higher studies in India.

Indian Community in Indonesia

There are around 120,000 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 more than 8500 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.

Useful Links

Embassy website: <https://indianembassyjakarta.gov.in>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/IndianEmbJkt>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IndiaInIndonesia>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/IndianEmbJkt>

February 2020