

India-Iran Relations

Overview

India and Iran share a millennia-long history of interactions. The contemporary relationship draws upon the strength of these historical and civilisational ties, and continues to grow further marked by high-level exchanges, commercial and connectivity cooperation, cultural and robust people-to-people ties.

Political relations

2. India and Iran signed a friendship treaty on 15th March 1950. The visit of Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee to Iran and the signing of the Tehran Declaration in April 2001, followed by the visit of President Seyyed Mohammad Khatami and the signing of the New Delhi Declaration in 2003 deepened the India-Iran cooperation.

3. The bilateral relations were further boosted by the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Iran in May 2016. During the visit, a joint statement titled “Civilizational Connect, Contemporary Context” was issued, and the Trilateral Agreement on Trade, Transport and Transit between India, Iran and Afghanistan was signed. President Hassan Rouhani visited India in February 2018, during which a joint statement titled “Towards Prosperity Through Greater Connectivity” was issued.

4. Prime Minister Modi met President Masoud Pezeshkian on the sidelines of the 16th BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia in October 2024 where the two leaders discussed ways to further strengthen the bilateral relations. This was their first meeting since President Pezeshkian assumed office in July 2024. Prime Minister Modi had met President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi on the sidelines of BRICS Summit in August 2023 and on the sidelines of the SCO Heads of State Summit in Samarkand, Uzbekistan in September 2022. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar visited Iran on 22 May 2024 to attend the official ceremony to pay condolences following the demise of President Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and other Iranian officials in May 2024.

5. There have been two Parliamentary speaker-level visits between India and Iran, with Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar visiting Iran in 2011, followed by a return visit by the Speaker of Majlis, Dr Ali Larijani to India in 2013.

6. In July 2024, Nitin Gadkari, Minister for Roads Transportation and Highways, represented Government of India at the swearing-in ceremony of President Pezeshkian. In May 2024, Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways visited Iran to witness the signing of the long term Contract on

Development of the Chabahar Port. External Affairs Minister Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar visited Iran in January 2024. EAM had visited Iran in July and August 2021 where he called on President Raisi. Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian visited India in June 2022. In August 2022, Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways visited Iran, during which the MoU on Recognition of Certificates of Competency in Unlimited Voyages between Iran and India was signed.

7. The two countries have in place several Bilateral Consultative Mechanisms at various levels including the Joint Committee Meeting (JCM), Foreign Office Consultations (FOC), Security Consultations at the level of National Security Advisers and Deputy National Security Advisers, and the Joint Consular Committee Meeting (JCCM). India and Iran also have Joint Working Groups to facilitate cooperation in various sectors of mutual interest.

Connectivity

8. India and Iran signed a MoU in 2015 to jointly cooperate on the development of the Shahid Beheshti Port at Chabahar, Iran. India continues to cooperate closely with Iran in realizing the vision of Chabahar Port as a major regional and international hub in the movement of humanitarian and commercial goods.

Trade Relations

9. India and Iran are important trade partners. India has been among Iran's five largest trade partners in recent years. Major Indian exports to Iran include rice, tea, sugar, pharmaceuticals, manmade staple fibres, electrical machinery, artificial jewellery etc. while major Indian imports from Iran consist of dry fruits, inorganic/organic chemicals, glassware, etc.

Cultural Cooperation and People to People Relations

10. Long history of civilizational and cultural links between India and Iran continue to be the source of robust people to people and cultural ties. The Indian Cultural Centre, established in 2013 and renamed the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC) in 2018 is furthering these cultural ties. The major tourist destinations in India and Iran continue to attract tourists of all ages from both countries.

(As on January 2025)

High level visits between India and Iran

Prime Ministerial level

Outgoing visits

Sl. No.	Name of dignitary	Duration	Purpose of visit
1.	Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister	22-23 May 2016	Bilateral
2.	Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister	28-31 August 2012	To attend the 16 th Non-aligned Movement (NAM) summit
3.	Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Prime Minister	10-13 April 2001	Bilateral
4.	Shri Narasimha Rao, Prime Minister	September 1993	Bilateral
5.	Shri Morarji Desai, Prime Minister	June 1977	Bilateral
6.	Smt. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister	April 1974	Bilateral
7.	Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister	September 1959	Bilateral

Incoming visits

Sl. No.	Name of dignitary	Duration	Purpose of visit
1.	Dr. Hassan Rouhani, President	15-17 February 2018	Bilateral
2.	Dr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President	April 29, 2008	Bilateral
3.	Mr. Mohammad Khatami, President	24-28 January, 2003	Chief Guest at the Republic Day function
4.	Mr. Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, President	April 1995	Bilateral
5.	Shah Mohammad Reza Pahalvi	February 1978	Bilateral
6.	Shah Mohammad Reza Pahalvi	February/March 1956	Bilateral

Vice Presidential level

Outgoing visits

Sl. No.	Name of dignitary	Duration	Purpose of visit
1.	Shri. Jagdeep Dhankar, Vice President	22 May 2024	To pay condolences at the official ceremony following the demise of President Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and other Iranian officials in a helicopter crash.
2.	Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Vice President	04 August 2013	To attend swearing-in ceremony of President Dr. Hassan Rouhani
3.	Shri K. R. Narayanan, Vice President	October 1996	Bilateral

Incoming visits

Sl. No.	Name of dignitary	Duration	Purpose of visit
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1.	Dr. Mohammad Javad Mohammadzadeh, Vice president and Head of department of Environment	November 2012	11 th Conference of Parties (CoP) of UN Convention on Bio-diversity in Hyderabad
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Parliamentary exchanges

Outgoing visits

Sl. No.	Name of dignitary	Duration	Purpose of visit
1.	Smt. Meira Kumar, Speaker of Lok Sabha	November 2011	Bilateral

Incoming visits

Sl. No.	Name of dignitary	Duration	Purpose of visit
1.	Dr. Ali Larijani, Speaker of Majlis	24-28 February 2013	Bilateral
2.	Nazar Afsali, Chairman of India-Iran Parliamentary friendship group	26-28 February 2018	Bilateral

Ministerial level

Outgoing visits

Sl. No.	Name of dignitary	Duration	Purpose of visit
1.	Shri. Nitin Jairam Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways	30-31 July 2024	To attend the swearing-in of President Masoud Pezeshkian
2.	Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways	13 May 2024	Bilateral
3.	Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister	14-15 January 2024	Bilateral
4.	Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways	18-21 August 2022	Bilateral
5.	Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister	5-6 August 2021	To attend the swearing-in of President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi
6.	Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister	7 July 2021	Bilateral
7.	Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister	22-23 December 2019	To attend 19 th India-Iran Joint Commission Meeting (JCM)
8.	Shri Pon Radhakrishnan, Minister of State for Shipping	2-4 December 2017	To represent India at the inauguration of the Chabahar Port
9.	Smt. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister	2 December 2017	Bilateral
10.	Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road, Transport, Highways and Shipping	5 August 2017	To attend swearing-in ceremony of Iranian President Dr. Hassan Rouhani
11.	Shri M J Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs	10-12 September 2016	Bilateral

12.	Smt. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister	16-17 April 2016	Bilateral
13.	Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas	8-10 April 2016	Bilateral
14.	Smt. Maneka Gandhi, Minister for Women and Child Development	19-21 January 2016	Special Guest in the 10 th International Energy Management Conference
15.	Shri. Salman Khurshid, External Affairs Minister	03-05 May 2013	17 th India-Iran Joint Commission Meeting (JCM)
16.	Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Minister of New and Renewable Energy	March 2012	Bilateral
17.	Shri S M Krishna, External Affairs Minister	May 15-17 2010	14 th G-15 Summit
18.	Shri Pranab Mukherjee , External Affairs Minister	July 29-30, 2008	15 th NAM Ministerial Conference
19.	Shri Pranab Mukherjee , External Affairs Minister	February 6-7 2007	Bilateral

Incoming visits

Sl. No.	Name of dignitary	Duration	Purpose of visit
1.	Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Gharaei Ashtiani, Minister for Defense and Armed Forces Logistics	27-28 April 2023	To attend the meeting of the SCO Defense Ministers
2.	Dr. Hossein Amir Abdollahian, Foreign Minister	8-10 June 2022	Bilateral
3.	Brig. Gen. Amir Hatami, Defence Minister	2-4 February 2022	To attend the First Indian Ocean Defence Ministers Conclave and Aeroindia 2021
4.	Dr. Javad Zarif, Foreign Minister	14-17 January 2020	To attend Raisina Dialogue 2020
5.	Dr. Javad Zarif, Foreign Minister	13-14 May 2019	Bilateral
6.	Mr. Abbas Akhoundi, Minister of Roads & Urban Development	9-12 January 2019	Bilateral
7.	Dr. Javad Zarif, Foreign Minister	7-9 January 2019	To attend Raisina Dialogue 2019
8.	Dr. Hassan Ghazizadeh Hashemi, Minister of Health and Medical Education	12-14 December 2018	Bilateral
9.	Mr. Abbas Akhoundi, Minister of Roads & Urban Development	6-7 September 2018	Bilateral
10.	Dr. Javad Zarif, Foreign Minister	28 May 2018	Bilateral
11.	Mr. Bijan Zangeneh, Minister of Petroleum	11 April 2018	To attend the 16 th International Energy Forum in New Delhi
12.	Mr. Mohammad Jahromi, Minister for Communications and IT	23-24 November 2017	To attend the Global Cyber Conference

13.	Dr. Javad Zarif, Foreign Minister	4 December 2016	To attend 6 th Heart of Asia-Istanbul process Ministerial Conference in Amritsar
14.	Dr. Abbas Akhoundi, Minister of Transport and Urban Development	27-30 September 2016	Bilateral
15.	Dr. Ali Tayyebnia, Minister for Economic Affairs and Finance	26-28 December 2015	18 th Joint Commission Meeting (JCM)
16.	Dr. Javad Zarif, Foreign Minister	13-14 August 2015	Bilateral
17.	Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping	May 5-7 2015	MoU on Chabahar
18.	Mr. Akbar Torkan, Presidential advisor and Secretary of high Council of Free Zones	12 -15 January 2015	To attend the Vibrant Gujarat Summit
19.	Dr. Javad Zarif, Foreign Minister	28 February, 2014	Bilateral
20.	Eng. Majid Namjoo, Minister of Energy	October 2012	To attend the Global Ministerial level "International Seminar on Energy Access"
21.	Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Senior Advisor to Supreme Leader on International Affairs	December 2011	Bilateral

Secretary level

Outgoing visits

Sl. No	Name of dignitary	Duration	Purpose of visit
1.	ShriDammu Ravi, Secretary(ER)	24 June 2024	19th Asia Cooperation Dialogue Ministerial Meeting
2.	Shri Vinay Mohan Kwatra, Foreign Secretary	25 – 26 November 2023	18 th Foreign Office Consultations (FoCs)
3.	Shri Vijay Gokhale, Foreign Secretary	16 September 2019	16 th Foreign Office Consultations (FoCs)
4.	Shri Gopal Krishna, Secretary (Shipping)	26 February 2019	To attend Chabahar Day Event 2019
5.	Shri T.S. Tirumurti, Secretary (ER)	23-24 October 2018	1 st Coordination Council Meeting on Trilateral Transit Agreement between Afghanistan, India &Iran (Chabahar Agreement)
6.	Shri Alok Srivastava, Special Secretary (Shipping)	3-6 September 2017	6 th Joint Committee Meeting on Ports and Maritime Cooperation
7.	Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary	16-17 May 2017	14 th Foreign Office Consultations (FoCs)
8.	Rajiv Kumar, Secretary (Shipping)	November 31- December 2, 2015	Regarding Chabahar Port project
9.	Shri Rajeev Mehrishi, Finance Secretary	25-26 July 2015	Bilateral

10.	Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary	June 13-14, 2015	Foreign Office Consultations (FoCs)
11.	Smt. Nirupama Rao, Foreign Secretary	July 2011	9 th Foreign Office Consultations (FoCs)

Incoming visits

Sl. No.	Name of dignitary	Duration	Purpose of visit
1.	Ahmad Khani Nowzari, Deputy Minister for Commercial Development Office, Ministry of Agricultural Jihad (Head of Delegation)	04 to 08 February 2024	Bilateral
2.	Ali Fekri, Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance of the Islamic Republic of Iran	13 December 2023	Bilateral
3.	Alireza Peyman Pak, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Trade and Market Regulation	31st August to 2nd September 2023	Bilateral
4.	Deputy Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Mehdi Borumandi	10th June 2023	Bilateral
5.	Mr. Mehdi Safari, Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy	12-13 April 2023	1st India-Central Asia JWG on Chabahar Port
6.	Dr. Meisam Abedi, Deputy Minister of Information and Communication Technology	21-23 March 2023	Bilateral
7.	Mr. Ali Bagheri Kani, Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs	24 November 2022 18 th Foreign Office Consultations (FoCs)	17 th Foreign Office Consultations (FoCs)
8.	Mr. Mehdi Safari, Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy	15 June 2022	Bilateral

Think Tanks/Others

Outgoing visits

Sl. No.	Name of dignitary	Duration	Purpose of visit
1.	Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, Director General (ICWA)	14-17 January 2024	ICWA-IPIS Dialogue
2.	Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan, Director General (ICWA)	12-13 October 2019	ICWA-IPIS Dialogue
3.	Shri Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, President, ICCR	3 December 2018	Bilateral
4.	Shri Jayant Prasad, Director General, IDSA	23-26 July 2016	Bilateral
5.	Shri Vinod Rai, Comptroller and Auditor General of India	June 2012	Bilateral, at the invitation of Supreme Audit Court of Iran (SAC)