

Brief Embassy Report on Bilateral Relations – ITJ Division, DGCI&S, Kolkata.

India - Iran Bilateral Relations

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 03.12.2025 depicting the Embassy of Iran.
2. India and Iran share a millennia-long history of interactions. The contemporary relationship draws upon the strength of these historical and civilisationalties, and continues to grow further marked by high-level exchanges, commercial and connectivity cooperation, cultural and robust people-to-people ties.
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. Further 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 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.

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

4. There has been considerable growth in the commercial relations between India and Iran. 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.

An account of Bilateral commodities trade in goods from 2020-21 to 2024-25 areas under:

Export-Import Statistics

(USDMillion)

Year	Total Trade	Import	Export
2020-21	2106.28	331.48	1774.80
2021-22	1914.54	463.38	1451.16
2022-23	2331.24	672.12	1659.12
2023-24	1847.61	625.15	1222.46
2024-25	1756.51	515.35	1241.16

(Source: Department of Commerce, India)

5. 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.

6. 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.

C. Other Major Areas of Cooperation :

- Several Agreements/ Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) have been signed between India and Iran for cooperation in the fields of defence, economic and commercial links, technical cooperation and culture.
- 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.
- 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.

Source: www.mea.gov.in