

Indo-Turkish Relations: A Historical Overview and Analysis

Abstract

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India is a newly industrialized country. It has a long history of collaboration with several countries being considered one of the leaders of the developing world along with China, Brazil, Russia and South Africa (the BRICS countries). Turkey has growing economy and diplomatic initiatives have led to its recognition as a regional power. Turkey and India differ in history, religious and economic demographics, population size and more; but they have much in common. They are both republics founded in the 20th century that have gone through a great deal of technological and economic advances. Broadly since 1948 and more specifically in recent years there has been a revival in Turkey's relations with India as part of an on-going multidimensional foreign policy vicissitudes. While these were initially passive; since the turn of the millennium massive efforts have been undertaken by Turkey to develop relations with the entire sub-continent. Indo-Turkish relations, however, have developed more in the last decade with increase in bilateral trade and official visits. While the efforts have been substantial, much still needs to be done in terms of economic and political alliances to arrive at a long term strategic direction to the bilateral relationship. The present article seeks to capture the emerging orientation of Indo-Turkish relations and examine the political, economic, cultural and security dimensions of the evolving relationship between India and Turkey from 18th century.

Key words

India, Turkey, Countries, Historical, Relations, Bilateral, Trade Visits, Official Visits

(Full Paper)

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Turkey and India differ in history, religious and economic demographics, population size and more; but they have much in common. They are both republics founded in the 20th century that have gone through a great deal of technological and economic advances. A strong historical connection between India and Turkey exists dating back to the medieval era and fostered with the late 19th and 20th century interaction between the two. There are deep historical diplomatic connections between India and Turkey and the first exchange of diplomatic missions between Ottoman Sultan and the Muslim rulers of the sub-continent dates back to the years 1481-82. However, after the 16th century, Ottoman relations with India became infrequent and of relatively minor importance since the two great Sunni Muslim rulers were too remote to be of interest to one another either as allies or as rivals. More recent historical contacts between India and Turkey were reflected in the medical mission led by renowned Indian freedom fighter, Dr. M.A. Ansari, to Turkey in 1912 during the Balkan Wars. One of his companions, Abdur Rahman stayed on in Turkey and was later Kemal Ataturk's envoy to Kabul.

India also extended support in 1920s to Turkey's War of Independence and formation of the republic. Indeed, the original finance an amount of 106,400 British Pounds were sent by India for the biggest bank of Turkey, Turkiye Is Bankasi, which was used for emergency needs of the Turkish army, for reconstruction of the city of Izmir (after it was burnt down by the Greek army), and for buying land and developing food and beverage factories on the forest farm of Kemal Ataturk.

Broadly since 1948 and more specifically in recent years there has been a revival in Turkey's relations with India as part of an on-going multidimensional foreign policy vicissitudes. While these were initially passive; since the turn of the millennium massive efforts have been undertaken by Turkey to develop relations with the entire sub-continent. Indo-Turkish relations, however, have developed more in the last decade with increase in bilateral trade and official visits. While the efforts have been substantial, much still needs to be done in terms of economic and political alliances to arrive at a long term strategic direction to the bilateral relationship.

Turkey in the 18th century was still a force to imagine with. The country had resisted Russian expansion and held vast territories in Eastern Europe. Tipu the Sultan of India viewed the expansion of the British as a threat to the entire Islamic World and called the English "the enemies of the faith". He desired the Turkish Sultan to lead a crusade against the Europeans. For this purpose Tipu Sultan sent an ambassador to Constantinople in 1784 under Usman Khan. The response of his mission being favorable, he maintained an enlarged embassy of four persons in 1785. The purpose was to conclude a political and military treaty against the English. In his letter to Sultan Abdul Hameed, Tipu wrote about the excesses the British had committed in India and sought military support. The fourth article of the proposed treaty spoke of military cooperation between Mysore and Turkey. This treaty has five clauses, one of which referred to trade facilities in Basra in exchange for similar facilities in Mysore. Yet another clause stipulated that Turkey was to spare as many technicians as possible to assist Tipu in gun and cannon-making. Tipu said that the neglect of commerce and industry was the main cause of the decline in the east. The envoys were treated with great courtesy in Constantinople, but the main issue of the treaty was evaded. Sultan Abdul Hameed said that the Russians had set their eyes on the Ottoman Empire, and he was engaged in resisting their menace. The British had shrewdly exploited this weakness of Turkey to keep it on their side, and the Turks would not alienate the English at a time when Russia was at their door. So the ambassadors returned to India.

Turkey and India established their modern diplomatic relations in 1948. But, during the Cold war, both states had leaned towards their comfort in the international political stage. Turkey took side with the USA and Western European States, as Kemal Pasha Ataturk the founding father of Turkey followed the policy of Westernization. On the other hand, India was the ardent supporter of non-alignment movement and later inclined towards USSR. Hence, during the bi-polar era both countries had very minor interaction between them. By the end of the century, the situation has changed considerably, and Turkey got closer to India. After the 9/11 incident world politics shifted to war on terror. Both states converged on mutual interest, war against terrorism. They have begun to move closer on these issues and started to cooperate and take various steps towards a more substantive partnership.

The Bilateral Trade Relations:

The bilateral trade relations started its new phase and both sides emphasized the importance of developing bilateral cooperation programs with the aim to enhance their commercial relations on a mutually beneficial and sustainable basis. However, as the world's second-most populous country, India's progress in gaining importance in the global economy and international politics since the 1990s has led to Turkey's quest to develop a new strategy for South Asia. Turkey has also begun to prioritize India in South Asian politics while preserving its traditionally good relations with Pakistan and Bangladesh. In recent years, the relations between the two countries have warmed due to common strategic goals, and there is a growing bilateral cooperation in the fields of education, technology and commerce.

Bilateral India-Turkey trade has increased significantly. A trade volume of USD 5.19 billion was registered in 2013-14 (-13.42% yoy growth). The major items of Indian exports to Turkey include: aluminium, cars, cotton and synthetic yarn, petroleum products, organic dyes, organic chemicals, denim, steel (bars and rods), granite, antibiotics, carpets, unwrought zinc, sesame seed, TV CRTs, mobile handsets, clothing and apparel. The major exports of Turkey to India include: copper ores, jewellery, auto components, marble, textile, machinery, handlooms, denim, carpets, poppy seed, cumin seed, inorganic chemicals, minerals (vermiculite, perlite and chlorites), and fittings and steel products.

India and Turkey have signed a number of Agreements over the years to deepen bilateral economic cooperation. The Bilateral Trade Agreement between India and Turkey was signed in 1973. This was followed by an Agreement on setting up an India-Turkey Joint Commission on Economic and Technical Cooperation (JCETC) in 1983. Under this Agreement, JCETC meetings are held alternately in India and Turkey. The India-Turkey Joint Business Council (JBC) between Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey (DEIK) was set up in 1996.

A 14-member delegation of FICCI visited Turkey from 11-13 December 1996 for the first meeting of the Indo-Turkish joint Business Council. An agreement was signed between FICCI and its counterpart body in Turkey on establishing the JBC and defining its scope and functioning. The FICCI delegation called on President Demirel and had meetings with other dignitaries. Rajya Sabha Vice Chairperson Smt Najma Heptulla visited Ankara for the General Assembly of the International Parliamentary Union in April 1996. Two ships of the Indian Navy visited Turkey in November 1996. Under Secretary in Turkish Foreign Ministry Ambassador Onur Oymen visited India from 2-4 February 1997 for foreign office consultations. He met Foreign Secretary Shri Salman Haidar and had delegation level talks with Secretary (East) Shri K Raghunath. During the discussions, views were exchanged on bilateral cooperation and regional and international issues of common interest.

Avoidance of Double taxation and the Prevention of fiscal Evasion (DTAA) in 1997 and Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPA) 1998. During the visit of the Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to India from November 21-24, 2008, India-Turkey Business Forum was jointly organized by FICCI and Turkish Union of Chambers of Commerce and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB) in New Delhi. During the visit of President Abdullah Gül to India in February 2010 FICCI and TOBB signed a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance cooperation. The last session of JBC was held in Istanbul in February 2011. In October 2013 Turkey and India signed 11 agreements to enhance cooperation between the two countries during a visit by Indian President Pranab Mukherjee to Ankara. Mukherjee, met with top Turkish officials, including President Abdullah Gul and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Turkish and Indian officials signed the cooperation agreements after talks between Mukherjee and Gul. Most of the 11 agreements were between Turkish and Indian universities. Others were signed by the state broadcasters of Turkey and India, as well as the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBİTAK) and India's Ministry of Science and Technology. Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan, Minister of Culture and Tourism, Omer Çelik, Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications Minister Yıldırım and Head of Higher Education. Dr. Gokhan Çetinsaya have participated the ceremony.

India and Turkey share common interests in ensuring peace and political stability in Afghanistan and Central Asia. The trade volume between the countries has tripled since Gul, who described India as "the country of opportunities," visited India at the beginning of 2010. Cooperation at the diplomatic level seems also to have increased between the countries since Gul's visit. The 10th session of the JC ETC was held in New Delhi in January, 2014.

On 22nd August 2014, a delegation of Independent Industrialists and Businessmen Association (MUSIAD) from Turkey headed by Mr. Ibrahim Baris Civalci, (Director Foreign Relations) held a meeting with the Muslim Economic Forum India (MEFI) at India Islamic Cultural Centre (IICC) New Delhi and extended cooperation in promoting India-Turkey economic relations. The delegation met with the intention to mobilize India's similar business associations such as FICCI, ASSOCHAM, CII and others for participation in MUSIAD's International Business Forum Congress and International Fair which will be held in Istanbul during 26-28 November, 2014.

Bilateral Investments:

Indian investments in Turkey are railway constructions, pipelines, hydrocarbons, IT services.

More than 150 companies with Indian capital have registered businesses in Turkey in the form of joint ventures, trade and representative offices. These include M/s Polyplex, GMR Infrastructure, TATA Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra, Reliance, Ispat, Aditya Birla Group, Tractors and Farm Equipment Ltd., Jain Irrigation, Wipro and Dabur.

- Dhanus Technologies, a Chennai based IT company concluded an agreement to acquire Borusan Telekom – Turkey's first alternative telecom operator with 'A' type license in January 2008 with an investment of USD 77 million.
- Dabur India Limited has acquired 100% stake in Hobi Kozmetik Group, a Turkish personal care products company, through its international arm – Dabur international Limited for Rs. 323.78 crores (approximately USD 69 million).

Turkish Investments in India are tourism, textile products, and construction.

- Turkey ranks 41st overall in terms of FDI inflows to India.
- Cumulative Turkish direct investment into India amounts to USD 87.18 million (April 2000 – April 2014) accounting for 0.04% of total FDI inflows.

- Turkish companies having presence in India include LIMAK Construction, Fernas, SARAR, SOKTAS and IZOPOLI-KINGSPAN, and HIDROMAS.
- A consortium formed by the Nas Aviation Services India Ltd and the Turkish airport ground services provider Celebi won a tender to provide ground services for 10 years at Mumbai International airport in India.
- Fernas, a Turkish infrastructure company mainly operating in pipeline sector, has won a contract for laying and commissioning a segment the GAIL pipeline in Gujarat.

So, the economic and commercial cooperation of these countries has deepened over the years and presently constitutes an important dimension of the bilateral relationship. These bilateral agreements and institutional mechanisms, at the governmental level as well as B2B provide the enabling framework for strengthening economic and commercial ties.

Bilateral Educational and Cultural Relations:

Cooperation in the cultural and education sectors has also been fairly active. Since 1995 an Indian Professor has been on deputation to the Indology Department in the Ankara University to teach Hindi. Similarly, two Turkish language Professors have been deputed to the Jawaharlal Nehru University and the Jamia Millia university. MoUs for cooperation have also been concluded between Universities in Turkey and India. Indian culture, including films, dance, yoga and Ayurveda and Indian cuisine obviously, have been drawing attention in Turkey. During the visit to Turkey in September 2003, Prime Minister Vajpayee announced award of 50 scholarships annually to Turkish scholars under Indian Technical Economic Cooperation programme. Embassy organizes ITEC day every year which provides a platform to interact with past and prospective ITEC nominees from Turkey. Since 2009, the number of ITEC slots allotted is 25, but for 2012-2013 the number was increased to 35. Turkey has shown a great interest in training its auditors in India. The last Turkish auditor visited India in August 2012 for a training course at the International centre for Information Systems and Audit (ICISA), Noida. Since 1995 an Indian Professor in Hindi language has been attached on deputation, under the auspices of ICCR, with the Indology Department in Ankara

University. Mr. Vinod Tiwari, Asst. Professor, is currently in place since November 23, 2011. Ankara University & JNU and the Bogazici University (in Istanbul) & Shantiniketan concluded MOUs on cooperation in January and April 2000 respectively. Turkey sent two Turkish language professors to JNU and Jamia Millia University. Cooperation in IT education has started with APTECH's collaboration with Yuce College. Under the arrangement, APTECH Courses are being offered in Ankara, Istanbul and Denizli. NIIT has started a similar venture at a smaller scale in Bahcesehir

University, Istanbul. Four slots have been allotted to Turkish students for studying Hindi in Central

Institute of Hindi (Kendriya Hindi Sansthan), Agra since 2009-2010. India has a number of teaching institutes which are very good in the area of teaching English, particularly spoken English," Indian Ambassador Susmita G. Thomas has said. Working people, from the tourism industry to the business world, need to speak English in their work environment, and English courses provided by Indian language institutes may help greatly. The courses would be held in various Turkish cities as needed, and Indian teachers, or Turkish teachers after getting a course at language institutes in India, may teach at the courses. The project also has the support of Education Minister Ömer Dinçer. At the end of September, a conference on education, in which Dinçer will also participate, will be organized in the Indian Embassy to bring the Turkish and Indian sides together. The ambassador strongly believes there is much potential to increase cooperation in education, mainly in conversational English and IT-related areas.

India and Turkey have a great cultural overlap. The Turkic impact on India in areas such as culture and civilization, art and architecture and costumes and cuisine was considerable. For example, the Ottoman Architect Mimar Yusuf, disciple of the great Mimar Sinan went to India and entered the service of Akbar. He is reputed to have had some hand in the buildings in Agra and Delhi. The names of one of India's great languages, Urdu, can be traced to the Turkish language. The Sufi philosophy of Moulana Jelaluddin Rumi found a natural resonance in the Indian sub-continent with its own traditions of Sufism and the Bhakti movement.

In 1951 an agreement between the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of India concerning cultural relations has been taken place. The President of the Republic of Turkey and The President of India, Conscious of many centuries of cultural relations between Turkey and India, Inspired by a common desire to establish and develop closer cultural relations in the future in the spirit of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and Desirous of promoting and developing in every possible way and on a sound basis such relations and understanding between the two countries, especially in the realm of science and education, have decided to conclude a Cultural Agreement and to this end have appointed as their plenipotentiaries (representatives):

- The President of the Republic of Turkey:
- His Excellency Prof. Dr. Fuad Koprulu, Deputy of Istanbul Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- The President of India:
- The Honorable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Minister for Education

Who having examined each other's credentials and found them good and in due form have agreed as follows:

Article 1: The two Governments declare their desire and willingness for the exchange of University teachers and members of scientific and cultural institutions.

Article 2: It is the desire of each Government to institute scholarships to enable its students to pursue their studies in institutions situated in the territory of the other Government. Such studies may be pursued in any subject, scientific, technical, or otherwise.

Article 3: Each Government will receive, as far as its own resources and requirements may permit, employees of the other Government, or any other persons deputed by that Government, for training in its scientific, technical and industrial institutions.

Article 4: The two Governments will welcome the establishment of cultural institutes in each other's territory subject to the laws governing the establishment of such institutes in that territory and the general policy of that Government. By the term "cultural institute" is meant educational centres, libraries, scientific institutions of an educational nature, and institutions for the promotion of art, such as art galleries, art centres and societies, and film libraries.

Article 5 :The two Governments will strive to promote cultural and intellectual exchange between the two countries by arranging concerts, lectures, art and scientific exhibitions, by organizing visits of students, by encouraging collaboration between scientific, artistic and literary societies and other organizations devoted to the promotion of learning, by establishing chairs in Universities or other institutions of higher learning for the teaching of subjects pertaining to each other's country, by diffusion of books and periodicals, by exhibition of films, by exchange of archaeological specimens and "objets d'art" and through broadcasts on the radio.

Article 6: The two Governments will encourage, as far as possible, sports competitions between their respective nationals and collaboration between their scout organizations.

Article 7: The two Governments will, so far as it lies within their power, ensure that text-books prescribed for educational institutions do not contain any errors or misrepresentations about each other's country.

Article 8: The question of "equivalence" of diplomas and degrees will be the subject of thorough and periodical studies by the two Governments.

Article 9: The two Governments pledge themselves to take all appropriate measures and to provide all possible facilities for giving effect to the terms of this Agreement.

Article 10: For the purpose of carrying out the terms of this Agreement, either Government may, if necessary, agree to set up a special Commission composed, in Turkey, of the Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs and the Head of the Indian Diplomatic Mission, and, in India, of the Minister in charge of Education and the Head of the Turkish Diplomatic Mission, with such advisers as may be nominated by either member of the Commission with the object of:

- (a) Watching the working of the Agreement in the country concerned;
- (b) Advising the Governments concerned on the detailed manner of carrying out the Agreement;
- (c) Making recommendations for the selection of personnel regarding exchange of professors, students, etc.; and
- (d) Generally advising the Governments concerned as to the manner in which the working of the Agreement could be improved upon. At intervals of not less than once in three years the two Governments will hold joint consultations to co-ordinate the working of the Agreement in the two countries and invite suggestions and advice from co-operating agencies as to the steps that may be deemed necessary for a more effective implementation of this Agreement.

Article 11: The present Agreement shall be ratified with the least possible delay. The Agreement will come into force fifteen days after the exchange of instruments of ratification which will take place in New Delhi.

Article 12: The Agreement will remain in force for a period of ten years. It can be terminated by either party giving a minimum of six months' notice before the expiry of this period. Otherwise, it shall remain in force thereafter until such time as either party terminates it by giving six months' notice.

The said plenipotentiaries have signed the present Agreement in the English language. And in duplicate at Ankara on the twenty-ninth day of June 1951.

Cultural cooperation has a special importance in Turkey, as there is a genuine admiration and appreciation for Indian art and culture among the Turkish people. Within the framework of the Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP), there have been ongoing activities. The new CEP valid for 2011-13 is being negotiated between the two Governments. Turkish side have language in draft CEP for cooperation in education. Indian side's preference (HRD Ministry) is for a separate MoU on Education between India and Turkey. Both the CEP and MoU on cooperation in Education need to be finalized soon. With the objective of rediscovering historic linkages between Turkey and India, a joint Symposium on Indo-Turkish Relations from Ancient to Modern Times was held in Ankara in October 2002 under the auspices of Turkish Culture Ministry and Indian Council of Historical Research. On 27 June 2007, a symposium on "Turkish-Indian Relations in History" jointly organized by Turkish Historical Society (TTK) and the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) was held in Ankara. The 'India Tourism Road Shows' in Ankara and Istanbul on 16 and 18 October 2012 were

successful, and Turkish media coverage of the two events was extensive. Shri Girish Shankar, Additional Secretary in our Tourism Ministry led the Indian delegation for meetings at the Turkish Ministry of Tourism and Culture. Turkey also organized its Road Shows in India during 18-24 November 2012 in Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad and New Delhi. In a public diplomacy initiative, the first issue of the 'Dost' - a coffee-table publication was brought out by the Indian Embassy in Ankara on Turkey-India bilateral relations. The issue, with a Foreword from Ambassador, features all major political interactions with Turkey since Hon'ble Vice-President of India's Turkey visit last October, and highlights, inter alia, advances in our economic, commercial and cultural cooperation. There is a regular exchange of cultural troupes between the two countries. ICCR has been regularly sponsoring cultural troupes to Turkey. Mamata Shankar Dance Troupe and a Kathak dance troupe led by Smt. Sharmistha Mukherjee (Sept 2012) visited Turkey for performances.

Turkey's first nano satellite "ITUpSAT1", manufactured at the Istanbul Technical University's Faculty of Aeronautics was sent to space on PSLV C-14 rocket by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) on 23rd September 2009. The satellite orbited the earth at an altitude of 720 kilometres and had the capacity to take continental photos. Its orbital life was six months. Turkey is keen to expand cooperation in space technology with India.

Bilateral Political Relations and Security Dimensions

In 2002 the new AKP government came to power and gave importance to political decision over stagnant military strategy. This new democratic government compelled defense establishment to get closer with India by encouraging visits at various levels. Turkey-India military dialogue is at the beginning stage. Turkish part realization on the importance of joint-military exercise with India shall enhance war combat capability against terrorists and other unlawful groups. But, even at this stage, both sides had failed to draw a time-frame for the visits of the heads of defence forces. However, in May 2012, Indian Defence College officers visited Turkey and interacted with Turkish military personnel. The Commander of the Turkish Navy, Admiral Emin Murat BilGel visited India in November 2012. During the same time the Turkish defence minister sent an invitation for India's defence minister to visit Turkey for promoting defence cooperation between the two countries.

During the visit of PM Turgut Ozal to India in 1986, it was decided that the two embassies will have offices of Defence Attaché. During the visit of Prime Minister Vajpayee in September 2003, it was decided that Defence Ministers of both countries should remain in closer touch. India conveyed its willingness to expand military to military contacts, and mutual exchange of delegations to training facilities. During the visit of the Turkish PM Erdogan to India in November 2008, both prime ministers agreed to enhance cooperation between the two defence forces. Turkish Defence Minister Cakmakoglu visited India in Feb 2001. Turkish Defence Minister Vecdi Gonul visited India in February 2010. An invitation extended by the Defence Minister of Turkey for a visit by Raksha Mantri (RM) to Turkey has been accepted by RM in July 2012. Mutually convenient dates for the visit need to be worked out. We are waiting for a confirmation from the Turkish side on the feasibility of signing a Defence Cooperation Agreement pending with the Turkish side since the last 18 years. Other senior official level visits include:

- Chairman, Chiefs of Staffs Committee, Admiral Madhavendra Singh to Turkey on 10-14 May 2004
- Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal S.P. Tyagi to Turkey in May 2005.
- Chief of Air Forces Gen. Faruk Comert to India from 7-14 February 2006.
- VCOAs, Lt.General S. Pattabhiraman to Turkey from April 11-15 2006.
- Chief of General Staff Hilmi Ozkok to India from 16 to 21 April 2006.
- Air Chief Marshal Fali Homi Major visited Turkey from 2-8 March 2008.

- Turkish Land Forces Commander General Ilker Basbug visited India from 31 March-4 April 2008.
- Lt.Gen. Prakash Menon, Commandant, NDC visited Turkey from 16-21, May 2009.
- Turkish Naval Forces Commander Admiral Ugur Yigit visited India on 14-18, Dec. 2009.
- Admiral Nirmal Verma, Chief of Naval Staff visited Istanbul from 15-16 October 2010.
- A delegation led by General Bilgin BALANLI, Commander Turkish War colleges Command visited India from 22 to 26 Nov 2010.
- Chairman COSC, and Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal P V Naik, PVSM, VSM, ADC, led a four member delegation to Turkey from 17 to 21 April 2011.
- Our Vice Chief of Air Staff NAK Browne visited Istanbul during 2-5 June 2011 for the Global Air Chiefs Conference in Turkey coinciding with Centenary Celebrations of the Turkish Air Force.
- Commander of the Turkish Navy, Admiral Emin Murat BILGEL visited India from 04 to 07 Nov 2012. He visited Delhi, Agra and Mumbai for interactions.

Other important visits/areas of defence cooperation:

Two Indian Naval ships made port calls on Istanbul and Izmir in 1996. A Turkish submarine visited Mumbai in 1997. A Turkish Naval ship paid port call at Chennai in 2000. Two Indian naval Ships INS Ganga and INS Shakti called on Istanbul port on 30 May-3 June 2004. Two Indian naval Ships INS Mumbai and INS Brahmaputra called on Izmir port on 4-8 July 2006.

The Indian Defence Production companies have shown interest in Turkey. BEL participated in the International Defence Exhibition (IDE) in Ankara for the first time in September 2005 and had meetings with Turkish Defence Procurement Agency and Aselsan. A HAL delegation visited Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) in July 2005 for discussions on cooperation in aero-space sector. HAL participated in IDE in May 2007 and brought in 3 ALHs (2 for demonstration and 1 for display).

Two Indian Naval Ships INS Delhi and INS Aditya paid a goodwill visit to Aksaz Port in Marmaris in south-western Turkey from 31st May to 3rd June 2009 under the command of Rear Admiral SPS Cheema, Western Fleet Commander. The two navies also conducted a joint "Passage Exercise" in the Mediterranean. A reception held on 2nd June 2009 was attended by senior Turkish Naval Officers members of press corps and local dignitaries.

Turkish Naval Ship TCG Gemlik made a goodwill visit to Mumbai on 8-11, April 2010 and was warmly received by the Indian Naval authorities. The Captain of the ship called on Vice Admiral Sanjiv Bhasin, FOC-in-C, and Western Naval Command. They also conducted a joint passage exercise with Indian naval ships in the Arabian Sea.

An Indian Army Motor Cycle Expedition visited War memorial at Gallipoli on 29 Aug 2010 and laid wreath. The team was on an adventure tour visiting various battle fields in Europe where Indian soldiers had fought in 1st and 2nd World War.

22 member cadet sports team from the Army, Navy and Air Force visited Ankara for participation in CISM World Military Games from 17-24 October 2010.

A study team comprising of one Senior Directing Staff and 16 course members visited Turkey on an official visit from 13 to 19 May 2012. The study team visited various government offices, military establishments, defence industries and think tank at Istanbul and Ankara.

A coordination visit was undertaken by three officers from Turkish Navy from 19 to 22 Sep 2012 to Delhi and Mumbai for streamlining the proposed Portcall by Turkish Navy Ship at Mumbai in Jan 2013.

As part of exchange in defence adventure activities one officer and two cadets of the Turkish Navy participated in the 'Admiral's Cup Sailing Regatta during 27 Nov to 03 Dec 2012 at Indian Naval Academy Ezhimala, Kerala.

India believes that Turkey's support for India's candidacy at UN Security Council as a permanent member is crucial. Turkey should favor India in the OIC (Organisation of Islamic Council) which may increase credibility in the mutual understanding of Middle Eastern politics. The two countries' mutual external policy areas and their cooperation through global organizations may create compulsory ground for accessible and responsive affairs.

Conclusion:

In recent years, the bilateral relations between these countries have become multidimensional. They have increased their focus on military relationship to strengthen the defense sector. The economies of Turkey-India are two of the fastest growing economies at international level, and in the forthcoming years they are expected to be two of the top ten economic powers in the World. Turkey-India joint projects in the defense field will increase common strategies to deal with war on terror, and insurgency. Both the states should work on the prerequisites to have a Joint Working Group, and a permanent strategic dialogue committee, which would be helpful for carrying the relations further.

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