



**Embassy of India  
Jakarta**

Press Release

**INDIA AND TIMOR LESTE VOW TO BOOST BILATERAL TIES**

The Ministers, Government functionaries and private players in Timor Leste pledged to enhance the bilateral cooperation with India at their meetings with the Ambassador of India to Indonesia and Timor Leste H.E. Mr. Gurjit Singh, who is currently on a visit in Dili from 30 June – 02 July 2015.

Ambassador H.E. Mr. Gurjit Singh has had meetings with the Timorese Minister of Health; Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; Vice Minister of Commerce, Industry and Environment; and President of Chamber of Commerce.

The visit emerged as an important opportunity for India's continued engagement with the Government of Timor Leste to tap the economic opportunities and to provide India's support towards development cooperation in Timor Leste. In a move to further concretize the bilateral relationship, the dignitaries agreed to have frequent exchange of visits of Ministers, Senior Officials and business delegations.

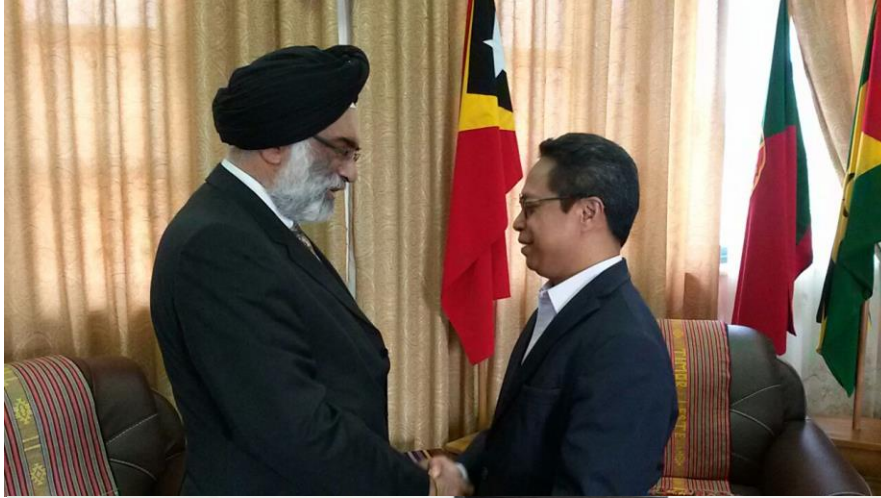
Considering the need to provide assistance in healthcare sector, the Ambassador offered more cooperation in pharmaceuticals, building of hospitals/diagnostic centres, training of doctors and paramedics. An inter-Governmental MOU is under advance stage of consideration. India will be donating a fully-equipped Ambulance Unit to Timor Leste in the last quarter of 2015. The Ambassador welcomed the visit of the delegation led by the Timorese Vice Minister of Health which is currently underway in India.

On the economic and commercial front, both sides agreed to increase the bilateral trade and investment by including more commodities and opening up investment in infrastructure, oil & gas and industrial zones in Ocussi. The Ambassador highlighted about India's Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme under which tariff preferences are granted to export of products originating from Timor Leste. This was welcomed by the Timorese side which agreed to explore it further. Both the sides reviewed the outcome of the visit of the first ever business India Business Forum delegation to Timor Leste led by the Ambassador in October 2014.

Capacity building of Timor Leste continues to be the top priority for India. India has offered to set up a Centre of Excellence in Information Technology and the project is expected to commence soon. India, under the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Fund, is supporting a project on agricultural conservation and sustainable fisheries management. Towards human resource development, India is offering 10 training slots under the India Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) and 10 Scholarships under the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) every year to the Government officials and students of Timor Leste. (Interested candidates may visit the Embassy's website at [www.indianembassyjakarta.com](http://www.indianembassyjakarta.com); [www.facebook.com/IndiaInIndonesia](https://www.facebook.com/IndiaInIndonesia)).

The Ambassador H.E. Mr. Gurjit Singh briefed the Ministers about the Government of India's flagship initiatives of Make in India, Digital India, Smart Cities and Skill Development and invited the Timorese Government to participate in the programmes for mutual benefit. The Ministers commended the initiatives and agreed to explore the opportunities to benefit from India's expertise in the fields.

The Ministers appreciated India's economic, technical and capacity building assistance to Timor Leste and thanked the Ambassador for his efforts in enhancing the overall engagement of India with Timor Leste.



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02 July 2015