

विदेश मंत्रालय / Ministry of External Affairs
दक्षिण प्रभाग / Southern Division

India-Singapore Bilateral Relations

The close ties between India and Singapore have a history rooted in strong commercial, cultural and people-to-people links across a millennium. The more modern relationship is attributed to Sir Stamford Raffles who, in 1819, established a trading station in Singapore on the route of the Straits of Malacca which later became a crown colony and governed from Kolkata till 1867. The colonial connection is reflected in institutions and practices, usage of English and presence of a large Indian community. India was one of the first countries to recognise Singapore in 1965.

Framework of the Bilateral Relationship

India-Singapore relations are based on shared values and approaches, economic opportunities and convergence of interests on key issues. Political engagement is regular. Defence relations are particularly strong. Economic and technological ties are extensive and growing. Cultural and human links are very vibrant. There are more than **20 regular bilateral mechanisms**, dialogues and exercises. There is great convergence on a broad range of international issues and both are members of a number of forums, including East Asia Summit, G20, Commonwealth, IORA (Indian Ocean Rim Association) and IONS (Indian Ocean Naval Symposium).

A new high level Ministerial mechanism called **India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR)** has been established to chart a roadmap to take bilateral relations to a new level. The inaugural meeting of ISMR took place on 17 September 2022 in New Delhi. The focus on emerging areas such as digital connectivity, Fintech, Green Economy, Green Hydrogen, Skill Development and Food Security provided an ambitious roadmap for further enhancement of the Strategic Partnership between India and Singapore. DPM Wong and Minister for Trade and Industry Gan Kim Yong also called on PM. During the visit, FinTech Cooperation Agreement was signed between the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) and the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) in Gujarat.

Recent High Level Interactions

On 01 November 2022, PM Lee wrote to PM Modi to convey condolences on the collapse of the Morbi bridge in Gujarat.

On 16 November 2022, PM Modi and PM Lee met on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Bali. They discussed strengthening of India-Singapore cooperation including in sectors such as the green economy, renewable energy, FinTech and deepening trade relations.

On **21 February 2023**, the link between India's UPI and Singapore's PayNow was officially launched in the **presence of PM Modi and PM Lee Hsien Loong**, by RBI Governor Shri. Shaktikanta Das, and Monetary Authority of Singapore's Managing Director, Mr. Ravi Menon.

Singapore **PM Lee** visited **New Delhi** on **25-26 January 2018** to participate in the Republic Day Celebrations and to co-chair the AICS, held to mark the culmination of the 25th Anniversary celebrations of India-ASEAN Dialogue Partnership. Singapore being the ASEAN Chair for 2018, PM Lee co-chaired the AICS with PM Modi. The theme for the Summit was "Shared Values, Common Destiny".

PM Lee had earlier made a Working Visit to India from **3-7 October 2016**, accompanied by 3 senior Ministers. Three MoUs on collaboration in the field of technical & vocational education, training and cooperation in industrial property were signed. PM Lee visited Udaipur to inaugurate a Centre of Excellence for Tourism Management. He had paid State Visits to India in **June 2005**, **July 2012** and in **December 2012** for AICS celebrating 20th anniversary.

Both PMs also met on the sidelines of G-20 Summit in Osaka in June 2019, Rome in October 2021 and Bali in September 2022. PM Lee was one of the six world leaders invited by PM Modi to speak at a special event at UN in New York on 24 September 2019 to celebrate 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

ECONOMY

Trade, Economic and Development Cooperation

Five areas of cooperation (5S) were agreed in 2014 for specific focus - (i) Scale up Trade & Investment; (ii) Speed up Connectivity; (iii) Smart Cities & Urban Rejuvenation; (iv) Skill development; and (v) State focus. In 2018, FinTech & Innovation was recognized as the new driver of bilateral relationship. Singapore is India's largest trade partner in ASEAN. It is the **leading source of FDI**, among the largest sources of External Commercial Borrowings and Foreign Portfolio Investment.

Bilateral trade expanded after the conclusion of CECA from **USD 6.7 billion** in **FY 2004-05** to **USD 30.11 billion** in **2021-22**. India was Singapore's 12th largest trade partner, for the year 2021-22 with a share of 2.3% in Singapore's overall trade. Singapore is India's 6th largest trade partner with a share of 2.9% of India's overall trade (2021-22). **Exports** to Singapore for the same period stood at **USD 11.15 billion** vis-à-vis USD 8.7 billion during 2020-21- recording a growth of 28.53%. The **imports** stood at **USD 18.96 billion** vis-à-vis USD 13.3 billion recorded during 2020-21 - a growth of 42.5%.

Investment

FDI equity inflows in India from Singapore during **2021-22** stood at **USD 15.87 billion**. Singapore continued to be the largest source of FDI into India, with FDI inflows of USD 17.42 bn in 2020-21 despite the Covid situation. The **cumulative FDI inflows** from Singapore to India stood at **USD 136.65 billion (April 2000 – June 2022)** which is **23 percent** of **total FDI inflows in India**. Singapore is also amongst the largest sources of External Commercial Borrowings for India and Foreign Portfolio Investment from Singapore has been extremely important for India. The cumulative **outward Indian FDI** to Singapore stood at **USD 82.33 billion (January 2008 – October 2022)**. The outward Indian FDI to Singapore stood at **USD 7.18 billion** in **2021-22** and **USD 3.49 billion** in **2020-21**.

About 8000 Indian companies are registered in Singapore. 6 PSUs, 9 banks, India Tourism, CII, FICCI, Air India, Jet Airways have their offices in Singapore. More than 440 companies from Singapore are registered in India. 2 banks, Enterprise Singapore (ES), Economic Development Board (EDB) and Singapore Tourism Board have their offices in India. The India-Singapore CEO Forum was launched in November 2018. DBS Bank announced the launch of its locally incorporated subsidiary, DBS Bank India (DBIL) in March 2019.

Science & Technology Cooperation

ISRO launched Singapore's first indigenously built micro-satellite in 2011; 2 more in 2014 and 6 in 2015. During PM's visit to Singapore in June 2018, six MoUs were concluded by NTU for research & exchange partnership with NITI Aayog in the area of artificial intelligence, machine learning, cognitive computing and big data analytics to improve healthcare, cybersecurity, automation, mobility, smart energy systems and e-governance, joint PhD and research with IITs and IISc Bengaluru, space research with Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) and establishment of an endowment for Indian research scholars coming to Singapore.

On 22 April 2023, ISRO successfully launched the PSLV-C55 mission carrying two Singapore satellites weighing 757kg and on 30 July 2023, the PSLV-C56 put Singapore's DS-SAR satellite and six other satellites into orbit.

Diaspora and Indian Community

Ethnic Indians constitute about 9.1 % or around 3.5 lakhs of the resident population of 3.9 million in Singapore. In addition, among the 1.6 million foreigners residing in Singapore, around 2.5 lakhs are estimated to be Indian expatriates holding Indian passports, serving in financial services, IT, as students, and in the construction and marine sectors. Singapore has the highest concentration of IIT and IIM alumni in any one city outside India. Tamil is one of the four official languages of Singapore.

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