

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

### **India-Yemen Bilateral Relations**

#### **A. Introduction**

1. Indian Trade Journal (ITJ) division of the Director 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 depicting the Embassy of Yemen.
2. India was one of the early countries to have actively supported Yemen's independence from the British and was one of the first countries to recognize Yemen Arab Republic (YAR) in 1962 and People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) in 1967. In 1990, YAR and PDRY merged to become Republic of Yemen.
3. India's relations with Yemen go back into many centuries. In 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, Aden, Mocha and Kamaran Islands became the transit or transshipment point for Haj pilgrims. Southern Yemen was a British protectorate administered by the Bombay Presidency during which time an Indian garrison was serving whilst rupee was the official tender. During pre-independent India, Aden became a port of call for many prominent Indians when Netaji Bose, Mahatma Gandhi, Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya, Sarojini Naidu among others had visited. Yemen is a member of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), among others. Yemen has been steadfast in its support for permanent membership for India in an expanded UN.

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

4. There has been growth in economic and commercial relations between India and Yemen in recent years, especially in areas such as Textiles and apparel, Machinery and appliances, Petroleum products etc. An account of Bilateral commodities trade in goods from 2019-20 to 2023-24 are as under:

**The Export-Import statistics as per India's Ministry of Commerce data bank from 2019-20 to 2023-24 are as follows :**

#### **The Export-Import statistics from 2019-20 to 2023-24**

**(US Dollar million)**

<b>S.No</b>		<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>
1.	Export	721.25	785.54	846.57	1000.36	875.98
2.	Import	22.73	23.39	227.81	160.91	191.02
3.	Total Trade	743.98	808.93	1074.38	1161.27	1067.00

*(Source: Doc, Ministry of Commerce & Industry)*

5. The total bilateral trade between India and Yemen for FY 2021-22 is US\$ 1.07 billion, as per statistics of Department of Commerce, GOI. The total export to Yemen during FY2021-22 is US\$ 847 million (YoY Growth 7.77%) and total import is US\$ 228 million (YoY Growth 873.92%).

6. India exports Rice, Wheat, Sugar, Drug formulations, Ceramics and allied products, Processed fruits and Juices, Textile materials, petroleum products, Yarn and Fabrics etc. to Yemen. On the other hand, India Imports Iron and Steel, Petroleum, Telecom instruments, Aluminium and articles there of, Lead and allied products, Electric machinery and equipment, Copper and articles thereof, Raw hides and skins from Yemen. India ranks among the top in Pharma imports of Yemen with Ranbaxy, Cipla, Sun Pharma, Alkem Laboratory limited, Cadilla, Wockhardt, Glenmarc, Kopran Laboratories Ltd, Orchid, Medley and Biocon among others active in Yemen's market.

7. India has shown keen interest in tapping the main Yemeni industry of petroleum and natural gas. In the past, Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Reliance and Mangalore Refineries have imported Yemeni crude oil. Reliance, Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation and Oil India Limited, Indian Oil Corporation in a consortium have been allocated blocks in Yemen.

### **C. Other Major Areas of Cooperation :**

- A range of bilateral agreement exist, which encompasses cooperation/ agreement in economic and technical cooperation, air services, agriculture and allied sector, cultural, bilateral investment promotion, health and medicine, oil and gas industry and Education Exchange. University of Aden has had collaboration with University of Roorkee, Jawaharlal Nehru and Allahabad Universities. Many Indian professors have set up faculties and have headed different departments in Sana'a and Aden Universities. Two leading think-tanks, the Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA) and the Sheba Centre for Strategic Studies entered into a MoU to forge a partnership for encouraging exchange of experts and analysts and participation in seminars and symposium on subjects of mutual interest.
- Cooperation between India and Yemen in the realms of security and defence started with training of Yemeni Republic Guards in 2008. Since 2021, defense engagements have again commenced with the Yemen Armed Forces. The defense ties between the two countries cover variety of fields starting from participating in Joint Exercises like MILAN, training of Yemen officers, cadets and soldiers in Indian Armed Forces Training Establishments at both junior and senior levels including training in specialist fields. Indian Navy and Yemen Coast Guard have collaborated to undertake Anti-Piracy patrols in the Indian ocean. The strategic location of both the countries with historical relations presents optimal opportunities for further strengthening the defense engagements. Anti-piracy, intelligence, defense industries collaboration and medical assistance are some of the fields which will further strengthen the defense cooperation in near future.
- In 2015, the maritime routes were activated for carrying out evacuation operation from Yemen. This was achieved as a result of close maritime cooperation with the countries of the region. As part of Operation SANKALP which launched in June 2019, 20 Indian Naval ships have been operationally deployed in the region for anti-piracy missions and protecting the sea lanes of communication. Majority of Indian trade passes through the Arabian Sea and also the Red Sea. Coast guard of Yemen regularly take part in the National Pollution Response Exercise (NATPOLREX) conducted by the Indian Coast Guards every year.
- Yemen is a signatory to IMO established Code of Conduct concerning the Repression of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden (Djibouti Code of Conduct). Since 2020, India is an observer to Djibouti Code of Conduct as part of efforts aimed at enhancing maritime security in the Indian Ocean region. Maritime representatives from Indian agencies

participated in the workshop for finalizing the charter of Djibouti Code of Conduct held in August 2023 in Jeddah and close cooperation is currently being carried out in this regard.

- India offers scholarships under various schemes under the aegis of ICCR for pursuing graduate, post graduate and doctoral programmes. Under ITEC programme, India provides civilian training to Yemen for capacity buildings. In 2021-22, 58 Yemeni students received ICCR scholarship to study in India.
- The cross border contacts have culminated in nearly 300,000 (approx.) Indians of Yemeni origin prominent in Hyderabad and its contiguous cities in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Karnataka. Likewise there is a strong 200,000 (approx.) Indian origin diaspora in the provinces of Aden, Hadramout, Hodeidah, Taiz and Sana'a. Indian Associations in Sana'a, Aden, Taiz and Hodeidah were active in organizing social and cultural functions. Aden's Indian Association is the oldest, founded during the British rule.

*Source: [www.mea.gov.in](http://www.mea.gov.in)*