

## India-Philippines Relationship

### Why in news?

Recently, 5th India-Philippines Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC) was held in New Delhi.

### What is the history of India-Philippines relation?

- **Political Relations** - Diplomatic relations between India and Philippines were established in 1949.
- **Economic Relations** - Bilateral trade has increased from 1.89 billion USD in 2015-16 to 2.84 billion USD in 2021-22.
- India's exports to Philippines is more when compared to its exports.
- **Defence** - *RIMPAC* is a multilateral military exercise between India, Philippines and other countries.
- India and Philippines also participate in *ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise*.
- Defence ties were significantly enhanced with the signing in 2022 of a contract to supply the *BrahMos missile system*.
- **Cultural Exchange** - The *Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP)* between the two countries was renewed for the period 2019-2023.
- **Education and Health** - Philippines is one of the beneficiaries of India's flagship capacity building programme - *Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC)*.
- *International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)* is located in Manila, Philippines.
- India continues to be the largest supplier of pharma products to Philippines.
- Philippines was the first ASEAN Member State to grant Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for Bharat Biotech's Covaxin.
- **Diaspora** - The Indian community (bulk of Punjabis and Sindhis) in the Philippines is estimated to be around 1,50,000.



### What are the recent developments?

- **High level visits** - 4<sup>th</sup> Joint defence cooperation meeting and 5<sup>th</sup> joint commission on bilateral cooperation was held in New Delhi.
- **Fintech sector** - An MoU has been signed for partnership in innovative technologies, fintech industry, digital governance, payment linkages and other related areas.
- **Space** - As Philippines works to become a spacefaring country by 2030, more vigorous capacity-building between the Philippine Space Agency and the ISRO are on the horizon.
- **Energy Sector** - The sheer volume of investments and pledges coming into wind power in the first half of 2023 tell of its ascending presence in the energy sector.

### What are the concerns?

- **Regional security architecture** - Fluctuation of power between China and USA.
- **China assertive role** - China's aggressive influence over South China Sea.

### What lies ahead?

- There is a need to harness the power of the Indo-Pacific as a catalyst for growth, more intensified regional cooperation is essential.
- Stronger economic integration, improved connectivity, and increased innovation are key to support the region as a global economic powerhouse.
- As champions of the rule of law and inclusive multilateralism, the Philippines and India play important roles which would lead to partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### Quick Facts

#### Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

- **Membership** - ASEAN is an intergovernmental organization of 10 Southeast Asian

countries - Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

- India is not a member of ASEAN.
- **Objective** - To promote social and political stability.
- Secretariat of ASEAN in **Jakarta**.
- India shifted its policy from **Look East to Act East** to leverage the Geopolitical advantage with ASEAN countries.

## References

1. [Indian Express | India-Philippines Relation](#)
2. [Ministry of External Affairs | Bilateral relation](#)

