



INDIA-OMAN

Journey in Trade and Unity



3 The Indian Communities in Oman

Indian trading communities have a documented presence in Omani ports for over six centuries. Historical records, indicate that the oldest known Indian merchant community resided in 15th-century Muscat. These traders, primarily Sindhi Bhatias from Tattha on the Indus River, held considerable influence until the mid-17th century. The Banias flourished during this period, acting as trade advisors to the Portuguese and even gaining permission to build a temple. The first specific mention of an Indian merchant in Oman is Naruttim, who aided the Omanis against the Portuguese in 1650.

Shrinathji Temple, located in Manama, the capital of Bahrain, was constructed in 1817 by the Thattai Hindu community, who had migrated from Sindh before the partition of India.

'Bania' was the term used by British merchants and officials to refer to South Asian expatriate merchant communities in the Gulf.



Many Arabs united under the Indo-Arab Cultural Association, established by Jawaharlal Nehru, which thrived until the early 1970s.

Sultan Taimur bin Faisal (seated)



While Arabs settled along India's western coast, particularly in Goa, Bombay, and Calicut, the Omani royal family maintained strong educational links with institutions in Bombay, Pune, and Ajmer.

Beginning with Sayyid Sultan bin Ahmad's time in Gwadar in the 1780s, the Royal Family's connections with South Asia have remained strong, adding a significant dimension to the historical relationship between these two ancient civilizations. Sayyid Turki's son, Faisal, was born in Bombay, and Sultan Taimur bin Faisal spent considerable time in India from the early 1920s, even acquiring property in Dehradun. He returned to Mumbai in 1932 and resided there until his death in 1965, becoming a well-known figure visited by Omanis, Arabs, and dignitaries. He is buried in a Mumbai mosque.



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Harmony
Through
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