

INDIA-SOLOMON ISLANDS BILATERAL RELATIONS

POLITICAL RELATIONS

1. Diplomatic relations between India and Solomon Islands were established in May 1987. Solomon Islands established its Honorary Consulate in New Delhi in 2003. The two countries enjoy friendly ties and comprehensive cooperation in multilateral and international fora, including the United Nations Organization. The High Commissioner of India in Port Moresby is accredited to Solomon Islands.

VISITS TO INDIA FROM SOLOMON ISLANDS

2. Foreign Minister Laurie H. Chan visited New Delhi in January 2005. He was accompanied by Assistant Secretary for Asia Pacific Division. He held discussions with Minister of External Affairs, Minister of Human Resource Development, Minister of State for Information Technology, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, senior government officials and representatives from the Chambers of Commerce, Tourism, Trade, Banking, Aviation and financial institutions.

3. Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade Peter Shanel Agovaka attended the Ministerial meeting on 'Harnessing the Positive Contribution of South-South Cooperation for Development of Least Developed Countries (LDCs)', held in New Delhi on 18-19 February 2011.

4. A 5-member delegation, led by Deputy Prime Minister & Minister for Home Affairs of Solomon Islands Douglas Ete, participated in the 2nd Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) Summit, held in Jaipur in August 2015.

5. Assistant Secretary Joseph Atkin Tada in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & External Trade participated in the Distinguished Visitors Programme, organized by ICCR for 14 Pacific Island Countries in February 2016.

VISITS TO SOLOMON ISLANDS FROM INDIA

6. Minister of State for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy, and Mines Piyush Goyal visited Solomon Islands in October 2016. This was the first-ever ministerial visit from India to Solomon Islands. He called on Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare and held talks with the Power & Mines Minister. He also interacted with the Indian community in Solomon Islands. During his visit, India offered the support of energy efficient LED bulbs and renewable energy in the form of solar lighting to Solomon Islands. He showcased different ways India could aid Solomon Islands in the areas of IT skill development, healthcare, etc.

AREAS OF COOPERATION

7. Solomon Islands has been supporting India's candidatures in international organizations.

8. India has been extending assistance to Solomon Islands in capacity building and human resource development. India has allocated to Solomon Islands 5 slots per year for training in diverse fields under the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) and Colombo Plan.

9. Consequent upon the Tsunami which struck Solomon Islands on 2 April 2007, the Government of India provided an amount of US\$100,000 as India's assistance for relief and rehabilitation of the Tsunami victims. As part of Government of India's Regional Assistance Initiatives for Pacific Island countries, India offers an annual grant-in-aid of US \$200,000 for development projects in Solomon Islands.

TRADE

10. The volume of bilateral trade between the two countries is quite low. The trade figures (in million US dollars) for the last few years are as follows:

| India-Solomon Islands Trade | India's Exports | India's Imports | Total Trade |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 2014-15 | 5.22 | 13.47 | 18.69 |
| 2015-16 | 2.71 | 67.67 | 70.39 |
| 2016-17 | 2.31 | 53.96 | 56.27 |
| 2017-18 | 1.28 | 67.73 | 69.01 |
| 2018-19(April to October) | 1.02 | 42.70 | 43.72 |

CULTURAL

11. International Day of Yoga was celebrated on 17 June 2018 at Honiara. Around 59 persons participated in the yoga sessions.

12. There are presently about 35 Indian passport holders in Solomon Islands.

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