

India - Djibouti Relations

India and Djibouti share long historical and cultural links going long back to India's independence in 1947 and Djibouti's independence in 1977. In ancient times, Djiboutian traders traded in hides and skins for Indian perfumes and spices. The port of Edulis was the hub of maritime trade where Indian seafarers have flocked trading in spices and silk for gold and ivory. The people of Djibouti are born from a contact among the cultures of East Africa, the Arab peninsula and the Indian sub-continent. Present day relations received a boost with the visit of the President of Djibouti to India in May 2003. India provided humanitarian assistance worth US\$ 1 million in the form of wheat, rice and medicine to meet the requirements arising from drought in 2003.

Bilateral visits

H.E. Mr. Ismail Omer Guelleh, President of the Republic of Djibouti, accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Minister of Defence, the Minister of National Education and the Minister of Public Works and Public Transport, along with a 30-member business delegation visited India in May 2003.

Commander of the Armed Forces in the Republic of Djibouti, General Fathi Ahmed Houssein visited India in October 2003.

H.E. Mrs. Hawa Mohamad Youssouf, State Minister for International Cooperation, visited India from 28-31 January, 2007, to attend the Centenary Celebrations of Satyagraha Conference in New Delhi. H.E. Mr. Rifki Abdoukader Bamakhrama, Minister of Trade and Industry, attended the CII-Exim Bank meeting on 19-21 March, 2008, at New Delhi. The Minister of Trade and Industry again visited New Delhi in April 2008 to attend the Ministerial meeting of the India - Africa Forum Summit as a member of COMESA.

Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of State for External Affairs met Djibouti Foreign Minister Mahmoud Ali Youssouf on 20th July, 2008, on the sidelines of AU Summit at Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt for bilateral discussions.

Dr. Fouad Ahmed Aye, Minister of Energy, Water and Natural Resources, Republic of Djibouti, during his visit to New Delhi held bilateral discussions with Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Minister of New and Renewable Energy, in New Delhi in April 2011. Both leaders held detailed discussions about possible cooperation between the two countries in the field of Renewable Energy. The Djiboutian Minister informed that Djibouti has vast potential in the areas of Geothermal Energy, Solar Energy and Wind Energy but needs Indian assistance in exploiting these sources. Djibouti expressed desire to sign an MoU between the two countries in this regard and sought Indian assistance in providing training to their nationals in drilling to harness geothermal energy. Dr. Farooq Abdullah welcomed the suggestion and suggested that in the first instance a team of Indian experts can visit Djibouti to ascertain specific requirements of that country and after that a MoU can be worked out between the two countries.

Other areas

- Indian Naval Ships call at Djibouti port regularly.
- The Government of India has extended a line of credits to set up an 600 TPD cement plant at Ali Sabieh, located at 150 kms. away from Djibouti.

- India's exports to Djibouti during the financial year 2010-11 stood at US\$ 371.04 million. The imports during this period were to the tune of about US\$ 2.41 million.

Important Bilateral Treaties and Agreements

Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA) signed at New Delhi on 19th May 2003. Civil Aviation Agreement signed at New Delhi on 19th May 2003.

Cultural Cooperation Agreement signed between India and Djibouti on 31st January 1989 and Executive Programme of Cultural, Education and Scientific Cooperation for the year 2003-2005 signed at New Delhi on 19th May 2003.

Pan-African e-Network Agreement signed between TCIL and Djibouti on 21st June, 2006.

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