

## **India- The Gambia Relations**

### **Political Relations:**

Bilateral relations between India and Gambia are good, marked by cooperation in Non-Aligned Movement and United Nations. The Gambia is the only Anglophone country amongst those covered by this Mission. The Gambian Government is generally supportive of India.

### **Commercial Relations / Bilateral trade:**

Year	Value in Million US\$			
	India's Exports	India's Imports	Total Trade	Growth in %
2012-2013	55.56	30.31	85.87	-17.72
2013-2014	85.13	29.20	114.33	33.14
2014-2015	73.53	36.08	109.61	-4.13
2015-2016	59.54	31.35	90.90	-17.08
2016-17(Apr-Aug)	20.18	25.53	45.71	

*Source: Export Import Database, Department of Commerce, Government of India*

The major items exported by India to The Gambia include cotton yarn, fabrics & made-ups, cosmetics/toiletries, drugs & pharmaceuticals and semi-finished Iron & steel products whereas Gambia's main items of export to India are raw cashew and cotton.

### **ITEC and other training and assistance programmes:**

For the academic year 2016-17, 50 slots have been allotted to Gambia under ITEC whereas 30 Scholarship slots have been provided under ICCR for the year 2016-17. Gambia has utilized all the 30 slots under ICCR and more than half under ITEC till now. The Pan-African E-Network Project, implemented by Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) is operational in The Gambia. In September 2016, two surgeons from BLK Hospital, India visited Banjul to help in developing healthcare delivery.

### **Grants/Credits:**

India has extended two concessionary lines of credit of around US\$ 6.7 million for a tractor assembly plant project and US \$ 10 million for the construction of National Assembly Building complex respectively. An amount of US\$ 16.88 million has been approved as credit for completion of the construction of National Assembly. Most recently, in July 2014, India granted two LOCs, each of US \$22.5 Million for Expansion of Electricity Project in Greater Banjul Area and Replacement of Asbestos Water Pipes by UPVC Pipes in Greater Banjul Area respectively. In April 2015, India has extended US \$92 million LOC for expansion of Banjul port in Gambia and US \$10 million for the Gambia Rural Electrification Extension Project. In October 2016, Indian company Shapoorji Pallonji Mideast was awarded a contract for the construction of the University of the Gambia (UTG) Faraba campus in Banjul at a cost of US\$ 53.46 million.

India's Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) scheme is applicable for import of select commodities from The Gambia. A Solar Electrification Project in two villages of The Gambia namely Kankurang and Kafenkeng was installed by an Indian NGO which was inaugurated in September 2007 by the Gambian Vice-President, Dr. Aja Isatou Njie-Saidy. In August 2010, during the visit of H.E. Dr. Mamadou Tangara, the then Foreign Minister of the Republic of The Gambia, the Government of India announced extending a grant of US Dollars five hundred thousand to the Republic of The Gambia for providing equipment in the health and education sectors. Necessary procedures for supply of the equipment in this regard are under way. A Vocational Training Centre is planned to be setup with the assistance of National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) of India. The Centre, once established, would provide training in disciplines such as plumbing, welding, electrical, construction sector, carpentry, draftsman-ship, survey, plastic technology demonstration cum training, ICT, agro and food processing, gemstones cutting and polishing etc.

### **IAFS-III, 4<sup>th</sup> India-Africa Trade Ministers' Meeting and other events:**

Special Envoy of Prime Minister (SEPM) and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Shri. Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi visited Gambia in September 2015, to personally invite Gambian delegation to participate in India Africa Forum Summit III (IAFS-III). A delegation led by Vice President Ms. Isatou Njie-Saidy participated in IAFS-III from 26-29th October 2015.

A 3-member delegation headed by Gambian Minister of Trade and Industry Mr. Addoulie Jobe participated in 4<sup>th</sup> India-Africa Trade Ministers' Meeting on 23.10.2015 in New Delhi.

On October 14, 2016, Embassy of India in collaboration with The Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) organized an India-Gambia Business Forum themed "Doing Business with India" in Banjul.

### **2nd International Day of Yoga:**

Embassy of India on 18 June 2016, organized a grand event in Banjul to celebrate 2<sup>nd</sup> IDY. The event was attended by more than 100 persons including members of Indian diaspora, dignitaries and local Government officials, celebrities, diplomats and local people.

### **NRI Population:**

The approximate number of Indian nationals in The Gambia is 600 (six hundred). They are mostly engaged in trading and private business including construction sector and play an important role in The Gambia's retail economy.

### ***December 2016***