

India-Somalia Relations

Somalia is located on the Horn of Africa, bordered by Djibouti to the northwest, Ethiopia to the west and Kenya to the southeast. It has the longest coastline in Africa. Somalia's 10 million population is largely homogenous with respect to religion and language. Arabic and English are also spoken.

Somalia's GDP (PPP) is estimated to be US\$ 5.8 billion (2010), deriving from agriculture and livestock, fisheries, telecommunications and remittances. Agriculture accounts for 65% of GDP and employs 65% of workforce. The industrial sector accounts for 10% of GDP and includes fish canning and meat processing in the north, and production of pasta, mineral water, soft drinks, plastic bags, fabric, mattresses, soap, detergents, hides and skins, aluminum and manufacture of fishing boats. Trade is estimated at around US\$ 1.7 billion in 2010 (exports US\$ 515 million – livestock, fish, charcoal, banana, major destinations UAE and Yemen), while main imports are petroleum, manufactures, foodstuff, construction material (major suppliers are Djibouti, Kenya, India, China and Yemen).

After the outbreak of civil war in 1991, a multinational United Task Force (UNITAF) was deployed ahead of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) till 1994 followed by the withdrawal of UN peacekeepers in 1995. Indian forces served with distinction in both UNITAF and UNOSOM.

In 2000 a Transitional National Government was formed in Djibouti, which lasted two years. In 2004 a Transitional Federal Government (TFG) was formed in Kenya. In 2006, militias loyal to the Union of Islamic Courts (ICU) took control of Mogadishu. In 2007, the African Union mandated the deployment of African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) peacekeepers. TFG regained control of parts of central and south Somalia in 2009. The parliament met in Djibouti in 2009 to elect Sheikh Sharif Ahmed as President and extended the TFG's mandate for two years. The transition phase was slated to end on August 20 2011. On June 8 2011 the President of TFG and the Speaker of Transitional Federal Parliament agreed to the 'Kampala Accord' deferring elections to TFG and the TF Parliament by one year. A new cabinet was formed in July 2011 with H.E. Dr. Abdiweli Mohamed Ali as Prime Minister. In September 2011 a Roadmap to End the Transition by August 20 2012 was signed in Mogadishu. The signatories also included representatives of Puntland and Galmudug. Two Somali National Consultative Constitutional Conferences (Garowe I and II) were held in Garowe in Puntland in December 2011 and February 2012 respectively. Conferences on Somalia were also hosted in London in February 2012, May 2013 and in Istanbul in May 2012.

The political transition process in Somalia ended on August 10 2012. The new Federal Parliament convened on August 20 2012 and elected H. E. Prof. Mohammed Sheikh Osman (Jawari) as the Speaker on August 28 2012. The Parliament elected H. E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud as the new President on September 10 2012 and he was sworn in on September 16 2012. H. E. Abdi Farah Shirdon was nominated as the new

Prime Minister by H. E. President Hassan on October 6 and he was sworn in on October 18 2012. H. E. Prime Minister Shirdon announced a 10-member cabinet on November 4 2012, which was approved by the Federal Parliament on November 13 2012. H. E. Mrs. Fowziya Yussuf Haji Adan is the Deputy Prime Minister, in addition to being Somalia's first woman Foreign Minister.

In recent months, AMISOM (with troops and police units from Uganda, Burundi, Kenya, Djibouti and Sierra Leone) has made military advances against the Al Shabaab.

Indian traders have been trading with the Horn of Africa since ancient times.

In 1940s-50s many Indians were recruited by Italians to work on their plantations in Somalia, mainly around Qoryoley. Other Indians established businesses in Somalia. It is estimated that there were nearly 200 Indian families in Somalia, mainly engaged in cloth dying in Mogadishu and Merka. Indian families in Kismayo left for Mogadishu in the early 1980s. After 1991 most Indians left Somalia, many relocating to Mombasa in Kenya.

Political Relations

A year after the independence of Somalia in 1960, the Commissioner of India to Mauritius was accredited as Ambassador of India to Somalia and presented Credentials in 1961. India provided relief supplies (medicines and clothing) worth Rs. 15,000 to Somalia at the time.

Prime Minister of Somalia H.E. Dr. Abdirashid Ali Shermarke accompanied by Minister of Information visited India in 1963. H. E. Dr. Shermarke visited India again in 1968 as President of Somalia. Somalia's Foreign Minister H. E. Dr. Abdurahman Jama Barre visited India in 1979. This was followed by the visits of Somalia's Minister of Commerce & Industry in 1986 and a Special Envoy of the President of Somalia in 1989.

After the outbreak of civil war in 1991, the Indian Embassy in Mogadishu was closed. Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Eduardo Faleiro visited Somalia in 1992. India provided relief supplies (medicines, food) worth Rs. 20 lakh to Somalia in 1992 during the visit.

Somalia maintains an Embassy in India. The High Commissioner of India to Kenya is concurrently accredited to Somalia. He visited Mogadishu from March 6-7 2011 to present credentials to H.E. President Sheikh Sharif Ahmed. He also met the TFG Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed and Deputy Prime Minister H. E. Dr. Abdiweli Mohamed Ali as well as Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Mohamed Abdullahi Omaar during the visit. High Commissioner met H. E. President Sheikh Sharif Ahmed, Prime Minister H.E. Mohamed Abdullahi and Deputy Prime Minister H. E. Dr. Abdiweli Mohamed Ali in Nairobi on 25 May 2011. He met TFG Foreign Minister H. E. Mohamed Mohamud Haji Ibrahim in Nairobi on October 25 2011.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Planning and International Cooperation H.E. Dr. Abdiweli Mohamed Ali visited India in March 2011 to attend the 7th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership. During the visit he met Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs Shri S. M. Krishna and Hon'ble Commerce & Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma.

The Mission was represented at the signing ceremony of the Roadmap for ending the Transition that was held in Mogadishu on September 6 2011.

Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs Shri E Ahamed led the Indian delegation at the London Conference on Somalia on February 23 2012. He met the TFG President H. E. Sheikh Sharif Ahmed, President of Puntland H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Mohamud Farole and President of Galmudug H. E. Mohamed Ahmed Alin on the sidelines of the Conference.

The TFG Minister for Education, Culture and Higher Studies Prof. Ahmed Aidid Ibrahim visited India to participate in the India-Africa Science & Technology Ministerial Conference and Tech Expo held in New Delhi on March 1-2 2012. During the visit he met Hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development Shri Kapil Sibal on March 9 2012.

The President of state of Puntland H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Farole visited India on May 15-16 2012. He met Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed and Hon'ble Minister of State for Petroleum & Natural Gas Shri R. P. N. Singh.

High Commissioner led the Indian delegation at the Istanbul II Conference on Somalia held on May 31-June 2 2012.

High Commissioner met the TFG Foreign Minister H.E. Abdullahi Haji Hassan Mohamed Nuur in Nairobi on July 9 2012 and the Minister for Fisheries and Environment H.E. Abdurrahman Ibrahim in Nairobi on June 15 2012.

High Commissioner called on President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud in Mogadishu on October 7 2012. High Commissioner handed over a congratulatory letter from Hon'ble President Shri Pranab Mukherjee. During the visit he also met Speaker Mohamed Osman Jawari and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hamid Ali Masheye. President Mohamud has since replied to the letter from Hon'ble President.

Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur addressed the debate on Somalia held at the UN Security Council on October 16 2012. She congratulated the new Somali leadership noting that President Mohamud had studied in India during 1980s.

Minister of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Environment Abdirahman Ibrahim visited India to attend the High Level Segment of the 11th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity held in Hyderabad in October 2012.

High Commissioner visited Mogadishu from December 16-19 2012. During the visit he called on Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Fawzia Yusuf Haji Adam. He also met Minister for Defence Abdihakim Haji Mohamud Fiqi and Internal Security Minister Abdikarim Hussein Guled.

The Minister of Trade of the Federal Republic of Somalia Mohamud Ahmed Hassan visited India during January 2013 to attend the Vibrant Gujarat business summit.

High Commissioner led the Indian delegation at the Somalia Conference held in London on 7 May 2013.

Development Cooperation

India offers Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) training scholarships and Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarships to Somalia. Pursuant to the 2nd Africa-India Forum Summit held in Addis Ababa in May 2011, the availability of ITEC training slots was enhanced to 35 for 2011-12 for Somalia. During 2011-12 three ICCR scholarship programmes offered to Somalia were utilised. During 2012-13, 16 ICCR slots have been offered to Somalia. During 2012-13, 15 ITEC training slots have been offered to Somalia.

Somalia is among the partner countries of Pan African e-Network project. The project was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister for External Affairs Shri S. M. Krishna on August 16 2010 alongwith the Vice Minister of Education of state of Puntland.

In September 2011 India announced a contribution of US\$ 8 million towards humanitarian assistance for countries the Horn of Africa region (Somalia, Kenya and Djibouti) to be distributed through WFP. In 1985 Somalia was among the recipient countries of 100,000 tonnes of wheat offered by government of India to countries in the region.

Somalis travel to India for studies and medical attention. Small numbers of Indians work in various States and Regions of Somalia.

Trade Links

During 2012-13 India-Somalia trade was US\$ 195 million showing more than 30% increase over the figure of US\$ 148 million during 2011-12.

Somalia qualifies for India's offer of unilateral duty free tariff preferential market access for export of goods and services to India. The scheme, introduced in 2008, offers duty free access to exports from LDCs on 84% of India's tariff lines and preferential access for another 9%.

**India-Somalia Trade
(US\$ million)**

Year	Indian Exports	Indian Imports	Total Trade
2005-06	39.7	11.6	51.2
2006-07	86.5	18.0	104.5
2007-08	121.4	7.7	129.1
2008-09	70.7	6.6	77.3
2009-10	17.4	4.1	21.5
2010-11	89.45	9.24	98.69
2011-12	144.72	3.43	148.16
2012-13	182.32	12.72	195.04

Source : Department of Commerce, India

Indian Participation in UN Peacekeeping in Somalia

4,600 Indian peacekeepers, led by Brigadier M. P. Bhagat, participated in UNOSOM II during 1993-94. The contingent was headquartered in Baidoa. It included armour and helicopters. The troops also engaged in reconstruction and humanitarian work. They distributed medicines and seeds worth Rs. 10 lakh which were provided by the Indian government. 12 Indian soldiers laid down their lives during the deployment. The Indian Navy played a major part in the Indian contribution to the UN task force in Somalia.

India is the Chair of the United Nations Security Council Somalia-Eritrea Sanctions Committee since January 2011.

Following Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's announcement at the 2nd Africa India Forum Summit held in Addis Ababa in May 2011, India provided US\$ 2 million to the African Union Mission for Somalia (AMISOM). India announced a further contribution of US\$ 1 million to AMISOM in March 2012.

The Indian Navy has been involved in anti-piracy patrolling in the Gulf of Aden since 2008. India participated in the UNODC conference on Illicit Financial Flows related to Piracy off the Coast of Somalia held in Nairobi from May 17-19 2011.

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