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**Embassy of India  
Luanda**

**Brief on India-Sao Tome & Principe Relations**

India and Sao Tome and Principe (STP) have generally enjoyed warm and friendly relations, particularly after 1975 (post-STP independence era). STP has consistently supported India in the multilateral fora.

**Political**

Leaders of the both countries have been meeting on the side lines of some of the international fora such as the UN, NAM, etc. Important bilateral visits so far are:

- Prime Minister Dr Patrice Emery Trovoada visited India in October 2015 to participate in the IAFS-III and held bilateral talks with PM Modi and sought assistance of India in developing its infrastructure and agriculture sector.
- MoS (AYUSH), Shri Shripad Yesso Naik visited Sao Tome and Principe in August 2015 as special envoy to PM for extending IAFS III invitation.
- Mr. M.J. Akbar, Minister of State of External Affairs visited Sao Tome on March 13-15, 2018 and met President, Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister of Sao Tome. He held bilateral discussion with the Sao Tomean delegates.
- Mr. Afonso da Graca Varela, Minister's of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and Parliamentary Affairs visited India to participate in the Founding ISA Summit held in New Delhi on March 11, 2018.
- Foreign Minister Mr. Urbino Botelho visited India from September 7-9, 2018.

**Trade**

The trade between India and STP is almost negligible. Though STP importers are interested in procuring various items of interest from India, one of the constant complaints they have is that the shipping time and costs are quite high. Main items of imports have been pharmaceuticals, organic chemicals, cotton and optical, photographic, medical instruments etc. Bilateral trade figures for the last 5 years are given below:

(US\$ million)

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Indian Exports	1.47	0.93	0.92	0.89	1.18
Indian Imports	0.05	0.00	0.02	---	0.01
Total trade	1.52	0.93	0.95	0.89	1.19

## **Agreements**

A Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations between India and STP was signed on 01<sup>st</sup> December 2009, during the visit of then STP Foreign Minister Dr Carlos Alberto Pires Tiny. During the visit of Mr. M.J. Akbar, Minister of State of External Affairs to Sao Tome on March 13-15, 2018, Agreements on Economic Cooperation, MOU on Cooperation on Traditional Medicine and MOU on Cooperation on Medicinal Plants were signed. STP has also signed the Framework Agreement on ISA on February 8, 2018.

Sao Tome and Principe has signed and ratified the ISA Framework agreement.

## **LOC**

Govt of India had announced a grant of US\$ 1 million under LOC for setting up a Technology Incubation cum Production centre for development of SME sector and another grant of Rs 10 million for meeting immediate requirements in education and health sectors. It was also agreed to consider a LOC for US\$ 5 million for priority projects to be identified by the STP side in agriculture, infrastructure and capacity building. Both the LOCs are yet to be utilized.

## **Grants**

India gifted 150 computers to Sao Tome and Principe in November 2019 towards IT upgradation of the Ministries and secondary schools.

## **Indian Community**

There was a small Indian community in STP until 1961 which moved away to other countries during the liberation of Goa. There are only a few Indians in STP working in the food sector, but Indian traders settled in neighboring countries visit São Tomé & Príncipe for trading.

