

India-Swaziland Relations

India's relations with Swaziland are close, friendly and cordial. The Indian Mission in Maputo, which is concurrently accredited to Swaziland, maintains regular contacts with the Swazi authorities. The Swazi King, Mswati III, met the Prime Minister of India during the India Africa Forum Summit in Addis Ababa in May 2011, the only contact at the highest level.

While there have been an exchange of Ministerial visits, the bulk of visits have been from the Swazi side to India, especially to attend the annual CII-EXIM Bank Africa Conclaves and for other multilateral events. From the Indian side, the then Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Smt. Meira Kumar, visited Swaziland in May, 2010 for an Executive Meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA). Smt. Preneet Kaur, MOS for External Affairs also visited Swaziland in May, 2011 to invite the Swazi King and Foreign Minister to attend the Second India-Africa Forum Summit the same month in Addis Ababa.

Lines of Credit: The Government of India has provided two Lines of Credit to Swaziland: (i) US\$20 million for setting up Information Technology Park and (ii) US\$37.9 million for an agriculture development and mechanization project.

Assistance/Grant: As per the decisions of India Africa Forum Summit, India has offered to set up of a cluster of solar charging stations in Swaziland.

Trade: As per DGCIS Kolkata figures, bilateral trade between Indian and Swaziland during 2013-14 amounted to US\$147.46 million registering an impressive increase of 36.68% compared to 2012-13. However, India's exports during 2013-14 declined to US\$22.63 million compared to US\$47.26 million in 2012-13, registering a decrease of 52.12%. On the other hand, Swaziland's exports to India registered an impressive increase of 105.89% amounting to US\$124.83 million compared to US\$60.63 million in 2012-13. The main exports from India to Swaziland are pharmaceutical products, shellac, machineries/instruments, gems/jewellery, iron & steel, cosmetics/toiletries, inorganic chemical, Chemicals/allied products, manufactures of metals & paints/enamels, while the main items of exports to India from Swaziland are gold, organic chemicals, machinery except electric and electronic, inorganic chemicals, other commodities, electronic goods, machine tools, professional instruments, metal ores/scrap & transport equipment.

Training and scholarships for Swazi nationals: India has been extending training under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme and Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarships for UG/PG/Doctoral studies to Swazi nationals every year. For 2014-15, 20 slots under the ITEC and 12 slots under the ICCR have been provided to Swaziland.

Indian community: The Indian community (NRI/PIO) in Swaziland consists of around 800 persons, including about 500 who have taken Swazi nationality. Apart from some Indian nationals engaged in business, there are a few Indian experts working for the Government departments, hospitals etc. and a few professors teaching in the University of Swaziland.

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