

Brief on India-Gambia Relations

Bilateral relations with India are warm and friendly.

President Adama Barrow appreciating the initiatives taken as a part of ongoing celebration of 150th Birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi wrote an anthology on “What Gandhi Means to me”.

Gambia’s resident High Commission in New Delhi was inaugurated in February 2009. Embassy of India in Dakar is concurrently accredited to The Gambia. India has also appointed Honorary Consul in The Gambia.

Recent High level Visits

Marking first ever visit by President of India to The Gambia, Hon’ble Shri Ram Nath Kovind paid a State Visit to The Gambia from 31 July – 1 August 2019. During the visit, Hon’ble President reiterated India’s commitment to support Gambia’s development. In particular India has agreed to reallocate our line of credit of \$92 million for infrastructure projects as well as extend ground assistance to support capacity building for revival of cottage industry and solar energy projects to install 300 solar home system and 20 solar water pumps in selective villages in The Gambia.

Earlier, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Shri. Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi visited Gambia in September 2015 as Special Envoy of Prime Minister (SEPM) to personally invite the Gambian President to participate in India Africa Forum Summit III (IAFS-III).

As to the visits from The Gambia to India, Dr. Mamadou Tangara, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad visited India from March 7-12, 2019. From March 17-19, 2019, Mr. Mambury Njie, Minister of Finance and Mr. Bai Lamin Jobe, Minister of Works, Government of Republic of Gambia attended The 14th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Project partnership in New Delhi.

Economic and Commercial Relations:

India’s Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) scheme is applicable for import of commodities from The Gambia.

As per DGCIS data, Indian exports to The Gambia in 2018-2019 was \$ 157 mn, imports from The Gambia \$ 45 mn totaling \$ 202 mn; bilateral trade, in US \$ mn, for the past 5 years, is as given below:

\Year	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
EXPORT	74	60	62	120	157
IMPORT	36	31	43	59	45
TOTAL	110	91	106	179	202

TRADE					
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As to bilateral trade basket, the major items exported by India to The Gambia include cotton yarn, fabrics & made-ups, plastics, cosmetics/toiletries, drugs & pharmaceuticals and semi-finished Iron & steel products whereas Gambia's main items of export to India are raw cashew, ferrous and non-ferrous scrap.

On October 14, 2016, Embassy of India in collaboration with The Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) organized a Business event on "Doing Business with India" in Banjul. 80 Gambian Businessmen attended in seminar.

Development Assistance –LoCs, Grants and Training programmes:

The Government of India has extended several Lines of Credit to the Government of Gambia covering diverse areas including Tractor Assembly, and, construction of National Assembly Building Complex (the National Assembly complex was inaugurated in October 2014), replacement of Asbestos Water Pipes with UPVC pipes; Electricity Expansion Project in Greater Banjul Area.

India created Vocational Training Center (VTC) and Incubation Center (IC) in Banjul and handed over to the Gambian authorities in September 2017. The Centre is imparting training in disciplines such as plumbing, welding, electrical, construction sector, carpentry, draftsman-ship, survey, plastic technology demonstration cum training, ICT, agro and food processing, gem-stones cutting and polishing etc. and is seen as a major skill development initiative in the country.

Under capacity building program, under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation scheme, India has allotted 75 slots to The Gambians.

25 Senior Civil Servants from The Gambia participated in the ongoing Special Training Programme held at National Centre for Good Governance, Mussoorie from June 10 to June 25, 2019 under ITEC+ programme.

A Special Training programme from June 20 to July 20, 2018 was organized by Foreign Service Institute for 20 Gambian Diplomats.

Under India's developmental support (capacity Building Measures) to Africa, 10 Solar Mamas (Illiterate women) were trained at Barefoot College in India during March-September, 2019. The training imparted covered solar electrification, solar panel & light installation/maintenance and entrepreneurial skills for a period of six months.

Cultural Relations

Embassy celebrated International Day of Yoga 2019 in Banjul on June 21, 2019. More than 300 yoga enthusiasts participated in this event. The event was also attended by HE Ebrima Sillah, Minister of information & Communication infrastructure and the Ambassadors of France and USA to Gambia. 4th International Day of Yoga 2018 was celebrated at University of The Gambia campus at Faraba-Banta on 16 June 2018. The event was participated by more than 250 Gambians. The earlier 3 editions of

International Day of Yoga were also organized in Banjul in 2015, 2016 and 2017 with the enthusiastic participation of local Gambians, Indians and expats in The Gambia.

Indian Council of Cultural Relations allots 30 scholarships to The Gambian nationals every year.

Indian community

The approximate number of Indian nationals in Gambia is 1000. They are mostly engaged in trading and private businesses including in construction sector.

Further information on India-Gambia relations including official press releases may be found at: https://asp.embassyofindiadakar.gov.in/eoia/aWn_list.asp?s_keyword=gambia

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