

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.

Support on India's candidature in International bodies: Recently, the Gambia has supported India's candidature in ITLOS, ICJ and IMO. The Gambia also signed ISA Agreement on February 2018.

Visits:

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 4th India-Africa Trade Ministers' Meeting on 23.10.2015 in New Delhi. The Gambian Minister of Petroleum & Energy Mr. Fafa SANYANG participated in ISA Founding Conference in New Delhi on 11 March 2018. Three Gambian Ministers, Mr. Fafa Sanyang, Minister of Petroleum & Energy; Mr. Bai Lamin Jobe, Minister of Transport, Works & Infrastructure and Minister of Higher Education, Research, Science & Technology, Mr. Badara Joof accompanied by a 6-member high-level delegation visited India to attend the 13th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership held in New Delhi during 25-27 March 2018. The Gambian Minister of Health and Social Welfare Dr. Isatou Touray, participated in Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention (MGISC) from 29 September to 2 October 2018. Minister of Petroleum and Energy Mr. Fafa Sanyang again participated in the First ISA Assembly and 2nd Re-Invest in Greater Noida (3-5 October 2018).

Commercial Relations / Bilateral trade:

Year	<i>Value in Million US\$</i>			
	India's Exports	India's Imports	Total Trade	Growth in %
2014-2015	73.53	36.08	109.61	-4.13
2015-2016	59.54	31.35	90.90	-17.08
2016-2017	62.38	43.20	106.27	16.15
2017-2018	120.23	58.67	178.90	69.45
2018-19 (Apr-Sep)	64.60	34.94	99.54	

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, 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.

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

Development Assistance:

Lines of Credits: The Government of India has extended several Lines of Credit to the Government of Gambia in the past, viz. US\$ 6.7 million in 2006 for a Tractor Assembly Plant and US\$ 10 million for construction of National Assembly Building Complex. A number of tractors assembled at the above plant have been distributed to different regions in the country for improving agriculture productivity in the country. An additional LOC of US \$ 16.88 million was approved in 2012 to complete the National Assembly building. The project was completed by the contractors M/s Shapoorji Pallonji. The National Assembly complex was inaugurated in October 2014. Current LoCs include USD 22.5 million for replacement of Asbestos Water Pipes with UPVC pipes and USD 22.5 million for Electricity Expansion Project in Greater Banjul Area. The Gambia has recently requested for debt re-structuring for completed and ongoing LOCs. Another Line of Credit of US \$ 92 million for expansion of Banjul Port also exists.

Grants: 'Vocational Training Centre' and an 'Incubation Centre' have been established in Banjul on the recommendations of the IAFS process and handed over to The Gambian authorities in September 2017. The Centre 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, gem-stones cutting and polishing etc.

India is going to construct a Mahatma Gandhi Convention Centre in The Gambia under grant assistance. An NBCC official visited Banjul for site survey during 10-15 November 2018.

The Pan-African E-Network Project Phase I was operational in The Gambia. Recently, it has been decided to re-structure the project by making it internet-based. In 2017, it was decided to re-structure the project by making it internet-based. The Government of The Gambia has been accepted the next internet based phase called e-Vidya Bharti and e-Arogya Bharti (e-VBAB).

ITEC and other training and assistance programmes: For the academic year 2018-19, 50 slots for training in India under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) have been allotted to The Gambia whereas 30 Scholarship slots are provided under ICCR for the year 2018-19.

20 Gambian Diplomats successful completed the first Special Training (20 June to 20 July 2018) organized by Foreign Service Institute. This request was first made by former Vice-President of The Gambia to Hon'ble PM during the bilateral meeting held on 30th October, 2015 on the sidelines of the IAFS-III. It has been fully funded by the Government of India.

4th International Day of Yoga:

Embassy of India, Dakar celebrated 4th International Day of Yoga 2018 in Banjul, The Gambia at University of The Gambia campus at Faraba-Banta on 16 June 2018. The event was participated by more than 250 Gambians and Indians. The event was widely covered by local media.

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.

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