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India-Madagascar Bilateral Relations

India has had maritime links with Madagascar for several centuries and visits to Madagascar and settlements of Indian merchants in Madagascar date at least to the late eighteenth century. The late nineteenth century and early years of the twentieth century witnessed a steady increase in the number of persons from India in Madagascar and persons of Indian origin began to play a significant role in business. India opened a Consulate General in Antananarivo in 1954 making 2014, the diamond jubilee year of diplomatic ties between India and Madagascar. Upon Madagascar gaining independence in 1960, the Consulate General was up-graded to an Embassy. Madagascar experienced political crisis in 2009. The transitional government was not recognized by the international community. The general elections were subsequently held in December 2013 and Mr. Hery Martial Rajaonarimampianina was elected as President and assumed office on 25 January 2014. A government with 31-member Council of Ministers under Dr. Roger Christophe Laurent Kolo, Prime Minister was appointed on 18 April 2014. The international community formally recognized the government in May 2014.

India and Madagascar enjoy cordial bilateral relations. Madagascar has been supportive of India's demand for Permanent Membership of UNSC and G-4 initiative for Expansion of the UNSC with Brazil, Indian, Germany and Japan as new Permanent Members. Madagascar has also supported India's candidatures in various UN and other international bodies.

Honourable Rashtrapatiji, Shri Ram Nath Kovind visited Madagascar from 14-15 March, 2018. Bilateral agreements in the field of Defence Cooperation and an amendatory Air Service Agreement were signed.

A list of high-level bilateral visits that have taken place so far is as follows:

Visits from Madagascar

Sl. No.	Name of the Visitor	Date of visit	Purpose
1.	Mr. Didier Ratsiraka, President	1980	Bilateral
2.	Mr. Didier Ratsiraka, President	1983	To participate in NAM Summit
3.	Malagasy Parliamentary delegation	2000	Bilateral
4	Mr. Lila Hanitra Ratsifandrihamanana, Foreign Minister	2001	Bilateral
5.	Mr. Marcel Ranjeva, Foreign Minister	2005	Bilateral discussions
6.	Chief of Staff to the President	Feb 2006	Bilateral
7.	Mr. Marius Ratolojanahary, Minister for Agriculture	Jul 2007	Bilateral discussions on Agricultural matters
8.	Mr. Ivohasina Razafimahefa, Minister for Economy, Commerce and Industry; and Mr. Marius Ratolojanahary, Minister for Agriculture	Mar 2008	To participate in CII organized India Africa Project Partnership Conclave
9.	Mr. Marius Ratolojanahary, Minister for Agriculture	Nov 2008	To sign LOC Agreement with EXIM Bank
10.	Mr. Pierrot J. Rajaonarivelo, Minister of Foreign Affairs	Nov 2012	To participate in the IOR-ARC Ministerial Meeting. Also met MoC Mrs. D. Purandeshwari To attend Global Health Ministers Conference in New Delhi
11.	Prof (Mr.) Mamy Lalatiana Andriamanarivo, Health Minister	Aug 2015	
12.	President Hery Rajaonarimampianina	Oct 2015	
13.	Minister of Transport and Meteorology Mr. Benjamina Ramarcel Ramanantsoa	Mar 2017	12th CII-Exim Bank on India-Africa Project Partnership, New Delhi

14.	Minister of Trade and Consumer Affairs Mr. Tazafy Armand	April 2017	3rd Global Exhibition on Services, Greater Noida
15.	Minister of Finance and Budget Mr. Rakotoarimanana Francois Marie Maurice Gervais Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Mr. Rivo Rakotovao	May 2017	52nd Annual African Development Bank meeting, Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat
16.	International Solar Alliance Summit meeting in India – Madagascar represented by Energy Minister Mr. Lantoniana Rasoloelison	March 2018	First International Summit of the Solar Alliance in New Delhi.
17.	Minister of Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Mr. Roland Ravatomanga	Sept-Oct 2018	Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention (MGISC)

Visits from India

Sl. No.	Name of the Visitor	Date of visit	Purpose
1.	Shri P.A. Sangma, Minister of State for Commerce	1985	Bilateral
2.	Shri Hari Kishore Singh, External Affairs Minister	1990	Bilateral
3.	Shri Santhosh Kumar Gangwar, MoS(Finance)	Oct 2016	PM's Africa Outreach Programme. Called on Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Industry, Trade etc
4.	Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Hon'ble President of India	14-15 March, 2018	State visit.

Ship Visits: Indian naval ships have been making goodwill visits to Madagascar ports for many years. In the times the visits were as follows:

- The Indian Naval Ship (INS) "Mumbai" paid a four day goodwill visit to Port Toamasina from 9th to 12th September 2006.
- The Indian Coast Guard Ship ICGS "Samar" visited Diego Suarez Port in August 2007.
- The INS "Talwar" visited Diego Suarez for four days from 24th to 28th August 2008.
- Four Indian Naval Ships, namely, INS Mumbai, INS Talwar, INS Teg and INS Deepak made a port call at Antsiranana, Madagascar from 9 to 12 October 2014.

- One Indian Coastguard Ship ‘Samarth’ was on a 4-day visit from Antsiranana from 31 Aug to 3 Sept, 2016.
- Two Indian Naval Ships – INS Trikand and INS Mumbai visited the port of Antsiranana from 14-17 May, 2018.
- Two Indian Naval Ships – INS Tarkash and INS and INS Kolkata visited the port of Toamasina from 20-21 October, 2018.

Bilateral Developmental Cooperation: Government of India had extended a concessional Line of Credit of US\$ 25 million to Madagascar for raising productivity of rice and setting up of fertilizer plants. The Malagasy Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Marius Ratolojanahary, signed an agreement in this regard in New Delhi in 2008 with EXIM Bank of India. The implementation of project was delayed due to political and economic situation in the country. An additional LOC of US\$ 2.5 million to complete implementing the US\$ 25 million LOC project, was approved by Government of India in February 2017 and the work is in progress.

Centre for Geo-informatics Applications in Rural Development (CGARD): As a follow up to the IAFS II (2012) decision to set up capacity building institutions in Africa. An MoU was signed on 29 February 2016 between India and Madagascar for setting up of a Centre for Geo-informatics Applications in Rural Development (CGARD) in Antananarivo. The Centre was jointly inaugurated by Hon’ble Rashtrapatiji and the Malagasy President on 14 March, 2018.

Shifting of **Barefoot College Solar Vocational Training Centre** from South Sudan to Madagascar: The Government of India has decided shifting of SVTC based on Barefoot College Approach from South Sudan to Madagascar owing to prevailing situation. Madagascar has already expressed its willingness to host the SVTC. Land for the Centre has been identified by the local partner Barefoot College. A formal decision from the Ministry is awaited in the matter.

International Solar Alliance: Madagascar has signed the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement in Marrakech, Morocco in November 2016 and has ratified the instrument on 12 February 2018. Madagascar was represented at the Ministerial level at the Founding Conference of the ISA on 11 March 2018. A Malagasy delegation participated in the recently held (2-5 October, 2018) First General Assembly meeting of the ISA held in New Delhi.

Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention (MGISC):

A high-level delegation led by the Mr. Roland Ravatomanga, Minister of Water, Sanitation & Hygiene participated in the MGISC from 29 Sept to 2nd October, 2018. The mega-event was organised by the Swachh Bharat Mission, the world's largest sanitation programme under the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation of India. The Malagasy Minister was one of the prominent speakers at the Plenary session of the Convention.

Cooperation with CENI of Madagascar:In response to a request received from Malagasy PM for supply of indelible ink for the 2015 Municipal Elections, Gol supplied 20,265 phials of 10 cc indelible ink at a cost of Rs.31,37,630/-. The consignment was handed over to President, Malagasy Election Commission in July 2015.

A study trip for a 3-member team from Independent Election Commission of Madagascar(CENI) led by President Mr. Rakotomanana Yves Herinirina Rael to meet Indian Election Commission officials on 7-8 March 2018 took place. Donation of election related material and computer peripherals to the CENI was announced during the Hon'ble Rashtrapatiji's visit on 14 March 2018. An MoU for cooperation between CENI and ECI is under consideration.

Aid Assistance: The Government of India provided cash assistance of US\$100,000/- to Madagascar as disaster relief for damages caused due to the tropical cyclone 'Haruna' in early 2013. The Government of India provided cash relief assistance of US\$200,000/- in April 2015 for the victims of cyclone Chedza of January 2015. A cash grant of US\$ 2 million was handed over to the BNGRC (Natural Disaster Management Agency of Madagascar) as per the announcement made by Hon'ble Rashtrapatiji on 14 March 2018. A donation of 1000 Metric Tonnes of Rice and consignment of approximately 100 tonnes of medicines for the drought victims of Southern Madagascar, ENAWO cyclone and Plague epidemic have been given by Govt of India. Computers, office equipment and furniture have been given to the Malagasy Senate in April 2018 as Gol assistance.

Capacity Building Programme: As part of South-South Cooperation, India's focus has been on capacity building including training in highly skilled/technical fields through courses which are offered under ITEC and

India Africa Forum Summit Scholarships, which has been widely appreciated by the local population. The utilization of the scholarships are as per the detailed chart below:

No	Scholarship	Year (allotted and utilized)							
		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19 (upto Oct 2018)	
		Allotted	Utilized	Allotted	Utilized	Allotted	Utilized	Allotted	Utilized
1.	ITEC	85	57	85	66	70	80	80	79
2.	IAFS	--	8	-	14	-	16		05
3.	CV Raman	---	---	1	1	1	1		0
4.	FSI Course	-	-	-	01	01	01	01	01
5.	ICCR	12	10	12	17	15	3	12	10

In addition to the above, 2 Malagasy journalists participated in the training programme for Young Journalists from Africa during **13-27 September 2014** in New Delhi; organized by the XP Division of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. Also, 2 Malagasy journalists participated in a familiarization programme under the hospitality of the XP Division of the Ministry of External Affairs in August 2018.

Madagascar was a beneficiary of the Pan African e-network project. Tele-education facilities offered in collaboration with Imailaka University have benefitted 228 students since the start of the project. Tele-medicine facilities are also being offered in collaboration with a local clinic, the Institute Médicale de Madagascar (IMM) and free consultations and diagnosis are being given to the Malagasy patients since 2010 from top Hospitals in India. In all, 109 telemedicine consultations have been arranged since beginning of the project and twelve patients have undergone treatment in India using the tele-medicine facility of the project.

An Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) Team visited Madagascar to conduct a 5-day workshop from February 24-28 2014 on Executive Management Programme for a targeted group in collaboration with the Malagasy Ministry of Trade and the Chamber of Commerce, EDBM (Economic Development Board of Madagascar) and ITBM (International Trade Board of Madagascar). Similarly workshop on “International Business Diplomacy” for Malagasy public servants was again held from 16-20 April, 2018 by a 3-member team of IIFT senior professors, which was well appreciated by the Malagasy side.
