

India-Naoero Bilateral Relations

1. Overview

India's bilateral relations with Naoero have been cordial and friendly. India is a strong development partner and its assistance is well recognised in Naoero. Historically, India proposed for Naoero's independence in the UN in early 1960s. India's contribution in Naoero's independence is still revered and regarded by Naoeroan people. The Indian High Commissioner to Australia is concurrently accredited to Naoero since 2 August 2021 (earlier covered by our Mission in Suva, Fiji). Resident Mission of Naoero in India was established in 2022. High Commissioner of Naoero to India Mr. Kane Amandus presented credentials to Hon'ble President on 08 September 2024.

2. Political interactions

2.1 Visits at the level of HoS: Naoero's then President Hon. Kinza Clodumar visited India in April 1998 to attend the First Assembly Meeting of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). In October 2010, then President Hon. Marcus Stephen visited India for Commonwealth Games, hosted in New Delhi. Then Naoero President Hon. Baron Waqa visited India to attend Second Summit of Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation FIPIC-II held at Jaipur on 21 August 2015. He also participated at the Founding Conference of the International Solar Alliance held in New Delhi on 11 March 2018. During this visit, President Waqa met Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the Conference.

2.2 Interactions at the level of HoS/HoG: President David Ranibok Adeang virtually participated in the inaugural Leaders' Session of the 2nd Voice of Global South Summit on 17 November 2023. Then President Hon. Russ Kun attended the third Summit of Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC-III) in Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea) on 22 May 2023, co-hosted by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Hon. James Marape, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea.

Then Naoero President Hon. Baron Waqa attended the First Summit of Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC-I) in Suva (Fiji) on 19 November 2014, hosted by Prime Minister. On 24 September 2019, on the sidelines of the UNGA, PM held an interaction with the leaders of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS), including Naoero. Under the umbrella of FIPIC, India organized the India-Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference (IPI-SDC) in Suva, Fiji on 25-26 May 2017, which was hosted by Gen. (Retd.) Dr. V.K. Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs. President Waqa led the Naoeroan delegation to the Conference.

2.3 Other Ministerial visits and interactions: Hon. David Adeang, then Minister for Justice, Border and Control visited India on 23-25 October 2013 to attend the Second High Level Meeting (HLM) on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights in Asia and the Pacific in New Delhi. On 29 June-02 July 2014 Hon. David Adeang, as then Vice-President, led a 3-member delegation, to India to strengthen cooperation in IT and Tourism sectors. During the visit, he met Chief Minister and the Minister of Tourism of Kerala. On 7-17 February 2016, as Minister of Justice, Hon. David Adeang and Chairman of Eigigu Holding David Aingimea, attended Distinguished Visitors Programme (DVP) for Pacific Islands Countries, hosted by India.

Dr. Subhash Bhamre, then Minister of State for Defence visited Naoero on 16-18 May 2018 for the first ever Ministerial visit from India to Naoero. Hon'ble Minister was the Chief Guest for the celebration of 50th Anniversary of Naoero's Constitution Day on 17 May 2018.

Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, then Minister of State for External Affairs and Education paid an official visit to Republic of Naoero from 11-15 December 2022. He called on President Russ Joseph Kun MP and they reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations. MoS held meetings with key Cabinet Ministers of Naoero. He inaugurated Waste Management Unit in RON Hospital and also visited other projects funded by Government of India, including Mahatma Gandhi Center for Excellence in IT (MG-CEIT) and Sea Wall project.

Minister for Education & Training Hon. Richard-Hyde Menke participated virtually in the Education Minister's Session of *Voice of Global South Summit*, chaired by Education Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, on 13 January 2023.

Minister for Climate Change, Agriculture and Infrastructure, Hon. Rennier Gadabu visited India and met with Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh on 24 January 2023.

Naoero's Foreign Minister Mr. Lionel Aingimea addressed Foreign Ministers' Session of the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit on 17 August 2024 through a recorded message.

Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Pabitra Margherita held a bilateral meeting with President David W.R. Adeang on the margins of PIF meetings on 28 August 2024.

Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh met Mr. Asterio Appi, Minister for Climate Change and National Resilience on the sidelines of COP29 in Baku on 21 November 2024.

Ms. Charmaine Scotty, Minister of Health of Naoero, visited India in July 2025 and met with Minister of Culture Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Secretary (South),

MEA. She also met representatives of M/s HLL Lifecare Ltd., which has signed an MoU with Naoero for supply of Janaushadhi medicines.

Speaker of Naoero Parliament, Hon. Marcus Stephen MP, led a Naoeroan delegation to attend the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) meeting from 14-18 January 2026. He also met Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla during his visit.

3. Development Partnership

3.1 Grants and projects: India has provided development assistance to Naoero, with a focus on capacity building, infrastructure creation, climate change mitigation, training and health. India's assistance to Naoero is under bilateral Grant-in-Aid programme, regional initiatives such as Forum for India-Pacific Islands cooperation (FIPIC) as well as through India-UN Development Partnership Fund (India-UNDPF). These assistance projects include, Hiring of teachers for the Government of Naoero in its programme PRAN through PIF Secretariat (2007-08); Construction of Government expatriate employees apartment (2010-2011); Grant for Conversion of Menen Hotel Rooms to self-contained units for expatriates; Construction of Sea Wall (2015-16); Procurement of Mahindra vehicles for Naoero Parliament (2017); Uniform for Naoero Police (2017-2018); Provision of 22 Mahindra SUVs (2018-2019). A Disability Awareness Campaign was conducted by Indian doctors in 2017 in Naoero.

India provided US\$ 1 million to support Naoero's response to COVID-19 under GoI's assistance through the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, which included, Hospital Waste Management Unit, the first of its kind in the Pacific region, a mobile Mortuary Unit, six Dialysis machines and COVID19 supplies. Government of India gifted anti-Tuberculosis medicines to Naoero in January 2022.

One dialysis unit has been installed in RON Hospital, Naoero in 2025.

India sanctioned a Quick Implementation project to Naoero's Cycling Federation for (QIP) 'Cycling for a Stronger Nauru' in October 2025.

3.2 Cooperation in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic: India gifted 10,000 doses of Made in India Covishield (AstraZeneca) vaccines to Naoero on 8th April 2021 which helped Naoero vaccinate most of its adult population. GoI donated 7,000 more Made in India COVID vaccines on 25 August 2022. Further, at the request of Government of Naoero, GoI donated 8,000 Made in India COVOVAX vaccines on 13 April 2023.

3.3 MoU on Mutual Recognition of COVID19 Vaccine Certificate: Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for implementing mutual recognition of COVID19 Vaccine Certificates between India and Naoero was signed on 30 March 2022 in Canberra.

3.4 Visa waiver Agreement for Diplomatic/ Official Passport holders: Visa waiver Agreement for Diplomatic/ Official Passport holders between India and Naoero was signed on 17 September 2024 in Naoero.

3.5 Human Resource Development: Capacity development and training courses are offered to Naoero under Ministry of External Affairs' ITEC programme. A diplomat from Naoero participated in the 70th PCFD course from 13-31 March 2023. Three diplomats from Naoero also attended 3rd Special Course for diplomats from Pacific Island Countries in SSIFS from 20 February – 03 March 2023.

Two scholarships were approved for Naoero under the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Scholarship scheme (*General Scholarship Scheme*) of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) for the academic year 2024-25.

Naoero is offered "Sagar Amrut Scholarships" scheme for the Pacific Island countries, announced by PM during FIPIC III Summit, under which 1000 ITEC training opportunities is being provided over the next five years (since the FIPIC-III Summit held in May 2023) at 20 eminent institutes in India in Hospitality & Tourism, Nursing and Healthcare, Election management, Renewable & sustainable development, Media & broadcasting, e-governance, IT & cyber security, Agriculture & fisheries and other Technical training.

Two candidates from Naoero attended short-term Yoga course by ICCR in India in March 2024.

Chairman, Naoero Utilities Corporation and Project Manager, Energy Division, Department of Climate Change and National Resilience participated at Quad Workshop on Strengthening Capacity of Power Sector practitioners in Indo-Pacific, held in New Delhi on 4-7 June 2024.

One Journalist from Naoero participated in the familiarisation visit of Journalists from 18-27 August 2024. Two Senior officials from Naoero attended week long training programme on 'Medical Products Safety-System's Capacity Building and Strengthening' from 19–22 August 2024.

One Official from Naoero DFAT attended the International Conference on 50 years of Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) hosted by D&ISA Division, MEA in December 2025.

3.6 Mahatma Gandhi Centre of Excellence in Information Technology (MG-CEIT)- India and Naoero signed a MoU for setting up of Mahatma Gandhi Centre of Excellence in Information Technology (MG-CEIT) on 24 May 2017 during the India Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference (IP-SDC) at Suva, Fiji. More than 394 Naoeroan students have received training at CEIT. CEIT was formally handed

over to the Secretary, ICT Department, Government of Naoero on 28th October 2021 by CDAC.

3.7 Pharmacopoeia and Janaushadi Centre: In the FIPIC Summit in May 2023, Hon'ble PM announced to bring Jan Aushadhi Centres to FIPIC countries. MoU on recognition of Indian Pharmacopoeia was signed with Naoero in September 2024. In June 2026, India supplied more than 6 tonnes of Jan Aushadhi medicines and medical supplies to Naoero under our healthcare cooperation.

3.8 Solar equipment and Livelihood Material: The Barefoot College, Tilonia provided Solar Home Lighting Systems and Livelihood Materials to PICs, including 200 houses in Naoero with MEA's assistance as part of Solar electrification project in the PICs. Four solar mamas from Naoero had earlier been trained in the Barefoot College, Rajasthan. The project was completed in May 2025.

4. Bilateral Economic Relations

The bilateral trade figures of past financial years are as under:

(in USD millions)

Year	Exports	Imports	Total Trade
2025-26	0.01	1.81	1.82
2024-25	0.04	0.06	0.10
2023-24	0.09	0.00	0.09
2022-23	0.30	0.03	0.33
2021-22	0.31	23.28	23.6
2020-21	0.10	0.05	0.15

(Source: DoC, Government of India)

4.1 Phosphate Mining: Naoero was traditionally a major supplier of phosphate to India, with investment in Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. (incorporated in 1981) a joint venture between Governments of India and Naoero. They have since divested their shares in the entity. Both countries have a Joint Working Group for cooperation in phosphate exploration, led by Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, India and RONPHOS, Naoero. The first meeting of the JWG was held on 14 June 2023 virtually.

5. Culture, People-to-people linkages

5.1 Culture: In June 2026, Naoero celebrated the International Day of Yoga, with President of Naoero David Adeang as the Chief Guest for the event. The event was attended by the Deputy Speaker, senior Government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, officers and staff of Government departments, and expatriates

serving in Naoero. Earlier, Prasar Bharati had gifted programmatic content on India for telecast in all the Pacific Island Countries, including in Naoero. ICCR-sponsored cultural troupes performed in Naoero in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

5.2 Indian community: About 50-70 Indian expatriates live and work in Naoero, contributing significantly to Naoero's socio-economic development.

6. Multilateral cooperation

6.1 International Solar Alliance: Naoero is a founding member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

As on July 2026