

India - Palau Bilateral Brief

India and Palau share warm and friendly relations. India was one of the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with Palau on 10 April 1995, soon after Palau's independence. The Embassy of India in Manila is concurrently accredited to Palau.

Political Engagements between India and Palau at HoS/HoG level:

2. The First FIPIC Summit held in Fiji in November 2014 was attended by the then Health Minister of Palau Gregorio Ngirmang. The FIPIC-II Summit held in Jaipur on August 2015 was attended by the then President Tommy Remengesau Jr. The FIPIC-III Summit held in May 2023 in Port Moresby was attended by President Surangel Whipps Jr., where he honoured PM Modi with an 'Ebakl', a symbol of leadership and wisdom in Palauan society.

3. Former President Tommy Remengesau Jr. joined other Pacific Island leaders in meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the India-Pacific Islands Developing States (PSIDS) Leaders' Meeting, which was held on the sidelines of UNGA on September 24, 2019.

Other Ministerial engagements:

4. Shri Pabitra Margherita, Minister of State for External Affairs [Mos(PM)] visited Palau from 15-17 January, 2025. The visit coincided with the installation & inauguration ceremony of H.E. Mr. Surangel Whipps Jr. of his second term as the President, H.E. Mr. Raynold Oilouch as the new Vice President, and 12th Constitutional Government of the Republic of Palau. Earlier, Mr. Ibedul J. Lebuu Littler, Administrator of Palau National Aviation Administration attended the 2nd Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference (APAC-MC) on Civil Aviation held on 11-12 September 2024 in New Delhi.

5. Mr Steven Victor, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, and the Environment addressed the Environment Ministers' Session of Voice of the Global South Summit (VOGSS) held virtually on 12 January 2023, under the chairmanship of Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change and Labour and Employment. On 17 November 2023, Dr. Dale J. Jenkins, Minister of Education participated virtually in the Education Ministers' Session of VOGSS 2.0, held under the Chairmanship of Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Education & Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

6. Ms. J. Uduch Sengebau Sr., former Vice-President and Minister of Justice had visited India for attending the 1st Regional Conference on 'Access to Legal Aid: Strengthening Access to Justice in the Global South' held in New Delhi from 27-28 November 2023. Ms. Arnice Yuji, Director of the Bureau of Health System Administration, Ministry of Health and Human Services (MHHS) and Ms. Sydney Bisau Ngiraidong, Health Equity Coordinator, MHHS attended the half day virtual workshop on Global Initiative on Digital Health organized by Ministry of Health and Family welfare, Government of India (GoI) in Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS), New Delhi on 11 December 2023.

7. The Minister of State for External Affairs Shri V. Muraleedharan held a virtual interaction with Ms. J Uduch Sengebau Sr., former Vice President and Minister of State, on 28 June 2021. The Ministers discussed ways to further strengthen cooperation in climate action and renewable energy,

blue economy, capacity building, strengthening of healthcare and economic recovery from COVID-19 pandemic. They agreed to continue efforts to further broaden and deepen engagements between India and Palau for a secure, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific.

8. MoS (S&T and Earth Sciences) Shri Y.S. Chowdhary visited Palau from 18-20 Jan, 2017 to attend the inauguration of President, H.E. Tommy Remengesau Jr. who was elected as President for the 4th time. (In Palau, President can serve only two successive terms and then has to take a break to be eligible to run again for President-ship. He has served two such stints as President from 2001 to 2009 and again 2013 to 2021).

Bilateral Trade:

9. India's export to Palau during 2024-25 was US\$ 0.24 million (mainly pharmaceuticals, cotton, iron & steel articles, vehicles, etc.) and the same during 2023-24 was US\$ 0.15 million. There are opportunities to enhance the trade volume in the sectors such as IT, pharmaceutical, health care, hospitality, and renewable energy.

Capacity Building:

10. Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) has served as the principal mechanism of our technical assistance to Palau. Since 1996-97, India has been regularly offering training slots to Palau in different areas. From 2002 to 2017, two training slots were allotted to Palau every year. Since 2018, Palau is being allotted 5 training slots under ITEC. Scholarships for higher education in India are also offered to Palau by ICCR.

11. Diplomats from Palau have regularly participated in the training programmes organised by Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS). Ms. Trinity Deureng Misech, Foreign Service Officer attended 71st PCFD in SSIFS from 22 April-03 May 2024.

12. A journalist from Palau, Ms. Emily Antonio visited India for familiarization visit for journalists during 18-27 August, 2024.

13. Ms. Ritter B. Udui, Program Manager, Health Program, Ministry of Health & Human Services of Palau attended Quad Pandemic Preparedness workshop organised by GoI from 17-19 March, 2025 in New Delhi.

Developmental Assistance to Palau:

14. India's developmental partnership with Palau has been expanding over the last few years. India has been providing an annual Grant-in-Aid of US\$100,000 to Palau since year 2006 which was increased to US\$ 200,000 from the year 2015.

15. India provided 12 water tanks (each having a capacity of 10,000 liters) as grant-in-aid, for enhancing drinking water storage capabilities in Peleliu State of Palau in January 2025. The water tanks were handed over by MoS(PM) to the Governor of Peleliu State during his visit to Palau. A Haemo-Dialysis unit with a dedicated RO System, Bicarbonate mixer and an electrical transformer under Indian grant-in-aid (at an estimated cost of Rs.12,80,000) was handed over by Ambassador on 17 April 2025 to the Belau National Hospital (BNH), Koror, Palau.

16. India also donated medicines and medical equipment to Palau in 2023. Under the ‘Solar Electrification of 2800 Households in 14 Pacific Island Countries and Provided Livelihood Project’ funded by MEA in collaboration with Barefoot College, Tilonia, Rajasthan, 200 solar equipment were installed in remote Palaun households and training for its installation and maintenance was also provided.

17. Earlier, during the year 2014, India had provided assistance for disaster relief in the wake of Super-Typhoon Haiyan in March, and supported hosting of 45th Pacific Island Forum (PIF) in July 2014.

18. Under the India-United Nations Development Fund, India has also partnered with Palau in establishing facilities and renovating the ‘Palau Civic Hall’ and the ‘Palau Community College’, that provided essential institutional support for hosting the ‘7th Our Ocean Conference- OOC’. India has also undertaken the ‘Solarization of Head of State Residence Project’ in Palau and 10 other Pacific Island Countries (PICs) under the India-UNDP fund under which grid-connected solar photovoltaic system was installed in the office of Vice President of Palau in year 2024. In February 2024, the ‘Palau High School Teachers Training Center’ renovation project under the India Brazil South Africa (IBSA) Fund was launched.

Consular:

19. An agreement for exemption of visa requirements for holders of Diplomatic & Official passport was signed on 18 July 2022, which came into effect on 1 April, 2023. In June this year, the President of Palau announced visa-free entry for Indian citizens to visit Palau for upto 30 days for tourism purpose.

Diaspora and Culture:

20. International Day of Yoga (IDY) is celebrated every year in Palau with enthusiastic participation of local yoga teachers and yoga practitioners as well as the diplomatic community in Koror.

21. In February 2019, Ms. Diljune E Ngiraswei of the Ministry of Health of Palau participated in Kumbh Mela in India.

22. The Indian diaspora in Palau is small, comprising 44 Indian nationals, primarily residing in the Koror island, Palau.

July 2026