
Bilateral Relations: India-The Bahamas

The Commonwealth of The Bahamas has been one of the High Commission of India, Kingston's concurrently accredited countries since August 2004. India and The Bahamas have enjoyed diplomatic relations since 16 October 1975, when the two countries formally established bilateral ties. Convergence of views on various important contemporary issues, shared concerns, aspirations and excellent cooperation at various multilateral fora has largely shaped and dominated India-Bahamas bilateral relations. Both India and the Bahamas are members of NAM, G-77, WIPO, WTO (Observer), the United Nations and its various subsidiary bodies. With democratic governance, respect for rule of law and rights of their people, both share similar aspirations for accelerated economic growth.

2. The Bahamas position is largely in sync with our position in various trade developments and other global issues. Bahamas is not only sensitive and supportive of our aspirations to play a commensurate global role, including in the UN Security Council, but also expects India to play a much larger role in Bahamas and the Caribbean region. Bahamas is sensitive to India's concerns on International Terrorism and supports Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) proposed by India. The Bahamas has consistently supported Indian candidatures, unilaterally or reciprocally, to various UN and other international bodies. Being members of the Commonwealth nations, various meetings under its auspices such as Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), etc. have provided opportunities for bilateral meetings on the side-line.

Political Relations

3. The Bahamian Prime Minister in March 1983, Sir Lynden O Pindling attended 7th NAM Conference as The Bahamas was admitted as a new member. In October 1985, Late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi visited Nassau for CHOGM in The Bahamas. The other exchange of visits includes visit of Secretary (West) in September 2005 to The Bahamas for the Foreign Office Consultations; visit of MOS (PMO) Shri Prithviraj Chauhan to The Bahamas on 23-26 May 2006 for participation in the Commonwealth Youth Ministers' Conference and the visit of The Bahamas Minister of Foreign Affairs and Public Service Frederick Mitchell

with a business delegation to India in January 2006. Agreement on bilateral co-operation between the two governments and Agreement on the establishment of Joint Business Council between FICCI and The Bahamas Chamber of Commerce were signed during the visit. In June 2015 HRD Minister Smt. Smriti Irani visited the Bahamas to participate in the 19th Commonwealth Conference of Education Ministers meeting in Nassau. The Bahamian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Immigration Mr. Fredrick Mitchell, visited India during April 22-30, 2016, leading a large delegation comprising both private and public sector representatives of 22 members. Minister of Law and Justice and ICT Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad attended the Commonwealth Law Minister's Conference in Nassau on 16-19 October 2017 along with a delegation comprising Secretary, Law Ministry, Additional Secretary, DeITY, etc. The Bahamian Foreign Minister attended the 1st ever India-CARICOM Summit in 2019 at New York. EAM, Dr. S. Jaishankar and Foreign Minister Frederick Audley Mitchell met during the CHOGM in Kigali in June 2022. During the COFCOR summit in April 2023 in Georgetown, The Bahamas Parliamentary Secretary Jamahl Strachan met with EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar. They met again in September 2023 on the sideline of UNGA. Most recently, Prime Minister Paul Davis participated in the 2nd India -CARICOM Summit held in Georgetown, Guyana on 20 November 2024. He also met Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the Summit. Honourable Alfred Sears, MP, Minister of Immigration and National Insurance led the delegation of The Bahamas to the 10th CII-Latin America Conclave held on 19-20 March 2025 at New Delhi. More recently, Hon Parliament Secretary, Mr. Kingsley Smith, Ministry of Energy and Transport, led a delegation to attend Sagarmathan: The Great Oceans Dialogue from 27-29 October 2025 in Mumbai, India at the invitation of the organisers.

4. Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Pabitra Margherita visited the Bahamas from 2-4 March 2025. During his visit, Minister Margherita met with Prime Minister Philip Davis and Foreign Minister Fredrick Mitchell, holding extensive discussions covering trade, ICT, environmental cooperation, digital innovation, and cultural exchange. The environmental dimension of the partnership was prominently showcased through Margherita's visit to the Bahamas National Trust and his planting of a Yellow Elder tree (national tree), aligning with India's "Ek ped Maa ke Naam" global climate campaign. This was the first standalone bilateral visit to the Bahamas at Ministerial Level since the establishment of bilateral relations.

5. The Bahamas has participated in all three Voice of Global South Summits, Hon'ble Glenys Hanna Martin, Minister of Education and Technical and Vocational Training (VOGSS 1.0 on 13 January 2023 and VOGSS 3.0 on 17 August 2024) Hon'ble Jamahl Strachan, Parliamentary Secretary (VOGSS 2.0 on 17 November 2023).

6. The two countries have Foreign Office Consultation (FOC) meetings as the dialogue mechanism for discussions at bilateral level. The first and the only FOC meeting was held in Nassau, The Bahamas in September 2005. The two sides have commenced discussions on holding the next FOC in the Bahamas in early 2026. The Bahamas had appointed in September 2023, Mr. M. Venkatram Reddy as the Honorary Consul in India. H.E. Mr. Jason Lowel Mortimer, who is a businessman with links with India, has been appointed as their Non-resident High Commissioner since April 2015. He is based out of Nassau in the Bahamas. H.E. Mr. Nicholas Symonette has been announced as the next Non-resident High Commissioner of The Bahamas to India.

7. A National Day Reception was hosted by the Mission, for the first time ever, in January 2018, with Bahamas Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Darren Henfield as the Chief Guest. The tradition of hosting Republic Day reception has continued till 2020, but has been in suspension since COVID 19 pandemic in 2020.

MoUs/Agreements

8. Following MoUs are signed between India and The Bahamas:

- i. MoU on Foreign Office Consultations – September 2005
- ii. Agreement for bilateral cooperation – January 2006
- iii. Agreement for Exchange of Information with respect to taxes – February 2011
- iv. Agreement for exemption of visa requirements for diplomatic and official Passport holders – November 2018

9. Since November 2018, no visa is required for Indian entering Bahamas for the first 90 days provided, they have at least one of the visas from four countries namely US, Canada, EU or UK. An agreement for waiver of visa for holders of Diplomatic and Official passports was signed on 29th November 2018 which has entered into force on January 23, 2020. The Indian High Commission in Kingston organized a Consular Camp in The Bahamas on March 1, 2025 for facilitating

services to the local Indian community and continues to organise them from time to time.

Bilateral Trade and Commercial Relations

10. Bilateral trade between India and The Bahamas has seen significant fluctuation due to several factors including distance constraint, small market size of Bahamas and poor connectivity both by air and sea. The highest recorded total trade between the two countries was US\$ 2.8 billion in 2012-13 on one hand and as low as US\$ 11.58 in 2021-22. The trade stood at USD 127.18 million for 2023-24, however has fallen sharply to only 17.55 mn for 2024-25. **(Annexure I)**. Major exports items are vehicles, railway stock, pharma, textiles and yarn , apparels, etc. Major imports include miner fuels, oil products, bituminous substances, electrical machinery etc. India has signed the Bilateral Tax Information Exchange Agreement (TIEA) on 11 February 2011 and it has since entered into force.

Development Partnership

11. India had donated an amount of US\$ 1 million as a disaster relief fund towards devastating Hurricane Dorian (2019) in two major islands of Bahamas. During the COVID-19 crisis, India had donated more than US\$ 50,000 worth of medicines and medical equipment to The Bahamas for combating the pandemic. India also gifted 20,000 doses of Made in India COVID-19 vaccine to The Bahamas on 10 March 2021. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Indian High Commission assisted more than 50 Indian community members in repatriation to India via the USA under the Vande Bharat Mission of the Indian government. India had made a modest contribution of medicines worth US\$ 50,000/- as relief in the aftermath of devastation caused by Hurricane Ivan in September 2004.

12. Bahamas Abaco Hurricane shelter Project: On 23 October 2025, Government of The Bahamas (Disaster Risk Management Authority-DRMA), Government of India (High Commission of India in Jamaica) and UNDP (Caribbean Representative office) handed over the Abaco Hurricane Shelter Project to the Abaco Island authorities. This project is under the US\$ 1 million grant announced by Prime Minister Modi during the 1st India-CARICOM Summit in 2019 at New York. The project was implemented by UNDP based in Kingston in collaboration with DRMA, Bahamas.

13. In the past years (after COVID 19 pandemic), the 5 ITEC slots offered have not been utilized. There has been occasional participation in the past by

Bahamian Foreign Service Officer in Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats at the Foreign Service Institute (on each in March 2011, 2016, 2017 (CARICOM), 2018). Also, two Journalists visited India under familiarization programme of MEA in April 2023. Two officers from Bahamas attended the 1st Special Course for CSACI countries from 29th October to 07th November 2025 at SSIFS, MEA.

Multilateral

14. India and the Bahamas are both members of the Global South and work closely in the United Nations on issues of mutual concern and importance such as climate change, food security, health security, disaster preparedness. Bahamas supports India in important areas including CCIT, UNSC reforms and also for India to have a seat at the UNSC as and when it happens. India and Bahamas also support each-others candidates in the multilateral for sometime on reciprocal arrangements. Bahamas also has tied up for reciprocal support for ACABQ and UNSC elections for 2025 and then for 2028-29 term respectively. Bahamas also announced its intent to join the International Solar Alliance during the visit of MOS (PM) in March 2025.

15. Bahamas, as member of CARICOM is beneficiary of announcements made during the two CARICOM Summits of 2019 and 2024. These include proposals for solarisation of government building, dialysis unites, sea ambulances, BHSIM mobile medical units, UPI Digital Payment system, ITEC, etc. Earlier at the Fourth India-CARICOM Ministerial Meeting in April 2023, proposals also include USD 1 mn assistance for SME setup and USD 1 mn for Quick Infrastructure Projects (QIPs) for CARICOM countries that include The Bahamas.

Cultural and Indian Community

16. Relations between India and The Bahamas have traditionally been friendly and cordial, reinforced by a small Indian community of 300 comprising mostly professionals (Doctors) and businesspersons, who have integrated in the Bahamian mainstream and have distinguished themselves.

Annexure I
INDIA-THE BAHAMAS BILATERAL TRADE
(as on 19 June 2026)

Year (Apr-Mar)	India's Exports (US\$ in millions)	India's Imports (US\$ in millions)	Total (US\$ in millions)
2010-11	2,173.18	4.50	2177.68
2011-12	2,243.52	3.54	2247.06
2012-13	2,669.86	102.28	2772.14
2013-14	228.03	494.21	722.24
2014-15	123.50	0.67	124.17
2015-16	11.96	77.23	89.19
2016-17	5.93	258.82	264.75
2017-18	8.07	40.26	48.33
2018-19	6.06	39.21	45.27
2019-20	60.48	14.70	75.18
2020-21	4.56	35.84	40.40
2021-22	3.52	8.06	11.58
2022-23	12.76	3.68	16.44
2023-24	106.34	20.84	127.18
2024-25	11.47	6.08	17.55
2025-26	16.38	7.42	23.80

(Source: Ministry of Commerce-Export Import Data bank)

19 June 2026