

India - Swaziland Relations

India's relations with Swaziland are close, friendly and cordial. The Indian Mission in Maputo, which is concurrently accredited to Swaziland, maintains regular contacts with the Swazi authorities. The Swazi King, Mswati III, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on 28 October, 2015 during his first ever visit to India. Earlier he had met Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during the India Africa Forum Summit II in Addis Ababa in May 2011.

Political:

Exchange of visits: While there have been an exchange of Ministerial visits, the bulk of visits have been from the Swazi side to India, especially to attend the annual CII-EXIM Bank Africa Conclaves and for other multilateral events. From the Indian side, MoS for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation visited Swaziland on 13-14 July, 2015 as Special Envoy of PM to invite King Mswati III for the Third India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) scheduled to be held in New Delhi in October 2015. Smt. Preeti Kaur, MOS for External Affairs had also visited Swaziland in May, 2011 to invite the Swazi King and Foreign Minister to attend the Second India-Africa Forum Summit the same month in Addis Ababa.

King Mswati III attended the third India Africa Forum Summit in Delhi from 26 October to 1 November, 2015, which was his first ever visit to India. During the visit, he met the Indian President as well as the Prime Minister.

Economic:

Lines of Credit: The Government of India has provided two Lines of Credit to Swaziland: (i) US\$20 million for setting up Information Technology Park and (ii) US\$37.9 million for an agriculture development and mechanization project. Both projects are presently under implementation.

Trade: As per DGCIS Kolkata figures, bilateral trade between Indian and Swaziland during 2014-15 amounted to US\$61.97 million, registering a decline of 58% compared to 2013-14. However, India's exports during 2014-15 increased to US\$39.94 million compared to US\$22.63 million in 2013-14, registering an increase of 76.49%. On the other hand, Swaziland's exports to India declined sharply by 82.35% to US\$ 22.03 in 2014-15 compared to US\$124.84 in 2013-14. The main exports from India to Swaziland are pharmaceutical products, gold and precious metal jewellery, pearl/semi-precious stones, Industrial machinery, fertilizers, Shellac, Organic chemicals, Aluminum products and Electric machinery and equipments, while the main items of exports to India from Swaziland are Industrial Machinery, Gold, Residual Chemical, Medical and Scientific instruments, Pharmaceuticals, Organic chemicals, Electrical machinery, Electronics instruments, pearl/semiprecious stones.

Cultural:

Training and scholarships for Swazi nationals: India has been extending training under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme and Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarships for UG/PG/Doctoral studies to Swazi nationals every year. For 2015-16, 20 slots under the ITEC and 12 slots under the ICCR have been provided to Swaziland.

A celebratory event of the First International yoga Day was held in Swaziland on 21 June, 2015 coordinated by our Honorary Consul General, Ms. Mona Ashraff in which the Swazi Health Minister and Home Minister were present, along with about 70 other persons.

Indian community:

The Indian community (NRI/PIO) in Swaziland consists of around 800 persons, including about 500 who have taken up Swazi nationality. Apart from some Indian nationals engaged in business, there are a few Indian experts working for the Government departments, hospitals etc. and a few professors teaching at the University of Swaziland.

Useful Resources:

High Commission of India, Maputo Website:

www.hicomind-maputo.org

High Commission of India, Maputo Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/High-Commission-of-India-Maputo/149303415166553?ref=hl>

High Commission of India, Twitter Handle:

@IndiainMoz

<https://twitter.com/IndiainMoz>

January 2016