

As on 10 February, 2020

Embassy of India
Antananarivo

India-Madagascar brief

India has had maritime links with Madagascar for several centuries. Settlements of Indian merchants in Madagascar date back 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 here.

There are about 17,500 persons of India origin in Madagascar, including approximately 2500 Indian passport holders. Most of them are in trading but also manufacturing and other businesses. In recent years a number of Indian professionals have been working in different companies including multi-national companies in Madagascar. The first Indians settlers, mostly from Gujarat, arrived in Madagascar in 1880. Most of them are in trading but some of them are also in the manufacturing, real estate and other assorted businesses. The role played by the Indian community and diaspora in economic development of Madagascar is appreciated at all levels. Some of the Indian Diaspora are quite influential. In recent years a number of Indian professionals have migrated and are working in different companies, including multi-national companies in Madagascar. The Indian Diaspora has been playing a significant role in preserving and promoting Indian culture and traditional values.

India opened a Consulate General in Antananarivo in 1954. 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. The international community formally recognized the government in May 2014. President Hery Rajaonarimampianina resigned in September 2018 to be able to contest again in the Presidential elections. The elections were held in two phases – first one in November and the second one in December 2018 in which President Andry Rajoelina became victorious and was sworn in as the President of Madagascar on 19 January, 2019. A 23-member Council of Ministers led by Prime Minister Ntsay Christian was sworn in on January 24, 2019.

Legislative elections were held in Madagascar on May 27, 2019 and amidst speculations on the results of 151 seats, IRD (the ruling coalition of parties led by President Andry's TGV Party) secured absolute majority with 84 seats, remotely followed by 16 seats to TIM Party of former President Marc Ravalomanana and 51 seats to independent candidates. Prime Minister Ntsay Christian gave his technical resignation, as stipulated under the constitutional provisions after the election of a new

legislative assembly, and was re-appointed as Prime Minister with a 22-member Council of Ministers.

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. 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.

Upon request from the Malagasy Agriculture Minister received in October 2015 for LOC assistance for the development of agriculture (irrigation, farm mechanisation and food processing plants) in four regions, namely, Bongolava, Betsiboka, Menabe and Analamanga regions, an LoC of \$ 80.72 million has been approved by the Government of India on 11 June 2019.

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
11.	Prof (Mr.) Mamy Lalatiana Andriamanarivo, Health Minister	Aug 2015	To attend Global Health Ministers Conference in New Delhi
12.	President Hery Rajaonarimampianina	Oct 2015	Led a 17-member delegation to New Delhi to participate in the 3rd IAFS. The delegation, among others included, Spouse of the President, Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture and Industry and Private Sector Development. President and Foreign Minister had bilateral meetings with both PM and EAM where subjects of mutual interests were discussed.
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)
18.	Ministry of National Defence – Lt.Col Antilahy Louis Herve, Deputy Commandant of Support Regiment and Lt.Col Ralaikoa Martin Raymond, Deputy Head of Department of Domain of the General Staff of the Malagasy Army	18-27 March, 2019	Multinational India-Africa Field Training Exercise (IAFTX) conducted by the Indian Army in Pune, Maharashtra.
19.	H.E. Lt. General RAKOTONIRINA Léon Jean Richard, Minister of National Defence Commander RAMANDAVOLA Haro Manitra Ambinintsoa, Chief of	5-7 February, 2020	DefExpo-2020 and India-Africa Defence Ministers' Conclave organised by MoD and MEA in Lucknow, UP.

	Defence Staff, Ministry of National Defence Mrs. RAZAFIMAMONJY Elie Delphine, Technical Advisor to the Minister of National Defense; Mr. ANDRIATIANA Hery, Technical Advisor to the Ministry of National Defense		
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 PM's Africa Outreach Programme. Called on Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Industry, Trade etc
3.	Shri Santhosh Kumar Gangwar, MoS(Finance)	Oct 2016	
4.	Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Hon'ble President of India Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, and four Members of Parliament: Shri Hukum Dev Narayan Yadav, Shri Manoj Tiwari, Shri R Radha Krishnan and Mrs Vijila Satyanath	14-15 March, 2018	State visit.

Visits from India

Ship Visits: Indian naval ships have been making goodwill visits to Madagascar ports for many years. In recent 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 port of Toamasina from 20-21 October, 2018.
- Four Indian Naval Ships (INR TIR, INS SHARDUL, INS SUJATA & ICGS SARATHI) visited the port of Antsiranana for a courtesy port call from 1-4 October, 2019.
- Indian Coast Guard ship, Vikram visited the port of Toamasina from 23 to 26 December, 2019.

As a goodwill gesture from the Government of India, Indian Naval Ship INS Airavat visited the port of Antsiranana from 30 January to 2 February, 2020 for distribution of humanitarian relief assistance to the flood-affected population in the Northern Madagascar. The relief assistance was warmly welcomed by the top leadership in Madagascar and Prime Minister Ntsay Christian himself arrived in Antsiranana to formally receive the relief material.

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 in 2008. The then Malagasy Minister of Agriculture 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. An additional line of credit of \$ 80.72 million has been approved by the Government of India in 2019 for the development of irrigation, food processing projects and farm mechanization in four regions of Madagascar.

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 and the Centre is presently functional. The bilateral agreement for establishment of CGARD Centre which was signed in 2016 for a period of three years, has been extended upto March 2021.

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 First General Assembly meeting of the ISA held in New Delhi from 2-5 October, 2018. At the First General Assembly meeting of ISA in New Delhi on 3 October, 2018, an amendment to the 'Framework Agreement' was introduced which was meant to grant 'Partner Country' status to the countries which fall

outside the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn, but are members of the UN and are willing and able to contribute to the objectives and activities provided in the Framework Agreement. For ratification of the proposed amendment to the Framework Agreement, the matter was taken up with the Malagasy side and their response is awaited.

Cooperation in defence sector: India and Madagascar signed an MoU for Defence Cooperation in March 2018 during the visit of the Hon'ble Rasthrapatiji to Madagascar and several cooperation projects in the area of defence are under discussions between the two countries.

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 were given by Govt of India.
- Computers, office equipment and furniture were given to the Malagasy Senate in April 2018 as Gol assistance.
- Bhabhatron-II cancer treatment machine which was donated to Madagascar in accordance with the announcements made during visit of Hon'ble Rashtrapatiji in March 2018, was installed in HJRA hospital in Antananarivo and the machine is functional now. The machine is expected to be inaugurated by the President of Madagascar at an opportune moment in 2020.

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 is widely appreciated by the local population. The utilization of the scholarships are as per the detailed chart below:

No	Scholarship	Year (allotted and utilized)							
		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20(upto 31 Dec, 2019)	
		Allotted	Utilized	Allotted	Utilized	Allotted	Utilized	Allotted	Utilized
1.	ITEC	70	80	70	80	80	97	107	43
2.	IAFS	-	18	-	29	-	20		9

3.	CV Raman	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
4.	FSI Course	-	01	01	01	01	01	0	0
5.	ICCR	12	17	15	3	12	10	12	8

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, Ministry of External Affairs. 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. A journalist from Midi-Madagascar newspaper visited India under the Familiarisation Visit of the Journalists from Africa to India on 17-24 March, 2019 which coincided with 14th CII-Exim Bank Conclave.

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.

Trade

The major Indian investments by Indian companies were in the mining, oil and gas sectors, telecom sector and health sectors. Airtel is the main player in mobile telephony and Dr. Aggarwal's Eye Hospital in the health sector. Tirupati Carbons & Chemicals (P) Ltd was granted licence to set up a Graphite processing facility in Brickaville in December 2015.

Collaboration with a local partner at every stage is recommended for business as the procedures are complicated and only a local person can handle effectively. There is no restriction in manufacturing or service sectors as long as administrative procedures

are completed. Businesses under EPZ, the manufacturers are required to export 95 percent of production.

Being an LDC, Madagascar is a beneficiary of India's Duty Free Preferential Tariff Scheme. Madagascar does not have significant formal non-tariff barriers to trade. Most of imports into Madagascar are liberalized and do not require an import license, except for a few categories of items which are considered strategic by the Malagasy Government and which are specially regulated. Madagascar is a member of the World Customs Organization (WCO). Since November 2000, the Malagasy customs authorities have implemented the "transactional value" definition of the WCO. Customs duties are valued based on Cargo, Insurance and Freight (CIF). However, Indian exports face difficulties due to poor connectivity and absence of Indian banks in Madagascar.

Mission's initiatives

A market survey on the Pharmaceutical, Agribusiness and Investment sectors to assess opportunities in both trade and investments for Indian companies was conducted by the Embassy and a report was published in March 2014.

Two Market Surveys in Madagascar on: i) Textile and Clothing and ii) Automotive Sectors were conducted by the Embassy in 2014-15 to assess opportunities in both trade and investments for Indian companies in Madagascar. The survey reports and have been shared with the respective Export Promotion Councils, ITP Division and Ministry of Commerce.

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the International Trade Board of Madagascar (ITBM) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in March 2014 in New Delhi to enhance economic relations.

Apollo Hospitals group have signed a MoU with the Malagasy Ministry of Health in the month of May 2014. The MoU would allow the treatment of government sponsored and private patients in India at viable economic costs, train the accompanying Malagasy doctors in India and give follow up treatment to the patients in Madagascar once in three months.

An MoU between a Gujarat based Zydex Company limited and Ministry of Public Services was signed for the strengthening of road network in Madagascar to make them moisture resistant with the innovative technology. The trial runs have already been conducted by the Company to prove the effectiveness of their products.

The Mission organized a series of events to mark the diamond jubilee of diplomatic ties between India and Madagascar starting with a 'Showcase India' and an Indian Business Promotion event exhibition on 26 March 2014. The event was organized in partnership with the Malagasy Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Economic Development Board of Madagascar and the International Trade Board of Madagascar.

Three Trade Promotion Activities under 'Make in India Initiative' were organized in October, 2015, 2016 and in December 2017 in Antananarivo. The inaugural event was inaugurated by the Malagasy Minister of Trade and Consumption. The activities received overwhelming response from the public and business community in Antananarivo.

Commerce & Industry Minister had interaction with businessmen of Indian origin through video conferencing in May 2019

India Tourism Promotion event "Incredible India" was organized by the Embassy in August 2019 in collaboration with India Tourism Dubai and Air Mauritius.

The Madagascar Tourism has taken a bold initiative of organizing road shows in India in 2019. The Air Madagascar has plans to start direct flight to India from July 2020. India has been invited as the guest country at the International Tourism Fair, Madagascar (ITM) – 2020.

Bank of Baroda management held consultations with Madagascar Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank regarding opening of a BoB branch in Madagascar.

Bilateral Trade Figures (US Dollar Million)

Bilaterial trade has almost doubled since 2014, from US\$291.55 in 2014 to US\$489.49 in 2018.

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
India's Export	123.63	154.42	238.71	167.19	197.04	213.70	228.11	196.38
India's Import	80.11	74.10	52.84	95.29	141.74	119.82	167.67	293.11

Total Trade	203.74	228.52	291.55	262.48	338.78	333.51	395.78	489.49
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(source DGFT trade data)

Culture

Malagasies are familiar with Indian culture thanks to vibrant PIO community. Indian TV channels are included in the cable TV package by local cable operators. Indian movies/TV serials have also been telecast on National TV and the famous TV serial Kabhi Kabhi has also been telecast on National TV in the past. The cultural programmes, including film shows, organized by the Embassy in association with local organizations have been well attended. India@70 Photo Exhibition was held in August 2017. An Indian dance group Roop Kala Kendra held performances in Antananarivo and Tuliar in August 2017. An ICCR-sponsored Contemporary Indian Dance Group visited Madagascar in August 2018 and held performances in Antananarivo.

The Fifth edition of International Day of Yoga was celebrated by the Mission in collaboration with the University of Antananarivo and attended by around 1500 persons.

To mark the celebration of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Mission organised a display of pictures / photographs on the life events of Bapu at the La City Centre in Antananarivo from 2 to 12 October, 2018. An LED projection of a slide-show on life events of Mahatma Gandhi was also organised by the Mission on Group Sipromad Tower on 2nd October, 2018. A Festival of India and number of other cultural activities are also planned to be organized during the year. A postal stamp is issued by the Malagasy Post to celebrate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

An ICCR-sponsored 8-member Bollywood Music group 'Antariksh' led by Shri Varun Rajput visited Antananarivo from 21 to 22 October, 2019 and gave a cultural performance at famous Cine Plaza in the city on 21 October, 2019. The event was well attended by both the Malagasy youth and the Indian diaspora in Antananarivo.

As per directives from the Ministry, the 550th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Devji was celebrated on Sunday 10 November 2019 from 1100 hours to 1300 hours at the Embassy Auditorium. The event was attended by members of Indian diaspora from different sects and religions.

A 15-member group of Malagasy artists participated in the Surajkund Mela from 1-16 February, 2020, in India.

Resources:

Website: <https://www.eoiantananarivo.gov.in/>
Facebook: India in Madagascar and Comoros
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/indembtana?lang=en>