

India - South Sudan Relations

India and South Sudan have traditional and long standing ties. India was the first country from Asia to open its Consulate in Juba, capital of South Sudan, in 2007. On 9th July 2011, South Sudan achieved independence. India was among the first countries to extend formal recognition to South Sudan on 9th July. Hon'ble Vice President led a high level delegation to attend the Independence Day celebrations in Juba.

Govt of India has decided to upgrade the status of CGI Juba to Embassy level. Govt also welcomed the establishment of the South Sudan Embassy in New Delhi. South Sudan is going to establish its Embassy in New Delhi shortly.

Visits

On 14th June 2011, Shri E. Ahamed, MOS (EA) visited Juba at the head of a ten member multi-sectoral delegation. The visit was very successful in that it helped in creating official high level contacts at the right juncture and laid a solid foundation to further promote bilateral relations between two countries.

Hon'ble Prime Minister met Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of South Sudan in September 2011 in New York. The two leaders discussed matters of bilateral interest. Hon'ble PM assured South Sudan President that India would extend all possible assistance, particularly in the capacity building and human resource development in the areas of health, agriculture, irrigation, education, infrastructure and energy.

India's Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan visited Juba in March and May 2012 and held meetings with South Sudan leaders and officials. He highlighted the traditional and very friendly relations with South Sudan and reiterated India's commitment to strengthen and diversify bilateral ties and continued support in technical, human resource development, commercial and economic fields.

In April 2011, Dr. Priscilla Joseph Kuch, Minister in the President's Office visited India. South Sudan dignitary sought India's assistance in the fields of agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, rural development, health and education, technical training, HRD and hydrocarbon.

A South Sudan delegation led by Hon. Mr. Joseph Lual Achuil Lual, as Special Envoy of the President of South Sudan, met EAM and other senior officials on 23.11.2011.

Dr. Riek Machar Teny, Vice President of South Sudan, accompanied by a 20-member delegation, visited India to participate in the conference organized by the Friends of Moral Re-armament at Panchgani from 9-10 January 2012.

Ms. Betty Achan Ogwaro, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Cooperatives visited India in January 2012 and met Indian companies and visited some centres to promote cooperation in the agricultural sector.

At the invitation of the Indo African Chamber of Commerce, an 8 member delegation, led by Mr. Kengen Jakor Beyo, Dy. Minister of Commerce of South Sudan, visited Mumbai in January 2012 to attend the ELECRAMA Exhibition. The delegation had very useful meetings with a number of Indian companies in the fields of infrastructure (particularly road and housing construction), energy, mining, IT, pharmaceuticals and auto components.

ITEC Cooperation

ITEC training programmes have been extremely popular among South Sudan officials. During last two years, many South Sudanese travelled to India to avail training in diverse disciplines. Govt's decision to offer 90 ITEC slots has received instant appreciation from Govt of South Sudan.

During 2011, the Solar Electrification Project near Juba was completed by CEL. The pioneering initiative received acclaim as South Sudan has almost non-existent power generating capacity. In January 2012, Govt of South Sudan signed an agreement for implementation of the Pan African e-Network Project and the work on the establishment of the project is underway. Govt of India has also offered to establish (1) a hospital (2) Vocational Training Centre (3) a Rural Technology Park and (4) Agricultural Seed Production and Development Centre in South Sudan.

India is a major destination for medical treatment by South Sudanese and a large number of South Sudan nationals travel to India.

A good number of Indian companies have evinced interest in doing business in South Sudan. Coming months are likely to see upswing in trade and economic ties between two countries.

Indian Community

Around 450 Indian nationals live in South Sudan, mainly working in private enterprises. Consulate maintains regular contact with the Indian community members in South Sudan.

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