High Commission of India
Suva
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India-Tuvalu Bilateral Relations

Bilateral relations between India and Tuvalu have grown steadily since the reopening of the High Commission of India, Suva, in 1999.

Tuvalu was one of the 34 Co-sponsors of G-4's draft resolution on UNSC reform in 2005. Tuvalu supported India's candidature for the position of Commonwealth Secretary General election held in Kampala in November 2007.

For Tuvalu (only four meters above sea level at highest point), climate change is a major concern. Tuvalu had criticized the Copenhagen Accord on Climate Change (arrived at COP 15, December 2009) prepared by US and BASIC countries.

Government of India announced US$ 100,000 Grant-aid to all Pacific Island countries during the Post Forum Dialogue partner meeting in 2006 and during the subsequent years (US$ 125,000 since 2009). The Grant has been used for providing computers and medicines & medical equipments for the Princess Margaret Hospital, the only Government hospital situated in its Capital Funafuti in September 2007 and March 2009 respectively at a total cost of US $ 116,712.

Two chain-saws were supplied in 2012. India had provided funds for supply of a lawn-mower and a grass cutter in March 2013. India approved funds for purchase of new ambulance for Princess Margaret Hospital, Funafuti in September 2014 and Purchase of medical equipments for Princess Margaret Hospital, Funafuti in October 2014. GOI contributed US$ 100,000 to the Government of Tuvalu in February 2012 for storage, supply and management of water following the severe drought in Tuvalu. India gave US$ 275,122 for construction of three Government buildings in Tuvalu in November 2017. India has pledged US$ 1.92mn towards assistance to Tuvalu for construction of Tuvalu Convention Centre for hosting the 50th Pacific Islands Development Forum in Tuvalu in August 2019.

Rt. Hon. Sir Kamuta Latasi, Speaker of Parliament, Tuvalu, visited India to attend 20th Conference of Commonwealth Speakers in New Delhi from 4-8 January, 2010. Mr. Mainagar Taope, Manager, Tuvalu Cooperative Society visited India to participate in the Chefs-de-Mission seminar held at New Delhi from 8-12 March,

2010. The Queen's Baton Relay (QBR) for the Commonwealth Games held in New Delhi in October 2010 passed through Tuvalu from 29-30 May, 2010.

One diplomat from Tuvalu attended the special course for Pacific diplomats organized by FSI in Nadi, Fiji in May 2015. Mrs. Misalaima Nelesone, Permanent Secretary, Personnel and Training Department, attended International Workshop on Government Performance Management at the Institute of Public Enterprise organized at New Delhi from 1st to 12th July 2013 under ITEC programme.

A delegation led by Minister of Foreign Affairs, Taukelina Finikaso visited India in August 2013 for the commissioning of the new Tuvalu Consulate office in New Delhi. Tuvalu delegation, led by Mr. Fauoa Maani, Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, visited India in connection with the Second High Level Meeting (HLM) on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights in Asia and the Pacific, held in New Delhi on 23-25 October 2013.

Prime Minister of Tuvalu, H.E. Mr. Enele Sosene Sopoaga was one of the honored guests at the ITEC Day 2013 organized by the High Commission on 29 November 2013.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi hosted the First Summit Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC-I) in Suva (Fiji) during the visit on 19 November 2014 with the participation of 14 Pacific countries. Tuvalu delegation was led by the Governor-General Sir Italeli Iakoba, attended the Summit.

A Tuvalu delegation led by Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Enele Sosene Sopoaga, visited India to attend 2nd Summit of Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) held at Jaipur on 21 August 2015.

Hon Samuela Penitala Teo, Special Envoy for Disaster, attended the First Asian Ministerial Disaster Risk Reduction Conference, in New Delhi from 2 to 5 November 2016.

H.E. Sir Iakoba T Italeli, Governor General attended 17th International Conference of Chief Justice, held in Lucknow from 9-15 November 2016.

Mr. Avafoa Irata, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Utilities and Infrastructures signed Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance in Marrakech, Morocco on 15th November 2016. Tuvalu has become one of the Founding Members of the ISA. Former Prime Minister Hon. Enele Sopoaga visited India to attend the Founding Conference of ISA in March 2018.

Shri Ashwani Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Health visited Tuvalu on 27-29 May 2018.

Mr Leopold Kenieti Paeniu, United Nations Desk Officer, attended 63rd Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) held at Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi from 29 March 2017 to 28 April 2017.

India-Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference (IPISDC): Government of India organized the India-Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference (IPISDC) at Suva, Fiji on 25-26 May 2017. Minister of State for External Affairs Gen. (Dr.) V.K.Singh (Retd.) hosted the event, in which Hon. Maatia Toafa, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Economic Development, led the Tuvalu delegation.

ICCR-sponsored Bollywood dance group 'Taka-Dimi-Ta' mesmerized thousands of people at three performances including that of Tuvalu Prime Minister's residence during the India@70 celebrations in Tuvalu in August 2017.

International Day of Yoga: Since its inaugural event in 2015, the International Day of Yoga is celebrated with much enthusiasm and fervour every year in Fiji with participation from all walks of life and the event has been honoured by the presence of some of the highest authorities of the country, including His Excellency the President of the Republic.

Festival of India: As part of Namaste Pacifika Festival of India, Bollywood Dance Group Centrestage led by Shri Rishi Sharma visited and performed in Tuvalu in February 2018.

Useful Resources:
High Commission of India, Suva website:http://www.indiainfiji.gov.in
High Commission of India, Suva Facebook page**: India in Fiji**
Twitter: https://twitter.com/HCI_Suva;
YouTube Channel: India in Fiji https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJYT5H3NwEB10MdiXizST2g

24 September 2019