

High Commission of India
Suva

India-Nauru Bilateral Relations

Bilateral relations with Nauru have been cordial and friendly. The Indian High Commissioner to Fiji is concurrently accredited to Nauru since 2011, earlier it was covered by High Commission of India, Wellington. Nauru has an Honorary Consul General in New Delhi.

Nauru was earlier a major supplier of phosphate to India. Nauru had invested in Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. (incorporated in 1981) a joint venture between Governments of India and Nauru. India has since bought back their shares at the original value.

Former President H. E. Kinza Clodumar visited India during April 1998 to attend the First Assembly Meeting of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The visit strengthened bilateral relations.

Directly recruited Indian expatriates have held positions in Nauru and their services have been appreciated by Government of Nauru. Mr Sasikumar Paravanoor is presently working as Secretary to Cabinet to Government of Republic of Nauru.

India has supplied one 16 seater Mini Van for the use of Nauru Members of Parliament, one 8-seater for the use of the Speaker of the Nauru Parliament and two 30 seater buses for the use of the school children in 2007. Grant-in-aid of US\$ 100,000 was released by High Commission of India in Suva in 2008 to the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Secretariat for recruitment of teachers for Nauru. Subsequently the PIF Secretariat transferred the amount to Government of Nauru. Under India's annual grant of US\$ 100,000 since 2006 and US\$ 125,000 since 2009, projects in Nauru have included 'construction of Government Expatriate Employees Apartment' out of the grant in aid for the years 2007 and 2008. In December 2012, India provided an assistance of US\$ 231533 under GOI's Grant-in-Aid for conversion of seven rooms in Menen Hotel to self-contained units for expatriates. India provided funds of US\$ 244,112 for Conversion of remaining Menen Hotel Rooms to seven self-contained units for expatriates in May 2015 and US\$ 450,175/- for Construction of Sea Wall in August 2015. Nauruan President H.E. Mr. Baron Waqa along with Indian High Commissioner unveiled plaque of 'Nauru Sea Wall Project' construction works on 24 March 2017.

Shri BR Mondal, worked as Director of Audit, Government of Nauru under ITEC programme from 2008-11. Hon. President Marcus Stephen and the Nauru Parliament acknowledged Indian contribution to their audit.

Hon'ble President Marcus Stephen visited India in October 2010 for the New Delhi Commonwealth Games. Nauru won a gold and a silver medal in weightlifting at the Games. [Nauru has won medals in every Commonwealth Game since it started participating in 1990, including 15 medals (10 by women lifters) in weightlifting at the 2002 Manchester Games. President Marcus Stephen had won 7 gold and 3 silver medals in weightlifting at the Commonwealth Games.]

Four slots were utilised by Nauru for training courses under the ITEC programme in 2012-13. Two slots were utilized out of five slots offered for 2014-15. Five slots were offered for 2015-16, Nauru utilised three slots. One slot was utilized out of 5 offered in 2016-17. For the year 2017-18, five ITEC slots have been offered.

A Nauru delegation led by Mr. David Adeang, Minister for Justice, Border and Control, 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.

Hon. David Adeang, as Vice-President, led a 3-member delegation, to India from 29th June to 2nd July 2014 in connection with cooperation in IT and Tourism sectors. During the visit, he paid courtesy call on the Chief Minister and the Minister of Tourism of Kerala.

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. Nauru delegation led by the Hon'ble President Mr. Baron Waqa attended the Summit. The announcements made by Hon'ble PM on 19 November 2014 with respect to Pacific countries (including Nauru) were the following: (i) Setting up of a Special Adaptation Fund of US\$ 1 million, (ii) Development of Pan Pacific Islands Project for telemedicine and tele-education, (iii) Indian Visa on arrival for Pacific Island Countries – “Cook Islands, Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu, Republic of Nauru, Republic of Kiribati, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Niue, Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, Fiji and Papua New Guinea”, (iv) Increase in Grant-in-Aid to Pacific Island Countries to US\$ 200,000 annually to be rolled over to provide for a wider scope for our development cooperation, (v) Establishment of Trade Office for Pacific Island Forum countries in India, (vi) Providing complimentary space to Pacific Island Forum countries during exhibitions, organized by ITPO, (vii) Deputation of ITEC experts to Pacific Island countries, including in the areas of agriculture, healthcare and IT, (viii) Organizing Training to Diplomats from Pacific Island Countries, (ix) Starting a Distinguished Visitors Programme for Pacific Island Countries, (x) Holding of the next Summit Meeting of India and Pacific Island Leaders in India in 2015, (xi) Cooperation in the use of Space technology applications for improving the quality of life of people and communications, (xii) Explore possibilities of sharing data for monitoring climate change, disaster risk reduction and management and resource management, and (xiii) Undertake joint research in traditional medicine; developing healthcare facilities for the benefit of people in the region.

While hosting second Summit of Forum for India Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC-II) at Jaipur, India, Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the following: (i) the establishment of an Institute for Sustainable Coastal and Ocean Research; and a Network of Marine Biology Research Stations in various Islands. (ii) holding an International Conference on “Ocean Economy and Pacific Island Countries” in New Delhi in 2016. (iii) Goodwill visits by Indian Navy to Pacific Islands will be held and extend support in areas of Healthcare through medical camps on the islands, (iv) the establishment of a Space Technology Applications Centre in any one of the Pacific Islands for the entire region and provide training in space applications. (v) Under ITEC cooperation, Fiji will receive 110 slots while the other 13 countries will double their slots from 119 to 238. In addition, two Scholarships for College Education in India to each of the 13 countries that do not receive them yet, whilst Fiji will continue to receive its existing 33 scholarships. India will also expand its Training Courses for Pacific Island diplomats and offer a two-week Business Management Course at the globally renowned Indian Institute of Management in

Bengaluru. (vi) India would train 70 women solar engineers from the islands and provide solar electrification to 2,800 houses – 200 houses in each Pacific Island Country; (vii) the establishment of at least one Information Technology Laboratory in each Pacific Island Country which will not only improve local IT infrastructure but also enable the countries to fulfill India's commitment to provide tele-medicine and tele-education to the Pacific. (viii) The FIPIC Trade Office in New Delhi will support the development of micro, small and medium enterprises and will extend support for purchase of machinery for coconut processing and enhancing rice and sugarcane yields. The Office will assist in improving Market Access for Pacific Islands.

A Nauru delegation led by President Hon. Baron Waqa, visited India to attend 2nd Summit of Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC).

Two diplomats from Nauru attended the training for diplomats of Pacific Island countries organised by the Foreign Service Institute in Nadi, Fiji in May 2015. Mr. Tini Duburiya, Acting Assistant Director for Asia Division Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, participated in the 62nd Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) held at Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi from 27 July to 26 August 2016.

Minister of Justice Hon David Adeang and Chairman of Eigigu Holding David Aingimea, attended Distinguished Visitors Programme for Pacific Islands Countries, held from 7-17 February 2016, in India.

Mr. Milton Dube, M.P, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, visited Marrakech, Morocco in November 2016, to sign Framework Agreement of International Solar Alliance (India-France initiative). His visit was sponsored by Government of India. Nauru has signed the Agreement as well as became the third country to ratify the same.

Hon. Minister Aaron Cook, M.P, Minister for Ronphos, Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation and Nauru Utility Corporation, Trevor Bernicke Chairman of Ronphos and Sasikumar Parvanoor Cabinet Secretary visited India from March 2-8, 2017.

India-Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference (IPIISDC): Government of India organized the India-Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference (IPIISDC) at Suva, Fiji on 25-26 May 2017. Minister of State for External Affairs Gen. (Dr.) V.K.Singh (Retd.) hosted the event. India signed MOU for setting up of Center of Excellence in Information Technology (CEIT) with Nauru during the Conference. President H.E. Mr. Baron Waqa led the Nauruan delegation for the Conference.

India and Nauru Islands share excellent cooperation on the multilateral forums. Nauru supported our candidature of Mr Aniruddha Rajput for membership in the International Law Commission in November 2016. Nauru supported our candidature of Dr Neeru Chadha to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in June 2017.

ICCR-sponsored Bollywood group led by Penaz Masani performed in Nauru in August 2015. A 10-member Bollywood cultural troupe led by Ms. Shipra Goyal visited Nauru in August 2016. An 11-member Lavani cultural troupe led by Ms. Reshma Chhaya Musale visited Nauru in August 2017.

Third International Day of Yoga was celebrated in Nauru on 24th June 2017. President Mr. Baron Waqa and First Lady participated in it.

Useful Resources:

High Commission of India, Suva website: <http://www.indianhighcommissionfiji.org>

High Commission of India, Suva Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/IndiainFiji>

Indian Cultural Centre, High Commission of India, Suva Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/ICCHighcomindSuva>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/HCI_Suva;

YouTube Channel: India in Fiji

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJYT5H3NwEB10MdiXizST2g>

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