

India-Vanuatu Bilateral Relations

Background

Diplomatic relations with Vanuatu were established in 1986. Till mid-2000, the Indian High Commission in Canberra was accredited to Vanuatu. The accreditation was transferred to HCI, Port Moresby in August 2000 and to HCI Suva in June 2014.

High-Level Exchanges

FIPIC: The Forum for India-Pacific Island Countries was inaugurated on 19 November 2014 at Suva. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India also hosted the First Summit of the Forum in Suva (Fiji) during his historic visit to Fiji on 19 November 2014. The Forum saw participation of 14 Pacific Island Countries. Vanuatu delegation led by the then Minister for Foreign Affairs Hon. Meltek Sato Kilman, attended the Summit.

FIPIC-II: As a follow-up of the historic first FIPIC Summit in 2014, India organized the second FIPIC at Jaipur on 21 August 2015, which was hosted by Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Building upon the success of the first FIPIC, India announced major initiatives to boost cooperation with the 14 Pacific Island countries. Vanuatu delegation led by former Prime Minister Hon. Meltek Sato Kilman, attended the Forum.

Interaction with PSIDS at New York: On 24 September 2019, on the sidelines of the UNGA, Prime Minister of India Hon. Narendra Modi held an interaction, first of its kind, with the leaders of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS). This high-level exchange will be followed up with the third Summit meeting of the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC), which is scheduled to be held in the first half of 2020.

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.

Visit from India: Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines visited Vanuatu from 25-26 October 2016. This was a first-ever Ministerial visit from India to Vanuatu and offered India's assistance to supply LED bulbs and energy efficient equipment (worth US\$ 200,000) to Vanuatu as part of annual grant to Vanuatu.

International Solar Alliance: Vanuatu has become one of the Founding Members of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) – a joint initiative of the Governments of India and France to promote solar energy. Vanuatu Prime Minister Hon. Charlot Salwai visited India in March 2018 to attend the Founding Conference of the ISA.

Development Partnership Assistance

Government of India provides annual grants for community development projects in Tuvalu. In addition, training slots are offered to Vanuatu under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme of the Government of India. Diplomats are also offered training at the Foreign Service Institute of India. Following "Cyclone Pam" in March 2015, India gave a grant of US\$ 2,50,000 as humanitarian assistance. India gave grant assistance of US\$ 200,000 to Vanuatu in July 2018 as humanitarian assistance towards evacuation of Ambae island residents and their settlement after frequent volcanic eruptions.

Commercial and Economic Relations

The bilateral trade figures of the last three financial years (1 April-31 March) are as under:

Year	Exports to India	Import from India	Balance of Trade
2016-17	2.08	-	2.08
2017-18	2.27	-	2.27
2018-19	1.97	-	1.97

(Source: Department of Commerce, Government of India) in US\$ Millions

Cultural Relations

International Day of Yoga: Since its inaugural event in 2015, the International Day of Yoga is celebrated with much enthusiasm and fervour every year with participation from all walks of life and the local Government.

Festival of India: As part of Namaste Pacifika Festival of India, Odissi Dance Group led by Ms. Meera Das visited and performed in Port Vila in November 2017.