

India-Somalia Bilateral Relations

A year after the independence of Somalia in 1960, the Commissioner of India to Mauritius was accredited as Ambassador of India to Somalia and presented Credentials in 1961. Later, a resident Mission was opened in Mogadishu. After the outbreak of civil war in 1991, the Indian Embassy in Mogadishu was closed. High Commission of India, Nairobi is concurrently accredited to Somalia.

2. Visits from Somalia:

1.	5-7 Feb. 2020	Defence Minister of Somalia , Mr. Hassan Ali Mohamed 'Amardambe' visited India to participate in DefExpo India 2020 in India Africa Defence Ministers' meet 2020
2.	Oct. 2019	Mr. Ibrahim Osmanlibah, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources participated in the 2nd General Assembly of ISA
3.	02-13 Sept. 2019.	Somalia participated in COP14, CRIC18 and CST14 to UNCCD held in New Delhi
4.	Sep/Oct. 2018	Mr. Mohamed Said Abdilahi, Deputy Minister of Health & Human Services visited New Delhi to attend the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention held from 29 September to 2 October 2018. Somali delegation participated in the First Assembly of International Solar Alliance and 2nd IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial meeting held at New Delhi from 2-4 October 2018.
5.	10-13 March 2018	Deputy Prime Minister Mahdi Mohammed Gulaid accompanied by Minister of Energy and Water Resources Salim Aliolbro and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abdulkadir Ahmed-Kheyr Abdi visited India to attend Founding Conference of International Solar Alliance (ISA) in New Delhi. He called on Rashtrapatiji and Prime Minister during the visit.
6.	Jan. 2018	Attorney General of Somalia visited Mumbai to bring back the first group of 41 Somali prisoners and their Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs went in March to bring back 76 Somali prisoners.
7.	Nov. 2017	Somalia participated in (i) Second Meeting of IORA Experts for Maritime Safety and Security in New Delhi; (ii) CII-Exim Bank Regional Conclave on India and East Africa in Kampala, Uganda in November 2017.
8.	30th July – 5th Aug. 2017.	Two young Parliamentarians from Somalia – Mr. Mohamed Abdikaafi Mohamed & Mr. Yusuf Hussein Ahmed Gamadid visited India for the Parliament Familiarization Programme.
9.	31 July - 4 Aug. 2017	The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Somalia, Mr. Yusuf-Garaad Omar paid his first official visit to India. He held meetings with EAM Smt. Sushma Swaraj and MoS for External Affairs Shri M. J. Akbar. An Agreement for Transfer of Sentenced Persons between India and Somalia was signed during the visit.
10.	On 23 Sept. 2017	Mr. Yusuf-Garaad Omar met MoS Shri M. J. Akbar in New York on sidelines of UNGA.
11.	22-26 May 2017	Somali State Minister of Finance Mr. Mohamoud Hayir Ibrahim visited Gandhinagar for the 52 nd Annual Meeting of African Development Bank Group held there from. During this visit, Somalia signed the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework

		Agreement.
12.	26-29 Oct. 2015	President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud led the Somali delegation for the 3rd India Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi. He held a bilateral meeting with PM Narendra Modi. He also visited Bhopal, at the invitation of GOI. During the visit, he was conferred an Honorary Doctorate degree by the Barkatullah University, Bhopal of which he is an alumnus.
13.	Jan. 2013	Minister of Trade of the Federal Republic of Somalia Mohamud Ahmed Hassan visited India to attend the Vibrant Gujarat business summit.
14.	October 2012	Minister of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Environment Abdirahman Ibrahim visited India to attend the High-Level Segment of the 11 th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity held in Hyderabad.
15.	May 2012	President of State of Puntland Abdirahman Mohamed Farole visited India. He met MoS for External Affairs E. Ahamed and MoS for Petroleum & Natural Gas R.P.N. Singh.
16.	March 2012	The Transitional Federal Government (TFG) Minister for Education, Culture and Higher Studies Prof. Ahmed Aidid Ibrahim visited India to participate in the India-Africa Science & Technology Ministerial Conference and Tech Expo held in New Delhi. During the visit, he met Minister for Human Resource Development Kapil Sibal.
17.	March 2011	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Planning and International Cooperation Dr. Abdiweli Mohamed Ali visited India to attend the 7 th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership. During the visit, he met EAM S.M. Krishna and CIM Anand Sharma.
18.	1989	Special Envoy of the President of Somalia.
19.	1986	Somalia's Minister of Commerce & Industry.
20.	1979	Somalia's Foreign Minister Dr. Abdurrahman Jama Barre visited India.
21.	1963	Prime Minister of Somalia Dr. Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke accompanied by Minister of Information visited India. Dr. Sharmarke visited India again in 1968 as President of Somalia.

3. Visits from India:

1.	29th May 2021.	High Commissioner Dr. Virander Paul met President 'Farmaajo' and presented his credentials on They discussed ways to develop bilateral relations through joint efforts including capacity-building assistance to Somalia. High Commissioner also met Mr. H.E. Mohamed Abdirizak, foreign Minister of Somalia and the Acting Chief of Staff to Somali President.
2	Nov. 2019	External Affairs Minister of India Mr. S. Jaishankar met the Prime Minister of Somalia Mr. Hassan Ali Khayre on the sidelines of Paris Peace Forum in in Paris.
3	29 June-02 July 2019	High Commissioner led a team of officials from Mission to celebrate 5 th International Day of Yoga in Garowe, Puntland and in the capital city of Mogadishu. In Garowe, <i>President of Puntland</i> Mr. Said Abdullahi Dani participated along with a

		large number of Somalis. A separate Yoga session was organized for women and girls which was attended by <i>Minister for Women empowerment and Family welfare</i> with more than 100 Yoga enthusiasts. In Mogadishu, Chief Justice of Somalia graced the occasion along with large number of officials from Somali Government as well as UN staff.
4	19 July 2018	High Commissioner handed over the consignment of essential medicines worth US\$ one million to Dr. Fawziya Abikar Nor, Minister of Health of Somalia in Mogadishu. During the visit, High Commissioner called on Mr. Hassan Ali Khaire, Prime Minister of Somalia.
5	16-17 July 2018.	India participated in Somalia Partnership Forum in Brussels on
6	9-13 July 2018.	An Indian delegation participated in the 21st Plenary Session of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia in Nairobi from 9-13 July 2018.
7	2017	High Commissioner represented GOI at the inauguration of President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed 'Farmaajo' at Mogadishu on 22nd February 2017. High Commissioner called on President Farmaajo in December 2017 in Mogadishu and extended a joint invitation to attend the Founding Conference of ISA in March 2018.
8	July 2015	MoS for External Affairs, Gen. (Retd.) V.K. Singh visited Somalia as Prime Minister's Special Envoy and handed over the invitation from the Prime Minister to the President of Somalia, for attending the 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III) in New Delhi in October 2015.
9	7 May 2013.	High Commissioner led the Indian delegation at the Somalia Conference held in London.
10	October 2012.	MoS for External Affairs Smt. Praneet Kaur addressed the debate on Somalia held at the UN Security Council. She congratulated the new Somali leadership noting that President Mohamud had studied in India during 1980s.
11	May 2012.	High Commissioner led the Indian delegation at the Istanbul II Conference on Somalia
12	(February 2012)	The Indian delegation to the London Somalia Conference was led by MoS for External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed. The Minister met TFG President Sheikh Sharif Ahmed; President of Puntland Abdirahman Mohamed Farole and President of Galmudug Mohamed Ahmed Alin. President Farole said that he would be happy to see Indian companies getting involved with oil exploration and production in Puntland.
13	1992	Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Eduardo Faleiro visited Somalia. India

	provided relief supplies (medicines, food) worth Rs. 20 lakh to Somalia during the visit.
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4. **Grants in Aid & Developmental Assistance:**

At the request of the Government of Somalia, Government of India gifted 27 midi-buses to Somalia in February, 2021.

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India has always remained one of the preferred destinations for Somali students. In 2018-19, Somalia availed 24 slots under Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR); Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) and India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS III) scholarship schemes. Due to precarious security situation, the uptake of courses has been low. However, due to Missions' efforts, the allotted slots under ITEC for 2019-2020 was increased to 15 out of which 14 were utilized; 2 candidates could not travel due to Covid-19 situation in March 2020. Despite Covid-19 restrictions, India continued its assistance to Somalia through capacity building on virtual platform through e-ITEC programme. This has seen participation of 34 Somali candidates up to now. 17 Somalia students have been offered ICCR scholarship during AS 2021-22.

At the request of Foreign Minister of Somalia, 20 diplomats from Somali Foreign Ministry were trained in FSI, New Delhi in September-October 2015. The second special course for young Somali diplomats was held from 9 May-8 June 2018 at FSI, New Delhi. An MoU between FSI and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Somalia was signed on 5 June 2018.

Following PM Dr. Manmohan Singh's announcement at the 2nd India Africa Forum Summit held in Addis Ababa in May 2011, India provided US\$ 2 million to the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM). India has further contributed a sum of US\$ 1 million to the United Nations Trust Fund in support of the African Union in Somalia (AMISOM) in 2012, 2017 and 2021.

In September 2011, India announced a contribution of US\$ 8 million towards humanitarian assistance for countries in the Horn of Africa region (Somalia, Kenya and Djibouti) to be distributed through WFP.

Somalia is among the partner countries of Pan African e-Network project. The project was inaugurated by EAM S. M. Krishna in August 2010 along with the Vice Minister of Education of the State of Puntland.

In 1992, India provided relief supplies (medicines, food) worth Rs. 20 lakh to Somalia during the visit of Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Eduardo Faleiro.

In 1985, Somalia was among the recipient countries of 100,000 tonnes of wheat offered by Government of India to countries in the region.

5. **Indian Community:** Indian traders have been trading with the Horn of Africa since ancient times. In the 1940s and 1950s, many Indians were recruited by Italians to work on their plantations, mainly around Qoryoley. Others established businesses in Somalia. It is estimated that there were around 200 Indian families in Somalia, mainly engaged in textile dyeing in Mogadishu and Merka.

Indian families, who at one time were living in Kismayo, left for Mogadishu in early 1980s. At one time, the Indian embassy used to run a popular international school in Mogadishu. After 1991, most Indians left Somalia, and many relocated to Mombasa in Kenya. Presently, it is estimated that there are around 100 Indian nationals working in different parts of Somalia including the UN and around 500 persons of Indian origin in Somalia.

6. Mission in collaboration with UN Organizations in Somalia organized celebrations of **International Day of Yoga** in Mogadishu for last four years. Mission organized the first-ever **consular camp** in Mogadishu on 1 October 2017. The second consular camp was organized on 20 January 2018. In 2019& 2020, Mission organized consular camps in Garowe. Many Somalis travel to India for studies and medical treatment. In 2019, Mission issued 4,228 visas to Somali nationals. In 2020, Mission issued 1328 visas.

7. **Bilateral Trade:** Somalia, being an LDC country, qualifies for India’s offer of unilateral Duty-Free Tariff Preferential (DFTP) market access for export of goods and services to India. The following table summarizes the bilateral trade figures.

Values in US \$ Millions

Year	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Indian Export	210.89	352.81	486.60	506.47	455.52	537.25	583.87	554.45
Indian Import	46.39	38.25	15.58	17.70	3.55	18.33	15.05	5.67
Total trade	257.27	391.05	502.18	524.17	459.07	555.58	598.92	560.12

(Source: Department of Commerce, India)

8. Indian Participation in UN Peacekeeping in Somalia: 4,600 Indian peacekeepers, led by Brigadier M. P. Bhagat, participated in UNOSOM II during 1993-94. The contingent was headquartered in Baidoa. It included armour and helicopters. The troops also engaged in reconstruction and humanitarian work. 12 Indian soldiers laid down their lives during the deployment. The Indian Navy played a major part in the Indian contribution to the UN task force in Somalia. The Indian Navy has been involved in anti-piracy patrolling in the Gulf of Aden since 2008. India is a member of the UN Contact Group on Piracy off the coast of Somalia.

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