

India-Senegal: Bilateral Brief

Diplomatic relations between the two countries were established in 1961, with the opening of a resident Indian Mission in Dakar. Senegal opened a resident Embassy in New Delhi in 1974. Both countries enjoy warm and friendly relations sharing common values of democracy and secularism. Both the countries are members of the Non-Aligned Movement and G-15. The bilateral partnership spans diverse fields including urban transport, agriculture, fisheries, rural electrification, human resource development, information technology, health etc. Senegal and India also cooperate under the rubric of TEAM-9, the Techno Economic Approach for Africa India Movement that includes India and 8 countries of West Africa. India and Senegal work closely in multilateral fora.

Visits

In general, there have been regular visits from both sides.

Vice President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu visited Senegal in June 2022, the first State visit from India to Senegal in 60 years. During the visit, three MOUs i.e. MoU on cooperation in Youth Affairs, Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) and Visa waiver Agreement for diplomats/officials – were signed. Announcement was also made with respect to the launch of the Phase-II upgradation of Entrepreneurship Development and Technology Centre (CEDT) in Dakar, built with Indian grant assistance, and a Special ITEC English proficiency course for Senegalese public servants and also offer of a special training programme for a batch of 15 Senegalese diplomats at Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Services .

President of Senegal, Macky Sall visited India to participate in IAFS-III in October 2015 and again in May 2017 to participate in the 52nd Annual Meeting of African Development Bank in Gandhinagar. He and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met in Johannesburg on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit from 23-24 August 2023. They previously met on the sidelines of various Summits – G20 Summit (Bali) in Nov 2022, G7 Summit (Schloss Elmau, Germany) in June 2022, G7 Summit (Biarritz, France) in August 2019 and G20 (Hamburg) in July 2017.

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan, visited Senegal to participate in 8th Dakar International Peace and Security Forum from 24-25 October 2022, and previously from 3-5 November 2021 to co-chair the Third India-Senegal Joint Commission of Meeting. During the latter visit an (i) MoU for cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine; and (ii) MoU for training of diplomats, was signed. Shri Gajendra

Singh Shekhawat, Minister of Jal Shakti visited Senegal from 21-22 March 2022 to participate in the 9th World Water Forum. Besides attending the Water Forum, he met with Senegalese Foreign Minister Aisata Tall Sall and Minister of Economy Amadou Hott; and, interacted with the Indian community and Senegalese business community.

On July 7th, 2022, EAM met his Senegalese counterpart, Mrs. Aissata Tall Sall on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Indonesia.

President Macky Sall participated in the Inaugural Leaders' Session of the Voice of Global South Summit 1.0 held on 12 January 2023.

Foreign Minister Mr. Ismaila Madior Fall participated in the Foreign Ministers' Session of the Voice of Global South Summit 2.0 held on 17 November 2023.

Bilateral Institutional Mechanisms

JCM: The Agreement to form a bilateral Joint Commission was signed in 1997. The first Joint Commission meeting was held in the same year, 1997, in Dakar. The second meeting of the JCM was held in New Delhi in March 2010. The 3rd Joint Commission Meeting was held in Dakar in November 2021.

FOC: The Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) was signed on 26th May 2005. The first FOC was held in Dakar in October 2009, and the 2nd round of FOC is due to be held in New Delhi.

Cooperation at Multilateral fora

Senegal has consistently supported India's candidature to International organizations including UNESCO Executive Board membership, ICJ, ICAO, ITU etc. Senegal was one of the 24 members which signed the Declaration of Yoga as a "Human Treasure" at the 11th Session of Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage held in Addis Ababa. Senegal also supported India's candidature to the non-permanent seat of UNSC for the term 2021-2022, elections for which were held in June 2020.

Trade & Commerce

The trade between India and Senegal has been the pivot of the strong relationship between the two countries. India has contributed significantly to the food security of Senegal being the largest supplier of rice. Almost 90% percent of the broken rice

imported by Senegal is from India. (except recently figures may vary, when India had imposed ban on export of broken rice).

Senegal is also major supplier of phosphate (a critical mineral for fertiliser production) to India. India-Senegal trade in 2023-24 was US\$ 1.572 billion. This includes India's exports of US\$ 939 million (consisting mainly of rice, textiles, machinery, electrical equipment, tiles, pharmaceuticals etc). Imports from Senegal during this period was US\$ 633 million (consisting of phosphoric acid, raw cashew nuts, scrap metal, cotton etc).

Investments

India's investment is mainly in construction, tourism, retail, trading, phosphates, pharmaceuticals etc. The largest investment from India in Senegal is in Industries Chimique du Senegal (ICS), which is the flagship company in Senegal and is in the business of manufacturing phosphoric acid from the rock phosphate available in plenty in Senegal. It is the largest producer of phosphate fertilizer products in sub-Saharan Africa, with the majority of phosphoric acid being exported to India, while the fertilizer products being exported to other West-African countries. In 2014, ICS was acquired by Indorama Group. GOI maintains a small equity of about 5.5% through IFFCO in this company.

Indian companies viz. Tata Group (Tata Motors), Kirloskar Bros, SenegIndia (construction, farming), Ajanta Pharma, Sun Pharma, KEC Ltd., Promac (Engg), Gravita (metals), Solance (batteries), Hercules etc are present in Senegal. Many Indian SME's have in recent times started exploring the Senegalese market for opportunities.

Tata Communications along with its consortium partner Africa development solutions has been awarded a contract to manage, operate and commercial excess capacity of ADIE (Agence De L'informatique de L'Etat) fiber infrastructure. The contract is for 15 years enabling connectivity to all the offices of administration and support the Senegal Vision 2025 to become a Digital economy.

Coromandel International, India's leading phosphatic fertiliser player, in August 2022, acquired 45% equity stake in Baobab Mining and Chemicals Corporation (BMCC), a rock phosphate mining company based in Senegal, Africa at an outlay of US\$ 19.6 million.

Development assistance

India has extended Lines of Credit to Senegal in such sectors as agriculture and irrigation, transport, rural electrification, fisheries, women poverty alleviation, IT training and equipment, medical, railways etc. Export Import Bank of India (Exim Bank of India) has extended buyer's credit for transmission line/ substations/ distribution network project executed by Kalpataru Power Transmission Limited; and, for supply of vehicles spares and related services by Ashoka Leyland.

ITEC and other training programmes

Senegal is a beneficiary country under the ITEC programme as well as the Africa Scholarship Scheme of the ICCR.

Senegalese Foreign Ministry sent 10 Senegalese diplomats to India for participating in the first Special Course for the diplomats of Senegal and Morocco in April 2019 organized by SSIFS, New Delhi. One Senegalese diplomat attended the course in March 2023.

Senegal has been allotted 28 slots under the ITEC civilian programme and 20 slots under the Defence programme. Three ICCR scholarships for UG/PG courses.

Grants

India supplied **250 e-Rickshaws (Solar powered tri-cycles)** with lithium-ion batteries on grant basis to Senegal, responding to the request of President Macky Sall of Senegal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January 2019.

Under Indian grant assistance, HMT had set up an **Entrepreneurial Training & Development Centre (CEDT)** in Dakar in 2002. So far the Center has trained around 6000 students and over 3000 have been employed in various sectors. GoI offered grant assistance of Indian Rs. 22.95 crore for upgradation and modernisation of CEDT. Phase 1 of the project was inaugurated on 25 June 2019. Implementation of Phase-II of the project, announced during the visit of HVPI, was completed in Dec 2023.

Government of India has also financed the **development of garden namely 'India Tiranga Park'** in the famous Renaissance Monument in Dakar.

India gave a grant of Euros 50000/- in 2017 for rehabilitating 200 handicapped Senegalese by fitting prosthetic limbs provided by Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS- **Jaipur Foot**). In May 2019, Government of India had set up a 42 days artificial limbs fitment camp in Senegal by BMVSS for 500 Senegalese handicapped persons.

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, India has donated a large quantity of essential medicines, including Hydroxychloroquine to the Republic of Senegal in August 2020. India also donated 25,000 doses of Made-in-India **Covid-19 vaccine** in March 2021. In addition, 3,24,000 doses of India-made Covid-19 vaccines have reached Senegal under the COVAX facility.

On the request of the Government of Senegal, the Government of India in March 2023 has agreed to extend a grant support under the India-UN Development Partnership Fund for the "National Mine Action Centre" project of Senegal. The funding assistance will be utilized to undertake technical surveys of locations, acquisition of advanced equipment and to accomplish de-mining activities in area of 139,000 sq. mtr. in the Bignona and Oussouye districts of Senegal which have unexploded mines which were laid during the internal armed conflict in the 1980s - early 2000s.

TEAM-9

Senegal being the leading Francophone country in West Africa, played a significant role in the creation of TEAM-9 and is also a prominent beneficiary under the programme.

Cultural Cooperation

Indian culture is admired by the people of Senegal. There are a number of Indo-Senegalese Cultural Friendship associations who conduct cultural programmes centred around Bollywood dance and play an important role in strengthening cultural bonds at people to people level.

ICCR sponsored Bollywood Dance Smith visited Senegal in January-February 2020. A 14-member cultural troupe from Theatre Daniel Sorano participated in the Surajkund Int'l Crafts Mela in Mar 2022 and again in March 2024. Taal India, a percussionist group, on a private visit to Senegal from 3-9 May 2022, gave a number of performances in association with a local Senegalese percussionist group.

People to People

The Indian community numbers around 2000. Most of them are working for Indian companies including those executing development projects under Lines of Credit extended by India. Some of them are running their own businesses.

All important landmark dates and festivals are celebrated with vigour. The Mission organised a number of events to mark 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, 70th anniversary of Constitution of India, Hindi Pakhwada, International Yoga Day etc. Indian community regularly celebrates Ganesh Puja, Navratri and Diwali. Embassy organizes annual cultural festival under the brand name Tiranga, as also festival of colours, Holi. The Mission, with active participation of the community, organized several online/in-person events since March 2021 to commemorate Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Six delegates from Senegal participated in the 6th Gen-next Democracy Programme organized by ICCR from 10-15 October 2022.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, two repatriation flights from Senegal were arranged in June/July 2020, with the active support of Senegalese Foreign and Civil Aviation Ministry, during which around 250 Indians were repatriated.

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