

**High Commission of India  
Port Moresby**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Visit of HC S. Inbasekar to Honiara for presentation of Credentials, June 17-22, 2022**

Shri. Inbasekar Sundaramurthi, High Commissioner(HC)-designate to Solomon Islands(SIs) visited Honiara, capital of SIs from June 17-22, 2022 and presented his Credentials to Acting Governor General of SIs H.E. Patterson Oti on June 20, 2022. HC paid a courtesy call upon Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Manasseh Sogavare, acting Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Peter Shanel Agovaka and Secretary to PM Dr. Jimmie Rodgers on June 20. HC invited PM Sogavare to visit Port Moresby for the forthcoming FIPIC-3 Summit in last quarter of 2022, co-hosted by India and Papua New Guinea. During these meetings, HC encouraged SIs Govt to avail unutilized ITEC slots & ICCR scholarships for capacity-building and sensitized the Solomon leadership towards annual Grants-in-aid provided by Govt of India to Solomon Islands, under its Act East Policy. Solomon PM thanked India's role as Development partner.

On June 20, HC hosted a dinner for Dr. Culwick Togamana, Minister of Health; Mr. Rex Ramofafia; Minister of Planning & Development Coordination; Mr. Samuel Manetolia, Minister of Traditional Governance, Peace and Ecclesiastical Affairs and Mr. Makavio Tagani, Minister of Public Service. HC met Permanent Secy of Health Pauline McNeil & discussed bilateral cooperation in health including Grants-in-Aid(GIA) for addressing shortage of medical infrastructure in SIs hospitals. HC met Perm Secy, Ministry of Commerce, Industries, Labour & Immigration Mr. Riley Masepitu and discussed support for SMEs through National Small Scale Industries Corp(NSIC) under Grant in Aid, and access SI goods to Indian market. HC met Ethel Tebengi Frances, Perma Secy, Ministry of Agriculture and informed about impending supply 60 kgs of lentil seeds to SIs & offered support of agriculture experts & implement support under GIA. HC discussed capacity-building in education with Mr. Franco Rodie, Permanent Secy of Ministry of Education & Human Resource Development.

HC met Pro-Vice Chancellor of Solomon Isls National University(SINU) and discussed about progress of Centre for Excellence in IT(CEIT) to be established by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing(C-DAC) India. Proposal for relocation of Poitete Campus of SINU Forestry Centre under GIA was discussed during meeting with Permanent Secy for Ministry of Forestry & Research Mr. Vaeno Vigulu.

HC and Secretary to PM of Solomon Dr. Jimmie Rodgers signed bilateral MoU on Agreement on Exemption from visa requirements for holders of Diplomatic and Official passports. This is the first-ever bilateral MOU of India with Solomon Isls. HC also handed over 50,000 Covishield vaccines under bilateral initiative to Dr. Culwick Togamana, Minister of Health & Medical Services at Honiara airport on June 22, 2022. By end-June 2022, India would be supplying US\$ 250,000 worth Covid-19 medicines, anti-virals & surgical equipments to Solomon Isls.

HC had a breakfast meeting with Members of Solomon Chambers of Commerce on June 21 & discussed cooperation in agriculture, education, infrastructure, access of SIs commodities to Indian market. HC met Indian community in Honiara over a Consular camp on June 18 & addressed issues of interest to diaspora.

Mission thanks Govt. of Solomon Islands for arranging courtesy calls with representatives of Govt and looks forward towards closely working with Ministry of Foreign Affairs & External Trade(MFAET) to accelerate our bilateral agenda & development cooperation.

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