

**High Commission of India
Port Moresby**

INDIA - SOLOMON ISLANDS BILATERAL BRIEF

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: Diplomatic relations between India & Solomon Islands (SI) were established in May 1987. Both countries maintain warm relations, anchored in common values under South-South cooperation. SI established its Honorary Consulate in New Delhi in 2003. Mission in Port Moresby is concurrently accredited to SIs. On 16 March 2023, SI team arrived in New Delhi to start ground works for establishing its resident Mission in New Delhi. SI's relations with India are friendly, though low key. An MOU between GOI & SI Govt on Exemption from Visa Requirement for holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports was signed on June 21, 2022 between HC Sh. S. Inbasekar & Dr. Jimmie Rodgers, Secy to PM in Honiara. On June 27, HC Inbasekar S & Prof Transform Aqorau, Vice-Chancellor, SIs National Uni (SINU) signed MOU for ICCR Chair on Economics, to facilitate Indian Professors & contribute to national building in SIs. On Dec 28, HC met PM Manasseh Sogavare and handed over 20 TATA buses worth USD 1 mln gifted by Govt of India for Pacific Games 2023 (India's largest bilateral assistance to SIs). On May 30, Solomon Isls PM Jeremiah Manele felicitated GOI & handed over keys to recipients of 20 TATA buses to various state agencies and institutions. On May 17, Under India-UNDP Fund, GoI undertook a solarisation project for the Government House in Honiara, SIs which was completed at a cost of US\$1 million. On September 06, 2023, SIs first High Commissioner to India H.E Anthony Makabo met with Honorable President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu & presented his Credentials. On August 09, 2024, MoU on Pharmacopeial Cooperation was signed by HC Inbasekar S & SIs Minister of Health Dr. Paul Bosawai. One Dialysis Unit, a FIPIC deliverable, was officially handed over to the National Referral Hospital on 26th Feb 2025. Dr. Kapila Mallah, ICCR Chari at SINU University joined SINU on 27 May, 2025.

HIGH LEVEL EXCHANGES:

- i.** A 5-member delegation led by Dy PM & Minister for Home Affairs of SI, Hon. Mr. Douglas Ete participated in 2nd FIPIC summit held in Jaipur in August 2015.
- ii.** Sh. Piyush Goyal, MoS(IC) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy & Mines, visited Honiara in Oct 2016.
- iii.** On Sept 24, 2019 PM Sh. Narendra Modi attended meeting of India-Pacific Islands Developing States (PSIDS) Leaders, including SI, in NY on the side-lines of 74th UNGA.
- iv.** EAM met FM Jeremiah Manele at CHOGM meeting in Kigali on 25 June 2022.
- v.** On January 13, 2023, Solomon Islands Education Minister Lanelle Tanangada participated in the Education Ministers' session of the 1st Vice of Global South Summit(VOGSS).
- vi.** On 7 March 2023, Sh Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, MoS, on the sidelines of LDC5 Summit held in Doha, met Mr. Jeremiah Manele, Foreign Minister, who confirmed their participation in FIPIC-III meeting and also requested for the funding of Pacific games in SI and establishment of their High Commission in New Delhi.
- vii.** On May 22, 2023, Solomon Islands PM Manasseh Sogavare led a delegation and participated at the FIPIC 3 Summit in Port Moresby, PNG and met with Indian PM Narendra Modi.
- viii.** Solomon Islands participated in the Sixth Session of the ISA Assembly, on 31 October 2023 in New Delhi. The delegation was led by Hon Bradley Tovosia, Minister of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification.
- ix.** On Nov 17, 2023, Mr. Selwyn Takana, Deputy Secretary, M/o Finance & Treasury of SIs Govt attended Finance Minister's Session of 2nd Voice of Global Summit and spoke on connectivity, renewal energy, climate change & financing.
- x.** On August 17, 2024, SIs Foreign Affairs & External Trade Minister Peter Shanel Agovaka and Environment Minister Trevor Hedley participated during the VOGSS 3.0 & delivered their remarks virtually during respective sessions.

VISIT FROM INDIA:

Sh. Piyush Goyal, MoS (IC) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy & Mines, visited Honiara in Oct 2016. This was 1st ever Ministerial visit to SI from India, during which he called on SI PM Manasseh Sogavare, and also met Power & Mines Minister, as well as interacted with Indian community. India offered support of energy efficient LED bulbs and renewable energy in the form of solar lighting to the country. Minister also showcased various ways India can aid Solomon Islands in the areas of IT skill development, healthcare, etc.

VISITS TO INDIA:

- i. On 27 & 28 November 2023, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs, Dr. Paul Mae and Public Solicitor Mr. George Gray attended 1st Regional Conference on Access to Legal Aid in New Delhi.
- ii. On 24 April 2023, Health Minister Dr Culwick Togamana and Mr. Albino Bobogare, Director of Vector Borne Disease Control Program, Ministry of Health, visited Delhi and participated in the Asia Pacific Leaders Conclave on Malaria Elimination.
- iii. A 5-member delegation led by Dy PM & Minister for Home Affairs of SI, Hon. Mr. Douglas Ete participated in 2nd FIPIC summit held in Jaipur in August 2015.
- iv. Minister of Foreign Affairs & External Trade of Solomon Islands (MFAET) Mr. Peter Shanel Agovaka, attended Ministerial meeting on 'Harnessing Positive Contribution of South-South Cooperation for Development of LDCs, held in Delhi on 18-19 Feb 2011.
- v. Foreign Minister, Laurie H. Chan, of Solomon Islands, visited New Delhi in January, 2005. He was accompanied by Assistant Secretary for Asia Pacific Division, and had discussions with the EAM, Minister for HRD, MoS for Information Technology, MoS for Commerce & Industry and also had the opportunity to meet with the senior government officials and representatives from the Chambers of Commerce, Tourism, Trade, Banking, Aviation and financial institutions.

HUMANITARIAN AID and DISASTER RESPONSE

- i. Consequent upon Tsunami which struck SI on April 2, 2007, GOI provided US\$ 100,000 as India's assistance for relief and rehabilitation of Tsunami victims.
- ii. HC Inbasekar S handed over 50,000 Covishield vaccines under bilateral initiative to Dr. Culwick Togamana, Minister of Health & Medical Services at Honiara airport on June 21, 2022. On July 1, 2022, India supplied US\$ 250,000 worth Covid-19 medicines, anti-virals & surgical equipment to SIs.

GRANT IN AID ASSISTANCE

- i. In March 2024, GOI released the 1st tranche – SB\$ 12,79,961.60 (40% amount of SI\$ 31,99,904; equivalent to US \$ 3,90,447 (INR 2,97,56,470)) of for relocation of Forestry Certificate program to Poitete Campus, Kolombangara, Western Province.
- ii. On 28 December 2023, Solomon Isls PM Manasseh Sogavare received 20 TATA buses worth USD 1 mln gifted by Govt of India for Pacific Games 2023, Honiara, presented by HC Inbasekar S in a ceremony.
- iii. GoI established Centre of Excellence in IT(CEIT) in Solomon Islands National University (SINU) which has been in operation since July 2023. Two CDAC experts have been deputed as Centre Head & Trainer for two years in the SIs.
- iv. On July 2022, GOI Donated US\$ 250,000 worth of Covid -19 medicines (anti-viral drugs, anti-bacterial, vitamin supplements, anti- diarrhoea, asthmatic and anaemia drugs, drugs for scabies, PPE and face masks received by Dr. Gregory Jilini, Permanent Secy, M/o Health & Medical Services of Solomon Isls(MHMS). Also, 60 kg lentil seeds for commercial farming received by Mr. Michael Ho'ota Dy Secy (Technical), M/o of Agriculture & Live stock. Both were handed over in Honiara, Solomon Isls.

- v. A dialysis machine from the Government of India, a FIPIC-III deliverable, was gifted to the National Referral Hospital (NRH) on 26 February 2025.

INDIAN TECHNICAL & ECONOMIC COOPERATION (ITEC):

India has been offering assistance to SIs in capacity building by allocating 05 training slots p.a. in diverse fields under ITEC programme. SIs, however, did not fully utilize the slots in past years, but in 2019-20, slots were fully utilized. Due to non-availing of training slots, it has been reduced to 02 since 2020-21. For the year 2024-25, one candidate has applied and accepted for the programme.

AREAS OF COOPERATION:

SI has been extending support to our candidates in international organizations.

SI is a member of of International Solar Alliance (ISA). General Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA), in its first meeting held from 2-5 Oct 2018 adopted the proposal made by India for an amendment to the framework Agreement on the Establishment of ISA to expand the scope of membership of the ISA to all countries that are UN members. SI has ratified amended Framework Agreement of ISA.

ECONOMIC & COMMERCIAL RELATIONS:

Bilateral trade figures are as follows (US\$ million, Dept of Commerce, GOI statistics):

Year	India's Exports	India's Imports	Total Trade
2019-20	2.04	38.97	41.01
2020-21	1.65	33.86	35.51
2021-22	1.14	12.77	13.91
2022-23	2.69	33.09	35.78
2023-24	2.99	6.17	9.17
2024-25	3.00	14.00	17.00

CULTURAL RELATIONS:

- i. Joseph Atkin Tada, Asst Secy, MFAET participated in Distinguished Visitors Programme (DVP), organized by ICCR for 14 PICs in February 2016.
- ii. India has offered 02 slots under ICCR Dance & Music Scholarships under Lata Mangeskar dance & Music Scholarship Scheme (formerly ICCR Scholarship Scheme for Indian Culture) and 02 slots for "Atal Bihari Vajpayee Scholarship" (formerly General Scholarship Scheme) for the Solomon Islands for academic year 2022-23.

INDIAN COMMUNITY:

There are presently about 30 Indian passport holders in SI. (After coup of May 2000, 05 Indian families were evacuated from Honiara on Australian ship, these families later returned to SI following the signing of Townsville Peace Agreement). HC met Indian community in Honiara on June 18, 2022 over Consular camp on June 18 and addressed issues of interest to diaspora. On June 20, 2024, Consular camp was organized in Heritage Park Hotel, Honiara, Solomon Isls. Miscellaneous services including attestation of documents, resolution of consular queries, etc were provided to Indian Passport holders.
