

High Commission of India
Port Moresby

INDIA - SOLOMON ISLANDS BILATERAL BRIEF

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

Diplomatic relations between India and the Solomon Islands (SI) were established in May 1987. Both countries enjoy warm and friendly relations, anchored in shared values and cooperation under the framework of South-South cooperation.

The High Commission of India in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, is concurrently accredited to the Solomon Islands. The Solomon Islands established its Honorary Consulate in New Delhi in 2003. On 16 March 2023, a Solomon Islands delegation arrived in New Delhi to undertake groundwork for the establishment of its resident Mission. Subsequently, on 6 September 2023, the Solomon Islands' first High Commissioner to India presented his Credentials to the Honourable President of India.

GRANT IN AID /ASSISTANCE/HADR

- I. In June 2023, the two sides signed an MoU for **the establishment of an ICCR Chair in Economics at the Solomon Islands National University (SINU)**, aimed at facilitating the engagement of Indian professors and contributing to capacity building and nation-building in the Solomon Islands. Pursuant to this, Dr. Kapila Mallah, Professor, Hansraj College, University of Delhi, joined SINU as Visiting Professor in Economics on 27 May 2025.
- II. GOI accorded approval for Grant-in-aid proposal of SI\$ 31,99,904 (equivalent Rs.2.98 crore approx.) for relocation of Forestry Certificate program to Poitete Campus, Kolombangara, Western Province. Poitete Campus Forestry Training in Western Province was opened in 1988 with 18 students. It was relocated to Honiara Kukum Campus in 2007 due to non-availability of budget provisions by provincial government. Relocation of Forestry Certificate Course to Poitete Campus will upgrade technical skills in this regard. The Government of India has released the first two tranches (80% total) of total grant support.
- III. In **December 2023, 20 TATA buses**, valued at **USD 1 million**, were gifted by the **Government of India** to the **Solomon Islands** for the **Pacific Games 2023**, marking **India's largest bilateral assistance** to the Solomon Islands.
- IV. In May 2023, under the India–UNDP Fund, the Government of India implemented a **solarization project for the Government House in Honiara**, Solomon Islands, which was completed at a cost of USD 1 million.
- V. The Government of India established a **Centre of Excellence in Information Technology (CEIT) at the Solomon Islands National University (SINU)**, which has been operational since July 2023. Two experts from C-DAC were deputed as Centre Head and Trainer for a period of two years. In January 2026, the Centre was formally handed over to SINU upon completion of the project.
- VI. Under a bilateral initiative, **over 50,000 doses of COVISHIELD vaccines** were handed over to the Minister of Health and Medical Services at Honiara International Airport on 21 June 2022. In July 2022, the Government of India also donated **COVID 19 medicines worth USD 250,000**, including antiviral and antibacterial drugs, vitamin supplements,

medicines for diarrhoea, asthma, anaemia and scabies, as well as PPE and face masks. In addition, **60 kg of lentil seeds for commercial farming** were gifted to the Government of the Solomon Islands in June 2022.

VII. Following the **tsunami that struck the Solomon Islands on 2 April 2007**, the **Government of India** provided **USD 100,000** as **relief and rehabilitation assistance** for the affected population.

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

HIGH LEVEL EXCHANGES:

- i. A three-member delegation comprising **Mr. Patteson John Oti**, Speaker of the National Parliament of the Solomon Islands; **Mr. Jefferson Osborne Hallu**, Clerk to the National Parliament; and **Mr. Wilson Orisi**, Director of Committees, visited India from **14 to 18 January 2026** to participate in the **28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC)** held in New Delhi.
- ii. The Solomon Islands participated in the **8th General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)** held in New Delhi from **27 to 30 October 2025**, with the delegation led by the **Hon. Derick Rawcliff Manuari**, Minister of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification.
- iii. Solomon Islands' **Foreign Minister, Hon. Peter Shanel Agovaka**, attended the **FIPIC Foreign Ministers' Meeting**, hosted by India's External Affairs Minister **Dr. S. Jaishankar**, in **New York on 24 September 2025**, on the sidelines of the **80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**.
- iv. On **17 August 2024**, Solomon Islands' **Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Peter Shanel Agovaka**, and **Minister for Environment, Hon. Trevor Hedley**, participated in **Voice of Global South Summit (VOGSS) 3.0** and delivered virtual remarks during their respective sessions.
- v. On **27–28 Nov 2023**, **Dr. Paul Mae**, Permanent Secretary of the **Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs**, and **Mr. George Gray**, Public Solicitor of the Solomon Islands, attended the **1st Regional Conference on Access to Legal Aid** in **New Delhi**.
- vi. On **17 November 2023**, **Mr. Selwyn Takana**, Deputy Secretary, **Ministry of Finance and Treasury, Government of the Solomon Islands**, attended the **Finance Ministers' Session of the 2nd Voice of the Global South Summit** and spoke on **connectivity, renewable energy, climate change, and financing**.
- vii. **Solomon Islands** participated in the **Sixth Session of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Assembly**, held on **31 October 2023** in **New Delhi**. The delegation was led by **Hon. Bradley Tovosia**, Minister of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification.
- viii. On **22 May 2023**, **Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare** of the Solomon Islands led a delegation to participate in the **3rd Summit of the Forum for India–Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC)** held in **Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea**, during which he met with **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.

ix. On **24 April 2023**, **Dr. Culwick Togamana**, Minister for Health, and **Mr. Albino Bobogare**, Director of the **Vector Borne Disease Control Programme**, Ministry of Health, Solomon Islands, visited **New Delhi** to participate in the **Asia-Pacific Leaders' Conclave on Malaria Elimination**.

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- x. On **7 March 2023**, **Shri Rajkumar Ranjan Singh**, Minister of State, on the sidelines of the **Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5)** held in **Doha**, met **Mr. Jeremiah Manele**, then Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Solomon Islands. During the meeting, Mr. Manele confirmed the Solomon Islands' participation in the **3rd Summit of the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIII)** and also requested India's support for **funding of the Pacific Games in the Solomon Islands** and the **establishment of the Solomon Islands' High Commission in New Delhi**.
- xi. On **13 January 2023**, **Hon. Lanelle Tanangada**, Minister for Education of the Solomon Islands, participated in the **Education Ministers' Session of the 1st Voice of the Global South Summit (VOGSS)**.
- xii. **External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar** met **Mr. Jeremiah Manele**, then Foreign Minister of the Solomon Islands (now Prime Minister), on the sidelines of the **Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)** held in **Kigali on 25 June 2022**.
- xiii. On **24 September 2019**, **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** hosted a meeting of **India-Pacific Islands Developing States (PSIDS) Leaders**, including the Solomon Islands, in **New York**, on the sidelines of the **74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**.
- xiv. **Shri Piyush Goyal**, then **Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy, and Mines**, visited **Honiara in October 2016**. This marked the **first-ever ministerial visit from India to the Solomon Islands**. During the visit, he called on **Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare**, met the **Minister for Power and Mines**, and interacted with the **Indian community**. India offered support in the areas of **energy-efficient LED lighting** and **renewable energy**, including **solar lighting solutions**. The Minister also highlighted avenues for India's assistance to the Solomon Islands in sectors such as **IT skill development, healthcare, and capacity building**.
- xv. **Mr. Joseph Atkin Tada**, Assistant Secretary, **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade (MFAET)**, Solomon Islands, participated in the **Distinguished Visitors Programme (DVP)** organised by the **Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)** for **14 Pacific Island Countries** in **February 2016**.
- xvi. A **five-member delegation** led by the **Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs of the Solomon Islands, Hon. Douglas Ete**, participated in the **2nd Summit of the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIII)** held in **Jaipur** in **August 2015**.

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. During the year 2024-25, only one slot was utilised while during 2025-26, both the slots were utilised.

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MoUs

An MoU between the Governments of India and the Solomon Islands on **exemption from visa requirements for holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports** was signed on 21 June 2022. On 9 August 2024, an **MoU on Pharmacopeial Cooperation** was signed between the two countries. Subsequently, on 3 July 2025, India and the Solomon Islands signed an **MoU on cooperation in the fields of health and medicine** in New Delhi.

ECONOMIC & COMMERCIAL RELATIONS:

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

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	1.85	25.93	27.78
2022-23	2.69	33.09	35.78
2023-24	2.99	6.17	9.16
2024-25	2.56	13.56	16.12
2025-26	4.15	0.02	4.17

India primarily imports **wood & articles of wards, wood charcoal (HS-44)** from Solomon Islands. India's exports to Solomon Islands are primarily **drugs & pharmaceuticals (HS - 30)**.

INDIAN COMMUNITY:

There are presently about 30 Indian passport holders in SI.
