

Brief Embassy Report on Bilateral Relations – ITJ Division, DGCI&S, Kolkata.

India-Senegal Bilateral Relations

A. Introduction

1. Indian Trade Journal (ITJ) division of the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS) brings out weekly publication on Embassy Profile Report providing information on recent policy changes and happenings in other countries that may be of interest to the Indian trading community. This is the Embassy Profile Report depicting the Embassy of Senegal.

2. 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.

B. Commercial Relations (Trade and Foreign Investment) – Recent facts & figures

3. 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. Bilateral trade dipped to around US\$ 950 million in 2019-20 from around US\$ 1.3 billion in the preceding two years, caused by a reduction in export of rice in value terms due to decline international price of rice. The bilateral trade picked up in 2020-21 to touch US\$ 1.1 billion, and for the first time crossed the milestone mark of US\$ 1.6 billion in 2021-22. In 2022-23, the total bilateral trade was US\$ 2511 million which includes exports from India at US\$ 1134 million and imports from Senegal at US\$ 1377 million. An account of Bilateral commodities trade in goods from 2019-20 to 2023-24 are as under:

Export-Import statistics as per India’s Ministry of Commerce data bank from 2019-20 to 2023-24 are as follows :

Export-Import statistics from 2019-20 to 2023-24

(in US\$ million)

Year	India’s exports to Senegal	India’s Imports from Senegal	Total Trade
2019-20	477.10	469.47	946.57
2020-21	699.10	401.13	1100.23
2021-22	953.49	696.16	1649.75

2022-23	1134.20	1377.37	2511.37
2023-24	938.57	633.92	1572.49

(Source: Department of Commerce, Government of India)

4. Major items of export from India include cereals, cotton & textiles, pharmaceuticals, plastics and its products, machinery. Major items of import from Senegal are phosphoric acid, iron scrap and raw cashew. A favourable recent trend observed in India's exports to Senegal is the growing diversification of the export basket to include engineering/machinery exports and other products, in comparison to the rather skewed export product portfolio seen earlier (which had predominance of cereals ((rice) and textiles).

5. India's investment is mainly in construction, tourism, retail, trading, phosphates, pharmaceuticals etc. The largest investment from India in Senegal is in Industries Chimie 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.

6. Indian companies viz. Tata Group (Tata Motors), Kirloskar Bros, SenegIndia (construction, farming), Ajanta Pharma, Sun Pharma, Shapoorji Pallonji, Kalpataru Power Transmission, 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.

7. 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.

8. Coromandel International, India's leading phosphatic fertilizer 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.

C. Other Major Areas of Co-operation:

➤ India and Senegal have signed multiple Agreements/MoUs for cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine, training of diplomats, youth affairs, cultural exchange programme and visa waiver agreement for diplomats and officials.

➤ 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 being executed by Kalpataru Power Transmission Limited; and, for supply of vehicles spares and related services by Ashoka Leyland.

- 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.
- 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.
- Government of India has also financed the development of garden namely 'India Tiranga Park' in the famous Renaissance Monument in Dakar. The work of development of garden has been completed.
- The Government of Senegal has been approached for signing the MoU for the next internet based phase called e-VidyaBharati and e-Aarogya Bharati (e-VBAB) (response is awaited).
- Indian culture is admired by the people of Senegal. There are dozens of India friendship associations who conduct cultural programmes centred around Bollywood dance and play an important role in strengthening cultural bonds and 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 35th Suraj kund Int'l Crafts Mela 2022 held from March 20 to April 4, 2022. 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
- 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 GuruNanak, 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, has organized several online/in-person events since March 2021 to commemorate Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- There have been regular visits from both sides, more so from Senegal to India. 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
- Recent visits include that of Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan, who was in Senegal to participate in 8th Dakar International Peace and Security Forum from 24-25

October 2022, as also his visit 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 Seneglaese business community.

Source: www.mea.gov.in