

## **India-Uganda 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 Profile Report depicting the Embassy of Uganda.

2. India and Uganda share historical relations spanning over a century. Indians first came to Uganda in the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century. India's freedom struggle inspired the early Ugandan activists to fight colonization and eventually Uganda achieved freedom in 1962. India established its diplomatic presence in Uganda in 1965. During the reign of President Amin in early 70's, around 60,000 Indians/PIOs were expelled. However, after coming into power in 1986, President General Yoweri Kaguta Museveni invited them back. Several progressive steps like restoring properties seized from PIOs encouraged many of those Indians to comeback and make a fresh start. Relations between India and Uganda, over the years, have acquired a greater depth and breadth in areas such as political, defence, economic, commercial, cultural, education, health and tourism to name a few.

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

3. Uganda is a beneficiary of Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme of India for Least Developed Countries. There has been growth in economic and commercial relations between India and Uganda in recent years, especially in areas such as Textiles and apparel, Machinery and appliances, Vehicle and Transport materials etc. An account of Bilateral commodities trade in goods from 2019-20 to 2023-24 is 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**

**(US Dollar Million)**

S.No		2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
1.	Export	621.52	670.32	697.78	560.06	508.14
2.	Import	34.59	39.14	142.98	494.15	883.11
3.	<b>Total Trade</b>	<b>656.11</b>	<b>709.46</b>	<b>840.76</b>	<b>1054.21</b>	<b>1391.25</b>

*(Source: Doc, Ministry of Commerce & Industry)*

4. Major items of Indian exports to Uganda include pharmaceutical products, vehicles, plastic, paper and paperboard, organic chemicals. Major commodities of imports from Uganda to India are edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers, coffee, tea, mate and spices, wood and articles of wood, wood charcoal, cotton, essential oils, and cocoa and cocoa preparation. Regular engagement between the private sectors in India and Uganda has deepened the involvement of Indian businesses in Uganda. A Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement between India and Uganda is in effect since 2004.

### **C. Other Major Areas of Cooperation :**

➤ Several Agreements/ Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) have been signed between

India and Uganda for cooperation in the fields of defence, economic and commercial links, technical cooperation and culture.

- During the visit of PM of India to Uganda in July 2018, MoUs/Agreements on bilateral defence cooperation, exemption from visa requirement for official and diplomatic passport holders, Cultural Exchange programme and establishment of Regional Material Laboratory in Uganda were signed. PM announced two Lines of Credits for construction of electricity lines and Substations worth US\$141million and Agriculture and Dairy production for US\$64 million. Additional training of Uganda People's Defence Force in various Indian Army training institutions was also announced. Further, a financial support for East African Community (EAC) which was then chaired by Uganda was announced. India also announced donation of vehicles, for the Ugandan Peoples Defence Forces and for civil use by the Ugandan Government; Bhabhatron Cancer Therapy machine to Uganda Cancer Institute; NCERT books for school going children of Uganda; and solar-power irrigation pumps to help in development of agriculture.
- NCERT books announced during PM visit were handed over in October 2019. Radiotherapy machine was commissioned at Mulago Hospital in February 2020. 44 utility vehicles for civilian use were handed over to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in March 2020. 36 military vehicles were handed over to UPDF in August 2020. Twenty laptops were handed over in August 2020 and four SUVs (Mahindra XUV) in December 2020 to the Ministry of East African Community Affairs.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of Pan-Africa e-network project has been launched by the Govt. of India in Uganda. A university and a hospital have been identified for e-VBAB. Online courses by the partner universities in India have been started from the academic year 2020-21 under e-Vidya Bharati.
- India conducts training courses for Uganda's defence personnel. An Indian Military Advisory & Training Team (IMATT) led by a Brigadier and consisting of two Colonels and one Group Captain is stationed at the Ugandan Army's Senior Command and Staff College, Kimaka since February 2010 to assist in the training of the senior officers of the Ugandan armed forces.
- India is seen as a destination for quality and affordable education by Ugandans. The Government of India offers scholarships and fellowships to Ugandans from the Government and private sector to enable them to pursue under-graduate, post-graduate and research courses in India. Training courses in highly specialised areas are also conducted. India also conducts training courses for Uganda's defence personnel. An Indian Army Training Team is stationed at the Ugandan Army's Senior Command and Staff College, Kimaka since February 2010 to assist in the training of the senior officers of the Ugandan armed forces. An estimated 1200 Ugandan students are presently studying in Indian universities. Over the years, hundreds of Ugandans have studied in Indian colleges and universities, including many Ugandan Ministers and high- ranking Government officials. An APTECH franchise and ISBAT University in Kampala have brought Indian education even closer to Ugandans.
- The Indian community presents the strongest and most durable economic and cultural links with Uganda. It is estimated that at present, there are approx.35, 000 Indians/PIOs living in Uganda, of which majority are Indian passport holders. The Indian Community is mainly concentrated in Kampala and in the town of Jinja. Indians and PIOs play a leading role in the Ugandan economy, especially in manufacturing, trade, agro-processing, banking, sugar, real estate, hotels, tourism and information technology. They employ thousands of Ugandans, and are amongst the biggest tax payers in the country. PIOs and NRIs are estimated to have invested over US\$ 1 billion in Uganda in the last two decades. Indian Nationals/PIOs who constitute less than 0.1% of Uganda's population, contribute a major part of Uganda's direct taxes.
- 'India Day', an annual feature, show cases Indian culture and attracts thousands of visitors. The event serves to bring together the Indian and Ugandan community. The Indian Association

organizes cultural performances on this occasion where in popular artists from India are invited to perform. The Indian community engages in philanthropic activities in equal measure. Individuals and companies of PIOs regularly perform their share of social responsibility. A share of proceeds from various events mentioned above is donated to social causes in Uganda including sponsoring heart surgeries of Ugandan children in India, assistance to homeless, organizing blood donation camps etc.

- Every year 35 Ugandan nationals are selected for full time scholarships under Indian Council for Cultural Relations for pursuing under graduate, postgraduate and doctoral studies at various Indian universities. Other than these, various Ugandan nationals undergo short-term/medium term trainings under various ITEC programmes of the Ministry of External Affairs.

*Source: **Source:**[www.mea.gov.in](http://www.mea.gov.in)*