

**High Commission of India
Gaborone**

India-Botswana - Bilateral Brief for Ministry's Website

India's relations with Botswana have been close and friendly. India established diplomatic relations with Botswana immediately after its independence in 1966 and opened its resident diplomatic mission in Gaborone in 1987. Botswana established its Mission in New Delhi in 2006.

2. There have been regular exchanges of high-level visits between India and Botswana. Former President Mr. Festus Mogae had visited India twice in May 2005 and December 2006. President Dr. Mokgweetsi E.K. Masisi, in his capacity as Vice President, had also led a delegation in October 2015 to attend the Third India-Africa Forum. Shri Jual Oram, Minister of Tribal Affairs led a delegation to Botswana in August 2016 to coincide with the BOT- 50 celebrations (50th anniversary of Botswana Independence). In 2018, Botswana Assistant Minister of Lands and Management, Water and Sanitation Services, Mr. Itumeleng Moipisi visited India to participate in the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention (MGISC) held in New Delhi (29 September – 02 October, 2018). After a gap of eight years, Vice President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu paid an official visit from 31 October to 2 November, 2018 at the invitation of the Vice President of Botswana Mr. Slumber Tsogwane. During this visit, a Memorandum of Agreement on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic Passports was signed.

3. India-Botswana Foreign Office Consultations were held in New Delhi (May 2019). The Botswana delegation was led by the Deputy Permanent Secretary Ms. Tapiwa S. Mongwa, Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation. Both the sides reviewed the implementation of decisions taken during Vice President's visit to Botswana. They expressed satisfaction over the progress in implementation of the decisions.

4. India's assistance in capacity building has been an important element of bilateral relations. During the training year 2019-20, 133 scholarship slots have so far been utilized by Botswana. **In the last five years, more than 750 Botswana candidates have been trained under ITEC/ IAFS/ ICCR and other schemes as per details given below:**

Year	ITEC	IAFS Short Courses	ICCR	Agriculture Fellowship Under IAFS III	Agriculture (MANAGE)	PCFD	Total
2015-2016	105	5	7	-	-	-	117
2016-2017	88	3	7	-	-	-	98
2017-2018	117	14	8	16	18	1	174
2018-2019	193	31	13	12	-	1	250
2019-2020*	110	1	20	1	--	--	133
						Total	772

*Up to January 2020

5. During the VP visit, it was decided to train Botswana diplomats. Accordingly, 18 diplomats attended Special Diplomatic Course at FSI New Delhi in May 2019.

6. Botswana is a mineral-rich country with a business friendly atmosphere and welcomes foreign investment. Bilateral trade has been improving steadily (reached an increase of 26% in 2017-18). India's exports to Botswana consist of manufactured goods, including machinery, etc. According to International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS-October 2019) India was the major destination for Botswana exports, having received 28.8% (mainly diamonds).

7. **Import-export:** (Figures in US\$ million; Source: Dept. of Commerce, GOI)

India's total exports to Botswana:	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (Apr-Dec)
Including pharmaceuticals, machineries, iron & steel, electrical equipment, precious stones varieties of diamonds, related jewellery etc.	52.38	77.12	108.58	178.31	133.54
India's total imports from Botswana:	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (Apr-Dec)
Including varieties of diamonds, semi-precious stones, copper, ores, ash etc.	542.23	1307.39	1638.29	974.48	553.95
Total Trade	594.61	1384.51	1746.87	1152.79	687.49

8. More than 25 Indian companies participated at the 13th Annual Global Expo (GEB) of Botswana (30 Oct-02Nov 2018), which was the largest ever participation from a single country. In 2019, more than 20 Indian companies participated at the 14th GEB (6-9 Aug 2019). They covered various sectors including engineering & machinery, IT, manufacturing, trade, spinning and textile machinery, agriculture & food processing, gems and jewellery, etc. Indian private sector's performance in Botswana augments Botswana Government in achieving its 2030 Agenda and Vision-2036 through Corporate Social Responsibilities.

9. Two Indian banks, Bank of Baroda (since 2001) and State Bank of India (Nov 2013) have their presence in Gaborone. Another Indian bank, Bank of India which started its operations in 2013 has been taken over by the First Capital Bank Ltd of Botswana.

10. Companies like TCS, TCIL, and RITES have their offices in Gaborone. In the case of RITES, it is the only RITES office in Africa. Indian majors TATA Motors and Mahindra have their presence through franchises.

11. Indian diaspora (approx. 6,000 Indian nationals and PIOs) as a whole contribute significantly to Botswana's economy. Most of the India diaspora are from the States of Gujarat, Punjab, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telengana and Tamil Nadu. They are engaged in the services sectors viz. in teaching, accounting & such professions, diamond, retail, manufacturing and construction sectors. Indian community celebrates prominent socio-cultural events throughout the year.

12. The Indian / diaspora companies in Botswana are the second largest employment generators next only to the Government. In diamond industry, Indian diamond companies, namely M. Suresh Company Private Limited, KGK Diamonds, Aurostar Diamonds, Arjav Diamonds, Dia-Rough Botswana, Urostar Botswana, Karp Impex, Mohit Diamonds, Dharma Diamonds, WTM Botswana have their offices in Gaborone. They play significant role in Botswana economy by generating employment / skill development for local youth. These companies collaborate with local universities to impart internship training to students in diamond cutting and polishing.

13. Choppies Enterprises Limited, Trans Africa, Jamal Trading, Motovac Botswana etc. are owned by Indian diaspora.