

# Indian Development Assistance in Maldives



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India has been offering developmental assistance to Maldives based on its needs and requests. The major projects which have been executed by India are as follows:

### Construction and Renovation of the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital

The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH) is one of the most visible symbols of the Indian assistance to Maldives. During former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi's visit to Malé in February 1986, it was agreed to establish a medical complex in Malé with Indian assistance. Accordingly, the 200 bed hospital (estimated cost INR 42.5 crore) was established and dedicated to the memory of late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi in April 1995 by former Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao.

The hospital has all major medical departments, including ICU, Cardiac Coronary Unit, and Labour Room. As per the initial Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on manpower requirement of IGMH signed by the two governments, the Government of India (GoI) provided 72 doctors/paramedics and nurses under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme for five years. Later, under the MoU signed in October 2001, GoI agreed to provide 92 doctors/paramedics and nurses under ITEC for five years. The entire responsibility of managing/running the hospital is presently with the Government of Maldives.

Medical consignment worth INR 1.06 crore was formally handed over to IGMH in January 2011. The MoU for undertaking major renovation of IGMH at a cost of INR 37.24 crore by GoI was signed during the visit of India's Prime Minister in November 2011. The cost was later revised to INR 52 crore.

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IGMH is the main hospital in Maldives and renovating a functional hospital was an extremely challenging task. The renovation work was started in May 2014 and completed on 15 June 2017.

### **Maldives Institute of Technical Education; now called the Maldives Polytechnic**

During Prime Minister of India's visit to Malé in June 1990, it was agreed to set up Maldives Institute of Technical Education (MITE), as grant-in-aid project; the MoU for which was signed in March 1992. MITE was handed over to the Government of Maldives (GoM) in September 1996 and formally inaugurated by President Gayoom in May 1997. MITE has a capacity to train at least 400 students a year in various technical/vocational disciplines. MITE was later renamed as Maldives Polytechnic in order to better reflect the academic programmes conducted.

### **India-Maldives Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Studies**

The foundation stone for the Faculty was jointly laid by Indian Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee and President Gayoom of Maldives, during the former's visit to Maldives in September 2002. The faculty was officially handed over to the Maldives Government in February 2014. The Mission organised a "Taste of India" culinary festival at the new faculty premises in partnership with the Faculty of Hospitality & Tourism Studies in Aug-Sep 2015 as part of India-Maldives Golden Jubilee celebrations.

### **Technology Adaptation Programme**

The US \$ 5.3 million project fully funded by India was launched in June 2011 to

provide ICT training to 4400 Maldivian teachers and youth and vocational training to another 800 youngsters. NIIT, in association with Electrical Engineering Equipment Company (EEEC) of Chennai, was appointed as the implementing agency for the project. The National Institute of Education was the nodal agency from the Maldives side.

The project was extensive in its coverage with teachers and youth from 42 islands (in 19 atolls) covered under the project. Around 3000 teachers and 2500 youth were trained under the programme. The project concluded in 2014 with a grand closing ceremony in December 2014.

### **Restoration of Historical Mosques**

Four historical mosques in Maldives have been successfully restored with the Indian assistance. Due to the lack of technical expertise, most of these mosques were in a bad state of preservation and their conservation based on international standards was never carried out.

The projects for restoration and conservation of the coral stone mosques of Maldives were carried out by experts from National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property, Lucknow (NRLCCP). The first project was the conservation of Hukuru Miskiiy in Malé, the most prominent historical mosque of Maldives, in 1986-1987.

Subsequently, other very important mosques - the Hukuru Miskiiy of Fenfushi Island, Dharumavantha Rasgefaanu Miskiiy and Eid Miskiiy of Malé were conserved during 2000-2001, 2004 and 2006 respectively.

Projects currently underway are as follows:

- **Institute of Security and Law Enforcement Studies (ISLES)**

On September 26, 2012, the MoU for setting up a National Police Academy in Maldives was signed between India and Maldives. The Academy, now called “Institute of Security and Law Enforcement Studies”, would include several facilities meant for providing indoor and outdoor police training. After multiple changes in the project location, a plot of land was allotted in Addu City for the construction of ISLES in 2014. National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited (NBCC) has been selected as the Project Management Consultant for the construction of ISLES. Construction work is ongoing.

- **Construction of 485 Housing Units**

The Government of Maldives and Export-Import Bank of India signed an agreement for construction of 500 housing units in Maldives on Aug 12, 2011 covered under the LoC of US \$ 40 million extended by EXIM Bank of India to GoM. Subsequently, the scope of the project was reduced to 485 housing units by GoM due to the requirement of parking space on the ground floor. The project, which was awarded to OIA, was later terminated by the Government of Maldives in April 2016 due to lack of progress on the project. Both sides have now agreed to sign an Amendatory Agreement to the Line of Credit Framework Agreement and re-tender the project for the balance amount under the LoC.

- **Composite Training Centre**

The Government of India has agreed to extend financial assistance of US \$ 9.08 million for construction of the Composite Training Centre (CTC). The Phase-I of the project was completed in twelve months by August 2015. CTC is envisaged to be the centralized training facility for the marine, coast guard and services corps of Maldivian National Defence Force (MNDF) and has accommodation and basic training facilities. GoM had requested for three additional facilities in Phase-I, which has already been approved.

- **Hulhumale Phase-II Road project**

EXIM Bank of India has approved US \$ 34.44 million under its Buyer’s Credit Programme to Housing Development Corporation for executing the road development project in the newly reclaimed Hulhumale Phase-II. The US \$ 40.39 million project, which includes development of roads, pavements, green area and parking spaces, has been awarded to Indian consortium of Mohan Mutha Exports Private Limited and Ashoka Buildcon Limited. As on December 2017, road project is 72 per cent completed.

Project in pipeline is as follows:

- **Ministry of Defence Building**

India offered financial assistance of US \$ 4 million for the construction of a 10-storey Ministry of Defence/Coast Guard Building in Malé for which the foundation stone was laid in February 2014. The project would commence once the Government of Maldives demolishes the current building, for which GoI assistance has been sought.