

Embassy of India

Addis Ababa

PRESS RELEASE

Rice Handing Over Ceremony

Ambassador of India to Ethiopia, Djibouti and African Union H.E. Anurag Srivastava handed over a consignment of 1000 Metric Tonne of Rice to the National Disaster and Risk Management Commission, Ethiopia on 19th July 2018. The handing over ceremony was attended by officials of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and National Disaster and Risk Management Commission of Ethiopia.

2. H.E. Mr. Damene Daruta, Deputy Commissioner, National Disaster and Risk Management Commission, while accepting the consignment on behalf of the Government and people of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, conveyed gratitude and appreciation for the assistance provided by the Government and people of India.

3. It may be recalled that at the invitation of His Excellency Dr. Mulatu Teshome, the President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, His Excellency Shri Ram Nath Kovind, the President of India, was on a State Visit to Ethiopia from October 4-6, 2017. During the visit, Hon'ble President of India met and had discussions with both President and Prime Minister of Ethiopia during which both sides acknowledged the long-standing excellent bilateral relations between Ethiopia and India as well as re-affirmed the mutual desire to strengthen economic, commercial, technical, educational, scientific and cultural cooperation between the two countries. The Ethiopian side appreciated the support provided by the Government of India in education/capacity building of students, professionals and institutions which have been one of the strongest pillars of bilateral partnership between the two countries.

4. In the spirit of warm and friendly relations between the two countries and particularly as part of India's development partnership with Ethiopia, announcements were made for grant assistance of 1000 Metric Tonnes of Rice, USD 2 million worth of medicines and one lakh NCERT text books of Maths and Science. Government of India also committed its support to the LOC request of USD 195.35 million for 400

KV power transmission line to industrial park project in Mek'ele. Subsequently, Government of India has approved another line of credit (LOC) of USD 133.70 for construction of second power interconnection line between Ethiopia and Djibouti.

5. The gift of 1000 metric tonnes of Rice as per specifications provided by the Government of Ethiopia is in fulfilment of the commitments made during the visit. We thank the Government of Ethiopia for their support in completing this project and continue to work together with them to fulfil other commitments.

6. India's development partnership cooperation with Ethiopia is also carried out under the framework of India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS)-III held in New Delhi in October 2015. The commitments under this framework which are being implemented with partner countries in Africa, including Ethiopia are:

- i. Concessional credit of US\$ 10 billion over the next five years which is in addition to ongoing credit programme.
- ii. Grant assistance of US\$ 600 million that includes an India-Africa Development Fund of US\$ 100 million and an India-Africa Health Fund of US\$ 10 million.
- iii. Fully paid 50,000 scholarships/training opportunities in India over the next five years.

7. The year 2018 is a special year for India-Ethiopia bilateral relations as it marks 70 years of establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. This year is being marked by special events, including through the largest cultural exposition of India abroad – the Festival of India which will be held in Ethiopia for the first time starting October 2018. The Festival of India in Ethiopia will be a mega-event showcasing Indian dance, films, music, cuisine, textiles, handicrafts and other aspects of Indian culture and life as well as cultural commonalities between the two countries.

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19th July 2018