

Press Release

India's Gift of Food Items to Djibouti

In continuation of historic cultural and people to people relations, between India and the Republic of Djibouti, Government of India delivered 50 MTs of food aid to Djibouti on 11 November, 2020. The food items comprising of Sugar, Rice and Wheat Flour is a gift from India to the friendly people of Djibouti. In a ceremony on board the Indian Naval Ship (INS) AIRAVAT, H.E. Madam Ifrah Ali Ahmed, Secretary General, Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity, Republic of Djibouti received the gift from Mr. Ashok Kumar, Ambassador of India to Djibouti. The handing over ceremony was also attended by officials of the Ministry of Social Affairs & Solidarity, Republic of Djibouti and Indian Community leaders in Djibouti. The Hon'ble Secretary General appreciated this gesture from the Government of India.

2. The visit of INS AIRAVAT, is a part of SAGAR II (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and Government of India's decision to provide 270 MTs of Humanitarian assistance to friendly countries of Republic of Sudan, Republic of South Sudan, Republic of Djibouti and the State of Eritrea, which were affected by natural calamities. Since the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, Government of India has worked closely with the Governments in these countries on repatriation of each other's nationals through special flights. The gift of food items is a joint endeavour of the Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Defence of Government of India. Ambassador Ashok Kumar met Colonel Ahmed Daher Djama, Commander of Djiboutian Navy and Colonel Wais Omar Bogoreh, Commander of Coast Guard. Captain M. Prasanna Kumar and other officials of INS AIRAVAT were also present.

3. The strong bonds of friendship and brotherly relations between India and Djibouti have been forged and strengthened over several centuries. It is a testimony of India's commitment to strengthening bilateral relations between India and Djibouti and India's solidarity for socio-economic development of Djibouti through ITEC, ICCR and other training schemes of Government of India. This is also in line with India's time tested principle of *Vasudev Kutumbkam – World is one family* –and also guided by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's announcement during his visit to Uganda in 2018 that 'Africa will be at the top of our priorities and we will continue to intensify and deepen our engagement with Africa'.

11 November, 2020