

## PRESS RELEASE

### Giftng of books under the project “Enriching School Libraries”



Today, on 16 August 2023, a ceremony for handing over of **7115 books** - as gift from India to Maldives, was organized by Ministry of Education at Male’ Jamaluddin School. The event was graced by Excellency Dr. Aishath Ali, Minister of Education.



High Commissioner of India Manu Mahawar handed over a packet of books as token to the Excellency Dr. Aishath Ali, Minister of Education in the presence of Senior Ministers and Officials from Ministry of Education and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Government of Maldives and teachers and students representatives from various schools.

The books are the first installment of ~10000 books to be gifted which was announced by External Affairs Minister of India Dr S. Jaishankar during his official visit to Maldives in January 2023 under the Government of Maldives' ambitious project "Enriching School Libraries" in the 215 Government Schools all across Maldives. The titles of the books gifted were selected by the Government of Maldives.



High Commissioner, in his remarks stated that, India is proud to be associated with this noble project by Government of India. He, also emphasized that inculcating habit of reading books among children would not only enhance knowledge but also expand the horizon of their thought process. High Commissioner also invited more Maldivian students to come to India for pursuing Higher Education and be a part of India's emerging youth-oriented start up & innovation ecosystem.



Excellency Dr. Aishath Ali, Minister of Education, in her remarks emphasized the role of books reading in developing comprehension ability and encouraged the students to pursue books reading as a hobby. Minister appreciated the continuous support of India in Maldives' Education sector.

**Education Cooperation** is an important pillar of India-Maldives Development Cooperation. Since 2019 out of 65 community oriented projects under India's grant assistance and High Impact Community Development Projects grant scheme, various education related projects have been undertaken by Ministry of Education. While projects like Construction of classrooms at 02 schools in Noonu and Raa atoll, Strengthening of Inclusive Education Support Units at 02 schools in Fuvahmulah and Kulhudhuffushi City, Student Ferry in Baa atoll have been completed, more projects like Children park equipment for 67 islands, Strengthening Inclusive Education Support Units at 03 schools in Gaafu Dhaalu, Laamu and Haa Alif atolls, School Digitalization Programme in Laamu Atoll Education Centre, Procurement of school buses (for 4 schools of N.Kendhikulhudhoo, L. Atoll, Gan, Kulhudhuffushi & Fuvahmulah city), School Digitalization Project in Th. Vilufushi, Upgrading of school computer lab (of all Government Schools of Maldives with 500 computers), etc are under implementation. Similarly, various sports and youth development oriented projects have been undertaken which has direct impact on empowerment and development of Youth. In addition to that, under India-Maldives Capacity Building cooperation pillar, a large number of educators & administrators from Maldives education sector are getting benefit from various in-person **capacity building** programmes held in India under various schemes and MoUs. Maldives is a beneficiary under Indian Council of Culture relations (ICCR) **scholarship** scheme to pursue higher education in India and in last one decade more than 165 Maldives students have benefited under it. **Indian teachers** working across the Schools in Maldives are giving their yeoman services and thus contributing to Nation building.

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