

Brief on India - Guinea Relations

India and Guinea have cordial bilateral relations. India had opened an Embassy in Conakry in the 1960s but it was closed down after more than two decades in 1988. Guinean President Alpha Condé has shown keen interest in having close relations with India and, therefore, Guinea opened its Embassy in New Delhi in April 2012. Subsequent to the Cabinet approval for opening of 18 new Missions in Africa by 2021, India re-opened its Embassy in Guinea in 2019 and Ambassador assumed charge in Conakry in August 2019.

Visits

2. The major visits from India to Guinea are as follows:-

- (1) In the first ever Ministerial visit after the closure of the Indian Embassy in Conakry in 1988, MOS External Affairs, Smt. Preneet Kaur visited Guinea in January 2014.
- (2) President Ram Nath Kovind paid first ever State visit to Guinea from 1-3 August 2019. President Kovind was accompanied by Shri Pratap Chandra Sarangi, MoS for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries and Shri Dilip Ghosh, MP, Lok Sabha.

3. The major visits from Guinea to India are as follows:-

- (1) President Ahmed Sekou Toure participated in the NAM Summit in New Delhi in 1983.
- (2) A delegation comprising Ministers of Energy; Health; Employment; Technical Education and Vocational Training and Agriculture attended the 9th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave in March 2013.
- (3) A delegation comprising Ministers of Industry, SMEs and Promotion of Private Sector; Employment; Technical Education and Vocational Training and Health participated in the 10th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave held in New Delhi in March 2014.
- (4) President Condé visited India to participate in the 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit in October 2015, immediately after the presidential elections in October 2015.
- (5) Guinean Planning Minister and the Guinean Minister of State for Finance attended the 52nd Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank (AfDB) in Ahmedabad in May 2017.
- (6) Guinean Foreign Minister Mr. Mamadi Toure visited India on 6 November 2017 to seek high level Indian participation in a Donors Conference in Paris the same month. He also visited India in March 2018 to attend the Founding Conference of International Solar Alliance.
- (7) A delegation comprising Dr. Ibrahima Kassory Fofana, Minister of State in the Presidency and in charge of Investment and Public-Private Partnership and the Agriculture Minister attended the 13th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave in March 2018 in New Delhi.

(8) PM Dr. Ibrahima Kassory Fofana attended the 14th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave in March 2019. He was one of the Guests of Honour at the Conclave.

Bilateral Mechanism

4. Two bilateral agreements, viz., (1) Establishment of a Joint Commission and (2) Protocol for Consultations between Foreign Ministries were signed in 2014.

5. Three MoUs were signed in Conakry on 2 August 2019, viz., (1) Co-operation in the Field of Traditional System of Medicine and Homeopathy (2) Co-operation in the Field of Renewable Energy and (3) Participation in the e-VidyaBharatiArogyaBharati (e-VBAB) Network Project (Technology Up-gradation of Pan Africa e-Network Project).

Development Assistance

6. India has extended a line of credit worth US\$ 35 million for upgradation of regional hospitals in Guinea. Guinea has also availed lines of credit of US\$ 28.51 million (for import of 100 buses from India worth US\$ 8.1 million and rehabilitation and extension of electricity networks in Guinea for US\$ 20 million) through EBID.

7. Solar projects under Lines of Credit totalling US\$20.22 million for supply of electricity and drinking water for 7 public universities and for electrification and refrigeration in 200 health centres were announced during the Founding Members Conference of ISA in March, 2018.

8. During the State visit of President of India to Conakry in August 2019, a new Line of Credit of US\$170 million for Water Supply Project of Metropolitan City of Conakry was announced.

Humanitarian Aid / Donation

9. GOI extended bilateral assistance of US\$ 50,000 to Guinea to fight Ebola. In addition, GOI provided cash assistance of US\$ 500,000 to WHO as well as contribution of US\$ 10 million to UN Fund for Ebola and additional US\$ 2 million for purchase of protective gear to tackle Ebola for the three Ebola affected countries of West Africa including Guinea.

10. India donated fifty electric transformers in April 2007 with capacities between 250 and 400 KVA costing Rs. 17.67 million to help Guinea mitigate its electricity problem.

Capacity Building

11. Guinea is adequately utilizing the 30 ITEC slots and 8 ICCR slots earmarked for the country.

Trade

12. The overall bilateral trade between India and Guinea has fluctuated considerably for the six year period from 2012 onwards. During 2014-15, it crossed the US\$ 1 billion mark although this figure has not been reached in the subsequent years until 2018-19. Bilateral trade during the last five years in US\$ Millions is as follows:-

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
India's exports to Guinea	283.81	278.40	354.95	377.94	404.84
India's imports from Guinea	729.69	370.05	279.20	514.63	414.26
Total Trade	1,013.50	648.45	634.15	892.57	819.11

Percentage growth		-36.02	-2.20	40.75	-8.23
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13. Major items of Indian exports to Guinea during 2018-19 were rice, motorcycles & parts and accessories, pharmaceutical products, cotton fabrics, articles of iron or steel, machinery of lifts, escalators and conveyers, transformers and sweet biscuits. Major items of Indian imports from Guinea during 2018-19 were gold, bauxite, ferrous and aluminium waste and scrap and battery waste. Total bilateral trade was US\$ 819.11 million in 2018-19, down from US\$ 892.57 million in 2017-18.

Indian Community

14. The Indian community in Guinea comprises around 800 persons who are mainly involved in the trading business. A few Indians have established manufacturing facilities. Jaguar Industries has invested US\$ 5 million in bauxite mining. The Government of Guinea has signed an agreement with an Indian Company Ashapura Mining, for the acquisition and development of an iron mine. Another company is setting up a 300-bed hospital called Indo-Guinea Friendship Hospital with an investment of around US\$ 10 million. Shapoorji Pallonji Ltd is also working in the Kamsar Port project as a contractor. The value of the contract is US\$ 250 million.

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