

India- Guinea Bissau Bilateral Relations

Political Relations:

India and Guinea Bissau enjoy warm and friendly relations, regularly co-operate at international fora including the United Nations and NAM. Our countries enjoy close people to people relations. We have our Honorary Consul in Bissau since May 2010. Guinea Bissau too has its Honorary Consulate in New Delhi.

High level meetings:

Minister of State for Mines and Steel Shri Vishnu Deo Sai visited Guinea-Bissau in September 2015 as Special Envoy of Prime Minister to personally invite President Mr. Jose Mari Vaz to participate in India Africa Forum Summit III (IAFS-III). President Mr. Jose Mario Vaz participated in IAFS-III from 26-29th October 2015 along with his delegation including the Foreign Minister Mr. Artur Antonio da Silva.

The Guinea Bissau Minister of Energy, Industry and Natural Resources Mr. Antonio Serifo Embalo participated in Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention (29 September to 2 October 2018) in New Delhi.

Mr. Mamudo DJAU, Chief of Cabinet of Minister of Energy, Industry and Natural Resources of Guinea Bissau participated in CII-EXIM Bank Regional Conclave in West Africa in Abuja on 8-9 October 2018.

Shri Rahul Chhabra, Secretary (Economic Relations) visited Guinea Bissau on 5-6 July 2021 when he called on President Umaro Sissoco Embaló, Deputy Prime Minister Soares Sambú, and held delegation level discussions with Ms Udé Fati, Secretary of State for international cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Commercial Relations / Bilateral Trade:

Bilateral trade between India and Guinea Bissau for the past few years, in \$mn, is given below:

Year	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-2022 (upto Sept)
Import	256	124	125	127	57
Export	11	11	9	18	6
Total	267	135	134	145	63

Cashew crop accounts for more than 90% of export earnings of Guinea-Bissau and almost the entire cashew crop (around 98%) is exported to India for processing. The other import items from Guinea Bissau are insignificant (under 1%) and include iron and steel scrap.

The major items of India's exports to Guinea-Bissau include rice, transmission line related, jute bags, pharmaceuticals, ethyl alcohol, motorcycles etc.

India's Duty-Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) scheme is applicable for import of select commodities from Guinea Bissau. India also grants free employment and business visa to Guinea Bissauan nationals.

Embassy regularly organizes regular onsite/ online B2B / track 1.5 interactions covering sectors that hold potential to strengthen bilateral trade and economic engagement, e.g., include Food processing sector (3rd July 2020), Digital sector (24th July 2020), Education Sector (17 September 2020), Dairy sector (25th September 2020), Engineering sector (Medical Devices, auto Parts & Components, Electrical Machinery & Agricultural Machinery) (21st August 2020), and Textiles and Imitation Jewellery (25 October 2020) and Automotive Sector (November 2020). Webinars on defence cooperation (March 2021), India-Guinea-Bissau Bilateral Cooperation (April 2021) and SEZs (May 2021) were the other ones organized by the Mission.

India's Development Assistance to Guinea-Bissau:

Guinea Bissau is a founding member of the Team-9 Initiative. Under this framework, Government of India has extended two lines of credit for food processing and agricultural sector as well as for Rural Electrification projects.

India supplied 1000 tons of rice as emergency aid to Guinea Bissau in September 2018.

Under ITEC (Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation) 8 training slots have been offered to Guinea Bissau for 2021-22.

An expert in the area of rice cultivation visited Guinea Bissau from India in early 2006 to assist the country under India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum's "Poverty Alleviation Funding Facility".

An expert Team from India visited Guinea- Bissau to assist in a Solar Power project.

In February 2009, India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Trust Fund Board, approved two projects for renewable energy and agricultural capacity building in Guinea Bissau.

Cultural Relations:

The then President of Guinea Bissau H.E. Jose Mario Vaz contributed in 2019 his thoughts for the anthology on 'What Gandhi means to me'.

All important events on the cultural calendar are celebrated enthusiastically in Guinea Bissau.

International Day of Yoga is celebrated in Bissau every year.

Bollywood dance group DanceSmith performed in Bissau on 2 February 2020.

NRI Population

There are about 100 Indians in Guinea Bissau. In addition, every year during cashew crop season, 40-50 Indians visit Guinea Bissau for a few weeks to negotiate, purchase and ship the consignments of raw cashew nuts to India.

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