

## **India-Burundi Bilateral Relations**

### **Political Relations**

India and Burundi enjoy cordial and friendly relations. The opening of Burundi's Resident Mission in New Delhi in 2009 and progressive interactions between political leaderships of the two countries have lent importance and direction to the relationship.

### **Bilateral Institutional Mechanisms**

The first ever Foreign Office Consultations between India and Burundi were held in October 2017 in New Delhi where issues of bilateral, regional and global importance were discussed.

The second Foreign Office Consultations were held on 12 December 2023 in Bujumbura (Burundi) wherein both sides exchanged views on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues; discussed bilateral development cooperation in the fields of trade & investment, agriculture, renewable energy, social & humanitarian and defence & security.

### **Ministerial visits from India**

- i. MoS for Agriculture and Food Processing Industries, Shri Arun Yadav, visited Burundi in May, 2011 as a Special Envoy of the Prime Minister for inviting the President of Burundi to the second India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-II).
- ii. A delegation led by MoS for External Affairs, Smt. Preeti Kaur visited Burundi in February, 2012. A multi-sectoral CII business delegation also accompanied the Minister. A General Cooperation Agreement was signed by the two sides during the visit.
- iii. MoS for Rural Development Shri Sudarshan Bhagat visited Burundi in July 2015 as PM's Special Envoy to extend an invitation to the President and the Foreign Minister for IAFS-III.

### **High-Level Visits from Burundi**

- i. President Pierre Nkurunziza paid a State Visit to India in September 2012.
- ii. Second Vice President Mr. Gervais Ruyikiri led a business delegation to the 9<sup>th</sup> CII Exim Bank Conclave to New Delhi in March 2013.
- iii. First Vice President of Burundi Gaston Sindimwo led Burundian delegation to India to attend IAFS-III in October 2015. He was accompanied by the Foreign Minister.

- iv. Major General Ndayishimiye Evariste, Secretary General of the ruling party of Burundi, CNDD-FDD visited India in March 2018 to attend 13<sup>th</sup> CII-EXIM Bank Conclave.
- v. Ms. Evelyne Butoyi, Minister of Youth, Posts and ICT, Burundi led a delegation from Burundi to attend India Telecom 2019 held at New Delhi in February 2019.
- vi. Dr. D. Ndiwokubwayo, Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Development Cooperation visited India for signing of LOC agreement on 02 July 2019 between Govt. of Burundi and EXIM Bank for construction of the new Parliament Building in Gitega and two Ministerial buildings in Bujumbura. *(Note: However, due to delayed execution, GOI annulled LOC in May 2025)*
- vii. Mr. Come Manirakiza, Minister of Hydraulics, Energy represented Burundi in 2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly of ISA held in October 2019 in New Delhi.
- viii. Mr. Prosper Bazombanza, Vice President of the Republic of Burundi visited India to attend the 19<sup>th</sup> edition of CII India–Africa Business Conclave held at New Delhi from 20-22 August 2024.
- ix. Colonel Barumpishe Jean Marie, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of National Defence and Veterans Affairs represented Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs in 15<sup>th</sup> Edition of Aero-India held from 10-14 February 2025 in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

### **Voice of Global South Summit (VOGSS)**

- i. The 1<sup>st</sup> VOGSS was held in virtual mode on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Hon'ble Nijimbere Marie Chantal, Minister of Commerce, Transport, Industry and Tourism participated in the deliberations in the Commerce, Trade and Industry Ministers' Session hosted by Sh. Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution Minister of India.
- ii. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> VOGSS held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023, Mr. Ndorimana Emmanuel, Assistant to Minister (who is of Ministerial Rank) and is No. 2 of the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock participated in the Environment Ministers' Session.
- iii. Hon. Audace Niyonzima, Minister of Finance attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Voice of Global South Summit virtually.

### **Bilateral Trade**

India's exports to Burundi comprise pharmaceuticals and chemicals, machinery and instruments, plastic and linoleum products, transport equipment and rubber manufactured products. Main items that India imports from Burundi include non-electrical machinery, iron and steel. During the last few years, Indian companies have invested in coffee plantation, manufacture of synthetic water tanks, distilleries, computer hardware, hardware stores and

paints. Bajaj and TVS have local dealers in Burundi for sale of two-wheeler motorcycles and three-wheeler auto-rickshaws. Their products are well received in Burundi.

S. No.	Year	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
1.	<b>EXPORT</b>	48.35	58.47	64.02	60.51	42.75	38.37	29.37
2.	%Growth	26.95	20.92	9.50	-5.49	-29.34	-10.25	-23.45
3.	%Share of India's Export	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
4.	<b>IMPORT</b>	4.55	3.83	0.07	0.04	0.39	0.00	1.22
5.	%Growth	-72.47	-15.92	-98.18	-42.30	864.59	NIL	6.34
6.	%Share	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	<b>TOTAL TRADE</b>	52.90	62.29	64.09	60.55	43.14	38.37	30.59
8.	%Growth	-3.14	17.75	2.89	-5.53	-28.75	-11.05	-20.27
9.	%Share of India's import	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	<b>TRADE BALANCE</b>	43.80	54.64	63.95	60.47	42.36	38.37	28.15

### **Bilateral Development Cooperation & Assistance**

- i. Following the first India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-I) in 2008, Burundi was nominated by the AU to host the India-Africa Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (IAIEPA), one of the 5 institutes offered by India at the Pan-Africa level. The institute is mandated to strengthen the capacities in the region in the sector of education. In this regard, an agreement between National University of Education Planning & Administration (NUEPA) and Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research, Government of Burundi for establishment of IAIEPA was signed in Bujumbura on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2011.
- ii. Under IAFS-I, India offered eight Vocational Training Centers (VTCs); one each to the eight RECs. Burundi was nominated as one of the countries to host the VTC. The center was inaugurated in December 2016. It imparts vocational training to people from the region to enable them to be gainfully employed or become entrepreneurs.
- iii. A project to build and equip a center for HIV/AIDS prevention, testing and treatment was completed in December 2012. The Center provides various health-care services, covering reproductive health, sexually transmitted diseases, prenatal care and family planning.

- iv. In addition to the above institutions, a tele-medicine center and a tele-education center were set up in Bujumbura in 2010 under the first phase of Pan-African E-Network Project. The project aims to provide quality and real-time medical care and education from India at a fraction of cost.
- v. Government of India has extended a Line of Credit of US\$ 80 million for the 20MW Kabu hydro-electric project. In this regard, an agreement between the EXIM Bank of India and the Government of Burundi was signed in May 2011. Foundation stone for the Kabu HEP in Cibitoke Province was laid on 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2012. On 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024, the President of the Republic of Burundi, H.E. Évariste Ndayishimiye, inaugurated the Kabu-16 Hydro Electric Project (20MW) in Cibitoke Province. As the highest installed capacity generating plant in Burundi at the time of its commissioning, this milestone project supports the country with reliable, sustainable energy. The High Commissioner represented Government of India at the inauguration of the GOI funded KABU 16 hydroelectric plant.
- vi. India gifted medicines worth US\$ 1.1 million to Burundi in September 2019.
- vii. Gift of 100,000 NCERT text books was handed over to the Education Ministry of Burundi in March 2020.
- viii. On 9<sup>th</sup> August 2024, HC met Ms. Leocadie Ndacyisabawas, ICT Minister of Burundi and Governor of Bank of Burundi (BoB) and discussed about implementation of MOSIP and UPI in Burundi. The Minister and the Governor of BoB expressed their interest in further cooperation in these fields. The Minister of ICT requested for a visit of technical teams from India for further discussions in the matter.
- ix. The Government of India (GoI) has accorded approval to an aid project proposal submitted by the Government of Burundi, extending a grant of USD 1,200,000 (US Dollars One Million Two Hundred Thousand) under the India-UNDP Fund (General Window). As per the Fund's guidelines, the project was approved by PMINY, with managerial support provided by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), and is to be implemented by a United Nations agency operating in the host country/neighbourhood, UNFPA in this instance. Burundi Government signed an agreement with the UN agency UNFPA on 19 September 2024. High Commissioner also attended the signing ceremony of India-UNDP fund- aid project for Burundi. The project is currently ongoing.

## **Capacity Building**

One of the other pillars of our development partnership with Burundi is Capacity Building. Under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC), Government of India offers over 40 training courses in various fields every year. 10 ICCR scholarships are also offered to Burundi in a year which have now been increased from 10 to 15 from Academic Year 2026-27. As on date, an around 150 Burundian students study in India across several universities in various undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

## **Indian diaspora**

Estimated number of PIOs and NRIs in Burundi are 700. Most of NRIs/PIOs are traders and businessmen. Their positive role in the country's economy is recognized and appreciated both by the Government of Burundi and its citizens. Government's attitude towards Indian diaspora is positive and friendly. During the political crisis in 2015 in Burundi, the Burundian Government ensured that no harm came to any of our citizens/ PIOs resident there.

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April 2026