

## **Bilateral Brief on India-Liberia Relations**

### **Political Relations**

India and Liberia share long-standing friendly relations. Liberia has supported India's candidature at the various United Nations (UN) fora. The Government of India (GOI) opened a resident Mission in capital Monrovia in May 2021.

Liberia joined International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) with the ratification/approval of the Framework Agreement on the Establishment of IBCA on 8 January 2025. Liberia has signed the Framework Agreement in International Solar Alliance (ISA).

### **Visits from Liberia**

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf paid a State visit to India in September 2013.
- The present President Mr. Joseph Nyuma Boakai visited India in 2013 in his capacity as Vice President, leading the Liberian delegation including the Minister for Public Works, to the 9th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave held in New Delhi from March 17-19, 2013.
- Vice President Jeremiah Kpan Koung visited India to participate in the 19<sup>th</sup> CII India Africa Business Conclave held in New Delhi from August 20-23, 2024.

**3<sup>rd</sup> IAFS Participation:** President Sirleaf led a high-level delegation on her second visit to India in October 2015 to participate at the 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi. She held bilateral talks with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on October 30, 2015. The Liberian Foreign Minister also had a bilateral meeting with the then EAM on 28 October, 2015.

**Participation in CII-India Africa Business Conclaves:** Dr. Richard Tolbert, Chairman of the National Investment Commission of Liberia and Dr. Frederick Norkey, Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry

attended the 5th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership in Delhi in March 2009. Commerce Minister, Ms. Miata Beysolow visited India to participate in the 8th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave and the 2nd India-Africa Trade Ministers' Conference in March 2012. Ms. Martha C Morris, Deputy Minister for Administration and Mr. Malayah Tamba Chieyoe, Deputy Minister for Planning and Policy from Ministry of Health participated in the 19<sup>th</sup> CII India Africa Business Conclave held in New Delhi from August 20-23, 2024.

### **Other Ministerial visits**

- Minister of Internal Affairs of Liberia, Francis Sakila Nyumalin, led a 3-member delegation to India to participate in the 21st General Session of the African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) Conference, held in New Delhi from 21-24 February 2025.
- Minister of Mines and Energy, Mr. Wilmot J. M. Paye visited India to attend the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Assembly of International Solar Alliance held at New Delhi from 3-6 November 2024.
- Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, Mr. Sekou M. Kromah, visited India to attend Global Standards Symposium (GSS) / World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) 2024 held at New Delhi from 14-15 October 2024.
- Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Gbehzohngar M. Findley visited India to attend First International Solar Alliance Summit from March 10-11, 2018.

### **Visits from India to Liberia**

#### **Ministerial level visits**

- Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri M. J. Akbar visited Liberia from March 1-2, 2018.
- Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Shri

G. M. Siddeshwara visited Monrovia from September 10-11, 2015 to personally hand over to the Liberian President, Prime Minister's invitation for the 3<sup>rd</sup> India Africa Forum Summit at New Delhi.

- Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs, Shri Vayalar Ravi, visited Liberia in February 2010.

- Minister of State for External Affairs, Dr. Shashi Tharoor visited Liberia from September 16-19, 2009, accompanied by a CII business delegation. It was the first visit by an Indian Foreign Minister since Sardar Swaran Singh's visit to the country in 1971. President Sirleaf characterized the visit of Dr. Tharoor as "a landmark visit".

### **Other visits**

- The First ever Foreign Office Consultation (FOC) between India and Liberia took place in Monrovia on 17 December 2024. The FOC was Co-Chaired by Shri Sevala Naik Mude, Additional Secretary (C&WA), MEA, and Mrs. Sara Beysolow Nyanti, Foreign Minister of Liberia.

- Deployment of Indian Army's contingent under United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) during 2007-16 was well appreciated by Liberia. The first-ever all women contingent in the history of UN peacekeeping - the Female Formed Police Unit of the CRPF to the UNMIL was deployed in Liberia during 2007-16.

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

**VOGSS 3.0:** Dr. Catherine T. Cooper, Deputy Minister for Health Services and Chief Medical Officer of Liberia, Ministry of Health & Social Welfare of Liberia and Mrs. Tanneh G. Brunson, Deputy Minister for Budget and Development Planning, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning of Liberia, participated in the Health Ministers' Session and Finance Ministers' Session of Voice of the Global South Summit [VOGSS 3.0] respectively -organised virtually by India on August 17, 2024.

**VOGSS 1.0 & 2.0:** Dr. Wilhemina S. Jallah, Health Minister of Liberia,

and Mrs. Tanneh G. Brunson, Deputy Minister for Budget and Development Planning, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning of Liberia, participated in the Voice of the Global South Summit [VOGSS] - Health Ministers' Session, and VOGSS 2.0 – Finance Ministers' Session organised virtually by India on January 13, 2023 and November 17, 2023 respectively.

### **Economic and Commercial Relations**

Bilateral trade between India and Liberia has seen steady growth, with India being one of Liberia’s key trading partners. Bilateral trade stood at US\$256 Million in 2023-24, largely driven by India’s export to Liberia. During 2022-23, the bilateral trade figure was US\$284 million. There is a potential for significant increase in the bilateral trade.

The bilateral trade figures during the last five years are as follows:

*(Figures in US\$*

*million US\$)*

<b>Year</b>	<b>Exports</b>	<b>Imports</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Trade Balance</b>
2019-20	219.52	7.75	227.27	211.77
2020-21	225.65	6.95	232.60	218.70
2021-22	247.05	21.20	268.25	225.85
2022-23	257.15	26.80	283.95	230.35
2023-24	243.29*	12.46	255.75	230.83
2024-25 (April-December)	256.49	15.99	272.48	240.50

*Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India*

The main items of **export from India** are food stuff particularly rice, engineering goods, pharmaceuticals products, Ceramic products, two and three wheelers, transport equipment, articles of steel, iron and aluminium, and plastic and rubber products. **Imports from Liberia** mainly include animals and vegetable fats and oils, metals scrap, wood and articles of wood and natural rubber.

India is a preferred destination for higher education and medical treatment among the Liberians.

### **Development Partnership**

The EXIM Bank of India has extended a GOI supported LOC worth US\$50 Mn to ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) for construction of 50 km long Barclayville – Sasstown - Klowne Road in Grad Kru County of Liberia. Presently, consultancy services for the project are being provided by the Consulting Engineers Group Ltd.(CEG) and pre-qualification of EPC Contractors by Exim Bank is underway.

Government of India (GOI) contributed SDR 11.15 million towards the IMF's Financial Package for Liberia's Debt Relief in October 2007. India provided agricultural assistance package consisting of pesticides and sprayers to the Liberian government in 2009 to help combat emergency situation caused by caterpillar infestation. In order to improve the non-existent roads transport system of Liberia, India gifted 25 buses in 2010 which has been a visible example of India's assistance to improve daily lives of thousands of Liberians. Liberia was severely affected by Ebola during 2014-15. It was declared Ebola free by WHO on 9 May 2015. GOI stood by Liberia during these difficult times and extended bilateral assistance of over US\$ 50,000 to Liberia to fight Ebola. In addition, GOI provided cash assistance of US\$ 500,000 to the WHO as well as contribution of US\$ 10 million to the UN Fund for Ebola and additional US\$ 2 million for purchase of protective gear to tackle Ebola for the 3 Ebola affected countries of West Africa including Liberia (Agreement on contribution of US\$12 Million was signed on December 9, 2014). In August 2014, the Indian Community in Liberia also donated assorted anti-Ebola related material worth more than US\$ 200,000 to the National Task Force on Ebola. The donation was received by President Sirleaf personally. In December 2014, India again gifted 15 buses to Liberia which were formally received by the Foreign Minister, Mr. Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan in the presence of former President Sirleaf. GOI also contributed US\$ 2 million as grant for construction of the 14<sup>th</sup> Military Hospital in Liberia in August 2019.

The Hospital was inaugurated by the then Liberian President, Dr. George Manneh Weah on September 1, 2021. He also thanked Government of India for its contribution while inaugurating the Hospital. GOI also supplied 45 passenger buses and 5 fire-trucks to Liberia in December, 2019 on grant basis. In March 2021, GOI supplied 96,000 Covid-19 vaccines to Liberia through the COVAX facility under its Vaccine Maitry programme. Various grants and cash assistances by Gol have been well-appreciated by the Liberian top leadership and public in general.

### **Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme**

India provides 70 training slots under the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC). In addition, Liberian Defence personnel have also been allotted 7-8 slots for various defence courses/training under ITEC programme every year.

### **Cultural Relations**

India offers 4 ICCR scholarships for under graduate / post-graduate studies annually which are being fully utilized by Liberia.

The International Day of Yoga is organized by the Mission every year which see enthusiastic participation by the Indian as well as other communities in Liberia. The celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga was graced by Liberian Minister of Mines and Energy, Mr. Wilmot Paye as the Chief Guest.

Two Study in India educational fairs with involvement of over 15 Indian universities were held in February 2024 and February 2025 which saw the participation by a significant number of enthusiastic Liberian students.

### **Indian Community**

There are about 3500 Indian nationals and PIOs residing in Liberia. The Indian Community is mainly engaged in trading and providing services. A few of them have now started manufacturing ventures too. Indians have major share in pharmaceuticals and construction material sectors. There is a Hindu Temple, Sikh Gurudwara and also a cremation ground in Liberia. There are two

Indian Schools in Liberia, which cater to the educational needs of not only Indians but also Liberians and other nationals.

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*March 2025*