

Bilateral Brief: India-Guinea

Relations between India and Republic of Guinea have been cordial and friendly. India had opened an Embassy in Conakry earlier but closed in 1988 after more than 2 decades. 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 opened its Embassy in Guinea in 2019. Bilateral relations between India and Guinea are strengthening continuously.

Bilateral visits:

Major visits from India to Guinea:

- (i) MOS External Affairs, Mrs. Preet Kaur visited Guinea in January 2014. This was the first Ministerial visit after the closure of Indian Embassy in Conakry in 1988. MOS (PK) met the President and the Prime Minister and held bilateral talks with the Foreign Minister. Two agreements were signed with the Foreign Minister of Guinea, during the visit, namely, Establishment of Joint Commission between the Foreign Ministries of two countries and an MoU on Foreign Office Consultations.
- (ii) State visit of the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind to Guinea from 1-3 August 2019

The Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind accompanied by Shri Pratap Chandra Sarangi, MoS for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries and Shri Dilip Gosh, MP, Lok Sabha paid a State visit to Guinea from 1-3 August 2019. During the President's visit to Guinea, following three MoUs were signed in Conakry on 2 August 2019:

S.N	TITLE	DATE OF SIGNATURE	COUNTRY	MINISTRY
1.	MoU on Co-operation in the Field of Traditional System of Medicine and Homeopathy	02.08.2019	Ministry of Health, Republic of Guinea	Ministry of AYUSH
2.	On the Co-operation in the Field of Renewable Energy	02.08.2019	Ministry of Energy, Republic of Guinea	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
3.	MoU for participation in the e-VBAB Network Project (Technology Up-gradation of Pan Africa e-Network Project	02.08.2019	Higher Education, Republic of Guinea,	Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL)

The major visits from Guinea to India:

- (i) The President of the Republic of Guinea, Mr. Ahmed Sekou Toure participated in the NAM Summit in New Delhi in 1983.

- (ii) The Foreign Minister of Guinea participated in International Peace, Non-Violence and Empowerment in January 2007.
- (iii) The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Guineans Abroad, Dr. Edouard Nyankoye Lama participated in India LDC Ministerial Conference on “Harnessing the Positive Contribution of South-South Cooperation for Development of Least Developed Countries” in February 2011.
- (iv) The Industry Minister Mrs. R Bah participated in CII Partnership Summit 2013 held in Agra from 27-29 January 2013.
- (v) 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.
- (vi) Prof. Alpha Condé, former President of the Republic of Guinea, visited India to participate in the 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit in October 2015, immediately after his re-election to a second term in October 2015.
- (vii) 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.
- (viii) Guinean Foreign Minister Mr. Mamadi Toure visited India on 6 November 2017 to seek high level Indian participation in a Donors Conference in Paris in the same month. He also visited India in March 2018 to attend the Founding Members Conference of ISA.
- (ix) 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.
- (x) Foreign Minister, Mr. Mamadi Toure visited India in December 2019, signed LoC Agreements and had bilateral meeting with EAM, Shri S. Jaishankar.
- (xi) Chief of Staff-General Deputy of Armed Forces, Mr. Mohamed Bangoura and Mr. Alpha Souleymane Sow, Lieutenant Colonel represented Guinea in the DefExpo 2020.
- (xii) Mr. Aboubacar CAMARA, Director of the Legal Affairs and Logistics Department of the National Transition Council (CNT), Republic of Guinea visited India on 19th November 2022 to attend the course on Parliamentary Internship Programme for Foreign Parliamentary Officials at the Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE) from 21st November to 16 December 2022 under the ITEC Programme.
- (xiii) H.E. Hadja Safiatou Diallo, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Republic of Guinea participated virtually in the Voice of Global South Summit on 12 January 2023.
- (xiv) H.E. Dr. Mamdou P. Diallo, Minister of Health and Public Hygiene, Guinea, visited Delhi on the invitation of Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India (GoI) to attend the event titled 'ONE EARTH ONE HEALTH - The 6th Edition of Advantage Healthcare India' organized in collaboration with FICCI from 26th to 28th April 2023 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

- (xv) Mr. Ahmed Sekou Keita Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Energy, Hydraulic and Hydrocarbons along with Mr. Ismael NABE, Advisor to the Prime Minister in charge of Investments and Public-Private Partnerships and attended the 18th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India - Africa Growth Partnership held from 14 –16 June 2023 at New Delhi.
- (xvi) H.E. Mrs. Louopou LAMAH, Minister of Commerce, Industry, Small & Medium Enterprises of the Republic of Guinea along with Adviser to Prime Minister visited Delhi from 21-24 August 2023. During the visit H.E. Mrs. LAMAH held bilateral meeting with Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon. Minister of Commerce & Industry.

Bilateral mechanism and agreements

- Joint Mechanisms: Two bilateral arrangements, viz., (1) a Joint Commission and (2) Protocol for Consultations between Foreign Ministries exist between the two countries.

Trade and Commerce:

The overall bilateral trade between India and Guinea has been on the rise, though there is no clear trend visible. Major Indian exports include cereals rice, pharmaceuticals, textile, transport equipment, paints /chemicals, iron & steel, and construction equipment. Major Indian imports include pearls/stones/jewelry, mineral fuels & bitumen, cashew, scrap metals, aluminum, etc.

Bilateral trade statistics during the last four years are as follows:

Year	Exports	Imports	Total (In million US\$)
2018-2019	404.84	414.26	819.1
2019-2020	354.82	416.3	771.12
2020-2021	501.77	1,631.02	2132.79
2021-2022	561.53	3,616.56	4,178.09
2022-2023	631.93	2082.84	2,714.77

Investment of Indian Companies in Guinea

The Indian community in Guinea comprises around 1400 - 1500 persons amongst whom 750 people have registered themselves with the Embassy. There is no major investment by the Government of India or by any big companies from India in this country. However, a few Indians have established manufacturing facilities in Guinea. Due to Innumerable challenges and unfavorable environment/ecosystem for carrying out business, only a few resilient small private companies viz. Topaz Group of Companies, Jaguar Industries, Odhav Multi Industries, M/s Volta Impex, Ashapura Mining, Dynamic Mining, Bombay Industries, Goldmine Global Medicare Pvt ltd etc. have invested in Guinea. These are mainly involved in mining sector and import/export of goods such as automobiles, textiles, food products, sanitary items, cookware, soaps and detergents, cashews etc. From the statistical point of view, there is a great scope of business opportunities in Guinea in varied sectors including mining, agriculture, retail/wholesale trade etc. The Mission has been assisting a many other prominent Indian entrepreneurs who have approached the Embassy of India, Conakry seeking ministerial level meetings to establish their businesses in Guinea.

Concessional Loans:

Government of India has extended the following Lines of Credit (LoCs) to the Government of the Republic of Guinea:

- (i) LOC of US \$ 35 million: The LOC was extended to the Government of the Republic of Guinea on 11 March 2014 for strengthening of health system in Guinea.
- (ii) LOC of US \$ 20.506 million: This is an additional funding to the LoC of US \$ 35 million extended on 12 June 2020 for construction and upgradation of regional hospitals in Kankan and Nzerekore.
- (iii) Line of Credit (LOC) of US \$ 170 million: The Government of India had extended a Line of Credit (LoC) of US \$ 170 million to the Government of the Republic of Guinea on 13 November 2019 for financing the project for strengthening the drinking water supply of Grand Conakry-Horizon 2040. However, the Government of Guinea is now proposing to utilize the LoC of US \$ 170 million for the drinking water project in the city of Kankan due to difficulties in using remaining funds for the 4th water project in Grand Conakry. The estimated cost proposed for this project is US \$193.51 million. The Mission has requested the Government of Guinea to forward their proposal of the LoC through the Ministry of Finance of Government of Guinea vide our Note Verbale dated 31 October 2022. Since the total cost of the proposed project was US \$193.51 million and the LoC was extended for an amount of US \$170 million, the Mission also requested the Government of Guinea to intimate us as to how the balance amount of US \$ 23.51 million will be financed.
- (iv) Line of Credit (LoC) of US \$ 20.22 million: The LoC agreement was extended on 7 November 2019 for the following two solar projects, signed on 5 December 2019:
 - (a) Solar project for supply of Electricity and Drinking Water for 7 public universities in Guinea at a cost of US \$ 14.40 million.
 - (b) Solar Project for electrification and refrigeration in 200 health infrastructures in Guinea at a cost of US \$ 5.82 million.

Apart from the above LoCs, Government of India has also accepted the proposal from the Guinean Government to extend GOIs technical and financial support for construction of five regional airports in the interior of the Republic of Guinea and construction of a Convention Center in Conakry at an estimated cost of US \$ 250 million. The Government of the Guinea has been requested to re-submit its proposal in the form of LOC.

Humanitarian Aids/Donations:

- Guinea has also availed Indian LOC of US\$ 28.51 million through ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) for importing 100 buses from India (US\$ 8.1 million) and for rehabilitation and extension of the electricity networks in Guinea (US\$ 20 million).
- Government of 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.
- GOI extended bilateral assistance of US\$ 50,000 to Guinea to fight Ebola in 2014. 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.

- GOI extended six tons of critical medical assistance to the Republic of Guinea in July 2020, to fight against the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Capacity Building/Scholarships from India

- **ICCR:**TheICCR has allocated one slot to the Republic of Guinea under Africa Scholarship Scheme (ASS). The Mission utilized the slot by sending one Guinean applicant to India to avail of the ICCR scholarship under Africa Scholarship Scheme (ASS) during the Academic Year 2021-22 and 2022-23. The one slot allocated for the AY 2023-24 has also been utilized by the Mission.
- **ITEC:** The Ministry has allocated the following Defence and Civilian ITEC slots to the Republic of Guinea:
 - (i) **Defence ITEC:** The Ministry has allocated two Defence slots in 2022-2023 which were utilised and two slots have also been allocated for 2023-2024. The slots allocated for 2023-24 has also been utilized.
 - (ii) **Civilian ITEC:**The Ministry has allocated 40 Civilian ITEC slots to the Republic of Guinea. Out of these 40 slots, the Mission has utilized 5 slots in 2022-23 and recommended six slots so far during the current FY.
- **eVidyaBharti and e-ArogyaBharti (e-VBAB) Project:** The PAN African e-Network project of India has been in operation in Guinea. Government of India has offered the upgraded e-VBAB programme to Guinea. The MoU in the field of e-VBAB Network Project was signed on 2 August 2019 between Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, the Republic of Guinea during the state visit of Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Hon'ble President of India from 1-3 August 2019. The Project, started 7 October 2019 is completely funded by the Government of India for its entire duration. The Government of India through Tele-education project offers scholarships to the Students from Guinea to pursue Undergraduate (3 years courses), Postgraduate (2 to 2½ years courses), Diploma courses (1 Year) and Certificate Programs of 4 to 24 weeks from premier public and private universities of India in various disciplines including technology, business administration and commerce, healthcare, tourism, humanities and arts. Students can enroll and pursue the course completely online from their home or at learning center. Students can now empower themselves without leaving the country and free of cost by developing technical and managerial skills and embark on a new career, or prepare for advanced study. The courses offered are completely free of cost. The Tele-education portal is accessible at <https://ilearn.gov.in>. Under the e-VBAB network project, TCIL has supplied Computers, printers, TV, UPS, CCTV, etc. and set up learning center at Gamal Abdel Nasser University Guinea. Learning Centre (LC) and it was inaugurated on 27 July 2021. The learning center is for the benefit of students from Guinea. Minsitry has allocated two slots for July 2023 academeic session to Guinea under e-VBAB scholarship network project. Mission has utilized the two slots for Jul 2023 Academic session and enrollment of two students has already been approved. The e-ArogyaBharti project is yet to be implemented.

Cultural Relations:

In February 2013, ICCR sponsored 8-member cultural troupe from Guinea to participate in Suraj Kund Art and Craft Mela. ICCR paid for their airfare and all local expenditure during their 15 days stay in India. A Folk-Dance Troupe from Arunachal Pradesh visited Guinea and gave a performance in Conakry on 27 October 2017. This was the first ever visit by any cultural troupe from India.

Indian Community:

The Indian community in Guinea comprises around 1400 persons amongst whom 750 people have registered themselves with the Embassy. These are mainly involved in import and export of goods such as automobiles, textiles, food products, sanitary items, cookware, soaps and detergents cashews etc.

10 October 2023