

India-Equatorial Guinea Relations

- India and Equatorial Guinea (EG) have enjoyed warm and friendly relations dating back to pre-independence era of Equatorial Guinea (1968).
- Shri M.J. Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs was on a first ever bilateral visit to Equatorial Guinea on August 18, 2017. He had fruitful discussion with President and Foreign Minister of Equatorial Guinea. Three agreements- Establishment of Joint Commission, Exemption from visa requirement for holders of Diplomatic and Official/Service passport holders, Foreign Office Consultations. There, the Framework Agreement on International Solar Alliance was also signed by the Equatorial Guinea Foreign Minister and it is in the process of ratification.
- Foreign Minister of Equatorial Guinea led a 13-member delegation to India to participate in the 1st India-Equatorial Guinea Joint Commission meeting held in New Delhi on October 16, 2017. From the Indian side Shri M.J. Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs led the delegation.
- The President of Equatorial Guinea, Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo visited India for the first time in October 2015 to attend the Third India Africa Summit. He led a high level delegation for the summit. The President and Foreign Minister had bilateral meetings with their Indian counterparts.
- The Commerce Minister of Equatorial Guinea, Mr. Borupu visited India from 7-9 March 2017 to participate in the CII-Exim Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership. During the visit, he had meeting with MoS for Commerce and Industry, Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman in which discussions centred on enhancing economic cooperation and bilateral trade between the two countries.
- Earlier, the Minister of Mines and Energy of EG visited India in January 2016 to attend the Fourth India Africa Hydrocarbon conference. During the visit, he signed a MoU with ONGC Videsh Ltd for cooperation in the Petroleum and Natural Gas sector.
- Minister of State for AYUSH, Sh. Shripad Yesso Naik, visited Equatorial Guinea from 24-25 August 2015 as the Special Envoy of the Prime Minister to hand over the invitation for the Third India Africa Forum Summit.
- In Oct 2015, India conveyed to EG its approval for their opening a resident Mission in New Delhi.
- India hosted the 2nd Africa-India Forum Summit in Addis Ababa in May 2011. EG in its capacity as Chairman in accordance with the Banjul Format was invited and in this connection, in May 2011, MoS (IT & Telecom) Shri Sachin Pilot visited Equatorial Guinea as the Special Envoy of the PM. He called on President Obiang and handed over personal letter of invitation from PM to attend the Second Africa-India Forum Summit at Addis Ababa. The President of Equatorial Guinea, in his capacity as the Chairman of the African Union, attended the 2nd AIFS summit at Addis Ababa.
- The Agriculture Minister of EG, Mr. Victor Grange Mbele visited India and had meeting with Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare on 19 July 2017. The EG Minister sought India's assistance in capacity building and training in agriculture, mechanisation and farming technology, agri-financing and investment, animal husbandry and fish farming, food processing industries (micro, small & medium), animal feeds production,

vegetables and fruit production (including processing, preservation and packaging).

Trade and Investment

- India’s relationship with EG is characterised by the strong partnership in the oil and gas sector. EG is the fourth largest supplier of natural gas to India, after Qatar, Nigeria and Australia.
- Economic and commercial relations between India and Equatorial Guinea, though limited in nature, have been growing in the last few years, primarily due to its emergence as an important source of oil and other energy products.
- Main items of India’s exports to Equatorial Guinea are food products, cereals, meat, pharmaceuticals, machinery, apparel etc. Main items of India’s imports from Equatorial Guinea are oil & gas, timber etc.
- Trade figures for the last 5 years are given below:

(US\$ million)

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Indian Exports	11.42	17.15	21.31	17.24	15.01	17.53	11.24
Indian Imports	0.12	206.02	524.83	301.82	749.38	457.30	797.85
Total trade	11.54	223.17	546.14	319.06	764.39	474.83	809.10

Line of Credit

- A Line of Credit of US\$ 15 million extended by EXIM Bank of India in 2005 for a potable drinking water project was cancelled in June 2012 due to non-utilisation.

Training and scholarships

- Five slots have been allocated to Equatorial Guinea under ITEC programme and 4 slots under ICCR’s Africa Scholarship Scheme.

Consular

- About 250 Indian nationals are working in the capital city of Malabo in departmental stores and hotels etc. Occasionally, the oil companies bring in Indians on short-term assignments in offshore oil installations.

Useful Resources:

For more information and latest updates please visit

Embassy of India, Luanda website:

<http://www.indembangola.org/>

Embassy of India, Luanda Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Embassy-of-India-Luanda/209463462473631>

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