

## **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 Dec 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).
- i. A delegation led by MoS for External Affairs, Smt. Preneet 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.
- ii. 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 Rufyikiri led a business delegation to the 9th 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.
- vii. Mr. Come Manirakiza, Minister of Hydraulics, Energy represented Burundi in 2nd General Assembly of ISA held in October 2019 in New Delhi.
- viii. Hon. Audace Niyonzima, Minister of Finance of Burundi attended the 3rd edition of Voice of Global South Summit virtually. Prior to the meeting High Commissioner called on the Minister of Finance and Ambassador of Burundi in Kampala and briefed them about the VOGSS and the importance that India attaches to the Global South.

## **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
1.	<b>EXPORT</b>	48.35	58.47	64.02	60.51	42.75	38.37
2.	%Growth	26.95	20.92	9.50	-5.49	-29.34	-10.25
3.	%Share of India's Export	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01
4.	<b>IMPORT</b>	4.55	3.83	0.07	0.04	0.39	0.00
5.	%Growth	-72.47	-15.92	-98.18	-42.30	864.59	NIL
6.	%Share	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
8.	%Growth	-3.14	17.75	2.89	-5.53	-28.75	-11.05
9.	%Share of India's import	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
10.	<b>TRADE BALANCE</b>	43.80	54.64	63.95	60.47	42.36	38.37

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

- i. India has offered two Lines of Credit worth USD 161.36 Million to Burundi, i) for construction of a new Parliament building and ii) two Ministerial Buildings. LOC agreements were signed on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 between EXIM Bank of India and Burundian side.
- ii. 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.
- iii. Under IAFS-I, India offered eight Vocational Training Centres (VTCs); one each to the eight RECs. Burundi was nominated as one of the countries to host the VTC. The centre was inaugurated in December 2016. It imparts vocational training to people from the region to enable them to be gainfully employed or become entrepreneurs.

- iv. A project to build and equip a centre for HIV/AIDS prevention, testing and treatment was completed in December 2012. The Centre provides various health-care services, covering reproductive health, sexually transmitted diseases, prenatal care and family planning.
- v. At the second India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-II) in Government of India announced 40 biomass gasifier systems, out of which a cluster bio-mass gasifier system is to be established in Burundi. These are expected to provide low cost sustainable electricity in villages by powering a gas engine.
- vi. At IAFS-II, India also offered, among other things, eight Farm Science Centres (FSCs). FSC is an innovative institution of the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) which has played a pivotal role in application of technology at farm levels in India since 1974. Burundi has been selected by the East African Community for hosting one such FSC.
- vii. In addition to the above institutions, a tele-medicine centre and a tele-education centre 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.
- viii. 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 30th August, 2012. On October 25th, 2024, the Hon'ble 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, this milestone project is set to empower the region with reliable, sustainable energy. The High Commissioner represented Government of India at the inauguration of the GOI funded KABU 16 hydroelectric plant.
- ix. India gifted medicines worth US \$ 1.1 million to Burundi in September 2019.
- x. Gift of 100,000 NCERT text books was handed over to the Education Ministry of Burundi in March 2020.

- xi. On 9 August 2024, HC met Hon. 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.
- xii. High Commissioner attended signing ceremony of India-UNDP fund-aid project for Burundi on 19 September 2024. On the sidelines of the event HC also met Minister of Foreign Affairs and senior government functionaries in Bujumbura.

### **Indian diaspora**

Estimated number of PIOs and NRIs in Burundi are 700. Most of NRIs/PIOs are traders and businessmen and engineers/workers at the Kabu Hydro-electricity project. 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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**March 2025**