

Bilateral brief on India – Mali relations

Political: India and Mali have traditionally maintained friendly relations. In October 2009, the two countries signed a Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations and an Agreement on Political, Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Co-operation. During the recent crisis in Mali, India had strongly supported efforts to restore constitutional order in Mali as well as to preserve the territorial integrity of the country. Now that the democratic order has been restored, the Government of India, while welcoming the development, has reiterated its willingness to further strengthening its development cooperation partnership with Mali.

Heads of State / Government: After the military coup in March 2012, democratic order was re established in Mali after the successful holding of Presidential election in July / August 2013 and the National Assembly elections in November 2013. Currently, Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita is the President of the Republic and Mr. Moussa Mara, is the Prime Minister.

Foreign Minister: Mr. Abdoulaye Diop is the minister for Foreign Affairs, African Integration and International cooperation.

Bilateral Visits: The last high level visit from Mali to India was by former President of Mali, Amadou Toumani Touré on January 10-12, 2012. No high level visit from India to Mali has materialized as yet.

Direct and indirect assistance: Apart from direct bilateral assistance, Mali has availed Indian assistance through TEAM-9 (Techno-Economic Approach for Africa-India Movement aimed at 9 West African States), NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development) and ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) Bank.

Lines of Credit: India has so far extended Lines of Credit worth US\$ 303.62 million to Mali under various bilateral schemes/ and other projects of TEAM-9, NEPAD and ECOWAS for rural electrification, tractors and tractor assembly plant, railway coaches and locomotives, power-grid interconnection between Cote d'Ivoire and Mali and power distribution, agriculture and food processing. A major power transmission Project from the city of Sikasso to Bamako via Bougouni, for which India had extended LOC of US dollars 100 million is at the final tendering stage.

Pan-African e-Network Project: This project, which aims to connect all the Africans through a satellite and optical fibre network with a view to providing educational programmes, is operational in Bamako, Mali with the assistance of Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL), the implementing agency.

Bilateral Trade (Mali) : Mali offers good opportunities and prospects for the Indian entrepreneurs and investors, especially in the fields of Agriculture (cotton, food processing, abattoirs and tanneries), Automobile (two-wheeler segment), Mining (gold,

iron ore, phosphates, uranium, bauxite, zinc, manganese, tin and copper) and Pharmaceuticals (generic drugs). A CII delegation, consisting of interested investors, is scheduled to visit Mali in the second week of July 2014. The main items of export from India to Mali have been equipment for electricity transmission, cotton fabrics & made-ups, cycle parts, machinery and machine parts, transport equipments, drugs & pharmaceuticals, and processed food items. India's imports from Mali are largely limited to raw cotton, wood products and some agricultural products like Shea nuts. It is estimated that Mali's imports from India constitute less than 2.5 % of the value of its global imports and around .5 % of the value of its global exports. Thus, there is tremendous scope for improvement on the bilateral trade between the two countries.

Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) / Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa (SCAAP) Programmes of the Government of India and other scholarships offered by GOI: The Government of India offers various short term training programmes under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme to Mal. The ITEC programme is administered by the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India, under which all expenses including international airfare, boarding, lodging, tuition fees, etc. are borne by the GOI. These programmes essentially aim to enhance the qualification and skills of persons who are already employed in government establishments.

Other Scholarships:

Scholarships under the India Africa Forum Summit initiatives (IAFS): Apart from the ITEC / SCAAP courses, a number of other training courses are also being offered under the initiatives of the India-Africa Forum Summits. Please contact 00 223 202 354 20 or 00 223 202 354 21 or e-mail at hoc.bamako@mea.gov.in for details for the year 2013-2014.

Agricultural scholarships under the IAFS initiatives are administered through the African Union.

Under the Africa Scholarship Scheme (ASC), India also offers scholarships for higher studies in Indian Universities.

Under the C. V. Raman Fellowship scheme, Fellowships have also been offered to Mali.

Indian community in Mali: The number of Indians in Mali is estimated to be between 200 to 250. Most of them are engaged in private Indian businesses or are consultants / experts with Indian / foreign mining establishments. There is no known organization / association of the sparse Indian community in Mali.

Indian enterprises in Mali: Currently, there are many Indian ventures successfully doing business in Mali, particularly in mining, power, steel, cement, pharmaceuticals, oil

and gas exploration and agro industry sectors. A number of Indian companies are involved in projects executions under various lines of credits extended to Mali by India and other international organizations.

Cultural Interaction: A ten-member Malian traditional music group 'Ensemble Instrumental National of Mali' visited India between 18-19 June 2012 to take part and perform at the Africa Day Festival organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations. Recently, the Embassy has also facilitated airing of an Indian tele-series 'Kabhie Kabhie', dubbed in French, by ORTM - Mali's national TV. The programme is very popular among Malian viewers.

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