

## Brief on India - Liberia Relations

India-Liberia relations, going back over six decades, are warm and friendly. Ambassador of India to Cote d'Ivoire in Abidjan has been concurrently accredited to Liberia. Liberia too does not have a resident Mission in New Delhi.

2. Liberia has signed the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement.

### Visits

3. The major visits from India to Liberia in recent years are as follows:-

(1) MOS External Affairs, Dr. Shashi Tharoor visited Liberia from 16-19 September, 2009. The visit was the first by an Indian FM since Sardar Swaran Singh's visit to Liberia in 1971.

(2) Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs Shri Vayalar Ravi visited Liberia in February 2010.

(3) MOS for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Shri G. M. Siddeshwara visited Monrovia on 10-11 September 2015 as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister to personally handover the invitation for the 3<sup>rd</sup> India Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi.

(4) MOS External Affairs, Shri M.J.Akbar visited Liberia on 1- 2 March, 2018.

4. The major visits from Liberia to India in recent years are as follows:-

(1) Vice President Joseph Nyuma Boakai led the Liberian delegation to the 9<sup>th</sup> CII-XIM Bank Conclave in New Delhi from 17-19 March 2013. This was the first visit to India by a Vice President of Liberia.

(2) President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf visited India in September 2013, the first ever State visit by a Liberian President.

(3) President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf visited India in October 2015 to participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> India-Africa Forum Summit.

(4) FM Gbehzohngar M.Findley represented government of President George Weah (took charge on 22 January 2018) at the Founding Conference of International Solar Alliance in March 2018 in New Delhi.

### UN Peacekeeping

5. India contributed two contingents, both 125-member strong, to the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). The Female Formed Police Unit (FFPU) of the CRPF to UNMIL since 2007, represents the first-ever women contingent in the history of UN peacekeeping and was lauded as role models by UN when UNMIL was wound up in March 2018.

### Trade

6. Bilateral trade during the last five years in US\$ Millions is as follows:-

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
India's exports to Liberia	206.53	133.88	146.30	257.46	178.81
India's imports from Liberia	57.68	32.20	7.65	36.76	141.21
<b>Total Trade</b>	<b>264.21</b>	<b>166.08</b>	<b>153.96</b>	<b>294.22</b>	<b>320.02</b>
Percentage growth		-37.14	-7.30	91.11	8.77

7. Bilateral trade during 2018-19 was US\$ 320.02 million, up from US\$ 294.22 million during 2017-18. Exports to Liberia totalling US\$ 178.81 million during 2018-19 comprised mainly rice, motorcycles, cars, pharmaceutical products, insulated electrical conductor, transformers, ceramics and pumps. Imports from Liberia totalling US\$ 141.21 million during 2018-19 comprised petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals crude, ferrous and aluminium waste and scrap and battery waste.

8. In 2012, Liberia acceded to India's Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme for Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Under the scheme, India provided preferential market access for Liberia's exports, covering 94% of total tariff lines.

### **Capacity Building**

9. Liberia has been a beneficiary country of the PAN African e-Network project. GOI has offered the upgraded programme of e-VBAB to Liberia. Liberia is adequately utilizing the 60 ITEC slots and 8 ICCR scholarships earmarked for the country. Liberian diplomats have undergone training in regular courses at the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) in 2017 and 2018.

### **Assistance to Liberia**

10. India contributed SDR 11.15 million towards the IMF's Financial Package for Liberia's Debt Relief in October 2007. Agricultural assistance package worth Rs. 1 crore consisting of pesticides and sprayers was provided to the Liberian government in 2009 to help combat emergency situation caused by caterpillar infestation. India gifted 25 buses worth approx. Rs. 5.69 crore in 2010 and 15 buses worth about Rs. 4.57 crore in December 2014. GOI extended bilateral assistance of over US\$ 50,000 to Liberia to fight Ebola virus outbreak during 2014-15. In addition, GOI provided cash assistance of US\$ 500,000 to WHO and a contribution of US\$ 10 million to UN Fund for Ebola and an additional US\$ 2 million for purchase of protective gear to tackle Ebola for the three Ebola affected countries of West Africa including Liberia and Guinea.

11. Two announcements made in March 2018 are under implementation / consideration: (i) Supply of 45 buses and 5 fire engines (ii) GOI grant of US\$2 million in the health sector.

### **Indian Community/Investment**

12. There are about 2000 Indian nationals residing in Liberia. The Indian community is mainly engaged in trading, services and in manufacturing ventures. ArcelorMittal, a PIO company has been exporting iron ore from Liminco mine since July 2011. Vedanta also has presence in Liberia. There are about 150 Indian companies operating in Liberia, ranging from small trading firms to medium manufacturing enterprises. Hyderabad based L. V. Prasad Eye Institute has set up a modern eye clinic at JFK Memorial Hospital in Monrovia. The substantial contribution of the Indian community to the Liberian economy is recognized by the Liberian government. There is a Sikh Gurudwara, a Hindu Temple and also a cremation ground in Liberia.

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