

India - Guinea Relations

Relations between India and Republic of Guinea have been cordial and friendly. India had opened an Embassy in Conakry, Guinea, but closed it after more than 2 decades in 1988. Guinea now has concurrent accreditation of Ambassador of India to Cote d'Ivoire with residence in Abidjan. President of Guinea H.E. Prof. Alpha Conde has shown keen interest in having close relations with India and, therefore, Guinea opened its Embassy in New Delhi in April 2012.

2. The political climate in Guinea is currently stable. The Parliamentary elections, due in June 2011 were held on 28 September 2013 after few postponements. However, the opposition did not accept the election results in which President Conde's party had won majority of seats. The Supreme Court rejected the complaints of the opposition and upheld the provisional election results in which President Conde's party had won 53 seats and its allies 7 in the national assembly of 114 seats.

Important Visits from India to Guinea

3. Major visits from India include the visit of Mrs Preneet Kaur, MOS (External Affairs) [MOS (PK)] on 21-22 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. She held bilateral talks with the Foreign Minister. During the visit, two agreements were signed with the Foreign Minister of Guinea, namely, Establishment of Joint Commission between the Foreign Ministries of two countries and an MoU on Foreign Office Consultations.

Important Visits from Guinea to India

4. President Ahmed Sekou Toure had visited Delhi for the NAM Summit in Delhi in 1983.

5. A delegation comprising Ministers of Industry, SMEs and Promotion of Private Sector; Employment; Technical Education and Vocational Training; and Health participated in the 10th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave held in New Delhi in March 2014. Another delegation consisting of Ministers of Energy; Health; Employment; Technical Education and Vocational Training; and Agriculture attended the 9th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave in March 2013.

6. There have been fairly regular visits to India by Guinean Ministers to participate in International Conferences. Foreign Minister participated in International Peace, Non-Violence and Empowerment in January 2007. Minister of Transport visited to follow up matters relating to line of credit to ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) in March 2008. 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. The Industry Minister Mrs. R Bah participated in CII Partnership Summit 2013 held in Agra from 27-29 January 2013.

India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS)

7. The PAN African e-Network project of India has been in operation in Guinea. The VVIP site is not functional as it has been decided to shift it to the Foreign Ministry. Under the decisions of IAFS-II held in Addis Ababa in 2011, India agreed to establish a Bio-mass Gassifier for village electrification.

Capacity Building and Human Resource Development

8. Guinea has been allotted 30 slots under the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme in the current year 2015-16. The Government of India through Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) have also provided 6 undergraduate/post graduate fully paid scholarships.

Cultural Relations

9. In February 2013, ICCR sponsored a 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.

Indian Community

10. The Indian community in Guinea comprises about 700 persons. It is mainly involved in trading or working in trading companies. One Indian medical group is establishing a 300-bed hospital in Conakry. There is one Gurudwara cum Hindu temple in Conakry which is used by all Indians for their religious functions and gatherings.

Indo-Guinea bilateral trade during the last five years is as follows:

(In million US\$)

Year	Exports	Imports	Total	%age Growth
2010-11	96.40	103.22	199.62	
2011-12	131.94	262.23	394.16	97.45
2012-13	206.07	527.83	733.90	86.19
2013-14	203.42	194.40	397.82	-45.79
2014-15	283.81	729.69	1,013.50	154.76

11. The overall bilateral trade between India and Guinea has been on the rise, though there is no clear trend visible. In the FY 2014-15, it crossed US\$ 1 billion mark. Therefore, it is not possible to derive any conclusive picture from the trade data. Major Indian exports include cereals (rice), drugs and pharmaceuticals, textile, transport equipment, paints /chemicals, iron & steel, and construction equipment. Major Indian imports include pearls/stones/jewellery, mineral fuels & bitumen, cashew, scrap metals, aluminum, etc.

Indian Investment in Guinea

12. A few Indians have established manufacturing, trading, mining and agricultural businesses.

Indian Assistance

13. 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. India has agreed to donate 175 computers to the Government of the Republic of Guinea. Indo-Gulf Hospital, Noida (which is constructing a 300-bed Hospital in Conakry) has recently contributed medicines and other supplies to Guinea during the spread of Ebola virus at a total expenditure of Rs. 30 lakhs. Tata Steel also donated 10 Buses to the Government of Guinea during 2013.

14. Guinea has been severely affected by Ebola Virus outbreak since last year. GOI extended bilateral assistance of US\$ 50,000 to Guinea to fight Ebola. 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 and Liberia.

Lines of Credit

15. India has approved a Line of Credit of US\$ 35 million to Guinea for strengthening of health system in March 2014. Another Line of Credit of US\$ 59.87 million to Guinea for Agricultural Modernization and Development Project is also approved by GOI.

16. 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).

Useful Resources:

Embassy of India, Abidjan website:
<http://www.eoiabidjan.org/>

July 2015