

Bilateral Brief: India-Mali

Republic of Mali achieved its independence from France on 22 September 1960. It is a proclaimed secular state. A landlocked country, Mali is located in West Africa in the southern sub-Sahara region. Almost 60 per cent of the country is desert (north-eastern part). The estimated population is 19 million (2018). Most of the high density population centers are located in the south which is blessed with two perennially flowing rivers – Niger, the lifeline of the country and the Senegal in the west. Mali is the 8th largest country in Africa and 24th largest country in the world. The lingua franca is Bambara (with around 80% speakers). The currency is Communauté Financière Africaine Franc (CFA Franc or FCFA). One US\$ is equivalent to roughly between FCFA 550-590. French is the official language. The capital city is Bamako.

2. The leadership of Mali is as follows:-

President: H.E.Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita (since 4 September 2013)

Prime Minister: H.E. Mr. Boubou Cisse (since 23 April 2019)

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation: H.E. Mr. Tiebile Drame (since 5 May 2019).

Bilateral Mechanism

3. The bilateral agreements signed between India and Mali:-

1. Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations (2009)
2. Agreement on Political, Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation (2009)
3. MOU on Cooperation in Geology and Mineral Resources (2012)
4. Cultural Exchange Programme (September 2016)
5. MOU on Standards between the Bureau of Indian Standards and Direction Nationale De Industries, Mali (September 2016)

Bilateral Visits

4. The major visits from India to Mali:-

2017	MOS (External Affairs), Shri M.J.Akbar visited Mali on a bilateral official visit from March 2-3, 2017 and, along with the Foreign Minister of Mali, Mr. Abdoulaye Diop, co-chaired the first ever Joint Commission Meeting between the two countries.
2016	Hon'ble Vice President of India (HVPI), Shri Hamid Ansari, accompanied by Shri Arjun Meghwal, Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs and three Members of Parliament, paid the first high level visit from India to Mali on 29 – 30 September 2016.

5. The major visits from Mali to India:-

2019	The 1 st India-Mali Foreign Office Consultations were held in New Delhi
------	--

	on 4 November 2019. The Indian delegation was led by Shri T.S Tirumurti, Secretary (Economic Relations) and the Malian delegation was led by Mr. Boubacar Gouro Diall, Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Mali.
2018	President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita attended the Founding Conference of International Solar Alliance in March 2018 in New Delhi.
2017	President of High Court of Justice of Mali, Hon'ble Abderhamane Niang and two Malian Parliamentarians visited India in December 2017.
2017	Mr. Konimba Sidibe, Minister of Investment Promotion and Private Sector attended the 12 th CII Exim Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership in March 2017 in New Delhi.
2015	President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita attended the Founding Conference of International Solar Alliance (ISA) in March 2018 in New Delhi.

Development Partnership

6. India has so far extended 8 Lines of Credit (LoCs) worth US\$ 353.6 million to Mali mainly in the energy sector. Acquisition of railway coaches, setting up of agro machinery and tractor assembly plant and agriculture and food processing projects have also been completed under LoCs.

7. The following two solar projects, under LoCs, are under consideration: (i) Setting up a sustainable village and use of solar photo voltaic technology for irrigation of 2500 ha of agricultural land (US\$ 22 million) and (ii) Construction of 50 MW Solar Power Plant in Fana (US\$ 60.65 million).

Humanitarian Assistance / Donation

8. During the political and security crisis in Mali and consequent upon a military coup in March 2012, India strongly supported efforts for restoration of constitutional order in Mali and preservation of its territorial integrity. India also contributed US\$ 1 million for strengthening of Malian forces at the Donors Conference held in Addis Ababa. After the restoration of democratic order since September 2013, Government of India, while welcoming the development, reiterated its willingness to further strengthening its development cooperation partnership with Mali. Both the countries recognise terrorism as a grave threat to peace and prosperity and agree to cooperation at bilateral, regional and multi-lateral level to combat this menace.

Capacity Building

9. Sixty slots were allotted to Mali under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) during the year 2018-19. For the year 2019-20, the ITEC slots have been increased to 70. Under ICCR-Africa Scholarship Scheme, 8 slots are being offered to Mali annually.

10. Other Scholarships availed by Mali are: (1) Under various initiatives of the India-Africa Forum Summits, (2) Agricultural scholarships administered through the African Union and (3) C.V.Raman Fellowship Scheme.

11. Two Malian military officers had participated in the training programme conducted by the Centre for UN Peacekeeping in Delhi in 2012. Under ITEC Programme, about 15 defence personnel from Mali received training in India.

Trade and Investment

12. Total bilateral trade was US\$ 149 million in 2018-2019. Main items of export from India are pharmaceutical products, tractors, motor vehicles, bicycles etc. Main items of import into India are cotton, gold, gum and cashew nuts in shell. In monetary terms, the value of Indian exports to Mali was 0.04% of India's total global export during 2016-17.

13. Gold, livestock and agriculture account for almost 85% of Mali's exports. Mali has a liberal and friendly investment and trade policy. For Indian investors, investment opportunities exist in the field of agriculture (cotton, food processing, abattoirs and tanneries), automobiles (two-wheeler segment), mining and pharmaceuticals (generic drugs).

14. India has extended Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme to Mali.

Culture

15. Both countries have a rich cultural heritage. A 2 member cultural delegation visited India during the 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III) in October 2015 for a musical performance and received great appreciation.

16. In March 2017, India donated US\$ 0.5 million for the reconstruction of the world heritage of Timbuktu which was announced by HVPI during his visit to Mali in September 2016.

17. An Exhibition "Taj Mahal meets Timbuktu" hosting Timbuktu manuscripts was held at National Museum, New Delhi from 24 May – 6 June 2018.

Indian Community / Investment

18. The number of Indians in Mali is estimated to be around 250 - 300. They are mainly in import retail business, mining, power, steel, cement, pharmaceuticals and agro industry sectors. Indian commodities, pharmaceutical and light engineering products have a significant presence in Mali.

(last updated 26 February 2020)

Useful Resources:

Embassy of India, Bamako website: <https://www.embassyofindiabamako.gov.in/>

Embassy of India, Bamako Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/IndiaInMali/>
Embassy of India, Bamako Twitter handle: [@IndianEmbassyML](https://twitter.com/IndianEmbassyML)