

## India-Guinea Bissau Relations

### Political Relations:

Guinea Bissau Government is generally supportive of India. There has been regular co-operation at international fora. Recently, Guinea-Bissau supported for India's candidature in ITLOS and ICJ. Guinea-Bissau has also signed the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement in Marrakesh in November 2016.

### Visits:

Special Envoy of Prime Minister (SEPM) and Minister of State for Mines and Steel, Shri Vishnu deo Sai, visited Guinea-Bissau in September, 2015 to personally invite President Mr. Jose Mari Vaz to participate in India Africa Forum Summit III (IAFS-III).

President Mr. Jose Mario Vaz participated in IAFS-III from 26-29th October 2015 along with his delegation including the Foreign Minister Mr. Artur Antonio da Silva. The Guinea Bissau Minister of Energy, Industry and Natural Resources Mr. Antonio Serifo Embalo participated in Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention (29 September to 2 October 2018) in New Delhi. Mr. Mamudo DJAU, Chief of Cabinet of Minister of Energy, Industry and Natural Resources of Guinea Bissau participated in CII-EXIM Bank Regional Conclave in West Africa in Abuja on 8-9 October 2018.

### Commercial Relations / Bilateral Trade:

*Value in Million US\$*

Year	India's Exports	India's Imports	Total Trade	Growth in %
2014-2015	9.76	158.38	168.14	30.66
2015-2016	14.47	198.17	212.64	26.46
2016-2017	21.66	215.67	237.32	11.61
2017-2018	10.68	256.20	266.89	12.46
2018-19 (Apr-Sep)	3.65	71.41	75.06	

*Source: Export Import Database, Department of Commerce, Government of India*

Cashew crop accounts for more than 90% of export earnings of Guinea-Bissau and almost the entire cashew crop (around 98%) is exported to India for processing. The major items of India's exports to Guinea-Bissau include iron and steel, rice, pharmaceuticals, construction material, textiles, electrical machinery etc.

India's Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) scheme is applicable for import of select commodities from Guinea Bissau.

### Development assistance programmes:

**LOCs:** GOI has extended LOC of US\$ 25 million to Guinea Bissau. Line of Credit for US \$ 5 million (out of US \$ 25 million) to Guinea Bissau for food processing and agricultural sector has been disbursed. US \$ 20 million for Rural Electrification Project in Guinea Bissau is being implemented. Government of Guinea Bissau has been irregular in the re-payment of interest overdues on time however as confirmed by EXIM bank there was no interest overdue as on September 2018. Government of Guinea Bissau has recently (in September 2018) requested for re-structuring of the LOC of USD 25 million.

**Grants:** India supplied 1000 tons of rice as Emergency food aid to Guinea Bissau. On 10 September 2018, Ambassador of India in Dakar Shri Rajeev Kumar handed over 1000 tons of rice to the President of Guinea Bissau H.E. Jose Mario Vaz at a special ceremony at the Presidential Palace, Bissau. On 9 October 2018, President Vaz organized a grand rice distribution ceremony in his hometown Canjung where more than 25000 Guineans participated.

The Pan-African E-Network Project Phase I was operational in Guinea Bissau. Recently, it has been decided to re-structure the project by making it internet-based. In 2017, it was decided to re-structure the project by making it internet-based. The Government of Guinea Bissau has been requested to indicate its willingness for the next internet based phase called e-Vidya Bharti and e-Arogya Bharti (e-VBAB).

**ITEC and other Training Programmes:** For the academic year 2018-19, 10 slots for training in India under India Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) have been allotted to Guinea Bissau whereas 05 Scholarship slots are provided under ICCR for the year 2018-19.

### **Events and Activities:**

**Business Event:** In order to increase awareness about business opportunities between India and Guinea Bissau, the Embassy of India in Dakar organized a Business event-cum-Seminar "Identification and Exploration of Business Opportunities between India and Guinea-Bissau" in Bissau (Guinea Bissau) on 18 January 2018 in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture and Services of Guinea-Bissau (CCIAS).

**4<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga in Bissau:** Embassy of India, Dakar celebrated 4th IDY 2018 in Bissau, Guinea Bissau on 17 June 2018. The event attracted a participation of more than 250 yoga enthusiasts. Minister of Presidency and Parliamentary Affairs of Guinea Bissau Mr. Angelo Augusto Regala was also present during the event. Just before the event, Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau Mr. Aristides Gomes posed in Yoga t-shirt during a call on with him.

### **NRI Population**

There are about 100 Indians in Guinea Bissau. However, every year during cashew crop season, 40-50 Indians visit Guinea Bissau for a few weeks to negotiate, purchase and ship the consignments of raw cashew to India

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