

## **India-Guinea Relations**

Relations between India and Republic of Guinea may be described as cordial and friendly. India had opened the Embassy in Conakry, Guinea, but closed it 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 his first step in this direction was to open an Embassy in India in April 2012.

The political climate in Guinea is rather 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**

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**

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

A delegation comprising Ministers of Industry, SMEs and Promotion of Private Sector; Employment; Technical Education and Vocational Training; and Health participated in the 10<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> CII-EXIM Bank Conclave in March 2013.

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)

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

Guinea was allotted 25 slots under the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme for the year 2012-13 which were increased to 35 in the following year. The number has been fixed at 30 in the current year 2014-15. The Government of India through Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) provided 8 undergraduate/post graduate fully paid scholarships.

## Cultural Relations

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

The Indian community in Guinea comprises about 500 persons. It is mainly involved in trading or working in trading companies. One Indian medical group is establishing a large hospital in Conakry. There is one Gurudwara in Conakry which used by other community 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
2009-10	79.35	320.24	<b>399.59</b>	
2010-11	96.40	103.22	<b>199.62</b>	-50.04
2011-12	131.94	262.23	<b>394.16</b>	97.45
2012-13	206.07	527.83	<b>733.90</b>	86.19
2013-14	206.24	199.01	<b>405.25</b>	-44.78

While the overall bilateral trade between India and Guinea was on the rise in the last few years, it has witnessed sudden decreases in certain years. 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 equipments. Major Indian imports include mineral fuels & bitumen, cashew, scrap metals, aluminum, etc.

### **Indian Investment in Guinea**

Some Indians have established manufacturing facilities in Conakry. The prominent amongst them are M/s Topaz Group of Companies which has paint and plastic goods manufacturing units. M/s Bombay Store is in Soap manufacturing.

### **Indian Assistance**

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 has donated 10 Buses to the Government of Guinea during 2013.

### **Lines of Credit**

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 under consideration of the GOI.

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).

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