

Brief on India- Guinea Bissau Bilateral Relations

Political Relations:

India and Guinea Bissau enjoy warm and friendly relations. There is considerable goodwill for India both amongst the Government and the general public of Guinea Bissau. In the context of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the President of Guinea Bissau H.E. Jose Mario Vaz shared his thoughts on the subject: 'What Gandhi means to me'.

We two closely co-operation at international fora such as the United Nations and NAM. Guinea-Bissau has already signed the ISA Framework Agreement and was one of the 24 members which signed the Declaration of Yoga as a "Human Treasure" at the 11th Session of Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage held in Addis Ababa in December 2016.

An Honorary Consulate of India in Bissau was inaugurated in May 2010. Guinea Bissau too has its Honorary Consulate in New Delhi.

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.

Economic and Commercial Relations:

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

Indian imports from Guinea Bissau during 2018-19 were \$ 124 mn and exports to Guinea Bissau were \$ 11 mn. Bilateral trade statistics as per DGCIIS, Government of India, in the past five years, in US \$ mn are given below:

\Year	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
EXPORT	10	14	22	11	11
IMPORT	158	198	216	256	124

TOTAL TRADE	168	213	237	267	135
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Cashews are main Indian imports. The major items of India's exports to Guinea-Bissau include iron and steel, rice, pharmaceuticals, construction material, textiles and electrical machinery.

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 on 18 January 2018 in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture and Services of Guinea-Bissau (CCIAS).

Development Partnership:

Line of Credit Projects: Guinea Bissau is a founder member of the Team-9 Initiative. Under this framework, GOI has earmarked an LOC of US\$ 25 million for Guinea Bissau: US\$ 5 million for food processing and agricultural sector; and, US\$ 20 million for Rural Electrification projects.

Grants: India supplied 1000 tons of rice as emergency aid to Guinea Bissau in September 2018.

ITEC (Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation) training slots: For the academic year 2018-19, under ITEC, 7 slots were utilized out of 10 slots allotted.

An expert in the area of rice cultivation visited Guinea Bissau from India in early 2006 to assist the country under India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum's "Poverty Alleviation Funding Facility". An expert Team from India had also visited Guinea-Bissau to assist in a Solar Power project. In February 2009, India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Trust Fund Board, approved around US\$ 830,000 for two projects (combined) for renewable energy and agricultural capacity building in Guinea Bissau.

Cultural Relations:

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 attended the event.

ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations) scholarships Under ICCR scholarships, 3 slots were utilized out of 9 slots allotted.

Indian Community

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.

Further information including official press releases:

Please

visit

https://asp.embassyofindiadakar.gov.in/eoia/aWn_list.asp?s_keyword=bissau

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