

Brief Embassy Report on Bilateral Relations – ITJ Division, DGCI&S, Kolkata.

India-Guinea Bilateral Relations

A. Introduction

1. Indian Trade Journal (ITJ) division of the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS) brings out weekly publication on Embassy Profile Report providing information on recent policy changes and happenings in other countries that may be of interest to the Indian trading community. This is the Embassy Profile Report depicting the Embassy of Guinea.

2. Relations between India and Republic of Guinea have been cordial and friendly. India had opened an Embassy in Conakry earlier but closed in 1988 after more than 2 decades. Guinea opened its Embassy in New Delhi in April 2012. Subsequent to the Cabinet approval for opening of 18 new Missions in Africa by 2021, India opened its Embassy in Guinea in 2019. Bilateral relations between India and Guinea are strengthening continuously.

B. Commercial Relations (Trade and Foreign Investment) – Recent facts & figures

3. The overall bilateral trade between India and Guinea has been on the rise, though there is no clear trend visible. Major Indian exports include cereals rice, pharmaceuticals, textile, transport equipment, paints /chemicals, iron & steel, and construction equipment. Major Indian imports include pearls/stones/jewelry, mineral fuels & bitumen, cashew, scrap metals, aluminum, etc. An account of Bilateral commodities trade in goods from 2019-20 to 2023-24 are as under:

Export-Import statistics as per India's Ministry of Commerce data bank from 2019-20 to 2023-24 are as follows :

Export-Import statistics from 2019-20 to 2023-24

(US Dollar million)

Year	India's Exports	India's Imports	Total Bilateral Trade
2019-20	354.82	416.30	771.12
2020-21	501.77	1,631.02	2132.79
2021-22	561.53	3,616.56	4,178.09
2022-23	631.93	2082.84	2,714.77
2023-24	696.48	1385.72	2082.20

(Source: Department of Commerce, India)

4. The Indian community in Guinea comprises around 1400 - 1500 persons amongst whom 750 people have registered themselves with the Embassy. There is no major investment by the Government of India or by any big companies from India in this country. However, a few Indians have established manufacturing facilities in Guinea. Due to Innumerable challenges and unfavorable environment/ecosystem for carrying out business, only a few resilient small private companies viz. Topaz Group of Companies, Jaguar Industries, Odhav Multi Industries, M/s Volta Impex, Ashapura Mining, Dynamic Mining, Bombay Industries, Goldmine Global Medicare Pvt ltd etc. have invested

in Guinea. These are mainly involved in mining sector and import/export of goods such as automobiles, textiles, food products, sanitary items, cookware, soaps and detergents, cashews etc. From the statistical point of view, there is a great scope of business opportunities in Guinea in varied sectors including mining, agriculture, retail/wholesale trade etc. The Mission has been assisting a many other prominent Indian entrepreneurs who have approached the Embassy of India, Conakry seeking ministerial level meetings to establish their businesses in Guinea.

5. 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).

6. Apart from the above LoCs, Government of India has also accepted the proposal from the Guinean Government to extend GOIs technical and financial support for construction of five regional airports in the interior of the Republic of Guinea and construction of a Convention Center in Conakry at an estimated cost of US \$ 250 million. The Government of the Guinea has been requested to re- submit its proposal in the form of LOC.

C. Other Major Areas of Cooperation :

➤ The ICCR has allocated one slot to the Republic of Guinea under Africa Scholarship Scheme (ASS). The Mission utilized the slot by sending one Guinean applicant to India to avail of the ICCR scholarship under Africa Scholarship Scheme (ASS) during the Academic Year 2021-22 and 2022-23. The one slot allocated for the AY 2023-24 has also been utilized by the Mission.

➤ **ITEC:** The Ministry has allocated the following Defence and Civilian ITEC slots to the Republic of Guinea:

(i) **Defence ITEC:** The Ministry has allocated two Defence slots in 2022-2023 which were utilized and two slots have also been allocated for 2023-2024. The slots allocated for 2023-24 has also been utilized.

(ii) **Civilian ITEC:** The Ministry has allocated 40 Civilian ITEC slots to the Republic of Guinea. Out of these 40 slots, the Mission has utilized 5 slots in 2022-23 and recommended six slots so far during the current FY.

➤ **eVidya Bharti and e-Arogya Bharti (e-VBAB) Project:** The PAN African e-Network project of India has been in operation in Guinea. Government of India has offered the upgraded e-VBAB programme to Guinea. The MoU in the field of e-VBAB Network Project was signed on 2 August 2019 between Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, the Republic of Guinea during the state visit of Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Hon'ble President of India from 1-3 August 2019. The Project, started 7 October 2019 is completely funded by the Government of India for its entire duration. The Government of India through Tele- education project offers scholarships to the Students from Guinea to pursue Undergraduate (3 years courses), Postgraduate (2 to 2½ years courses), Diploma courses (1 Year) and Certificate Programs of 4 to 24 weeks from premier public and private universities of India in various disciplines including technology, business administration and commerce, healthcare, tourism, humanities and arts. Students can enroll and pursue the course completely online from

their home or at learning center. Students can now empower themselves without leaving the country and free of cost by developing technical and managerial skills and embark on a new career, or prepare for advanced study. The courses offered are completely free of cost. The Tele-education portal is accessible at <https://ilearn.gov.in>. Under the e-VBAB network project, TCIL has supplied Computers, printers, TV, UPS, CCTV, etc .and setup learning center at Gamal Abdel Nasser University Guinea. Learning Centre (LC) and it was inaugurated on 27 July 2021. The learning center is for the benefit of students from Guinea. Ministry has allocated two slots for July 2023 academic session to Guinea under e-VBAB scholarship network project. Mission has utilized the two slots for Jul 2023. Academic session and enrollment of two students has already been approved. The e-Arogya Bharti project is yet to be implemented.

➤ Joint Mechanisms: Two bilateral arrangements, viz., (1) a Joint Commission and (2) Protocol for Consultations between Foreign Ministries exist between the two countries.

➤ H.E. Mrs. Louopou LAMAH, Minister of Commerce, Industry, Small & Medium Enterprises of the Republic of Guinea along with Adviser to Prime Minister visited Delhi from 21-24 August 2023. During the visit H.E. Mrs. LAMAH held bilateral meeting with Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon. Minister of Commerce & Industry.

➤ The Indian community in Guinea comprises around 1400 persons amongst whom 750 people have registered themselves with the Embassy. These are mainly involved in import and export of goods such as automobiles, textiles, food products, sanitary items, cookware, soaps and detergents cashews etc.

Source: www.mea.gov.in