

**Embassy of India
Bamako (Mali)**

India-Mali Bilateral Brief

I. Political

India and Mali have traditionally maintained warm and friendly political relations. Both countries have commonality in membership of numerous international organizations, including NAM. In March 2012, a military coup brought about disruption in over two decades of democratic rule in Mali. Since then, a transitional government is in place and is expected to accomplish the extremely difficult task of organizing free and fair Presidential elections in the country and thus, restoring of democratic rule. The country currently faces pressures on its sovereign integrity and security, compounded by problems of large scale displacement of its citizens, poverty and disease. The crucial elections are scheduled for 28 July, 2013. Outcome of these elections is expected to have a long term impact on the future of the country and its relations with other countries / international entities.

H.E. Mr. Amadou Toumani Toure, former President, visited India on the first-ever State Visit of a Malian President to India on January 10-12, 2012. The delegation included six Ministers and several other senior government officials. A business delegation comprising Heads of business associations and private entrepreneurs had also accompanied the President. During the visit, the delegation had interactions with the top political and the business leaders in India. Bilateral agreements signed during the visit included an Agreement on Cooperation in the fields of Geology and Mineral Resources and Line of Credit Agreement for US\$ 100 million for financing a power transmission project connecting Bamako and Sikasso via Bougouni in Mali. In October 2009, India and Mali also signed a Protocol for Foreign Office Consultations and an Agreement on Political, Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Co-operation. Several other high-level visits have taken place during the last three years from Mali to India. Keeping in view the multi dimensional growth in bilateral relations and further potential growth, GOI opened its Embassy in Bamako in May 2009. Mali opened its Embassy in New Delhi in August 2010.

Mali has also availed Indian assistance through TEAM-9 (Techno-Economic Approach for Africa-India Movement aimed at 9 West African States), NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development) and ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) Bank. India has so far extended Lines of Credit worth US\$ 303.62. as follows:

Under ITEC/SCAAP, Mali has been allotted 30 slots during the current year (2013-14).

Year-wise details of utilization of various courses offered to the Republic of Mali by GOI under ITEC and other programmes during the last three years are given below:-

Year	ITEC	ITEC-De-fence	IAFS	UN Peace Keeping	FSTI	ICCR (Africa)
2011-12	21	12	29	nil	1	nil

2012-13	22	13	7	1	nil	Nil
2013-14	11	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil

Other Scholarships:

- Scholarships under the India Africa Forum Summit initiatives (IAFS): Apart from the ITEC / SCAAP courses, a number of other training courses are also being offered under the initiatives of the India-Africa Forum Summits.
- Mali is also eligible for agricultural scholarships under the IAFS initiatives which are administered through the African Union. Under the Africa Scholarship Scheme (ASC), India has offered one scholarship each year for higher studies in Indian Universities.
- Under the C. V. Raman Fellowship scheme, 8 fellowships have been offered to Mali out of which one has been utilized in 2010-11.
- Recently, two Malian military officers have participated in the training programme conducted by the Centre for UN Peace- Keeping in Delhi.

II. Commercial

Mali offers good opportunities and prospects for the Indian entrepreneurs and investors, especially in the fields of Agriculture (cotton, food processing, abattoirs and tanneries), automobile (two-wheeler segment), mining (gold, iron ore, phosphates, uranium, bauxite, zinc, manganese, tin and copper) and pharmaceuticals (generic drugs).

- Malian economy is pre-dominantly based on agriculture and livestock husbandry. It is the second largest producer of long staple cotton in Africa. It is also one of the largest producers of mangoes in Africa but lacks processing facilities.
- Mali has estimated 35 million cattle heads inclusive of 8 million cows, 26 million sheep and goats and approx 1 million camels. This provides opportunities in the food processing sector including meat – processing and setting up of modern abattoirs, which Mali currently lacks. Most of the raw hides and skins are exported. Malian government welcomes investments in these sectors.
- There is immense scope for joint ventures in production of gold and fabrication & marketing of jewelry in Mali.
- Phosphates, uranium, bauxite, zinc, manganese, tin and copper are available abundantly in Mali and remain unexploited. The Malian government is keen to undertake exploration and exploitation of Mali's mineral resources and has formally offered the rights on lease to GOI or government designated companies. Oil exploration is also being undertaken.
- Mali is also a good market for Indian generic medicines and pharmaceutical products.

- Automobile sector, particularly the two-wheeler segment, also offers good opportunities for our automobile and auto-parts manufacturers.

Bilateral trade items & figures: The main items of export from India to Mali have been equipment for electricity transmission, cotton fabrics & made-ups, cycle parts, machinery and machine parts, transport equipments, drugs & pharmaceuticals, and processed food items. Imports from Mali during 2010-11 were only around US\$ 3.32 million. India's imports from Mali are largely limited to raw cotton, wood products and some agricultural products like shea nuts.

India-Mali Trade Figures (2008-2011) (In US \$ Millions)

Year	India's Exports	India's Imports	Total Trade	Growth in %
2008-2009	39.15	9.03	48.18	33.58
2009-2010	42.24	3.86	46.10	-4.31
2010-2011	73.62	3.32	76.94	66.91

Indian Businesses in Mali

There are many Indian ventures successfully doing business in Mali. Some of them are:

- M/s. Sandeep Garg & Co. has taken the first iron ore lease in Mali and has formed a company called Sahara Mining. The same group recently held foundation stone laying ceremony of their integrated steel and power plant near Bamako. The plant, first of its kind in the country, would be a fully integrated steel plant with the capacity of 300,000 MTA of steel production and 70 MW of power generation.
- The only cement factory in Mali is in the final stages of construction in collaboration with a private company in India. West Africa Cement Company (WACEM) owned by a Hyderabad-based group operating in Togo and Burkina Faso who had taken over a defunct cement making facility in Mali called Diamond Cement.
- Mohan Engineering Ltd. has taken one oil & gas block for exploration in the Taouden basin.
- Three Indian companies viz. Angelique International, KEC and Mohan Engineering executed the Cote d'Ivoire-Mali transmission link under a Line of Credit from the Government of India.
- M/s Steel Mali, owned by an Indian national with business interests in Ghana has emerged as an important supplier of construction steel in Mali.
- Another Indian company in Mali is a pharmaceutical distributor called Sopropa.

- Earlier, the Central Electronics Limited (CEL) had executed a contract worth US\$ 225,000 for the Malian National Centre of Solar and Renewable Energy for the manufacture of Solar Photo Voltaic Modules and Systems.
- In October 2002, BHARAT Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd (BBUNL) bagged a \$5.5 million order from Societe DEMBA et Fils (SDF) of Bamako, Mali for supply of 350 four-wheel units of flat container wagons.
- More recently, M/s. Uttam Sucrotech International signed an MoU with the Government of Mali for one of the major agro-industrial projects in Mali - Markala sugar project located in Segou region. According to reports, the Indian strategic partner will invest approximately US\$ 600 million to develop the 14,100 hectares of sugarcane plantation and produce 190,000 tonnes of sugar and 15 million litres of ethanol annually. The project will additionally co-generate 30 MW of electricity annually.
- Many traders in Mali, especially those who deal with gold ornaments, garments, artificial jeweler etc. are regular visitors to India for procurement of these goods which carry premium value in the local markets.

III. Culture

The last bilateral interaction took place On 18-19 June, 2012 when a ten-member Malian traditional music group 'Ensemble Instrumental National of Mali' visited India to take part and perform at the Africa Day Festival organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations ICCR). Bollywood films and TV serials (dubbed in French) are quite popular in Mali. Many Malians recognize some famous Indian actors and adore Indian dresses and jewellery exhibited in Bollywood films. Recently, the Embassy has also facilitated airing of an Indian tele-series 'Kabhie Kabhie', dubbed in French, by ORTM - Mali's national TV. The programme is very popular among Malian viewers. The small Indian community in Bamako also keeps organizing cultural events to mark various Indian festivals. Malians and expatriates, in equal measure, enthusiastically participate at these events and eagerly look forward to such events.

IV. Indian Community in Mali

The influx of Indian entrepreneurs into Mali commenced in the late nineties. At present, the number of Indians in Mali is estimated to be between 200-300. Most of them are engaged in private Indian businesses or are consultants / experts with Indian / foreign mining establishments. Due to the language and educational constraints and the existing political / security situation in Mali, Indian expatriates generally avoid bringing their families here. There is no known organization / association of the sparse Indian community in Mali.

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 Embassy of India, Bamako, Mali
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