

President of India in Benin

September 16, 2019

Source: *Press Information Bureau*

The President of India visited Benin on his state visits to three West African nations – Benin, Gambia and Guinea. **This visit is the first-ever visit of Head of State/Head of Government of India to each of the three countries.**

Key highlights of the visit

- During the delegation-level talks, the President of India has mentioned that India has emerged as the largest trading partner of Benin with two-way trade crossing US\$ 800 million. Around 100 Indian or Indian-owned companies are operating in Benin.
- He announced fresh Line of **Credit worth US\$ 100 million for developmental projects in Benin.** He also announced the extension of the e-visa facility to Benin.
- India also offered to extend free tele-education courses to 15,000 Beninese students and telemedicine courses to 1000 doctors and paramedics in Africa.
- In addition, the two sides discussed defence and security cooperation and India offered further training assistance to Benin to expand its anti-piracy capacity.
- India thanked Benin for its support for India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council.
- Both countries reiterated their commitment to stand together in the global fight against terrorism and piracy. They also agreed to work together to combat climate change through the International Solar Alliance.

MoUs signed

The two Presidents witnessed the signing and exchange of MOUs/agreements on:

- Cultural Exchange Programme between the two countries for the years 2019-2023
- MOU on Cooperation in the field of Export Credit and Investment Insurance
- MOU between Benin & Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) for participation in the e- VBAB Network Project (**Technology up-gradation of Pan Africa e-Network Project (PAeNP)**– Phase-I) of Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India
- Agreement on the mutual exemption from the visa requirement for holders of Diplomatic, Official/Service Passports