

BRIEF ON LIBERIA

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Honorary Consul General of India,

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1.	Name & Capital :	Republic of Liberia, MONROVIA
2.	Names of Provinces & Provincial Capitals	The country is divided into 15 counties : BOMI, BONG, GBARPOLU, GRAND BASSA, GRAND CAPEMOUNT, GRAND GADEH, GRAND SADEH, GRAND KRU, LOFA, MARGIBI, MARYLAND, MONTSERRADO, NIMBA, RIVER CESS, RIVER GEE AND SINOE
3.	Population	3.3 million
4.	Currency/Exchange Rate	Liberian Dollar (LRD) US\$ 1 = 59.43 (2006)
5.	Languages spoken	English (Official language). There are also 16 indigenous languages
6.	Latitude, Longitude and Time Zone details of country, Capital.	Between latitude 6 and 30 North and Longitude 9 and 30 West
7.	Time Hours +/- GMT Daylight saving Time, if any.	GMT is the Time
8.	Name of HOS/HOG/Foreign/	Head of State : Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Foreign Minister : Mrs. Olubanke King Akerele

	Finance/Defence/ Commerce/Industry Ministers.	Finance Minister: Mr. Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan Defence Minister: Mr. Brownie Samukai Commerce Minister: Mr. Miata Beysolow
9..	Official Website Links for HOS/HOG/ Foreign/Commerce Ministry	-
10.	Name/Address & Contact details of country's Central Bank	Central Bank of Liberia P.O. Box 2048, Warren and Carey Streets, Monrovia Website : www.cbl.org.lr
11.	Basic Foreign International Trade, etc Policies	Following August 2003 Peace Agreement, rebuilding the social and economic structure in the country is the major domestic and foreign policy priority.
12.	Membership of major Multilateral and Regional Organisations:	AFDB, AU, ECOWAS, FAO, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, IDA, IFAD, ILO, IMF, NAM, OIC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, WHO, WCO, WIPO, WMO.
13.	Major Industries, Global companies	Palm oil processing, Rubber processing, Diamond mining, Timber cutting
14.	Significant Economic Activities	Rubber and timber processing together with export of cocoa, coffee and diamonds are major economic activities.
15.	Total trade turnover	\$ 8.34 billion (2006)
16.	Total Imports with Major Exporting countries	\$7.143 billion (2006) South Korea, Japan, Singapore, Croatia
17.	Total Exports with major Destinations of Exports	\$1.197 billion (2006) Germany, Poland, USA, Greece
18.	Investment Highlights	In 2008, TATA has made a bid for Western Iron ore cluster valued at US\$1.5 billion
19.	Major Universities/Scientific Institutions	University of Liberia, Monrovia (consists of five colleges, three professional Schools and three Graduate programmes)
20.	Important think-tanks on Foreign Policy related issues	-----
21.	Major Tourist Attractions:	Lake PISO Firestone Rubber Plantation SAPO National Park, Sinde County KPA-TAWE Water Fall
22.	Major Art Forms/Cultural Traditions and Venues/Museums, etc	
23.	Major	<u>Newspapers ;</u>

Newspapers/Magazines/TV Channels with Contact details	New Democrat (Independent) Star Radio (Independent) The Perspective (Journal published by Liberian Democratic Future)
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II) BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH INDIA

i) POLITICAL RELATIONS :

Relations between India and Liberia continue to be cordial. Liberia has extended its support to India's candidatures for various multilateral/international Organizations. Liberia has three Honorary Consul Generals in India. Since 1984, Shri U.S. Sachdeva has been India's Honorary Consul General in Liberia.

ii) COMMERCIAL AND TRADE RELATIONS :

Indo-Liberian trade turnover for 2007-08 was for \$262.74 million, with Indian exports accounting for US\$ 22.97 million and imports for US\$ 239.77 million. Major Indian exports include iron and steel products, drugs and pharmaceuticals, textiles and machine tools and major items of imports included Organic and inorganic chemicals, timber and metal scrap.

iii) BILATERAL VISITS :

Since the visit of the Special Emissary of the PM to the Liberian President for the release of Indian Peace Keepers taken as hostage in 1999, no major bilateral visits have been exchanged between the two countries.

iv) INDIAN COMPANIES :

There are about 30 NRI/PIO trading firms operating in Liberia, trading in agricultural, plantation and mining products from Liberia and supplying textiles, electronics, engineering and consumer durables to the country. Arcelor Mittal Group has taken over the largest iron ore mine in the country, LIMINCO in 2005 with an investment of \$930 million over a 20 year period.

i) ITEC/SCAAP PROGRAMME

India awards 16 ITEC slots to Liberian trainees. These are utilized fully, besides India assigns ITEC experts, technicians and professors to Liberian institutions and governmental agencies on ongoing basis.

ii) GRANTS/CREDITS : Nil

iii) AIR CONNECTIVITY :

Connected by air from Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana.

iv) BANKS :

Barclays Bank and Free Town International Bank for Trade and Industry are two major banks. No Indian banking presence in the country.

v) INDIAN COMMUNITY :

There are about 625 Indian residents in Liberia. The Indian community in Liberia is the second most influential foreign community in the country – second only to the Lebanese in terms of commercial establishment and socio-economic contribution.
