

[The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind](#), concluded his visit to Equatorial Guinea on April 9 and left for Swaziland for the second leg of his visit to three African nations –Equatorial Guinea, Swaziland and Zambia. The visit, the first by a President of India to Equatorial Guinea, saw the signing of three MoUs yesterday – in the fields of AYUSH and traditional medicine; medicinal plants; and an action plan for Information and Communication Technology.

This was the first ever visit of a Head of State from India to Equatorial Guinea. The President of India is accompanied by his spouse Smt. Savita Kovind and a high-level delegation comprising Minister of State, Shri Mansukh L Mandaviya, MPs and senior government officials.

H.E. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, the President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea received President Kovind on his arrival at Malabo Airport. A ceremonial welcome was accorded at the airport and also at the Presidential Palace in Malabo.

President Kovind held bilateral discussions with President Obiang on April 8, 2018, and thereafter an extended meeting along with members of the two delegations. A State banquet was hosted by President Obiang in honour of Indian President. He also addressed the Parliament of Equatorial Guinea and attended a reception with the Indian expatriate community.

The discussions between the two sides were held in a warm and cordial atmosphere. Indian President congratulated President Obiang on the election of Equatorial Guinea for the first time as a non-Permanent Member of United Nations Security Council for the 2018-19 term.

Both sides acknowledged the longstanding excellent bilateral relations and reaffirmed their mutual desire to strengthen economic, commercial, technical, educational, agricultural, scientific and cultural cooperation between the two countries. The Government of Equatorial Guinea appreciated the support being extended by the Government of India in capacity building.

[#PresidentKovind](#) meets Indian community in Malabo; says every member of the Indian community is critical to strengthening relations between India and Equatorial Guinea, urges the community to help enhance business and cultural links between the two countries pic.twitter.com/dVVx3cO3k6

— President of India (@rashtrapatibhvn) [April 9, 2018](#)

Both the leaders shared the view that terrorism is a grave threat to mankind and global peace and security. They expressed their willingness to join hands with the international community in the eradication of the menace of terrorism from society. They agreed on the need to take strong measures against terrorist organizations, terrorists and their networks. President Obiang conveyed the support of Equatorial Guinea for early adoption of Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) proposed by India at the United Nations. Also, the leaders call for an urgent need for reforms of the UN Security Council to make it more representative and reflective of the geopolitical realities in the 21st Century.

Both countries agreed to work closely to intensify their cooperation in the United Nations and other multilateral fora in order to address the challenges being faced by mankind including climate change and to foster global peace, security and sustainable development. Also, the two leaders underscored the need to hold regular consultations on bilateral issues in order to further deepen cooperation between the two countries.

[Read: 3 MOUs with Afghanistan, Iran & Canada to strengthen bilateral ties approved by Indian Government](#)

Both the Presidents agreed that there was great potential in the expansion of bilateral trade relations and emphasized on the importance of higher Indian participation in Equatorial Guinea in a range of sectors including agriculture, mining and IT. They welcomed the signing of agreements/MoUs on Cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine, Cooperation in the field of Medicinal Plants, Cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine, Cooperation in the fields of Geology and Mineral Resources; and on Cooperation in Information and Communication Technology.

[#PresidentKovind](#) addresses Parliament of Equatorial Guinea; promises India's support to country's development priorities, urges working together on ocean governance and terrorism pic.twitter.com/0Zy02ofJzZ

— President of India (@rashtrapatibhvn) [April 9, 2018](#)

President of Equatorial Guinea thanked the President of India for his announcements of setting up of an Entrepreneurship Development and Vocational Training Centre and an English Language Training Laboratory in Equatorial Guinea. Both sides expressed

satisfaction at the intensification of bilateral relations, as agreed upon during the first bilateral Joint Commission Meeting in October 2017 in Delhi. Also, both sides welcomed the visits of delegations from India in April/May 2018 in the sectors of agriculture, mining and telecom to Equatorial Guinea, and expressed hope that this would pave the way for enhancing Indian participation in Equatorial Guinea's economy, which would help in realizing the objectives of Horizon 2020 programme.

Later in the day, the President reached Swaziland in what is also the first-ever visit to that country by a President of India.

Prime Minister Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini of Swaziland receives [#PresidentKovind](#) on his arrival at the King Mswati III International Airport in Shikhuphe, Swaziland. The President departs for the delegation level talks with the King pic.twitter.com/qcN2ajlCsp

— President of India (@rashtrapatibhvn) [April 9, 2018](#)

[#PresidentKovind](#) leads delegation level talks with King Mswati III of Swaziland; India and Swaziland signs two MoUs — on healthcare cooperation and visa waiver for officials and diplomats pic.twitter.com/IYBqntJnVN

— President of India (@rashtrapatibhvn) [April 9, 2018](#)

Source: PIB

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India-Equatorial Guinea partnership to accelerate growth and development

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