



Liberia Chamber of Commerce



*Queens Avenue, Capitol Hill, P.O. Box 92 Monrovia, Liberia
+231886800473*

REFLECTIONS ON THE ROLE OF THE INDIAN DIASPORA IN TRADE, INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT 23 October 2025

Session II: Indian Diaspora as Driver of Trade and Investment

India–Liberia: Building Partnerships Through Trade, Investment, Knowledge Transfer and Shared Growth

Distinguished representatives of the Embassy of India, members of the Indian diaspora, colleagues from government, business leaders, development partners, ladies and gentlemen:

Good afternoon.

Let me begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to the Embassy of India for convening this important forum and for its continued commitment to strengthening the longstanding relationship between India and Liberia.

Today's discussion focuses on a subject that is increasingly important in the modern global economy—the role of diaspora communities in driving trade, investment, innovation, and economic transformation.

When we discuss trade and investment today, we must recognize that economic relationships are no longer driven solely by governments or formal institutions. Increasingly, they are shaped by networks of people, entrepreneurs, professionals, investors, and communities whose relationships transcend national borders.

Diaspora communities sit at the center of these networks.

The Indian diaspora, in particular, has become one of the most influential economic forces globally. Across Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, and the Middle East, Indian communities have established themselves as connectors of markets, facilitators of investment, promoters of entrepreneurship, and ambassadors of knowledge and innovation.

Their contribution extends far beyond remittances. They serve as bridges between economies, helping businesses identify opportunities, navigate unfamiliar markets, and establish trusted partnerships.

For countries such as Liberia, this role is especially significant.

The Indian community has been present in Liberia for generations and has contributed meaningfully to our economic development. Indian-owned and Indian-supported businesses have participated in commerce, manufacturing, retail, healthcare, hospitality, education, mining services, and various other sectors of the Liberian economy. Through these activities they have created employment, facilitated trade, transferred skills, and contributed to economic activity throughout the country.

These contributions may not always make headlines, but they are important because they help sustain economic growth and support the development of local enterprise.

Ladies and gentlemen,

India and Liberia have enjoyed warm diplomatic relations for decades. These relations are built on mutual respect, friendship, and a shared commitment to development.

However, I believe we are entering a period in which our relationship can evolve from one based primarily on historical ties and commercial engagement to one built around strategic economic partnership.

India today stands among the world's largest economies and is increasingly recognized as a global center for technology, innovation, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, renewable energy, information technology, and entrepreneurship.

Liberia, on the other hand, is a country rich in natural resources, agricultural potential, strategic geographic location, and a young and energetic population eager to participate in economic transformation.

The question before us is therefore not whether opportunities exist between our two countries.

The question is how we can work together to unlock them.

Trade between India and Liberia has historically been driven by Liberia's exports of natural resource products and imports of manufactured goods, machinery, pharmaceuticals, consumer products, industrial equipment, and technology from India.

While this trade relationship remains valuable, there is significant room for diversification and expansion.

We should be looking beyond traditional trading patterns and asking how Liberia and India can create greater value together.

For example, Liberia possesses substantial opportunities in agriculture, including rice production, cassava processing, palm oil, cocoa, coffee, fisheries, poultry, and food processing.

India possesses extensive experience in agricultural modernization, irrigation systems, seed development, agro-processing technologies, agricultural financing, and cooperative farming models.

Partnerships between Liberian entrepreneurs and Indian investors could significantly accelerate the development of agricultural value chains while creating jobs and improving food security.

Similarly, Liberia's efforts to expand manufacturing and industrial development could benefit from India's expertise in small and medium enterprise development, industrial parks, pharmaceutical production, light manufacturing, and affordable technologies suitable for emerging economies.

Rather than simply importing finished products, there is an opportunity to establish joint ventures that produce goods within Liberia for both domestic consumption and export to regional markets.

Such partnerships would create employment, transfer skills, and contribute to industrial growth.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would also like to emphasize a point that is often overlooked in discussions about investment.

Capital is important.

But knowledge is equally important.

In many cases, the most valuable contribution a diaspora community can make is not financial investment but knowledge transfer.

Knowledge transfer involves sharing technical expertise, management systems, business practices, innovation processes, market intelligence, and professional experience accumulated over decades.

This is where the Indian diaspora can play a transformational role.

Imagine a framework through which successful Indian professionals and business leaders mentor Liberian entrepreneurs.

Imagine partnerships between Indian and Liberian universities focused on science, technology, engineering, business management, and vocational education.

Imagine structured exchanges between Indian and Liberian chambers of commerce, industry associations, innovation hubs, and business development institutions.

Imagine technology partnerships that help Liberian enterprises adopt digital solutions, improve productivity, access international markets, and strengthen competitiveness.

These forms of collaboration often produce benefits that extend far beyond the life of any single investment project.

Knowledge creates capacity.

Capacity creates competitiveness.

Competitiveness creates sustainable economic growth.

This is why I believe the next chapter of India-Liberia cooperation should place equal emphasis on investment, skills development, technology transfer, and entrepreneurship.

The Liberia Chamber of Commerce stands ready to support such efforts.

We believe there are significant opportunities for collaboration in:

- Agriculture and agro-processing;
- Renewable energy and rural electrification;
- Digital services and information technology;
- Manufacturing and industrial development;
- Healthcare and pharmaceuticals;
- Vocational and technical education;
- Infrastructure and logistics;
- Tourism and hospitality development; and
- SME development and supplier development initiatives.

In each of these sectors, there is an opportunity to build partnerships that combine Indian expertise with Liberian opportunity.

There is also tremendous potential for co-investment models.

Rather than viewing investment as a one-way flow of capital, we should encourage partnerships where Liberian and Indian businesses jointly participate in projects, jointly share risks, jointly develop markets, and jointly benefit from success.

Such arrangements strengthen local ownership while simultaneously attracting international expertise and resources.

They also help ensure that economic growth becomes more inclusive and sustainable.

Of course, none of this happens automatically.

Successful investment partnerships require trust, transparency, policy predictability, and strong institutions.

Investors need confidence.

Entrepreneurs need support.

Governments need to provide enabling environments.

And organizations such as chambers of commerce must continue serving as platforms for dialogue, business matchmaking, advocacy, and partnership development.

This is why discussions such as today's are so important.

They help us move beyond abstract concepts and toward practical collaboration.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The future of India-Liberia economic relations should not be defined solely by what we buy from one another.

It should be defined by what we build together.

It should be defined by the businesses we create together, the technologies we share, the entrepreneurs we support, the skills we develop, and the opportunities we generate for future generations.

The Indian diaspora occupies a unique position within this vision because it understands both worlds.

It understands Liberia.

It understands India.

And because it understands both, it can help connect opportunities that might otherwise remain unrealized.

As we look ahead, I encourage all of us—government representatives, business leaders, investors, development partners, and members of the diaspora—to think beyond traditional approaches and focus on building lasting partnerships that promote mutual prosperity.

If we do so successfully, the relationship between India and Liberia will become not only a story of friendship, but a model of economic cooperation, innovation, and shared development.

I thank you for your attention and look forward to the continued discussion.

Thank you.