

Brief on India - Côte d'Ivoire Relations

India and Côte d'Ivoire have traditionally enjoyed cordial and friendly relations. While India established its Embassy in Abidjan in 1979, Côte d'Ivoire opened its resident Mission in New Delhi in September 2004.

2. Côte d'Ivoire, since 2011, has declared India as the focus country for cooperation in the fields of ICT, Agriculture, Mining, Infrastructure and has emphasized on the importance of strengthening relations with India. India, too has given renewed thrust to bilateral relations with Côte d'Ivoire in recent years.

3. Côte d'Ivoire has signed the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement.

Visits

4. The major visits from India to Côte d'Ivoire in recent years are as follows:-

(1) MOS External Affairs, Smt. Preneet Kaur visited Abidjan from 22-24 January, 2014.

(2) MOS for Drinking Water and Sanitation, Shri Ram Kripal Yadav visited Abidjan from 13-16 July 2015 as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister to personally handover the invitation for the 3rd India Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi.

(3) In the first bilateral visit at the level of Head of State, President Pranab Mukherjee visited Côte d'Ivoire in June 2016.

(4) Visit of MOS External Affairs, Shri M.J.Akbar to Abidjan from 27 Feb – 1 March, 2018.

(5) Visit of MOS External Affairs, Shri V.Muraleedharan to Abidjan on 6 September, 2019.

5. The major visits from Côte d'Ivoire to India in recent years are as follows:-

(1) PM Daniel Kablan Duncan visited India from 17-19 March 2013 and addressed the 9th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave. He was accompanied by five Cabinet Ministers of Industry, Agriculture, Health, Economic Infrastructure and Information & Communication Technology.

(2) PM Daniel Kablan Duncan accompanied by Ministers of Trade and Mines & Industry visited India from 3-7 November 2014 to participate in India Economic Summit in New Delhi.

(3) Mr. Brou Kassi Jean Claude, Minister for Mines and Industry visited New Delhi to participate in the 3rd India Africa Forum Summit in October 2015.

(4) An Ivorian delegation led by Foreign Minister Abdallah Albert Toikeusse Mabri participated in the First Joint Commission meeting held in October 2016 in New Delhi.

(5) Ivorian Minister for Digital Economy and Post Mr. Bruno Nabagné Koné visited India in October 2016 to participate in India Economic Summit in New Delhi.

(6) Vice President Daniel Kablan Duncan visited India from 22-25 May, 2017 to participate in the 54th Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank (AfDB) held in Ahmedabad.

(7) Vice President Daniel Kablan Duncan represented Côte d'Ivoire at the Founding Conference of International Solar Alliance (ISA) in March 2018.

Development Assistance

6. India has extended lines of credit worth US\$ 247.70 million to 9 completed /

ongoing projects in Côte d'Ivoire for Agricultural projects (rice production programme, vegetable oil extraction, fruit and vegetable chip production, production of cocoa and coffee, coconut fibre processing plant), Fisheries processing plant, Renewal of urban transport system in Abidjan, Projects for supply, erection and commissioning of transmission lines between Cote d'Ivoire and Mali, Mahatma Gandhi IT and Biotechnology Park and Upgradation of Military Hospitals.

Capacity Building

7. ITEC slots for Côte d'Ivoire were enhanced from 80 to 100 during 2018-19 and were adequately utilized. The 10 ICCR slots offered to Cote d'Ivoire were also adequately utilized during 2018-19. Apart from this, several Ivorian students have undergone training courses under the IAFS mechanism. Currently around 1500 Ivorian students are reported to be pursuing their studies in India on self financing basis. Under the PAN African e-Network Project, around 50 Ivorian students have pursued higher studies through distant learning faculties at the University of Cocody. A tele-medical consultation facility with prominent hospitals in India has been established at Youpogong Hospital in Abidjan. eVidyaBhartiArogyaBharti (eVAB) MoU with Cote d'Ivoire was signed on 29 August 2019 in New Delhi by the Ivorian Ambassador and a representative of TCIL.

Trade

8. Bilateral trade between India and Cote d'Ivoire crossed US\$1 billion, for the first time, in 2018-19. Bilateral trade during the last five years in US\$ Millions is as follows:-

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
India's exports to Cote d'Ivoire	309.75	397.27	418.66	511.75	448.64
India's imports from Cote d'Ivoire	532.10	572.48	455.81	441.70	603.05
Total Trade	841.85	969.75	874.47	953.45	1,051.69
Percentage growth		15.19	-9.83	9.03	10.30

9. Total bilateral trade stood at US\$1,051.69 million during 2018-19, registering a 10.3% growth over the 2017-18 figures of US\$953.45 million. Main items of export from India during 2018-19 were rice, pharmaceutical products, machinery and mechanical appliances, vehicles and parts and accessories thereof, sugar, electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof. Main items of import into India during 2018-19 were cashew nuts in shell, gold, natural rubber and manganese ores and concentrates. Import of gold worth US\$100.60 million during 2018-19 contributed to bilateral trade breaching the US\$1 billion mark during 2018-19.

Indian Community / Investment

10. There are an estimated 1500 Indian nationals residing in Côte d'Ivoire. Most of them are engaged in mining, manufacturing, trading and general merchandise business. Indian investment in Cote d'Ivoire are mostly in the mining and automobile sectors. There are Indians working with the African Development Bank, whose headquarters returned to Abidjan in 2014. ISKCON, Geeta Ashram and Art of Living have their setup in Abidjan. There are three Indian restaurants in Abidjan.

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