India and the Cook Islands established diplomatic relations in 1998. Formerly, Indian High Commissioner at Wellington was concurrently accredited to the Cook Islands. Since the reopening of the High Commission of India in Suva in 1999, High Commissioner in Suva is concurrently accredited to the Cook Islands.

Government of India had offered financial assistance worth approx. US$ 50,000 to the Government of the Cook Islands in 2005 for executing small projects. India offered a grant aid of US$ 100,000 each annually to all small Pacific States at the Post Forum Dialogue Partners meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum in Nadi (Fiji) in October 2006 for programmes and for sustainable development which was increased to US$ 125,000 in 2009. From this grant about US$ 60,000 was given in 2010 to the Cook Islands for projects including furniture and equipment for educational institutions, up-gradation of fishing tools for villagers, construction of public utilities, etc. India has provided US$ 94,347.65 for purchase of Audit Software for the Audit office; supply of computers and accessories for Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Immigration and for Ministry of Finance & Economic Management of Cook Islands.

Two experts from Cook Islands attended the workshop on Sustainable Development organized by this Mission for all the 14 Pacific Island Countries in Suva in March 2007 in association with TERI.

A specialized vehicle for disabled persons has been procured by Cook Islands against the Indian Grant-in-Aid in August 2012. India provided funds in February 2013 for 16 community development projects, in February 2014 for equipments for Cricket Tournament, and in January 2015 for 10 Project Proposals, and for 16 projects in 2017 under Grant-in-Aid.

Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed [ MOS(EA) ] led the Indian delegation for the 24th Post Forum Dialogue Partners Meeting held in the Cook Islands on 31 August 2012.

Mr. Mark Brown, Minister for Finance, visited India on 2-4 February 2013 for the ADB Asia Leadership Program on Sustainable Development and Climate Change held in Delhi.

High Commissioner attended the Third Round Table Meeting of Development Partners in Rarotonga on 12 February 2013.

Mr. John Henry, Associate Minister, Ministry of Internal Affairs visited India in connection with the Second High Level Meeting (HLM) on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights in Asia and the Pacific, held in New Delhi on 23-25 October, 2013.

Development Partners Meeting (DPM) was held on 10-14 February 2014 in the Cook Islands (CI), as a forum “for dialogue between government, civil society, private sector, and international development partners on aid effectiveness.” High Commission of India, Suva participated in the meeting.
FIPIC: Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi hosted the First Summit Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC-I) in Suva (Fiji) during the visit on 19 November 2014 with the participation of 14 Pacific countries. Cook Islands delegation, led by the Prime Minister Hon. Henry Puna, attended the Summit. The Second meeting of the Forum was held on 21 August 2015 at Jaipur, India. Cook Islands delegation led by Mr. Nandi Glassie, Minister of Health, Justice & Parliamentary Services, Cook Islands, attended the Forum.

High Commissioner visited Cook Islands on 2 March 2017 to hand over grant of US$ 6,90,846 to Mr. Mark Brown, Minister of Finance for funding of 16 Community Development projects. High Commissioner had meetings with Cook Islands Prime Minister Mr. Henry Puna and Ms. Tepaeru Herrmann, Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Immigration to discuss bilateral matters. High Commissioner also visited Takuvaine Town Child Welfare Clinic, Pokoinu Neighbourhood Watch, and Centre for disabled people. High Commissioner had meetings with Representatives of local ‘Chamber of Commerce’, and ‘Business, Trade & Investment Board’.

India-Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference (IPISDC): Government of India organized the India-Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference (IPISDC) at Suva, Fiji on 25-26 May 2017. Minister of State for External Affairs Gen. (Dr.) V.K.Singh (Retd.) hosted the event, in which Cook Islands Finance Minister Mr. Mark Brown led the delegation. India signed MOU for setting up of Center of Excellence in Information Technology (CEIT) with Cook Islands during the Conference.

International Day of Yoga: Since its inaugural event in 2015, the International Day of Yoga is celebrated with much enthusiasm and fervour every year with participation from all walks of life and the local Government.

Festival of India: As part of Namaste Pacifika Festival of India, Kuchipudi Dance Group led by Ms. Yashoda Thakore visited and performed in Rarotonga in January 2018.

Useful Resources:
High Commission of India, Suva website: http://www.indiainfiji.gov.in
High Commission of India, Suva Facebook page: India in Fiji
Twitter: https://twitter.com/HCI_Suva;
YouTube Channel: India in Fiji https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJYT5H3NwEB10MdiXizST2g

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