

## **Brief on India-Côte d'Ivoire Relations**

### **Political Relations**

India and Côte d'Ivoire have enjoyed warm and cordial diplomatic relations for decades. India established its Embassy in Abidjan in 1979, while Côte d'Ivoire opened its Resident Mission in New Delhi in September 2004. Both countries share common values and collaborate on key global issues such as sustainable development, climate change, international terrorism, and disarmament. Côte d'Ivoire has consistently supported India in the United Nations and other international forums, including backing India's positions on critical issues.

### **Visits from Côte d'Ivoire**

In August 2024, Côte d'Ivoire's Minister of Technical Education, Vocational Training, and Apprenticeship, Mr. N'Guessan Koffi, virtually participated in the Education Ministers' Session of the Third Voice of Global South Summit.

In August 2024, Minister of Digital Transition and Digitization, Mr. Ibrahim Kalil Konaté, led a delegation to New Delhi to attend the 19th CII India-Africa Business Conclave, strengthening cooperation in digital transformation and trade.

In January 2023, Côte d'Ivoire's Minister of Commerce, Industry, and SME Promotion virtually took part in the Voice of Global South Summit, in a session chaired by India's Minister of Commerce and Industry.

In October 2018, Cote d'Ivoire Minister of Petroleum, Energy and Renewable Energy, Thierry Tanoh Visited India to attend ISA Annual Meeting in Delhi.

From 10-11 March 2018, Vice President of Cote d'Ivoire H.E Daniel Kablan Duncan visited India to participate at the ISA Founding

Conference.

From 22-25 May 2017, Vice President of Cote d'Ivoire Mr. Daniel Kablan Duncan visited India to participate at the 54th Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank (AfDB) held in Ahmadabad.

In October 2016, Ivorian Minister for Digital Economy and Post Mr. Bruno Nabagné Koné visited India to participate in the World Economic Forum meeting.

In October 2015, Ivorian Minister for Mines and Industry Mr. Brou Kassi Jean Claude visited New Delhi to participate in the IAFS-III.

### **Visits from India**

From 9-11 May 2022, the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Sh. Bhupender Yadav visited Cote d'Ivoire to attend COP Summit.

On 8 December 2021, MoS External Affairs Sh. V. Muraleedharan virtually interacted with the Indian Community in Cote d'Ivoire to check their welfare, their suggestions, areas of concern and to hail their contributions to both Cote d'Ivoire as well as India.

In March 2021, Secretary (Economic Relations), MEA visited Cote d'Ivoire for the first India-CI Foreign Office Consultations.

On 06 September 2019, MoS External Affairs Sh. V. Muraleedharan paid a bilateral visit to Cote d'Ivoire.

From February 28 - March 1, 2018, MoS External Affairs Sh. M.J. Akbar paid a bilateral visit to Cote d'Ivoire.

In June 2016, Honorable Rashtrapathi ji Shri. Pranab Mukherjee visited Cote d'Ivoire. This was the first bilateral visit at the level of Head of the State from India.

From 13-16 July 2015, Minister of State for Drinking Water and Sanitation Shri Ram Kripal Yadav visited Abidjan as Special Envoy of

the Prime Minister to personally handover the invitation for the third India Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi.

### **Bilateral Institutional Mechanism:**

**(a) Foreign Office Consultation:** In March 2024, an Ivorian delegation visited New Delhi for the 2nd Foreign Office Consultations, focusing on enhancing bilateral cooperation.

**(b) Joint Commission Meeting:** The First Joint Commission Meeting held in October 2016 in New Delhi. The Ivorian delegation was led by Foreign Minister Mr. Albert Abdullah Mbari.

### **Parliamentary Cooperation**

In July 2022, Cote d'Ivoire established Côte d'Ivoire-India Parliamentary Friendship Group led by Former Prime Minister and leader of the opposition party, the Ivorian Popular Front (FPI) Mr. Pascal Affi N'Guessen,

### **Economic and Commercial Relations**

India and Côte d'Ivoire have strong trade ties, with India importing cashew, natural rubber, cotton, and teak wood while exporting rice, vehicle parts, medicines, and jute bags.

### **Bilateral Trade** million US\$)

(in

<b>Year</b>	<b>Exports</b>	<b>Imports</b>	<b>Total Trade</b>
2019-20	414.67	454.88	869.55
2020-21	585.96	317.51	903.47
2021-22	728.62	468.78	1,197.40
2022-23	887.79	665.18	1,552.97
2023-24	685.60	384.94	1,070.54
2024-25 (up to Dec 2024)	712.36	469.08	1,181.74

## **Development Partnership**

Bilateral relations between India and Côte d'Ivoire have strengthened through expanding South-South Cooperation. During the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2021, India gifted 50,000 doses of Made-in-India Covishield vaccines to the Ivorian government and people. Additionally, Indian-manufactured vaccines were supplied to Côte d'Ivoire under the COVAX initiative.

India has also extended significant development assistance. A grant of US\$ 790,000 was provided for establishing the Centre for Demonstration and Promotion of Technologies (CDT) in Abidjan between 2007-2010. Under the India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS), a Rural Technology Park is proposed to be built with Indian grant assistance.

Several projects have been completed under LOC, including the renewal of Abidjan's urban transport system and agricultural initiatives (US\$ 26.80 million), Mahatma Gandhi IT & Biotechnology Park (US\$ 20 million), and the Côte d'Ivoire-Mali transmission line (US\$ 54 million).

In April 2023, the Ivorian Ministry of Trade signed an agreement with Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited India to establish a tractor assembly plant and supply agricultural equipment under a US\$ 60 million LOC, creating the "J Farm - Center for Excellence, Training, and Service Centre.

## **Capacity Building Programme**

India provides 100+ training slots annually to Côte d'Ivoire under the ITEC Programme. As part of its annual initiatives, the Embassy organizes a specialized English language training program for 30 Ivorian teachers each year, enhancing their language skills and teaching capabilities. Over the past six years, 500+ Ivorians have benefitted from various Indian training programmes.

Additionally, ICCR offers 10 scholarships annually for undergraduate and postgraduate studies. The capacity building programmes has

been appreciated at the highest level.

### **Cultural Relations**

Indian films and television series, dubbed in French, have been popular in Côte d'Ivoire since the 1950s. Even today, Indian films are regularly screened in Abidjan, reflecting their enduring popularity. Additionally, yoga is steadily gaining traction in the country. Mission actively promotes this ancient practice by organizing regular yoga sessions in Abidjan and other cities of Cote d'Ivoire. These initiatives not only highlight India's cultural influence in Côte d'Ivoire but also foster a deeper appreciation of Indian traditions, strengthening cultural ties between the two nations.

As part of promoting Indian culture, Mission celebrated India Week from 15-18 November 2024 in Cote d'Ivoire. During this period a 8-member Indian dance troupe visited Cote d'Ivoire, showcasing the richness of Indian culture through captivating performances.

### **Indian Community in Côte d'Ivoire**

The Indian diaspora in Côte d'Ivoire consists of more than 4000 individuals, primarily engaged in agriculture, trading, manufacturing and mining. A significant number of Indians also work with the African Development Bank in Abidjan. The community actively preserves and promotes Indian culture and traditions through various organizations such as ISKCON, Geeta Ashram and Art of Living, offering cultural and spiritual programmes. There is a registered Indian association, EKTHA, actively organizing regular events and initiatives to promote Indian culture and traditions.

Indian festivals are celebrated with great enthusiasm, fostering cultural unity among the diaspora. Additionally, the community maintains a Hindu temple in Abidjan, serving as a spiritual and cultural hub. Indian cuisine is also well-represented, with several Indian restaurants operating in the city, catering to both the local population and the Indian community.

Through these cultural, religious, and professional engagements, the Indian diaspora plays a vital role in strengthening Indo-Ivorian relations while contributing to the economic and social fabric of Côte d'Ivoire.

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