

India – Cote 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. India and Cote d'Ivoire share an extraordinary convergence of values and aspirations. India and Cote d'Ivoire have been working together on matters of shared interests and concerns, on issues such as, sustainable development, climate change, international terrorism and disarmament. Cote d'Ivoire has also been appreciative of India's role in United Nations Peacekeeping operations, particularly in *UN Peacekeeping Operations in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI)*, which has completed its mandate.

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

Visits

4. The close and friendly relations that exist between India and Cote d'Ivoire are manifested in regular bilateral visits at the highest level.

2017	-Visit of Honorable Vice President of Cote d'Ivoire Mr. Daniel Kablan Duncan to India from 22-25 May 2017 to participate in the 54 th Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank (AfDB) held in Ahmadabad.
2016	-Honorable Rashtrapathi ji (President of India) Shri. Pranab Mukherjee visited Cote d'Ivoire in June 2016. This was the first bilateral visit at the level of Head of the State.. -Visit of Minister for Digital Economy and Post Mr. Bruno Nabagné Koné in October 2016 to participate in World Economic Forum 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)
2015	-Minister of State 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 third India Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi. -Visit of Minister for Mines and Industry Mr. Brou Kassi Jean Claude to New Delhi to participate in the IAFS-III in October 2015.
2014	-MOS External Affairs Mrs. Preneet Kaur visited Abidjan from 22-24 January 2014. -Cote d'Ivoire's Prime Minister Mr. 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.
2013	-Prime Minister Mr. 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.

COMMERCIAL:

5. Total bilateral trade data during the last five years are as follows:

(in million US\$)

Year	Exports	Imports	Total
2010-11	94.15	250.84	344.99

2011-12	282.53	466.33	748.86
2012-13	395.97	384.23	780.20
2013-14	298.95	298.40	597.35
2014-15	309.75	532.10	841.85
2015-16	397.03	572.48	969.52
2016-17 (April-Jan)	418.66	455.81	874.47

6. India imports cashew, manganese ore, cotton, wood, scrap metals, rubber, etc. CI is the largest exporter of cashew in the world and India imports around 50 percent of Ivorian exports of cashew. The main items of India's export are cereals (rice), pharmaceutical products, machinery, articles of iron, chemicals, plastics, rubber products, vehicles, etc.

Indian Investment in Cote d'Ivoire

7. A number of Indian enterprises have acquired presence in CI in recent years. Besides an Indian company mining and exporting manganese, there are other 2-3 large companies from India are currently engaged in the exploration activities in iron and manganese mining respectively. There are a large number of Indian companies – small and medium size – involved in trading of cashew, timber and commodities; manufacturing; agro-processing, etc.

8. Many Indian pharmaceutical companies have their operations in Cote d'Ivoire. Several of these companies have opened / expanded their offices in Abidjan in the last three years with the objective of covering the entire West African Francophone countries from Abidjan.

Projects Exports

9. Bilateral ties have been strengthened by the expanding South-South Cooperation between the two countries. India extended a total grant of US\$ 790,000/- for establishment of the Centre for Demonstration and Promotion of Technologies (CDT) situated in Abidjan. CI has also received soft credit for development projects in the areas of agro-processing, transport, electricity transmission, fisheries, etc.

10. Following Lines of Credit (LOC) have been extended to Cote d'Ivoire:

S.No.	LOC Projects	Year and Status
1.	US\$ 26.80 mn for (i) supply of 400 buses; (ii) cashew nut processing plant; (iii) vegetable oil processing plant; and (iv) chip-making, liquid sugar, cassava starch making plants.	2005; Completed
2.	US\$ 25.50 mn to CI for (i) building the Mahatma Gandhi IT and Biotechnology Park (US\$ 20 mn); (ii) Fisheries Processing Plant (US\$ 4 mn); and (iii) Coconut Fibre Processing Plant (US\$ 1.5 mn).	2008; Under implementation
3.	LOC of US\$ 30 mn for Development of Rice production programme	2009; Under implementation
4.	US\$ 54 mn (30 + 24) for supply, erection and commissioning of Laboa-Boundiali-Ferkessedougou 225 KV transmission line	2009; Under implementation
5.	US \$ 71.4 mn for upgradation of four military hospitals	2017: Under implementation

11. Indian companies (TATA and Ashok Leyland) are also currently exporting automobile vehicles to Cote d'Ivoire under Buyers Credit extended by India to Cote d'Ivoire.

Capacity Building and Human Resource Development:

12. India has been providing significant number of training slots to CI under the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme; 80 in the year 2016-17. Government of India through Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) have also extended 11 fully paid scholarships to Ivorian youth to pursue undergraduate and post graduate studies in India. Apart from this, several Ivorian students have also undergone training courses under the India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) mechanism.

Education:

13. India is fast becoming an important learning center for Ivorian students, particularly for ICT studies besides Commerce and Management degrees. Around 1000 Ivorian students went to India for studies on self-financing basis in the last three years. Under the PAN African e-Network Project, around 50 Ivorian students have been pursuing 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 Youpogon Hospital in Abidjan. These are being upgraded now.

CULTURE:

14. Indian tele-serials and movies, dubbed in French, have been immensely popular in CI since 1950s. Senior Ivorian citizens recall watching movies such as 'Albela' and 'Mangala' in Abidjan movie theatres in 1950s. With the advent of cable TV, screening of Indian movies in Abidjan is now a rarity. Yoga is also popular among Ivoirians. Under Festival of India in Cote d'Ivoire, the Government of India is organising cultural performances in Abidjan and other cities during 2017-18.

Indian Community:

15. There are estimated over 1500 Indian nationals residing in CI. Most of them are engaged in mining, manufacturing, trading and general merchandise business. There Indians working with African Development Bank which returned to Abidjan in 2014. ISKCON, Geeta Ashram and Art of Living have their setup in Abidjan. Indian community also patronizes a temple in Abidjan. There are three Indian restaurants in Abidjan.

Useful Resources:

Embassy of India, Abidjan website: <http://www.eoiabidjan.org>.

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/EOICOTEDIVOIRE/>

TWITTER: <https://twitter.com/EOIvoryCoast>

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