

## **India- Cabo Verde Bilateral Relations**

### **Overview of political relations**

1. India and Cabo Verde have warm and cordial relations. The two countries closely collaborate in international fora. On the occasion of 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the President of Cabo Verde, H.E. Jorge Carlos Fonseca wrote his thoughts on: *What Gandhi means to me*.
2. Cabo Verde signed International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement in March 2018.
3. In pursuance of the commitments made during India-Africa Forum Summit-III, India opened a resident Mission in Cabo Verde w.e.f. 26 June 2023. The first ever Foreign Office Consultations between the two countries were held in Praia on 18 Mar 2024; a renewed Protocol on the Consultations was also signed on the occasion. The Chancery was inaugurated on the same day in presence of Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Regional Integration, Dr. Rui Alberto de Figueiredo Soares.

### **Bilateral Visits and interactions**

#### **From India**

4. Minister of State for Rural Development, Shri Sudarshan Bhagat visited Cabo Verde in September 2015, as special envoy to PM, to invite the President of Cabo Verde to the India-Africa Forum Summit-III.
5. Additional Secretary (Central & West Africa), Shri Sevala Naik Mude led the Indian Delegation for Foreign Office Consultations in Praia on March 18, 2024.

#### **From Cabo Verde**

6. Foreign Minister of Cabo Verde, Dr. José Brito visited India in November 2009. During the visit, a protocol on holding Foreign Office Consultations and an MoU on establishment of ICT Centre on grant basis were signed.
7. Cabo Verde delegation headed by Foreign Minister Dr. Tolentini Araujo Jorge participated in IAFS-III in New Delhi (October 26-29, 2015).
8. Minister of Economy and Employment of Cabo Verde, Dr. Jose Da Silva Gonçalves participated at the 12th CII-Exim Bank Conclave held in New Delhi (March 9-10, 2017).

9. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Dr. Olavo Avelino Garcia Correia, participated in the 52nd Annual Meetings of African Development Bank in Gandhinagar (May 22-26, 2017).

10. Minister of Industry, Trade and Energy Dr. Alexandre Dias Monteiro participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> International Solar Alliance Assembly and 2<sup>nd</sup> RE-Invest in Greater NOIDA (November 3-5, 2018).

11. Minister of Health and Social Security Dr. Arlindo Nascimento do Rosário participated in the 4th Global Digital Health Partnership Summit hosted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of India in collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO) and the Global Digital Health Partnership (GDHP) in New Delhi (February 25-27, 2019).

12. Minister of State, National Defence, Minister of Territorial Cohesion, and Minister of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and Parliamentary Affairs Dr. Janine Tatiana Santos Lélis, visited India for the India-Africa Defence Dialogue held on the sidelines of DefExpo 2022 in Gandhinagar (October 17-18, 2022).

13. Minister of Education, Dr. Amadeu Cruz participated in the Education Ministers' virtual session of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of Voice of Global South Summit on August 17, 2024.

#### **Economic and Commercial relations:**

14. Bilateral trade between India and Cabo Verde has not been very significant. Bilateral trade between India and Cabo Verde registered a growth of 203% over 2020-21, reaching US\$ 10.90 million in 2021-22. However, there exists potential to increase the bilateral trade. The bilateral trade figures during the last five years are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>India's Exports</b>	<b>India's Imports</b>	<b>Total Trade</b>
2019-2020	2.17	2.04	4.22
2020-2021	3.31	2.04	5.35
2021-2022	6.27	4.63	10.90
2022-2023	4.51	4.43	8.94
2023-2024	3.16	4.64	7.80

(All figures in million US\$, Data Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, GoI)

15. India's exports to Cabo Verde mainly consist of pharmaceuticals; ceramic products; rice; iron rods and bars; and non-alloy steel. India's imports are mainly ferrous, copper and aluminium waste and scrap.

16. Following business events have been organised with a view to enhance trade between the two countries:

- a. March 3, 2017, in Dakar, in collaboration with Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services of Sotavento (now Sotavento Chamber of Commerce);
- b. February 22, 2018, in Praia, in collaboration with Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services of Sotavento; and
- c. January 17, 2019, in Mindelo, in collaboration with Barlavento Chamber of Commerce.

### **Development cooperation**

17. The then Prime Minister H.E. José Maria Neves inaugurated the Pan African e-Network Project in Praia in July 2010; the project was aimed at giving a fillip to Tele-education and Tele-medicine.

18. **Training programmes:** There are a number of slots offered to Cabo Verde under the India Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC). In the recent years, the maximum uptake was in academic year 2018-19, when 15 slots for training were utilised. 11 Cabo Verde nationals participated in a short-term special yoga course under ITEC organised at SVYASA in Bengaluru from February 4 to March 3, 2019. In addition, there are scholarship slots provided by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) for academic courses in India.

19. For the year 2024, the Government of India has offered 17 slots to the nationals of Cabo Verde under ITEC Scheme. The Scholarship Scheme for pursuing Under Graduate, Post Graduate and PhD courses in selected Indian Universities as announced by ICCR for each Academic Year under India-Africa Maitri Scholarship Scheme are also available to students of Cabo Verde.

20. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, India donated medicines to Cabo Verde in September 2020. Cabo Verde also received 'Made in India' COVID-19 vaccines under the COVAX initiative.

21. Under the IBSA (India-Brazil-South Africa) Fund, a project on delivery of safe drinking water in the municipality of Ribeira Brava, São Nicolau benefiting 12,000 inhabitants with increased water supply for agricultural purposes was carried out between 2009-2014. Earlier, a small project refurbishing health-care infrastructure for improved care access for 450 inhabitants of remote areas of São Nicolau island was completed in 2008.

22. A project strengthening the 'National Response to the Sexual Transmission of HIV among Key Populations' was undertaken from the India-UNDP Fund during 2019-2022.

**Cultural cooperation:**

23. A 12-member cultural troupe comprising of musicians, dancers and artisans participated in the Surajkund International Crafts Mela in Feb 2024. Earlier, an 8-member cultural troupe from Cabo Verde participated in the prestigious Surajkund International Crafts Mela in 2021.

24. The Mission, with support of the Cabo Verde-India Parliamentary Friendship Group organised festival of Holi in Mindelo on March 25, 2024.

**Indian community:**

25. It is a small and cohesive Indian community of around 30 persons in Cabo Verde.

August 2024

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