

INDIA- CABO VERDE BILATERAL RELATIONS

Political Relations

India and Cabo Verde have warm and cordial relations. First Ambassador of India to Cabo Verde, with residence in Dakar, was accredited on 6 June 1977. The two countries closely collaborate in international fora. Cabo Verde signed the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement in March 2018. 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 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.

Visits from Cabo Verde

3rd IAFS Participation: Foreign Minister Dr. Jorge Tolentini Araújo led the Cabo Verdean to the IAFS-III Summit in New Delhi from October 26-29, 2015.

Participation in CII-Exim Bank Conclave: 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).

Other High-level visits

- 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.
- 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).
- Minister of Industry, Trade and Energy Dr. Alexandre Dias Monteiro participated in the 1st International Solar Alliance Assembly and 2nd RE-Invest in Greater NOIDA (November 3-5, 2018).
- 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).
- 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).
- Minister of Education, Dr. Amadeu Cruz participated in the Education Ministers' virtual session of the 3rd Edition of Voice of Global South Summit on August 17, 2024.

Visits from India

Ministerial level visits:

- 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.

Other visits:

- Additional Secretary (Central & West Africa), Shri Sevala Naik Mude led the Indian Delegation for Foreign Office Consultations in Praia on March 18, 2024.

Economic and Commercial Relations

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:

Figures in USD Million

Year	Exports to Cabo Verde	Imports from Cabo Verde	Total Trade	Balance of Trade
2020-21	3.31	2.04	5.35	1.25
2021-22	6.27	4.63	10.90	1.64
2022-23	4.51	4.43	8.94	0.08
2023-24	3.16	4.64	7.80	-1.48
2024-25	3.60	5.05	8.65	-1.45
2025-26 (Apr-Aug)	1.92	1.84	3.76	0.08

(Data Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, GoI)

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.

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

- March 3, 2017, in Dakar, in collaboration with Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services of Sotavento (now Sotavento Chamber of Commerce);
- February 22, 2018, in Praia, in collaboration with Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services of Sotavento; and
- January 17, 2019, in Mindelo, in collaboration with Barlavento Chamber of Commerce.
- October 20, 2023 in Praia, outreach to the Sotavento Chamber of Commerce.
- December 11, 2023 in Mindelo, outreach to Barlavento Chamber of Commerce.
- February 20, 2025, in Praia, in collaboration with Sotavento Chamber of Commerce and Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).

Development Partnership

In July 2010, Prime Minister H.E. José Maria Neves inaugurated the Pan African e-Network Project in Praia.

India gifted medicines to Cabo Verde in September 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Cabo Verde also received 24,000 doses of 'Made in India' COVID-19 vaccine under the COVAX initiative.

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.

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.

Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme

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.

For the academic year 2025-26, the Government of India has offered 17 slots to the nationals of Cabo Verde under ITEC Scheme. For the year 2025-26, two defence slots under ITEC have also been allocated to Cabo Verde which have been utilised. The Scholarship Scheme for pursuing Under Graduate, Post Graduate and PhD courses in select Indian Universities as announced by ICCR for each academic Year under India-Africa Maitri Scholarship Scheme, are also available to students of Cabo Verde.

Cultural Relations

There is regular participation from Cabo Verde in the Surajkund International Crafts Mela over last years. A 15-member cultural troupe comprising of musicians, dancers and artisans participated in the 38th edition of the Surajkund Mela in February 2025. Cabo Verde is scheduled to participate in the 39th edition of the Mela in January–February 2026.

The Mission, with support of the Cabo Verde-India Parliamentary Friendship Group, organised festival of Holi in Mindelo on March 25, 2024. 2025 Holi was celebrated in Praia on 14 March in association with the Municipality of Praia.

The 10th International Day of Yoga (IDY) was celebrated on 21 June 2024 at Praia (Santiago) and at Ribeira Grande (Santo Antão). In 2025, IDY was organised in Praia and Sal Island on June 21.

Indian community

It is a small and cohesive Indian community of around 50 persons in Cabo Verde.

January 2026
