

Brief on India-Burkina Faso Relations

Political Relations

Burkina Faso, a former French Colony, gained Independence as Upper Volta in 1960. The name Burkina Faso, which means “Land of Incorruptible People”, was adopted in 1984. India and Burkina Faso enjoy cordial and friendly relations. Burkina Faso highly values its friendship with India. Burkina Faso established its Resident Mission in New Delhi in 1996 and upgraded to Ambassadorial status in 2011. India maintained its Resident Mission in Ouagadougou from November 1996 until its closure in July 2002. India reopened its Resident Mission in Ouagadougou in March 2019.

Visits from Burkina Faso to India

The exchanges of high-level visits from both sides reflect the growing interest in expanding cooperation in diverse areas.

High-level Visits

- President Thomas Sankara visited India in 1983 for the NAM Summit.
- President Blaise Compaore's visits in 1993 and 1994, during which India offered economic assistance. President Compaoré visited India again in 1997.
- Former Prime Minister Tertius Zongo visited New Delhi in April 2008 to attend the first India-Africa Forum Summit, and also held bilateral talks with Indian Prime Minister Dr. Man Mohan Singh.
- President Roch Marc Christian Kabore participated in the plenary of International Solar Alliance in 2018 and handed over instrument of Ratification of Framework Agreement of ISA to PM Modi.
- President/ Speaker of the Transitional Legislative Assembly (PALT) of Burkina Faso, Dr. Ousmane Bougouma, visited India from November 23-28, 2025 and called on Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla in Parliament House on November 27, 2025.

Visits from India to Burkina Faso:

High Level Visits:

- Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao's impactful state visit in November 1995. PM met with the Burkinabe President, addressed the country's Parliament, and was conferred Burkina Faso's highest civilian award. During his visit, PM also inaugurated the Embassy of India in Ouagadougou.

The details Ministerial level visits and other visits from both sides may be seen at Annexure-I

Bilateral Mechanism

India and Burkina Faso maintain diplomatic relations through regular political dialogue and consultations.

Joint Commission: Bilateral relations were bolstered during President Blaise Compaore's visit to India in May-June 1993. During the visit, India and Burkina Faso established a Joint Commission after signing an agreement in October 1994. The commission focuses on economic, cultural, political, and technical collaboration. Four Joint Commission meetings have taken place so far. The fourth JCM was held in Burkina Faso, led by Shri M.J. Akbar, the then Minister of State for External Affairs, and Mr. Alpha Barry, the then FM of Burkina Faso.

Economic and Commercial Relations:

Bilateral trade figures over the last five years are as follows:

(in US \$ millions)

| Sl. No. | Item | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | 2024-25 | 2025-26 (April-November) |
|---------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Exports | 196.64 | 176.78 | 120.82 | 144.39 | 111.68 |
| 2 | Imports | 425.44 | 116.34 | 203.05 | 80.43 | 273.80 |
| | Total Trade | 622.08 | 293.12 | 323.87 | 224.82 | 385.48 |

India imports gold, cotton, cashew nuts and soya beans from Burkina Faso and exports pharmaceuticals products, vehicles and spare parts, iron and steel articles, machinery and mechanical appliances, rubber and rubber articles etc.

Burkina Faso has many minerals, including gold, Zinc, Manganese, phosphate and limestone. The country also has reserves of other minerals, such as diamonds, bauxite, nickel, and vanadium. There is vast potential for Indian investors in Burkina Faso, especially in mining, infrastructure, pharmaceuticals. Some Indian companies are involved in projects executions under world bank funds and other international organizations.

Burkina Faso has no known investment in India. Burkina Faso, being one of the Least Developed Country (LDC), is beneficiary of India's Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme which provides market access for at least 97% of the products originating from LDCs.

Development Partnership

The Government of India has extended several Lines of Credit (LOCs) to Burkina Faso for its socio-economic development. The details of the development projects in Burkina Faso under various schemes of GOI are as follows:

(I) Projects under Lines of Credit (LOC)

(a) An LOC of US\$ 30 million was signed on 11.10.2005 for agricultural projects, including acquisition of harvesters, tractors, agricultural processing equipment etc. The project has been completed and an amount of US\$ 29.42 million was utilized.

(b) The LOC of US\$ 25 million was signed on 29.03.2013 for Rural Electrification. The project has been completed and US\$ 24.28 million was utilized.

(II) LOC Projects through ECOWAS Bank of Investment and Development (EBID)

(a) US\$ 14.9 million for Tomato & Mango Processing Plant in Loumbila was approved on 22 August, 2011. [Status -the plant is not operational as the Project Authority did not provide with water supply & other infrastructure related matters. Talks are on for revival of the project]

(b) US\$ 20 million for procurement of 135 buses for universities and institutions of higher education. The LoC was signed on 21.11.2011. The project has been completed in March,2020 and an amount of US\$ 19.98 million was utilised.

(c) US\$ 36.5 million for Solar Power Water Station for Semi-Urban water supply (Promised under International Solar Alliance – FC) Status- pending)

(III) IAFS Projects under Grants: Under IAFS following five projects were proposed, out of which, only the first two projects (a) & (b) have been completed:

(a) Vocational Training Centre/Incubation Centre (VTC/IC) (under IAFS-I) commissioned by National Small Industries Corporation Limited, New Delhi on November 03, 2016 at a cost of Rs.5 crores and handed over to a local agency under the Burkinabe Ministry of Youth, Professional Employment and Training on 3 November 2016. The VTC/IC trains Burkinabe in industrial nail cutting, oil extraction, plastic extrusion and packaging, water filtering, toilet paper and tissue making, tomato processing, juice extraction, mobile phone repairing, brick making and hardware networking.

(b) Vocational Training Centre of Barefoot College (Under IAFS-II) – Agreement signed on 11.04.2014 – The project was set-up at a cost of Rs.2.48 crores and imparts training in developing and using low-cost technology like solar cookers, etc.

(c) Pilot Project under ISA - Pilot Project for 20 solar pumps and street lights (to cover 100 households each in 3 villages) etc. undertaken by NISE under ISA. The NISE is engaged in discussions with Burkinabe agencies to implement solar home lights and water pumping systems, but the project was delayed due to the security situation in the country.

(d) Construction of 'Mahatma Gandhi Convention Centre' (MHICC) - GOI's offer of setting up a MGICC through grant assistance was accepted by the Burkinabe side.

(IV) India-UN Development Partnership Funded Project

Construction of a dam and its perimeter in the village of Niangdo (Rural Poa commune) - India contributed US\$ 1 million (48.7% of the total expenditure) for the UNDP-supported Project PAMED towards the construction of this dam and perimeter development in the rural commune of Poa in the Niangdo Province of Burkina Faso. This project was completed on 17 July 2023. The project is expected to handover to Burkinabe authorities in the year 2026.

Grants and Humanitarian Aid

The details of Grants and Humanitarian assistance provided to Burkina Faso are as under:

(a) During the visit of President Compaoré to Delhi in July 1994, India extended Rs. 250 million aid to Burkina Faso in the agricultural field, comprising a package of agricultural aid under the Integrated Agricultural Project. The aid included 200 tractors, seeds, implements, water pumps and several other accessories.

(b) India dispatched a consignment of medicine to help people affected by floods in Burkina Faso on 18 June 2008,

(c) India also donated nearly \$213,356 for flood relief assistance in September 2009.

(d) In April 2020, following a request from Burkina Faso's former President, India supplied COVID-19 medicines to Burkina Faso. The Mission delivered hydroxychloroquine and paracetamol tablets in May 2020. An additional shipment of medicines was also received from India in August 2020.

Capacity Building

Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme

Burkina Faso is beneficiary of Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme and ICCR's Scholarships. So far India has trained 250 Burkinabe in various fields under ITEC Programme. Despite language barrier, Burkina Faso has utilized all 32 slots offered during 2025-26.

Scholarships under ICCR

Under the India-Africa Maitri Scholarship Scheme, two slots are allocated by ICCR to Burkina Faso which have been utilized in 2022 and 2025. Currently, four Burkinabé students are pursuing studies

in India under ICCR Scholarship. For the academic year 2026, 2 slots have been allocated by ICCR for the students of Burkina Faso, the selection process is under process.

Others:

Five Burkinabe scientists were awarded CV Raman Fellowships for carrying out research activities in India between June and December 2013.

TEM-9 Initiative and the Pan Africa e-Network Project : Burkina Faso was one of the nine West African countries included in the TEAM-9 initiative and the Pan African e-Network Project. Under TEAM-9, the Indian Government provided a line of credit worth \$30.97 million for agricultural projects and for construction of a National Post Office in Burkina Faso.

ISA : Burkina Faso was among the first 19 countries to join the International Solar Alliance, proposed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on 15 November 2016.

IBCA : Burkina Faso has expressed willingness to join International Big Cat Alliance. Formal confirmation and process of signing of Framework Agreement are underway.

Cultural Relations

India and Burkina Faso have a strong cultural connection that includes festivals, dance, and yoga as well as exchange of cultural Groups.

A 9-member Burkinabe Traditional Folk Instrumental group (Kantigui Troupe of Orodara) participated in the ICCR's 11th India International Dance & Music Festival held in India from January 15-25, 2026.

A 13 member Cultural Group from Burkina Faso attended 39th Surajkund International Crafts Mela held from January 31 to February 15, 2026 in Faridabad, Haryana.

A 8 member Rajasthani Folk Dance Group – Hasam Khan Langa- performed in Ouagadougou from January 25 -28, 2026 in commemoration of 150 years of National Song – Vande Mataram.

Yoga is well known in Burkina Faso. International Day of Yoga (IDY) celebrations started in Burkina Faso in 2015. The Mission also held International Day of Yoga in 2022, 2023,2024 and 2025 in partnership with Hatha Yoga Club & Himalayan Meditation Centre. Brahm Kumaris have also their presence in Burkina Faso.

Burkina Faso is member of UNESCO and participated in the 46th session of World Heritage Committee held by UNESCO from July 21-31, 2024 in New Delhi. A four members Burkinabe delegation led by Secretary General Mr. Tamini Betamou Fidele Aymar, Ministry of Communication, Culture, Arts and Tourism of Burkina Faso attended the 20th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural heritage (IGC20COM) held in New Delhi from 7-13 December 2025.

Indian Community:

As of now, about 1500 Indians reside in Burkina Faso. Some members of the community own companies engaged in Manufacturing - Cement, Beer, Plastics, Leather. Services- Hotels & restaurants, Ticketing and travel agencies, water well drilling, Retailing & Trading, pharmaceutical imports and exporters of cotton, cashew nuts, sesame, peanuts and gold. while the rest of the community are employees of these Indian owned businesses. There is one Hare Rama Hare Krishna's temple in Ouagadougou. The Indian community celebrates Indian festivals like Holi, Diwali in Burkina Faso. To promote & Propagate Hindi in Burkina Faso, the Mission has started Hindi classes since 1st April , 2026

Ministerial-level visits from Burkina Faso

- Burkina Faso's Commerce and Industry Minister led a delegation to sign an Economic and Technical Cooperation Protocol in 1976.
- The current Prime Minister, Mr. Rimalba OUEDRAOGO attended the World Heritage Committee hosted by India in July 2024 in capacity of then Minister for Communication, Cultural, Art and Tourism of Burkina Faso.
- Dr. Aminata ZERBO/SABANE attended the World Telecommunications Standardization Assembly (WTSA) organized in India in October, 2024.

Participation in CII-India Africa Business Conclaves:

- Mr. Lene Sebgo, Minister of Health, led the Burkinabe delegation to the 9th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave held in Delhi in March 2013. Mr. Yacouba Barry, Minister of Housing & Urbanization, Mr. Mahama Zoungrana, Minister of Agriculture and Food Security and Mr. Jean Koulidiati, Minister of Development of Digital Economy and Post were part of the delegation.
- An official Burkinabe delegation comprising of the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security and Minister of Mines and Energy participated in the 10th EXIM Bank – CII Conclave held in New Delhi in March 2014.
- In August 2024, four Ministers - (1) Minister of Industrial Development, Commerce, handicrafts and Small and Medium Enterprises Mr. Gnaniodem SERGE PODA, (2) Minister of Economy, Finance and Forwarding Planning, Aboubakar NACANABO, (3) Minister of Digital Transitions and Electronic Communications. Dr. Aminata ZERBO/SABNE and (4) Foreign Affairs Minister Delegate Bèbgnasgnan Stella Eldine KABRE/KABORE attended the 19th CII-Africa Summit in August 2024.
- A strong 30-member Burkinabe business delegation comprising of Burkinabe businessmen, senior government functionaries participated in the 20th edition of CII India - Africa Business Conclave, took place from August 27 – 29, 2025 in New Delhi.

Ministerial-level visits:

- A visit by MOS for External Affairs occurred in 1987.
- Another notable visit was made by Shri M.J. Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs, leading the Indian delegation in July 2018 for the 4th Joint Commission meeting.

Other visits:

- A 3-member Indian delegation led by Shri Arvind Kaushal, Additional Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education visited Burkina Faso in December 2013 in connection with the establishment of Water & Soil Tissue Test Laboratory under IAFS decisions.
- Shri Mohanbhai Kundaria, Special Envoy to PM, visited Burkina Faso to hand over the IAFS-III Summit invitation to Burkina Faso's President in July 2015.
- A large multi-sectoral Indian delegation led by Lt. Col. Sanjeev Kumar, OSD (C&WA), MEA, visited Burkina Faso on October 09 – 10, 2025 to participate in the Inaugural Edition of the

International Forum, “ Invest in Burkina Faso”(FIIB), organized by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Crafts, in collaboration with the Burkinabe Investment Agency (ABI), the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Burkina Faso (CCI-BF) and the Burkina Export Promotion Agency (APEX-B).

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