

India- Comoros Relations

Political Relations:

India established its diplomatic relations with the Union of Comoros in June 1976. Our Mission in Antananarivo is concurrently accredited to Comoros. India and Comoros have always enjoyed close and friendly relations. Both the countries have similarities of view on regional and global issues. Comoros is a supporter of India's permanent membership of the UNSC. India is looked upon as a role model of development in Comoros.

A proposal to set up a vocational training centre (VTC) in Moroni to impart skills in plumbing, welding, electricity, civil works, IT, etc. is under consideration of the Government of India. A land in Mitsamiouili to set up VTC has been identified and is under evaluation. EXIM Bank of India has offered a concessional credit of US\$41.6 million for setting up a power plant in Moroni and the same has been accepted by Comoros. An Agreement to implement the LOC has been signed on 22 February 2013 at New Delhi and is in the process of being implemented. In December 2012, Government of India provided US\$ 100,000/- as assistance to Comoros for losses suffered on account of torrential rains in April 2012. The Pan African e-Network started its operations in Comoros in September 2010 but utilization is low.

The Government of India had also granted exemption from ban on export of 25,000 tonnes of non-basmati rice to the Union of Comoros to help relieve the food crisis in Comoros in 2008.

A number of VVIP/High-Level visits to Comoros to India took place during 2004 to 2013, which are as follows:

Bilateral Visit from Comoros

Sl. No.	Name of the Visitor	Date of visit	Purpose
1.	Mr. Souef Mohamed El-Amine, Minister of External Relations & Cooperation	Aug 2004	Bilateral visit
2.	Mr. Ahmed Ben Said Djaffer Minister of External Relations & Cooperation	Jul 2006	Bilateral visit
3.	Mr. Ahmed Abdullah Mohamed Sambi, President of Comoros	4-8 Nov 2007	To participate in the 4th International Conference on Federalism.
4	Mr. Fahmi Said Ibrahim Minister of External Relations & Cooperation	18-19 Feb 2011	To attend the LDCs Conference

5.	Mr. Mohamed Issimail Minister for National Education	01-02 Mar 2012	To participate in India-Africa Science & Technology Ministerial Meeting
6.	Mr. Mohamed Bakri Ben Abdoulafatah Charif, Minister of External Relations & Cooperation	02 Nov 2012	To participate in the Council of Ministers Meeting of Indian Ocean Rim-Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC)
7.	Mr. Mohamed Ali Soilihi Vice President in-charge of Finance Ministry	21-23 Feb 2013	To sign Agreement with EXIM Bank for grant of US\$ 41.6 million LOC

In October 2011, Shri Gurjit Singh, formerly AS (E & SA), Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, paid a visit to the Island to further strengthen the existing bilateral relations between the two countries and also promised to take necessary steps to increase the bilateral cooperation between the two countries. During the visit announcement of an offer was made for an additional concessional credit of US Dollars 35 million for projects to be chosen by the Government of Comoros. This is being followed up with the Comorian Government, including during meetings of Ambassador with the Foreign Minister in October 2013 and January 2014 in Antananarivo.

A number of scholarships/ training courses are being offered by the Government of India to Comoros under ITEC, IAFS, etc. programmes. However, the utilization on part of the Comoros has not been satisfactory due to lack of awareness and also lack of good knowledge of English. Data in this regard is as follows:

India Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC)

Year	Number of slots allotted	Number Utilized
2009-10	05	00
2010-11	10	00
2011-12	20	03
2012-13	10	06
2013-14	30	05

India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS)

Year	Number of slots allotted	Number sanctioned
2010-11	N.A.	N.A.
2011-12	N.A.	N.A.
2012-13	---	2
2013-14	-	-

CV Raman Fellowship Scholarships

2011-12	0
2012-13	0
2013-14	0

Professional Courses for Foreign Diplomats by FSI

2011-12	-
2012-13	-
2013-14	1

Economic and Commercial Relations with India:

The trade between the Comoros and India is increasing steadily. The bilateral trade between the two countries are as follows:

In millions and in US\$

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
India's exports	10.98	20.74	13.61
India's imports	2.96	8.02	6.59

Source:DGFT

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 18th March 2014 in New Delhi to enhance economic relations.

Mr. Said Ali Said Athouman, Secretary General, Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Agriculture and Mrs. Yousra Said Ali Dainane, in charge of Training Service, Union of Chambers of Commerce Industry and Agriculture, Comoros had participated in the 8th ISTP Course for Senior Representatives of African Chambers of Commerce from March 9-18 2014 conducted by CII in New Delhi.

Indian Community:

The Indian Diaspora comprises of around 250 persons and majority of them are engaged in trade and business. The role played by the Indian community in the overall development of Comoros is highly appreciated at all levels. Some of the Indians are very influential and their contribution to the total GDP of Comoros has also been significant. The Indian Diaspora has been playing significant role in promoting Indian culture and traditional values. In recent years, a number of young professionals have started working for some foreign companies in Comoros.

Cultural Relations:

Due to small size of the Island and a tiny Indian Diaspora, there has not been significant exchange of cultural visits between the two countries.

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