PREFACE

There are twenty five French speaking countries in Africa and the term “Francophone Africa” is generally used to denote those countries where a substantial number of its population speak French. It currently includes not only the former French colonies but also the former Belgium territories, Zaire, Rwanda, Burundi and British territories like Mauritius and Seychelles. French culture is deeply rooted and distinctive in these countries.

The present study concentrates on India’s relations with Francophone West African states, which includes nine countries. This is highly under worked area of the research. We have little information of Francophone African countries and their relations with India. Hence, this research intends to fill this important gap. As Francophone West Africa covers the major part of Francophone Africa, it is also a typical study of India’s relations with Francophone Africa. The three countries, Senegal, Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso which constitute major trade and economic relations with India have been taken as case studies in this work as it is not feasible to cover all the nine Francophone West African states.

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1Detail of Francophone African Countries (region wise) is as follows:
Francophone North Africa: Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.
Francophone Central Africa: Burundi, Chad, Cameroon, Congo Republic, Central African Republic, Zaire (Democratic Republic of Congo), Gabon and Rwanda.
Horn of Africa (Francophone): Djibouti.
Indian Ocean States at the Eastern Coast: Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles.
The idea of cooperation among the Third World countries came as an alternative to meet the growing disillusionment with the North led development strategy. India and Francophone West Africa, both being from the Third World, witnessed these significant developments. South-South Cooperation as a result of the stiffening of economic links with the North thus became a compulsion for them. Francophone West African states were numerically stronger and have a higher sense of solidarity in the Third World fora. With a view to safeguard their common interest in economic, social and cultural development and in international co-operation, Indo-Francophone West Africa relations got conceptual umbrella of NAM, and G-77.

This work attempts to study the relations between India and Francophone West Africa in the larger context of Third World solidarity and within a given framework of South-South co-operation to promote the relations between the two developing regions in the spirit of Collective Self-Reliance. It attempts to trace and analyze the political, diplomatic, cultural and economic relations between India and Francophone West African countries with Senegal, Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso as case studies in twenty-five year period (1975-2000). The scope for economic co-operation between India and these countries is very vast. As India and countries of Francophone West Africa are moving on the path of economic liberalization, their economies hold immense opportunities of mutually beneficial economic collaborations. Therefore, this study covers South-South drives under NAM during 1980s and South-South challenges under
globalization from early 1990s. It also attempts to reflect on future prospect for economic as well as strategic co-operation between India and these countries in the changing global environment.

The six chapters of this thesis explores the different dimensions of India’s relations with Francophone West Africa with a futuristic goal to enhance economic and strategic cooperation between the two regions.

Chapter 1, a historical background, sums up the historical ties between India and the Francophone West African states in general and Senegal, Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso in particular. It explores the historical linkages between India and the Francophone West African countries in political, diplomatic, economic and socio-cultural context during 1965-75. This chapter also attempts to bring to light the trade relations in the said period between India and the Francophone West African countries, which includes direction of trade and commodity pattern of exports and imports. It further discusses the investment and joint ventures as well as multilateral cooperation in the South-South Cooperation framework through Non Aligned Movement, Group of 77 and technical cooperation through Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme (ITEC) between both India and the Francophone West African countries. It further elaborates the constraints in Indo-Francophone West African relations in the period 1965-75. In doing so it also looks into how the historical
relationship is an important factor in shaping the relationship between them during 1975-2000.

Chapter 2, political, social and economic settings of India and Francophone West Africa, has taken detail descriptions of the four countries, which includes multidisciplinary approach such as political, social and economic settings and historical development. These are significant to understand in order to do the thematic analysis. This chapter attempts to explore the nature, direction and extent of change in key aspects of political and macro-economic scenarios of both India and Francophone West African states during 1975-2000. It further highlights the various facets of polity and economy of both India and Francophone West African countries in order to prepare the background for analyzing the cooperation between them during the said period. A comparative analysis of political and economic scenario in India and Francophone West African countries and their development strategy is the major thrust of this chapter.

Chapter 3, political, diplomatic and cultural relations between India and Francophone West African countries during 1975-2000 attempts to enquire about the modes of diplomacy. It further highlights the changing priority and trends in foreign policy of both India and Francophone West African countries and the impact of globalization on Indo-Francophone West African relations.

IV
Chapter 4, trade relations between India and Francophone West African countries represents an attempt to discuss the trade relations between both the regions in the period of 1975-2000. This chapter with a general introduction to the role of foreign trade in economic development of a country focuses on south-south trade, potential for growth in south-south trade, strengthened rationale of south-south trade cooperation in the 1990s and the south and global trade negotiations. This chapter further analyses the different dimensions of the trade relations like commodity compositions, balance of trade and trade policy of these countries. It also explains constraints in India’s relations with Francophone West African countries and the gains from mutual trade between India and these countries and presents the potentialities of enhanced trade.

Chapter 5, production and other economic cooperation highlight the production cooperation between India and Francophone West African countries during 1975-2000. This pertains to various dimensions of investment, like investment policy, areas of investment, sectoral analysis in terms of joint ventures between India and these countries. It also makes an analysis about the role of various multilateral forums like NAM, UNCTAD, WTO, G-77, G-15 and ECOWAS etc in the promotion of India’s relations with Francophone West African states within the framework of south-south cooperation.

The last chapter gives a conclusion of major findings and recommendations of the study as well as focus on the prospects in
this relationship between India and Francophone West African countries.

This thesis in its course will examine the possibilities of greater Indo-Francophone West African economic cooperation in the context of South-South Cooperation. For this purpose changing trends in India’s relations with Francophone West Africa in the major area of their interaction in political, diplomatic, economic, cultural and strategic will be explored. It will examine the prospects of Indo-Francophone West African Cooperation through multilateral fora for development purpose and assess the impact of France on Indo-Francophone West African relations. It will also find out the major constraints in Indo-Francophone West African relations and reflect on future potential for strong relationship between India and Francophone West Africa region under an all-consuming process of globalization.

The present study will be test the following hypotheses:

• Indian policy towards Africa has positive impact on Indo-Francophone West African relations.

• India and Francophone West Africa have crucial role to play in South-South Cooperation and development through NAM, ECOWAS, G-77, and G-15. But 1990s onwards South-South Cooperation faced newer challenges under globalization.
• The post-colonial linkage, which binds this region economically and strategically with France, is major constraint in Indo-Francophone West African relations.

• India's cooperation with Francophone region has been largely unexplored because of language barrier.

• Some countries of Francophone West Africa have strong relations with India and similar co-operation can be affected with other Francophone countries.

Methodology: This research work has adopted historical and analytical approach. The present study is primarily based on an analysis of the primary sources like official reports and documents, policy statements and resolutions, publications of the Government of India and Governments of Francophone West African states with UN, IMF and World Bank publications. The relevant statistical data and other valuable materials referred to in this study were obtained from diverse sources such as DGCIS, IIFT, FICCI, Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, India Investment Centre, PHD Chamber of Commerce etc. Interviews and interactions with the Indian policy makers in the external affairs ministry and Francophone West African missions in India were also used for this purpose. Apart from them, available secondary sources like books, articles, periodicals, newspaper reports etc., have also been extensively used for the purpose of the present study. The dearth of published works on India's relations with Francophone West Africa is an indication of the relevance of the present study.