Embassy of India
Kinshasa
***

India-Central African Republic Bilateral Relations

India and Central African Republic [CAR] enjoy friendly relations. CAR has supported India's candidature at various international forums. Both countries are keen to strengthen the existing relations.

Bilateral Visits

CAR to India

1. A delegation led by Minister of Small & Medium Enterprises and consisting of Deputy Minister for Finance and Adviser to the President of CAR took part in the 6th CII-EXIM Bank conclave held on March 14-16, 2010.

2. Minister of Economic Planning and International Cooperation, Minister for Energy and Minister for Communications participated in 7th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave held in New Delhi from February 27-29, 2011.

3. Foreign Minister Lt. Gen. Antoine Gambi had earlier visited India from 18-19 February 2011 for the LDC Foreign Ministers Conference held in New Delhi and again for the 7th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave for India Africa Project Partnership in March 2011.

4. **Mr. Faustin-Archange Touadera,** then Prime Minister and current President of CAR visited New Delhi in March 2012, as head of a high level delegation comprising six Cabinet Ministers [Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Transport, Minister of Energy and Hydraulic, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Minister of Commerce and Minister and Director of Cabinet of President]; senior officials and members of Chambers of Commerce of CAR to attend the 8th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership. CAR was the 'Country of Honour' at the Conclave. Touadera called on the then Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, on that occasion.

5. Mr. Parfait Anicent Mbay, 2nd Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Integration, Francophone and Central Africans Abroad visited India to participate in the 9th CII-EXIM

Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership held in Delhi from 17-19 March, 2013.

6. Ms. Gaudeuille Nee Medou Juliene Desiree, delegate from CAR attended and participated in 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi from October 26-30, 2015.

7. A two-member delegation led by by Mr. Mahamat Taib Yacoub, Minister of Trade and Industry, visited Delhi for the informal WTO Ministerial Meeting held on 13-14 May, 2019.

8. 3-member delegation led by Mr. Jean Pierre DOLLE WAYA, Army Chief of CAR participated in Defense Expo 2020 (05-09 Feb, 2020).

9. In **July 2022,** H.E. Sylvie-Temon Baipo, FM of CAR held a telephonic conversation with EAM, to discuss the arms embargo on CAR.

10. A 5-member delegation, led by H.E. Rameaux Claude Bireau, visited Gandhinagar (India) on 18-22 October 2022, for DefExpo 2022 and 2nd India-Africa Defense Dialigue. During the visit, the Minister also held a bilateral meet with the Hon'ble Raksha Mantri of India, Shri Rajnath Singh.

11. In January 2023, Minister of Commerce of CAR, Mme. MBOUA NEE LEA DOUYASSOUM DOUMTA, participated virtually in the Virtual Voice of South Summit, organized jointly by Ministry of Commerce, and MEA, Government of India

Agreements/MOUs: The following bilateral documents have been signed between India and CAR

(i) MoU for setting up an IT Centre for Excellence in Bangui signed in March 2010.

(ii) Protocol for Foreign Office Consultations signed on September 3, 2010; The first Foreign Office Consultations between two Ministries of Foreign Affairs were held in capital Bangui on January 17, 2011. However, **no FOC has been held so far.**

(iii) MOU for setting up two learning stations under the Hole-in-Wall Computer Education project signed on September 3, 2010.

India's Economic Assistance to CAR: Please see Annexure - I

Donations and Grants: Two learning stations under the Hole-in-Wall Computer Education were set up and inaugurated on 31st August 2011. The Pan African e-network project has been implemented in CAR. Tele-education, Telemedicine and VVIP connectivity have been set up in Bangui.

In June 2022, Government of India approved donation of 1000 MT of rice to CAR to help the country in its post-covid recovery. CAR Government has accepted the donation and the matter is pending with the MEA.

Capacity Building Program: 24 slots under ITEC program have been utilized till date. 1 slot of IAFS was also utilized in 2012-13. 4 CAR women availed of ITEC training in solar electrification and rooftop water harvesting course at Barefoot College, Rajasthan during 2014-15.

Trade and Commercial Relations: While CAR has huge natural resources such as diamond, gold, uranium, timber, oil and hydropower and there is a lot of potential for bilateral cooperation, trade between the two countries has been miniscule. However, the fighting between the rebel groups and the government forces since 2013 have been an impediment to all aspects of bilateral relations, including trade and commercial.

Bilateral trade figures are given below (USD million:

(Value: USD bn)

Year	**Exports**	**Im-ports**	**Total Trade**	**Trade Balance**	**%Growth**	
					Exports	Imports
2019-20	55.63	0.56	56.19	55.08	107	-72%
2020-21	23.71	0.23	23.94	23.48	-60%	-57%
2021-22	20.13	0.18	20.31	19.95	-15%	-20%
2022 – 23 (April –	17.24	2.65	19.9	14.60	N/A	N/A

Jan)						

(Source: Department of Commerce, GoI)

a. **Top 5 Principal commodities of exports ((April – January 2022-23)**

- Pharmaceuticals (HS Code 30)– USD 7.22 Million
- Other Made-up Textile Articles; Sets; Worn Clothing (HS Code 63)– USD 3.82 million
- Cereals (HS Code: 10) – USD 1.1 Million
- Vehicles, other than railways or Tramway, Rolling stock, parts and accessories thereof (HS Code 84) – USD 1 million
- Aluminum and articles thereof (HS Code: 74) – 0.94 million

b. **Top 5 Principal commodities of imports (April – January 2022-23)**

- Cotton (HS Code 52): USD 1.85 million
- Wood and wood articles – USD 0.81 million

While CAR has huge natural resources such as diamond, gold, uranium, timber, oil and hydropower and there is a lot of potential for bilateral cooperation, trade between the two countries has been miniscule. However, the fighting between the rebel groups and the government forces since 2013 have been an impediment to all aspects of bilateral relations, including trade and commercial.

Indian community: There are just about 60-70 Indians (including 45 people working in UN mission in MINUSCA) living in CAR. They are primarily engaged in trading activities.

Annexure – I

A brief on Lines of Credit (LoCs) to Central African Republic (CAR)

A. Overview of LoCs

Description	LOC-1	LOC-2	LOC-3*	LOC-4 (Restructuring LOC)	Total

Year	2008	2011	2011	2018	**-**
LoC Amount (US$ mn)	29.50	20.00	39.69* (**Annulled**)	7.00	56.50
LoC Agreement signed	2008	2012	2012	2018	-
Disbursements	29.04	12.73	0.00	4.94	**46.71**
Repayment	3.63	0.00	0.00	1.13	**-**
Total no. of Projects	1#	1	1	-	**3**
Detailed Project Report under finalization	-	-	-	-	**-**
Projects under tendering	-	-	-	-	**-**
Projects under execution (EPC Contract awarded)	1	1	-	-	**2**
On hold	1	1	-	-	**2**
Projects Completed	0#	0	**-**	-	**0**

* Annulled vide DEA OM F. NO.11/2/2021-IDEAS dated December 29, 2022.

The project has two parts of which one for supply of 100 buses is completed.

B. Details of LoCs

1. LoC of USD 29.50 million for (a) Setting up a modern dry process cement plant of 400 TPD capacity, and (b) procurement of 100 buses for internal transport:

The LoC was approved on July 30, 2008, and the LoC agreement was signed on October 23, 2008.

The supply of 100 buses for internal transport in Central African Republic under the contract of USD 5.50 mn is completed. However, the project for setting up a modern dry process cement plant of 400 TPD capacity is on hold due to unrest in CAR and the Indian

contractor for the project withdrew its teams from the sites in February 2014 on account of the unrest.

Status of Cement Plant -
Physical progress: 80.00%
Financial progress: 98.09%
Project stage: On hold

2. LoC of USD 20.00 million for Development of Mining Project:

The LoC was approved on August 02, 2011, and the LoC agreement was signed on March 19, 2012.

The LoC was extended for design, engineering, manufacturing, supply and installation of equipment, operation, and transportation of Bobassa Limestone for manufacturing of cement. However, the project is on hold due to unrest in CAR and the Indian contractor for the project withdrew its teams from the sites in February 2014 on account of the unrest.

Status of Mining Project -
Physical progress: 40.00%
Financial progress: 63.68%
Project stage: On hold

3. LoC of USD 39.69 million for Two hydro-electric projects:

The LoC was approved on August 11, 2011, and the LoC agreement was signed on March 19, 2012.

The LoC has been **annulled** vide DEA OM F. NO.11/2/2021-IDEAS dated December 29, 2022, based on EAM's instruction in review meeting on Lines of Credit held on 3 October 2022. Accordingly, a message has been sent to Mission on 1 February 2023, with a copy to the C&WA Division, to inform the CAR side appropriately.

4. Restructuring of LoCs / LoC of USD 7.00 million: Based on the request of the CAR side, restructuring under the LoCs of USD 29.50 million and USD 20.00 million was approved on June 07, 2018. The restructuring was implemented by extending the tenor and funding of dues with a new LOC of USD 7.00 million.

C. G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI): CAR side applied for DSSI (Phase I & later Phase III) in November 2020 and later in June 2021, **however, it was conveyed through Mission that there are no amounts payable during the DSSI deferment period, hence, DSSI is not necessary.**

D. Overdues: USD 759,309.09 (earliest due on January 16, 2023).

Last Updated: September 2023