

Central African Republic

India – Central African Republic 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.

Important visits:

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. Foreign Minister Lt. Gen. Antoine Gambi also visited India twice 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. Mr. Faustin-Archange Touadera, then Prime Minister and current President of CAR visited New Delhi in March 2012, at the head of a high level delegation comprising six Cabinet Ministers; 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. 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. Ms. Gaudeville 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. A two-member delegation led by H.E. Mr. Mahamat Taib Yacoub, Minister of Trade and Industry, visited Delhi for the informal WTO Ministerial Meeting held on 13-14 May, 2019. Jean Pierre DOLLE WAYA, Chief of the Armed Forces of Central African Republic lead a 2 member defence delegation to the DEFEXPO 2020, in February, 2020.

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. 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: India has extended lines of credit to CAR for developmental projects, covering sectors such as construction, transport and hydroelectric. The projects are under various stages of implementation.

Capacity Building Programme: 23 slots under ITEC programme were utilised during 2010-16. 7 ITEC slots were utilized in 2018-2019 and 3 ITEC slots are utilized so far in 2019-20. 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, period April-Feb):

Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Exports	7.76	9.17	10.37	29.92	26.80
Imports	0.63	0.83	0.38	9.88	2.02
Total	8.39	10.00	10.75	39.80	28.82

(Source: Department of Commerce, GoI)

Indian community: There are just about 66 Indians (including 45 people working in UN mission in MINUSCA) living in CAR. They are primarily engaged in trading activities.

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