

India-Sudan Bilateral Relations

Relations between India and Sudan date back to ancient times. Evidence indicates that there were contacts and possibly trade almost 5,000 years ago between Nilotic and Indus Valley Civilizations. Two steel suspension rail bridges in Khartoum and Atbara were imported from India in the 1900s. These bridges are still in use today. Since 1900, Indian experts have been involved in the development of Sudan's forestry sector. Father of our nation also visited Port Sudan in 1935, on his way to England and met with the members of the Indian diaspora in Sudan. The first Sudanese Parliamentary elections in 1953 were conducted by Shri Sukumar Sen, the then India's Chief Election Commissioner (the Sudanese Election Commission, formed in 1957, drew heavily on Indian elections norms and laws).

2. India opened diplomatic representation in Khartoum in March 1955. In April 1955, interim Prime Minister of Sudan Ismail Al Azhari and several Ministers transited through New Delhi on their way to Bandung for the first Afro-Asian Relations Conference.

Recent Visits/Political Interactions

3. The following are the recent visits/exchanges :-

- i) Ms. Amal Salih Mohamed, Minister of Trade & Supply visited India in July 2022 to attend 17th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Growth Partnership.
- ii) Lt. Gen. Anan Hamed Mohamed Omer, Interior Minister and Director General of Police visited India in November 2022 to attend 3rd Ministerial Conference on Counter-Terrorism Financing (NMFT).
- iii) Dr. Abubaker Albushra, Agriculture Minister visited New Delhi in March, 2023 to attend Global Conference of International Year of Millets.
- iv) Dr Jibril Ibrahim Mohammed, Minister for Finance and Economic planning attended virtual meeting in the Voice of Global South Summit (12-13 January 2023).
- v) A delegation led by Mirghani Idriss, Head of Defence Industries Group, Sudan visited Aero India 2023, India's biennial civil-military air show and aviation exhibition which was held in Yelahanka Air Force Base in Bengaluru from 13-17 February 2023.

vi) H.E. Mr. Mohieldien Naiem Mohamed Saied, Minister of Energy and Petroleum led a high level delegation to Goa to participate in India Energy Week 11-14 February 2025.

vii) H.E. Eng. Almutsim Ibrahim Ahmed, Hon'ble Minister of Oil and Energy of Republic of Sudan visited India in end January 2026 for attending India Energy Week in Goa.

viii) Sudan's Foreign Minister Mohieldin Salim Ahmed Ibrahim visited India from 29 January-02 February 2026 to attend the India-Arab Foreign Ministers' Meeting. He held talks with Hon'ble External Affairs Minister on 30 January 2026 in New Delhi. The Sudanese Foreign Minister also met the Hon'ble Commerce and Industry Minister (CIM) in New Delhi on 31 January 2026.

Bilateral Trade

4. India is a significant trade partner of Sudan. India primarily exports food stuffs, petroleum products, manufactured goods, machinery and equipment, chemicals including pharmaceuticals and textiles to Sudan. Sudan mainly exports sesame seed, gum Arabic, cotton, watermelon seeds, hides and skins and ground nuts to India. Bilateral trade between both countries was on a steep rise. However, the bilateral trade declined sharply following outbreak of armed conflicts in Sudan on 15 April 2023. A snapshot of our bilateral trade in US \$ million till 2023-2024 is given in the following table:

Bilateral Trade (Calendar Year Basis, Values in USD Million)

(Source: DGCIS, India)

Country:SUDAN

S.N o.	\Year	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
1	EXPORT	1,096.88	1,022.33	1,077.25	1,815.84	805.04	589.03
2	%Growth		-6.8	5.37	68.56	-55.67	-26.83
3	India's Total Export	313,361.04	291,808.48	422,004.40	451,070.00	437,072.03	437,704.58
4	%Growth		-6.88	44.62	6.89	-3.1	0.14
5	%Share	0.35	0.35	0.26	0.4	0.18	0.13
6	IMPORT	396.75	368.28	129.15	218.18	330.55	427.55
7	%Growth		-7.18	-64.93	68.93	51.51	29.34

8	India's Total Import	474,709. 28	394,435. 88	613,052. 05	715,968. 90	678,214. 77	721,200. 22
9	%Growth		-16.91	55.43	16.79	-5.27	6.34
10	%Share	0.08	0.09	0.02	0.03	0.05	0.06
11	TOTAL TRADE	1,493.63	1,390.61	1,206.40	2,034.02	1,135.59	1,016.58
12	%Growth		-6.9	-13.25	68.6	-44.17	-10.48
13	India's Total Trade	788,070. 32	686,244. 36	1,035,05 6.45	1,167,03 8.89	1,115,28 6.81	1,158,90 4.80
14	%Growth		-12.92	50.83	12.75	-4.43	3.91
15	%Share	0.19	0.2	0.12	0.17	0.1	0.09
16	TRADE BALANC E	700.12	654.05	948.1	1,597.67	474.49	161.49
17	India's Trade Balance	- 161,348. 24	- 102,627. 40	- 191,047. 65	- 264,898. 90	- 241,142. 74	- 283,495. 65

Note: The country's total imports (S.No.6) since 2000-2001 does not include import of Petroleum Products (27100093) and Crude Oil (27090000)

Cooperation in the area of Agriculture

5. Sudan is the third largest country in Africa and it is estimated that around 10% of the world's arable land is located in Sudan. Cooperation in agriculture between India and Sudan has been strong. The areas of cooperation include skill development and training, sale of agricultural machineries, including tractors, agricultural equipment, hybrid seeds, agro-chemicals and agro-fertilizers. India dominates the agricultural tractor market in Sudan with export of around 2500 tractors in a year. Indian hybrid seeds are popular and companies like JK Seeds and Nath Seeds have good distribution network in Sudan. In the agrochemical industries, UPL is a dominant player. India also imports a lot of agro commodities from Sudan, including sesame seeds, watermelon seeds, groundnuts, pigeon peas and chickpeas. This cooperation supports rural jobs in Sudan, strengthens India's food supply and is a good example of South-South collaboration.

Projects and Lines of Credit

6. A number of Lines of Credit have been extended to the Government of Sudan beginning with Rs. 20 million Line of Credit in 1980. During President Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam's visit in 2003, US\$ 50 million LoC was extended to Sudan (the first ever on G-to-G basis) for Indian goods and services in power, solar energy, railways, and laboratory equipment. Various Lines of Credit extended to the Government of Sudan, through EXIM Bank of India are as below:

Year	Amount (Mn US\$)	Purpose / Project/ Details
2004	50.00	Supply of electrification, equipment, photo-voltaic cells, diesel coaches, copper rods, textile machinery and rehabilitation of locomotive products.
2006	350.00	4 X 125 MW Kosti combined cycle power plant executed by BHEL. All 4 units synchronized, commissioned in Jan 2016. BHEL has outstanding dues of USD 30.98 million from the project.
2006	41.90	Sinja-Gedarif Transmission and Sub-Station project
2007	48.00	For supply of agriculture inputs, technical and laboratory equipment, scientific equipment, solar electrification, and Sudan Railways supplies.
2007	52.00	37.44 million for Gadarif- Galabat transmission line, micro-industrial projects and development of livestock production and services. The original amount of LoC was reduced to US\$ 37.44 million.
2009 & 2013	25.00	Mashkour Sugar Plant in White Nile State. 1 st tranche of US\$ 25 million has been disbursed. 2 nd tranche of USD 125 million could not be disbursed due to various irregularities, inability of Government of Sudan to mobilize local contributions of US\$ 80 million, inability of Government of Sudan to pay LoC dues and non-optimal utilization of current capacity of existing sugar mills.

Educational Cooperation

7. About 2000 Sudanese students travel to India annually for higher studies mainly to Pune, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai and Bangalore. More

than 100,000 Sudanese, graduates of Indian Universities, have carved a niche for themselves in their chosen fields and some of them are holding high positions in government and business. At present, around 12000 Sudanese students are undergoing studies in various universities including under scholarship programmes such as the ICCR India–Africa Maitri Scholarship Scheme.

Cultural Exchanges

8. The following cultural exchanges were also carried out in the recent past:

- i) A 15-member Sudanese artisan and artists group has participated in the Surajkund International Crafts Mela in February 2023.
- ii) Three ICCR sponsored cultural troupes (a) A to Z Bollywood Music & Dance Group (12-15 Nov 2023) (b) 8 member Gujarati Folk Group, "Kalapath Sanstha" from 02-04 February 2023 and (c) 11 member Maharashtrian cultural troupe "Bhavani Productions" from 30.11.2022 to 02.12.2022 visited Sudan had enthralling performances at Friendship Hall, Al Neelain University, Ahfad University, Ribat University, Omdurman National Theatre, Omdurman Indian Club and India-Sudan Friendship Club.

Indian Community

9. The first Indian Luvchand Amarchand Shah, a Gujarati trader who imported goods from India, is believed to have come to Sudan from Aden in 1856. Prior to the evacuation drive carried out under Operation Kaveri, the Indian community in Sudan was around 4000. Out of which around 1000 were settled Indian community. However, post Operation Kaveri and return of Indians from Sudan at present the community is around 200 which comprises of laborers (90) mainly those employed in Sugar Industry (around 80), Indian women married to locals and their family members (70) and other expatriates (40). The Sudanese community in India now is around 20,000 which mainly comprises of students, Sudanese married to Indians and their family members. This exchange of people reflects the deep and historic ties between India and Sudan.

16 April 2026