

India-Chad Bilateral Relations

Political Relations:

Relations between India and Chad remain cordial. India enjoys great goodwill and admiration in the Republic of Chad. High level contacts and cooperation between the two countries have picked up since 2011 with several visits and interactions.

Former Chadian President Idriss Deby had a meeting with Prime Minister of India on the sidelines of *India – Africa Forum Summit – II* in Addis Ababa in May 2011. Chadian Foreign Minister Moussa Faki Mahamat visited India in August 2013 and held bilateral discussions with EAM and MOS (PK). President Idriss Deby Itno visited New Delhi for India-Africa Forum Summit-III from October 26-30, 2015 and had meeting with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Chadian Minister of Economy, Planning and Development Mr. Ngueto Tiraina Yambaye accompanied by 3 senior officers visited India to attend African Development Bank (AfDB) meeting in Ahmedabad, Gujarat from May 22-26, 2017. Chadian Minister of Culture Mahamat Saleh Haroun – a filmmaker, visited Kerala to attend 22nd International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK) in Thiruvananthapuram from December 8-15, 2017.

The relations assumed a boost with the visit of Chadian Prime Minister H.E. Pahimi Padacke Albert to India to attend the Founding Conference of International Solar Alliance and Solar Summit in New Delhi on March 11, 2018. He also held bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Modi on the sidelines of ISA.

H.E. Mahamat Allahou Taher, Minister of Telecommunications and Digital Economy, Republic of Chad visited New Delhi from 19-23 May 2023. During the visit, he met Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hon'ble Minister of Communication, Electronics and IT, and Railways.

A 10-member Chadian delegation including Secretary of State for Finances & Public Accounts Mrs. Ronel Baiong Malloum, and Secretary of State for Agricultural Production and Transformation Mr. Ramadane Abakar participated in the '*18th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Growth Partnership*' from June 14-16, 2023 in New Delhi.

India's first Resident Ambassador to the Republic of Chad joined the Mission in N'Djamena on May 01, 2023. Earlier, our Mission in Abuja was concurrently accredited to Chad.

Commercial Relations:

Chad is a member of TEAM-9 Initiative (Techno-Economic Approach for African Movement) comprising eight West and Central African countries seeking to benefit in technical and economic spheres through cooperation with India. There is considerable untapped potential for mutually beneficial co-operation in hydrocarbons, mining, agriculture, and infrastructure sectors.

India's direct bilateral trade with Chad has surged from small base during past few years, but remains much below the potentials. During 2018-19, our bilateral trade with Chad was USD 513.59 million. The increase in the import of crude oil was the main reason for the significant increase in bilateral trade. The bilateral trade figures for the past 6 years are given below:

India – Chad Bilateral Trade Statistics (Value in US \$ million)

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
India's Exports	27.29	37.46	58.69	59.23	52.94	52.21
India's Imports	149.47	476.13	270.75	50.00	3.00	6.01
Total trade	176.76	513.59	329.44	109.23	55.94	58.22

Source: DGCIS India

Indian economic presence in Chad received a boost through Airtel's USD 1 billion acquisition of Zain Telecom, Chad's biggest network, in June 2010. Airtel had committed to spend additional USD100 million to expand its network in the country and to improve its quality.

Some Indian private companies are in the process of starting ventures in the pharmaceutical, foodstuffs, restaurants, and edible oil, etc. sectors in Chad. Several Indian companies based in Nigeria and Tanzania are also exploring opportunities for investment in Chad. Bharat Heavy Industries have supplied 331 Kilometers of pipes for the oil refinery project. A delegation from BHEL visited Chad in August 2018 to explore project exports.

Development Assistance/LoCs:

The Republic of Chad has been a recipient of India's developmental assistance. Government of India donated 5,000 metric tonnes of rice to Chad in 2004. EXIM Bank, India has extended three Lines of Credit (LoC) under Govt. of India supported LoC to Chad.

(i) LoC of USD 50 million: EXIM Bank has extended a GoI-LoC of USD 50 million to Govt. of Chad for financing a Cotton Yarn Plant, a Bicycle Plant, an Industrial transport equipment and rolling plant, Agro-processing plants for Tomato and Mango, and Irrigation equipment in Chad. The LoC agreement was signed on August 29, 2005 and made effective on September 27, 2005. The LoC has since been fully disbursed and projects completed.

(ii) LoC of USD 15.9 million: EXIM Bank has extended a GoI-LoC of USD 15.9 million to Govt. of Chad for financing the 'Extension of Spinning Mill' [addition of weaving and processing capacities]. Contract for this LoC was awarded in May 2014. The LoC has been disbursed and the project has been inaugurated in November 2020.

(iii) LoC of USD 27.45 million: After the ISA Founding Conference in March 2018, Govt. of India offered an LoC of USD 27.45 million to establishment of Solar PV Module Manufacturing Plant at N'Djamena.

COVID-19: During the pandemic, India donated a 6-tonne consignment of essential medicines including HCQS and antibiotics to Chad in July 2020.

ITEC/e-ITEC/ICCR Scholarships:

Chad has been India's ITEC partner country and has been regularly utilizing scholarship slots. It availed of 19 out of 20 civilian training programmes offered under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) for the year 2018-19. For the first time in 2018-19, 15 Chadian Public Servants got trained in India under a special ITEC course on English Language Proficiency at EFLU, Hyderabad. In addition, 9 Chadians have availed other short-term training offered under the decision taken during India Africa Forum Summit-III.

In addition, 8 scholarships are offered every year to Chadian students to pursue their UG and PG studies in various Indian Universities under ICCR Scholarship Scheme. A Chadian Diplomat attended the Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) in Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi in 2018-19. Earlier in 2017-18, Chad utilized 18 slots under the IAFS-III training programmes, 2 slots under ITEC, 4 ICCR scholarships and 1 slot under PCFD of FSI. Every

year Chadian students are selected for year-long Hindi classes at Central Institute of Hindi in Agra.

Chadian Armed Forces have recently started to attend training/ courses in defence institutes in India under ITEC. The focus of the training is in specialist areas like counter terrorism and counter insurgency.

Indian Community & Culture:

There are about 200 Indians and over 40 Indian companies working mostly in oil projects, international organizations, missionaries. Many are engaged in trade in Chad.

Chadians trained in Hindi language formed 'Yarana Association', which is promoting Hindi language and Indian culture through celebration of Indian festivals. In 2023, for the first time, the IDY was celebrated in June with participation of over 200 Chadians. As part of AKAM, a cultural event '*Namaste India*' was organised by the Mission in association with Chadians in July 2023. Chadian nationals' interest in Indian culture is sign of growing people-to-people contacts.

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