

India - Cameroon Bilateral Relations

Political Relations

India and Cameroon have friendly and cordial relations dating back to the independence of the latter in 1960. The present (second) High Commissioner is Shri Anindya Banerjee, joined this Mission on 21.02.2022. An Honorary Consul is also functioning in Douala since 2008.

India's bilateral engagement with Cameroon gathered momentum through high level visits between the two countries including the third India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III). Cameroon leadership acknowledges India's contributions to Africa, its secular democracy and economic progress and the leadership it provided to the Non- Aligned Movement.

Cameroon has also decided to open its Resident Mission in Delhi shortly.

Bilateral Visits

(I) From Cameroon to India

- President Mr. Paul Biya visited India in March 1983 to attend NAM Summit.
- Prime Minister Mr. Philomen Yang accompanied by seven Ministers and a large business delegation visited India in March 2013 to attend CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on Africa.
- Minister for Economy & Planning Mr. Emmanuel Nganou Dogmas and Minister of Social Welfare Mrs. Bankang Mbock Catherine, visited India on September 12-16, 2012 for signing of \$42m Credit Line for the Cassava Plantation Project.
- Defence Minister Mr Edger Alain Mebe Ngo'o visited India in March 2012 to attend DefExpo India 2012 held in New Delhi.
- Minister for External Relations Mr.Mbella Mbella Lejeune, led the Cameroonian delegation that participated in the India-Africa Summit-III from October 26-30, 2015.
- An 8- member delegation comprising of Ministry of Public Health Officials, Doctors and Pharmacists visited India from October 3-5, 2016 to attend the conference - Advantage Health Care India 2016- organised by FICCI in Noida, UP.
- Minister of Economy Mr. Louis Paul Motaze led a Cameroonian delegation to India from 29 January to 4 February 2017 to sign a commercial loan agreement with Exim Bank of India worth USD 93.50 million for construction of 225 kv Nkongsamba - Bafoussam and Yaounde – Abong Mbang Transmission Line.

- Minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Development Mr. Louis Pal Motaze again visited India to attend AfDB meeting held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat from 22-26 May, 2017.
- Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Mrs. Emilia Mojowa Lifaka, who was also the Vice-Chairperson of Executive Committee of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), visited India, as part of a delegation comprising representatives of African Group of Commonwealth Speakers Forum on 11 October, 2017.
- Deputy Speaker of National Assembly Mrs. Emilia Mojowa Lifaka, visited New Delhi to attend the Commonwealth Youth Parliament Meeting from 24-29 November 2019.
- A 4-member Parliamentary delegation led by Mr. Njaingum Musa Mbutoh, Member of Parliament, visited India from 2-5 December 2019.
- Mr. Felix Mbayu, Minister Delegate to the Minister of External Relations visited India in July 2022 to attend the CII-EXIM Bank Conclave and also called on MOS(VM) and Director General of International Solar Alliance during the visit.
- A three-member team from Cameroon Defence forces led by a Senior Army officer attended the Aero show in Bengaluru in February 2023.
- Mr. Felix Mbayu, Minister Delegate to the Minister of External Relations visited India in June 2023 to attend the CII-EXIM Bank Conclave and also called on MOS(VM) during the visit.
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(II) From India to Cameroon

- External Affairs Minister of India met with Cameroonian Foreign Minister in New York in September 2002.
- In June 2008, Mr. Anand Sharma, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, met Cameroonian Foreign Minister at AU Summit in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt.
- A 60-member Indian Parliamentary delegation comprising of MPs, MLAs including Speakers of a few States Assemblies visited Cameroon to attend the 60th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) in Yaoundé, Cameroon from October 2-10, 2014.
- Special Envoy to PM, Prof. Ram Shankar Katheria, MOS(HRD) visited Cameroon on July 15-17, 2015 to personally handover invitation letters from Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi to Cameroonian President Mr. Paul Biya to attend India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III).
- Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri M. Muraleedharan, visited Yaounde on September 3-4, 2019 and called on the Prime Minister and met Minister for External Relations.

- Minister of External Affairs, Dr. S. Jaishankar, met Minister Delegate for External Relations and in-charge-of Islamic Affairs Mr. Adoum Gargoum in 24 October 2019 on the sidelines of NAM Ministerial Meeting in Baku.
- The 3rd Round of Foreign Office Consultations was held on 07 August, 2023. The Indian side was led by Shri Sevala Naik Mude, Additional Secretary(CWA).

Trade and Commercial Relations

India and Cameroon signed a Trade Agreement in February 1968, thus laying the foundations for bilateral trade arrangements.

In 2019-20, India emerged as the 7th trading partner of Cameroon with two-way trade touching US \$ 904.81 million. In the year 2021-2022, India was the fourth largest trading partner of Cameroon. In the year 2021-2022, bilateral trade was US \$ 1209 million. In the year 2022-23, the bilateral trade decreased to US \$ 1103 million due to decrease in imports by India.

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

Year	India's Exports to Cameroon	India's Imports from Cameroon	Total Trade
2015-16	191	558	749
2016-17	149	359	508
2017-18	194	213	407
2018-19	179	344	523
2019-20	228	676	904
2020-21	279	202	481
2021-22	403	806	1209
2022-23	553	550	1103

There are about 60 Indian companies having their presence in Cameroon, mostly engaged in trading of general merchandise. Some of the prominent companies include Mahima group (general trading and retailing), Deelite group (manufacturing of biscuits, plastics, supermarkets, imports from India) Olam group (Singapore-based group, engaged in import of rice and other products), Reddy Global (manufacturing of alcohol) and Africure (manufacture of pharmaceuticals). Indians have invested to the tune of US\$15-20 million in plastics, carton, biscuits, smelting of scrap, bottling and distribution of alcohol. Jindal group has got concession in the area of Iron Ore mining from an Australian company. This Project involves a sizeable amount of investment. Indian company Africure Pharmaceuticals invested USD 29.8 million in Douala, to produce essential drugs for local consumption.

Key potential areas for cooperation and investment are – Energy, Oil & Gas, agriculture, forestry, mining, Healthcare, Education, telecom, IT etc.

Tourism, especially medical tourism is becoming very popular in this country and many Cameroonians are going to India for medical treatment. Similarly, many students from Cameroon are going to India for higher studies.

Cameroon is the largest economy in the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC). GDP of Cameroon was 44 Billion USD in 2022.

Defence Cooperation

India has been providing various training slots for the Cameroonian Armed Forces in Indian Armed Forces Training establishments under the ITEC program. Focus of our Defence Cooperation is to provide training in counter terrorism, anti-piracy operations and in UN peace keeping operations. A three-member team from Cameroon Defence forces led by a Senior Army officer attended the Aero show in Bengaluru in February 2023. Defence cooperation forms an important facet of our bilateral engagement.

Projects and related activities

In 2007, Government of India gifted 60 tractors and agricultural implements to Government of Cameroon.

Development Cooperation

(I) Lines of Credit & Commercial Loan Agreements

In May 2009, a \$ 37.65 million Indian Line of Credit (LoC) for Cameroon funding a project each of Rice and Maize Farm Plantation was operationalized. This project was completed in 2017.

In September 2012, India and Cameroon signed on a new LOC of \$ 42 million for Cassava plantation project in Cameroon. This project is being implemented. Most of the vehicles which were to be supplied by India have arrived in Cameroon.

During the visit of Cameroon Minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Development, Mr. Louis Paul Motaze, to New Delhi from 29 January to 4 February 2017, Cameroon signed a commercial loan agreement with Exim Bank of India worth USD 93.50 million for construction of 225 kV Nkongsamba - Bafoussam and Yaounde – AbongMbang Transmission Line. The project was handed over to an Indian company “Kalpataru” in November 2019 was completed and handed over to Cameroon in November 2022. This project was a big success.

(II) Capacity Building

India has been supporting Cameroon’s efforts in Capacity building under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme since 1964. India offers 32 training slots under ITEC to Cameroon annually and during the year all the slots were utilized. 3 slots have been allocated to Cameroon under the Africa Scholarship Scheme of ICCR.

Ten Cameroonian Diplomats visited India for the 1st Special Course for Francophone and Central and West African Countries from 25 November to 7 December, 2019.

(III) Trilateral project

A Triangular Development Cooperation Project involving GIZ (Germany), University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot (India) and IARD (Cameroon) for the pilot project in Cameroon on Potato Seed Production through Rooted Apical Cuttings (RAC) Technology was implemented. This project has been a big success. The successful completion of this project will further enhance cooperation in the agricultural sector.

Culture

Cameroon is officially a French-English bilingual country, even though most official work is in French language. Indian films are popular in Cameroon. A Rajasthani folk dance troupe sponsored by ICCR performed in Douala, Cameroon in November 2010. To commemorate 100 years of Indian cinema in Cameroon, an Indian Film Festival was organized in 2013 by Indian Community in collaboration with the Institut Francais du Cameroun, with French sub-titles.

After the establishment of the High Commission in September 2019, International Day of Yoga is being celebrated every year. Similarly, other festivals like Holi, Ambedkar Jayanti, Gandhi Jayanti, Hindi Day etc. are being celebrated by the Mission. The Mission also celebrated 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and also brought out postal stamps on Mahatma Gandhi.

Voice of Global South Summit

Hon'ble Minister of Public Health of Cameroon Dr. Manaouda Malachie on 13 January attended Health Ministers' session of VOGSS and delivered his message on Co-operation to build a resilient health system under special virtual Summit on 12-13 January organized by the Ministry under the theme "Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose" envisages bringing together countries of the Global South to share their perspectives and priorities on a common platform. The Summit was a success.

Indian Community

There are about 1000 Indian expatriates in Cameroon, engaged mostly in trading and small business apart from some professionals. Indians are generally well-regarded. Majority of Indian nationals are living Douala, financial city and a port city of Cameroon. Shri J. Ravikumar, Honorary Consul of India in Douala has been conferred with prestigious Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Award in 2021.

Air Connectivity

There are no direct air links with India. Indian nationals largely use the Ethiopian Airlines which connects to Indian cities of Mumbai, New Delhi, Bangalore via Addis Ababa.

Visa Procedures

Indians travelling to Cameroon require visa. Cameroon Resident Mission in Delhi will be opened shortly. Recently, Cameroon has announced e-Visa facility effective from 1 May 2023 for foreign nationals including Indian nationals through visa portal www.evisacam.com

Cameroonians travelling to India need to obtain visa. The visa can be obtained through the High Commission in Yaounde. India also extends e-Visa facility for Cameroon nationals as per extant guidelines.

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