

**Embassy of India  
Kinshasa**

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**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. 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.
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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**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):

Year	Exports	Imports	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%

(Source: Department of Commerce, GoI)

**a. Top 5 Principal commodities of exports (2021-22) -**

- Pharmaceuticals – USD 12 million
  - Textile – USD 2.33 million
  - NUCLEAR REACTORS, BOILERS, MACHINERY AND MECHANICAL APPLIANCES, PARTS THEREOF – USD 0.77 million
  - Articles of Iron and Steel – USD 0.74 million
  - Vehicles – USD 0.74 million
- a. Top 5 Principal commodities of imports (2021-22)**
- Wood and wood articles – USD 0.18 million

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**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.

November 2022

## Annexure - I

Central African Republic														
Projects – Contract Awarded														
S. N	Project Name	Brief Description of Project (including details on inauguration/commitment at VVIP level)	LOC or Grant or Other Funding	Tendered Cost (Rs Cr)	Revised Cost (Rs Cr)	Contractor	PMC	Date of Award	Scheduled Completion Date	Estimated Completion Date	Physical Progress (%)	Brief Description of Progress	Reasons for Cost Revision/ Delay	Action Required
1.	Supply of 100 Buses and construction of Cement plant in Bangui	GoI approved USD 5.5 million of LOC for supply of 100 buses and USD 24.5 million for construction of a 400MT/ Day Cement plant in Bangui	GOI - LOC	USD 29.5 million (Around 29 million has been utilized and around USD 3.63 million has been repayed.	N/A	Jaguar Overseas Limited (JOL)	M/S Holtec was appointed as independent consultant in 2018-19 to do the study for revalidation of costs following the request by CAR for additional funds	LOC Agreement was signed in October 2008		Difficult to say as the project is completely halted at the moment due to political instability.	JOL removed its team from the project site in February 2014 following the political unrest. It was stated by them that the project is near completion. However, during a site visit in August 2016, it was noted that major work is still pending, especially electrical work.	1. The USD 5.5 million provided for 100 buses have been utilized and the project has been completed i.e. the buses have been supplied. 2. For the Cement plant, work stopped in 2013 due to political unrest. 3. JOL team visited CAR in March 2017 and submit	1. Political unrest in CAR is the biggest factor. 2. Slow process of decision making in CAR	Communication via letters and Note Verbales is difficult as there is no resident Mission in CAR. The way forward could be a visit of a delegation of EXIM Bank, Contractor and MEA officials to CAR to see the state of the project and decide the viability of the same. The ball is in MEA's court regarding the project and its revival

											ted a revival package and its proposed action plan 4. CAR govt. has requested for additional funds in 2020 and revival of the project , a letter regarding which was forwarded to Exim Bank and MEA. 3. Future course is to be decided by MEA			
2.	Limestone Mining for Nzila Cement plant in Bangui	LOC of USD 20 million for Limestone Mining for the NZILA cement plant mentioned above	GOI - LOC	USD 20 million, of which USD 12.7 million has been utilized and no repayment done	N/A	Jaguar Overseas Limited (JOL)	Info not available	DEA approval for LOC came in August 2011 and LOC was signed in March 2012		Same as above	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above

				so far by CAR										
3.	LoC worth USD 7 million towards capitalization of all interest, penal interest, commitment fees overdues under the LoC of USD 29.5 million and capitalization of all future interest and other dues under LoC of USD 20 million respectively.	LoC worth USD 7 million towards capitalization of all interest, penal interest, commitment fees overdues under the LoC of USD 29.5 million and capitalization of all future interest and other dues under LoC of USD 20 million respectively.	GOI - LOC	USD 7 million of which USD 3.63 million has been utilized and around USD 1.13 million repaid by GO-CAR.	N/A	N/A	N/A	DD/06/YY	N/A	Same as above as the LOC is dependent on the two LOCs above	Same as above as the LOC is dependent on the two LOCs above	Same as above as the LOC is dependent on the two LOCs above	Same as above as the LOC is dependent on the two LOCs above	Same as above as the LOC is dependent on the two LOCs above
S. N	Project Name	Brief Description of Project	LOC or Grant or Other Funding	Status (Feasibility, DPR, Prequalification, Tender etc)	Estimated Cost (Rs Cr)	Est Date for Award of Contract	Estimated Completion Date	Issues	Intervention Required					
1	Hydroelectric Power Project	GOI and CAR government signed LOC worth USD 39.69 million in March 2012 for two Hydro-electric power projects	GOI - LOC	Contract is yet to be concluded and has been delayed due to political instability in CAR. LOC agreement signed was for USD 39.69 million in March 2012. Mission had recently recommended to the Ministry to positively consider extending the date of contract inclusion under the LoC of	USD 39.69 million	FY 2022-23	Information not available	1. Political instability in CAR. 2 Lack of resident Mission in CAR. 3. Lack of responsiveness from CAR side	1. Contract needs to be awarded by CAR side as soon as possible and in a transparent manner. Earlier in 2013, the contract was awarded to					

				US \$ 36.69 million to Central African Republic till 31 March 2023.					Angelique International Ltd. Over which questions were raised by Mohan Energy Corporation.
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