

India – Sudan Relations

India-Sudan relations go back in history to the time of the Nilotic and Indus Valley Civilizations (about 5000 years ago). The pastoral Beja, some 5% of Sudan's population, are a Hamitic people, claiming their origin from India. Their language, spoken from the chest (heart) rather than from the lips, could be related to ancient Prakrit.

There is evidence that by the end of the 12th century, trade via the Red Sea between India and the ancient Nubian kingdoms of Sudan had started growing. Visiting Sudan in the 16th century, the famous spiritual leader Tajuddin Al Buhari stayed with the renowned al-Hindi family of Sufis originally from India (the al-Hindis have been a leading political family in Sudan).

By 1699, Sennar, the capital of the Black Funj Sultanate, traded extensively with India through Sawakin Port in Silk, silver ornaments, leather and gold.

The settled Indian community in Sudan (now about 1500) is about 150 years young. The first Indian Luvchand Amarchand Shah, a Gujarati trader who imported goods from India, is believed to have come to Sudan from Aden in the early 1860s.

From Port Sudan and Sawakin the early Indian moved into the interior of the country and settled down in Omdurman, Kassala, Gedaref and Wad Medani.

Bilateral Relations – 1900-1947

The two famous steel suspension rail bridges in Khartoum and Atbara, still in use, were imported from India in the first decade of the last century. Indian experts, starting in 1900, developed Sudan's forestry sector.

In 1935, Mahatma Gandhi stopped over in Port Sudan (on his way to England by boat) and was welcomed by the Indian community there. In 1938, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru stopped over in Port Sudan on his way to Britain and were hosted to a function at the home of Chhotalal Samji Virani. The Graduates General Congress of Sudan formed in 1938 drew heavily on the experience of the Indian National Congress.

British Indian troops fought alongside Sudanese in Eritrea in 1941 winning the decisive battle of Keren (earning the Bengal Sappers a Victoria Cross for mine clearance in Metemma, now on the Sudan-Ethiopia border).

Bilateral Relations – Post 1947

The first Sudanese Parliamentary elections in 1953 were conducted by Shri Sukumar Sen, India's Chief Election Commissioner (the Sudanese Election Commission, formed in 1957, drew heavily on Indian election literature and laws).

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

At the 1955 Bandung Conference, the delegation from a still not independent Sudan did not have a flag to mark its place. Taking out his handkerchief, Jawaharlal Nehru wrote "Sudan" on it, thus reserving a place for Sudan in the international community.

The Sudan Block of India's National Defence Academy was partly funded with a gift of one hundred thousand pounds from the Sudanese Government in recognition of the sacrifices of Indian troops in the liberation of Sudan in the North African Campaign during World War II). In 1958, India offered a six-acre plot in the Chanakyapuri area of New Delhi for the construction of its Embassy.

In 1993 and 1994, India voted against UN resolutions critical of Sudan, and opposed moves in 1994 to make Sudan compulsorily withdraw from the IMF.

India-Sudan Joint Ministerial Commission

The India-Sudan Joint Committee (formed in January 1995) was upgraded to a Joint Commission at Ministerial level in June 1997 during the visit of then Foreign Minister Ali Osman Taha to India when the first Joint Committee at Ministerial level was held in New Delhi. The second meeting was held in Khartoum in April 2000. The third round of India Sudan JCM was held in New Delhi on 20-21 February, 2017 and was co-chaired by MOS(MJA) from the Indian side and Prof. Ibrahim A. Ghandour, Foreign Minister from Sudanese side.

India-Sudan Foreign Office Consultations

Foreign Office Consultations between India and Sudan have been held regularly with the first taking place in September 2000 in Khartoum. The 6th round of India Sudan Foreign Office Consultations were held in Delhi on December 11, 2014 and the 7 th FoC's were held, on 21 December, 2016 in Khartoum. The 7 th round of FOC's were led by JS(WANA) from the Indian side and Director General, Regional and Bilateral Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs from the Sudanese side.

Humanitarian Assistance

India donated tents and medicines for flood victims in Gezira state in 1978 and gifted medicines to control the leishmaniasis (kala-azar) epidemic in South Sudan in 1983. India gifted 22,560 tonnes of wheat in 1985 and another 6,000 tonnes in 1987.

Following devastating floods in Khartoum in late 1996, India airlifted urgently needed medicines. In October 2003, India announced a grant of US\$ 50,000 of medicines for the victims of the floods in Kasala region.

In response to the Sudanese government's request, India offered 20,000 tons of wheat as humanitarian assistance to the people of Darfur in March 2005.

ONGC Videsh Ltd has donated generously for a school for special children, sports equipment, prostheses etc. In July 2007, at the request of elders of the Shilluk community, and with the endorsement of the Embassy, OVL donated a powerful generator to Kodok town in Fashdoda County of Upper Nile State. In early 2008, India donated tents and medicines worth US\$ 100,000 for flood relief in north and south Sudan.

On 15 August 2007, the private sector Indian company Angelique International Ltd gifted US\$ 5,000 to renovate the Indian school in Kassala town, while OVL has helped to refurbish the Indian Club in Port Sudan. Several Indian companies in Sudan

contributed generously for repairs to a school in Kadugli done by the Indian army battalion posted there.

Capacity Building

As per the decisions taken during IAFS- III held in New Delhi in October 2015, the number of ITEC slots for Sudan has increased to 200 from the year 2016-17. For the year 2015-16, 147 candidates were sent from Sudan, whereas during the year 2016-17, 191 candidates attended the ITEC program. A number of slots have been offer under 3rd Indo-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III) which includes specialized training courses in Agriculture, Irrigation, Water resources, Renewable energy, Information Technology etc. 10 Scholars from Sudan have been selected for the prestigious CV Raman Fellowship Programme during the academic year 2017- 18, implemented by (DST) in cooperation with FICCI.

Sudanese Students in India

There are about 3,000 Sudanese students presently studying in India, chiefly in Pune, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai and Bangalore. Some 30,000 Sudanese are graduates of Indian universities.

Economic & Commercial

Bilateral Trade: A snapshot of our bilateral trade is given in the following table:

Financial Year	Bilateral Trade (Million USD)			Total
	India's exports	Annual% +/-	India's imports	
2005-06	294.65		32.62	327.27
2006-07	403.49	36.94	89.08	492.57
2007-08	407.51	1	433.14	840.65
2008-09	485.07	19.04	415.53	900.60
2009-10	461.06	-4.95	475.00	936.06
2010-11	488.46	5.95	613.78	1102.24
2011-12	717.37	46.87	438.18	1155.55
2012-13	754.94	5.24	133.34	888.28
2013-14	862.17	14.21	436.19	1298.36
2014-15	882.46	2.36	569.66	1452.12
2015-16	782.48	-11.33	149.20	931.68
2016-17	751.34	-3.98	245.18	

(Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India, Indian Financial Year runs from April of one calendar year to March of the following calendar year)

As per 2016 Central Bank of Sudan's statistics, India is the third largest exporter to Sudan after China and UAE. It primarily exports food stuffs, manufactured goods, machinery and equipment, chemicals including pharmaceuticals, textiles and transport equipment to Sudan. In the food sector, Sudan is a large importer of wheat (USD 448 mln), wheat flour (USD 287 mln), Sugar (USD 272 mln), animal and vegetable oils (USD

197 mln). Sudan mainly exports sesame seed, gum Arabic, cotton, hides and skins and ground nuts to India.

Economic Relations

Bilateral economic relations reached an inflection point in 2003 with India's decision to invest upwards of US\$ one billion in the oil sector. Altogether, India, through OVL has invested close to US\$2.3 billion in Sudan (part of it now falls in South Sudan).

At the April 2005 Oslo donor's conference, India declared a grant of US\$ 10 million and a further concessional (HIPC terms) line of credit of US\$ 100 million. Out of which, US\$5 million each has been earmarked for Sudan and South Sudan respectively.

In November 2006, Sudan became the 18th African nation to sign the Pan-African E-Network Country Agreement with India for the establishment of a satellite and fibre-optic network that will provide effective communication and connectivity among the 53 members of the African Union. Funded by India, the US\$ 50 mn project is being implemented by Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. Tele-education and video-conferencing, tele-medicine are functional.

In January 2007, President Omer Al-Bashir inaugurated Sudan's first solar photo-voltaic module manufacturing plant built with Indian technology and equipment (supplied by CEL) at the Energy Research Institute in Khartoum.

India was one of the few countries that has unilaterally declared Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme for Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The DFTP Scheme grants duty free access on about 85% of India's total tariff lines and preferential access (Positive List) on about 9% of tariff lines. Only 6% tariff lines are under the Exclusion List. Duty Free and Positive List cover about 93.5% of global exports of LDCs. Sudan has completed all formalities to be eligible under the Scheme.

The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas of India and the then Ministry of Energy and Mining of Sudan signed a Memorandum of Understanding on promoting Cooperation in the Oil and Gas Sector on 8 December 2009 in India. The first meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) was held in Khartoum on 29-30 November 2010.

Projects and Lines of Credit

In April 2006, India's Ministry of Nonconventional Energy Sources funded a solar electrification system (implemented by Central Electronics Ltd) for Khadarab village about two hours from Khartoum, bringing light for the first time into the lives of some 1,500 villagers. The project has been replicated in several other villages.

A number of Lines of Credit have been extended to the Government of Sudan since Rs. 120 million Line of Credit from India in 1980 disbursed by Exim Bank in 1982. During Rashtrapati's 2003 visit, a US\$ 50 million line of credit was extended to Sudan for Indian goods and services in power, solar energy, railways and laboratory equipment. The details of various Lines of Credit extended by India to Sudan, through EXIM Bank of India are as follows:

Lines of Credits (LoCs) to Sudan

Year	USD (million)	Purpose/Project/Remarks
19.01.2004	50	Supply of electrification, equipment, photovoltaic cells, diesel coaches, copper rods, textile machinery, and rehabilitation of locomotive products.
23.01.2006	41.9	SINJA-GEDARIF Transmission and Sub-Station project
23.01.2006	350	4 x 125 MW Kosti combined cycle power plant to be executed by BHEL. Three units synchronized and one more unit will be synchronised soon. Final handing over of the entire project could be in end of 2015.
12.02.2007	48	USD 15 mn, 15 mn, 3 mn, 5mn and 10 mn for Supply of agriculture inputs, Technical and laboratory equipment, scientific equipments, solar electrification and Sudan Railways supplies respectively
23.07.2007	52	USD 25 mn, 10 mn and 17 mn for Sinja-Gadarif Transmission line, Micro-industrial projects and Development of livestock production and services respectively.
26.01.2009	25	Mashkour Sugar Plant at While Nile State. 1st Tranche USD 25 has been disbursed and 2 nd Tranche USD 125 million is yet to be disbursed. The technical formalities and signing of agreement between parties (EPC and Mashkour Sugar Co.) were done. Sudanese Government has cancelled the contract with M/s OIA and the new contractor still to be finalized.
24.07.2013	45.17	Interest overdue on all LoCs, including penal interest and commitment fee of USD 2.57 million till 31.03.2014 were capitalized on 31.03.2014
April 2017	19.60	Second restructuring of unpaid interest dues and capitalized through a fresh line of credit.
Total	631.67	

Cultural Relations

From Sudan:

➤ An 18-member folk art music & dance troupe from Sudan visited India in March 2002.

From India:

➤ 28-member Modern Music troupe in December 2005 under ICCR sponsorship. In May 2006 nine-member Indian International Gondwanaland Expedition led by Shri Akhil Bakshi spent five days in Sudan as part of its 25,000 KM goodwill journey by road in Mahindra Scorpios through 17 countries.

- Smt. Sonal Mansingh led a five-member troupe to Sudan in November 2006 and performed in Khartoum, El Obeid and Wad Medani.
- In August 2007, ONGC sponsored performances by the Mumbai-based Rang Puhar song and dance ensemble in Khartoum on the occasion of Sudanese Oil Day (31 August).
- In November 2007, ICCR sponsored the visit of an eleven-member Bharatnatyam troupe led by Smt. Jayalakshmi Eashwar.
- A 10-member ICCR-sponsored Cultural Troupe of Goa Folk Dance visited Sudan from 18-21 May 2017 and performed in Omdurman (Khartoum) and Wad-Medani.
- In order to mark the 70th Anniversary of India's Independence, a friendly football match between teams of Indian Embassy in Khartoum and ex-Meriekh players was organized in Omdurman on 12th August 2017.

Useful Resources:

The Mission maintains a website (www.eoikhartoum.in), a Face book Page (India in Sudan) and a Twitter handle(@Eoi_Khartoum) as social media tools and disseminates information pertaining to all aspects of Mission's activities (Press release, Advertisement, ITEC and ICCR related information, visa and consular information, advisories, commercial queries etc.), MEA's publicity contents, fair and festival of India, and so on.

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