

## **India-Cameroon Relations**

### **Political Relations**

Relations between India and Cameroon are friendly and cordial. The Cameroonian leaders appreciate India's contributions to Africa, NAM, India's secular democracy and economic progress. Cameroon actively supported Indian candidature for the Commonwealth Secretary General. Shri Mahesh Sachdev, High Commissioner of India to Nigeria is concurrently accredited to Cameroon and he presented his credentials to HE President Paul Biya on January 4 2012.

Bilateral Visits: Despite distance and other constraints, a few high-level visits exchanged between the two countries are:

#### **From Cameroon Side:**

- HE Mr Paul Biya, President of Cameroon visited India in March 1983 to attend NAM Summit.
- HE Mr Philomen Yang, Prime Minister of Cameroon, accompanied by seven Ministers and a large business delegation visited New Delhi to participate in Africa-CII/Exim Bank Conclave in March 2013.
- HE Mr Emmanuel Nganou Dogmas, Minister for Economy & Planning and HE Mme. Bankang Mbock Catherine, Minister of Social Welfare visited India on September 12-16 2012 for signing of \$42 mn Line of Credit for Cassava Plantation Project.
- HE Mr Angouen Michel Ange, Minister of Public Service and Administrative Reforms visited India in October 2012 to participate in a 3-day conference of Commonwealth Association of Public Administration & Management(CAPAM).
- In March 2012, Mr Djmoumessi Nganou Emmanuel, Minister of Planning & Regional Development visited India to attend CII Conclave in New Delhi.
- HE Mr Edger Alain Mebe Ngo'o, Minister of Defence attended DefExpo India 2012 held in New Delhi in March 2012
- Cameroon's Indomitable Lions participated in Nehru Cup Football tournament in New Delhi on September 2, 2012. They were runners-up.

#### **From Indian Side:**

- The Minister of State for Industrial Development visited Cameroon in February 1988.
- The Minister of State for External Affairs visited Cameroon in April 1990.
- EAM met with Cameroon Foreign Minister in New York in September 2002.
- First round of Secretary-level Foreign Office Consultations were held in Yaoundé in August 2003.
- MOS(AS) met Cameroonian FM at AU Summit in Sharm Al Sheikh, Egypt in June 2008.
- A 4-member delegation led by Mr. U.Venkateswarlu, Joint Secretary, M/o Food Processing Industries visited Cameroon (June 19-21, 2012) in connection with the IAFS-II project to establish the Food Processing Incubation Centre in Cameroon.

### **Commercial and Trade Relations**

The key areas for cooperation could be Indian investments in oil and mining, telecom, fertilizers, oil & gas, agriculture & food processing, forestry, IT, railways and Indian exports of consumer and light engineering goods.

Bilateral Trade: Bilateral trade has grown rapidly in recent years, even as its full potential is yet to be realised. India's trade with Cameroon has reached \$694 million during 2012-13.

#### India-Cameroon bilateral trade data (Value in US\$ Mn)

Trade	Apr 11 to Mar 12	Apr 12 to Mar 13	Growth %
Indian Export	196	251	28
Indian Import	524	443	-16
Total Trade	721	694	-3.8

(Source: DGCIS, Indian Deptt of Commerce)

#### India - Cameroon Bilateral Trade Statistics (in US\$ Mn)

Trade	April-May 2012	April-May 2013	Growth %
Indian Export	36.5	39.7	8.6
Indian Import	76.7	72.5	-5.5
Total Trade	113.2	112.2	-0.9

(Source: DGCIS, Indian Deptt of Commerce)

#### Projects and Activities:

- Cameroon Alumina Ltd: In May 2009, Cameroon Alumina Ltd. (CAL), entered into negotiations with Cameroonian authorities for exploration of bauxite in Adamawa region, in a consortium in which India's Hindalco (45%), Dubal (45%) and US company Hydramine (10%) have stake. While the project is currently at techno-economic feasibility stage, it envisages a setting up of an alumina plant and rail and port infrastructure. The negotiations between CAL and Cameroonian authorities are ongoing.
- The Pan-African e-Network Project was inaugurated in June 2010 in Cameroon. The tele-education and telemedicine projects have been installed at Cameroon State Regional University Yaoundé and its hospital and have been performing satisfactorily.

#### Agriculture Sector:

- Nigeria-based NRI agribusiness Olam International has large operations in Cameroon involving plantations of coffee (7,500 Hectares), cocoa (12,000 Ha) being country's first and second largest producer of these two cash crops. It also imports rice into Cameroon. Its total annual turnover in Cameroon is around \$ 120 million.
- In 2007 Government of India gifted 60 tractors and agricultural implements to Government of Cameroon. India has also provided Lines of Credit to boost agriculture in Cameroon.

Line of Credit: On May 29 2009, a \$ 37.65 million Indian Line of Credit (LoC) for Cameroon funding a project each of Rice and Maize Farm Plantation was operationalised. In September 2012, India and Cameroon signed on a new LOC of \$ 42 million for Cassava plantation project in Cameroon.

#### Cultural relations

Training: Of 31 slots allocated under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme to Cameroon during 2011-12, 15 were utilised. During 2012-13, 28 out of 31 allotted slots were utilised and in the year 2013-14, 4 slots have been utilised till July 2013. Second time in a row a Cameroonian diplomat attended a one-month PCFD course organised by the Foreign Service Institute of Ministry of External Affairs in Aug 2012.

Culture & Media: Indian films are quite popular and a local channel Capital TV regularly telecasts Indian films. A Rajasthani folk dance troupe sponsored by ICCR performed in Douala, Cameroon in November 2010. Cameroon is officially a French-English bilingual country, even as most official work is in French language.

### **Indian Community**

There are about 600 Indian expatriates in Cameroon, mostly engaged in trading and business and some professionals. While Indians are generally well-regarded, during political crisis in Cameroon in February 2008 an Indian manufacturing unit in Douala was vandalised. In some commercial disputes, few incidents of physical violence against Indian nationals were also reported.

### **Air Connectivity:**

There are no direct air links with India. The airlines serving Cameroon include Air France, Air Gabon, British Airways, Kenya Airways and Ethiopian Airlines. There are connections to many destinations across Africa, including regular flights to Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, South Africa and Togo. Apart from five flights per week to Paris, Cameroon is connected by direct flights, once a week, to Brussels and Zurich.

### **Visa:**

Indians travelling to Cameroon require visa. As there is still no resident Cameroonian High Commission in India, this is needed to be obtained elsewhere. If approached sufficiently ahead of the visit, India's Honorary Consul to Cameroon based in Douala can also assist in obtaining visa on arrival. Cameroonians travelling to India need to obtain visa which can either be done direct at India's Consular Sections in Lagos and Abuja. It can also be obtained through India's Honorary Consul to Cameroon based in Douala, provided applied sufficiently in advance.

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**July 2013**