

## **India – Central African Republic Relations**

India and Central African Republic (CAR) enjoy friendly relations.

### **Visits:**

2. 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 6<sup>th</sup> CII-EXIM Bank conclave held on March 14-16, 2010.
3. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and the Francophone, Gen. Antoine Gambi visited India to participate in India-Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Ministerial Conference held in New Delhi from February 18-19, 2011.
4. Minister of State in charge, Minister of Economic, Planning and International Cooperation, Mr. Sylvain Maliko, Minister for Energy, Mr. Jean Chrysostome Mekonndongo and Minister for Communications, Dr. Michel Koyt, visited New Delhi to participate in 7th CII-EXIM Bank conclave held from February 27-29, 2011.

### **Agreements/MOUs:**

5. The following bilateral Agreements/MOUs exist between India and DRC:
  - Foreign Office Consultation signed on September 3, 2010;
  - MOU for setting up two learning stations under the Hole-in-Wall Computer Education project signed on September 3, 2010;
  - MOU for setting up an IT Centre for Excellence in Bangui signed in March, 2010.

### **Foreign Office Consultations**

6. The first Foreign Office Consultations between the two Ministries of Foreign Affairs were held in Bangui, the capital of CAR on January 17, 2011. Discussions covered bilateral matters, particularly, increased technical/economic cooperation, investment in sectors e.g. mining, agriculture, and infrastructure.

### **India's Economic Assistance**

7. Lines of Credit: The Government of India has approved a line of credit of US\$ 29.5 million to the Central African Republic for the following projects:
  - (i) US \$ 24 million for construction and commissioning of a 400 MT/day cement plant in Bangui. Construction of the cement plant is underway.
  - (ii) US \$ 5.5 million for supply of 100 buses, spare parts and construction of a workshop for the buses. The buses have already been supplied and are running in the capital Bangui and on inter-state routes. The workshop for these buses has been completed.
8. Capacity Building Programme: Twenty Five (25) slots for training under ITEC programme, have been allocated to Central African Republic for the year 2011-12. Five CAR officials availed ITEC Training during 2011-12.

9. Two learning stations under the Hole-in-Wall Computer Education were set up and inaugurated on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2011.

10. The Pan African e-network project has been implemented in CAR. Tele-education, Tele-medicine and VVIP connectivity has been set up in Bangui under this project.

11. GOI offer for setting up of an English Language Training Institute (ELTI) in the Central African Republic under AIFS-II. Concurrence from CAR authorities is awaited.

12. GOI offered setting up of Farm Science Centre in Central African Republic under AIFS-II. The response from the Government is awaited.

### **Trade Figures**

13. Trade between the two countries is miniscule. Figures available are as under:

(US\$ million)

Year	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Exports	0.87	1.39	2.41	1.31	2.42	5.20	4.04
Imports	0.26	0.37	0.44	1.15	2.45	0.67	1.55

14. Indian community is very small. Less than 50, and is engaged primarily in trading and construction activities.

### **January 2012**