

## INDIA-CAMEROON BILATERAL RELATIONS

### Political Relations

Relations between India and Cameroon have been friendly and cordial. The Cameroonian leaders appreciate India's contributions to Africa, its secular democracy and economic progress and the leadership it provided to the Non-Aligned Movement. Cameroon actively supported Indian candidature for the Commonwealth Secretary General. The High Commissioner in Abuja is concurrently accredited to Cameroon.

**Bilateral Visits:** The importance attached to the bilateral relations by the two governments has witnessed many high -level visits between the two countries. Details of some prominent delegations may be seen here under:

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

President Mr. Paul Biya	March 1983 to attend NAM Summit
Mr Philomen Yang, Prime Minister	March 2013 – visited New Delhi accompanied by 7 Ministers and a large business delegation to attend Africa-CII/Exim Bank Conclave
Mr Emmanuel Nganou Dogmas, Minister for Economy & Planning & Mme. Bankang Mbock Catherine, Minister of Social Welfare	September 12-16, 2012 – visited India for signing of \$42m Credit Line for the Cassava Plantation Project.
Mr Angouen Michel Ange, Minister of Public Service & Administrative Reforms	October 2012 - visited India for a 3-day conference of Commonwealth Association of Public Administration & Management (CAPAM).
Mr Djmoumessi Nganou Emmanuel, Minister of Planning & Regional Development	March 2012 – visited New Delhi to attend CII Conclave.
Mr Edger Alain Mebe Ngo'o, Minister of Defence	March 2012 – visited New Delhi to attend the DefExpo India 2012.
Mr.Mbella Mbella Lejeune, Minister for Rexternal Relations	October 26-30, 2015- He led the Cameroonian delegation to participate in India-Africa Summit-III from October 26-30, 2015.
A 8- member delegation comprising of Ministry of Public Health Officials, Doctors and Pharmacists visited India	October 3-5, 2016 to attend the conference - Advantage Health Care India 2016- organised by FICCI in Noida, UP

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

MOS for Industrial Development visited Cameroon	February 1988
Minister of State for External Affairs visited Cameroon	April 1990
EAM met with Cameroon Foreign Minister in New York	September 2002
MOS(AS) met Cameroon FM at AU Summit in Sharm Al Sheikh, Egypt	June 2008.
Prof. Ram Shankar Katheria, MOS(HRD)	September 15-16, 2015- to handover invitation letter to Cameroonian

	President to attend India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III) held in October 2015.
A delegation from Deptt. of Post, Ministry of Communications & IT, led by Mr V. P. Singh, Deputy Director General, DDG (IR & GB) and Ms. Padmagandha Mishra, Assistant Director General (International Relations) visited Cameroon	22-23 July, 2016 to attend 9th ordinary session of the Plenipotentiary Conference of PAFU (Pan African Postal Union) held in Yaoundé, Cameroon

**Commercial & Trade Relations:** Key potential areas for cooperation and investment are - oil & 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 exports to Cameroon have declined by 23.33% to US\$191 million during the period 2015-16 from US\$249.13 in 2014-15. After recording a quantum jump during the last year, India's imports have also declined by 25.21% to US\$557.43 million during the period 2015-16 as against US\$745.35 million in 2014-15. Our imports are mainly petroleum products which constitutes US\$487.32 million.

#### **India- Cameroon Bilateral Trade Statistics**

(Value in US\$ Million)

Trade	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
<b>India's Export</b>	118.07	196	251	259.62 (+3.4%)	249.13 (-.4%)	191.0 (-23.33%)
<b>India's Import</b>	138.10	524	443	268.20 (-39%)	745.35 (+177%)	557.43 (-25.21)

**Investment:** There are about 60 Indian companies having their presence in Cameroon, mostly engaged in trading of general merchandise. Indians have invested to the tune of US\$10-15 million in plastics, carton, biscuits, smelting of scrap, bottling and distribution of alcohol. M/s Hindalco in consortium with M/s Dubal (Dubai Aluminium) are pursuing a project for about US\$6 billion in bauxite mining. Also, Jindal group has finally got concession in the area of Iron Ore mining from a South Korean company. This Project involves a sizeable amount of investment. India has started purchasing crude oil from Cameroon.

#### **Projects and Activities:**

Cameroon Alumina Ltd: In May 2009, Cameroon Alumina Ltd. (CAL), entered into negotiations with Cameroonian authorities for exploration of bauxite in the 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. Negotiations between CAL and Cameroonian authorities are ongoing.

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 \$ 37.65m 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.

### **Culture and Education:**

Training: Of the 31 slots allocated under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme to Cameroon during 2011-12, 15 slots were utilised. During 2012-13, 28 out of 31 allotted slots were utilised and in the year 2013-14, 35 slots were utilised. In 2014-15, 27 slots were utilised out of 32 allocated seats. In 2015-16, 18 slots were utilised out of 32 allocated slots. 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 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. An Indian Film Festival was organised by Honorary Consul of India in 2013. To commemorate 100 years of Indian cinema in Cameroon, an Indian Film Festival was organised from 25/9/2013 to 13/12/2013 in collaboration with the Institut Francais du Cameroun, with French sub-titles by the Honorary Consul of India to Cameroon and the Indian Community.

**Indian Community:** There are 700-800 Indian expatriates in Cameroon, engaged mostly in trading and small business apart from some professionals. While Indians are generally well-regarded, during the 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 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 the services of India's Honorary Consul to Cameroon based in Douala, provided applied sufficiently in advance.

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