Brief on India–Central African Republic 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. 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. 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. 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. Mr. Faustin-Archange Touadera, then Prime Minister and current President of CAR visited New Delhi in March 2012, at the 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 former Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, on that occasion. 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. Ms. Gaudeuille 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.

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. 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: Lines of Credit: The Government of India has approved the following Lines of Credit to the CAR: LOC of US$ 29.5 million for construction and commissioning of a 400 MT/day cement plant in Bangui; US$ 5.5 million for supply of 100 buses, spare parts and construction of a workshop for the buses; LOC worth US$ 20 million for Limestone mining for the Cement plant in Bangui; LOC worth US$ 39.69 million for two hydroelectric projects.

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.

Capacity Building Programme: 23 slots under ITEC programme were utilised during 2010-16. 7 ITEC slots were Utilized in 2018-19.2 slots have been utilized in 2019-20. 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. 10 slots under ITEC programme and 4 ICCR scholarships have been allocated for 2017-18.4 officials received training on Renewable energy with specialised focus on solar energy in 2019-20.

**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, period April-Feb):

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<tr>
<td>Exports</td>
<td>7.76</td>
<td>9.17</td>
<td>10.37</td>
<td>29.92</td>
<td>26.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Imports</td>
<td>0.63</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>9.88</td>
<td>2.02</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>8.39</strong></td>
<td><strong>10.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>10.75</strong></td>
<td><strong>39.80</strong></td>
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(Source: Department of Commerce, GoI)

**Indian community:** There are just about 66 Indians (including 45 people working in UN mission in MINUSCA) living in CAR. They are primarily engaged in trading activities.

*September 25, 2019*