

**Embassy of India
Khartoum**

No. KHA/COM/204/01/2022

7th March 2023

Economic & Commercial Report for February 2023

1. **Name of the Country: Republic of the Sudan**
2. **Bilateral Trade (Calendar Year Basis, Values in USD Million)**

(Source: DGCIS, India)

Year	India's Exports	India's Imports	Total	% change vis-à-vis previous year
2017	840.85	440.57	1,281.42	-
2018	795.45	707.12	1,502.57	+17.3%
2019	1,062.00	467.30	1,529.30	+1.8%
2020	1,047.56	253.80	1,301.36	-14.9%
2021	1017.91	260.80	1,278.71	-1.8%
2021	1,007.95	262.80	1,270.75	-0.62%
2022	1,671.51	176.81	1,848.32	+45.45%

(Source: Central Bank of Sudan)

Year	India's Exports	India's Imports	Total	% change vis-à-vis previous year
2017	696	90	786	-
2018	794	154	948	+20.6%
2019	682	152	834	-12%
2020	985.93	158.69	1,144.62	+37.3%

2021	813.30	86.98	900.28	-21.35%
2022	1,124.17	94.95	1219.12	+35.41%

Main items of India's exports to Sudan during 2022

(Source: DGCIS, Kolkata)

S.No	Items	Value in US \$ (Million) 2021	Value in US \$ (Million) 2022
1	Sugar and Sugar Confectionery.	479.47	785.48
2	Mineral Fuels, Mineral Oils and Products of Their Distillation; Bituminous Substances; Mineral Waxes.	0.54	237.11
3	Pharmaceutical products	64.30	69.79
4	Vehicles Other Than Railway or Tramway Rolling Stock, And Parts and Accessories Thereof	73.53	66.87
5	Cotton	58.61	64.24
6	Cereals	15.39	50.44
7	Articles of Apparel and Clothing Accessories, Not Knitted or Crocheted.	54.33	53.71
8	Nuclear Reactors, Boilers, Machinery and Mechanical Appliances; Parts Thereof.	28.17	43.77
9	Miscellaneous Chemical Products.	16.84	32.48
10	Plastic And Articles Thereof	28.29	29.45
	Others	188.48	241.17
	Grand Total	1,007.95	1,671.51

Main items of India's export to in Sudan during 2022

Source: Central Bank of Sudan (CBOS) -

No	Item	Value in Million US \$
1	Wheat & Wheat Flour	29.93
2	Chemicals	184.94
3	Machinery & Equipment	102.61
4	Manufactured Goods	100.14
5	Textiles	60.18
6	Transport Equipment	58.93
7	Petroleum Products	0.43
8	Other Food Stuffs	570.34
9	Others	16.67
	Grand Total	1,124.17

Main items of India's imports from Sudan during 2022

Source: DGCIS, Kolkata

S.No.	Items	Value in M US \$ (2021)	Value in M US \$ (2022)
1	Oil Seeds and Olea. Fruits; Misc. Grains, Seeds and Fruit; Industrial or Medicinal Plants; Straw And Fodder.	22.95	93.90
2	Edible Vegetables and Certain Roots and Tubers	91.60	29.30
3	Copper and Articles Thereof.	2.68	13.95

4	Lac; Gums, Resins and Other Vegetable Saps and Extracts.	8.50	12.85
5	Lead and Articles of Thereof	6.06	11.14
6	Cotton	0.28	6.34
7	Aluminum and Articles Thereof.	3.86	6.87
	Others (Zinc And Articles Thereof, Iron And Steel, Organic Chemicals, etc)	126.87	2.46
	Grand Total	262.80	176.81

Main items of India's imports from Sudan in 2022:

Source: Central Bank of Sudan (CBOS)

No	Items	Value In Million US \$
1	Melon seeds	40.69
2	Sesame	16.63
3	Arabic Gum	10.07
4	Cotton	6.09
5	Chickpea	1.54
6	Others	19.93
	Grand Total	94.95

(CBOS figures excludes Crude oil)

3. Trade Promotional Activities organized in the month of Febraury2023

(a) Ambassador visits Port Sudan (13-15 February 2023)

Ambassador Mr. B.S. Mubarak, called on the Acting Governor of Red Sea State H.E. Rabih Fadl Al-Karim, and discussed issues related to bilateral cooperation between India and the Red Sea State. During his visit, Ambassador visited the Sea Ports Corporation and held meeting with a delegation led by C. Eng. Ibrahim Yousif Mohmed, General Manager of Sea Ports Corporation. A familiarization visit was organized for the Ambassador to interact with the officials at the training centre and various port facilities. Several areas related to cooperation between sea ports in India and Port Sudan were discussed. During his visit Ambassador held

a meeting with members of Chamber of Shipping Agencies of Sudan and discussed ways and means to facilitate and promote shipping and sea trade between India and Sudan.

During his visit, Ambassador also visited the site of Dama Dama Oil Terminal project Phase-II which is being developed by Tridel Technologies, a multinational organization in Environmental Industry, with offices in India, UAE and Australia. Ambassador also visited the Sea Port Authority Hospital and discussed collaboration between Indian hospitals and Sea Port Authority Hospital in Port Sudan. Ambassador also visited the Red Sea University and held meeting with the delegation led by Dr. Abdelgadir Badawi Mohammed Hussien, Vice Chancellor of the Red Sea University. Several areas of cooperation including in the field of marine sciences, ITEC scholarships and collaboration between Indian universities were discussed.

(B) 3rd edition of the Sudan International Agricultural Forum (SIAF-2023) was organized on 20 February 2023 at Friendship Hall, Khartoum by M/s Manssoft Integrated Solution Co. in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forest of Sudan. The event was inaugurated by Dr. Abu Bakar Elbushra, Minister of Agriculture and Forest of Sudan, and attended by the diplomatic corps, agriculture experts & researchers, farmers, and companies operating in the Agricultural sector. The Ambassador of India Mr. B.S. Mubarak gave a presentation titled 'Strengthening Sudan-India partnership in the area of Agriculture: Overview of India's potential in Agriculture, Agro-Machinery, Agro-Chemicals Industry and Hybrid Seeds'. Ambassador also stressed on the export potential of a variety of agricultural products from Sudan to India. During his presentation Ambassador spoke on the importance of 'International Year of Millets-2023' and the benefits of millets. A video titled 'Emerging India' was also screened during the event. Experts and researchers also shared their experiences and talked about modern technologies, challenges of transferring modern agricultural technology, agro-financing, microfinance, and solutions related to agriculture. India is one of the largest exporter of agriculture machineries to Sudan. Annually, about 2500 tractors are exported from India to Sudan. Sudan is also a major exporter of Agricultural commodities to India.

(C). Embassy publicized the following Business events on its website and social media:

- The 4th Logix India 2023 from 27-29 March 2023 in Mumbai
- India Telecom 2023 from March 22-23, 2023 at hotel Taj Palace, N. Delhi
- 3rd edition of IND-TEXPO (Reverse Buyer Seller Meet) 22-23.03.2023 at The Leela Ambience Convention Hotel in New Delhi.
- Andhra Pradesh Global Investors Summit 2023 on 3-4 March 2023
- International Museum Expo 2023 from 18th - 20th May 2023 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- 18th CII - Exim Bank Conclave on India - Africa Growth Partnership from 14 – 16 June 2023 at Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi.

-Webinar: "The Future of Entrepreneurship - Emerging Trends & Opportunities" on 27th February 2023

- Global Fintech Fest (GFF 2023) from 5th to 7th September, 2023 at Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai.

4. (i) **Trade and Commercial Delegation from India to Sudan:**

(a) Ambassador of India Mr. B.S. Mubarak received in his office on 05.02.2023 Mr Piyush Patil, Head of Farm Equipment Exports for North & West Africa of Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) Ltd India. M&M along with their Sudanese partner Mahgoub Sons Engineering have planned launch of Mahindra 6075 tractor in Nyala City, South Darfur on 11th Feb 2023 to contribute towards agri-mechanization efforts in Sudan.

(b) Apollo Hospitals Group visits Sudan.

Apollo Hospitals Group, one of the largest hospital networks in Afro-Asia, have formed a clinical partnership with Sharg Alneel Hospitals in Khartoum. The Apollo Team, led by Ms. Sneha Sasidharan, Deputy General Manager-International Division, consisted of Dr. N. Ragavan, Senior Consultant Uro-Oncologist, Dr. R. Sankar, Senior Consultant Paediatric Orthopaedics, and Dr. Muralidharan, Senior Consultant Spine Surgeon visited Sudan. The delegation also visited the Embassy of India and called on H.E B.S. Mubarak, Ambassador of India to Sudan and briefed him on their plans to strengthen partnership in the area of healthcare with Hospitals in Sudan. This would involve training and capacity building for doctors and paramedics from Sudan. On their visit to Khartoum, a delegation from Apollo's first and flagship hospital, Apollo Hospitals Chennai, India announced the partnership with Sharg Alneel Hospitals in Khartoum.

(ii) **Trade and Commercial Delegation from Sudan to India:**

(A) An eight-member delegation from the Telecommunications and Post Regulatory Authority (TPRA) of Sudan called on Mr. B.S. Mubarak, Ambassador of India on 6 February 2023 at the Indian Embassy. Before their proceeding on visit to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) office in New Delhi from 8-10 February 2023. TRAI shared India's experience in the area of telecommunication and regulation with the Sudanese delegation.

(B) A two member delegation from the National Audit Chamber of Sudan called on Mr. B.S. Mubarak, Ambassador of India on 7 February 2023 at the Indian Embassy. Before their proceeding on visit to attend an International Workshop on "Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies including Green Finance" being organized by the International Centre for Environment Audit & Sustainable Development (iCED) at Jaipur from 13 to 17 February

2023.

(C) The Sudanese Cultural and Atrisan troupe participated at the 36th edition of Surajkund International Crafts Festival and presented its first performance on 5th February which was greatly liked by the audience. Sudanese handicraft pavilion at the festival was visited by both Indian and international visitors.

(D) The Embassy during February has facilitated the participation of the Sudanese Delegation in the following:

- Stona 23 from 15-18.02.2023
- IETF 2023 from 16-18.02.2023
- Elecrama 18-22.02.2023
- ICC Electrical 01-05.02.2023
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(iii) **Total number of business visas issued: 503**

5. Important International Trade Fairs/Exhibitions in Sudan. Report on recent such fairs/exhibitions, including details of Indian participation and response:

On Thursday 23.02.2023 Ambassador paid a visit to the 12th session of the Sudan Poultry Expo at the Fairs ground of Burri, Khartoum. Ambassador met several participating companies along with the event organizer Mr. Osama Abbud from Expo Team Co. Ambassador appreciated the role played by Mr. Osama Abbud in promoting poultry industry in Sudan through exhibitions, through attracting international companies to market and invest in Sudan and by linking the stake holders (producers, manufacturers and suppliers) of the poultry industry of Sudan.

6. Analysis of global exports & imports of Sudan, especially with respect to products of export and import interest to India:

Total international trade of Sudan in 2022	15,452.27 M\$	
Total Sudan Exports:	4,357.42 M\$ to World	To India 94.95 M\$ (2.18%)

Total Sudan Imports	11,094.85 M\$ to World	From India 1,124.17 M\$ (10.13%)
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Major trade partners of Sudan for the period of 2022

Major destination of Sudan Exports	Value in US\$ (million)	Major Source of Sudan Imports	Value in US\$(million)
UAE	2,076.19	UAE	2,295.49
China	576.11	China	1,725.86
Egypt	635.41	India	1,124.17
Turkey	187.23	Egypt	760.67
Saudi Arabia	317.3	Saudi Arabia	496.48
India	94.95	Russia	496.07

(Source: Central Bank of Sudan)

Top Trade Partners of Sudan (as per the CBOS data for 2022)

- 1- UAE (4,371.68 US\$ Million)
- 2- China (2,301.97 US\$ Million)
- 3- Egypt (1,396.08 US\$ Million)
- 4- India (1,219.12 US\$ Million)**
- 5- Saudi Arabia (813.78 US\$ Million)

Major items of Export of Sudan:

Gold, Sesame, Livestock, Ground Nuts, Cotton, Fodders, and Arabic Gum.

Major items of Import of Sudan are:

Manufacturing Goods, Food Stuffs, Machinery & Equipment, Petroleum Products, Chemicals, Wheat, Transport Equipment, Textiles, Medicines, and Sugar

7. (i) Market Prospects in respect of major items of Indian export interest:

Sugar & other foodstuffs, textiles & readymade garment, pharmaceuticals & chemicals, machinery, manufactured goods, agriculture products and types of machinery, etc.

(ii) Major items of Indian import interest:

Gold and other minerals, sesame, seeds & grains, Arabic gum, cotton, ground nuts, etc.

8. Trade Queries for Imports/Exports for the month of Dec 2022:

17 as per the attachment.

9. Trade complaints received during the period and follow-up action on earlier complaints: None.

10. Indian investment in Sudan (company-wise and sector-wise), and performance of existing Indian subsidiaries/joint ventures /collaborations, if any, in Sudan:

Total Indian investments in Sudan up to December 2020 amounted to more than US\$ 471.5 million with 86 investment projects including 53 industrial projects, 21 service projects as well as 12 agricultural projects. (As per the National Investment Authority of Sudan)

11. Status of ongoing major investments by Indian PSUs/Pvt. Sector in Sudan, and proposed Indian Investments in Sudan:

ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) invested over US\$ 2.3 billion in undivided Sudan. Currently, there is an arbitration going on due to a default in payment by the Sudanese side.

12. Analysis of Investment opportunities in Sudan:

Despite the challenges that Sudan is experiencing in the national economy, investors from Gulf, Turkey, China, and India have already entered Sudan. Chambers and Partners have identified the following investment opportunities in Sudan:

- Natural resources/mining: especially gold.
- Agriculture: With the Nile River running through it, Sudan has more than 150 million hectares of arable land.
- Livestock: Sudan has national animal resources, which include cattle, camels, sheep, goats, poultry, horses, and an annual stock of more than 110,000 tonnes of fish. The most important animal products in Sudan are milk, meat, poultry, skins, fur and wool.
- Transport: As Africa's third-largest country and bordering seven countries, Sudan offers great opportunities for investment in the transport sector.
- Industry: Investment opportunities in the industry in Sudan include the following sub-sectors: agri-processing, food, spinning and textiles, leather, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, oil and soap, engineering, building materials and refractories, and printing and packaging.

13. Status of trade and investment-related issues taken up by the Mission with the Government of Sudan:

The Mission is continuously discussing the issues related to trade and investment with trade bodies of Sudan, the Ministry of Trade and Supply, and other Stakeholders

14. Details and Result of meeting & interactions of the Mission with Trade, Industry & Economic Ministries / Department / Agencies in Sudan:

(i) Mr. B.S. Mubarak, Ambassador along with officials of the Embassy called on Mr. Mohamed Ali Mustafa Sharaf Edin, Secretary General of Taxation Chamber of Sudan on 1 February 2023 and discussed several issues of mutual interest. Ambassador offered training programmes for the members of the Taxation Chamber of Sudan under the ITEC programme and also briefed the Secretary General about India's taxation reforms.

(ii) Ambassador welcomed in his office a delegation from the Sudanese Universities Association led by the newly elected Secretary General Prof. Ali Alsayed along with Dr. Ashraf Shegedi Deputy Vice Chancellor of Alzaiem Alazhari University. The delegation briefed about their recent participation at FICCI Higher Education Summit in New Delhi and the MoU that was signed between the Indian Universities Association and the Sudanese Universities Association.

Several issues related to cooperation in the areas of education, scientific research, capacity building and opening of overseas campuses of prominent Indian Universities were discussed during the meeting.

15. Important policy changes by the Government of Sudan, especially with respect to trade, investment, aid /credit facilities etc: Nil

16. Position of Sudan on WTO related issues, and with respect to other important multilateral fora. Recent important changes in policy and the public opinion in these areas: Nil

17. Major international tenders issued & bids invited in Sudan:

Tenders uploaded to the India trade portal during Feb 2022 are attached.

18. Aid/ Assistance received by Sudan from other countries/international agencies, funding organizations etc: Nil

19. Pending References from the Mission: Nil

20. Monthly expenditure of the Commercial Budget:

There is no Commerce Budget in EOI, Khartoum, for the FY 2022-23.

21. **Some Important Economic & commercial developments:**

The inflation rate in January 2023 dropped to 83 %, compared to 87.32 % recorded in December 2022.

In February 2023, Sudan's Sovereignty Council and the government approved the 2023 Federal budget after a delay of over a month. Budget revenues amounted to 7.363 trillion SDG, and public spending amounted to 8.196 trillion SDG, with a deficit of 1.4 % of GDP. The state seeks to increase revenues and bridge the budget deficit by expanding the tax umbrella, raising taxes and rationalizing government spending.

The Sudanese authorities have raised customs duties on 130 commodities, including gasoline and wheat, to cover the expected deficit in this year's budget. The tariff hike, which immediately entered into force on 28 February 2023, would increase the prices of many imported and local goods amid the country's stagflation. The Customs Authority stated that the amendment of customs categories came following the government's decision.

The increase in customs duties for transport vehicles of various weights ranged between 25 and 40 percent, while electric cars were exempted from any customs duties, and no new amendments were made to the customs of four-wheel drive vehicles. Customs increases affected meat, fish, fruits, spices, and luxury goods, between 20 and 40 percent.
