

India-Mozambique Relations

India and Mozambique enjoy close, friendly relations built upon traditional links dating back to pre-colonial period. Traders and merchants from the Indian sub-continent came to Mozambique centuries back, even before Vasco da Gama set his sails for Africa and India. These traditional links have grown from strength to strength over the years as a result of which India and Mozambique today find many common grounds to cooperate with each other for their mutual benefit. India consistently lent its support to Mozambique in the latter's freedom struggle. Mozambique achieved its independence in 1975 and diplomatic relations between the two countries were established in the same year. India was, in fact, among the first countries to open its Embassy in Mozambique immediately after independence. The Indian Ambassador was among those who witnessed the historic event of the Portuguese flag coming down and the new Mozambican flag going up in 1975. Mozambique opened its Mission in New Delhi in 2001.

Exchange of Visits: The leadership of the two countries have maintained a cordial and friendly relationship. There have been regular high level exchanges and interactions in a number of fields. The first Mozambican President Samora Machel paid a state visit to India in 1982, which was reciprocated by Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi in April 1982. President Joaquim Alberto Chissano visited India twice – in May 1988 and May 2003. Recently, President Armando Guebuza paid a state visit to India in September-October 2010. The Prime Minister of Mozambique, Mr Aires Ali, visited India in March 2011. The other ministerial visits between the two countries are:

From India to Mozambique:

- Minister of State (MOS) for External Affairs Shri Salman Khurshid in January 1994;
- External Affairs Minister Shri Jaswant Singh in March 1999;
- MOS for External Affairs Shri Digvijay Singh in December 2002;
- Minister of Labour Shri Saheb Singh Verma in April 2003;
- MOS for External Affairs Shri Anand Sharma in July 2007;
- Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs Shri Vayalar Ravi in November 2007;
- MOS for External Affairs Dr Shashi Tharoor in January 2010;
- External Affairs Minister Shri SM Krishna in July 2010;
- MOS for Coal Shri Sriprakash Jaiswal in January 2011.
- MOS for Agriculture & Food Processing Shri Arun Yadav in May 2011;
- MOS for Home Affairs Shri Mullappally Ramachandran in July 2012;
- Minister of Commerce, Industry & Textiles, Shri Anand Sharma in September 2012.
- MOS for Coal, Shri Pratik Prakashbapu Patil on October 26-28, 2012.
- MOS for External Affairs, Smt Preneet Kaur on 3-6 July, 2013.
- Minister of Commerce & Industry, Shri Anand Sharma on 27-28 September, 2013.

From Mozambique to India:

- Minister of Foreign Trade and the Minister of State for Ports and Surface Transport in 1980;
- Defence Minister Gen Alberto Chipande in May 1989;
- Foreign Minister Mr Pascoal Mocumbi's in August 1992;
- Defence Minister in November 1995;
- Interior Minister Mr Almerino Manhenje in September 1997;
- Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy in December 2003;
- Health Minister in February 2004;
- Defence Minister Mr Tobias Dai in March 2006;
- Minister for Science & Technology Prof Venancio Simão Massingue in July 2006;
- Mineral Resources Minister Mrs Esperança Bias in October 2006;
- Agriculture Minister Mr Tomas Mandlane in November 2006;
- Vice Minister for Mineral Resources Mr Abdul Razak Noormahomed in November 2007;
- Defence Minister Mr Tobias Dai in February 2008;
- Interior Minister Mr Jose Antonio Pacheco in July 2008;
- Energy Minister Dr Salvador Namburete in January 2009;
- Environment Minister Ms Alcinda Abreu in February 2009;
- Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Mr Oldemiro Baloi in February 2009;
- Vice Minister of Agriculture Ms Caterine Pajume in March 2009;
- Minister for Science & Technology Prof Venancio Simão Massingue in January 2011;
- Minister of Planning & Development in January 2011;
- Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Mr Eduardo Koloma, in February 2011;
- Education Minister Mr Zeferino Alexandre Martins in July 2011.
- Defence Minister Mr Fillipe Nyussi accompanied by Naval Chief in July 2011;
- First Lady Maria Da Luz Guebuza in November 2011 and January 2012.
- Minister for Science & Technology Prof Venancio Simão Massingue in March 2012;
- Vice Minister of Industry & Trade Mr Kenneth Viagem Marizane, in March 2012;
- Minister of Health Dr Alexandre Manguela, accompanied by Vice Minister of Industry and Commerce Mr Kenneth Marizane, and Vice Minister of Planning and Development Ms Amelia Nakhare, in March 2012;
- Vice Minister of National Defence Mr Augustine Mondlane, in March 2012;
- Minister of Agriculture Mr Jose Pacheco, in June and September 2012.
- Vice Minister of Energy Mr Jaime Himede in October 2012;

- Vice Minister for Mineral Resources Mr Abdul Razak Noormahomed in October 2012;
- Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs & Cooperation, Henrique Banze in October/November, 2012 to attend the IOR-ARC meeting.
- Vice Minister of Education in November 2012.
- Dr Alexandre Manguela, Minister of Health, accompanied by Vice Interior Minister and Vice Transports & Communications Minister on 20-26 January 2013.
- A 26-member delegation led by Agriculture Minister, and including Ministers of Energy, Health and Industry & Trade and Governors of three Provinces, attended the 9th CII-Exim Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership held in New Delhi on 17-19 March, 2013.
- A 7-member delegation led by Minister of Public Works & Housing Cadmiel Mutemba, to attend the India Water Week – 2013 held in New Delhi on 8-12 April, 2013.
- Mr. Eusebio Saide, Vice Minister of Transport & Communications at the invitation of CMAI Association of India (promoting IT) on 1-8 May, 2013 in New Delhi.
- Mr. Jose Mandra, Vice Minister of Interior on 9-13 September, 2013.
- Mr. Pedro Coute, Vice Minister of Finance on 13-16 December, 2013.

Visit of Indian Naval Ships: Indian Naval Ships have paid goodwill visits or visits at the request of Government of Mozambique as per following details:

- INS Ranjit and INS Suvarna in June-July 2003;
- INS Sujata and INS Savitri in May-June 2004;
- INS Mumbai and INS Karmuk in May 2008;
- Four Indian Navy Ships from the Western Fleet in September 2010;
- INS Darshak in March-April 2012; and
- INS Delhi and INS Deepak in November 2012.

Culture exchanges: With sizable number of people of Indian origin among the Mozambican population, cultural relations between India and Mozambique have always existed for the past few centuries. Apart from various cultural events organized by the local Indian community, a few theatres in Maputo and elsewhere regularly screen the latest Indian movies. **From India:** Under the sponsorship of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Pandit Hari Prasad Chaurasia, Flutist and Shri M S Gopalakrishnan, Violinist visited Mozambique in 1992-93; Raja & Radha Reddy in September 1995; and a 5-member Bharatnatyam dance troupe led by Ms Susheela Mehta in May 2009. A festival of Indian popular films was organized on 28-29 March, 2008 in a cinema hall in Maputo and Nampula in September 2007. **From Mozambique:** A seven-member Mozambican artistic group visited India to participate in the Pan-African Festival of Dance and Music held in Goa in January 2006. At the invitation of ICCR, a Mozambican writer attended the International Literacy Conference

“Continents of Creation: Legacy, Identity, Assertion” held in New Delhi and in Rajasthan in February 2010.

Exchange of important business delegations: From India: During the past few years regular business delegations are visiting Mozambique for exploring and participating in Mozambique’s economic development activities. Large CII delegations accompanied MOS(PK) in July, 2013 and Commerce & Industry Minister in September, 2013. Another CII-Andhra Pradesh delegation visited Maputo on 11-13 December, 2013. **From Mozambique:** A large high level delegation from Mozambique participates in the CII-EXIM Conclaves every year. Further, several business delegations have visited India during the last few years.

Development Assistance: India has been assisting Mozambique in various ways including through Line of Credits (LOCs). India had offered credit assistance of **US\$500 million** to Mozambique during the State visit of Mozambican President to India in 2010. Under this, approvals have been conveyed for all the LOCs. Thus, the commitment of India for LOC of US\$500 million is complete. Before US\$500 million, India had extended LOCs worth US\$140 million. During the year, two LOC projects were completed and handed over to the Mozambican Government. These were:- US\$25 million LOC for setting up the Technology Development & Innovation Centre in the S&T Park and US\$13 million LOC for setting up of the solar photovoltaic manufacturing plant.

Grants: India has also offered some grants to Mozambique as assistance in its development efforts. These include the following:

- 2007: US\$200,000 for supply and setting up of a cashew processing plant in Nangade, Cabo Delgado;
- 2008: Writing of a debt of Rs. 90 crores, Hole-in-the-wall projects, and US\$ 1 million for setting up of Vocational Training Centre in Machava.
- 2009: US\$ 1 million for small-holder cotton value addition and setting up of knowledge transfer centre in Chokwe and launching of Pan African e-Network.
- 2010: US\$ 5 million for Setting up Community Competencies Development Centres in Mozambique.
- 2010: Setting up two institutes in the field of coal for research and training.
- 2010: US\$ 4.5 million for supply of security equipment.
- 2012: The hydrographic survey of Beira Port was carried out by Indian Naval Ship INS Darshak at the request of the Government of Mozambique, in March-April 2012.
- Deputation of an Expert to the Mozambican Ministry of Science & Technology since 2007.

Training and scholarships for Mozambican nationals: India has been providing training to Mozambican government nominees each year in a wide

range of disciplines under the ITEC/SCAAP programme. At present, India is providing 31 slots under ITEC/SCAAP programme. Under this programme, all expenditure including airfare, stay, training course and study material in India is met by the Ministry of External Affairs. Further, 34 scholarships for undergraduate, Graduate and Research studies in India are awarded each year to qualified candidates under General Cultural Scholarship Scheme (GCSS) of Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR). Under this programme, the expenditure for air-fare, boarding & lodging, airfare, tuition fees and study material in India is met by ICCR. In addition, there are also, 2 slots under IOR-ARC and few slots under India-Africa Forum Summit on first-cum-first-served basis. At the request of Government of Mozambique, 25 Mozambican police personnel have been imparted a combat course including anti-rioting, anti-terrorism, hostage rescue, bomb disposal etc at Maharashtra Force One from 4 February – 4 March, 2013. The entire expenditure on this training was covered under ITEC.

Indian projects/investments in Mozambique: As per investment data released by Mozambique's Investment Promotion Centre (CPI), India, with a total approved investment of US\$120.00 million as of July, 2013, is the 8th largest investor in Mozambique, with Brazil, Portugal & South Africa occupying the first three places. Even though the exact figures of total investments by Indian companies are not available, the investment flow is roughly estimated to be approx. \$600 million as in April, 2013, while there are plans to make more investments by these companies. However, these figures do not include investments in extractive (mining) industry. Recently, ONGC Videsh and Oil India Limited have taken 20% stake in the Andarko-led consortium in the north of Mozambique where huge quantities of natural gas have been discovered at a cost of US\$5 billion approx. In addition, some other Indian companies are investing in coal, mineral and hydrocarbon sectors. These include Tata Steel, JSPL, JSW, Essar, Coal India Ltd etc in coal sector and BPRL, in hydrocarbon sector.

Bilateral trade relations: According to DGCIS Kolkata figures, the bilateral trade was US\$427.13 million in 2009-10, US\$709.61 million in 2010-11 and US\$631.76 million in 2011-12. During 2012-13, the trade has crossed the US\$1 billion target set by the leaders of the two countries in 2010 and amounted to US\$1281.41 million registering an impressive increase of 102.41% compared 2011-12. India's exports during 2012-13 have registered an increase of 87.68% amounting to US\$1001.00 million compared to US\$533.35 million during the same period of the previous FY. Mozambique's exports to India during 2012-13 had an increase of 184.94% amounting to US\$280.41 million compared to US\$98.41 million in 2011-12. The total trade for the period April-October, 2013 between the two countries stands at US\$666.68 with Indian exports at US\$539.34 million and Indian imports at US\$127.34 million.

Indian Community:

There are approximately 1,500 to 2,000 persons of Indian nationality and about 20,000 persons of Indian origin, holding Mozambican and Portuguese nationalities in Mozambique. A good number of the persons of Indian origin are engaged in the wholesale and retail trade and originally hail from Gujarat, Goa, Daman and Diu. Some of the big business houses and multinational companies have engaged Indian professionals at senior management levels.

December 2013