

## India-Zambia Relations

**Political:** The leaders of Zambian freedom struggle, such as Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, drew inspiration from India's struggle for freedom, particularly from Mahatma Gandhi. While India gave support to the economic and technical development of Zambia, the latter reciprocated by supporting India on issues of importance to it, such as India's nuclear tests in 1998, terrorism, the issue of J&K and India's admission as a Permanent Member in the expanded UN Security Council.

2. **High level visits:** During his stay in power, Dr. Kenneth Kaunda paid more than ten visits to India, beginning 1967. From the Indian side Smt. Indira Gandhi, paid three visits to Zambia in 1964 (as Information & Broadcasting Minister), and in 1970 and 1976 as Prime Minister. Presidents V.V. Giri and Sanjiva Reddy visited Zambia in 1974 and 1981 respectively followed by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1986 and President Venkataraman in 1989. President Chiluba paid a state visit to India in October 1993.

3. Late President Mwanawasa paid a state visit to India from April 20-25, 2003. Thereafter, several high level visits have taken place from Zambia, which include: Energy Minister George Mpombo in March 2005 to attend the CII Conclave on "India-Africa Project Partnership"; Finance Minister Ng'andu Mgande in September 2005 for the Joint Permanent Commission meeting in New Delhi; visit of the First Lady, Mrs. Maureen Mwanawasa to India from October 8-15, 2005 under ICCR's Distinguished Visitors' Programme; Agriculture Minister Mundia Sikatana visited India in March 2006; Lt Gen I.S.A. Chisuzi, Army Commander in May 2006 and the Zambian Parliamentary Delegation led by Speaker of National Assembly in September, 2007 to attend 53<sup>rd</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. In 2008, Mr. Felix Mutati, Zambia's Commerce, Trade & Industry Minister visited Delhi to participate in CII's India Africa Conclave, on March 19-21, 2008 and again on 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2008 on way to China. President Rupiah Banda, then in capacity of Vice President, visited India from 4-9<sup>th</sup> April, 2008, to participate in India Africa Forum summit.

4. The **India Africa Forum summit** in April, 2008 has given a new thrust to India's engagement with Africa with increase in existing credit lines to Africa from US\$ 2.15 billion to US\$ 5.4 billion till 2012; duty free access to 85% of India's total tariff lines as well as preferential duty access to 9% of India's total tariff lines by Africa's 33 LDCs; grant of US\$ 500 million to Africa in next 5-6 years and; increase in ITEC training slots from 1100 to 1600 a year to African countries. The Second India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-II) held in Addis Ababa in May 2011 built upon the foundations of the historical relationship that existed between India and Africa, and designed a new architecture for a structured engagement, interaction and cooperation between India and our African partners in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Summit celebrated our friendship and renewed our commitment to Africa. At the Summit, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said: "the India-Africa partnership rests on three pillars of capacity building and skill transfer, trade and infrastructure development". Under the decisions of the IAFS, three institutions viz. a Human Settlement Centre, an Entrepreneurship Development Institute and a Cluster of Biomass Gassifier Systems are proposed to be established in Zambia.

5. In recent years from Indian side, the Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri Manohar Joshi paid an official visit to Zambia with a 7-member Parliamentary delegation from February 9-13, 2003. During the visit, then Zambian President Levy P. Mwanawasa publicly

assured our Speaker on February 13, 2003 that Zambia would support India in her admission as a Permanent Member of the expanded UN Security Council and on the terrorism issue. Smt. Shashi Tripathi, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs paid an official visit to Zambia from February 27-March 1, 2005 for Foreign Office Consultations. During this visit, India and Zambia signed an agreement to institutionalize Annual Foreign Office Consultations. Shri. Suresh Reddy, Speaker Andhra Pradesh Assembly, visited Zambia in January, 2007.

Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri M. Hamid Ansari, paid an Official visit to Zambia from 5-7 January, 2010. During the visit, Hon'ble Vice President announced a new line of credit of US\$75 million for developmental projects in Zambia and a grant of US\$5 million for projects in health, education and social sectors. A Loan Agreement between EXIM Bank of India and the Zambian Ministry of Finance and National Planning was signed to extend to Zambia a US\$50 million line of credit for the Itezhi Tezhi hydropower project in which TATA and ZESCO are joint venture partners.

6. **Ministerial meeting of LDCs in New Delhi:** Hon. Fashion Phiri, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, represented Zambia at the Ministerial Meeting of LDCs in New Delhi from 18-19 February 2011. Highlight of this Conference was showcasing by India of its own national instruments of mutually beneficial cooperation that are in the forefront of assisting the LDCs – (i) ITEC, (ii) Duty Free, Quota Free (DFQF) regime for LDC's exports to India, (iii) E-connectivity Project; and (iv) Government of India's credit line Programme.

7. **Cooperation in Defence field:** Several Zambian defence chiefs and about 300 other defence officers have been trained in the Indian defence institutions. Several Indian army and air force training teams were deputed to Zambia in the 1970s and 1980s for training of the Zambian Armed Forces. India had deputed, since 1994, a Military Advisory Team comprising four officers (reduced to three officers in 2008) in Defence Services Command and Staff College in Zambia. This deputation came to an end with the departure of the team in March 2010. In 2006-07, India gave ten training slots, and in 2007-08, seven slots to the Zambian Armed Forces, under the ITEC programme. In 2008-09 two slots were utilized including one course at DSSC, Wellington. In 2009-10 seven slots were utilized and in 2010-11 India offered 16 training slots out of which 9 were utilized. The recent visits by Indian side to Zambia include that of Maj. Gen. R.P.S. Malhan, ADG (Staff Duties) 31<sup>st</sup> August- 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2006; Lt. Gen Susheel Gupta, DCOAS (IS&T) 15-17<sup>th</sup> March 2007; Major General Vinay Bhatnagar, DG (Staff Duties) 28<sup>th</sup> November- 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2007; Lt. Gen SPS Dhillon, Deputy Chief of Army Staff (IS&T) (March 18- 21, 2009); National Defence College (NDC) delegation from 10-15 May, 2009 and; Maj.Gen Chander Prakash, Additional Director General (Staff Duties) from 3-6 June, 2009.

8. **Economic cooperation:** Over the years, India has provided considerable economic assistance to Zambia. In 1979 and 1982, India extended government and EXIM Bank credits to Zambia totaling Rs. 25 crores. In 1989, India provided railway wagons costing about Rs.8 crores to Zambia under the Africa Fund. Approval of the Gol for the Zambian proposal for a LoC of US\$50 million for setting up of pre-fabricated health posts in the rural areas of Zambia has been conveyed to the Government of Zambia in January 2012. Around 2400 civilian Zambians have been trained in India under ITEC in various disciplines so far. In February, 2008 India extended a grant of Rs. 1 crore for flood relief.

9. During President Mwanawasa's visit to India in April 2003, India extended a credit line of \$ 10 million (out of which \$ 8.5 million were utilized for purchase of Tata trucks and \$1.5 million for procurement of vocational tool kits), grant assistance of US \$ 100,000 for donation of anti-HIV/AIDs medicines and another grant of Rs. 25 million for donation of agricultural equipment to Zambia. India also waived off the inter-governmental credit amounting to about \$ 3 million outstanding against Zambia. Similarly, it donated 10,000 tons of non-basmati rice to Zambia to alleviate the food shortage. During the visit the number of ITEC slots available to Zambia was increased from 30 to 50. This was further increased to 60 in 2007-08 and subsequent to India Africa Forum summit was further increased to 80 in 2008-09. 75 in 2009-10, 86 in 2010-11, and 91 in 2011-12.

10. **Bilateral Trade:** India's exports to Zambia are at US\$132.27 million (2007-08), US\$ 107.43 million (2008-09), US\$ 88.34 (2009-2010) and India's imports from Zambia are at US\$74.84 million (2007-08), US\$ 208.40 million (2008-09) and US\$102.67 (2009-10). India's export items include drug and pharmaceuticals, machinery and instruments, transport equipment, cotton yarn and fabrics, plastic, rubber, chemicals, and electronic goods. India's imports from Zambia include non-ferrous metals, ores (copper and cobalt), semi-precious stones and raw cotton. India and Zambia have set up a Joint Permanent Commission at the Ministerial level, its last meeting was held in New Delhi on September 9-10, 2005.

11. ITPO led the participation of Indian companies in the Zambian Agricultural and Commercial Show in Lusaka in August 2002-2003. Zambia has sent private sector led trade delegations to India to participate in trade fairs. CII Conclaves on India-Africa Partnership have been held in New Delhi, (March 2005); in Lusaka (April 24-25, 2006); in New Delhi (October 9 – 11, 2006); and again in New Delhi on March 19-21, 2008. An UNCTAD-EXIM Bank of India Investment Forum was held in Lusaka on 11-12<sup>th</sup> June, 2007 on ICT and pharmaceuticals. Subsequently, a CHEMEXCIL delegation visited Lusaka from 11-14<sup>th</sup> November, 2007 and took part in Buyer Seller Meet along with local chemical industry. A 25-member delegation of the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council (PHARMEXCIL), representing 21 pharmaceutical companies visited Zambia from 3 to 6 August, 2009. A Buyer-Seller Meeting (BSM) was held on August 4, 2009 which was inaugurated by Zambia's Deputy minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Mr. Richard Taima. About 30 local companies participated in the BSM. Ms. Esnat Mwape, Director General, Pharmaceutical Regulatory Authority of Zambia and two representatives of pharmaceutical industry, Rakesh N. Shah, MD, Pharmnova Zambia Limited and M. Krishna Swamy, MD, Alliance Pharmaceuticals Ltd. participated in the Indo-Africa Pharma Business Meet held in Hyderabad from September 25-27, 2009 at the invitation of Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council.

12. **Duty Free Tariff Preference Scheme (DFTP)** - Zambian Minister for Commerce, Trade and Industry signed the Letter of Intent to utilize India's Duty Free Tariff Preference Scheme (DFTP) in May 2010. With the signing of this Letter and on completion of documentation, Zambian products will be able to access up to 94 % of the Indian market under this Scheme.

13. **Indian Community/PIOs:** There are about 13,000 Indians/PIOs in Zambia. Most of them have taken local or British nationalities and are working in trade sector. During the Chiluba regime, two persons of Indian origin were appointed as the Cabinet

Ministers: Mr. Suresh Desai, Minister for Agriculture and Mr. Dipak Patel, Minister of Commerce & Industry. Mr. Patel continued in that post during the first administration of President Mwanwasa. Recently, there has been a visible growth in the number of Indian professionals especially in Indian owned enterprises. Zambians of Indian origin play a significant role in Zambia's economy, especially in trade, industry, hospitality and transport sectors.

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