

Democratic Republic of Congo

India – Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Relations:

India and the Democratic Republic of Congo [DRC] have traditionally shared cordial and friendly relations. India was among the first countries to establish a diplomatic mission in Kinshasa in 1962. As far back as 1960, India contributed to the UN Peacekeeping Mission in DRC with its Gurkha troops under ONUC, for countering the rebellion in Katanga province. Presently, around 2,600 Indian troops, military observers and police personnel are deployed with MONUSCO.

Ministerial visits from DRC to India have been regular. The more recent ones are : the visit of then Foreign & International Cooperation Minister, Raymond Tshibanda N'tungamulongo, for the 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit, held in New Delhi in October, 2015. Ms. Nefertiti Ngudianza Bayokisa Kisula, Minister of Trade visited India in March, 2016 for the CII-EXIM Bank Conclave, held in New Delhi. Mr. Jeannot Matadi Nenga, Minister of Energy & Water Resources, visited India in April 2016. Mr. Boyamba Okombo Antoine, Deputy Foreign Minister visited India again in June 2016, to meet the Congolese diaspora (including students). Mr. Raymond Tshibanda N'tungamulongo, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation visited New Delhi in August, 2016. Mr. Modeste BAHATI LUKWEBO, Minister of Economy, participated in the 12th CII EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership, held in March 2017. Mr. Kwet Mwan Kwet John, Minister for International Cooperation visited New Delhi in June 2017. Mr. Iлека Atoki, Secretary General of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Congo led the DRC delegation to the 14th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave in March 2019, on the sidelines of which he also signed LoC Agreements for implementing three Solar Power Projects in the DRC. H.E. Aime NGOI MUKENA LUSA DIESE, Minister of Defence and War veterans led a defence delegation to the India-Africa Defence Ministers Conclave and DEFEXPO 2020 in February, 2020.

Bilateral Agreements/MOUs: The following bilateral Agreements/MOUs exist between India and DRC: (i) Foreign Office Consultations, signed in March, 2010; (ii) Joint Commission for Political, Economic, Scientific, Technical and Socio-cultural, signed in March, 2008; and (iii) Cultural Cooperation Agreement signed in October, 2009.

India's Developmental Assistance to DRC: India has extended lines of credits to developmental projects in DRC. These include in the field of transport, solar, hydroelectric, water supply and transmission line sector.

Donations/grants: India has also extended grant assistance to DRC. These include supply of agriculture equipments, and medicines.

Capacity Building Programme: India offers annually scholarships under ITEC programme, and C.V. Raman Fellowship programme. The utilization of slot by DRC has been encouraging.

Trade and Commercial Relations:

Trade and Commercial linkages between India and DRC are growing. DRC is rich in natural resources such as cobalt, copper, diamonds, gold, silver, zinc, manganese, tin, germanium, uranium, radium, bauxite, iron ore, coal, hydro-power and timber. There are considerable opportunities for enhancing bilateral cooperation. Indian companies are engaged in the mining of copper, cobalt and diamond in DRC. A large portion of DRC's pharmaceutical imports is sourced from India, some for re-export to neighbouring countries like Republic of Congo, Gabon and the

Central African Republic. Indian businessmen have also been investing in DRC in sectors like logistics, education, restaurants, supermarkets/ departmental stores etc. Hospitals and construction are new areas of investments in recent years, by Indians.

Bilateral trade figures are given below (USD million, period April-Feb):

Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Exports	254.16	317.63	200.49	225.07	302.94
Imports	126.45	97.76	85.92	225.42	19.01
Total Trade	380.61	415.39	286.41	450.50	321.95

(Source: Department of Commerce, GoI)

Major items of export from India during the year were Pharmaceutical products, vehicles, parts and accessories thereof, machinery and mechanical appliances and parts thereof, electrical machinery & equipment, plastic and plastic articles and cotton. Major items of import were Ores, slag and ash, natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, mineral fuels, mineral oils and cocoa and cocoa preparations.

Cultural Cooperation: India and DRC signed an Agreement on Cultural Cooperation on 29 October, 2009. A dance and music group from the National Festival of Gungu [FESNAG] visited India from February 1-15, 2012, February 1-15, 2013 and February 1-15, 2016 to participate in the Surajkund Crafts Mela. A 12-member 'Rajasthani Music and Dance group' visited DRC from July 17-27, 2012 and performed in Kinshasa and FESNAG, Gungu, Bandundu Province. A 15-member Manipuri Dance troupe from ICCR, along with local dancers, performed to packed audiences in Kinshasa and Lubumbashi in June 2016. The closing ceremony of the year long 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was celebrated with the unveiling of Gandhiji's bust by the Minister of Culture of the DRC, Planting of saplings and vegetarian food festival at the Embassy premises, on 2nd October, 2019.

India's participation in Peace Keeping Mission under UN: There are around 2600 Indian troops comprising Contingent Troops, Police Units, Experts on Mission deployed with MONUSCO in DRC.

Indian Community: DRC has the largest concentration of Indians in this sub-region. There are about 13,000 Indians and PIOs [holding British, Canadian, Kenyan and Tanzanian nationalities], living in the country. They are engaged mainly in the services sector, retail business, trading and manufacturing, mining and more recently, in construction and hospitals. Majority of the Indian community is from Gujarat. Others are mainly from Kerala, other South Indian States and a small number from North India. Ismaili community, with an estimated number of 2,000 members, is the single largest Indian community in the DRC. A Hindu temple has been built by the Congo Hindu Mandal comprising Indians in Kinshasa.

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