

High Commission of India
Lusaka

India-Zambia Relations

Political:

The leaders of Zambian freedom struggle, such as Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, drew inspiration from the leaders of India's freedom struggle, particularly Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi continues to inspire and invoke admiration in Zambia and among its leaders, even the younger generation. The warm relations have continued into this century. Over these last several decades, India has come to be seen as a reliable partner and friend and is described by Zambian leaders as an "all weather and time-tested friend". The relationship continues to be driven by mutual respect and is based in a spirit of partnership for mutual benefit.

Bilateral Visits:

High level visits have been a feature of our historical bilateral relationship. During his presidency, Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, the first Republican President of Zambia, visited India more than ten times beginning in 1967. The Late President Mwanawasa paid a state visit to India in April 2003. President Michael Chilufya Sata, accompanied by First Lady Mrs. Christine Kaseba, paid a private visit to India in March 2012 and First President Dr. Kenneth Kaunda paid a private visit to India in June 2012. In 2013, Vice President Dr. Guy Scott led a high-power official and business delegation, comprising Ministers of Commerce, Trade & Industry, Gender and Child Development and Deputy Minister of Mining, to the 9th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave in New Delhi in March 2013 at which Zambia was a Focus Country. Deputy Health Minister Dr. Chitalu Chilufa represented Zambia at the India-Africa Health Forum, held in New Delhi on 24th April, 2015. Ms. Margaret M. Mwanakatwe, Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry participated in the 4th India-Africa Business Forum meeting in New Delhi on 24th October 2015 on the sidelines of IAFS-III. Vice President Mrs. Inonge M. Wina, accompanied by Minister of Agriculture, and Deputy Ministers of Health and Foreign Affairs, represented Zambia at the 3RD India-Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi [26th to 29th October 2015]. Zambia's Agriculture Minister Given Lubinda visited the India-Africa Agro Business Forum in New Delhi in February 2016. A four-member delegation from the office of the Auditor General of Zambia visited India for a study tour from 16-20 January 2017 and another delegation participated in the XXIII Commonwealth Auditors General Conference in Delhi from 21-23 March 2017. Dr. William Kilembe, Director, Zambia-Emory HIV Research Project attended the expert working group meeting for establishing health research collaboration organized by Indian Council of Medical Research in New Delhi on 6-7 April 2017. A Zambian Health Ministry delegation, led by Permanent Secretary [Technical] attended the Third India-Africa Health Forum on 19th April 2017 in New Delhi. Ms. Helen Kalonje Zulu, journalist, attended a familiarization visit-cum-training programme of African journalists in New Delhi in March 2017. A delegation from the Lusaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry participated in the 3rd Edition of Global Exhibition on Services in New Delhi in April 2017. Two Zambian Parliamentarians attended a familiarization programme for young Parliamentarians from Africa in India in July/August 2017. Mr. Felix Mutati, Finance Minister of Zambia attended the AfDB Meetings 2017 in Gujarat in May 2017.

From India, Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi visited Zambia in 1964 [as I&B Minister] and 1970 and 1976; and Presidents V.V. Giri and Sanjiva Reddy in 1974 and 1981 respectively. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi undertook a visit in 1986 and President Venkataraman in 1989. More recently, in January 2010, Vice President Shri Hamid Ansari paid an Official visit to Zambia.

In August 2014, Secretary [West] visited Lusaka and held talks with Deputy Foreign Minister Gabriel Namulambe and Health Minister Joseph Kasonde. In July 2015, Mr. G. M. Siddeshwara, MoS [State Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises], visited Zambia as Prime Minister's Special Envoy to invite Zambian President for the 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi in October 2015. Mr. Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of Mines & Steel, met with Ms. Margret Mwanakatwe, Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry of Zambia and the then Acting Minister for Mines on the side-lines of the Mining Indaba at Cape Town [South Africa] in February 2015. A 22-member Indian Parliamentary delegation, led by Hon'ble Speaker Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, attended the 134th IPU Meeting in Lusaka in March 2016. An ICCR sponsored cultural troupe performed at the 3rd Livingston International Cultural Festival during 24-27 March 2016.

Mr. Dinesh Sharma, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Finance, participated in the 2016 Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank in Lusaka [23-27 May 2016] as temporary Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. On this occasion, a 14-member Exim Bank, led by Shri Yaduvendra Mathur and a 22-member FICCI-led multi-sectoral business delegation also visited Zambia from 22-27 May 2016, to promote the 2017 Annual meetings of the AfDB, due to take place in Gujarat [India] in May 2017. On the sidelines of the AfDB meeting, Exim Bank of India and FICCI jointly organized 'Africa-India Partnership Day' on 25th May with focus on health sector. A six-member ICCR-sponsored 'Light Classical Vocal cultural troupe' led by Ms Shaila Hattangadi performed live in Lusaka on 4th November 2016. A three member CAG delegation led by Shri Shashi Kant Sharma, Comptroller and Auditor General of India, paid an official visit to Zambia from 6-8 October 2016. A 40-member PHARMEXCIL-led delegation visited Zambia during 12-15 Feb'17 and held B2B meetings in Lusaka on 13th Feb and a 16-member EEPC-India led delegation organized a BSM in Lusaka on 3rd Apr'17.

Dr. Nina Malhotra, Joint Secretary [E&SA], Ministry of External Affairs, led the Indian delegation for the second round of FOCs held in Lusaka on 24th March 2017.

Economic Cooperation:

India provides economic assistance to Zambia and assists in a wide range of skill development courses and training programmes. Zambia avails of a large number of ITEC scholarships and till date around 2500 civilian Zambians have been trained in India in various disciplines under ITEC.

In January 2014, GoI approved a LoC of US\$50 mn for a proposal for setting up 650 pre-fabricated health posts. 273 duly completed health posts have been handed over to the Zambian Government. In February 2016, GOI approved a LoC of US\$40mn for Zambia's Agricultural Mechanization Programme and the two sides are working towards its early operationalization. In addition, a GOI grant of US\$5mn is under consideration. GOI has included Zambia in the second phase of its ongoing Cotton Technical Assistance Programme [CTAP]. A proposal to supply medical equipment to Zambia under India-Africa Health Fund is also under process.

Bilateral Trade:

Bilateral trade has been growing steadily. Mission continues to encourage Indian business to enter the Zambian market in view of positive long term economic indicators as well as prospects in Zambia.

In the year ended 2015-16, India's exports to Zambia stood at US\$298 million and imports at US\$ 475 million. India's export items include drugs and pharmaceuticals, machinery and instruments,

transportation 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. During 2016-17, bilateral trade reached \$981.44mn. During this period, India's exports were valued at US\$237.54mn and imports at US\$743.90mn.

Given below are some important bilateral initiatives and trade related issues:

(i) Pan African e-networking project: The Pan-African e-Network Project for Zambia was successfully inaugurated through Video Conferencing at the Mulungushi University in Kabwe in August 2010. An e-networking project was completed by the TCIL–Patient End Location (PEL) Centre at University Teaching Hospital, Lusaka, and was commissioned in November 2009. Given the growing popularity and usage of the Telemedicine Centre at the UTH in Lusaka and the E-learning Centre at Mulungushi University in Kabwe, Mission has recommended further extension of the project beyond 31st March 2017.

(ii) India's investments in Zambia: India is one of the largest investors in Zambia. India's Investments include Indo-Zambia Bank which was established in 1984, as a joint venture between GoZ and three Indian public sector banks i.e. Bank of India, Bank of Baroda and Central Bank of India. The three Indian PSUs hold 60% equity with the remaining 40% held by the Zambian government. The IZB operates the largest network of banks and a cornerstone of Zambia's banking sector. It has become a byword for banking in the country. It is a milestone in India's relations with Zambia and is an example of a mutually beneficial, solid joint venture partnerships that has withstood the test of time.

Vedanta's Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) has investments of over US\$2.8 billion in Zambia and these are expected to rise to over US\$3 billion in the coming years.

M/s RJ Corporation, an Indian firm, has invested US\$30 million, are the authorized bottlers of Pepsi Co. in Zambia. M/s Nava Bharat Singapore Limited, a subsidiary of Nava Bharat Ventures Ltd. Hyderabad, purchased 65% equity shares in Mamba Collieries Ltd. (the GoZ holds the remaining 35% shares through Zambia Consolidated Copper Mine Investment Holdings or ZCCM-IH). Nava Bharat will invest US\$108 million in the recapitalization of Mamba Collieries and the installation of the new coal handling and washing plant. Nava Bharat has also set up a 330megawatts thermal plant. The plant was commissioned recently.

Taurian Manganese Ltd, part of Dharni Sampada Pvt. Ltd, invested about US\$20 million in 2010 in manganese mining and plans to invest another US\$200 million in construction of a manganese processing plant in Serenje district in Central Province. It will be one of the biggest manganese processing plants in Africa.

M/s NRB Pharma Limited's US\$12 mn pharmaceutical plant in Lusaka South Multi-Facility Economic Zone (MFEZ) was officially commissioned by President Edgar Lungu on 26th April 2017. Bharti Airtel launched its new brand, Airtel Zambia, in November 2010 and is now the leading mobile service provider in Zambia. Investments by TATA include a five-star hotel the Taj Pamodzi, managed by the Taj Hotels group; a joint venture between Zambia Electricity Supply Company (ZESCO) and TATA Africa Holdings called "Itezhi Tezhi Power Corporation Limited" (ITPC). For the latter, GOI had provided a LoC of US\$50mn to Zambian Government, of which only about \$29mn was utilized and, at Zambian request, the unutilized portion was cancelled by GOI in September 2015. The project was officially

commissioned by President Lungu in March 2016. In addition, scores of medium size Indian companies have made sizeable investment in various fields of the Zambian economy and trade.

In view of growing economic and commercial relations, the steady growth in volume of Indian investments in Zambia, both countries continue to engage on a range of issues and are in discussion on ways and mechanisms that would further strengthen bilateral relations. A number of businesspersons desirous of exploring business opportunities in Zambia's mining, health, agriculture, and infrastructure sectors are visiting Zambia.

Indian Community/PIOs:

Zambia has a large and vibrant Indian community many of whom had settled down in Zambia decades ago. There are about 13,000 PIOs and 3000 Indian expatriates in Zambia and some have taken up Zambian nationality and/or British nationality. Zambians of Indian origin play a significant role in Zambia's economy, especially in trade, industry, hospitality and transport sectors. The Indian community is also becoming more engaged in precious and semi-precious stones mining, agriculture, horticulture and chemicals. Indians have also risen to occupy government positions and during the term of President Chiluba, two persons of Indian origin were appointed as Cabinet Ministers. In recent years, the renewed rise of India's economic and commercial engagement has seen a visible growth in the number of Indian professionals especially in Indian owned enterprises.

Useful Resources: website www.hcizambia.gov.in
