India-Angola bilateral Relations

Relations between India and Angola, one of the major oil producers in Africa, are underpinned by a vibrant energy partnership and date back to pre-independence era of Angola. In an act of solidarity, India supported Angolan freedom struggle against the Portuguese colonial rule till the country attained independence in 1975. Since then, the Indian leadership has retained robust ties with the reigning political establishment in Angola - MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola). India established diplomatic relations with Angola in 1985.

Angola has been supportive of India’s candidature to various posts in the UN and is sympathetic towards India’s interest for membership in an expanded UNSC, J&K, and terrorism etc.

The first high level visit from India took place in May 1986 with the visit of Late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to Angola which was reciprocated by President of Angola José Eduardo dos Santos in April 1987. PM Dr. Manmohan Singh met with President Jose Santos on the sidelines of the G-8 meeting at L’Aquila, Italy on July 10, 2009.

During his visit to Johannesburg to attend the BRICS Summit in July 2018, Angolan President Lourenco met Prime Minister Modi and discussed ways to enhance trade and investment between the two countries and also to deepen cooperation in sectors like Energy, agriculture and food processing and pharmaceuticals.

Angolan Minister for External Relations Joao Bernardo de Miranda visited India in May 2006. A Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations was signed during the visit On January 30, 2017, India and Angola signed an Agreement for the establishment of the Bilateral Commission. The Cabinet Council in its meeting on June 2017 ratified the Presidential decree approving the agreement for the establishment of the creation of the Angola-India bilateral commission.

High level visits from Angola

Minister for Petroleum Jose Maria Botelho De Vasconcelos visited India to attend the Petrotech Conference in New Delhi (October 2010) and Foreign Minister Georges R Chikoti to attend India-LDC Ministerial Conference in New Delhi (February 2011).

In Oct 2015, Vice President of Angola, Manuel Vicente visited India to participate in the Third India Africa Summit. He was accompanied by a high level delegation comprising the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Information Technology and Communications. The Vice President had a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister. Agriculture Minister had meeting with his Indian counterpart. MoS PNG along with ONGC Videsh MD called on the Vice President to discuss cooperation in the field of energy.
General Salviano de Jesus Sequeria ‘Kianda’, Secretary of State, Ministry of National Defense led a delegation to India to attend the DEFEXPO INDIA 2016 held in Goa from 28-31 March 2016.

Minister for Former Combatants and Veterans of the Homeland General Cândido Pereira dos Santos Van-Dúnem visited India from 3-7 May 2016. He led an inter-ministerial delegation comprising representatives from departments of health and agriculture. During the visit he had meetings with Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. (Gen) V.K. Singh, Minister for Food Processing and Secretary (EWS) in the Ministry of Defence.

Minister of Agriculture, Pedro Canga visited India from 24-30 May 2016. In his meeting with Indian Minister of Agriculture Sh. Radha Mohan Singh, the two sides discussed bilateral cooperation in agriculture. He visited the Indian Council of Agriculture Research, agriculture cooperative units as well as private entities engaged with agriculture.

Mr. Abrahão Gourgel, Minister of Economy was in India on a three day visit in June 2017. He was accompanied by a high level delegation comprising Secretaries of State, Government of Angola in the areas of Agriculture, Industry, Geology & Mining and Transport sector and the Deputy Governors of Bengo, Huambo, Huila and Zaire.

Dr. Silvia Lutucuta, Health Minister of Angola visited India from July 5-10, 2018 and met Health Minister of India and held discussion with CII and premier hospitals.

Finance Minister Mr Archer Mangueira visited India on September 02, 2019 on a working visit and held discussions with the Exim Bank for various projects under LOCs/Buyers credit programme.

Visits from India

Shri Anand Sharma, then Minister of State for External Affairs, visited Angola in June 2007. During the visit he called on the President of Angola and had meetings with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Petroleum and Geology and Mines, and President of Endiama, the state-owned diamond company. Minister Shri Jairam Ramesh, Minister of State for Commerce visited Angola in March 2008. Shri Murli Deora, then Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas visited Angola in January 2010.

MoS (VK) visited Luanda on 15 July 2015 as Special Envoy of PM to personally hand over invitation for the IAFS III. During the visit he called on Vice President Manuel Vicente.

MOS (MJA) visited Luanda, Angola on March 15-16, 2018 and held bilateral meeting. MOU on ICT was signed during the visit.

Energy, Economic & Development cooperation
Energy forms the heart of the India-Angola partnership, with the Lusophone country emerging as the second largest African oil supplier to India, after Nigeria in sub-Saharan Africa. Indian oil companies have been upbeat about investing in the energy sector in Angola, with delegations from ONGC Videsh Ltd., Reliance Industry Limited, HPCL Mumbai, Engineers India Ltd. and Mittal Investments UK Limited visiting Luanda to explore cooperation in the oil and gas sector. Engineers India was involved in the construction of the Lobito oil refinery.

In Sept 2015, MD, ONGC Videsh visited Angola and had discussions with Sonangol for participation in oil exploration in Angola.

India and Angola had signed a MoU on cooperation in the oil and gas sector in October 2010 in New Delhi.

**Trade**

India’s imports from Angola registered considerable growth from US$ 4242.79 million (2009-2010) to US$ 7157 million (2012-13). However, in 2015-2016, it declined to US $ 2767 million owing to decline in oil prices. In 2017-18 it has increased to US$ 4324 million. On the other hand, India´s exports to Angola decreased from US$ 675 million (2010-2011) to US$ 155 million (2016-17) mainly due to general import curbs arising from the forex problem. In 2017-18 it increased to US$ 235 million.

India is the 3rd largest trading partner sharing about 10% of Angola´s external trade mainly on account of bulk crude oil purchase. India’s corporate sector looks at Angola as a land of opportunity. There have been visits by a number of private business delegations, including those organized by CII in November 2013 and FICCI in May 2014, to Angola.

In the non-oil sector, a number of projects are being undertaken by Indian companies in retail, hospitality, agriculture plastics, scrap metal, steel, trading, and other services. Investments by Indian businessmen in Angola are in the range of $1.5-2 billion in sectors such as plastics, metal, steel, garments and real estate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Import</td>
<td>5992</td>
<td>4617</td>
<td>2767</td>
<td>2596</td>
<td>4324</td>
<td>4027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Export</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>282.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6528</td>
<td>5169</td>
<td>2990</td>
<td>2751</td>
<td>4559</td>
<td>4559</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Development Partnership**

Government of India, has through Exim Bank, extended three Lines of Credit (LOC) of value aggregating **US$ 85 million** - **US$ 40 million** for financing Railway
Rehabilitation in Angola; **US$ 30 million** for setting up of an Industrial Park in Angola; and **US$ 15 million** for setting up of a Textile Project in Angola. The first GOI LOC of US$ 40 million for Railway Rehabilitation and implemented by RITES has been utilized while the LOC for Industrial Park was US $ 30 Million of which 26.91 has been used and the LOC for setting up a textile project was US $ 15 Million of which 12.44 has been used till May 2019.

Besides the above, Exim Bank has extended three commercial LOCs of value aggregating US$ 28 million. These LOCs have since been utilized by Angola. The last LOC extended by EXIM Bank to Angola was in June 2012 for US$ 23 million for supply of tractors, implements and related spares.


**ICCR/ITEC**

Under ITEC 30 slots were allocated in 2018-19 and 30 ICCR slots have been offered to Angola in 2019-20. Six officials from the Angolan government participated in the Special PCFD course in FSI from May 06-18, 2019.

**Indian Community & Investments:**

Indian community in Angola is around 2500 persons, mainly in business and professionals in offshore oil fields. Earlier, a couple of years before, the number was nearly 5,000 with most engaged in catering, supermarkets, trading and other services; in industries dealing in plastics, metal, steel, garments, etc; Angola LNG project in Soyo Province and a cement plant in Sumbe, constructed by ETA Star Group. There are a large number of people of Indian-origin in Angola holding passports of different nationalities. They are estimated to be about 4000, most of them engaged in trading and construction business. Investments by Indian businessmen in Angola are basically discouraged by factors such as language barrier, distance, typical business ethics, and complicated procedures pertaining to business visas and issue of Work Permits. Of late, due to the declining foreign exchange reserves, the local authorities have imposed restrictions on the repatriation of dollars/foreign currency which has become another constraining factor.

*****

Useful resources
Mission’s website: https://www.indembangola.gov.in/
Twitter: @IndiainAngola
Facebook: Embassyofindialuanda Angola

September 25, 2019