India-Angola Relations

India and Angola have traditionally enjoyed friendly and cooperative relations dating back to pre-independence era of Angola. Bilateral relations have substantially grown since Angola’s independence in 1975. With the discovery of oil, Angola has become a major source of energy, for India. India is also keen on importing LNG from Angola, once it is ready to export LNG to other countries. This would further enhance cooperation in energy sector. Angola is the 4th largest producer of diamonds in the world while 90% of world’s rough diamonds are processed, cut and polished in India. Apart from cooperation in oil, gas and diamond sector, India is interested in participating in national reconstruction and infrastructure programmes in Angola, making it a leading example of South-South cooperation.

Political Relations

Late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi visited Angola in May 1986 and Mr. José Eduardo dos Santos, President of Angola since 1979, visited India in April 1987. Further, on July 10, 2009, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh met with President Jose Eduardo dos Santos on the sidelines of the G-8 meeting at L’Aquila, Italy. Other important visits from India to Angola were those of: Shri Eduardo Faleiro, then Minister of State for External Affairs in October 2006; Shri Anand Sharma, then Minister of State for External Affairs from in June 2007; Shri Jairam Ramesh, then Minister of State for Commerce in March 2008; and Shri Murli Deora, then Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas in January 2010.

A number of public and private sector business delegations, including those from Oil PSUs, GAIL, MMTC, State Bank of India, FICCI, Gems & Jewellery Export Promotion Council delegation, Reliance Industry Limited, HPCL Mumbai and Mittal Investments have visited Angola in the recent years resulting in a steady growth of bilateral economic and commercial relations. Recently, a delegation from the Gems & Jewellery Export Promotion Council visited Angola in June 2013 to take part in the Centenary Diamond Conference, a celebration of the first discovery of diamonds in Angola 100 years back.

Notable visits from Angola to India include those of: (i) Minister for External Relations Mr. Joao Bernardo de Miranda (May 2006); (ii) Dr. Manuel Calado, President of State-owned diamond company ENDIAMA (October 2006 and April 2007); (iii) Mr. Aguinaldo Jaime, Assistant Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister of Angola; (iv) Mr. Paulo T. Jorge, Secretary, Political Bureau of International Relations of the ruling MPLA Party; (v) Mr. Joaquim Duarte da Costa David, Minister of Industry; (vi) Mr. Gilberto Buta Lutukuta, the then Minister of Agriculture; (vii) Vice Minister for Health (September 2001 and December 2007); (viii) Minister for Planning and Chairman of the SADC Council of Ministers (July 2003), (ix) Mr. Abrahao Pio Dos Santos Gourgel, Vice Minister of Industry (August 2005); (x) Mr. Jose Maria
Botelho De Vasconcelos, Minister for Petroleum (October 2010); (xi) Delegation from Ministry of IT and Telecoms (December 2010); and (xii) Mr. Georges R Chikoti, Minister of External Relations to attend India-LDC Ministerial Conference in New Delhi (February 2011).

A Protocol on Foreign Office consultations has been signed between the Ministry of External Affairs and its Angolan counterpart. The two sides have also agreed, in principle, to sign Agreements for the Promotion and Protection of Investments and Creation of Joint Commission for Cultural, Technical, Scientific & Economic Cooperation. The Angolan state-owned oil company SONANGOL and India’s Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in January 2010 in which the two entities envisage bilateral cooperation in Angola, India and third countries. A MoU between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India, and the Ministry of Petroleum, Government of Angola, was signed in New Delhi on October 2010.

**Economic and Commercial Relations**

Bilateral trade, which was only US$ 1286.184 million during 2007-08 reached US$ 8731.91 million in 2012-13. In fact, India has become the 2nd largest trading partner of Angola after China, sharing about 10.6% of Angola’s external trade. Angola remained the 2nd largest source of crude oil for India, after Nigeria, in the Sub-Saharan Africa. GAIL and other Indian companies have shown interest in imports of LNG from Angola. The principal items of Indian exports are tractors and transport vehicles, agricultural machinery and implements, food and meat products, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics, Tea, Rice (Basmati), Spirits & Beverages, finished leather; paper/wood products etc.

Government of India has extended separate Lines of Credit to Angola which have been utilized in sectors such as Railway Rehabilitation Project, supply of agricultural equipment, and Indian tractors. Two projects, i.e. construction of an Industrial Park and a Cotton Ginning and Spinning Plant are under implementation by the relevant Angolan authorities. Further, in June 2012, EXIM Bank of India extended a fresh Line of Credit to the Government of Angola for supply of tractors, implements and related spares. As a goodwill gesture, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India gifted 5 ambulances manufactured by M/s Mahindra & Mahindra to the Government of Angola in August 2006.

**Education & Cultural Relations**

India offers short-term training courses to Angolan officials under the ITEC programme and also scholarships to students for Under-graduate and Post-graduate studies in Indian Universities. Angolan side is showing increasing interest in ITEC
and scholarship programmes and the number of Angolan students for English language course, Basic Computer Skills, Maritime Engineering and other technical courses is gradually growing.

**Indian Community**

Till about three years ago, Indian community in Angola was limited and comprised only 500 persons, mainly in business and professionals at offshore oil fields. Now, the number has grown to nearly 6,000. About 1,500 Indians are working in a single project of Angola–LNG with M/S Bechtel in Soyo (Zaire province) and another 1,200 in the construction of a Cement Plant in Sumbe (Kwanza Sul province). Some of the smaller Indian companies engaged in plastics, metal, steel, garments, restaurants, catering, supermarkets and trading have recruited Indians.

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July 2013