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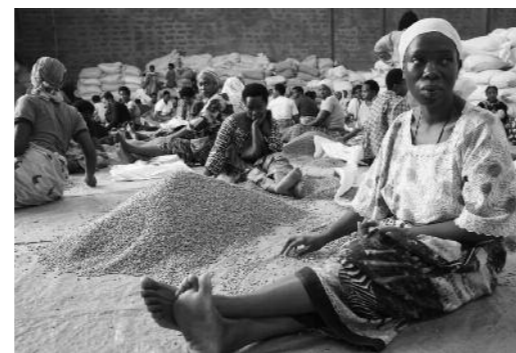
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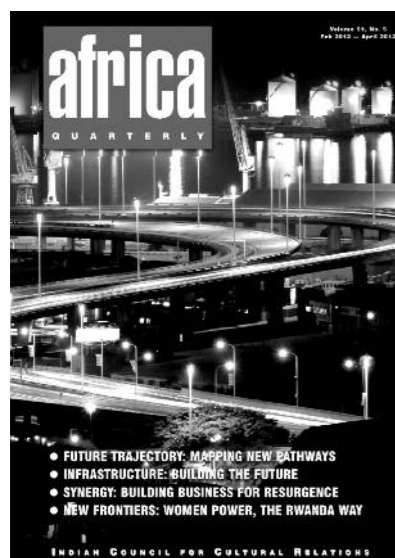
Beyond summits: New horizons, new hopes

Amid the global recession and the Eurozone despair, India and Africa stand out as the twin beacons of hope and continue to be growth poles of the world economy, underlining the resilience and dynamism of their economies and people. This summer also marks the fourth anniversary of the India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) process that has defied recessionary trends to chart out new frontiers of a mutually empowering partnership. This edition of *Africa Quarterly* takes a critical look at key pledges made at the two summits held in New Delhi (2008) and Addis Ababa (2011) and appraises their delivery and implementation. While the achievements of the IAFS-I and IAFS-II are laudable and maps out the possibilities of leveraging diplomacy for development, the articles in this edition also look at the daunting challenges ahead and some of the gaps that need to be plugged to realise the full potential of the burgeoning India-Africa partnership.

Trade, training and technology transfer have remained the three sturdy pillars which underpin the edifice of the IAFS process. A close scrutiny of the 2008 New Delhi Declaration and the 2011 Addis Ababa Declaration reveal a clear focus on human resource development, capacity-building and institution-building as defining features of the India-Africa engagement. Building upon \$7.5 billion soft loans announced at the two summits, India has been providing \$1.75 billion for the last four years and will continue to do so till the 2014 summit when fresh funding pledges are expected to be made. Between the two summits, India had committed \$1.2 billion in grants to support capacity-building, which focuses primarily on setting up over 100 training institutes to upgrade the skills and managerial base of the African people in diverse fields, including agriculture, education, IT, trade and entrepreneurship. These institutes are no longer ideas on paper, but active consultations and feasibility studies have been undertaken to transform them into concrete projects on the ground.

In his article, Gurjit Singh, additional secretary in charge of East and South Africa, provides a detailed overview of key accomplishments of the IAFS process and maps the path ahead. "India has transformed its engagement with Africa into a modern functional one," he writes. "The broad principles of current engagement with Africa are consultation and response, mutual benefit, support to African democratisation and peace-keeping efforts, building capacities for human resource development and creating facilities for value addition to African products and natural resources." Singh is a little disappointed at the comparisons between the Africa engagement of India and China that is often touted in the Indian media and stresses that in African perception, there is no such competition as Africa sees adequate space for all its partners to play their distinct roles. Consultation and consensus-based decision-making are what set India's engagement apart from those of other countries. "In many African eyes, India is seen as an important partner not because it does as much or more or less than other partners of Africa, but because it engages in consultation with Africa to make decisions," says Singh.

Infrastructure development is, however, one area where Sanjukta Banerji Bhattacharya feels that



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The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), founded in 1950 to strengthen cultural ties and promote understanding between India and other countries, functions under the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. As part of its effort, the Council publishes, apart from books, six periodicals in five languages — English quarterlies (*Indian Horizons* and *Africa Quarterly*), Hindi Quarterly (*Gagananchal*), Arabic Quarterly (*Thaqafat-ul-Hind*), Spanish bi-annual (*Papeles de la India*) and French bi-annual (*Recontre Avec l'Inde*).

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India can do much more, given the fact that over the next 10 years, Africa's total infrastructure needs are estimated to be over \$250 billion. In her article, Bhattacharya says that while India's infrastructure development projects in Africa may not be as dramatic as those of China, India is slowly emerging as an important financier and partner. If there is timely implementation of the decisions taken at the forum summits, Africa's perception of India and its efficacy as an infrastructure development partner will improve. "It is only natural for developing countries to seek the best deal that they can get and today it is 'Advantage Africa' because of the number of players vying for Africa's resources and markets with all kinds of incentives," she writes.

Clearly, Afro-optimism is no longer a trendy cliché, but is increasingly reflected in the diversity of India's engagement with Africa and the resource-rich continent's growing global profile. This was more than visible at the eighth CII-EXIM Bank conclave in New Delhi (March 18-20) which was attended by 36 ministers from over 20 African countries. Around 200 projects worth \$30 billion were on the table. The ambition was soaring, with both sides setting a target of scaling up bilateral trade by \$90 billion by 2015.

The ongoing African resurgence was also in focus at the fourth BRICS summit in New Delhi, with the world's top emerging economies pledging themselves to spur the economic rejuvenation of the continent. "In BRICS, we have a place where we feel that Africa is being treated with respect. Our views are treated equally among the partners," said South African President Jacob Zuma.

There is perhaps no better way to celebrate Africa's limitless possibilities and its gift for subverting stereotypes than chronicling an inspirational story of Rwanda's women who have scripted a new narrative of human resilience and the sheer triumph of will against impossible odds. In her perceptive article, Shubhra Parmar celebrates what she calls a "unique example of empowered feminism" exemplified by the Rwandan women, which is also called "appreciable feminism" or "courageous feminism".

While statistics can often lie, they are sometimes revelatory and capture the essence of a society in transition: Rwanda has the highest percentage of women parliamentarians in the world. Around 70 percent of the country's population is female and 50 percent of all households are headed by women. "Rwanda has become a country of women now. Rwandan history has witnessed a drastic change in women's lives and shows the world how to have gender-balanced politics," writes Parmar. As Rwanda celebrates the golden jubilee of its independence, the nation's incremental turnaround from the dark days of genocide to a modern, vibrant economy reinforces the faith of diehard Afro-optimists like India that Africa's winning journey has just begun and there are many pleasant surprises on the way.

— Manish Chand



Prime Minister Manmohan Singh with leaders from African countries at the India-Africa Forum Summit in Addis Ababa in May 2011.

Mapping new pathways

Over the last few years, India has emerged as an important partner not because it does as much or more than other partners of Africa, but because it consults with African policy makers on key decisions, writes **Gurjit Singh**

The annual India-Africa Conclave brought together government and business interlocutors from India and Africa in March this year. In an unprecedented rush, nearly 1,000 delegates, including 34 ministers, participated in the event. Zimbabwe and the Central

African Republic (CAR) used the occasion to seek greater economic engagement with India.

The Zimbabwean delegation was led by the Vice President while the Prime Minister of CAR led its powerful delegation. Both the leaders, who were received by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh,

expressed their strong desire to enhance their engagement with India.

In February 2012, Minister of State for External Affairs Preneet Kaur led the first-ever delegation to Rwanda and Burundi. Both the countries see India as an important partner and the Indian delegation accompanying the Minister included 22 business people.

At the African Union Summit in January this year, there were a large number of African delegations which waited patiently to meet the Indian delegation. The message that is coming across from not only India's traditional Anglophone partners in Africa but even Francophone and Lusophone partners is that they see India as a reliable and open-hearted partner. This surge of engagement has been consolidated through the two India-Africa Forum Summits (IAFS) held in April 2008 in New Delhi and in May 2011 in Addis Ababa when Prime Minister Singh led the Indian delegation and also paid bilateral visits to Ethiopia and Tanzania.

The surge in African nations' desire to engage with India and their view of India as a dependable partner are often not matched in assessment at home where we are often seen as coming up last in a perceived competition with some of Africa's other partners. In African perception, there is no such competition as Africa sees adequate space for all its partners to play their distinct roles.

On the other hand, there is also a growing desire of Africa's traditional partners to closely engage with India because they are getting the message that India is succeeding in Africa in African perception. Thus, there is already an India-Japan dialogue on Africa and several other countries are asking for it as well. This indicates that India has positively engaged with Africa and this is the recognition of India as an important interlocutor in the world.

Following the heritage of goodwill and deep political relations, India has transformed its engagement with Africa into a modern, functional one. The broad principles of current engagement are consultation and response, mutual benefit, support to African democratisation and peace-keeping efforts, building capacities for human resource development and creating facilities for value addition to African products and natural resources. In this, India engages with Africa through India Inc., in which India's public and private sectors and a large number of ministries and their agencies are important partners. India has also followed a clear principle of leaving the pro-

jects to the African side to decide and working not only bilaterally but also increasing regionally and at continental level where capacity-building is concerned. India is one of the few countries to follow this three-tier model.

The main thrust of the decisions of the two India-Africa summits has been on capacity-building and infrastructure development. Keeping these principles in mind, about \$2.5 billion was committed as soft loans following the first summit and, for 2011-14, a further availability of \$5 billion of such loans has been announced. On an average, \$1.75 billion is being committed annually and for the current year the target has been met. Among the significant projects being covered under these loans are a new Ethiopian-Djiboutian railway which will support regional integration and is being undertaken at the request of the African Union (AU); hydro-power projects in Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC); transmission lines in Mozambique, Ethiopia and Kenya; and development of water resources and agriculture in Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania.

The evaluation of the implementation on these lines has now acquired speed since Indian procurement procedures had to be matched with African procurement practices and following the fresh set of guidelines in 2010, greater streamlining has emerged and competitive bidding has become a norm in their implementation. Most African countries today appreciate the ability of India to provide financing for their developmental requirements in which they are allowed to set their priorities.

Between the two summits, India had committed \$1.2 billion in grants to support capacity-building. Almost 100 new institutions will come up in African countries in the next three to five years. The choice of location of many of these, particularly the Pan-African institutions, has been left to the AU and in the case of some agriculture-related institutions, India is working regionally with the eight Regional Economic Communities (RECs) of Africa.

A large number of institutions are being established bilaterally as well and the principle being adopted to build a partnership is that the local governments will provide local facilities while India provides for institution establishment, development of a business plan, governance structure and Indian experts running the institutions jointly with African counterparts for a period of three years. Among the four institutions offered at the Pan-African level under IAFS-I, the Institute of Information Technology will be established in



Women from African countries learning how to integrate circuit boards for solar lights at the Barefoot College at Tilonia in Rajasthan.

Ghana, the Institute of Foreign Trade in Uganda, India-Africa Diamond Institute in Botswana and the Institute for Education Planning and Administration in Burundi.

The detailed project reports for all these institutions have been prepared, agreements to establish them have been signed with AU and implementation procedures are underway. Courses in some of these institutes are expected to start this year. The Pan-African Institutes under IAFS-2 decisions are (i) India-Africa Food Processing Cluster; (ii) India-Africa Integrated Textile Cluster; (iii) India-Africa Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting; (iv) India-Africa University for Life and Earth Sciences; (v) India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development and (vi) India-Africa Civil Aviation Academy. The AU is to decide the locations of these institutions, but for the Pan-African University at Ibadan, several meetings between India's lead agency the Department of Agriculture Research and Education, the AU and the Ibadan University have already taken place and a DPR is being developed.

The challenge in implementing this ambitious proposal is that it seeks partnership from the African countries. The host country is to appoint a nodal agency or ministry and allocate budget for undertaking the project. This is often a time-con-

suming effort but will pay dividends in the long term for the sustainability of the project as many donor-driven projects often languish when the donor programme is over.

For the Indian side this is certainly a process of learning and adjusting between a large number of new partners which the Ministry of External Affairs has acquired in the pursuit of its Africa policy. All these projects are funded from the Aid to Africa Budget and have to go through the normal procurement procedure prescribed for government procurement.

The traditional capacity-building support that India offered to Africa was through scholarships and the ITEC programme. The ITEC programme has acquired high brand value and about 1,100 training positions were made available for Africa in 2008. This has currently been increased to nearly 3,000 seats per annum. To augment this, nearly 500 training positions for special courses which are not covered by the ITEC programme and developed through joint action plan with Africa are also undertaken. So far about 1,100 people have benefited and 43 countries have participated in the last two years.

The traditional scholarships did not have a very high utilisation rate because they were largely held up in their host country processes while at the same time the number of self-financing students from Africa is increasing. We have tried to broaden the availability of these scholarships in African countries and from 250 in 2008 we now have 900 per annum through the Indian Council for Cultural

Relations (ICCR) and these scholarships now also include airfare like all other training programmes.

Given the high value attached to education in India, two special programmes have been launched through the IAFS processes. These are the Special Agricultural Scholarship scheme for Masters and Ph.D. programmes conducted by the DARE and the C.V. Raman Fellowship programme for post-doctoral research conducted by the Department of Science and Technology. As many as 324 scholarships and 254 students under both these programmes have already been in India for the last two years.

Thus, overall in the three-year period 2011-14, nearly 22,000 scholarships and training positions

already exists. Thus, empowerment is not only for the individual but for the communities also and goes up to the people-to-people exchange.

Experience-sharing programmes with a view to developing new ideas for future cooperation are also undertaken through workshops and conferences in the last year or so. A Ministerial Science and Technology Meeting for India and Africa took place in March. A workshop on traditional medicine took place in 2011.

Developing trade and investment is one of the foremost challenges and opportunities. The rapid growth of Indian investment into Africa and the lines of credit extended have made India a valuable economic partner of Africa. Trade, the smallest

have been undertaken. These include an invitation to young parliamentarians from Africa to visit India. This is in recognition of Africa's march towards parliamentary democracy and India's engagement with young parliamentarians have been very well received. The second group of such Parliamentarians visited India in March 2012 and also attended the India-Africa Conclave.

Similarly, a group of 18 women artisans from various African countries participated in a workshop at Dastkari Haat Mela in Delhi Haat in New Delhi in January 2012. The support to basket weavers in Zimbabwe and later to other countries is being undertaken by the NID. Twenty-two Secretaries General or CEOs of African Chambers

print and audio-visual media. Recognising that academic linkages have not kept pace with the India-Africa relationship, plans have been prepared to have nine symposia in India on Africa. These are administered by the Indian Council of World Affairs. Two such symposia have already been held in Addis Ababa and Lagos and two others are planned for Lusaka and Maputo in the near future.

Engagement of civil societies and non-governmental sources is an important aspect of the people-to-people relationship which has been the hallmark of India's engagement with Africa.

In many African eyes, India is seen as an important partner not because it does as much or more than other partners of Africa but because it engages in consultation with Africa to make decisions. While there is some cause of worry on the Indian side that many programmes do

ALMOST 100 NEW INSTITUTIONS WILL COME UP IN AFRICAN NATIONS

.. IN THE NEXT THREE TO FIVE YEARS.

are made available to African students in India. The Tele-education component of the Pan-African e-network Project Regional Centre for Tele-education will on the expiry of its five-year period be converted into the India-Africa Virtual University, work on which is being undertaken by the Ministries of External Affairs and Human Resource Development and the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU).

The third aspect which has been introduced for training programmes is that of undertaking these in Africa itself. The CSOs have successfully undertaken this in some countries in the last three years. Barefoot College, SEWA, The Energy Research Institute (TERI), National Institute of Design (NID), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce (FICCI) are also MEA partners in capacity-building in Africa. A variety of these programmes will be seen implemented in the next three years as MEA has already signed agreements with the Barefoot College, NID and SEWA.

These training programmes are going to be meshed with experience-sharing programmes and it is not only Indian partners going to Africa but related African people coming to India in diversified sectors like at DSIDS and women representatives who come to Delhi Haat or basket weavers who will come to NID. The Barefoot Women Solar Engineers Vocational Training programmes supported by ITEC has been extremely successful and the effort is to establish training centres in African countries where a critical mass of trained women

part of the trio, is also growing and is approximately \$50 billion per annum.

In order to promote trade and investment, India had offered the WTO-compliant Duty Free Preference Scheme to LDCs, 34 of which are in Africa. Nineteen have accepted it so far and several others have made important leaps in their exports to India by accessing those commodities or products for which there is a demand in India. Such efforts break out from the traditional export pattern of African countries and encourage access to the India market. Similarly, the entrepreneurial skills and equity investment of companies not only in the development of natural resources but also in manufacturing and services have been noticed as a surge of Indian investment into Africa takes root.

In recognition of this, India held the First India-Africa Trade Ministerial Conference at the time of IAFS-2 at Addis Ababa and a second meeting was held in 2012 in New Delhi.

The proposal approved at the second summit to have a private sector-led India-Africa Business Council has also come to fruition and the first meeting of IABC was held in March 2012 along with the Trade Ministerial Meeting. The IABC was co-chaired by Sunil Bharti Mittal, CEO of Airtel, and by Alhanji Aliko Dangote, GCON, CEO, Dangote Group, Nigeria. This effort is to institutionally engage the private sector from both sides to open up more avenues of cooperation. The IABC is the all-African version of the successful India-South Africa CEOs format which is already in existence.

Several other experience-sharing initiatives

of Commerce also visited in March 2012 for an experience-sharing programme and have also participated in the India-Africa Conclave. Similarly, in order to encourage media and academic relations, regular invitations to journalists from Africa to visit India have been sent and care is taken to include non-Anglophone partners as well. One such group had visited India at the time of the India-Africa Conclave in March 2012. The Annual Editors Conference is also implemented and the last conference took place prior to the IAFS-2 in Addis Ababa in 2012. Training programmes for African journalists have already been undertaken for both

not take off in time or are slow to be implemented, from the African side the perception often is that they are preparing the partnership by putting the elements into place, which takes time, and appreciate the patience of the Indian interlocutors, particularly as they feel that they are being given the space to make their own decisions. That, after all, is at the heart of the India-Africa engagement. ☺

An African woman showcasing her craftwork at the 25th Annual Dastkari Haat Mela at Delhi Haat in New Delhi.





Building the future

India should not only re-connect but also forge robust partnerships with African companies and engage them actively to build infrastructure, observes **Sanjukta Banerji Bhattacharya**

Any understanding of infrastructure development in a country must begin with what one perceives by the term 'infrastructure'. It's generally understood to mean physical and organisational structures that are necessary for running a society, an organisation or a country. In fact, it refers to the interconnected structural elements, including roads, telecommunications, schools, hospitals, water supply and waste management which facilitate production and distribution of goods and services and, thereby, enable a country's or a

region's development. In the context of present-day civilisational requirements, a country is often judged by its infrastructure development and maintenance and it is that which acts as one of the factors in attracting investment and driving growth.

According to a report of the U.S. National Research Council entitled 'Infrastructure for the 21st Century: Framework for a Research Agenda', infrastructure includes both specific functional modes like highways, roads, bridges, airports, mass transit, electric power generation and waste disposal and the "combined system these modal elements comprise".

It goes on to say that a "comprehension of infrastructure spans not only these public works facilities but also the operating procedures, management practices and development policies that interact together with societal demand and the physical world to facilitate the transport of people and goods, provision of water for drinking and a variety of other uses, safe disposal of society's

A country is often judged by its infrastructure development and maintenance and it is this criteria which acts as one of the factors in attracting investment and driving growth.

waste products, provision of energy where it is needed, and transmission of information within and between communities".¹

It is also necessary to differentiate between "hard" infrastructure and "soft" infrastructure for the purpose of this article. Hard infrastructure refers to the large physical structures needed for running a modern industrial country. Examples of hard infrastructure include roads, highways, railroads, airports, mass transit systems and pipelines, to name a few, which are actually capital assets that serve the function of conveying people, goods, water and energy resources across distances. Energy infrastructure includes electric grids, power generation plants, alternative energy plants, natural gas and petroleum pipelines.

Soft infrastructure, on the other hand, refers to those institutions that are required for the maintenance of the economic, health, educational and social standards of a country, for instance, financial institutions, healthcare, educational institutions, even governance and legal institutions and emergency services. Examples of soft infrastructure in India includes the EDUSAT, a satellite technology to provide education to the remotest areas; the Rural Health Mission which aims at having 24-hour functional hospitals in every block and the National Literacy Mission that was launched in 2005.²

Investment in infrastructure is part of the capital accumulation required for economic development and this may have an indirect impact on socio-economic welfare development as well, since it constructs the building blocks of a better standard of living through the provision of

tained growth is attainable in developing countries through the “right mix of ingredients”, pinpointing five such “ingredients”, one of which was impressive rates of public investment in infrastructure.⁴

Unless a country has the basic infrastructure, it is difficult for it to join international trade pathways and, moreover, investors will be reluctant to invest in a country from which it expects low returns. For instance, if Coca Cola were to invest in a country, it will not only study market demand but also road, rail and air links which will facilitate marketability.

Further, educational and other soft infrastructure are required to build human capacity to meet the needs of the marketplace. Emerging countries have all invested heavily in infrastructure, whether they are situated in East Asia, South Asia or Latin America.

In fact, many of these emerging states are now

OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS, AFRICA'S TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS ARE ESTIMATED TO BE OVER \$250 BILLION

schools, hospitals, potable water, electricity, transport services, etc. Although the causality of infrastructure and economic growth has been debated, expansion of roads, railways and electric grids as well as soft infrastructure has shown a marked growth in development, particularly in developing countries. In developed countries, the same may not be true since the returns from development of such infrastructure demonstrate much slower growth.

At one point of time, however, it should be remembered that infrastructure development like building of dams and highways was seen as a way of pulling the United States out of the Great Depression of 1929, while even earlier, infrastructure projects like building of the transcontinental railroad and the Panama Canal put America on the road to development.

Although infrastructure was not included in the United Nations Millennium Declaration (2000) or the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), subsequent U.N. reports have stated that most of the goals will not be reached if the infrastructure gaps are not bridged.³

The Commission on Growth and Development presented a report in 2008 which noted that sus-

engaged in infrastructure development in Africa, which they perceive as having immense potential for trade and investment partnerships. In fact, without infrastructure development, half the potential is lost.

It is therefore in their interest to develop both hard and soft infrastructure in Africa. In this paper, Africa's infrastructure needs will be analysed with the purpose of seeing how far India has been able to assist in giving a boost to infrastructure development.

India has long been providing African students with scholarships to study and build up expertise in India, thereby contributing to capacity-building, but, in recent years, both the government and the private sector have taken up specific projects to develop roads, railways and airports, apart from institutes to train Africans in soft and hard skills. It has also been giving financial help on an institutional basis so that not just individual countries but the continent as a whole or regions therein may benefit.

However, the needs for infrastructure in Africa are vast and more aid and projects will be needed in the coming years to modernise the continent and help it meet its development goals.

Africa's infrastructure needs

Several African countries reversed their negative growth rates of earlier years and registered GDP growth rates of over 5 percent in recent years, particularly in the years preceding the 2008-09 global financial crisis.

According to some analyses, infrastructure improvements contributed to over half of Africa's improved growth performance between 1990 and 2005 and have the potential to improve it further, particularly because of the growth of telecommunications technology.

Studies have noted returns to investment in infrastructure projects in telecommunications as averaging 30-40 percent, more than 40 percent for electricity generation and over 80 percent for roads, with returns being more for developing low-income countries than developed ones.⁵ In contrast, lack of infrastructure in some African countries reduced their growth potential.

According to Antonio Estache of the World Bank, the poorest countries need to spend 9 percent of their GDP on the operation, maintenance and expansion of their infrastructure if they are to reach MDGs.⁶ Over the next 10 years, Africa's total infrastructure needs are estimated to be over \$250 billion. Further, if Africa is to meet its MDG goals, it needs to achieve an annual GDP growth rate of 7 percent.

This implies annual new infrastructure and maintenance requirements of 9 percent of GDP as mentioned, which works out to \$40 billion between 2005 and 2015.⁷ Another study commissioned by the World Bank has estimated the cost of addressing Africa's infrastructure needs at about \$93 billion a year, which is about 15 percent of the region's GDP.⁸ One-third of this would be for operation and maintenance.

In most African countries, particularly the lower-income countries, infrastructure emerges as a major constraint in doing business, depressing firm productivity by about 40 percent.⁹ It is a major drawback to trade, both intra-continental and international.

According to a Standard Bank report, “Poor infrastructure elevates production costs, exacerbates economic distance and undermines business confidence. Therefore, better physical arteries and linkages are the critical precursor to more rapid, inclusive and sustainable economic growth across the continent.” The report adds that the general deficiency in physical infrastructure is the largest impediment to Africa's global integration and

“...Africa's industrialisation and diversification, social welfare and standards of living and trade and investment are grossly impinged by poor regional and international connectivity”.¹⁰

One of the most critical deficiencies is the continent's poor road and rail infrastructure, which makes costs of transportation of goods in Africa among the highest in the world. Early World Bank studies showed that a 10 percent drop in transport costs would result in a 25 percent increase in total African trade.

The Bank also concluded that only about 25 percent decline in Africa's share of world exports can be attributed to poor prices, while the rest is due to non-price factors like poor infrastructure and information services¹¹ among which a prominent one is poor transportation infrastructure. According to Foster and Briceno-Garmendia's findings in their study for the World Bank, Africa's infrastructure networks are increasingly falling behind those of other developing countries and are exacerbated by missing regional links. Further, Africa's “difficult economic geography” is a particular challenge for infrastructure development.

Africa's infrastructure services are twice as expensive as elsewhere, which reflects both “diseconomies” of scale in production and the lack of competition. The infrastructure challenge, however, varies from state to state, with fragile states facing the worst problems even though resource-rich states also lag behind.¹² If one takes the case of roads and railway lines, paved road density in low-income African countries stands at 34 km per 100 sq km of arable land as opposed to 134 for other low income countries.

Rail density stands at only 3.2 km per 1,000 sq km for all of Africa, which is far below the world average. In fact, the low density of both rail and road infrastructure impact on each other as the limited availability of rail puts further burdens on the already overburdened road networks.¹³ Moreover, long distances by road can increase the price of the product.

For instance, Rwandan coffee is transported over 1,500 km on roads of variable quality via Uganda to the port in Mombasa, Kenya, or alternately by road and rail to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Transport costs may represent up to 40 percent of total costs of Rwandan coffee exports, according to some estimates.¹⁴ High transport costs therefore reduce trade potential.

Sub-Saharan Africa's (SSA) infrastructure deficit is most pronounced in the power sector. According to the U.S. International Trade



Poor road and rail infrastructure makes costs of transportation of goods in Africa among the highest in the world. A 10 percent drop in transport costs would result in a 25 percent increase in African trade.

Commission (USITC), its electricity infrastructure is “the least developed, least accessible, least reliable, most costly to operate, and, on average, highest priced of any region in the world”.¹⁵ In 2007, Africa accounted for just 3 percent of the world’s installed base of power capacity, compared to 17 percent held by China, 4 percent by India alone and 7 percent by Latin America.¹⁶ Generation infrastructure installed in Sub-Saharan Africa had a total capacity of only 67 gigawatts (GW) of electricity in 2006.

South Africa dominated with 43 GW followed by Nigeria with six gigawatts. Twelve countries have less than one-tenth of one gigawatt, which is less than 100 MW (megawatts), while Ghana, Kenya, Cote d’Ivoire and Zambia have 1 to 2 GW capacities each.¹⁷ Africa, however, produces electricity-intensive products despite the poor power availability and services; for instance, non-ferrous and ferrous metals, coal, plant-based fibres

such as cotton, and sugar cane and beet.

If electricity infrastructure could be increased, Africa’s share of global trade in these products would increase considerably. There are also electricity-intensive products which do not figure much on Africa’s export list like manufactured mineral products, chemicals, wheat, paper and pulp, but with better power facilities, Africa could become a market leader because of its natural resource base. The ability of SSA countries to engage in downstream processing of basic commodities may be constrained by poor conditions in land and maritime transport infrastructure as well. SSA exports a significant amount of crude petroleum but relatively few refined petroleum products and even fewer chemicals-products that require complex production processes and adequate and reliable electricity supplies.¹⁸

Africa also needs to improve its ports and other maritime facilities if it is to compete internationally. Over 90 percent of its external trade is carried out through maritime transport. The continent accounts for 2 to 3 percent of global merchandise trade by value and only around 2 percent of worldwide maritime cargo originates in or is destined for a Sub-Saharan African port.

Despite its huge reliance on maritime transport, many ports lack adequate physical facilities to handle maritime trade volumes. Sub-Saharan Africa’s ports are small even when compared with those of other developing countries, with the largest being Durban in terms of volume of trade that passes through it, which is three times that of the next port, that is, Cape Town.¹⁹

It should be noted that both these are in South Africa. In future years, ports in Angola, Sudan and other countries, which have rich petroleum resources, will become even more important and therefore these need overhaul and reform. As a result of infrastructure issues, maritime freight costs are higher in African ports than elsewhere, thus reducing trade potential.

For landlocked countries like Mali and Rwanda, estimated freight costs as a ratio of import value is as high as 24 percent.²⁰

Infrastructure challenges differ markedly across country groups, with middle income countries like South Africa and Cape Verde having bet-

ter product quality and reliability, particularly for perishable items or products dependent on power generation. To give just one example: coffee, which is a major export product and has the potential to become an even bigger export product.

Poor infrastructure conditions in East Africa, however, often negatively affect coffee quality and lower producer returns. Poor road quality or lack of adequate road networks increases transportation time, which can negatively affect coffee bean quality. Expensive and unreliable electricity supply increases production costs and disrupts coffee washing, a value-added process that relies on water pumps to deliver clean water. Other challenges faced by East African coffee producers include the lack of credit, inexperienced management, and insufficient Internet access and communication technologies.²²

Moreover, transport time and costs add to the price of coffee. For instance, Rwandan coffee producers need an average of 42 days to export and this excludes maritime transport time, while

IN 2007, AFRICA HAD JUST 3 PERCENT OF WORLD’S INSTALLED BASE OF POWER CAPACITY, COMPARED TO 17 PERCENT HELD BY CHINA

ter infrastructure facilities than resource-rich countries with economies heavily reliant on petroleum or mineral revenues like Nigeria and Zambia, or fragile states emerging from conflict like Cote d’Ivoire and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) or the remaining low income countries that are neither fragile nor resource rich, for instance, Uganda.

The worst off are the fragile states — DRC, for example, needs to rehabilitate 50 percent of its infrastructure assets, much of which have degenerated due to war and conflict. Such countries will need to spend an average of 37 percent of their GDP in reconstructing and building an infrastructure platform, but because of the uncertainty on the political front, they are unable to attract the necessary investment.

Non-fragile low income states also need to spend about 23 percent of their GDP on basic infrastructure, but that is a difficult matter to envisage in practice.²¹

Poor infrastructure is a competitive disadvantage for Sub-Saharan Africa’s producers and exporters. These increase costs and can compro-

Colombian producers need only 14 days (excluding maritime transport time). As such, Rwandan producers face a 36 percent tariff equivalent compared to their Colombian counterparts.²³

Inadequate infrastructure therefore compromises the integration of Africa’s products into today’s merging markets. If one puts it into perspective, Africa’s share of world trade was 5 percent in 1980 whereas that of the BRIC countries (combined) was only 3.5 percent. Down the years, in 2010, the BRIC’s share had increased to over 15 percent, while that for Africa had declined to 3.2 percent. According to Freemantle and Stevens of Standard Bank, South Africa, “Divergence in infrastructure is critical to divergence in trade integration.

“Consider that the BRICs’ power consumption per capita is more than twice Africa’s, and their road density, measured in kms of road per 1,000 square km of land, is almost five times as high. Logistics costs, whether measured in nominal terms, time or other opportunity costs, are up to twice as high in Africa as in the BRICs.”²⁴

There is therefore an urgent need for infras-

structure building, rehabilitation, improvement and maintenance in Africa. This needs money. As noted earlier, an average of \$93 billion per annum is required for effective infrastructure development, according to World Bank estimates, and this may be a conservative calculation. According to McKinsey Global Institute, the figure may be closer to \$110 billion per annum.²⁵ According to the World Bank, the power sector needs at least \$26.7 billion as capital expenditure and another \$14.1 billion for operation and maintenance, ICT needs \$7 billion as capital expenditure and another \$2 billion for operation and maintenance, while the transport sector needs \$8.8 billion as capital expenditure and \$9.4 billion for operation and maintenance.²⁶

Existing expenditure on African infrastructure amounts to \$45 billion per annum, of which about \$30 billion is financed by the African taxpayer.²⁷ Looking at investment alone, it appears that official development assistance (ODA), private participation in infrastructure and non-OECD financiers together exceed domestically financed public investment.²⁸ The private sector is by far the largest source, at par with domestic public investment.

Much smaller, but still significant, capital flows are provided by ODA and, to a lesser extent, non-OECD financiers such as China, India, and the Arab states. The focus differs markedly in each case. Official development assistance makes an important contribution to water and transport, particularly in fragile states. Non-OECD finance is significant in energy and rail, especially in resource-rich countries. Private participation in infrastructure is heavily concentrated in ICT.²⁹

However, there is still a huge funding gap of about \$31 billion and this can be filled by additional funding or, alternatively, by introducing low-cost but sustainable technologies. Looking across sectors, about 60 percent of the funding gap relates to power and the rest relates to water and irrigation.

There is no significant funding gap for ICT or transport, but this is because funding has already come in for these sectors from both outside donors and lenders, and public and private financing. These figures, however, relate to Africa as a whole: many states that are fragile or are not resource-rich have not been able to attract much infrastructure finance even for ICT or transport facilities.

Nevertheless, despite investments, Africa as a whole, and particular countries therein, are in dire

need of infrastructure development funds. While the World Bank and the European Union have been pitching in, of especial interest are the new players in the field.

Realising the need for effective infrastructure in Africa for the pursuit of their own interests, China, Brazil and India are increasingly focussing their cooperation with Africa, African countries and African regions on the infrastructure sector. Eager to entrench themselves in the process of building Africa's commercial and social infrastructure with an eye to future mutual profits, partnership deals include some element of infrastructure development. China was a leader in this, allocating a total of almost \$16 billion to Sub-Saharan countries between 2003 and 2007, compared to only \$8.2 billion allocated by the World Bank. Between 2001 and 2007, China increased its infrastructure spending in Africa by 46 percent a year.

Its investments, however, are rather narrowly spread and have focussed on Nigeria, Ethiopia, Angola and Sudan, all these countries being of special interest to its oil imports or otherwise being of strategic importance. In future too, it is going to spend \$6 billion, \$13 billion and \$22 billion on the DRC, Ghana and Nigeria respectively³⁰, again these countries being the ones where it wishes to increase its footprint because of their petroleum resources.

It has recently built the new ultra-modern African Union (AU) building in Addis Ababa at a cost of \$200 million, the tallest building in the city — but this probably has a motive too since it will help in strengthening its relations with the AU. Further, China's investment in African infrastructure provides an outlet for excess Chinese capacity in the construction and engineering sectors and gives it scope to flex its global competitive advantage in construction.

Having dramatically enhanced its own infrastructure over the past 20 years, it is now expanding into other emerging areas, and this makes sense as its construction sector has been growing at the rate of 20 percent annually.³¹ However, not only are its interests in infrastructure development in Africa narrowly defined, its investment does not produce commensurate employment as they bring in Chinese labour.

India's Response

India's infrastructure development projects in Africa may not be as dramatic as those of China, but the country is slowly emerging as an important

financier. The advantages accruing from this are many, not the least of which is that Indian investment in African infrastructure development projects generate employment for the local African population.

Moreover, it is not merely targeted at countries from which it would like to get benefits like oil concessions, but the money is often channelled through proper institutions for utilisation where required. Therefore, they are not all bilateral. A third important factor is the involvement of the private sector, not only in public-private partnerships but also by themselves. India does not have the GDP of China, and critics have pointed out that its own infrastructure needs overhauling. Nevertheless, India is partnering Africa in infrastructure development in the true spirit of South-South cooperation.

A fourth characteristic that needs mention is that India has focussed on soft infrastructure for a long time and had built human capacity through

As such, priority had been accorded to infrastructure development and capacity-building, apart from health, food security, agriculture and technology cooperation. Elaborating on infrastructure development, she pointed out that India had decided to support the development of a new Ethiopia-Djibouti railway line at a cost of \$300 million and was further discussing the augmentation of capacities for the development of regional structures in railways with the AU. Moreover, building on the success of the Pan-African e-network, India was exploring the possibility of setting up an India-Africa Virtual University which would be provided with 10,000 scholarships for African students.³³

India operates at two levels in Africa: the government sector and private industry. Both have contributed to infrastructure development. At the governmental level, the World Bank estimates that India averaged \$500 million in infrastructure deals per year between 2003 and 2007, and this was prior to the India-Africa Forum Summits. At the

AN AVERAGE OF \$93 BILLION PER ANNUM IS REQUIRED FOR EFFECTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA

various scholarship programmes, but it is now moving into the arena of hard infrastructure as well, given Africa's needs for basic infrastructure.

The Second India-Africa Forum Summit (2011) emphasised the "common vision of a self-reliant and economically vibrant Africa and India", and mentioned among other things that "We also support African economic programmes within the context of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)".³²

What is significant here is that India realises the need for infrastructure development and capacity building in Africa and seeks to prioritise it. At a Joint Debate on NEPAD and Progress in Implementation and International Support (Agenda item 63 [a]) during the 66th session of the U.N. General Assembly, Preneet Kaur, India's Minister of State for External Affairs, noted that India's partnership with Africa was aligned with the priorities integral to the developmental goals of Africa and was built on the foundations of mutual equality and common benefit.

2011 summit, India pledged \$5 billion in lines of credit and \$700 million in grants for infrastructure development, particularly for setting up 100 training institutes across the continent.

These, of course, will enhance "soft" infrastructure: that is, improvement in managerial and technological capabilities. In fact, although India has aided hard infrastructure projects, its focus so far, as mentioned, has been on capacity development which may be termed as soft infrastructure, and this it has done for decades through its ITEC programmes. Unlike China, the private sector is a more important player in infrastructure development and the government often confines itself to opening doors, letting African countries work with the most efficient Indian companies they can attract.

India accommodates itself to the aid recipients' desires (not its own) and therefore advances funds to African regional banks or NEPAD. Lines of credit are provided, and African countries can themselves seek out suitable Indian private partners. In fact, an important institution like the African Finance Commission (AFC) is therefore planning to join hands with the Infrastructure Development

Finance Co (IDFC) to provide investment advice and even financing to Indian companies that seek to invest in infrastructure projects in Africa.³⁴

The AFC is a private sector investment bank and development finance institution partnered by Nigeria, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Guinea and Ghana. Its interest in Indian companies is mainly for the power and renewable energy sectors, which need much development and Indian companies have expertise in cost-effective solutions. It is also interested in attracting Indian companies in the transport sector, aviation and ports.

In the government sector, many of the India-financed projects are directed through the Exim Bank which extends lines of credit to African governments or regional or continental institutions, many of which are intended for infrastructure development.

In September 2010, Exim Bank's total operative lines of credit in Africa amounted to \$2.8 billion, half of which had a direct infrastructure focus.

of railway coaches and locomotives from India.³⁵

Zoellick visited India again in March 2012 and then too said that Indian Railways could partner the World Bank in an ambitious plan to develop transport infrastructure in Africa.³⁶ Apart from Indian Railways, RITES, another government sector concern, has left its footprint in Africa, building bridges, airports and rail infrastructure in various countries like Botswana and Malawi.³⁷ WAP-COS too has executed some of the most challenging infrastructure projects in Africa.³⁸

One of the biggest government sector projects is the Pan-African e-Network, visualised by then Indian President Abdul Kalam in 2004 and announced at the inaugural session of the Pan-African Parliament in Johannesburg. Since then much progress has been made in increasing connectivity throughout the African continent and in linking medical and educational institutions in India with counterparts in African states so that Africans can benefit from Indian expertise in these fields without incurring the cost of coming to India.

These countries are a part of the first phase of the project which is likely to expand to include the offices of the heads of state of 53 African countries. The second and third phases will see the addition of 18 more countries by the end of June.

The hospitals that will be connected are super-specialty hospitals in India: the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Escorts Heart Institute, Care Hospital (Hyderabad) and Narayana Hrudayalaya (Bangalore) to mention only four of the 12 selected so far.

The seven educational institutes that will be connected to African counterparts are again among the best that India has to offer: Indian Institute of Science (Bangalore), Amity University, University of Madras, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), University of Delhi, the Indian Institute of Technology (Kanpur) and the Birla Institute of Technology and Science.

A pilot project is already providing education to African students: 34 Ethiopian students will

receive a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from IGNOU in June 2012 without ever having entered India. According to Pranab Mukherjee, India has gifted a dedicated satellite for e-connectivity in sub-Saharan Africa to bridge the digital gap.⁴⁰

The project is expected to cost around \$1 billion, but it will effectively boost Africa's information and communications technology sector and connect all African countries to a satellite and fibre-optic network. India is a market leader in this field and sells innovative technology to Western developed states as well. India's indigenous technology will help develop Africa's ICT infrastructure, which faces several challenges, but which is absolutely essential in modern times for information sharing,

Realising the need for effective infrastructure in Africa for the pursuit of their own interests, China, Brazil and India are increasingly focusing their cooperation with Africa on the infrastructure sector.

THE WORLD BANK ESTIMATES THAT INDIA AVERAGED \$500 MN IN INFRASTRUCTURE DEALS PER YEAR BETWEEN 2003 AND 2007

Although many of these credit lines were in the range of \$10 million to \$50 million, India made sizeable commitments to Sudan and the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development. More commitments were made during the 2011 summit as has been noted, one of them being the Ethiopia-Djibouti rail link.

India has attempted to improve certain sectors in Africa, particularly the power and ICT sectors, but railways may soon become important. Actually, India has a lot of expertise in railways, having built thousands of miles of rail connectivity linking the remotest villages of India to urban centres and vice versa. In 2009, World Bank president Robert Zoellick had specifically sought the partnership of Indian Railways in project implementation throughout the developing world, with a focus on Africa.

Indian Railways is already in Africa: it has supplied locomotives to Mozambique, Tanzania, Mali and Senegal and coaches to Angola. Two operative lines of credit (\$27.7 million to Mali and Senegal and \$10.25 million to Benin) are for the purchase

The current total cost of the project is \$130 million, which is a grant from the government of India. The Ministry of External Affairs is responsible for the project while Telecommunication Consultants India Limited (TCIL), which is a government sector undertaking, is the implementing agency. Forty-seven countries have signed up with TCIL and the project has been fully implemented in 12 countries since February 2009, and these include such far apart states as Benin, Rwanda, Uganda, Mauritius and Gabon. In many countries, including low income ones like Somalia and Cote d'Ivoire, learning centres, patient-end hospitals and VVIP nodes are ready.³⁹

In February 2012, the e-network project linking leading universities and hospitals in India with their counterparts in 11 African countries was inaugurated by External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee via satellite and a video conference call with his counterparts. These countries are varied: Ethiopia, Senegal, Gabon, The Gambia, Mauritius, Nigeria, Rwanda, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Seychelles and Benin.



information gathering, selling and buying, and even for governance and disaster management, quite apart from such fields as medical consultancy and education.

So far as individual countries are concerned, India's Exim Bank has operative lines of credit in many countries earmarked for specific infrastructure projects. To name a few: Angola was given \$40 million for railway rehabilitation; Ghana got \$27 million for rural electrification and agriculture; Sudan received \$350 million for setting up the 4x125 MW Kosti Combined Cycle power plant, \$42 million for the SINGA-GEDARIF transmission and sub-station project, and another \$52 million for the extension of the SINGA-GEDARIF transmission line to Galabat; Ethiopia received \$65 million for energy transmission and distribution; Chad got \$50 million for various projects like cotton yarn plant, a steel billet plant, etc.; Mali received \$30 million for electricity transmission and distribution from Cote d'Ivoire to Mali; Zambia was given \$50 million for the Itezhi-Tezhi hydro-power project; and the DRC received \$42 million for the Kakobola hydroelectric power project — and this is not the entire list.⁴¹

These projects are as of September 2010, and subsequently more have been pledged. In fact, because of the success in implementing these projects in a manner that suits Africa's needs, India is being invited by African countries to participate in some of their projects. For instance, Kenya has invited India to participate in one of the largest infrastructure development projects in Africa — the Lamu Port and Southern Sudan-Ethiopia Transport Corridor (LAPSSET).

The plan is to build a railway line, a resort, a port, an oil pipeline and a highway. Kenyan Trade Minister Chiran Ali Mwakwere, speaking at the 8th India-Africa Project Partnership Summit, said: "With excellent infrastructure development capacities shown by Indian companies they can compete for the project... India has a proven capability in developing these infrastructures".⁴²

Apart from the government sector, Indian private firms have been involved in many of these projects following the path opened by the Indian government through lines of credit and other diplomatic tools. Private sector companies have led the drive through investment in infrastructure even though the primary motive of private capital is profit.

Many of the private firms have invested in soft infrastructure like automobile, engineering, chemicals, banking, ICT, telecom, pharmaceuticals and

drugs, healthcare, education and services. Many of the corporate firms have stated policies of long-term commitment and sustainability and, therefore, to back up their policy they have initiated corporate social responsibility programmes.

For instance, Jain Irrigation and Kirloskar Brothers have gone beyond merely commissioning agricultural projects to establishing better water management systems for the benefit of millions of Africans. Bharti Airtel, which recently acquired 15 telecom operations in SSA for \$10.7 billion, has adopted 18 schools in different African countries where it has a presence.⁴³

Apart from corporate responsibility, these companies will help to jump-start Africa's growth through their investment in telecom, automobile development and other sectors. India was a country with few telephone connections compared to developed countries till the 1990s and the degree of isolation of various pockets within the country was very high. The private companies changed all this and now India has one of the largest mobile connectivity, particularly among emerging nations. Apart from phone-to-phone connectivity, mobiles are now used for sending messages on governance, disaster alerts, etc. Newer versions in fact connect villagers to the rest of the world through the Internet, social media and other facilities that are now available on mobile phones.

Some of the big Indian corporate firms are now important players in Africa and have bagged important infrastructure development contracts. For example, Larsen & Toubro (L&T), one of India's largest construction firms, has made its presence felt in Tanzania, Mozambique, Sudan, Mauritius, Kenya and South Africa.

In Tanzania it secured two World Bank contracts worth \$100 million involving collecting gas from offshore and onshore wells, processing it and piping it to Dar es Salam; in Kenya, it is building a pure soda ash plant for the Magadi Soda Company; in other states it is involved in various projects ranging from building and managing roads and highways to constructing buildings to building power sub-stations and transmission lines.

Another company, Patel Construction, has got contracts from countries and institutions like the World Bank. In Eritrea, it has a project from the local government for a water supply project and in Mauritius it won a \$1 billion project to develop a new integrated township in Port Louis.

Yet another company, Subhash Projects, has water-related projects in South Africa, Swaziland and Tanzania amounting to several millions.⁴⁴

Private sector companies are known for their efficiency, product quality and time management, given the kind of competitive world that we now inhabit.

One of the biggest Indian companies in Africa is the Tata group. Set up in 1994, Tata Africa Holdings operates in 12 African countries stretching from Ghana to Zimbabwe. Apart from doing business, it has several self-undertaken projects that will help develop soft infrastructure. It has an adult literacy project in partnership with Tata Consultancy Services and the WBD Trust; it has a skills development programme in partnership with Kgabane (South Africa) which even brought Africans to train in jewellery making in the Titan plant at Bangalore and ceramic decoration at the Tata plant in Kochi; and Tata Steel KZN has undertaken community development programmes, including training local people for its steel plant.⁴⁵ While Tata's business enterprises gave the company a revenue of \$600 million in 2010-11⁴⁶, it is also developing infrastructure that will benefit Africa — for instance, a Civil Aviation Academy, a Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting and an Institute for Agricultural and Rural Development.

own infrastructure needs inputs of trillions of dollars to make India comparable to developed states. What is important is that despite its own needs, it has been giving billions of dollars to Africa for its development.

Concluding remarks

Despite the progress made, there is much more that India can do for infrastructure development in Africa. One of the basic questions that has to be asked — and answered — is whether the decisions taken at the two forum summits are being properly implemented. Another question is regarding Africa's perception of India, i.e., whether it looks at India in isolation or whether it seeks its own advantages within the context of a rapidly-changing global scenario.

In fact, the second question is tied up with the first: if there is timely implementation of the decisions taken at the Forum Summits, Africa's perception of India and its efficacy as an infrastructure development partner will improve. It is only natural for developing countries to seek the best deal that they can get, and today it is 'Advantage Africa' because of the number of players vying for

INDIA HAS GIFTED A DEDICATED SATELLITE FOR E-CONNECTIVITY IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA TO BRIDGE THE DIGITAL GAP IN THE REGION

Yet other companies like NIIT are not only making profits in Africa because of the huge demand for their services but are helping build capacity. NIIT has set up centres in six African countries and is expanding fast because of the demand.

Therefore, India is doing its bit to help in infrastructure development in Africa. Although its presence is nowhere near that of China, it has advantages of goodwill generated through its inclusive practices, not the least of which is the generation of local employment that its projects involve.

Moreover, it has long been in the field of capacity-building and now, even some of the private sector companies are entering this field. There is also a sense of corporate social responsibility among the large conglomerates which transliterates into skill and soft infrastructure building. The Indian government does not have the kind of foreign exchange reserves that China has and, further, its

the continent's resources and market with all kinds of incentives. Therefore, it is important for India to build on the advantages it has in partnering Africa, not the least of which is its vibrant private sector. Moreover, the Indian government and the private sector should also take advantage of the large Indian diaspora in Africa.

Many are in business themselves and have local domain knowledge which can help in risk calculation and the assessment of market demand and accessibility. India should go beyond its Pravasi Bharatiya Divas programmes, even though they are important in re-connecting with the almost "lost" diaspora who left India generations back, to actual partnering with diasporic firms and engaging them in its projects. Most important, India should leverage its myriad advantages to engage with African countries, gauge their requirements and deliver on time.🌐

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Women power, the Rwanda way

Rwandan women have achieved the practical utility, or worth of the word 'feminism' in the real sense, by preparing the country for the future generation, writes **Shubhra Parmar**

Rwandan women today represent a unique example of empowered feminism, which has its own significance in their context. Rwandan history has witnessed a drastic change in women's life and shows the world how to have gender-balanced politics.

Rwandan women are also known for their own kind of feminism, called Appreciable Feminism or Courageous Feminism. The world will also remember them for reversing the order of patriarchal norms. Rwandan feminism remains a positive movement, which every woman is happy to be identified with. It signals a commitment to struggle for women's liberation from all forms of oppression — internal, external, psychological, emotional, socio-economic, political and philosophical.

A woman can be judged by her own individuality in a society. Rwandan women today are known for qualities like balance, connectedness, reciprocity and compromise. Rwandan feminism sees power as negotiable and negotiated; it assesses power not in an absolute but in relative terms, that is, in terms of power-sharing, negotiation and inclusiveness. The ethnically fragmented society is once again nourished by Rwandan women. They have put their heart and soul into creating a lively society in Rwanda. They have nurtured life and brought happiness out of dead souls, wounded bodies and horrified and scared children.

Rwandan women have not forgotten the

tragedies of genocide, but with their determination, self-sacrifice and connectedness, they have been able to restructure and rejuvenate society through 18 years of struggle. The 1994 genocide had left behind a country with a 70 percent female population. Rwanda's Parliament today has more women's representation than in any other country.

Rwanda is now all about self-belief, self-sacrifice, long-lasting commitments, political activism, and self-identity. Contemporary Rwandan women are a creation of historical and current forces that are simultaneously internally generated and externally induced — from indigenous socio-cultural structures and foreign influences. They are well connected with umbrella organisations. Each woman has become part of a unit or an organisation.

The government of Rwanda is supporting women in the context of gender equality through the introduction of new laws and policies, providing equal opportunities, especially for economic advancement, in the fields of health, private sector banking and academics. Special focus has been given on strengthening and encouraging women leaders. Laws and policies have to be formulated on the basis of affirmative action for Rwandan women. This can only be done when men give priority to gender equality through an attitudinal change and start appreciating and accepting the

enormous potential as development partners of the country's women.

Socio-cultural transformation

In pre-genocide Rwanda, women's life was centred on being a domestic caretaker of the family, typically as mother and wife. Women had no decision-making authority. In 1996, after the genocide, 34 percent of Rwandan homes were headed by women and, as mentioned earlier, they formed approximately 70 percent of the population.¹ Women were not only involved in decision-making with husbands but also controlled economic decisions within the family. Changes in gender norms have altered the perception not only within the house but also within society. The position of Rwandan women has been getting strengthened due to these rapid changes. By 2000, it was noted that 57 percent of the total female population produced around 70 percent of the agricultural output.² Today, women entrepreneurs are a significant force in

Rwanda's private sector, heading 42 percent of enterprises. They represent 58 percent of enterprises in the informal sector, which accounts for 30 percent of GDP.

Political Transformation

Before 1994, Rwandan women were under-represented in politics and could not participate in political and administrative debates. A woman couldn't make any decisions for herself. She faced many taboos related to the culture and tradition of Rwanda; she was not supposed to be involved in cattle milking or cutting firewood; and she was not a decision-making authority regarding farm house management and other economic activities. Suddenly, after the genocide, the demographic change in Rwanda meant a huge 'U' turn for

It was observed in 2000 that 57 percent of total female population produced around 70 percent of agricultural output.



women. They came forward for reconstruction out of necessity. After the genocide, women started taking initiatives and participating in different political activities.

The new constitution guarantees a minimum of 30 percent of parliamentary seats and other leadership positions to women. Today, as mentioned, Rwanda has the highest number of women parliamentarians in the world, with women constituting nearly 50 percent in the Chamber of Deputies and about 35 percent in the Senate. The Rwandan cabinet has 34 percent women ministers.³

This is supported by the Rwanda Women Parliamentary Forum. The Rwandan constitution of June 2003 provides for higher levels of representation to previously marginalised groups such as women, youth and the disabled. This constitutional framework provides quotas for women in government, which have resulted in an unprecedented number of women being elected or appointed to decision-making positions at all levels. The constitution underpins the principles of gender equality and elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and provides a

patriarchal society structure, discriminatory laws, poverty, lack of respect for women and misunderstanding of gender roles creating an environment of mistrust within the family. After the genocide, the government made a special provision for women to be part of the political structure and the public sector, despite the fact that the constitution is not explicit in regard to any affirmative action or quotas favouring women in Rwanda. The government of Rwanda put in place various institutional mechanisms aimed at promoting gender equality. The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF) is responsible for promoting gender equality and equity, children's rights and family promotion. MIGEPROF developed a National Gender Policy to provide the orientation on how to mainstream gender in priority areas.

Among the areas covered are the 12 identified in the Beijing Platform for Action. Based on the June 2003 constitution, the National Women Council (NWC) was given the mandate to mobilise women and to identify their needs and constraints that required to be taken into consideration in the



THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNANCE IN RWANDA HAS YIELDED TREMENDOUS RESULTS

strong platform for gender mainstreaming in Rwandan legislation.

The participation of women at all levels of governance in Rwanda has yielded tremendous results and women are increasingly visible in the political arena. Following the 2008 parliamentary elections, representation of women in Parliament has increased from 48.8 percent to 56.25 percent, which shows the Rwandan government's commitment to promoting gender equality.⁴ Following elections held in the first quarter of 2006, the percentage of women currently in decision-making at the local government level (cells, sectors and districts) increased from 28.2 percent in 2003 to 40.2 percent in 2005.⁵

Women, however, still face some political problems. Discriminatory legal provisions may lead to confrontation between men and women in the light of the perception of the gender-bias in Rwandan society. The major factors against women empowerment and gender equality are gender-based violence, a high illiteracy rate, conservative

development process. The Beijing Secretariat monitors the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. The secretariat serves under the National Coordinating Committee headed by the minister in the Prime Minister's Office in charge of gender and family promotion.

The Forum for Rwandan Women Parliamentarians is another mechanism established under the initiative of women parliamentarians. Its mission is to promote gender equality and contribute towards building capacity for women in decision-making. It is mostly involved in laws and the budget. A Gender Observatory mechanism to monitor the implementation of gender-sensitive indicators and give recommendations for gender mainstreaming to various bodies is provided in the constitution under Article 185.⁶

The Gender Observatory has the mandate to hold accountable, with respect to gender issues, the various interveners in both the public and private sectors, civil society and the donor community. Human rights organisations are also part of

the mechanisms that the Rwanda government is encouraging and a majority of them are grouped into two main umbrella associations: CLADHO and Pro-Femmes Twese Hamwe. CLADHO specialises in legal matters while Pro-Femmes Twese Hamwe deals with the promotion of women's rights in general. Pro-Femmes Twese Hamwe has played a very important advocacy role in ensuring that gender is mainstreamed in the constitution and in the legal reforms aimed at promoting gender equality.⁷ The law on inheritance, matrimonial regime, succession and liberalities is meant to promote women's access to and control over properties.

Women in Civil Society

Civil society organisations came into existence out of the social and economic needs of Rwandan women. Driven by economic necessity, women were the primary force behind the development of Rwandan civil society organisations. Being associated with these organisations, Rwandan women's conglomerates themselves

Basket-weaving is an old tradition and also the biggest source of economic stability for Rwandan women.

plan, identify, implement and monitor different activities related to development, especially at the regional level. The primary activities of women's groups after the genocide were providing shelter, assistance to the widows and orphaned children, supporting income-generation activities and providing health facilities and psychotherapy.

Various political tasks by these groups are focussed on providing civic training and defending women's rights all across Rwanda. Different women's organisations working successfully at the regional level in Rwanda are: Imbutu Foundation (for health, education, and economic empowerment), Organisation of African First Ladies against HIV/AIDS (OAFLA), Pro-Femmes Twese Hamwe (partnership with different organisations), Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), Women For Women

International, Haguruka, the Association for Women's Right in Development (AWID), Tubahumurize (to empower socially, economically marginalised women in Rwanda), the Association of Genocide Widows Agahozo (AVEGA) and the Pyramid Project (for gender equality). National-level projects include The Great Lake Advocacy Group (GLAG) that comprises CARE Burundi, CARE DRC, CARE Rwanda and CARE Uganda (for gender conflict issues).

Of late, the civil society organisations have increased contact with grassroots organisations and communities. The civil society organisations are framing new policies for better coordination in solving the problems of rural women. Their capacity-building activities, facilitated through training workshops, address a wide range of needs, like project management cycles, financial management, reporting, leadership, networking, micro-credit schemes, gender concerns, environmental protection, agricultural techniques and farming systems, revenue-generating activities, as well as

bands. Men owned land and decided which crops to grow; they had access to information about training or any opportunities for farmers, while women did not have such access.

The male-dominated farming tradition has been transformed through necessity. Rwandan women generally started growing beans, bananas, local greens, sweet potato, cassava and trees for their survival. Beans are a great source of proteins. A Rwandan grows an average of 60 kgs of beans a year, the highest in the world.

A training process called the Farmer of the Future Initiative (FOFI) was initiated in the primary school curriculum to empower young girls so that both male and female producers have equal access to seeds, tools, animals, small stock and training for sustainable agricultural growth in the future. Rwandan women are now considered as bean specialists. They took all the responsibility for the bean crop: seed selection, weeding, sowing and harvesting. The presence of women farmers in farming research centres as evaluators has

processing and marketing of local products.

Women's legal organisations are now at the forefront of ensuring justice to, and the legal empowerment of, women. They have also spearheaded law reform efforts and strategic policy-making that have transformed the landscape for women's rights nationally and regionally. These legal reforms covered laws on violence against women, sexual and reproductive health, citizenship and inheritance. Support of these organisations is an urgent priority and a vital investment to increase women's access to justice.

Economic Transformation

Rwanda's is a poor, rural-based economy. Ninety percent of the population is engaged in agriculture and some mineral and agro-processing activities. In pre-genocide Rwanda, women were bound by cultural barriers and were considered as second class citizens in the economic arena. They were bound by a commercial code which stated that women could not engage in commercial activities without the express authorisation of their hus-

brought a revolutionary change in society.

The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) works with strong support of the government to transform the gendered agricultural system. AGRA also provides well-targeted subsidies, access to good seeds, fertilisers and credit schemes for Rwandan women. Women are now self-aware and know the self-sustainable way of growing crops, especially beans, for their family, creating the concept of a kitchen garden in every house, helping in the nutrition of pregnant women. Nowadays, female farmers have equal access to seeds, tools, animals, small stock and productivity inputs which are essential for equitable and sustainable agricultural growth.

More than 60 percent of students in Rwanda are seeking agricultural training in gardening instead of going to secondary school or university.⁸ By passing on these farmers' skills to the younger generation, Rwandan women are securing their children's future and self-sufficiency in food. In this we can see an eco-friendly, caring nature and their love for earth. Women have to be

trained in specific areas for the betterment of Rwandan farmers: data collection and analysis, land productivity, returns to labour, production, agro-processing, agricultural research, post-harvest processing and storage, rural credit and extension schemes, competitive marketing, distribution and storage system and farm information.⁹

Rwanda is a nation led by women. It has emerged as the top sub-Saharan African gender equity nation, ranking behind only Sweden and Finland in the world, according to Social Watch's Gender Equity Index.¹⁰ Rwandan women have now started thinking beyond digging, cooking and staying home; they are now entrepreneurs. They started doing their own informal businesses such as basket-weaving, purse-weaving and selling fruits and vegetables. Basket-weaving is an old tradition which is the biggest source of stability and development for Rwandan women. But they are still facing financial problems. The government expects that a drive to register an estimated 900,000 informal enterprises will both strengthen these businesses and improve tax revenues.¹¹

Women constitute 54 percent of Rwanda's population of nine million. Although there are no statistics available for women-owned businesses, the Rwandan government acknowledges that the majority of employees in both the formal and informal sectors are women. One of the key objectives of the Rwanda Development Board, the agency tasked with the registration process, is the sensitisation and mobilisation of women to invest in doing business. But registration does not automatically guarantee loans for women-owned businesses. Many women in rural areas complain they still face difficulties in accessing loans under the Women's Guarantee Fund.¹²

Women entrepreneurs are a significant force in Rwanda's private sector, heading 42 percent of enterprises. As mentioned earlier, they head 58 percent of enterprises in the informal sector, which accounts for 30 percent of GDP. The majority are engaged in the retail sector (82 percent), with the rest focussing on the services (16 to 17 percent) and manufacturing (1 to 2 percent) sectors. Women entrepreneurs are increasingly able to secure bank loans and purchase or inherit land.

An informal survey found that Rwandan women were less likely to register their business for tax purposes; 22.3 percent of businesses represented by women have declared their businesses compared to 27.6 percent of businesses represented by men. Data also indicates that women's share of business ownership decreases

as the degree of formalisation increases. While women own 58 percent of informal enterprises, they own only 40 percent of partially-formal enterprises. The World Bank's Doing Business Report 2011 named Rwanda the second-most reformed country in the world over a five-year period.

The Global Competitiveness Report also found Rwanda to be among the top three most competitive places to do business in Africa. According to Women, Business and the Law 2012 Report, labour force constituted 88 percent of the population. Not only has the economy grown by an average of 8.8 percent since 2005, but Rwanda's economy is also one of the top ten fastest-growing of the last decade, according to the IMF.

According to U.N. Women statistics, "women perform 66 percent of the world's work, produce 50 percent of the food, but earn 10 percent of the income and own one percent of the property".¹³ Globally, women represent 49.6 percent of the total population, but only 40.8 percent of the total workforce in the formal sector. In 2010, the Global Gender Gap Index reported that 96 percent of the gender gap in health and 93 percent of the gap in education have been eliminated. But the gender gap for economic participation remains at 41 percent.¹⁴

Judicial Transformation

Following the waves of antagonistic and bloody events that culminated in the 1994 genocide and due to different hotbeds of tension in the region, Rwandan women realised the role they have to play in conflict resolution. At the same time, the country's conventional court system had been decimated by the genocide, in which a large number of judges and prosecutors were killed. Faced with this almost insurmountable dilemma, the government decided to reintroduce a traditional court system called Gacaca.

Rwanda women have managed to move forward in part by adopting what is called the Gacaca process, a traditional, pre-colonial system of justice. In traditional Rwandan culture, women were not allowed to speak in public; so it was difficult for women to participate in the Gacaca proceedings. Gacaca was introduced in Rwanda for social reconciliation and to involve everyone in the community. The Gacaca system is particularly well suited to deal with post-conflict traditional justice because it is a participatory, community-based restorative justice system that encourages openness and dialogue between perpetrators and victims as a means to resolve issues through

RWANDAN WOMEN HAVE NOW STARTED THINKING BEYOND CONVENTIONAL ROLES; THEY ARE NOW ENTREPRENEURS



Women's associations organise conferences on peaceful conflict resolution, tolerance, unity and reconciliation. The government has also joined the efforts to educate the people.

reconciliation rather than by punishing.

Women represent 35 percent of people with integrity within the Gacaca courts elected by the population at the level of local communities to try the crimes and acts related to the 1994 genocide.¹⁵ It is worth mentioning that institutions in charge of peace and reconciliation, such as the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission and the National Commission of Human Right and Gacaca Jurisdictions, are headed by women. This is again recognition by the Rwanda government that women's leadership in matters of national concern means a lot. In addition, there is a gender dimension that is respected in the conflict-resolution processes. The Pro-Femmes Twese Hamwe launched an "Action for Peace" campaign, which advocates active non-violence, mediation and conciliation.

Besides, women's associations organise conferences on peaceful conflict resolution, tolerance, unity and reconciliation. The government has made every possible effort to educate people about this process.

The processes are difficult and the trauma and stigma of a rape is so great that women are unable to frankly share their experiences regarding sexual violence. Sometimes rapists went scot free, unpunished. The possibility that thousands of confessed criminals will never be brought to justice for their crimes undermines the legitimacy of the Gacaca process.

Women are allowed and encouraged to be Gacaca judges for effective and timely judgments. It had been estimated that the conventional justice system would have taken over 150 years to try and sentence all 120,000 prisoners held for crimes committed during the genocide. As a result of Gacaca, however, 60,000 prisoners have now been released and the entire process should be completed within the next few years.¹⁶ In spite of

constitutional guarantees, the justice sector (judges, magistrates, intermediate- and grassroots-level judicial sector workers, law enforcement personnel, and prosecutors) has not been adequately educated about changes in the laws to protect women's rights or about how to achieve gender equality in practice.

Women and Education

Vision 2020 states that Rwanda is committed to reaching 'Universal Education for All' which is an important Millennium Development Goal. Investing in the development of human resources in order to meet a major objective of Vision 2020, which is to create a "knowledge-based economy", is therefore a government priority. Vision 2020 also stipulates that major emphasis will be placed on vocational and technical training in the fields of technology, engineering and management.

In order to achieve gender equality and equity, it is stipulated that Rwanda will continuously update and adapt its laws on gender support.¹⁷ Moreover, Rwanda has embarked on efforts to strengthen women's skills. From providing free nine-year basic education, Rwanda has raised it

Enrolment by 2010. Rwanda has achieved gender parity in primary education, making it one of a few African countries to do so and Net Enrolment Rates (NER) in primary schools is now 95.8 percent for girls and 94.7 percent for boys.¹⁸

The government efforts to promote gender equality in education are also seen in the budget allocation to the education sector. Total education spending increased by 12 percent between 2004 and 2005 and accounted for 49 percent of total expenditure in 2005.¹⁹ The increase was mainly allocated towards the implementation of the fee-free primary education policy.

In order to promote girls' education and reverse the waning trend, a non-governmental organisation, the Forum for African Women Educationalist (FAWE), has, with government support, opened a pilot school for girls' education and institutionalised a class prize for girls who perform very well in examinations. It is noted that girls have been well represented in professional/vocational education that focuses mainly on traditional skills such as secretarial skills, agro-veterinary skills, nursing and teaching, reinforcing further gender stereotypes in careers and professional opportunities.

THE GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY IN EDUCATION ARE REFLECTED IN THE BUDGET ALLOCATION

to 12 years as the country's means increased, ensuring that soon every Rwandan child will acquire at least secondary school education. Rwanda has also increased universities and tertiary institutions from just one university in 1994 to 29 universities by 2010 owned by both the private and public sector — and promoted TVET centres across the country.

The government of Rwanda has also made a number of international commitments that underline its determination to promote education in general and girls' education in particular. These include the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Education for All and the Millennium Development Goals. The convention commits signatories to ensuring that the right of all children to education is realised by 2015 and Education for All and the MDGs have a target of Universal Primary Completion and gender equality (in opportunities and outcomes). The government's pledges have led to an Education Sector Policy commitment to ensuring that there is Universal Primary

Participation in NGOs

Today's Rwandan women are responding to the needs and potential of vulnerable groups. The vulnerable population now benefits from several government programmes and from numerous and fragmented donor projects and organisations like Children in Critical Situations (child-headed households, street children, working children and soldier children), Genocide Survivors (seriously injured, physically impaired, those made blind or deaf, including orphans), Women (widows, detainees' wives, pregnant women and raped women and girls), Disabled People (mentally impaired, physically impaired), HIV/AIDS Victims (infected, affected people), Poor People (indigent, destitute and poor people, but who happen to cater for themselves) and Old People (without descendants or property and the retired).

The programmes could be targeted more effectively, managed at lower cost, and thus reach more vulnerable households. Different NGOs working in Rwanda are: African Enterprise, African

Leadership and Reconciliation Ministries (ALARM), African Reconciliation Committee, Amahoro Africa, Catholic Relief Services in Rwanda, Christian Action for Reconciliation and Social Assistance (CARSA), Episcopal Church of Rwanda, Evangelical Prison Ministry Rwanda, National Unity and Reconciliation Commission, National University of Rwanda Center for Conflict Management, Profemme Twese Hamwe, Reach Organisation Rwanda, World Vision Rwanda, International Crisis Group Rwanda, Forest People's Programme Haguruka, Human Rights Watch, IBUKA, Never Again International, International Criminal Tribunal For Rwanda, International Justice Mission, Rwandan Women's Network.

International organisations, international NGOs and foreign NGOs working in Rwanda are: Global Policy Forum, Internal Displacement Monitoring Center, International Committee of the Red Cross, the United Nations system in Rwanda and the U.N. International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

More than 100 NGOs are working effectively in Rwanda. They formulate their own strategies and

For the survivors of this tragedy, as well as other violent crimes, their social integration and reconciliation cannot work unless and until they are well nourished with food. The food crisis and poverty are the main factors hindering Rwanda's NGOs. HIV/AIDS is another hindrance factor.

Gender Mainstreaming

The government is fully aware that investing in women contributes to the achievement of critical social objectives like decreased fertility/infant mortality, improved child health status and better productivity. It is pursuing gender mainstreaming in local government and budgets through "gender budgeting". The Gender Responsive Budget (GRB) is one of the ways to mainstream gender at the macro level to ensure a planning process that takes gender seriously.

Currently, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN), in collaboration with MIGEPROF and different development partners, is in the process of institutionalising GRB as a key strategy for mainstreaming gender at

equality and women's empowerment at the decentralised level. MINECOFIN and UNCDF are the implementing and executing partners in Rwanda; other strategic partners are the Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC), the Common Development Fund (CDF), the National Decentralisation Implementation Secretariat (NDIS), the Rwandan Association of Local Government Authorities (RALGA), UNDP and UNIFEM.

The purpose of Gender Budgeting is to bring gender perspectives to how government resources and programmes are implemented. The aim is to mainstream gender perspective into the analysis of public expenditure and means of raising public revenues, so that the impact on men and women are considered. The long-term goal of the programme is to ensure that government spending addresses the needs of women and men equitably and government institutions promote accountability and transparency in the determination of government priorities and public spending.

The functions of GRB are: sensitise government

institutions at the central and local levels on GRB; provide effective training to all stakeholders in the national planning and budgeting processes to develop skills in preparation, review and analysis of the budget using the gender lens; and develop a system of monitoring and evaluation for gender-responsive targets.

The three-year GELD programme seeks to integrate gender equity into local-level planning and budgeting so that local development is more gender equitable and supportive of the most excluded socio-economic groups, especially poor women.

Specifically, the programme aims to develop strategies and mechanisms to improve women's access to resources and services at the local level through gender-responsive planning and budget-

Today women entrepreneurs are a significant force in Rwanda's private sector, heading 42 percent of enterprises. They represent 58 percent of enterprises in the informal sector.

FROM PROVIDING FREE NINE-YEAR BASIC EDUCATION, RWANDA HAS RAISED IT TO 12 YEARS AS THE COUNTRY'S MEANS INCREASED

activities on the basis of their perception of the needs of the beneficiaries and their capacities and mandates. The government now requires NGOs to register with the Ministry of Rehabilitation and formulate their programmes in consultation with the ministries concerned. While most NGOs have submitted applications for registration and are working within the guidelines laid down by the government, some still resist the new requirements.

NGOs sometimes lack collective action, motivation and preferences to design accountability due to the competitiveness among them. The Rwanda Women Network (RWN) focusses on medical outreach, counselling and improving the socio-economic welfare of women. These increase responsiveness and effectiveness in addressing the issue of human health. This is mainly through the Polyclinic of Hope (PoH) and the Village of Hope (VoH) initiatives.

The poor state of women's healthcare is encumbered by the large number of women raped and, oftentimes, mutilated during the 1994 events.

the macro level. Gender awareness among policy-makers and implementers can play a great role in fostering socio-economic development. A memorandum of understanding on the implementation of the Gender Equitable Local Development (GELD) programme in Rwanda was signed in Kigali on February 8, 2009.

The programme aims to improve women's access to resources and services at the local level through Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting. It is being implemented in five African countries — Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Tanzania — with funding from the Belgian government, the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and UNIFEM. In Rwanda, the GELD programme will run until August 2012.²⁰

GELD is an important supplement to the ongoing efforts between UNIFEM and MINECOFIN to mainstream Gender in Budgeting processes across all sectors. UNIFEM is enthusiastic about strengthening the mechanism of accountability and performance contracts (Imihigo) to deliver gender



ing, even as it helps in achieving gender equality and justice goals.

The GELD programme aims to place gender equality and gender justice goals at the centre of the local governance and development processes. GELD seeks to address the following key issues: How can local governments deliver for Rwandan women? What institutional conditions foster Rwandan women's substantive participation in local governance? What institutional conditions and processes ensure that poverty and equity concerns are adequately reflected in identifying governance priorities and resource allocations? Which community dynamics constrain and prevent women from achieving their human potential and how can these be addressed?

GELD goals include the achievement of Gender Equitable Local Development through accelerated localised action in realising government commitments towards the MDGs for gender justice.

GELD's stated objectives are: to strengthen local governments' institutional capacity for gender responsive action in planning and budgeting and for them to apply a gender lens in tracking budgetary allocations to ensure they are aligned with expenditure performance in service delivery; to strengthen local governments' capacity to engage in policy debates to advance gender equality; to facilitate the empowerment of local communities through their respective local authority systems for effective participation in, and ownership of, their development and policy engagement from a gender lens; to support and facilitate local governments in knowledge generation that draws on their local experiences in gender mainstreaming to inform and enlighten local government policy decisions in local development planning and budgeting; to plan and budget with a gender lens all local-level development initiatives that incorporate the needs and interests of the poor and excluded groups and resource allocations that address gender equality issues; to engage on policy matters and influence open dialogues and debates on the policy of decentralisation and local governance.

The government of Rwanda is found to be highly committed to the cause of gender equality and women's empowerment as demonstrated by its 2003 constitution, the approval of the National Gender Policy, the establishment of National Gender Machinery, ratification of the CEDAW, following of the Beijing PFA, the Vision 2020 and the development of the EDPRS.²¹

It demonstrates the government's commit-

ment to combating all forms of gender inequalities in Rwanda and issues related to community development. The institutional framework for gender mainstreaming, the constitution and legal framework are in place to improve gender-mainstreaming efforts in concern's key areas. The main challenge remains lack of gender analysis skills among the planners and other senior staff of different institutions and, to some extent, lack of sufficient support from institutions where gender is still regarded as an additional issue, and not a priority.

Transformation through MDGs

By the year 2015, U.N. member-states have pledged to meet eight goals. Rwandan women deserve a round of applause and appreciation for their achievements in the establishment of gender equality and national development. No other country except Rwanda has achieved and showed the highest level of progress in human development in the context of gender equality. Gender equality is the key to achieving the other seven millennium goals. Rwanda represents a unique case in the highest participation of women in legislature in the world. It is the greatest achievement for Rwandan women and gender equality. According to a U.N. report, women parliamentarians make different policies and laws for women's economic freedom and inheritance rights as well as pass domestic violence and marital rape laws for protection of women. Notably, Rwanda is one among 52 countries that criminalise marital rape. United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon paid an official visit to Rwanda on January 29, 2008. In his address to Parliament he commended Rwanda for its achievements in meeting the Millennium Development Goals. The Secretary General particularly stressed the achievements on Goal 3: promoting gender equality and empowering women. In education, Rwanda has already achieved gender parity in primary school enrolment. In health, there has been a 30 percent drop in the maternal mortality rate between 2000 and 2005. In economic security, legal reforms have been passed to enable both women and men to inherit land. "Women now comprise 43 percent of elected local government leaders and hold close to half the seats in Parliament. With this Rwanda offers an outstanding example not only to other African countries but to the entire world," he said.

The Secretary General also highlighted the

importance of political diversity and encouraged the government "to work for broad-based participation of political parties, civil society, and media organisations in the legislative elections process later this year". Women are the modern decision-makers in Rwanda. They are nation-builders. It was nearly an impossible task to rebuild Rwanda in the post-genocide period. However, women achieved most of the MDGs for Rwanda and rebuilt it as a strong and gender equality-based country. According to the data available with the Department of International Development on May 14, 2010, Rwanda has come very close to the set target of MDGs.

MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

A combination of adequate rainfall and government focus on agriculture has resulted in improved agricultural performance. Women have contributed in a major way to domestic agriculture in Rwanda. The poverty rate has been reduced from 70 percent in 1994 to 57 percent in 2006-07, largely due to agricultural growth.²²

MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education.

Rwanda is well on track to achieve universal pri-

mary education, with a 94 percent enrolment rate for both boys and girls. The total literate population in Rwanda has increased from 57.9 percent in 1991 to 70 percent in 2007. Recent available data suggest that 87.6 percent of the total child population is going to school at the primary level and there is no gender discrimination in this regard.²³

MDG 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women.

The Rwandan government has implemented various laws and policies in the context of decision-making roles to ensure gender equality and women empowerment in Rwanda. As far as the education sector is concerned, gender enrolment parity and gender parity in literacy rates have been well achieved. The government policy has reserved 30 percent seats for women's political participation in the Rwandan Parliament.

Consequently, women hold 56 percent of seats in Rwanda's Parliament, which is highest percentage in any country across the world.²⁴

MDG 4: Reduce child mortality. There has been steady improvement in health indicators in Rwanda. The child mortality rate has fallen from 86 per 1,000 live births in 2005 to 62 percent per 1,000 in 2008.²⁵

MDG 5: Improve maternal health. Maternal health has greatly improved due to modern contraceptives, medical facilities and assisted deliveries. The women are playing an important role as doctors, trained nurses and other hospital staff. This change has reduced the maternal mortality rate from 1,071 per 100,000 live births in 2000 to only 383 per 100,000 live births in 2010.²⁶ Through this speedy improvement, Rwanda will definitely soon achieve the set target of improving maternal health.

MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

The modern health facilities and awareness campaigns focussed on young people has reduced the HIV prevalence rate from 13.9 percent

in 2000 to 3.5 percent in 2005.²⁷ Efforts have also been made to prevent malaria and tuberculosis. Rwanda has succeeded in reducing the prevalence and death rates associated with these two diseases. Knowledge and awareness of the young generation, especially girls, is the best prevention in this regard.

MDG 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability.

Women contribute to sustainable agricultural practices like kitchen gardening and harvesting the fields. Women play a major role in economic stability and independence. There are various sustainability practices like Orphan's bee-keeping and honey farm project, Ururana Pineapple Plantation project in Ruhuha, Wirira Widow's Corn Grinder and Sales Shop project, the Animals for Impoverished Families project, income generation projects such as Rwanda Village Concept

GENDER AWARENESS AMONG POLICYMAKERS AND IMPLEMENTERS CAN PLAY A GREAT ROLE IN FOSTERING SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

project, Bristol Volunteer Development Abroad (BVDA) bee-keeping project, coffee-growing project in Huye district, the Sustainable Access to Financial Services for Investment project (SAFI), the Community-based Livelihood Enhancement project (CLE), Community Learning and Action for Saving Stimulation and Enhancement project, the Trees for the Future project, the Gisenyi Land and Environment Rehabilitation project (GLER), Rwanda Solid Waste Collection and Biomass Recycling project, Community-assisted Access to Sustainable Energy project (CASE) and the Norwegian People's Aid Funding Project for Rwandan Widows. Undoubtedly, women have been major contributors towards achieving economic as well as environmental sustainability in Rwanda.

MDG 8: Develop a global partnership for development. Rwanda's government, which is largely constituted by women, has been able to build a culture of governance and management. It has constructed and strengthened the global partnership for development, especially with the basket-weaving tradition. Strong macro-economic performance during the post-war recovery period has enabled Rwanda to reach the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) completion point in April 2005 and qualify for the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) in June 2005, thus benefiting from a substantial debt relief. The deadline for achievement of MDGs has been given as 2015; Rwanda has, however, shown tremendous development in all these years and is not too far away from achieving the MDGs very soon.

Conclusion


Rwanda has become a country of women now. This is an unprecedented transition as well as transformation in women's history. It is currently estimated that 70 percent of the country's population is female and that 50 percent of all households are headed by women. The ethnic conflict has changed the role, responsibilities and priorities of Rwandan women, forcing them into what were traditionally men's responsibilities and many of them are demonstrating remarkable ability to handle the problems of the aftermath.

Beyond ethnicity, there are other values of humanity and family ties, marriage and friendship that are stronger than ethnicity. Rwandan transition needs to apply them to behavioural cultural practices of different laws in favour of women, especially in the context of property, land, inheri-

tance, marriage, settlement, reproductive rights and child adoption laws.

Rwanda has become known throughout the world for its high percentage of women in Parliament. Women parliamentarians are among a pioneer generation, challenging traditional gender roles, taking on new responsibilities, embracing high profile positions, and advocating for their rights. Like pioneers in other fields, their contribution and achievements are met with heightened scrutiny. Different initiatives taken by Rwandan women motivated them to embrace a huge change in their ideology, thinking, and living pattern. Rwandan women faced the time of separation, potential fragmentation and alienation, but at the same time it was a period of profound change for them. After the genocide, gender roles in society have changed; new cultural practices and norms have been acquired by the Rwandans. Women started doing formal, informal, traditional, non-traditional kinds of activities for the sustainable development of society. Men automatically accepted the new role of women.

The changed situation opened a new door for women with full freedom, development, and progress. Women came forward with full vigor and proved themselves as the agent of change. Men in Rwanda also automatically accepted the new rules and regulations in the context of gender equality. Women in conflict and post-conflict situations show themselves willing to learn and apply new skills, even in non-traditional areas. In the post-genocide era, women started working as decision makers, administrators, exporters, reporters, nation builders, project managers and NGO coordinators. Women have also been seen in intellectual roles as teachers, academicians, thinkers and philosophers. Women's contribution to income generation has been observed to be crucial for the growth of society.

They have been associated with NGOs, rehabilitation projects, micro-credit institutions and with informal sectors like handloom and handicrafts items. In response to the precarious economy, women tend to group themselves to secure and build houses and join savings and credit clubs and schemes to finance their reestablishment. The numbers of women who are professionally educated have been increasing and they are associated with fields like law, medicine, education and training, the civil bureaucracy, and informal business in production and services. The role of Rwandan women in uplifting the post-genocide society has been remarkable. 

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Prime Minister Manmohan Singh with Presidents Dilma Rousseff of Brazil, Dmitry A. Medvedev of Russia, Hu Jintao of China and Jacob Zuma of South Africa in New Delhi.

BRIC(K)S of a new world order

At the fourth BRICS Summit in New Delhi, the leaders of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa pitched for a bigger voice for emerging countries in global governance institutions, says **Manish Chand**

The air was thick with scepticism when the leaders of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS), the world's top five emerging economies, began their fourth summit in Delhi on March 29. But when the summit ended with an ambitious 50-point Delhi Declaration, the message was loud and clear. This was no glorified photo-op or a mutual admiration club. On the contrary, BRICS, which comprises nearly half the world's population and a quarter of global GDP, was seeking to create a new world order to reflect the seismic shift of power from the West to the rest.

BRICS leaders pitched for a bigger voice for emerging countries in global governance institutions, including the United Nations (U.N.), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. Despite their varying backgrounds and profiles, the leaders also made it clear to the West that force and sanctions won't do and underlined that only dialogue and diplomacy could resolve the Iranian nuclear standoff and the Syria crisis.

In their speeches, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Presidents Hu Jintao (China), Dmitry Medvedev (Russia), Dilma Rousseff (Brazil) and Jacob Zuma (South Africa) underlined the need

for restructuring the world order to accommodate emerging economies and developing countries and closer coordination on global issues.

"While some progress has been made in international financial institutions, there is lack of movement on the political side. BRICS should speak with one voice on important issues such as the reform of the U.N. Security Council," said Manmohan Singh, the summit host. He spoke about the need for addressing the deficit in global governance. "We are committed to stepping up exchanges with other countries on global economic governance reforms and increasing representation of developing countries," said Hu.

The Delhi Declaration encapsulated these concerns and saw BRICS leaders voicing disappointment with the slow pace of the IMF quota reforms and asking the West to implement the 2010 governance and quota reform before the 2012 IMF/World Bank annual meeting. It was an amplification of master themes that dominated the first three summits at Yekaterinburg (2009), Brasilia (2010) and China (2011) but the Delhi summit sought to break fresh ground. In a pioneering step that could prove to be a game-changer, BRICS decided to create its first insti-

SPOTLIGHT ON AFRICAN AGENDA

Amid the BRICS's growing engagement with the 54-nation African continent, South African President Jacob Zuma said at the 4th BRICS summit in New Delhi that Africa was "treated with respect" and not patronised in this five-nation grouping of emerging economies.

Zuma also underlined that South Africa was proud to join the BRICS and claimed that it represented the entire continent.

"In BRICS, we have a place where we feel that Africa is being treated with respect. Our views are treated equally among the partners. There is no feeling that some people are looking down on the continent of Africa," said Zuma in a slightly emotive tone.

South Africa's participation at the BRICS summit marked BRICS' accelerated engagement with Africa. Over the last decade, China, India and Brazil have scaled up their trade and investment with African countries dramatically, triggering anxiety in the West that still continues to be the continent's largest trading partner. The BRICS countries stepped up their trade with the continent from barely \$3.5 billion in 2000 to over \$200 billion in 2011.

South Africa, the smallest economy in the grouping which is often seen as an odd member in an even grouping, joined

the BRIC in 2010, changing its nomenclature to BRICS. At the summit, Zuma also underlined how the grouping of emerging economies can spur the process of reforming global governance and help Africa realise its developmental aspirations. "The reform of international financial institutions remains a thorn in the flesh for us in the developing world. In recent years, we have seen changes in the quota shares at the IMF, reflecting the changes in the global economy. We welcome these changes as they reflect a new reality," he said.

He also outlined the importance of a development bank in for the African continent. "We warmly welcome our discussions today regarding the feasibility of creating a new BRICS-led Development Bank. African leaders are also in principle supportive of such an initiative. This proposal is in line with our expressed support for Africa's industrialisation and infrastructure development programmes, at the Sanya Summit. At that Summit, I also raised specific funding proposals to support the African Union Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative which I have been mandated to promote," he said.

"In our own country, we launched a New Growth Path in 2010. The infrastructure programmes will strengthen Africa's trade and investment linkages with our BRICS partners."



Prime Minister Manmohan Singh shakes hands with South Africa's President Jacob Zuma on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in New Delhi on March 29. External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna and National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon are also seen.

tution in the form of a BRICS-led Development Bank that will mobilise "resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other emerging economies and developing countries".

The leaders directed their finance ministers "to examine the feasibility and viability of such an initiative, set up a joint working group for further study and report back by the next summit. The joint BRICS bank may emerge as the supplement to the West-dominated World Bank or the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and could hasten the reordering of the global financial management system. South African President Jacob Zuma has voiced hope that such a bank will give an impetus to the develop-

mental aspirations of Africa by bringing much-needed capital for financing infrastructure projects in the continent.

Besides the BRICS bank, the four-year-old grouping set up an ambitious target to scale intra-BRICS trade from \$216 billion to almost \$500 billion by 2015 and sought to promote greater economic integration. The development banks of the five countries signed two pacts on promoting trade transactions in local currencies of BRICS countries. These included enabling the master agreement for extending credit facilities in local currencies and BRICS multilateral letter of credit confirmation facility agreement. The mechanism envisages grant of credit lines in local currencies and cooperation in capital markets and other financial services, treasury transactions and issuing local currency bonds in BRICS markets, subject to national laws and regulations.

Other key economic decisions included setting up a BRICS exchange, which has already become operational. The BRICS report, which maps out synergies and complementarities among economies of BRICS countries to spur mutual trade and

investment, was also released. The report was prepared by experts from all BRICS countries under the leadership of Kaushik Basu, India's chief economic advisor.

Contesting the West's narrative, the five countries warned the West against allowing the Iran situation to escalate into a conflict and said dialogue was the only way to resolve the Iranian and Syria issues. "The situation concerning Iran cannot be allowed to escalate into conflict, the disastrous consequences of which will be in no one's interest," said the declaration. The declaration saw the leaders voicing "deep concern" over Syria as they called for "an immediate end to all violence and violations of human rights in that country", backing a Syrian-led inclusive political process.

BRICS leaders affirmed their commitment to support Afghanistan's emergence as "a peaceful, stable and democratic state, free of terrorism and extremism" and underscored "the need for more effective regional and international cooperation for the stabilisation of Afghanistan".

The summit adopted an ambitious multi-layered action plan that includes meetings of foreign ministers on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly and meetings of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors on sidelines of G20 meetings. They also identified new areas of cooperation that includes multilateral energy cooperation within BRICS framework, and future long-term strategy for BRICS; BRICS Youth Policy Dialogue; and cooperation in population-related issues.

This all-encompassing agenda that ranges from opposing protectionism in trade and promoting multilateralism in world politics to the U.N. reforms and collaborating in global climate change negotiations does not detract from differences of perception and divergences on certain issues among the Emerging-5. The BRICS, after all, comprise two permanent members of the U.N. Security Council (Russia and China) and three aspiring members of the UNSC (India, Brazil and South Africa). But the fact that the E-5 has found substantial common ground to band together on a broad common agenda is no mean feat and accounts for increasing global spotlight on this nascent grouping which is often described as the first non-Western effort at re-engineering the world order. But if the BRICS have to succeed, they have to move from the declaratory phase to action and its success will be judged by how it goes around fructifying some of the signature initiatives like the BRICS bank that emerged from the New Delhi summit. ●

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF 4TH BRICS SUMMIT

(As reflected in the March 29 Delhi Declaration)

- **Global governance reforms:** BRICS leaders call for reform of global governance institutions, including the U.N., the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. Back a "merit-based selection-process" for the heads of the IMF and the World Bank.
- **IMF QUOTA REFORMS:** The Declaration calls for greater representation of developing countries and emerging economies in the IMF by speeding up quota reforms.
- **GLOBAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY:** BRICS leaders support closer coordination for balanced and sustained global economic recovery.
- **INTRA-BRICS TRADE:** Development Banks of BRICS countries sign two pacts for boosting intra-BRICS trade. BRICS to set up Exchange Alliance, a joint initiative by related BRICS securities exchanges.
- **DEVELOPMENT BANK:** Leaders agree to explore the setting up of a BRICS-led South-South Development Bank. It will promote mutual investment and fund infrastructure projects in BRICS and developing countries.
- **ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT:** Backs speedier resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the creation of an independent Palestine co-existing with Israel.
- **DOHA ROUND:** Step up joint efforts for successful conclusion of the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations.
- **AFRICA:** Jointly help in the development and resurgence of Africa.
- **ACTION PLAN:** Adopts an all-encompassing action plan that includes, among other things, meetings of foreign ministers on sidelines of the UN and meetings of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors on sidelines of G20 meetings/other multilateral meetings.

Building business for resurgence

Driven by the quest for mutual resurgence and co-development, Indian and African companies forged new partnership and equations at the annual business conclave, writes **Manish Chand**



Afro-optimism is no longer a fashionable cliché spouted by diehard Africanists. The ongoing African resurgence is gaining new converts by the day. This was more visible at the annual India-Africa Business Conclave in New Delhi held from March 18 to 20. It was not just deals worth billions that were struck here, but enduring partnerships were forged, driven by the quest for mutual resurgence and co-development.

The eighth edition of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership lived up to its reputation as a key platform for leveraging business synergies and economic complementarities between the two fastest-growing regions in the world. The master theme of the conclave was: 'Creating Possibilities; Delivering Values'.

Thirty-six ministers from over 20 African countries addressed the conclave, over 600 delegates from Africa and over 500 from India participated in the three-day jamboree and 200 projects worth ₹1,539 billion were on the table. The ambition was soaring, with both sides setting a target of scaling up bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2015. The projects straddled diverse areas, including agriculture, skill development, finance, infrastructure, information technology, manufacturing, mining, health, power, textiles, telecom, tourism, trade and transport. These projects included a proposal for setting up tomato production plants in Burundi, an upgraded cement plant in Djibouti, developing hydropower in Mozambique and new railway lines in Rwanda.

Placing the burgeoning business ties between India and Africa in perspective, Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma underlined that deeper economic cooperation between the two sides will provide the growth impetus to both the regions in times of the global economic downturn. "We will have to act together. In doing so we will emerge as the engines of global economic recovery," said Sharma in his keynote address.

"A new eastern wind is blowing over our continent," said Central African Republic's Prime Minister Faustin Archangel Touadera, whose country, along with Zimbabwe, was the guest country at the conclave. Touadera stressed that the bilateral ties with India need to be revitalised through greater investment flows, and technology sharing. Pitching for greater investment from India, Zimbabwe's Vice-President Joice Mujuru said there is enormous scope for value-added busi-



(Left) Zimbabwe's Vice President Joice Mujuru, India's Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma and Central African Republic's Prime Minister Faustin Archange Touadéra, inaugurating the conclave. (Top) A session in progress.

ness activities, specially in view of expected double-digit Gross Domestic Product growth in her country by 2015.

The EXIM Bank of India and the government of Central African Republic signed an agreement for a new line of credit valued at around ₹3,078 million which will be directed for projects in agriculture and mining sectors.

The overarching theme that underpinned the conclave was forging and sustaining a multi-faceted development partnership between India and Africa, once co-sharers in the anti-colonial struggle and now equal partners in co-scripting a narrative of economic renaissance and renewal. India's Minister of State for External Affairs Preneet Kaur encapsulated the essence of this blossoming partnership. "The tripod on which the India-Africa relationship stands today with the resonance of South-South cooperation is that of technology, investment and training," she said.

Mutual development was the reigning ethos. "We are committed to work with Africa for fulfilling its developmental aspirations and we know both the pain and the pleasure of the processes of development in a democratic framework for multi-cultural and pluralistic societies."

India reaffirmed its commitment to fast-tracking the establishment of over 100 training institutes. The training institutes encompass areas from IT, foreign trade and education, planning and



(From left) Syamal Gupta, Chairman, CII Africa Committee; Sanjay Kirloskar, Chairman, Kirloskar Brothers Ltd; Sunil Kant Munjal, past president, CII & chairman, Hero Corporate Service Ltd; Madhusudan Ganapathi, Secretary (West) in India's Ministry of External Affairs; Jonathan Wutawunashe, Dean, African Diplomatic Corps; Chandrajit Banerjee, Director-General, CII, at the Valedictory Session of the conclave.

administration, civil aviation and vocational training. India also plans to set up 32 institutions at regional level and approximately 40 institutions at bilateral level.

The last six months have seen an intensification of bilateral engagement at multiple levels that includes the India-Africa Hydrocarbon Conference and the India-Africa Science and Technology Ministers' Conference.

The focus is on adding greater economic content to the India-Africa partnership. The launch of the India-Africa Business Council, comprising leading business leaders of both sides, is another milestone in this direction. The council is co-chaired by Sunil Bharti Mittal, chairman, Bharti Group, and Alhaji Aliko Dangote, president and chief executive, Dangote Group, Nigeria.

The CII, India's apex business body, signed eight MoUs with business chambers from Cameroon, Rwanda, Gambia, Seychelles, Malawi, Ghana and Sierra Leone. The conclave also sought to rope in the youth to sustain this partnership with over 25

young parliamentarians from African countries who visited India and participated in the three-day event.

The joint pursuit for food security was another important theme. "Innovative financing options for agriculture and irrigation will be crucial for spurring food production growth," said Sanjay Kirloskar, chairman, Kirloskar Brothers Ltd.

T.C.A. Ranganathan, chief of EXIM Bank of India, stressed that even as Indian companies are increasing their footprint in African markets, Indian industry would do well to strengthen the 'Brand India' presence in Africa. It is about over two billion dreams of young people in India and 54 African nations. The annual conclave has acted as a forum for miracles, says Jonathan Wutawunashe, Dean, African Diplomatic Corps and Zimbabwe's ambassador to India. "We are pursuing the right goals and our partnership should become more visible to the world," said the envoy.

India, Egypt review bilateral ties

The two countries sign four documents related to agricultural research, environment protection and standardisation

External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna co-chaired the sixth session of the Egypt-India Joint Commission Meeting with his Egyptian counterpart Mohamed Kamel Amr during his three-day visit to Egypt beginning March 3. He also had a series of high-level meetings and met top Egyptian leaders, including Supreme Council of Armed Forces Chairman Field Marshal Mohamed Hussein Tantawi and Prime Minister Kamal El Ganzoury during his visit.

Minister Krishna and Minister Amr reviewed the bilateral relations and accepted recommendations of sub-committees on trade and economic co-operation, scientific and technical cooperation, cultural cooperation and information technology.

Following the joint commission meeting, the two countries signed four documents. These included a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the field of environment protection, work plan for cooperation between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Agricultural Research Centre of Egypt for 2012-13. They also signed an MoU between the Egyptian Organisation for Standardisation and the Bureau of Indian Standards.

EAM Krishna said the Egyptian Prime Minister had suggested that a multisectoral Indian delegation, with representatives from both private and public



India's External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna with Egypt's Foreign Minister Mohamed Kamel Amr at the sixth Joint Commission Meeting between India and Egypt in Cairo on March 4.

sectors, visited the country to focus on concrete areas of economic cooperation.

"I have welcomed this proposal and requested the Egyptian side to identify specific sectors of their interest so that we can take the proposal forward. We hope that this delegation will visit Egypt shortly for focused and productive discussion," he said.

Nigeria to strengthen ties with India

WITH a view to exploring opportunities for expanding annual bilateral trade between India and Nigeria, former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo came to India on a five-day visit starting March 12. Obasanjo was accompanied by a nine-member delegation of prominent Nigerian businessmen.

"One of the main aims of Obasanjo's visit was to encourage greater bilateral economic synergy," said a statement issued by the Indian External Affairs Ministry.

"This visit is yet another affirmation of the close and substantive ties between India and Nigeria,"

the release said. Bilateral trade between the India and Nigeria touched \$13 billion in 2010-11 and is expected to cross \$19 billion in the current financial year.

Home to around 35,000 Indians, over 100 Indian companies have their presence in Nigeria, nearly 33,000 Nigerians visited India in 2011, with business and medical tourism as the main focus.

Obasanjo has served as Nigeria's president twice during 1976-79 and 1999-2007. He is currently the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Nigeria's ruling Peoples' Democratic Party.



Minister for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Vilasrao Deshmukh and other dignitaries at the India-Africa Science & Technology Ministerial Conference, in New Delhi on March 2.

India to expand science, tech cooperation with Africa

African Union expresses its keenness to have a long-term strategic partnership with India in science and technology

Building upon growing political and economic ties, India and the 54-nation African continent are now poised to expand their cooperation in frontier areas of research, capacity building and knowledge industries.

Empowerment through knowledge and technology was the buzzword at a two-day science and technology conclave in New Delhi that brought together more than 100 scientists, diplomats and 31 science and technology (S&T) ministers from the African countries.

The March 1-2 conclave focused on building capacities in research and development, social entrepreneurship and innovation technologies.

"There exists an enormous potential for cooperation in science and technology between India and Africa, given the fact that we both are emerging economies, share common problems and have to meet the aspirations of our people," said Jean Pierre O. Ezin, Commissioner, Human Resources, Science and Technology, at the African Union Commission.


He called for strengthening ties between India and Africa in sectors of research and development, human resource development and exchange of technical know-how.

Among the key areas, the two sides agreed to work on are all people-related sectors to provide the over two billion population living in India and Africa

better living conditions, quality food and water, affordable healthcare and meeting energy needs of two fast-growing economies.

The African Union, which represents 54 nations of the African continent, expressed its keenness to have a long-term strategic partnership with India in science and technology (S&T), given India's "remarkable progress" in this area in the last decade.

"The challenges faced by the African nations are similar to ours. Some of our solutions may be similar too," India's Science & technology and Earth Sciences Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh told the conference while flagging social entrepreneurship and innovation as key areas for collaboration.

At the end of the conference, hosted by the Indian ministries of Science & Technology and External Affairs, the ministers from India and Africa adopted a declaration that reaffirmed the commitments for a strong engagement made at the India-Africa Forum Summits, recalled their common challenges and growth potential, and outlined means to achieve development by becoming knowledge economies. The areas identified for future cooperation included capacity building, with India assisting the Commission of the AU and Regional Economic Communities by providing training and other capacity interventions towards improving policy enabling environment in the African nations. 

'Indian constitution a model for us'

Tunisia sees the Indian constitution as an inspiring model as it prepares to conduct elections next year after its new constitution is written

Tunisia wants to learn from India's experience of pluralistic democracy and looks at the Indian constitution as one of the models to be inspired by in writing its new constitution, the country's Foreign Minister has said.

Hedi Ben Abbas, Tunisia's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, said on April 24 that his country was impressed by India's ability to maintain cohesion despite ethnic, cultural diversities.

"How to manage that cohesion, inspired at least in that area (from the Indian constitution)... It certainly is one of the models to be inspired from," he said.

Minister Abbas said Tunisia, where the Arab Spring movement began, also wanted to learn from the Indian experience of holding elections.

The north African country will conduct elections next year after its constitution is written, the deadline for which is March 2013.


"The whole world will have its eyes on Tunisia (when elections are held)," he said.

Minister Abbas also evinced interest in India's experience of using electronic voting machines in the elections but said it would not be possible to use them in Tunisia's 2013 elections. "Given the time we have, it is too early to implement this in the coming elections," he said.

The Foreign Minister said the country wanted to depart from the old constitution based on the French system. "We are designing something that is futuristic," he said. Stressing on cultural ties, Minister Abbas said he wanted Tunisia to be more visible in India and added that the two countries "share common cultural elements".

"Bollywood industry is so strong... it is already invading different cultural spaces in Tunisia," he said.

The minister said that India and Tunisia had set a target to take their bilateral trade to \$1 billion in the next three years. Answering queries on Syria, the minister said Tunisia supported the Syrian people but did not want to create a situation "in which foreign countries interfere directly".

He said his government also was responsible for the success of the "democratic process" underway in his country. 

India's Minister of State for External Affairs E. Ahamed with his Tunisian counterpart Heidi Ben Abbas in New Delhi on April 23.



India, Seychelles join hands in fight against piracy

In order to effectively prosecute sea pirates, Seychelles has sought India's support in strengthening its judicial system

With its \$1-billion economy losing about four percent of GDP to piracy, Seychelles has sought India's help in putting an end to this threat to trade in the Indian Ocean, particularly in prosecuting the sea brigands.

Seychelles Foreign Minister Jean-Paul Adam, who was in India on a three-day visit starting February 14, said that he had asked his Indian counterpart, S.M. Krishna to assist in the trial of pirates and help increase convictions.

The two sides signed three agreements during this visit — two on setting up a coastal surveillance radar system in Seychelles and one for supply of an Indian-built Dornier maritime reconnaissance plane to the archipelago nation.

"In Seychelles, we have estimated that piracy has cost us four percent of the GDP in terms of growth and this is a terrible cost to our economy...there is a huge opportunity cost," Minister Adam said when asked about the impact of piracy on his country's economy.

He said the next step in the anti-piracy operations was prosecuting the sea brigands to end the impunity they enjoy.

"In Seychelles, currently we have convicted 67 pirates who are serving sentences in our jails and we also have another 18 who are awaiting trial.

"We look forward to working with India and one of the key issues I discussed with the minister (Krishna) is further support that India can give to our judicial system in terms of lawyers and judges, who will be able to help us in effectively prosecuting the pirates," he said.

"In Seychelles, we have really been hit very hard by piracy and it has come out of the blue. It was a shock for us. We have always considered ourselves as a country that is 1,000 miles (1,600 km) from anywhere. Because we literally are. We are in the middle of the Indian Ocean and we thought distance was our protection. But piracy has broken that illusion," the minister said.

The Foreign Minister said interaction with the Indian leaders had helped in "bringing a new dimension" in the already excellent relations.



External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna with his counterpart in Seychelles Jean Paul Adam in New Delhi on February 14.

"We have been particularly working very closely with India in our shared security. We share an ocean — the Indian Ocean — and we have both given a lot of importance to exchanging views and to strengthening each other's capacity to better face the challenges to security, including, for example, piracy but also the wider sphere of security, which is important for this region," he noted.

Minister Adam said that Seychelles regarded its relations with India as the "deepest", as the archipelago is the "southern shield" leading up to India and the two nations can "act as one" for mutual security benefits.

In this regard, the Seychelles Foreign Minister pointed out that India had placed its warship and a Dornier aircraft alongside the archipelago's armed forces to carry out surveillance and for providing security cover.

"By guaranteeing Seychelles security, we can also better guarantee Indian security," he said. ●

Destination next: India

African students find it cheaper to study in India — and that too in a system that is better than in their own countries

Dulce Vania from Mozambique is studying for a management degree in India and is also a budding entrepreneur — she exports human hair to her homeland.

"I have stated a small-scale human hair export business. Back home, it is used for making various accessories," Vania said.

Studying for a management course in finance from the Punjab College of Technical Education (PCTE) at Baddowal, close to the industrial hub of Ludhiana, Vania said that African students studying in India were trying to learn entrepreneurial skills.

"Things back in our country have started to get better, but it still needs a lot of improvement. Some students here have started to work on small-scale," she said. Ugandan Ilahi Marian is a pharmacy student at the PCTE. She hopes to open a well-equipped drug store back home to help enhance the health facilities there.

"There are only 10 multi-specialty hospitals in the whole of Uganda as far as I know. There is an urgent need to enhance the health sector as for every 1,000 people, there is just one doctor," Marian said.

African students find it cheaper to study in India — and that too in a system that is better than in their own countries.

"In India, people make things simple for us to



Students from various African countries at the Punjab College of Technical Education at Baddowal near Ludhiana.

understand. Also, Indian teachers are very affectionate and devote a lot of time to us," said Adam Semlambo of Tanzania, studying for a Masters in Computer Applications course.

His countryman, Ummi Marealle, a student of management in international business at PCTE, concurs. "The quality of education in India is much better than in other places. Staying in Ludhiana, thanks to industries like Vardhman, Oswal, Hero group and others, we get a lot of industrial exposure," Marealle added. ●

Indian, Mozambique University sign MoU

AN INDIAN university has tied up with a university in Mozambique to help provide "global career opportunities for students".

The O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of St. Thomas of Mozambique (USTM) at Maputo in Mozambique on March 6.

USTM Rector Joseph Wamala said: "The MoU... marks an important beginning in institutional collaborations between Africa and India reflecting the impact of globalisation and the need for promoting global career opportunities for students in

Mozambique". Nearly 15 female students from different provinces have been selected for full scholarship from the Government of Mozambique to study at JGU at Sonipat in Haryana. ●



Asia, Africa face daunting challenges: PM

Rural reconstruction, poverty eradication are fundamental to sustainable development in India and Africa, says Dr. Manmohan Singh

Noting that three-fourths of the world's poor live in Asia and Africa, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh said on March 5 that rural reconstruction and poverty eradication were fundamental to sustainable development.

Delivering the inaugural address at the golden jubilee celebrations of Afro-Asian Rural

Development Organisation, the Prime Minister said challenges faced by people of the two continents were daunting.

"Over much of the last century, the people of Africa and Asia fought shoulder to shoulder to liberate themselves from colonial domination. Today, the challenges we face are different but equally daunting. There are threats to international peace. The processes of globalisation and the growing interdependence among nations pose fundamental challenges to our economic sustenance," he said.

Countries in the two continents face rising aspirations of teeming millions who demand and deserve nutritious food, clean drinking water, quality education and affordable health care, Dr. Manmohan Singh added.

According to him, the Afro-Asian Rural Development Organisation had the potential "of playing a vital role in our collective battle" against hunger, disease and despair that afflict large segments of populations in the two continents.

"Three quarter of the world's poor live in Asia and Africa. Rural reconstruction and poverty eradication are fundamental to our plans for sustainable development and inclusive growth," he said.

Underling India's vision for a partnership with Africa to deal with some of the common challenges of the 21st century, the prime minister noted that India initiated the India-Africa Forum Summit process in the year 2008, during which the leaders of India and the African continent agreed on a



Prime Minister Manmohan Singh with other delegates at the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Afro-Asian Rural Development Organisation in New Delhi.

Framework for Cooperation for a Sustainable and Wide-ranging Partnership in Development. "The first area of cooperation identified under this framework was agriculture. The thrust of the first phase of cooperation in this sector is on capacity building. We hope and trust this will complement the good work being done by the Afro-Asian Rural Development Organisation, which runs international training programmes in seven member countries."

He said that India would provide more than 500 new scholarships over the next few years, particularly in agricultural sciences. "We have earmarked 700 science fellowships named after the celebrated Indian Nobel Laureate C.V. Raman for Africa. Over 150 African students have already been awarded this prestigious fellowship."

Prime Minister Singh said that institution building was another important facet of cooperation between India and Africa. "We have earmarked about \$100 million for establishing various institutions, including the India Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development, soil water and tissue testing laboratories, farm science centres, agricultural seeds production-cum-demonstration centres and rural technology parks in different parts of Africa," he said. ●



India, Seychelles boost trade ties

President Pratibha Devisingh Patil announces a \$50-million line of credit and \$25-million grant for the Indian Ocean archipelago nation

Noting that India "would always be a trusted development partner of Seychelles", President Pratibha Patil on April 30 announced a \$50 million line of credit and \$25 million grant for the Indian Ocean archipelago.

"India would always be a trusted development partner of Seychelles," President Patil said in a press statement after talks with her Seychelles counterpart James Alix Michel in Mahe.

Expressing satisfaction over the present state of their economic-commercial relations, the two countries agreed that considerable opportunities still exist for further expansion, particularly in the areas of trade and economic cooperation.

Noting that a business delegation from India had joined her to explore business opportunities in Seychelles, the President said her participation in the Business Forum Meet soon after her arrival on April 30 "was very encouraging".

"I am confident that this interaction will further push bilateral relations in the economic and commercial fields," President Patil added.

"We have agreed to further enhance exchanges in the fields of higher education, manpower development,

President Pratibha Devisingh Patil with the Seychelles' President James Alix Michel, at State House in Mahe on April 30.

health, information and communications technology, science and technology, hydrographic surveys, monorail, tourism, hospitality and culture," she said.

"In fact, the signing of the MoU on co-operation in the field of youth affairs and sports will go a long way in enhancing people-to-people exchanges too," she added.

The two countries also expressed satisfaction at the present level of bilateral cooperation in the defence and security areas, "especially in the context of combating piracy in the Indian Ocean region".

"Piracy in the region adversely impacts on us all. India reiterated its commitment to provide assistance to Seychelles in the defence sector, including training and deputation of experts. Today, we have seen the signing of an MoU on co-operation on training of police personnel," President Patil said.

The President also expressed her "gratitude" for Seychelles' "valued support on regional and global issues of crucial importance to India". ●

India, Rwanda sign pacts to bolster business relations

New Delhi offers \$80 million for a hydroelectric project and extends help to develop solar electrification of 35 schools in rural Rwanda

Building upon their growing business synergy, India and Rwanda, a rising economy located at the crossroads of central and east Africa, have signed three agreements, including a pact on renewable energy, to strengthen trade and investment ties.

The pacts were signed after Minister of State for External Affairs Preneet Kaur held talks with Rwandan Foreign Minister Louis Mushikiwabo in Rwanda's cap-

ital Kigali. The Indian minister was on a visit to Rwanda from February 14-16.

The pacts envisage an expanded renewable energy cooperation and India helping to develop solar electrification of 35 schools in rural Rwanda. The two sides also signed an agreement for the establishment of a joint commission that includes consultations at the level of foreign ministers and senior diplomats.

During her visit, she also called on Rwanda's President Paul Kagame on February 16.

During the visit, Minister Kaur reiterated India's commitment to setting up a Vocational Training Centre in Rwanda and other projects aimed at human resource development and capacity building. She conveyed that the Indian government would support the Rwanda government in the establishment of an Entrepreneur Development Institute, the Indian External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi on February 16.

Minister Kaur also met Rwanda's Agriculture Minister and discussed projects to intensify co-operation in the area of enhanced agricultural productivity and food security. Expanding trade and investment figured prominently in the discussions. A 22-member delegation accompanied the minister on the trip.



India's Minister of State for External Affairs Preneet Kaur with Rwanda's Foreign Minister Louis Mushikiwabo in Kigali.

'Touching lives' of the disabled in Ghana

INDIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS provider Airtel has added a human face to its operations in Ghana with 'Touching Lives', a project to help improve the lives of physically-challenged people in the west African country.

Airtel Ghana's 'Touching Lives' is dedicated to people "who are living in trying circumstances by offering them various support", Donald Gwira, head of corporate communications, said on March 11.

Last year, the company took over the case of eight physically-challenged cobblers in Bolgatanga, Upper East regional capital. Gwira said, This year, the company is helping Rebecca Asantewa, one of the 13 people who have been nominated for Airtel to



Rebecca, a Ghana national, with physically-challenged children.

help this year. Gwira said she "was nominated for us to help because of the work she was doing in the community".

India to train African craftswomen

The Ministry of External Affairs and the National Institute of Design sign an MoU to empower craftswomen in five African countries

The National Institute of Design (NID) and the Ministry of External Affairs have inked a \$1-million MoU to train and empower craftswomen in five African countries — Zimbabwe, Malawi, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Uganda. The MoU was signed in New Delhi between Gurjit Singh, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, and Pradyumna Vyas, Director of the NID, a statement said on February 29.

The initiative will cover five African countries over a period of three years.

"This collaboration between the ancient civilisations with rich tradition in craft skills will further strengthen

the bonds between India and Africa", the statement added.

An NID team will visit Zimbabwe to identify 25 craftswomen who would be trained in India in collaboration with New Basket Workshop Foundation, an African NGO.

The project aims at women's empowerment through skill enhancement and appropriate marketing through leading Indian brands like Fab India.

India has assured that it will assist Zimbabwe in reviving its textile sector. India will provide skills training and also help in the development of textiles clusters. The two ministers also reiterated the need for enhancing and diversifying the bilateral trade between the two countries which currently stands at \$128 million.

The two ministers also agreed to convene the meeting of the Joint Trade Committee within the next six months.

Product development and diversification will be achieved through a model of collaborative workshops bringing on board basketry artisans of both Africa and India on a common platform, along with designers and design students facilitating knowledge, experience and skill sharing in the process of design intervention.

For each of the five African countries, an assessment-cum-workshop would be conducted over a period of three years.



India has assured that it will assist Zimbabwe in reviving its textile sector.

Demand for Indian coir products rises in Africa

COIR, KERALA'S golden fibre, is seeing its international market share, especially in Africa, the Middle East and Latin America, growing following a world-wide shift towards eco-friendly products.

The popularity of value-added products like coir pith and coco lawn is proving lucrative for the coir industry, a traditional and key sector of the state's economy, which is expecting ₹10 billion worth of exports this financial year.

"Right now, coir pith and coco lawn are the most sought-after products mainly because of being eco-friendly," said K.R. Anil, director of the government-run National Coir

Research Management Institute in Thiruvananthapuram on February 3.

Coir pith is a soil conditioner and not a fertiliser. It's the by-product after coir is made. "And to make it a soil conditioner, the natural chemical in the coconut husk called 'lignin' has to be removed. The uniqueness of this is that it absorbs water and if this is used especially in water-scarce areas, one needs to water the plant once in two days," said Anil.

— Sanu George



'Make Mauritius gateway to Africa'

Step up investments through partnerships and joint ventures, Mauritian prime minister urges Indian entrepreneurs in New Delhi

Assuring a safe and high-return environment, Mauritius Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam has urged Indian entrepreneurs to step up investments through partnerships and joint ventures, and use the island nation as a gateway to African markets.

"We see ourselves as a bridge between Asia and Africa," said Prime Minister Ramgoolam while addressing a business meeting organised jointly by three leading industry chambers in New Delhi on February 8.

"Time is ripe for Indian companies to plug in to the African nations using Mauritius as a base," he said.

The Mauritian Prime Minister was on a six-day official visit to India. He said high growth, recorded in the last two decades, has made Mauritius an attractive investment destination.

Mauritius is the largest source of FDI in India.



Prime Minister Manmohan Singh with his Mauritian counterpart Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam and his wife in New Delhi on February 7.

Between April 2000-November 2011, FDI inflows from Mauritius to India were \$62.05 billion.

Congo invites Indian companies to invest in timber industry

HOME TO one of Africa's largest forest expanses, the Republic of Congo wants Indian companies to invest in the timber industry, says its Forestry and Environment Minister Henri Djombo.

"We have a big timber industry and would want Indian private companies to come and invest in the our timber companies," Minister Djombo said.

The country, informally known as Congo-Brazzaville to differentiate it from its larger neighbour, the Democratic Republic of Congo (erst-

while Zaire), is also looking forward to cooperation with India in science and technology, agriculture, railways, information technology, industry, health and pharmaceutical sectors.

Minister Djombo was in New Delhi to participate in the 12th edition of the three-day Delhi Sustainable Development Summit starting February 2.

Delegates at the 12th edition of the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit.



Nigeria attracts enterprising Indians

WITH MAJOR Indian interests in Nigeria in trade and investment, the African country's huge economic potential continues to be a big draw for Indians.

"With an annual bilateral trade in excess of \$13 billion, India continues to be Nigeria's second largest trading partner", Indian High Commissioner in Abuja Mahesh Sachdev said recently.

"We were the largest investor-country in Nigeria in 2010 and major new Indian investments were announced in 2011.

India's Airtel alone is amidst a \$600 million network expansion plan in Nigeria," the High Commissioner added.

Nigeria is the largest trading partner of India in Africa.



JSW Energy eyes S. Africa

The power company plans to set up a 450-600-MW coal-fired plant in South Africa

Integrated power generator JSW Energy, looking for suitable acquisitions inside India, is planning to set up a 450-600-MW coal-fired plant in South Africa where the power sector is opening up for investment.

"We are interested in acquiring power projects in India. The sector will now see only serious long-term players. Many of the new players have put on hold their projects or are going slow," Navraj Singh, Senior Vice-President, Business Development, JSW Energy, said.

According to him, the decision on target companies would depend on

the total package, whether land acquisition has been done and the like.

Meanwhile, JSW Energy, with a domestic generation capacity of 2,600 MW, is planning to put up a pit head power plant in South Africa where it has a 0.5 million tonne coal mine.

"South Africa's power sector is now opening up. We have a mine there and are looking at setting up a power plant with a capacity ranging between 450 MW and 600 MW. We are also looking at additional mines in South Africa," Singh said.

— Venkatachari Jagannathan

Hero to set up manufacturing plants in Africa

TWO-WHEELER maker Hero MotoCorp said it had identified growth markets in Africa to set up manufacturing and assembly plants there.

"We have identified some of the countries which have potential to become high-growth markets. We will probably set up assembly plants in some. In some, there may be manufacturing and in others, it will probably be exports," said Sunil Kant Munjal, Chairman, Hero Corporate Service, on March 20.

"This will depend on each market, its legislation, and what the economics of business requires. We have seen some truly outstanding opportunities there."

"We believe there is a unique opportunity for us to go and do business in two-wheeler segment there. Many of the African countries have shown rapid growth in the two-wheeler segment," he added.

The company expects to generate 10 percent of total revenue from exports in next five years.

Nigerian bank runs on Infosys software

NIGERIA'S OLDEST bank Wema Bank plc has deployed Indian IT bellwether Infosys Ltd's software product Finacle to offer core banking, retail e-banking and treasury services to customers through its 137 branches across the African country.

"Built on new generation technologies, open standards and service-oriented architecture, the Infosys product will support over 1.3 million user accounts and is central to our growth strategy based on customer experience," Wema Bank Chief



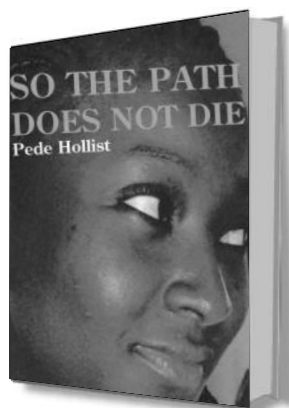
Executive Segun Oloketuyi said on April 16.

With Finacle's scalable and secure architecture, the bank was able to move its critical operations to a cost effective, integrated platform capable of supporting 24x7 multi-

channel transactions.

"Finacle's robust implementation policy has enabled us to move our 137 branches simultaneously to the new centralised banking system

reducing both time and costs. We have leveraged the software to provide customers multi-channel flexibility to access services and make transactions," Oloketuyi said in a statement from the Nigerian capital Abuja.



SO THE PATH DOES NOT DIE

By Pede Hollist;
296pp; Cameroon;
Langaa RPCIG;
Paperback;
£17.95

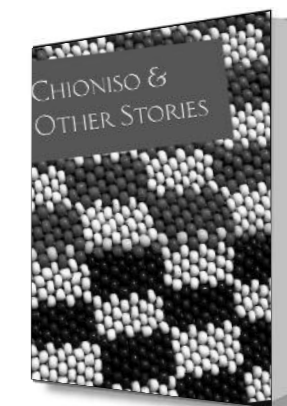
Protagonist Fina's search for happiness and belonging begins on the night of her aborted circumcision and continues through her teenage years in Freetown, Sierra Leone's capital; her twenties in the Washington Metropolitan Area; and ends with her return to Sierra Leone to work as an advocate for war-traumatized children.

The novel explores the problems she encounters in each setting against the backdrop of the tensions, ambiguities, and fragmentation of the stranger/immigrant condition and the characters' struggles to clarify their ideas about home and abroad.

CHIONISO AND OTHER STORIES

Playing with his doppelgänger, Godfrey, he looks back on life in Harare, and in Zimbabwe, over the last decade, exploring it from a familial perspective. How does a father cope with a rebellious daughter or a wife he perceives as wayward?

How does one mediate traditional gender roles? What to do when status in the form of a car undermines the stability of a marriage? What moral compromises are demanded by new wealth and political cronyism? And what is the effect of religion on our lives? Have we become more caring and compassionate, or does piety provide a mask, to disguise greed and ambition, and justify a contempt for the poor?

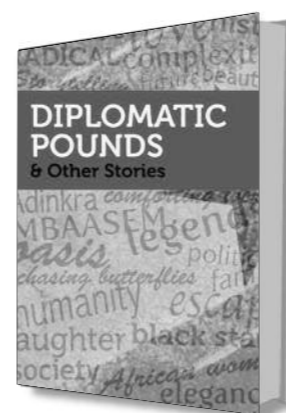
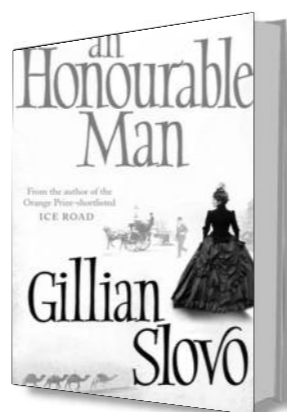


By Shimmer Chinodya;
190pp;
Zimbabwe;
Weaver Press;
Paperback;
£15.95

AN HONOURABLE MAN

It is 1884. In Khartoum, General Gordon stands on the roof of his fortress as the city is besieged. He has vowed to fight the Mahdi to the death. At his side is the boy he rescued from the English dockyard slums — his reluctant last ally. As the men make agonising progress across the desert, John Clarke struggles to be the hero of his imagining, while his abandoned wife, Mary, troubles his conscience. Back in London, as controversy rages over the expedition, Mary finds herself adrift and isolated. Her only release comes from laudanum, an addiction that will take her into Victorian London's darkest corners. A novel of extraordinary power that combines the intimate and the epic.

By Gillian Slovo;
352pp; UK;
Virago;
Paperback;
£11.99

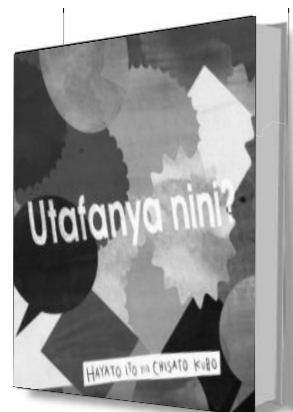


By Ama Ata Aidoo;
176pp;
UK; Ayebia;
Paperback;
£10.99

DIPLOMATIC POUNDS & OTHER STORIES

Ama Ata Aidoo's latest collection of short stories brings together diverse themes that speak to the relationship between Africa and its Diaspora in terms of home and exile and a sense of belonging and alienation.

The collection reveals the intricacies of friendships and love relationships and the complexities involved in African Diaspora connections, engaging with a sense of anomie and fragmentation that is partly a consequence of living across different cultures — African and the West and reveals her interest in presenting common human frailties.



UTAFANYA NINI?

UTAFANYA NINI?
By Chisato Kubo & Hayato Ito;
32pp; TANZANIA;
Mkuki Na Nyota Publishers; Paperback;
£10.95

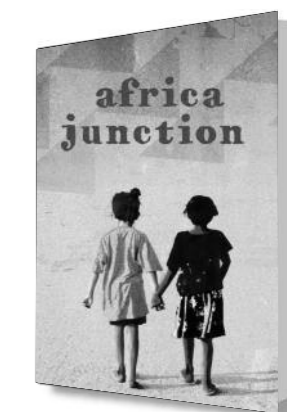
This delightful book in Swahili, large format and beautifully colour illustrated, is designed to stimulate children's imaginations. If the child were a bird, it could fly high and spray everything in beautiful colours, build nests for many birds, carry a friend on its wings and travel to faraway places. If a magician, the child could heal the sick, grow up quickly, be beautiful and well dressed, change the colours of all the animals; as President, the child could build a house on top of Mount Kilimanjaro, make all days public holidays, enlarge Tanzania and make all libraries free. The two Japanese writers and illustrators work and live in Tanzania.

AFRICA JUNCTION

Adele is in a mess. On her own with her young son, struggling to cope with her job as a teacher, and stuck in a disastrous affair — her life is unravelling. Her memories of idyllic years as a child in Senegal are fading, but she's haunted by a vision of her childhood friend, Ellena. Africa is in her head.

Ellena's childhood in exile from brutal conflict in Liberia was far removed from the vibrant Senegal Adele remembers, and a careless, heartless act by Adele destroyed the girls' friendship and jeopardised Ellena's fragile family. Adele must return to Africa to attempt to pull together the drifting threads of her life.

By Ginny Baily;
288pp;
UK; Vintage
UK;
Paperback;
£8.99



Photography



By Pieter Hugo,
T.J. Demos & Aaron Schuman;
224pp; UK; Prestel;
Hardback; £35.00

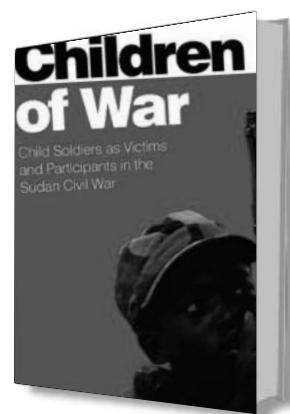
PIETER HUGO:
This must be the place

The book presents nearly ten years of work by award-winning South African photographer Pieter Hugo. This book

includes a selection of over 100 seminal images from before and after 'The Hyena & Other Men', the series that catapulted him into the spotlight in 2007.

Essays by Demos and Schuman situate Hugo's extraordinary career in the realm of contemporary photography.

As Schuman writes, Hugo's images "offer an arresting argument for the untrustworthiness of photography, and at the same time reveal the striking vitality that remains at the heart of the medium when a practitioner bravely dares to pose difficult questions."



By Christine Ryan; 320pp; UK; L.B. Tauris; Hardback; £59.50

CHILDREN OF WAR: Child soldiers as victims and participants in the Sudan civil war

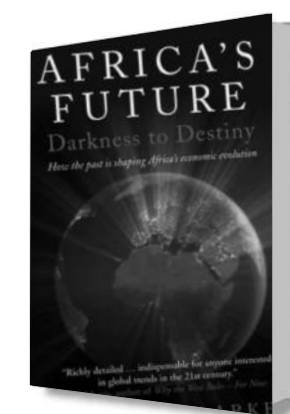
The use of child soldiers in the Sudan Civil War has shattered the accepted understanding of why children join armies. Thousands of children signed up to participate in Africa's longest running civil war, yet, so far, the international community and the academic world have viewed them as victims rather than participants.

In this ground-breaking new study, Christine Emily Ryan challenges preconceptions which have held back aid work and reconstruction in the Sudan region. She illuminates the multi-dimensional motivations which children have for joining the Sudan Liberation Army, and unravels the complexity of their political participation.

AFRICA'S FUTURE: Darkness to Destiny - How the past is shaping Africa's economic evolution

Many seek to fix Africa — economists, experts, politicians, gurus, cognoscenti and glitterati. But, the continent conceals multiple secrets, including the Holy Grail — explanations of its saga. Africa's Future tells the tale of Africa's economic evolution, revealing unique prisms for understanding the continent's panoramic story.

Clarke provides fresh and challenging insights into Africa's economies and future, offering seasoned views on a continent of unlocked potential which has witnessed many false dawns. Not poor but poorly managed, Africa holds greater promise, its destiny revealed by its history.



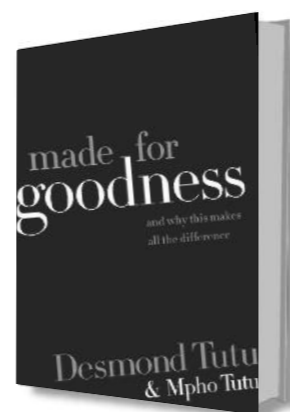
By Duncan Clarke; 320pp; UK; Profile books; Hardback; £20.00

MADE FOR GOODNESS: And why this makes all the difference

As archbishop of Cape Town at the height of the Apartheid regime in South Africa, Desmond Tutu saw many shocking and violent incidents. He came across many appalling stories of man's inhumanity to man.

Yet, he still has a firm conviction that we are 'made by goodness for goodness'. He argues that, though we sometimes act out of depravity and despair, we do know in our heart of hearts that we are not as we were meant to be, and were created to be so much more.

By Desmond Tutu & Mpho Tutu; 244pp; UK; Rider; Paperback; £7.99

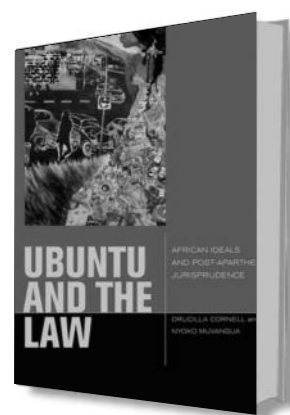
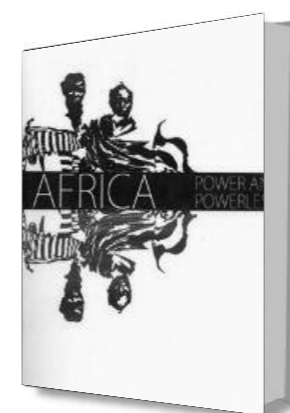


AFRICA: Power and powerlessness

In Africa, the distribution of power and powerlessness seems to be more rigid than on other continents. Political power is in the hands of narrow elites while the overwhelming majority has hardly any access to decision-making.

The common denominator of this book is the notion of power. It follows the analytical differentiation between the concept of power-over that is largely used by mainstream political science, and the concept of power as social practice. The authors ask pertinent questions on how power is composed, created and used on the African continent.

By Hana Horakova & Paul Nugent & Peter Skalmik (Eds.); 184pp; Germany. Lit Verlag; £29.99



By Drucilla Cornell & Nyoko Muvanga (Eds.); 448pp; USA; Fordham University Press; Hardback; £85.00

UBUNTU AND THE LAW: African ideals and postapartheid jurisprudence

This is the first comprehensive study to address the relationship of uBuntu to law. It also provides the most important critical articles on the use of uBuntu, both by the Constitutional Court and by other levels of the judiciary in South Africa. Although uBuntu is an ideal or value rooted in South Africa, its purchase as a performative ethic of the human goes beyond its roots in African languages.

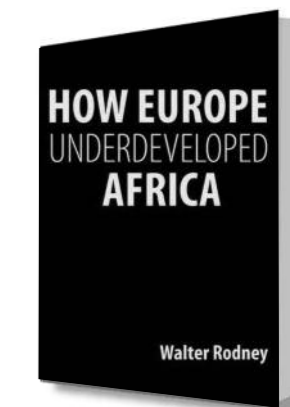
Indeed, this collection helps break through some of the stale anti-nomies in the discussions of cultures and rights, since both the courts and the essays discuss uBuntu as not simply an indigenous ideal but one that in its own terms calls for universal justification.

HOW EUROPE underdeveloped Africa

Few books have been as influential in understanding African impoverishment as Walter Rodney's classic. Rodney argues that the imperial countries of Europe, subsequently joined by the US, bear major responsibility for impoverishing Africa.

They have been joined in this exploitation by agents or unwitting accomplices both in the North and in Africa. This new edition includes additional essays by Rodney and an introduction by the Walter Rodney Foundation, the co-publishers of this officially approved edition, to whom proceeds of the sales of this book will go.

By Walter Rodney; UK; Pambazuka; Paperback; £14.95



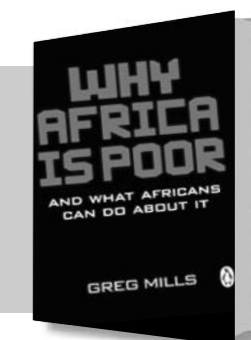
WHY AFRICA IS POOR: And what Africans can do about it

The book looks at the fragile economic and political situation in Africa and makes the quite controversial argument

that the main reason why Africa's people are poor is due to the choices made by their leaders. Greg Mills draws extensively from his experiences in Africa and examines the policy choices that have stunted African development.

In providing some answers to the conundrum of develop-

ment, the book focuses on the way in which the global economy works, Africa's record and the choices made by its leaders, the role of the outside world and the global aid regime. It assesses whether the odds are in Africa's favour and identifies the areas where African leadership could make better choices.



By Greg Mills; 511pp; South Africa; Penguin South Africa; Paperback; £9.99

India, Mauritius map road ahead

(Joint Statement on the occasion of the State Visit of the Prime Minister of Mauritius to New Delhi)

07/02/2012

Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, GCSK, FRCP, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, paid a state visit to India from February 6-11, 2012 at the invitation of the Honourable Prime Minister of the Republic of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh.

The Prime Minister of Mauritius was accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Veena Ramgoolam, Dr. The Hon. Arvin Boolell, GOSK, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Hon. Cader Sayed-Hossen, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection and high-level officials. An important delegation comprising the main economic sectors from Mauritius also accompanied the Prime Minister.

After a ceremonial welcome in New Delhi, the

Prime Minister of Mauritius visited Raj Ghat to pay homage to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi. During the State Visit, the Prime Minister of Mauritius, called on the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil and the Vice President of India, Shri M. Hamid Ansari.

The Prime Minister of Mauritius met the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, and held discussions on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest and relevance. Official talks between India and Mauritius were held on February 7, 2012, in an extremely warm, cordial and friendly atmosphere reflective of the special and unique relationship between the two countries. The Prime Minister of India hosted a banquet in honour of the Prime Minister of Mauritius and the accompanying delegation.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh with his Mauritian counterpart Navinchandra Ramgoolam at the Joint Press Conference in New Delhi on February 7.



The Prime Minister of Mauritius received Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of Finance and Shri Jaipal Reddy, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs. He called on the UPA Chairperson, Smt. Sonia Gandhi.

The two leaders recalled the historical and cultural ties based on the foundations of kinship and shared heritage and common values between the two countries. They reiterated an abiding faith in and commitment to democracy, development and peace.

They shared the confidence that cooperation at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels will enable the two countries to realise their developmental aspirations, and contribute to peace, prosperity and security in the Indian Ocean Region.

The two sides signed the following documents during the visit:

(i) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Science and Technology; (ii) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Youth and Sports; (iii) MOU for Cooperation between Ministry of Textiles, Government of India and Ministry of Industry, Commerce & Consumer Protection, Government of Mauritius; (iv) Education Exchange Programme 2012-2016 and (v) Memorandum of Understanding between the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre Trust Fund and the National Council of Science Museums of India.

Both sides noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in the implementation of projects under the economic package offered by the Government of India to Mauritius in the past. One Advanced Light Helicopter Dhruv was gifted to Mauritius in November 2009 as part of this package. The Coastal Surveillance Radar System was installed and commissioned in April 2011. The construction of the Offshore Patrol Vessel is underway.

The Government of India announced an offer of an economic package, including a Line of Credit of \$250 million and a grant of \$20 million. The Prime Minister of Mauritius thanked the Prime Minister of India for this generous financial package.

The two leaders agreed to strengthen cooperation to enhance security in the Indian Ocean region through jointly agreed programmes of EEZ surveillance, exchange of information, capacity building and the development of an effective legal framework against piracy.

The two leaders emphasised the need to intensify cooperation to tackle the challenges faced by Indian Ocean Rim countries, including strengthening the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC). Mauritius pledged its full support to IOR-ARC as India assumed the Chair of IOR-ARC.

The two leaders reviewed the progress achieved so far in cooperation in hydrography between India and Mauritius. Both sides agreed that six years of bilateral cooperation in hydrography had led to the successful preparation of new navigational charts of Mauritian waters.

The two leaders reviewed the various efforts to promote bilateral trade and investment ties and the development of infrastructure in a manner that contributes to sustainable development in both countries. The two leaders noted the growth of bilateral trade between India and Mauritius which has increased from US\$207 million in 2005-06 to US\$818 million in the year 2010-11, a growth of 295 percent in the last five years. During Financial Year 2010-11, India's

INDIA ANNOUNCED AN OFFER OF AN ECONOMIC PACKAGE, INCLUDING A LINE OF CREDIT OF \$250 MILLION AND A GRANT OF \$20 MILLION

exports to Mauritius were US\$801 million and imports from Mauritius were US\$17 million. It was agreed that the Joint Commission Meeting would be held at an early date where all issues relating to closer economic cooperation would be addressed.

Both sides noted with satisfaction, the growing economic and commercial ties between India and Mauritius. The two Prime Ministers agreed on the need to foster greater business linkages in all areas where opportunities exist whether at bilateral or regional level.

Both sides noted that the Meeting of the Joint Working Group on DTAC was held from December 21-23, 2011 in a friendly, constructive and positive atmosphere. Both sides agreed to continue discussions at an early date with a view to reaching a mutually agreeable outcome.

Mauritius welcomed the initiative taken by India to hold the India Africa Forum Summits on a regular basis. Both sides noted with satisfac-

tion that the process had enhanced India's engagement with Africa and given it a modern and functional dimension.

Mauritius expressed its appreciation for the contribution by India for infrastructure development and capacity building in Africa. A large amount of credit lines were providing an important basis for increased development and enhanced business interaction between India and Africa.

The human resource development and capacity building initiatives were providing opportunities for training African youth to participate in their own development process. They expressed their satisfaction that the Pan African e-Network Project had been successfully implemented in Mauritius and that, under the IAFS initiatives, the Hybrid Planetarium at the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre would be undertaken.

THE TWO LEADERS SAID THAT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN PROVIDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Both leaders reiterated the importance of an effective multilateral system, centered around a strong United Nations, as a key factor in tackling global challenges. In this context, they also recognised the need to pursue reform of the main UN bodies, including the revitalisation of the UN General Assembly and expansion of the UN Security Council in both categories of membership. The Prime Minister of Mauritius reiterated his country's consistent support for India's candidature for permanent membership of an expanded UN Security Council.

The two leaders underscored the need for strengthening and reforming multilateral financial institutions and enhancing the voice and participation of developing countries, including SIDS, in international economic decision-making.

The two leaders reaffirmed their unequivocal position against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. In furtherance of the shared security interests of both countries which are interlinked in the region, it was agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation on

issues of common concern, including piracy, terrorism, organised crime and drugs. It was also agreed to intensify cooperation in the areas of training and capacity building of the Mauritian Police Force. The Prime Minister of Mauritius expressed interest in the purchase of equipment to strengthen the capability of Mauritius Police Force.

The Prime Minister of India assured that this equipment could be supplied expeditiously to Mauritius under a mutually-agreed time frame. Both the Prime Minister of India and the Prime Minister of Mauritius also agreed on the necessity of ensuring adequate surveillance of the vast EEZ of Mauritius through mutually agreed programmes.

Both sides agreed that climate change was one of the most important global challenges. They reaffirmed the provisions and principles of the United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in particular, that of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

They reiterated that developed countries should take the lead in undertaking ambitious mitigation efforts and providing financial and technological support to developing countries. Both Parties shall collaborate on projects of mutual interest to preserve common eco-systems. They shall also collaborate to address vulnerability of Mauritius as a Small Island Developing State (SID) to Climate Change and strengthen coastal research.

India reiterated its consistent support to Mauritius for the restoration of Mauritian sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago. The Prime Minister of Mauritius thanked India for its long-standing and unwavering stand in this regard.

Both leaders welcomed the fact that the business delegation, led by the Hon. Prime Minister of Mauritius, had meaningful interactions with the business communities of India in New Delhi and Mumbai. The Prime Minister of Mauritius thanked the Prime Minister of India for the warmth, cordiality and gracious hospitality extended to him and members of his delegation during their stay in India.

Prime Minister Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam extended an invitation to Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to pay a visit to Mauritius. The invitation was accepted and it was agreed that the dates of the visit would be finalised through diplomatic channels. ●

'A complete meeting of minds'

(Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the media during the State visit of Prime Minister of Mauritius)

07/02/2012

It is a great honour for me to welcome Prime Minister Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam on his State Visit to India. He is a very special dear friend of India and a distinguished member of the Indian diaspora.

Prime Minister Dr. Ramgoolam and I have completed extremely fruitful and wide-ranging discussions aimed at strengthening and further expanding the India-Mauritius partnership.

Relations between India and Mauritius are rooted in strong historical and cultural links. However, over the years, our relations have been transformed into a modern, dynamic, comprehensive and mutually beneficial partnership that encompasses active cooperation in a wide spectrum of spheres.

We have agreed that the next Meeting of the India-Mauritius Joint Commission on Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation will be held later this year to identify new measures to promote cooperation in key areas.

India has been a long-standing development partner of Mauritius. I was happy to inform the Prime Minister that the Government of India will provide a new economic package to Mauritius consisting of a Line of Credit of US\$250 million and a grant of US\$20 million.

A part of this grant will be used to establish a hybrid planetarium at the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre in Mauritius.

We reviewed the status of implementation of the India-Mauritius Double Taxation Avoidance Convention. Both India and Mauritius have a mutual interest in ensuring that there is no misuse of the convention. We are happy that the Joint Working Group on this Convention has resumed its work and held a meeting recently in

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh with his Mauritian counterpart Navinchandra Ramgoolam in New Delhi on February 7.

Port Louis in December 2011. We have directed our officials to continue their work towards finding a mutually acceptable and satisfactory solution to the issues that concern us at the earliest.

The Memorandums of Understanding signed today in the areas of Science and Technology and Education will enable institutionalized cooperation in human resource development in our two countries.

I have also invited Mauritius to make the best use of the opportunities available under the initiatives launched by us as part of the India-Africa Forum Summit process.

Diaspora links have provided the foundation for our bilateral relations. The Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Sports and Youth Affairs will help in strengthen-



ing these contacts, particularly amongst the youth of our two countries.

The Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Textiles is aimed at developing cooperation to mutually benefit from the strengths and endowment of both countries with regard to raw materials, skill development and increasing production capabilities.

Defence and security cooperation is one of the key pillars of our relationship. We both have common security interests. India will continue to support Mauritius in ensuring the security and sovereignty of its land and maritime territory.

We have agreed to strengthen our cooperation to address the growing menace of piracy which has emerged as a major security and developmental

challenge for all littoral states of the Indian Ocean. A stable and peaceful Indian Ocean is an objective we both share. In this context, we have agreed that India — as current chair of the IOR-ARC, and Mauritius — as the host for its Secretariat — should work together to reinvigorate this important initiative.

We have had a complete meeting of minds on key regional and global issues. We deeply appreciate Mauritius' consistent and strong support for India's candidature as a permanent member of an expanded and reformed United Nations Security Council.

This visit of Prime Minister Dr. Ramgoolam has imparted a fresh impetus to our efforts to further strengthen our excellent bilateral relations.🌐

trade and economic cooperation, culture, connectivity, education, space and tourism. We look forward to working closely with you towards this end.

I once again wish you a very pleasant stay in India.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to invite you to join me in a toast to:

- To the good health and well being of Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius His Excellency The Honourable Navinchandra Ramgoolam, and Mrs. Veena Ramgoolam;
- To the progress and prosperity of the friendly people of the Republic of Mauritius.
- To the close and continuing friendship between India and Mauritius.🌐

'Mauritius not a friend but family'

(Banquet speech by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh during the State visit of Prime Minister of Mauritius to New Delhi)

07/02/2012

It is my honour and privilege to warmly welcome Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam and his delegation to India. Excellency, we regard you as a close and special friend of long standing. Even more than a friend, we regard you as family. The bonds of friendship between India and Mauritius are rooted in strong historical and cultural links. After an arduous journey and overcoming the vagaries of nature, your ancestors settled in Mauritius and have laid the foundations of a modern and prosperous State. The linkages forged by Mahatma Gandhi and Manilal Doctor among others, were carried forward by Smt. Indira Gandhi. She developed a close rapport with your distinguished father, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, who led your country to freedom and prosperity.

Today, our two countries have built strong bridges across the Indian Ocean to bring our people closer together. Yet advances in technology and communications allow us to close the gap

even further between us. Our interests and welfare are interlinked. We must work towards greater integration in the widest sense of the term.

India and Mauritius are both pluralistic societies where rule of law and democratic values are cherished. Unity in diversity is the hallmark of both our countries.

We compliment you and the people of Mauritius on the socio-economic progress that Mauritius has achieved over the last four decades. Mauritius has emerged as a model of success for Africa as well as for the entire world. Despite the prevalent winds of turbulence affecting the global economy, Mauritius has shown remarkable resilience under your leadership and has maintained an impressive economic growth and a high standard of living. India is committed to extending its full support to the Government and people of Mauritius in their development efforts.

Your visit has provided us an opportunity to reaffirm our special relationship and to identify ways and means of further enriching our multi-faceted partnership for the mutual benefit of our two peoples.

There are many areas where our two countries can elevate the level of our cooperation to an even higher level. These include the areas of

'India desires stability in Somalia'

(Intervention by India's Minister of State for External Affairs E. Ahamed at the London Conference on Somalia in London)

23/02/2012

Let me begin by thanking the United Kingdom for organising this important and timely conference. We hope today's deliberations would be a step towards a comprehensive strategy to rid Somalia of the instability and conflict that has mired it for over two decades. We are here to affirm our solidarity with the people of Somalia with whom we share two millennia of civilizational exchanges across the seas.

As His Excellency Sheikh Sharif remarked to me yesterday, his country and mine are neighbours, separated only by the waters of our common ocean. India desires stability in Somalia. Piracy is the most obvious example of the lack of it. Not many years ago, India made a major contribution to peacekeeping in Somalia through its significant involvement in UNOSOM-II. Last May following my Prime Minister's announcement at the second India Africa Summit we became financial contributors to AMISOM. We have continued to extend help to Somalia in capacity building through human resource development and have recently increased the number of scholarships we grant. We have also successfully contributed in the information technology sector in Somalia. We remain committed to helping Somalia in its development.

Much of India's trade passes through the Gulf of Aden, estimated at about US\$ 120 billion annually. Indians constitute 7 percent of all the

World's seafarers and a manifestation of the Somali predicament has been the tremendous human cost that these seafarers pay. As I speak, a number of Indian seafarers remain hostage to pirates in Somalia. We hope the outcome document of this important Conference will reflect our concerns over the treatment meted out to mariners. We support all international efforts, led by the United Nations, for the creation of an environment in which the Somalis can take care of their own destiny, free from violence of all kinds. I am confident this conference will be a reaffirmation of our collective commitment to Somalia's immediate future.🌐



India's Minister of State for External Affairs E. Ahamed, with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Luxembourg Jean Asselborn on the sidelines of the London Conference on Somalia.

'India's solidarity with Africa special'

(Speech by Minister of State for External Affairs Preneet Kaur at the inaugural session of India-Africa Science and Technology Ministerial Conference at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi)

01/03/2012

I am delighted and deeply honoured to have this opportunity to welcome this distinguished gathering of Ministers and delegates for the India-Africa Science and Technology Ministerial Conference and Tech Expo.

India has always felt a special solidarity with Africa. In more contemporary times, the ties of friendship that bind us were forged in our common struggle against colonial domination and apartheid. India is keen for a reinvigorated and multi-dimensional India-Africa relationship. The tradition has continued under the rubric of the India Africa Forum Summit that paves the way for India and Africa in the areas of technology transfer, economic cooperation and capacity building. This new paradigm of cooperation aims at building upon the historical trust, goodwill and political engagement between India and Africa to create a modern functional partnership for mutual benefit.

We have now embarked upon an intensive and all-encompassing engagement with the African countries to implement important decisions that India and Africa took together at the first and second India Africa Forum Summits held in April 2008 and May 2011, respectively.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that today we are fulfilling one of the important commitments made at the first India Africa Forum Summit by organising the S&T Ministerial Conference. We are confident that the Science and Technology exposition will provide an opportunity to witness, appreciate and share various technologies. It will also help to develop an understanding for science, technology and innovation systems in the African continent.

India's visionary Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru considered institutions of scientific knowledge as "temples of learning" and "places of pilgrimage". The spirit of this vision echoes, as under

IAFS-I and IAFS-II, India has committed more than 100 capacity building institutions in Africa. This manifests our desire to build African capacities for both human and natural resources.

Among the institutions, that we propose to establish and which have direct impact in the field of science and technology are; Food Processing Cluster, Medium Range Weather Forecasting Centre, University for Life and Earth Sciences, Soil, water and Tissue Testing Laboratories, Farm Science Centers, Material Testing Laboratories for Highways, Rural Technology Parks, Food Testing Laboratories, Centres on Geo-Informatic Applications and Rural Development, Women Solar Engineer vocational Training Centers, besides Information Technology Centers. The Addis Ababa Declaration and the Africa India Framework for Enhanced Cooperation adopted at the end of the second Summit will now guide our systematic enhanced engagement with Africa in the coming years.

Demonstrating India's continued commitment to development in Africa, India has successfully implemented the Pan-African e-Network Project including tele-education, tele-medicine and connectivity between leaders in 47 African countries. An agreement has also been signed for its implementation in the 48th country, South Sudan recently. To further strengthen these issues in Africa, there is a provision for 22,000 new scholarships for African Students in various academic courses and training programmes including special agriculture scholarships and C.V. Raman fellowships. India has offered more than 700 CV Raman Scientific Fellowships till 2014.

So far more than 150 post-doctorates from Africa have availed the fellowships. We hope that this would help in building capacity for scientific research in Africa. As per India's commitment to assist African countries in the field of Science & Technology, proposals for institutional strengthening of identified institutions in Africa and transfer of need based technologies have also been initiated. We are happy that the delegates from all the three institutes are present here and hope that they will have fruitful discussions with their India interlocutors.

My ministry will support all these initiatives

through its "Aid to Africa" budget and has duly secured approvals from the Cabinet to take this vast new agenda forward. In conclusion, the camaraderie India shares with Africa would enhance technical collaboration, transfer of technology and greater participation by the young and dynamic

populations of both India and Africa. The next India Africa Forum Summit is slated for 2014 and our endeavour will be to implement as many decisions of the two Summits that have taken place so far as possible and take India-Africa cooperation to a new height by adopting mutually beneficial ideas.🌐

Where the mind is without fear...

(Remarks by External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna at the Unveiling Ceremony of Tagore Portrait at the House of Poetry in Cairo, Egypt)

04/03/2012

I am delighted to be here in Egypt. When I entered the hallowed district of Al Azhar, where the House of Poetry is located, I realised why Cairo is referred to as "Umm Al Duniya", the mother of the world. This is the city that gave birth to so many luminaries of poetry. The House of Poetry, a heritage building, is indeed an appropriate place to nurture that legacy.

I also come from an ancient land where we value such a heritage. Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, one of India's greatest sons, is remembered 70 years after his death, not only for his lyrical poetry, his melodious songs, his marvelous dance dramas but also his path breaking ideas as an educationist. Most importantly, Gurudev Tagore's humanist philosophy believed in the essential one-ness of humanity.

As we strive to preserve our distinct identities as individuals, groups, communities and nations, it is important to recognize and celebrate our commonalities. I quote these celebrated lines from the Gitanjali :

*Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high;
Where knowledge is free;
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls;
Where words come out from the depth of truth;
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection;*

*Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit;
Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever-widening thought and action
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.*

As Ambassador Swaminathan has said Gurudev Tagore visited Egypt twice, first as a 17 year old in 1878 and later as a mature poet philosopher in 1926.

There is an interesting anecdote from his second visit to Cairo in 1926. On 28 November, 1926 he was invited to the great Egyptian poet Ahmed Shawqi's house for a lecture. Many political leaders attended the lecture. In fact, the Parliament session which was to begin at 5 P. M. was postponed by an hour to accommodate this function.

Tagore wrote in his travelogue, "I was told that this was unprecedented and that this it could not have been done for anyone else. This was indeed a novel way to show me their respect. I said this was homage paid to knowledge by politics. This was possible only in the East."

I am conscious as I stand in the House of Poetry that for the second time Tagore has been greatly honoured in this country. It is befitting that this is taking place during the observance of 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Gurudev Tagore in Egypt. It is also a testimony of the great friendship enjoyed between India and Egypt.

I am happy to note that the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, which commissioned this portrait, earned the distinction of making this unique and lasting contribution to the House of Poetry. I am confident that we would have more such cultural exchanges between our two peoples, which would further strengthen our bonds of friendship.🌐



'Egypt a stabilising factor in the world'

(Excerpts from Media Statement by External Affairs Minister at the Joint Press Conference following the 6th India-Egypt Joint Commission Meeting in Cairo)

04/03/2012

I am delighted to be here in Cairo; this is my first visit to Egypt. Since my arrival, I have had the opportunity to meet His Excellency Field Marshal Mohamed Hussein Tantawi, Chairman, Supreme Council of Armed Forces and His Excellency Dr. Kamal El Ganzoury, Prime Minister.

I have just concluded very useful and productive discussions with Foreign Minister Kamel Amr and co-chaired with him the sixth session of Egypt-India Joint Commission Meeting.

We reviewed the entire gamut of our bilateral relations during the just concluded Joint Commission Meeting. Foreign Minister Kamel Amr and I accepted the recommendations of four sub-committees on Trade & Economic Co-operation, Scientific & Technical Co-operation, Cultural Co-operation and Information Technology on strengthening bilateral relations in these sectors.

We also signed four documents including an MoU on Cooperation in the field of Environment Protection, Cultural Exchange Programme for the years 2012-15, Work Plan for Agricultural Cooperation between Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Agricultural Research Centre of Egypt for the year 2012-13 and a MoU between Egyptian Organisation for Standardisation and Bureau of Indian Standards.

Yesterday, Egyptian Minister of Culture and I unveiled a portrait of Rabindranath Tagore, renowned litterateur and the first Asian to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature, at the House of Poetry. I was very happy to know that Tagore is the first non-Arabpoet whose portrait has been installed at the House of Poetry.

This morning the Prime Minister of Egypt suggested that a multisectoral Indian delegation with representatives from both private and public sectors visit Egypt to focus on concrete areas of economic cooperation. I have welcomed this proposal and requested the Egyptian side to identify specific sectors of their interest so that we can take the proposal forward. We hope that this delegation will visit Egypt shortly for focussed and productive discussions.

External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna with Egypt's Foreign Minister Mohamed Kamel Ali Amr, at the 6th Joint Commission Meeting between India and Egypt in Cairo on March 4.

I also met His Excellency Dr. Nabil El Araby Secretary General of League of Arab States. India and Arab League has been holding regular political consultations since the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation in 2008. The first meeting of the High Level Joint Committee of Arab-India Cooperation Forum was held in Cairo last week.

India has a robust cooperation arrangement with Arab countries and particularly with Arab League. Arab world and India share civilisational links, common cultural values and political beliefs and enjoy strong economic ties. With these activities, we propose to strengthen India-Arab cooperation further.

India-Egypt relations are over five millennium years old. In modern times, our relations were soundly founded on shared ideology and common

beliefs. India has always viewed Egypt as a stabilising factor in the region and in the world. Egypt has consistently played a vital role in the Non-Aligned Movement and championed the cause of the developing world. Our bilateral relations constitute a factor of peace and stability in international relations.

The leaderships of our two countries maintain close contact through regular Ministerial visits and exchanges at the highest level. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit in 2009 for the NAM summit was followed by visits of a number of Ministerial delegations to Egypt. Our bilateral trade of \$3 billion last year is promising to grow in the coming years. Indian investment of 2.5 billion dollars is generating employment for 30,000 Egyptians. None of the Indian companies who had invested in Egypt have left the country after the Revolution. In fact, one more Indian factory has been established in Ain Sukhna.

I thanked Foreign Minister Mohamed Kamel Amr for the warm hospitality extended to me and my delegation. I also take this opportunity to wish Egypt success in all its endeavours. 🌍

'India, Africa have common resolve'

(Inaugural Address by Minister of State for External Affairs Preeti Kaur at the 8th CII EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership "Creating Possibilities; Delivering Values" 2012 in New Delhi)

19/04/2012

I am delighted to participate at this inaugural session on "India-Africa: Partners in Progress" of the 8th CII EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership, 2012 "Creating Possibilities; Delivering Values". I welcome you all the Ministers and delegates who have come from Africa. Your visit and participation in this conclave makes it more meaningful. I am also delighted to welcome the young parliamentarians, Journalists and Secretary Generals of various African Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Your presence here, Excellencies, is an affirmation of our common resolve and shared vision. I am happy that your visit to India takes place at the time of 8th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership, 2012. India has institutionalised its partnership with Africa to deal with the common challenges of development in the 21st Century under the rubric of the India-Africa Forum Summits.

The IAFS process has provided a new direction for greater collaboration in the areas of technology transfer, economic cooperation and capacity building. In fact the tripod on which the India-Africa relationship stands today with the resonance of South-South cooperation is that of technology, investment and training.

Recognising the trends towards regional integration in Africa we have created a three-tiered cooperation at the Pan-African, regional and bilateral levels with Africa. Under the decisions

IAFS process, India would be establishing more than 100 capacity building institutions in Africa. There is also a provision for 22,000 scholarships for African students in various academic courses and training programmes including Special Agriculture Scholarships and C. V. Raman Scientific fellowships. Besides, we intend to organise several workshops and conferences. In the last 6 months we have already organised 15 workshops or Conferences including the India-Africa Hydrocarbon Conference, India-Africa Science and Technology Ministers Conference, and a conference to enhance economic partnership.

At the Second India-Africa Forum Summit, held in Addis Ababa in May 2011, a series of new initiatives were announced with regard to establishment of various capacity building institutions which includes India-Africa Food Processing Cluster; India-Africa integrated Textile Cluster; India-Africa Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting; India-Africa University for Life and Earth Sciences; India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development, etc.

These will be established at PAN-African level and the location of these institutions will be decided by the African Union. We are also setting up 32 institutions at regional level and approximately 40 Institutions at Bilateral level. I hope this will support the endeavour to achieve

have already conducted more than 50 special Training programmes so far which have been attended by more than 1000 participants from 43 African Countries.

While India today stands as an important partner with Africa we have realised that the world is changing rapidly. At this conclave we aim at creating a new understanding in the fast changing global economy and realise that we among the developing countries, must not depend only on traditional markets but must develop new markets as well and I am happy to note that India's trade with Africa has increased by more than 35 percent during 2010-11 from the previous year. This CII Conclave "Creating Possibilities; Delivering Values" aims at enhancing an understanding, recognising the new conditions and the emerging opportunities so that our partnership and engagement becomes more fruitful.

India's economic growth and investment in education, human resource development, infrastructure and service sector has brought forth immense opportunities for modern India. We believe that this experience is a basis for sharing with Africa and for creating opportunities for cooperation and business partnerships.

I am happy to state that the initiative taken by India for the PAN-African e-network project is functional in 47 African Countries and providing tele-medicine and tele-education facilities.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is matter of immense pride for us that we have just launched the India-Africa Business Council and convened the first meeting of Council. This Council will facilitate and enhance our business engagements. We have also concluded the Second India-Africa Trade Ministers meeting which has provided a unique platform to enhance our Business engagement.

I am confident that these initiatives which recognise the development cooperation between India and Africa would have a positive impact on our societies and people to people contact. I would urge that the measures that we have outlined will lead to the development of stronger partnership, evolution of new areas of trade and investment and endeavour to enhance economic partnership between India and Africa.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have briefly touched upon the areas of cooperation that we undertake with Africa through the processes of the India Africa Summits. Our

emphasis on nurturing human resources, building African capacities and enhance value addition and processing of African resources and commodities is unflinching.

We are committed to work with Africa for fulfilling its developmental aspirations and we know both the pain and the pleasure of the processes of development in a democratic framework for multi-cultural and pluralistic societies.

We believe that such a vast canvas needs multi-faceted attention and that is why my Ministry, which largely provides the budget for many of these activities, has tried to bring together various important groups of our African friends to also have associated with the India-Africa conclave. This manifests our desire to do business with Africa with a human face.

I wish you a pleasant stay in India and fruitful deliberations.🌍

'India a trusted partner of Seychelles'

(Statement to the press by President Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the conclusion of meeting with President of Seychelles at Victoria, Mahe)

30/04/2012

I am, indeed, very happy to be in Seychelles. My delegation and I are deeply touched by the warmth of the reception, and the generous hospitality accorded to us by the Government and the people of Seychelles. I bring greetings and good wishes from the people of India to the friendly people of Seychelles.

This is my first visit to Seychelles, a country of amazing natural beauty. I feel privileged to be here at the invitation of President James Alix Michel whose State visit to India in June 2010 was path breaking in our bilateral relations. My visit to Seychelles is to re-emphasize the strong friendship that exists between our two countries, which share the Indian Ocean and along with it, cultural affinities and ties of history. Today, this relationship is vibrant, wide-ranging, multi-dimensional and mutually beneficial. My visit to Seychelles reaffirms our common commitment to take our relations to new heights.

My meeting with His Excellency President James Alix Michel was very fruitful. I have also had a useful meeting with His Excellency the Vice President and the Cabinet Ministers of Seychelles. We have noted with satisfaction that India and Seychelles have, over the past few decades, developed a strong and mutually ben-

eficial cooperation at both bilateral and regional levels. Given the progress in the relationship, both sides expressed the desire to work together towards elevating the bilateral relations to a strategic partnership for mutual benefit.

While expressing satisfaction over the present state of our economic-commercial relations, we agreed that considerable opportunities still exist for further expansion, particularly in the areas of trade and economic cooperation. I am happy to state that a business delegation has joined me from India to explore business opportunities in Seychelles. My participation in the Business Forum Meet last evening in Seychelles was very encouraging. I am confident that this interaction will further push bilateral relations in the economic and commercial fields.

We have agreed to further enhance exchanges in the fields of higher education, manpower development, health, Information and Communications Technology, Science and Technology, hydrographic surveys, monorail, tourism, hospitality and culture. In fact, the signing of the MoU on Cooperation in the field of Youth Affairs and Sports, will go a long way in enhancing people-to-people exchanges also. India would always be a trusted development partner of Seychelles. In tune with this commitment, I was happy to inform President Michel of India's financial package of a Line of Credit of \$50 million and a grant of \$25 million for Seychelles.

We expressed satisfaction at the present level of bilateral cooperation in the defence and secu-

INDIA WILL BE ESTABLISHING MORE THAN 100 CAPACITY BUILDING INSTITUTIONS. THERE IS ALSO A PROVISION FOR 22,000 SCHOLARSHIPS

millennium development goals in Africa.

India has a large exposure through the Lines of Credit in Africa. During the Second India-Africa Forum Summit in May 2011, the Prime Minister of India announced the availability of Line of Credit of \$5 billion in the next 3 years. These Lines of Credit will support the development of infrastructure and expansion of industries and encourage the private sector to invest in Africa and the like.

It gives me pleasure to share with you that our capacity building training programmes under the framework of IAFS-I & II have been widely appreciated by our African partners. We

rity areas, especially in the context of combating piracy in the Indian Ocean region. Piracy in the region adversely impacts on us all. India reiterated its commitment to provide assistance to Seychelles in the defence sector, including training and deputation of experts. We have seen the signing today of an MoU on co-operation on training of police personnel.

I express my gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Seychelles for its valued support on regional and global issues of crucial importance to India. Seychelles has consistently supported India's candidature for a permanent membership in an expanded United Nations Security Council. The re-entry of Seychelles as

a member of the IOR-ARC will further make the organization more representative and I hope Seychelles will benefit from it.

I am privileged to have been given the opportunity to address the Special Session of the National Assembly of Seychelles. It will be soon after this, and I am looking forward to it. India is keen to enhance parliamentary exchanges between our two countries. I am happy that apart from a Minister, two Members of Parliament are also with me to be part of this historic moment.

I have invited President James Alix Michel to visit India, which he has accepted. The visit will take place on mutually convenient dates. ●

invited young MPs from African countries for mutually beneficial interactions with their Indian counterparts last month. I am happy that one of the young lady MPs from Seychelles had participated in the programme. I am happy that MPs from India are with me during this visit. We would like to continue such interactions.

India and Seychelles enjoy close relations. The links between our two countries extend to every aspect of human life, be it social, economic, cultural, intellectual or political. Our relations are characterized by regular high level visits and political consultation, both at the highest and official levels. President Michel's State visit to India in June 2010 was historic as were his visits in 2011 and 2012. He has been instrumental in building up the relationship between our two countries over the years.

These visits have strengthened co-operation in all fields. India would like to continue as an important partner of Seychelles in its development process. We are now entering a new phase of increased bilateral relationship. There is so much to gain and benefit through mutual help and understanding. Let us expand cooperation in areas such as economic and commercial, tourism including eco-tourism, and environment, apart from the existing cooperation in defence and security, education, health and human resource development.

Seychelles has ethnic links with three continents — Asia, Africa and Europe. It is uniquely placed to play a role in our efforts to achieve better integration of our policies with Africa. There is nothing metaphorical when we say that the trade winds take us to Africa via Seychelles. Shared values have enabled our two countries to have a common vision and common goals in our bilateral and multilateral ties. As members of the NAM, United Nations, Commonwealth and IOR-ARC, both the countries have played an important and cooperative role in these multilateral bodies. We have maintained close cooperation in multilateral fora mindful of each other's vital interests and considering them as our own.

Peace and security has always remained the primary pre-condition for development. Attainable and Sustainable peace can only be achieved by curbing the acts of violence, conflicts and terrorism. There is a common need to be vigilant against this common threat. I would like to thank the people of Seychelles for their principled and consistent support to India on the issue of terrorism. The fight against terrorism has to be comprehensive and sustained, and for that we need to isolate



(Left) President Pratibha Devisingh Patil with the Seychelles' President James Alix Michel on April 30.

'Parliaments help build bridges'

(Address by President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil to the National Assembly of Seychelles in Victoria)

30/04/2012

I bring to you warm greetings, good wishes and best regards from the people of India, from the Members of the Indian Parliament, and from the Government of India. I am honoured to have the privilege to address this special session of the National Assembly of Seychelles, the pillar of democracy of your beautiful country.

I am fascinated by the unique splendour of this paradise island. I am deeply touched by the warm welcome extended to me and my delegation by the friendly people of Seychelles.

Our peoples and our countries are connected by the Indian Ocean, the trade winds and the monsoon. The bonds between us are rich and infused with history. We share a common legacy of colonialism and a struggle to free our nations. India's struggle for freedom was a unique movement for democracy, justice and equality. It was led by Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of our Nation — an important bridge between India and the African continent. It was the cradle of Africa that turned the barrister into a Mahatma, who remains the symbol of peace and, non-violence as also hope all

over the world as it strives for global stability and security.

India and Seychelles are two vibrant democracies that share common values like expression of popular will, respect for liberty and human rights, adult suffrage, rule of law and equality. India's experience has shown to the world how development can be addressed within the constitutional and democratic frameworks; how aspirations of millions can flourish in a pluralistic society and how diversity can be unifying as well. Democracy in India has remained strong and peoples' faith in the system has remained alive and vibrant, as reflected in huge turnouts in all stages of elections to our Parliament and state assemblies.

We, in India, have great admiration for Seychelles's strong democratic traditions, for its economic reforms, for the impressive human and social development indicators it has attained. In a democracy, Parliaments are the forums to understand and address people's aspirations and their developmental needs, and to focus on various aspects of governance, which impact on the well-being of the people. We also believe that Parliaments can play a role in building greater understanding between the peoples of different countries. India would like to increase cooperation between our two Parliaments, and there should be more exchange of visits between the Members of Parliaments. With this aim in view we

the elements who instigate, support or assist terrorism, in any form, as much as those who perpetrate it. The issue of terrorism has been made more complex with the challenge posed by piracy.

The issue of piracy, though not new, has brought a new dimension to the threat it posed to the peaceful Indian Ocean. This is affecting India as well as Seychelles, and many other countries by threatening security of our sea-lanes of trade and communication. India acknowledges the immense courage and conviction demonstrated by Seychelles in tackling the problem of piracy.

India would continue to extend cooperation to Seychelles in the fight against piracy as has been the case during the last few years. Indian naval ships make regular visits to Seychelles to safeguard the Exclusive Economic Zone of Seychelles. We are living in an era in which most global problems and their solutions pertain to developing nations like ours and it is the demand of our time that our global institutions reflect this reality.

There is a need to expand the UN Security Council to make it more representative and effective to address challenges of the 21st Century. In this context, I would like to convey our sincere appreciation for the support of the Government of Seychelles to India's candidature for the permanent membership of UN Security Council.

Hon'ble Speaker, once again may I express my gratitude to you for having given me this opportunity to share my thoughts with the Honourable members of the National Assembly of Seychelles. It was, indeed, a great privilege and rare honour for me. I wish the very best to every one of you. May God bless your country and all the inhabitants, with ever increasing prosperity, success and glory. ●

Contributors

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Articles submitted to *Africa Quarterly* should be original contributions and should not be under consideration by any other publication at the same time. The Editor is responsible for the selection and acceptance of articles, but responsibility for errors of facts and opinions expressed in them rests with authors. Manuscripts submitted should be accompanied with a statement that the same has not been submitted/accepted for publication elsewhere. Copyright of articles published in the *Africa Quarterly* will be retained by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

Manuscripts submitted to *Africa Quarterly* should be typed double space on one side of the paper and two copies should be sent. A diskette (3 1/2") MS-Dos compatible, and e-mail as an attachment should be sent along with the two hard copies. Authors should clearly indicate their full name, address, e-mail, academic status and current institutional affiliation. A brief biographical note (one paragraph) about the writer may also be sent.

The length of the article should not normally exceed 7,000 to 8,000 words, or 20 to 25 (A-4 size) typed pages in manuscript. Titles should be kept as brief as possible.

Footnote numbering should be clearly marked and consecutively numbered in the text and notes placed at the end of the article and not at the bottom of the relevant page. Tables (including graphs, maps, figures) must be submitted in a form suitable for reproduction on a separate sheet of paper and not within the text. Each table should have a clear descriptive title and mention where it is to be placed in the article. Place all footnotes in a table at the end of the article. Reference numbers within the text should be placed after the punctuation mark.

Footnote style: In the case of books, the author, title of the book, place of publication, publisher, date of publication and page numbers should be given in that order, e.g. Basil Davidson, 'The Blackman's Burden: Africa and the Curse of the Nation State', London, James Curry, 1992, pp. 15-22.

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