

Indian speaker's visit to Tanzania to consolidate relationship

By Beatrice Philemon

LOK SABHA speaker of Indian Parliament, Om Birla has suggested that, as Parliamentary Institutions being nodal pillars of democratic governance, it will be good for Tanzania and India to encourage regular interactions between their Parliaments and parliamentarians.

Birla said this recently during his three days visit in Tanzania for parliamentary cooperation between the two countries.

He was accompanied by 12 Indian Parliamentary delegations in an invitation of the Speaker of Tanzanian National Assembly Dr. Tulia Ackson.

"I am sure that this visit by our Parliamentary Delegation will further enhance and deepen our bilateral relationship," he said.

The current visit of the Indian Parliamentary Delegation to Tanzania is very significant in the backdrop of the deepening Indo-Tanzanian relationship which has evolved in recent years.

The two countries modern and pragmatic partnership has greater emphasis on diversified trade, investment and economic engagement, development partnership covering capacity building, training, concessional credits and grants, and mutual understanding at political level.

India-Tanzania relations are marked by longstanding friendship and closeness, vibrant economic ties, wide ranging and substantive development partnership and historical people-level linkages, built over centuries-old commercial exchanges.

"The periodic high-level visits between two countries have been an important feature of sound political ties, understanding and appreciation over the last fifty years," he said.

"Our current visit assumes special significance which comes fifty years after the visit of the Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Dr. G.S. Dhillon, Speaker, Lok Sabha from 10 to 13 October 1972."

The Speaker said India believes in the philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (The World is like one family). As Parliamentary institutions are nodal pillars of our democratic governance.

While in Tanzania, he held discussions with Speaker of National Assembly of Tanzania Dr. Tulia Ackson and thanked her for the warm welcome.

Also speaker of House of Representatives of Zanzibar Zubeir Ali Maulid joined the meeting.

Indian delegation who were in Tanzania includes Mr. Utpal Kumar Singh, Secretary General, Lok Sabha, Chirag Kumar Paswan, MP (Lok Sabha), Manojkumar Kishorkumar Kotak, MP, (Lok Sabha), Ms. S. Phangnon Konyak, MP (Rajya Sabha) and senior officials from the Parliament.

The two sides have had fruitful interactions covering range of issues includes regular Parliamentary exchanges, sharing of best practices in parliamentary spheres as well as issues of mutual interest on trade and investment, development partnership and capacity building, education, agriculture, health and culture.

Acknowledging that Parliamentary institutions are nodal pillars of democratic governance, the two sides agreed to increase the frequency of parliamentary visits to further boost India-Tanzania bilateral relations.

Birla and the Parliamentary delegation also visited the Commonwealth War Cemetery in Dar es Salaam to pay tributes to the Indian soldiers who lost their lives during the World War I by laying a wreath.

Commonwealth War Memorial in Dar es Salaam commemorates the sacrifice of the soldiers of different nations including about 1500 Indian soldiers who lost their lives in the line of duty during the First World War.

He also met with the Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa where they discussed various issues related to bilateral relationship.

Birla also interacted with a group of Tanzanian alumni of Indian Institutes at the High Commission of India to Tanzania.

Alumni shared their fond experiences of education in India and how it played crucial role in their lives.

These professionals are tirelessly contributing towards growth and development of Tanzania, providing strength to India-Tanzania relations.



He also interacted with members of Indian diaspora from different walks of life including from politics, business, art, culture and others.

He thanked the Indian community for their role in building India's profile and reputation in Tanzania and for their contribution in strengthening India-Tanzania relations.

Apart from that, while in Tanzania, Birla addressed a gathering of Tanzania India Business Forum (TIBF) which has been working for promotion of bilateral trade and investment since 2013.

He encouraged TIBF to work for further enhancing bilateral trade and also to bring new generation of entrepreneur from both sides as stakeholders of India-Tanzania economic engagement.

Also Dr. Ackson and the Indian delegation visited Serengeti National Park, where the authorities briefed them about the park and the best practices adopted by Tanzania in conserving wildlife.

India and Tanzania have enjoyed a long tradition of friendship and co-

operation marked by mutual understanding, political maturity, vibrant economic ties, wide ranging and substantive development partnership and historical people to people linkages.

As the bilateral relations continue to grow and efforts are being made to diversify traditional engagements and venture into new areas of shared interest, the visit of parliamentary delegations gave a new thrust to bilateral relations with both countries, reaffirming to continue their commitment towards intensifying economic, strategic and diplomatic relations.

Elaborating on Indian laws on investments and how the parliament through those promotes the country's economic prosperity, he said today, India is one of the most preferred destinations for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) owing to its liberal FDI policy, strong macroeconomics fundamentals, its democratic governance system, and improvement in its ranking in World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Report.

The total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow in the country increased from USD 81,973 million in FY21 to

USD 84,835 million in FY22, reflecting increased foreign investment opportunities in the country.

To promote Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), reforms in the FDI Policy have been undertaken in sectors such as Defence, Insurance, Petroleum and Natural Gas and Telecom.

Further in the trading sector, 100% FDI is permitted in Single Brand Product Retail Trading (SBRT) and 51% FDI is permitted in Multi Brand Retail Trading (MBRT).

The Government has launched "Make in India" initiative to facilitate investment, foster innovation, build best in class infrastructure and make India a hub for manufacturing, design and innovation.

Further, investment outreach activities are done through Ministries, State Governments and Indian Missions abroad for enhancing international cooperation and promoting foreign investment in the country.

The key laws that govern foreign investment in India are the FDI Policy, issued by the DPIIT and the Foreign Exchange Management Act 1999

(FEMA) and the rules and regulations issued there under.

Furthermore, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued the Foreign Exchange Management (Mode of Payment and Reporting of Non-Debt Instruments) Regulations 2019, for investment in India by a person resident outside India.

In recent times, the Parliament of India passed many legislations including: The Special Economic Zones Act, 2005, The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006, The Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017, The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, The Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021; etc.

The legislations were aimed at making India an attractive and investor friendly nation to stimulate growth. The intent is to remove policy bottlenecks that may be hindering investment inflows into the country.

Policies changes were made following the intensive consultations with stakeholders including apex industry chambers, Associations, representatives of industries/groups and other organizations.

ICT officers invited to attend training in Mwanza

By Beatrice Philemon

India-Tanzania Centre of Excellence in Information and Communication Technology (ITCoEICT) has introduced a new short course dubbed: 'Printer and photocopier maintenance and repair' for Infor-

mation and Communication Technology (ICT) Officers from different organizations or Institutional across the country.

ITCoEICT's Ag. Director, Dr. Gaudence Tesha said yesterday that the course is scheduled to take

place at DIT-Mwanza Campus from March 6th to 24th this year.

The main goal of the training is to help ICT officers to work more effectively, reduce cost of buying new spare parts, identify critical problems before happening to improve

lifespan of their printers.

"ICT officers willing to attend this course can contact Mr. Audax Mrema via 0714145998/0682025710 or send an email to Dr. Gaudence Tesha at director@dit.ac.tz or his mobile phone number 0783203386 for more information," he said.

Selected candidates for the course will be required to pay 1,820,000/- as training fees.

He called on ICT officers in all areas where they are across the country to exploit this opportunity that will help them to become highly qualified engineers for printer maintenance, keep their printing equipment functioning properly, ensuring the longevity of the machine and increase productivity.

The course will also help them to proper care and maintenance their printers to prevent against mechanical failures.

So far, the centre has already conducted training at 6 centers where 68 ICT officers that includes army officers from the Tanzanian IT unit, including TANAPA and other soldiers have been graduated from the training," he said.

According to him, the short course is purposely intended to build capacity for IT personnel from different organization or Institutional as it covers all aspect of printer and photocopier



more detailed.

He said India-Tanzania Center of Excellence in Information and Communication Technology (ITCoEICT) hosted at the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) was established in 2009 as a result of a relationship between India and Tanzania, desired to strength bilateral cooperation in the area of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

This was made possible through Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and Tanzania governments in 2008.

The principal objective of the Center is to promote development of ICT in Tanzania.

In order to realize the stated objective, the center also provides various professional services in ICT including video conferencing; telemedicine and eLearning facilities, High Performance Computing (HPC) and conducting modular short term proficiency courses.

However, ITCoEICT center in cooperation with Tanzania Posts Corporation (TPC) are expecting to start Professional Courses in Information Technology (PCIT) which will begin in March this year in centers at TPC offices in Zanzibar, Kigoma, Mwanza, Ileje and Mbeya.

"We lauded India government for introducing this centre has helped us to produce highly qualified experts in different areas," added Dr Tesha.



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