

## **INDIA – ETHIOPIA BILATERAL RELATIONS**

### **Historical linkages**

- Historical linkages between India and Ethiopia go back about 2,000 years of recorded history. Trade between the two countries flourished during the ancient Axumite Empire (1 Century AD), which is seen to be origin of modern Ethiopia. Indian traders trade silk and spices for gold and ivory through the ancient port of Adulis in the sixth Century AD.
- Soon after achieving independence, a goodwill mission led by Sardar Sant Singh was sent to Ethiopia. Diplomatic relations at legation level were established in 1948. Full diplomatic relations were established in 1950 with Sardar Sant Singh as the first Ambassador.
- Relations between India and Ethiopia have been traditionally close and friendly. Ethiopia has been appreciative of the fact that India has never been hostile to Ethiopians interests. Ethiopia had been consistent in her support for India in the international fora on various issues.

### **Bilateral visits**

- President Shri Ram Nath Kovind paid a State Visit to Ethiopia (Oct 2017). Other high level visits included President S. Radhakrishnan (1965), Vice President Zakir Hussain (1967), President V.V. Giri (1972), PM Manmohan Singh (2011) and Vice President Hamid Ali Ansari (May 2013).
- High level visits from Ethiopia included those of Emperor Haile Selassie (1956 & 1968), Col. Hailemariam Mengistu (1983 and 1985), PM Meles Zenawi (1997, 2007, 2008 & 2011) and PM Hailemariam Desalegn (2015).
- Recent ministerial visits from India included those by External Affairs Minister (2007, 2011, 2012), Commerce Minister (2011), MOS for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution (2011), MoS for Finance (2015) and MOS for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (2018). From Ethiopia, visits were made by Special Envoy of PM & former President Dr. Mulatu Teshome (Nov 2019), Minister of Water, Irrigation & Electricity (March 2018).

### **Bilateral Agreements**

- Air Services Agreement (1967); 4 MoUs signed subsequently in 1972, 1993, 2004 and 2008.
- Agreement on Technical, Economic and Scientific Cooperation (1969)
- Cultural Agreement (1983)
- Trade Agreement (1997)
- Agreement on Cooperation in Micro Dams and Small Scale Irrigation Schemes (2002)
- Agreement on Establishment of Joint Ministerial Commission (2007)
- Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (2007)
- Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Science and Technology (2007)

- Educational Exchange Programme (2007)
- Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations (2007)
- Double Taxation avoidance treaty (2011)
- MOU between NSIC, India and FEMSEDA (2011)
- MOU between ICAR and Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (2011)
- Trade Agreement (2017)
- Agreement for Cooperation in the field of Information, Communication and Media (2017)

### **Lines of Credit**

- Ethiopia is one of the largest recipients of long term concessional credit from India in Africa. The ongoing GoI assistance in developmental projects in Ethiopia has continued with sanctioned Lines of Credit worth more than USD1 billion to Ethiopia for sectors such as rural electrification, sugar industry and railways.
- Out of the three Sugar Factory projects being undertaken through LoC funding of USD 640 million, Finchaa Sugar Factory has already been completed and handed over to the Ethiopian side. The other two, Wonji Shoa and Tendaho Phase-I have commenced production and would be handed over to the Ethiopian side after the completion of some balance works.

### **Grants**

- India donated a 64-Slice CT Scan Machine to Black Lion Hospital in Addis Ababa as part of our Grant Assistance.
- 1000 MT of rice announced as a donation during the visit of Rashtrapatiji (2017).
- India gifted medicines worth USD 2 million (Nov 2019).
- Embassy in collaboration with Bhagwan Mahavir Viklang Sahayata Samiti organised an Artificial Limb Fitment Camp (Jaipur Foot) in Nov/Dec 2019. 538 limbs were fitted to beneficiaries.
- Tele-Education and Tele-Medicine services under the Pan African e-network Project launched in Addis Ababa in July 2007. The Tele-Education project has been replicated by the Ethiopian side and linkages established between the Addis Ababa University and the Indian Institutes of Technology at Delhi and Kanpur.

### **Cooperation in Capacity Building**

- The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme was started in Ethiopia in 1969. ITEC slots have increased over the years reaching 400 (2018-19) and 406 (2019-20). Training is one of the major activities under ITEC.
- The Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) offers scholarship to 55 students from Ethiopia for Undergraduate, Postgraduate and PhD courses.
- The Central Leather Research Institute and the Footwear Design and Development Institute from India are cooperating with Ethiopian Leather Development Institute. The Ethiopian Textile Industry Development Institute and

the National Institute of Fashion Technology of India have launched twinning partnership scheme. A twinning arrangement has also been entered into between Ethiopian Textile Industry Development Institute and Mumbai Institute for Chemical Technology.

- Council of Scientific Research and Industrial Research of India and Metal Industries Development Institute of Ethiopia have a twinning agreement.

## **Commerce & Business**

- Bilateral trade between Ethiopia and India stood at USD 1.28 billion in 2018-19, out of which Indian exports to Ethiopia were USD 1.23 billion and imports were USD 55.01 million (Source: National Bank of Ethiopia).
- India is the fourth most important source of imports for Ethiopia, contributing 8% of all of Ethiopian imports next to China, Kuwait and USA. Indian imports constituted 1.6% of Ethiopian global exports.
- There are more than 586 Indian companies in Ethiopia employing more than 55000 people with licensed investment of over USD 4 billion. About 58.7% of Indian investments are in the manufacturing sector, followed by agriculture (15.6%).

## **Cultural Cooperation**

- Mission has been celebrating the International Day of Yoga in Addis Ababa.
- Mission held Gandhi@150 celebrations in Addis Ababa (Oct 2020). Mission participated in the Ethiopian International Film Festival (Dec 2017) with screening of three Amharic-subtitled Hindi films. Mission also participated in the Asia Pacific Film Festival (Sept 2019) organized by 12 Embassies from Asia Pacific countries.
- In 2018, Mission brought out a publication to celebrate 70 years of diplomatic relations between India and Ethiopia. A photo exhibition with rare and historic photos displaying 70 years of relations between India and Ethiopia was also organized. A heritage walk was organized on the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. ICCR sponsored TANVA CREATIVE DANCE ENSEMBLE dance group performed in Ethiopia (Feb 2019).
- Meskerem Assegued, a renowned art critic in Ethiopia and Director, Zoma Contemporary Art Centre, Addis Ababa visited India under ICCR Academic Visitors Programme (Feb/March 2015). Ms. Zenebu Tadesse Woldetsadik, Ethiopian Minister of Women, Child & Youth Welfare was selected by ICCR in 2015 for the Distinguished Alumni Award for her outstanding contribution towards bilateral relations between India and Ethiopia in the field of promotion of welfare of women, children and youth in Ethiopia. Dr. Negeri Lencho, Minister of Government Communication Affairs visited India (March 2017) under ICCR Distinguished Visitors Programme. Ethiopian traditional dance troupe *Ye Temesgen Lijoch*, was sent to India in October 2015 for performance during IAFS-III. An Ethiopian cultural troupe performed in India during the Africa Day

Celebrations in Delhi (May 2017). Ethiopian National Theatre Traditional Band gave performances in New Delhi, Bhubaneswar and Goa (May 2018).

### **Indian Community**

- The early settlers among the Indian community in Ethiopia came from Gujarat in the latter years of the 19th century. During imperial times, there were also tens of thousands of Indian teachers in schools all over Ethiopia, even in the most remote parts.
- Today, the Indian community has a sizeable presence in the educational sector of Ethiopia. There are an estimated 2000-2500 Indian Lecturers/Professors in more than 40 public universities and higher educational institutions.
- The Indian Diaspora in Ethiopia is estimated to be between 5000-6000.
- There are a number of Indian companies in this country. There are also several Ethiopian companies who engage Indian workers.

### **November 2020**