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Africa Major Highlights

Africa Union Summit

The 13th African Union (AU) Summit was held at Sirte in Libya on 24 June -3 July 2009 under the Chairmanship of Libyan leader Mouammar Ghaddafi. The theme of the summit was *Investing in Agriculture for Economic Growth and Food Security*. The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN), Asha-Rose Migiro, who represented the highest body of global governance at the AU summit, stated that agriculture was the cornerstone of development, and the key to improving gender equality in Africa. "Empowering women smallholder famers should be part of a broader commitment to ensure that women play leadership roles across our economic, political and social development fields," she said



The summit came up with an agreement to establish an AU Authority to replace the AU Commission. Closer African economic

and political integration remains highly controversial, and has been opposed by Nigeria, South Africa, Ethiopia and Kenya. Nevertheless, Gaddafi held intensive bilateral and multilateral talks with African leaders during the summit, to persuade those who took different views to support the creation of the AU Authority. The new body, which had been seen by some as a step towards Libyan leader's dream of a "United States of Africa", would have powers to "coordinate the positions of the African Union on questions of common interest for the continent and its people." Expressing satisfaction with the outcomes of the summit, Ghaddafi said, "With the setting up of this Authority, Africa will speak through one single voice to take up challenges."

At the 13th AU Summit, the general consensus among African heads-of-state was to oppose the International Criminal Court (ICC) warrants that were issued against Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir and other leaders of the oil-producing country. At the end of the summit, the

organization passed a resolution of non-compliance with the ICC and accused the western states of not taking into consideration repeated calls by the AU to suspend the warrants against the Sudanese leaders. The Chairperson of the AU Commission, Jean Ping of Gabon, stated that the resolution of non-compliance affirms that "if you don't listen to Africa, and take our proposals into account, we are going to act unilaterally."

The AU's decision in relationship to Sudan created controversy among western-based agencies such as Human Rights Watch which support the ICC's interference in African affairs. Also a handful of western-allied states expressed unease about the AU's defiance toward the ICC. The Foreign Minister of Botswana, Phandu Skelemani, conveyed his government's disagreement with the AU declaration and cited treaty obligations with the



Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU)

ICC as the reason. Also the French backed government of Chad, which neighbors Sudan and is another oil-producing country, voiced displeasure with the AU position in support of President Al-Bashir and other officials. Nonetheless, with reference to Somalia, the AU was reported to have pledged additional support for the U.S.-backed Transitional Federal Government in Mogadishu. "We welcome the support of the recent AU heads of states summit in Libya for the government... and we have a firm pledge for the increase of the AU peacekeepers," said Somali Prime Minister Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke.

NAM Summit

The 15th Non-aligned Movement (NAM) Summit was held at Egyptian Red Sea coastal Sharm El Sheikh City on 15-16 July 2009, where leaders from over 100 NAM countries or their representatives focused their debate on

the theme International Solidarity for Peace and Development. The member countries reached consensus on promoting solidarity and ratified documents on jointly addressing international and regional issues: the

ongoing global financial crisis, climate change, the Middle East peace process, food security, energy and nuclear issues. The summit admitted Argentina as the NAM observer country and the World Peace Council as its observer organization.



Foreign Minister's meeting on the sidelines of NAM

The summit was concluded after reaching consensus and ratifying the Sharm El Sheikh Declaration and the over 100-page Final Document calling for solidarity among member states to address global threats and challenges and promote world peace and development. The Final Document in detail expressed NAM's standpoints on a range of issues, including disarmament, international security, peacekeeping and peace-building, human rights and democracy, self-determination, issue of Palestinians, reforms in the United Nations (UN),

the world financial crisis, food security, international terrorism, among others. The Sharm El Sheikh Declaration is regarded to be an outlined edition of the Final Document, charting the course for the Movement in the future three years. According to the Declaration, leaders of NAM countries reiterate their strong commitment to the purposes and the principles of the UN Charter and international laws. The Declaration stated that the leaders are determined to revitalize and reinvigorate NAM's role and influence as the principal political platform representing developing countries in multilateral fora, in particular the UN. They vow to enhance the strengthening and revitalization progress of the Movement through concrete measures, at all levels, and in different multilateral fora, and to maximize the ability of NAM to deal with the current rapidly evolving global situations, crises and challenges, the Declaration added.

At a speech delivered before the Summit's closing, Egyptian President Hosny Mubarak, who was elected as the NAM Chairperson for the following three years, said: "The Summit has provided new evidence of the vitality of

the Non-aligned Movement, and affirmed the significance of this massive bloc of over half of the world's states, as well as the importance of the values and principles that they defend....The success of this Summit is not the end of the road. We must work together, hand in hand, to follow up on its decisions and outcomes."

The two-day First Ladies Summit, which was parallel to the NAM Summit, was also organized at the same Sharm El Sheikh City, with an aim to seek ways to strengthen women's role in crisis management.

First ladies of NAM leaders and female representatives of some international organizations attended the gathering, which was a platform for NAM's first ladies to express their views on a series of issues. First Lady of Egypt Suzanne Mubarak, who chaired the women's summit, said women are the most negatively and disproportionately impacted by these interconnected challenges, especially in developing countries. She called for giving women more chances to empower and enable them to stimulate positive changes in society.

US Secretary of State Visits Africa

US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton began her 11-day visit to seven countries of Africa by addressing the Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum (AGOA Forum) in Kenyan capital Nairobi on 5 August 2009. In Kenya, Secretary Clinton discussed new approaches to development, including an emphasis on investment and broad-based economic growth. The six other African countries Hillary visited were South Africa, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Liberia, and Cape Verde. In

each country, she emphasized Africa as a place of opportunity, built on an ethic of responsibility. She underlined America's commitment to partner with governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and private citizens to build societies where each individual can realize their potential. Clinton used his local standing to drive home the anti-corruption, good governance message that the Obama administration has made a pillar of its approach to Africa.

Hillary Clinton has commended Liberia for its post-conflict progress during her seven-country African tour. Clinton held talks with Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf in Monrovia. She said she was impressed how the Liberian economy is being rebuilt since the end of years of conflict in 2003.

Hillary Clinton spent nearly three days in her 11-day, seven-country tour of the African continent in Nigeria. On her visit to Abuja, she met politicians from across the Nigerian political spectrum prior to her meeting with President Yar'Adua. She said that Nigeria was at a crossroad with a call on its citizens to give the government necessary supports. "We recognize that Nigeria is at a crossroad and it is imperative that citizens be involved and engaged in helping to chart the future of this great nation," she said. Clinton also expressed concerns about Nigeria's anti-graft war, saying the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) fell off in the last two years. She expressed strong supports for Nigeria's electoral reforms ahead of the 2011 elections and efforts taken so far by the Nigerian federal government.

Hillary Clinton visited Angola and praised the country for its progress since the end of a devastating civil war in 2002. She said that she has also been impressed with peaceful and credible parliamentary elections in 2008. Hillary signed a trade agreement that would pave the way for more US investment in this war-torn African country, particularly in job-producing areas such as agriculture.



U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is greeted by members of the government on arrival at the airport in Kinshasa, Congo, Aug. 10, 2009. Clinton's Congo stop is the latest in an 11-day journey through Africa to promote development and good governance and underscore the Obama administration's commitment to the world's poorest continent. (AP Photo/Etienne Kokolo)

During her tour to South Africa, Hillary Clinton praised South Africa's action to lift people out of poverty. She praised South African President Jacob Zuma and his predecessor Mbeki for their very hard work. Clinton also praised a warming in ties between the US and South Africa since the recent election of new presidents in

both countries. In particular, she welcomed what she said would be increased cooperation in the fight against HIV/Aids. In a speech to South African business leaders in Johannesburg, Clinton said that desp-

-ite economic setbacks the country is "uniquely positioned" to propel growth throughout Africa if it sticks to sound financial principles, embraces open trade and promotes foreign investment.

Lockerbie Bomber's Release & Return to Libya

The convicted Lockerbie bomber, Abdelbaset Ali al-Megrahi (57), who was jailed in 2001 for the atrocity claiming 270 lives in 1988, was flown home to Libya after being freed from a Scottish Greenock Prison on compassionate grounds. Megrahi was convicted of killing at a trial held under Scottish law in the Netherlands in January 2001. A first appeal against that verdict was rejected the following year. However, in 2007 the Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commission granted him a second appeal. It subsequently emerged he was suffering from terminal cancer but a bid to have him granted bail was refused. His second appeal got under way in 2009 but shortly afterwards applications were made for both his transfer to a Libyan jail and release on compassionate grounds. The High Court in Edinburgh allowed Megrahi's

application to drop his second appeal. The Scottish government decided in August 2009 to release Megrahi, who has terminal prostate cancer. He was given a hero's welcome as he landed in Libyan capital city of Tripoli, but reactions around the world were divided.

The Scottish government said it had consulted widely before the Justice Secretary Kenny Mac Askill made his decision on applications for Megrahi's compassionate release or his transfer to a Libyan jail. He said that he had rejected the application for a prisoner transfer. However, after taking medical advice it was expected that three months was a "reasonable estimate" of the time Megrahi had left to live. He ruled out the option of the Libyan being allowed to live in Scotland on security grounds. "Mr al-Megrahi did not show his victims any comfort or compassion.

They were not allowed to return to the bosom of their families to see out their lives, let alone their dying days. No compassion was shown by him to them... But that alone is not a reason for us to deny compassion to him and his family in his final days," he said. Mac Askill continued: "Our justice system demands that judgement be imposed, but compassion be available--- --For these reasons and these reasons alone, it is my decision that Mr Mr Abdelbaset Ali Mohmed Al-Megrahi, convicted in 2001 for the Lockerbie bombing, now terminally ill with prostate cancer, be released on compassionate grounds and be allowed to return to Libya to die."

The US president Barack Obama said the decision was "a mistake" and some US victims' families reacted angrily, since some 189 Americans were among those who died in the explosion.

Obama said they had also contacted the Libyan government to ask that Megrahi not be "welcomed back" but instead placed under house arrest. "We've also obviously been in contact with the families of the Pan Am victims and indicated to them that we don't think this was appropriate," he added. Mac Askill had been under intense

pressure from the US government to keep Megrahi behind bars, with the US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton saying his release would be "absolutely wrong".

In a statement released after his departure from Greenock Prison, Megrahi said: "The remaining days of my life are being lived under the shadow of the wrongness of my conviction....I have been faced with an appalling choice: to risk dying in prison in the hope that my name is cleared posthumously or to return home still carrying the weight of the guilty verdict, which will never now be lifted...The choice which I made is a matter of sorrow, disappointment and anger, which I fear I will never overcome." After reaching Tripoli, he said, "This horrible ordeal is not ended by my return to Libya. It may never end for me until I die. Perhaps the only liberation for me will be death. And I say in the clearest possible terms, which I hope every person in every land will hear: all of this I have had to endure for something that I did not do." The British Foreign Secretary David Miliband said, "The sight of a mass-murderer getting a hero's welcome in Tripoli is deeply upsetting, deeply

distressing, above all for the 270 families who grieve every day for the loss of their loved ones 21 years ago, but also for anyone who's got an ounce of humanity. I think it's very important that Libya knows - and certainly we have told them that how the Libyan government handles itself in the next few days after the arrival of Mr Megrahi will be very significant in the way the world views Libya's re-entry into the civilised community of nations."

Seif al-Islam Gaddafi, son of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader

said, "I would like to thank the Scottish Government for its courageous decision and understanding of a special human situation... we have turned a page." Meanwhile, he mentioned that Megrahi's case was "always on the negotiating table" during talks with the UK on commercial contracts. Subsequently, Colonel Gaddafi denied by saying, "No, no, it is very clear, he had this illness and consequently they were compelled to release him because of this disease. There was no deal or anything else."

Africa International Trade Centre in Ethiopia

Africa International Trade Centre is going to be built in Ethiopia's capital city of Addis Ababa. USD 23 million would be spent by the Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations (AACCSA) for constructing the trade centre. It would be the first of its kind in Africa and would enhance business and economic interaction among Africans and African countries.

The trade centre aims at bringing together all African countries through trade and business; it would also provi-

-de an opportunity for them to sell their products to the rest of the continent. Apart from the trade, the centre would also have a training, research and information department which would provide African business people with information on business and investment opportunities in the continent.

India- Africa: Major Events

Six Ministers of Indian Origin in South African Cabinet

Six South Africans of Indian origin have been included in South African cabinet formed by the new President Jacob Zuma. Among them, Pravin Gordhan, a former anti-apartheid activist of Indian-origin and the current Commissioner of Revenue who is credited with turning the department into one of the most efficient and effective organs of the state, has been appointed as Finance Minister. Another minister of Indian origin is Ebrahim Patel, who is entrusted with the Ministry of Economic Affairs. He is a veteran labour activist in South Africa, who has also led many local and inter-

-national labour initiatives. He was general secretary of the South African Clothing and Textile Workers Union (SACTWU), fighting for the case of local workers. Besides, four deputy ministers belong to the Indian origin: Ebrahim Ismail Ebrahim as Deputy Minister of International Relations and Co-operation, Roy Padayachee as Deputy Minister of Public Services and Administration, Enver Surtee as Deputy Minister of Basic Education and Yunus Carrim as Deputy Minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

Indian Minister of Commerce and Industry visits South Africa

Indian Minister of Commerce and Industry Anand Sharma visited South Africa on 20-24 August 2009 at the invitation of his counterpart, Minister of Trade and Industry, Dr. Rob Davies. Sharma met South African President Jacob Zuma during his address at the India Business Forum (an umbrella organization of Indian business representatives in South Africa) in Pretoria on 22 August 2009. During



Indian minister of Commerce and Industry Anand Sharma and President of South Africa

that meeting, India and South Africa agreed on a roadmap to enhance bilateral cooperation in several key sectors, including cooperation on security issues and on international terrorism. Sharma highlighted the need for Indian businesses to continue their proactive engagement in South Africa. He made emphasis on ethical factors, job creation and skills development for the local economy.

Sharma also briefed Zuma on efforts by the ministries of trade and industry to enhance the quality of business-to-bus-

ness interaction between CEOs of these two countries. They also agreed that India would share its experience in rural development and employment generation and a delegation led by the Minister of Rural Development of South Africa would visit India near future in this regard. He also called on South African Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe and briefed about the forthcoming WTO Ministerial Meeting being hosted by India in New Delhi on September 3&4, 2009 to make progress on the Doha Round.

Indian Minister of State for External Affairs visits West Africa

Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Shashi Tharoor went for a week-long visit to Liberia and Ghana in West Africa, his maiden ministerial visit to African continent, on 16-21 September 2009. Tharoor during his visit to Liberia, the first by an Indian minister in nearly four decades, interacted with top political leaders, including the charismatic President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Africa's first elected woman head of state, and underlined "India's solidarity and friendship as it rebuilds itself".



Acting Foreign Minister William V. S. Bull and Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State for External Affairs of India sign Joint Statement. (Photo Credit: IT/Public Affairs Bureau)

Indian Minister agreed for his country's help for Liberia in training its police force in coordination with the United Nations (UN). "We have extended to them an offer to send 30-40 Liberian

police officers to be trained in India. They will determine the level of officers and the kind of training they want.....They went even beyond that. They asked us, ‘Can you train the entire Liberian police force?’” Tharoor said.

As the training of the Liberian police force is currently a UN responsibility, Tharoor said India would be ready to do so in coordination with the UN mission in that country. “They are unhappy that the UN mission has too many nationalities and different systems. They said they will have rather one system,” Tharoor said. “They feel that India is the country they can relate to. This is the general observation that vis-a-vis the three models of engagement with Africa – the West, China and India – most African countries see India as one very similar to them,” he added.

Underlining India’s distinct approach to Africa as opposed to other external players, Tharoor said India believes in spurring empowerment of the African continent through technology transfer, training and capacity-building. “Our approach to Africa is that tell us what you need and how we can help you, rather than going there with any

agenda. That approach has been warmly welcomed in Africa,” Minster said.

In keeping with India’s multi-faceted engagement with Africa, India offered assistance to Liberia in the form of lines of credit on concessional terms, as well as a grant-in-aid for education and health projects of USD 2 million during Tharoor’s visit. India agreed to set up an Information Technology and Communication Centre of Excellence in Liberia, donated 25 buses to the Monrovia Transport Authority and two ‘hole-in-the-wall’ computer education centres, Tharoor said.

From Liberia, Tharoor headed to Ghana on September 19-21, 2009 primarily as a special representative of the Indian Prime Minister at the birth centenary celebrations of the West African country’s first President Kwame Nkrumah, who was one of the founders of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) along with Jawaharlal Nehru. India had been asked to send a high-level participant by Ghanaian President John Evans Atta Mills, who had sent a personal request through a special envoy to Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Namibian President's Visit to India

Namibian President Hifikepunye Pohamba came for a five day tour to India in the first week of September 2009. It was the first visit of the Namibian President Pohamba, who was accompanied by a 43-member delegation, including five ministers, senior officials, representatives of chambers of commerce and industry, businessmen and the media. Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Namibia President Hifikepunye Pohamba discussed on the global issues, including the World Trade Organisation (WTO) talks, the United Nations (UN) reforms, terrorism and climate change. Namibia has substantial amount of uranium. After the talk, Namibian President has agreed to supply India with uranium as part of a civil nuclear agreement, but it will be only for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The two sides have also inked four other pacts as part of a move to inject “fresh dynamism” in their ties. Both the countries are committed to the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), and they want continuation of the reform process of the UN, particularly the



President of the Republic of Namibia Hifikepunye Pohamba (2nd L), accompanied by his wife Penehupifo Pohamba (R), poses for a group photograph with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (L) and Indian President Pratibha Singh Patil (2nd R) during a welcoming ceremony at the Presidential Palace in New Delhi.

democratisation of its Security Council. Namibian President supported India's candidature for a permanent seat in an expanded UN Security Council.

Seminars and Symposium

Talk on “Studying African Diasporas: Are there Different Atlantic and Indian Ocean Models?” by Prof. Paul Tiyambe Zeleza at IIC, New Delhi on 8 June 2009

Prof. Paul Tiyambe Zeleza, who heads Department of African American Studies/ University of Illinois/ Chicago and happens to be the President of African Studies Association/ USA, delivered a talk on “Studying African Diasporas: Are there Different Atlantic and Indian Ocean Models?” organised by ASA and India International Centre (IIC) on 8 June 2009. He spoke about the recent growth in the field of African Diaspora Studies in greater details. Like most fields of intellectual inquiry, cooperation. Its 15 member countries

have approximately a population of 250 it exhibits divergent historical geographies in which the historical experiences and scholarly traditions of particular countries dominate in specific regions, mentioned Paul Zeleza. The presentation explored the dominant paradigms in African Diaspora Studies in the Atlantic World and the Euro-American academy, and interrogated the relevance of such paradigms in the emerging field of African Diaspora Studies in Asia.

International Conference on “India and SADC: Role & Importance of South Africa” Organised by ASA India at Patiala University on 9-10 October 2009

Two-day international seminar on the theme "India and SADC: Role & Importance of South Africa" was organized by the ASA India in collaboration with the Department of Distance Education/ Punjabi University at Patiala on 9-10 October 2009. It was discussed that the main objective of



SADC is to provide sustainable solutions to the challenges being faced by 15 member countries of the SADC. Sub-themes deliberated upon during the seminar covered politico-historical aspects, economic cooperation, gender and Diaspora issues. It was asserted that out of the 15 member countries, South Africa is of great importance as it is making maximum contribution to the economic development. Thus, India & SADC relations, mainly with South Africa hold great relevance in the present times.

The impact of globalization on the international relations of India with special reference to South Africa and Brazil was also discussed in detail as these nations are considered three largest democracies of the world.

India's historical role in the region and the importance of South Africa in SADC was emphasized in the various papers. It was stated that both the countries have similar historical and political backgrounds regarding anti-colonial and postcolonial policies. South Africa's position being on the top in terms of economy, military strength, location as well as infrastructure plays dominant role in the region's transport network, manufacturing industry,

labour market, scientific and technical expertise as well as capital resources. In the end, it was brought out that India is trying to seek cooperation with other countries in SADC but most of them have much dependence on South Africa for their imports and exports. Thus, it is difficult for India to expand its influence in SADC.

The emerging areas of economic and production cooperation were also discussed. The common interests and experiences of India and the countries of Southern Africa were brought out. As South Africa was a major trading partner of India prior to 1946 and now after the end of racialism in South Africa, it has opened new vistas of opportunities for both countries. India has also prioritized South Africa and South African countries as strategic partners at both political and economic levels. The free trade agreement between India and SADC was also stressed upon which will enhance the level of bilateral trade. Topics such as climate change and food security were also brought to the discussion.

The role of Indian Diaspora in strengthening cooperation was also of major concern for this seminar. The role of gender was highly emphasized

in this initiative. The importance of culture in international diplomacy was also highlighted in a paper. Under these issues, the relations between India and SADC were stressed upon history. in detail in one of the papers.

However, the issue at hand was agreed to be that of integration of Indian Diaspora with the local community and society which should be a two-way process.

International Seminar on “Asian Countries and Sudan: Political and Economic Relations” Organised by ASA India in New Delhi on 10-11 November 2009



Two-day international conference on the theme “**Asian Countries and Sudan: Political and Economic Relations**” was organized by ASA India in IIC, New Delhi on 10-11 November 2009.

It is up to African countries to decide what kind of partnership they want with India, said a senior Indian academic. "It is up to Africa and its nations to decide what kind of help want from India," said Prof. Ajay Dubey Chairperson of the Centre for West Asian and African Studies (CWAAS)/ Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), at a discussion on "Asia and Africa" organized by the ASA

India on 11 November 2009. He noted that India had also its interests in pursuing closer relations with countries in Africa, which include support for reforms of the United Nations Security Council and to secure energy supplies. However, Prof. Ajay Dubey said that India has provided aid to Africa and help is delivered to the people. "It is very difficult to implement and deliver democracy," said Ajay Dubey.

According to a Chinese Professor, who spoke at the seminar, it would be wrong to term China's interest in Africa negatively as a "scramble for resources". "It is assumed that since China is not democratic, whatever it does is bad. This is not so," said Wang Suolao, an Associate Professor at the School of International Studies in Peking University.

Wang noted that China's trade with Africa, which stood at USD 107 billion,

was not even one percent of its total trade. "Only 13 percent of Africa's oil comes to China," said Wang, refuting repeated statements that China's greed for African oil was detrimental for the continent. "Chinese investment in oil is just about 1/16th of global investment in Africa," he mentioned. Power in Africa, has been traditionally prone to give soft loans or grants, rather than seek investment. "ODA (official development

the country is still haunted by the worst inequality ratios on the planet and by serious skills shortages. The conference addressed good way to be part of the development, but Japan's ODA in Africa is different from its ODA to Asia," he said. He added that Japan was also more inclined towards debt consolidation, as its soft loans and grants were not high, compared to other Asian powers.

International Conference on "South Africa under Globalisation: Issues in Foreign Policy and Development" Organised by ASA in New Delhi on 11-12 November 2009

Two-day international conference on the issue "South Africa under Globalization: Issues in Foreign Policy and Development" was held at School of International Studies (SIS)/ Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi on 11-12 November 2009. The seminar addressed the issues relating to foreign policy, strong economy and fiscal discipline that have enabled South Africa to deliver its policy goal and development under globalization.

assistance) is a According to Roland Marchal of Paris based Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Internationales, Japan, the third Asian grant to those who had not had them under apartheid;



Economically, South Africa has chosen for close cooperation with developed countries, who are the leading players in the world economy, and a number of whom who had been allies of the former apartheid regime. While its various facets arising out of the dynamic scenario in South Africa as a result of globalization and its impact on

significant services and matters of foreign policy.

The first day had two sessions after the inauguration. Papers relating to South Africa's foreign policy under globalization were presented in the first session. The issues covered on this day from challenges and determinants of South African foreign policy to Brazilian engagement and Japanese perception. The second session called papers on internal and external security issues in South Africa in the era of globalization.

The second day has seen four sessions. Papers were presented on economic development and issues of equity at the first session which had addressed constitutional reforms, poverty, agrarian transformation and the role of Multinational National Corporations (MNCs). The second session dealt with governance and empowerment. The papers touched upon federal structure, local government and civil society. The third session grappled with Diaspora, culture and identity issues. The papers presented on this session touched upon the Indian Diaspora, socio-cultural dilemma of People of India Origin (PIO)

and the literature angle, besides looking at Diaspora as a resource.



The conference was concluded with the final valedictory session. Eminent academics, bureaucrats and experts from different parts of the country and the world participated in the conference. Mr. Shashank, former Secretary/ Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)/Government of India (GOI), Prof. Chris De Wet, Rhodes University/ South Africa, Mr. Gurjit Singh, Joint Secretary/ Eastern and Southern Africa Division/MEA/ GOI, Prof. Ajay Dubey, Prof. Owen Sichone, Prof. Rehana Valley, Prof. F. Hendricks, Prof. Simon Adams and Prof. Aparajita Biswas were among the eminent panelists who graced the conference.

Announcements

International Conference on **“India and Africa: Partnership for Capacity Building and Human Resource Development”** to be organized by ASA India in collaboration with ICCR and IIC on 9-10 February 2010 in New Delhi

India and Africa have historical and multidimensional relationship. In the recently held India-Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi (8-9 April 2008), a framework for cooperation between Africa and India was spelt out. It emphasized the rich history of Africa-India relationship and the existing close and multi-layered ties between the two sides. Among several areas of cooperation one important sector is capacity building and human resource development. It was a key component in India -Africa cooperation.

Even when India itself was not strong during 1960s, it lent a helping hand to Africa in capacity building and human resource development. Indian teachers, scientists, doctors, technical and military experts trained an entire generation of Africans.

India made a major contribution to the development of Africa's skill base. Africans are familiar with Indian capabilities and its support to education, agriculture, small scale industries, computer software, trade and training in defense sector. India provided educational support to the newly independent countries of Africa by sending teachers, giving large number scholarships and admission to African students in state run Indian academic institutions.

Many African students who studied in India came to occupy important positions in their respective countries on their return. Many of those who came from countries like Mauritius, Seychelles and East Africa also belonged to the Indian Diasporic community. India has developed a sizeable skilled and

educated manpower. It emerged as a third largest skilled human resource in the world due to substantial public investment in establishing academic and professional institutions. Indian government policy led to liberal university education and the subsequent rapid development of the educational research and training. These experiences are relevant for African countries. Therefore, India is a suitable partner to contribute in the capacity building and development of human resource in Africa. As it is Africa is rich in natural resources. It needs skilled human resources and technology to accelerate its economic growth. The partnership in capacity building and human resource development has following areas to be focused:

Human and Social Resources Development: As India's capabilities and resource base has grown in these areas it has broadened the scope of cooperation activities in capacity building with Africa. Not only the public sectors but India's

private sectors are now encouraged to build partnerships for capacity building and human resource development. The focus areas include capacity building for educational policy planning and administration, establishing programmes for entrepreneurship for youth and opening distance education programmes. In addition to there cooperating in capacity building for devising policy frameworks to establish partnership to develop 'Information and Communication Technology' tools and to develop areas like e-education, e-commerce and e-health etc will be very useful. Other areas include building capacity for health professionals and healthcare system, strengthening the indigenous manufacturing capacities of essential medicines and enhancing training for media professionals.

Governance and Civil Society: Good governance and an empowered civil society are essential development imperatives. India is partnering

with Africa to build its indigenous capacity in these areas. The key focus areas in this partnership include enhancing public and private participation in local and central government, establishing platforms to enable civil societies to play a vibrant role in promoting institutions of local self governance and establishing relevant governance training institutions in Africa.

Cross-fertilization of ideas and sharing of experiences on public service reforms, conduct of elections, and management of ethnic diversity are other identified areas. For maintaining regional peace and security, effective policing, peacekeeping operations, and disaster management are areas where India could partner with Africa for capacity building. Besides them, mainstreaming gender in governance is another sphere where India's experience at local self government could be shared. Partnering with India's civil society organizations and NGOs engaged in

capacity building in India could help in addressing the special needs of women and self help groups in Africa. Partnering with Indian media for capacity building would enable the media in Africa to play an effective role in promoting development, democratic practices and good governance.

Agriculture, Trade and Development: Partnership in this area aims at building capacity to promote development and growth. It includes capacity building in trade negotiations, dispute settlement, enhancement of competitiveness in world economy and establishing training programmes for entrepreneurship and skill development. Building cooperation for sharing experiences and expertise in the areas of Small and Medium scale enterprises (SMEs) is another important area of engagement. Other sectors identified include capacity building on policy and regulatory frameworks in the financial sector, tourism

development and policy planning in agricultural sector.

Diasporic and Cultural Resources: India- Africa partnership in this area would allow both sides to mutually gain from each other. It includes sharing experiences in harnessing Diasporic resources through building Diasporic networks and formulating engagement policies, strengthen people-to people contacts through cultural exchange programmes and by effecting cooperation for capacity building in areas of sports.

The cooperation between India and Africa is historical and its strong focus remains empowerment of people and institutions of the African countries through capacity building and human resource development to effect rapid development. This Conference would like to address issues related to India and Africa partnership for capacity building and human resource development under the following sub-themes but not confining to them.

1. **Developing Human and Social Resources** covering areas like education, training and focusing on science and technology, e-education, media, health, water and sanitation.
2. **Democratizing Development** including areas like governance and civil society, peace and security, media and communication.
3. **Delivering Development** covering areas of mass involvement like Agriculture, Trade, Small and Medium-Scale Enterprises (SMEs), Finance and Tourism.
4. **Harnessing Diasporic and Cultural Resources** including diasporic networks & resources and developing cultural and soft power.

Publications

Prof. Ajay Dubey (eds) (2009), **Trends in Indo-African Relations**, New Delhi: Manas Publications

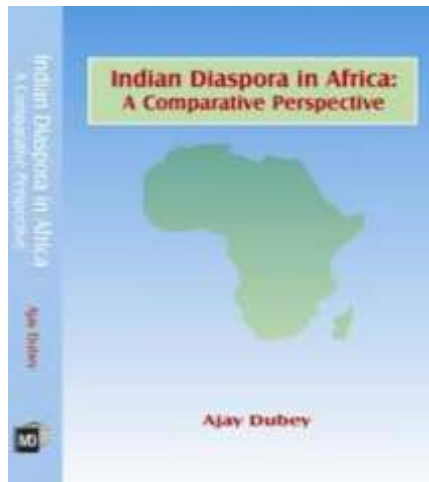


Indo-African relations in twenty first century acquired new rallying points and priorities. Advent of globalization and growing engagements of new Asian powers like China led to a new rush to Africa. Fast growing and energy hungry countries like India too found African energy resources and market unexplored and attractive. India moved on its historical goodwill and multi-dimensional relations to effect mutually agreed partnership with African countries. African countries also discovered

that the new and competing global interests are beneficial in terms of high commodity prices, huge investment and increased bargaining power. Indo-African relations moved on these new priorities and complementarities. It tries to mould itself in the framework of partnership as attempted in India-Africa Forum Summit of April 2008.

The book covers different aspects of multi-dimensional Indo-African relations. It tries to examine their priorities and evolving trends in their cooperation. It explores the background of Indo-African Forum Summit and highlights the directions and challenges of current Indo-African relations.

Prof. Ajay Dubey (eds) (2009), **Indian Diaspora in Africa: A Comparative Perspective**, New Delhi: M.D Publications.



Eight percent of global Indian Diaspora is located in Africa. It is spread across all regions of Africa – Anglophone, Francophone, Lusophone, Arab Africa and Oceania. People of Indian Origin (PIO) went from different parts of India – Gujarat, Southern India, Bihar, UP and Punjab. They migrated in different capacities - as free passengers, traders, indentured workers, construction workers, professionals and businessmen.

But bulk of them were indentured and - construction workers who went during colonial period. They

played an important role and made significant contributions in all walks of life in their new home. They were important consideration during Indian freedom struggle, especially in Indian National Congress. M. K. Gandhi was turned into Mahatma and became apostle of non- violence and peace by his involvement with PIO in South Africa.

In post-decolonization phase PIOs in Africa had mixed experience of assimilation and integration. While in Mauritius they remained all through in power, in countries like Uganda they suffered humiliating expulsion. They still have challenges of integration in most part of Africa. The book is an attempt to capture their history, struggle, contribution, challenges and their place in Indian Diaspora policy.

Research Scholar Columns

Role of Indian Diaspora in East Africa: Challenges of Integration (Rajneesh Kumar Gupta)

The name of East Africa has come to be applied to a relatively small portion of the eastern part of Africa which includes sovereign states of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Due to close geographical proximity, people of India started enjoying association with the East African region even before the beginning of recorded history. However, construction of railway link between Mombasa to Kampala during the British period was major turning point in the view of Indian settlement in the East Africa. Entire railway was built by some 32, 000 Asian (mostly Indian but also including Pakistani and Bangladeshi) indentured labourers. Almost one third of them decided to make East Africa their land of destiny. This migration was accompanied by several free immigrants as traders, artisans and so on. In course of time, business activities of Indians became so popular that the term *dukawallah* became synonymous of them in the East Africa.

On the eve of independence of these states, Asian population was estimated to be 3, 72, 000. Post independence period of these states poses a unique trend. On the one hand, Indian Diaspora of East Africa is migrating

further to other states, while on the other hand, Indian migration to East Africa is continuing with inflow of traders, professionals and dependents. The High Level Committee on Indian Diaspora has estimated that in 2001 total population of Indian Diaspora in East Africa was around 2, 04, 500.

Even a cursory glance on the matter indicates that it was Indian Diaspora who became torch bearers in the colonial period for political consensus and nation building process. They initially began their political activism for the protection of their own communities' interests as they were being oppressed by the colonial power. People of Indian Origin (PIOs) and indigenous Africans joined their hands together for mutual benefits in trade union movements, and later in independence movement. People like Makhan Singh, Pio Gama Pinto, Chanan Singh etc. made supreme sacrifices for the cause of the independence of their host colonies. However, since early days of independence, indigenous elites of these countries have tried to Africanize their economy, polity and history. Unfortunately, contributions of Indian Diaspora in nation building process have never been recognized or

appreciated. In early post independence period, PIOs held representation in political offices, but later on they were sidelined, and presently their representation is almost nil in the governments except in Tanzania.

However, despite certain odd circumstances in post independence period, they are still retaining economically very important positions in the East Africa. They hold substantial shares in the economy, especially in the secondary and service sectors. Indian Diaspora's contribution in the philanthropic activities is another noteworthy point. They have contributed a lot for the advancement of countries of their adoption and welfare of their indigenous people through activities like establishing schools, building social halls and hospitals, contributing in relief activities during natural or manmade calamities etc.

The issues of retention of cultural identity by Indian Diaspora and expectations for complete assimilations from indigenous counterparts have been matters of contention in East Africa. In spite of residing away from India since generations, Indian Diaspora has preserved their cultural identity. Nonetheless, Indian Diaspora is very coherently integrated, albeit in a limited cultural sphere of their host countries. However, process of assimilation of Indian Diaspora in East Africa is yet to complete. Despite close work-related daily basis interaction, social relations are considerably low,

and matrimonial relationship between the PIOs and indigenous people is still a remote possibility.

Indian Diaspora has been accused of being exclusive in nature, due to lack of matrimonial relationship and some other exclusionary practices followed by them. Nevertheless, they are not alone to be blamed for that. This problem is mutual. Besides, since colonial period they have also been victims of prejudices and, in post independence period they have faced severe hardships in their countries of adoption. The colonial policies of segregation never provided them opportunity to have any meaningful social and cultural integration with indigenous African communities. After independence, political elites of these countries, instead of trying to correct wrongs done by colonial power, stated on record that the next step was to end 'brown imperialism.'

In the very beginning of independence, loyalty of Indian Diaspora towards their country of adoption was questioned due to their positions on citizenship issue. Nevertheless, it is also a fact that a majority of those who applied for citizenship never got any positive response from government. In later part of 1960s, these countries started Africanization of the economy. Since Indian Diasporas had been major stake holders in the country's economy, they suffered heavily from these policies. Further, revolution in Zanzibar in 1964 spread insecurity feelings in the Indian Diaspora due to

which a large number of Indians left the country. The year 1972 posed a major challenge to Indian Diaspora in Uganda as Dictator Idi Amin ordered that all the Asians must go from Uganda within 90 days. Majority of them left the country to save their lives. In Kenya, during the failed coup in 1982, they faced similar problems. Tanzanian Nationalization policies created the fear of losing their properties among Indian Diaspora. These developments led to another migration of Indian Diaspora towards developed countries.

In all three countries of the region, Indian Diaspora constitutes a very small minority. Therefore, they deserve special attention for the protection of their life, livelihood and belongings. But, successive governments in all three countries have not only been ignoring the problems of Indian communities, but they have also made numerous policies directly targeting them. While no one can object to the efforts of making a society equitable, targeting one particular community on the basis of their ancestor's origin perpetuates injustice and inequity.

At present, effects of globalization on Indian Diaspora in East Africa are clearly visible in their economic, political, social, religious and cultural aspects of life. Policies of economic liberalization have given freedom to private sector for investment, marketing and trade without much control of the government. Increasing demand for investment and skilled

people seems to be favourable for the PIOs. Once hated as 'cheaters', 'looters', 'exploiters' and so on and even exiled, they are welcomed again in these countries. In the age of globalization, all the three countries of the region have adopted liberal democratic forms of governance and Indian Diaspora has played an important role in this process as per its capacity. However, there has been no much change in the political situation of Indian Diaspora even in the era of liberal democracy. So far processes of globalization have not been able to dismantle distinct cultural and religious identity of the PIOs in East Africa. Indian Diaspora is also contributing positively in the social movements of these countries. As a consequence of globalization, several issues of global importance, like problem of HIV / AIDS and terrorism, demand special attention in East African countries. Indian Diaspora is also affected by these problems, and is working together with its fellow countrymen and countrywomen to find ways out from these severe crises.

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Slave Trade from Indian Peninsula under European Colonial Expansion (Paokholal Haokip)

The history of the migration of Indian slaves from the Malabar, Coromandel and the province of Bengal to the African colonies can be divided into three phases. The first phase goes on till 1789 proclamation. This period witnessed the trading of Indian slaves not only by the Portuguese, Dutch, French and the British but also on the active participation of the natives. The second phase, which continued till 1824, witnessed certain regulations made by the government, albeit the trade continued unabated without local participation. The third phase covers the period from 1824-1833. This period showed the strict regulations for the total abolition of slavery although it continued under a euphemistic camouflage replacing the illegal 'slave trade' with the legally sanctioned 'indentured

system. The migration of Indian slaves to African colonies operates under several push and pull factors i.e. famine, war, kidnapping etc. The economic domination of Europe for more than three centuries influenced the colonization process and the integration of the capitalist economy in building up the industrial network with help of these slaves in the tropical colonies of Africa. For millennia, the trading activities in the Indian Ocean operated along a wide area, stretching from South East Africa and Madagascar to South East Asia and sometimes to Northern Australia, enabling people to travel the ocean leading to a constant mingling of cultures, races, religions and trading goods.

When the Portuguese arrived in East Africa at the end of the 15th century, they found that Indians had already established themselves as traders, middlemen and money lenders along the coast. There is also an impressive archaeological and documentary evidence to show that commercial and cultural relations between India and Africa flourished long before the advent of the European powers in the Indian Ocean.

The Portuguese were followed by the Dutch, French, Danes and the British respectively. This period coincided with the rise of industrial capitalism that virtually increased the pace of colonial conquest which demanded full exploitation of the colony's resources and labour. The Portuguese were also known for their notorious behavior against the natives and there are many instances of excessive violence perpetrated by the Portuguese Estado. This is best exemplified in Zain-ud-din's account:

They tyrannized and corrupted the Muslims and committed all kinds of ignoble and infamous acts. Their acts of violence were countless...They hindered the Muslims in their trade above all in their pilgrimage (to Mecca).They robbed them, burnt their cities and Mosques, Seized their ships and dishonored the sacred book (Quran) desecrated the precincts of the Mosques and incited the Muslims to apostasy. They tortured the Muslims with fire, sold some and enslaved others and practiced deeds of

cruelty which indicated a lack of all humanitarian sentiments.

The growth of sugar plantation on the Indian Ocean Islands of the *Isle de France and Bourbon* (Réunion) created a regional demand for slaves, which the French traders as well as the Portuguese settlers in Mozambique were eager to import Indians who were known for their skill in these fields. This period also witnessed the essential consumer products such as sugar, oil, salt being manufactured in the Coromandel Coast. The Portuguese term for sugar *Jagara*, was a derivative of the south Indian *Chakkaroi*, which meant unrefined sugar. The compulsory cultivation of sugarcane imposed by Vijayanagara rulers in the upper valley of Velar river suggests scarcity of sugar. The imposition was probably made to meet the sugar demand in Coromandel which is best exemplified by Fernand Braudel who argues, "The Commodity market for sugar expanded in India".

This sugar revolution in the new economic system introduced by the Europeans for its plantation in the newly settled colony laid the foundation of today's industrial economy. The slaves brought from the coastal region of Malabar, Coromandel and Bengal province were used to cultivate the newly settled lands for sugar production. During the age of European colonial expansion, the European quest for wealth and search for markets abroad drove them for the acquisition of colonies and lust for predominance as well as fight for supremacy at sea.

They consequently got attracted towards the coastal region of India especially the Malabar Coast. This coastal land provided a safe harbour for the ships and boats. According to Braudel, "This opened up the door for the migration of many people from South Indian Ocean islands such as Madagascar, Mauritius, Réunion and other smaller islands".

The Dutch Republic, at the end of the 17th century, developed the largest merchant marine in the world and Amsterdam, the capital seaport, became the world center of insurance and finance institution. Fernand Braudel calls it as 'Dutch System' that built on a network of commercial relations of interdependence which combine to produce a series of virtually obligatory channels for the circulation and redistribution of goods. They were vigilant in competition and control of Dutch system for the attainment of these objectives. This imperialist zeal of the Dutch East India Company (VOC) involved them in the slave trade. The VOC not only exported slaves to Cape Colony from the East African coast but also traded in slaves from other Asian countries on their return from Batavia and India.

Till 1704, the migration of Indian slaves from Bihar, United Province, Bengal, Madras, Pondicherry, Gujarat, Bombay and coastal districts of Malabar and Coromandel Coast was not very much felt in Mauritius. During these period, the Dutch established factories within the jurisdiction of the

Bengal Subah, not only in the important centre of commerce such as Pipli, Balasore, Patna, Futwah, Dacca, Maldah, Kalikapur near Cassimbazar, Chinsurah and Baranagore but also at some villages in the interior with the object of collecting insufficient quantities of the various species of goods required for their investment. As per the record available in the Indian and Dutch archives, the Dutch had traded in Bengal and Bihar for almost a century and transported vast quantities on commodities and brought over countless treasures. The VOC normally resorted to slave raids in the neighbouring areas. People were simply kidnapped on the highway or children stolen from their parents. This raised an outcry and the people started avoiding Pulicat, a centre of the VOC. In 1652, there was a high demand for slaves in the Indies but the end of famine in India checked the boom. In 1659-61, there was again a short lived boom in slave trade in the Coromandel because of the Tanjore famine. Describing the suffering of the famine stricken family of the Tanjore region, the Jesuits missionaries of the Madurai Mission write:

How do we described the anguish and sufferings of our Christians, wandering on the mountains as so many skeletons, prey to the horrors of war and to the distress of famine... Our neophytes above ten thousands died of misery. The province of Tanjore suffered most...A large number of émigrés proceeded to Trichinopoly, where war and

Hunger pursued them; on the others took refuge at Santhome... But Shame, eternal shame to the Dutch, who cruelly speculated on the misery of the Indians. The enticed them to the coast by the bait of abundant food then when their number became pretty large and their strength a little recouped they piled them up on their ships and transported them to other countries to be sold as slaves. Yes shame to the barbarians!

The VOC also clearly mapped out their trade route extending from Quidah in West Africa to Cape colony then to Malabar and Coromandel Coast till east Bengal province and finally to the VOC headquarters at Batavia. H. Fubers also wrote:

There was a constant movement of Indian slaves to the – eastward– not only from the raids such as those carried out in Bengal by pirates from the Arakan but from the common practice of selling Indian children into slavery of Malay origin...To the horrors of the middle passage– were not entirely confined to the Atlantic. In July 1732, the Dutch company’s supercargoes in the yacht “*Binnewysent*” bought 190 slaves in Madagascar...124 buccaneer guns, 505 pounds of gun powder, sundry pieces of goods and presents to tribal chieftains. In November the Yacht arrived in Sumatra with 100 Men and 54 Women having thrown aboard the bodies of 25 men and 11 Women.

Augustin de Beaulieu, a traveler of the 17th century, had reported that he met a few Coromandel slaves in Aceh who had been brought from Negapattinam. Thus, Negapattinam emerged as a big centre of slave’s trade under the Dutch. It is recorded that since the fall of Portuguese settlement of Negapattinam into the hands of the Dutch on July 23, 1658 up to June 1660 a total of 3695 slaves was purchased by the Dutch and shipped to Batavia via Jaffna. The Portuguese were notorious in their conduct for the slave trade: occasional raids and levying protection money in Hooghly and Chittagong, but an impetus to their slave trade was the piracy by the Arakanese in the Bengal province, popularly known as *Maghs*. The raids carried out by the *Maghs* and the *Feringhis* were so popular that they found a place even in the Bengali literature and popular folk tales memory etc.

Not only war and famine facilitates slave trade but there is also a peculiar system which involved the most unethical practice of stealing children and uprooting women. And the worst offenders were not the Europeans but the local brokers who often for a few paltry of silver bartered away the freedom and happiness of hundreds of their compatriots. Niccolloa Manuci, the Venetian traveler, gives a horrifying accounts of a transaction in which an Italian priest at Tranquebar connived in a treacherous act of selling away wife and four sons of an Indian Christian of Madurai for a sum of 30

pagodas and shipping them off to Manila.

The second half of the 17th century saw a constant war among local rulers on a large scale. The ruler of Mysore Kanthiva Narasa Raja invaded the Madurai territory around Sathiyamangalam in 1656. He pressed into the country until he seized the fortress of Tiruchipalli in 1659. In the meantime, a constant warfare took place between the Nayaks of Madurai and Thanjavur which eventually coupled the invasion of Bijapuri armies in the territory of Thanjavur who captured the entire kingdom after disposing the Nayaks. Philips Baldaeues, the Dutch Minister (priest) in Ceylon who visited Tanjore region during the grim situation of this famine, writes:

At the time of our first arrival (1660), we found the affairs of Negapatnam in no small confusion; the city having been just besieged by the Naiks...Besides this, the King of Visapour had not long before the seized made inroads into the country, and by destroying all the fruits of the earth, and whatever else he met with, occasion'd such as famine, that destroy the poor country wretches being forced to fly the city for want of rice and other eatables, you saw the steers cover'd with emaciated and a half starv'd persons, who offered themselves to slavery for small quantity of bread ... at the rate of 10 shilling a head; above all 5000 of them were brought and carried to

Jaffnapatam...Colombo...Batavi

a.

The archival sources and travelers accounts also gives a vivid pictures of persons selling themselves as slaves on their own will whenever they found it impossible to clear off their debts and interests. The testimony of an individual witness or victim confirms that those most exposed to the prospect of famine and having perhaps left home to seek alms or food were easy picking for the labour exporters. Thus, according to the accounts of Bania merchants and inhabitants of Yanam in December 1792, "The poor of the adjacent countries had come to this part to benefit from the charity distributed by the English company and were among those enticed on to ships waiting in Coringa bay...."

Then, we also have instances like persons offering goods for sale were tricked into embarking on board the ship by the promise of good price for their merchandise and the complaints of their relatives was a frequent cause of intervention by the authorities. The consignment of slaves embarked on the French shops *Mars* and *Courriers de Yanam* provoked an outcry, because in their haste to complete their cargoes, the shippers secured Indians of indiscriminate social status.

Recruiters or locally known as *dalal* were sent into village around Yanam to enlist tailors and coolies by fraudulent offers of works. Local residents were picked up and one eye witness reported seeing many people in the vessel who

by their dress and toys seemed to be of caste and some women with children at their breast.

On the Coromandel Coast, slave trade was affected largely through the French possession or *comptoir*, namely Chandernagore, Pondicherry, Mahe and Yanam. Ties between the administration of French India and the Indian possession were close to the early part of the century in particular the Governor of the region played an active part in the export of the slaves. However, the frequency and volume was circumscribed by the established trading pattern and the prevailing winds. Ships were usually called at the Isle of France on the return voyage from India between March and June, with the primary purpose of transporting merchandise. Prior to 1767, slaves were often merely the incidental or additional parts of their cargo. The volume of the trade was further circumscribed by the vagaries of war: India's coastline was a frequent theatre of battle in the intermittent Anglo-French conflict of the 18th century with the consequent interference into shipping.

In 1774, we also come across from the dispatch of the Governor in Council of Bengal to the Court of Directors of the East India Company that the practice of kidnapping children from their parents and selling them as slaves was widely prevalent in Bengal and elsewhere, and these children were being exported from the country on Dutch and more regularly on French

vessel. The most vulnerable areas were the coastal towns in Malabar and Coromandel, where these slaves were shipped off to Bourbon and Mauritius. Sir William Jones, the first Judge of the Supreme Court, has recorded, "The condition of slaves within our Jurisdiction is beyond all imagination, deplorable and the cruelties are daily practiced on them." The first batch of Indian slaves reached Mauritius under the Dutch occupation of the island followed by several brigades of volunteers from Madras and Bengal who joined the British expedition which led to the conquest of Mauritius in 1810. As early as 1816, the colonial government in a sort of experimentation decided to use the Indian convicts as labour. In the following year some 500 convicts were being used to repairs roads. By 1828, the number of convicts who had reached the island had climbed to at least 1,018.

Retrospective analysis of the overseas migration during slavery had a deep impact on the host colonies like Cape Town and Mauritius, with migrant population acting as civilising agents in their respective new world during the course of time. In Mauritius, it acted as a torch bearer in the process of democratization and nation building. On the other hand, those who migrated to Cape Colony played an active role in the spreading Islam and the first mosque in Cape Town was built by Indian descent. Their contribution on the economic front is also laudable, which can be gauged from an array of

early explorer, administrator and missionary accounts regarding the indispensability of Indian traders and artisans in the opening and development of Mauritius and Cape Peninsula.

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