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सत्यमेव जयते

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STATE VISIT TO NAMIBIA BY SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE , PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

At the invitation of His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the President of the Republic of India, paid a State Visit to Namibia from June 15-17, 2016.



The delegation of the President of India included Hon'ble Mr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (IC) in Prime Minister's Office, Hon'ble Members of Parliament Shri Surendrajeet Singh Ahluwalia and Shri Mansukh Lakhman Mandaviya, senior officials and a media delegation. President Mukherjee held a tete-a tete meeting with President Geingob, followed by official discussions between the two leaders on June 16.



The two Heads of State held official talks during which they exchanged views on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues

of mutual interest. The two leaders underscored the unwavering bonds of friendship and solidarity, underpinned by a shared history of struggle against colonialism and the growing strategic partnership, multifaceted- cooperation and vibrant people to people contact existing between the two countries.



President Geingob also hosted a banquet in his honour. President Mukherjee addressed the Joint Session of Namibian Parliament on June 16, which was preceded by a brief meeting with Speaker of the National Assembly of Namibia Professor Peter H. Katjavivi and Chairperson of the National Council Hon'ble Margareth Mensah-Williams. Founding President of Namibia Dr. Sam Nujoma and Former President Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba also paid courtesy calls on the President of India.



President Mukherjee addressed the students and faculty members of Namibia University of Science and Technology on June 17. President's programme included visits to the Heroes' Acre, where he laid a wreath in honour of Namibia's Heroes, and to the Independence Memorial Museum. President Mukherjee also addressed the Indian community at a reception organized in his honour by the High Commissioner of India to Namibia.



Two MOUs/agreements were signed during the visit: (i) MOU on establishment of a Centre of Excellence in Information Technology in Namibia; and (ii) MOU between Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management (NIPAM) and Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.



The discussions between the two sides were held in a warm and cordial atmosphere. The Indian side recalled the visit of President Geingob to India in October 2015 for the India Africa Forum Summit-III meeting and indicated their desire to further progress discussions on various issues held during that visit. The two sides expressed satisfaction at the state of bilateral relations and discussed a diverse range of subjects of interest including trade, education, agriculture, ICT, health, culture, mining, energy, etc. It was decided to further intensify cooperation in all these areas. Both sides acknowledged that the exchange of high level visits between the two countries requires further strengthening in line with deepening bilateral relations and resolved to increase regular exchanges at both

political and official levels, as also continue the bilateral dialogue and cooperation at various international fora.



Both sides noted that the bilateral trade volume and investment, albeit small, was steadily increasing and agreed to take measures to expand collaboration in the fields of energy, business, finance and investment, infrastructure, education, etc., with a view to realizing the true potential of bilateral economic relations. They also agreed to convene the next meetings of the Joint Trade Committee and the Joint Working Group on Geology and Mineral Resources at an early date.



The Namibian side reaffirmed their commitment to implement the 2009 Agreement on Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy at the earliest possible date and briefed the Indian side on the steps being undertaken by them in this regard.



With reference to the International Solar Alliance (ISA) established during the COP-21 in Paris, the Indian side briefed the Namibian side on the recent developments and invited the latter to nominate a focal point for liaison with the Administrative Cell of the ISA and to forward pilot project proposals.



The Namibian side expressed its deep appreciation for the assistance provided by India in the area of capacity building and human resource development under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) and other scholarship programmes. The Indian side informed about its decision to further enhance the number of ITEC slots to 200.



Both sides agreed to work together to ensure better utilization of tele-education and tele-medicine facilities installed in Namibia under the Pan Africa E-Network project.



Both sides noted that people-to-people contacts, including through visits of cultural troupe and enhanced tourism flows, needed to be encouraged further and resolved to take necessary measures in this regard.



The Indian side informed the Namibian side of its decision to offer 100 tonnes of medicines as grant-in-aid over the next three years with a view to assisting the Namibian side implement the health goals

envisaged under the 'Harambee Prosperity Plan'. The Namibian side expressed its deep appreciation for this offer.



The Indian side expressed its solidarity with Namibia on the ongoing drought situation and conveyed an assistance of 1000 tonnes of rice. The Indian side also conveyed their decision to provide a grant of US\$20000 to the Indira Gandhi Maternity Clinic in Okahao to meet some of its immediate equipment needs. The Namibian side conveyed their sincere appreciation for these gestures.



The Indian side thanked Namibia for its consistent support to various Indian candidatures in international and other multilateral organizations. Both sides agreed on the urgent need for the reform of the UN Security

Council to make it more representative and effective global body. The Indian delegation thanked Namibia for its consistent support to India's candidature for a permanent seat on an expanded Security Council.



Both sides agreed that the visit of President Mukherjee to Namibia will result in further intensification of cooperation in diverse areas and in the bilateral relations reaching a new high.



President Mukherjee invited President Geingob to visit India, which was accepted with pleasure. Date for the visit would be decided through diplomatic channels. President Mukherjee expressed his sincere appreciation for the warm hospitality extended to him and his delegation.

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