

After reading the chapter, the reader will be able to develop an analytical understanding on the following:

- Historical Background
- Commercial and Oil Diplomacy
- Analysis of Angolan Agriculture minister visit to India

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Angola was a colony of the Portuguese. Portugal continued to rule in Angola till 1974. After a revolution in Portugal in 1974, its colonial empire crumbled and in 1975, Angola gained independence from Portugal. However, as Portuguese rule ended in Angola, they did not hand over power to any particular political contender. This led to a civil war in Angola in 1975, which ended only in 2002. Due to the UN presence in Angola during the civil war, peace was established by 2002. India, on the other hand, had established diplomatic relations with Angola way back in 1975. However, the relationship could grow only from 2002.

OIL AND COMMERCIAL DIPLOMACY

One of the key components of Angola–India relationship is the trade in oil. Angola is a very important country for India’s energy security. Angola is one of the largest suppliers of oil to India. India’s major items of export to Angola include transportation equipments, tractors, agricultural machinery, rice and imports include majorly crude oil. The state owned SONANGOL is the oil regulator and supplier in Angola. Apart from oil, Angola is also rich in diamonds. It is also a leading exporter of diamonds. A lot of Indian firms are also doing business in the oil sector in Angola. Some of the prominent firms include Reliance Oil, HPCL Mumbai and Engineering India limited. Lately, a lot of Indian companies are showing interest in rural and urban housing as the housing and construction industry in Angola is witnessing a boom.

Caminho de Ferro de Mocamedes and the Indian Railways

The Angolan government has initiated a project to rehabilitate and modernise the colonial railways of Angola. It is in this context that India cooperates with Angola. The government of India has provided technical assistance to Angola in Railways on the basis of a study done by RITES, India. India has provided locomotives and coaches to Angola for the route of Lubango to Pedrera. India has provided a 40-million-dollar line of credit for the railways in Angola.

ANALYSIS OF THE VISIT OF ANGOLAN AGRICULTURE MINISTER TO INDIA

In May, 2016, the Angolan agriculture minister, Afonso Pedro, paid a visit to India. He paid a visit to the Punjab Agriculture University and discussed with agricultural scientists the challenges Angola witnesses in agriculture. He not only invited a student delegation from Punjab Agriculture University to visit Angola to explore agro-forestry but also concluded some agreement on potential sectors.

