

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

- Historical Background
- Civilian Nuclear Cooperation and developments during Indian President's visit

## **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

India had been an ardent supporter of decolonisation in Namibia. We have already mentioned India's diplomatic efforts to establish the SWAPO to support Namibia in [Chapter 1](#) of this section. India established official diplomatic relations with Namibia in 1990, and have had extremely cordial relations since then.

## **CIVIL NUCLEAR COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENTS DURING INDIAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT—2016**

In 2009, the two countries concluded an argument in civilian nuclear cooperation. Namibia is a signatory of the Treaty of Pelindaba. The treaty establishes an African nuclear weapons free zone. Namibia has the fourth largest reserves of Uranium in the world but being a signatory of Treaty of Pelindaba, it is prohibited to undertake any nuclear commerce with non-NPT signatories. Thus, Namibia has signed a nuclear deal with India but is unable to ratify or enforce it due to obligations under the Treaty of Pelindaba. As per India's outreach to Africa programme, the Indian President paid a visit to Namibia in June 2016. During the visit of the Indian President, cooperation was envisaged in multiple sectors. India has committed to the opening of a centre of excellence in ICT in Namibia. An agreement has been reached on India allowing training to Namibian civil servants. The nuclear issue also came up for discussion during the Presidential visit.

In Namibia, Uranium reserves are held by private players and are not under government control. India is planning joint venture uranium exploration with private players in Namibia. This will help us to explore an alternate route. In October 2016, a team of Department of Atomic Energy from India visited Namibia to explore a joint venture.

