Brief on India – Democratic Republic of Congo relations

I - Political Relations:

India and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) share cordial and friendly relations. India was among the first countries to establish a diplomatic mission in Kinshasa in 1962. India had sent its Gurkha troops to DRC as far back as the early 60s (1960-62), under ONUC [UN peacekeeping mission], for countering the rebellion in Katanga province. At present, India is among the largest personnel contributors to MONUSCO. The DRC generally supports Indian candidatures at various international fora. The DRC was one of the first countries to sign the International Solar Alliance Agreement.

Visits from Democratic Republic of Congo to India:

High-level visits: H.E. Mr. Joseph Kabila Kabange, President of Democratic Republic of Congo, visited India on 8-9 April 2008 and attended the 1st India-Africa Forum Summit. During the visit, he held bilateral talks with Shri Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

Ministerial visits from DRC to India: (i) H.E. Mr. Ramazani Baya, Minister of Foreign Affairs, visited India from 2-4 February 2005; **(ii)** H.E. Mr. Jean Pierre Bemba, Vice President of DRC, attended the first CII conclave in March 2005; **(iii)** H.E. Mr. Ramazani Baya, Minister of Foreign Affairs, visited India from 2-7 May 2006; **(iv)** H.E. Mr. Remi Henri Kuseyo Gatange, Minister of Transport and Communications, visited India from 13-17 August 2007; **(v)** H.E. Mr. Salomon Banamuhere Baliene, Minister of Energy, visited India from 20-24 August 2007; **(vi)** H.E. Mr. Simon Mboso Kiamputu, Minister of Industry, visited India from 3-7 September 2007; **(vii)** H.E. Mr. Andre-Philippe Futa, Minister of National Economy & Commerce, participated in the CII Partnership Summit in Delhi from 13-18 January 2008; **(viii)** H.E. Mr. Alexis Thambwe Mwamba, Minister of Foreign Affairs, led a high-level delegation comprising of Minister of Planning and Minister of Post, Telephones & Telecommunications besides senior advisers from key ministries, to India in October 2009: **(ix)** H.E. Mr. Simon Bulupiy Galati, Deputy PM and Minister of Posts, Telephones & Telecommunications, participated in an international telecommunications conference in Hyderabad in May 2010; **(x)** H.E. Mr. Alexis Thambwe Mwamba, Minister of Foreign Affairs, participated in the India-Least Developed Countries Ministerial Conference in Delhi in February 2011; **(xi)** H.E. Mr. Daniel Mukoko Samba, Vice Prime Minister in charge of Budget, attended the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit in February 2013; **(xii)** H.E. Ms. Dismas Swana Emina Monzia Magbengu, Vice Minister for International and Regional Cooperation attended the 9th CII-Exim Bank Conclave held in March 2013; **(xiii)** H.E. Mr. Felix Kabange Numbi, Minister of Public Health, undertook a bilateral visit to India in March 2013; **(xiv)** H.E. Mr. Raymond Tshibanda N'Tungamulongo, Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation visited India in May 2015; **(xv)** H.E. Mr. Raymond Tshibanda N'Tungamulongo, Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation participated in the 3rd India Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi from 26-30 October 2015; **(xvi)** H.E Mr. Boyamba Okombo Antoine, Deputy Foreign Minister, led a 10-member delegation in February 2016 for the "Colours 2016 International Youth Fest" organised by M/s. Aditya Group of Educational Institutions, Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh; **(xvii)** H.E. Ms. Nefertiti Ngudianza Bayokisa Kisula, Minister of Trade, attended the 11th CII-Exim Bank Conclave held in March 2016;

(xviii) H.E. Mr. Jeannot Matadi Nenga, Minister of Energy & Water Resources, undertook a bilateral visit to India in April 2016; **(xix)** H.E. Mr. Boyamba Okombo Antoine, Deputy Foreign Minister, visited India in June 2016 to meet Congolese diaspora including students; **(xx)** H.E. Mr. Raymond Tshibanda N'Tungamulongo, Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation undertook a bilateral visit to India in August 2016; **(xxi)** H.E. Mr. Modeste Bahati Lukwebo, Minister of Economy attended the 12th CII-Exim Bank Conclave held in March 2017; **(xxii)** H.E. Mr. Kwet Mwan Kwet John, Minister for International Cooperation, visited India in June 2017; **(xxiii)** H.E. Mr. Leonard She Okitundu Lundula, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, visited India in November 2017; **(xxiv)** H.E. Mr. Leonard She Okitundu Lundula, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, attended the International Solar Alliance founding conference held in March 2018; **(xxv)** H.E. Mr. Ingele Ifoto, Minister of Energy & Hydraulic Resources, attended the First General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance held in New Delhi in October 2018; **(xxvi)** H.E. Mr. Gilbert Kabanda Kurhenga, Minister of Defence & War Veterans, led a delegation to India and visited DefExpo 2022 held from 18-22 October 2022 and also the 2nd India-Africa Defence Dialogue; **(xxvii)** H.E. Mr. Nicolas Kazadi, Minister of Finance, along with the Governor of Kasai Province, visited India in January-February 2023. **(xxviii)** H.E. Mr. Vital Kamerhe Kahongya, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of National Economy, and Mr. Desire M'Zinga Birihanze, Minister of Entrepreneurship & MSMEs attended the 18th CII-Exim Bank Conclave held in June 2023; **(xxix)** H.E. Mr. Teddy Lwamba Muba, Minister of Hydraulic Resources & Electricity and H.E. Mr. Louis Kabamba Watum, Minister of Industry & Development of SMEs attended the 19th CII Conclave held in August 2024.

Other visits from DRC to India: (i) A delegation led by Special Advisor to H.E. the President of DRC, visited Mumbai and Delhi in March 2022 and held meetings with NPCI, UIDAI and Election Commission of India. **(ii)** H.E. Mr. Marcel Metikwiza Lukwikila, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence of DRC, led a delegation to India from 1-15 July 2024, 29 July 2024, and February 2025.

<u>Visits from India to the Democratic Republic of Congo:</u>

Ministerial visits from India to DRC: (i) Smt. Preneet Kaur, Hon'ble MoS for External Affairs, participated in the 50th anniversary of Independence of DRC celebrations in Kinshasa in June 2011; **(ii)** Shri Manoj Sinha, Hon'ble MoS for Railways and Special Envoy of Hon'ble Prime Minister, visited Kinshasa in July 2015 to hand over invitation for the 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit.

Parliamentary visits from India to DRC: An all-party Indian Parliamentary delegation visited Kinshasa from 24-28 May 2025 as part of the diplomatic outreach initiative following 'Operation Sindoor'. The delegation comprised Hon'ble Members of Parliament – Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde (leader of the delegation), Ms. Bansuri Swaraj, Shri E.T.Mohammed Basheer, Shri Atul Garg, Dr. Sasmit Patra, Shri Manan Kumar Mishra, and Shri S.S.Ahluwalia, former Hon'ble MoS and Ambassador (Retd.) Sujan Chinoy. The delegation met H.E. Mr. Jean-Pierre Bemba, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Transport, H.E. Ms. Therese Kayikwamba Wagner, Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr. Vital Kamerhe, President of the National Assembly, H.E. Mr. Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde, President of the Senate, and H.E. Prof. Berthold Ulungu, President of Committee of Foreign Affairs of the National Assembly.

Other visits from India to DRC: (i) Commerce Secretary led a delegation of government officials and representatives of public and private sector companies to DRC in June 2008; **(ii)** A delegation from the Ministry of Small Scale Industries visited DRC in December 2015 and met with Congolese officials; **(iii)** The Director for Agriculture Extension of National Institute of Agriculture Extension management (MANAGE) – an organization of the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, visited DRC in October 2017; **(iv)** A three-member delegation from MIDHANI (Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited) visited Kinshasa from 5-7 November 2019; **(v)** An NPCI team visited Kinshasa in July 2022 and held discussions with representatives of the Congo Central Bank: **(vi)** A two-member RITES delegation visited Kinshasa in March 2023; **(vii)** A delegation led by Joint Secretary, Ministry of Mines, attended the DRC Mining Week & Expo in June 2023; **(viii)** A delegation led by Director, Ministry of Mines, attended the DRC Mining Week & Expo in June 2024; (ix) A delegation led by Joint Secretary, Ministry of Mines, attended the DRC Mining Week & Expo in June 2025.

Bilateral Institutional Mechanism:

(a) **Foreign office Consultation:** An MoU to hold regular Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) was signed between India and DRC in May 2010. The first FOC was held in New Delhi in April 2024, co-chaired by Shri Sevala Naik Mude, Additional Secretary(Central & West Africa Division), Ministry of External Affairs, and H.E. Mr. Theo Wabenga Kalebo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Democratic Republic of Congo. Both sides carried out a comprehensive review of the existing bilateral relations including strengthening of cooperation in trade and economic relations, mining, agriculture, development partnership, defence, science & technology, digital public infrastructure, green energy, culture, and people-to-people ties. The two sides also exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest, including cooperation in the UN and other multilateral fora.

(b) **Joint Commission for Political, Economic, Scientific, Technical and Socio-Cultural matters**: An agreement for setting up JCM between India and DRC was signed in March 2008.

II - Economic and Commercial Relations:

The bilateral trade between India and DRC is growing at a healthy rate and has increased from US$ 440 million in 2020-21 to US$ 790 million in 2023-2024, and to US$ 1 billion during 2024-25. The bilateral trade figure in US$ million are as under:

Figures in USD Million

Year	Export to DRC	Import from DRC	Total Trade	Balance of Trade
2020-2021	430.33	10.16	440.49	420.17
2021-2022	568.17	31.21	599.38	536.96
2022-2023	631	214	845	417
2023-2024	580.69	209.40	790.09	371.29
2024-2025	562.90	443.22	1006.12	119.68
April 2025 – January 2026	528.45	191.61	720.06	336.84

(Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India).

The main items of exports from India to DRC are pharmaceuticals, vehicles, textiles, electrical machinery, articles of plastic, iron and steel etc. The main items of imports by India from DRC are mineral fuels, cocoa, articles of aluminium, iron and steel and copper, etc.

The Indian private sector has large presence in DRC, especially in health-care, hospitality sector, mining, pharmaceuticals, FMCG goods, telecom, construction and real estate, etc.

Visits to DRC by Trade bodies / companies: (i) In November 2022, the Embassy of India in collaboration with APEDA, Plexconcil, FICCI and the Federation of Congolese Enterprises (FEC) held a BSM on rice, wheat, sugar and plastics; **(ii)** A 15-member CII delegation visited DRC in Mach 2024; **(iii)** A delegation comprising of 12 Indian defence companies (including two with local representatives) visited DRC to participate in the 1st India-DRC Defence Industry Seminar and Expo held in Kinshasa on 28-29 January 2025.

III - Development Partnership / Grants:

India has extended Lines of Credit (LOCs) worth (i) US$ 33.5 million for setting up a cement plant and supply of TATA and Ashok Leyland buses and spare parts to DRC in 2005-2006; and (ii) LOC of US$ 25 million for rural water supply project; (iii) LOC of US$ 42 million for commissioning the 10.3 MW Kakobola hydro-electric plant in 2010-2011; and (iv) LOC of US$ 34.50 million for a project for distributing power generated from the plant in May 2015.

The GoI-supported LOC project of Kakobola hydroelectric power plant in the Democratic Republic of Congo was inaugurated on 23 March 2026 by H.E. Mr. Aime Molendo Sakombi, Minister of Hydraulic Resources & Electricity. On 26 March 2026, H.E. Mr. Felix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, Hon'ble President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, inaugurated the Kikwit power distribution network of the Kakobola hydroelectric plant. This is a transformative initiative for providing reliable and sustainable electricity to towns in the Kwilu province. A symbol of India-DRC partnership, this project reflects our shared commitment to sustainable development, clean energy, and South-South cooperation. A proud milestone in India-DRC partnership.

India has provided economic assistance to DRC in the form of tractors (60 nos.) and spares worth US$ 0.66 in 2006-07; and medicines worth US$ 1 million in 2008-09. During the Covid pandemic, India donated 50,000 Made-in-India vaccines to the DRC in March 2021.

IV - Capacity building programmes / scholarships:

Tele-education: Tele-education projects were implemented under the Pan-African e-network project. Around 100 Congolese students have benefitted from e-VBAB courses so far.

Training courses under IAFS: 24 DRC officials have benefitted from various training courses offered under IAFS-I, II and III (2010-14).

SSIFS courses for Congolese diplomats: In October 2022, one Congolese diplomat attended the 69th PCFD Course in the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS). The SSIFS has also organised special courses for Congolese diplomats. While the first course held in November-December 2019 was attended by 11 diplomats, the second course held in March 2025 was attended by 32 diplomats from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Democratic Republic of Congo.

Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation programme (ITEC): India offers training in human resource development under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme. Around 630 officials from DRC have been trained under the ITEC programme starting from 2006. 7 Congolese Solar mamas were trained in solar electrification in Rajasthan in the Barefoot College under ITEC in 2010-15.

Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR): The ICCR offers scholarships for Congolese nationals. 55 ICCR scholarships have been availed from 2012 till date.

V - Cultural Relations:

Cultural groups from the DRC have participated in the Surajkund Arts & Crafts Mela held in India in the years 2012, 2013, 2016, 2023, and 2026. Additionally, a cultural group 'La Sanza Asbl' from DRC participated in the 9th India International Folk Festival held in New Delhi and other cities in October 2025. ICCR-sponsored cultural groups from India (Rajasthani / Manipuri / Kathak / Gujarati folk) have visited DRC and gave performances in Kinshasa and other cities during the years 2012, 2016, 2022 and 2023. The Mission celebrates the national days, Mahatma Gandhiji's birthday, the International Day of Yoga and ITEC day every year. Indian festivals are celebrated with great enthusiasm by the Indian community in Kinshasa and other major cities.

VI - Indian Community in DRC:

The Indian diaspora is among the largest expats community in DRC with around 25,000 Indian nationals / PIOs. The diaspora is a mix of people from various Indian States, most of them are of Gujarati origin and from the Ismaili community. They are engaged mainly in the sectors of mining, hospitality, health-care, pharmaceuticals, construction, FMCG goods, construction etc. The biggest diaspora association is the Congo Hindu Mandal; there are some state-wise associations. There are two temples in the DRC – one in the capital city of Kinshasa and one in the city of Lubumbashi. A Jamatkhana is run by the Ismaili community in Kinshasa.

VII - India and Peacekeeping in the Democratic Republic of Congo:

India has a long history of contributing troops for peacekeeping operations in the DRC. In March 1961, Indian troops participated in the 99th Infantry brigade during the Katanga secession crisis. India also contributed troops to the UN peacekeeping missions in 1964 and 2000. Currently, India contributes troops to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO).

10 April 2026.

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