

Meeting Minutes 27th May,2025

Event: Interactive Session with the Ambassador of the Republic of Angola & Africa Day Commemoration

Organized by: Department of African Studies, University of Delhi

Date: May 27, 2025

Chief Guest:

- **His Excellency Clemente Camenha** (Ambassador of the Republic of Angola to the Republic of India)

To mark the celebration of **Africa Day**, H.E. Clemente Camenha, Ambassador of Angola, was the guest of honour, engaged with the academic community of the Department of African Studies. The discussion focused on:

- The significance of Africa Day: From the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to the African Union (AU), reflecting on the legacy, aspirations, and the future of African unity and development.
- Angola's vision, its role in Africa, and Indo-Angolan relations.

Key Discussion Points from H.E. Clemente Camenha's Address

- **Significance of Africa Day & African Unity:**
 - Commemorating the 1963 founding of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), which later evolved into the African Union (AU).
 - The OAU spearheaded decolonization efforts and promoted solidarity among African nations.
 - Africa Day is a crucial occasion to reflect on past achievements, current challenges, and to collectively envision the continent's future development and global standing.

- The formation of the AU was a significant step towards removing neo-colonial ties in the post-independence era, building upon the OAU's foundations, and emphasizes the ongoing need for a "decolonisation of the mind" .

- **Angola's Vision & Development:**

- Angola has made significant strides in rebuilding and developing after periods of decolonization and civil war.
- A key focus of Angola's vision is developing robust infrastructure across the nation.
- This includes the introduction of the **Lobito Corridor** concept, a North-South corridor aimed at facilitating trade and movement by terminating taxes and tolls along the border.

- **Strengthening Indo-Angolan Ties:**

- India and Angola have maintained diasporic relations since 1985.
- Currently, over 5,000 Indians reside in Angola, primarily engaged as businessmen and entrepreneurs.
- H.E. Camenha and his embassy have expressed keen interest in collaboration with India in several areas, with a specific focus on fisheries research, data collection, resource monitoring, sustainable practices, and technology backstopping/sharing.
- Discussions pointed towards expanding market access for Indian fishery products in Angola and collaborating on research and development in aquaculture and resource management technologies, demonstrating mutual benefit.
- Discussions touched upon the evolution from OAU to AU, the nuances of the Lobito Corridor, the challenges and opportunities for the AU, and specific avenues for Indo-Angolan collaboration especially people to people connections in the university level.

His Excellency shed light on a critical development initiative and also provided scholars and researchers with a clear direction for further academic work and researches on Angola and India Angola relations.