

High Commission of India

Lusaka

Press Release

Webinar on Gandhian Methods of Nonviolence and its influence on the Freedom Struggle in Zambia (8th February 2022)

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi in collaboration with High Commission of India, Lusaka, University of Zambia and Antar-Rashtriya Sahyog Parishad, New Delhi hosted a Webinar on Gandhian Methods of Nonviolence and its influence on freedom struggle of Zambia on 08th February, 2022. It is noteworthy that Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti is a high level body headed by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi.

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अमृत महोत्सव

State Emblem of India

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Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi
in collaboration with High Commission of India, Lusaka
University of Zambia, Lusaka and Antar-Rashtriya Sahyog Parishad

Welcomes you to the Webinar
on
**Gandhian Methods of Nonviolence and
its influence on Freedom Struggle of Zambia**
(8th February 2022)

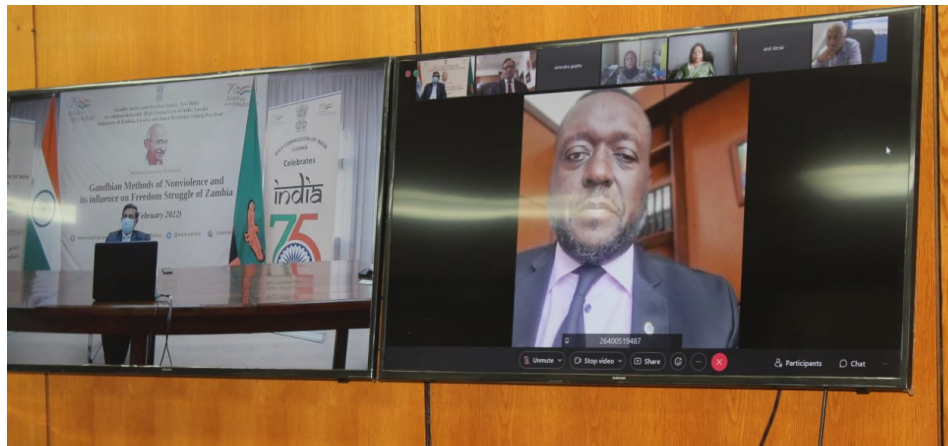
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Hon'ble Minister of Local Government and Rural Development of the Republic of Zambia H. E. Mr. Garry Nkombo was the Guest of Honour. Mrs. Bandana Kumar, Senior Research Fellow, University of Zambia

was the Lead Speaker from the Zambian Side. Mr. Vijay Goel, Vice Chairman, Gandhi Smriti & Darshan Samiti, H. E. Mr. Ashok Kumar, High Commissioner of India to Zambia, Ambassador(retd) Mr. Virendra Gupta, President, Antar-Rashtriya Sahyog Parishad and Ambassador(retd) Mr. Anup Mudgal Convener of Webinar represented the Indian side.

In his keynote address, Hon'ble Minister Mr. Garry Nkombo recalled how Zambian freedom fighters led by the first Republican President Late Dr. Kenneth David Kaunda drew inspiration from India's non-violent freedom struggle spear-headed by Mahatma Gandhi. He described Mahatma Gandhi as a visionary leader, who believed that progress of a country lies in social, economic and political empowerment of its villages through self-sufficiency. He highlighted how the New Dawn Government of President Mr. Hakainde Hichilema is determined to religiously follow the Gandhian methods of non-violence, as reflected in the recently held Kabwata by-elections, which concluded peacefully. He mentioned how Hon'ble President Hakainde Hichilema is following Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of self-sufficiency which manifests itself in the substantially enhanced allocation of Constituency Development Fund which is a milestone initiative of the New Dawn Government. He said that Zambia could draw inspiration from the Gandhian model of rural reconstruction devoid of any kind of exploitation. He also praised the Gandhian concept of self-sufficiency of villages to ensure progress of a country. Referring to Mahatma Gandhi as a visionary leader, he mentioned about Gandhiji's monumental contribution towards holistic and people-centered approach. The Hon'ble Minister also shared the salient features of UPND's vision for the development of Zambia through decentralization

and devolution of power and resources drawing inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi's belief of development.



Mr. Vijay Goel, Vice Chairman, Gandhi Smriti & Darshan Samiti recalled the strong historical ties between India and Zambia as both countries shared a common past of colonial subjugation. He highlighted the outstanding bilateral relationship between the two countries the foundation of which was laid by Mahatma Gandhi and Late Dr. Kenneth David Kaunda who was an ardent follower of Gandhian methods and was referred as the Gandhi of Africa. He also talked about the high level visits between the two countries which have been instrumental in strengthening the bilateral relations. He mentioned how Late Dr. Kenneth David Kaunda drew inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi towards self-purification. He mentioned how India's relationship with Zambia has grown over the years to encompass almost all spheres including Health, Education, Defence and Trade and Commerce to name a few. He further mentioned how various developmental partnership programmes extended to Zambia are reflective of the strong bond between the two countries.



High Commissioner H. E. Mr. Ashok Kumar recalled how India's peaceful and non-violent freedom movement led by Mahatma Gandhi inspired many African leaders including the first Republican President of Zambia Late Dr. Kenneth David Kaunda. He also highlighted excellent bilateral relations built over more than five decades encompassing political, economic, commercial and development cooperation. He also expressed hope that Zambia could draw inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi's ideology of self-government and self-sustained development of villages to attain self sufficiency. He also praised the Zambian Government for enhancing Constituency Development Fund and its decentralization model which is a corollary to Gandhian principles of decentralization and devolution of resources. He took this opportunity to suggest the 'New Dawn Government' to emulate the rural development schemes implemented by the

Government of India under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi for the benefit of the poor and the under-privileged people of Zambia.



Ambassador(Retd.) Mr. Virendra Gupta recalled the warm and emotional relationship between India and Africa including Zambia which stretches beyond monetary terms. He highlighted the moral dimensions of Gandhian values and principles. He also mentioned about the large and long-lasting impact of non-violence and truth. He identified the Non-Cooperation and Civil Disobedience movements as potent forces and practical measures against oppressive forces.

Mrs. Bandana Kumar, Senior Research Fellow, University of Zambia spoke about the life and history of Mahatma Gandhi. She laid special emphasis on how Mahatma Gandhi used non-violence as a weapon to fight against the British colonial rule and how the African countries

including Zambia, which were struggling for independence from the oppressive colonial rule, adopted the Gandhian principle of non-violence to achieve their freedom.

Ambassador (Retd.) Mr. Anup Mudgal conducted the Webinar in a truly professional way while highlighting the salient points of all the speakers in a lucid and easily understandable manner.



The Webinar was the first serious effort by the organizers Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, Antar-Rashtriya Sahyog Parishad, High Commission of India, Lusaka and University of Zambia to highlight excellent bilateral relations between India and Zambia largely inspired by the principles of Gandhian philosophy and thoughts and nurtured by successive leadership of both the countries. The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Zambia Prof. Luke Mumba has offered the facilities of

the University to conduct more such high quality Webinars with the support of University of Zambia.