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## **ZAMBIA SIGNS SIX MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING WITH INDIA**

**New Delhi, (Wednesday, 21st August, 2019)**-----Zambia has signed six Memoranda of Understanding at the occasion witnessed by His Excellency Dr Edgar Chagwa Lungu and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Foreign Affairs Minister, Hon. Joseph Malanji signed the Memoranda of Understanding of Cooperation on Defence and Security, Arts and Culture, Diplomacy, and Health.

Electoral Commission of Zambia Chairman Justice Esau Chulu signed on Elections, and Mines Minister Hon. Richard Musukwa signed on Mining and Geology.

After the signing ceremony, President Lungu thanked the Indian government for enhanced cooperation between the two countries.

Mr Modi said the Memoranda of Understanding will further increase cooperation in Mining, Defence, Cooperation in Airforce, Tele-education, Tele-medicine, and Elections.

India is the oldest democracy of the world.

Mr Modi further said India wants to invest in Healthcare, Agriculture, Food Processing, and Mining, among others.

Earlier, in Hyderabad House Conference Hall during bilateral talks, President Lungu said the establishment of the Zambia-India Parliamentary Friendship Group bears further testimony to the excellent relations between the two countries.

The President called for the revival of the meetings of the Zambia-India Joint Permanent Commission of Cooperation to ensure implementation of agreed areas of cooperation between the two countries.

On the standoff between Vedanta and Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines Investment Holdings, the President said he met the Vedanta Chairman and that since the matter is in court, it would be best to let the rule of law take its course.

He was responding to Mr Modi who hoped that the matter be resolved amicably.

The President expressed gratitude to India on hosting patients from Zambia who require specialised treatment, and for training extended to Zambians in health.

The President thanked the Indian government for the generosity displayed in the financing and implementation of the Lusaka City Roads Decongestion Project.

In the morning, the President was welcomed to the Presidential Palace by Indian President His Excellency Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a Military Parade of the Army, the Navy and Airforce.

The President also visited the Rajghat memorial site and laid a wreath on the grave of Mahatma Gandhi, India's epitome of freedom.

In the afternoon, the President addressed the India-Zambia Investment Business Forum, attended by some of India's business personalities.

The President assured the packed audience of the business community from both Zambia and India of Zambia's excellent business environment.

Meanwhile, India has donated 1000 tonnes of rice and 100 tonnes of milk to areas in Zambia where there is food deficit.

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