

During this time, he witnessed many political upheavals in East Africa, and those incidences pulled the strings for political interest in him and he was influenced by the happenings that took place in the region as well as in India. As a matter of fact, those years in East Africa went on to shape his political thinking.

Therefore, his belief in democracy grew stronger, where he began to appreciate the need for concepts of consensus and compromise in a democratic society.

In neighbouring Kenya, meanwhile, corruption was growing and greed became a hiccup in its overall development, which further strengthened Deepak's beliefs in accountability, transparency and good governance. But the most striking impact was noticed in Tanzania where President Julius Nyerere embarked on social collectivism under his Ujamaa policy, which led to the collapse of the Tanzanian economy. Living under such precarious conditions was quite challenging, and eventually prompted Deepak to emigrate with his family from Tanzania to Canada. This also influenced his political thinking smaller government and conservative thinking.

Thus in 1977, Deepak landed in Canada along with his wife and a young daughter. Since it was the beginning of his life in Canada, and with a young family to care for, Deepak's priority was to search a means of livelihood in Canada. In the late 70s and early 80s, a recurring problem that he confronted in Canada was racial discrimination. He also had to face the demon of racism. He reveals: "There was no question that there (in Canada) was an underlying discrimination against visible minorities (non-white community). This discrimination resulted in me finding and steering myself in the direction of new challenges and careers".

At first, Deepak had to undertake any job that was available to him so that he could look after his family. He remembers: "I navigated myself from taxi driver to bus driver to accountant to businessman and finally into Deepak remembers: "Since it was important to join a union to get a job, I decided to become a bus driver and became a member of one of the City of Calgary (Municipal Government) unions". He sat for an entrance exam to be a driver but to his shock, he could not qualify. He then delved deep, searching for the reason behind his failure and realised that the eligibility to become a bus driver was not being academically genius but being smart. So he re-applied for the



Deepak and his wife Ncena with His Holiness the Dalai Lama, in Ottawa

expenses in the UK. The period he spent in the United Kingdom, he says, was an early lesson on sound financial management.

After the completion of his training in the UK, Deepak came back to Tanzania and applied to join the Directorate of Civil Aviation. Since he had gone through an arid experience at the time when he had applied for the first time in Africa and had to face the discriminatory treatment because of his Indian identity, now he was a little optimistic because: "This time, they could not deny me entering the service, as



expatriate controllers were working in East Africa. I was hired as an Air Traffic Controller by the Directorate of Civil Aviation, East African Community".

During this time, he witnessed many political upheavals in East Africa, and those incidences pulled the strings for political interest in him and he was influenced by the happenings that took place in the region as well as in India. As a matter of fact, those years in East Africa went on to shape his political thinking. In Uganda, Idi Amin came into power and expelled the Indians, but the real tragedy was the price the Ugandan population had to pay for a dictator's folly.