

**Speech of High Commissioner Amb. Abhishek Singh during the
launch of 1st edition of India-Nigeria Trade Webinar Series on
11.06.2026**

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Esteemed exporters, importers, from India and Nigeria,

Good morning from Abuja, and good afternoon to our friends joining from India.

It is my great privilege to welcome you to the launch of the India-Nigeria Trade Webinar Series, an initiative designed to boost the bilateral India and Nigeria trade.

Today, we are not just starting a webinar. We are opening a new channel for growth between the one of the world's largest economy, that is India and Africa's largest economy, that is Nigeria.

Let me share three reasons why this moment matters.

First, the numbers tell a story of partnership. Our bilateral trade stands at **US dollar \$ 9 billion**. Nigeria is India's largest trading partner in Africa. Over 200 Indian companies have invested more than **\$30 billion** in Nigeria in sector such as pharma, manufacturing, agriculture, power, hospitality, retailing of consumer goods and construction. From Lagos to Kano, Indian companies are not just selling to Nigeria. They are making in Nigeria, employing Nigerians, and growing with Nigeria. I have said this several times and at the cost of repetition, I would like to say that the Indians in Nigeria who have been working hard for several decades in Nigeria, consider Nigeria as their fatherland and India as their motherland.

Second, policy is now on your side. As of **1st April 2026**, Nigeria has reduced import duties on rice, wheat, palm oil, sugar, stationery items, ceramic tiles, agriculture manufacturing machinery, etc. This is not a small change. It means Indian parboiled rice can now reach Nigerian markets 15% cheaper. It means Nigerian millers can access Indian wheat at globally competitive prices. It means real savings for families, and real opportunity for traders. We commend the Government of Nigeria for this forward-looking step.

Third, the future is about diversification. It is true that, 90% of Nigeria's exports to India have been crude oil. Oil is important. But we should look for diversifying our trade in sesame and shea, in cashew, in lithium and leather. India's growing market of 1.4 billion consumers and factories are ready. And Nigeria needs what India makes i.e. affordable medicines, tractors & related machineries for agriculture, and technology that works.

So we have come up this new initiative of Webinar Series. It is not just talk but it aims for **Dialogue to deals**, which is our moto for '**Trade Webinar Series**'.

Each session will provide you insight of Nigerian market, supply chain, local market trends, and government policies. And more importantly it will connect you with each other, I mean to verified and credible partners.

To our Nigerian exporters, I say that India's market is open. Register with our export promotion councils such as APEDA. They will in turn introduce you to our cashew processors, our sesame importers. The demand is real.

To our Indian exporters, I would like to convey that Nigeria's reforms are real. The tariff cuts are real. The Free Trade Zones are ready. Come, invest, and manufacture for Nigeria and help in value addition to grow together.

India and Nigeria share more than trade figures. We are strategic trade partners and have a common driving youth population. And with this conviction we can together secure a promising future for both the nations.

So let us use this platform. Get involved, interact, ask questions, explore opportunities, make ground check, secure deals, join our B2B database and move from potential to purchase orders.

I thank NACCIMA and ACCI for co-creating this platform. I thank everyone who has taken time from their busy schedule to be a part of the launch of the India-Nigeria Trade Webinar Series. I assure you that the High

Commission will always remain committed to the promotion of the bilateral trade of India-Nigeria.

With that, I am pleased to declare the India-Nigeria Trade Webinar Series officially launched.

I wish you all productive discussions.

Thank you.
