



# INDIA-NIGERIA

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# Ten Principles of India's Engagement with Africa

**Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi enunciated ten principles of India's engagement with Africa at Ugandan Parliament on July 25, 2018 and at the 10th BRICS Summit held in South Africa.**



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressing the Parliament of Uganda on 25 July 2018.

**S**hri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister, during his address to the Ugandan Parliament on 25 July 2018 propounded *Ten Principles* of India's engagement with Africa (please see Page 6). Following is the extract of Prime Minister Modi's address relating to India-Africa engagement during the 21st century:

"Today, India and Africa stand on the threshold of a future of great promise: as confident, secure, youthful, innovative, and dynamic people. Uganda is an example of Africa on the move. It is witnessing increasing gender parity, rising educational and health standards, and expanding infrastructure and connectivity. It is a region with growing trade and investment. We

are seeing a surge of innovation. We in India rejoice in every African success, because of our deep bonds of friendships.

India is proud to be Africa's partner. And, Uganda is central to our commitment to the continent. Yesterday, I announced two Lines of Credit for Uganda. The first, of 141 million US dollars for electricity lines. And the second, of 64 million US dollars for agriculture and dairy production. As in the past, we will continue to support the aspirations of the people of Uganda – in agriculture and healthcare, education and training, infrastructure and energy, capacity building in government and training in defence. I compliment President Museveni and this House on the

decision to join the International Solar Alliance.

As with Uganda, we have deepened our partnership and engagement across the vast expanse of Africa. In the past four years, our President, Vice President and I have collectively visited no less than 25 countries in Africa. Our Ministers have covered virtually all African nations. We were honoured to host all 54 countries – over 40 at Heads of State and Government level – at the third Africa-India Forum Summit in October 2015. We were also privileged to host many African leaders for the inaugural summit of the International Solar Alliance. Other than all these, 32 Heads of State or Government from Africa



**THE  
10 GUIDING  
PRINCIPLES**

**FOR INDIA'S ENGAGEMENT WITH AFRICA**

**PRIME MINISTER MODI'S ADDRESS  
AT UGANDAN PARLIAMENT ON 25TH JULY 2018**

## South-South Cooperation

- ◉ **Africa will be at the top of our priorities. We will continue to intensify and deepen our engagement with Africa.**
- ◉ **Our development partnership will be guided by your priorities. It will be on terms that will be comfortable for you, that will liberate your potential and not constrain your future.**
- ◉ **We will keep our markets open and make it easier and more attractive to trade with India. We will support our industry to invest in Africa.**
- ◉ **We will harness India's experience with digital revolution to support Africa's development; improve delivery of public services; extend education and health; spread digital literacy; expand financial inclusion; and mainstream the marginalised.**
- ◉ **Africa has 60 per cent of the world's arable land, but produces just 10 per cent of the global output. We will work with you to improve Africa's agriculture.**
- ◉ **Our partnership will address the challenges of climate change. We will work with Africa to ensure a just international climate order; to preserve our biodiversity; and, adopt clean and efficient energy sources.**
- ◉ **We will strengthen our cooperation and mutual capabilities in combating terrorism and extremism; keeping our cyberspace safe and secure; and, supporting the UN in advancing and keeping peace.**
- ◉ **We will work with African nations to keep the oceans open and free for the benefit of all nations. India's vision of Indian Ocean Security is cooperative and inclusive, rooted in security and growth for all in the region.**
- ◉ **As global engagement in Africa increases, we must all work together to ensure that Africa does not once again turn into a theatre of rival ambitions, but becomes a nursery for the aspirations of Africa's youth.**
- ◉ **Just as India and Africa fought colonial rule together, we will work together for a just, representative and democratic global order that has a voice and a role for one-third of humanity that lives in Africa and India.**



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressing the 10th BRICS Summit at Johannesburg on 26 July 2018.

have visited India in the last four years. My home state Gujarat was proud to be the host of the first ever meeting of the African Development Bank in India last year. And we are also opening 18 new embassies in Africa.

Our development partnership currently includes implementation of 180 Lines of Credit worth about USD 11 billion in over 40 African countries. At the last India Africa Forum Summit, we had committed a concessional Line of Credit of 10 billion U.S. dollars and 600 million dollars in grant assistance. Every year, over 8000 African youth are trained in a diverse set of programmes. As always, our efforts will be driven by your priorities. Indian companies have invested over US\$ 54 billion in Africa. Our trade with Africa is now over US\$ 62 billion. This is over 21 per cent more than in the previous year. Africa's exports to India are growing. And, our economic ties are now increasingly driven by new partnerships of innovation in the digital economy. The Pan Africa E-Network links 48 African countries to India, and to one another. It can become the new backbone for digital innovation

in Africa. With several coastal nations, our partnership now increasingly seeks to harness the benefits of Blue Economy in a sustainable manner. And, India's medicines turned the tide on diseases that were once a threat to Africa's future. They also continue to make healthcare affordable and accessible to many

As we work together for prosperity, we have stood together for peace. Indian soldiers have served in blue helmets so that Africa's children can look to a future of peace. We are proud of the work of Indian peacekeepers in over a dozen UN peacekeeping missions in Africa, since our first mission in Congo in 1960. In all the UN peacekeeping Missions in the world, 163 Indians have made the supreme sacrifice. This is among the highest number for any country. Almost 70 per cent of these embraced martyrdom just in Africa. Today, over 6,000 Indians serve in five peacekeeping operations in Africa. Indian women established a landmark with the first all-female Police Unit of the United Nations in Liberia. Our defence and security cooperation is growing with nations in Africa, as we work together to counter

terrorism and piracy, and keep our seas secure.

If this is to be a century of nations, rising together in freedom and equality; if this is to be an age when the light of opportunity dawns on all humans; if this is a time when our planet has a more hopeful future; then all of this magnificent continent of Africa must walk in step with the rest of the world. India will work with you and for you. Our partnership will build instruments of empowerment in Africa. We will stand in solidarity with your endeavours, in transparency, with respect and on the principle of equality. We will speak for you, and with you. Two-thirds of India and two-thirds of Africa is under the age of 35 years. And, if the future belongs to the youth, then this century is ours to shape and build. And, let us be guided by the Ugandan saying that is – *"Anayejitahidi hufaidi"* which means "one who makes the extra effort will benefit". India has made that extra effort for Africa. And will always do so. For Africa's benefit." ■

# India–Nigeria Relations on the Upswing



**India and Nigeria relations have been on an upswing since India developed its Diplomatic Mission in Lagos in 1958. The strengthening of bilateral ties is conspicuous from the ongoing engagements between the countries on the commercial as well as the cultural front.**

**Highlighting this present status of the long-standing friendship between India and Nigeria, the Indian High Commissioner to Nigeria, Shri B.N. Reddy spoke to Harun Riaz, Editor, Krest Publications and shed light on the cooperation in various fields undertaken by the two countries.**

**Excellency, as India celebrates its 60 years of diplomatic engagement with Nigeria, how will you sum up the past six decades?**

.....  
2018 marks a momentous year in the bilateral relations between India and Nigeria as it ushers in sixty years of diplomatic engagement between the two countries. Nigeria, as the largest democracy in Africa, and India, the largest democracy in the world, have emerged as natural partners in their quest for all-round development of their people. India established its Diplomatic Mission in Lagos in 1958, two years prior to Nigeria's independence. The struggle against colonialism and apartheid in the formative years after independence of the two countries laid strong foundations for their engagement.

The bilateral relations are now characterized by warmth and with a forward-looking approach. The

scope and content of the bilateral engagement is comprehensive covering diverse sectors including trade & investment, defence, culture and people-to-people contacts.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi and President of Nigeria Excellency Muhammadu Buhari, the two countries are exploring to realize the potential that exists by working on a range of complementarities that exist between the two countries. A true reflection of it is evident from the fact that India emerged as the largest trading partner of Nigeria globally and Nigeria as the largest trading partner of India in Africa - with bilateral trade in 2017-18 touching US \$ 12 billion. Indian investments in Nigeria cover diverse sectors and are estimated at US \$ 10 billion. Nigeria is emerging as an important partner of India's energy security paradigm. Our defence cooperation with

Nigeria continues apace now following up on India's assistance in 1960s in establishment of Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA) at Kaduna and Naval College at Port Harcourt. India is offering training in premier military training institutions to members of the Nigerian Armed Forces.

As two large developing countries with abundance of diversity manifested through multiethnic, multireligious, and multilingual societies, India and Nigeria are now playing an important role in the Global South. In the multilateral organizations particularly United Nations, G 77 and NAM, both countries have been articulating the voice of the developing world in a coordinated and effective manner.

Political contacts at the highest level were maintained during the last 60 years. The visit of the first Prime Minister of India Pandit





Vice President of India Shri Hamid Ansari meeting with President of Nigeria, Excellency Muhammadu Buhari and Vice President, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, September 2016

Jawaharlal Nehru to Nigeria in 1962 had a seminal impact on laying strong foundations to the bilateral engagement. High level interaction gathered momentum after Nigeria returned to democracy in 1999. President Olusegun Obasanjo's visit to India in 2000, Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee's visit to Abuja in December 2003 and PM Dr. Manmohan Singh's bilateral State visit in October 2007 raised the bilateral relationship to a strategic partnership level. President Buhari's visit to New Delhi for the third India-Africa Forum Summit in October 2015 and his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi; and Vice President Hamid Ansari's visit to Nigeria in September 2016 further strengthened our bilateral cooperation.

We now look forward to more productive engagement for mutual benefit of the people of India and Nigeria in the coming years.

**It is noticed in the past two financial years, the total trade between India and Nigeria has declined. Are both countries working on this issue to stem the negative trend?**  
.....

The sharp downturn in global oil prices from 2014 onwards had a salutary effect on overall bilateral trade between India and Nigeria. It was, however, a brief interregnum given the strong potential that exists between the two countries in the non-oil sectors. Bilateral trade declined during 2015-17 period, however, I am happy to mention that in 2017-18, the bilateral trade increased by 26% to about US \$ 12 billion.

Today, India is Nigeria's largest trading partner globally and Nigeria is India's largest trading partner in Africa. India is also the largest buyer of Nigerian crude oil representing about 24% of Nigeria's total crude oil export, and also one of the largest buyers of LNG.

Indian businesses made their mark in Nigeria even before its independence, with Chellaram Group establishing its business in 1923. Since then Indian companies have been playing an important role in textiles, pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, electrical machinery and equipment, plastics, chemicals, etc. Over 135 Indian companies are currently

operating in Nigeria in diverse sectors, including the leading Indian companies such as Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Auto, Tata, Birla Group, Kirloskar, Mahindra, Ashok Leyland, Skipper, Simba Group, NIIT, Aptech, New India Assurance, Bhushan Steel, KEC, Dabur and Godrej.

The two Governments are also closely working to provide an enabling environment for businesses to operate effectively. A Joint Trade Committee headed by Permanent Secretaries of Commerce has been set up streamline trade and investment issues. Both countries are also working on finalizing agreements on avoidance of double taxation and mutual assistance between customs authorities.

Our efforts have been to align with the priorities of the Nigerian Government as reflected in the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) enunciated in 2016. Indian businesses reposed their confidence in Nigeria's economic strength as evident from the establishment in July 2016 of the Nigeria Chapter of Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM), one of

## Exclusive Interview

the largest chambers of India. Over 300 Indian companies participated in trade fairs and Expos in diverse sectors held in Nigeria during the last nine months. Indian High Commission organized two major Business Events in Abuja focussing on agriculture & allied sectors in December 2017 and on solar energy and other renewables in May 2018.

We recognize the pivotal role of Nigeria not only in West Africa but also in Africa as a whole. In recognition of the lead role of Nigeria, two Indo-Africa ICT Expos were held in Lagos in September 2017 and May 2018 with the participation of about 100 Indian

**India-Nigeria relations are close and there are regular contacts at the highest level. What are the future areas of cooperation and how it is likely to impact the relationship?**  
.....

We are also trying to advance cooperation in new frontiers of technology that has the potential to scale up the benefits to the country. During the visit of Vice President of India to Nigeria in September 2016, both countries have agreed to embark on intensifying cooperation in space science & technology, nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, renewable energy particularly solar

Indian Council for Agriculture Research (ICAR). We also are working on an MoU on Space Cooperation between ISRO and its counterpart NASRDA.

After the Founding Conference of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) was held in New Delhi in March 2011, there is a great momentum for cooperation in Renewable Energy and we are working on an MoU in Renewable Energy as well. Nigeria as a signatory to the International Solar Alliance stands to gain immensely from the new initiatives emanating from the ISA Secretariat based in Gurugram, India.



Nigerian Agriculture Minister, Excellency Chief Audu Ogbeh at the inauguration of the business event on Nigeria-India Cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors held in Abuja on 5 December, 2017.

ICT companies. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), one of the leading Indian chambers of industry, will be holding the CII Regional Conclave for West Africa in Abuja from 8 to 9 October 2018 to further strengthen developmental partnerships with focus on economic and commercial deliberations through B2G and B2B engagements.

energy and ICTs. This is in addition to the ongoing cooperation in sectors such as energy, agriculture, manufacturing, health and IT. India and Nigeria are largely agrarian societies and hence cooperation in agriculture research gained in importance. We are working on an MoU in agriculture research between Agriculture Research Centre of Nigeria (ARCN) and

**India is emerging as a development partner of Nigeria. In this connection, what is envisaged as part of India's engagement with Nigeria?**  
.....

We are promoting development cooperation with Nigeria in two fronts namely capacity building programmes and developmental



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## Exclusive Interview

assistance through concessional loans. We are working closely with the Federal Government in identifying capacity building needs and thereafter offering training programmes in diverse areas under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) as well as the third India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III) decisions. Over 500 short-training programmes are offered annually to Nigerians in civilian areas ranging from SMEs, agriculture, journalism, space S&T, banking, women empowerment, defence, etc. In addition, Nigerian researchers have benefited from C.V.Raman Fellowships in doctoral and post-doctoral programmes in prominent research institutions in India.

loan of US \$ 75 million for two solar projects. India has also offered to build a State-of-the-Art Convention Centre in Abuja to be named after Mahatma Gandhi.

India has been a destination for Nigerian students for pursuing higher education since 1955. Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR)'s instituted scholarship programme, which is fully funded by it, became the main vehicle for Nigerian students to study in India since 1960s. The Indian educational institutions system became popular for its quality and cost-effective education. Presently, about 9,500 Nigerian students are studying in various Indian universities. The Government of India launched earlier this year

**is realistic awareness about each other?**

.....  
It is fact that there is no resident Indian journalist in Nigeria, and vice versa. Recognizing the need for enhanced coverage of events between the two countries, we are promoting "content sharing agreement" between media organizations of India and Nigeria. In this connection, efforts are under way to establish tie-ups between ANI, an Indian news agency, and Nigerian media organizations for exchanging content and features on a no-cost basis.

Nigerian media takes considerable interest in India's development story, given its relevance for Nigeria. We have been sending



Vice President of India Shri Hamid Ansari attending India Nigeria Business Forum in Abuja, September 2016

India is also emerging as a development partner of Nigeria by offering concessional loans in areas of interest to Nigeria. We extended US \$ 100 million as a concessional credit in 2016 for three power projects in the States of Kaduna, Enugu and Cross Rivers. During the Founding Conference of International Solar Alliance in New Delhi in March 2018, India announced additional concessional

'Study in India' portal, which will give a further fillip to interested and deserving Nigerian students to join renowned and recognized Indian educational institutions.

**Is it not possible to post working journalists in India and Nigeria, for an actual coverage of Nigerian and Indian issues, so that there**

Nigerian print and electronic media journalists to Indian Institute of Mass Communications, a premier journalism institute, under ITEC programme. Many journalists from Nigeria have been utilizing these opportunities. Nigerian journalists also visit India for a familiarisation programme under Africa Young Journalists Programme from time to time. We hope to widen the

## Exclusive Interview

scope of engagement of Nigerian journalists with India.

**India and Nigeria have rich cultural diversity. Is anything organised in Nigeria to celebrate the Unity in diversity? Are there any plans to organise film festivals and cultural events in Nigeria?**

.....  
As two countries with rich cultural diversity, there is a lot that is exchanged through the modern-day mediums. Bollywood is popular in Nigeria, and there is considerable interaction with its Nigerian counterpart Nollywood. The presence of Indian diaspora for over the last seven decades in Nigeria allowed for cultural interaction at popular level.

On its part, the Indian High Commission organizes cultural events depicting India's traditional dances, music and films, on a regular basis to emphasize the richness of our cultural traditions. Indian Cultural Associations based in Lagos, Kano and Abuja also organize cultural events together with the High Commission. In May 2018, we launched the cultural show "Namaste! Nigeria (Greetings! Nigeria), a cultural show to celebrate India's cultural diversity through the medium of dances, music and costumes, together with Nigeria's own cultural richness. This event was organized together with Nigerian National Council for Arts and Culture. We would be launching the 'Festival of India' in Nigeria later this year to mark the 60 years of diplomatic engagement between the two countries.

We have been celebrating International Day of Yoga in Nigeria in different cities (Abuja, Lagos and Kano) to highlight the importance of yoga for health and well-being.

We are in the process of renewing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cultural cooperation

that was signed in 1982. This will provide a new fillip to add more elements to the ongoing cultural engagement.

**Are India and Nigeria seeking to work together in academics and new and frontier areas of science & technology?**

.....  
India and Nigeria began their engagement in the field of academics soon after Nigeria's independence.

of International Affairs (NIIA) engage under an MoU signed in 2007. Consequently, ICWA and NIIA jointly held two India-Africa Academic Conferences (IAAC). As India and Nigeria are commencing 60 years of diplomatic engagement in November 2018, we are working for a third such conference to be held in Nigeria. Many Nigerian researchers have been pursuing their doctoral and post-doctoral research in



**High Commissioner, Shri B.N. Reddy presenting the book 'The Great Indian Yoga Masters A Tribute' to the Nigerian Foreign Minister, Excellency Geoffrey Onyeama on the occasion of International Day of Yoga 2018 in Abuja.**

The visit of India's first Prime Minister to Nigeria in 1962 paved the way for employment of large number of Indian teachers, doctors & paramedics in different parts of the country. An entire generation of Nigerians particularly from Northern Nigeria in the seventies to nineties were taught by Indian teachers, treated by Indian Doctors and grew up wearing Indian clothing and watching Indian movies. The presence of a large Indian community of about 50,000 in different cities of Nigeria is an important strand of our long-standing relationship.

Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and Nigerian Institute

premier research institutions in India under CV Raman Fellowship programme. In 2017-18 alone, 12 Nigerians have availed the C.V. Raman International Fellowships.

As I mentioned earlier, we are working on intensifying cooperation in space science & technology, nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, renewable energy, and modern technologies in agriculture and allied sectors. We also started training of Nigerian doctors in India in tertiary care in some of the best hospital chains on the latest technologies and best medical practices. ■



Nigerian Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Chief Audu Ogbeh is being received by Indian Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Radha Mohan Singh during his visit to India on 12 December, 2017

# Chief Audu Ogbeh Forges New Agri-Development Partnerships with India

**The Nigerian Agriculture Minister also visited the Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation and held a meeting with the Jute Mills Association of India in Kolkata.**

**N**igerian Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Chief Audu Ogbeh paid a week-long visit to India starting December 12, 2017 to explore new partnerships on agricultural development between Nigeria and India.

The minister was received by the Indian Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri Radha Mohan Singh; the Nigerian High Commissioner to India, Ambassador Chris Eze; and some agribusiness investors in New Delhi.

While receiving the Nigerian delegation, Shri Singh described Nigeria as India's largest trading partner in Africa and disclosed that in 2015, India had announced concessional loans of \$10 billion to African countries. He added that India has also increased the training slots under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation – ITEC Programme – covering short-term training programmes in agriculture and allied sectors from 200 slots to 310 slots annually to Nigeria. He urged the Nigerian Minister to take advantage of these Lines of Credits and training programme

for the expansion of agriculture and allied sector.

Shri Singh said that India has noted with great interest the new initiatives of the Federal Government of Nigeria, particularly the Green Alternative initiative – a roadmap to make Nigeria self-sufficient in agriculture and a major exporter of agricultural products. He also conveyed his deep appreciation to the Nigerian Agriculture Minister for encouraging Indian companies to explore the opportunities in Nigerian agriculture both as investors as well as providers

of agri-services, agricultural machinery and technological assistance. He thanked Chief Ogbeh for inaugurating the Business Event titled “India-Nigeria cooperation in Agriculture and Allied Sectors: Opportunities and Way Forward” organized by the Indian High Commission in Abuja on 5 December, 2017.

Nigerian Minister Chief Ogbeh also described India’s resilience in developing its agricultural sector with a special mention of its growth in the dairy sector serving as an inspiration to Nigeria.

During his trip, Chief Ogbeh visited the Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation, which has for decades driven the development of India’s dairy sector using latest techniques of animal husbandry to empower 3.5 million dairy farmers in 18,000 villages through the Amul milk brand. He was also taken on a guided tour of Amul Milk Factory, India’s largest dairy production factory and Asia’s largest milk producer.

The Nigerian minister undertook a tour of the Gujarat Industrial Development Area where he looked at technology transfer in small-scale processing machines designed for small-holder farmers such as semi-automated cashew shelling machines.

These tours were a part of an understudy of India’s Agri co-operative models for the implementation of the Livelihood Improvement Family Enterprise – LIFE programme – which aims to empower rural youth and women in Nigeria.

In Kolkata, Chief Ogbeh held a meeting with the Jute Mills Association of India to discuss collaborations for Nigeria’s large scale cultivation of Jute and Kenaf; and the adoption of jute bags for packaging agricultural produce in line with food safety standards and global best practices.

### Nigerian Minister Chief Ogbeh described India’s resilience in developing its agricultural sector with a special mention of its growth in the dairy sector serving as an inspiration to Nigeria.



Chief Audu Ogbeh and Shri Radha Mohan Singh discuss strategies to enhance cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors between Nigeria and India.

Speaking at the meeting, the minister declared that Nigeria is open for agribusiness with incentives for investors and noted that with Nigeria’s increased production in grains, the country will be requiring massive packaging. Chief Ogbeh, therefore, invited the Indian Jute Mills to seize the huge opportunity in the Nigerian market and invest in jute bag manufacturing in Nigeria.

The Nigerian minister emphasized that non-biodegradable packaging material such as polypropylene is not safe for our food and the environment and thus advocated the use of jute packaging which are carbon neutral and biodegradable.

The Nigerian minister paid a visit to the Wellington Jute Mill in

Kolkata, the first Jute mill in Asia established by James Finlay & Co in 1873 and now owned by Ai Champdany Industries Ltd. At full capacity, the mill produces 120 metric tons per day and employs 3,000 workers. Chief Ogbeh described the age-long expertise of the factory as an invaluable experience from which Nigeria can learn and gain a lot.

A delegation of the National Seeds Corporation of India also held a meeting with the Nigerian minister in New Delhi as he wrapped up his visit to India. ■

Source: Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD), Press Information Bureau (PIB)

# India-Nigeria Boost Solar Energy Cooperation at International Solar Alliance

**The Indian PM announced India's commitment to extend nearly \$1.4 billion worth of Lines of Credit which will cover 27 projects in 15 countries including Nigeria.**

Nigeria joined the select group of founding member countries of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) at the Founding Conference of International Solar Alliance (ISA) and Solar Summit held in New Delhi on 11 March, 2018. Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi welcomed President of France Excellency Emmanuel Macron together with 21 Heads of State and Heads of Government, 6 Vice Presidents and Deputy Prime Ministers and 19 Ministers as Heads of Delegation, at the summit. President of Nigeria Excellency Muhammadu Buhari was represented by Excellency Mustapha Baba Shehuri, Minister

of State of Power, Works and Housing and Excellency Ibrahim Usman Jibril, Minister of State for Environment, at the event.

Ten heads of multilateral banks including the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID), top representatives from UN agencies, the corporate sector particularly in renewable energy, civil society, academic and research institutions and think tanks were present from India and from all over the world.

The alliance reflects the vision and the firm belief that the beneficence of the sun could be used to bring together the peoples of this planet for a shared solution

to our energy needs. The desire behind that vision has always been to make solar energy accessible and affordable for the poor by addressing the various economic and technological factors that currently impede such access. Economic growth and sustainable development are not mutually exclusive but reinforce each other. In a recognition of this responsibility, India has provided support worth \$27 million towards hosting the ISA secretariat, created an ISA corpus fund, offered training support for ISA member countries at National Institute for Solar Energy (NISE) and also provided support for demonstration projects for solar home lighting, solar pumps for farmers and for other solar applications.

During the ISA Founding Conference, Indian PM announced India's commitment to extend nearly \$1.4 billion worth of Lines of Credit, which will cover 27 projects in 15 countries including Nigeria. This initiative has been widely welcomed by the International Solar Alliance Founding States and the beneficiary countries. This is indeed one of the largest commitments to financing solar energy projects around the world. The projects which India has been taking up in these 15 countries include setting up of solar PV power plants, mini-grid and off-grid usage, irrigation, rural electrification, street lighting, solar power for urban infrastructure including for health, hospitals, colleges, schools,



Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi addressing the Founding Conference of International Solar Alliance and the Solar Summit held in New Delhi on 11 March, 2018.





Shri Narendra Modi, together with the dignitaries at the Founding Conference of International Solar Alliance and the Solar Summit, held in New Delhi on 11 March 2018. Excellency Mustapha Baba Shehuri, Minister of State of Power, Works and Housing and Excellency Ibrahim Usman Jibril, Minister of State for Environment of the Federal Government of Nigeria are in attendance.



High Commissioner, Shri B.N. Reddy with dignitaries at the business event "India-Nigeria Cooperation in Solar and other Renewable Energy Sources - Opportunities and Way Forward", June 21, 2018 at Sheraton Hotel, Abuja.

government establishments, low income families etc.

### Concessional Credit of \$75 Million Offered for Solar Projects to Nigeria

Two solar projects have been extended by India to Nigeria offering the Lines of Credit (LoC) including (i) Solar PV Renewable Energy Micro-Utility (REMU) in six political zones of Nigeria worth \$8.36 million and (ii) 50MW Solar power plant in Bauchi state in Nigeria worth \$66.60 million.

### Nigeria-India Cooperation in Solar and other Renewable Energy Sources- Opportunities and Way Forward

As a follow-up to the Founding Conference of International Solar Alliance (ISA), a business event on "Nigeria-India Cooperation in Solar & Other Renewable Energy Sources – Opportunities and Way Forward" was organised by the High Commission of India in partnership with the Abuja Chamber of Commerce and the Nigeria Chapter of ASSOCHAM in Abuja, Nigeria on 21 June, 2018. Representatives of the Nigerian Minister of State (MoS) for Power, Minister of Environment and Minister of FCT, four Governors - Excellency Prof. Ben Ayade of Cross River and three others from Ebonyi, Bauchi and Kaduna States represented by their ministers participated in the event. Around 250 Indian and Nigerian businessmen were also present at the event wherein some Partnership Agreements were also exchanged with the Indian companies. The event also witnessed the participation of Indian business delegation comprising Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), EXIM Bank of India, Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd, (BHEL), Avaada Group and several other Indian companies. ■

# Indo-Africa ICT Expo 2018 Reiterates Nigeria's ICT Ties with India

**Nigerian Minister of Communications, Excellency Abdur-Raheem Adebayo Shittu expressed Nigeria's readiness to partner with India for streamlining the ICT sector.**



High Commissioner of India to Nigeria, Shri B.N. Reddy addressing the 4th Indo-Africa ICT Expo 2018, organised by TEPC and NASSCOM.

Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC) of India along with the High Commission of India, Abuja and the Ministry of Communications of Federal Republic of Nigeria launched the fourth edition of Indo-Africa ICT Expo 2018 in conjunction with IT and Telecom Summit, on 22 May 2018 at the Eko Hotels and Convention Centre in Lagos, Nigeria. The event was supported by Association of Telecom Companies of Nigeria (ATCON), Association of Licensed Telephone Operators (ALTON), Nigerian Communications Commission,

National Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture, (NACCIMA), Computers and Allied Products Association of Nigeria (CAPDAN) and India Professionals Forum (IPF).

The Nigerian Minister of Communications, Excellency Abdur-Raheem Adebayo Shittu

was the chief guest at the event. In his opening remarks, he expressed Nigeria's readiness to partner with India for streamlining the ICT sector in Nigeria, and enhancing its ability to catalyze and sustain socioeconomic development which is critical to Nigeria's vision of becoming a top 20 economy by the year 2020.

.....  
**The event is reflective of commitment of India to engage with African countries to promote use of ICTs in national economic development.**  
.....



Indian Minister of State (IC) Shri Manoj Sinha addressing the gathering at the Indo-Africa ICT Expo, May 22-23, 2018 at Lagos (Nigeria) through a videolink during the session on Digital Vision of the Developing Nations.



Important Dignitaries at the Indo-Africa ICT Expo, May 22-23, 2018 at Lagos (Nigeria).

The expo included a video-link address by Shri Manoj Sinha, Minister of Telecommunications of India, who reiterated India's commitment to promote ICTs in Nigeria by working together with the relevant stakeholders in the country, including the Federal and State Governments as well as the ICT industry players.

The conference was also addressed by the Indian High Commissioner

to Nigeria, Shri B.N. Reddy who spoke about the important role of ICTs and the opportunities it presents in taking the bilateral engagement to the next high level.

The event witnessed as many as 50 Indian ICT companies set up their stalls alongside prominent Nigerian ICT and other organisations.

The third edition of the event took place in Lagos from September

6-7, 2017. The holding of fourth edition of the Indo-Africa ICT Expo is reflective of commitment of India to engage with African countries to promote use of ICTs in national economic development. The choice of Lagos for this event for a second time is recognition of the vast potential that exists in Nigeria, and also of its importance as a gateway to the West Africa and other parts of Africa. ■

# India Carves a Unique Place in Space

By K.V.Venkatasubramanian\*

**M**ore than 53 summers ago, India had successfully put its first signature on space by launching the US-made 'Nike-Apache' two-stage sounding rocket (the first rocket) from Kerala's obscure fishing hamlet Thumba.

There were no buildings at the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS) on Thiruvananthapuram's outskirts. The bishop's house doubled up as the Director's office, the ancient St. Mary Magdalene church building became the control room and

naked eyes tracked the smoke plume on November 21, 1963. Bullock carts and bicycles carried rocket parts and payloads to the launch pad.

About 12 years later, in 1975, India launched its first-ever experimental satellite, Aryabhata, on a Russian rocket. Lacking infrastructure, scientists at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in Bangalore converted even a toilet into a data receiving centre.

From taking its first baby steps in Thumba, the Indian space odyssey

has traversed numerous landmarks. ISRO has emerged as a key player in global satellite launches and the manufacturing industry. The nation has earned global recognition for launching lunar probes, built satellites, for others too, ferried foreign satellites up and even succeeded in reaching Mars.

Through these decades, India's space programme has focused on national imperatives, and social and economic well-being of society—specifically in earth observation and application for management of natural resources in agriculture,



PSLV C-32 carrying navigation satellite IRNSS-1F

water, fisheries, and watershed mapping and development. Space-based applications like tele-education and tele-medicine have enabled greater access to rural population to these basic needs.

Space exploration missions have surged ahead during the past three years. India's latest communication satellite GSAT-17 on board an Ariane 5 rocket lifted off from French Guiana on June 28. It will strengthen ISRO's current fleet of 17 operational telecom satellites and provide meteorological and satellite-based search and rescue services-earlier provided by the Indian National Satellite System (INSAT).

In a boost to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to project India as a global low-cost provider of services in space, ISRO launched on June 23, 2017 the PSLV C38 carrying 712 kg Cartosat-2 satellite for earth observation and 30 other tiny satellites, several of them for European countries. This was PSLV's 39th consecutively successful mission.



A model of the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle III

India entered the big league of space technology on June 5 this year with the launch of its most powerful, homegrown and heaviest-ever rocket the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark-III (GSLV Mk-III D 1) carrying GSAT-19 communication satellite. The high-tech 3,136 kg workhorse established ISRO's capability to transport four-tonne satellites and test a homegrown cryogenic engine, and also paved the way to send humans, one day, beyond Earth's atmosphere. Now, Indian communication satellites can be lofted into space from within the country. So far, only the USA, Russia, Europe, China and Japan have launched space satellites weighing 4,000 kg and more.

Earlier on May 5, India catapulted the first-ever South Asia Satellite (SAS) to boost communication and improve disaster links among its six neighbours-Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Following the launch of the 2,230-kg GSAT-9, built by ISRO and funded entirely by India, on board the GSLV-F09



PSLV-C36 Resource SAT-2A

## Feature Story

rocket, the prime minister had said the "unprecedented" development sent out a message that "even sky is not the limit when it comes to regional cooperation".

In February, India scripted a new chapter in the history of space exploration and grabbed world headlines by hurling 104 satellites, a record, including the Cartosat-2 series satellite, in one mission aboard a Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV C-37). The rocket carried payloads from six different countries. The master stroke established India as the launch service provider for small satellites.

These spectacular achievements have placed ISRO in a commanding position in the space race. The prime minister's soft spot for space and ISRO were reflected in a substantial 23 per cent increase in this year's budget allocation for the Department of Space.

In 2016, among the major achievements were the successful launching of the remote sensing satellite RESOURCESAT-2 in December, a record lobbing of 20 satellites in a single payload in June and three navigation satellites



International Space Station

and the GSAT-18 communication satellite.

ISRO hoisted the GSAT-15 communication satellite and the MultiWavelength Space Observer ASTROSAT in 2015. It also ground tested the indigenously developed high thrust cryogenic rocket engine. Besides, five satellites were launched in July by PSLV and

the IRNSS-1D, the fourth satellite in the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), in March.

In December 2014, the communication satellite GSAT-16 was launched. PSLV hoisted the country's third navigation satellite IRNSS-1C in October and the second dedicated navigation satellite IRNSS-1B in April.



## Feature Story

In the years ahead, ISRO scientists have a busy schedule. A series of satellite launches is in the works. In early 2018, the space agency will launch two lunar missions, Chandrayaan-2, an advanced version of Chandrayaan-1. The indigenous initiative comprises an orbiter, lander and rover, which are expected to perform mineralogical and elemental studies of the lunar surface. The other is in collaboration with Team Indus, a group of space enthusiasts.

The next grand project is the scientific mission to the Sun for observing the solar corona (with a Coronagraph a telescope), photosphere, chromosphere (Sun's three main outer layers) and solar wind. To be launched by PSLV-XL by 2020, Aditya-L1 satellite will probe why solar flares and solar winds disturb the communication network and electronics on earth.

Further, ISRO will return to Mars, probably during 2021-2022, with a second Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) spacecraft, Mangalyaan 2. Come September 24, India's first-ever interplanetary robotic



Mangalyaan or Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM), celebrated 1000 earth days in its orbit

probe, Mangalyaan 1, still going strong, will celebrate three years of landing on the Red Planet. India had created history by becoming the first nation to enter the Mars orbit on a maiden mission also the cheapest such mission till now.

For the first time, India will have a date with Venus, beyond 2020. The Venusian orbiter mission will study the planet's atmosphere. ■

*\*The author is an independent journalist and columnist, with four decades of experience in all media streams—print, online, radio and television. He writes on developmental issues.*



Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station in Thiruvananthapuram, India

# Nigerian CNS Explores New Areas of Defence Cooperation with India

**Vice Admiral Ibok-Ete Ekwe Ibas interacted with the officials of the Indian Ministry of Defence and the three Service Chiefs during his visit to India in July 2018.**

**A**s part of the ongoing defence cooperation between Nigeria and India, the Chief of Naval Staff (CNS),

Nigerian Navy, Vice Admiral Ibok-Ete Ekwe Ibas along with a five-member delegation visited India from 15 to 20 July, 2018. The visit

was aimed at exploring new areas of cooperation between both the navies.



Chief of Naval Staff (CNS), Nigerian Navy, Vice Admiral Ibok-Ete Ekwe Ibas inspecting the Guard of Honour.



## Defence Cooperation



Interactions at various training establishments of the Indian Navy.



CNS, Nigerian Navy interacting with CNS, Indian Navy and COAS, Indian Army.

### Background

The Indian Navy, on its part, has been providing training to officers and sailors of the Nigerian Navy since long and has also helped the Nigerian Navy in establishing centres of excellence. In fact, Vice Admiral Ibok-Ete Ekwe Ibas pursued his initial training with the Indian Navy in the early 1980s and hence the visit signifies a homecoming for the CNS, Nigerian Navy.

The visit witnessed the Nigerian CNS interact with officials of the

Indian Ministry of Defence and also the three Service Chiefs. In addition, he undertook tours of various ships and training establishments of the Indian Navy. He also had an opportunity to interact with the Nigerian Navy personnel who were undergoing training in India.

Overall, the visit was very fruitful wherein exchanges at the highest levels paved the way for enhancing cooperation between both the navies. ■

# Indian Warship Tarkash on a Goodwill Visit to Lagos

**The visit reinforced growing bilateral defence cooperation between India and Nigeria.**

The Government of India planned a goodwill visit of an Indian Naval Warship, INS Tarkash, to Lagos from May 31 to June 03, 2017. The visit coincided with the Nigerian Navy Day, which is celebrated every year by the Nigerian Navy on June 01, 2017.

The visiting Indian Naval Ship undertook training for Nigerian Navy personnel besides conducting a Medical Camp for children affected by Down's Syndrome. The crew of the ship also participated in the Nigerian Navy



## Defence Cooperation



**Defence Minister of Nigeria (in the middle) on board Indian Warship Tarkash during its goodwill visit to Lagos -2nd June 2017**

Day celebrations with a joint performance of the Indian Naval Band at the Sunset ceremony organised by the Nigerian Navy. The Defence Minister of Nigeria, Brig Gen Mansur Mohammed Dan Ali (retd), visited Tarkash on June

02, 2017 along with the CMD, Nigerian Port Authority.

The visit of the ship reiterated the strong bond between both Navies in the larger context of growing bilateral defence cooperation

between India and Nigeria. It also reflected the commitment of the Indian Navy to collaborate with the Nigerian Navy in the face of growing global maritime security challenges. ■





Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launching the TB Free India Campaign, at the inaugural session of End TB Summit, in New Delhi on March 13, 2018. The Indian Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Shri J.P. Nadda and other dignitaries are also seen.

## Nigeria Voices Global Concern to End TB at Delhi Summit

**Nigeria's Health Minister Professor Isaac Adewole urged the global leaders to take bold actions to end the disease on a fast track.**

Nigeria's Health Minister, Professor Isaac Adewole, led Nigeria's delegation to the *End-TB Summit* that took place in New Delhi on March 13, 2018, which was attended by a large number of distinguished guests including heads of organizations, civil society representatives and other dignitaries.

Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Shri J.P. Nadda; Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Anupriya Patel;

Director-General of WHO, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus; and Executive Director of Stop TB Partnership, Ms. Lucica Ditiu were also present at the inaugural function of the summit, which was co-hosted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, WHO South East Asia Regional Office (SEARO) and Stop TB Partnership.

In addition to Adewole, the summit was attended by the health ministers of Indonesia, Bangladesh, South

Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Kazakhstan, Peru and Brazil.

The summit was inaugurated by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi who announced that India has 2025 as the year it would eradicate tuberculosis. He stressed on the need for all partners, public and private and the civil society to come together to end TB in India, in the region and globally. PM Modi recognized the efforts of Stop TB Partnership and the WHO SEARO in organizing the



Delhi End TB Summit and creating global awareness and support to end the disease.

Speaking on the occasion and representing the Stop TB Partnership, Professor Adewole said, “Leaders across the globe need to seize this opportunity, make bold commitments and take a resolve to see the end of TB on a fast track. Actions to follow the commitments will need bold actions of health ministries, other ministries, the private sector, civil society and communities, and a wide range of stakeholders.”

“It will be very important for heads of state to actively participate in the UN High-Level Meeting (UNHLM) to end the epidemic in my lifetime,” he further stated.

Minister Adewole also commended Prime Minister Modi on his ambitious plans to end TB in India and said that the world needs this spirit to end the disease.

**Nigerian Health Minister, Excellency Isaac Folorunso Adewole at the End TB Summit in New Delhi on March 13, 2018.**

Speaking at the function, Shri Nadda stated that to achieve 'End TB' targets, the Indian government has rolled out a new 'National Strategic Plan (NSP) to end TB by 2025' which has been appreciated by the global community as a model plan for combating Tuberculosis. “We are starting a new scheme for nutritional support, expanding public-private partnership models and aligning our strategies to follow the similar success we got in HIV / AIDS. We are using Information Technology (IT) tools for monitoring the programme and

treatment adherence. Community engagement is the hallmark and it is becoming a social movement to End TB in India,” Shri Nadda elaborated.

The summit continued with the WHO SEARO High-Level South East Asia Regional Ministerial Meeting discussing achievements on TB one year after the adoption of the “Delhi Call for Action” to end TB in the South East Asia region. ■

*Source: Press Information Bureau (PIB), [healthnews.africa](http://healthnews.africa), [stoptb.org](http://stoptb.org)*

# 'Source India-Nigeria' Gives Fresh Impetus to India-Nigeria Trade

**It was the first and largest multi-sectoral Indian Trade Show in Nigeria that provided a platform to a large number of Indian business enterprises**



TPCI, in association with Department of Commerce, Government of India and Indian High Commission of India, Abuja, Nigeria along with CAPEXCIL and ASSOCHAM organised Source India Nigeria at Lagos on 27-28 March, 2018.

## **Nigeria as a significant economy**

Apart from oil, agriculture continues to be the main source of livelihood for most Nigerians. The agriculture sector's contribution calculated in terms of value added as a % of GDP, has remained stagnant.

It is the largest economy in Africa with rich in oil and gas availability and large deposits of other natural resources such as iron ore, tin, coal, lead, bauxite, zinc etc. Nigeria has the ninth largest gas reserves in the world, and the largest in Africa. The oil sector

provides 95 percent of foreign exchange earnings and around 90 percent of total exports. But the country's domestic and industrial consumption of gas is below 20 percent, leaving a major chunk for exports. Nigeria's manufacturing capacity utilization remains low due to the high cost of production resulting from inadequate infrastructure. Apart from the oil sector, the textile industry is coming out to be the emerging sector with foreign investments from mainly Chinese and Indian investors. Some of the emerging industries with favourable investment opportunities in Nigeria

include consumer goods and retail, information and communication technology, food and agriculture, infrastructure and real estate, media and entertainment. The emerging middle class in Nigeria is driving FDI and business across several sectors. Currently, it is the second most attractive African investment destination after South Africa. Nigeria is Africa's largest mobile market.

## **India-Nigeria Bilateral Trade**

Nigeria has emerged as India's largest trading partner in the African continent. This has also

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placed India to be Nigeria's largest trading partner in the world overtaking USA. In Africa, Nigeria is the largest market for Indian exports, especially of pharmaceutical products, vehicles, electrical machinery and equipment. India imports 8-12 percent of its crude oil requirements from Nigeria. Presently, **India is the largest importer of Nigeria's** crude oil. India's exports to Nigeria focuses on pharmaceuticals and automobiles. But, a large degree of trade complementarity exists between the two partners, focusing specially on other sectors like iron and steel, organic chemicals, apparels etc.

### TPCI's Initiative through "Source India-Nigeria"

With a view to establish India

TPCI's Initiation – as key Indicator	Key Stats
Total Number of Indian Brands	110
Total No. of Trade Visitors	1260+
Total no. of Leads Generated	225
Total no. of Confirmed Orders	30
Total Gross Space SQM	1250

as a major sourcing destination and expand its reach to the Nigerian market, Trade Promotion Council of India in association with Department of Commerce, Government of India and Indian High Commission of India, Abuja, Nigeria along with CAPEXCIL and ASSOCHAM organized the largest Indian Business Exhibition called "Source India Nigeria" at EKO Hotel, Lagos on 27-28 March 2018.

"Source India Nigeria" was the first and largest multi-sectoral

Indian Trade Show in Nigeria that provided a platform to a large number of Indian business enterprises to enter and strengthen their business foothold in Nigeria which received overwhelming local support, especially from Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines & Agriculture (NACCIMA). The show was inaugurated by Subhash Chand, Acting High Commission in the presence of DG to Governor of Abia State and other dignitaries.



The sectors represented by Indian companies included Engineering & Auto Components, plastics & rubber, building & construction, printing & publishing, IT, electrical, F&B, services etc. Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa with 187 million people, remains a major, potential market for Indian exporters. India is the top export partner for Nigeria followed by USA. Nigeria is one of the emerging markets and is part of MINT (Mexico, Indonesia, Nigeria and Turkey).

The exhibition also hosted an “India-Nigeria Business Roundtable” on 28th March where discussions between the Indian exhibitors and members of Indian Professional Forum (IPF) took place. The interaction was very fruitful. An MoU for cooperation was signed between TPCI and NACCIMA. CAPEXCIL has also signed MoUs with NACCIMA and IPF during the visit.

India’s annual exports to Nigeria peaked to \$2.7 billion in 2011-12 and have remained static or have slightly declined during subsequent years. “Source India-Nigeria”, therefore intends to give a fresh impetus to increase India’s exports to its largest trading partner in Africa.

The event was widely covered by the Nigerian media and a vast majority of Indian exhibitors were very happy with the outcome. Almost 40 deals were at the advanced stage of negotiations. As a follow-up, under the aegis of NACCIMA, two leading Nigerian businessmen visited India in mid-April 2018 to finalize business deals. Going by the success of the event, some of the visitors at “Source India Nigeria” felt that this show should be held every year to further strengthen the bilateral trade relations between India and Nigeria.

Needless to add that TPCI will strive to hold such trade events



in Nigeria more frequently with a view to have face-to-face interaction between businessmen of India and Nigeria to realize the untapped potential between the two countries and also to

increase the footprints of the Indian companies in various sectors in Nigeria. ■

*Source: Trade Promotion Council of India*

# ITEC Day Celebrated in Abuja Amid 300 ITEC Alumni

**The Indian High Commissioner to Nigeria Shri B.N. Reddy addressed the occasion and highlighted Nigeria-specific assistance initiatives**



High Commissioner, Shri B.N. Reddy, Nigerian Minister for Science and Technology, Excellency Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu, and Nigerian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Excellency Khadija Bukar Abba Ibrahim, jointly lighting the traditional lamp on the occasion of the ITEC Day.

The High Commission of India, Abuja, celebrated the annual Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Day through a reception held on 17th January 2018. The event was graced by the Nigerian Minister for Science & Technology, Excellency Dr Ogbonnaya Onu, and the Nigerian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Excellency Mme Khadija Bukar Abba Ibrahim, who jointly lit the traditional lamp. The Minister for Budget and National Planning of Nigeria was represented by its Director

(International Cooperation), Mr. S.O. Eloho. The event had an audience of around 300 ITEC alumni who attended the function.

The Indian High Commissioner to Nigeria Shri B.N. Reddy addressed the occasion and highlighted India's developmental training programmes, particularly ITEC training programmes, as well as those under IAFS-III. He also focused on Nigeria-specific assistance initiatives under the \$100 million LoC, viz., projects in the power sector including solar

energy and rural electrification in the three states of Kaduna, Cross River and Enugu, and a proposal to open a Vocational Training Centre.

During the event, the Nigerian MoS for Foreign Affairs appreciated the Government of India for cooperation through the fully-funded ITEC Programme. The minister cited the ITEC Programme as an example of India's role and positive efforts in enhancing South-South cooperation by rendering assistance to developing countries in diverse areas. The

## South-South Cooperation



Nigerian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Excellency Khadija Bukar Abba Ibrahim addressing the gathering at the annual ITEC Day reception in the High Commission on 17 January 2018.



occasion also witnessed the speech by two Nigerian ITEC alumni, who reminisced on their ITEC experiences in India. An educative slide-show on how to update the database of ITEC alumni on the ITEC website was demonstrated.

Under the ITEC Programme in financial year 2017-2018, India has offered 310 training slots to Nigeria, 20 to Benin, 32 to Cameroon, five to Chad, and 10 to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), all of which are concurrently-accredited to the High Commission of India, Abuja.

A cultural flavour was also added to the event by young Indian and Nigerian dancers through their captivating Indian and Nigerian dances. Video clips from the India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF) on India's technological advancements and of some Nigerian ITEC alumni caught the audience's attention. The event was rounded-off with an Indian buffet dinner featuring traditional Indian dishes. ■



## Journey of Skipper Eye-Q Hospitals at Lagos

**M**y first visuals of Lagos were when my flight was descending into this charming city. It appeared very similar to Kolkata- City of Joy where I stayed for 4 years. It was a new world for me with thoughts of many challenges to conquer.

It was month of December 2016, pre Christmas, when we met eminent Ophthalmologists of Lagos with our Ophthalmologist from Nigeria and discussed about inception of our Hospital. They offered a lot of encouragement and

guidance. One particular statement caught my imagination-“No build up can occur in a single day and don’t expect a sudden growth, you all need to offer patience”. Our Doctor’s team comprised of me (Dr Zennat), Dr. Ranojit and Dr. Tijani.

We finally started our practice journey here on 10th of March with no less than eminent personality Mr. Alhaji Dangote and state Governors of three states of Nigeria gracing the launch of our center. 1 and ½ years down

the memory lane, I could get to examine a lot of terminal cases of Diabetic retinopathy, Different types of Retinal detachment and a handful of one eyed patients. A very interesting observation has been the physical status of the patients who walk in for consultation. Most of the patients are unaware of the fact that they are suffering from Type II DM and systemic Hypertension (Patients arrive with BP of 240/120 mm Hg but are unaware). Initially, they are confident about their well being but examination reveals on the contrary. This aspect provides us with opportunity of correct outreach and legitimate screening in outskirts of Lagos as well as other prominent cities. Our hospital is well equipped with equipments for screening and digital transfer of screened data to our base center for consultants to extend their expert conclusion. There is a lot of scope to extend hospital activities for such outreach activities. Cataract screening, diabetic retinopathy and Hypertensive retinopathy screening can be carried on under the banner of such outreach programme.



Doctor’s team: Dr. Ranojit, Dr. Zennat, Dr. Tijani.

Vitreous Retina services of this center have operated over 80 cases in the last year since launch. Our center has handled many complicated cases of Retinal detachment and anterior segment related complications, HIV Retinopathy, Traumatic retinopathy with descent success rates. This department is Skipper Eye Q's first set up in Lagos.

Sickle cell Retinopathy is a very common disorder in this part of the world. It is common due to genetic predisposition of the population here to this disorder. Our Vitreous retina services is well equipped to counter complications related to this disorder. I can recollect very well a case of



Our Hospital Team.

practice. It is very disheartening to witness the low levels of visual recovery post cataract surgery or to witness same optic disc status

Tomogram- equipment very helpful for early diagnosis of Glaucoma.

During this tenure not only we operated on patients from Lagos, but we as a team, have operated on fellow eyes of patients operated at Moor fields Eye Hospital, London and those patients in turn were very obliged to get high quality care at much affordable rates. We have been successful enough in operating on complicated cataract cases and our expanding patient base is a testimony of our silent and resolute work backed up by our ethical practice. We are on verge of exploring new horizons in the field of corneal transplantation in future.

Patients are very friendly and if one can make them understand the malady with proper care, it is bound to change the level of eye care here. My conclusion- "A challenge of practice in Nigeria with passion, compassion, patience and intelligent insight". ■



Vitreous haemorrhage from Sickle cell Retinopathy operated under me. The young boy gained a visual acuity of 6/9 (90%) from Hand movement (10%). I was personally very satisfied in putting the smile back on family of this patient. This population in entire continent of Africa has a genetic predisposition to suffer from Glaucoma- mainly Open angle types. Most of the patients present at very advanced stages to our clinic. This disorder poses an extra challenge for VR

when the vitreous haemorrhage has been cleared off and Glaucoma status is found to be advanced. It is wise to counsel patients on same pitch so that they understand the implications well. Counselling by physician is of paramount importance in this regard. Patients here have a belief that vision lost due to Glaucoma will return back as God's gift. Glaucoma diagnosis at early stage saves irreversible vision loss. Our center provides the benefit of Optical Coherence



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# NDC, New Delhi Study Tour to Nigeria

**The purpose of the tour has been to nurture defence cooperation between the Armed Forces of Nigeria and India.**

**A** 15-member delegation comprising of participants of National Defence College (NDC) Course 57 from New Delhi visited Nigeria as part of their World Study Tour

from 21 May to 26 May, 2017. The delegation comprised of members of the rank of Brigadier/ equivalent from the three services and the Civil Services. It also included three foreign officers

from the Malaysian Navy, Japanese Navy and Fiji Army.

The purpose of the tour was to acquaint the officers with first-hand knowledge of the socio-economic



The delegation with the Indian High Commissioner, Shri B.N. Reddy.



The delegation with the Nigerian Foreign Minister at Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## Defence Cooperation

development, political outlook, security challenges and military capabilities of Nigeria in the context of a global environment and changing perspectives.

### Highlights of the Visit

The delegation was welcomed at the Indian High Commission, Abuja where they had an interaction with the Indian High Commissioner, Shri B.N. Reddy and were also given a briefing.

Later, the team visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Finance in Abuja.

The NDC delegation also visited the Defence HQ and Army HQ at Abuja besides other Army and Naval establishments.

The visit to Nigeria was extremely useful in providing an insight into Nigeria. The delegation got an all-round perspective of the country.



The Indian team interacting with Nigerian Minister for Interior, Lt General AB Dambazau (retd).

The various meetings with eminent dignitaries and interactions provided the officers with a global

perspective of the geostrategic importance of Nigeria in Africa and beyond, and its leadership role in West Africa. ■



The delegation at various military establishments.



Interaction with HC at the Indian High Commission, Abuja.

## Geo Strategic Study Tour to India by NDC, Abuja

**N**DC, Abuja Course 26 commenced on 15 September 2017 wherein 18 participants, including one officer each from Ghana and Cameroon, were nominated to visit India as part of their 'Geo Strategic Study Tour' from 12 to 19 May 2018.

This was carried out as a part of the Regional Studies Module for the participants to gain an insight into the national aims and objectives, economy, foreign and defence policies, the military setup and the higher defence organisation in the country with an aim to draw out lessons for Nigeria.

### Background

The defence cooperation between the Armed Forces of Nigeria and

India has been nurtured over a period of time and took birth when the Indian Armed Forces helped establish the Nigerian Defence Academy at Kaduna and the Naval War College at Port Harcourt in the early sixties. The Armed Forces of Nigeria easily identify themselves with India due to the training being imparted to the personnel in various training institutions in India. Some of the Nigerian officers who are alumnus of Indian Defence Training Institutions have risen to very high ranks in the Nigerian hierarchy and include, the current Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari, erstwhile President Gen O Obasanjo; the Nigerian Minister for Interior Lt General Abdulrahman Dambazu and the present Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Ibok Ete Ekwe Ibas.

An MoU on Defence Cooperation was signed between India and Nigeria during the visit of Indian PM Dr. Manmohan Singh in 2007. Since then, an institutionalised mechanism of an annual Joint Defence Cooperation Committee meeting (JDCC) has further strengthened the defence cooperation between both the countries.

The interactions between NDC, Abuja and its counterpart in New Delhi are also an ongoing process and a reciprocal exchange of faculty members between both the NDCs have further strengthened the ties between the premier training institutions. In addition, participants from both the NDCs undertake their study tours to respective countries on an alternate year basis.



Interaction with Comdt NDC, New Delhi



The delegation briefing at Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MEITY).





Shri M.J. Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs, interacting with participants of NDC, Abuja.

The delegation at the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi.



Commandant NDC, Abuja with the delegation at Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MEITY).

### Current Tour

India, being a key partner of Nigeria, was one of the favourite destinations for the planned tour for the NDC course 26. The theme of the Study Tour was “Emerging Technologies and National Security in India: Lessons for Nigeria”. The emerging technologies have played a major role in India’s development in various sectors, hence the theme for the tour was aptly chosen.

In addition to the 18 participants of course 26, the Commandant of NDC, Abuja Rear Admiral Adeniyi Adejimi Osinowo along with a nine-member delegation also visited India from 15 May to 19 May, 2018.

### Interaction with HC at the Indian High Commission, Abuja

As part of the preparation for the tour, the team also had an opportunity to interact with the Indian High Commissioner to Nigeria, Shri B.N. Reddy at the

High Commission of India, Abuja on 02 May 2018.

The delegation arrived in New Delhi on 12 May and departed on 19 May, 2018. During their visit, the participants attended a briefing on India’s security perspectives and interacted with the senior officers of the Armed Forces.

The delegation called on the NDC Commandant, Vice Admiral Srikhant and was given a briefing on the college activities. They also had an opportunity to meet and interact with the Indian Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri MJ Akbar on 15 May, 2018. Later, the participants visited the Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) and got some insight of the National Maritime Domain Awareness program along with paying a visit to the United Services Institute and Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis.

The delegation also learned about the various e governance programs and Digital India initiatives of the

Indian Government when they visited the Ministry of Electronics and Information and Technology (MEITY). The team was briefed about the various state of art equipment being produced by the Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), both for military and civilian use, during their visit to the company. Other than the official engagements, the NDC members undertook a cultural tour of Delhi and also visited the iconic Taj Mahal in Agra.

### Conclusion

The NDC “Geo Strategic Study Tour’ was quite fruitful in terms of enabling the team to understand how “Emerging Technologies” have played a major role in development of key sectors in India with policy framework, human capacity, infrastructure and R&D having positively contributed to the economic growth, defence & security, health, educational development and youth empowerment of the nation. ■

# Executive Travel: Ola Orekunrin's India

By Peace Hyde, Forbes Africa

**Ola Orekunrin is the founder of Flying Doctors, an air ambulance service launched in Lagos, to transport patients from areas with low levels of healthcare.**

The founder of Flying Doctors, an air ambulance service in Nigeria, often flies patients to India, where she finds great inspiration.

For Nigeria's high-flying doctor, Ola Orekunrin, being a part of the booming global air ambulance services industry presents opportunities to save lives as well

country has a high rate of trauma-related incidents such as accidents and violence.

**According to national statistics, Nigeria has the highest number of deaths from road traffic accidents in the world.**

For Orekunrin, her business

"My favorite destination in the world right now is India," she says.

"It is a place I spend a lot of time because we have a huge Indian diaspora in Nigeria and when they get sick, they usually request to be flown back home. So I have had a lot of experience with India. I think India is in the process of cracking healthcare. For example, they take the best medical students from the whole of India and put them in one hospital. This means the [number] of procedures that get done there are a lot and the advanced medicine that is practised there is equivalent or better than what you get in some first world countries," she says.

**But that is not the only reason Orekunrin is in love with the subcontinent.**

"It is such a vast country that moving from state to state, you can find different types of productivity everywhere. In places like Bengaluru, everybody is running a startup and it's like the Silicon Valley of India. You go to a place like Goa and that is like a beach resort and you go to Kerala and it is completely different like a spa resort with some sort of Indian medicine being practised and infused with conventional medicine. So it is an incredible country where you can find so much variety, culture, language, tribes and so many successful people coexisting together and identifying as Indians. I think that is another lesson that Nigerians can learn."

Her favorite past-time in the country is getting her eyebrows threaded and going to remote oil and gas exploration sites.

"The companies there inspire me because I think about their [the companies'] history in terms of growing from a sole proprietorship to eventually growing into the biggest businesses in the world. It makes me think about Nigerian businesses; I run my own business but I also invest in other businesses as well," says Orekunrin. ■



as visit places she hasn't seen before.

Orekunrin, a medical doctor and helicopter pilot, is the founder of Flying Doctors, an air ambulance service launched in Lagos to transport patients from areas with low levels of healthcare to those with well-appointed facilities offering better medical aid.

Over the years, the demand for her organization's services has risen due to the healthcare challenges Nigeria faces. And there are many. On top of the list is the burden of infectious diseases like malaria and tuberculosis, followed by non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and heart disease. The

presents an opportunity to fulfil her desire to serve. The motivation for the launch of her company, Flying Doctors, was the loss of her sister, who had tragically died for want of urgent care.

Today, Flying Doctors swiftly moves patients from across the African continent to some of the best healthcare destinations, saving thousands of lives in the process. The job means Orekunrin is constantly on the go.

With so much time away from home and in the air, Orekunrin has become somewhat of an expert when it comes to the most exciting destinations to visit both for business and leisure on the African continent – and beyond.

# TVS Strengthens its Ties in Nigeria



**The Simba Group, one of Nigeria’s most respected business groups, recently celebrated 30 years of business excellence in Nigeria. In that time, the group has contributed greatly to the Nigerian economy, and its portfolio of widely recognised brands, continues to dominate industries in which Simba operates. Krest Publications spoke to the Group Managing Director, Chief Vinay Grover,**

**about the Group’s investments in a sector that is critically important to the population – transportation, and specifically last-mile transportation – in Nigeria.**

dealers, financiers and fleet owners who play critical parts in our value chain and ensure that the vehicles are made available to potential owners and investors. Finally, there are the tens of thousands of mechanics and spare parts dealers who repair and service the vehicles and ensure that they are back ‘on road’ if ever there is any issue.

**Simba represents TVS Motors of India, one of the world’s largest two-wheeler and three-wheeler manufacturers. Tell us a little bit about your association with the company.**

TVS Motors is part of the Multi-Billion Dollar TVS Group, a conglomerate that has interests across automotive and ancillary industries, with over 70 companies based in over 100 countries around the world. In Nigeria, we represent TVS for the importation, assembly, marketing, distribution and after sales service of both two-wheelers and three-wheelers, with leadership positions across both sectors.

We have been associated with the company for over 10 years now, and much of our success is due to our shared belief that if you invest in an infrastructure that delivers good after-sales service, any good product, appropriately priced, can succeed.

**How do your products impact the everyday Nigerian?**

Our motorcycles and tricycles, or keke as they are popularly known, touch the lives of millions of Nigerians everyday – taking them to work, school, places

of worship and as they go along their daily lives. In that sense we help deliver a vital service to the economy.

Where our impact is most meaningful is in the employment generation that our vehicles create. First and foremost, there are the riders of the motorcycles, or Okada, and tricycles who earn a daily wage for ferrying passengers to and fro. Then there are our



Nigerian Super Eagle William Troost-Ekong pictured onboard a TVS King tricycle.



Some 'Queen Riders' who benefit from Simba's womens empowerment program.

**Your company has been lauded for its efforts in promotion social development through your investments in the industry. Could you speak about this?**

Yes, we currently have many programs to support that communities in which we operate. Perhaps we are most proud of our Queen Riders program, which promotes women’s empowerment and creates a safe ecosystem for women to enter the business of keke, helping them to purchase their vehicles and providing training in both safe driving and security.

We also actively engage with the community through our Health Check-up Camps, where our vehicle riders are invited for Simba-sponsored personal health-screening, which has included Diabetes screening and eye check-ups, while we service their vehicles – for free.

And of course, there’s our sponsorship and support of the Nigerian Football Federation. We are proud to be the official motorcycle and three-wheeler of the Super Eagles which has enabled us to not only contribute to the nation’s greatest pastime, but also has enabled us to bring our customers and rider community closer to the action with dedicated fan events and opportunities to meet with the players.

# HCI Bolsters India-Nigeria Economic Ties

**The ASSOCHAM and NACCIMA under the aegis of the High Commission of India inaugurated the Nigeria Chapter of the Chamber in June 2016 and organised events on Agriculture and Renewable Energy in 2017 and 2018 respectively.**

The High Commission of India in partnership with the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA) opened the Nigeria Chapter of

Minister of Nigeria; and Engineer Joseph Oyeyani Makoju, former Special Adviser on Electric Power to the President and currently Special Adviser to Group President/Chief Executive Dangote group. During the inauguration, Mr. Biju Koshy John was appointed as the Chairman of the Chamber for

Nigeria-India Business Forum in Abuja, which was jointly hosted by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and ASSOCHAM at Sheraton Hotel, Abuja, Nigeria. Post the event, the Indian delegation visited the Ministry of Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

On 5 December, 2017, the High Commission of India in partnership with ASSOCHAM and NACCIMA, hosted an event on “Nigeria-India Cooperation in Agriculture and Allied Sector: Opportunities and Way Forward”. It was inaugurated by Excellency Chief Audu Ogbeh, Minister of Agriculture Nigeria, the High Commissioner of India, Shri B.N.Reddy and the captains of the agricultural industry from India and Nigeria. The event witnessed active participation of EXIM Bank of India which informed about the various finance options available to drive the sector. It was well attended by several Nigerian companies with a business interest in the agricultural sector.

During the event, ASSOCHAM and NACCIMA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to boost agriculture and agro-allied trade between the two countries. The agreement would also help boost Nigeria-Indian cooperation to meet exportable targets of agricultural commodities including pulses (beans), cashew nuts, sesame seeds, and shear butter and a host of others.

On 21 June, 2018, the Chamber partnered with the High Commission of India to organise an event on “Nigeria-India Cooperation in Solar and Other



Excellency Dr. Okechukwu E. Enelamah, Federal Minister for Industry, Trade and Investment at the inauguration of Nigeria Chapter of ASSOCHAM INDIA on June 28, 2016 at Transcorp Hilton Hotel.

ASSOCHAM on 28 June, 2016 at Transcorp Hilton hotel in Abuja.

The event was inaugurated by Excellency Dr. Okechukwu E. Enelamah, Industry, Trade and Investment Minister of Nigeria along with the High Commissioner of India, Shri. B.N Reddy in the presence of Shri Sunil Kanoria , the then President of ASSOCHAM India and Vice chairman of SREI Infrastructure Ltd; Mrs. Oby Ezekwesili, former World Bank Vice President- Africa and two times Solid Minerals and Education

The Chamber set up its Nigeria office at No 5 Iller Crescent, Off Katsina Ala Street, Maitama, Abuja and also placed an active working committee for the same.

On 27 September, 2016, Shri. M. Hamid Ansari, Former Vice President of India, paid a state visit to Nigeria and also led a strong business delegation to the country, which was well received by Excellency Yemi Osinbajo, Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The then Indian Vice-President also addressed the

## Business Partnership

Renewable Energy Sources”, which was inaugurated by Minister of State for Power, Works & Housing, Excellency Mustapha Baba Shehuri and the High Commissioner of India, Shri. B.N. Reddy. It witnessed the participation of several Indian corporates including Avaada Group, T&D Technologies Ltd., Skipper Ltd., Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL), Simba Group, Power Control & Appliances Ltd., and the Exim Bank of India.

During the event, the Chamber facilitated the execution of two



Former Indian Vice President, Shri Hamid Ansari addressing the “India-Nigeria Business Forum” on September 27, 2016 at Sheraton Hotel, Abuja, Nigeria.



The event on “Nigeria-India Cooperation in Agriculture and Allied Sector: Opportunities and Way Forward” took place on December 5, 2017 at Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja, Nigeria.



ASSOCHAM INDIA (Nigeria Chapter) and NACCIMA signed an MoU during the event on “Nigeria - India Cooperation in Agriculture and Allied Sectors - Opportunities and Way Forward” on December 5, 2017.



Indian High Commissioner Shri. B.N Reddy along with other dignitaries at the “Nigeria-India Cooperation in Solar & Other Renewable Energy” on June 21, 2018 at Sheraton Hotel in Abuja, Nigeria.

agreements in the renewable energy sector for solar independent power projects including the ones signed between 1) Ebonyi State Government and Onyx cornerstone Ltd. and 2) Symbiosis Power & Energy Ltd & Bhaskar Solar India Ltd.

ASSOCHAM is constantly working towards a 10 fold increase in trade and investment between the two countries along with hosting a website for enabling ease of doing business. We request the corporate having business interest in Nigeria to register through its website [www.Indianigeriabusiness.org](http://www.Indianigeriabusiness.org)

# India-Nigeria Pharma Engagement- PHARMEXCIL

Source: Pharmexcil

India is catering to the pharmaceutical needs of Nigeria over three decades. Nigeria was then a predominant formulations importer with just less than 3% of the imports consisting of Bulk drugs. In Fy-95 India exported around \$ 26 million worth of Pharmaceuticals. By 2005 India's Ranbaxy has setup a manufacturing unit and India's exports touched \$ 108 million with 95% of it in the form of formulations and thus Nigeria has made a beginning in the manufacture of Bulk drugs.

As Nigeria's economy started blooming gradually and some of its entrepreneurs started home grown industry, Nigeria started importing more of bulk drugs. Nigeria became the largest buyer of ARVs by 2010-11 in Africa. India with its efficient technology catered to its needs covering entire range, right from NRT class to then advanced PI class. India not only catered to its needs but stood by Nigeria by helping stretching their currency to the maximum by providing them probably at the lowest cost and yet meet the best of quality.

India's Exports to Nigeria \$ Million			
Category	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
AYUSH	1.68	1.56	1.34
BULK DRUGS AND DRUG INTERMEDIATES	46.27	48.52	50.78
DRUG FORMULATIONS AND BIOLOGICALS	296.40	294.20	333.76
Herbal Products	0.01	0.04	0.05
SURGICALS	6.02	4.33	4.40
Vaccines	86.23	49.34	76.35
<b>NIGERIA</b>	<b>436.61</b>	<b>397.99</b>	<b>466.68</b>

Most of the immunisation schedules which WHO undertakes in Nigeria is catered to by India vaccines manufacturing companies.

During the last three years, Nigeria's Pharma market was adversely affected, and was valued at \$ 607 million, with OTC & generic sectors dominating the market. India participates in both these sectors and the formulation preparation which India makes are almost like tailor made to Nigeria's needs keeping in view its epidemiology and also the economy. Today, Nigeria has over

150 units engaged in Pharmaceuticals with four of them have already gained WHO GMP status.

India continues its bilateral trade promotion efforts in Nigeria to remain as major partner in Pharmaceutical sector by organizing Expos in Nigeria and also inviting key Nigerian Pharma Associations like PSN, APIN, IPMAN for IPHEX, India's flagship event in pharma sector organized by Pharmexcil.

Nigeria contributes 14% to India's pharma exports to Africa. Around 42% of Nigeria's formulation imports are from India. ■



Participants at the PHARMEXCIL Business Event at Lagos.

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# How Bollywood Conquered Nigeria

By Jeremy Luedi \*

**N**igeria has been obsessed with Bollywood since the 1950s, with Indian films leaving a considerable cultural legacy. Now Nigeria is returning the favour.

You find yourself meandering your way through a busy mall in Lagos, Nigeria. The familiar noises, bustling crowds and range of shops reminds you of many a mall that you have visited in the past. While there is a distinct West Africa vibe to the shopping plaza, nothing immediately identifies this as a Nigerian mall.

Then a strange sight catches your eye: a young Yoruba woman in heavy makeup wearing a sari and diadem beams at you, her hands clasped together in the traditional Indian greeting. Above the woman a frilly sign touts the name of the establishment: Bollywood Hair - now you know you are in Nigeria.

Bollywood Hair. Not 'Hollywood Hair' - its snappy alliteration making it a globally popular moniker - nor 'Nollywood Hair' (after Nigeria's famous film industry) for that matter. Nigeria has been obsessed with Bollywood for over 60 years,

and Africa's most populous country is one of Indian film industry's best export markets. Bollywood has had a lasting impact on Nigerian culture, and increasingly Nigeria is repaying the favour, sending talent across the ocean to star in Indian movies.

## How Bollywood became a national obsession despite language barrier

Nigeria's love affair with Bollywood began in the 1950s when some enterprising Lebanese merchants decided to import Indian films to Nigeria, as they were considerably cheaper to licence than the latest Hollywood hits. Attending screenings of Bollywood films in open air courtyards and impromptu movie houses quickly became a favourite Nigerian pastime, especially in the northern region of the country.

The remarkable thing is that for decades these films were neither dubbed or subtitled in Nigeria's various languages. Despite the language barrier, many people re-watched the same movies dozens of times, eventually learning

snippets of Hindi in the process. Part of this ease in discerning the plot may be down to the polyglot nature of India itself: successful films could not rely on dialogue alone to bring success, as they would have to be translated into India's various languages.

A great example of Bollywood's international success and ease with which it has surmounted language barriers comes in the form of a 2015 video showing Miss Nigeria and Miss Indonesia bonding over their shared love of Bollywood films, before both break into song.

Consequently, while Nigerian audiences could not understand the dialogue, the pacing and plot of films nevertheless enabled them to figure out the stories. For instance, the three hour long, 1957 classic *Mother India* remains one of the most popular Bollywood films of all time in Nigeria. Some fans have seen the film so many times that they have memorized the entire dialogue, despite not speaking Hindi. "I've been showing this film for decades, and it can still sell out any cinema in the north," remarked one Nigerian film distributor.

Nevertheless, what would make hordes of people repeatedly watch





two and three hour films in a language they could not understand? It is because Nigerian communities saw themselves in the stories portrayed by Bollywood.

“Arranged marriages, caste barriers, and the importance of morality, honor, family name and religion were all topics central to Bollywood and African societies [...] The struggle against colonialism; the poor, the exploited and the oppressed as central characters; and mythology - issues European and American cinemas completely ignored - strongly resonated on the [African] continent. Bollywood offers a model of cultural resistance and a path between tradition and modernity,” explains Sylviane A. Diouf, digital collection curator at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, in Harlem NY.

### The influence of Indian film runs deep in northern Nigeria

These features of Bollywood movies appealed to Nigerian communities, especially the conservative Hausa in northern Nigeria. In Kano, the largest city in northern Nigeria, Indian films are shown virtually every night in cinemas and remain among the most popular TV programs.

There is also a Sufi male group called 'Lovers of India' that sings Bollywood tunes with religious lyrics. Similarly, a host of modernized Quranic (Islamiyya) schools have adopted Bollywood music, with schoolgirl choirs singing the praise of the Prophet Muhammad in Hausa to the tune of Bollywood hits. Unfortunately, in recent years this

trend has come under attack from religious extremists such as Boko Haram in northern Nigeria, although the region's love for Bollywood remains strong.

Another offshoot of Bollywood's influence was the emergence of soyayya - or love - literature in the 1980s. Inspired by the conservative and innocent depictions of romantic love in Bollywood films, soyayya books became an important tool for Hausa women in their efforts to modernize their conservative communities. An estimated 300 women write soyayya novels today, and the cheap books are as popular as ever. By combining Nigerian reality with Bollywood storytelling flair, Hausa authors have created an entire genre of pulp fiction that readily appeals to local women.

One example is *Sin is a Puppy that Follows you Home* by Balaraba Ramat Yakubu, which details the challenges faced by long-suffering wife and mother of nine, Rabi. After her husband falls for another woman and kicks her out of the house, Rabi eventually lands a job and manages to carry on. Her husband eventually realizes his mistake after misfortune befalls him, and pleads for Rabi to return, who despite initial resistance eventually concedes.

Yakubu is a devout Muslim, and like other soyayya authors is seeking to reconcile their faith, culture and personal aspirations for greater rights. Polygamy an accepted practice in northern Nigeria, so Rabi's insistence that her husband



only cherish one woman is as radical as giving her a job. Yakubu is not a radical by any definition, yet that makes her characters resonate all the more with local readers. Yakubu is not even a fan of the film industry that spawned the genre of her oeuvre - “I don't like the songs and dances - because it is not our culture,” mentions Yakubu in an interview.

Yakubu is not the only one who has reservations about Bollywood, as some fans in northern Nigeria wish that Bollywood would return to its more conservative roots. Critics cite the growing liberal attitudes and loosening moral standards in more modern Indian films as a negative trend. This is

## Bollywood-Nollywood Connection

the same reason that Nollywood films from southern Nigeria find limited success in the north.

### Kanywood's ethics scandal mirrors Bollywood drama

Bollywood's popularity and its hitherto conservative standards even inspired the creation of Kanywood, the northern Nigerian movie hub based out of Kano. Kanywood studios sometimes make shot for shot remakes of Bollywood films, and music featured in other local productions show Indian influences. 2013 even saw the creation of an album dedicated to this trend

Like Bollywood, Kanywood has not been without its moral scandals, with the recognized queen of Kanywood - Rahama



Sadau - kicked out of the industry in 2016 after an onscreen hug in a music video; a violation of the Hausa movie industry's code of ethics. Sadau was condemned by the Motion Picture Practitioners Association, but has since moved south to Nollywood. Speaking on the scandal, Sadau pointed to Bollywood's Priyanka Chopra as her inspiration: "We have similar problems and are facing similar situations because at some point, they have to accept you and appreciate what you're doing."

The popularity of films in Nigeria in general is both a boon and bane for distributors. While guaranteed an eager audience for the latest Kanywood films, distributors face obstacles from rampant piracy; with some 70 percent of distributor income lost to piracy. A 2006 study showed that 99 percent of film screenings in Nigeria take place in informal settings, such as someone's house, garden or place of business.

This trend has recently led distributors in northern Nigeria to initially limit screenings to cinemas, instead of promoting films via cheap DVDs and video CDs. This move has led many in the region to complain, as 70 percent of the population lives in rural communities, not in major cities such as Kano where the few

cinemas are located. The fact that there are only 0.4 movie screens per million people in Nigeria (versus 12 per million in India) makes a cinema-only strategy largely moot.

"When people make enquiries about the latest Kanywood film releases and we tell them that they have to travel to Kano to see it first they say they would rather buy Indian films that are readily available," notes one video store clerk. "Indian films are currently in

high demand." So despite Bollywood's changing standards there still seem to be plenty of fans in northern Nigeria.

### Bollywood and Nollywood's increasing cooperation

It is not just northern Nigerians that love Bollywood, as even in the heart of Nollywood Indian films continue to give domestic productions a run for their money. Prior to the emergence of Nollywood, the Bollywood craze hit new heights in the 1970s and 80s. Afterwards local films began to supplant Indian ones. However, in recent years Bollywood has made a resurgence as Indian studios outpace Nigerian ones in terms of production quality and consistency. This makes some nervous that Bollywood could spell Nollywood's demise, while others maintain that Nollywood should focus on quality, not quantity, in order to regain market share.

The film industry is Nigeria's second largest employer (after agriculture), so the future of the sector is a serious topic. Instead of worrying about a rivalry, both Nollywood and Bollywood should look to the opportunities created by working together. In January 2015, India's high commissioner to Nigeria announced that India would facilitate a partnership between the Nigerian and Indian film industries. In the same year, Nigerian-Indian actor Aivboraye Lawrence Osagie became the first Nigerian to feature in a Bollywood film, *Love is an Illusion*.

A few years prior, the 2012 film *J.U.D.E.* became the first co-production between Nigeria and India, with Chukwuma Osakwe directing, and Parveen Kurma as assistant director. Set in Lagos and Chandigarh, Punjab the movie deals with love, race, religion, visa denials from western countries and the challenges faced by young people in emerging economies; in short, the same cross-cultural themes that made Bollywood such a hit in Nigeria in the first place. The two co-stars make a fitting metaphor for the ties between the two film industries, with Lavina Qureshi playing the Indian love interest of Nigeria's Daniel Lloyd.

More recently, Nigeria film maker Emem Isong created *Love is in the Air* in January 2016, a romantic comedy starring popular actors from both Nollywood and Bollywood. Lagos' Indian Festival in 2016 also saw film industry cross-promotion, with the Indian embassy and Lagos city showcasing the best of the best of Indian and Nigerian cinema. Since then, Nigeria's Zainab Balogun has starred in Bollywood's *Cocktail* and Abbey "Crackydon" Abimbola has described his decision to move to India to pursue his dream of working in Bollywood in a 2017 interview. The Abuja International Film Festival, held in October 2017 saw 310 submissions from India alone - the highest of any single nation.

Perhaps the most meta example of the cross-pollination between Nigerian and Indian film has been the 2017 Nollywood movie *ZeeWorld Madness*, a comedy that pokes fun at the Nigerian obsession with the ZeeWorld Bollywood movie channel on DSTV.

"India's First Oscar-Winning Producer Will Probably Be This Chemical Company CEO From Nigeria" - that was the headline Forbes ran to highlight the latest achievement from Indian-born producer Manish Mundra and his production company, Drishyam Films. Mundra arrived in Nigeria in 2005, originally working in the petrochemical industry. His time in Nigeria and the travel afforded by his job eventually led him on an adventure "to reframe the very notion of what constitutes a 'good' Indian film." His studio, Drishyam Films was founded in 2014 and since then has produced eight films, with their latest, *Newton*, a commercial and critical success that was selected as India's pick for the 2018 Oscars.

Speaking on his time in Nigeria, Mundra maintains that "that worldwide exposure gave me the outlook I have for cinema. It gave



me the desire to tell stories about the lives of everyday people, the challenges life confronts them with, how they're impacted and how they overcome those challenges [...] When I was exposed to travelling and experiencing international films I felt that Indian cinema was losing that grip."

The elements Mundra touches on are the very features of early Bollywood movies that first captivated Nigerian audiences six decades ago. *Newton's* plot also speaks to these audiences: a dark comedy about a government official's attempt to conduct a free and fair election in a conflict zone. This is a plot that Nigerians can immediately relate to, especially those in the north, where the conflict with Boko Haram makes maintaining the rule of law a daily struggle. The themes of intra-state violence, rebel groups, poverty, child brides, corruption and government bureaucracy will all surely resonate with Nigerian audiences.

### The Bottom Line

Originally a cost-saving gamble, Bollywood's introduction into Nigeria in the 1950s evolved into a cult following in subsequent decades. Throughout Nigeria, informal movie venues showing Indian films regularly sell out, buoyed by the support of loyal fans singing along in Hindi despite not speaking the language. While

immensely popular across the country, Bollywood's influence is especially felt in northern Nigeria.

Bollywood's themes have found a loyal audience in Nigeria, as challenges faced by Indian characters deeply resonate with the life experiences of the films' African audiences. Furthermore, from authors to actresses, Nigerian women have looked to Bollywood for inspiration. From pulp fiction to devotional songs, Bollywood has left an indelible mark on Hausa culture: it even inspired the creation of Kanywood, northern Nigeria's film industry.

While concerns about changing standards, piracy and competition with Nigerian films worry distributors and fans alike, Bollywood's hold on Nigeria remains as firm as ever. Moreover, Nigeria is increasingly collaborating with the Indian film industry to become a partner in, rather than just a consumer of, Indian media. The number of co-productions and Nigerian actors working in India continues to grow, and Nigeria is now influencing the development of Indian cinema, coming full circle from when Bollywood sparked the creation of Nigeria's second largest industry back in the 1980s. ■

*Jeremy Luedi is the editor of Asia by Africa. His writing has been featured in Business Insider, The Japan Times, The Diplomat, FACTA Magazine, Yahoo Finance, Asia Times. His insights have also been quoted by TIME, OZY, and the Washington Times, among others.*

# News Diary of High Commission of India

Showcasing the Vibrant Synergy between India and Nigeria.

## Republic Day 2018

Glimpses of Flag Hoisting Ceremony and the National Day Reception at the premises of the High Commission on 26 January 2018.



## Independence Day 2017

Glimpses of Flag Hoisting Ceremony at the premises of the High Commission on 15 August, 2017.



## Namaste Nigeria

**Glimpses of launching of Namaste Nigeria (a celebration of Indian States, Heritage, Costumes, Culture and Cuisine) by the High Commission of India, Abuja together with Indian Cultural Association and Indian Women's Association, Abuja and Nigeria's National Council for Arts and Culture at Nigerian Air Force (NAF) Conference Centre on May 5, 2018.**



High Commissioner, Shri B.N. Reddy flanked by Shri Sudharshan Reddy President of Indian Cultural Association, Abuja and Mrs. Meeta Saxena, President of Indian Women's Association, Abuja.



The Representative of the Federal Minister of Culture, Princess Ginika Nwafor-Orizu, Chief Cultural Officer (Cultural/Tourism/Bilateral Relations Between Nigeria and other Countries) (first from the right) and Representative of the Director General of Nigeria's National gallery for Art & Culture, Excellency Otunba Olusegun Runsewe (third from left) at the Namaste Nigeria Event.



## International Day of Yoga 2018

To mark 4th International Day of Yoga (IDY2018), the High Commission of India, Abuja organised Special Yoga Session at its Chancery premises on 16 June, 2018. The event was attended by more than 500 people which includes members of Indian community, representatives from the Nigerian government, local nationals, diplomatic community and expats.

The first ever Yoga Photo Exhibition was also held as part of the celebration. On display were photos from renowned photographer, Mr. Benoy K. Behl and Mrs. Shanta Roy.



Artwork on Yoga created by Ms. Shanta Roy (Sitting on the right)



## National Unity Day

**Glimpses of Special Event to Commemorate Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (31st October, 2017).**



## IAFS-III Training Programme

**Twenty-two (22) Nigerian diplomats undergoing a two-week Special Training Programme at the Foreign Service Institute (FSI), New Delhi from 30 July to 10 August 2018 as part of the Third India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III) training programmes**



## 'Meeting India in Nigeria'

**Mosaic Artwork depicting India's journey upto India@70 inaugurated at the High Commission of India, Abuja on the occasion of National Day Reception, January 26, 2018**



The Mosaic Art Work seeks to bring a piece of India to Nigeria. About 500,000 pieces of tiles have been used to create this image. The rising Sun in the middle symbolises the rise of India. Our Parliament is placed above that. By its side, some selected historical monuments are depicted, which can easily be recognised. For instance, the **Taj Mahal** in splendid white, is towards the left, the **Red Fort**, in dark red-brown shades, stands tall towards the right. At the bottom are the seas surrounding India; and at the top are the **Himalayas**, which bound India in the North.

Our national flower, the **Lotus**, is placed in the centre, with closed buds heralding the promise of blossoms, symbolising hope for the future of our children. **The tiger**, pacing majestically on our left, is our national animal and the **peacock**, in the far left and right, is our national bird.

The left part of the Art Work represents our natural heritage i.e. flora and fauna, the hills and mountains. The left depicts where India has come from, and the right where we see ourselves today. The transition from our once pristine and abundant nature to development and urbanisation is seamless and both mutually coexist today.

The right side depicts industrial development and economic progress we have accounted for since Independence. Central elements in this progress are factories, public



Makers of Mosaic art work felicitated on Republic Day, January 26, 2018. *From left to right:* High Commissioner of India, Shri B.N. Reddy; Chairman, Ad-hoc Committee of House of Representatives on India-Nigeria relations, Hon Shehu Usman Aliyu Yammеди; General Manager of West African Ceramics, Shri Panchala Bhaskar Rao; Ambassador Olusola Iginla, Director (Regions) Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ms. Shanta Roy & spouse and Shri Sandeep Sharma, Ceramics, Marble and Granite Specialist.

transport, electricity supply and communication. Our military stands strong and also guards our interests and borders.

There are many more intricate details, which you might discover as you glance through it.

If it may be said in one sentence, the Mosaic Art Work depicts India's unity in diversity- a potpourri of cultures, religions, languages, attire and cuisine.

The Mosaic Art work was designed and executed by Mrs. Shanta Roy, an Indian artist based in Abuja (Nigeria). ■



## National Council for Arts and Culture's visit to Mission

Otunba Olusegun Runsewe, Director General, National Council for Arts and Culture, Federal Govt of Nigeria visited the High Commission 16 April, 2018 and interacted with High Commissioner, Shri B.N. Reddy on strengthening cultural ties between the people of two countries. Otunba Runsewe also appreciated the Permanent Art Exhibit India@70 (measuring 120 sq mtrs) depicting India's unity in diversity.



## Kathak Dance Troupe

Glimpses of Kathak dance performance by Ms. Surabhi Singh in Abuja on 30 January 2018 to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of India's Independence. The event was inaugurated by the Director-General of Nigeria's National gallery for Art & Culture, Excellency Otunba Olusegun Runsewe.



## School Cultural Exchange

Under the Cultural Exchange Programme, High Commission of India, Abuja received more than 150 students from Gratem Montessori Schools, Progress Dynamic International Academy, Merosa Academy, Nile University of Nigeria and Brainyville International School, Abuja during March-May 2018. The children also interacted with High Commissioner Shri B.N. Reddy.



## World Hindi Day & Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas 2018

Glimpses of Special Event to Celebrate "World Hindi Day 2018" and "Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas" at the premises of the High Commission on 07 January, 2018.





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