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Speech by Amb. Abhishek Singh, High Commissioner at the India-Nigeria Trade Forum on Power Sector on 13.08.2026

Representative from the Federal Ministry of Power;

Hon. Engr. Doris Uboh, Executive Director, Rural Electrification Fund(REF), Rural Electrification Agency;

Representative from the Nigeria Energy Commission;

Mr. Karim Adelaja, Vice President World Trade Center, Abuja.

Your Excellencies, Industry Leaders, Friends from the Media, Ladies and Gentlemen, Welcome to the High Commission.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this India–Nigeria Trade Forum focused on the **Power Sector**.

Power is the backbone of any **modern economy**. Without reliable and affordable electricity, industries cannot scale, jobs cannot be created, and the vision of prosperity remains incomplete. Nigeria, with its **dynamic** population of over 230 million and ambitious economic agenda, has placed power at the center of its development priorities. And India, with its own journey of transforming its power sector over the last two decades, stands ready to be a trusted partner in this journey.

Ladies and Gentlemen, India and Nigeria already share a strong economic relationship. India is one of Nigeria's largest trading partners, and over 200 companies owned or run by Indians are among the biggest investors in Nigeria across Pharma, manufacturing, telecom, and engineering. But in the power sector, I believe we have only **scratched** the surface of our potential. India today is the **3rd largest producer** of electricity in the world. We have added over 200 Gigawatt of generation capacity in the last 10 years. We are global leaders in solar power, with one of the world's largest renewable energy expansion programs. Today, India has over 180 Gigawatt of installed renewable capacity. It is the 4th largest country globally in wind and solar installations. More importantly, over 40% of India's total installed power capacity is now **non-fossil**.

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We have also built world-class expertise in transmission, distribution, smart meters, mini-grids, and energy storage — all areas where Nigeria can collaborate with India.

The challenges and potential in context of Nigeria are different from India, but the underlying theme is similar - how to **power growth** and inclusion. Nigeria has an installed generation capacity of **around 13 Gigawatt**, but actual available power is often less. Therefore, access to grid electricity is important. If businesses and households rely on expensive diesel and petrol generators, it can drain household income and foreign exchange.

What can India offer Nigeria in the power sector?

First, **Affordable Solutions**. Indian companies offer cost-effective EPC, turbines, transformers, cables, and switchgear that are proven in similar climatic and operational conditions.

Second, **Renewable Energy**. From large-scale solar parks to rooftop solar and solar mini-grids for rural electrification, Indian firms are delivering clean power across Africa. This aligns perfectly with Nigeria's Energy Transition Plan like the Nigeria Electrification Project and the Solar Power Naija initiative implemented by Rural Electrification Agency (REA).

Nigeria is also a member of International Solar Alliance, an initiative taken by India. It is a treaty-based, intergovernmental organization launched to promote large-scale solar energy deployment. Currently, it has over 100 member countries and focuses on technology transfer and affordable finance for sun-rich nations.

I would like to share that as part of India's commitment, a solar based electricity project has been executed in Kaduna State of Nigeria under the line of credit extending by India. The project aims to provide solar energy to 221 Primary Health Centres and installation of 2 substation along with one 50 KVA solar power mini grids.

Third, **Technology and Capacity Building**. India can share expertise in grid management, loss reduction, smart metering, and DISCOM reforms. We can also train Nigerian engineers and technicians through ITEC, a capacity building programme of Indian Government, under which every year India offers about 250 training slots. These courses are fully funded by the Government of India.

Fourth, **Innovative Financing**. Indian companies are open to BOOT (Build, Own, Operate, Transfer), PPP(Public-Private Partnership), and

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joint venture models to bring investment without putting pressure on government finances.

We are also aware of the challenges like Forex availability, tariff issues, transmission bottlenecks, and regulatory clarity. The High Commission is committed to working with the Federal Ministry of Power, NERC, and other stakeholders to address these concerns and create an enabling environment for Indian businesses.

Today's forum is designed to move beyond speeches to real business. You will hear from Indian companies, see technologies, and most importantly, build direct B2B connections.

To further support this, the High Commission, in addition to these sector specific forums, has been organizing Trade Webinars twice a month on potential sectors and had recently launched a dedicated **India–Nigeria Business Connect WhatsApp Group**. This group provide a platform that will serve as a direct bridge between Indian exporters, Nigerian importers, industry associations, and policymakers. I encourage all of you to visit website of the Indian High Commission and join the WhatsApp and proactively use this forum to forge partnerships, resolve challenges, and collectively build a stronger India–Nigeria economic corridor.

In Conclusion, India believes in Nigeria's growth story. And we believe that a powered Nigeria is a prosperous Nigeria. Let us use this forum to convert dialogue into deals, and partnerships into power plants, solar farms, and stronger grids. I assure you of the full support of the High Commission of India in making this collaboration a success.

Thank you, and I wish the Forum fruitful deliberations.

Thank You.