

India-Nigeria Relations

Political Relations:

Relations between Nigeria and India have traditionally been warm and friendly. India established its diplomatic mission in Nigeria in 1958 and that was two years before Nigeria gained its independent in 1960. Both countries have been in the forefront of the international struggle against colonialism and apartheid and have closely collaborated in various international forae. A landmark visit to Nigeria in September 1962, Indian Prime Minister Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru and his interaction with Nigeria's first Prime Minister Tafawa Balewa had created mutual goodwill, respect and friendship between our two countries and leaders. The historic State visit to Nigeria by *Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh* in October 2007 after a gap of over forty five years provided a serious new impetus to our bilateral ties. Commonalities of our colonial past, a large multi-ethnic, multi-religious and developing societies with a large percentage of youth have brought the two countries even closer. We both share common perspectives on international political, social and development issues as manifested in various meetings at the United Nations, World Trade organization, etc. The two countries strongly oppose all forms of terrorism.

Both sides have tried to keep the momentum of periodic bilateral visits with a view to strengthen the relations between the two countries. Recent visits between the two countries may be seen at Annexure.

Commercial & Economic Relations:

EXIM Bank LOC: During the visit of the delegation led by then Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in October 2007, India offered GOI supported Exim Bank Line of Credit of US\$100 million to the Government of Nigeria. Two sides finally signed the agreement at Kigali on May 22, 2014 on the sidelines of a meeting of Africa Development Bank. Nigerian side with the concurrence of Indian side decided to utilize the credit for power sector projects in three States: (i) Enugu- US\$ 40 million, (ii) Cross Rivers- US\$30 million and Kaduna - US\$30 million

Bilateral Trade: Nigeria is India's largest trading partner in Africa and India is the largest trading partner of Nigeria globally. Indian owned companies employ largest number of employees in Nigeria after the Federal Government of Nigeria. India's exports to Nigeria have grown gradually during the last few years - from US\$ 1.08 billion in 2007-08 to US\$2.74 billion in 2012-13. The bilateral trade during 2013-14 registered an increase of 2.5% (US\$16,981.27) due to larger import of crude oil.

India-Nigeria Bilateral Trade Statistics

(Value in Us \$ Million)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
India's Export	1085.4 1 (+20%)	1529.2 6 (+41%)	1408.2 5 (-8%)	2259.0 9 (+60%)	2700.2 (+29%)	2738 (+1.5%)	2666.19 (-2.6%)
Indian's Import	7612.0 2 (+8.5%)	8900.3 5 (+17%)	7287.9 1 (-18%)	10787. 7 (+48%)	14622. 6 (+36%)	13826 (-5.9%)	14315.0 8 (+3.5%)

Rice exports declined from US\$339 million in April-March 2012-13 to US\$78 million during corresponding period in 2013-14 due to heavy duty as well as enhanced local production. During 2013-14, our imports, mainly petroleum and crude products, stood at US\$14,315 million against US\$13,826 million in the corresponding period in 2012-13.

Trade statistics as on May 2014							[In US\$ millions]		
Indian Exports			India's Imports			Total Trade			
	Apr- May 14	Apr – May 13	% Cha nge	Apr – May 14	Apr- May1 3	% cha -nge	Apr- May 14	Apr- May 13	% Chang e
Nigeria	452.5	392.5	15.3	2666.0	1833.3	45.4	3118.5	2225.8	40.10

(Source: DGFT, Indian Deptt of Commerce)

Oil Trade: In recent years Nigeria has become one of the main sources of crude for India. India imports around 8% to 12% of our crude requirements from Nigeria. In recent times, India has become the largest importer of Nigerian crude replacing USA.

Economic Activities & Projects: Over a hundred companies are currently operating in Nigeria that are owned and/or operated by Indian or Indian origin persons. Prominent among them being Bharti Airtel, Indorama, Olam International (now Singapore registered), Tata, Bajaj Auto, Birla Group, Kirloskar, Mahindra, Ashok Leyland, NIIT, ApTech, New India Assurance, Bhushan Steel, KEC, Skipper Nigeria, Dabur, Godrej and Primus Super-speciality Hospital, including 15 prominent companies in Nigerian Power Sector. Nigeria's pharmaceuticals, steel and power transmission sectors are dominated by Indian companies. Nigeria-based ethnic Indians are economically active in areas relating to consumer goods manufacturing and retailing, construction and air-services. The fourth edition of Indian Products and Services Exhibition (IPASE) was held in Lagos in January 2014 showcasing Indian products and services.

Air Services: There are no direct air services between India and Nigeria. Air travel between India and Nigeria involve transfer at a hub, with Dubai, Addis Ababa, Nairobi, Cairo, Doha, Frankfurt and London being popular.

Cultural Relations:

First Lady inaugurates Indian Film Festival: HCI organized first ever week-long Indian Film Festival in Abuja from March 31 to April 06, 2014. The successful event which drew applause from the city was inaugurated by the first lady, H.E. Mrs. Dame Patience Jonathan on March 31, 2014. Speaking on the occasion, she said that Bollywood compared favourably with Hollywood in many respects. High Commissioner said that he would work towards facilitating a Nigerian Film Festival in New Delhi. Two famous Hindi movies were shown at the popular Silverbird Cinema complex.

ITEC/SCAAP: The 200 slots Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) quota for Nigeria for 2013-14 was fully utilised. After the Africa-India Forum Summit -II, Nigeria's ITEC quota for 2011-12 was increased to 190. During 2012-13, all slots were utilised. During 2013-14, 209 slots were utilised.

Culture & Academic: Indian films are popular in Kano, Kaduna and other Northern States and local channels regularly telecast Indian films. In the past Indian cultural troupes have entertained Nigerians in annual Abuja Carnivals. These troupes also performed in Lagos and other Nigerian cities. Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA) jointly organised 2nd India-Africa Academic Conference at Lagos from 14-15 March 2012. The event was attended by 80 academicians, including an 8 member ICWA delegation led by its Director General Shri S.T. Devare. Lagos Business School has a rotating chair arrangement with Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

Indian Community:

NRI/PIO Community: The Indian community in Nigeria is estimated to be about 35,000 persons - about 25,000 Indian nationals and about 10,000 Persons of Indian origin holding other nationalities. A generation of Nigerians today in their forties to sixties have been taught by Indian teachers, treated by Indian doctors and have grown watching Indian movies and Indians and India in Nigeria enjoy goodwill and respect in Nigeria. There is a CBSE affiliated Indian Language School in Lagos with 2,500 students. It also has two temples in Lagos and a number of cultural and ethnic associations, most prominent of which is Indian Cultural Association.

Some Indians have been affected by criminal incidents esp. kidnappings and armed robberies in various parts of Nigeria. Two Indian nationals were among 157 victims who lost lives in crash Dana Air (owned by a Lagos-based NRI Group) near Lagos on June 3 2012. Two Indians were killed and one seriously injured in an attack by unidentified armed group on an Indian owned Gum Arabic factory in Maiduguri, Borno State on July 25 2012. The High Commission monitors the evolving security situation in Nigeria and issues advisories from time-to-time for Indian nationals at its website <http://www.indianhcabuja.com>. The latest advisory from the High Commission was on the dos and don'ts of Ebola virus.

Consular Relations: The people-to-people ties between Nigeria and India are vibrant and growing. About 40,000 Nigerians obtained Indian visas during 2013. The main reasons for visiting India are medical treatment and business. Number of Nigerian students going to Indian tertiary institutions is also on rising. Many Indian football clubs have Nigerian professional players.

Useful Resources:

For more information and latest updates please visit High Commission of India, Abuja website:
<http://www.indianhcabuja.com/>

August 2014

Annexure

From Nigerian side during 2012-14 alone, the following visits took place:

Minister of Works of Nigeria	February 27 to March 2 2012 – led a 11-member delegation to study the business model of National Highways Authority of India
S&T Minister of Nigeria	March 1-2, 2012 - led a 4-member delegation for the India-Africa S&T Ministers Conference
Minister of Labour & Productivity	March 1-3, 2012 - led a 3-member delegation for IBSA International Workshop
Finance Minister Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala	March 28 2012 –unscheduled visit to India to seek support for her candidature for President of World Bank with the leaders of BRICS.
Minister of S&T	September 12-15, 2012 6-member delegation to participate at 3 rd Bengaluru Space Expo.
Minister of Agriculture & Natural Resources	September 24-26, 2012 - to attend 40 th Year Celebration of ICRISAT at Hyderabad
Prof (Mrs) Ruqayyatu A. Rufai, Minister for Education	New Delhi from 8-10 November, 2012 – She led a 11-member delegation to attend Ninth E-9 Ministerial Review Meeting
Minister of Communication Technology Mrs. Omabola Johnson	March 19 -21, 2013 visited New Delhi/ Kolkata from to attend India Soft-2013. She also had a meeting with her Indian counterpart
Minister of Justice & Atrney General Mr Mohammed Bello Adoke	September 7-11 2013 - for participating in AALCO Annual Conference in New Delhi
Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Dele Joseph Ezeoba	December 9-13, 2013 – He led a 6-member delegation from on an official visit.
20-member delegation comprising 5- House of Representatives members and Chairman House Committee on Banking and Currency;	10 th CII-Exim Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership held in New Delhi on March 9-11, 2014
Mrs Sarah Reng Ocheke, Minister of Water Resources	March 20-22, 2014 – to participate at the Reinvent The Toilet Fair: India 2014 in New Delhi.
14-member Senate Committee of Senators & Members of House of Representatives of Parliament at the invitation of CEC	Visited India June 21-26, 2014 and were hosted by Election Commission of India

From India:

Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry	January 14-16, 2010 - to inaugurate ' <i>Namaskar India</i> ' in Lagos.
Shri Murali Deora, Minister of Petroleum & Gas	January 25-26, 2010 – He visited Abuja along with heads of major public sector oil and gas companies.
Smt. D. Purandeswari, Minister of State for Human Resource Development	June 20-25, 2010 - accompanied by 3-member delegation, she visited Abuja to attend the Eighth E-9 Ministerial Review Meeting.
Shri Salman Khurshid,	30 September-2 October, 2010 – He visited Abuja

Minister of State(IC) for Corporate Affairs and Minority Affairs	to represent India at the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Nigeria's Independence.
Shri Salman Khurshid, Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources	May 29, 2011 – He visited Abuja to represent Hon'ble PM at the swearing in ceremony of President Goodluck Jonathan.
Shri RPN Singh, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas	May 6-7, 2011 - visited Abuja as Special Envoy of PM to extend invitation for IAFS-II to President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan.
