

## **India-Nigeria Relations**

### **Political Relations:**

Relations between Nigeria and India have always been warm and friendly, without any contentious issues. India established a diplomatic mission in Nigeria in 1958, even before Nigeria became independent in 1960. Both countries have been in the forefront of the worldwide anti-colonial and anti-apartheid struggle and have collaborated in various international fora. Following his landmark visit to Nigeria in September 1962, Indian Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Nigeria's first Prime Minister Tafawa Balewa developed mutual respect and admiration. Similarly, historic State visit to Nigeria by Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh in October 2007 gave a new fillip to the bilateral ties. Similarities in colonial struggle against British, large multi-ethnic, multi-religious and developing societies have created bilateral affinity. Both share common perspectives on international political, social and development issues and these have manifested in various meetings at UN, WTO, etc. Nigeria is strongly opposed to all forms of terrorism.

### **Major Bilateral Visits during 2012 & 2013**

- An 11-member delegation led by Minister of Works of Nigeria visited India from February 27 to March 2 2012 to study the business model of National Highways Authority of India.
- The S&T Minister led a 4-member delegation for the India-Africa S&T Ministers Conference on March 1-2, 2012.
- Minister of Labour & Productivity led a 3-member delegation for IBSA International Workshop on March 1-3, 2012.
- Former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo visited India in March 2012 mainly for encouraging economic ties and was received by Hon'ble PM on March 12 2012 and CITM on March 13 2012.
- A delegation led by MOS of Defence of Nigeria Hon'ble Mrs. Erelu Olusola Obada visited Delhi on a 4-day official visit in April 2012 to participate in the DefExpo India 2012.
- Nigerian FM Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala paid an unscheduled visit to India on March 28 2012 to lobby for her candidature for the President of World Bank with the leaders of BRICS.
- A 6-member Nigerian delegation led by Hon'ble Minister of S&T visited India to participate at 3<sup>rd</sup> Bengaluru Space Expo on September 12-15, 2012.
- Nigerian Minister of Agriculture & Natural Resources visited India to attend 40<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration of ICRISAT at Hyderabad on Sept 24-26.
- A delegation led by Governor of Borno visited India in September 2012. He met Hon'ble Minister for Renewable Energy, among others.
- Prof(Mrs) Ruqayyatu A. Rufai, Nigerian Education Minister led an 11-member delegation to attend Ninth E-9 Ministerial Review Meeting in New Delhi from 8-10 November, 2012.

- Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Local Govt of Nigeria led a delegation to India on a study tour and said on May 9, 2012 “measures taken by India to eradicate poverty and also steps to bring in economic reforms are worth emulating.”
- H.E. Ms. Ama Pepple, Minister of Land & Housing went to India in last week of October to take part in Commonwealth Conference.
- Governor of Benue State visited India for 5 days starting March 14, 2013.
- Governor of Lagos attended India-Africa Conclave in New Delhi in March 2013.
- Governor of Kano visited India in February 2013 to attend the Garment Fair.
- Minister of Communication Technology visited New Delhi / Kolkata from March 19 -21, 2013 to attend IndiaSoft-2013. She also had a meeting with her Indian counterpart.
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- Secretary, Department of Heavy Industry, GOI, Mr. Sutanu Behuria, accompanied by Mr. P.K. Uppal, Executive Director, BHEL, visited Abuja, Nigeria to explore cooperation in power sector.
- Minister of Justice & Attorney General Mr Mohammed Bello Adoke visited India from September 7-11 2013 for participating in AALCO Annual Conference in New Delhi.
- Minister of State for Trade Dr. Sanuel Orteom, accompanied by two officials visited Johannesburg, South Africa to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> India-Africa Trade Ministers Conference from September 30 to October 01, 2013.
- Governor of Borno State led a business delegation to New Delhi to participate in the India International Trade Fair in November 2014.
- A 4-member delegation led by Nigerian Minister for Power Prof. Chindedu Nebo visited New Delhi December 7-9, 2013 to have interaction with BHEL for strengthening Nigeria’s power sector.
- A 6-member delegation led by Nigerian Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Dele Joseph Ezeoba visited India from December 9-13, 2013 on an official visit.

### **Commercial and Trade Relations:**

India is currently Nigeria’s second largest trading partner. With a population of 168 million and considerable revenue from oil exports, Nigeria is the largest trading partner of India in Africa. Nigeria is also the largest market in Africa for Indian exports. A large number of Indian companies have footprints in Nigeria, which have made substantial investments in Nigeria. Bilateral annual trade turnover was over US\$ 17.3 billion in 2011-12 registering the growth of over 34%. During 2012-13, our exports further grew by 1.33% even though the bilateral trade slightly declined to \$ 16.8 billion. The details are given below:

## India-Nigeria Bilateral Trade Statistics

VALUE IN US \$ MILLION

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Indian Exports to Nigeria	1085.41 (+20%)	1529.26 (+41%)	1408.25 (-8% decline)	2259.09 (+60%)	2700.23 (+29%)	2738 (+1.5%)
Indian Imports from Nigeria	7612.02 (+8.5%)	8900.35 (+17%)	7287.91 (-18% decline)	10787.72 (+48%)	14622.57 (+36%)	13826 (-5.9%)

(Source: DGFT, Indian Deptt. of Commerce)

### Trade Statistics for the period April-November 2013

Partner Country	Indian Exports			India's Imports			Total Trade		
	Apr-Nov 2013	Apr – Nov 12	% Change	Apr - Nov 13	Apr- Nov 2012	% Change	Apr- Nov 2013	Apr- Nov 2012	% Change
<b>Nigeria</b>	1685.49	1834.85	-8	9787.80	8500.14	15	11473.29	10334.99	11

(Source: DGFT, Indian Deptt of Commerce)

**Oil Trade:** In recent years Nigeria has been one of the main sources of crude for India. Nigeria is highly important for our energy security matters as we import around 8% to 12% of our crude requirements from Nigeria. In recent times, India has become the largest importer of Nigerian crude.

**Hydrocarbons Sector:** Apart from trade in hydrocarbons, Indian presence in Nigeria's upstream sector has arrived at a critical threshold of participation in the upstream sector and refining.

**Other Economic Activities & Projects:** Over 100 Indian companies are estimated to have footprints in Nigeria. Prominent among them being Bharti Airtel, Indorama, Olam International, 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. India has pole positions in Nigeria's pharmaceuticals, steel and power transmission sectors. Nigeria-based ethnic Indians are economically very active in such areas as consumer 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:**

**ITEC/SCAAP:** The 130 seat Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) quota for Nigeria for the year 2010-11 was fully utilised. Following second Africa-India Forum

Summit, Nigeria's ITEC quota for 2011-12 was increased to 190 and an overwhelming 177 slots were utilised. During 2012-13, all 210 slots were utilised. During 2013-14 also, the full utilisation of 200 slots is expected.

**Culture & Academic:** Indian films are quite popular in Kano, Kaduna and other Northern States and local channels regularly telecast Indian films. For the two years in succession, namely, 2010 and 2011, India participated in Abuja Carnival. ICCR sponsored Rajasthan folk troupe visited Nigeria in 2010 and Theyyam Group from Kerala enthralled the Nigerians in Abuja Carnival 2011. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> India-Africa Academic Conference at Lagos from 14-15 March 2012. The event was attended by approximately 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:** Total Indian community in Nigeria is estimated to be 35,000 persons. Out of these about 25,000 are Indian nationals and about 10,000 are thought to be foreign passport holders. In general, Indians in Nigeria are well off and enjoy largely non-controversial existence. The community runs a CBSE affiliated Indian Language School in Lagos with over 2,000 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 Indian nationals 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. High Commission of India took up the matter of safety and security of the Indian community and their properties in Nigeria, with the concerned authorities in Nigeria. The High Commission monitors the evolving security situation in Nigeria and issues advisories for Indian nationals at website <http://www.indianhcabuja.com>.

**Consular Relations:** The people-to-people ties between Nigeria and India are vibrant and growing. Nearly 37,000 Nigerians obtained Indian visas during 2013. The main reasons for visiting India are medical tourism and business. Number of Nigerian students going to Indian tertiary institutions is also on rising. Many Indian football clubs have Nigerian professional players.

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