

India-Nigeria 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 fora. A landmark visit to Nigeria in September 1962, Indian Prime Minister Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru and his interaction with Nigeria's first Prime Minister Tafawa Balewaha 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.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari visited India to attend India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III) held in New Delhi from October 26-30, 2015. He was accompanied by a 121-member delegation consisting of Governors of Kano State, Mr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje and Delta State, Mr. Ifeanyi Okowa; National Security Adviser (NSA), Maj.-Gen. Babagana Monguno (rtd); besides Permanent Secretaries in the Ministries of Defence, Power, Communications Technology, Agriculture, Foreign Affairs and Industry, Trade & Investment.

Vice President of India, Shri M. Hamid Ansari accompanied by his spouse Smt. Salma and a 13-member official delegation comprising of MoS for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, three Members of Parliament, Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita, Shri Dilip Kumar Tirkey, Shri Mohammad Salim, Secretary (ER) Shri Amar Sinha and other senior officials visited Nigeria from 26-29 September, 2016. During his stay in Abuja, capital of Nigeria, Vice President Shri Hamid Ansari called on Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari. Vice President also held bilateral talks with his Nigerian counterpart Prof. Yemi Osinbajo. During his visit to Lagos on 28-29 September, 2016, Vice President delivered a lecture at University of Lagos. Dy. Governor of Lagos state also called on him during his stay in Lagos. Vice President also addressed Indian community both in Abuja and Lagos. He also inaugurated the new Chancery complex of the High Commission at Abuja during his day of arrival on 26 September 2016. Vice President also delivered a speech at the National Defence College, Abuja. A 22-member Business delegation had also accompanied the Vice President during his visit to Nigeria. Vice Presidents of both the countries addressed the India-Nigeria Joint Business Forum organized by the Mission in association with CII and ASSOCHAM at Abuja.

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:

Bilateral Trade:

- India is the largest trading partner of Nigeria and Nigeria is India's largest trading partner in Africa. Indian owned/operated companies are the 2nd largest employer in Nigeria after the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- The bilateral trade during the year 2015-16 declined by 25% to US\$12.17 billion as against US\$16.36 billion recorded during the year 2014-15.
- After a steady increase of India's exports to Nigeria for the past few years, the period April 2016 to March 2017 witnessed a 20% decline in our exports to Nigeria to US\$ 1.77 billion from US\$2.22 billion during the corresponding period in 2015-16. The decline in our exports is due to deteriorating internal security and economic recession.
- India's imports from Nigeria form a large part of crude and petroleum products. India is the largest importer of Nigeria petroleum products. 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 12% of our crude requirements from Nigeria. India's imports have declined significantly by 23% to US\$7.65 billion during the period 2016-17 as against US\$9.94 billion registered during the period 2015-16.
- Out of total imports of US\$7.65 billion, petroleum products alone accounted for US\$7.46 billion in 2016-17. Though in terms of quantity, our petroleum imports have increased by nearly 6 million tonnes during the period 2016-17 compared to the period 2015-16, the 23% reduction in our imports is due to fall of crude oil prices in the international market.

India-Nigeria Bilateral Trade Statistics

Value in US \$ million

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-2016	2016-17
India's Export	2738 (+1.5%)	2667.83 (-2.6%)	2681.36 (+0.9%)	2222.0 (-17%)	1771.33 (-20%)
India's Import	13826 (-5.9%)	14098.38 (+3.5%)	13682.72 (-2%)	9949.16 (-27%)	7659.48 (-23%)

Oil Trade: In recent years Nigeria has become one of the main sources of crude for India. India imports around 8% to 12% of its crude requirements from Nigeria.

Economic Activities & Projects: Over a hundred companies are currently operating in Nigeria that are owned and/or operated by Indian or Persons of Indian origin. Prominent among them being BhartiAirtel, 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 besides 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 Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), in association with the High Commission of India and supported by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, GOI, organised “The India Show,” in Lagos on August 25-27, 2015. The event with the theme “Enhancing Trade and Investment between Indian and Nigeria” was inaugurated on August 25, 2015 by High Commissioner Shri A.R. Ghanashyam along with the Deputy Governor of Lagos state Dr. Idiat Oluranti Adebule and Deputy Governor of Benue state, Mr Benson Abounu. Over 100 Indian companies participated in the event showcasing their products to boost trade and investment with Nigeria.

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), in partnership with the Nigerian Law Firm, Perchstone & Graeys, organised the 2nd edition of the India-Nigeria Business Forum (INBF), with the theme “*Changing The Levers of Emerging Economies: Rigs to Chips*” on September 10-11, 2015 in Mumbai. The event was attended by a large number of Nigerian and Indian firms.

Nigerian Minister of Industry, Trade & Investment Dr. Okechukwu E. Enelamah, High Commissioner Shri B.N. Reddy and, President of ASSOCHAM Mr. Sunil Kanoria jointly launched the Nigeria Chapter of ASSOCHAM in Abuja on June 28, 2016. Vice President of Africa Region of World Bank and Managing Director of Dangote Cements and President of Manufacturers Association of Nigeria also attended the launch event.

The Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA) in association with the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, GOI and the High Commission of India organized ACMA Auto Show and Buyer-Seller Meet in Lagos on July 18-19, 2016 with an objective to showcasing the growing capabilities and products of the Indian Auto Component Industry on offer. High Commissioner, Shri B.N. Reddy, Chairman-ACMA (Northern Region), Mr. Sunil Arora and Director, Policy & Planning, National Automotive Council of Nigeria, Mr. Luqman Mamudu, and others attended the inauguration of the event.

HCI, Abuja participated in Enugu Trade Fair held in Enugu State in March, 2015 and in Kaduna Trade Fair held in April 2015, March 2016 and March 2017. Apart from display of Indian products and catalogues by various Indian companies, “Free Medical Camps’ were also organised during those trade fairs in cooperation with Indian hospitals/doctors working in Nigeria in order to show-case India’s excellence in Medical field.

EXIM Bank LOC: During his visit to Nigeria in October 2007, the then Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh announced Line of Credit (LOC) worth US\$100 million to the Government of Nigeria. The US\$100 million is marked for three power projects in the states of (i) Enugu - US\$ 40 million, (ii) Cross Rivers- US\$30 million and Kaduna - US\$30 million. EXIM Bank of India signed the agreement with Nigerian Government on May 22, 2014 on the sidelines of Africa Development Bank (AfDB) meeting in Kigali, Rwanda.

Air Services: There are no direct air services between India and Nigeria. Air travel between India and Nigeria involve transit travel at Dubai, Addis Ababa, Nairobi, Cairo, Doha, Frankfurt or London.

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: 200 slots under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme were allocated to Nigeria for 2015-16, out of which 176 slots were utilised. For 2016-17, the allocation was increased to 310 following Vice President, Shri Hamid Ansari's announcement to this effect during his visit to Nigeria in September, 2016. However, only 209 slots were utilised out of 310 slots allocated.

Culture: Indian films are popular in Kano, Kaduna and other Northern States and local channels regularly telecast Indian films. Indian cultural troupes visit Nigeria from time to time. A Rajasthani folk dance troupe sponsored by ICCR, New Delhi visited Nigeria from 17-21 September, 2015. During their visit, they gave performances in Lagos, Abuja and Kano cities of Nigeria. In May, 2017, a Goan troupe visited Nigeria and gave performances in Lagos and Kano cities of Nigeria.

ICCR Chair: Lagos Business School (LBS) has a rotating chair arrangement with Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). A Professor from IIT, Madras was deputed to man the Chair at LBS from 22 September-27 October 2016.

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 especially 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. Apart from kidnapping of Indian nationals from time to time, there was an incidence of sea piracy off Nigerian coast in February 2016 when 18 crew members of a merchant vessel "MT Maximus" including 11 Indian nationals were taken hostage by the pirates. However, all of them were later released with the help of Nigerian Navy. 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.hcindia-abuja.org>.

Consular Relations: The people-to-people ties between Nigeria and India are vibrant and growing. 17365 Nigerians obtained Indian visas from HCI, Abuja and its office in Lagos during 2016. The main reasons for visiting India are medical treatment and business. Number of Nigerian students going to Indian tertiary institutions is also on rise. Many Indian football clubs have Nigerian professional players.

Useful Resources:

High Commission of India, Abuja website:

<http://hcindia-abuja.org/index.php>

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Visits from Nigeria to India

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	8-10 November, 2012 – She led a 11-member delegation to attend Ninth E-9 Ministerial Review Meeting at New Delhi
Minister of Communication Technology Mrs. Omabola Johnson	March 19 -21, 2013 visited New Delhi/ Kolkata to attend India Soft-2013.
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 on an official visit.
20-member delegation comprising 5- House of Representatives members and Chairman House Committee on Banking and Currency;	March 9-11, 2014- 10 th CII-Exim Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership held in New Delhi
Mrs Sarah RengOchekpe, 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	June 21-26, 2014. Visit hosted by Election Commission of India
Minister of Industry, Trade & Investment Olusegun Aganga accompanied by a high-level business delegation.	September 10-13, 2014-on official visit
President Muhammadu Buhari	October 27-29 October, 2015-He led a large delegation to participate in India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III) at New Delhi
Minister of Industry Trade & Investment, Dr. Enelamah Okechukwu,	March 14-15, 2016- The Minister led a large Nigerian delegation to participate in 11 th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave as a partner country in New Delhi.
Minister of State for Health, Dr. Osagie Ehanire,	September 1-3 September 2016- He led a five member delegation to participate in India-Africa Health Science Meet
Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Dr. Ibe Kachikwu,	October 16-18, 2016 -He led a 3-member delegation to India. During his visit, he met his Indian counterpart, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and discussed cooperation in Hydrocarbon sector.
Minister of Finance Ms Kemi Adeosun	May 22-26, 2017-The Minister led a Nigerian delegation to India to attend Annual Meeting of African Development Meeting held at Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Visits from India to Nigeria

ShriAnand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry	January 14-16, 2010 - to inaugurate 'NamaskarIndia' in Lagos.
ShriMuraliDeora, 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, Minister of State(IC) for Corporate Affairs and Minority Affairs	30 September-2 October, 2010 – He visited Abuja 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 GoodluckEbele Jonathan.
ShriDharmendraPradhan, Hon'bleMoS (IC) for Petroleum and Natural Gas.	May 28-29, 2015- visited Abuja to attend inauguration ceremony of President MuhammaduBuhari
Shri Hamid Ansari, Vice President	September 26-29, 2016 –bilateral visit
