



INDIA IN NIGERIA

Partners in Progress

2021

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Contents

05-06

**FROM THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S DESK**

07

**INDIA-NIGERIA
BILATERAL RELATIONS**

08-09

**REIMAGINING DIPLOMACY
IN THE POST-COVID WORLD:
AN INDIAN PERSPECTIVE**

10-11

**NIGERIA RECEIVES
MADE IN INDIA VACCINES**

12-15

**THE AERO INDIA 21 DISPLAYS
THE VAST OPPORTUNITIES
THAT INDIA OFFERS**

16-20

**EAM'S REMARKS AT THE 15TH CII
-EXIM BANK DIGITAL CONCLAVE
ON INDIA-AFRICA
PROJECT PARTNERSHIP**

21

**INS TARKASH AT LAGOS,
NIGERIA**

22-25

**INDIAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION
GETS HISTORIC AWARD**

26-29

**INDIAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION
(ABUJA) OVERVIEW**

30-33

**NEWS DIARY OF
THE HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA
(PICTORIAL)**

34-35

**JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ OF
THE VIRTUAL BILATERAL
MEETING BETWEEN MEA
INDIA & MFA NIGERIA**



Contents

36-37

**ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT WILL
STRENGTHEN GLOBALIZATION
AMID COVID-19. -PM MODI.**

38-39

**CABINET APPROVES MOU BETWEEN
INDIA & NIGERIA ON COOPERATION
IN THE EXPLORATION AND
USES OF OUTER SPACE FOR
PEACEFUL PURPOSES.**

40

**INDIA DONATES ESSENTIAL
MEDICINES TO NIGERIA.**

41-42

**NIGERIA SIGNS BILATERAL
AVIATION AGREEMENT WITH INDIA**

43-46

**NEWS DIARY OF
THE HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA
(PICTORIAL)**

47-48

**ADDRESS BY
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER
AT THE UNSC OPEN DEBATE
ON IMPLEMENTATION OF
RESOLUTION 2532 (2020)**

49-50

**SOLAR OVERTAKES WIND AS
INDIA'S LARGEST RENEWABLE
ENERGY TECHNOLOGY**

51-58

**NEWS DIARY OF
THE HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA
(PICTORIAL)**

59

**INDIA – NIGERIA
STRATEGIC AND
COUNTER-TERRORISM DIALOGUE**

60-63

**MADE-IN-INDIA
COVID19 VACCINE SUPPLIES SO FAR**





उच्चायुक्त
HIGH COMMISSIONER

25 February 2021



Dear Readers,

It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you the High Commission of India's special publication 'India in Nigeria', which covers a wide spectrum of the flourishing bilateral ties between our two countries. India and Nigeria enjoy warm, friendly and deep-rooted bilateral relations. Both countries have successfully overcome the debilitating effects of colonialism to evolve as strong global advocates of democracy, diversity, and development for all. Today, India is the largest democracy in the world and Nigeria is the largest democracy in Africa. With diplomatic relations spanning over six decades, our two countries have, over the years, become strong partners in trade and investment, energy security, education, health, defence, space and various capacity building and training programs. Our cooperation at multilateral fora has been exemplary. These ties have only grown stronger during the testing times of the pandemic. Our online engagement scaled new heights and is proving to be the silver lining during this period. This publication is intended to apprise readers of our growing bilateral ties, of the developments in India, and of the constructive role of Indian business and the community in Nigeria. Our diverse relations are based on cooperation not only at the Government-to-Government (G2G) level, but also at Business-to-Business (B2B) and People-to-People (P2P) level.

2. At present we are passing through a difficult time of the COVID-19 pandemic. As the world's largest vaccine producer, we are currently working closely with Nigeria to supply vaccines from India. Despite the pandemic challenges, the year 2020 witnessed an upswing in our exchanges, and our cooperation gathered greater momentum. At the political level, the 75-minute virtual bilateral meeting, between External Affairs Minister of India Dr. S. Jaishankar and Foreign Minister of Nigeria Mr. Geoffrey Onyeama in virtual mode, in September 2020 was a key high-level interaction. It was preceded by the signing of an MoU on cooperation in outer space between ISRO and NSASRDA, our respective space agencies, in August 2020. Over the year two years, a number of soft Lines of



उच्चायुक्त
HIGH COMMISSIONER

Credit have been offered by the Government of India to Nigeria totaling around US\$ 395.44 million which we continue to pursue. We hope these projects would be finalized and implemented in a timely manner. On the education front, we have seen more and more Nigerian students choosing India as an attractive and affordable education destination. In the year 2020, in addition to our National Days, we celebrated the International Day of Yoga and the Gandhi Jayanti in the gracious company of several Nigerian dignitaries and friends. I also hosted a special reception on the 60th anniversary of our relations in October 2020 in Lagos.

3. In the area of business, both countries are moving forward steadily. To facilitate business exchanges and trade economic cooperation, the High Commission of India actively coordinated/arranged/facilitated 26 trade-related events, meetings, seminars, webinars, etc. Over 135 Indian companies are currently operating in Nigeria, which are owned and/ or operated by Indians or are of Indian origin, with an estimated cumulative investment of USD 19.3 billion in Nigeria. Prominent among them are Bharti Airtel, Tata, Bajaj Auto, TVS, Birla Group, Shapoorji Pallonji, Kirloskar, Mahindra, Ashok Leyland, NIIT, Aptech, State Bank of India, New India Assurance, Skipper Nigeria, Dabur, SUN Pharma, Primus, Manipal Group, and many others. Indian owned/operated companies are the second-largest employers in Nigeria after the Federal Government of Nigeria itself.

4. Approximately 50,000 Indian nationals and persons of Indian origin are residing in Nigeria, and the High Commission of India is continuously working with Indian diaspora to address their concerns. During the Covid-19 pandemic, a total of 33 flights (including 15 Air India VBM flights and 18 Charter flights) were organized between Nigeria and India to repatriate over 8000 stranded Indian nationals and thousands of stranded Nigerian nationals in India back to Nigeria. Both governments facilitated flight and immigration clearances. The first ever Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA) for Nigeria, in recognition of the community's significant contribution, was awarded to the Indian Culture Association (ICA), Nigeria at PBD Convention in January 2021.

5. We are living in the age of information, when quick information dissemination is key to maximize outreach. Therefore, High Commission is active on various social media platforms, including Twitter @india_nigeria and Facebook @indiainnigeria. I would request all the readers of this publication, our community in Nigeria and all friends of India to keep following us regularly on social media.


(Abhay Thakur)



INDIA-NIGERIA BILATERAL RELATIONS

India and Nigeria enjoy warm, friendly and deep-rooted bilateral relations. India, with a population of 1.3 billion, and Nigeria, over 190 million, are large developing and democratic countries with multi-religious, multi-ethnic and multi-lingual societies. India as the largest democracy in the world and Nigeria as the largest in Africa, become natural partners.

The struggle against colonialism and apartheid in the formative years after independence of the two countries laid strong foundation for the engagement of the two countries. India and Nigeria are playing an important role in the South-South Cooperation. In the multilateral organisations particularly United Nations,

G77 and NAM, both countries have been articulating the voice of the developing world in a coordinated and effective manner.

India established its Diplomatic House in Lagos in November 1958, two years before Nigeria became independent in 1960. Political contacts at the highest level were maintained during the last 60 years.

The presence of a large Indian expatriate community of about 50,000, the largest in West Africa adds value to the importance of the long-standing relationship between the two countries.

Source – HCI website





REIMAGINING DIPLOMACY IN THE Post-COVID World: An Indian Perspective

By: H.E. Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

Source: Newsweek

We enter 2021, hoping to put the COVID-19 pandemic behind us. While each society has dealt with it uniquely, global diplomacy will nevertheless focus on common concerns and shared lessons. Much of that revolves around the nature of globalization.

Our generation has been conditioned to think of that largely in economic terms. The general sense is one of trade, finance, services, communication, technology and mobility. This expresses the interdependence and interpenetration of our era. What COVID, however, brought out was the deeper indivisibility of our existence. Real globalization is more about pandemics, climate change and terrorism. They must constitute the core of diplomatic

deliberations. As we saw in 2020, overlooking such challenges comes at a huge cost.

Despite its many benefits, the world has also seen strong reactions to globalization. Much of that arises from unequal benefits, between and within societies. Regimes and dispensations that are oblivious to such happenings are therefore being challenged. We must ensure that this is not about winners and losers, but about nurturing sustainable communities everywhere.

COVID-19 has also redefined our understanding of security. Until now, nations thought largely in military, intelligence, economic, and perhaps,

cultural terms. Today, they will not only assign greater weight to health security but increasingly worry about trusted and resilient supply chains. The stresses of the COVID-19 era brought out the fragility of our current situation. Additional engines of growth are needed to de-risk the global economy, as indeed is more transparency and market-viability.

Multilateral institutions have not come out well from this experience. Quite apart from controversies surrounding them, there was not even a pretense of a collective response to the most serious global crisis since 1945. This is cause for serious introspection. Reforming multilateralism is essential to creating effective solutions.

Fashioning a robust response to the COVID-19 challenge is set to dominate global diplomacy in 2021. In its own way, India has set an example. That it has done by defying prophets of doom and creating the health wherewithal to minimize its fatality rate and maximize its recovery rate. An international comparison of these numbers tells its own story. Not just that, India also stepped forward as the pharmacy of the world, supplying medicines to more than 150 countries, many as grants.

As our nation embarks on a mass vaccination effort, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assurance that it would help make vaccines accessible and affordable to the world is already being implemented. The first consignments of Made in India vaccines have reached not only our neighbors like Bhutan, Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Mauritius, Seychelles and Sri Lanka but partners far beyond like Brazil and Morocco.

Other key global challenges today deserve similar attention. As a central participant in reaching the Paris agreement, India has stood firm with regard to combating climate change. Its renewable energy targets have multiplied, its forest cover has grown, its bio-diversity has expanded and its focus on

water utilization has increased. Practices honed at home are now applied to its development partnerships in Africa and elsewhere. By example and energy, Indian diplomacy is leading the way, including through the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure initiatives.

The challenge of countering terrorism and radicalization is also a formidable one. As a society, long subjected to cross-border terrorist attacks, India has been active in enhancing global awareness and encouraging coordinated action. It will be a major focus in India's diplomacy as a non-permanent member of the Security Council and in forums like FATF and G20.

Among the takeaways from the COVID-19 experience has been the power of the digital domain. Whether it was contact tracing or the provision of financial and food support, India's digital focus after 2014 has yielded impressive results. The "work from anywhere" practice was as strongly enhanced by COVID-19 as the "study from home" one. All these will help expand the toolkit of India's development programs abroad and assist the recovery of many partners.

2020 also saw the largest repatriation exercise in history—the return home of more than 4 million Indians. This alone brings out the importance of mobility in contemporary times. As smart manufacturing and the knowledge economy take deeper root, the need for trusted talent will surely grow. Facilitating its movement through diplomacy is in the global interest.

A return to normalcy in 2021 will mean safer travel, better health, economic revival and digitally driven services. They will be expressed in new conversations and fresh understandings. The world after COVID-19 will be more multi-polar, pluralistic and rebalanced. And India, with its experiences, will help make a difference.

Delivery of Covishield vaccines from Serum Institute of India to Nigeria

Credit: HCI website

A large consignment of 3.92 million doses of Covishield vaccine from the Serum Institute of India (SII) arrived at the Abuja airport on 2nd March 2021, under the Covax scheme of GAVI. The Covishield vaccine is the first Covid-19 vaccine approved by NAFDAC, and it is the first lot of vaccines to reach Nigeria. It is also among the single largest consignments of vaccines shipped out of India. Nigeria is among the first few countries in Africa to receive the vaccine. In addition, India will be gifting 100,000 doses of Covishield vaccines to Nigeria shortly, and 200,000 doses to UN peacekeepers, that includes many African military personnel.

On this occasion, High Commissioner Abhay Thakur stated that the supply of vaccines to Nigeria is in keeping with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment, made at the UNGA in September 2020, that 'India's vaccine production and delivery capacity will be used to help humanity in fighting Covid-19.' India-Nigeria ties are ageold, based on close friendship and mutual trust. The arrival of Covid-19 vaccines in Nigeria marks yet another milestone in our bilateral relations.

India has been at the forefront of the global fight against the pandemic and supports a collective approach in this battle. Guided by this philosophy, India, as the Pharmacy of the World, has supplied millions of doses of vaccines to many countries spread across the globe. As on 1 March 2021 (<https://mea.gov.in/vaccinesupply.htm>), India has supplied 36.369 million doses of Made-in-India vaccines to 36 countries and will be supplying to another 15 countries soon. At a UNSC meeting on 17 February 2021, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar had reiterated India's approach and called for 'vaccine internationalism'. India's commitment to deploy its capabilities for the health and well-being of the entire humanity is not limited to vaccine supply alone, and it has provided critical medicines, ventilators and PPE kits to more than 150 countries, including Nigeria, Benin and Chad.



GLOBAL SOUTH POLICY AT WORK. Nigeria receives Made in India vaccines.



HC Abhay Thakur with Nigerian dignitaries led by Minister of Health Dr. E. Osagie Ehanire, at the arrival ceremony of 3.92 mn doses of Covishield vaccines from Serum Institute of India 2nd March, 2021. It is the first vaccine approved by Nigeria & one of India's largest vaccine consignments.





THE **AERO INDIA 21** displays the vast OPPORTUNITIES that India offers

As India's premier aerospace and defense exhibition Aero India 2021 which was held from 3rd February 2021 to 5th February 2021 in Bengaluru, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to Twitter to hail the event as a "wonderful platform for collaborations".

"India offers unlimited potential in defense and aerospace. Aero India is a wonderful platform for collaborations in these areas. The Government of India has brought futuristic reforms in these sectors, which will add impetus to our quest to become Aatmanirbhar," PM Modi wrote on Twitter. The 13th edition of Aero India began

amidst the COVID-19 pandemic pushing for "AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan" and "Make in India" programs. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Aero India 2021 at IAF Station Yelahanka in Bengaluru.

Speaking at the event, Singh said that India plans to spend 130 billion dollars on military modernization in the next 7-8 years. "We have taken steps to strengthen our security apparatus. Domestic manufacturing of bigger and complex defense platforms has now become the focus of our policy under 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'," the defense minister said. "To achieve the twin goals of



self-reliance and exports, we have set a target to achieve a turnover of Rs 1,75,000 crore, including export of Rs. 35,000 crore in Aerospace and Defence goods and services by the year 2024," Singh said.

Further, Singh informed that the government has enhanced Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the defense sector up to 74 percent through the Automatic Route and 100 percent through the government route, which would act as a catalyst for foreign players to invest in India.

"The Aero India 21 will display the vast potential of India, and the multifarious opportunities that our country offers in the field of defense and aerospace sector. It also promises to be the World's first-ever

hybrid Aero and Defence exhibition," Singh said. The defense minister asserted that the government's vision is to make India one of the biggest countries in the world in the defense sector, from design to production, with the active participation of the public and private sectors.

"A high-level committee has been constituted, which would authorize exports of major indigenous platforms to various countries, leading to faster approvals for their export," Singh announced. He expressed happiness over Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) getting the go-ahead from the Indian Air Force (IAF) for producing Tejas MK1A aircraft. "I am very happy that HAL has got the orders for the development of 83 new indigenous Light

Combat Aircraft (LCA) – Tejas MK1A from IAF valued at more than Rs 48000 crore, it is probably the biggest “Make in India” Defence contract till date,” Singh said. With the growing need for nations to join hands in maintaining peace and harmony the world over, the Air Chiefs Conclave being held alongside Aero India 2021 will provide the much-needed platform to discuss issues related to military aviation, space operations, and aerospace strategy apart from giving them opportunities to learn about each-others' best practices.

According to the Ministry of Defence, the Conclave will also be a perfect example of India's Defence Cooperation with other countries working as a diplomatic instrument, allowing building bridges of friendship, mutual trust, and capacities on a global basis. Promoting transparency in

defense cooperation and building areas of common interests in military aviation will be focus areas of the CAS Conclave. As many as 601 exhibitors, including 523 Indian and 78 foreign, and 14 countries are participating in the event. Companies will display their capabilities, latest technologies, solutions, products, and services at the air show.

Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is showcasing its latest defense technologies and demonstrating many systems. Other key attractions will be flight displays by 'Surya Kiran' aircraft and 'Sarang' helicopters.

Source: India news network



Glimpse of the Aero India-2021



**Nigerian defence delegation at AERO INDIA 21.
Strengthening ongoing cooperation and forging new partnerships.**





AFCTA: OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIA IN AFRICA'S ECONOMIC INTEGRATION



EAM's Remarks at the 15th CII - Exim Bank Digital Conclave on **INDIA-AFRICA** Project Partnership

Credit: MEA

Speaking at the 15th CII - Exim Bank Digital Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership Minister of External affairs H.E. Dr S. Jaishankar said, It gives me great pleasure to speak to you at the Africa-India Conclave. Over the past 15 years, this event has actually become a signature feature of the Africa-India engagement and has facilitated mutually-beneficial interaction for a large community of policy and business leaders. This year, because of the novel corona virus pandemic, we are forced to meet virtually. In a paradoxical sense perhaps this is not inappropriate, for the Africa-India story is essentially one that renews an age-old friendship with modern instruments and technologies.

In my experience, digital diplomacy in the past few months has proven to be actually very effective and focused. It has a longer shelf life surely than this pandemic. And I

myself have had several virtual meetings with colleagues and fellow Ministers across the world and I should say it is not inaccurate that the some of my colleagues in Africa have actually been very comfortable and adaptable to this format. So I would hope very much India and Africa have much to show to the world in terms of technology leapfrogging as well. India's engagement with Africa is among the earliest and most important vectors of its foreign policy.

Our freedom movement and Africa's own striving for liberation from colonialism and discrimination were parallel movements that learnt from each other. Mahatma Gandhi's early political activism in South Africa chiselled his leadership of India's quest for independence. When that moment arrived finally in 1947, free India became an inspiration and then a source of support for African nations seeking to

shape their own destinies. Together, we fought the good fight and together we have built our societies. This solidarity is the foundation of the Global Southern Awakening. It is weighed in values, not tabulated in transactions.

Friends, this legacy is instructive in today's context. The pandemic is the most debilitating global event of the past 80 years. We are at a point in history that is comparable to the aftermath of the second World War. Its consequences will be similarly far-reaching, and will define the world order as much as decolonisation did in the 1950s and 60s. The challenge to the global economy, to the reliability of supply chains, and to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals should not be discounted. We are certainly looking at greater unpredictability as we do and greater multi-polarity.

Now both, Africa and India have a critical stake in all of this. For India, Africa's rise as

one of the global system's poles is not just desirable, it is absolutely necessary. In fact, it is fundamental to our foreign policy thinking. Broader global rebalancing is incomplete without the genuine emergence of Africa. Only then will the world's strategic diversity come into full play.

India welcomes the evolution and rise of Africa as a key factor in the contemporary world. We are committed to supporting African countries in this endeavour, as per your individual priorities and our shared ethic. This is in keeping with the Ten Guiding Principles of India's engagement with Africa, as enunciated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address to the Parliament of Uganda in July 2018.

Our government has put those Guiding Principles into action. Since 2015, 34 high-level visits – at the level of our President, Vice-President or Prime Minister – have taken place to Africa. This is unprecedented for such a span. In the past six years, 100





Confederation of Indian Industry
125 Years - Since 1895

15th CII-EXIM BANK DIGITAL CONCLAVE ON



india-africa
PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

Partners in Development, Building New Synergies

 22 - 24 September 2020  CII Hive

GUESTS OF HONOUR



Dr S Jaishankar
Minister of External Affairs
Government of India



Mr Piyush Goyal
Minister of Commerce and Industry
& Railways, Government of India



Shri Dharmendra Pradhan
Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas
Minister of Steel, Government of India

FOR INDIA'S LARGEST AFRICA FOCUSED VIRTUAL BUSINESS EVENT

African leaders have visited India for bilateral or multilateral meetings. The Third India-Africa Forum Summit in 2015 was truly a landmark –for the first time all 54 African nations participated, and were hosted in Delhi. India now has residential missions in 38 African nations and more are in the pipeline. A quarter of these have opened in the past two years. So, I emphasize again, in numbers, words and deeds, Africa is India's priority.

Now our commitment to Africa is represented by four pillars:

1. Our developmental partnership

democracies. African countries have overwhelmingly joined the International Solar Alliance, an India-incubated initiative to harness renewable energy and combat climate change. I am similarly hopeful that they will participate in the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, another notable initiative that we have tabled recently.

The Ministry of External Affairs has four Development Partnership Administration Divisions which deal with that subject and our partnership with Africa. Together they manage a growing portfolio of technical assistance to partner countries. It is worth noting that the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi outlined 10 guiding principles for deepening India's engagement with Africa

2. Trade and investment

3. Strong people-to-people ties, particularly in areas like education and capacity building for young Africans, and

4. Most recently, defence and maritime security.

Expressions of these pillars can be found in our close association in various multilateral and plurilateral forums, from the United Nations to the Indian Ocean Rim Association, to IBSA, which is a coming together of major Southern

these Divisions emerged in the past decade entirely out of our experience with development projects in Africa and in our neighbourhood. India has executed 194 developmental projects in 37 African countries, and is currently working to complete 77 additional ones in 29 countries, with a total outlay of US\$ 11.6 billion, and some examples of these of course have been mentioned by other speakers.

Now, these projects cover a very wide gamut –



from infrastructure to ICT, from power generation and distribution of water and irrigation, from railways to roads, and from agriculture to sugar plants, and India continues to bring to Africa the best experiences at home – experiences that have worked for our own people and have contributed to their well-being. These experiences foster equity and entrepreneurship and they empower rather than extract from local communities. They marry instruments of transparency and technology with the imperatives of social and ecological sustainability. This is the template we offer our African friends.

India's digital journey has been a force multiplier in the delivery of education, healthcare and welfare benefits of people at home. This was particularly apparent during the recent lockdown and pandemic restrictions. Such experiences too, we believe, may be of use to Africa. Through e-Vidya Bharati and e-Arogya Bharati, premier Indian institutions and hospitals have been linked currently to 16 African countries to offer tele-education and tele-medicine services. It is our hope that more and more African nations will become part of

this process. The India-Africa digital partnership can accelerate the pace of change and achievement of SDGs in all of our countries, especially for hitherto underserved regions and communities.

India is Africa's third-largest export destination. With a cumulative investment of US\$ 54 billion, it is also one of the biggest investors in the continent. Indian capital has created jobs and opportunities in various African countries in energy, mining, banking, textiles and other sectors. A more seamless continental market only promises more for Indian business. So I was very happy to note that our African friends have indeed made valuable progress in achieving some of the cherished goals in the years since our last summit, and the continent wide Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement that has come into force in 2019, and has entered its operational phase following the AU Summit held in July 2019 in Niger is obviously very notable. This was one of the flagship projects of the Africa's Agenda 2063 and we welcome its entry into force. Speaking of the AU Summit in Niger, I am proud to recall that some of its sessions were held in the Mahatma Gandhi

International Convention Centre, a state-of-the-art centre that was built with Grant Assistance from the Government of India. I hardly need to inform my audience today that India has always supported African Entrepreneurship and market access, as India was the first developing country to provide duty free, quota free market access to LDCs which we announced in 2008, and which has been available over the years to 33 African LDCs. Our oil and gas utilities have invested about US\$ 7 billion in a gas field in Mozambique and half a billion dollars, actually perhaps more in South Sudan, not counting other investments in west and North Africa. Together these make Africa a crucial energy partner for India. I would urge all stakeholders to work to augment this partnership and address wherever constraints there may arise.

India is also present on Africa's business landscape in automobiles, pharmaceuticals and consumer goods. All of these segments will grow as the Africa story grows. This is a story that is being scripted by young men and women, by African engineers, technologists and business managers. And here the 50,000 training slots that are open to African students under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme are helping build capacities across a range of disciplines.

At any given time, several thousand African students are in classrooms in different cities and states of India. They are studying towards their degrees or undertaking short-term courses in areas ranging from engineering and water resource management to medicine and law. An impressive number of them, their alma maters are proud to note, have risen to high positions in Africa. We like to believe that young Africans arrive in India as students and guests, but return home as lifelong friends and ambassadors of goodwill and the best that our country has to offer.

With 200 million people aged between 15 and 24, Africa as we all recognise, has the youngest population profile of any continent. Quite literally our planet's future is in Africa, and how it tackles issues of access and opportunity for its young people will determine global trendlines. India is an interested party, and will do its utmost to equip Africa's emerging generations.

Again, this is not a recent strand. Education has always had a special meaning in our equation. The diligence and dedication of Indian school teachers in several African countries – Ethiopia, Botswana and Nigeria numbered among them – is remembered by their pupils even today. It is a cornerstone of our people-to-people relationship.

About 200 years ago, the first Indian migrants to Africa were transported across the waters that both separate and unite us. From those beginnings, often in difficult circumstances, enforced by imperialism, we have come a long way. Indian-origin communities can be found across Africa. African countries have offered them a hospitable home to which we are truly grateful, and the diaspora in turn has added to the continent's human capital. In all these years, the Indian Ocean that links our landmass has acquired even greater salience. It gives us scope for ever-greater prosperity; and it turn, we need to cooperate to preserve and protect it.

It is no surprise therefore that defence and security cooperation is a key 21st century pillar for India and Africa. India has helped set up Staff and Command Colleges in several African countries and has trained many officers and soldiers in Indian military institutions. Our military traditions, command structures, training protocols and strategic doctrines are extremely compatible. India's record in peace-keeping operations in Africa too has been appreciated. Maritime security – including the use of maritime capacities in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief missions – is now the new frontier.

Friends, In this sphere, as in others, India offers Africa an honest partnership, and room to maximise its space under the sun and multiply its options. Africa is of course not without options, and by no stretch does India claim to be the only one. However, what we can promise is to be Africa's most steadfast partner. Do remember that despite the pandemic and through the lockdown, we kept our critical supply lines open to Africa. Indian medicines reached and were made available to patients in many African countries. These adverse times will not last; but Africa-India friendship and cooperation, trust me, will.



INS TARKASH AT LAGOS, NIGERIA

Credit: www.indiannavy.nic.in

As part of Indian Navy's Overseas Deployment to Africa, Europe and Russia, Indian Naval Ship Tarkash made a port call at Lagos, Nigeria on 05 September 2019 for a three day visit. The port call has been scheduled to celebrate the 60th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between India and Nigeria. INS Tarkash, commanded by Captain Sathish Vasudev, is one of the most potent frontline frigates of the Indian Navy equipped with a versatile range of weapons and sensors. The ship is part of the Indian Navy's Western Fleet and under the Operational Command of Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, based at Mumbai.

During the port call, various dignitaries and government officials of Nigeria are scheduled to visit the ship. Professional interactions are planned with the Nigerian Navy towards further enhancing co-operation between the two countries. In addition to social engagements and sports events, best practices will also be shared between the two Navies. The ship will also be conducting a Medical Camp along with Nigerian Navy doctors for the local population. Tarkash will also undertake a

Passage Exercise at sea with NNS Unity on 08 September 2019, which will enhance interoperability between both navies.

Nigeria and India have traditionally enjoyed warm and friendly relations, sharing common values of democracy, development and secularism. A number of bilateral arrangements for defence co-operation and cultural exchange exist between the two countries.

The Indian Armed Forces also conduct various training courses for personnel of the Nigerian Armed Forces at Defence Training Institutions in India. It is a matter of great pride that the President of Nigeria, H.E. Muhammadu Buhari is an alumnus of the 29th Staff Course from the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington (TN), India and the Chief of the Naval Staff of the Nigerian Navy, Vice Admiral Ibok Ete Ekwe Ibas also underwent ab-initio training with the Indian Navy at Kochi in 1983 - 84.

Indian Navy ships are regularly deployed overseas as part of Indian Navy's mission of building 'bridges of friendship' and strengthening international cooperation with friendly countries.

16PBD
CONVENTION
2021



प्रवासी भारतीया दिवस
Pravasi Bhartiya Divas

ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE GIANT SCREEN FOR
INDIAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION GETTING THE
PRAVASI BHARTIYA SAMMAN AWARD AT
NEW DELHI DURING THE PBD CONVENTION.



INDIAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION (ICA)
NIGERIA
COMMUNITY SERVICE

PRAVASI BHARTIYA
SAMMAN AWARDS



CHIEF SANJAY JAIN
President, Indian Cultural Association Lagos.

Indian Cultural Association gets Historic Award

“Indian Cultural Association Lagos gets Pravasi Bhartiya
Award from the Government of India.

The award is the highest honour conferred on
overseas Indians/institutions by the President of India.

Chief Jain says it is historic and community is elated with this news”

Article by: **CHIEF SANJAY JAIN** President, Indian Cultural Association Lagos.

Chief Sanjay Jain is the President, Indian Cultural Association (ICA), Lagos, Nigeria got the “PravasiBhartiyaSamman Award” (Non Resident Honour Award) from Government of India at the 16th PBD Convention held in New Delhi, India.

JANUARY 9 is significant to India, as it was the day Mahatma Gandhi, father of the nation, returned to India from South Africa. To give cognizance to the date Govt. of India decided to celebrate “PravasiBhartiya Divas” (Non Resident Indian's Day) on this date. As part of activities celebrating the day, the PravasiBharatiyaSamman Award (PBSA) is given to deserving Indians/associations/institutions. The award is the highest honour conferred on overseas Indians/institutions by the President of India.

PBD convention is the flagship event of the ministry of external affairs (MEA) and provides an important platform to engage and connect with overseas Indians. The theme of the 16th PBD convention was "Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat" as propagated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

The usually grand event was limited this year to a virtual platform celebration due to the COVID -19 restrictions, but that did not reduce the significance of the event in any way. Prime Minister Modi had inaugurated the PBD convention via video conferencing and the event held in a virtual format, as were PBD conferences held in the run-up to the convention. The inaugural session was followed by the two plenary sessions. The first plenary on Role of Diaspora in Aatmanirbhar Bharat, which featured addresses by External Affairs Minister and the Commerce and Industry Minister while the second plenary on Facing Post Covid Challenges - Scenario in Health, Economy, Social and International Relations was addressed by Minister of Health and Minister of State for External Affairs. The finale was the valedictory session where President Kovind delivered his address to mark the occasion.

Speaking with The Guardian on the event's significance, the ICA President said, "It gives me immense pleasure in sharing with you the newest feather to ICA's cap of service and commitment to the Indian community in Nigeria. We remain committed to community welfare and we will continue with the same strides of blessings that enables us to do more charitable work for the needy." According to Chief Sanjay Jain, "The awards are conferred to select Indian diaspora members to recognise their achievements and honour their contributions to various fields. The celebration is hosted yearly in India by the Indian government."

Chief Jain said, "As the name implies, this special ceremony celebrates Indians who have taken residence in other countries outside India. Initially, the Non-Resident Indians Day celebrations were held every two years but, when statistics showed that there are 33



During the period of the Pandemic, ICA provided for free oxygen cylinders for use in emergencies.



million non-resident Indians living in countries all over the world, the present-day government made the celebrations an annual event. But these awards are announced once in two years. The Indian government made many publications and implemented campaigns around the world to this effect." ICA is the biggest association and umbrella body of Indians residing in Nigeria. It has been in existence for over 50 years in the country.

Born in Rajasthan state of India and working in Nigeria for close to three decades, Chief Jain said that the entire Indian community of Lagos, Nigeria, "is elated with joy as this is termed as an historic event. It is the very first time that any such kind of award is bestowed to any individual or institution in Nigeria. And since it has been awarded to Indian Cultural Association, which is an apex body of Indians, it gives them a great sense of accomplishment. He dedicated the award to the entire Indian community of Nigeria."

Lots of charitable projects were undertaken into ICA's scope due to his visionary thinking, which not only brought smile on the needy Nigerians' faces but also earned good name for the Indian community in Nigeria. "The association gets actively involved in the welfare and social programmes for the Indians as well as for the Nigerian communities. The Association is involved actively on the local Nigerian community's upliftment and also endeavours the Indian members to mingle with other communities, thereby creating a serene and calm environment. The association regularly conducts the Indian cultural events and festivals also," Jain said. The motto of ICA is "Brotherhood through Culture". Its objectives, among other things, are:-To promote cultural integration between India and Nigeria, and to engage in and support programs to assist less privileged among the host communities the

association has continued to support projects in Nigeria with a view to strengthening relations between the two countries. He stated that the objective of the association is to do a lots of charity work for the needy in Nigeria and to convey a message to the Nigerians that the Indians care about them. Indians have integrated so well with the Nigerian culture. Chief Jain informed that ICA is involved in several charitable projects such as – providing water facilities to hundreds of schools, supporting the old age homes, contributing to various destitute centres – including the one at oko-aba location, supporting the number of orphanages, giving assistance to some rehabilitation centres, jointly supporting the artificial limb project & eye surgeries project with HMF.

He further informed that during the period of Pandemic, ICA has done several projects to support the needy people. Some of them are as follows: -

- We started with FOOD DISTRIBUTION program, wherein jointly with Geetha Ashram & Jhulelal Sindhi Association, 37,000 food packets were distributed during the lock down period to support our NIGERIAN brethren. The program was highly appreciated as it was the NEED OF THE HOUR at that time.
- To have control on the Pandemic, ICA distributed free face masks and made people aware to wear it. Free posters were distributed to paste outside the factories and residential compounds – conveying the message – NO MASK – NO ENTRY.
- Several webinars were organised to raise the awareness in these testing times.
- NO TOUCH HAND WASHING MACHINES were installed at several places facilitating people to wash their hands without touching anywhere and remain safe.
- Made provisions for OXYGEN CYLINDERS for emergency use.

We wish - in the new year 2021, soon the mankind will have relief from this pandemic. The vaccines are giving a great hope to the entire world. ICA is committed for the community welfare 24X7.





President Message



The Indian Cultural Association, Abuja, has kept the commitment as per its constitution to act as a cultural and social organization for the advancement and appreciation of Indian and Nigerian Cultures. Moreover, the association's purpose is to integrate Indian culture and Nigerian culture by celebrating popular festivals and social events.

The major aims and objectives of ICA Abuja are to carry out philanthropic activities, social services for helping the less privileged sections of the society, providing the right information and assistance about education, commerce, social, and culture. Organizing lectures, interactive sessions towards promoting the awareness of culture and healthy lifestyle in Nigeria and India. Also, disseminating the information about health care, especially in this difficult time of the pandemic.

One of the best ways to keep your momentum going is to celebrate your accomplishments.

A. Our event overview, covering the period April 2019 to 2020.

1. The Hon'ble Indian Minister-Interaction on 11th & 12th June 2019, about 250 members of the Indian community attended this event and made it a very successful event.
2. The ICA drawing competition was held from 18th to 22nd of August 2019, about 50 participants took part in this competition, and it was concluded very satisfactorily.
3. The Dandiya Raas 2019 held on 5th October 2019; about 100 performers participated, about 500 members of the Indian community, and about 60 foreign nationals attended and happily enjoyed this event and made us proud.
4. Dr. Khader Valli's interactive session on healthy eating and usage of millets for balancing nutrition in the present day of the world, held on 12th October 2019, about 250 members of the Indian community made this session very fruitful.
5. Supported to Gurunanak Satsang held at IHC on 9th November 2019, about 300 members of the Indian community were present and took the blessing.
6. One of our mega-events, the Diwali Celebration, held on 23rd November 2019 at Chida International Hotel auditorium; about 1000 members of the Indian community, about 150 foreign nationals witnessed this event, and a Manipuri Dance Group of 30 performers from India gave a vibrant celebration and a grand success to ICA, Abuja to cherish.
7. The Bastar Music Band has come all the way from India; it was a traditional instruments band from Chhattisgarh that entertained about 400 members of the Indian community and about 40 foreign nationals.
8. On the request, we have presented our Indian Dance performance at the Bangladesh High Commission program on 21st February 2020.

9. In this distressing period of Covid-19, we have initiated to distribute the essential food items of 3.5 tons to FCDA through IHC on 5th May 2020 with our generous sponsors.
10. Supported to IHC team for Vande Bharat Mission flights – Evacuation of Indian Nationals from Abuja to various destinations in India on 21st June 2020.
11. Arranged two local flights from Abuja to Lagos for our community members to connect the Vande Bharat Mission Flights from Lagos. Also assisted community members from Kano to connect the VBM flights at Lagos.
12. Supported IHC programs on New Year 2020, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, and World Hindi Day in January 2020.
13. Supported IHC Programmes for 60th year of India Nigeria formal relations and the eve of 70th Anniversary of India's Republic Day 2020 on 25th January 2020.
14. Supported NGOs two times by distributing the non-perishable food items to 304 Children from the Covid-19 charity account.
15. Donated the hand sanitizers and facemasks to the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development for their fourth edition of OSOM Games at Abuja.

B. Our unsaid activities, covering the period April 2019 to 2020

1. Intervened, resolved the financial dispute between our own community members and arranged an amicable settlement without a court case.
2. Resolved the immigration issue of one of our community members from Kano by Liaising with the Immigration officer. We got him released from the lockup and arranged for his travel to India without being deported.
3. Intervened, resolved the employee and employer salary dispute, and arranged an amicable settlement between the parties in time.
4. Made a special arrangement with VFS for our members to NIMC enrolment.
5. Purchasing of land for our Indian Community Hall is in progress with FCT Minister, Abuja. We are confident of getting the deal done very soon.

C. Challenges overcome.

1. Our biggest challenges were of funding the non-profit association, i.e., ICA Abuja mega-events. However, we were able to manage the show with the generosity of our beloved sponsors. Their support was amazing and impossible to forget.
2. Due to the Pandemic issue, we could not conduct or host many of our planned programs. However, we did not keep quiet. We had put our best efforts in these difficult times to coordinate with airlines & passengers for their flights and negotiated the air ticket prices.
3. To carry out the philanthropic activities, at that time, our hands were empty. Nevertheless, with

our generous sponsors' help, we could drive the charity's mission and put the essential food items on the table of needy people in their tough times.

D. Our proud team who is behind these successful events.



- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. President : | Mr. A. Panneer Selva Elvis |
| 2. Vice President: | Dr Arun Gangadhar .B |
| 3. Vice President: | Mrs. Anita Yadav |
| 4. General Secretary: | Mr. Balakrishna Mundkur |
| 5. Treasurer: | Mr. Ramprakash Vinnakota |
| 6. Cultural Secretary: | Mrs. Remya Vinesh |
| 7. Cultural Secretary: | Mrs. Sneha Abhishek |
| 8. Finance Secretary: | Mr. Satyabrat Samal |
| 9. Executive Committee: | Mr. Jonas Nadar |
| 10. Executive Committee: | Mr. Shishir Verma |
| 11. Executive Committee: | Mr. Narendra Pathak |
| 12. Executive Committee: | Mr. Bhola Sahu |

A.Our Vision for the Future

1. Creating an environment where we can promote Indian culture, traditions, and values by providing social, cultural, recreational programs, thereby uniting the Indian and Nigerian community. Also, raising awareness about Indian Cultural in the local community from time to time.

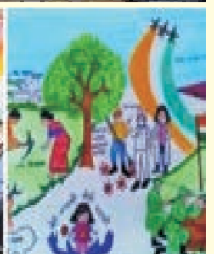
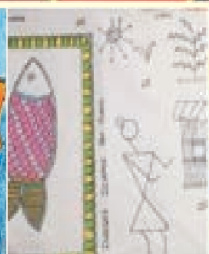
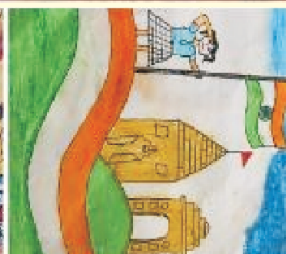
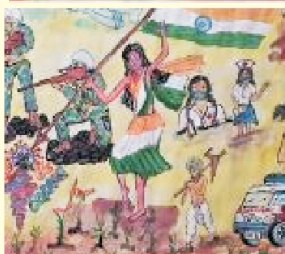
Thank you!!!

MR. A. PANNEER SELVA ELVIS
President, Indian Cultural Association

ICA DIWALI



ICA ABUJA- DRAWING COMPETITION



News Diary of High Commission of India Showcasing the Vibrant Synergy between India and Nigeria.

The 72nd #RepublicDay of India was celebrated at HCI Abuja & OHCI Lagos, with the unfurling of the national flag, reading out of Hon'ble Rashtrapati's address to the nation and patriotic songs. Thank the Indian community & friends of India for their enthusiastic participation.





**Vande Bharat Mission flight between India & Nigeria
successful evacuated Stranded Indians in Nigerian.**





On 30th Dec., 2020, High Commission of India Officials met Nigerian Army personnel proceeding to India for specialized Counter-Terrorism (CT) training under the aegis of Development Partnership Administration (DPA) of External Affairs Ministry of India, HC Abhay Thakur briefed them on bilateral relations and the importance of international CT cooperation, and thanked Indian Army & Nigerian Army.



High Commissioner Abhay Thakur joined the Minister of Health Dr E.O. Ehanire & MOS Health Dr A.O. Mamora at the launch of a Committee on Nigerian Traditional Medicine College. It was recognition of India's strengths in traditional medicine, particularly Ayurveda.





**Joint Communique of the Virtual Bilateral Meeting between
H.E. Dr. S. Jaishankar (Minister of External Affairs) and
H.E. Mr. Geoffrey Onyeama (Minister of Foreign Affairs)
Federal Republic of Nigeria**

“The two Foreign Ministers, H.E. Dr. S. Jaishankar and H.E. Mr. Geoffrey Onyeama, held wide ranging discussions on the entire gamut of India-Nigeria bilateral relations, in virtual mode, today Tuesday, the 1st of September, 2020. The fruitful interaction lasted for 75 minutes.”

During the interaction, the two Ministers recognized and acknowledged the excellent long standing, multifaceted and strategic bilateral ties between the two counties, based on mutual friendship and cooperation. India being the largest democracy in the world and Nigeria the largest democracy in Africa, share the values of pluralism, inclusiveness and sustainable development for all. Both sides agreed to maintain the momentum in strengthening the excellent ties for the mutual benefit of our two countries and peoples.

The discussions covered a wide spectrum of cooperation on political, economic and trade, defense and security, developmental assistance and cultural cooperation. Both

sides recalled their extensive cooperation in the field of defense training and capacity building, and expressed satisfaction that it was expanding to newer areas such as defense equipment support, medical and maintenance services, sharing of R&D expertise for counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency, and regular exchange of information/views. The two Ministers noted that the next meeting of the Joint Defense Cooperation Committee will be held later this year in Abuja.

The two Ministers acknowledged on going collaborative efforts through information sharing between the Indian and Nigerian Navies and increase of surveillance for Maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea, though collaboration between Indian and

Nigerian Navies. The Ministers urged the armed forces of both countries, to continue to work together in the on-going efforts to counter terrorism, insurgency and piracy.

With a bilateral trade turnover of USD 13.9 billion in 2019-20, India is Nigeria's largest trading partner, and Nigeria is India's largest trading partner in Africa. Despite the Covid-19 challenge, bilateral trade has remained steady which shows the resilience of our trade-economic linkages. Nigeria is a leading energy security partner of India, and both sides agreed to strengthen their cooperation in this sector including at Government to Government level.

Both sides also agreed to expand cooperation in Information Technology (IT), Defense and solar energy projects to be executed through Indian Line of Credit (LoC). Both parties reiterated their commitment to conclude pending MoU's /Agreements between the two countries expeditiously. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the signing of the MOU on Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Outer Space last month.

The Nigerian side expressed appreciation to India for the recent donation of medical supplies in support of the on-going fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and recalled Nigerian participation in recent E-Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programs in COVID management organized by the Indian government under the ITEC program. Dr. Jaishankar reiterated India's continued support in technical cooperation and capacity building in diverse sectors of interest to Nigeria.

Both sides commended the first Consular dialogue between the two countries held in September 2019. Both parties agreed to continue to strategize on the follow-up actions towards the implementation of the outcomes of the meeting that will be of mutual benefit to both countries.

The two sides agreed to further strengthen cooperation in Consular matters and the desire to conclude on bilateral agreements in the field of Mutual Legal Assistance, Extradition Treaty and the Transfer of Sentenced Persons. Both sides recognized that such cooperation will also help in strengthening business, medical tourism and education related travel and exchanges between the two countries.

Both sides thanked each other for facilitating essential travel by their respective citizens and residents over the last two months, including the return of over 5800 Indian nationals to India on 23 flights from Nigeria, and over 500 Nigerian and 1500 permanent Indian residents on 8 flights from India. In this context, they look forward to the operationalization of direct flights between the two countries by the two designated carriers approved by both countries.

Dr. Jaishankar thanked Mr. Onyeama for Nigeria's support for the safe release of 44 Indian seafarers taken hostage in three separate incidents of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea during 2019. India had participated in the G7 plus Friends of Gulf of Guinea (G7++FoGG) online meeting last month, and has extended its maritime security training programs to Nigeria.

As large developing countries, both sides have similar approaches and shared agendas on international issues. They agreed to continue and further strengthen their cooperation and mutual support in multilateral fora including the UN and WTO. They emphasized that terrorism is a scourge and a threat to the entire world, and condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including violent extremism.

Both Ministers agreed to further intensify high-level exchanges between India and Nigeria, and to hold bilateral discussions on a regular basis.



ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT WILL STRENGTHEN GLOBALIZATION AMID COVID-19, PM MODI SAID AT THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM EVENT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed India's progress in tackling the Covid-19 pandemic, said that India's success in saving lives has been a global good, and pledged a commitment to help other countries with more "made-in-India" vaccines.

Speaking at the World Economic Forum's Davos Agenda, the PM also asserted that India's campaign for self-reliance — the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan — would strengthen globalism, and spoke of India's "reliability" as a part of global supply chains in a climate where China's reliability as a global supplier has come under question. The PM outlined access, inclusion, empowerment and user privacy as key pillars of India's digitisation drive; highlighted the importance of new technologies but with human-centric vision; and called global investors to participate in India's story, in the backdrop of structural reforms across economic

sectors.

The PM was speaking at what has become a mega event of global political and economic leaders — held virtually this year — with a focus on the post-pandemic world and harnessing the technologies of the fourth industrial revolution.

Tracing back India's journey against the pandemic, Modi said: "I remember how in February, March and April, many global experts and institutions had made many predictions. It was said that India would be the most affected by Covid-19; that there would be a tsunami. Someone said 700-800 millions Indians would get infected while others said 2 million Indians would die."

But, the PM said, India did not get demoralised and instead adopted a "proactive approach" with public participation, boosted its Covid-19 infrastructure, ramped up testing, trained human resources, adopted appropriate behaviour as a mass movement, and in the process saved innumerable lives.

Underlining the scale of India's challenge, Modi pointed out that India is home to 18% of the world's population. "By managing Covid-19, India has saved the world from a disaster."

The PM then highlighted India's vaccination plans, and said that while taking care of its domestic needs, India has — through this period — fulfilled its global responsibilities, from helping citizens reach their countries of residence when air space was closed, to distributing medicines to showing the world how India's alternative medicine system, Ayurveda, boosted immunity, to now supplying vaccines. "Right now, there are two made-in-India vaccines — but in the coming days, many more vaccines will come. This will help us support other countries at scale and speed."

The other key focus of the PM's prepared remarks as well as responses during an interactive session with chief executives of global companies was the economy and the opportunities India has to offer.

On new technologies, Modi said that experts point to four key changes — connectivity, automation, artificial intelligence or machine learning, and realtime data. "India is one of those countries where there is maximum data available, where there is mobile connectivity and smartphones in the remote areas. India also has a large pool of expert talent on design and automation and engineering centres of many global companies are located here. For years, Indian engineers have displayed their capabilities on AI and automation to the world."

But, in a note of caution, Modi said that fourth industrial revolution technologies must be centred of human values, and the need to ensure that technology becomes a tool for the ease of living, and not a "trap". He also spoke of the digital infrastructure India had built in the last six years — through bank accounts, mobiles, Aadhaar

and digital payment systems. "You will be surprised to know that in this period, more than 1.8 trillion was transferred to the bank accounts of over 750 million people. This is a symbol of the power of our digital infrastructure."

When asked what would be the policy and regulatory approach towards digital ecosystem, Modi said, "Access, inclusion and empowerment while safeguarding user privacy. There will be access of digital services in remotest areas... We also believe in promoting competition... investing in research on frontier technologies... and data privacy. The country is working towards a strong law for data protection."

At a time when the global investor community is carefully looking at signs about how India's self-reliance slogan would translate into policies, the PM emphasised that an Atmanirbhar Bharat was committed to global good and global supply chain. "India has the capacity, capability and reliability to meet global supply chains. India has a vast consumer base and its expansion will help the world." Portraying India as an attractive, stable and democratic investment destination, the PM also charted out "structural reforms" and India's focus on improving the ease of doing business — including the production-linked incentives scheme, predictable taxation and foreign direct investment norms, reduction of corporate taxes and Goods and Services Tax rates, labour codes which have given flexibility to industries, decriminalisation of offences under the Companies Act, and alignment of growth with climate related goals.

In terms of sectors, he focused on infrastructure — and while outlining the government's initiatives, sought more engagement from the private sector — and urbanisation, pointing out that two-thirds of India's economic output comes from urban areas.

Credit—HT Media

CABINET APPROVES MOU BETWEEN INDIA AND NIGERIA ON COOPERATION IN THE EXPLORATION AND USES OF OUTER SPACE FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES

“ The MoU has been signed between Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) of India at Bengaluru in June,2020 and by National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA) of Nigeria at Abuja on August 13, 2020. ”

Source – Pmindia.gov.in

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi was apprised of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and Nigeria on Cooperation in the exploration and uses of outer space for peaceful purposes. The MoU has been signed between Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) of India at Bengaluru in June,2020 and by National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA) of Nigeria at Abuja on August 13, 2020.

Details:

This MoU shall enable potential interest areas of cooperation such as, Remote sensing of the earth; Satellite communication and satellite-based navigation; Space science and planetary exploration; Use of spacecraft, launch vehicles, space systems and ground systems; Practical applications of space technology including geospatial tools and techniques; and Other areas of cooperation to be determined by the Signatories.

This MoU would lead to set up a Joint





Working Group, drawing members from Department of Space (DOS)/ISRO and National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA) of Nigeria, which will further work out the plan of action including the time-frame and the means of implementation.

Implementation Strategy & Targets:

The signed MoU would lead to set up a Joint Working Group, drawing members from Department of Space (DOS)/ISRO and National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA) of Nigeria, which will further work out the plan of action including the time-frame and the means of implementation.

Impact:

The signed MoU will provide impetus to explore newer research activities and application possibilities in the field of remote sensing of the earth; satellite communication; satellite navigation; space science and exploration of outer space.

Expenditure Involved:

The Signatories intend that the mutually decided Programmes will be performed on a cooperative basis. Funding arrangements for such activities will be decided upon by the Signatories mutually on a case by case basis. The financing of joint activities

carried out pursuant to this MoU will be provided by the Signatories in accordance with the laws and regulations of respective Signatories and subject to the availability of funds allocated for these purposes.

Beneficiaries:

Cooperation with and the Government of Nigeria through this MoU would lead to develop a joint activity in the field of application of space technologies for the benefit of humanity. Thus, all sections and regions of the country will get benefited.

Background:

India and Nigeria have been trying to have formal space cooperation for more than a decade. With the initiatives from the Indian High Commission to Nigeria, a draft inter-Governmental MoU for space cooperation was shared with Nigerian authorities through MEA. After a few iterations through diplomatic channels, both sides have arrived at a workable draft of the MoU and the same was processed for internal approvals. Though the approvals for signing the MoU was obtained in time, appropriate opportunities/occasions for signing of this MoU have not arisen due to cancellation of a few visits in late 2019 and early 2020 and the subsequent COVID-19 pandemic situation.



INDIA DONATES ESSENTIAL MEDICINES TO NIGERIA TO COMBAT COVID-19

Credit: HCI Abuja

India donated essential medicines to Nigeria to combat Covid-19. As part of India's ongoing collaboration with African Countries to combat the Covid-19 pandemic, Government of India on 17 July, 2020 donated a 7-tonne consignment of essential medicines, including Hydroxychloroquine and medicines including antibiotics, to the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

High Commissioner of India to Nigeria Shri Abhay Thakur attended the handing over ceremony at the Nigerian Ministry of Health today, which was graced by the Hon'ble Minister of Health, Federal Republic of Nigeria Dr. E. Osagie Ehanire. This consignment has been sent to Nigeria in line with the commitment made in the conversation between H.E. Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs of India and H.E. Mr. Geoffrey Onyeama,

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria on 24 April 2020. This donation underscores the special and unique ties between India and Nigeria. India has also been offering e-ITEC short training online webinars on COVID-19 Management Strategies to Africa. So far, 14 Nigerian medical professionals have benefitted from these courses. In May/June 2020, India facilitated two commercial exports of HCQS to Nigeria, after the Government of India gave an exemption for the supply of HCQS to Nigeria. India and Nigeria enjoy longstanding, multifaceted and friendly relations.

India is a close developmental partner of Nigeria, and remains committed to build capacity and contribute towards the health and welfare of the people of Nigeria, including in combatting and overcoming the Covid-19 challenge.



Nigeria Signs Bilateral Aviation Agreement With India

Source: simpleflying.com

Nigeria has ratified a bilateral aviation agreement with India in October 2020, strengthening aviation ties between the two countries. The agreement comes weeks after Nigeria was added to India's travel bubble list, allowing both countries airlines to restart flights. So are flights between India and Nigeria imminent? Who would fly this route? Air Peace has long had plans to be the first Nigerian carrier to start flights to India.

Ramping up

Nigeria's Aviation Minister, Hadi Sirika, announced that the country has officially ratified Bilateral Air Service Agreements (BASA) with India, the US, Morocco, and Rwanda. Most agreements had been signed in the last few years and were pending ratification from both sides.

An Air Transport Agreement, also known as BASA, is a formal agreement that allows airlines in the respective countries to start international flights between the signatories. Ratifying these agreements signals that a country is hoping to increase its aviation footprint by allowing in foreign carriers and boosting domestic ones. Air Travel Agreements also lay out how many

flights airlines can fly between the countries. Currently, there are no airlines flying direct routes from Nigeria to India. However, there have been a number of repatriation flights between the two. So which airlines could start direct flights?

Nigeria is home to a substantial Indian expatriate population, and India sees thousands of yearly visitors from Nigeria. However, the lack of direct flights has meant passengers fly mostly with Middle East carriers.

Air Peace was set to be the first carrier to connect the two countries, with plans for a Mumbai-Lagos service in March 2020. However, this year's crisis means that such plans have been shelved for now. Now, Nigeria's inclusion in India's travel bubble and the BASA means Air Peace will have fewer regulatory hurdles when it does start flights.

Air Peace planned to deploy its 777s on routes to India starting March. Popular routes from Delhi and Mumbai to Lagos are over 4,100 nautical miles, putting them out

of the range of the current generation of narrow body aircraft. This means that, from India, only Vistara and Air India, the only airlines with wide bodies, could start flights to Nigeria. Neither airline has signaled intentions of doing so soon.

It's most likely that Air Peace will be the first to start flights to India. However, the timing remains up in the air due to the current crisis. International flights struggle both Nigeria and India have restrictions on international flights. While the former only

opened its airspace Sep 2020, the latter has only allowed a few dozen airlines to restart flights. In such an environment, it's unlikely that airlines are looking to launch new international flights until demand picks up once again.

The new agreement between the countries does signal that we could see new routes in the near future. This would be a huge boost for travelers, who must take long connections and airlines alike.



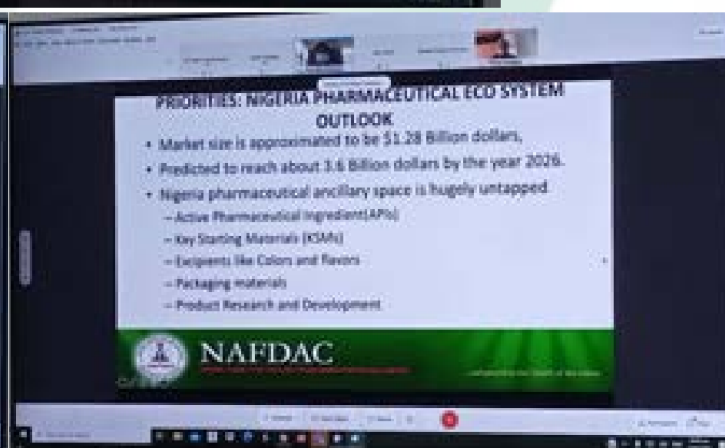
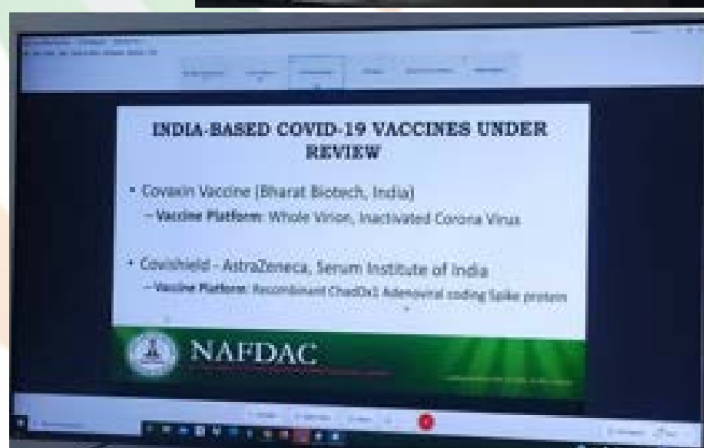
The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Amb. Gabriel Aduda received in audience the Indian High Commissioner to Nigeria, H. E. Abhay Thakur.

A REGULAR WEEK IN DIPLOMACY.

*H.E. Abhay Thakur, High Commissioner, High Commission of India in Nigeria
Discussed bilateral exchanges with
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nigeria (MFA)
counter-terrorism cooperation with Nigerian Counter-terrorism Centre
and human trafficking concerns with
The National Agency for the prohibition of Trafficking In Persons (NAPTIP).
Also exchanged notes with a The Ambassador of Korean in Nigeria.*



India-Nigeria Pharma B2B
by Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India
On 15th of February was addressed by H.E. Abhay Thakur, High Commissioner of India to Nigeria,
DG NAFDAC Moji Adeyeye, DG Pharmexcil Uday Bhaskar & President IPMIN Varkey Varghese.
Win-win collaboration in pharma sector
with USD 400 mn annual exports & 8 Indian companies manufacturing locally.





OHCI Lagos officers met the Nigerian Global Affairs Council (NIGAC). They exchanged views on capacity building under ITEC, tele-education & tele-medicine, start ups, COVID-19 response and trade. We wish the young NIGAC team all the best in their future endeavours.



Officials of HCI Abuja and OHCI Lagos took pledge on November 1st, 2020 to be part of the Jan Andolan Campaign on #Unlockwithprecautions and continue to follow COVID-19 appropriate behaviour. #Unite2FightCorona #IndiaFightsCorona





Representatives of the Presidency of The Federal Republic of Nigeria, The President of the Senate, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nigeria, The Armed Forces of Nigeria, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade & Investment, The Federal Ministry of Information and Culture, Nigeria, Nigerian officials & friends, diplomatic corps & President of Indian Cultural Association at National Day Reception on 26th January 2021.
HC Abhay Thakur reviewed growing cooperation between India & Nigeria.





Address by External Affairs Minister at the UNSC Open Debate on Implementation of Resolution 2532 (2020)

Addressing at the UNSC open debate on implementation of resolution 2532(2020) Minister of External Affairs H.E Dr. S. Jaishankar said - Let me begin by thanking the United Kingdom for organizing this discussion today. I also appreciate the insightful briefings on the challenges that we are confronted with regarding the availability, accessibility, affordability and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in conflict-affected regions.

As we assess the impact of the pandemic and the prospects of recovery, including through the availability of vaccines, there are five concerns that India would like to share. One, lack of global coordination regarding vaccine distribution will hit conflict affected areas and poorer countries hardest. The ICRC estimates that more than 60 million people in such areas are at risk. Two, there currently exists a glaring disparity in accessibility of vaccines

globally. Equity in access to vaccines is important for mitigating the impact of the pandemic.

Three, this disparity calls for cooperation within the framework of COVAX, which is trying to secure adequate vaccine doses for the world's poorest nations. Four, from an economic standpoint, the costs of inequitable vaccine distribution are truly massive. The International Chamber of Commerce predicts that the global economy stands to lose as much as US\$9.2 trillion if the international community fails to address vaccine inequity.

And five, routine immunization programmes have been thrown into disarray. Due to the pandemic, about 80 million children in at least 68 countries are at risk of diphtheria, measles, and polio. In order for the world to put the Covid-19 pandemic decisively behind us and to

emerge more resilient, I would like to put forward the following nine points for our collective consideration:

i. Persist with the vaccination drive, along with other public health measures, to slow down the virus's ability to infect new people and mutate further.

ii. Collaborate with each other on genomic surveillance to track virus mutations and variants and exchange information in this regard in a regular and timely fashion.

iii. Effectively address public resistance to vaccines. Vaccine-related information must be contextual, empathetic, and culturally sensitive, while providing scientific and accurate facts to allay the fears and concerns of the public.

iv. Improve public health infrastructure and build capacity through effective training programmes in vaccine delivery, especially in areas where health infrastructure is weak.

v. Stop 'Vaccine nationalism'; indeed, actively encourage internationalism. Hoarding superfluous doses will defeat our efforts towards attaining collective health security.

vi. Strengthen the COVAX facility to ensure equitable distribution of vaccines to all in a fair and equitable manner.

vii. Urgently resume immunization programs across the world before children's lives are threatened by other diseases. We simply cannot trade one health crisis for another.

viii. Stop disinformation campaigns taking advantage of this pandemic to advance their nefarious objectives and activities.

ix. Proactively prepare for the next global pandemic by focusing on improving capacities, developing protocols, and building a knowledge base and expertise.

India has been very much at the forefront of this global fight against COVID-19 pandemic. We had earlier provided critical medicines, diagnostic kits, ventilators and PPEs to more than 150 countries, about 80 of them on a grant basis. Today, the pharmacy of the world is stepping forward to meet the global vaccines challenge. Two vaccines, including one indigenously developed, have already been granted emergency authorization. Additionally, as many as 30 candidates are under various stages of development. In one of the largest vaccination drives ever, India itself will vaccinate about 300 million frontline and healthcare workers, elderly and vulnerable over the next six months. Our vaccination programme, which has begun a month ago, has already seen nearly 7 million people vaccinated.

Under the initiative of Vaccine Maitri, which translates into Vaccine Friendship, India provides vaccines to the world. We are, of course, a significant source of supply to the COVAX facility. But in addition, India is also directly sending vaccines to our friends and partners.

Starting with our immediate neighbours, 25 nations across the world have already received Made in India vaccines. 49 more countries will be supplied in the coming days, ranging from Europe, North America, Latin America, the Caribbean to Africa, South-East Asia and the Pacific Islands. Keeping in mind the UN Peacekeepers who operate in such difficult circumstances, we would like to announce today a gift of 200,000 doses for them as well.

We are working actively with GAVI, WHO and ACT Accelerator. Our contribution has also supported the SAARC COVID-19 Emergency Fund. The Bhagavad Gita states "Do your work with the welfare of others always in mind". That is the spirit in which India approaches the COVID challenge and urges this Council to work collectively to address its different dimensions.



SOLAR OVERTAKES WIND AS INDIA'S LARGEST RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY

Solar power has replaced wind power to become the largest renewable energy technology in India. According to data reported by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for January 2021, solar power capacity in India was 38.7 gigawatts. Wind energy capacity was reported to be 38.6 gigawatts.

Solar power overtaking wind power as India's largest renewable energy technology is no surprise — this was expected for a long time. However, the pace at which solar power capacity has grown has been stellar. Ten years back, solar power capacity was just 18 megawatts, while wind power capacity was at 13

gigawatts (13,000 megawatts). So, during the last ten years, solar power capacity has grown 2,150 times while wind power capacity has grown three times.

There are several reasons behind this exponential growth of solar power. More states in India are blessed with solar energy resources than those endowed with wind energy resources. Except the northeastern states and a few northern states, nearly every Indian state can support large-scale solar power projects. Wind power projects have been concentrated in six to seven states, with most of the capacity installed in coastal states.

India Solar Power vs. Wind Power

Power capacity by source (in gigawatts)

■ 2011 ■ 2021

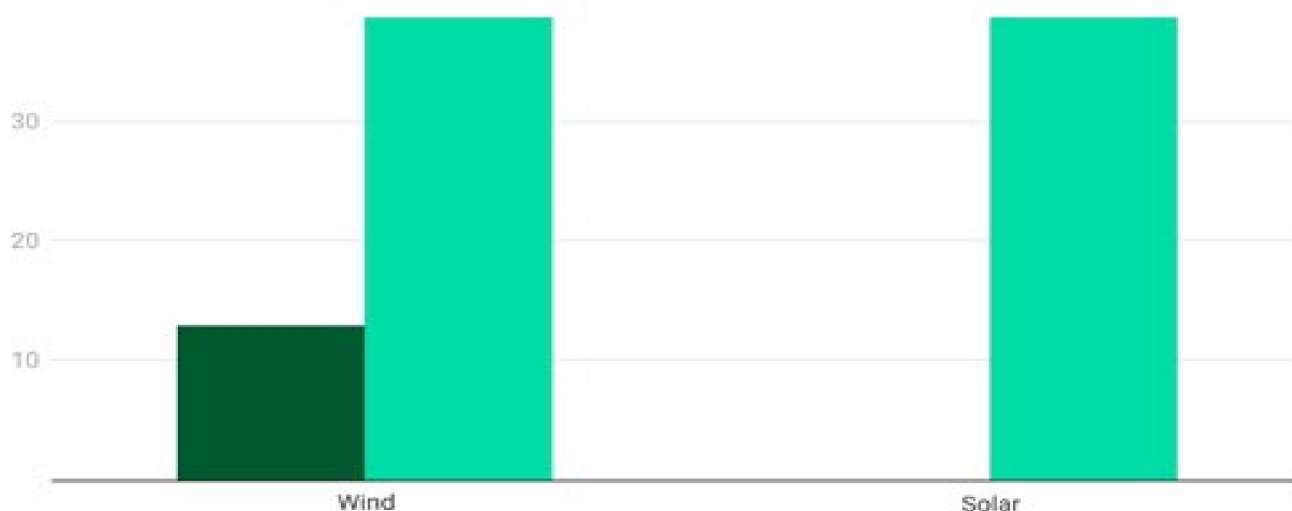


Chart: Zach Shahan, CleanTechnica • Source: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

Another factor that has supported solar's rise over wind power is the rapid decline in equipment costs. The price of solar power modules has declined sharply over the last few years, especially due to large production capacity growth from Chinese manufacturers, which supply a large majority of cells and modules used in India. While India is largely self-sufficient in wind energy equipment manufacturing, companies here have failed to launch the largest megawatt-sized turbines seen in the European market.

This decline in cost has also led to a sharp decline in tariff bids submitted by developers. Earlier this year, two tenders witnessed bids of around Rs 2 (2.84¢) per kilowatt-hour, a new record low for solar power in India. The development of solar power parks that provide the plug-and-play ability for developers to implement projects has been a major differentiator between solar and wind power development. Several states as well as the MNRE focused on the

development of large solar power parks of sizes up to 4 gigawatts. No such concerted effort was undertaken for the development of wind power parks.

Finally, successive Indian governments have focused more on solar power development. A national mission for solar power was launched in 2010 while a similar mission for wind energy was launched in 2015. The installation target was also much higher for solar power. India set a target to have 100 gigawatts of solar power and only 60 gigawatts of wind power by 2022. This is in spite of the fact that wind power already had a huge heads-up in terms of installed capacity over solar power when these targets were announced in 2014.

Source: Clean Technica





Plantation and Cleanliness drive by Mission team, including India based and Nigerian personnel, under "Swachhta Pakhwada" on 12th January, 2021.



**News Diary of High Commission of India
Showcasing the Vibrant Synergy between India and Nigeria.**



High Commissioner Abhay Thakur accompanied by the Defence Attache Col. Sachin Dubey interacted on 28th December 2020 with Nigerian Air Force personnel, proceeding to India for technical training.



A Nigerian Air Force officer graduated & was awarded Pilot Wings at Air Force Academy, Dundigal, Hyderabad by Hon'ble RM Shri Rajnath Singh, Expanding defence ties and diversifying areas of capacity building assistance.



High Commission of India conducted a Consular camp at Kano for over 60 needy passport applicants. Glad to welcome young India to it. Deputy High Commissioner VSDL Surendra & Attache (Consular) Md. Abdullah met community representatives and assisted applicants.





Abuja International Trade Fair was opened by FCT Ministers, Mal. Muhd Musa Bello and Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Otunba Niyi Adebayo, Preident Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Prince Kayode and HC Abhay Thakur.

9 Indian companies exhibited. From auto, telecom, pharma & agri to energy, India is Nigeria's leading trade-investment partner.



High Commission of India in Abuja celebrated Ayurveda Day on November 13th, 2020 at the Mission. Director Federal Ministry of Health, Nigeria Pharm. Zainab Shariff, Nigerian traditional medicine practitioners & leading Indian community members from Lagos & Abuja participated. All were inspired by PM Narendra Modi Ji's address.

Together with the Indian community, HCI Abuja & OHCI Lagos marked the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) on 31st October, 2020 the 145th birth anniversary of Sardar Patel, and pledged to re-dedicate themselves to preserve the unity, integrity & security of the nation.





HRH The Emir of Kano Aminu Ado Bayero received High Commissioner Abhay Thakur in audience on October 23rd 2020, at the Emir's Palace in Kano. Both reaffirmed the close friendship and affinity between India and Nigeria.





INDIA – NIGERIA STRATEGIC AND COUNTER-TERRORISM DIALOGUE

“ Minister of External Affairs H.E Dr. S. Jaishankar received NSA Babagana Monguno of Nigeria. Our nations are united by shared traditions, strong solidarity and common aspirations. His visit provides an opportunity to give these practical shape. ”

At the invitation of National Security Adviser Shri Ajit K. Doval KC, the National Security Adviser of Nigeria Major General (Retd.) Babagana Monguno visited New Delhi for the First Strategic and Counter-Terrorism Dialogue between India and Nigeria at the level of NSA from March 4-5, 2021.

Within the framework of the close and strategic partnership between India and Nigeria, the National Security Advisors held in-depth discussions on the threats and challenges faced by democratic societies from terrorism, extremism, radicalization including through the cyberspace, as well

as from international crime, arms and drug smuggling and piracy.

The two sides identified specific areas of cooperation to enhance their fight against all forms of terrorism, reaffirming their firm belief that there can be no justification for terrorism in any form or manifestation. They also agreed to enhance their cooperation in the international arena and maintain regular contact in this area.

During his visit, the National Security Adviser to Nigeria also called on the External Affairs Minister.

Made-in-India COVID19 vaccine supplies so far (In lakhs)								
(As on 20 March 2021 at 1000 hrs)								
Sl. No.	Country	Grant		Commercial		COVAX		Total Supplies
		Quantity	Date of Despatch	Quantity	Date of Despatch	Quantity	Date of Despatch	
1	Bangladesh	20	21-Jan-21	70	50 25-Jan-21 20 22-Feb-21			90
2	Myanmar	17	(15 SII) (2 BB) 22-Jan-21 11-Feb-21	20	11-Feb-21			37
3	Nepal	10	21-Jan-21	10	20-Feb-21	3.48	05-Mar-21	23.48
4	Bhutan	1.5	20-Jan-21					1.5
5	Maldives	2	1 20-Jan-21 1 19-Feb-21			0.12	06-Mar-21	2.12
6	Mauritius	1	22-Jan-21	1	19-Feb-21			2
7	Seychelles	0.5	22-Jan-21					0.5
8	Sri Lanka	5	28-Jan-21	5	24-Feb-21	2.64	06-Mar-21	12.64
9	Bahrain	1	28-Jan-21					1
10	Brazil			20	20 22-Jan-21 20 22-Feb-21			40
11	Morocco			70	20 22-Jan-21 40 11-Feb-21 10 24-Feb-21			70
12	Oman	1	30-Jan-21					1
13	Egypt			0.5	30-Jan-21			0.5
14	Algeria			0.5	31-Jan-21			0.5
15	South Africa			10	31-Jan-21			10
16	Kuwait			2	31-Jan-21			2

17	UAE				2	02-Feb-21				2
18	Afghanistan	5	7-Feb-21					4.68	06-Mar-21	9.68
19	Barbados	1	7-Feb-21							1
20	Dominica	0.7	7-Feb-21							0.7
21	Mexico				8.7	12-Feb-21				8.7
22	Dominican Republic	0.3	18-Feb-21		0.2	14-Feb-21				0.5
23	Saudi Arabia				30	14-Feb-21				30
24	El Salvador				0.2	15-Feb-21				0.2
25	Argentina				5.8	16-Feb-21				5.8
26	Serbia				1.5	20 Feb-21				1.5
27	UN Health workers				1	21 Feb-21				1
28	Mongolia	1.5	21 Feb-21							1.5
29	Ukraine				5	22 Feb-21				40
30	Ghana	0.5	4 Mar 2021					6	23 Feb-21	6.5
31	Ivory Coast	0.5	4 Mar 2021					5.04	25 Feb-21	5.54
32	St. Lucia	0.25	27-Feb-21							0.25
33	St. Kitts & Nevis	0.2	27-Feb-21							0.2
34	St. Vincent & Grenadines	0.4	27-Feb-21							0.4
35	Suriname	0.5	27-Feb-21							0.5

Made-in-India COVID19 vaccine supplies so far (In lakhs)								
(As on 20 March 2021 at 1000 hrs)								
Sl. No.	Country	Grant		Commercial		COVAX		Total Supplies
		Quantity	Date of Despatch	Quantity	Date of Despatch	Quantity	Date of Despatch	
36	Antigua & Barbuda	0.4	27-Feb-21					0.4
37	DR Congo	0.5	4 Mar 2021			17.16	1 Mar-21	17.66
38	Angola					6.24	01-Mar-21	6.24
39	Gambia					0.36	01-Mar-21	0.36
40	Nigeria					39.24	01-Mar-21	39.24
41	Cambodia					3.24	02-Mar-21	3.24
42	Kenya					10.20	02-Mar-21	10.20
43	Lesotho					0.36	02-Mar-21	0.36
44	Rwanda	0.5	4 Mar 2021			2.40	02-Mar-21	2.9
45	Sao Tome & Principe					0.24	02-Mar-21	0.24
46	Senegal	0.25	4 Mar 2021			3.24	02-Mar-21	3.49
47	Guatemala	2	02-Mar-21					2
48	Canada			5.00	02-Mar-21			5.00
49	Mali					3.96	03-Mar-21	3.96
50	Sudan					8.28	03-Mar-21	8.28
51	Liberia					0.96	03-Mar-21	0.96

52	Malawi							3.60	04-Mar-21	3.60
53	Uganda	1.00	07-Mar-21					8.64	04-Mar-21	9.64
54	Nicaragua	2	05-Mar-21							2
55	Guyana	0.8	05-Mar-21							0.8
56	Jamaica	0.50	05-Mar-21							0.50
57	UK			50			05-Mar-21			50.00
58	Togo							1.56	05-Mar-21	1.56
59	Djibouti							0.24	05-Mar-21	0.24
60	Somalia							3.00	05-Mar-21	3.00
61	Selirra Leone							0.96	06-Mar-21	0.96
62	Belize	0.25	7-Mar-21							0.25
63	Botswana	0.30	7-Mar-21							0.30
64	Mozambique	1.00	7-Mar-21					3.84	07-Mar-21	4.84
65	Ethiopia							21.84	07-Mar-21	21.84
66	Tajikistan							1.92	08-Mar-21	5.54
67	Benin							1.44	08-Mar-21	1.44
68	Eswatini	0.20	9-Mar-21					0.12	11-Mar-21	0.32
69	Bahamas	0.20	10-Mar-21							0.20
70	Cape Verde							0.24	9-Mar-21	0.24
71	Iran			1.25			(BB)10-Mar-21			1.25
72	Uzbekistan							6.60	15-Mar-21	6.60
73	Solomon Islands							0.24	17-Mar-21	0.24
74	Laos							1.32	17-Mar-21	1.32
	Total	81.25		341.67				174.99		597.91

SERVING INDIA'S CAUSE FROM THE MAJESTIC PREMISES OF THE HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA, ABUJA



**Former Prime Minister of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee
laying the foundation stone of the Mission in December 2003**



Indian High Commission building today



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