

# India in Africa

## 'Namaskar Africa 2017' Facilitating India-West Africa Trade

India has a different approach in its developmental relationship with other countries as it believes in sharing knowledge without any hidden agenda, said Minister of State for External Affairs M J Akbar at the two-day of 'Namaskar Africa 2017' – India-West Africa Trade and Exhibition Forum in Ghana.

"Our attitude to knowledge is its powerful meaning – that it is the only thing that grows when you give it away. We are ready to share with our friends, ready to be partners and ready to be equals and not come bearing gifts loaded with debt traps. We do not have any concept of debt traps", Akbar commented.

The event, organised jointly by the Indian Commerce Ministry and the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) aimed to brand India as a leading economic player and partner to the West African region.

Furthermore, Information Technology would help facilitate Indian investments into Ghana and neighbouring West African countries, create awareness about the best Indian technologies and products in the region, and explore opportunities offered by the region.

'Namaskar Africa' started with an India-Central Africa Regional Business Forum in Republic of Congo. Akbar drew a parallel between the leaders of India and Ghana in their quest to bring development to their countries. "Both leaders stand for a conviction of a new vision, which is not open-ended in terms of time", he said.



"In India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is talking about five years whilst in Ghana, President Akufo-Addo is talking about four years", Akbar said indicating that the two leaders have adopted use of transformation, which means that they do not only have 'a vision but a roadmap to a new horizon'. Akbar said that the era of purchases must be replaced by era of production. "This era of production must be led by India and Ghana".

The Minister also expressed his concern that in terms of trade, the developing world has, through the years, created the industry and 'someone else took the profit'. "The time has come to reverse that. We must not allow our industry to become someone's profit", stated Akbar

Profits must go to the people and should not be kept by the companies. "Growth by itself is no longer sustainable. The benefits and largest share of growth must go to the people who live at the bottom of the growth pyramid", Akbar recommended.

The Minister said that the developing world has lost its voice when it comes to industry and trade. "The Portuguese did not come to India because of tourism, they came because of India's silk, and it is high time that countries in the South take back their brands".

Ghana's Trade and Industry Minister, Alan Kyerematen said he had a soft spot for India because his 'godfather was a successful Indian merchant'. He said Ghana's President has launched a 10-point ambitious industrial transformation agenda to bring industrialisation to the doorsteps of the people.

"The Government and the private sector will work together to bring one industry to one district", Kyerematen said. He invited investors from India to be part of the agenda. These industries include agro-based ventures.

Besides, there are also plans for industrial parks in 10 regions. Furthermore, there are also plans for a pharma park, petro-chemical industry and an integrated aluminium industry.

## Ghana as Good Business Spot

Ghana is a very attractive destination for Indian businesses and a gateway to Africa in general, and West Africa in particular, stated a senior business Indian leader. Susnato Sen, Head of the Africa Region and Senior Director of FICCI declared, "Ghana is a very attractive destination for India because of its long history of stability and the business climate".

Sen also said Ghana is the focus country with participation expected from neighbouring countries like Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra-Leone and Togo.

([www.myjoyonline.com](http://www.myjoyonline.com), 17.08.17)

## Exploring Business Prospects

India and Japan are exploring joint business opportunities in the Defence and Security sector in Africa, as part of their ambitious Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC) plan that is seen by some as a counter to the China's 'One Belt One Road' (OBOR) initiative.

In a big push for collaboration on military technology, a high-powered industry delegation accompanying Defence Minister Arun Jaitley to Tokyo, was briefed on the AAGC plan to jointly pursue business plans and was encouraged to forge partnerships with Japanese companies.

(<https://theprint.in/>, 05.09.17)

## Double Taxation Reform

India has in recent times enhanced its efforts to topple China as Kenya's top Asian trade partner. The deal ratified by Treasury by way of legal notice No.147 of 2017 in the latest issue of the Kenya Gazette will, among others, push for the avoidance of double taxation of commercial entities trading both in India and Kenya.

Besides, this will also step up pressure on tax cheats operating in both countries since it provides for the sharing of fiscal information between the nations' tax bodies. Mbiki Kamanjira, a tax expert

## India-Ghana Relations Deepens

In connection with the India@70 celebrations, Ghana joined India in the various activities held in the country to mark India's freedom from her colonial masters, Britain. The celebration coincided with Ghana's own commemoration of 60 years of independence from colonialism.

To mark the celebrations, M J Akbar paid a visit to Ghana, handed over US\$1mn as grant assistance towards rehabilitation of the

Presidential residence in the Flagstaff House, which was constructed through a concessional Line of Credit from Government of India.

([www.thefinderonline.com](http://www.thefinderonline.com), 24.08.17)



indicated that the agreement could benefit Kenya significantly.

([www.standardmedia.co.ke](http://www.standardmedia.co.ke), 11.08.17)

## Leather Training for Kenya

India's largest vocational training company, IL&FS completed training on leather product manufacturing and design for Kenyan master trainers in Kanpur and New Delhi, India. The new trainers have a massive task to create a skilled labour force for Kenya's new 500-acre leather park.

By 2020, the Kenyan Government estimates that they will need more than 50,000 employees for the park. Park investors want to ensure that these employees have the required skills to enhance the competitiveness of Kenya's leather sector. India is the second largest leather and leather-finished products producing country in the world.

(<http://www.eatradehub.org>, 29.06.17)

## More support for Indian Model

India's non-prescriptive and non-interfering development partnership model is fast finding favour in resource-rich Africa, where China's push, ostensibly for capacity building, is receiving bad press for being hard and exploitative,

according to experts on Indo-African partnership.

Moreover, the experts cited earlier said India views Africa as a collaborator, and an equal partner. Experts pointed out that India's support of development and capacity-building projects in Africa through line of credit has seen 20 major ventures completed in the last two years.

(<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com>, 03.09.17)

## Kenya's Clout Wanes

Long considered as East Africa's manufacturing hub, Nairobi (Kenya) is now left tugging on the shorter end of the stick in the scramble for larger KSh41tn East African market. Its earlier dominance in the region has been upended by more powerful forces.

The Principal Secretary in the Ministry of East Africa Community, Betty Maina believes Kenya is losing to the new-found industrial players in Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania and Burundi. She observed that after an extended period, in which Kenya was the main supplier of various manufactured goods to these countries, they too have seen the growth of their own industries.

(<https://www.standardmedia.co.ke>, 11.07.17)