Overall 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.

Bilateral Visits

India's first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru’s landmark visit to Nigeria in September 1962 and his interaction with Nigeria’s first Prime Minister Tafawa Balewa had created mutual goodwill, respect and friendship between the two countries and leaders. Two Nigerian Presidents visited India as the Chief Guests at India's Republic Day i.e. in 1983 by President Shehu Shagari and in 2000 at India’s 50th Republic Day celebrations by President Olusegun Obasanjo. Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee visited Abuja in December 2003 to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Summit.

Nigerian leadership regularly visited India –with President Obasanjo in November 2004, Vice President Goodluck Jonathan (who later served as President from 2011-2015) in November 2007 and also to the first India-Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi in April 2008. During the historic State visit to Nigeria by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in October 2007, India and Nigeria adopted the Abuja Declaration for Strategic Partnership, which gave a new impetus to our bilateral ties.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari visited New Delhi in October 2015 to participate in the Third India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III) The meeting of Prime Minister
Narendra Modi with President Buhari enabled the two countries to review the bilateral engagement, and to chart a path for further enhancement of the bilateral engagement.

The visit of Indian Vice President Hamid Ansari to Nigeria from 26 to 29 September 2016 and his meetings with Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari and Vice President Prof. Yemi Osinbajo provided yet another opportunity to further deepen the bilateral cooperation.

Both countries have nurtured the relationship through periodic interactions. Important bilateral visits at the level of Heads of State or Government are given in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nigerian Dignitary to India</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President Shehu Shagari</td>
<td>January 1983 Chief Guest Republic Day celebrations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President Gen Sani Abacha</td>
<td>March 1994 [to attend the G15 summit]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo</td>
<td>April 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo</td>
<td>State Visit to India from January 24-28, 2000 as the Chief Guest at India’s 50th Republic Day celebrations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo</td>
<td>Transit Visit to India from November 2-3, 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President Goodluck Jonathan</td>
<td>November 5-7, 2007; for the Federalism Conference. April 2008- led a large delegation including Delta &amp; Bayelsa State Governors and MOS (Gas) for the India-Africa Summit in April 2008.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President Muhammadu Buhari</td>
<td>October 26-30, 2015; for the Third India-Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indian Dignitary to Nigeria</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru</td>
<td>September, 23-27, 1962; First ever State Visit by Indian Prime Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee</td>
<td>December 2003; To attend Commonwealth Heads of Government Summit in Abuja.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh</td>
<td>14-16 October 2007; Bilateral State Visit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President of India, Shri M. Hamid Ansari</td>
<td>September 2016; Bilateral Official Visit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recent Visits at Ministerial Level:
India to Nigeria:

Visit of Minister of State for External Affairs Shri V. Muraleedharan to Nigeria (11-13 June 2019): In his first visit abroad as the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan visited Nigeria from 11-13 June 2019 to attend the Democracy Day celebrations of Nigeria on 12 June 2019, representing the Prime Minister of India. MoS also called on Vice President Yemi Osinbajo. MoS also held a brief exchange with President Buhari, at the State Luncheon in honour of visiting dignitaries, after the democracy day celebrations.

Visit of the Minister of State for External Affairs Shri M.J.Akbar and Minister of State for Commerce & Industry Shri C.R. Chaudhary to Nigeria (October 2018): The Minister of State for External Affairs Shri M.J.Akbar and Minister of State for Commerce & Industry Shri C.R. Chaudhary along with senior officials represented the official delegation from India to participate in the first-ever CII and EXIM Bank Regional Conclave on India and West Africa with the theme ‘Project Partnership’ that was organised on 8-9 October 2018 in Abuja (Nigeria) with the support of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

Nigeria to India:

CII-Exim Bank Conclave (March 2019): Hon’ble Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment of Nigeria H.E. Dr. Enelemah Okachukwu, Hon’ble Minister of State for Power, Works & Housing H.E. Mustapha Baba Shehuri and Governor of Ekiti State H.E. Mr. John Olukayode Fayemi participated in the 14th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Partnership, that was held in New Delhi from 17-19 March 2019.

Visit of Nigerian Minister of State (Aviation) to India (14-15 January 2019): H.E. Senator Hadi Abubakar Sirika, Hon’ble Minister of State (Aviation) of Nigeria visited India from 14-15 January 2019 to attend the Global Aviation Summit, that was held in Mumbai, India on 15 January 2019. On the sidelines of the summit, Senator Hadi Abubakar Sirika met with H.E. Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Hon’ble Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation of India. A Revised Bilateral Air services Agreement was signed between the two countries.

Visit of Nigerian Minister of Water Resources to India (September/October 2018): Hon’ble Minister of Water Resources of Nigeria, H.E. Mr. Suleiman H Adamu accompanied by Mr. Emmanuel Awe, Director, Water Resources Quality Control and Sanitation from Ministry of Water and Sanitation visited India to participate in the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention’ (MGISC), that was organized by
the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India in New Delhi from 29 September to 02 October 2018.

**Visit of Nigeria’s Health Minister to India (March 2018 & May 2018):** Nigeria’s Health Minister Prof Isaac Adewole visited India in March 2018 to participate in the End-TB Summit and met with India’s Minister of Health & Family Welfare J.P. Nadda in New Delhi on 13 March 2018, on the sidelines of the End-TB Summit. He again visited India in May 2018 to participate in the 4th India-Africa Health Forum, which was organized as part of the Global Exhibition on Services (GES) held from 15-18 May 2018.

**Nigeria’s participation in the Founding Conference of the International Solar alliance (ISA) (March 2018) :** A Nigerian delegation led by Mustapha Baba Shehuri, Minister of State of Power, Works and Housing of Nigeria and Mr. Ibrahim Usman Jibril, Minister of State for Environment visited India from 10-03-2018 to 14-03- 2018 to participate in the Founding Conference of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Solar Summit in New Delhi on 11 March 2018.

**Visit of Nigerian Minister of Transportation to India (March 2018):** Mr Chibuike Amaechi, Minister of Transportation participated in the 13th edition of CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on “India Africa Project Partnership”, held from 25- 27 March 2018 in New Delhi.

**Visit of Nigerian Minister of Communications to India (February 2018) :** Nigerian Minister of Communications Barr Abdur-Raheem Adebayo Shittu visited India on 22 February 2018 and met India’s Minister of Communications MrManoj Sinha in New Delhi on the sidelines of International Expo of Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC).

**Visit of Nigerian Minister of State for Power, Works and Housing to India (January 2018):** Mr. Suleiman Hassan Zarma, Nigerian Minister of State for Power, Works and Housing, visited India to attend an International workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (DRI) from 15-16 January 2018 in New Delhi, at the invitation of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). He also met Minister of Home Affairs Rajnath Singh and MoS (IC) R.K. Singh for Power and New and Renewable Energy on 16 January 2018.

**Institutional Dialogues**

**Foreign Office Consultations (FOC):** The first round of India-Nigeria Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) was held in Abuja in December 2003 on the sidelines of the Commonwealth Summit.

**Joint Commission Meeting (JCM):** The Joint Commission was set up between the two countries in 1979. The First meeting was held in 1981. The second meeting was in August 1989 in New Delhi. The third Joint Commission mechanism between India and Nigeria was held when EAM Shri Jaswant Singh visited Nigeria. The fourth meeting was
held in New Delhi in October 2003. The fifth meeting was held in New Delhi in March 2011. The next JCM is expected to be held soon.

**Consular dialogue:** The first round of Consular dialogue between India and Nigeria, co-chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Nigerian MFA and Additional Secretary (CPV) of MEA, was held in New Delhi in September 2019. A 9-member Nigerian delegation led by Permanent Secretary of the Nigerian MFA, Amb. Mustapha L. Sulaiman visited India from 09-10 September 2019 for the first round of Consular dialogue.

**Joint Trade Committee (JTC):** India and Nigeria have agreed in 2017 to establish a Joint Trade Committee (JTC) at the level of Commerce Secretary from Indian side and Permanent Secretary (Trade) from Nigerian side to review the ongoing bilateral trade and commercial relations. The Nigerian Ministry of Industry, Trade & Investment is expected to visit India for the first JTC meeting, which is expected to take place soon.

**Defence Relations**

The Defence Cooperation between the Armed Forces of India and Nigeria has been nurtured over a period of time and military interactions began right earnest after Nigeria’s independence in 1960. India helped set up various military institutions including the Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA) at Kaduna, the Naval College at Port Harcourt besides other elite military training establishments in Nigeria. Several Nigerian officers have also been trained over the years in Indian military institutions. These include former Nigerian Presidents Olusegun Obasanjo, Ibrahim Babangida and several other top military officers. The incumbent President Muhammudu Buhari also attended the prestigious Defence Services Staff Course (DSSC) at Wellington in 1970s.

After signing of a bilateral MoU on Defence Cooperation in October 2007, visits at high-level took place and bilateral interaction for defence cooperation has increased over the years. The Armed forces of both the nations have attended military training together, exchange programmes and served in UN Peace Keeping Operations. These exchanges have assisted in strengthening cooperation not only within the Armed forces but also between both the countries. Defence Cooperation is an integral to the strategic partnership between India and Nigeria.

Among the areas of cooperation include counter-terrorism and counter-intelligence (CT/CI), sea piracy and exchange of visits between training institutes. The first meeting of the Joint Defence Coordination Committee (JDCC) was held in New Delhi in April 2013. The fifth JDCC was held in New Delhi from 17-18 January 2019. The JDCC explores avenues to enhance the bilateral Defence Cooperation.

**Trade and Investment Relations**

India is the largest trading partner of Nigeria and Nigeria is India’s largest trading partner in Africa with the bilateral trade touching US $13.89 billion in the 2018-19.
Indian owned/operated companies are the 2nd largest employer in Nigeria after the Federal Republic of Nigeria. More than 135 Indian companies are currently operating in Nigeria in diverse fields such as pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, electrical machinery and equipment, plastics, chemicals, etc. Some of the major companies include Bharti Airtel, Tata, Bajaj Auto, Birla Group, Kirloskar, Mahindra, Ashok Leyland, Skipper, Godrej, Simba Group, NIIT, Aptech, New India Assurance, Bhushan Steel, KEC, Dabur, etc.

The bilateral trade between India and Nigeria during the year 2018-19 registered US $13.89 billion, as against US$ 11.76 billion recorded during the year 2017-18, which makes India the largest trading partner of Nigeria. Indian exports to Nigeria during the period 2018-19 were US$ 3 billion, as against US$ 2.25 billion in 2017-18, showing an annual growth of 33.27%. India's imports during the period 2018-19 recorded US $10.88 billion, as against US$9.5 billion in 2017-18. Out of the total imports of US$ 10.88 billion from, crude oil alone accounted for US$ 9.43 billion. India is the largest importer of Nigeria’s Crude Oil. Nigeria has emerged as the fifth largest supplier of crude oil and second largest supplier of LNG in 2018.

**Trade Statistics**

**India-Nigeria Bilateral Trade Statistics**

*Value in US $ million*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India's Export</td>
<td>2,681.37</td>
<td>2,221.90</td>
<td>1,764.11</td>
<td>2,254.93</td>
<td>3,005.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India's Import</td>
<td>13,682.97</td>
<td>9,949.17</td>
<td>7,659.48</td>
<td>9,501.33</td>
<td>10,884.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Trade</td>
<td>16,364.34</td>
<td>12,171.07</td>
<td>9,423.59</td>
<td>11,756.26</td>
<td>13,889.92</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Recent Business Events of Interest**

**Nigeria Pharma Manufacturing Expo:** 50 Indian companies, 38 from EEPC India, participated in the Nigeria Pharma Manufacturing Expo, organised by PMG-MAN (Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Group of Manufacturing Association of Nigeria), inaugurated by MoS (Heath) Dr. Adeleke Mamora, DG NAFDAC, High Commissioner and other dignitaries. India with USD 650 million (FY 2018-19) machinery exports growing @50%, and seven Indian pharma manufacturing units in Nigeria, is a natural partner in Nigeria’s localization efforts.

**IPHEX:** High Commissioner Shri Abhay Thakur and DG NAFDAC inaugurated the IPHEX exhibition by Pharmexcil in Lagos on 14 March 2019. Chairman Leadership Group Mr. Sam Nda Isaiah and IPMIN President Mr. Varkey Varghese joined them. 53 Indian pharmaceutical companies have participated in this two-day event.
IGF Expo 2018: India’s Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) along with 9 Indian Companies participated at the 3rd IGF Expo 2018, that was held in Lagos from 13-15 November 2018. The expo is a B2B trade show for interiors, housewares, gifts, textiles, and fashion showcasing thousands of new designs. EPCH Chairman led the delegation to have a first-hand knowledge of the market. A total of 70 exhibitors participated mainly from Turkey, Nigeria and India.

CII- EXIM India-West Africa Regional Conclave (08-09 October 2018): Shri M.J. Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs of India and Shri C.R. Chaudhary, Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce & Industry along with senior officials represented the official delegation from India to participate in the first-ever CII and EXIM Bank Regional Conclave on India and West Africa with the theme ‘Project Partnership’ that was organised on 8-9 October 2018 in Abuja (Nigeria) with the support of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. A 70-member Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)-led business delegation under the leadership of Mr. Rajesh Sharma, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of ION Exchange, attended the Regional Conclave. The conclave, in which over 300 Indian and African industry leaders and CEOs participated, culminated in a roadmap and a multi-pronged action plan for intensifying and deepening economic partnership between India and 15 countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Business event on Solar and other Renewable Energy Sources (June 2018): As a follow-up to the Founding Conference of the International Solar Alliance and the Solar Summit that was held in New Delhi in March 2018, High Commission of India organized a business event on “Nigeria-India Cooperation in Solar & Other Renewable Energy Sources – Opportunities and Way Forward” in association with Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and Abuja Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ACCI) on 21 June, 2018 in Abuja. The event was also attended by representatives of Minister of Power, Works & Housing, Minister of Environment and Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Minister. The Governor of Cross River State and representatives from Kaduna State had also attended the event. Senior representatives of Indian Renewable Energy Development Authority (IREDA), EXIM Bank, BHEL and Avada Group visited from India to participate in the event. Several senior representatives of Indian companies based in Nigeria such as Skipper Siel, Simba Group, etc. operating in renewable energy sector participated in the event.

4th Edition of Indo-Africa ICT Expo 2018 (May 2018): Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC) of India along with High Commission of India, Abuja and the Ministry of Communications of Federal Republic of Nigeria hosted the 4th Edition of Indo-Africa ICT Expo 2018 in conjunction with IT and Telecom Summit, on 22-23 May 2018 in Lagos. The third edition of the event took place in Lagos from September 6-7, 2017. About fifty (50) Indian ICT companies and eight Nigerian companies participated with more than 1400 visitors and 90 delegates from India. India’s Minister of State for Communications (Independent Charge) Manoj Sinha addressed the event through a video link.
Source India- Nigeria (March 2018): Chemical & Allied Export Promotion Council (CAPEXIL) and Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) in association organized ‘Source India’ – Buyer Seller Meet from March 27-29, 2018 in Lagos, Nigeria. This event was organized under the auspices of the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India. Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry and ASSOCHAM’s Nigeria Chapter partnered in holding of the event. About 110 reputed Indian entities representing various sectors such as Rubber, Plastics, Paper, Book, IT, Chemicals, Pants, Printing Ink, Glass, Ceramics, Auto parts, Engineering, F&B, etc., showcased their products and services at the event with an objective to find right Nigerian partners for collaboration in trade, investment and joint venture opportunities.

PHARMEXCIL Business Meet (February 2018): The Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council of India (PHARMEXCIL), in cooperation with the High Commission of India and the Association of Pharmaceutical importers of Nigeria and Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria organized a Business Meet on 22-23 February 2018 in Lagos. A senior representative from Nigerian Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) attended the inaugural event. The event was attended by more than 250 representatives of Pharma Companies including Indian Pharma companies based in Nigeria.

Participation of Indian companies in various events organised in Nigeria: Indian High Commission also attended and also facilitated the participation of Indian Companies in various business events held in Nigeria such as (i). 39th Kaduna International Trade Fair (23 February -03 March 18) (ii). 40th Kaduna International Trade Fair (29 March to 7 April 2019) (iii). 13th Abuja International Trade Fair (21-29 September 2019).

Development Cooperation
India is emerging as a development partner of Nigeria in two fronts – by offering developmental assistance through concessional loans and by offering capacity building training programmes.

Concessional Loans:

- **US $ 100 million LOC**: India has offered a concessional loan [Line of Credit (LoCs)] amounting to US$ 100 million to Nigeria in the power sector including renewables. Two projects viz. Kaduna – US$ 30 million and Cross Rivers – US$ 30 million are in advance stages of implementation. The third project in the State of Enugu for US $ 40 million is also expected to be implemented soon.
- **US$ 75 million LoC**: India has offered two concessional loans (LoCs) for Solar-related projects namely (i) 50 MW Solar Power Plant in Bauchi State of Nigeria for an amount of USD 66.60 million and (ii) Solar PV Renewable Micro-Utility (REMU) in six political zones of Nigeria for an amount of USD 8.36 million, during the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Founding Conference and Solar Summit held on March 11, 2018 in New Delhi.
Training Programmes

**Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC):** Since 1964, India has been supporting Nigeria’s efforts in capacity building under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme. India offered about 320 civilian and defence training slots under ITEC to Nigeria during 2018-19.

**Training Programmes under the third India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III):** Consequent to the third India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III) that was held in New Delhi in October 2015, India has been offering additional training programmes to Nigeria in diverse subjects ranging from agriculture, health, hydropower, water resources, etc. In the year 2018-19, about 74 Nigerians have been trained under IAFS-III Programmes in premier Indian institutions.

**ICCR Africa Scholarship Scheme:** In the year 2018-19, the Indian Council of Cultural relations ICCR offered 20 scholarships under the “ICCR Africa Scholarship Scheme” for Nigerian nationals to pursue under-graduate, post-graduate and higher courses in India.

**C.V.Raman International Fellowships:** In the year 2017-18, 12 Nigerians have availed the C.V.Raman International Fellowships offered by Government of India in doctoral and post-doctoral research training.

**Interaction between the Think Tanks**

Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA), which have a MoU for cooperation and collaboration signed in 2007, jointly organized the second India-Africa Academic Conference at Lagos in March 2012. The event was attended by 80 academics, along with an eight member ICWA delegation led by its Director General Shri S.T. Devare. The third conference is expected to be held in Nigeria soon.

**Education:**

India has been a destination for Nigerian students for pursuing higher education since 1955. Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR)’s instituted scholarship programme, which is fully funded by it, became the main vehicle for Nigerian students to study in India since 1960s. The Indian educational institutions system became popular for its quality and cost-effective education. Large number of Nigerian students are studying in various Indian universities. The Government of India launched in March 2018, ‘Study in India’ portal, which will give a further fillip to interested and deserving Nigerian students to join renowned and recognized Indian educational institutions.

**NRI/PIO Community:** The Indian community in Nigeria is estimated to be about 50,000 persons, including Indian nationals and Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) card holders. A generation of Nigerians today in their forties to sixties have been taught by Indian
teachers, treated by Indian doctors and have grown watching Indian movies. There is a CBSE affiliated Indian Language School in Lagos with about 2,000 students. Indian Cultural Associations (ICAs) are present in prominent cities of Nigeria including Lagos, Abuja, Kano, Kaduna, Port Harcourt and Ibadan.

Cultural Relations:

Visit of ICCR Cultural Troupes:

(i). Dance troupe Bastar Band from Chattisgarh: A 14-member dance troupe (Bastar band) from Chattisgarh visited Abuja from 12-14 April 2019 and performed in the Mission on the occasion of the ICCR Foundation Day. Over 600 guests including Nigerian dignitaries, friends of India, Indian community and diplomatic corps attended the event. The dance troupe also performed at the National Council of Arts and Culture, Abuja.

(ii). Haryana Folk Dance Troupe: A 12-Member [Haryana] Folk Dance Group led by Ranjit Sorout (Lok Kala Parishad Banchari), sponsored by Indian Council for Cultural Relations and supported by Indian Cultural Associations (ICAs) in Abuja, Kano and Lagos performed in these 3 cities in Nigeria during November 2018. The Troupe also performed during celebration of INDIA Day at International Arts & Craft (INAC) ExpoAbuja organized by the National Council for Arts and Culture (NCAC). The Troupe got 1st place among cultural performances organized by the participating countries.

(iii). Kathak group led by Ms. Surabhi Singh: A 5-member Kathak group led by Ms. Surabhi Singh visited Nigeria from 27 January to 3 February 2018. The group performed at Lagos on 28 and 29 January 2018; at Abuja on 30 January and at Kano on 2 February 2018. The performance coincided with the 70th anniversary of India’s Independence and 68th Republic Day of India. The High Commission also organized parallel events to display artifacts from various States of India. Around 1500 people witnessed the performances.

Namaste! Nigeria: Namaste! Nigeria Event was celebrated on 05 May 2018 by the Indian High Commission in association with Indian Cultural Association (ICA), Abuja and Indian Women’s Association, Abuja to celebrate the diversity and richness of Indian culture. Otunba Olusegun Runsewe, Director General, Nigerian National Council for Arts and Culture (NCAC) and Princess GinikaNwafor-Orizu, Chief Cultural Officer, were the Chief Guests at the event. Around 700 people attended the event, mainly Nigerians, diplomatic corps and Indian community. A Fashion Show to demonstrate the costumes of 21 Indian States, traditional dance performances of seven Indian States were presented by IWA and ICA respectively. The Nigerian NCAC presented the Unity Dance symbolizing the unity in diversity aspect of Nigeria.

High Commission of India in association with various Indian cultural associations in Nigeria also organizes events to celebrate International Day of Yoga, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, World Hindi Day, Gandhi Jayanthi, Birthday of Deen Dayal Upadhyay, SwatchataDiwas, International Women’s day, B.R. Ambedkar Jayanthi etc. Indian
Associations also separately organize events to celebrate Indian festivals such as Holi and Diwali in different cities of Nigeria.

September 25, 2019