



16th CII-EXIM BANK DIGITAL CONCLAVE ON

india-africa

PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

Harnessing the Africa-India Opportunity: Connect, Create, Collaborate

13 - 15 July 2021 CII Virtual Platform

POST EVENT REPORT

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Published by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), The Mantosh Sondhi Centre; 23, Institutional Area, Lodi Road, New Delhi 110003, India
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Foreword

Today, as the landmark African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) gains ground after coming into effect on January 1, 2021, India is well positioned to play a partnership role by participating strongly in the agriculture, manufacturing, services and importantly the infrastructure development projects that are vital for connecting intra-regional trade. The Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) signed by India and Mauritius is another major milestone of India-Africa partnership. This is the first FTA that India has signed with an African country, and it is expected that more could be negotiated between India and different African governments in the future. We can look forward to the Africa Century, that is co-terminus with the Asia Century.

The CII Exim Bank India Africa Conclave has played a pivotal role in encouraging Indian companies to establish and grow their footprint in Africa and I am happy that the 16th edition has played its part. We continued our focus on traditional areas of partnership – Infrastructure, Energy and Agriculture. It was a successful experiment to introduce and develop sharper focus “SERV Africa” focussed on promoting partnerships in Services industry such as IT / ITES, Healthcare and Tourism. The Report highlights key recommendations under the sectors of cooperation, which will help promote and strengthen value chains across regions.

A great future indeed beckons the enduring India-Africa partnership as the world braces up for the post-pandemic new normal.

Noel Tata
Chairman
CII Africa Committee



Foreword

India and Africa represent two of the world's most dynamic economic growth stories. India's relationship with Africa remains multi-dimensional, marked with historic, cultural, economic, and political exchanges and cooperation. With increasing economic importance of the African continent, the geo-political linkages between India and Africa are becoming even more imperative. This is also reflected in our growing economic engagements in the recent years. Africa now accounts for nearly 10% of India's global exports and supplies 7% of India's global imports. Alongside, trade and investment, the scale of India's development cooperation with Africa has also grown rapidly. A testimony to South-South cooperation, India-Africa development cooperation acquires renewed importance as the COVID-19 pandemic is changing the nature of international partnerships. India remains a reliable partner in Africa's development, with immense potential for forging closer collaboration especially during these testing times.

The African continent has always been a focus region for India Exim Bank. India Exim Bank has been partnering with CII in hosting the annual CII-Exim Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership, which serves as an important platform for forging business partnerships between Africa and India. Moreover, the annual Conclaves have been instrumental in building a strong connect between people of Africa and India. I am happy to share that India-Africa Conclaves hosted so far have paved way for coordinated and collective decision making in mutually beneficial areas, making India's development cooperation with Africa more impactful. We shall be happy to associate with CII in such future endeavours as well.

Harsha Bangari

Deputy Managing Director

India Exim bank



Foreword

As India and the world continue to fight the pandemic, it was deeply heartening to receive a very encouraging response from our friends and partners in Africa towards 16th edition of CII Exim Bank India Africa Conclave on Project Partnerships. Confederation of Indian Industry along with our partners Ministry of External Affairs, and Ministry of Commerce & Industry Government of India and India Exim Bank was delighted to virtually host participation from 74 countries including 47 from Africa and 27 from others parts of the world at the Conclave which was held on 13 – 15 July 2021. The success of the event is a true testament of long term trust and partnership between India and the Africa.

The economic journey of both India-Africa partnership is set for a major makeover as both sides seek self-reliance to insulate their respective economies from external shocks. India's reforms process resonates with Africa's aspirations of accelerating its infrastructure development, manufacturing growth, farm sector modernisation, services sector expansion, digital transformation, and reliable healthcare services to build self-sufficiency. Over the years, India's model of cooperation with Africa has been demand driven, consultative, and participative, involving local resources, supported by capacity building initiatives, and based on Africa's own prioritisation of its needs. Indian Government and industry recognise Africa's pursuance of "Africa-owned" and "Africa-led" development, and therefore, Indian engagement with Africa is governed by the overarching goal of enhancing the region's self-reliance.

This report presents the key points of the discussions, insights into evolving issues and the way forward for countries of the region. We hope it will contribute meaningfully to the overall conversation on the India Africa Partnerships beyond projects and encourage businesses of the region to consider emerging economic opportunities.

Chandrajit Banerjee

Director General

Confederation of Indian Industry

Executive Summary

The 16th CII EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership, which was organised virtually from 13-15, 2021, in partnership with the Economic Diplomacy Division, Ministry of External Affairs, and Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, directed focused attention on broadbasing the foundational pillars of India-Africa bilateral partnerships to build a super-structure that secures the future of over 2.5 billion people living in India and Africa. The 16th Conclave, was one of the most well-attended editions that drew the participation of 32 ministerial delegations from 18 African countries, more than registered 3,000 delegates, from 74 countries including 47 from Africa and 27 from other parts of the world. The event underscored the criticality of Africa attaining economic self-reliance and how India could play a catalytic role in that process through multi-pronged bilateral partnerships, steered by the private sector.

Dr S Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, Government of India set the tone for the 3-day Conclave by stating in the Inaugural Session on 'Setting new milestones for India-Africa partnership' that the Covid-19 pandemic has enhanced the salience of India-Africa partnership, guided by the Kampala Principles enunciated by the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi in 2018. Dr Jaishankar highlighted four domains for deep bilateral cooperation between India and Africa: 1) Public Health 2) Digital Delivery 3) Skills Development & Capacity Building, and 4) Green Economy.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'One Earth, One Health' vision, Dr Jaishankar said that India is deeply committed toward strengthening the global supply of medicines and vaccines to the world, and Africa would be a key beneficiary of the initiatives.

General (Retd) Dr. C. G. D. N. Chiwenga, Vice President and Minister of Health and Child Care, Republic of Zimbabwe, urged India to undertake greater capacity building initiatives for Africa's healthcare sector, and help boost the region's pharmaceutical manufacturing sector, healthcare infrastructure and development of indigenous medicines. In similar vein, Mr Alan Kyerematen, Minister of Trade and Industry, Republic of Ghana urged Indian industry to play a catalytic role in boosting the continent's industrial development through investments, that will also create gainful employment for the growing young population of Africa. Mr Slumber Tsogwane, Vice President, Republic of Botswana said that Indian investments in a broad spectrum of sectors will help Africa to reap the demographic dividends.

The session on 'Designing innovative financing solutions for doing business in Africa' underscored the need for developing new financing options for companies that are

exploring investment opportunities in Africa. The discussants laid emphasis on reducing the dependence on Government of India backed concessional lines of credit for assisting Indian investments in Africa, and instead called for introduction of financing solutions like green and blue bonds, infrastructure bonds, socially responsible investments revolving around the environmental, social and governance (ESG) principles, public private partnership (PPP) projects, among others.

In the session on 'Aligning India-Africa bilateral trade with AfCFTA', the discussants said the continental economic integration into an FTA would hinge on a number of factors like development of trade-related infrastructure and supply chains, harmonisation of standards, etc. Six steps were advocated for aligning the India-Africa bilateral trade with AfCFTA: 1) Indian Missions in Africa and African Missions in India to play a catalytic role in enhancing the market access for industries on both sides, especially for MSMEs, 2) Increase bilateral investments for increasing trade volumes, especially through investments in Africa's manufacturing sector, and toward creation of regional value chains across sectors like agriculture and agro-processing, oil & gas, auto component manufacturing, etc., 3) Discuss and work toward signing of PTAs or FTAs between India and regional economic groups in Africa like COMESA, ECOWAS, SACU, and even explore an FTA between Africa Union and India at a later stage after AfCFTA attains high success, 4) Encourage all LDCs in Africa to avail of India's duty-free, quota free market access, 5) Improve utilisation of lines of credit (LoC) by the recipient countries, and promote Buyer's Credit scheme among importers in Africa, and 6) Drive reduction of transaction costs.

To achieve the best outcomes from AfCFTA, the deliberations pointed to the need for gauging the megatrends that drive Africa's future and factor those into investment decisions and policies, and establishing the right metrics to measure the success of India Africa trade growth.

Robust infrastructure is fundamental to Africa's sustained development. Throwing light on this subject in the session on 'Forging new partnerships to bridge Africa's physical infrastructure', the panel of speakers reiterated that financing of Indian investments in Africa's infrastructure projects should extend beyond reliance on Government of India concessional Lines of Credit. It was cited that African countries would benefit by becoming a part of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), a multi-stakeholder global partnership involving national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, and the private sector.

The Covid-19 pandemic has not only mandated the need for reinforcing the health security of global societies, but also their food security. Africa's agriculture bore the brunt of the Covid-19 pandemic, negating the sector's gains made in the last few decades. The session on 'Harvesting growth opportunities in Africa's agriculture & food sectors' brought forth the opportunities for Indian companies to step up their participation in Africa's agriculture value chain. Indian companies could explore investment opportunities in Africa in areas like food processing sector, fertiliser manufacturing, medical usage of cannabis, farm mechanisation, agro-processing, horticulture, animal feeds production, fodder production, production of beef and byproducts, milk and processed milk products manufacturing, poultry, fish farming and agriculture insurance services.

The pandemic has also accelerated the push toward building sustainable energy security. In the session on ‘Propelling Africa’s thrust to achieve sustainable energy security’, the deliberations highlighted the bilateral partnership opportunities in the development of new and renewable energy resources. It was cited that Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of creating a ‘One Sun, One World, One Grid’ trans-national electricity grid supplying solar power across the globe is a guiding light for promoting sustainable energy security in Africa. Among various recommendations put forth for driving sustainable energy goals, it was suggested that Africa’s national energy systems need to be opened up to enable member states to participate in regional and continental power markets.

The Special Ministerial Session on ‘Defragmenting & broad basing India- Africa bilateral trade’ threw light on the opportunities for enhancing India-Africa bilateral trade volumes against the backdrop of the AfCFTA and the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) signed by India and Mauritius. Mr Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Government of India stated emphatically that the time has come for India and Africa to push the envelope and take the partnership to the “next level” based on mutual benefits.

Mr Goyal said the CECPA could be the precursor to FTAs that India would look to sign with several other African countries. He highlighted the role that the Indian Diaspora in Africa is playing to reinforce India-Africa bilateral relations. The session was addressed by trade ministers from Nigeria, Kenya, Togo, Equatorial Guinea, D R Congo, Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Zimbabwe.

The African trade ministers invited Indian investments in diverse sectors, such as, agriculture, edible oils, mining, manufacturing, tourism and hospitality, ICT and digital technology, transportation, oil & gas, petrochemicals, other energy sectors, textiles, leather, food and beverages, cement, motor vehicles manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, iron and steel, rubber, plastics, etc.

Healthcare was one of the most discussed themes across all three days of the Conclave. Deliberations in the session titled ‘SERV Africa I: Revitalizing Africa’s healthcare systems for a brighter tomorrow’ underscored the critical need to shed complacency on the development of physical infrastructure development, acknowledged India’s participation in Africa’s physical infrastructure development, capacity building and delivery of tele-education and tele-medicine through initiatives like e-VidyaBharti and e-ArogyaBharti networks, and threw light on further avenues of bilateral collaboration.

The session titled ‘SERV Africa II: Scaling new peaks of tourism & hospitality business growth’ highlighted the opportunities for Indian companies to invest in Africa for developing eco-lodges, hospitality schools for specialised training, transport and travel agencies, water parks and sports recreation facilities.

Highlighting the imperative of equity in access to Covid-19 vaccine supply, the session on ‘Global Health and Vaccine Potential’ laid emphasis on India’s key role in helping Africa gain sufficient access to vaccine supply. It was also stated that India should step up capacity building for vaccine development and manufacturing in Africa.

The session titled 'SERV Africa III: Logging into IT / ITeS growth spheres' directed focus on how India could play a catalytic role in the establishment of IT hubs and related infrastructure on the continent, supported with investments in capacity building, training and transfer of knowledge projects.

The Conclave also featured a session on the scope of India-France-Africa cooperation in which common interests in sectors like skill and capacity development pharmaceuticals, agriculture & joint initiatives for SME development were discussed.

The Conclave concluded with the Valedictory Session. Mr V Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India, in his keynote said that African LDCs would derive the best benefits from the Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) scheme by developing value added industries, for which Indian investments may be directed to their respective domestic sectors like infrastructure, manufacturing, services, agritech, healthcare, sustainable energy, etc. He added that India could play an instrumental role in helping Africa further the digital revolution that would have a beneficial impact on areas like public service delivery, education and healthcare, digital literacy, financial inclusion, among others. The digital revolution will set the stage for the 4th Industrial Revolution in Africa.

Mr Kwaku Ampratwun-Sarpong, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Republic of Ghana, said there is great scope for India-Africa cooperation in the emerging multi-polar world. Mr Eisenhower Nduwa Mkaka, M.P, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Malawi called for focused attention on: 1) How the India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) IV will bring about greater collaborations between the two regions, 2) Diversification of African LDC economies for them to derive greater value from exports, including exports to India through the DFTP scheme and 3) Bridging the digital divide in Africa.

The Conclave once again served as a guiding light for South-South Cooperation in a changing world.

CHIEF GUESTS



H.E. Mr. Slumber Tsogwane
Vice President
Republic of Botswana



H.E. General (Retd) Dr. C.G.D.N. Chiwenga
Vice President and Minister of Health and
Child Care, Republic of Zimbabwe



Hon. Dr. S Jaishankar
Minister of External Affairs
Government of India



Hon. Mr. Piyush Goyal
Minister of Commerce & Industry,
Consumer Affairs, Food & Public
Distribution and Textiles
Government of India



Hon. Mr. V Muraleedharan
Minister of State for External
Affairs and Minister of State
for Parliamentary Affairs,
Government of India

Inaugural Session: Setting new milestones for India-Africa partnership

Chief Guest:	Dr S Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, Government of India
Guests of Honour:	Mr. Slumber Tsogwane, Vice President, Republic of Botswana General (Retd) Dr. C.G.D.N. Chiwenga, Vice President and Minister of Health and Child Care, Republic of Zimbabwe Mr Alan Kyerematen, Minister of Trade and Industry, Republic of Ghana
Speakers:	Mr T V Narendran, President, Confederation of Indian Industry Mr Noel Tata, Chair, CII Africa Committee & Managing Director, Tata International Limited Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry Ms Harsha Bangari, Deputy Managing Director, India Exim Bank Mr S Kuppuswamy, Co-Chair, CII Africa Committee & Advisor-Group Finance & Special Projects, Shapoorji Pallonji Group

Key Assertions

Covid-19 pandemic has enhanced the salience of India-Africa partnership that is guided by the Kampala Principles enunciated by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi in 2018. Stating this in his Keynote Address, Dr S Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, Government of India highlighted four domains for deep cooperation between India and Africa: 1) Public Health 2) Digital Delivery 3) Skills Development & Capacity Building and 4) the Green Economy.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'One Earth, One Health' vision, Dr Jaishankar said India is deeply committed toward strengthening the global supply of medicines and vaccines to the world, and Africa would be a key beneficiary of the initiatives. Citing India's thrust on data for development, he said that India will continue to support African countries to strengthen their e-governance models and delivery of key services through the digital platform, illustrated by initiatives such as the eVidyaBharti and eArogyaBharti that provide Africa countries access to tele-education and tele-medicine services delivered by leading Indian institutions. Seventeen African countries have joined the projects so far. Digital delivery of education and training has helped increase the coverage of beneficiaries across Africa.

Dr Jaishankar highlighted the potential of driving Indian investments in Africa's skill development & training and education sector, as well as the clean energy sector. India's strengths in green technologies need to be fully leveraged for Africa's development, he said, adding that closer collaborations will help build a greener Africa.

The progress of the world hinges on the progress of the Global South. In this light, India would be redoubling the initiatives to deepen the partnership with Africa, said Dr Jaishankar. He said the annual CII EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership has "helped

build bridges and strengthened economic and commercial engagements. It has created capacities, encouraged networking and widened horizons. The results of that are visible in India's growing presence in Africa, as much as Africa's deeper collaborations with Indian institutions and companies."

Dr Jaishankar also alluded to India's cooperation with Africa in disaster mitigation and added that "we are also open to expanding cooperation in maritime safety and security given the increase in non-traditional threats faced by African littoral states."

India's support for Africa and the developing world is also reflected in the support for G20's debt suspension initiative, said Dr Jaishankar.

General (Retd) Dr. C. G. D. N. Chiwenga, Vice President and Minister of Health and Child Care, Republic of Zimbabwe, Guest of Honour at the Conclave, in his address acknowledged India's pioneering role in the supply of essential drugs & pharmaceuticals to Africa over the years, and providing efficient and affordable healthcare facilities in India for Africans seeking medical treatment. Citing that health security is becoming increasingly critical for Africa's growing population, Gen. Chiwenga said that the continent must emulate India in building a strong public healthcare system. He urged India to provide greater capacity building for Africa's healthcare sector, and help boost the region's pharmaceutical manufacturing sector, healthcare infrastructure and development of indigenous medicines. He called for expanding the India-Africa partnerships, buoyed by greater investments and infrastructure development in Africa, and cross-fertilisation of knowledge, skills and competencies.

Mr Alan Kyerematen, Minister of Trade and Industry, Republic of Ghana, in his address called for focused attention on four areas of cooperation between India and Africa: 1) Industrialisation, 2) Science & Technology, and Innovation, 3) SME Development, and 4) Benefits to be derived from the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Speaking about Africa's industrialisation, Mr Kyerematen urged the Indian industry to play a catalytic role in boosting the continent's industrial development through investments, that will also create gainful employment for the growing young population of Africa. Over 20 million graduates join Africa's job market every year. He called for strategic bilateral partnerships in the areas of science & technology, and MSME development – where India has demonstrated strident achievements. Mr Kyerematen cited that with the AfCFTA coming into effect, Indian companies setting up production facilities in any part of Africa will enjoy duty-free, quota-free market access across the continent.

Mr Slumber Tsogwane, Vice President, Republic of Botswana, reiterated the imperative for Indian industry to establish drugs & pharmaceutical production facilities in Africa, and facilitate transfer of technology and R&D collaborations. He urged the India EXIM Bank to introduce innovative modules to promote Indian investments in infrastructure, financial services, industries, etc. Indian investments in a broad spectrum of sectors will help Africa to reap the demographic dividends, he said, and added that Indian industry will see a raft of opportunities in Botswana with the government promoting special economic zones for diverse industries. He invited Indian companies to invest in solar energy plants in Botswana, to meet the country's energy needs and to export power to other countries in the region.

Mr T V Narendran, President, Confederation of Indian Industry in his address cited four areas where India could play a major role in Africa's economic integration and development:

1) Transit infrastructure development through the PPP mode for efficient movement of goods across national boundaries as AfCFTA comes into effect, 2) Technical assistance and capacity building to help African countries to implement the trade facilitation measures, 3) Investment for manufacturing growth, supported by innovative financing of business, and joint financing of projects through PPP, and 4) Alignment of India's development cooperation initiatives with opportunities for Indian companies to invest in Africa. Better targeting of development projects in sectors and countries which are of interest for Indian businesses will foster trade and investment linkages between India and Africa. Mr Narendran also stated that India and Africa are called upon to redouble their joint efforts to strengthen the food security, energy security and health security of people in both regions.

Mr Noel Tata, Chair, CII Africa Committee & Managing Director, Tata International Limited said that Indian industry is reaching out to governments and counterpart business organisations in Africa to build and enhance the capacity for production of drugs & pharmaceuticals and vaccines, as well as invest in healthcare infrastructure development. He also pointed to Indian industry's renewed focus on building partnerships with Africa in the services sector.

Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry in his address stated that the Covid-19 pandemic has broadened the canvas of India-Africa partnership, bringing in its wake a strong focus on healthcare, among a host of other areas.

Ms Harsha Bangari, Deputy Managing Director, India Exim Bank cited that 39% of Government of India supported Lines of Credit (LoC) are directed to Africa for infrastructure development, industrialisation, agriculture and agro-processing projects, etc. An India Exim Bank Report on 'India Africa Healthcare: Prospects and Opportunities' was released in the session.

Mr S Kuppaswamy, Co-Chair, CII Africa Committee & Advisor-Group Finance & Special Projects, Shapoorji Pallonji Group, proposed the vote of thanks in his concluding remarks..

Key Recommendations

- Four domains that hold the promise of deep cooperation between India and Africa:
 - Public Health
 - Digital Delivery
 - Skills Development & Capacity Building
 - Green Economy.
- Africa should aim to emulate India in building a strong public healthcare system.
 - India shall provide greater capacity building for Africa's healthcare sector, and help boost the region's pharmaceutical manufacturing sector, healthcare infrastructure and development of indigenous medicines.
- India's strengths in green technologies need to be fully leveraged for Africa's development.
- Introduce innovative modules to promote Indian investments in infrastructure, financial services, industries, etc.

- India could play a major role in Africa's economic integration and development through:
 - Transit infrastructure development through PPP mode for efficient movement of goods across national boundaries as AfCFTA comes into effect
 - Technical assistance and capacity building to help African countries to implement the trade facilitation measures
 - Investments for manufacturing growth, supported by innovative financing of business, and joint financing of projects through PPP
 - Alignment of India's development cooperation initiatives with opportunities for Indian companies to invest in Africa.
 - Better targeting of development projects in sectors and countries which are of interest for Indian businesses will foster trade and investment linkages between India and Africa.

Plenary Session I: Designing innovative financing solutions for doing business in Africa

Session Moderator:	Ms Harsha Bangari, Deputy Managing Director, India Exim Bank
Guests of Honour:	Mr Neal Rijkenberg, Minister of Finance, Kingdom of Eswatini Dr Renganaden Padayachy, Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, Republic of Mauritius
Panelists:	Mr Admassu Tadesse, Group MD and CEO, Trade & Development Bank Mr M Senthilnathan, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, ECGC Ltd. Dr George Donkor, President, EBID Mr Solomon Quaynor, Vice President, African Development Bank Group Mr Saravanakumar A, Managing Director, Bank of Baroda (Kenya) Ltd. Mr Saahil Patel, Vice President – International Business, Ashoka Buildcon Ltd. Ms Melanie Lawrence, Senior Manager, Afreximbank Mr Parag Bhargava, Deputy General Manager, Afcons Infrastructure Ltd.

Key Assertions

COVID-19 struck African countries at a time when growth prospects for several African countries appeared promising. The pandemic has weakened the macro-economic fundamentals of African countries, leading to doubling of fiscal deficit in 2020; debt-to-GDP rising from 60% in pre-Covid period to 70-75% of the total outstanding debt of over \$700 billion. Given that there is limited fiscal space, future growth in Africa will depend on increased private sector engagement.

Given the increased financing needs of African countries to achieve infrastructure development, traditional financing modes will no more suffice; innovative solutions are required, particularly in infrastructure financing, for promoting access to trade finance and to enable Africa to meet the SDG targets, said Harsha Bangari, Deputy Managing Director, India Exim Bank. Guarantee bonds, green bonds and infrastructure bonds are among the alternative financing options.

India Exim Bank with the Government of India has been financing various projects in Africa including Government of India supported LOCs. India Exim bank has also joined hands with African Development Bank (AfDB) to fund projects on the continent.

Stating that India's trade balance with Africa is in Africa's favour, driven by India's trade deficit in crude petroleum, alternative trade arrangements like financing in the form of local currency funding, counter trade measures and barter trade may also be explored.

COVID-19 notwithstanding, there was a note of optimism among the speakers.

Mr Neal Rijkenberg, Minister of Finance, Kingdom of Eswatini, commended Indian investments, and especially India Exim Bank for their role in helping African manufacturing move up the value chain. Eswatini has greatly benefited from Indian trade and investments. During the pandemic, Government of India has extended support to the country through supply of COVID 19 vaccines. Mr Rijkenberg mentioned the manufacturing industry, pharmaceuticals and renewable energy industry as vital sectors where Indian investors could make major contributions and also spoke of Indian expertise and ground support needed in these sectors. Indian industry could also invest in Eswatini's agriculture, tourism, ICT sectors.

Dr Renganaden Padayachy, Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, Republic of Mauritius, highlighted the investment potential in his country, especially in pharmaceutical manufacturing and vaccine production, and laid emphasis on the conducive investment environment and enabling legal framework there. He also pointed to the green and blue bonds devised by Mauritius, as an example of environmentally-sensitive investment mechanism.

"The African Continental Free Trade Agreement and the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement between India and Mauritius offer significant opportunities for scale and access to a preferential access to a market of 2.5 billion inhabitants," said Dr Padayachy, and added that "Mauritius is providing numerous incentives including a seed capital of up to US\$ 50 million for the production of vaccines".

"Opportunities are opening up in innovative financing. Development finance institutions can play a profound role in catalysing the shift towards socially responsible investments revolving around the environmental, social and governance (ESG) principles," he said.

"According to McKinsey these investments are worth US\$ 30 trillion. As Africa builds infrastructure to improve the living standards of its citizens, ESG investments can be part of the solution. Mauritius can be the vector for these innovative financing mechanisms. The Bank of Mauritius has launched its green and blue bonds. Mauritius jurisdiction provides wide legal framework based on international best practices and protecting investors. This is enhanced by a wide range of bilateral arrangements and double taxation avoidance treaties."

Mr Solomon Quaynor, Vice President, African Development Bank Group, spoke of how his bank is facilitating PPPs in infrastructure financing by: facilitating a conducive environment for investments in PPP, extending project preparation facility, direct financing of projects and risk mitigation. "We are also engaged in infrastructure PPP project preparation and development across energy, transport, ICT and other sectors. Since 2005 this facility has helped mobilised downstream investments of \$24 billion. We have also partnered with Exim Bank and State Bank of India for some of our projects," he said.

“We are creating an enabling environment for debt capital markets in Africa. We have also issued bonds in debt capital markets. We have issued bonds in South Africa, Botswana, Uganda and Nigeria, and we also support demonstration capital market transactions like Green bonds linked with SDGs. We have sponsored the African Domestic Bond Fund,” said Mr Quaynor.

He also cited raising of domestic funds, like in the case of Nigeria, through Nigeria Infrastructure Debt Fund. This model, he said, would be replicated in other African countries too.

Mr Quaynor made a specific request to Indian pharmaceutical and vaccine manufacturers, to set up their bases on African soil, as regional hubs. “Since economies of scale need to be looked at, not all 54 countries can go for pharmaceutical and vaccine manufacturing. Even outside vaccine production, we want to invest \$3 billion in the pharmaceutical sector in the next 10 years,” he said.

Mr Admassu Tadesse, Group MD and CEO, Trade & Development Bank, struck a note of optimism by pointing out that today there are 20 capital market exchanges on the continent. He highlighted the role of sovereign bonds in raising hard currency, that considerably meet infrastructure funding requirements. “Since the turn of Millennium the question of capital markets has been on the radar screens of African policy makers. And at the outset the good news is that we have more than 20 exchanges today across Africa whereas earlier you could count on one hand. But are not deep enough. All of us have a role to play in stimulating these nascent capital markets,” said Mr Tadesse. “We have issued local currency bonds in several countries-- Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, but the numbers are not really what these countries need. A lot of projects require hard currency given the nature of contracts.”

Mr M Senthilnathan, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, ECGC Ltd (Export Credit Guarantee Corporation), pointed out that Indian companies and manpower will find interesting opportunities in Africa. He sees education, telemedicine and transport as attractive areas of investments by Indian companies.

Buyer’s Credit from Exim Bank is a viable tool for bridging the financing gap in Africa’s infrastructure sector. If there are two or three parties involved in funding the arrangement, that enhances the risk profile of the project.

Dr George Donkor, President, ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development, talked about the scope of venture capital, PPP and private sector finance for financing Africa’s infrastructure. He called for implementation of regional trade agreements and trade facilitation through streamlining of customs procedures.

Mr Saravanakumar A, Managing Director, Bank of Baroda (Kenya) Ltd. pointed to the long presence of the bank on the continent (with presence in African countries like Kenya, Uganda, Botswana and Mauritius). The bank serves customers in the MSME, retail and corporate sectors and works closely with Indian embassies and Indian business forums overseas.

He commended the role of Indian embassies and various business forums in facilitating Indian investments on African soil. He also commended the ease of doing business in African countries.

Mr Saahil Patel, Vice President – International Business, Ashoka Buildcon Ltd), described how his company is expanding its presence in key infrastructure areas in Africa through its 'Look Africa Policy', that would also create livelihoods in the Covid-ravaged continent.

Ms Melanie Lawrence, Senior Manager, Afreximbank, spoke of the bank's strategy of financing intra-African trade, facilitating industrialisation and assuring access to trade finance across the continent. The bank has taken several measures like overdraft facility to mitigate hardships and make medical resources available. It has been playing an important role in vaccine procurement for the continent.

Mr Parag Bhargava, Deputy General Manager, Afcons Infrastructure Ltd, and with numerous infrastructure projects in Africa, pointed out how under Exim Bank's Buyers' credit scheme, the group has got long tenure facilities for large scale infrastructure projects and is able to support local governments in their critical requirements.

He made a case for collaboration with like-minded countries like Japan, which are keen to invest in Africa. He mentioned that the key requirements are: seed capital funding; feasibility studies, improved bankability of projects; risking mitigation including currency risk management.

Key Recommendations

- Innovative solutions are required, particularly in infrastructure financing, for promoting access to trade finance and to enable Africa to meet the SDG targets.
- Development finance institutions can play a profound role in catalysing the shift towards socially responsible investments revolving around the environmental, social and governance (ESG) principles.

Plenary Session II: Aligning India-Africa bilateral trade with AfCFTA

Session Moderator: Mr Shishir Priyadarshi, Director & Head, Development Division, World Trade Organization

Panelists:

Dr Albert G. Zeufack, Chief Economist - Africa Region, World Bank

Mr Bohani Hlungwane, Managing Principal- Head of Trade & Working Capital Sales (Pan Africa), Absa CIB

Dr Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)

Mr Sourav Hazra, MRICS, Executive Director & Head - CBRE Industrial Advisory Services, CBRE South Asia, CBRE Consulting

Key Assertions

The negotiation power of African economies in world trade would go up “phenomenally” with the coming into effect of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), said Mr Shishir Priyadarshi, Director & Head, Development Division, World Trade Organization in his opening remarks. However he added that the success of the FTA would also depend on a number of factors like development of trade-related infrastructure and supply chains, harmonisation of standards, etc. He highlighted the imperative of attracting private sector investments in areas like technology, logistics, capacity building, among others in order for the African economies to overcome the challenges that meet the region while implementing the AfCFTA agreement. Mutuality of benefits, complementary assistance and investments through the PPP route will be key to India’s alignment with AfCFTA, he said.

Dr Srikar K Reddy, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India in his address recommended six key steps toward aligning the India-Africa trade with AfCFTA, namely: 1) Indian Missions in Africa and African Missions in India to play a catalytic role in enhancing the market access for industries on both sides, especially for MSMEs, 2) Increase bilateral investments for increasing trade volumes, especially through investments in Africa’s manufacturing sector, and toward creation of regional value chains across sectors like agriculture and agro-processing, oil & gas, auto component manufacturing, etc., 3) Discuss and work toward signing of Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) or Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) between India and regional economic groups in Africa like COMESA, ECOWAS, SACU, and even explore an FTA between Africa Union and India at a later stage after AfCFTA attains high success, 4) Encourage all Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in Africa to avail of India’s duty-free, quota free market access – 26 of 33 LDCs in Africa have so far availed of the benefits, 5) Improve utilisation of lines of credit (LoC) by the recipient countries, and promote Buyer’s Credit scheme among importers in Africa, and 6) Drive reduction of transaction costs.

Dr Reddy also pointed to the growing opportunities for India-Africa trade in services, covering telecom, tourism, banking and financial services, etc. He cited the opportunity for African countries to promote tourism destinations to Indian outbound tourists.

Dr Albert G. Zeufack, Chief Economist - Africa Region, World Bank spoke about the potential of AfCFTA for the African youth and the role of foreign investments in creating the right opportunities for the youth. AfCFTA is important to Africa as the impact of Covid-19 pandemic has undone nearly 10 years of progress in poverty alleviation.

To fully harness the potential of AfCFTA, Dr Zeufack called for focused attention on three areas: 1) Understand the megatrends that drive Africa's future and factor those into investment decisions and policy, 2) Governments must look beyond achieving trade balance and drive investments and job creation in Africa, and 3) Establish the right metrics to measure the success of India Africa trade growth. He also referred to the digital economy in Africa as the silver lining in these times of pandemic which can be better leveraged for trade and investment growth. He added that green goods manufacturing could be promoted in Africa.

Mr Bohani Hlungwane, Managing Principal- Head of Trade & Working Capital Sales (Pan Africa), Absa CIB in his address cited three major opportunities that the AfCFTA has to offer. He referred to the World Bank studies that indicate \$100 billion annual infrastructure financing deficit in Africa that could be of interest to foreign investors. This would also cover digital infrastructure.

Besides, the Covid-19 pandemic has shown that opportunities exist in the creation of regional value chains across multiple sectors in the continent, including PPE kits manufacturing, medical facilities, etc. He pointed out how AfCFTA will provide two major benefits, one being the zero tariffs and the other, creating possibilities for private sectors not only in Africa but also globally, to contribute to the regional value chains. AfCFTA will help Indian companies in Africa to efficiently manage their treasury operations, procurement and distribution systems.

Dr Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) called for a revisit of LoCs. He underlined the need for extending coverage of Indian banking and financial services in Africa, reduction of cost of insurance, where institutions like ECGC could play a key part.

Dr Chaturvedi highlighted the need for trade facilitation through efficient ports and sea-lanes, that will have a beneficial impact on India-Africa trade. He expressed concern over the asymmetry in information flows and systems between India and Africa that limit the scope of bilateral trade growth.

Mr Sourav Hazra, MRICS, Executive Director & Head - CBRE Industrial Advisory Services, CBRE South Asia, CBRE Consulting said that for Indian industry's engagement with Africa will increase in the wake of the implementation of AfCFTA. Areas that merit the attention of the African countries are: 1) Location – it is important for the companies to know which are the ideal entry points in Africa or the beachheads, 2) Sectors – which are best sectors to invest in, 3) Viable investment environment – whereby there is adequate focus on providing the best factors of production.

Referring to the investment environment, Mr Hazra said that an Industrial Zone Policy could serve as a subset of AfCFTA. He also called for the involvement of international partners as master developers of industrial zones on PPP basis, backed with sovereign

guarantees. He further recommended the provision of sector-specific incentives, identification of local partners for collaborations, improved connectivity, especially with regard to ports infrastructure, and promotion of a pan-Africa investment agency.

Mr Shishir Priyadarshi in his concluding remarks called for gender-neutral trade policies that are mindful of the impact on women entrepreneurs and workers, and align 'aid for trade' with AfCFTA.

Key Recommendations

- Indian Missions in Africa and African Missions in India could play a greater role in enhancing the market access for industries on both sides, especially for MSMEs
- Increase bilateral investments for increasing trade volumes, especially through investments in Africa's manufacturing sector, and toward creation of regional value chains across sectors like agriculture and agro-processing, oil & gas, auto component manufacturing, etc.
- Discuss and work toward signing of PTAs or FTAs between India and regional economic groups in Africa like COMESA, ECOWAS, SACU, and even explore an FTA between Africa Union and India at a later stage after AfCFTA attains high success
- Encourage all LDCs in Africa to avail of India's duty-free, quota free market access – 26 of 33 LDCs in Africa have so far availed of the benefits.
- Improve utilisation of lines of credit (LoC) by the recipient.
- Tap into new opportunities for India-Africa trade in services, covering telecom, tourism, banking and financial services, etc.
- AfCFTA will help Indian companies in Africa to efficiently manage their treasury operations, procurement and distribution systems.

Plenary Session III: Forging new partnerships to bridge Africa's physical infrastructure

Session Moderator:	Mr S Kuppuswamy, Co-Chair, CII Africa Committee
Guests of Honour:	Mr Kwaku Asante Boateng, Deputy Minister of Railways, Republic of Ghana
Special Address:	Ms Nagma Mallick, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India
Panelists;	Mr Eyob Easwaran, Senior Advisor, Lending Operations, Trade & Development Bank Dr Ibrahim Diarra, Chief of Staff, Hon. Emmanuel ESSIS, Ivorian Minister of Investment Promotion and Private Sector Development, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire Mr Dinesh Rathi, CEO, Lagos Free Zone Mr Rahul Sikka, VP & Head- PT&D, L&T Construction Mr Akhil Gupta, Executive Director, Afcons Infrastructure Ltd. Mr Aditya Parakh, Director, Ashoka Buildcon Group

Key Assertions

Mr S Kuppuswamy, Co-Chair, CII Africa Committee & Advisor-Group Finance & Special Projects, Shapoorji Pallonji Group in his opening remarks said that a prosperous Africa is critical for the global good and robust infrastructure is essential for developing a prosperous Africa. To realise the African Development Bank's High 5 Achievements -- Light up and Power Africa; Feed Africa; Industrialize Africa; Integrate Africa; and Improve the Quality of Life for the People of Africa – infrastructure development assumes critical significance. However, the region's infrastructure that needs estimated financing of the order of \$100-200 billion a year has an annual shortfall of around \$100 billion.

While Indian industry has participated in Africa's infrastructure development projects, the financing options for the investments need to extend beyond Government of India concessional Lines of Credit, Buyer's Credit and self-funding, said Mr Kuppuswamy.

Mr Kwaku Asante Boateng, Deputy Minister of Railways, Republic of Ghana spoke about the country's thrust on revamping and redeveloping the railway network. There are 6 arterial railway lines that are being developed connecting the length and breadth of Ghana which when completed will boost various domestic sectors like agriculture, mining, etc. The rail projects include the Ghana-Burkina Faso railway interconnectivity project that will connect the economic and industrial zones; the Trans-ECOWAS railway line covering a total length of 520 km; extension of the Western line that will connect the mining areas; extension of the Eastern line, and the Central line of approximately 200 km, connecting the agricultural areas; and the main link line connecting the Northern and Southern parts of Ghana. Mr

Boateng stated that the railway projects would require investments and collaboration of private players. He urged investors from India to participate in the development of railway infrastructure in Africa.

Ms Nagma Mallick, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India said that India has been actively sharing its development experience and technological expertise with Africa. Projects worth more than \$6 billion have already been sanctioned through LoCs of which 189 projects in 41 African countries have been executed and 77 projects valued at \$12 billion are being implemented. These projects include development of drinking water scheme, irrigation, solar power plants, tech parks, railway infrastructure, etc. The Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre was developed on a grant basis in Niger, a landmark in India-Niger friendship.

Given that Africa needs a large part of the physical infrastructure to be developed, Ms Mallick said that African countries will benefit by becoming a part of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), a multi-stakeholder global partnership involving national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector and knowledge institutions.

India and Africa are poised to leverage their long standing partnership in projects, and take advantage of the demographic dividends in developing a robust physical and digital infrastructure, said Ms Mallick.

Mr Eyob Easwaran, Senior Advisor, Lending Operations, Trade & Development Bank said the Covid-19 pandemic has widened the infrastructure development gaps in Africa. Bridging the gaps will call for massive deployment of technology, expertise and financial resources. Bridging the infrastructure gaps, through development of airports, railway networks, shipping infrastructure, etc., will boost the prospects of Africa's trade growth.

Mr Dinesh Rathi, CEO, Lagos Free Zone called for continuous engagements between the public and private sectors to secure a holistic policy framework that supports the development of robust infrastructure, with due risk mitigation for the investors.

Mr Rahul Sikka, VP & Head- PT&D, L&T Construction, said that his company has developed several infrastructure projects in Africa with employment of labour from both India and Africa. The companies strives to take up projects that ensure the betterment of the people of Africa.

Dr Ibrahim Diarra, Chief of Staff, Hon. Emmanuel ESSIS, Ivorian Minister of Investment Promotion and Private Sector Development, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire stressed on the importance of infrastructural development, especially in areas like power and electricity that will have a positive impact on sectors like agriculture and agro-business. Dr Diarra also called for the promotion of PPP in infrastructure development in Africa.

Mr Aditya Parakh, Director, Ashoka Buildcon Group said that his company is known for developing world-class infrastructure in record time. The company is looking for collaboration opportunities with comparable entities in Africa.

Mr Akhil Gupta, Executive Director, Afcons Infrastructure Ltd said the company is actively engaged in local community oriented initiatives, along with the infrastructure projects that they manage.

Key Recommendations

- Financing of infrastructure projects in Africa should extend beyond reliance on Government of India concessional Lines of Credit.
- African countries will benefit by becoming a part of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), a multi-stakeholder global partnership involving national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and knowledge institutions.

Plenary Session IV: Harvesting growth opportunities in Africa's agriculture & food sectors

Session Moderator:	Mr Rajiv Wahi, Member, CII Africa Committee
Guests of Honour:	Mr Lobin Lowe, M.P., Minister of Agriculture, Republic of Malawi Mr Karabo Socraat Gare, Minister of Agricultural Development and Food Security, Republic of Botswana Prof Mthuli Ncube, Minister of Finance, Zimbabwe
Panelists:	Mr Roux, Head of Agriculture Sector Coverage, Absa CIB Mr Gourish Chakravorty, Chief Executive Officer, Ion Exchange Safic Mr R Sudarshan, Advisor – Exports, TAFE & Group Co Mr Sumant Khanna, Head- Institutional Sales, Escorts Ms Danesa Raghulal, Executive Director, Elite Foods & Innovations Group Mr. Purnendu Parui, Joint General Manager, Afcons Infrastructure Ltd

Key Assertions

Africa's agriculture bore the brunt of the Covid-19 pandemic, negating the sector's gains made in the last few decades. National lockdowns and border closures acutely disrupted the supply chains, including those of essential inputs like seeds and fertilizer. Africa's agriculture exports too were impacted by lockdowns in importing countries like India. All these developments lead to reduced incomes for farmers, and the grim prospects of food in the region. Locust attacks and floods in some parts of Africa compounded the challenges.

Rajiv Wahi, Member, CII Africa Committee, in his opening remarks said the Covid-19 pandemic has increased the significance of agriculture growth for the socio-economic stability of African countries. It is imperative to prioritise agriculture in growth plans not just to ensure food security for all, but also as a growth engine for employment generation.

Mr Wahi spoke of the need for greater cooperation between India and African countries to step up agriculture and food production on the continent (food and agriculture, according to a 2020 McKinsey report titled 'Safeguarding Africa's food systems through and beyond the crisis', make up 23% of Africa's GDP, employ 60% of population and account for \$35 billion food exports.

Referring to India's contribution to Africa's agriculture sector, Mr Wahi said the three editions of India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) placed high priority on bilateral cooperation for improving farming techniques, irrigation techniques, water management, improved crop varieties and agro-processing methods.

India has also contributed to Africa's agriculture development through capacity enhancement and skill development. Training programmes have been organised for students from Africa in

areas like soil quality testing, water management, seed quality assessment, dairy production, cold storage, agro-financing, etc. In April 2019, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India signed an MoU with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Consultancy Service (NABCONS) for setting up the India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development (IAIARD) in Malawi, to provide training in micro-financing and agro-financing, among others, to students from across Africa.

Mr Lobin Lowe, M.P., Minister of Agriculture, Republic of Malawi, in his address said that his country has good horticulture production, especially with respect to fruits like mango, guava, citrus, tomato, potato and lettuce. He called for Indian industry's participation in Malawi agriculture and food processing sector, as well as fertiliser manufacturing and ways to promote medical usage of cannabis (supported by an enabling policy for the private sector in processing cannabis).

He pointed out that the AfCFTA provides Indian companies greater opportunities to participate in Africa's agriculture value chain.

Mr. Karabo Socraat Gare, Minister of Agricultural Development and Food Security, Republic of Botswana, said that Africa is not producing the volume of farm produce and food that is commensurate with its expansive agricultural land. Instead, staple food including wheat and rice are imported.

He invited Indian Investors to participate in the creation of sustainable value chains, farm mechanisation and agro-processing (like production of tomato ketchup and yoghurt). He also welcomed Indian participation in horticulture, animal feeds production, fodder production, production of beef and byproducts, milk and processed milk products manufacturing, poultry, fish farming and agriculture insurance services.

Prof. Mthuli Ncube, Minister of Finance, Zimbabwe, called for engaging India's expertise in the production of seeds and fertilisers, farm equipment, especially tractors and harvesters, agro-processing and agro-financing and irrigation. A leasing model for the use of combined harvesters would suit Africa's farmers, he said.

Prof. Ncube also cited that Indian companies may be encouraged to invest in spinning and weaving businesses. Logistics and distribution was another area for bilateral cooperation and investments, he added.

Dr Ratnakar Adhikari, Executive Director, Enhanced Integrated Framework, World Trade Organization, Geneva, spoke about Indian industry's potential role in building synergy between different agriculture production centres across Africa. For instance, there could be more cooperation between Eastern Africa that produces rice, Western Africa that is more involved in production of sorghum and Southern Africa that produces soybean and groundnut. Besides, agriculture produce also becomes raw materials for other industries. India could play a catalytic role in developing these value chains, he said.

The Africa Agriculture Development Programme encourages African governments to commit 10% of their respective national budgets for agriculture development. This has had a positive cascading effect on farm infrastructure development, sectoral compliance with standards and trade facilitation.

Dr Adhikari underscored the emerging opportunity to apply technologies like AI and biotechnology for enhancing food production in Africa. A conducive investment climate, successful implementation of AfCFTA and substantial coverage against political and natural disaster risks would greatly augment overseas investor participation in Africa's agriculture and food sector, he said.

Mr Roux, Head of Agriculture Sector Coverage, Absa CIB, cited the following as prerequisites for Africa's agriculture sector:

- An enabling policy for private sector participation in the agricultural economy.
- Investments in infrastructure -- roads, railways, ports, storage, logistics chain.
- Trade agreements.

Ms Monde Nyambe, Principal PPP Investment Officer, African Development Bank Group described in detail the Feed Africa Strategy of the Bank, and areas where Indian government and private players could collaborate.

Africa has 60-65% of world's arable land and yet the region is characterised by high levels of malnutrition and poverty. African Development Bank's Feed Africa Strategy seeks to transform agriculture in Africa, alleviate people out of poverty and hunger, make Africa a net exporter of agri commodities and help the countries move up the agri value chain.

She stated that Special Agro-industrial Processing Zones (SAPZs) established in Africa provide end-to-end solutions to the agri-value chain. SAPZs help increase food production efficiency, create new employment opportunities, promote skills development and entrepreneurship, and strengthen local, regional and international trade.

She said India, with its 22 Food Park Schemes, could help set up similar parks in Africa and in running of these facilities in the PPP mode. Indian industry could explore co-financing SAPZs. Facility management is another area where India has the technical know-how. Indian industry can come in through PPPs and assist in the establishment of these agro-processing hubs.

Mr Gourish Chakravorty, Chief Executive Officer, Ion Exchange Safic, a company specialising in water treatment and operating in Africa, underlined the need for greater investments in achieving water use efficiency and water-efficient cropping. He dealt at length on the challenge of producing more using less water, and tackling pollution due to use of harmful chemicals in agriculture.

Mr R Sudarshan, Advisor – Exports, TAFE & Group Co and Mr Sumant Khanna, Head-Institutional Sales, Escorts, highlighted their respective companies' role in farm mechanisation, especially tractorisation, capacity building, knowledge sharing across the agricultural value chain.

Mr Sudarshan called for farm mechanisation and better water management in Africa. Solar powered water pumps would also be useful considering that the region has endemic power shortages and erratic electricity supply.

TAFE has been working in farm mechanisation areas and has a training set-up for small farmers to help them transition from subsistence to large farming. “We provide expertise in integrated farming with animal husbandry in small and medium farming. We manage water and soil in farm practices. All these measures make farming a viable avenue for the younger generation,” he said.

Mr Sumant Khanna of Escorts said the company is working on delivering end to end solutions, and designing comprehensive solutions. This could be crop or geography based. “We are involved hand-holding farmers. We have training centres and train farmers in Indian best practices throughout the agri value chain,” he said.

Ms Danesa Raghulal, Executive Director, Elite Foods & Innovations Group, described her company’s diverse businesses including food processing (baking and confectionary included) and international presence, including in Botswana.

Both India and Africa have abundant natural resources and manufacturing potential. Numerous opportunities exist for collaboration in food production, for which the pre-requisites are:

- Single-window administration.
- Demarcated geographical zones with tie-ups with local training institutes to meet local labour requirements.
- Use of green/ renewable energy.
- Streamlining of processes for duty-free benefits.
- Demarcated areas for such units and good connectivity.
- Contract farming through micro-financing or PPP.

Purnendu Parui, Joint General Manager, Afcons Infrastructure Ltd, talked about his company’s business presence in Africa and the role of Afcons in irrigation and hydro power projects. He stated that lift irrigation is the panacea for agriculture in water deficient areas.

Key Recommendations

- Indian companies could step up the participation in Africa’s agriculture value chain through:
 - An enabling policy for private sector participation in the agricultural economy.
 - Investments in infrastructure -- roads, railways, ports, storage, logistics chain.
 - Trade agreements.
- Indian companies could explore investment opportunities in Africa in areas like food processing sector, fertiliser manufacturing, medical usage of cannabis, farm mechanisation, agro-processing, horticulture, animal feeds production, fodder production, production of beef and byproducts, milk and processed milk products manufacturing, poultry, fish farming and agriculture insurance services.
- Indian industry could explore co-financing SAPZs in Africa.
 - Facility management is another area where India has the technical knowhow.

Plenary Session V: Propelling Africa's thrust to achieve sustainable energy security

Session Moderator:	Mr P Harish, Additional Secretary - ER, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India
Guests of Honour:	Senator Peter Bhembe, Minister of Natural Resources & Energy, Kingdom of Eswatini Mr Newton Kambala, Minister of Energy, Malawi Mr Soda Zhemu, Minister of Energy and Power Development, Republic of Zimbabwe Mr William Owuraku Aidoo, Deputy Minister for Energy, Republic of Ghana
Panelists:	Mr Vinoo George, President-Africa Business, Avaada Group, India Mr Narinder Mohan Gupta, Chief General Manager & Head of International Business, NTPC Limited, India Mr Hassen EL Agrebi, Director of International Cooperation, ANME, National Agency for Energy Conservation, Tunisia Mr Krishnan Rajagopalan, Head – Sales & Business Development for Hybrid Energy & Storage Solutions, Sterling & Wilson Pvt Ltd, India Mr Amit Kaushik, Chief of Unit (Project and Program Implementation), International Solar Alliance, India

Key Assertions

Access to affordable, renewable, sustainable and modern energy is a pivotal goal for both the Indian and the African continent. Mr P Harish, Additional Secretary - ER, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in his opening remarks pointed to the energy deficit issues in sub-Saharan Africa that mandate urgent remedial measures. Achieving sustainable energy security is fundamental to climate change mitigation, Mr Harish said. In this regard, he reiterated that the majority of Indian LoCs have been utilised in Africa's energy sector.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of creating a 'One Sun, One World, One Grid' trans-national electricity grid supplying solar power across the globe is a guiding light for promoting sustainable energy security, said Mr Mohan, while adding that India has repeatedly called for international cooperation, transfer of technology and financing operations for smoother transition towards green energy.

Senator Peter Bhembe, Minister of Natural Resources & Energy, Kingdom of Eswatini in his address called for greater investments in Africa's energy sector that are central to the initiatives to industrialise African economies. He called for increased investments in renewable energy development to mitigate climate change, for which he suggested:

1) Scaled up investments in renewable energy projects guided by a sound policy framework that drives the continent's energy transformation, 2) Leveraging public finance including climate finance to bridge the financing gap, to spur private sector investments in renewable energy projects, and 3) Greater international assistance to the developing countries to build renewable energy that is aligned with the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The Eswatini Government has drawn up multiple strategies to attract investments in renewable energy projects, said Senator Bhembe. The country's Energy Master Plan is designed to meet the country's growing energy demand until year 2034.

Mr Newton Kambala, Minister of Energy, Malawi said the country's energy deficit may be viewed as an investment opportunity for the private sector. The country's energy deficit is exacerbated by: 1) Low electricity installation capacity which stands at 420 MW against a requirement of 720 MW, 2) High dependence on one river for hydro electricity generation. Out of 390 MW of hydro electricity produced, projects on the other rivers contribute only 45 MW, 3) Low hydropower generation due to low water levels, 4) Low national grid electrification rate at 11.24% and low off-grid electrification rate of 6.6%, and 5) Limited financial resources to meet the growing energy demand. Mr Newton urged governments and private sector entities to participate in Malawi's energy market which he said offers immense growth potential.

Mr Soda Zhemu, Minister of Energy and Power Development, Republic of Zimbabwe said that the Zimbabwean government's policy measures like the Energy Policy of 2012, Renewable Energy Policy of 2019 and Bio Fuels Policy of 2019 promote liberalisation of power generation and participation of the private sector in the energy industry, with focus on the exploitation of renewable energy resources. Zimbabwe receives annual daily average solar radiation of 20 mega joules/ sq. m. The country has the potential to generate about 5000 MW of hydropower, and has immense scope for wind energy generation in many areas of the country.

Mr Zhemu said the maximum energy requirement in the country is between 1400 MW to 1700 MW while the current average achievable energy is 1450 MW, which compels the country to meet its energy requirements through imports. Other investment opportunities are: 1) Demand side management with pre-payment meters, 2) Smart metering for energy management services and equipment, 3) Manufacturing energy efficient CFL and LED bulbs, 4) Establishment of gas power plants, 4) Dam construction at the confluence of two of the major rivers of Zimbabwe, 5) Transmission and distribution system reinforcement projects through construction and rehabilitation of existing sub-stations and switching stations, and 5) Upgrading and refurbishing of network infrastructure and network expansion projects.

Mr. William Owuraku Aidoo, Deputy Minister for Energy, Republic of Ghana spoke about the necessary interventions that will propel the growth of sustainable energy security in Africa. These include 1) Opening up of the national energy systems -- aimed at separating grid operation from generation and distribution -- to enable member states to participate in regional and continent power markets; 2) African countries and India must jointly engage in developing energy infrastructure to take advantage of economies of scale. Here he added that African power demands will see unprecedented increase through 2021 in light of reducing Covid-19 restrictions and increased economic activities; 3) African countries

should consider trading of energy resources within the continent. He added that the African power markets established in June 2021 will be essential elements of the AfCFTA. This will offer African industries secure, competitive and affordable electricity; 4) Africa must aim to improve its share of green resources in their energy mix to attain their goal of becoming climate neutral by year 2030; and 5) Energy security must be enhanced by improved energy efficiency through decreased reliance on fossil fuels.

Mr Vinoo George, President, Africa Business, Avaada Group referred to three factors that are influencing Africa's renewable energy markets: 1) Abundant availability of renewable energy resources; 2) Poor access to electricity; and 3) Use of fossil fuels for power generation. He stated that although countries like Zambia, South Africa and Morocco have started the process of transitioning to green energy, there are challenges to be addressed in most other countries. There is a need to streamline the installation processes for energy projects and the costs need to be brought down. Concession agreements and power purchasing agreements are seen to be one-sided, limiting the scope of private investments. He said that African governments should look to address these concerns.

Mr Hassen EL Agrebi, Director of International Cooperation, ANME, National Agency for Energy Conservation, Tunisia said the country is highly dependent on natural gas for power generation. This has resulted in high emission of greenhouse gasses. The Tunisian government has recently announced an ambitious plan to increase the share of renewable energy in its energy mix to 80% and simultaneously decrease their carbon footprint by 41% by year 2030. According to Mr Agrebi, the Tunisian government's policy on transition to green energy is creating an institutional framework for promoting green energy. Additionally, funding for green energy transition and national programmes for capacity building and training are being taken by the government to achieve their green goals.

Mr Narinder Mohan Gupta, Chief General Manager & Head of International Business, NTPC Ltd stated that bottlenecks in energy infrastructure on the African continent hinder the transition to renewable energy. He pointed to the unavailability of grid networks and distribution infrastructure as growing concerns. Mr Gupta said that energy storage solutions, like the stand-alone fuel cell based back-up power system and micro grid system with hydrogen production using electrolysers could address the challenge of solar energy storage and provide round-the-clock energy supply.

Mr Krishnan Rajagopalan, Head – Sales & Business Development for Hybrid Energy & Storage Solutions, Sterling & Wilson Pvt Ltd, India spoke about the numerous technologies related to micro grid applications, mini hydro systems, smart grid and pre-paid metering. He underlined the need for creating a secure business climate for investments in Africa's energy sector.

An integration of solar, wind, biomass and hydro is what African countries must consider to solve their green energy crisis, said Mr Rajagopalan. Risk coverage of capital and skilled workforce are two other factors that need to be addressed for a successful transition to sustainable energy.

Mr Amit Kaushik, Chief of Unit (Project and Program Implementation), International Solar Alliance cited three factors that are key to upscaling solar applications in African region:

policy, process and people. Strong policies, streamlined processes and projects in the interest and benefit of the people will provide the necessary impetus to solar energy development, he said.

Key Recommendations

- Promote international cooperation for transfer of technology and financing of projects for Africa's smoother transition to green energy.
- Scale up private investments in renewable energy projects guided by a sound policy framework that drives the continent's energy transformation.
- Leverage public finance including climate finance to bridge the financing gap to spur private sector investments in renewable energy projects.
- Encourage private investments in energy sectors, in areas such as:
 - Demand side management with pre-payment meters
 - Smart metering for energy management services and equipment
 - Manufacturing energy efficient CFL and LED bulbs
 - Transmission and distribution system reinforcement projects through construction and rehabilitation of existing sub-stations and switching stations
 - Upgrading and refurbishing of network infrastructure and network expansion projects.
- Open up Africa's national energy systems -- aimed at separating grid operation from generation and distribution -- to enable member states to participate in regional and continental power markets.
- Make concession agreements in the energy sector attractive for private investments in Africa.
- Develop energy storage solutions, like the stand-alone fuel cell based back-up power system and micro grid systems with hydrogen production using electrolyser – to provide round-the-clock energy supply.

Special Ministerial Session - Defragmenting & broad basing India-Africa bilateral trade

Keynote Address:	Mr Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Government of India
Address:	Mr Sanjiv Bajaj, President - Designate, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
Guests of Honour:	Mr Otunba Richard Adeniyi Adebayo, Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Federal Republic of Nigeria Mr Jean Lucien Bussa Tongba, Minister of External Trade, D R Congo Prof. Kitila Alexander Mkumbo Minister of Industry and Trade Government of the United Republic of Tanzania Mr Adedze Kodjo Sevon Tepe, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Local Consumption, Republic of Togo Mr Melaku Alebel, Minister of Trade & Industry, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Mr F M M Shava, Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Trade, Republic of Zimbabwe Mr Lawrence Macharia Karanja, Chief Administrative Secretary (Deputy Minister) Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and Enterprise Development, Kenya Mr Cesar Augusto Hinestrosa Gomez, Vice-Minister of Industry and Energy, Equatorial Guinea
Session Moderator:	Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

Key Assertions

It is imperative for countries to globally 'Connect, Create & Collaborate' in these pandemic times. Stating this in his keynote address, Mr Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Government of India reiterated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 10 Guiding Principles for India-Africa engagement that posit "Africa will be top of our priorities".

Mr Goyal said the time has come for India and Africa to push the envelope and take the partnership to the "next level" based on mutual benefits. The bilateral partnership is vitally important as it impacts the lives of one-third of world's humanity, he said.

Citing the four pillars of India's engagement with Africa, namely, government, people, business and trade, Mr Goyal said that Africa has been the second largest recipient of Government

of India's overseas assistance. Referring to the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) signed by India and Mauritius, he said the FTA could be a precursor to FTAs that India would look to sign with several other African countries. He highlighted the key role that the Indian Diaspora in Africa is playing to reinforce India-Africa bilateral relations, and added that Indian business is contributing significantly to Africa's development through investments that have now reached a cumulative size of \$54 billion. India as the third largest trade partner of Africa will continue to play an instrumental role in Africa's economic progress, Mr Goyal said.

Stating that the Covid-19 pandemic has demonstrated the remarkable resilience of the India-Africa partnership to deal with challenges of the 21st century, Mr Goyal said that Government of India is committed to meeting Africa's healthcare needs through supply of essential medicines and vaccines. He expressed hope that the joint efforts of India and South Africa to prevail upon the World Trade Organization (WTO) to allow patent waiver related to Covid-19 drugs and vaccines for the duration of the pandemic will find success soon. The waiver is central to ensuring supply of affordable Covid-19 vaccines and medicines to the developing world.

Referring to the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme that has benefited African youth down the decades, Mr Goyal said the India Africa Health Sciences Platform (IAHSP) opens up another front for deep cooperation, particularly in regard to transfer of technology, R&D collaboration, capacity building, and pharma manufacturing, contributing to the health security of both regions, and creation of a large number of jobs for the youth of Africa.

Speaking about India-Africa bilateral trade, Mr Goyal underlined the need for geographical diversification of the trade, and urged 6 African LDCs that have not yet availed of Government of India's Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) scheme, to leverage the opportunity to gain easy export market access to India. The bilateral trade goals of scaling the \$100 billion on 2-3 years, and \$150 billion in next 5 years will serve as the guiding lights.

Mr Goyal invited African businesses to collaborate with businesses in India to access the benefits of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) programme launched by the Government of India. He also encouraged African countries to become more familiar with Government of India's initiatives to fast-track the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) well ahead of year 2030.

The Special Ministerial Session was also addressed by trade ministers from Africa. Mr Niyi Adebayo, Minister of Industry, Trade and Investments, Nigeria said in his address that India has a defining role in realising the true potential of India-Africa bilateral trade by directing greater investments in the region, that complements the AfCFTA which in turn is predicated to the principle of comparative advantage. He invited Indian investments in diverse sectors of Nigeria, such as, agriculture, mining, manufacturing, oil & gas, tourism and hospitality, ICT and digital technology, etc.

Mr Jean Lucien Bussa Tongba, Minister of External Trade, D R Congo invited Indian companies to invest in value added manufacturing and raw material processing in Africa. He said that D R Congo has created a favourable investment climate for foreign companies.

The country has 80 million hectares of arable land of which only 10 per cent is cultivated. There is immense scope for Indian companies to invest in D R Congo's agriculture sector, and in particular agro-processing industries, and farm mechanisation. Other promising areas for investments are: transportation, petrochemicals and other energy sectors.

Mr Ato Melaku Alebel, Minister of Trade & Industry, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia said that Indian companies could play a key role in Africa's regional value chains, and their integration with global value chains. Companies investing in Africa will also be able to benefit from the PTAs with third countries in other regions. He invited Indian companies to invest in Ethiopia's key sectors: textiles, leather, food and beverages, cement, motor vehicles manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, iron and steel, rubber, plastics, etc. The Ethiopian Government is encouraging greater private participation in all key sectors. Telecom services, as a case in point, has a high level of foreign investor presence.

Mr Cesar Augusto Hineirosa Gomez, Vice-Minister of Industry and Energy, Equatorial Guinea said that regional economic integration is key to Africa's progress. India could play a major part in Africa's regional development initiatives, through investments and knowledge transfer, he said, while adding that transport connectivity and transit infrastructure in the region need a high level of investments from private companies.

Prof. Kitila Alexander Mkumbo, Minister of Industry and Trade Government of the United Republic of Tanzania said that Indian investments in valued added activities in Africa will help reduce the imbalance in India-Africa trade. He pointed out that India's MSME development model has high relevancy for African economies.

Mr Adedze Kodjo Sevon Tepe, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Local Consumption, Republic of Togo urged the Indian industry to establish specialised industries in Africa, promote valued-added activities and set up agro-processing plants, such as, for soya processing in Togo. Mr Tepe said that Togo is well connected with the world, commands a large natural resources base, and has attractive tourist destinations, that make the country a strong investment destination for Indian companies.

Stating that India and Africa need to jointly mitigate the impact of Covid-19 pandemic, Mr F M M Shava, Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Trade, Republic of Zimbabwe said that India must play a key role in Africa's manufacturing growth process. He said that an FTA between India and Africa is "worth pursuing". He invited Indian investments in Zimbabwe's business sectors, such as, edible oils, beverages, pharmaceuticals, energy and infrastructure sectors, and services sector like tourism, medical services, financial services, Safari and tour operations, etc.

Mr Lawrence Macharia Karanja, Chief Administrative Secretary (Deputy Minister) Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and Enterprise Development, Kenya laid emphasis on leveraging digital solutions to drive regional trade. He pointed to investment opportunities in Kenya's key sectors – agriculture, leather manufacturing, oil & gas, etc.

Earlier, Mr Sanjiv Bajaj, President - Designate, CII and Chairman & Managing Director, Bajaj Finserv Limited in his address identified 6 key areas of India-Africa cooperation: 1) Digital technology, 2) Manufacturing – with new initiatives in digital manufacturing using

IoT, AI, 3D printing, 3) Healthcare 4) Infrastructure Development 5) Agri-tech and R&D, and 6) Trade in Services. Investment-led trade will need to be the thrust area of India-Africa relations.

Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in his welcome remarks pointed to the huge untapped potential of India-Africa joint initiatives, and said that AfCFTA is opening new avenues for bilateral partnerships and decentralisation of the global production centres.

Key Recommendations

- The Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) signed by India and Mauritius could be the precursor to FTAs that India would look to sign with several other African countries.
- Companies investing in Africa will also be able to benefit from the PTAs African countries have entered into with third countries.
- The 6 African LDCs that have not yet availed of Government of India's Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) scheme may be encouraged to leverage the opportunity to gain easier access to Indian market.
- The India Africa Health Sciences Platform (IAHSP) has set the stage for deep cooperation for transfer of technology, R&D collaboration, capacity building, and pharma manufacturing, contributing to the health security of both India and Africa.
- African businesses could collaborate with businesses in India to access the benefits of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) programme launched by the Government of India.
- African countries may study Government of India's initiatives to fast-track the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) well ahead of year 2030.
- Indian investments are invited in diverse sectors, such as, agriculture, edible oils, mining, manufacturing, tourism and hospitality, ICT and digital technology, transportation, oil & gas, petrochemicals, other energy sectors, textiles, leather, food and beverages, cement, motor vehicles manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, iron and steel, rubber, plastics, etc.
- India's MSME development model has high relevancy for African economies.

SERV Africa I: Revitalizing Africa's healthcare systems for a brighter tomorrow

Session Moderator:	Amb. Gurjit Singh, Former India Ambassador to Ethiopia, Indonesia and Germany
Guests of Honour:	Dr Edwin G. Dikoloti, Minister of Health and Wellness, Republic of Botswana Dr Diosdado Vicente Nsue Milang, Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Equatorial Guinea Dr Rashid Aman, Chief Administrative Secretary for Health, Republic of Kenya Dr C.J. Mangwiro, Deputy Minister of Health and Child Care, Republic of Zimbabwe
Panelists:	Dr Mário Augusto Caetano João, Secretary of State of Economy, Republic of Angola Dr Sandeep Dewan, Managing Director, Health Training Asia Mr Chandra Sekhar C, Group CEO, Apollo Health & Lifestyle Ltd Mr Mahidhwaj S Sisodia, Executive Vice President, International SBU, Cadila Pharmaceuticals Limited Mr Diptendu Bhattacharya, AVP - Strategic Initiatives, Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Company Ltd Mr Gautam Kumtakar, AGM, Shapoorji Pallonji Company Pvt. Ltd.

Key Assertions

The Covid-19 pandemic is a litmus test of the robustness of healthcare infrastructure of countries across the world. The panel of speakers addressing this session spoke of the critical need to shed complacency on the development of physical infrastructure development, acknowledged India's participation in Africa's physical infrastructure development, capacity building and delivery of tele-education and tele-medicine through initiatives like e-VidyaBharti and e-ArogyaBharti networks, and threw light on further avenues of bilateral collaboration.

Amb. Gurjit Singh, Former India Ambassador to Ethiopia, Indonesia and Germany underlined the need for greater utilisation of the tele-medicine and tele-education facilities that India has created for the African countries. Referring to the India-Africa Health Sciences Partnership between ICMR and the African Academy of Sciences, he spoke about the potential of expanding such bilateral partnerships into several other areas of healthcare. He mentioned that while India has been providing various equipment to hospitals in Africa, the recipient countries would need to address issues related to budgeting, maintenance of equipment, etc.

Dr. Edwin G. Dikoloti, Minister of Health and Wellness, Republic of Botswana, urged Indian drugs and pharmaceutical companies to redouble the efforts to help his country tackle life-threatening diseases like TB, cancer, HIV-AIDS, diarrhoea and pneumonia.

Citing that the Covid-19 pandemic has revealed the risk of high dependence on a few pharma manufacturing companies, Dr Dikoloti said that for a more coordinated approach between countries in broadbasing the manufacturing and supply of drugs. “We need long-term commitment from all nations, strong political will and a change of mindset”.

Stating that Africa is currently under-prepared to deal with diseases as defined under the International Health Regulations (IHR), Dr Dikoloti highlighted this area as a potential area of cooperation between India and Africa to “augment capacity, health infrastructure and processes”.

Dr Diosdado Vicente Nsue Milang, Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Equatorial Guinea spoke about the need for greater collaboration in training of personnel in medical super-specialties, and their involvement in public health systems. He said the public health systems should be governed by a community-based approach instead of being hospital based. This becomes particularly important when it comes to containing communicable diseases. He called for Indian participation in pharmaceutical manufacturing in Equatorial Guinea.

Mr. Rashid Aman, Chief Administrative Secretary for Health, Republic of Kenya mentioned that while medical tourism in India attracts a lot of Kenyans, it is imperative to build robust healthcare facilities in Kenya with India’s expertise. He called for bilateral cooperation in medical education faculty support, collaboration in R&D and sharing of knowledge in new areas of medicine like oncology, emergency and critical care, assistive technology, rehabilitation medicine, and transplant and regeneration medicine. There can be twinning arrangement with local hospitals and institutions. “India is well advanced, it has walked that path and transferring technology would be beneficial to both countries,” he said.

Mr Aman mentioned that several of the pharmaceutical manufacturing firms in Kenya are owned by Kenyans of Indian origin who are collaborating with Indian companies. These partnerships could be further developed and deepened.

He cited that Kenya offers a conducive business environment for FDI, and ease of doing business. The country has several economic processing zones, including the Technopolis outside Nairobi that is being earmarked for investments in bio-sciences.

Dr C. J. Mangwiro, Deputy Minister of Health and Child Care, Republic of Zimbabwe, called for deeper bilateral cooperation in areas of technology, including drone technology, medical equipment supply and delivery of medical services locally as most Africans do not have the financial wherewithal to travel and access similar services in India. He underlined the need for people-centric PPP projects to augment the diagnostics and healthcare systems in Africa. There is greater need for collaboration between industry, tertiary education and healthcare systems, he said.

Dr Mário Augusto Caetano João, Secretary of State of Economy, Republic of Angola laid emphasis on preventive and positive healthcare with focus on nutrition, exercise, hygiene

and access to electricity for food preservation and water for hygiene and sanitation to prevent spread of diseases and promote good health. He invited Indian investments for both generic drugs manufacturing and promotion of positive healthcare.

Dr Sandeep Dewan, Managing Director, Health Training Asia, made a presentation on his company's work in the field of tele-ICUs in rural areas in India and several other countries, a model that could be replicated in African countries. The company trains and empowers healthcare workers in the field of emergency medicine and critical care, and remotely manages tele-ICUs 24x7. The ICUs are connected to the hub (that is the command centre) and patients are monitored through cameras.

Mr Chandra Sekhar C, Group CEO, Apollo Health & Lifestyle Ltd said the group is working in the areas of telemedicine, and desktop consultations. "Tele-radiology is another growing area," he said. Regarding healthcare in Africa, he said that governments should look to focus on preventive and primary healthcare and create a conducive environment for private sector involvement in tertiary care. The investing companies should also enjoy repatriation facilities.

Mr Mahidhwaj S Sisodia, Executive Vice President, International SBU, Cadila Pharmaceuticals Limited, spoke of his company's philosophy of making affordable medicine available across the world. Cadila today, is present in almost all countries of Africa. He also described Cadila's work in Ethiopia in raising pharmaceutical standards and making available essential items like sanitisers during the pandemic.

Besides local manufacturing, the Covid-19 pandemic highlights the importance of digitisation, for tele-consultation and tele-medicine. "We play an important role in this area," he said.

Africa's pharma segment is expected to grow to the size of \$70 billion by 2030. 20% of India's pharma exports go to Africa. In this light, Mr Sisodia called for more investor-friendly policies and regulatory support to encourage companies to set up drugs manufacturing in African countries. He referred to the Abuja Declaration that commits the signatories to 15% of public spending on the healthcare sector.

Mr Diptendu Bhattacharya, AVP - Strategic Initiatives, Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Company Limited spoke about the need for African countries to build cold-chains for vaccines. The cold-chains would need refrigeration equipment, and regular maintenance and monitoring for which trained manpower is required. Setting up medical furniture and laboratory instruments for healthcare facilities is another area for India-Africa cooperation, he said.

Mr Gautam Kumtakar, AGM, Shapoorji Pallonji Company Pvt. Ltd., spoke about the construction and management of hospitals, with due support of concessional financing. Viability gap funding would also need to be worked out to meet working capital needs, he said.

He also advocated the adoption of tele-medicine across Africa that will help countries to deliver healthcare services without being constrained by infrastructure bottlenecks. Multi-specialty hospitals would be able to extend their expertise and services to the far reaches through a hub-and-spoke model.

Key Recommendations

- Broadbase Africa's access to drugs & pharmaceuticals with the participation of a greater number of companies that have footprints on the continent.
 - Usher in more investor-friendly policies and regulatory support to encourage Indian companies to set up drugs manufacturing in African countries.
- Indian drugs and pharmaceutical companies need to redouble the efforts to help African countries tackle life-threatening diseases like TB, cancer, HIV-AIDS, diarrhoea and pneumonia.
- Promote India-Africa bilateral cooperation in medical education faculty support, R&D and sharing of knowledge in areas like oncology, emergency and critical care, assistive technology, rehabilitation medicine, and transplant and regeneration medicine.
- Leverage India's capabilities to expand the scope and reach of tele-medicine services across Africa.
- Africa should adopt a community-based approach instead of a hospital-based approach for containing communicable diseases.
- Promote people-centric PPP projects to augment the diagnostics and healthcare systems in Africa.
- Develop tele-ICUs facilities for Africa with Indian expertise.
- Link concessional financing mechanisms to construction and management of hospitals in Africa.

SERV Africa II: Scaling new peaks of tourism & hospitality business growth

Session Moderator:	Mr Anil Chandirani, Chairman, Satguru Group
Panelists:	Mr Helder Marcelino, Secretary of State for Tourism, Republic of Angola
	Mr Sileshi Girma, Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Ethiopia
	Mr Givemore Chidzidzi, Acting Chief Executive, Zimbabwe Tourism Authority
	Mr Ismail Abdel Hameed, Inbound Tourism Manager, Egyptian Tourism Authority
	Mr Felix John, Marketing Manager, Tanzania Tourism Board
	Ms Keitumetse Setlang, Executive Manager Marketing, Botswana Tourism
	Dr Subhash Goyal, Chairman, STIC Travels and GSA Ethiopian Airlines
	Mr Santosh M Punjabi, Director – India, Saudi Arabia & Afghanistan Operations, Satguru Travel

Key Assertions

Tourism has always been an important economic sector for Africa. According to the United Nations World Tourism Organisation, Africa received 71.2 million international arrivals in 2019, generating US\$40 billion in revenues, said Mr Anil Chandirani, Chairman, Satguru Group in his opening remarks. However, the year 2020 brought the tourism industry of Africa to a standstill, even governments swung into action to enforce tight lockdowns. Closing the international borders severely impacted tourism.

Mr Chandirani said the tourism sector's recovery is predicated to opening up of international tourism which requires global cooperation and evidence-based solutions so that travel restrictions can be safely lifted. He also suggested the need for more resilient and sustainable tourism avenues.

Mr Chandirani also said that Governments need to consider the longer-term implications of the pandemic while exercising the options for digitalisation of the tourism sector, low carbon transition, and structural changes for building a more sustainable and resilient tourism economy.

India could assist the African countries for developing digital platforms and solutions for booking of tickets, tourist check-ins, biometric-based validation, etc., for automating tasks, creating new job opportunities and advanced skill development, said Mr Chandirani.

Speaking about the tourism sector of Angola, Mr Helder Marcelino, Secretary of State for Tourism, Republic of Angola said his country has diverse cultures and bio-diversity that could be tapped into for tourism promotion. He also underlined the need for strengthening the country's hospitality sector. Mr Marcelino invited Indian investors to explore business opportunities in tourist places like Kalandula, Cubango, Lobito -- for developing eco-lodges, hospitality schools for specialised training, transport and travel agencies, water parks and sports recreation facilities.

Mr Givemore Chidzidzi, Acting Chief Executive, Zimbabwe Tourism Authority said the Zimbabwean government has launched its National Development Strategy with the vision of making the country "a prosperous and empowered upper middle-income society by 2030." The strategy also provides a roadmap for the tourism sector.

Mr Chidzidzi added that the Zimbabwean government is providing relief packages to tourism businesses to prevent job losses; re-connect with local, regional and international tourism markets, and forge partnerships, strategic alliances and other collaborations to revive tourism.

Dr Subhash Goyal, Chairman, STIC Travels and GSA Ethiopian Airlines said that countries like Angola, Botswana, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and Ethiopia have highly alluring tourist attractions for Indian travellers, but lack of marketing is limiting Indian tourist visits to these countries. He added that accessibility, infrastructure and marketing are the key factors for developing tourism in the region. African countries need to step up their tourism marketing efforts and facilitate easy issuance of e-tourist visas.

Mr Ismail Abdel Hameed, Inbound Tourism Manager, Egyptian Tourism Authority said that tourism contributes about 11% of Egypt's GDP and supports environmental and social sustainable development. The Government is now encouraging the adoption of new technologies in communications, online promotions, new health safety standard schemes by developing a new compulsory certification system for all hotels and tourist establishments and collaborating with stakeholders to relaunch tourism promotion activities.

Elaborating the scope of tourism in Tanzania, Mr Felix John, Marketing Manager said that all tourist attractions in Tanzania -- grouped into three major categories (natural, cultural and man-made attractions) -- offer investment opportunities. Mr John called for investments in human resources development, capacity building for tour operators, tour guides, travel companies and rangers, and for improvement of coastal areas and beaches.

Ms Keitumetse Setlang, Executive Manager Marketing, Botswana Tourism said that while there are immense investment opportunities in Botswana, the country is looking for collaboration in developing training institutes for long and short term courses in hospitality and heritage and culture based tourism, developing medical tourism and promotion of the destination to the India outbound market.

Mr Sileshi Girma, Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Ethiopia cited that the country aspires to develop its tourist destinations in collaboration with various stakeholders, and by marketing and promoting the destinations at the national and international levels, by employing competitive marketing and promotional strategies. Investment opportunities are there for

developing tour operations, resorts, lodges, hotels, mobile camping, eco-lodge camp, helicopter tours, etc. Focused initiatives to promote regional tourism will boost the tourism sector and help Ethiopia become one of the top five tourist destinations in Africa by 2030.

Mr Santosh from Satguru Group gave an insight into the Satguru Group which is a leading Travel Management Company across Africa, with presence across Africa, Middle East and India.

Key Recommendations

- India could assist African countries for developing digital platforms and solutions for booking of tickets, tourist check-ins, biometric-based validation.
- Develop more resilient and sustainable tourism avenues in Africa.
- Indian investors may explore opportunities for developing eco-lodges, hospitality schools for specialised training, transport and travel agencies, water parks and sports recreation facilities.
- African countries need to step up their tourism marketing efforts and facilitate easy issuance of e-tourist visas.

Session on Global Health & Vaccine Potential

Session Moderator:	Dr Harish Iyer, Senior Adviser, Scientific Programmes, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)
Special Address:	Prof Vijay Raghavan, Principle Scientific Advisor, Govt of India
Panelists:	<p>Dr Ahmed Ogwell, Deputy Director, Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention</p> <p>Mr Lakshminarayana Neti, Chief Operating Officer, Biological E</p> <p>Mr Sai Prasad, President – Quality Operations, Bharat Biotech</p> <p>Dr Rajeev Dhere, Executive Director, Serum Institute of India Pvt. Ltd</p>

Key Assertions

The session on Global Health and Vaccine Potential was an emotive one, with speakers raising the questions of equity and access.

Prof. Vijay Raghavan, Principal Scientific Advisor, Government of India, pointed out the disparity in the progress of Covid-19 vaccination between the Global North and the Global South. He said the principal challenge today is equity and access. At the start of the pandemic the issue of disparity was stated clearly by major global bodies. Yet, most countries of the South have trailed the North countries in regard to Covid-19 vaccination, which needs major correction, he said.

Prof. Raghavan observed that before the pandemic struck, the countries from the Global North could “comfortably” talk about the need for equity as they were not impacted by SARS-I. But, once Covid-19 pandemic hit those countries, the emphasis on equity was no longer there. In this regard, he said, “It’s a wrong assumption that protecting yourself and shutting the doors to others solves the problem. The answer lies in broadening the R&D, and manufacturing and deployment of vaccines in the South.” Until the whole world is vaccinated, the pandemic will not go away. Hence, this is a conceptual issue to be addressed. “How does one ensure equity in a situation where governments are under pressure to provide for their own people”, he asked.

African countries in particular, besides India, other Asian countries and Latin America need to be involved in vaccine development, stock-piling and deployment, he said. “Speed without compromising on quality needs to be embedded in all our actions in the South,” he stated, and added that India and Africa should be seen not as potential markets but partners. “If indeed India, Africa and other countries in the South are to take the future into their own hands, then capacity building on a large scale is absolutely essential. That is also the responsibility of the North now,” he pointed out.

Prof. Raghavan noted that the lessons learnt from the pandemic should be applied toward reframing the role of global bodies, such that the issue of equity is adequately addressed.

Dr Ahmed Ogwel, Deputy Director, Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention, began on a philosophical note, saying that in a crisis “the silence of friends is remembered the most, rather than the noise of those whom one is fighting”. “We are documenting very closely who we thought were our friends and who were quiet and silent and we will visit this in future conversations,” he said, while adding that globalisation as a concept proved to be empty rhetoric when the pandemic struck. “For very long Africa was relying on others to address its needs, and “this realisation has come in a very violent way as far as health is concerned and we have woken up,” said Dr Ogwel.

Dr Ogwel pointed out that Africa has a large market catering to 1.3 billion people but the systems are structured in such a way that the market is controlled from elsewhere. In this regard, he said the pricing and production of medicines should be determined by the markets in Africa. “We must appreciate that equity is not a word, equity is life itself. As soon as we ignore equity, the virus will mutate and make all the vaccination done so far go into waste. So, the only way to go about is to start thinking more globally rather than nationally or locally.” He made it clear that any partnership will have to be respectful and action-oriented, in which the priorities of each partner must come to the table. He urged Indian companies to set up manufacturing facilities in Africa in order to meet Africa’s needs, even if the costs are relatively higher than manufacturing in any other region.

Providing a supply side perspective, Mr Rajeev Dhere, Executive Director of Serum Institute of India, said, “I heard there was a lot of funding available to African Union to prepare vaccines, but these are long-term solutions. You cannot generate vaccine capacity in a year or two. The sustainability of such projects is also a big issue. When the pandemic is not there how do you sustain it as a business model.” He called for political willingness and clarity between the country of origin, buyer country and manufacturers and emphasised “quid pro quo”.

Mr Lakshminarayana Neti, Chief Operating Officer, Biological E, said Indian suppliers hadn’t missed out on any vaccine they had been expected to supply in any market, least of all Africa, and that no one was prepared for a pandemic of this scale.

Capacity building is a long-term initiative and as a company we will be surely doing our bit in terms of partnering and empowering. There are some things that the continent will have to do. The WHO qualification is the biggest common denominator but at the same time every country expects regulatory approvals. If the continent comes together, it might lead to faster standardisation, said Mr Neti, while also pointing out that it would not be feasible for each country to locally develop and produce vaccines, instead what is required is a collective initiative at scale to achieve a high degree of efficiency and long-term sustainability of the venture.

Mr Sai Prasad, President- Quality Operations, Bharat Biotech, discussed the issue of how Africa can develop its own vaccine. “With Covaxin, despite the heavy pressure on manufacturing, we have agreed to transfer of technology to four companies and that shows our intent.” However, the countries that produce the vaccines would need to obtain regulatory approvals and should have sufficient trained manpower for producing the vaccines. “I have no doubt that in the next few years there will be companies not just in South Africa

Egypt and Senegal but other countries as well. But the regulatory standards will have to be raised to what the WHO requires,” he said.

Mr Prasad also brought to the fore the challenge for new vaccine manufacturer in an environment where the large manufacturers are engaged in the race to the bottom when it comes to pricing. “We need to think something totally different in terms of manufacturing or procurement. The current model will not support it,” he said.

The session was moderated by Dr Harish Iyer, Senior Adviser, Scientific Programmes, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).

Key Recommendations

- Broaden global R&D on drugs & pharmaceuticals, and vaccines, promote manufacturing and deployment of vaccines in the South, to strengthen the world’s fight to end Covid-19 pandemic.
 - India should enhance the initiatives for vaccine development, stock-piling and deployment in Africa.
- India should step up capacity building for vaccine development and manufacturing in Africa.
- Lessons learnt from the pandemic should be applied toward reframing the role of global bodies, such that the issue of equity is adequately addressed.
- African countries looking to develop and produce vaccines need to collectively undertake the production at scale to achieve efficiency and sustainability, and also develop a new pricing model in order to compete with large manufacturers that are engaged in the race to the bottom for vaccine pricing.
- Countries planning to manufacture vaccines need to obtain necessary regulatory approvals including from WHO, and have sufficient trained manpower for production.

SERV Africa III: Logging into IT / ITeS growth spheres

Session Moderator:	Mr Sevala N Mude, Joint Secretary – C & WA, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India
Guests of Honour:	Mr Leon Juste Ibombo, Minister of Posts, Telecommunications & Digital Economy, Republic of Congo
	Mr Jerome Ochieng, CBS Principal Secretary, State Department for ICT and Innovation, Ministry of ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs, Republic of Kenya
Panelists:	Mr Obeth Kandjoze, Director General, National Planning Commission, Republic of Namibia
	Mr Ali Seddiki, Managing Director in charge of Industry, Ministry of Industry, Trade, Green and Digital Economy, Kingdom of Morocco
	Mr Ritesh Shukla, Chief Executive Officer, NPCI International
	Mr Ram Ramachandran, Senior Vice President & Head, Middle East & Africa, Tech Mahindra
	Mr Jaideep Roy, Business Head – Containerized DC, Sterling & Wilson Pvt. Ltd.

Key Assertions

Mr Sevala N Mude, Joint Secretary – C & WA, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in his opening remarks spoke about the strident progress of Africa in developing IT and ITeS infrastructure. He stated that India could play a catalytic role in the establishment of IT hubs and related infrastructure on the continent, supported with investments in capacity building, training and transfer of knowledge projects.

India has established IT, Centre for Geo-Informatics Application in Rural Development (CGARD), vocational, technology and entrepreneurial centres in Africa. Mr Mude also referred to Indian initiatives like e-ITEC, e-VidyaBharti and e-ArogyaBharti that are strengthening the IT and ITeS industries in Africa.

Mr Leon Juste Ibombo, Minister of Posts, Telecommunications & Digital Economy, Republic of Congo spoke about the country's goal of building its IT / ITeS sector. While the country faces major challenges in this endeavour, those challenges present themselves as investment opportunities for overseas companies, he said.

Mr Jerome Ochieng, CBS Principal Secretary - State Department for ICT and Innovation, Ministry of ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs, Republic of Kenya observed that IT / ITeS sectoral expansion in the country is furthering economic growth, social empowerment, innovation and cross-border trade. He invited Indian investments in: 1) Software development for the healthcare and education sectors, 2) Logistics and supply management for

e-commerce, 3) IT hardware manufacturing and assembly, 4) Technology and skill transfer, 5) Big data analytics, and 6) Artificial Intelligence.

Mr Obeth Kandjoze, Director General, National Planning Commission, Republic of Namibia said that overseas companies investing in Africa's IT / ITeS sector would be encouraged to develop the region's large young workforce. He pointed to the urgent need for Africa to expand the region's optical fibre networks, and extend Internet connectivity to the vast rural hinterlands. He also referred to the huge growth potential for the e-commerce business in the wake of the pandemic.

Mr Kandjoze said that Indian industry could play a key role in helping Africa develop reliable, modern and efficient IT infrastructure and facilities that match up to global standards. IT application in healthcare, education, finance and agriculture would be major economic growth enablers.

Mr Ali Seddiki, Managing Director in charge of Industry, Ministry of Industry, Trade, Green and Digital Economy, Kingdom of Morocco spoke about the importance of South-South Cooperation. IT, which has helped different countries to deal with the Covid-19 situation more efficiently, is a \$1.5 billion industry in Morocco. He said that India could share its best IT practices with Africa and also mutually benefit from the growing global demand for IT services and ITeS.

Mr Ritesh Shukla, Chief Executive Officer, NPCI International said Africa's vibrant, youth population is a big asset for the IT / ITeS sector. At the same time, there is significant room to drive financial inclusion. He commended the UPI success for its open source technology that drives inter-operability, open banking, innovation through strategic collaboration and more. Mr Shukla added that the same model can be replicated in Africa and urged the financial service providers to bring all countries under a single payment umbrella.

Mr Ram Ramachandran, Senior Vice President & Head, Middle East & Africa, Tech Mahindra commented on the employment opportunities created by the country in the IT / ITeS sector of Africa. Tech Mahindra aims to create 1,000 new jobs in Africa within the next two years. He underlined the need for upskilling human resources. Blockchain, agritech, tech-related healthcare are some of the other focus areas for Tech Mahindra in Africa.

Mr Jaideep Roy, Business Head – Containerized DC, Sterling & Wilson said the pandemic has created opportunities for African countries to innovate and transform for digitisation. He stated that African countries are seeing new incubators and technology hubs coming up. He commended the efforts of countries like Rwanda in developing well-established IT infrastructure. Mr Roy underlined the need to address common issues like slow internet speed.

Key Recommendations

- India could play a catalytic role in the establishment of IT hubs and related infrastructure in Africa, supported with investments in capacity building, training and transfer of knowledge projects.

- Promote Indian investments in Africa for:
 - Software development for the healthcare and education sectors
 - Logistics and supply management for e-commerce
 - IT hardware manufacturing and assembly
 - Technology and skill transfer
 - Big data analytics
 - Artificial Intelligence.
- African countries needs to expand the region's optical fibre networks, and extend Internet connectivity to the vast rural hinterlands.
- Replicate India's success with UPI by creating a universal payments platform in Africa.

Session: India-France-Africa: Harnessing the benefits of Cooperation

Address: Dr K M Praphullachandra Sharma, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India in France

Speakers: Mr Phillipe Stefanini, CEO, Provence Promotion, France
Mr Yves Delafon, CEO, Africa Link, France

Key Assertions

India and France have similar priorities in Africa. Stating this in his opening remarks, Dr K M Praphullachandra Sharma, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India in France said both countries have deep interest in participating in Africa's education and healthcare sectors, skilling and capacity building initiatives, biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries, and agriculture, among others. There is scope for undertaking joint initiatives for SME development in Africa, he said.

Mr Phillipe Stefanini, CEO, Provence Promotion, France said there is a strong linkage between the southern region of Marseilles in France and Africa, that is helping digital entrepreneurs in Africa. Several African startups have set up base in Marseilles for their innovation projects. African entrepreneurs are also establishing their offices in Marseilles as a bridgehead to the European markets.

Likewise, several Indian companies including the steel giant Arcelor Mittal, Infosys (for digitalisation of maritime transportation in France), and Tata Communications have made significant investments in France. India and France have deep bilateral scientific cooperation in energy projects, especially for solar energy. Marseilles is thus a confluence point for Indian and African companies, and helps Indian businesses to engage seamlessly with their client organisations in Africa. It would be useful for Indian companies to build their logistics base in Marseilles, that is very well connected with many parts of Africa.

Mr Stefanini also said that India, Africa and France could engage in trilateral initiatives for developing a strong digital workforce for Africa. In this regard, he suggested that Indian digital companies having business interests in Africa could consider getting their African workforces trained at the Marseilles University in areas like AI. "We also have the facility to co-design infrastructure projects for Indian, African and international companies," he said.

Mr Yves Delafon, CEO, Africa Link, France said there is great complementarity between Indian and French engagements in Africa, whereby India has deep connects in the Eastern and Southern parts of Africa, whereas France has deep ties with Northern, Western and Central parts of Africa. He described Marseilles as the crossroads connecting Africa and Europe.

Dr Sharma in his concluding remarks said Indian companies could explore the opportunity of working with French companies, particularly those based in Marseilles, in areas that are of high priority for Africa (Francophone countries), especially in the SME sector.

Key Recommendations

- Indian companies exploring business interests in the Francophone countries could work with French companies with similar interests in areas of high priority in Africa, especially in the SME sector.
- Indian companies doing business in Africa could leverage the logistics infrastructure & services available in Marseilles, France that are well connected with many parts of Africa.
- India, Africa and France could engage in trilateral initiatives for developing a strong digital workforce for African countries.
 - Indian digital companies having business interests in Africa could consider getting their African workforces trained at the Marseilles University in areas like AI, and other digital technologies.
- There is scope for building greater synergy between Indian engagements in the Eastern and Southern parts of Africa, whereas French ties with Northern, Western and Central parts of Africa.

Valedictory Session: Way Forward: Connect - Collaborate - Create

Chief Guest:	Mr V Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Government of India
Guests of Honour:	Mr Kwaku Ampratwun-Sarpong, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Republic of Ghana
	Mr Eisenhower Nduwa Mkaka,, M.P, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Malawi
Speakers:	Mr Noel Tata, Chair, CII Africa Committee & Managing Director, Tata International Limited
	Mr N Ramesh, Deputy Managing Director, India Exim Bank
	Mr S Kuppuswamy, Co-Chair, CII Africa Committee & Advisor-Group Finance & Special Projects, Shapoorji Pallonji Group

Key Assertions

The Covid-19 pandemic has encouraged India and Africa to explore new areas of cooperation and partnerships, even as efforts are underway to reinforce the existing bilateral engagements. Stating this in his keynote address, Mr V Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India, reiterated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 10 Guiding Principles governing India's engagement with Africa whereby Africa remains on the top of India's priorities.

Mr Muraleedharan referred to Government of India's 'Mission Sagar' that facilitated the supply of essential drugs and pharmaceuticals to Africa in the early stage of the Covid-19 pandemic, apart from arranging the repatriation of Indian and African nationals to their respective countries in the midst the pandemic with special flights. Stating the success of the Cowin digital platform for vaccination programme, he said the platform could also be used by African countries.

Speaking about the Government of India's Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) scheme extended to the least developed countries (LDCs) in Africa, Mr Muraleedharan said the LDCs would derive the best benefits from the scheme by developing value added industries, for which Indian investments may be directed to their respective domestic sectors like infrastructure, manufacturing, services, agritech, healthcare, sustainable energy, etc. He added that India could play an instrumental role in helping Africa further the digital revolution that would have a beneficial impact on areas like public service delivery, education and healthcare, digital literacy, financial inclusion, among others. The digital revolution will set the stage for the 4th Industrial Revolution in Africa.

"It is important to note that much of India's assistance now goes towards empowering the people of Africa. The nature of India's development partnership with Africa has evolved to become more versatile, technology intensive and a vehicle for sharing cutting edge technology, especially digital technology," he said.

Mr Muraleedharan spoke about the immense scope of India-Africa bilateral partnerships in agriculture in the 'Africa-owned, Africa-led' mode.

Mr Kwaku Ampratwun-Sarpong, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Republic of Ghana, said in his address that there is limitless scope for India-Africa cooperation in the emerging multi-polar world. "We are looking to India for new partnerships" he said, adding that India-Africa partnerships will further strengthen in the wake of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) coming into effect. The continental FTA is expected to boost intra-Africa trade by an estimated \$34 billion a year.

Mr Ampratwun-Sarpong called for greater initiatives in creating gainful opportunities for the youth. He spelled out the opportunity of promoting an India-Africa Volunteer Corps that will support initiatives in the realms of education, public health, and women's empowerment, among other areas.

Mr Eisenhower Nduwa Mkaka, M.P, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Malawi called for focused attention on: 1) How the India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) IV will bring about greater collaborations between the two regions, 2) Diversification of African LDC economies for them to derive greater value from exports, including exports to India through the DFTP scheme, and 3) Bridging the digital divide in Africa.

Mr Noel Tata, Chair, CII Africa Committee & Managing Director, Tata International Limited in his remarks said that India-Africa partnerships may be directed at building and reinforcing Africa's self-reliance on consumer, intermediate and industrial goods, on the lines of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' that is inspiring India to strengthen its economic self-reliance across economic and business streams, and insulate itself against any external shocks.

Mr N Ramesh, Deputy Managing Director, India Exim Bank underlined the need for geographical diversification of India-Africa bilateral trade, as well as diversification of the bilateral trade basket. He highlighted the key role of Government of India assisted lines of credit extended to Africa in the region's development initiatives. As of June 30, 2021, there were 205 operational LoCs in Africa in 40 countries, with a total value of \$12 billion.

Mr S Kuppuswamy, Co-Chair, CII Africa Committee & Advisor-Group Finance & Special Projects, Shapoorji Pallonji Group presented a summary of the key takeaways from the deliberations in the Conclave, and made a special mention of the huge potential for cooperation in the areas of healthcare, infrastructure development, IT/ITeS, sustainable energy development and tourism. He also proposed the vote of thanks.

Key Recommendations

- India-Africa partnerships may be laser focused on building and reinforcing Africa's self-reliance on consumer, intermediate and industrial goods.
- Economic diversification will help African LDCs to better utilise Indian market access through the DFTP scheme.

- India could play an instrumental role in helping Africa further the digital revolution on the continent that would positively impact public service delivery, education and healthcare, digital literacy, financial inclusion, among others.
- African countries could utilise India's Cowin platform for running their respective Covid-19 vaccination programmes.
- Create an India-Africa Volunteer Corps in areas like education, public health and women's empowerment, among others.



Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) was set up in 1982 by an Act of Parliament for financing, facilitating and promoting India's foreign trade. It is the principal financial institution in the country for coordinating the working of institutions engaged in financing exports and imports. Exim Bank is fully owned by the Government of India.

The Bank provides financial as well as value-added services to Indian exporters. Assistance is given to export-oriented units (EOUs) by way of term loans in Indian rupees or foreign currencies for setting up new production facilities, expansion/modernization or upgradation of existing facilities and for acquisition of production equipment or technology. The Bank lays special emphasis on extension of Lines of Credit to overseas entities, national governments, regional financial institutions and commercial banks. The Bank extends Buyers' credit and Suppliers' credit to finance and promote India's exports and also has a programme called the Buyer's Credit under National Export Insurance Account (NEIA) to facilitate medium and long term exports from India.

To promote hi-tech exports from India, the Bank has a lending programme to finance research and development activities of EOUs. The Bank has a Marketing Advisory Services programme, to assist Indian companies in identification of prospective business partners, facilitating placement of final orders and also identification of opportunities for setting up plants or projects or for acquisition of companies overseas. The service is provided on a success fee basis.

The Bank supports the internationalization endeavours of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and has also put in place a Technology and Innovation Enhancement and Infrastructure Development Fund to meet foreign currency capital requirements of Indian exporters, especially SMEs.

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To know more about the Bank, visit: www.eximbankindia.in

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Confederation of Indian Industry

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India, partnering Industry, Government and civil society, through advisory and consultative processes.

CII is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization, with over 9000 members from the private as well as public sectors, including SMEs and MNCs, and an indirect membership of over 300,000 enterprises from 294 national and regional sectoral industry bodies.

For more than 125 years, CII has been engaged in shaping India's development journey and works proactively on transforming Indian Industry's engagement in national development. CII charts change by working closely with Government on policy issues, interfacing with thought leaders, and enhancing efficiency, competitiveness and business opportunities for industry through a range of specialized services and strategic global linkages. It also provides a platform for consensus-building and networking on key issues.

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As India marches towards its 75th year of Independence in 2022, CII, with the Theme for 2021-22 as **Building India for a New World: Competitiveness, Growth, Sustainability, Technology**, rededicates itself to meeting the aspirations of citizens for a morally, economically and technologically advanced country in partnership with the Government, Industry and all stakeholders.

With 62 offices, including 10 Centres of Excellence, in India, and 8 overseas offices in Australia, Egypt, Germany, Indonesia, Singapore, UAE, UK, and USA, as well as institutional partnerships with 394 counterpart organizations in 133 countries, CII serves as a reference point for Indian industry and the international business community.

Confederation of Indian Industry

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