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# India and Nigeria Discuss Areas of Cooperation in Fight Against Terrorism

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## Context:

The **Second Strategic and Counter-Terrorism Dialogue** between **India and Nigeria** concluded in New Delhi.

## Summary of the Second Strategic and Counter-Terrorism Dialogue between India and Nigeria:

- **Date and Location:**
- **Dates:** The dialogue took place over two days, concluding today in New Delhi.
- **Participants:**
- **India:** National Security Adviser (NSA) **Ajit Doval**.
- **Nigeria:** NSA **Nuhu Ribadu**.
- **Key Focus Areas:**
- **Terrorism and Extremism:** Discussions centered on tackling **terrorism, extremism, and radicalization**, including threats emanating from **cyberspace**.
- **International Crime:** Focused on combating **international crime, arms smuggling, and drug trafficking**.
- Both sides agreed on a **firm stance against terrorism** and reiterated that there is **no justification** for terrorism in any form.
- **Outcomes and Agreements:**
- **Cooperation on Counter-Terrorism:** The dialogue resulted in identifying **specific areas of cooperation** to enhance mutual efforts in combating terrorism.
- **Capacity Building:** Both nations agreed to enhance **bilateral capacity building** and strengthen **cooperation at international platforms** to counter common security challenges.
- **Visit by Nigerian NSA:**
- As part of his visit, **Nuhu Ribadu** also toured the **National Security Guard (NSG)** facilities in **Manesar, India**.

The dialogue underscored the **strategic partnership** between India and Nigeria, highlighting the importance of joint efforts in countering terrorism, extremism, and international crimes. Both countries agreed to further deepen collaboration in both bilateral and multilateral arenas.

## India-Nigeria Bilateral Relations Overview

India and Nigeria share a long-standing, friendly, and strategic relationship characterized by cooperation in multiple sectors such as trade, defense, education, development, culture, and science. Their bilateral ties have grown over time, evolving from historical friendships to a comprehensive **Strategic Partnership**.

### 1. Overall Relations:

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- **Natural Partnership:** Both India and Nigeria are large, diverse, and democratic nations with multi-religious, multi-ethnic, and multilingual societies. India's population of 1.3 billion and Nigeria's 190+ million people make them prominent global players, with India being the world's largest democracy and Nigeria the largest in Africa.
- **Colonial and Post-Colonial Legacy:** Their shared history of anti-colonial struggle, coupled with their active roles in multilateral organizations like the **United Nations**, **G77**, and **NAM**, has solidified their ties over the years.
- **Diplomatic Relations:** India established its diplomatic mission in Lagos in 1958, two years before Nigeria gained independence in 1960. Since then, high-level political contacts have flourished.
- **Strategic Partnership:** In 2007, during Prime Minister **Manmohan Singh's** visit to Nigeria, both countries elevated their ties to a "Strategic Partnership." Today, Nigeria remains a key partner in India's outreach to Africa.

## 2. Bilateral Visits:

- **Notable Visits:**
- **India to Nigeria:**
- **Jawaharlal Nehru** (1962) and **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** (2003) are among the key Indian leaders who have visited Nigeria, strengthening bilateral ties.
- **Dr. Manmohan Singh** (2007) marked a turning point by establishing the **Abuja Declaration** on strategic partnership.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** met President **Muhammadu Buhari** at the **India-Africa Forum Summit** (2015) and again in 2023 during the **G20 Summit**.
- **Nigeria to India:**
- **President Shehu Shagari** and **President Olusegun Obasanjo** have visited India on multiple occasions, attending Republic Day celebrations and participating in key forums like the **India-Africa Forum Summit** (IAFS).
- **Vice President Hamid Ansari** (2016) and **President Bola Ahmed Tinubu** (2023) have also engaged with Indian counterparts.
- **Ministerial Visits:**
- Indian ministers, including **Rajnath Singh** (Defence Minister) and **V. Muraleedharan** (MoS for External Affairs), have visited Nigeria for significant events like the **swearing-in ceremony** of President Tinubu (2023) and the **Nigeria-India Business Council** inaugural event (2022).
- Nigeria has also sent high-ranking officials to India, including Foreign Minister **Geoffrey Onyeama** (2023) and others participating in G20 and various international summits.

## 3. Institutional Dialogues:

- **Foreign Office Consultations (FoC):** The first FoC was held in **Abuja** (2003) and the most recent in **New Delhi** (2022).
- **Joint Commission Meetings (JCM):** Established in 1979, JCM meetings have been held at regular intervals (1981, 1989, 2000, 2003, and 2011) to review bilateral ties.
- **Joint Trade Committee (JTC):** Aimed at enhancing trade relations, JTC meetings have been held since 2019.
- **Consular Dialogues:** Meetings to address consular issues between the two nations were held in **September 2019** and **February 2023**.

## 4. Defense and Security Cooperation:

- **Military Relations:** India has been involved in training Nigerian armed forces and assisting in setting up military institutions like the **Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA)** and the **Naval College** in Port Harcourt.
- **Defense Cooperation Agreement:** Signed in **October 2007**, the two countries have engaged in joint training, counter-terrorism operations, peacekeeping missions, and defense exchanges.

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- **Recent Developments:** The **Indian Navy** visited Nigeria in **2022** for anti-piracy operations in the **Gulf of Guinea**, marking a significant step in bilateral defense relations.

## 5. Trade and Investment Relations:

- **Bilateral Trade:** India is one of Nigeria's top trading partners, with trade reaching **US\$ 11.8 billion** in 2022-23, though there has been a decline due to a drop in oil imports. India continues to export goods, including machinery, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals, while Nigeria's primary export to India remains oil.
- **Trade Statistics:**
- India's exports to Nigeria increased to **US\$ 5.16 billion** in 2022-23, while imports decreased to **US\$ 6.69 billion**.
- The **trade volume** fluctuated from **US\$ 9.4 billion** (2016-17) to **US\$ 11.8 billion** in 2022-23.

## 6. Development Cooperation:

- **Concessional Loans:** India has extended **Lines of Credit (LOC)** to Nigeria for energy and infrastructure projects, such as a **gas-fired electricity generation station** and **solar-powered streetlights** in various states.
- **Capacity Building:** Under the **Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC)** program, Nigeria has been receiving support in education and skills development since 1964. India offers a variety of training programs in sectors like agriculture, health, and hydropower.
- **Africa Forum Initiatives:** Following the **India-Africa Forum Summit** (2015), India has extended additional training opportunities to Nigeria, training Nigerians in various disciplines at Indian institutions.

## 7. Education:

- **Indian Scholarships:** India offers scholarships for Nigerian students through programs like the **ICCR Africa Scholarship Scheme** and the **C.V. Raman International Fellowships** for post-graduate research. Thousands of Nigerian students study in India, with special scholarships for undergraduate, post-graduate, and higher education.
- **Collaboration in Online Education:** India's **e-Vidya Bharati** and **e-Arogya Bharati** programs provide tele-education and telemedicine to Nigerian students and medical professionals.

## 8. Science & Technology Cooperation:

- **Space Cooperation:** India and Nigeria signed an **MoU on space collaboration** in **2020**, focusing on satellite applications for agriculture, environment, and mining.
- **COVID-19 Response:** India played a vital role in providing medical aid to Nigeria during the pandemic, including the supply of **COVID-19 vaccines** and essential medicines. Additionally, India assisted Nigeria in setting up vaccine production capacity through a joint venture with **Serum Institute of India**.

## 9. Cultural and People-to-People Ties:

- **Cultural Diplomacy:** India promotes cultural exchange through events like **Namaste Nigeria** (2018), showcasing Indian art and performances. Indian cultural troupes regularly perform in Nigeria, while Nigerian groups also visit India.
- **NRI/PIO Community:** There is a large Indian expatriate community in Nigeria, estimated at **50,000**, contributing to the cultural and economic fabric of both countries. Indian community organizations and cultural associations are active in Nigerian cities.

## Conclusion:

India-Nigeria relations are characterized by a broad and multi-dimensional partnership, with both countries working together to strengthen cooperation in areas such as defense, trade, development, education, and science. The

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bilateral relationship continues to evolve with both nations committed to addressing common challenges, such as terrorism, extremism, and economic development, while also expanding their people-to-people ties.

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