

Global India Business Forum's India-Africa Business Conclave 2nd Edition inks a new chapter of bilateral trade



After the whopping success of the first-ever biggest India-Africa Business Conclave (1st Edition) in Pune, close on the heels of the African Union's inclusion in G20, the Global India Business Forum organized its second edition in the vibrant and enterprising city of Ahmedabad, Gujarat on 19th and 20th July 2024. Diplomats from 16 African countries and 500 plus businesspeople, exporters, importers and investors across the country were present for the conclave.

The event had the esteemed presence of ambassadors and other diplomats from the African countries of Angola, Algeria, Botswana, Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Delegation Leadership

The diplomats (ambassadors, high commissioners, counselors, secretaries and others) represented their respective countries. The diplomats included - H. E. Mr. Haymandoyal (Dev) Dillum, CSK - High Commissioner of the Republic of Mauritius to the Republic of India, H.E. Clemente Pedro Francisco Camenha - Ambassador of the Republic of Angola to the Republic of India, H. E. Mr. Gilbert Shimane Mangole - High Commissioner of the Republic of Botswana to the Republic of India, H.E. Mr. Raymond Serge Bale - Ambassador of the Republic of Congo to the Republic of India, H. E. Kwaku Asomah Cheremeh - High Commissioner of the Republic of Ghana to the Republic of India, Amb. Munyiri Peter Maina - High Commissioner of the Republic of Kenya to the Republic of India, H.E. Gabriel Sinimbo - High Commissioner of the Republic of Namibia to the Republic of India, H.E. Mrs. Hayet Talbi - Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia to the Republic of India, H.E. Prof. Ms. Joyce Kakuramatsi Kikafunda - High Commissioner of the Republic of Uganda to the Republic India, H.E. Ms. Stella Nkomo - Ambassador Designate of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the Republic of India, Ms. Bizunesh Meseret Tegegne - Deputy Head of Mission, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the Republic of India, Mr. Abbas Abdullahi - Minister Counsellor, Head

of Economic Trade and Consular at the Nigeria High Commission, Mr. Abdelali BOUILLLOUTA - First Secretary of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the Republic of India Mr. Ernest Nana Adjei – Minister-Counsellor, Political and Economic of the Republic of Ghana to the Republic of India, Mr. Gebru Teklay – Second Secretary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the Republic of India, Mr. Gabriel ITOUA – Economic Counsellor of the Republic of Congo to the Republic of India, Mr. Thabang Linus Kholumo – Charge d' Affairs a.i. of the Kingdom of Lesotho to the Republic of India, Emile Mwepsei – Deputy High Commissioner and Second Counsellor of the Republic of Rwanda to the Republic of India, H.E. Percy P. Chanda - High Commissioner of the Republic of Zambia to the Republic of India, Mr. Julius Tsheko – Director, International Business for India and Asia at Botswana Investment and Trade Centre and Trade Attaché at Botswana High Commission in New Delhi, Jared Bironga Mayeika – Trade Counsellor of the Republic of Kenya to the Republic of India, Ms. Ireen Akombelwa Apuleni – First Secretary, Economic and Trade, Republic of Zambia to the Republic of India, and Mr. Peter Hobwani – Deputy Head of Mission, Republic of Zimbabwe to the Republic of India. Mrs. Bharati Dillum – the Secretary of the spouse of African Head of Mission of the Republic of Mauritius, Agaba Arthur (Research Assistant of Uganda High Commissioner) were also present.



19th July: The GIBF team took the African diplomats for a visit to Sabarmati Ashram, also known as Gandhi Ashram - a historic site located in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India. It was one of the residences of Mahatma Gandhi, who lived there from 1917 to 1930 and used it as one of the main centers of the Indian freedom struggle. Mr. Virat Kothari, Deputy Director of Sabarmati Ashram gave us and the diplomats a tour of the place and informed about its significance.

Some of the African diplomats tried their hand at the Charkha (spinning wheel) to weave cloth. They wrote their feedback and experience in the visitor's book before leaving.

In the evening, we had organized a business networking dinner with our title sponsors, and other sponsors along with some esteemed companies invited by us for interacting and networking with the ambassadors. Our title sponsors Lilavati Hospital and Research Centre, and Lilavati Foundation, co-sponsors Abhi Group and The Grand Heritage Resort and supporting partners Young India Business Club, ATBO Harita, Global Fortunes LLC, and companies like Reliance India Ltd, Growit, Core Green, Gujarat Pesticides, United Raw Material, Global Eye, National Biostimulant Industry Federation etc., and some government officials were present for the business networking and dinner meet with the diplomats.

The diplomats appreciated GIBF's efforts in organizing such events and promoting bilateral trade. They also appreciated our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for his efforts to include the African Union in the G-20 making it G-21.

20th July: The event was inaugurated by the diplomats and the GIBF team that included its Founder and Global President, Dr. Jitendra Joshi and Co-founder, Secretary General and Director of GIBF, Deepali Gadkari. Dr. Joshi delivered the welcome speech and explained the objectives of the Conclave.

“The overwhelming success of our first conclave has set a high benchmark, and I am thrilled to see such a distinguished gathering here today, ready to build on the foundations we laid together. The GIBF was established to promote businesses, with special emphasis on the MSME sector, across the globe and facilitate cultural exchanges, through its various unique initiatives. This Conclave is being organized as part of this endeavour,” Dr. Joshi said.

He added, “The purpose of this Conclave is to take the bilateral trade between India and the African countries to the next level, thus enhancing the economies of all the participating countries, helping businesses of both the countries to grow further and to generate employment for the youth. The relationship between India and Africa is not just a diplomatic or economic one; it is a partnership deeply rooted in shared history, mutual respect, and a vision for a prosperous future. Our collaboration spans diverse sectors, including trade, technology, agriculture, healthcare, education, and infrastructure. Today, we are here to further strengthening these bonds, explore new avenues of cooperation, and drive sustainable growth for both regions,” Dr. Joshi said.

Our title sponsors Lilavati Hospital and Research Centre, and Lilavati Foundation, co-sponsors Abhi Group and The Grand Heritage Resort and supporting partners Young India Business Club, ATBO Harita, Global Fortunes LLC, were felicitated by the diplomats and Dr. Joshi.

The diplomats gave presentations on the vast pool of opportunities in their respective countries for foreign investors and the government's policies for foreign investors.

The event was followed by a panel discussion wherein the business delegates got their queries satisfactorily answered by the diplomats. Dr. Joshi moderated the session.

We also organized B2B meeting wherein the business leaders from various sectors had productive discussions with the African diplomats and African business leaders.

The tiara on our hat was the appreciation letters by the **Honorable Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Bhupendra Rajnikant Patel** and the **Cabinet Minister of Industries, Civil Aviation, Rural Development, Labour and Employment in the Government of Gujarat, Shri Balvantsinh Rajput**, who we had invited for the Conclave.

