AFRICA DAY CELEBRATED DURING 9th Vibrant GUJARAT SUMMIT 2019 (JANUARY 19, 2019)
In clear recognition of enhanced importance that India and Gujarat attach to Africa, the first ever "Africa Day" was celebrated during the ‘9th Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2019 on January 19, 2019’ in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. This was the first time in the history of Vibrant Gujarat that a day was dedicated to the entire continent.

The key elements of the 'Africa Day' included a Plenary Session which was inaugurated by Mrs. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister. The Plenary Session was addressed by the visiting Ministers of Liberia, Morocco, Namibia, Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda and the captains of Africa and Indian industries. Besides a huge participation from 50 out of 54 African countries, a large number of African students were also present in the session.

Sector-specific B-2-B meetings and country seminars were organized for visiting African delegates, parallel with site visits to the sector-specific places such as, Health-care & pharmaceuticals, IT & ITES, Textiles, Banking & Financial Services, Agro-Business, Tourism, Heritage, & Hospitality Planning & Urban Development and skill Development & Education.

VISIT OF NAMIBIAN TRADE MINISTER TO INDIA (JANUARY 18-20, 2019)
Hon’ble Tjekero Tweya, Minister for Industrialization, Trade and SME Development visited India to represent Namibia and SADC in Vibrant Gujarat 2019. He was accompanied by a representative of India-Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (INCCI) Mr. Nrupesh Soni.

During the visit, Hon. Tweya spoke at the inaugural plenary of Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2019; he attended other engagements at VG 2019 and visited Namibia pavilion and India-Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry showcase.
Hon. Tjekero Tweya noted the growth in trade between India and Namibia. Indian companies have invested in Namibia through sectors such as mining, infrastructure development, agriculture and manufacturing.

He called for an intensification of strategic alliances between Namibia and India to yield tactical outcomes fast-tracking industrialisation and prosperity for the two countries. He stated that Namibia has adopted the Special Economic Zones Policy which offers great incentives for foreign direct investment; and he invited potential investors to come and explore investment opportunities in Namibia.

**GIFT OF MEDICINES BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA (JANUARY 23, 2019)**

Following the official visit to Uganda by Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India in July last year, Government of India has gifted medicines worth US$ 1.4 million to the Government of Uganda.

The medicines were handed over by Mr. Ravi Shankar, High Commissioner of India to Uganda to Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng, Uganda Minister of Health at the National Medical Stores in Entebbe on January 23, 2019. In her remarks, the Minister of Health conveyed the appreciation of Government of Uganda for this valuable gift which will go a long way in supporting the treatment of Ugandan people for a variety of ailments.

**VISIT OF PRESIDENT OF SOUTH AFRICA TO INDIA (JANUARY 25-26, 2019)**

President of the Republic of South Africa Mr. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa paid a State Visit to India on January 25-26, 2019. President Ramaphosa on his first State visit to India also witnessed the Republic Day parade as Guest of Honour on January 26, 2019.

During the visit, President Ramaphosa, paid respects to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat whose 150th birth anniversary is being celebrated both nationally and internationally.

President Ramaphosa and Prime Minister Modi held delegation level talks and jointly addressed the India-South Africa Business Forum on January 25, 2019, with a focus to grow business ties between the two countries.

President Ramaphosa also delivered the inaugural IBSA Gandhi-Mandela Freedom Lecture, in the presence of Prime Minister Modi. Also during the visit, a Three-Year Strategic Programme of Cooperation (2019-2021) was signed by the two sides, aimed at further enhancing the strategic partnership between the two countries.
HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA CELEBRATED 70TH REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA

High Commission of India hosted a reception at Safari Hotel and Conference Centre on Friday, January 25, 2019 to celebrate India’s 70th Republic Day. The well-attended function saw participation of eminent Namibians from all walks of life.

Besides Chief Guest Hon. Christine// Hoebes, Deputy Minister for International Relations and Cooperation, guests included Hon. Deputy Minister of Defence; Hon. Deputy Minister of Sports, Youth and National Service; Hon. Deputy Minister for Marginalised Communities; His Worship, Mayor of Windhoek; Chairperson of Election Commission; Permanent Secretaries, Senior officials from the Government of Namibia and Namibian Armed Forces, Diplomatic Corps, media persons and members of Indian community.

In his remarks High Commissioner H.E. Mr. Prashant Agrawal touched upon exciting developments taking place in India and on the special India-Africa and India-Namibia relations. Guests enjoyed cultural performances, fine Indian cuisine and gifts from Incredible India.

High Commissioner hoisted the National Flag in the morning of January 26, 2019 at Chancery and read out the address by the Hon’ble President of India.

A large number of Indian community members participated in the event. Guests also enjoyed singing of patriotic songs by kids.

HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA CELEBRATED THE PBD

The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) was celebrated at High Commission of India, Windhoek on January 9, 2019.

High Commissioner Prashant Agrawal, highlighting the significance of the day and acknowledging the contributions of the Indian community in Namibia, briefed the guests about upcoming PBD Convention in Varanasi on January 21-23, 2019.

He also handed over EAM's letter of appreciation to famous Namibian singer Ms. Sally Boss Madam for her rendering of 'Vaishnava Jana To' bhajan as part of Gandhiji's 150th birth anniversary commemorations.

NAMIBIAN COMPANIES PARTICIPATED IN COMMERCIAL EVENT IN INDIA

Three (3) Namibian companies participated in INDIA STEEL EXPO 2019 held in Mumbai during January 22-24, 2019.
THE ICCR AFRICA SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR NAMIBIAN NATIONALS

High Commission of India, Windhoek announces the ICCR Africa Scholarship Scheme for Namibian nationals.

Last date of application: 31st March 2019.

Government of India under the aegis of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) offers scholarships within the framework of the Africa Scholarship Scheme to Namibian nationals wishing to study at graduate, post graduate or research levels in various prestigious universities and educational institutions in India starting during the academic year 2019-20.

The scholarships include enrolment and course fees, besides a fixed amount of living expenses for the full duration of the course and return economy class airfares to the nearest international airport in India and then train fare to the place of study.

Applicants are requested to log onto “Admissions to Alumni” (A2A), the Scholarship Portal of ICCR at http://a2ascholarships.iccr.gov.in/ that contains all relevant information for the applicants including details of all State Universities, Central Universities and Institutes, colleges affiliated with them, courses available, availability of hostels, applications guidelines, eligibility criteria and other relevant information for helping the applicants in decision-making while applying for the academic courses of their preference.

For more information, interested students may visit the website of the High Commission of India at www.hciwindhoek.gov.in

UPCOMING BUSINESS EVENTS IN INDIA

The Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India(Pharmexcil) is organizing the 7th Edition of India’s Mega Pharma Exhibition: iPHEX-2019 at Helipad Exhibition Ground in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India during April 10 – 12, 2019. iPHEX is an International Exhibition of Pharma and Health care organized every year by Pharmexcil with the support of Department of Commerce since 2013. Pharmexcil is inviting manufacturers of formulations (they can be potential importer of APIs / raw materials), Importers of Finished drug / Formulations: Credible Importers of repute who have been doing business with Indian companies or willing to explore business possibilities, Drug Regulatory officials, Senior Officials from Public Procurement Authorities and Media / associations. Final invite will be selection based as per business and company profiles / recommendation. Pharmexcil with the support of Ministry of Commerce, Govt. of India, would be bearing the to and fro economy class airfare (part / full) and hospitality to select importers / business visitors and top drug regulators. The interested business delegates will have to register (mandatory) online for onward processing of applications and final confirmation on selection. The link for online registration is http://iphex-india.com/hostedbuyer/hosted_buyer_agreement. For further communication please email at rbsm@iphex-india.com.