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Expanding Horizons

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poised
for boom

TOURISM:
Oases
in the desert
**ALGERIA &
TUNISIA**

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Dear Reader,

Greetings. It is heartening to note that the India-Africa Project Partnership Conclave which had been held twice in 2005, with the inaugural in March and its follow-up in November. The first event brought together the government and business leaders of India as well as Africa, who called for urgent steps to identify specific areas of cooperation and collaboration. "Expanding horizons" was the theme of the follow-up event, which was apt considering its outcome. As many as 175 projects, worth \$ 6 billion had been identified for collaboration and implementation. "It is not enough," President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam said in his valedictory address at the Conclave. The focus of the current issue of Indo-African Business is on the Conclave. T.C. Venkat Subramanian, Chairman and Managing Director of the Export Import Bank of India, struck the right note in his speech to the Conclave delegates, by stressing the need for shifting emphasis from trade to investment. We carry the text of his speech in full. Ever since the Indian government identified Africa as an important focus region for trade and investment, Exim Bank has extended 30 Lines of Credit to 39 African countries, amounting \$1.0 billion. P.R. Dalal, General Manager, Exim Bank, gives the details in a write-up. Africa is fast catching up with developments in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector. Kenya is all set to enter the Information Superhighway this year, with the completion of an optic fibre project from Mombasa to Nairobi. Telecom firms in Tanzania and Zanzibar have started adopting advanced CDMA technology, which is superior to the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM). While there is a boom in the business of personal computers in Nigeria, Kenya is positioning itself as an outsourcing hub of Africa. South Africa, the continent's leader in the IT sector, is poised to experience a surge in its call centre segment. The issue carries separate reports on all these developments.

Wish you happy reading

Satya Swaroop

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Expanding Horizons

There is a growing affinity between India and Africa. India is an emerging economic power in search of markets. Africa is a continent of resurgent economies looking for large investments and appropriate technologies. India has both. So, India needs Africa and vice versa. With a population of 700 million, Africa is a big market for Indian goods and services. So the needs of India and Africa are dovetailed for each other's growth. That's perfect synergy. India's stature is growing in the global arena, which makes it a legitimate and permanent candidate in a reformed and expanded United Nations Security Council. And Africa can provide the required votes in support. A seat for India in the Security Council will be an additional voice for Africa to articulate its concerns on the inequalities of the global order. Overall, India and Africa share similar aspirations as well as concerns. Their main common concern is poverty. Despite India's growing economic clout, two-thirds its one billion population lives in poverty. Aids/HIV is as much a scourge in India as it is in Africa. Both India and the African countries realize that economic development is the only way to reduce poverty and provide a better healthcare to their peoples. It was in this background of mutual understanding of their problems and possible solutions that the Second Conclave of India-Africa

Project Partnership was held in November 2005, just 10 months after the first such event took place in New Delhi in March. Leaders of governments and businesses on both sides displayed a sense of urgency. Appropriately, the theme of the November Conclave was "Expanding Horizons."

You reach out to the horizon and it keeps expanding; going away further, opening up more and more space for you. So, by expanding your horizons, you create space for yourself. It is precisely in this context the observation of Export Import Bank of India

Chairman and Managing Director T.C. Venkat Subramanian makes immense sense. "India-Africa commercial relations must expand from mere trade to the domain of investment," he told the Conclave. Africa is resource-rich and can provide huge investment opportunities for Indian companies rearing to go global, to explore that continent for raw materials ranging from minerals, rough diamonds to oil. Opportunities in other areas such as Infrastructure, healthcare, Information Technology too are vast and diverse. A horizon in actuality is an illusion, the apparent lip-line on which the sky kisses the earth softly, whispering, "I'm here." Like a mirage, it is not there, but exists and, like hope persists. It's perpetual human endeavour to reach out to the horizon, like a baby in mother's arms stretching out its tiny hands for the moon. For an individual as well as a nation, a horizon represents the picture perfect hope and the prospects of a bright future, within reach and visually seen. It is an endless prospect of unlimited opportunities. The ancient lands of both India and Africa realize this truth.

- Dev

LOC pact with Exim Bank likely

Ethiopia seeks Indian investment, technology

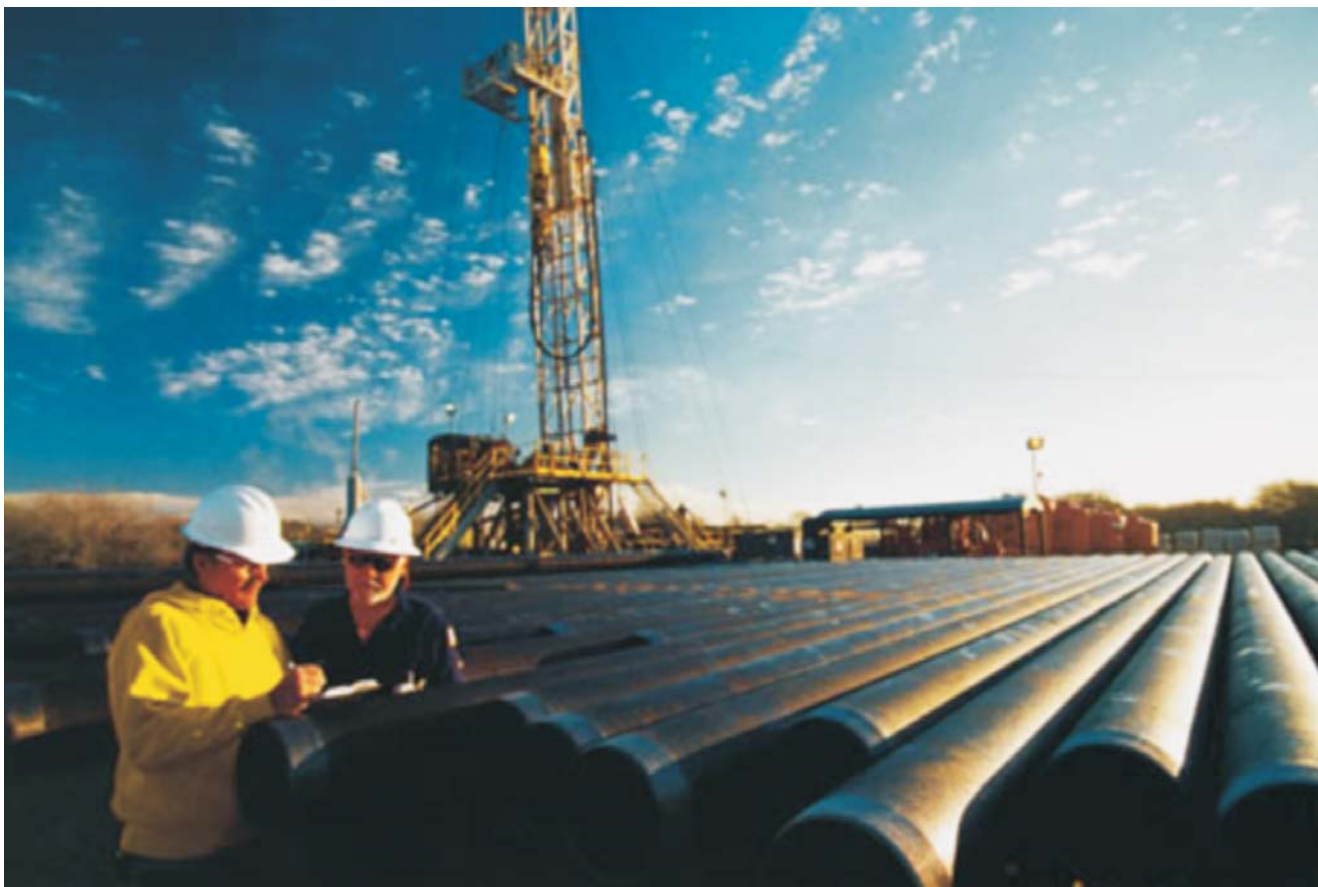


Ethiopia is a land of ancient civilization and culture, dating back to 3000 BC. It had also been a country of commerce then, a centre of trans-continental trade. Indian traders were among the most active players in the Ethiopian market. They took with them exotic Indian products such as spices and silk and brought back ivory and gold. Trading fare has since been diversified and commercial relations have continued to flourish. As in its new form of an emerging economic power, India looks at Africa not only as a huge market for its products and services, but also as a continent that needs timely technological and financial aid to accelerate the pace of its economic growth. Against this background, the recent visit to India by Sufian Ahmed, Ethiopia's Minister of Finance and Economic Development, assumes significance. Other top Ethiopian officials who accompanied Ahmed in his discussions with the Exim Bank include: Ethiopia's National Bank Governor, Telkewolde Atnafu, Belay Dechassa Hirpo, Head, Ethiopian Sugar Industry Support Centre, Hailemichael Kinfu, Head of International Cooperation in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Yousuf Kamalo, Vice Consul, Embassy of Ethiopia, New Delhi. Ahmed, who has been Ethiopia's Finance Minister for a decade or so, briefed **Indo-African Business** about his India visit, especially his meetings with the officials of the **Export Import Bank of India**. Excerpts:



What is the purpose of your visit to India? And in what way is Exim Bank associated? Are you planning on signing any LOC's?

The purpose of my visit is to promote economic relations between Ethiopia and India and bilateral trade between the two countries. I came here to introduce myself and my people to the Export Import Bank of India and its officials, to get to know them and to find out what financial facilities are available. This time we are not into signing any agreement, but have had very useful discussions and hopefully in the near future we will sign a Line of Credit with the Exim Bank.



What are the possible industrial sectors that will be identified?

Power, sugar, railways and transport and health sectors. These are the areas we are looking at for funding from the Exim Bank. We wish to develop these sectors in our country and India and Indian companies are competent to provide investment and technology. We find that Indian companies are keen on entering Africa and we believe the technology that these companies offer is very appropriate for Africa, including Ethiopia.

We have met with a number of Indian companies in Delhi and also in Mumbai, who are interested in promoting trade with Ethiopia. Healthcare is an important requirement, where Indian pharmaceuticals have made fantastic strides in its development. We have put this as a priority sector. We have a package of incentives, starting from licensing to setting up units.

Another area we are looking at is the infrastructure development, such as roads and housing, which are very important. We are looking for companies to come and invest in these crucial areas.

Are you looking for some sort of collaboration or cooperation with the Indian banking sector?

Yes. We met the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India and

senior officials of other commercial banks. We have had lengthy discussions with the Reserve Bank for extending training facilities and modernizing Ethiopia's banking system. Hopefully, we will be back to follow-up on the discussions we have had here.

Could you talk about the general economic scenario in Ethiopia?

Last year, Ethiopia's economy grew at 6.9 percent. This year, we expect a minimum of 7.0 percent, as the reforms we had launched earlier have started yielding desired results.

Are any Indian companies taking advantage of the zero percent tax that Ethiopia offers to their exports so that they can re-export their goods to other African countries and Europe as well?

Some Indian companies are already taking advantage of this facility. It will catch up gradually. This means that Indian companies can come and set up base and serve the whole of Africa, with a population of 700 million, which is a huge market.

Overall, I wish to say India has been very good to Africa. We like Indian communities and their cultural life. India has been supporting Africa's cause at various international forums. ■

India-Africa Project Partnership 2005 Conclave: "Expanding Horizons"

Connectivity Crucial for Growth - Kalam



President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam has said the multifarious problems faced by the people in India and Africa are similar and can be solved through an integrated approach that ensures physical, technological and economic connectivity.

In his valedictory address to the three-day conclave on India-Africa Project partnership 2005 in New Delhi, Kalam said: "The first need was to have physical connectivity through roads and transport, knowledge connectivity through Information Technology and e-Governance, and when these bridges are built one can hope for the last connectivity - economic connectivity."

Kalam said India and Africa "have a common heritage and faced similar problems and the solutions are equally applicable to both the regions."

The President listed the critical areas that can make India move forward, such as: agriculture and food processing, education and healthcare, IT, infrastructure, including surface transport, and electric power and critical technology for the strategic sectors.

Mentioning another vital matter of concern to both India and Africa, Kalam announced that a vaccine for HIV/AIDS was being developed in India which should be available in the country within the next two years.

Talking about the conclave where 160 delegates from 25 African countries had participated, the President said that mere participation and numbers was not enough unless concrete targets were set for further action.

The conclave was organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry, in association with the Export Import Bank of India.

Abdalmahmood Abdalhaleem Mohammad, Ambassador of Sudan in India, said that connectivity between the people of India and Africa had always been there. "But our asset is the affinity that the people of the two countries share with

each other," he said.

He further mentioned that if there was a need for proof of the importance Africa had for India, it was the fact that this was the second conclave held in the country in one year.

CII President Y.C.Deveshwar, in his welcome address said that even though trade between India and Africa had been growing, especially in the last year, it was skewed both in terms of regional representation and products.

He said that diamonds from South Africa, cashew nuts, metals and other primary raw materials comprised the imports from Africa while India's exports are dominated by pharmaceuticals and transport equipment.

Deveshwar said that as of now overseas investment from India had gone up by almost \$2.5 billion last year. Africa provided a lucrative destination for joint ventures, project partnerships and collaboration.



He suggested five ways of forging better relationships between Africa and India - develop better air linkages, programmes on the lines of Team 9 initiative could be strengthened, institutional linkage to support SMEs should be developed, a communication mechanism for business through the proposed IT network and finally establish sectoral linkages to build sectors like power, energy and infrastructure.

INDIA-AFRICA PROJECT PARTNERSHIP, NOV 2005

'Move from trade to investment'

T.C. Venkat Subramanian, Chairman & Managing Director, Export-Import Bank of India, has exhorted Indian businessmen to move from trade to the domain of investment, in order to take advantage of the economic boom prevailing in many nations of the African continent. Addressing the delegates at the India-Africa Project Partnership Conclave, held in November 2005, Subramanian said the Indian businessmen must look at investments in the fields of natural resources, mining, energy, etc, as opportunities for growth.

Africa is currently experiencing its best economic performance in many years. The continent's economies are benefiting from global expansion, notably through higher demand for commodities at higher prices, improved domestic macroeconomic management, and the easing of conflicts in many countries. However, the overall figures for the region mask considerable differences across countries, with growth rates ranging from an expansion of 31 percent (Chad) to a contraction of over 8.0 percent (Zimbabwe).

Real GDP growth in 2004 was widespread in both sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa. High oil prices underscored output growth in Central Africa, which recorded the highest subregional growth rate at just over 7.0 percent, and North Africa, with a growth rate of around 5.0 percent. Economic performance in East and West Africa benefited from a combination of higher agricultural output and rising commodity prices. However, economic growth in West Africa was subdued, due to political instability in Côte d'Ivoire and a locust invasion in Mali, Niger and Senegal. Despite higher growth in South Africa, the Southern African region recorded the worst economic performance of all the African sub-regions, largely due to the continued economic contraction experienced by Zimbabwe, as a consequence of drought and economic uncertainties.

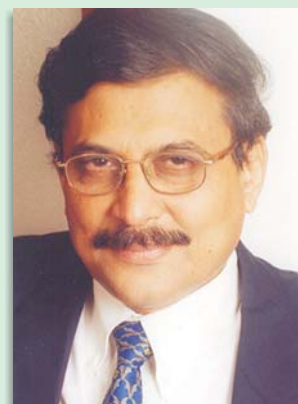
The strong performance of the African continent was also reflected in its trade account with total exports increasing by an impressive 32 percent at US\$ 232 billion in 2004 while imports registered an increase of 27 percent to total US\$ 212 billion. Even in terms of investments, Africa's FDI inflows remained at the relatively high level reached in

2003 (US\$ 18 billion), following a 39 percent increase in 2003. High prices for minerals such as copper, diamonds, gold and platinum, and particularly for oil, along with the consequent improved profitability of investment in natural resources encouraged investments in the region. Cross-border mergers and acquisitions in the mining industry increased to more than three times their 2003 value. Inflows rose in 40 out of the 53 countries in Africa. Among the different sub-regions, North Africa attracted the highest inflows in 2004. East Africa and West Africa also received higher inflows in 2004, but they declined in Central Africa and Southern Africa.

INDO-AFRICAN TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Bilateral trade between India and Africa shot up from less than US\$ 1 billion in 1990-91 to over US\$ 9 billion in 2004-05. Today, the Government of India is aiming to achieve a trade turnover of US\$ 500 billion by 2010, out of which US\$ 300 billion will be imports. This opens up a window of opportunity for the African countries to increase their exports to India from the present level of US\$ 3.8 billion. Prospective sectors which Africa can leverage upon include the energy and natural resources based sector such as coal, coke, gold, copper and similar other mineral resources.

Africa is increasingly becoming an important player for India in terms of enhancing the country's energy security. With India projected to become one of the fastest growing economies, the demand for energy is expected to increase significantly in the foreseeable future. During FY 2004, out of the total consumption of crude oil of around 124 million tonnes or around 900 million barrels (approx. 2.5 million barrels per day), production in India was only 33.4 million tonnes, implying that more than 70 percent of the country's needs are met through imports. Africa, with a total excess supply of 0.6 million bpd in 2004 (supply of 3.4 million bpd and demand of 2.8 million bpd), can cater to this growing energy demand. In addition to oil, other mineral resources such as coal, coke, copper and gold can also be increasingly sourced from Africa. In fact, India's imports of non-metallic mineral manufactures (excluding pearls) from Africa increased from US\$ 1.2 million in FY2003 to US\$



7.7 million in FY2005. Africa was also the source of 1.8 percent of India's imports of coal and coke in FY2004.

Increased two-way trade between India and Africa has also spilled over to the direct investment domain. Africa has today become a key destination, in terms of Indian overseas investments with the region accounting for 11.3 percent (US\$ 112 million) of approved overseas direct investments in 2004 (upto November). The Indian company ONGC-Videsh Limited (OVL) is actively pursuing acquisition of exploration acreages and oil/gas producing properties in Africa. OVL has already acquired discovered/producing properties in Sudan with the production being 250,000 barrels of oil per day. In addition, OVL is also having participating interests in Africa in one exploration block each in Libya, Cote d'Ivoire, and Egypt. Further, the Tata Group has won a bid to acquire 26 percent stake in South Africa's second telephone network operator thereby giving the company a mandate to develop and operate both national long distance and fixed-line networks in the country. Similarly, Vedanta Group of India has taken controlling stake in Konkola Copper Mines of Zambia for a total cash consideration US\$ 48.2 million. Potential areas for Indian investments in Africa include the mineral and natural resource sectors such as coal mines, chromium, copper, iron ore etc.

EXIM BANK'S INITIATIVES

Since Exim Bank commenced operations in 1982, the African continent has always been a focus region and thus a critical component of Exim Bank's strategy is to promote and support two-way trade and investment. Exim Bank currently has 27 Lines of Credit in operation to countries and regional development banks in Africa amounting to US\$ 556 million. These LOCs, some of which are project specific while others are general, have provided impetus to boost trade between India and Africa. Contracts approved under these LOCs to Africa amount to US\$ 253 million with disbursements aggregating US\$ 112 million. In addition, disbursements worth US\$ 300 million are projected in the next six to eight months. This is over and above the Lines of Credit totalling US\$ 600 million, which are in the pipeline. In fact, two LOCs, viz., to Guinea Bissau for US\$ 25 million and Niger for US\$ 17 million are to be signed shortly.

Besides LOC, Exim Bank has fostered an institutional building process in Africa. The Bank has had the opportunity, in the past, to share its experience and expertise in undertaking an assignment for the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ), to help set up an Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) in Zimbabwe. The institution is functioning successfully and has captured a substantial credit insurance market share in Zimbabwe. Seeing the success of the ECGC Zimbabwe, Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe has commissioned Exim Bank for

undertaking another assignment to set up an Export Credit institution. Similarly, Exim Bank had recently completed a feasibility study, on behalf of the Government of Mauritius, for Projecting Mauritius as an Investment Destination for Indian Firms. The study has been well received by the Government of Mauritius. Subsequently, it is being suggested that another study could be undertaken by Exim Bank to identify strategies in order to strengthen the SME sector in Mauritius. In addition, the Bank has provided advisory services to Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa for setting up an Export Finance Business Unit and identifying a range of products that could be extended for tapping new business opportunities. These efforts create a powerful synergy and underscore a strategic commitment to creating opportunities in business in the African continent.

LEVERAGING 'RTAS' IN AFRICA

Any strategy for forging further cooperation between Africa and India would have to necessarily incorporate a regional approach as an integral and strategic component of the overall policy framework. This would entail focusing on select Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs), which can be leveraged by Indian corporates as a gateway to African economies.

Further, with the Government of India focusing on forging regional alliances, setting up of RTA/FTA with countries in the African continent could go a long way in enhancing two way trade and investments. An important initiative in this direction has been the commencement of talks for a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), eventually leading to a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with SACU and the formation of the IBSA (India, Brazil, South Africa) alliance. The early conclusion of FTA could provide a real impetus to trade and investment between the two countries. Further, the Joint Study Group with Mauritius has recommended the formation of a Preferential Trading Arrangement with Mauritius for enhancing the competitiveness of domestic Mauritian industries by applying selective tariff concession in a WTO compatible PTA framework.

In sum, Indo-Africa commercial relations must expand from mere trade to the domain of investment. More investments by Indian companies to Africa is required in realising the potential that exists. In this context, I may highlight that Exim Bank, MIGA (of the World Bank Group), and the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd. (ECGC) have formed a partnership that will provide a package of services that combines competitively-priced financing, with risk mitigation to Indian companies investing overseas. Similar arrangement is in place with Depfa bank and MIGA for investments into Africa. ■

Conclave Outcome:

Projects worth \$6.0 billion in offing

The India-Africa Partnership Conclave 2005, 'Expanding Horizons', held in November, was successful in giving a concrete shape to a number of joint ventures. As many as 25 African countries came together to seek India's partnership in a host of trade and industrial development projects.

The Conclave saw India strongly focusing on joint venture projects with Africa, which would facilitate Africa's ability to access the \$500 million line of credit under TEAM 9 and the \$200 million line of credit given to NEPAD.

The Conclave, a follow-up of the first such partnership meeting held in New Delhi in March 2005, drew more than 200 participants, comprising delegates, prominent businessmen, bureaucrats and government ministers.

"Around 175 projects worth \$6 billion were discussed at the conclave," said a CII official.

The participating countries were: Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Cameroon, Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Mauritius, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

Indian foreign policy makers see Africa as the country's extended neighbourhood and envisage the continent as part of the Indian Ocean community and give it more prominence in the geo-strategic calculus.

"The primary objective of the conclave was to enable the Indian industry to participate, in a wide range of developmental activities and projects that are in the offing in several African countries," said Shyamal Gupta, the Chairman of the CII-Africa Committee and Chairman, Tata International Ltd.

Commenting on the need for a concerted and strategic effort, Gupta said that only this would facilitate India's participation in Africa's developmental processes. He felt that there was a need to facilitate the sharing of technologies available with Indian SMEs, for partnering projects in the private sector in Africa.

A wide range of areas, for the possibilities of mutual cooperation in fields such as infrastructure, especially power and energy, transport, telecom, irrigation, water supply, sanitation and housing were discussed, as well as oil and gas, construction, agriculture and food processing, healthcare, pharmaceuticals and turnkey projects and engineering consultancy.

Apart from energy cooperation, African countries are now looking to India to help in their cost-effective solutions to their development problems, which India is well suited to offer. They are keen to forge alliances in information technology, education and health projects. The delegates also expressed their keenness to generate employment through replication of the Indian model in agriculture and in small-scale enterprises.

"There are unprecedented levels of interest, (in the Indian business) in building a partnership with Africa as it is moving away from conflict," said Navdeep Suri, joint secretary for west and central Africa in the Indian foreign office adding that, among the 12 fastest emerging markets in the world, six are in Africa, so India is very keen to engage in sustainable projects with Africa. It is generally understood that, technologies in India are more robust and are better suited to the African environment as compared to the, technology in the West which is very fragile and sensitive to the environment.

The two sides have been moving closer economically and commercially in recent years, as reflected by the growing trade figures. From a modest \$890 million in 1991, two-way trade touched \$6, billion by end of 2002-03 fiscal, South Africa alone accounting for \$2.4 billion.

The possibility of partnering African countries like Nigeria, Niger, Tanzania and Chad in the field of hydrocarbons could turn out to be a major breakthrough in New Delhi's search for energy security. In fact the conclave showcased the trade and investment potential in countries like Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya.

Delegates from Tanzania gave an extensive presentation on investment opportunities in the mineral sector of the country. Trade representatives from Uganda and Kenya

presented their potentialities in various sectors of the economy like agriculture, finance, mineral, health, information technology, food processing, transport, infrastructure development, construction and other sectors.

During the presentations at the conclave, several African countries offered investment opportunities in exploration blocks and other energy projects. Juma Ngasongwa, Tanzanian Minister for Industry and Trade said, "Traditionally, Europeans have been our major trade partners. But now we are diversifying to seek closer alliances with India and China." He added that, "We are keen to get investment from India in all sectors, particularly from manufacturing, like textiles, mining and exploration. We have plenty of raw material like cotton, cashew and iron ore, which we would like to use for value addition."

The Tanzanian Minister also pointed out the potential to utilize iron ore and rich coal deposits in his country, and for the manufacture of steel and steel products. Accompanied by an 11-member delegation including three business representatives seeking alliances in the brush with water pump and pharma sectors, the Tanzanian Minister said there was an active interest in his country to forge alliances with Indian companies. The contingent from Tanzania expects Indian companies to venture into Tanzania's hydrocarbon sector.

"This is the time for India to come and look for investment opportunities in central Africa. We sincerely hope India will look at this region as an area of opportunities," said Chad's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nagoum Yamassoum. The Nigerian team sought Indian participation in a pipeline project for export of gas from the African region to Europe. The pipeline is expected to lift gas from Nigeria, Niger and Algeria, for delivery to Europe.

One-to one Meetings



The highlight of the conclave was the environment that was created for one-to-one meetings. There were presentations by major companies in addition to the interactions with



CEOs. Leading companies like Tata, Kirloskar Brothers Ltd, Angelique International, Mohan Energy, International Tractors, Sterlite, Kalpataru, Jaguar Overseas, SSP Ltd, Praj Consultants, who have made a mark in the African continent, shared their success stories at the conclave.

The sectoral parallel sections consisted of presentations by delegates from Africa on partnership opportunities for specific projects. It followed presentations from the Indian side on projects on offer, for partnership and success stories. A one-to-one meeting followed these presentations to enable both sides to discuss specifics. The power and energy sector is crucial to the development of African economies. Parallel sections went far to analyse the priorities of the African countries in this regard. The section discussed the technologies and experience available in India for partner-ships in the power and energy sector.

Vast possibilities in oil and gas

"We are looking very keenly at many countries in Africa and hope to repeat the Sudan experience in other parts of the region," said V. Ravindranath, Executive Director of ONGC Videsh, the overseas arms of the state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited.

According to wildcatter John Dykes, Africa is set to produce more oil and gas than some of the Middle East countries. India has so far invested over \$700 million in exploration efforts in Sudan, where ONGC Videsh holds stakes in three exploration blocks including the Greater Nile Project, which is already contributing over three million tonnes of oil annually to the country.

"We have agreed to rush a composite team to Chad and then to Niger in the next couple of weeks to lay the groundwork for a possible inter-governmental agreement," Petroleum Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar said. The team will later go to Congo to study both the exploration and production potential as well as the possibility of

refurbishing their refinery on the lines of a project being undertaken by India in Sudan.

Blurring the dark history

Most of Africa has put behind the "lost decade" of the eighties, marked by falling commodity prices, debt, war and mismanagement. It was heartening to see that they are brimming with energy, raring to go, in an economically ambitious phase, with GDP growth outstripping population growth for the first time in many years. This is seen as a perfect opportunity for India and Africa to take their growing relationship to a new height and become partners and collaborators in sculpting a shared destiny.

This optimistic potential, however, should not obscure formidable problems that Africa continues to face in crucial areas of poverty alleviation and employment generation. According to statistics, 44 percent of Africa lives below locally defined poverty lines.

The Sub-Saharan Africa is the only region in the world where the actual number of people living in extreme poverty has doubled from 164 million in 1981 to 340 million in 2003; 30 of its 47 countries are among the world's 48 poorest nations. With about 11 percent of the world's population, Africa accounts for just one per cent of global GDP.

On the other hand India too is struggling to close the disparities between the rich and poor and eradicate poverty from many of its states. A 100 percent educated mass still remains a dream which India is trying to achieve at the earliest.

But these problems can be easily converted into opportunities. India should seize the moment to shepherd a resurgence of Africa on the global stage. New Delhi realises the huge stakes in Africa. During President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's visit to South Africa in September 2004, he announced an ambitious project linking all 53 African countries through a satellite as well as a fibre optic based network which is all set to take off now.

Opportunities

Africa has been looked upon as a continent of great hope and aspirations for centuries. Today there is greater realization among the African countries that cooperation with India

is mutually beneficial. The conclave highlighted the need for fostering economic partnership between the two regions. It encouraged a productive business-to-business dialogue, giving due importance to the private sector. This is more important, since Africa is one of the important trading partners of India.

Regional economic cooperation is considered to be an answer to Africa's developmental needs. Various steps were taken for integrating regional economies, by creating opportunities for projects in all sectors including agriculture, manufacturing and services. The Indian government introduced many initiatives for partnerships and mutual benefits, between India and the African countries.

Institutional capacity building is crucial for development. A trained and educated workforce has given India a considerable edge over the rest of the developing world. Education and training of the workforce are the keys to prosperity in today's world. India, over the years, has developed an infrastructure for integrating domestic production centres and markets, including gateways to overseas markets. Development has taken place in railways, roadways and shipping. The conclave discussed the lines in which India can help African countries in developing their transportation systems.

Information and communication technology is the hallmark of the Indian growth process. It is of great importance to Africa, since the IT & communication revolution can accelerate their developmental endeavours.

Access to funds in conformity with the project's ability to service, is a critical factor for the development of project partnerships. An enabling environment aided by the financial sector is very important for realizing projects undertaken. The conclave provided for project-specific discussion with bankers from Africa, supported by representatives of India from the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, EXIM Bank and ECGC.

Interestingly, both sides felt that this is a relationship based on mutual respect, and not of one-upmanship. As an Africa proverb goes: "If a little tree grows in the shade of a larger tree, it will die small. But if a little tree stands side by side with a larger tree, you have the start of a forest." ■





Facilitating Indian exports to 39 countries

Exim Bank LOCs to Africa approach \$ 1-billion mark

P.R. Dalal, General Manager, Export-Import Bank of India

The Lines of Credit (LOCs), Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) have extended to the African region constitute key elements of the Bank's strategy to enhance India's trade and investment relations with countries in the region. Currently, Exim Bank has in operation 30 LOCs in the African region, amounting to US\$ 949.44 million, covering 39 countries.

Line of Credit is one of the financing mechanisms through which Exim Bank extends finance to support export of goods and services from India under deferred payment terms. Exim Bank extends Lines of Credit (LOCs) to overseas financial institutions, regional development banks, sovereign governments and other entities overseas. The Indian exporters can obtain payment for eligible value from Exim Bank, without recourse to them, against negotiation of shipping documents.

To enhance India's exports to Africa, recent LOCs extended by Exim Bank are:

- LOC of US\$ 6.70 million to Gambia;
- LOC of US\$ 5 million to East African Development Bank (EADB); and
- Two LOCs aggregating US\$ 391.9 million to Sudan.

The LOC to Gambia has been extended, at the behest of the Government of India (GOI), under the "NEPAD Initiative". The LOC has been earmarked for financing exports from India to Gambia for setting up of a tractor assembly plant in Gambia. Under the NEPAD initiative, GOI provides LOCs through Exim Bank, to countries in Africa, to finance setting up of various projects by Indian companies in those countries. Under the LOC to Gambia, Exim Bank will reimburse 100 percent of contract value to the Indian exporters, upfront upon the shipment of goods.

The LOC of US\$ 5.0 million to the East African Development Bank (EADB), the second LOC extended to EADB, is to finance India's exports to EADB's member countries viz. Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Exim Bank

had earlier extended an LOC of US\$ 5.0 million to EADB in 1999, which was fully utilized. Under the LOC to EADB, importers based in its member countries, viz. Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, will make advance payment of 10 percent of contract value and Exim Bank will provide credit for 90 percent of contract value to EADB. Exim Bank will reimburse Indian exporters upfront upon the shipment of goods and provision of services. Credit period is up to five years. EADB is a regional development bank, covering Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, which are traditional markets for Indian equipment and technology. It works closely with the Secretariat of the Commission for East African Cooperation, based in Arusha, Tanzania and finances projects and offers a broader range of financial services in the member states to strengthen regional economic cooperation. East Africa is one of the fastest growing regions in the African continent. The main items of exports from India to the region are machinery and instruments, drugs & pharmaceuticals, wheat, manufacture of metals, transport equipment and cotton yarn fabrics. Exim Bank's LOC to EADB will help strengthen India's trade relations with East African region further.

Exim Bank has, at the behest of the Indian Government, extended two Lines of Credit (LOCs) aggregating US\$ 391.90 million to the Government of Sudan. The LOCs of US\$ 350 million and US\$ 41.90 million, have been earmarked for financing exports from India to Sudan, for setting up 4 X 125 MW Kosti Combined Cycle Power Plant and SINGA-GEDARIF Transmission Line and Sub-station projects, respectively, in Sudan. Under the Focus Africa Initiative, GOI provides LOCs through Exim Bank to countries in Africa, to finance setting up of various projects by Indian companies in those countries. As part of this initiative, Exim Bank has extended the above LOCs to the Government of Sudan. Under the LOCs to Sudan, Exim Bank will reimburse 100 percent of contract value to the Indian exporters, upfront upon the shipment of goods. Exim Bank had, in January 2004, extended a LOC of US\$ 50 million to Sudan, which has been fully utilized. ■

Sr. No.	Name of Institution/Country	Amount
1	Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank (PTA Bank) (covering 16 countries in the eastern and southern African region, viz. Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia & Zimbabwe)	US\$ 10 mn
2	Seychelles Marketing Board, Seychelles	US\$ 5 mn
3	Central Bank of Djibouti, Djibouti	US \$ 10 mn
4	Government of Ghana	US\$ 15 mn
5	Banque Ouest Africaine De Developpement (West African Development Bank) (covering Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo)	US\$ 10 mn (equivalent Euros)
6	Government of Zambia	US\$ 10 mn
7	Government of Sudan	US\$ 50 mn
8	Government of Angola	US\$ 5 mn
9	Government of Angola	US\$ 40 mn
10	Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank (PTA Bank)	US\$ 10 mn
11	Government of Mozambique	US\$ 20 mn
12	Government of Lesotho	US\$ 5 mn
13	Government of Senegal	US\$ 15 mn
14	Government of Senegal	US\$ 17.87
15	Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank (PTA Bank)	US\$ 5 mn
16	Government of Mauritius	US\$ 10 mn
17	BMCE Bank, Morocco	US\$ 10 mn
18	Government of Cote d'Ivoire	US\$ 26.8 mn
19	Government of Mali	US\$ 27 mn
20	Government of Ghana	US\$ 27 mn
21	Government of Ghana	US\$ 60 mn
22	Government of Congo	US\$ 33.5 mn

Nestle sets up unit to boost Zimbabwe milk output

Nestle Zimbabwe has established an agricultural unit to help bolster milk production, which has suffered a 30 percent decline because of chaotic land reforms embarked on by the government in 2000.

Nestle managing director Eugene van Antwerpen has said recently that 70 percent of products made by his company were milk-based and the company needs to secure continued milk supply. The department will work with farmers at various agricultural production stages to improve both quality and yield.

"We would like to encourage milk production among long-established farmers, new farmers and potential farmers and our target is to achieve monthly deliveries of 1.8 million litres," he said.



Echoing his sentiments, Nestle factory manager Stephen Kruger said milk was the "lifeblood of the factory" and the company was investing in capacity expansion for the future. "The bottom line is that we must have much more milk," he added.

Apart from the latest scheme, the company also contracts 12 dairy farmers through its Dairy Support Facility and among them is a 20-year-old Goromonzi farmer, Blaise Munn, whom it gave the most improved dairy farmer award for the year 2005.

The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe has also put in place a dairy support scheme totalling more than \$300 billion. The scheme is available for breeding programmes, rehabilitation of milk parlours, purchase of equipment and investment in transport.

Half-year review of 2005-06

Indo-African trade buoyant, up 32 percent at \$3.0 billion

An analysis of the trends in Indo-African economic relations during the first half (April-September) of the year 2005-06 indicates the distinct buoyancy in bilateral trade. India's total exports to Africa during April-September 2005 amounted to US\$ 3.06 billion, registering a sharp rise of 34.9 percent, as compared to a 32.4 percent rise during the corresponding period of the previous year. As regards to imports, India's total imports during April-September 2005 stood at US\$ 2.16 billion, a robust rise of 26.9 percent, in contrast to a decline of 4.7 percent during the comparable half of the previous year.

Country-wise Trends

Among the major trading partners in the African region, exports to important markets such as South Africa, Egypt, Sudan, Algeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Senegal, Benin, Mozambique and Libya registered growth rates higher than that for aggregated exports to the region during April-September 2005 (Table 1). As regards to imports, the turnaround in imports from Africa during the period under review, could be attributed to sharp pick up in imports from South Africa and Zambia, after a decline in the previous year, as also a buoyant rise in imports from other major partners such as Egypt, Ghana, Togo, Mozambique, and Congo, D.R. (Table 2).

Table 1: India's Exports to Africa - Major Destinations (US\$ million)

	Apr-Sept 2004	% growth	Apr-Sept 2005	% growth
Africa Total	2273.2	32.4	3065.5	34.9
South Africa	471.5	121.0	697.7	48.0
Nigeria	267.7	-4.1	338.3	26.4
Egypt	187.3	24.7	270.8	44.6
Kenya	197.8	111.8	213.2	7.8
Sudan	109.4	171.2	149.8	36.9
Algeria	92.8	73.9	128.3	38.3
Tanzania	79.5	8.9	94.7	19.1
Mauritius	86.0	-3.7	89.4	4.0
Cote d'Ivoire	23.4	-65.8	83.9	258.0
Ghana	77.4	38.4	80.7	4.3
Djibouti	49.9	170.3	75.9	52.1
Senegal	16.2	43.9	71.3	340.8
Benin	21.1	-13.0	63.6	201.1
Mozambique	31.7	3.4	59.3	87.3
Togo	79.1	233.2	57.7	-27.1
Libya	23.6	280.2	57.0	141.5
Morocco	51.9	23.7	53.1	2.2
Congo, D.R.	39.8	59.8	39.3	-1.2
Uganda	37.8	-18.9	37.7	-0.2
Angola	27.0	-27.2	36.0	33.4

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCIS).
Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI)

Table 2: India's Imports from Africa - Major Sources (US\$ million)

	Apr-Sept 2004	% growth	Apr-Sept 2005	% growth
Africa Total	1704.6	-4.7	2163.6	26.9
South Africa	833.4	-23.7	1224.6	47.0
Egypt	84.7	34.1	129.2	52.5
Cote d'Ivoire	114.7	82.1	117.6	2.6
Senegal	87.8	15.0	90.7	3.3

Morocco	135.8	8.0	87.9	-35.2
Guinea-Bissau	61.3	42.7	74.5	21.4
Benin	51.7	21.2	55.9	8.0
Tunisia	48.8	82.8	48.0	-1.5
Ghana	32.8	13.6	47.8	45.4
Nigeria	33.5	-30.8	34.8	3.9
Togo	23.1	166.5	32.2	39.5
Mozambique	6.3	27.2	24.0	283.2
Kenya	20.4	12.1	23.0	12.9
Zambia	.6	-12.0	20.3	112.5
Congo, D.R.	7.5	299.4	19.7	160.4
Tanzania	28.3	31.0	17.8	-37.1
Sudan	13.9	-9.3	14.3	3.3
Gabon	17.8	129.2	11.2	-37.1
Zimbabwe	10.4	55.0	11.0	5.8
Gambia	11.0	209.3	10.6	-3.5

Source: DGCIS, MOCI

Commodity-wise Trends

As regards to trends in commodity composition of bilateral trade, continued buoyancy in exports to Africa of important items such as petroleum products, non-basmati rice, transport equipment, machinery and instruments, plastic and linoleum products, inorganic/organic/agro

chemicals, other cereals, meat and meat preparations, and paints and enamels underlined the sharp rise in total exports to Africa during April-September 2005. Further, a turnaround in exports of rubber manufactured goods and glass, glassware & ceramics contributed to the rise in aggregate exports.

Table 3: India's Major Items of Exports to Africa (US\$ million)

	Apr-Sept 2005	% growth	Apr-Sept 2005	% growth
All Commodities	2273.2	32.4	3065.5	34.9
Petroleum products	268.6	100.4	407.4	51.7
Non-basmati rice	127.2	42.4	331.1	160.4
Transport equipment	159.0	22.8	321.7	102.3
Machinery & instruments	172.2	14.7	248.7	44.4
Drugs, pharmaceuticals & fine chemicals	225.3	32.8	243.9	8.2
Manufacture of metals	194.5	70.5	199.7	2.7
Cotton yarn fabrics	201.2	9.9	173.8	-13.6
Primary & semi-finished iron & steel	118.0	52.6	134.7	14.2
Plastic & linoleum products	98.3	44.3	120.0	22.1
Manmade yarn fabrics	97.3	14.0	100.0	2.7
Paper/wood products	55.9	45.1	65.7	17.6
Rubber manufactured products	43.4	-4.2	55.4	27.6
Inorganic/organic/agro chemicals	35.5	12.5	49.9	40.3
Glass/glassware/ceramics	23.4	-19.0	44.3	89.1
Other cereals	3.6	1367.1	37.3	943.9
RMG cotton incl. Accessories	34.6	-12.5	36.4	5.4
Electronic goods	30.0	44.8	34.8	16.0
Meat & preparations	21.8	30.4	33.3	53.2
Paints/enamels/varnishes	13.6	13.6	20.0	46.7
Cosmetics/toiletries	16.6	-5.8	19.4	16.5

Source: DGCIS, MOCI

As regards to imports, the sharp turnaround in imports of major items such as gold, pearls and semi-precious stones, organic chemicals, other crude minerals, and spices during the first half (April-September) of 2005-06, in

contrast to a decline during the corresponding period of the previous years, has reflected the rising trend in overall imports from Africa. Added to this has been the buoyant rise in imports of other major items such as iron and steel,

metaliferrous ores and metal scrap, coal & coke, non-ferrous metals, and primary steel pig-iron based items from

the region (Table 4).

Table 4: India's Major Items of Import from Africa (US\$ mn)

	Apr-Sept 2004	% growth	Apr-Sept 2005	% growth
All Commodities	1704.6	-4.7	2163.6	26.9
Gold	597.5	-35.6	848.3	42.0
Inorganic chemicals	306.8	13.1	286.5	-6.6
Cashew nuts	223.9	42.1	266.7	19.1
Iron & steel	26.4	302.0	143.2	442.6
Metaliferrous ores & metal scrap	104.0	110.6	129.2	24.3
Wood & wood products	74.8	34.0	66.4	-11.3
Coal, coke & briquettes	28.3	50.8	59.5	110.6
Crude fertiliser	53.2	349.0	42.4	-20.3
Cotton raw: combed/uncombed/waste	49.8	-54.9	41.4	-16.8
Non-ferrous metals	23.4	117.3	30.8	31.4
Pearls precious & semiprecious stones	24.4	-2.8	29.2	20.1
Pulp & waste paper	21.7	3.2	25.8	19.1
Organic chemicals	18.5	-8.9	25.7	39.1
Sugar	-	-	18.9	-
Non-electrical machinery	17.4	53.1	13.6	-21.8
Electronic goods	11.7	72.0	12.2	4.1
Other crude minerals	4.7	-44.4	10.4	121.2
Spices	2.5	-56.0	9.8	289.4
Leather	11.1	14.1	8.1	-27.3
Primary steel pig iron based items	4.2	115.8	6.4	51.7

Source: DGCIS, MOCI

Thousands of rural households in northern Tunisia will be helped by a new \$15.5 million loan from the United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) that is part of a larger project aimed at improving the livelihoods of poor farmers and wage-workers.

The loan agreement has recently been signed by IFAD President Lennart and Tunisia's Ambassador to Italy, Habib Mansour, at IFAD headquarters in Rome and the money will be used for the second phase of a rural development project in Tunisia.

"This project builds upon work begun during the first phase and will continue to improve the living conditions of Tunisia's rural poor by ensuring their participation in the development process," said Rasha Omar, IFAD's Country Programme Manager for Tunisia.

In addition to the IFAD loan, the \$38.9 million dollar development project, will be funded by the Government of Tunisia and a grant from the Global Environment Facility, an independent financial organization that provides grants to developing countries for projects that benefit the global environment.

Tunisia gets \$ 15.5 mn IFAD rural development loan

IFAD said the project would benefit more than 15,000 rural households by supporting the development of small and medium-sized agricultural businesses as well as by providing vocational training and other development support.

The project will also support the creation of a system to monitor sustainable land management and

oversee soil and water conservation because Siliana's mountainous terrain is particularly vulnerable to erosion, while water supply is limited.

With this loan, IFAD said it would have financed nine programmes and projects for a total of \$281.5 million dollars in Tunisia.

The Rome-based agency is dedicated to eradicating poverty and hunger in rural areas of developing countries and, through low-interest loans and grants, it develops and finances projects that enable rural poor to overcome poverty themselves. There are almost 200 ongoing IFAD-supported rural poverty eradication programmes and projects, totalling about \$6.5 billion, with IFAD having invested about \$3 billion in these initiatives. ■

Kenya poised to enter Global Data Superhighway

Kenya is all set to make a dramatic entry into the Information Superhighway in 2006 with the completion of an optic fibre project from the Indian Ocean town of Mombasa to Nairobi.

The commissioning of the project by March, 2006, is expected to change the face of telecommunication as it is known in Kenya today, with data traveling at unprecedented speeds, super clear voices and for once a reliable fixed telephony.

In practical terms, the fibre whose construction works has already reached the Athi river - all the way from Mombasa - means that a student who has been spending five hours at a cyber cafe communicating with a foreign university will now spend less than an hour for the same output.

This will translate into less pay for the student, but the bigger picture will mean that multinational companies working in Kenya will finally stop moaning of poor and expensive telecommunication infrastructure. It also means services like video conferencing will for the first time be possible on a much wider and affordable scale. The development comes at a time when digitization of switches for Nairobi and Mombasa have been completed, and the benefits include improved call completion rates, more customers using pre-paid services and lower maintenance costs.

Fibre Optic Cables

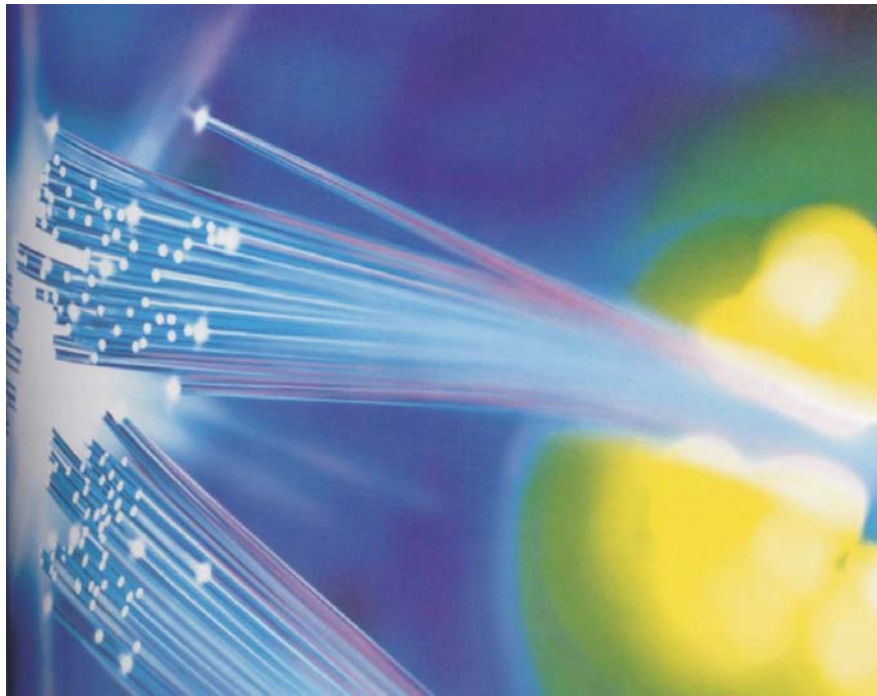
These are specially manufactured, hair-thin glass fibre for the transmission of communications in the form of light. They are also used in medical imaging and mechanical engineering inspections.

Going fibre is about limitless bandwidth. To fully grasp the enormity of the impending quantum leap, a few facts are illustrative. The existing Kenyan network uses what is called Synchronous Transfer Mode-One (STM-1). This translates to only about 2000 circuits available for communication. While on the other hand a service like video conferencing demands 30 circuits, this means there is no capacity to enjoy this exciting service on a wide scale. Consequently, it also means that such value added services are prohibitively expensive. Enter a fibre network and the scene changes dramatically.

Says Mike Ngotho, who runs a software solutions company in Nairobi: "The fibre network will multiply the capacity several thousand-folds. ISPs will have to get their equipment configured to handle the new load."

Though Kenya prides herself as being ahead of other countries in the region of the ICT sector, due to a comparatively superior infrastructure, most potential users of the technology are still repulsed by the continuing inefficiency.

Over the years for example, even though the cost of surfing

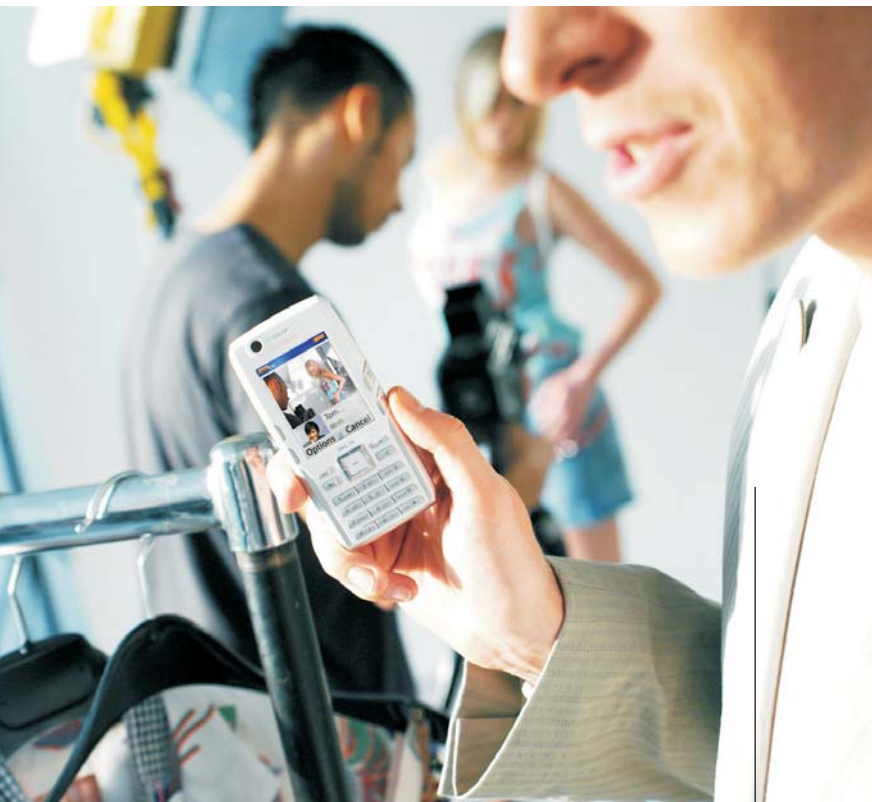


the web has continued to come down, internet speeds have not shown a concomitant upward swing. Going fibre has been the only option that can kill two birds with a single stone.

Information Communication Technology (ICT) has been hailed as the next beacon where Kenya's growing economy will be pegged. Kenya loses billions of shillings every year to developed countries due to an ever-widening stream of students seeking higher education abroad. However, thanks to online education that started gaining ground about a decade ago, the avalanche is slowly but surely being put on check.

But notoriously slow Internet speeds still remain the biggest stumbling block. Currently surfing the Internet in an average Nairobi cyber cafe for five hours costs 300 shillings, a figure that is still too high for the average income earners, the category where most would-be students belong. Here, the problem has not really been the cost per given time, rather, it is the speed.

Clearly, speeds that are ten times faster would trigger a boom. Other professionals set to gain are doctors, journalists, teachers and lawyers through cheap logging to professional syndicates where discussions, research sharing, trends and insider information are shared online. ■



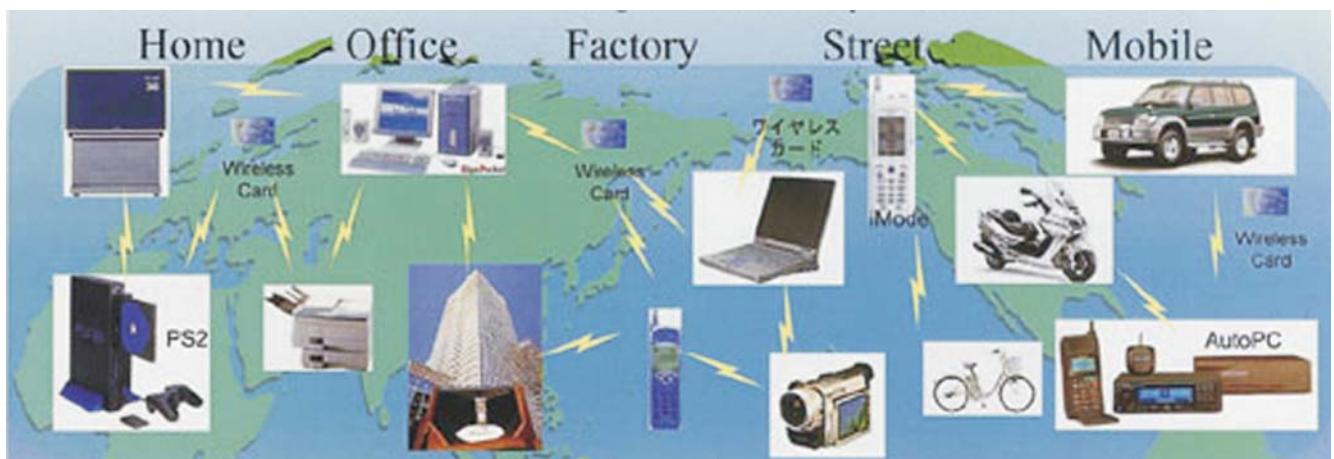
TELECOM firms in Tanzania, Zanzibar adopt advanced CDMA Technology

Tanzania Telecommunications Company Ltd (TTCL) and Zanzibar Telecommunications Ltd (Zantel) will soon start using the Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) system, which is superior to the global system for mobile communications (GSM).

the main contractor for the project.

Pilot projects in the use of CDMA have been successful in Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Mwanza and Zanzibar.

Zantel marketing manager George Chimalilo said CDMA would be used in the fixed line, data and internet services.



CDMA, the system widely used in America and Japan, is an advanced technology for transmitting simultaneous signals over a shared portion of the spectrum. It requires fewer cell sites than GSM, and has a calling capacity of between three and five times more. Its frequencies can also beam easily over difficult terrain such as mountains.

While digital systems divide the spectrum into different time slots, CDMA's spread spectrum technique overlaps every transmission on the same carrier frequency by assigning a unique code to each conversation.

According to TTCL communications manager Issa Semtawa, his firm will start using the wireless technology from April, 2006, a move he says will help expand his firm's customer base.

Semtawa said that the new technology would give Dar es Salaam suburbs quality service. A Chinese firm, Huawei, is

Cellular network providers in Tanzania have limits in some areas and need booster stations.

Industrial analysts see CDMA as a third-generation technology for GSM, which is used in Europe. Although it is faster than GSM, CDMA handset prices are higher compared to its rival. CDMA supports over 270 million subscribers, while GSM has over one billion.

Meanwhile, the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority extended to June 30, 2006 the deadline set for mobile firms to switch to new, shorter access codes. The previous deadline was December 31 2005.

The deadline for new mobile network destination codes has been revised in order to "maintain harmony in the industry," said Prof. John Nkoma, Director General of the authority. Prof. Nkoma said the decision was reached after consultations with mobile telephone operators. ■

PC Boom in Nigeria



In Nigeria, the fight is between computer brands and types, on the one hand, and between the formal and informal markets, on the other. This development is driven by competition, increasing computer literacy levels and falling prices.

The push of electronic and Internet applications into routine areas of life and business, such as education and banking processes, are an added impetus. So is the growing number of wireless Internet hotspots. One of the immediate implications of the said computer wars, is that remarkably more computers are being bought and sold today, than ever before.

This development will also expand the need for skilled technicians and spares to service the equipment. So will it expand the software needs of the local market. Industry watchers say that as mobile internet offerings increase and improve, more and more executives will work from the back seats of their cars and from home, creating more employment for vehicle drivers and reducing office space needs and costs.

The proportion of computer sales appears to be tilting from the large corporate companies and government, towards the small and medium enterprises and the home user. Official formal market figures for PC sales over the last two years have stood at about 250,000 units per year. With average PC prices in the sector at about N80,000 per unit, that sums up to N20 billion worth of sales per year.

Although there are no official figures available for the informal market, industry watchers say it is safe to assume that for every system sold in the formal market, 15 are sold in the informal market. That sums up to 3.75 million systems per year. With the average price of a PC in the informal market, at about N50,000, that sums up to about N187.5 billion in sales, per year.

A new development is the increasing preference for laptop computers, over desktops. Industry watchers say this has been brought about by falling prices of laptop computers - especially imported second hand laptops - the portability of laptops, an increasing array of Internet offerings, including mobile Internet services and wireless Internet hotspots. Laptops can also give as many as three hours of service, during power outages (which are commonplace here). So they can save up to three man-hours per day, otherwise spent in traffic and waiting rooms and this is listed as an

added advantage.

To counter the price advantage of the informal market, formal market players, are lowering the prices of their products marginally and offering attractive bundled packages.

One such package is a special offer from the consortium of Hewlet Packard Nigeria Limited, First Bank, Globacom and NetnearU, an Information Technology Company.

The promotion, tagged "The Wow Purchase" provides corporate individuals and organisations, a flexible and cost convenient opportunity to own an HP- Compaq NX6110 Celeron or Centrino Business notebooks equipped with full Internet access, provided by NetNearU Hotspots and Globacom GPRS enabled SIM cards. This package comes laced with an insurance policy, warranty and guaranty and a spread out payment scheme and the promise of efficient after sales service.

A 2003 study commissioned by the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) indicated that there were 2.8 million personal computers in the country in the year 2003 and that at that time, the country's population stood at 130 million.

Computer density for the country was therefore 22 PCs for every 1,000 people. The study further gave the percentage breakdown, as 23.5 per cent, for PCs used at home, while stating that over two-thirds of PCs were used in offices. It also stated that the four local PC plants endorsed by government, had a combined capacity to produce about 1,050 PCs per day at that time, while in the period 2001 to 2002, they had produced and sold less than a combined total of 30,000 PCs.

It was also estimated that in that period, there were four times more cloned PCs than branded local ones being assembled and sold in Nigeria. Inadequate incentives by way of high import duties and low patronage, even by government, were perceived as responsible for the poor sales. ■

KENYA positioning as African outsourcing hub

Kenya plans to position itself as one of the world's leading outsourcing hubs for companies in North America and Europe looking to cut costs in their business processes.

Information and Technology Permanent Secretary Bitange Ndemo has recently said a strategy to set up outsourcing incubators at local universities hopes to create up to 30,000 jobs.

Ndemo, who was head-hunted from the University of Nairobi, said in the coming six months, the Government hoped to engage some 10,000 students in an incubator venture modelled on a successful one by universities in north west Britain, called CallNorthWest and hosted by University of Central Lancashire (UCLan).

The new enthusiasm to push the Kenyan economy to the digital age follows the approval of the long-awaited Information and Communications Technology (ICT) policy by President Kibaki's new Cabinet.

The outsourcing strategy is part of a broader ICT development effort that seeks to make Kenya the regional hub by 2010 and increase the share of the IT earnings to 10 percent of the size of the Kenyan economy.

"We can produce a million jobs," said Ndemo, "The problem with us Kenyans is that we start counting (the 500,000 jobs the Kibaki administration promised to create) even before we have implemented anything," he added.

Kenya's IT revolution is expected to be supported by an international fibre-optic cable link that is expected to reach Nairobi from Mombasa in April 2006.

This is part of a project named EASSY. The Kenyan fibre optic cable link will join with a sub-maYine system ringing the continent, and set to go live in 2007. Japanese companies NEC and Fujitsu, US's Tyco and Alcatel of France have been invited to invest and tender evaluation is on.

The private sector arm of the World Bank, the IFC Group, UK Department for International Development (DFID), African Development Bank (ADB), Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA) and the European Union are some of the donors expected to finance the project.

The Fibre Optic Technology will provide broadband Internet access and reduce costs by about 40 percent. This will make Kenya more competitive in the global real-time outsourcing business,

which has so far been an expensive affair that confined existing players to the relatively expensive, Very Small Aperture Terminal (Vsat) technology.

India, China, Russia, Malaysia and the Philippines - considered leading global outsourcing hubs supported mainly by their cheap labour and technology advancement - are creating thousands of jobs out of outsourcing. The US, which outsourced \$77 billion worth of business in 2004, followed by UK and the European Union, are the main consumers of the service. In Africa, Ghana and South Africa have gone all out to capture the outsourcing market.

Ndemo said the Government was now talking to the commercial attaches in embassies abroad to reorient themselves from merely "marketing ciondos" to promoting Kenya as an outsourcing destination.

Outsourcing is expected to overtake tourism as a source of foreign exchange. Beyond absorbing the Kenyan manpower including graduates numbering about 60,000 yearly, it would attract companies including transnational banks and airlines, which are outsourcing to countries like Ireland and South Africa.

Ndemo said the strategy involved setting outsourcing benchmarks for the country through engaging the universities. The strategy, an attempt to boost the Economic Recovery Strategy (ERS), would encourage participants to move out of Nairobi and set up businesses in other towns to spread the benefits.

Incentive

Under the ICT policy approved by the Cabinet, the new team made quick amendments recommending incentives to the sector, including tax breaks meant to make Kenya an attractive outsourcing destination.

According to Ndemo, the Kenya Revenue Authority should, for example, be ready to forfeit the VAT component in ICT and recover the same through the increased payroll tax.

The current operators who have to transport employees in the night due to varying global times need not only have night security but also incentives to provide the transport.

"We want this policy implemented to the letter," he said.

Ndemo believed that Telkom Kenya, which is reforming, is central to the strategy, but should reduce its cost of bandwidth to attract more business and kick-start the sector. ■



SOUTH AFRICA'S call centre industry poised for boom

South Africa's call centre industry is all set to secure close to R1-billion in foreign investment in 2006.

Most of the new money will be going into centres to service customers overseas - from placing temporary British nurses to booking air tickets in Germany. Analysts expect that by the end of this year, up to 10,000 South Africans could be dealing exclusively with overseas customers. The country already has 535 call centres, employing an estimated 65,000 people.

David Brooks, head of IBM's integrated delivery centre in Johannesburg, said the company would hire up to 850 new agents and invest more than R200-million in its call-centre operations this year. Last year IBM invested R120-million and hired 443 new people to field international customer queries.

Luke Mills, Director of CallingTheCape, an investor service, said foreign investment in the industry in Cape Town had reached R828-million in the past two years, and up to R500-million was likely to be invested in 2006. British companies were responsible for 76 percent of the business.

Keryn House, CEO of Contact in Gauteng, said the province was expecting significant new investments by companies including AOL, Absa, Call Centre Nucleus, Sykes and e-Centric.

Penny Streeter, founder of British recruitment company Ambition 24hours, said the firm had invested R100-million and hired 250 agents last year - and planned to grow the staff beyond 1000.

In addition, Business Times has learned that a major European cellphone company has committed to the biggest single direct investment yet, with a call centre for some 600 agents set for Claremont, Cape Town.

Some international companies are reluctant to let customers in their home markets know that some of their support services are being run from other countries.

On the back of these successes, the industry is quietly laying the ground for more - and faster - growth. On February 2, in Durban, the South African Contact Centre Community (Saccocom) will pitch for new contact centres to 20 invited European companies - including "one that is talking 3000 new jobs on its own", according to Saccocom CEO Mfanu Mfayela.

The country's chance of securing

more investment in the competitive international call-centre industry is very good. A report released last year by the Ion Group, which polled many of the UK's top 1000 companies for their ideal offshore location, ranked South Africa ahead of India, Mexico and the Philippines.

The report cites greater English skills, a more similar "cultural outlook" and better performance among agents over their Indian rivals, a similar time zone and SA's deregulated telecommunications industry.

Although still dwarfed by India, South Africa's "business process outsourcing" has been identified by the Department of Trade and Industry as a key focus point for major future employment, especially among school-leavers. Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka is expected to announce improved incentives for investors to turn the country's new offshore popularity into more deals soon.

Mfayela said offshore service work would jump to 20 percent from 6.0 percent of the entire call-centre market by 2008. "SA looks set to be the number-two offshore destination after India for UK business, and will capture a significant share of high-quality work," he said, adding that accurate national figures on investment and employment had not yet been compiled.

The growth is part of a global phenomenon in which former colonies and occupied territories - from Morocco to the Philippines - are grabbing fistfuls of "contact centre" work in the markets of their former masters, due to cultural links, reduced telecom costs and reported labour cost savings of between 30 percent and 50 percent.

Mills said average salaries of R6500 per month were "quite good", but that starting salaries were nevertheless 34 percent less than those in Britain.

"Overseas markets are quickly realising that we can do things that India can't do - in terms of resolving the bulk of queries on the first call; in terms of handling more complex queries from customers".

"If you have motor insurance with Budget Insurance in Britain, your call will come to Cape Town. South Africans have always been known for being empathetic and having a good customer service ethic. Now they're proving they've really got a knack for this," Mills said. ■



India to fund Telecommunication projects in Africa



In fact India's willingness to provide a seamless and integrated satellite, fibre optics and wireless network, was first proposed in September 2004. The Indian team has made the final presentation to the African Union (AU) technical group. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the AU and India at the end of October 2005 and the Pan-African E-network project is set to become a reality.

The President cited the MOU, as the perfect example of a government system ability to make a time-bound performance with focused attention, and urged CII and Exim Bank to approach problems faced by the business leaders in India and Africa in a similar manner.

In India, small-scale industries provide employment for approximately 27 million people and the scale of production and technologies employed are relevant to the economic needs of Africa. Project funding is also critical for the exploitation and optimum utilization of Africa's vast natural resources. The Indian government has extended lines of credit to the African continent with terms that compare favourably with commercial borrowing, reflecting a grant element of almost 54 per cent.

CII President, Mr. Y.C. Deveshwar, noted that, "India shares a very special relationship with the African continent". He remarked on the growth of India-Africa trade, but said it was skewed in terms of regional representation and in terms of products.

Abdalmahmood Abdalhabeem Mohammad, Ambassador of Sudan, said the conclave reflected "age-long and time-tested relationships" between India and Africa. ■

President Abdul Kalam, speaking at the recently concluded second conclave on India-Africa project partnership 2005 - 'Expanding Horizons', jointly hosted by the Confederation for Indian Industry (CII), Exim Bank of India and the Indian government, said that India will fund a telecommunication project to connect 53 African countries proposed to be completed by 2007.

South Africa projects 6 pc growth in 2006

The South African Deputy Director-General, Lionel October, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), said that the department is considering greater budgetary allocations by the state, to expand the manufacturing sector, in order to propel the country into a 6 percent growth next year.

The fund will be different from previous incentive schemes, such that it will offer geographically targeted investment incentives. The aim is to attain long-term viability in those areas, earlier seen in Richards Bay.

The other proposals would include:-

- State investment in, science and research oriented projects in the nuclear, aerospace and biofuel sectors in which the private sector has been reluctant to invest,
- Industrial incentives tied to reciprocal economic outcomes from recipients, such as the achievement of export and job creation targets,
- Bigger and risky investment on the part of the Industrial Development Corporation,
- More "proactive" investment from the Development Bank of Southern Africa,
- Expansion of the industrial development zone programme,
- Government assistance for industries such as the clothing and textile industries. ■

Infrastructure upgradation in East Africa vital

Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania have been urged to set up a joint committee to oversee the development of infrastructure as a region. Infrastructure in these three countries is among the least developed in East Africa (EA), thus the need for joint ventures, instead of tackling problems single handedly at country level.

Ssemakula Kiwanuka, State Minister for Investment, speaking while opening the Presidential Investors Round Table (PIRT) progress meeting recently in the Ugandan capital of Kampala, said the region lacked a committee on infrastructure.

"There is no committee in the region to address the infrastructure problem. EA countries should pool in their resources to solve this problem," he said.

The PIRT is a two-year task force mandated to consult and advise the government on critical areas to accelerate growth and development in the country. Infrastructure development requires huge sums of capital. If the three countries take up the challenge, resources will be pooled, hence reducing the level of dependency on donor funds for such activities.

Most infrastructure, especially roads, railway lines, power installations and water transport in the region are in a sorry state. This is a major concern to the business community whose costs of operations are unnecessarily hiked. It also disrupts



Airbus keen to resume sale of aircraft to Kenya Airways

Aircraft manufacturer Airbus is keen on resuming supply of its airplanes to Kenya Airways, according to Airbus vice-president for Africa and Indian Ocean Hadi Akoum.

Stressing that the company wished to renew ties with the national carrier, Akoum said Kenya Airways was one of the most successful airlines on the continent. Akoum met Kenya Airways top management officials in this connection.

"We hope we will be part of the successful KQ venture," he said recently during the launch of the Airbus air travel outlook for 2006 in Nairobi. Kenya Airways retired its Airbus fleet in 2004 in favour of the US-based Boeing.

He said an engineer or a pilot trained on any Airbus plane could easily handle any aircraft in its family, which reduces

training costs. The airline has retained its position as the world's leading jetliner manufacturer having smashed previous industry records for new orders.

In 2005, Airbus outsold its rival Boeing for the fifth consecutive year, booking 1,055 net orders against the latter's 1,002. In delivering 378 new airliners, compared to its competitor's 290, Airbus held its lead as the most productive manufacturer.

East Africa recorded a huge increase in tourist arrivals in line with forecasts that air transport on the continent would double by 2015.

"This will create a demand for more than 640 new passenger and freight jetliners over the next 20 years", Akoum said.

production thus making the region uncompetitive compared to the rest of the world.

Abid Alam, the Chairperson of the PIRT Infrastructure working group, said transport constituted about 30 percent of the cost of inputs for Uganda's industrial sector.

"Road transport is expensive and bulk cargo leads to faster wear and tear of the roads", Alam said, adding that quick concessioning of the EA rail system would enable investment in the rail network to proceed and its extension from Pakwach to Juba via Yei in Southern Sudan.

The committee recommended the quick development of

the Bujagali Power Project (200MW), though the project is expected to be ready in 2011. This, and other measures would reduce the loss of energy from 35 percent to 20 percent by end of 2006. They also called for the upgrading of dilapidated marine vessels and re-floating of the MV Kabalega, which crashed last May with MV Kawa on Lake Victoria.

The Civil Aviation Authority landing charges also made Entebbe less competitive for cargo handling. It was agreed that such charges be reduced to attract more business at the airport. ■

COMESA to float own shipping line



The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa) has announced plans to establish its own shipping line to deal with the high cost of transportation.

The trading bloc has said recently that it is seeking proposals from potential consultants within the region to undertake a feasibility study to establish a shipping line.

In a public notice, Comesa said the taskforce to oversee preparation of the study had finalised formulating the terms of reference giving way for the study to start.

According to the Comesa Secretariat, establishment of the shipping line is aimed at creating a maritime capacity in the region and to provide competitive and adequate shipping service to member states.

The venture, it said, would also reduce high cost of transport in order to promote regional trade. The project is also expected to reduce high dependence on foreign shipping lines carrying Comesa trade as a 'by the way cargo' and not giving them the priority it deserves.

The decision by Comesa to establish its own shipping line to serve the region's seaborne trade comes when concerns

have been raised over the high cost of transportation that has eaten into trade earning.

Some time back, Erastus Mwencha, Secretary General of Comesa, had expressed concern about high cost of transportation in the region. This, he said, constituted a serious impediment to competitiveness of Africa's export products.

Comesa statistics showed that sea transport cost within the Eastern and Southern Africa region continues to be high compared to rates in Europe and the Far East.

For instance, while it costs about US\$ 1,000 to transport a twenty-foot container from Mombasa to Rotterdam in Europe, it cost US\$ 900 to move the same container to Port Said in Egypt a distance, which is far closer than Rotterdam.

Before the latest move, the Comesa Secretariat, had been grappling with ways of reducing such costs, suggesting employment of strategies such as routes network re-organisation. It also suggested the sharing of vessels, elaborate trans-shipment and other on-carriage arrangements with foreign shipping lines. ■



Foreign investment in **stocks** on JSE up 50 % in 2005

Foreign investment in South African stocks on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) reached a 10-year high in 2005 as gold, platinum and copper prices soared, the JSE said recently.

In a year that saw a global upswing in investments in emerging markets, net stock purchases by foreign investors in SA increased 54 percent to R50,5 billion. Net stock purchases in 2004 were R32,9 billion.

Copper and crude oil prices set records in 2005, while gold and platinum reached their highest prices in 24 years. Commodity price increases had a positive effect on companies in their respective sectors.

The share price of gold miner Anglo American increased as much as 60 percent, while BHP Billiton notched up a 57 percent increase.

Anglo Platinum more than doubled while Anglo Gold Ashanti gained 58 percent.

Peter Braendle of Zurich-based Swisscanto Asset Management, said inflows had increased into the gold funds that his firm managed. But he said the strengthening rand might curb mining companies' profits. The rand gained 8.6 percent against the dollar in the second half of 2005, increasing costs for mining companies because they pay costs in rands and sell gold for dollars.

"The strong rand is a problem. It is not an easy environment for South African gold producers."

Coronation Fund Managers recommended that investors sell shares of mining companies in 2006, saying most commodities were unlikely to match the price growth seen last year.

Economist Mike Schussler said the increase in foreign investments would yield long-term economic benefits for SA "The capital inflow will help with economic development and job creation. In addition, this investment will keep the rand and inflation stable. With stable inflation, interest rates can stay down," he said.

"This is an encouraging development for SA because people who make these investment decisions base them on their assessment of the country and government's economic policies," Schussler said.

Stephen Meintjies of Imara SP Reid, said the increase in foreign investment was part of a global phenomenon, with investors in developed markets putting more money into emerging markets. "Investors in developed countries realize the opportunities in emerging markets," he added.

The Financial Times has quoted findings of the US-based Emerging Portfolio Research which showed that emerging market equity funds attracted net inflows of about \$20 billion, five times more than the previous year.

The company said the surge in investment in emerging markets was likely to continue in 2006 as these markets traded at a discount when compared with developed markets.

Meintjies said the foreign investments in SA could stay strong 'for a while,' despite competition from other emerging markets.

"On the whole, SA is a better place to invest but markets such as South East Asia have improved. And unlike us, they have a strong balance of payments," he said. Schussler said SA had shown itself to be an attractive investment destination. ■

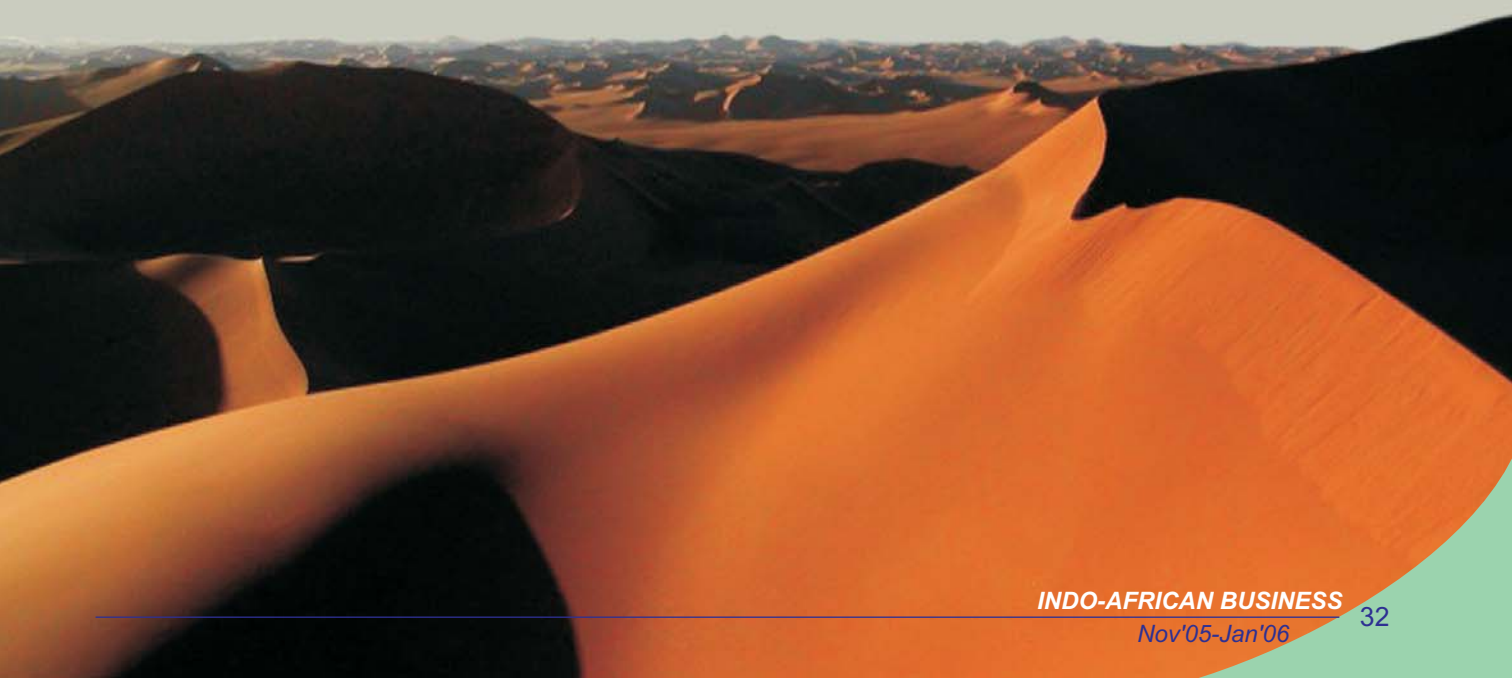
ALGERIA

Ravishing Country, Recovering from Ravages of Civil Wars

Algeria is situated between Morocco and Tunisia on the Northern coast of Africa. The country has a green coast, beautiful mountains, alluring but mostly dormant or extinct volcanoes and breathtaking oases. Its people are of Berber origin, who have a strong and fascinating sense of cultural identity. Unfortunately, Algeria has also been the site of many wars and civil wars. These conflicts were more prolific in the past when the struggle for government and self-rule were at the height of national attention. However, while the country is slowly starting to recover, the political situation is gradually coming back to normal. Those who travel to Algeria find a fascinating North African

culture, the alluring Sahara Desert and much, much more. Ancient Roman ruins (among others) abound and many of the cities have an intriguing and ancient history. Truly, Algeria would be on par with Morocco once the internal problems the country is experiencing are sorted out. Given time, the country is likely to get better and better.

Years of war have resulted in a high unemployment rate and this means you are likely to find many self-sustaining rural communities. Take every opportunity you get to soak up the sights while taking pictures with your camera. Bring a lot of spare film for your camera, you are going to need it!



Culture, Literature & Music



Algeria's culture is strongly influenced by the country's recent history, as well as other aspects such as their literature, music, arts crafts and religion.

Arabic Algeria's primary language is around 82 percent of the populace. French colonialism, left French as the second language of many educated Algerians. English is very rarely spoken. Many people of Algeria also speak different dialects of Berber.

Islam is the official religion of Algeria with majority of Algerians as Muslims. Since the departure of the French, Christianity is a secondary religion and one percent of Algeria's population is Jewish.

Algerian literature is split between French and Arabic, with famous novelists of the 20th century such as, Mohammed Dib, Kateb Yacine and Assia Djébar. Assia Djébar's works are widely translated.

The musical genre of Algeria that is best known abroad, is rai. Rai is a pop-flavoured, opinionated take on folk music featuring stars such as Khaled and Cheb Mami. Chaabi style music also remains very popular with popular stars such as El Hadj El Anka and Dahmane El Harrachi, making their mark everyday. For the more classical taste, Andalusí music brought from Al-Andalus by Morisco refugees, is preserved in many older coastal towns.

Algeria has a thriving handicrafts industry. Part of the charm of the country is the richness of its production. From carpets to ceramics, from leather to lute-making, from pottery to glass working to silverwork, the country has a tremendous variety of skills that produce goods which are sold in many other countries as well as to tourists.

Travel in Algeria takes place mostly in the form of car and bus and the country can either be accessed by road or by air. Figuring out which method of transport to choose can be quite bothersome but car hire definitely gives you more room. However finding a place to stay is generally a whole lot easier with the reasonable number of hotels, which dot the more tourist-friendly parts of the country.

Oran

Oran is the most important city on the west of Algeria. Oran's major claim to fame is the fact that it is the home of Rai music. Almost all great singers (Khaled, Cheb Mami, Faudel) are from Oran. The town was founded by Andalusian seamen in 937 AD and flourished under Zianid



rule, developing strong trading ties with Spain, which eventually led to Spanish occupation from 1509 to 1708 later captured by Ottoman forces. The Spanish recaptured the city two years later but withdrew after an earthquake destroyed most of the city in 1790. Nowadays Oran is a very busy port and city. There are a lot of things to do and see in town. The city centre coastline (front de mer) is the ideal place to hang out with friends, drink mint tea and have an ice cream.

Oran features many sights that the local people are used to, but for tourists it could be heaven. The most ancient sight of the area is the castle of Santa Cruz located at the top of the mountain 'Abdelqa' in the city centre. The city centre also includes bumper cars, cinemas, cybercafes, cafes, restaurants, and a zoo. Outside the centre are amusement parks, beaches, sport grounds and football stadiums.

Oran boasts many sandy clean beaches. These include Les Andalouses, Cap Blanc, Madagh Plage and Cap Falcon. The sensational coast and beaches create a class of their own and are a big draw over the spring and summer periods.

Algiers

Algiers, the Capital city, is quite an attractive city. The old town, known as the Casbah, is a maze of small alleys and whitewashed houses. There are quite a few nice boulevards dating back from the days of the French, who came to Algiers in 1830 and stayed for 130 years. For a great view of the city and its bay drive up to the Couvent d'Afrique. The lookout is high on a hill and the view from there is

exceptional. Daytrips from Algiers include Chrea (where you might be able to ski), Chiffa Gorge, the towns of Tipasa, Djemila and Timgad and the ruins at Tenes and Cherchell.

Although there are not many specific sights in Algiers, the city is quite pretty. Most of the old buildings are found in the Casbah. The Casbah of Algiers is small, but in the houses towering over the narrow winding streets, about 100,000 people live. Casbah is still one of the most interesting parts of the city. The thing to do in the casbah is just to wander around the small streets and enjoy the medieval atmosphere.

This impressive collection of indigenous artefacts from various regions of Algeria is housed in a beautiful Moorish style mansion. The museum features exhibits on prehistoric findings and ethnography as well as regional jewellery, costumes, leatherwork and weaponry.

Laghouat

Laghouat is a big oasis town at about 330 km south of Algiers, where the Sahara desert really starts. It's here that the Mounts of the Atlas and the Sahara desert combine their beauty. The city is of administrative, military and economic importance, and due to the presence of its University is also known as the intellectual capital of the Sahara. It is said that Laghouat is one of the most satisfying propositions for first time 'desert' visitors to experience the typical atmosphere of Saharan towns. In fact, when you leave the city in the south, as far as the eye can see, there's only the desert, extraordinarily and mysteriously silent.



TOURISM

Most interesting sites to visit in Laghouat are: Zgag El Hajaj (Casba or old city), Oued M'zi side walk, El Borj and its beautiful gardens, Ain Madhi (Main Tidjanies Capital), Sidi Makhlouf with its prehistorical paintings, Kourdane and Aurelie Picard Museum.

Tamanrasset

Tamanrasset is one of the best places to go in Algeria. It is located in the deep south of the country. It offers some of the best desert scenery in the world as well as ancient rock carvings. The atmosphere is really great too. It has a sort of end of the world feeling.

Tlemcen

Tlemcen is located in the east of Algeria just south of Oran. Traditionally, Tlemcen heads closer cultural ties with Fez in Morocco than with other Algerian cities.

The roots of Tlemcen go far back in history, but most of what you see today is of fairly recent origin. The town is a nice mixture of Islamic and French architecture. One of the major sights of Tlemcen is the Mosque and the Tomb of Sidi Bou Mediene. The Ville Nouvelle, the French part of the city rates among the nicest in the whole of North Africa. The climate is also one of the attractions of Tlemcen. It's a lot cooler here than in Oran because of the altitude.

Bejaia & Aokas

Located in the east of Algeria, Bejaia (Bejaya or Vgayeth) is a pretty city and regional centre. From the geographical point of view, Bejaia is surrounded in the east and south-east by the Babors mountains, the Bibans mountains in the

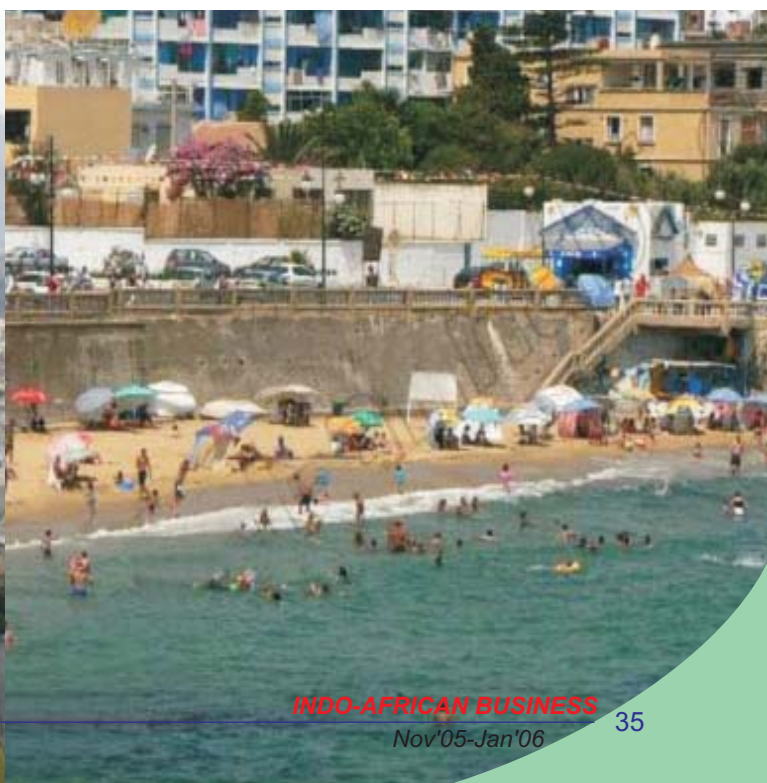
south, the mediterranean in the north and the Djurdjura peaks that close the region in the west. Aokas is a kabyle city in the North East Bejaia region.

Taghit

Taghit is located to the south-west of Algeria, about 80 km far from Bechar and near the Morocco frontier. It is a town well known by tourists for its oasis and dunes. Located at the west of the "Grand Erg Occidental" (the Big western Dunes) which is a huge surface of Big dunes. You can even enjoy skiing on the sand as you do it on the snow or by catching a camel's tail. You can see some prehistorical drawings around and visit the beautiful variety of geological structures in Béni Abbes (about 200 km south).

Annaba

Annaba is in the extreme northeast of Algeria. It is close to the border with Tunisia and can even be visited as a day trip from there. Annaba was first settled by Phoenicians as Hippo Regius and allied with Carthage. Under Roman rule Hippo Regius flourished commercially. It was also a centre for Christianity until it was sacked by vandals during the 5th century. The Byzantines captured the city and rebuilt it during the 6th century. Following the Arab invasion of the 7th century, the city of Annaba was built some 2 km from Hippo Regius, which was pillaged and neglected. Today Annaba is a very European city. The green main street, the Cours de la Révolution has a vibrant afternoon and early evening life. One of the main sights in town is surprisingly enough, a Basilica. The basilica of St. Augustine brings your mind to the contemporary Sacre Coeur in Paris. ■



Across Tunisia - A journey as thrilling as the destination *An Oasis in the Desert*

The tiny North African country of Tunisia is ideally suited for tourists. It contains a varied landscape, from vast stretches of the Sahara to green valleys and lakes with abundant birdlife. The weather is a little European. Tunisia's coastline, projecting into the Mediterranean, towards Sicily, has many historical sites from its occupations by the Phoenicians and the Romans.

Tunisia has around 200 ancient settlements but the most famous - though not the best preserved - is Carthage, founded in 814BC by Queen Elissa (Dido), located on the outskirts of Tunis. Surveying the excavated fragments today, it takes some imagination to picture what it must have looked like when it was the most powerful city in the western Mediterranean, home to 500,000 people. But despite the lack of detail there's still a sense of awe as you look out from the hill across the bay to the mountains, a continuation of the High Atlas of Morocco. The nearby Antonine baths, once one of the largest in the Roman empire, are much better preserved, an awesome sight of thick-walled, arched rooms and massive fat pillars.

Tunis itself is a mixture of modern and French colonial architecture with an amazingly well preserved medieval medina, or old city. It is possible to get pleasantly lost in the city's maze of back streets, crowded with persuasive sellers of perfume, spices and souvenirs and a barber on each corner. In summer men walk round arm in arm with flowers in their hair carrying the pervasive scent of jasmine.

Medinas and souks mingle with fine wines and gourmet food in Tunis, a city which has plenty to offer. First of all, the city has a laid-back, relaxed air, where the traffic flows easily and quietly. There is none of the incessant honking and wild driving that bedevils some cities in the Middle East, and the place has a well-manicured look.

Although easily lumped in with the rest of the Arab world because it is Muslim, Tunisia - wedged between Algeria to the west and Libya to the east - is not Arab. People consider themselves as "North African."

Only two and a half hours away from London, Tunis could quite easily pass as a modern European city with its wide boulevards and cafes, a legacy of French colonial rule from 1881 until 1956. Unlike Jordan and Syria, a relaxed Islam reigns here. Young men mingle easily with women, many of whom wear jeans.

The country even produces its own excellent wine, especially reds such as Château Mornag, Haut Mornag

and Carthage. But in a concession to Muslim sensitivities, the wine is not displayed openly at the supermarket, but on shelves that are turned inwards in a section that has its own separate entrance.

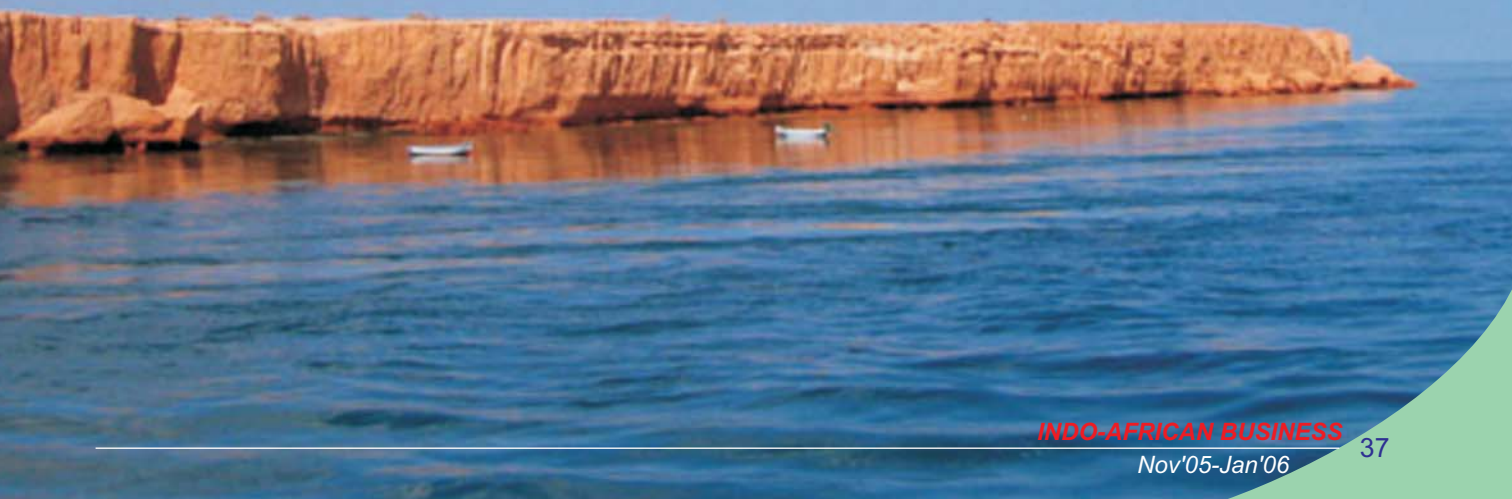
Good wine is a natural accompaniment to fine food, served in grand restaurants - once houses occupied by rich families - complete with ornate tiles and fountains. You eat couscous, accompanied by deliciously tender lamb spiced up with harissa, a fiery red paste that comes from a bright yellow tube, and brique, a classic Tunisian dish. Looking like a samosa, a brique consists of tuna and a soft-boiled egg in filo pastry. The trick is to avoid egg yolk running down your chin when you bite into the mixture.

It is easy to avoid the rain by wandering in the covered markets in the medina, the city's historic centre and a UNESCO world heritage site. Among the market's narrow cobbled streets, you'll find jewellery, clothes, rugs and little dishes for olives and humus - not very different from the things you'd find in the souks of Damascus or Aleppo in Syria.

But unique to Tunis are the men who make the chechia, red wool caps. The chechia-maker starts off with a big white woollen hat, soaks it to make it shrink, dyes it red and then beats it until it assumes its final shape. Then he sits on the chechia to make it flat.

With its rich historical heritage, Tunis has excellent museums, another way of avoiding inclement weather. The national museum lies in Carthage on the outskirts of the city. The legendary city - founded by Queen Dido in 814BC and the birthplace of Hannibal - is now a wealthy little town with white villas and pine trees, complete with a modernistic boutique hotel, the Villa Didon, a place which boasts of suites with the bathtub in the middle of the room.

The villa overlooks the museum, located on the Byrsa hill, looking out on the Mediterranean and the old Punic port, now a perfectly round lake surrounded by green grass. The museum contains marble sacrophagi, statues, jewellery, and clay masks designed to ward off evil spirits. It's a



pleasant way of passing away an hour or two.

The truly eye-opening museum, though, is the Bardo in the suburbs of Tunis. Once a Moorish palace, the museum contains fabulously well-preserved mosaics that fill whole walls, depicting hunting, strange creatures from the ocean depths and scenes from the Bible, including one of Daniel surrounded by four lions.

Unfortunately, little is left of the original Carthage after what the Romans did to it, following an epic struggle spanning three wars - the Punic wars. In the second Punic war, Hannibal crossed the Alps with his elephants and came close to capturing Rome.

But Hannibal was recalled in order to defend his home city when the Romans landed in North Africa. He was defeated and Carthage was forced to pay tribute to Rome. The two remained at peace for the next 50 years, but, jealous of Carthage's wealth, the Romans launched a third war in 146 BC that culminated in a frenzy of destruction. Of Carthage's population - maybe 700,000 - only 50,000 survived. Legend has it that the Romans sowed salt into the soil to ensure that nothing would grow there again.

Yet Carthage was rebuilt under Julius Caesar a century later to become the third largest city in the Roman empire. So while little is left from the time of Hannibal or Dido, Tunisia boasts some superb Roman ruins, with well-preserved sites at Dougga and El Jem.

An area worth visiting is the Sidi Bou Said area of Tunis, a heavenly village of whitewashed walls and blue shutters, giant eucalyptus trees, cobbled streets and shimmering views of the Gulf of Tunis. Sidi Bou Said has one of the

world's most delectable hotels, the Dar Said, a "résidence de charme".

The phrase is totally appropriate. Once a 19th-century house, the hotel's patios are graced with jasmin, bougainvilleas and palm trees, and guests can sit by the tasteful pool and gaze out over the blue Mediterranean. Perched on top of the city, Sidi Bou Said has a bit of Montmartre about it, but thankfully the souvenir shops are confined to the entrance of the village, while the rest is still very much a living, breathing community. Sidi Bou Said alone is worth a visit to Tunis.

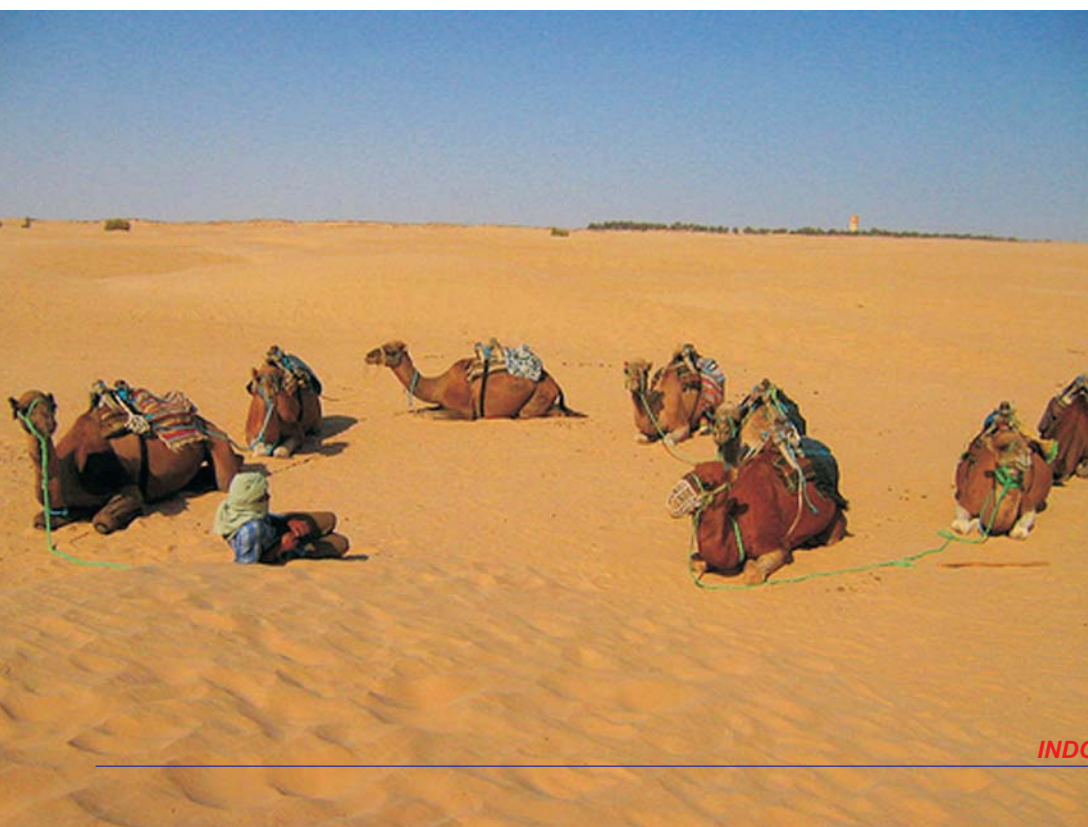
Ksar Ghilane

Somewhere between the sandpits of childhood and the Empty Quarter is the desert of popular imagination: undulating dunes, a few camels, the odd palm tree and complete silence. Probably the most comfortable way of getting to the heart of Sahara today is by flying to Tozeur, an oasis settlement in the south of Tunisia.

In the desert, surreal experiences and personal epiphanies seem to go with the territory. Leaving Tozeur, the road to Douz is paved with gypsum. Shiny fragments of it glint in the dirt as one passes by, gradually turning into big glassy shards. Then, turning right at Camel's Neck, a landmark that signals the start of the dunes, there's a shopping opportunity. Desert roses grow underground in Tunisia and are available at roadside stalls. These strange fist-sized crystal rosette formations make great souvenirs. There's more film history round the corner, where the set for *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace* looks not out of place in this otherworldly landscape.

Continue south and you begin to see young palm trees sprouting in clumps where the water has seeped upwards out of the parched desert earth. Further on, tamarisk trees start to appear, and finally, the town of Douz, famous for its 'Eat Me' dates and embroidered desert shoes.

South from Douz, the desert gets redder and the road, which runs parallel with the Matmata Mountains, becomes more pockmarked and uneven. The unmade track to Ksar Ghilane



seems to go on forever.

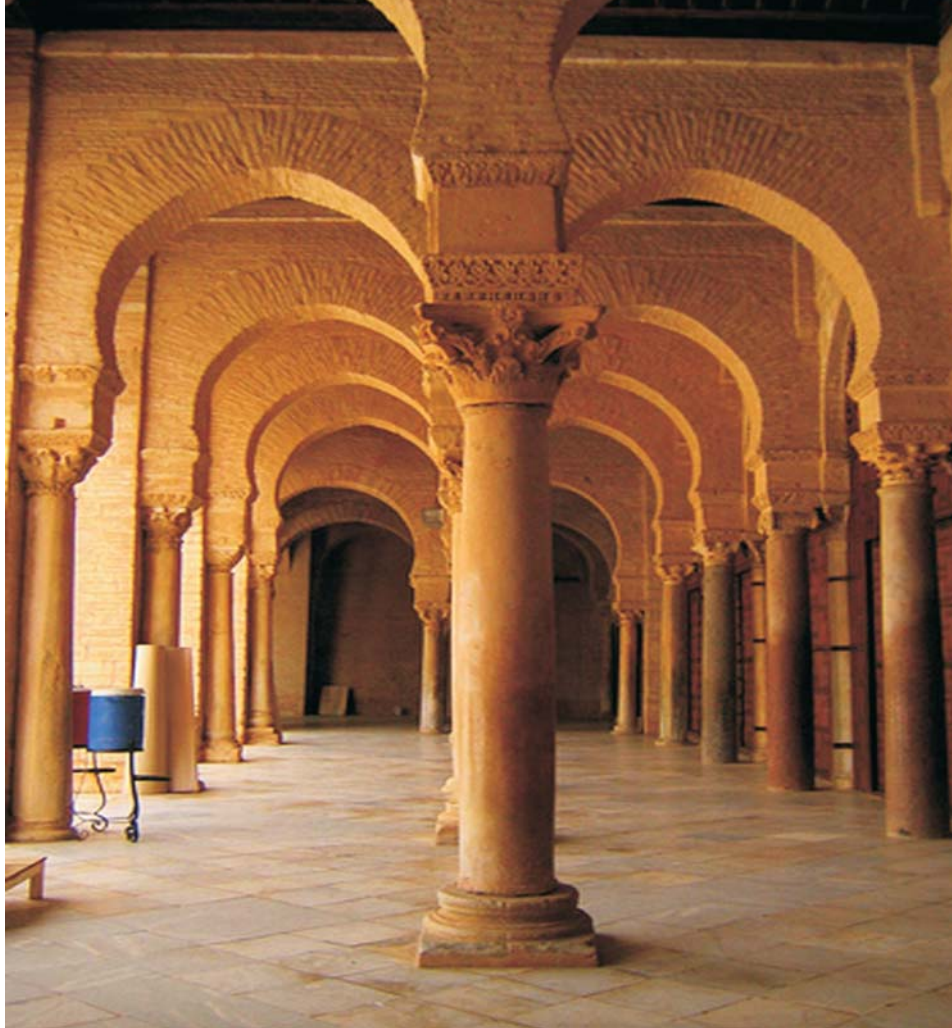
But when you reach the gentle dunes and lush palm groves of Ksar Ghilane, you can't believe your own eyes. This is a campsite like no other: each dove-coloured tent, hung with fine rugs and lantern lights, has a double bed, ensuite bathroom and an aircon/heating unit operated by remote control. You also notice a huge swimming pool. The whole site is embraced by a circle of tamarisk trees beyond which, reaching out for miles around, are softly curving sand dunes.

There are, of course, opportunities to keep the happy campers occupied, like camel trekking, quad-biking or bathing in the natural hot spring; but in a place as perfect as this, why bother? You could spend days here just watching the shadows change and the sand form itself into a new pattern of ripples with each small gust of wind. Out in the dunes, even voices quite nearby seem muffled, and apart from a few tiny tracks left by some kind of small mammal - perhaps a fennec - it is awesomely, stunningly still. It is hard to leave Ksar Ghilane, but before long you are heading off to Jerba, a laid-back island linked to the mainland by a Roman causeway. Travelling east, past ancient troglodyte villages hewn out of the rocky foothills of the Atlas range, the desert scrubland turns into olive plantations as far as the eye can see and, in the distance, the Mediterranean Sea.

Ceramics as an art

Ceramics are the big local craft, with the clay earth all around Djerba providing the raw materials in abundance. Potters are primed for tourists, demonstrating their craft and brandishing inventive camel jugs that pour out mixed whisky and cola. One place to drop in for an interesting insight into local culture is the Musée de la Patrimoine (or Guellala Museum) which displays various scenes of traditional life through waxwork dummies. These are lifelike enough to make the circumcision scene a little chilling; and to catch out the unwary when they encounter the large camel at the olive press.

The route south-west from Djerba crosses sweeping, barren, occasionally unearthly landscapes. This, after all, is where George Lucas chose to shoot key Star Wars scenes, even borrowing the names of settlements such as Tataouine for Luke Skywalker's home planet. In Matmata, one can



poke around the cave system that is the Hotel Sidi Driss, complete with Star Wars theme bar.

Further west is Douz, a small town whose Thursday market makes a more interesting spectacle than the souvenir shops that surround it in the main square. This is also the departure point for many Sahara activities. Following directions to the Zone Touristique on the edge of town somewhat undermines the sense of adventure, but it's still pretty exhilarating to jump on the back of a camel and head into the desert.

There's more to do by day - El-Ghriba Synagogue, the largest on the island, stands on the site of a shrine to La Ghriba or "the stranger", thought to date back to 586BC. The current site was built at the beginning of the 20th century and painted in traditional white and blue; inside, the walls are covered in intricate tiles. Around a courtyard are cell-like rooms where pilgrims stay.

Guellala in the south is also worth a visit, especially if you want some souvenir pottery. The main street is lined with dozens of shops selling the same colourful wares that you'll see all over the country but for less. For some serious shopping, head to the market at Houmt Souk - though it's not as big as the ancient medina in Tunis there are some real treasures to be found. ■

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2006 - The Day of the GLOBAL INDIAN

One For All For One

By Ravindra Kolhapure

It was an event that connected India to the world. It also brought the world to India. Non-Resident Indian (NRI) delegates and persons of Indian Origin (PIOs), a number of them celebrities, from as many as 110 countries, converged on the southern city of Hyderabad for the three-day Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (Jan 7-9) 2006, to talk about what they could do for this country as strategic partners in its progress.



But the event's tone was set by the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, who declared what India could do to its diaspora. He announced the grant of Indian Overseas Citizenship for the deserving among

them. It was a joyous occasion for the NRIs who settled in distant lands, but still nurtured passionate feelings for their Motherland.

"This is the time to forget our differences and labels, and celebrate our common Indian-ness. This is the time for all of us to become strategic partners in progress in a one for all: all for one spirit," said Dr. Singh.

The event, organized by the Union Ministry of

Putting Bihar back on the rails

Bihar's newly-elected Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is seen inviting NRIs /PIOs to invest in his resource-rich but neglected state. Kumar has assured the participants of the PBD a number of incentives and facilities to ensure an attractive return on their investments.



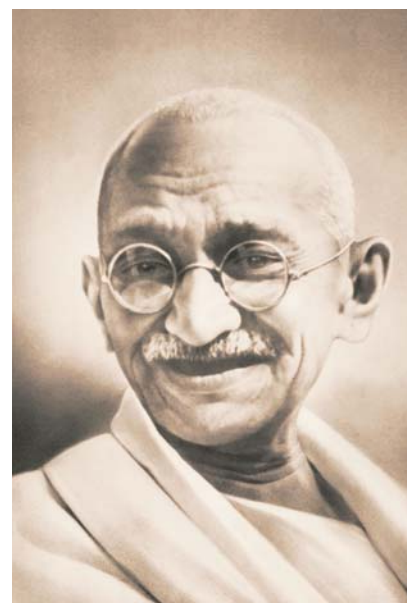
'Aum' going global'

Malaysia's Minister of Works Dato'seris Samy Vellu & his family members with Dr. Sharad Nayampally of Aum Trust, Mumbai. Samy Vellu showed a keen interest in India's ancient medical therapies of Ayurveda, Naturopathy, Panchakarma and Unani. Aum Trust will popularize these time-tested alternative medical systems in Malaysia through franchises.



Maharashtra's Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh gave a television interview recently, the thrust of which was to promote the state as the best destination for NRI investment, especially in its Special Economic Zones.

Overseas Affairs in partnership with the state government of Andhra Pradesh and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), commemorated the occasion of the arrival in India, of a South Africa-based lawyer, Mohandas



Karamchand Gandhi, 91 years ago. The rest, as they say, is history. India achieved independence from 300-year British rule and Gandhi became a Mahatma. In a true sense, Gandhi was the Original NRI.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas as it is celebrated every year provides a truly global forum for Indians and the Indian diaspora for social, economic and cultural interaction. The 20 million-strong Indian diaspora is perhaps the most heterogeneous and widespread in the world, sharing half a dozen religions and numerous sub-ethnic identities. The Indian Diaspora has retained its cultural identity on one hand and assimilated well their adopted cultures on the other.

This year the forum witnessed more than 1,350 overseas Indians, 550 VIPs from India and abroad, chief ministers of seven states Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Rajasthan. As stakeholders in progress, the states are vying with each other to woo NRI investors.

As a step in the direction of connecting effectively with the Indian Diaspora, the Prime Minister conferred on two overseas Indians, Nivruti Rai, an IT professional and Iftekar Shareef Ahmed of the Federation of Indian Association, Chicago, the status of Overseas Indian Citizenship (OCI).



Hon. Industries & Commerce State Minister of Maharashtra with a Bahrain NRI Investor.



Zambia Bank General Manager G.H.R. Hamainza. Zambia is among 54 African countries represented at the PBD, all of them striving to enhance their bilateral trade with India.

"I feel happy that we have delivered on our promise to grant status of OCI to eligible applicants," said Dr. Singh.

The first day of the forum witnessed the signing of MOU between the Ministry of Overseas Affairs and the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (APPI). "This initiative will facilitate the launch of pilot projects in basic healthcare in Andhra Pradesh and with active involvement of the states, it will be scaled up and is expected to give new impetus to India's efforts to reach the millennium development goals in healthcare" stated Dr. Vijay Kohli, an eminent healthcare delegate from the US.

Besides, "the Roundtable on India: the knowledge Powerhouse" focused on the need to replicate India's success in the IT and ITeS segment in other sectors as well.



The Prime Minister also announced an easy-to-use business and outcome-driven remittance facility, which was subsequently launched by Finance Minister P. Chidambaram, during the

final plenary session "Remittance Services".

This "Insta-Remit" Gateway has been developed by the Ministry of Overseas Affairs in partnership with UTI Bank and will enable NRIs to send money to any bank of their choice anywhere in India within 24 hours.

Plenary III dealt with remittances from overseas Indians, which constitutes an important element in India's development. Overseas Indians are the world's largest remitters. Despite the spread of the banking network and the various remittance facilities in the market, a substantial part of remittances continue to come through informal channels primarily because of prohibitive costs and lack of convenience.

MOIA has partnered with UTI bank to develop a 'Universal Integrated Electronic Remittance Gateway'. This gateway will combine the virtues of economy, speed and

Planning Commission
Deputy Chairman
Montek Singh
Ahluwalia at
PBD '2006: Ahluwalia
has assured the NRIs
that the government is
making every effort to
upgrade the country's
infrastructure to
facilitate higher flows of
Foreign Direct
Investment (FDI).



Sadashivrao Pawar of
Ayodhya Jewellery
Worldwide Exporters,
has invited a group of
24 NRIs to his
company showroom at
Thirssur, Kerala, God's
own country, to look at
the exquisite Indian
ethnic bridal Jewellery
on display there.

Minister of
Overseas Affairs,
Oscar Fernandes &
his wife at
PBD 2006, with a
brochure of Aum
Trust, after
inaugurating the
alternative therapy
centre's stall at the
exhibition.





The Proud Nivrut Rai Family. Rai of Intel Corporation, USA, his wife and daughter, are the first Overseas Indian Citizenship Awardees with their passport documents at PBD-2006



Fernandes with a Malaysian NRI investor

convenience. This 'Insta-Remit' gateway is intended to benefit Indians working in the gulf region but will also serve as a valuable service for overseas Indians across the globe.

Looking ahead, Dr. Manmohan Singh also announced future initiatives and said that the government was looking at providing NRIs in Gulf with voting rights in India. He stated, "this proposal is at an advanced stage of consideration. We hope to take appropriate measures in this region".

Plenary 1 of the Forum sought to define the term "diaspora from the context of Indian migrants. Originally, the word had been used for describing the Israeli exiles, the "dispersed persons."

In the last three decades and more, there has been a change in perception on transnational migration of people throughout the world. Demographic movement across borders is today an important facet of globalisation. Earlier, movement of people was seen as 'brain drain'. Increasingly home countries across the world are beginning to recognize that their diaspora represents knowledge in diverse fields and that this knowledge reservoir can be drawn upon as 'brain gain'.

The heterogeneous Indian diaspora spread across eight major regions of the world is a

Minister for Overseas Affairs Oscar Fernandes with a group of NRIs.



product of different waves of migration over hundreds of years. As such, they have distinct expectations from the home country.

The plenary, therefore, noted the need to develop an inclusive agenda for engaging the diaspora that would draw on its eclecticism, while at the same time providing for a wide range of roles and expectations. More so, in view of India's emergence as an economic power and the likelihood of its becoming at some point the third largest economy of the world in the next two decades to join the ranks of developed nations.



NRI delegates from Washington DC.

Plenary II of the forum called for an institutional framework to create and benefit from networks with and among overseas Indians to collaborate in the healthcare sector in India.

It stressed the need for leveraging the knowledge resources of overseas Indians to forge partnerships with reputed professional organizations overseas, to implement pilot projects that can then be replicated as models across the country.

A beginning is being made in this direction with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOD) between MOAI and AAPIO of the US and is expected to facilitate the launch of pilot projects in basic healthcare in two states of India. With active involvement of the States, this initiative will be scaled up and is expected to give impetus to India's efforts to reach the millennium development goals in healthcare. ■



Veereshwar, Chairman, Land Marvel India, a leading knowledge and animation company, based in Chennai, which has been able to attract, sizeable outsourcing business from abroad.



Nitin Kangutkar of Anirudhdha Cashew Exports, a major supplier of quality products worldwide.



S.K. Gupta, Chief General Manager, Chattisgarh State Industrial Development Corporation with New Media Representative Ravindra Kolhapure. The newly formed state, which is rich in minerals and other natural resources, is successfully pitching for overseas investment.

Un pacte LOC avec la banque Exim possible

L'Ethiopie cherche l'investissement et la technologie indien



L'Ethiopie est la terre d'une civilisation et d'une culture ancienne qui date de 3000 avant JC. Il était aussi la terre de commerce et un centre de commerce trans-continental. Les commerçants indiens étaient parmi les plus actives dans le marché éthiopien. Ils emmenaient avec eux les produits exotiques indiens tels que les épices et la soie et ils amenaient l'ivoire et l'or. Le commerce a beaucoup diversifié depuis et les relations commerciales ont beaucoup développé. Sous sa nouvelle forme d'une puissance économique naissante, l'Inde regarde l'Afrique non seulement en tant qu'un marché énorme pour ses produits et services mais également comme un continent qui a besoin l'aide technologique et financière pour accélérer le pas de sa croissance économique. Dans cette perspective, la visite récente de Sufian Ahmed, le ministre des finances du développement économique de l'Ethiopie en Inde, est importante. D'autres hauts fonctionnaires éthiopiens qui ont accompagné Ahmed dans ses discussions avec la banque Exim incluent: Le Gouverneur de la Banque Nationale de l'Ethiopie Telkewolde Atnafo, Dechassa Hirpo, Chef, Centre d'Assistance de l'Industrie du Sucre Ethiopien, Hailemichael Kinfu, Chef de la coopération internationale au ministère des finances et du développement économique, Yousuf Kamalo, Vice consul, Ambassade d'Ethiopia, à New Delhi. Ahmed, qui est le ministre des finances de l'Ethiopie pendant une décennie, a donné des instructions aux Indo-Africain Business au sujet de son visite en Inde, particulièrement ses réunions avec les fonctionnaires de la banque indienne de l'importation et l'exportation. Extraits:



Quel est le motif de votre visite en Inde? Et de quelle manière est la banque Exim associée? Avez-vous des projets de signer des LOC's?

Le motif de ma visite est principalement celui de promouvoir des relations économiques et le commerce bilatéral entre l'Ethiopie et l'Inde. Je suis venu ici pour introduire mon pays ainsi que ses peuples à la Banque Indienne d'Importation et d'Exportation et à ses officiels, pour mieux les connaître et pour découvrir les possibilités financières disponibles.



Nous n'allons pas signer un accord quelconque cette fois-ci mais nous allons avoir des discussions et avec un peu de chance nous pourrons, dans l'avenir, signer une ligne de crédit avec la banque Exim.

Quels sont les secteurs industriels susceptibles à être identifiés ?

Les secteurs de l'électricité, du sucre, du chemin de fer et de la santé. Ce sont les secteurs que nous visons pour le financement par la banque Exim. Nous souhaitons développer ces secteurs dans notre pays et l'Inde et les entreprises indiennes ont la compétence à fournir l'investissement et la technologie. Nous trouvons que les entreprises indiennes s'intéressent à investir en Afrique et nous estimons que la technologie, que propose ces entreprises, est appropriée pour l'Afrique, y compris pour l'Ethiopie. Nous avons rencontré de diverses entreprises indiennes à Delhi ainsi qu'à Mumbai qui se sont montrées intéressées pour promouvoir le commerce avec l'Ethiopie. La santé est un besoin important où la pharmaceutique indienne a beaucoup développé. Nous l'avons signalé comme un secteur prioritaire. Nous avons un ensemble de motivations allant de l'autorisation jusqu'à l'installation des unités.

Un autre secteur, où nous concentrons, est le développement de l'infrastructure tels les rues et les logements qui sont très importants. Nous cherchons des entreprises qui s'intéressent à investir dans les dits secteurs.

Est-ce que vous cherchez une collaboration quelconque ou bien une coopération du secteur de la

banque indienne ?

Oui. Nous avons rencontré le Gouverneur de la Banque Reserve Bank of India et les hauts officiels d'autres banques commerciales. Nous avons eu de discussions avec le Reserve Bank pour proposer des facilités de entraînement et de la modernisation du système bancaire de l'Ethiopie. On espère revenir pour mettre en œuvre les discussions que nous avons eues.

Pouvez-vous nous parler du scénario général économique en Ethiopie ?

L'an dernier, l'économie de l'Ethiopie a augmenté à 6,9 pourcent. Cette année, nous espérons un minimum de 7 pourcent, comme les reforms que nous avons déjà mis en œuvre ont commence à avoir des résultats.

Est-ce qu'aucune entreprise indienne profite de l'avantage de l'imposition de zéro pourcent que l'Ethiopie offre à ses exportateurs pour leurs encourager à re-exporter leurs produits aux autres pays d'Afrique et d'Europe aussi ?

Certaines entreprises indiennes profitent déjà de cet avantage. Cela va augmenter lentement. Ceci implique que les entreprises indiennes peuvent s'y installer et servir l'Afrique entier qui comporte une population de 700 million, un chiffre relativement important.

Pour résumer, je souhaite dire que l'Inde se montre très généreux vers l'Afrique. Nous aimons la communauté et la culture indienne. L'Inde soutien la cause de l'Afrique lors de divers forums internationaux. ■

PARTENARIAT INDE-AFRIQUE POUR PROJET, NOV 2005

'Changement de commerce à l'investissement'



T.C. Venkat Subramanian, Président Directeur Général et Directeur Général, la Banque Indienne de l'Exportation et de l'Importation, a recommandé les hommes d'affaires indiens de se diversifier du commerce au domaine de l'investissement, fin de profiter du boom économique qui règne dans beaucoup de nations du continent africain. Adressant les délégués lors du rencontre du Partenariat Inde-Afrique pour projet, tenu en novembre 2005, Subramanian a indiqué que les hommes d'affaires indiens doivent considérer les investissements dans les domaines des ressources naturelles, de l'exploitation, de l'énergie, etc., comme des occasions pour la croissance.

L'Afrique éprouve actuellement sa meilleure performance économique en beaucoup d'années. Les économies du continent se bénéficient de l'expansion globale, notamment par une demande plus élevée des produits des prix plus élevés, une gestion améliorée macro-économique domestique, et le soulagement des conflits dans beaucoup de pays. Cependant, les figures globales pour la région masquent des différences considérables travers les pays, avec des taux de croissance variant d'une expansion de 31 pour cent (Tchad) une contraction de plus de 8,0 pour cent (Zimbabwe). La vraie croissance de PIB en 2004 était répandue en Afrique sub-saharien et en Afrique du Nord. Les prix élevés du pétrole ont souligné la croissance lente de l'Afrique centrale, qui a enregistré le taux de croissance sous-régional le plus élevé juste plus de 7,0 pour cent, et l'Afrique du Nord, avec un taux de croissance d'environ 5,0 pour cent. La performance économique en Afrique de l'est et de l'ouest s'est bénéficiée d'une combinaison d'un rendement plus élevé en agriculture et d'une croissance dans le prix des consommables. Cependant, la croissance économique en Afrique de l'ouest a été basse, cause d'une instabilité politique en Côte d'Ivoire et d'une invasion de sauterelle Mali, Niger et au Sénégal. Malgré une croissance élevée en Afrique du Sud, la région de l'Afrique du sud a enregistré la plus mauvaise performance économique de toutes les sous régions africaines, en grande partie due la contraction économique continue éprouvée par le Zimbabwe cause de la sécheresse et des incertitudes économiques. La performance du continent africain a été également reflétée dans son compte commercial avec les exportations totales augmentant d'un impressionnant 32 pour cent US\$ 232 milliards en 2004 tandis que les importations enregistraient une augmentation de 27 pour cent pour ou bien un total de US\$ 212 milliards. Même en termes d'investissements, l'afflux des FDI de l'Afrique est resté un niveau relativement élevé atteint en 2003 (US\$ 18 milliards), après une augmentation de 39 pour cent en 2003. Les prix élevés des minerais tels que le cuivre, le

diamant, l'or et le platine, et en particulier de l'huile, avec une rentabilité améliorée conséquente de l'investissement dans les ressources naturelles ont encouragé l'investissement dans la région. Les fusions transfrontières et les acquisitions dans l'industrie minière ont augmenté plus de trois fois leur valeur en 2003. L'afflux a monté dans 40 sur les 53 pays en Afrique. Parmi les différentes sous régions, l'Afrique du Nord a attiré les afflux les plus élevés en 2004. L'Afrique de l'Est et l'Afrique de l'Ouest ont également reçu des afflux plus élevés en 2004, mais elles ont diminué en Afrique centrale et en Afrique du sud.

LE COMMERCE ET L'INVESTISSEMENT INDO-AFRICAIN

Le commerce bilatéral entre l'Inde et l'Afrique a augmenté rapidement de US\$ 1 milliard en 1990-91 US\$ 9 milliards en 2004-05. Aujourd'hui, le gouvernement de l'Inde vise réaliser un chiffre d'affaires commercial de US\$ 500 milliards d'ici 2010, dont US\$ 300 milliards seront des importations. Ceci ouvre des fenêtres d'opportunités pour les pays africains qui peuvent augmenter leurs exportations en Inde de leur niveau actuel de US\$ 3,8 milliards. Les secteurs éventuels qui constituent un moyen de pression considérable pour l'Afrique incluent les secteurs basés sur l'énergie et les ressources naturelles tel que le charbon, le coke, l'or, le cuivre et d'autres ressources minérales semblables. L'Afrique devient rapidement un facteur important pour l'Inde en terme d'augmenter la sécurité de l'énergie du pays. L'Inde étant projeté comme un pays qui va avoir une économie croissante la plus rapide, on s'attend ce que la demande de l'énergie augmente de manière significative dans l'avenir. Pendant FY 2004, d'une consommation totale de pétrole brut d'environ 124 millions de tonnes ou autour de 900 millions de barils (approximativement 2,5 millions de barils par jour), la production en Inde était seulement de 33,4 millions de tonnes, ce qui implique que plus de 70 pour cent des besoins du pays sont satisfaits par des importations. L'Afrique, avec un approvisionnement excessif total de 0,6 millions de baril par jour en 2004 (approvisionnement de 3,4 millions de baril par jour et la demande de 2,8 millions de baril par jour), peut approvisionner cette demande énergétique croissante de l'Inde. En plus de l'huile, d'autres ressources minérales telles que le charbon, le coke, le cuivre et l'or peuvent également être exporté de plus en plus de l'Afrique. En fait, les importations de l'Inde des fabriques minéral non métallique (à l'exception des perles) de l'Afrique a augmenté de US\$ 1,2 millions en FY2003 US\$ 7,7 millions en FY2005. L'Afrique étaient également la source de 1,8 pour cent des importations de l'Inde du

charbon et du coke en FY2004. L'augmentation du commerce bidirectionnel entre l'Inde et l'Afrique s'est également étendue dans le domaine de l'investissement direct. L'Afrique est aujourd'hui devenue une destination principale en termes d'investissements d'outre-mer indiens avec la région seule ayant un total de 11,3 pour cent (US\$ 112 millions) d'investissements directs d'outre-mer en 2004 (jusqu'à novembre). La compagnie indienne - ONGC- Videsh Limited (OVL) - poursuit activement l'acquisition des domaines d'exploration et des propriétés produisant l'huile/gaz en Afrique. OVL a déjà acquis des propriétés de découvert/production au Soudan avec la production étant 250 000 barils d'huile par jour. En plus, OVL a également des intérêts de participation en Afrique dans un bloc d'exploration chacun en Libye, en Côte d'Ivoire et en Egypte. De plus, le groupe Tata a gagné une offre pour acquérir 26 pour cent de part dans le réseau téléphonique au numéro deux dans l'Afrique du Sud donnant de ce fait la compagnie un mandat pour développer et actionner les réseaux nationaux de longue distance et les lignes fixes dans le pays. De même, le groupe Vedanta de l'Inde a pris une situation de contrôle dans le Konkola mines de cuivre de la Zambie pour une considération d'une somme totale de US\$ 48,2 millions. Les secteurs potentiels pour les investissements indiens en Afrique incluent les secteurs de minerai et de ressource naturelle tels que les mines de charbon, le chrome, le cuivre, le minerai de fer etc...

LES INITIATIVES DE LA BANQUE EXIM

Depuis que la banque Exim a commencé les opérations en 1982, le continent africain a toujours été une région d'importance et un composant critique de la stratégie de la banque Exim pour favoriser et soutenir le commerce et l'investissement bidirectionnels. La banque Exim a actuellement 27 lignes de crédit opérationnel dans les pays et dans les banques de développement régionales en Afrique s'élevant US\$ 556 millions. Ces LOCs, dont certains sont spécifiques aux projets tandis que les autres sont généraux, ont fourni l'impulsion au commerce entre l'Inde et l'Afrique. Les contrats approuvés sous ces LOCs l'Afrique sont au total de US\$ 253 millions avec des déboursements agrégeant US\$ 112 millions. En outre, des déboursements d'une valeur de US\$ 300 millions sont projetés dans les six huit mois suivants. C'est au delà les lignes de crédit d'un total de US\$ 600 millions, qui est dans la canalisation. En fait, deux LOCs, savoir, Guinée Bissau pour US\$ 25 millions et le Niger pour US\$ 17 millions doivent être signés dans pas longtemps. En plus de LOC, la banque Exim a stimulé le processus de construction institutionnelle en Afrique. La banque a eu l'occasion, dans le passé, de partager son expérience et expertise en entreprenant une tâche pour la banque Reserve Bank de Zimbabwe (RBZ), pour aider l'installation une société de Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) au Zimbabwe. L'établissement fonctionne avec succès et a capturé un part de marché substantiel d'assurance de crédit au Zimbabwe. Considérant le succès de ECGE Zimbabwe, la banque Reserve Bank du Zimbabwe a

commissionné la banque Exim pour entreprendre une autre tâche pour installer un établissement de crédit l'exportation. De même, la banque Exim avait récemment achevé une étude de faisabilité, au nom du gouvernement des îles Maurice, pour projeter les îles Maurice comme destination d'investissement pour les sociétés indiennes. L'étude a été bien reçue par le gouvernement des îles Maurice. Subséquemment, on suggère qu'une autre étude pourrait être entreprise par la banque Exim pour identifier des stratégies afin de renforcer le secteur SME en îles Maurice. En plus, la banque a fourni des services de consultations la société de développement industriel de l'Afrique du Sud pour installer une unité de financement d'exportation (Export Finance Business Unit) et identifier une gamme de produits qui pourraient être accordés pour chercher de nouveaux débouchés. Ces efforts créent une synergie puissante et soulignent un engagement stratégique créer des occasions dans les affaires dans le continent africain.

LA FORCE DES RTAS EN AFRIQUE

N'importe quelle stratégie pour une coopération soutenue entre l'Afrique et l'Inde devrait nécessairement incorporer une approche régionale comme un composant intégrale et stratégique du cadre global de leur politique. Ceci nécessiterait la concentration sur les accords commerciaux régionaux choisis (RTAs), qui peuvent être forcés par les hommes d'affaires indien comme un passage aux économies africaines. De plus, avec le gouvernement de l'Inde qui se concentre sur les alliances régionales, la mise en scène de RTA/FTA avec les pays dans le continent africain pouvait continuer longtemps en augmentant le commerce et des investissements de deux manières. Une initiative importante dans cette direction a été le commencement des entretiens pour un accord commercial préférentiel (PTA), menant par la suite un accord de libre-échange (FTA) avec SACU et la formation de l'alliance IBSA (Inde, Brésil, Afrique du Sud). La conclusion rapide d'un FTA a pu fournir une impulsion réelle au commerce et l'investissement entre les deux pays. De plus, le groupe d'étude commun avec l'île Maurice a recommandé la formation d'un Arrangement Marchand Préférentiel avec l'île Maurice pour augmenter la compétitivité des industries domestiques Mauricien en appliquant la concession tarifaire sélective WTO dans un cadre compatible de PTA. Dans la somme, les relations commerciales Indo-Afrique doivent augmenter du commerce seul au domaine de l'investissement. Plus d'investissements par des compagnies indiennes vers l'Afrique est exigés en réalisant le potentiel qui existe. Dans ce contexte, je accentue que la banque Exim, MIGA (du groupe de Banque Mondiale), et le Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd. (ECGC) ont formé une association qui fournira un paquet de services qui combine le financement concurrentiel-évalué avec la réduction de risque aux compagnies indiennes investissant dans l'outre-mer. Un arrangement semblable est en place avec la banque Depfa et le MIGA pour des investissements en Afrique. ■



Facilitant l'exportation indienne vers 39 pays

Les LOCs de la Banque Exim à l'Afrique atteignent le seuil de \$ 1-milliard

P.R. Dalal, Le Directeur Général La Banque Indienne d'Importation et d'Exportation

Les Lignes de Crédit (LOCs) de la banque indienne d'Importation et d'Exportation (la Banque Exim) ont proposé à la région africaine les éléments clés principaux de la stratégie de la banque pour augmenter les relations du commerce et de l'investissement de l'Inde dans les pays de la région. Actuellement, la banque Exim a 30 LOCs opérationnelles dans la région africaine qui équivalent US\$ 949,44 millions, couvrant 39 pays (Tableau).

La ligne de crédit est un des mécanismes de financement par lesquels la banque Exim propose des financements afin de soutenir l'exportation des marchandises et des services depuis l'Inde sous les conditions de paiement différé. La banque Exim propose les lignes de crédit (LOCs) aux institutions financières d'outre-mer, aux banques de développement régionales, aux gouvernements souverains et à d'autres entités d'outre-mer. Les exportateurs indiens peuvent obtenir le paiement pour la valeur éligible de la banque Exim, sans recours à eux, contre la négociation des documents d'expédition.

Pour augmenter les exportations de l'Inde vers l'Afrique, les LOCs récents proposés par la banque Exim sont :

- LOC de US\$ 6,70 millions en Gambie;
- LOC de US\$ 5 millions à la Banque Est Africaine de Développement (EADB); et
- Deux LOCs d'un total de US\$ 391,9 millions au Soudan.

Le LOC vers la Gambie a été proposé, à la suite d'un ordre du Gouvernement de l'Inde (GOI), sous " le NEPAD initiative ". Le LOC a été réservé aux financements d'exportations de l'Inde vers la Gambie pour l'établissement d'une usine de tracteur en Gambie. Sous le NEPAD initiative, le GOI fournit des LOCs à travers la banque Exim aux pays en Afrique à fin de financer l'établissement de divers projets par des compagnies

indiens dans ces pays. Sous le LOC pour la Gambie, la banque Exim remboursera 100 pour cent de valeur de contrat aux exportateurs indiens, sur l'expédition des marchandises.

Le LOC de US\$ 5,0 millions à la Banque Est Africaine de Développement (EADB), le deuxième LOC accordé à EADB, doit financer les exportations de l'Inde aux pays membres d'EADB, à savoir le Kenya, l'Ouganda et la Tanzanie. Auparavant la banque Exim avait accordé un LOC de US\$ 5,0 millions à EADB en 1999, qui a été entièrement utilisé. Sous le LOC à EADB, les importateurs basés dans les pays membres, à savoir, le Kenya, l'Ouganda et la Tanzanie, effectueront un paiement anticipé de 10 pour cent de valeur de contrat et la banque Exim fournira le crédit pour 90 pour cent de valeur de contrat à EADB. La banque Exim remboursera les exportateurs indiens sur l'expédition des marchandises et de la fourniture de services. La période de crédit est jusqu'à cinq ans.

EADB est une banque de développement régionale, couvrant le Kenya, l'Ouganda et la Tanzanie, qui sont les marchés traditionnels pour l'équipement et la technologie indien. Cela fonctionne étroitement avec le Secrétariat de la Commission pour la Coopération de l'Est Africaine basé à Arusha en Tanzanie et finance des projets et offre une gamme étendue des services financiers dans les états membres pour renforcer la coopération économique régionale. L'Afrique de l'est est une des régions dont la croissance est la plus rapide dans le continent africain. Les articles principaux de l'exportation depuis l'Inde vers la région sont des machines et des instruments, des drogues et des pharmaceutiques, du blé, de la fabrication des métaux, de l'équipement de transport et des tissus de fil de coton. Le LOC de la banque Exim à EADB aidera à renforcer encore les relations commerciales de l'Inde avec

la région africaine de l'est.

La banque Exim, aux ordres du gouvernement indien, a accordé deux lignes de crédit (LOCs) d'un total de US\$ 391,90 millions au gouvernement du Soudan. Les LOCs de US\$ 350 millions et US\$ 41,90 millions, ont été réservés à fin d'aider le financement des exportations de l'Inde vers le Soudan, pour l'établissement de 4 X 125 MW Kosti Combined Cycle Power Plant et le SINGA-GEDARIF ligne de transmission et les projets de sous-station, respectivement, au Soudan. Sous l'attention Afrique

initiative, le GOI fournit des LOCs à travers la banque Exim aux pays en Afrique pour financer l'établissement de divers projets par des compagnies indiens dans ces pays. Comme un élément de cette initiative, la banque Exim a accordé les LOCs ci-dessus au gouvernement du Soudan. Sous les LOCs vers le Soudan, la banque Exim remboursera 100 pour cent de valeur de contrat aux exportateurs indiens, sur l'expédition des marchandises. La banque Exim, en janvier 2004, a accordé un LOC de US\$ 50 millions au Soudan, qui a été entièrement utilisé. ■

Tableau : Les lignes de crédit de la banque Exim effectives en Afrique

No.	Nom de l' Institution/ Pays	Somme
1	La banque Est et Sud Africain du Commerce et du Développement (Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank, Banque PTA) (couvrant 16 pays dans la région est et sud de l'Afrique, à savoir, le Burundi, Comores, le Djibouti, l'Egypte, l'Erythrée, l'Ethiopie, Kenya, le Malawi, les îles Mauricie, le Rwanda, le Somalie Soudan, le Tanzanie, l'Uganda, le Zambie & le Zimbabwe)	US\$ 10 mn
2	La commission de Marketing de Seychelles, Seychelles	US\$ 5 mn
3	La banque centrale de Djibouti, Djibouti	US\$ 10 mn
4	Gouvernement de Ghana	US\$ 15 mn
5	Banque Ouest Africaine De Développement (West African Development Bank) (couvrant le Benin, le Burkina Faso, le Cote d'Ivoire, le Guinée Bissau, le Mali, le Niger, le Sénégal et le Togo	US\$ 10 mn (équivalent en Euros)
6	Gouvernement de Zambie	US\$ 10 mn
7	Gouvernement de Soudan	US\$ 50 mn
8	Gouvernement de Angola	US\$ 5 mn
9	Gouvernement de Angola	US\$ 40 mn
10	La banque Est et Sud Africain du Commerce et du Développement (Banque PTA)	US\$ 10 mn
11	Gouvernement de Mozambique	US\$ 20 mn
12	Gouvernement de Lesotho	US\$ 5 mn
13	Gouvernement de Senegal	US\$ 15 mn
14	Gouvernement de Senegal	US\$ 17,87
15	La banque Est et Sud Africain du Commerce et du Développement (Banque PTA)	US\$ 5 mn
16	Gouvernement de Mauritius	US\$ 10 mn
17	La banque BMCE, le Maroc	US\$ 10 mn
18	Gouvernement de Cote d'Ivoire	US\$ 26, 8 mn
19	Gouvernement de Mali	US\$ 27 mn
20	Gouvernement de Ghana	US\$ 27 mn

Rapport semestriel de 2005-06

Le commerce

Indo-Africain sain; augmenté de 32 pour cent à \$3,0 milliards

Une analyse des tendances dans des relations économiques Indo-Africaines pendant la première moitié (d'avril jusqu'en septembre) de l'année 2005-06 indique une augmentation distincte dans le commerce bilatéral. Les exportations totales de l'Inde vers l'Afrique pendant avril-septembre 2005 se sont élevées à US\$ 3,06 milliards, enregistrant une élévation rapide de 34,9 pour cent, par rapport à une élévation de 32,4 pour cent pendant la période correspondante de l'année précédente. En ce qui concerne les importations, les importations total de l'Inde pendant avril- septembre 2005 étaient à US\$ 2,16 milliards, une élévation robuste de 26,9 pour cent, contrairement à un déclin de 4,7 pour cent pendant la moitié comparable de l'année précédente.

Les tendances basées sur les pays

Parmi les partenaires commerciaux principaux dans la région africaine, l'exportation vers les marchés importants tels que l'Afrique du Sud, l'Egypte, le Soudan, l'Algérie, le Cote d'Ivoire, le Djibouti, le Sénégal, le Bénin, la Mozambique et la Libye ont enregistré les taux de croissance plus haut que ceux pour les exportations agrégées vers la région pendant avril-septembre 2005 (Tableau 1). En ce qui concerne l'importation, le rendement dans les importations de l'Afrique pendant la période de l'étude pourrait être attribuée à une augmentation pointue dans les importations depuis l'Afrique du Sud et la Zambie, après un déclin l'année précédente, en plus d'une élévation puissante dans les importations d'autres associés principaux tels que l'Egypte, le Ghana, le Togo, le Mozambique, et le Congo D.r. (Tableau 2).

Tableau 1: Les exportations de l'Inde vers l'Afrique-Les destinations mjeures (US\$ million)

	avrsept 2004 %	augmentation	apr-sept 2005 %	augmentation
Afrique Total	2273,2	32,4	3065,5	34,
Afrique du sud	471,5	121,0	697,7	48,
Nigeria	267,7	-4,1	338,3	26,
Egypte	187,3	24,7	270,8	44,
Kenya	197,8	111,8	213,2	7,
Soudan	109,4	171,2	149,8	36,
Algérie	92,8	73,9	128,3	38,
Tanzanie	79,5	8,9	94,7	19,
Mauricie	86,0	-3,7	89,4	4,
Cote d'Ivoire	23,4	-65,8	83,9	258,
Ghana	77,4	38,4	80,7	4,
Djibouti	49,9	170,3	75,9	52,
Sénégal	16,2	43,9	71,3	340,
Bénin	21,1	-13,0	63,6	201,
Mozambique	31,7	3,4	59,3	87,
Togo	79,1	233,2	57,7	-27,
Libye	23,6	280,2	57,0	141,
Maroc	51,9	23,7	53,1	2,
Congo, D.R.	39,8	59,8	39,3	-1,
Uganda	37,8	-18,9	37,7	-0,
Angola	27,0	27 2	36 0	33

Source: Directeur général de l'intelligence commerciale et des statistiques (DGCIS).
Ministère du commerce et de l'industrie (MOCI)

Tableau 2 : Les importations de l'Inde vers l'Afrique – Les sources majeurs (US\$ million)

	avr sept 2004	%augmentation	avr-sept 2005	% augmentation
Afrique Total	1704,6	-4,7	2163,6	26,9
Afrique du sud	833,4	-23,7	1224,6	47,0
Egypte	84,7	34,1	129,2	52,5
Cote d'Ivoire	114,7	82,1	117,6	2,6
Sénégal	87,8	15,0	90,7	3,3
Maroc	135,8	8,0	87,9	-35,2
Guinée-Bissau	61,3	42,7	74,5	21,4
Bénin	51,7	21,2	55,9	8,0
Tunisie	48,8	82,8	48,0	-1,5
Ghana	32,8	13,6	47,8	45,4
Nigeria	33,5	-30,8	34,8	3,9
Togo	23,1	166,5	32,2	39,5
Mozambique	6,3	27,2	24,0	283,2
Kenya	20,4	12,1	23,0	12,9
Zambie	9,6	-12,0	20,3	112,5
Congo, D.R.	7,5	299,4	19,7	160,4
Tanzanie	28,3	31,0	17,8	-37,1
Soudan	13,9	-9,3	14,3	3,3
Gabon	17,8	129,2	11,2	-37,1
Zimbabwe	10,4	55,0	11,0	5,8
Gambie	11,0	209,3	10,6	-3,5

Source: DGCIS, MOCI

Les tendances basées sur les marchandises

En ce qui concerne les tendances dans la composition des marchandises dans le commerce bilatéral, il y a une augmentation continue dans les exportations à l'Afrique des produits importants tels que les produits pétroliers, le riz non basmati, les équipements de transport, la machinerie et les instruments, le plastique et les produits de linoléum, les produits chimiques

organique/inorganique/agro, autres céréales, la viande et ses préparations et la peinture et les émaux qui soulignent une augmentation rapide dans l'exportation totale à l'Afrique pendant le mois avril-septembre 2005. En plus, une augmentation dans l'exportation des produits en gomme et en verre, la verrerie et les céramiques ont contribué à l'augmentation totale des exportations. (Tableau 3)

Tableau 3: Les produits majeurs d'exportation à l'Afrique (US\$ million)

	avr sept 2004	%augmentation	avr-sept 2005	% augmentation
Toutes les marchandises	2273,2	32,4	3065,5	34,9
Les produits pétroliers	268,6	100,4	407,4	51,7
Le riz non-basmati	127,2	42,4	331,1	160,4
Équipement de transport	159,0	22,8	321,7	102,3
Machines et instruments	172,2	14,7	248,7	44,4
Drogues, pharmaceutiques et produits chimiques fins	225,3	32,8	243,9	8,2
Fabrication des métaux	194,5	70,5	199,7	2,7
Tissus de coton et des prêts à porter etc.	201,2	9,9	173,8	-13,6
Fer et acier primaires et demi-complets	118,0	52,6	134,7	14,2
Produits de plastique et de linoléum	98,3	44,3	120,0	22,1
synthétiques de tissus de fils	97,3	14,0	100,0	2,7
Produits en papier/bois	55,9	45,1	65,7	17,6

	avr sept 2004	%augmentation	apr-sept 2005	% augmentation
Produits fabriqués en gomme	43,4	-4,2	55,4	27,6
Produits chimiques organique/inorganique/agro	35,5	12,5	49,9	40,3
Verre/verrerie/céramiques	23,4	-19,0	44,3	89,1
Autres céréales	3,6	1367,1	37,3	943,9
Accessoires RMG coton incl.	34,6	-12,5	36,4	5,4
Produits électroniques	30,0	44,8	34,8	16,0
Viandes et préparations	21,8	30,4	33,3	53,2
Peinture/émaux	13,6	13,6	20,0	46,7
Cosmétiques	16,6	-5,8	19,4	16,5
Source: DGCIS, MOCI				

En ce qui concerne des importations, l'augmentation rapide dans l'importation des articles principaux tels que l'or, les perles et les pierres semi-précieuses, les produits chimiques organiques, d'autres minerais bruts, et les épices pendant le premier semestre (avril-septembre) de 2005-06, contrairement à un déclin pendant la période correspondante des années précédentes, a reflété la

tendance d'une augmentation dans les importations globales d'Afrique. Ajoutée à ceci est l'élévation puissante dans des importations d'autres articles principaux tels que le fer et l'acier, les minerais, le charbon et le coke, les métaux non ferreux, et l'acier primaire de fonte brute de la région (Tableau 4).

Tableau 4: Les produits majeurs d'importation de l'Inde depuis l'Afrique (US\$ mn)

	avr-sept 2004	%augmentation	apr-sept 2005	% augmentation
Toutes les marchandises	1704,6	-4,7	2163,6	26,9
Or	597,5	-35,6	848,3	42,0
Produits chimiques Inorganique	306,8	13,1	286,5	-6,6
Noix de cajou	223,9	42,1	266,7	19,1
Fer et acier	26,4	302,0	143,2	442,6
Minerais de Métaliferreux et métal	104,0	110,6	129,2	24,3
Bois et produits en bois	74,8	34,0	66,4	-11,3
Charbon, coke & briquettes	28,3	50,8	59,5	110,6
Engrais brut	53,2	349,0	42,4	-20,3
Coton cru: déchets	49,8	-54,9	41,4	-16,8
Métaux non ferreux	23,4	117,3	30,8	31,4
Perles précieuses et pierres semi-précieuses	24,4	-2,8	29,2	20,1
Pulpe et papier de rebut	21,7	3,2	25,8	19,1
Produits chimiques organiques	18,5	-8,9	25,7	39,1
Sucre	-	-	18,9	
Machines non électriques	17,4	53,1	13,6	-21,8
Marchandises électroniques	11,7	72,0	12,2	4,1
D'autres minerais bruts	4,7	-44,4	10,4	121,2
Épices	2,5	-56,0	9,8	289,4
Cuire	11,1	14,1	8,1	-27,3
Articles base en acier primaires de fonte	4,2	115,8	6,4	51,7
Source: DGCIS, MOCI				