

VIBRANT GUJARAT GLOBAL SUMMIT 2019 EXCELLENCE REDEFINED

CONSUMER CONNECT INITIATIVE

VIBRANT GUJARAT GLOBAL SUMMIT AFRICA DAY



Boosting business ties

The bonhomie of Africa and India was at full display at the first ever Africa Day organised at Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit on Saturday. Leaders from both countries came together to build bridges for overall growth

On the ninth Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit (VGGS), Africa Day was celebrated with much zeal and zest. Both India and Africa joined hands to ensure huge developments of business and promote cultural interest of the two countries. As part of the Africa Day, Congo, Ministry of External Affairs, and Gujarat State Financial

Services Limited signed a tripartite MoU for the production of ammonia urea in Congo. Cherishing the historical ties and strong businesses over centuries between India and Africa continent, the African leaders hailed the opportunity provided by the Government of Gujarat to boost economic relations with countries in Africa at VGGS. Endorsing the potential

of Africa, External Affairs Minister, Government of India, Sushma Swaraj, said, "Africa is one of the fastest growing regions of the world. It is a historic day to celebrate Africa Day and dedicating an entire day to the continent at Vibrant Gujarat." She assured the African delegation that India would remain a true partner in achieving the actual potential of the African

continent. Swaraj added that Africa is on high priority for India's foreign policy. In fact, India is opening 18 foreign embassies and high commissions in African countries in the next few years.

"India's relation with Africa has remained close and warm. Our engagement has enhanced over the years including areas of defense and security, trade and business, health care, and capacity building. I am sure that Africa Day in Gujarat will provide new direction to Africa - India relation based on equality, mutual respect, and shared gains."

— J N Singh,
Chief Secretary,
Government of Gujarat

More than 30 African countries participated in the summit. Henry Oryem Okello, State Minister for International Affairs, Republic of Uganda talking to the jam packed hall stated that the opportunities are enormous in this east African country for businesses. He added that Uganda and India share the history of colonization. Ugandans got inspiration from Indians to start freedom movement. A number of Indians laid the railway line in Africa.

The day also saw a wide participation from the students of Africa who are studying in Indian colleges and universities under different programmes. Rakiya Eddarhem, the secretary of state (industry, trade, investment), Kingdom of Morocco, said, "Africa is expected to offer demographic dividend by 70 per cent of its population below 30 years of age by

2040." She also added that Africa, with its rapid urbanization and diversified economy, is planning to offer a great market to the world. Communication, construction and tourism has overtaken sectors such as raw material and commodity in its share in GDP.

Sharing old ties, George Wesseh Blamo, the Deputy Minister for Administration for the Minister of State and Presidential Affairs said, "History tells me Indian and Liberian relations go back six decades, and not to forget, during our civil crisis, Indians contributed in peace keeping forces."

Blamo encouraging potential investors stated that in their own country Liberia, there are lot of investment opportunities today which include oil exploration, mineral exploration, infrastructure, pharmaceutical and others. "Explore opportunity in our country and continent," said Blamo.

As part of the Africa Day, an exclusive Africa Pavilion is also setup in the Exhibition Area for African and Indian companies to showcase products and services of mutual interest.

— Kumar Manish
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FAST FACT

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WHAT THEY SAID

"I am particularly happy that this historic day is being celebrated on the soil of Gujarat. Just as this state had given us Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, Africa was the continent which gave India our Mahatma. Africa has emerged as an important trade and investment partner, and India is ranked as the third largest export destination in Africa. We are happy that the Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme announced by India for the least developed countries has benefitted African nations and contributed towards steady increase in our trade figures by extending duty-free access to 98.2 per cent of India's total tariff lines."

— Sushma Swaraj,
Minister of External Affairs,
Government of India



3D Projection mapping show 'Gandhi Yatra - A Musical Journey through the life of Mahatma Gandhi' came alive on the 180° surface of Dandi Kutir at Mahatma Mandir which was showcased by the Rural Development Department, Government of Gujarat

The key to growth

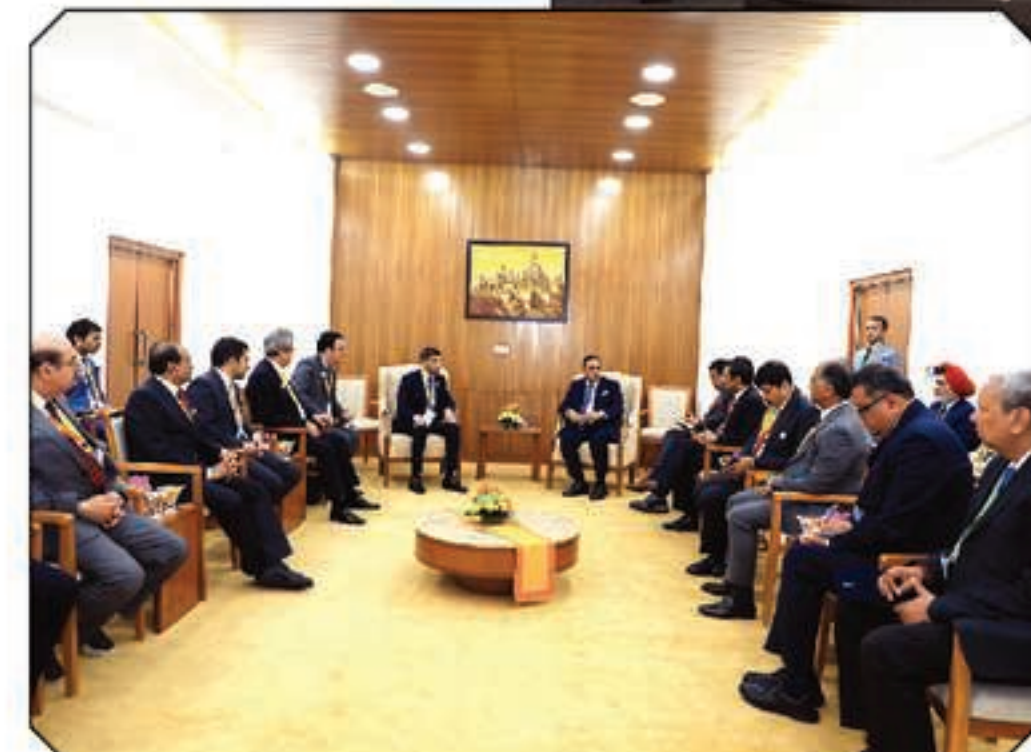
India is rapidly urbanising, and is in dire need of sustainable, planned and compact progress to enable job creation, to recycle water and waste, and use smart technology — this was the sentiment echoed during a seminar on 'Make in India'

One of the most popular government initiatives, 'Make in India' is a go-to destination for manufacturing so as to celebrate the global impact and success stories of its flagship program. The session deliberated a comprehensive

discussion on returns of investing in Industrial Parks and the burgeoning of new industrial corridors. The growth and soft launch of new projects like 'Invest India and India Investment Grid' - a menu of 4800+ investible projects with 2190 active investors from 170 countries were discussed at the ninth Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit (VGGS) 2019.

Highlighting the significance of the manufacturing sector in building a smart future, Amitabh Kant, the chief executive officer of NITI Aayog, said, "The process of urbanisation has just begun in India. While I speak here, 30 Indians are moving from rural to urban areas. According to a report by McKinsey, by 2050, 70 million citizens from India will move to urban areas which means we have the challenge to create two

and a half Americas in the next five decades. You can't bypass the process of manufacturing." He also highlighted the importance of a planned urban-



ization and manufacturing as the key driver of the country's growth.

Gujarat's first smart city, Gujarat International Finance - Tec City (GIFT City) is a 'Make in India' project. 'Make in India' is



the cornerstone of our Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a USD five trillion dollar economy by 2025. The flagship program was founded on the pillars for the 'Ease of Doing Business', and, in-

The initiative 'Make in India' has placed Gujarat in the list of top five FDI destinations in India. On the national front, the FDI inflow from April 2014 to December 2017 (USD 208.99 billion) was 39.24 per cent of the overall FDI received in the country since April 2000 (USD 532.552 billion). Also, in the last four years, India achieved a rank from 142 to 77 in the 'Ease of Doing Business Index' of the World Bank. For the second consecutive year, the country became a top-ranked economy in South Asia, and third among BRICs nations.

dustrial corridors and policy making.

With the motto of 'Minimum Government and Maximum Governance', 'Make in India' has bolstered some significant improvements

in the Indian manufacturing narrative and created thousands of employment opportunities.

— Kumar Manish
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VIBRANT SNIPPET

Solar Alliance Forum Meet

Business Leaders and Diplomats from the National and International community today participated in a collective dialogue on world's solar energy needs as part of the International Solar Alliance forum at the ninth Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2019.

On this occasion, H E Armida Alisjahbana, the executive secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) presented special remarks. Conceptualized in 2003, by the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, the summit has evolved into a platform for brainstorming on agendas of global socio-economic development, knowledge sharing and forging effective partnerships.

Maritime Revolution in the Offing

A seminar on 'Port Led Development and Strategies' noted that India is on the cusp of leading a maritime revolution globally



world is set to have approximately a billion people belonging to the middle class by 2030; their growing aspirations will shape and create

new demands for global connectivity."

The seminar deliberated on two sessions. While the first session emphasized on the challenges faced in port-led development, promotion of coastal shipping in the form of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives, and newer models for encouraging PPP in the maritime industry; the second session focused on Multimodal Logistics, challenges in hinterland integration and adoption of green initiatives, developing port nad industrial connectivity, and the unlimited oppor-

tunities of Gujarat ports.

Professor Shuo Ma, the International Vice President of the World Maritime University, stated, "It is usually believed that the capital investment or lack of it is the key factor for further boosting the development of coastal shipping in many countries including India, but it may not be true. The utilization ratio in ports is merely 60 per cent which gives a room to increase productivity without making further investments."

He further pointed out the fact that the coastal shipping is in direct

competition with other modes of transport. Customers look for the best value for money option. So competitive pricing should be considered as much as balancing the traffic and efficient utilization of the potential of ports.

The event was attended by Nitin Patel, the Deputy Chief Minister of Gujarat, and had special addresses by R C Faldut, Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development, Fisheries, Transport, Government of Gujarat; Dr J N Singh, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Gujarat; and Sunaina Tomar, IAS, Principal Secretary, Ports and Transport Department, Government of Gujarat.

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★ Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) has received 96 Investment Intentions (with intended investment of about Rs. 35276 Cr) and 30 Strategic Partnerships; thus, recording a total of 126 partnerships in the ports and port-based sector
★ Gujarat Maritime Board sign 13 MOUs (with an intended investment of Rs. 19542 Cr) amidst a special ceremony organized during the seminar in the presence of Nitin Patel, the Deputy Chief Minister of Gujarat.

