

# The Blue Moon

.....because your critic is your best friend

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**Morocco has become  
Increasingly Attractive  
to Indian Investor**

**India Committed to  
Deepening Trade,  
Investments  
with Africa**

**Ghana values India  
as key Trading  
Partner**

**H. E. Mohamed MALIKI**  
Ambassador of Morocco to India



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# What is a Blue Moon?

**W**hat is the meaning of “Blue Moon” was the question often I faced from anyone I introduced myself as the Editor. With a smile I had replied it is the second moon in a month and it comes once in two or three years. I had often heard the person mutter to himself “so it is once in a blue moon” leaving me annoyed and red faced with such a reaction.

So I decided to find out how Blue Moons will occur during the remaining year of 2023 ? To my surprise I discovered that the nearest date in the coming months was 31 August. To add a punch to this discovery, the answer further said that it is going to be a Super Blue Moon. Astonished and surprised at the answer I smiled to myself saying that even astrology was in my favour as It was a “Super” Blue moon.

The “Super Blue Moon” was an indicator of the revival of The Blue Moon post covid which came as a break in the midst of a 14-year- old run of the magazine.

To be true, the Blue Moon is never blue in colour and is said to be “fairly common” in astronomical terms. In 2018 unusually, there were two blue moons in one year and only two months apart – and one was a lunar eclipse! The next time we will get two blue moons in a year will be 2037.

With the cycle of the moon lasting approximately one month and there being 12 months in a year, we have 12 full moons each year. The phases of the moon actually take 29.5 days to complete, making it 354 days total for 12 full cycles, making it short of 365/366 days in a calendar year. Therefore, roughly every two and a half years a 13th full moon is seen. This full moon does not fit with the normal naming scheme and so is referred to as a “Blue Moon.”

Another definition of the blue moon describes the blue moon as the second full Moon in any calendar month with two full moons. As February 2018 had

no full moon in it, both January and March ended up with two full moons, so by this definition both months contained blue moons. Future blue moon dates are 31 August 2023, 31 May 2026, 31 December 2028.

## What colour is a blue moon?

Blue Moons aren't blue! Blue Moons remain the same colour as any other full moon except in two rare cases. During a lunar eclipse, the Moon can turn blood red, lit only by the light that is bent around the Earth by its atmosphere onto the face of the Moon. As lunar eclipses occur only during full moons, and Blue Moons are one type of full moon, very rarely a blue moon will be red!

Two full moons in one month (the second of which is a "Blue Moon"): A Blue Moon can occur in January and the following March if there is no full moon at all in February, as is the case in the years 1999, 2018, and 2037.

The next seasonal Blue Moon will take place on Aug. 19/20, 2024.

## How rare are 2 full moons?

The frequency of two full moons in one month simply depends on when the first one falls. If there is a full moon at the very beginning of a month, it's likely there will be another before the month is out, since a full moon occurs roughly every month.

The second full moon in a month is actually called a Blue Moon.

Hope I have made myself amply clear now !

**Amit Mittal** |



## Delivering Excellence in Infrastructure Solutions

### Introduction:

Mohan Mutha Group is a renowned conglomerate with its headquarters in Chennai, India, operating in diverse segments such as the supply of construction materials, turnkey projects, shipping, logistics, infrastructure development. With a strong focus on providing comprehensive solutions, the group has earned a reputation as a reliable partner in the industry. Accredited by the Government of India as a Two Star Export House and with a major presence in the export market since 1985, the group has established itself as a leader in the sector.

### Overview of Services:

The Mohan Mutha Group prides itself on offering end-to-end project requirements under a single roof, ranging from a full spectrum of building materials, interior materials, electrical, to a wide array of machineries and equipment necessary for construction projects.

As a EPC contractor, whether it's a seaport, airport, road, Coastal development projects, reclamation , revetment, affordable housings, residential building, commercial building, water pipeline and Sewerage treatment plants, solar project, the group has the expertise to cater to diverse project needs.

### Strengths and Accolades:

The Mohan Mutha Group's strengths are reflected

in various aspects of its operations, positioning it as a leading player in the industry. These strengths include:

- ISO 9001: 2015 Certification
- Two Star Export House Recognition:
- Extensive Export Experience
- Comprehensive supply chain management
- Availability of Resources

### Supply of Commodities:

Mohan Mutha Group has well versed experience in supplying rice, sugar, wheat Flour, coffee, tea and Vegan drinks.

### A separate unit of Pharmaceuticals:

A registered unit named “ MEDIX” specialized medical consumables, dianostic test Kits, Surgical and lab consumables, Medical Devises and Equipment , Hospital furniture.

### Conclusion:

With a strong emphasis on quality, reliability, and comprehensive solutions, the Mohan Mutha Group has established itself as a prominent player in the construction, shipping, logistics, and infrastructure development sectors. Our dedication to serving clients across the globe, along with our expertise in handling diverse projects. As we continue to grow and evolve, the group's commitment to excellence remains unwavering, ensuring a prosperous future for both the conglomerate and our esteemed clients.

**Mr Ramesh Kumar Mutha**  
Managing Director





**H. E. Mohamed Maliki**  
Ambassador of His Majesty  
the King of Morocco

## Morocco has become Increasingly Attractive to Indian Investor

H. E. Mohamed MALIKI, Ambassador of His Majesty the King of Morocco to India and concurrently to Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka, has held many important positions, including heading the Asia and Oceania Affairs Directorate (Additional Secretary) in the Foreign Ministry of his country. He has been Deputy Ambassador at the Moroccan Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan (2003) and Deputy Ambassador at the Moroccan Embassy in Cameroon. He holds a Master's degree in English Literature and Diplomatic Studies.

In this interview to Amit Mittal, Ambassador Maliki talks about the growing bilateral relations between Morocco and India and ways for enhancing the same during his tenure.

**1. Has the “historic” visit of King Mohammed VI to India in 2015, significantly improved the development of bilateral relations, and has the**

**outcome continued to yield positive results?**

The historic visit of His Majesty the King to India, in October 2015, and his memorable meeting with the Honourable Prime Minister of India, H.E. Narendra Modi, was an extraordinary milestone that truly transformed the landscape of bilateral relations between Morocco and India during which both leaders have decided to elevate Morocco-India relationship to a new level of a genuine Strategic Partnership. The outcomes of this momentous visit have been nothing short of remarkable, exceeding our expectations in numerous ways. Looking back at the journey we have undertaken since the Royal visit, it is evident that the outcomes have surpassed our initial expectations. The strategic partnership that was established has become a cornerstone of our collaboration, providing a framework for deeper engagement and mutually beneficial outcomes.

At the global level, our two brotherly countries share

the same values and principles aiming at promoting peace and security, besides developing human and economic cooperation. In this regard Morocco and India support each other at the level of International Institutions and fora and work closely together for the mutual benefits of their respective peoples. Our multifaceted relations are also reflected in the various high level visits taking place since 2015 which allow to establish a more developed legal bilateral framework paving the way for more fruitful cooperation in all fields and aspects.

Furthermore, these visits created huge opportunities for developing and promoting both human and economic relations.

**2. Following the signing of important MoUs recently in the field of fertilizers and phosphates, which marked the first time Morocco invested in an Asian country, other important MoUs were inked earlier this year. What is the volume of this trade?**

OCP Group has signed Memoranda of Understanding with India's largest fertilizer producers. These memoranda were signed between OCP Group executives and Indian fertilizer manufacturers, in the presence of Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of Health, Chemicals and Fertilizers in India and Mostafa Terrab, Chairman and CEO of OCP Group.

The objective of this partnership is to carry out joint Research & Development initiatives, to jointly promote innovative fertilization solutions, and to offer tailor-made fertilizers that meet the specific needs of Indian farmers, in close collaboration with the Indian agricultural ecosystem (public sector, agronomic institutes, agricultural federations, farmers, etc.).

Within this framework, OCP Group has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with India's largest public and private sector fertilizer producers, paving the way for OCP to supply India with up to 1.7 million metric tons (MT) of phosphate fertilizers for the agricultural season over the next twelve months.

The agreements will provide for up to 700,000 MT of Triple Super Phosphate (TSP), a phosphate-based fertilizer that has the highest phosphate content found in nitrogen-free granular fertilizers and can be tailored to meet the specific needs of plants and soils in India. Customized fertilizers are known to be better for soil health,

thus reducing waste. The MOUs also call for the delivery of 1,000,000 tons of diammonium phosphate (DAP) to Indian farmers.

**3. In terms of trade, what are the current trends and developments between Morocco and India, taking into account India's imports dominated by phosphate and how has the investment flow between Morocco and India evolved in recent years?**

Morocco has been a key supplier of phosphates and derivatives to India for a long time. Additionally, bilateral trade has diversified into sectors such as capital goods, pharmaceuticals, textiles, and petroleum products. Morocco exports phosphates, fertilizers, and other products, while India exports medicines, textiles, and chemicals, among others.

In terms of investments, Morocco has become increasingly attractive to Indian businesses. Currently, over 41 Indian companies are operating in Morocco, compared to just 12 in 2016. Foreign Direct Investment from India to Morocco amounted to 260 million Moroccan Dirhams (26 Million US\$) in 2021.

Prominent Indian companies present in Morocco include IMACID, Onshore Construction, Sunpharma, Tata Motors, and HCL Technologies. Additionally, several Indian companies are considering establishing their presence in Morocco, including Adani Group and JSW Energy.

There are promising sectors for potential Indian investments in Morocco, such as renewable energies, defense industries, information technology, and the pharmaceutical sector. These sectors offer opportunities for collaboration and mutual growth.

Overall, the trade and investment dynamics between Morocco and India are positive, with a focus on diversification and potential for further cooperation. Both countries can explore trade agreements and investment opportunities to strengthen economic ties and foster mutual benefits.

**4. A good number of Indian companies have made direct investments in Morocco, has investment come in from Morocco to India?**

In terms of numbers, as I mentioned previously, the Indian presence grew from a dozen of companies in 2015 to more than 40 currently, reflecting the significant progress in terms of trade and investment between the two countries, and showcasing promising perspectives for a growing

partnership built on mutual cooperation and shared interests.

As far as bilateral trade between India and Morocco is concerned, I can assure you that it has witnessed remarkable growth. In 2022, the trade volume reached an all-time high record of 41,238,069,294 Moroccan Dirhams (approximately 4.2 billion US dollars), demonstrating the robust nature of our economic ties. This upward trajectory signifies the increasing trust and confidence between Indian and Moroccan businesses.

We already have huge public investment, the biggest in Asia, made by OCP Fertilizers Company, mainly. This investment is crucial since it provides huge amount of fertilizers to the Indian farmers and contributes to the food security of the friendly people of India

Various Moroccan business delegations visited India during the first six months of this year that we are expecting to sign some agreements with Indian companies to create joint ventures and/or to initiate investments in your country. (More details cannot be given seen the confidentiality of this matter).

**5. India and Morocco plan to sign an MoU on defense cooperation to elevate ties to the next level. India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar had a virtual meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates of the Kingdom of Morocco Mr. Nasser Bourita. The Ministers agreed that both sides should expedite the finalization of the MOU on defense cooperation so that it can be signed on an early date?**

The project of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on defense cooperation between India and Morocco will definitely elevate our bilateral ties to the next level.

This perspective was discussed during a virtual meeting between India's External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates of the Kingdom of Morocco, H.E. Mr. Nasser Bourita.

In line with this commitment, I am pleased to inform you that the official opening of the Defense Attaché Office at the Embassy of Morocco in New Delhi in 2022 has already marked a major milestone in our defense cooperation. This establishment serves as a turning point, reinforcing and strengthening the

ties between our two nations in the defense sector.

The Defense Attaché Office aims to enhance coordination and facilitate smooth communication between our two defense authorities and entities. By fostering better contacts, attracting investments, and promoting the exchange of experiences, this capacity-building initiative will play a crucial role in bolstering our bilateral defense cooperation. We strongly believe that the opening of the Defense Attaché Office will significantly contribute to the growth and collaboration in this vital field.

India holds a pivotal role in supporting Morocco's goal of developing a competitive defense industry, particularly that India emerges as one of the primary exporting markets in the defense sector. Morocco has also made of defense industry one of its priorities in the industrial sector and which has great relevance. This strategic sector gets also a lot of incentives and encouragements from different stakeholders. The strategic partnership between Morocco and India is poised to create mutually beneficial outcome and contribute to the growth and security of both our nations.

Furthermore, our strategic partnership brings numerous benefits, particularly in the current geopolitical context. Both India and Morocco share a commitment to democracy, pluralism, and multiculturalism, making us natural allies. Moreover, we both prioritize maintaining stability and security within our respective regions and beyond. This alignment presents opportunities for strategic cooperation in crucial areas such as counter-terrorism, peacekeeping, and conflict resolution. The perspective of cooperation in this field are very promising.

Cooperation between Morocco and India in the defense sector holds great promise, particularly in the context of security, peace, regional stability, and the fight against terrorism. By joining forces, we can work towards a better future that not only benefits our respective populations but also contributes to the stability of the region and the world at large.

Through strategic partnerships and joint initiatives, both Morocco and India can strengthen their defense capabilities, enhance intelligence sharing, and promote counterterrorism efforts. By leveraging our combined strengths, we can establish a robust framework for cooperation that effectively addresses the evolving security landscape.



Furthermore, collaboration in the defense sector can foster regional stability by promoting trust and cooperation among neighboring countries. By engaging in joint exercises, capacity building programs, and sharing best practices, Morocco and India can set a positive example for other nations in the region, encouraging a collective approach to security and peace.

#### **6. Are there any restrictions on Indians travelling to Morocco?**

Regarding restrictions on Indians traveling to Morocco, I have some positive updates to share. As of September 30, 2022, the Moroccan authorities have lifted health restrictions such as PCR tests or Vaccinal Pass requirements at the entry points to Moroccan territory. This decision has made travel more convenient for Indian visitors.

Furthermore, I would like to highlight that Morocco has taken a significant step towards enhancing its consular services by introducing the electronic visa (E-VISA) system. This service, which can be accessed through the platform [www.acces-maroc.ma](http://www.acces-maroc.ma), aims to streamline and modernize the process of granting visas to foreign nationals, including Indian travelers.

Starting from January 10th, 2023, Indian nationals are eligible to apply for the electronic visa through the dedicated e-visa application. This development aims particularly to promote and facilitate visits to Morocco for Indian businessmen and tourists.

The introduction of the E-VISA system signifies Morocco's commitment to improving and digitizing consular services, aligning with the modernization trend observed in public administration services worldwide. This streamlined process allows eligible applicants to submit their visa requests online, eliminating the need for physical paperwork and in-person visits to consular offices. With expedited processing options available, applicants can receive their visas within 24 hours, making trip planning more efficient.

Morocco's dedication to enhancing the travel experience extends beyond visa facilitation. The country boasts a wealth of attractions and a diverse range of cultural and natural wonders. With nine UNESCO World Heritage sites, including the historic cities of Marrakech and Fes, Morocco offers a unique blend of history, architecture, and vibrant

markets.

With the lifting of certain restrictions and the introduction of the E-VISA system, Morocco is becoming an even more accessible and appealing destination for Indian travelers. I encourage you to take advantage of these developments and consider experiencing the fusion of cultures, breathtaking landscapes, and renowned Moroccan hospitality that await you in this enchanting country.

#### **7. What is the perception of Indian films in your country and is there any cooperation between the two countries in this domain?**

The perception of Indian films in Morocco is truly an extraordinary story and has left an indelible mark on our culture and society. The popularity and admiration for Bollywood movies among the Moroccan people are truly remarkable. It is fascinating to witness the widespread appeal and influence of Indian cinema in our country.

Moroccan cinemas and television regularly broadcast Indian feature films, creating a sense of anticipation and excitement among the audience. The captivating storylines, vibrant dance sequences, and melodious music of Bollywood movies have captured the hearts of Moroccans. It is a common sight to see families and friends coming together to enjoy the magic of Indian cinema.

In fact, the recent presence of Bollywood mega-star Ranveer Singh at the 2022 Marrakech International Film Festival is a testament to the deep appreciation and recognition of Indian actors in Morocco. His energetic performances and tribute award highlighted the special place that Indian cinema holds in our hearts.

The cooperation between Morocco and India in the film domain has flourished over the years, reflecting our shared love for cinema and the arts. We have witnessed numerous collaborative efforts and cultural exchanges that have strengthened the ties between our nations.

Morocco has actively participated in the Indian film scene, showcasing our captivating movies as the country partner in the 8th Jagran Film Festival. This platform allowed us to exhibit the diverse stories and rich cinematography of Moroccan cinema to Indian audiences across multiple cities. It was a wonderful opportunity to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of our artistic

expressions.

Furthermore, Morocco's breathtaking landscapes, magnificent architecture, and unique blend of traditions have made it an exceptional destination for filmmakers from around the world. The allure of our imperial cities, picturesque mountain villages, and dramatic sand dunes has attracted filmmakers to explore and capture the essence of our country. The well-established film infrastructure, favorable shooting conditions, and proximity to Europe have positioned Morocco as a preferred choice for international productions.

As an ambassador, I take great pride and joy in witnessing the flourishing cooperation and cultural exchange between Morocco and India in the realm of cinema. The magic of Indian films has brought our nations closer, transcending geographical boundaries and fostering a sense of unity in our diverse cultures.

In conclusion, the perception of Indian films in Morocco is one of utmost admiration and enthusiasm. The immense popularity, recognition of Indian film actors at our film festivals, and the deepening cooperation between our countries in the film domain are evidence of the profound impact of Indian cinema on Moroccan society. This shared love for films strengthens the cultural bonds between our nations and opens doors for even greater collaborations and artistic exchanges in the future.

**8. To consolidate diplomatic and economic ties between the two countries you have opened three Honorary Consulates in India. Has the opening of a third Honorary Consulate in Bangalore in January 2023, contributed to the advancement of bilateral relations, both diplomatically and economically, between the two countries?**

Indeed, to consolidate diplomatic and economic ties between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of India, we opened a third Honorary Consulate in India, this time in Bangalore, Karnataka, in January 2023.

It is important to underline that India, being a vast territory with a diverse cultural heritage, offers immense economic capabilities and opportunities. Karnataka, specifically Bangalore, known as a technological hub, holds great importance on the international IT and offshoring radar. Recognizing the steady and positive development of relations between Morocco and India in recent years, it was

crucial to extend diplomatic and consular coverage to this important Indian state.

Mr. Pratap Kamath, the Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of Morocco in Bangalore, brings a wealth of experience as the Director-General of "Abaran Timeless Jewellery Private Limited," a renowned Indian company specializing in jewelry, precious metals, and stones. His appointment is a strategic decision, considering his profile, skills, stature, and extensive network, which will contribute significantly to advancing Morocco's interests in Karnataka.

The official opening of the Honorary Consulate in Bangalore took place on January 28th, with the presence of the Indian Minister of Law, Parliamentary Affairs, Legislation, and Minor Irrigation of Karnataka, J.C. Madhuswamy. The inauguration ceremony, held at the Sheraton Hotel, Bangalore, marked the operationalization of the consulate, emphasizing the commitment to strengthen bilateral relations between Morocco and Karnataka.

This new consulate in Bangalore will also serve as a crucial platform to foster mutual understanding, promote Morocco's rich cultural heritage, and project its 12 centuries of civilization. It will also play a vital role in enhancing economic cooperation and encouraging bilateral investments between Karnataka and various regions of Morocco.

I had the honor of presiding over the official launching of the Office of the Honorary Consulate of the Kingdom of Morocco in Bangalore, Karnataka. On behalf of the Embassy and its staff, I extend my full support to Mr. Pratap Kamath in fulfilling this honorable position. Together, we will work tirelessly to serve both the Moroccan and Indian communities and strengthen bilateral relations.

These recent diplomatic and consular expansions reflect our commitment to consolidate and enhance the diplomatic and economic ties between Morocco and India. With the establishment of the Honorary Consulate in Bangalore/Karnataka, along with the existing consulates in West Bengal, Maharashtra, we aim to foster deeper cooperation and create new opportunities that will further strengthen the bilateral relations between our two friendly countries.



# India Committed to Deepening Trade, Investments with Africa

by Amit Mittal

The 18th edition of CII-Exim Bank Conclave on India-Africa Growth Partnership under the theme of “Creating ONE Future” was held on 14-16 June 2023 at New Delhi. This edition focussed on trade, investments, exchange of knowledge and expertise creating shared value for business and industry at large between India and Africa.

The conclave not only set the ground for many new cross-border partnerships to take roots, but also conducted a critical evaluation of the existing collaborative arrangements on the basis of which a new roadmap for future Africa partnerships would be designed.

India and Africa should work together to build more robust, diverse, and resilient supply chains, redefine the parameters of engagement and explore newer sectors for cooperation, stated Indian Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles Piyush Goyal at the session with African trade ministers on the second day of the 18th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and EXIM Bank of India in New Delhi. India is committed to deepening trade and investments with Africa and increasing knowledge and technology transfer with the region, the Minister stated. “Let’s re-energize our relationship,” he added, noting that this would bring about a more prosperous Africa and a more prosperous India.

Referring to the India-Africa trade volume that stood at nearly US\$100 billion in 2022-23, Mr. Goyal said that the two sides can go beyond doubling the trade volume to US\$ 200 billion by 2030, considering that both regions together have 3 billion population with very favourable demographics.

The Minister called for a deep study of bilateral trade relations, country by country, that can identify further opportunities for growth.

Highlighting the opportunity for India and Africa to engage in deeper cooperation in the areas of renewable energy, sustainability, and alignment with the vision of

‘One World, One Grid’, Mr. Goyal stated that the two sides could come together to establish inter-connected grids served by clean energy. India could also extend its expertise to Africa in the development of digital public infrastructure, he added.

Dr. Tambo Gina, Minister of Economic Planning & Development, Kingdom of Eswatini, stated that the country offers significant investment opportunities in sectors like telecom and power generation and that there are no restrictions on foreign investments.

Mr. Hugues Judicael Mbadinga Madiya, Minister of Investment Promotion, Gabonese Republic observed that the renewable energy sector opens up newer avenues for investments and stated that Indian companies are actively engaged in the country across sectors including infrastructure development, mining, agriculture and education.

Minister for Agriculture, Gabon Republic, said farm mechanisations are welcome. Indian investment is important. \$ one billion is spent on importing food in the country. Now five high yield crop zones have been created. Each zone will grow certain crop. Companies will be given five years tax exemption.

Fifty per cent of the consumption has to be produced within the country, he added.

Mr. Simplex Chithyola Banda, Minister for Trade and Industry, Republic of Malawi stated that Malawi has initiated key steps to unlock the potential of the SME sector and called for India-Africa conclaves to be organised in Africa that will help promote the participation of SME businesses.

Mr. Baboucarr Ousmaila Joof, Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment, Republic of The Gambia said that the Trans-Gambia Corridor project is creating new investment opportunities for Indian companies.

Chad Minister said though there are 137 million animals in the country, they were still importing milk products as there were obstacles like storage which is a big issue in the country.

He said that by 2030, they want to make Chad regional power. We need factories for food for the livestock.

To boost the India-Africa bilateral flows, R. Dinesh, President, CII called for diversification of the trade basket, enhancing African exports to India, ensuring more effective utilisation of concessional lines of credit offered by India to African countries and streamlining of visa services, among others.

The implementation of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement, complemented with the strong transportation and logistics networks, will help boost bilateral trade flows between the two sides, stated Mr Noel Tata, Chairman, CII Africa Committee and Chairman, Tata International Ltd.

Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) mentioned that digitalisation, infrastructure development and agriculture are among a broad spectrum of areas where India-Africa partnerships are growing. A \$74billion Indian investment is in Africa.

A CII publication titled 'India Africa Trade: Scaling the \$200 billion peak' was released at the session.

The special Plenary Session of the conclave was attended by 800 delegates from 45 countries, 30 Ministers from African countries and several Trade Ministers.

Puneet Mondal, joint secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, held the view that a large portion of the GDP of African countries comes from agriculture. Upgradation of infra-structure was necessary. There are three major cash crops. Coco, Cotton of which 70 % is exported, Cashew of which 95 % was exported. He lamented that Africa has 60% of arable land, but it produces just 10 %. He said that Indian private sector has moved into Africa in a big way.

# Algeria to join BRICS

Algeria has applied to join the BRICS group and submitted a request to become a shareholder member of BRICS Bank with an amount of \$1.5 billion, Ennahar TV quoted Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune as saying.

It added that Tebboune said at the end of his visit to China that Algeria had sought to join the BRICS to open new economic opportunities.

The North Africa country is rich in oil and gas resources and seeking to diversify its economy and strengthen its partnership with countries such as China.

"We officially applied to join the BRICS group, we sent a letter asking to be shareholder members in the bank ... Algeria's first contribution in the bank will be \$1.5 billion," Ennahar quoted Tebboune as saying.

More than 40 countries have expressed interest in joining the BRICS group of nations, South Africa's top diplomat in charge of relations with the bloc said this week.

Argentina, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Comoros, Gabon, and Kazakhstan are among countries that have expressed interest.

## Graphics

- > New Product Launch
- > Creative
- > Visualisation
- > Conceptualisation

## Branding

- > Social Media
- > Brochure/Catalog Design
- > Packaging Design
- > Website Design
- > Explainer & Corporate Videos
- > Photoshoot

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- > Journals

## Content

- > Website Content & Blogs
- > Brochure/Profile Content
- > Case studies & Whitepapers
- > Product Descriptions etc

## Events

- > Business Networking
- > National Day Receptions
- > Product/Services Promotional
- > Cultural Programs
- > Fashion Show





# Ghana values India as key Trading Partner



1. Strong foundation of our bilateral relations was laid by India's first Prime Minister, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, and Ghana's first President, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah . But relations today don't reflect that closeness. Why ?

Between 2000 and 2023 a lot has happened. Besides the Vice Presidents' visits the President of Republic of Ghana visited India during 2018 when ISA was performing. These were high level visits we had. Politically we had a lot of engagements. Last year there were over 27 delegates for the CII conclave coming from Ghana. This year we have had delegations for CII meet in June. So our engagement with India is not on a low key , it is on a very high key. India also assisted Ghana for infrastructure.

2. Between 23-28 June, 2013 discussions on India-Ghana Joint Venture Fertilizer Project what is the status of the project ? Has it taken off ?

The fertiliser project is on hold.

3. Government of India extended Lines of Credit amounting to US\$228.73 million to Government of Ghana for various developmental projects being undertaken by the latter?

Indian company AFCONS is handling a railway construction project worth over \$200 million.

4. How many Ghanaian students are studying in India under ICCR's Africa Scholarship scheme ?

Over 700 Ghanaian students are studying in India.

**Mr. Ernest Nana Adjei**

Minister Counsellor, Political and Economic  
Ghana High Commission  
by Amit Mittal

**5. An MoU was signed in January, 2013 between Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and Ghana Standards Authority (GSA) to facilitate closer cooperation.**

**Exchange of business delegations in recent years have led to an increase in investments by Indian companies in Ghana, What do you estimate is Indian companies investment?**

There were 818 Indian projects in 2020. India was number 2 investor in Ghana.

**6. Bilateral Trade crossed US\$ 1 billion mark for the first time in 2011-12. Bilateral Trade stood at \$1204.2 million; in 2012-13 it slid down to \$1021.73 million.**

According to Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC) Indian companies have invested in 602 projects with total investment of US\$ 637.34 million between September 1994 and September 2013 making India the second largest foreign investor country in Ghana in terms of number of projects.

**7. Is it correct that India ranks 9th in position according to value of FDI in Ghana.**

India's FDI ranking has gone up to number five today.

**8. In the Business Meet organized in February 2011 by the Indian mission and the Association of Ghanaian Industries (AGI). What is the status today**

There have been nine engagements with AGI in the past two years. Ghana is also a member of International Solar Alliance (ISA ). There is

collaboration between Ghana and ISA.

**9. What are the focal points of ties between the two countries ?**

There are four major points including trade and investment, climate change, defence and tourism and culture which are the focal points of collaboration now.

**10. What was the effect of Non Aligned Movement on the relations ?**

After the formation of the Non- Aligned Movement relations between the two countries got solidified. In 1988 Ghana established its High Commission in India. There has been tremendous development and multilateral cooperation. The economic engagement has established 17,000 Indians in Ghana.

Political relations have grown. Economically through CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM.

80 per cent of exports from Ghana is gold. Five years ago a target of \$4 billion was set for trade, but the pandemic disturbed the plans, so now the target has been shifted to 2024.

Indian film stars visited Ghana and Ghanaian Stars visited India. The cooperation is visible from November 2022 when Ghana assumed chair of the UN Security Council and handed it over to India in December.

Ghana is looking forward to much more collaboration now.



# Super Africa

Super region of Africa, Western and Central Asia – encompassing 46 per cent of the world’s population and 33 per cent of global land area – is home to an abundance of the world’s most critical minerals. Demand is rising rapidly driven by the energy transition and global push for net-zero, the need to secure supplies of copper, iron ore, aluminium, nickel, cobalt and lithium among others, is increasing dramatically. Long-term investment in future minerals will rapidly accelerate social and economic development across the region’s economies.

## AFRICA'S NEXT 10 WEALTHIEST COUNTRIES

**(Rankings of high-net-worth individual growth trends in Africa)**

1. Angola Millionaires USD1M+ 2400  
[Centi-millionaires USD100M+ 4]

Millionaire Growth Rate 28 per cent

2. Cote d'Ivoire Millionaires USD1M+ 2200  
[Centi-millionaires USD100M+ 4]

Millionaire Growth Rate 27 per cent

3. Namibia Millionaires USD1M+ 2100  
[Centi-millionaires USD100M+ 3]

Millionaire Growth Rate 20 per cent

4. Botswana Millionaires USD1M+ 1900  
[Centi-millionaires USD100M+ 2]

Millionaire Growth Rate 10 per cent

5. Uganda Millionaires USD1M+ 1500  
[Centi-millionaires USD100M+ 5]

Millionaire Growth Rate 45 per cent

6. Mozambique Millionaires USD1M+ 1100  
[Centi-millionaires USD100M+ 2]

Millionaire Growth Rate 18 per cent

7. Rwanda Millionaires USD1M+ 1000  
[Centi-millionaires USD100M+ 2]

Millionaire Growth Rate 72 per cent

8. Zambia Millionaires USD1M+ 900  
[Centi-millionaires USD100M+ 1]

Millionaire Growth Rate 22 per cent

9. Democratic Republic of Congo Millionaires USD1M+ 600 [Centi-millionaires USD100M+ 1]

Millionaire Growth Rate 35 per cent

10. Seychelles Millionaires USD1M+ 400  
[Centi-millionaires USD100M+ 5]

Millionaire Growth Rate 54 per cent

Source - Africa Wealth Report 2023 -Henley & Partners

## Top 4 countries where workers earn the best salaries in Africa :

1. Morocco

2. South Africa

3. Tunisia

4. Kenya

Source - Statista and Salary Explorer

## African Countries That Produce Their Own Weapons

1)-South Africa

2)- Egypt

3)- Nigeria

4)-Ethiopia

5)- Ghana

6)- Kenya

7)-Tanzania

8)- Namibia

9)- Uganda

10)- Zimbabwe

Credit: Africa Fact Zone

Continued on Page-20



# Growing ties between India and Egypt lauded

**A**mbassador of Egypt Mr. Wael Hamed has outlined the growing ties between Egypt and India, including the visit of President AbdelFattah El-Sisi to New Delhi in January 2023, and the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Cairo in June 2023, resulting in the upgrading of relations to the level of Strategic Cooperation.

The Ambassador was addressing guests at the National Day reception held at his residence on 7 July, 2023 commemorating the 71st anniversary of the July 1952 revolution.

Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare of India Narendra Singh Tomar, who was the chief guest at the function, highlighted the time-tested relations between both countries and their shared values and interests as voices of the global South, and the immense value Egypt's participation as Guest Country during India's G20 Presidency brings.

The Reception was also attended by a number of Ambassadors and High Commissioners, as well as key representatives from the Indian Government, the business community, think tanks, civil society and media outlets.

EgyptAir gave out 5 return tickets on the direct flight to start in August 2023 between New Delhi and Cairo, as a means to boost tourism and people-to-people contacts between both nations.



## A Glimpse of Egypt National Day Celebrated in New Delhi





# Solar Energy is the Key for Energy Transition in Africa

**Dr Ashvini Kumar**

Former Managing Director,  
Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd.

Africa is the world's second-largest and second-most populous continent after Asia. Its total land area including that of adjacent islands is about 30.3 million km<sup>2</sup> which is about 20% of the earth's total land area and 6% of its total surface area. Its population is estimated to be 1.3 billion as of 2022 which accounts for about 18% of the world's population. Africa's population is the youngest amongst all the continents and Africa is blessed with wide range of natural resources, however, it is the least wealthy continent on per capita income wise. Africa has strong presence in exports of liquid fuel, natural gas and LNG. The liquids fuel supplies, which includes crude plus condensates, is estimated to be 8% of the global volumes in 2023.

The negative effects of the climate change are already experienced in Africa which are quite disproportionate as compared to their share in the global emissions. Various such effects include water stress, reduced food production, increased frequency of extreme weather events and lower economic growth. Global clean energy transition holds new promise for the economic and social development of the Africa.

IRENA has analysed the global trends and have found that more than 70% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have been committed by various countries aiming at to reach net zero emissions by around mid-century. These include 12 countries from Africa representing over 40% of the continent's total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Africa's COP27 commitments aim at phase down of coal power, use of natural gas as transition fuel, and establishment of the Africa Carbon Markets Initiative (ACMI) to incentivise reduction in carbon emissions. Under these, universal electricity access and power generation based on renewables remain on the agenda. It is to be noted that the Africa continent stands fifth globally in upstream emissions and Africa's emissions expected to be driven majorly due to gas flaring. At the current estimates, Africa needs renewable energy strongly as only a third of

the power generated in 2030 is estimated to be from fossil fuels. These ambitions would surely help the countries in Africa to attract increasing flows of climate finance with credible and visible development of transition pathways in these countries.

## Renewable Energy Development and Resource

The total installed capacity at the end of 2022 is 58783 MW with dominant share of hydro power (60%) followed by solar (21.5%) and wind (13%) (Fig.1). The continent has witnessed steep

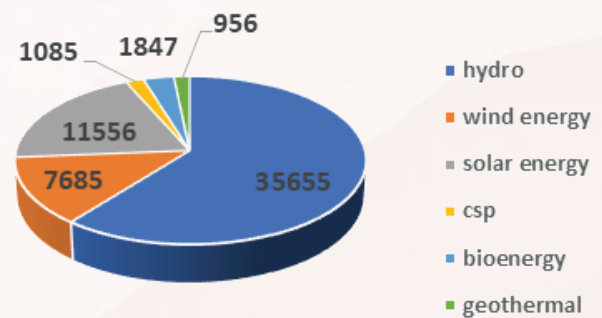
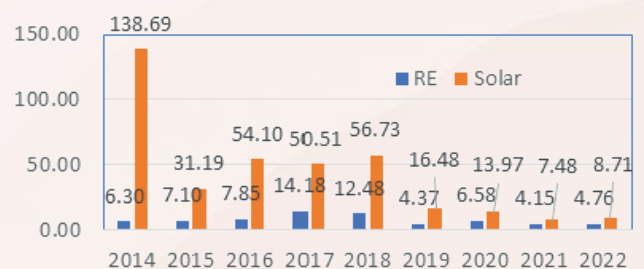


Fig.1 Installed RE Capacity (2022)

Fig.2 Growth Pattern of RE and Solar capacities (%)



growth in solar from 716 MW in 2013 to 12641 MW in 2022 (Fig.2). The potential of solar is very large as the continent is located around equator having very high amount of the incident solar radiation round the year. In fact, the solar energy as received in Africa is much more than most of the other continents which means the generation from solar projects would also be high as compared to many other continents. The distribution of solar

resources across Africa is fairly uniform, with more than 85% of the continent's landscape receiving at least 2,000 kWh/(m<sup>2</sup> year). In addition, there is large coastline with high resource of wind power.

Today's environmental concerns and global commitments to restrict carbon emissions further stresses on the needs to develop renewable energy in the African continent in line with all other countries.

## Strategy and Action Plan for Development of Renewable Energy

As a part of Africa Energy Outlook 2022, the International Energy Agency (IEA) has developed the concept of "Sustainable Africa Scenario" envisioning how Africa's energy related development goals could be achieved, including universal access to modern energy services by 2030 and the full implementation of all African climate pledges. It is very clearly brought out that the energy efficiency and renewables – especially solar – represent the key pillars for building Africa's new energy economy. In order to realize the dream of sustainable development and transitioning to clean energy as per identified goals, the African countries would need to take initiatives to develop clear strategies and policies together with credible implementation plans in collaboration with international institutions wherever required. This may include the following elements:

a) Towards achieving Universal Access of Electricity: Various options, such as, grid extension and setting up large capacity solar and wind projects, mini-grids and micro-grids in the areas where grid extension is costlier and time consuming, stand alone solar lighting systems for domestic and livelihood activity applications. A comprehensive planning exercise bringing out cost benefit analysis of the options, grid strengthening and upgradation requirements and load profiles would be required.

An analysis of the eco-systems in terms of availability of the materials (e.g. solar modules, power transformers, data monitoring and operating software, skilled manpower and training requirements) would also need to be included in such studies. Other important aspect is the procurement mode encouraging competition for better price discovery and public-private partnerships for sharing risks and expanding capability base would

also need to be studied. Flexibility is the key to integrating more variable renewables into the grid networks where hydropower and natural gas plants assume significance. In addition, the concept of Regional power pools could be strengthened and operated to address this issue. In view of high grade of solar and wind potential, Africa has great potential to become green hydrogen hub in the region.

Information about the scale of procurement firmed up taking cognizance of the targets is important for attracting investment.

b) Clean Cooking Initiatives: It is estimated that about 970 million people in Africa are based on dirty fuels for cooking, and therefore about 130 million each year would require to be shifted to clean fuels by 2030. Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) presents a leading solution which has been implemented in India quite successfully. However, cost of the LPG is a big deterrent which would need to be addressed through financial and fiscal policy measures. Another option is the electricity based cooking using induction based cookers. This option could be useful in areas where electricity through grid is available. Other options include stand alone solar cooking devices, community and/or individual systems based on biogas production, and efficient wood cookstoves as a last option.

c) Energizing Agriculture Sector: Traditionally agriculture has been supported through pumpsets based on diesel generators. There is a high potential of converting these to solar based pumps in the areas where grid electricity is not available. Wherever grid electricity is available, solarization of the feeders connecting agricultural pumps can be thought of. These interventions could be implemented through skilfully crafted business models taking into account the interest of the farmers as well as the Government. Agriculture sector is important as it represents one-fifth of Africa's GDP.

d) Commercial and Industrial sectors consume a lot of electricity and other forms of energy. Policy measures including the Carbon-markets incentivising reduction in emissions mandates in terms of procurement of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures would need to be designed.

e) There are many more opportunities like electrification of transport sector which would become important in future and has a strong connect with cheaper generation of green energy to become viable.

detailed strategies, policy instruments and develop time bound implementation plans specific to the countries in the region after careful assessment of the resources and requirements. There is enough expertise available globally and specifically in India (e.g. ISA, SECI, SESI ) which can be tapped if there is a need.

### Way Forward

As mentioned, there is an urgent need to develop

Continued from Page-16

### 10 Most Peaceful African Countries in 2023

- 1) Mauritius (23rd)    2) Botswana (42nd)    3) Sierra Leone (47th)    4) Ghana (51st)
- 5) Senegal(52nd)    6) Madagascar(55th)    7) Namibia (56th)    8) The Gambia (59th)
- 9) Zambia(63rd)    10) Liberia (72nd)

Source: Business Insider Africa



## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES Across the Globe

### Opportunities in United States Of America

#### INVESTMENT IN A REAL STATE PROJECT IN MIAMI

• The company that owns the project has more than 50 years of experience in the market, deep roots in the local community and an international network of agents and buyers based on five decades of trust. Real estate project for a 7-story multi-family residential building + roof terrace, designed for young workers who want to live near downtown Miami in a boutique building, near the Miami River and various attractions.



#### Investment Options:

• Participate as a Limited Partner (LP) investor, with shares in Holding LLC (owner of the land and the project). Total capital contribution of the parent

#### INVESTMENT IN LICENSED APARTMENTS Sale of apartments

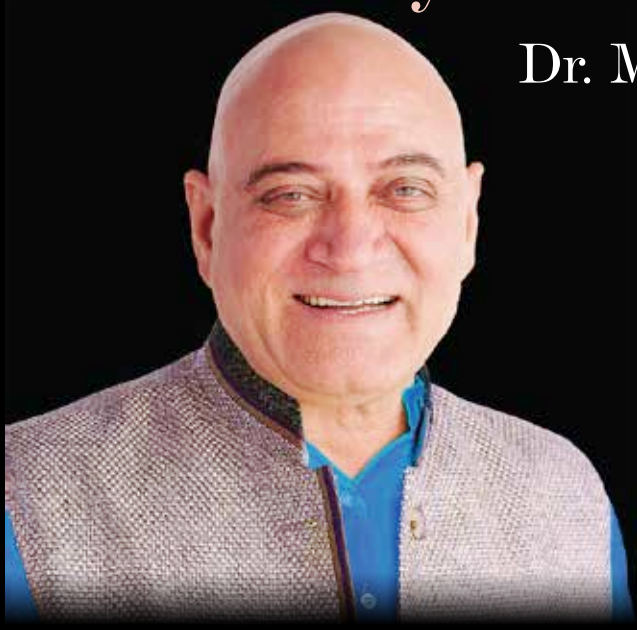
• Building located in one of the most attractive locations of "Downtown Miami", offering a cosmopolitan lifestyle with a experiences that this growing city offers. 49-story tower with panoramic views of the city, views of Biscayne Bay and the Atlantic Ocean.

• The operator of this building has more than 30 investment partner of hotel assets.

• It has a modern residential lobby, concierge 24 hours a day, restaurant, spa, gym, among other amenities.

• Through the short rent, the return on investment would be boosted, reaching an IRR of between 8.25% and more than 10% per discounting all investment costs).

# Laughter yoga: A Unique way to Exercise your Body and Mind



**Dr. Madan Kataria**

*International Laughter Yoga Guru*

turns into real and contagious laughter. The whole concept is based on a scientific fact that the body cannot differentiate between fake and real laughter. One gets the same physiological and psychological benefits.

### Three Reasons Why Laughter Yoga

1. In order to get scientifically proven health benefits of laughter, we need to laugh continuously for at least for 10 to 15 minutes. Natural laughter comes for few seconds and is not enough to bring about any physiological and biochemical changes. But, in Laughter Yoga we do laughter as an exercise, which helps us prolong laughter as long as we want.

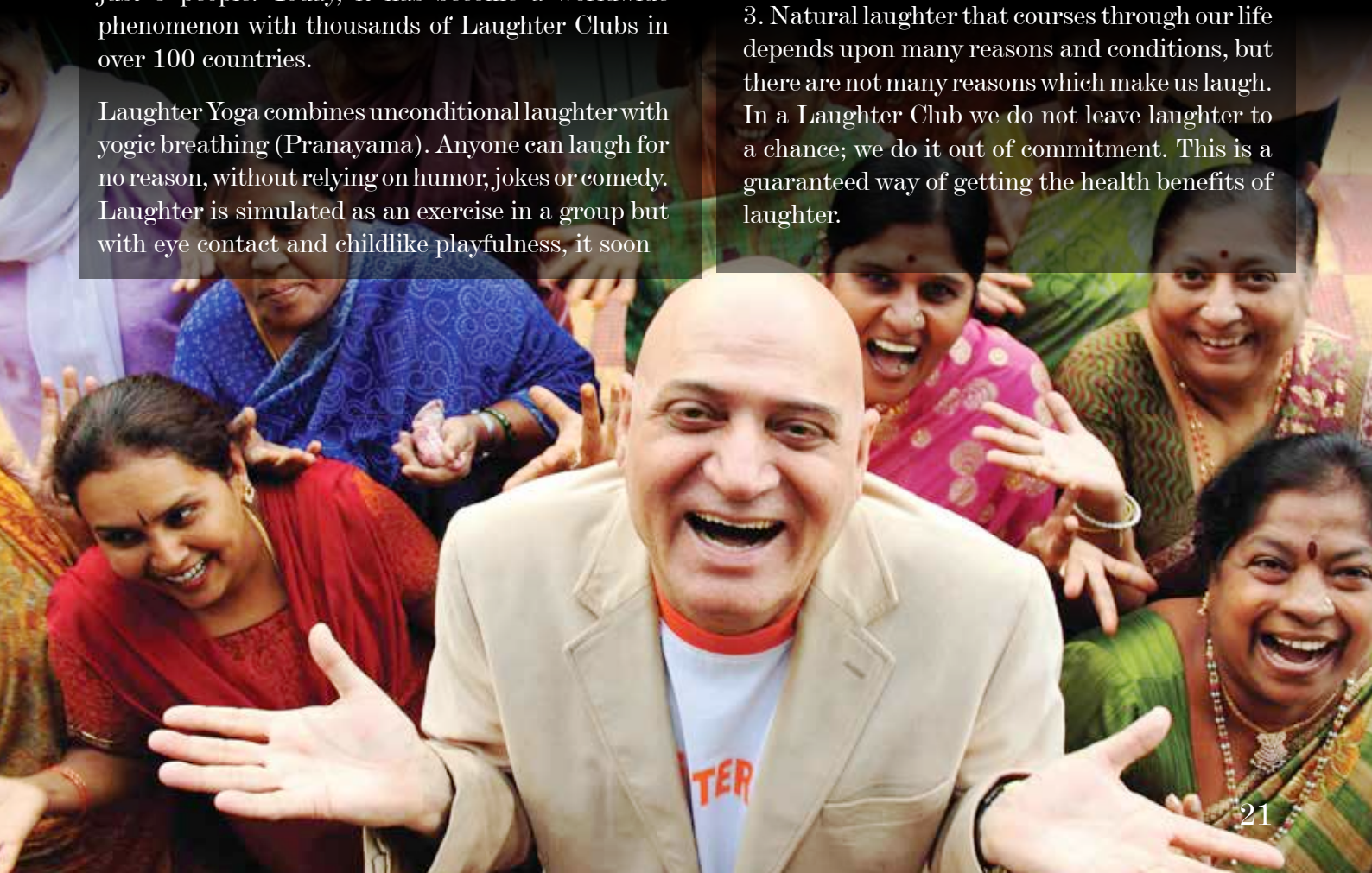
2. To reap the health benefits of laughter, laughter has to be loud and deep coming from the diaphragm. It should be a belly laugh. Laughter Clubs provide a safe environment where one can laugh loudly and heartily without any social implication.

3. Natural laughter that courses through our life depends upon many reasons and conditions, but there are not many reasons which make us laugh. In a Laughter Club we do not leave laughter to a chance; we do it out of commitment. This is a guaranteed way of getting the health benefits of laughter.

## Laughter Yoga – A Complete Exercise For Health And Happiness

Laughter Yoga is a powerful exercise routine for complete body-mind wellness. The revolutionary idea is the brainchild of Dr. Madan Kataria, an Indian physician from Mumbai who started the first Laughter Club in a park on 13th March 1995, with just 5 people. Today, it has become a worldwide phenomenon with thousands of Laughter Clubs in over 100 countries.

Laughter Yoga combines unconditional laughter with yogic breathing (Pranayama). Anyone can laugh for no reason, without relying on humor, jokes or comedy. Laughter is simulated as an exercise in a group but with eye contact and childlike playfulness, it soon



## Five Benefits of Laughter Yoga

### 1. Health Benefits

People come regularly to Laughter Clubs because it helps them to stay fit and not fall sick easily. Laughter Yoga is a powerful cardio workout and just 10 minutes of hearty laughter is equal to 30 minutes on a rowing machine. It increases blood circulation, relaxes the muscles, alleviates depression, reduces blood pressure, symptoms of allergies, asthma, arthritis and helps in chronic illnesses like cancer. It is a single exercise which reduces physical, mental and emotional stress simultaneously and brings an emotional balance. People can feel the benefits from the very first session.

### 2. Personal Life

Your mood states determine the quality of your life. Laughter Yoga has the power to change your mood within minutes by releasing endorphins. If your mood is good, you feel good within and will remain cheerful throughout the day. It also helps develop a sense of humor and a positive outlook towards life.

### 3. Business Life

Laughter Yoga is most economical, less time

consuming and scientifically proven technique to reduce stress in the workplace. It increases the net supply of oxygen which helps in optimal performance and one feels energized throughout the day. It creates a happy and motivated workforce which includes a strong team building element. It enhances self confidence, creativity, communication skills and attention span.

### 4. Social Life

Laughter is a powerful tool to connect with people easily and it provides a rich social network of people who care about one another. This results in a sense of emotional security which resists stress and helps to fight depression - the number one sickness today.

### 5. Laughing In The Face Of Challenges

In times of difficulty, it is not easy to remain calm. With Laughter Yoga one can learn to handle any situation effectively without losing their composure. It helps you maintain a positive mental attitude so that you can cope with any negative situation.

Join the growing movement and maximize living and loving your life!

Check out [laughteryoga.org](http://laughteryoga.org) to find a free club near you or start a laughter club with your friends, family or loved ones!





# 2<sup>nd</sup> GI Fair India 2023

## Live Craft Demonstrations and Food Stalls Attract Many

The 2nd edition of GI Fair India is offering a grand showcase of India's richest, most treasured and some of the rarest products. With products from across handicrafts, agricultural produce, spices, teas and condiments it is proving to be a haven for sourcing high-end and premium corporate gifting.

The GI Fair being held from 20th to 24th July 2023, at the India Expo Centre, Greater Noida Expressway, offers choices in decoratives and gifts include an entire spectrum of products, right from woodcraft, glassware, stone crafts to applique, hand painted artefacts and collectibles. Spices and condiments, teas and sun dried farm produce, are also available in gift packaging.

Some exhibitors of sweets, beverages, fruits and paan are offering tasting of their products to visitors.

Visitors are attracted to festive sarees and dress material with choices right from Banarasi brocade, Assam's rich Muga silk, vibrant Jamnagari Bandhani, Gujarat's Patan Patola, Andhra's Pochampally Ikat, Bengal's Baluchari and a variety of silks from various states, to Lucknow's Chikan craft, Madhya Pradesh's Bagh prints, Punjab's Phulkari and more.

The live demonstrations of GI tagged crafts like Kashmir Sozani embroidery, Bihar's Madhubani Painting, Andhra Pradesh's Srikalahasti

Kalamkari, West Bengal's Nakshi Kantha, Rajasthani Kathputlis, Punjab's Phulkari, Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal horn craft, are drawing attention too.

As the world celebrates '2023 - The Year of the Millet', GI Fair India offers this magic food in variations through the Shree Anna Thali. One can savour millet dishes, see them being made and also carry back the raw material to cook at home.

Seminar on 'Introduction to Export Business: Basics, Opportunities and Challenges' and 'Enhancing User Experience and Accessibility by Unlocking Packaging Convenience for Export Target Markets' were organised. Domain experts offered insights into Procedures and Documentation required to start export business; Online and Offline Marketing Strategies; How to develop Branding Strategies; Benefits of IEML's e-Nurture Program for artisans and entrepreneurs as well as insights into packaging with focus on branding, alternatives to bubble wrap, sustainability, new market identification.

Entry is free to GI Fair India 2023

Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts is a nodal agency for promotion of exports of handicrafts from the Country and create brand image of magic of the gifted hands of millions of artisans and crafts persons engaged in production of home, lifestyle, textiles, furniture and fashion jewellery.





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