

# India-Africa Relations

India and Africa share historical, civilizational and deep rooted relations based on trust, solidarity, and shared development priorities. These ties date back centuries through Indian Ocean trade, cultural exchanges, and enduring people-to-people contacts. The relationship was further strengthened during the 20th Century through our shared struggle against colonialism and apartheid.

2. In contemporary times, India–Africa relations have evolved into a multi-faceted partnership encompassing political engagement, economic cooperation, development partnership, capacity building, cultural linkages and people to people ties. India’s engagement with Africa is guided by the principles of mutual respect, equality, and a demand-driven development partnership aligned with African priorities, envisaged in the African Union’s Agenda 2063.

## Political Relations

3. India and African countries enjoy strong and dynamic political relations, marked by frequent high-level engagements and institutionalized dialogue mechanisms. Since its inception in 2008, the India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) has provided a structured framework for India-Africa cooperation. India maintains diplomatic Missions in 46 out of 54 African countries, covering all sub-regions of Africa. Similarly, 46 African countries have resident Missions in India.

4. High-level political exchanges have intensified significantly over the past decade, with more than 150 bilateral visits (incoming and outgoing). India has expanded its diplomatic footprint in Africa by opening 17 new Missions since 2018, The last IAFS-III, held in New Delhi in 2015, witnessed participation of several HoS/HoGs. The bilateral cooperation is pursued through a range of institutionalised mechanisms such as Joint Commission Meeting (JCM), Foreign Office Consultations (FOC), Joint Trade Commission (JTC), Consular Dialogue.

5. India’s approach to Africa is guided by the “Guiding principles for India’s Engagement with Africa,” articulated by Hon’ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi in July 2018 in Kampala. These principles emphasize partnership based on African priorities which include cooperation in areas such as development partnership, capacity building, defence and maritime, trade and investment, and strong people-to-people ties.

6. At the multilateral level, India actively supports Africa's enhanced representation in global governance. During its G20 Presidency, India played a key role in securing permanent membership of the African Union in the G20. India worked closely with fellow BRICS members, to include two African countries namely Egypt and Ethiopia in BRICS in the XV BRICS Summit held in Johannesburg in 2023. India has consistently advocated for Africa's representation in a reformed United Nations Security Council as per Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration.

## **Trade and Commerce**

7. India is currently Africa's fourth-largest trading partner and among its top five investors. For the FY 2024-25, trade between India and Africa amounted to USD 81.99 billion (with India's export amounting to USD 42.6 billion and India's import amounting to USD 39.2 billion).

8. India's exports to Africa include petroleum products, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, engineering goods, food grains, chemicals, and textiles. Imports from Africa primarily consist of crude oil, natural gas, coal, fertilizers, pulses, and precious stones. Major trading partners include Nigeria, South Africa, Angola, Egypt, Algeria, Kenya, Morocco, and Mozambique.

9. India's cumulative investment in Africa has reached approximately USD 80 billion between 1996 and 2025. Indian companies have established a strong presence across sectors such as energy, mining, telecommunications, manufacturing, agriculture, and services. For instance, Indian companies are involved in mining and oil & gas sectors, notably in Mozambique; fertilizers in Morocco, Senegal, and Tunisia; and new exploration activities in Egypt. Several Indian companies are involved in building and maintaining transmission lines as also telecom services. Indian infrastructure companies have built roads, bridges, power plants, public buildings, metro, and rail networks in several African countries.

10. The GOI's Duty-Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme extends duty-free access to 98.2% of India's tariff lines for Least Developed Countries, benefiting 33 African nations. Furthermore, the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area has enhanced prospects for intra-African trade and created new opportunities for Indian businesses to engage with a more integrated African market.

## **Development Partnership**

11. The African continent is the second largest recipient of India's overseas development assistance. India has extended more than 190 Lines of Credit (LoCs) of amount over USD 10 billion to 41 African countries, supporting projects in sectors such as power, water supply, agriculture, transport, rural electrification, and digital connectivity. So far, 220 projects worth of USD 4.5 billion have been successfully completed. Since 2015, India has provided grant assistance exceeding USD 700 million for several development projects. Establishment of 8 vocational training centres, seven (7) IT centres, and various other capacity building institutions have been set up in Africa.

12. India has supported agricultural development through initiatives in mechanization, irrigation, seed development, and fertilizer production, particularly in countries such as Senegal, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Ghana, and Morocco. Technology parks have been established in Rwanda, Mozambique, Ivory Coast, and Lesotho, further strengthening industrial and digital capacity.

## **Capacity Building and Human Resource**

13. Since 2015, India has offered more than 70,000 scholarships and skill development slots under various schemes, including ITEC (both civilian and defence), CV Raman Scholarships, ICCR Scholarships and e-VBAB. Under ITEC programme, in the last ten years, India has trained over 40,000 officials (despite 2 years of covid disruption). Additionally, 15,116 e-VBAB scholarships were offered to African students. Indian institutions and training centres are increasingly present across Africa, contributing to human resource development. Institutional initiatives include the establishment of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) campus in Zanzibar, Tanzania, and the National Forensic Sciences University campus in Uganda. India has also set up Centres for Excellence in Information Technology (CEIT) in several African countries, providing advanced IT training and digital skills development. ICCR Scholarships for African countries is another important facet of our relationship.

## **Health and Agriculture**

14. India supplies nearly 50% of Africa's generic medicines and has been a reliable partner during the COVID-19 pandemic, providing medical assistance worth over USD 5 million to 32 African countries and supplying more than 50

million India made vaccine doses. India is also expanding cooperation in pharmaceutical manufacturing in countries such as Nigeria, Tanzania, Senegal, South Africa. India's first overseas Jan Aushadhi Kendra, aimed at facilitating affordable and accessible healthcare, has been set up in Mauritius in Africa.

15. The agricultural partnership between India and Africa has evolved into a vital pillar of South-South cooperation, centered on enhancing food security through a multi-dimensional approach of financial support, infrastructure development, and technical exchange. India's engagement is largely driven by concessional loans and Lines of Credit, which have facilitated the establishment of critical facilities such as sugar mills in Ethiopia and Ghana, cassava plantations in Cameroon, and rice processing units across Central and West Africa. This relationship is further strengthened by the sharing of climate-resilient farming practices, which empower local farmers with sustainable R&D and modern mechanisation. Complemented by a growing presence of Indian companies in African farming, this synergy continues to transform the continent's agricultural landscape into a more self-reliant and technological advanced sector.

### **Defence and Maritime Cooperation**

16. India and African countries are strengthening cooperation in defence and security. India has deployed over 5,000 peacekeepers in United Nations missions across Africa, contributing to peace and stability on the continent. Defence cooperation includes training, capacity building, and defence exports to countries such as Seychelles, Mauritius, Nigeria and Mozambique. India conducts joint exercises such as the Africa-India Field Training Exercise (AFFINDEX) and organizes India-Africa Defence Ministers' Conclaves. Maritime cooperation is guided by India's SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) doctrine which has now evolved into Vision MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions). AIKEYME (Africa India Key Maritime Engagement) 2025, a six-day multilateral naval exercise was held from April 13-18, 2025, in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. Cooperation in Maritime includes anti-piracy operations, hydrographic surveys, port development, and support for the blue economy across coastal African countries.

### **Energy and Sustainability**

17. About 13% of the India's total energy requirement comes from Africa. Thirty-Nine (39) African countries have joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) so far.

18. Nine African countries are members of Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), and eleven African countries are members of the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA), further strengthening cooperation in climate resilience and clean energy. India and Africa are important partners in addressing climate change and promoting sustainable development. Nine African countries are members of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA). Our partnership in environmental conservation has extended to the restoration of lost ecosystems through the unique, innovative and successful experiment of translocation of cheetahs from several African countries to India.

### **Digital Cooperation**

19. Digital cooperation is an emerging pillar of engagement. Indian IT companies are actively engaged in providing services in fintech, e-governance, and cybersecurity across Africa. India has signed MoU on India Stack with 7 countries in Africa (Kenya, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Gambia, Ethiopia, Lesotho and Seychelles). Kenya has become the first country abroad to sign an Implementation Framework Agreement (IFA) with India to adopt the DigiLocker platform, enabling secure, paperless storage and real-time verification of documents. The Modular Open Source Identity Platform (MOSIP), developed by IIT Bangalore is currently partnering with 19 countries in Africa to support the implementation of the India based Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI).

### **People-to-People Ties**

20. The Indian diaspora in Africa, estimated at around 3.5 million plays a vital role in strengthening economic, cultural, and social linkages. They are contributing mainly in sectors such as Power, Agriculture, Energy, business ventures, Minerals, hospitality and healthcare. India has extended e-visa facilities to 33 African countries to promote tourism, trade, and cultural exchanges.

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