

Namaskar PSIR daily current affairs

19th December 2025

Topic: India Africa relations

Context: last India-Africa Forum summit 2015

PYQs linkage:

- Suggest measures so that India's partnership with Africa becomes a true symbol of South-South Cooperation, delivering clear cut economic and political dividends to both sides of the equation. 20 (2017)
- “India’s capacity building programmes under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) has earned goodwill for it in Africa.” Discuss. 15(2018)
- How do the guiding principles of India-Africa relations seek to enhance harmony and mutual- cooperation between India and Africa? 20 (2020)
- Identify the drivers of India’s new interest in Africa. 15 (2021)
- Discuss the major drivers of India’s interests in Africa. 15 (2023)

Theory application:

Neo liberalism:

- “By 2050, one of four people on earth will be in Africa. India will be the world’s third largest economy. Between these two lies a potential growth corridor of commerce, demography, technology and aspiration.”

soft power diplomacy:

- Students studied through the ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations)
- African students, athletes and entrepreneurs are carving their space in India.

sociological liberalism:

- “Many (students who studied in India) have returned to shape policy, run ministries or lead innovation back home. They are living bridges that carry trust across borders.”

social constructivism:

- “India and Africa are not just exchanging goods. They are beginning to exchange confidence, capacity, ideas, and connecting futures.”

Concepts and keywords:

- Diplomatic imagination, Africa’s global voice, growth corridor, a security partnership rooted in shared oceanic geography,

Important facts:

- India-Africa trade surpassed \$100 billion
- India is among Africa's top five investors, with cumulative investments of \$75 billion.
- First Africa-India key Maritime Engagement (AIKEYME)
- India EXIM bank extended a \$40 million commercial credit line to the ECOWAS Bank of Investment and Development.
- Nearly 40,000 Africans have studied in India in the last decade.

important quotes or statements:

- “Today, India and Africa are not just exchanging goods. They are beginning to exchange confidence, capacity, ideas and connecting futures.” Syed Akbaruddin. Former Indian Permanent Representative to UN.

Brief analysis and key points from the news or editorial:

Drivers of India's interests in Africa:

Investments:

- India is among Africa's top five investors

Trade

- Surpassed \$100 billion

Security partnership

- India and 9 African navies Africa-India key Maritime Engagement (AIKEYME) a security partnership

Development

- \$40 million line of credit to the ECOWAS Bank of Investment and Development – a signal on interest in African- led development.
- Pan-African e-Network
- **Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC)**

Education

- Nearly 40,000 Africans have studied in India in the last decade
- IIT campus in Zanzibar

Support in global institutions:

- India played key role in ensuring full membership for the African Union in the G-20.
- Continues to push for African representation in global institutions

Potential: (a potential growth corridor of commerce demography, technology and aspiration)

- The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is laying the groundwork for a single continental market, potential role of India's UPI and digital stack
- African innovation ecosystems are growing

Challenges:

- India's trade with Africa still lags behind China.
- Indian firms slowed by small balance sheets and bureaucratic lag
- Global competition in African innovation systems.
- India Africa Forum Summit has not met since 2015

Way forward:

- India must move up the value chain by co-investing in future-facing sectors—green hydrogen, electric mobility and digital infrastructure.
- Focus on building together, co-developing platforms for health, education and payments that serve the Global South.
- Every line of credit must lead to something visible and valuable.
- Building an India-Africa digital corridor based on UPI and India stack along with Africa's digital strengths.