



## INDIA - AFRICA RELATIONS - GS II MAINS

Q. Why does India put Africa at the heart of its Global South vision? Discuss the significance of India's engagement with Africa. (15 marks, 250 words)

**News:** *Why India must put Africa at the heart of its Global South vision*

### What's in the news?

- During her visit to Mauritius, President Droupadi Murmu emphasised the importance of India's relations with African countries, highlighting Mauritius as a key partner in the Indian Ocean Region.

### Key takeaways:

- This visit underscores India's growing engagement with Africa, marked by collaborative efforts in community development and the inauguration of essential projects.
- As India aims to strengthen its position within the Global South, it is crucial to understand the multifaceted relationship between India and Africa, examining the opportunities it presents and the imperatives for deeper engagement.

### Significance of India's Engagement with Africa:

#### 1. Investments and Trade:

- India's investments in Africa have witnessed significant growth, reaching \$98 billion in 2023.
- This substantial investment reflects India's confidence in Africa's economic potential and its commitment to fostering long-term partnerships.
- Similarly, bilateral trade between India and Africa has surged, totalling \$100 billion.
- This trade encompasses a wide range of sectors, including agriculture, manufacturing, technology and services, contributing to economic growth and diversification in both regions.

#### 2. Developmental Projects:

- These projects cover a diverse array of areas, such as infrastructure development, healthcare, education, agriculture and renewable energy.
- By investing in such projects, India not only promotes economic development in Africa but also strengthens diplomatic ties and goodwill between the two regions.

#### 3. Export of Scalable Solutions:

- India's expertise in developing and implementing cost-effective, scalable solutions has been instrumental in addressing various challenges faced by African nations.
- Indian social enterprises, NGOs and government agencies have exported innovative solutions ranging from eco-friendly housing to solar energy technology.



- These initiatives not only contribute to poverty alleviation and sustainable development but also enhance India's reputation as a reliable partner committed to sharing knowledge and resources for mutual benefit.

#### **4. Mutual Prosperity and Development:**

- By leveraging each other's strengths and resources, both regions stand to benefit economically and socially.
- India's investments create employment opportunities, stimulate economic growth and facilitate technology transfer in Africa, while African markets provide India with access to natural resources, new markets and strategic partnerships.
- This symbiotic relationship fosters economic resilience, innovation and inclusive growth in both India and Africa.

### **Strategic Importance of India's Advocacy for Africa's Representation in Global Forums:**

#### **1. Amplify Africa's Representation and Voice:**

- India's advocacy for Africa's representation in global governance structures underscores its commitment to amplifying the voices of developing nations.
- With Africa housing a significant portion of the world's population and contributing a substantial share of global GDP, ensuring its representation is essential for fostering a more inclusive and equitable international order.
- India's support for initiatives like the African Union's representation in the G20 demonstrates its recognition of Africa's importance in shaping global agendas and policies.

#### **2. Push for Reform and Adaptation:**

- As the international landscape undergoes rapid transformation, there is a growing recognition of the need to adapt governance mechanisms to address emerging challenges and promote sustainable development.
- India's advocacy for Africa's inclusion in global forums reflects its commitment to reforming institutions like the United Nations, International Monetary Fund- and World Bank to better represent the interests of developing nations.

#### **3. Build Strategic Partnerships:**

- India's advocacy for Africa's representation in global governance is not merely altruistic but also strategic.
- Recognising Africa's growing influence in international affairs, India seeks to cultivate strategic partnerships with African nations to advance its own interests on the global stage.
- By supporting Africa's participation in decision-making processes, India enhances its diplomatic leverage and strengthens its position as a leading voice within the Global South.
- This strategic alignment of interests offers mutual cooperation and solidarity between India and Africa, amplifying their collective influence in shaping global agendas.



#### 4. Development Agenda:

- India's advocacy for Africa's representation in global governance is closely aligned with its broader development agenda, which prioritises poverty alleviation, sustainable development and inclusive growth.
- By advocating for Africa's interests in global forums, India seeks to address systemic inequalities and promote policies that benefit the most vulnerable populations.
- This advocacy encompasses a wide range of issues, including trade, finance, climate change, peace and security, reflecting India's commitment to fostering a more just and equitable world order.

India's multifaceted relationship with Africa offers significant opportunities for economic, political, and social cooperation. As India seeks to assert its leadership within the Global South, prioritising engagement with African nations is essential. As the world undergoes rapid changes, the synergy between India and Africa holds the promise of a mutually beneficial and prosperous future.

