

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

1100 – 1700 hrs
(Jehangir Hall)

REGISTRATION

1800 – 1900 hrs
(Durbar hall)

: INAUGURAL SESSION
India & Africa Partnership Driving Regional and Global Growth

The India-Africa relations have been historically defined by a common global outlook, shared aspirations for growth, and partnerships in trade & investment. In the current context, as we enter a new decade and the one that will culminate in Sustainable Development Goals 2030, the relations are poised for a quantum leap. India is gearing up to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2025, the Indian government and industry reaffirm its commitment to partner with countries in Africa. And Africa being on a growth trajectory is equally welcoming Indian investors, companies, and all other stakeholders with a convergence of interest in mutual development and growth.

How can India-Africa partnership boost the global economy? Will India's outbound investments flow to the region? What are the sectors that will drive partnerships and investments? How can India help Africa build a large workforce for the region's manufacturing industries? How do we reach the bilateral trade milestone of US\$100 billion?

1930 hrs
(Raja/Rani Bagh)

Dinner & Networking

2100 hrs

Close of Day One

0930-1100 hrs
(Durbar Hall)

: Round Table on “Architecting Innovative Financing of Africa’s Growth”

Africa is home to some of the world's fastest-growing economies, offering promising investment opportunities in high-growth sectors like infrastructure development, agriculture, manufacturing, and services. However, the financing of investments in Africa mandates design thinking, as commercial and concessional Lines of Credit (LoC) offered through the Government of India channels have ceased to be the most preferred financing routes. Instead, there is a strong felt-need for VC/PE participation in project investments, Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects, participation of global institutional investment funds, buyer's credit (as provided by EXIM Bank of India), private sector financing, development of local capital & long-term bond markets, use of pension funds, green financing, climate change mitigation financing options, among others.

Are the investment projects in Africa adequately bankable? Are the projects scalable to attract private investments? How local regulatory frameworks can augment investment financing? Are the host country investment norms facilitative for PPP projects?

1115-1245 hrs : **Round Table on “Harnessing Africa’s Agriculture & Food Sectors for Regional and Global Needs”**
(Durbar Hall)

Africa is host to 60% of the world's uncultivated arable land and hence has a tremendous potential for meeting its internal needs and emerging as a global food basket. India could extend key support to African countries in areas like crop rotation, hybrid breeding, crop clustering, genetic modification, fortification, crop tracking and advanced irrigation techniques. Also, the ushering in of “digital agriculture” and “e-Agri marketing” have opened new avenues for startups in agriculture, paving the way for new bilateral partnerships.

How can India establish itself as go-to partner for realisation of Africa’s Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063? What steps will facilitate greater participation of Indian industry in Africa’s agriculture and food processing sectors? Is there scope for more cross-border partnerships in agriculture research? Are Indian companies geared to participate in Africa’s farm sector infrastructure development including logistics & cold chains?

1115-1245 hrs : **Round Table on “Enhancing the Success Factors for Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement AfCFTA”**
(Mumtaz Hall)

As the impending Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) promises to become the flagship of ‘Pan-Africanism’ -- bringing together 54 African Union (AU) members, uniting 1.3 billion, and creating a \$3.4 trillion economic bloc – India could play a defining role in supporting Africa’s economic integration with deeper engagements in the region’s industrial and infrastructure development projects, public institution building, development of human resources for future industries, etc. As a time-tested partner of Africa, India could also play an instrumental role in creating the avenues for deeper intra-regional business, trade and investment flows. Pertinent to note that AfCFTA is a major project of the AU’s long-term development plan Agenda 2063.

How best can Indian industry help an economically integrated Africa form its regional value chains (RVCs) and integrate those with global value chains (GVCs)? Will AfCFTA boost India-Africa bilateral trade and investment flows? How best can India support AfCFTA members in areas like technology transfer, innovation and continent wide infrastructure development?

1115-1245 hrs : **Regional Session on “Broadbasing India’s Partnership with Eastern & Southern Africa”**
(Jehangir Hall)

Today, as the Eastern and Southern African countries pursue accelerated economic growth and development, most of the regional economies that were predominantly agrarian are looking toward India for investments and technology solutions to modernise the domestic agriculture sectors, as also build their manufacturing competitiveness. In recent times, the regional economies have sought India’s expertise and investments in agro-processing, infrastructure projects, tourism development, ICT, pharmaceutical manufacturing, mining, and skills development for various industries.

Are the governing investment norms in Eastern & Southern Africa favourable to Indian companies? Is there greater Ease of Doing Business in the region today? What steps will help boost India’s bilateral trade with eastern & southern African economies?

1245-1400 hrs: **Networking Lunch**
(Raja/Rani Bagh)

1400-1530 hrs: **Round Table on “Bridging Africa’s Infrastructure Deficit”**
(Durbar Hall)

Africa’s economic growth has been hindered by the infrastructure deficit in the region as seen in the current state of road & railroad networks, port and airport facilities, water supply & sanitation system, power generation, transmission & distribution, housing, among others. Paved road density, for instance, is the lowest in Africa, and that alone increases the cost of exports from Africa 30%-40%. Similarly, only 39% of people in Africa have access to sanitation, 69% have access to clean drinking water and only 46% have access to electricity. To bridge the infrastructure deficit, Africa needs annual investments of the order of \$170 billion. The current shortfall is around \$100 billion per annum.

How big a role the Indian industry can play in bridging Africa’s core sector deficit? Is The PPP model with equity participation from government workable in this sector? Are there innovating investment financing options available in Africa’s infrastructure sector? What steps will ensure the feasibility of investments and reliable Rol from the projects? Are the investment opportunities aligned with Light Up and Power Africa, Feed Africa, Industrialise Africa, Integrate Africa and Improve the Quality of Life for the People of Africa initiatives?

1400-1515 hrs: **Country Session**
(Mumtaz Hall)

1545-1715 hrs: **Round Table on “Unlocking Africa’s Services Sector Potential”**
(Durbar Hall)

The services sector offers several African economies the opportunity to diversify production away from traditional sectors and engage in higher value added activities. It has been cited that areas like transport, financial, and information and communication services would be key contributors to trade and improve the ease of doing business in the region. Services trade can also augment intra-regional trade in Africa, which will be a boost for intra-regional engagements under AfCFTA too. India has a robust services sector, and over the years has become a global hub of IT services, design R&D, etc.

Today, as Africa looks to reap the demographic dividend, is services sector growth the answer to the region’s job creation & employment needs? Which are the areas where Indian industry can engage more deeply in Africa’s services sector?

1545-1715 hrs: **Session on “Building Trilateral Partnerships for Africa’s Sustained Development”**
(Mumtaz Hall)

Even as India continues to play an instrumental role in Africa’s development initiatives through investments, favourable terms of trade, transfer of appropriate technologies, knowledge sharing, capacity building, and skills development, the country has also joined hands with third countries like Japan, Germany, the UAE among others, to participate in major infrastructure development projects in Africa. The trilateral partnerships have significantly broadened the scope and size of investments in Africa, to spur farm sector modernisation, manufacturing growth, entrepreneurship development, among others. Unlike the past, the trilateral partnerships are largely B2B and not B2G.

What are the risk mitigation steps being taken to encourage more private investments in Africa? Are the trilateral partnerships contributing to Africa’s export growth, creation of RVCs and integration with GVCs? Will the trilateral partnerships yield greater results as Africa embraces AfCFTA?

1545-1715 hrs: **Session on “India-Africa Forum Summit IV (IAFS IV) -
(Jehangir Hall) Addressing Critical Needs of African Countries”**

India Africa Forum Summit III (IAFS-III) played a defining role in deepening India-Africa bilateral cooperation, with India offering US\$10 billion for development projects in Africa over a 5-year period, 50,000 slots for training opportunities, scholarships and capacity building for beneficiaries from Africa, and initiatives to establish capacity building institutions in different African countries. As both regions gear for the IAFS-IV to be held later this year, how is the partnership being strengthened at the continental, regional and bilateral levels and through multilateral fora? India is ranked as the third largest export destination in Africa.

Are the LDCs in Africa fully leveraging the DFTP scheme offered by India? How effectively is India helping Africa bridge its digital divide? How best can IAFS galvanise India’s cooperation with Africa in areas like energy, including solar energy, blue economy, culture, health and education, agriculture, women empowerment, defence and security, climate change mitigation, disease control & prevention, counter-terrorism? How IAFS can be aligned with Agenda 2063, and AfCFTA initiatives?

1900 hrs onwards: **Networking Dinner**
*(Durbar Hall &
Raja/Rani Bagh)*

0930-1045 hrs: **Country Session**
(Mumtaz Hall)

0930-1100 hrs: **Regional Session on “Diversifying India’s Economic Engagements with
(Jehangir Hall) Western & Central Africa”**

India’s total bilateral trade with Western and Central African economies has increased by over 15 times since 2003. Yet, there is still ample scope for increasing the bilateral trade flows several fold. Energy and other commodities form the bulk of exports from Western & Central Africa to India, but there is a strong felt-need for increasing the volume of value-added exports to India. Indian companies are seeing more attractive investment avenues in the Western and Central African countries, in sectors like agriculture, manufacturing and infrastructure. However, limited transport connectivity between the two regions has curbed the growth of cross-border partnerships.

In what ways can Indian companies help Western & Central African economies step up their manufacturing growth? Which are the most attractive investment sectors in the two regions? Is there scope for diversifying the bilateral trade basket?

1100-1230 hrs : **Round Table on “Reinforcing Long-term Energy Security for Accelerated and Sustainable Development”**
(Mumtaz Hall)

Renewables are central to the long-term energy security of countries. In recent years, India and Africa have taken strident steps to develop and promote the use of clean energy. Even oil-rich countries like Nigeria have stepped up the focus on renewables, in particular solar energy and hydel resources. Green energy is required on a large scale in India and Africa for meeting the electricity needs of rural areas, private and public transportation, and industrial needs. While Indian companies are showing a greater interest in investing in Africa’s renewables sector, the host African countries may be called upon to create investor-friendly norms in the power and energy sectors by offering single-window clearances within a defined timeline, and transparent taxation laws.

Is Africa significantly engaged in the International Solar Alliance (ISA) that was promoted in a big way by India? Is there scope for cross-border partnerships in the development of wind, geo-thermal, biomass and tidal energy projects? How data sciences can be leveraged for renewables development? Are there ways to address the affordability of green energy equipment?

1245 - 1345 hrs **VALEDICTORY SESSION**
(Durbar Hall) **Reimagining India-Africa Partnerships in a Changing World**

As the global economy enters a phase of protracted trade protectionism, India and Africa are called upon to redraw their external trade strategies by reducing the dependence on markets in the developed world. Instead, the two regions would do well to direct focused attention on accelerating cross-flow of investments that lead to value added bilateral trade flows. Due initiatives may be taken to promote RVCs and their integration with GVCs. Also, India and Africa could redouble the efforts to promote indigenous clean tech development. Collaborative initiatives to build and strengthen both regions as global manufacturing and services hubs, while also ushering in Industry 4.0 will go a long way toward enhancing the global competitiveness of India-Africa businesses.

Which are the new frontiers of India-Africa partnerships? Can India and Africa businesses collaborate to tap global markets? Will the private sector take the lead in broadbasing India-Africa partnerships? Are there ways to boost bilateral P2P engagements? How India and Africa can make the world a safer place for all?

1345-1430 hrs **Networking Lunch**
(Raja / Rani Bagh)

1400 - 1600 hrs **B2B Meeting Continues**