**Background**

- Indo-African ties can be traced back to the ancient world, particularly in terms of trade between eastern African kingdoms such as Aksum (modern-day Eritrea and parts of Ethiopia) and Egypt and the ports of western and southern India.
- Political relations between African countries and India strengthened during the colonial period and during independence struggles.
- Mahatma Gandhi’s stint in South Africa continues to be an enduring tie between the continent and India.
- During the Cold War, India’s first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, founded the Non-Aligned Movement, borne of a collective pledge of neutrality, alongside African leaders Gamal Abdul Nasser (Egypt) and Kwame Nkrumah (Ghana), among others.
- Modern day economic ties have accelerated significantly since India’s economic liberalization. India is today Africa’s 4th largest trade partner after China, United States of America, and the European Union.
- India-Africa trade was estimated at **$56.5 billion** in 2015–16.
- 5-fold increase in trade between India and Africa between 2005–06 and 2015–16.
- **$200 billion** informal target for bilateral trade set during annual India Economic Summit hosted by the World Economic Forum in 2014.
- India is the **5th largest** investor on the continent with investments amounting to $54 billion between 1996 and 2016; Mauritius, Mozambique and Sudan are the top three destinations.

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**Indo-African Development Cooperation**

- Indo-African development cooperation is marked by capacity building, technical and economic initiatives and situated within the South South Cooperation framework of mutually beneficial partnerships and non-conditionality.
- Development cooperation takes the form of grant-in-aid programmes, concessional loans/lines of credit (LoCs), and capacity building and training under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme and Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme (SCAAP), familiarization visits etc.
- **50,000** scholarships being offered to African students over a five-year period starting 2015.
- **39%** increase in grant allocation to African countries (excluding Mauritius and Seychelles) between 2012–13 and 2017–18, peaked in 2014–15.
- Key sectors financed by Indian grants include education, information and communication technology, industrial development and agriculture.
- India initiated the ‘Dialogues on Africa’ forum to explore joint cooperation activities with Japan, United States, France and Germany.
- Various forums and platforms for engagement established or participated in over the last decade including the India Africa Forum Summits, ‘Team 9’ initiative, African Capacity Building Foundation etc.
**INDO-AFRICAN INITIATIVE — PAN-AFRICAN E-NETWORK**

An Indian Government initiative in Africa, the Pan-African e-Network project was launched in February 2009 with a budgeted cost of US$125 million. First proposed by then Indian President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam in Johannesburg in 2004, the e-network project seeks to connect the 55 African Union countries to each other and India through a satellite and undersea cable network to further tele-education, tele-medicine, e-commerce and e-governance services.

The project has partnered with a number of institutions, including seven Indian and five African universities, 12 Indian and five African super-speciality hospitals, and 53 African tele-medicine and tele-education centres. Often used as an example of South South Cooperation, the e-Network aimed to benefit 10,000 students over five years and won the Hermes Prize for Innovation in 2010.

**INDIA-AFRICA FORUM SUMMITS – OVERVIEW**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>SUMMIT VENUE</th>
<th>KEY OUTCOMES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| April 2008 | New Delhi, India | • US$ 500 million commitment in grants by India over five years.  
• LoCs extended to US$5.4 billion for five years  
• Introduction of Duty-Free Tariff Preference Scheme for Least Developed Countries  
• US$300 million concessional credit for the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) programme  
• No. of annual ITEC slots offered to Africa increased to 1,600 from 1,100  
• No. of long-term scholarships offered for graduate and post-graduate studies increased to 500 from 250 |
| May 2011  | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia | • Grants worth US$700 million and LoCs worth US$5 billion committed by India over the following three years  
• 22,000 scholarships for African countries over three-year period  
• Commitment to establishing and refurbishing 80 institutions with the African Union in sectors including food processing, information technology, vocational training, agriculture, rural development, English language centers etc. |
| October 2015 | New Delhi, India | • Commitment to provide US$600 million in grants and US$10 billion in LoCs for the period between 2015 and 2020  
• The grants included a US$100 million India-Africa Development Fund for infrastructure and US$10 million India-Africa Health Fund  
• 50,000 scholarships for African students to undertake graduate and post-graduate study in India  
• Commitment to continue support for Pan-Africa e-Network project |

Source: Annual Reports, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India

**TOP LOC RECIPIENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ETHIOPIA</td>
<td>10.78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUDAN</td>
<td>8.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOZAMBIQUE</td>
<td>6.86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TANZANIA</td>
<td>6.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAURITIUS</td>
<td>6.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D.R.CONGO</td>
<td>5.31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RWANDA</td>
<td>3.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REST OF AFRICA</td>
<td>52.74%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL LOCs: US$9,319.15**

Source: EXIM Bank of India

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