



ROUNDTABLE

INDIA-AFRICA FORUM SUMMIT IV

Geopolitical and Economic Expectations and Opportunities

04 May 2026 | CRF Boardroom

BACKGROUND NOTE

The fourth India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS IV) comes at a critical juncture marked by shifting geopolitical alignments and intensifying economic engagement in Africa. The continent is projected to host over 2.5 billion people by 2050 and is home to some of the world's fastest-growing economies. India-Africa trade has grown significantly over the past two decades, reaching approximately USD 100 billion in recent years, while India has extended over USD 12 billion in concessional Lines of Credit across more than 40 African countries.

In this evolving landscape, Africa has become central to global strategic competition, with major powers expanding their economic and political footprints. Against this backdrop, India's development partnership model, focused on capacity building, technology transfer, and demand-driven cooperation, faces both opportunities and heightened expectations.

This roundtable will examine the geopolitical and economic expectations surrounding IAFS IV, focusing on how India can strengthen its engagement amid competing external actors. Key discussions will include enhancing trade and investment, leveraging the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), deepening digital and infrastructure partnerships, and supporting sustainable development priorities.

The dialogue aims to generate actionable insights on how IAFS IV can shape a forward-looking, resilient, and mutually beneficial India-Africa partnership in a rapidly transforming global order.

SPEAKERS

1. Amb. Rajiv Bhatia, Distinguished Fellow, Foreign Studies Programme, Gateway House
2. Amb. Gurjit Singh, former ambassador to Ethiopia
3. Dr Veda Vaidyanathan, Fellow, CSEP
4. Dr Sushmita Rajwar, Associate Professor, Centre for African Studies, JNU
5. Prof. Gajendra Singh, Professor, Department of African Studies, University of Delhi
6. Ms. Ruchita Beri, Senior Fellow, VIF
7. Ms. Huma Siddiqui, Senior Correspondent, The Financial Express
8. Mr Kallol Bhattacharjee, Senior Assistant Editor, Foreign Affairs, The Hindu
9. CUTS International
10. PHD Chamber

ABOUT CRF

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