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EVENT REPORT

INDIA–AFRICA PARTNERSHIP IN A CHANGING GLOBAL ORDER

23 FEBRUARY 2026



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Chintan Research Foundation is an independent think tank dedicated to shaping policy through rigorous research and thought leadership. With a strong focus on fostering collaboration between policymakers and industry, CRF integrates practical insights into its research and advocacy efforts. It conducts comprehensive research to support informed decision-making and engages with stakeholders through discussions, events, and publications. CRF's research is focused on three core domains – Climate Change & Energy Transition, Economy & Trade, and Geopolitics & Strategic Studies. For more details, refer to the website: www.crfindia.org

ABOUT USANAS FOUNDATION

The Usanas Foundation is a geopolitics and security affairs organisation based in India, registered as a non-profit and non-government entity under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013. The organisation functions as an apolitical and non-partisan platform dedicated to producing unbiased and cross-disciplinary analysis of global developments. Guided by a pragmatic and realistic approach, the Foundation emphasises nuanced understanding of the diverse political, economic, and strategic factors shaping international affairs and decision-making. Its work seeks to support governments, scholars, journalists, and businesses in developing a multidimensional perspective on global issues. Through security dialogues, research publications, forecasts, webinars, and conferences, the Usanas Foundation facilitates the exchange of ideas and policy-relevant insights among key stakeholders, promoting what it terms the “Usanas framework” for informed and practical decision-making in international relations.

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23 FEBRUARY 2026 | The Grand, New Delhi



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FOREWORD



The partnership between India and Africa is no longer defined solely by the historical solidarity of the Bandung era; it is increasingly shaped by shared strategic interests, economic complementarities, and the collective aspirations of the Global South. In a rapidly transforming global order marked by supply-chain realignments, geopolitical contestations, climate challenges, and technological disruptions, the India–Africa relationship has acquired renewed importance. India and Africa together represent nearly one-third of humanity, some of the world’s youngest populations, and are emerging centres of growth and innovation. The time is therefore opportune to assess how this partnership can evolve from promise to performance.

In this context, the Chintan Research Foundation, in collaboration with the Usanas Foundation, had organised a day-long international conference titled “India–Africa Partnership in a Changing Global Order.” The conference sought to examine the economic, geopolitical, and developmental dimensions of the relationship through focused discussions on trade and connectivity, multipolarity and Global South solidarity, climate action, critical minerals, and sustainable development.

The speakers, comprising senior diplomats, policymakers, domain experts, and scholars, reflected depth and diversity of perspectives. The structured thematic sessions were designed not merely for academic reflection but to generate actionable policy insights. The conference was opened by Shri Sudhakar Dalela, Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs, whose keynote address set the tone for substantive deliberations.

I am delighted to say that the event witnessed strong participation from ambassadors, members of the diplomatic corps, officials from various ministries, academicians, think tanks, industry representatives, and members of the strategic community. The richness of the discussions reaffirmed the centrality of Africa in India’s external engagement and underscored the need for calibrated, forward-looking cooperation. To translate dialogue into direction, this report consolidates key insights and policy recommendations emerging from the deliberations.

We hope that the ideas articulated herein will contribute meaningfully to strengthening a resilient, equitable, and future-oriented India–Africa partnership in a changing global order.

Warm regards,

Mr. Shishir Priyadarshi

President, Chintan Research Foundation

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WELCOME REMARKS



MR. SHISHIR PRIYADARSHI
President
Chintan Research
Foundation

Welcoming the panellists and the audience, Mr Shishir Priyadarshi noted that India-Africa relations are firmly anchored in history, which gives the partnership legitimacy. However, he stressed that history alone is insufficient in today's rapidly changing global environment. Relevance must be earned through stronger and more purposeful collaboration. He highlighted the ongoing rupture in the global order, marked by the selective application of rules and the growing preference of some countries for unilateralism over multilateralism. In such a context, weaker and developing countries, particularly in the Global South, bear the greatest costs.

He underlined the importance of strengthening multilateral institutions, especially the WTO. While acknowledging its imperfections, he cautioned that weakening the WTO would undermine transparency and predictability in global trade, which is essential to both Indian and African economies. Greater coordination between India and Africa is, therefore, necessary to safeguard their trade interests and reinforce the multilateral trading system.

Looking ahead, Mr Priyadarshi emphasised deeper collaboration beyond rhetoric. Development finance and the mobilisation of private capital are critical to sustaining growth. Building resilient ecosystems of cooperation, rather than temporary arrangements, should be prioritised. He asserted that India and Africa should not be seen as peripheral actors but as central pillars of a strengthened Global South. The question is not whether they matter, but how they can collectively defend their interests and shape the global agenda.



DR ABHINAV PANDYA
 Founder, Director, and CEO
 Usanas Foundation

Mr Abhinav Pandya situated the India-Africa partnership within a broader civilisational and historical continuum. He traced the foundations of solidarity to shared anti-colonial struggles and Afro-Asian cooperation in the mid-twentieth century, invoking leaders such as Jawaharlal Nehru and the normative spirit of the Bandung Conference. These shared historical experiences, he argued, were not merely symbolic but laid the intellectual and moral groundwork for pursuing a more equitable and representative global order.

In contemporary terms, he highlighted the steady expansion of economic ties, noting that India today ranks among Africa’s largest trading partners and an important source of investment across sectors such as pharmaceuticals, infrastructure, and capacity-building. Emerging domains, particularly digital public infrastructure, including UPI-based payment systems and digital identity frameworks, offer promising and scalable avenues for cooperation. However, he cautioned that aspirations for a more just multilateral system must be supported by strong and resilient economic institutions capable of delivering tangible developmental outcomes.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS



SHRI SUDHAKAR DALELA
Secretary (Economic Relations)
Ministry of External Affairs

The keynote address situated the India-Africa partnership within the context of turbulent global conditions marked by supply chain disruptions, climate imperatives, and the pressing financing needs of energy transition. In this evolving landscape, India-Africa cooperation assumes renewed importance, particularly in strengthening connectivity and coordination among key poles of the Global South.

The speaker invoked the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam as the ethical foundation of solidarity, underscoring that the partnership is guided by a “Partnership of Prosperity.” This framework emphasises mutual capacity building and support for Africa’s development priorities. Institutional mechanisms such as ITEC and ICSSR fellowships were highlighted as important instruments for skills development, knowledge exchange, and long-term engagement.

India’s diplomatic footprint across Africa continues to expand, reflecting growing strategic and developmental convergence. Together, India and Africa represent dynamic societies with significant demographic dividends. Both sides share strong commitments to sustainability goals and inclusive growth, and early implementation of joint initiatives has demonstrated tangible progress.

Economically, India remains among Africa’s leading trading partners and also receives substantial investments from African businesses and institutions, indicating a deepening two-way engagement. The speaker emphasised the need to find context-specific solutions to shared developmental challenges. India’s experience in healthcare, particularly vaccine supply, along with digital public infrastructure, fintech innovations, and e-governance platforms, was identified as representing new frontiers of cooperation and valuable lessons for inclusive development.

The energy transition has emerged as a critical domain in which India and Africa are indispensable partners. A focus on value addition within local economies, especially in emerging and strategic sectors, will be a priority for both sides. Shared challenges have also strengthened collaboration in multilateral forums. A significant milestone was achieved during India’s G20 presidency in 2023, when the African Union became a permanent member of the G20, enhancing Africa’s voice in global governance.



Reaffirming commitment to a rules-based multilateral order, the speaker emphasised India’s willingness to work closely with African partners. Strong people-to-people ties continue to anchor the relationship. The ten guiding principles articulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Uganda were described as the enduring compass of India-Africa relations. The forthcoming India-Africa Forum Summit and the deliberations of the conference were seen as important platforms to further consolidate and strengthen cooperation.

PANELISTS

MODERATOR



SHRI. SHISHIR PRIYADARSHI
President,
Chintan Research Foundation

SPEAKERS



H.E. MR ANIL SOOKLAL
Ambassador of South Africa to India



AMB VIRENDRA GUPTA
Former Ambassador of India to
South Africa and Tanzania



DR MANISH KARMWAR
Asst. Prof. University of Delhi (DU)



AMB ANIL WADHWA
Former Ambassador of India to Italy &
San Marino, Thailand, Oman and Poland
& Lithuania

SESSION I: INDIA-AFRICA: DEEPENING PARTNERSHIP IN TRADE, TECHNOLOGY, AND TRANSNATIONAL CONNECTIVITY

Mr Priyadarshi opened the dialogue by highlighting the strong system of implementation and reviews, which is crucial to strengthen India-Africa ties. He also mentioned that India-Africa cannot be seen as a peripheral democracy; rather, it should be seen as a strengthened pillar.

H.E. Mr Anil Sooklal, in his opening remarks, focused on the need to strengthen relations between India and Africa by adopting a more structured and strategic approach toward engagement. He observed that only a few countries had developed structured trade frameworks with Africa and noted that while Japan had previously demonstrated strong momentum in its engagement, it had gradually lost its strategic focus, and he cautioned that India was at risk of falling into a similar pattern. He therefore questioned whether India possessed a comprehensive blueprint to deepen its partnership with Africa and suggested that India could draw lessons from China, which had established a clear and systematic framework to guide its engagement with the continent. He further raised concerns regarding India's preparedness for the upcoming India–Africa Forum Summit, emphasising the need to develop clear building blocks and a focused strategy rather than pursuing vague or fragmented efforts to enhance bilateral relations.

Drawing on his extensive experience working across the African continent, he advised that India should establish a stronger and more visible presence in Africa. He emphasised that this could be achieved by actively engaging the Indian diaspora residing and working in African countries, many of whom owned significant business enterprises and possessed deep economic networks. He argued that collaboration with the diaspora could significantly enhance trade and employment opportunities, thereby strengthening economic ties between India and Africa. In this context, he stressed that trade and economic cooperation could not occur in isolation but required broader institutional engagement, sustained investment, and long-term partnership mechanisms.

He further asserted that if India sought to generate an impact comparable to its major global trade engagements, it must intensify its targeted efforts toward Africa through a systematic and well-defined approach. He highlighted that India already possessed strong historical and political relations with the African continent, particularly within the Global South framework, and noted that India maintained a substantial diplomatic presence in Africa through numerous embassies. According to him, this existing foundation provided India with a strategic advantage that could be leveraged to expand economic and developmental cooperation.

He also emphasised that India's trade penetration in Africa required effective engagement with the African Continental Free Trade Area and its institutional framework. He suggested that India should focus on understanding the building blocks and operational template of this trade arrangement while simultaneously strengthening cooperation with regional economic communities across the continent. Such engagement, he argued, would enable India to foster deeper trade relations and facilitate more integrated economic cooperation with African economies.



Overall, he maintained that India's relationship with the Global South, particularly Africa, was inherently strong but required a clearly articulated blueprint to guide future engagement. He emphasised that a structured framework for cooperation was essential to ensure mutually beneficial outcomes and sustainable partnership. In his view, a well-designed strategy, institutional coordination, and systematic engagement would enable India and Africa to achieve a genuinely win-win relationship based on shared growth, economic cooperation, and long-term development objectives.

Amb. Virendra Gupta joined the discussion by expressing his deep appreciation for Africa and emphasised the need to move beyond rhetorical engagements toward more pragmatic and result-oriented cooperation. He concurred with the views of H.E. Mr. Sooklal and highlighted the unique nature of India–Africa relations, noting that the relationship was not confined to contemporary diplomatic exchanges but extended over centuries, with strong historical linkages dating back to the colonial era and shaped by shared experiences. He expressed concern over the persistent disregard of the African continent within dominant global narratives, which often glorified Western dominance while sidelining the importance of harmonious relations with other regions, particularly Africa. In this context, he stressed the need for stronger and more balanced cooperation in a changing global order where emerging partnerships should be based on mutual respect and shared development goals.

Further elaborating on development challenges, he cited the example of climate change to illustrate how global priorities were often shaped by the availability of financial resources, particularly climate funding required for transitioning from climate-unfriendly to climate-friendly technologies. He observed that a distorted narrative had emerged in which governments were portrayed as the sole drivers of development, while the role of the private sector was significantly understated. Drawing a parallel with India–Africa relations, he argued that meaningful cooperation required the integration of private sector actors from both sides, ensuring that trade and economic engagement were not

limited to government initiatives but also included business collaboration, investment partnerships, and employment generation. According to him, such multi-stakeholder engagement would create a more sustainable and comprehensive framework for bilateral development.

He also critically examined India's recent inclination toward the practice of "grandstanding," which he described as a soft power strategy involving the organisation of bilateral and multilateral dialogues and summits aimed at structuring trade relations within a global framework. While acknowledging the importance of such platforms, he cautioned that India should not merely replicate Western models of engagement but should instead recognise and leverage its own strengths. He emphasised that India's approach must be guided by its comparative advantages and development experience rather than by attempts to imitate external standards.

Moreover, he pointed out that many foreign political leaders were not primarily seeking monetary assistance, which had traditionally been the hallmark of Western engagement strategies. Instead, he suggested that India could make a more meaningful contribution by sharing its technological expertise, innovation capabilities, and advancements in areas such as artificial intelligence to support Africa's development trajectory. He argued that India's partnership with Africa should therefore be benchmarked not solely on financial grants but on broader developmental cooperation, including technology transfer, capacity building, and knowledge sharing.

In conclusion, he emphasised that India must carefully identify its own strengths while simultaneously understanding the specific developmental needs of the African continent. He maintained that effective policies should be formulated on the basis of what India could realistically offer and what Africa required for its growth and transformation. By adopting a pragmatic, strength-based, and cooperative approach, he believed that India and Africa could build a robust partnership grounded in mutual benefit, shared historical ties, and long-term developmental objectives.

Dr Manish Karmwar opened his argument by aligning the discussion with key themes such as structural industrial transformation in Africa; the role of India in industrial development, manufacturing capacity and value addition; technology transfer and MSME cooperation; and the emergence of a sustainable South–South partnership model. He introduced the theme by explaining that the discussion sought to examine how India's engagement contributed to Africa's structural industrial transformation beyond conventional trade and diplomatic relations. He emphasised that India–Africa relations should be understood primarily as a form of development cooperation rather than merely commercial exchange, as the partnership aimed at fostering long-term economic transformation and inclusive growth.

He further stated that the objective of such cooperation was to evaluate and strengthen India's role in enhancing manufacturing capacity within African economies, particularly by facilitating value addition and building industrial capability. According to him, the expansion of industrial capacity in Africa was crucial for achieving long-term economic growth, employment generation, and economic diversification. He highlighted that strengthening domestic production structures would enable African economies to move beyond primary commodity dependence and achieve sustainable development outcomes. In this regard, he stressed the importance of Indian investment, technology

transfer, and MSME cooperation between the two regions, arguing that collaboration in these areas could promote employment-intensive industrial growth while supporting domestic industrial ecosystems within African countries.

While presenting his views, he emphasised that the India–Africa partnership represented a potential model of sustainable South–South cooperation, distinct from traditional North–South development frameworks. He explained that such cooperation was based on mutual benefit, shared development experiences, and inclusive industrial growth rather than hierarchical or dependency-based relationships. He maintained that India–Africa engagement extended beyond trade and diplomacy and placed strong emphasis on industrial transformation and the development of manufacturing capacity as key drivers of economic progress. Through technology transfer and MSME collaboration, he argued, the partnership promoted employment-intensive development and contributed to building resilient economic structures.

As the discussion progressed, he shifted the focus toward a broader development question concerning the responsibility for African underdevelopment and deindustrialisation, highlighting the influence of both internal and external factors on Africa’s economic trajectory. He suggested that a comprehensive analysis must consider multiple dimensions, including global trade structures, external economic influences, institutional capacity, and domestic policy challenges. By raising these issues, he sought to provide a broader analytical framework within which India’s developmental role in Africa could be properly assessed. He emphasised that the causes of underdevelopment in Africa required a structural explanation, involving an examination of historical and institutional determinants of industrial stagnation and an evaluation of the relative importance of external versus internal development constraints. In his view, development partnerships, particularly India–Africa cooperation, must address these historical economic constraints to mitigate structural challenges and promote sustainable growth.

Additionally, he highlighted the significant relevance of multilateral institutions such as the African Union and BRICS in strengthening India–Africa relations. He emphasised that such platforms facilitated coordinated development strategies, economic cooperation, and institutional engagement, thereby enhancing the scope and effectiveness of bilateral partnerships. He further noted that India’s role in Africa’s industrialisation was particularly important because the partnership combined finance, technical know-how, and skill development in sectors capable of generating employment and creating value addition.

In conclusion, he maintained that the India–Africa partnership offered a comprehensive framework for advancing industrial transformation, addressing structural constraints, and fostering sustainable economic development. By integrating investment, technology, institutional cooperation, and multilateral engagement, he argued that the partnership had the potential to strengthen industrial capabilities in Africa while simultaneously promoting mutually beneficial and inclusive growth for both regions.

Amb. Anil Wadhwa, in his remarks, emphasised the historical and developmental foundations of cooperation between India and Africa, highlighting their shared colonial past as a significant

factor that had historically bound the two regions together. He observed that despite India being the most populous nation in the world, the volume of bilateral trade between India and Africa, estimated at around 100 billion USD, remained insufficient relative to the scale of their populations and developmental needs. To address this gap, he suggested that India should actively engage the Indian diaspora residing across the African continent, as their business networks and entrepreneurial capabilities could help generate new commercial opportunities and strengthen economic ties.

He further highlighted India's success in developing a robust digitalization framework that catered to mass populations, particularly through digital identification systems and digital payment infrastructure. He suggested that African economies could draw valuable lessons from India's experience in implementing such digital systems to streamline governance, enhance financial inclusion, and improve economic efficiency. In addition to digital cooperation, he stressed the importance of collaboration in the infrastructure sector, noting that Africa faced a substantial financial gap, estimated between 75 and 200 billion USD, in funding its developmental projects. He argued that India's experience in infrastructure development could be effectively replicated within the African context, emphasizing that cooperation should be based on the co-sharing of ideas and mutual learning rather than any assertion of superiority.

Moreover, he highlighted India's significant contributions in the field of skill development, noting that India had trained thousands of African personnel, thereby demonstrating its capacity to partner effectively in human resource development and capacity-building initiatives. According to him, such efforts illustrated the scale and impact of India's developmental engagement and should be strategically leveraged to strengthen long-term cooperation. He concluded by emphasizing that the future of India–Africa relations should focus on building a strong and sustainable foundation rooted in their shared historical experiences, mutual respect, and collaborative development strategies.

Q & A Session:

Mr. Vijay, PhD Scholar, gave a few suggestions on how to enhance the MSME sector and inculcate startup progress in Africa similar to that of India, which would be crucial in the establishment of India–Africa relationship. He questioned on the scalability and infrastructure set up which India would assist Africa in.

Ms Shreshtha, PhD scholar from JNU, questioned if Indian states could also contribute towards India–Africa ties.

Ms Harini Madhusudhan, PhD scholar, NIAS suggested to focus on the R&D collaboration between the two nations and asked about the viability of India and Africa working together in the field on outer space.

H.E. Mr. Anil Sooklal replying to the first question stated that India is a vast country can exert a strong presence globally. The world needs to take cognizance of India's diversity which is similar to the diversity of Africa. He also stated that Africa's and India's challenges are similar in terms of pulling its population out of poverty. He also mentioned that India is a net food exporting nation while Africa is a net food importing continent. In this context both of them can grow together. Ultimately, he emphasised on the fact that Africa needs an architect for its upliftment.

Answering to the second question he stated that India needs to grow out of its colonial mindset which glorifies its past. Rather, the focus should be on tapping the present dynamics. Another suggestion he gave that India-Africa relations are very Delhi-centric and need to be diversified into various regional centers reflecting India's diversity.

Amb. Virendra Gupta adding to previous remarks by other speakers, emphasised that multilateral institutions are highly skewed and they refuse to change due to their vested interests and dominance of some players. Therefore, robust bilateral ties are the need of the hour.

Dr. Manish Karmwar addressed the questions by stating that there should be less focus of the regional organizations of Africa and more focus on the integrated African Union (AU)

Amb. Anil Wadhwa answered Ms Madhusudhan's question that Indian private players and the government could jointly contribute towards developing Africa's space capabilities.

In conclusion, the session stressed that India–Africa relations must shift from rhetorical engagement to a strategic and development-focused partnership. Speakers highlighted deeper engagement with AfCFTA, greater private sector and diaspora involvement, and stronger summit preparedness. Industrial transformation, MSME cooperation, technology transfer, digital infrastructure, and skill development emerged as key pillars. Overall, the discussion framed India–Africa ties as a sustainable South–South partnership rooted in shared history and mutual growth.



PANELISTS

MODERATOR



DR ABHINAV PANDYA
Founder, Director, and CEO
Usanas Foundation

SPEAKERS



H.E. DR DESIRE BONIFACE SOME
Ambassador of Burkina Faso to India



AMB. ANIL TRIGUNAYAT
Former Ambassador to Hashemite
Kingdom of Jordan, Libya and Malta



DR. RAJNEESH KUMAR GUPTA
Associate Professor, Centre for
African Studies
School of International Studies,
Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)



PROF AJAY DUBEY
Distinguished Fellow, CRF

SESSION II: IN PURSUIT OF AN EQUITABLE AND MULTIPOLAR GLOBAL ORDER

Mr Abhinav Pandya, in his opening remarks, framed the discussion around the relevance of India-Africa cooperation in an increasingly fragmented global order. He noted that the world is witnessing multiple simultaneous conflicts, such as the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the Israel-Gaza conflict, tensions involving Iran, and the sensitive phase of the Indo-Pak conflict, alongside instability in India's immediate neighbourhood. However, he argued that disruption often precedes transformation.

He highlighted the emerging “critical minerals era,” which is set to shape global supply chains and intensify geopolitical competition. India's evolving partnerships with African countries, including Tanzania, must therefore be viewed within this broader strategic race. The central question, he suggested, is how India-Africa relations will reposition themselves in a new world order marked by heightened competition. For the Global South to assert itself meaningfully, African and other developing countries must strengthen governance frameworks, address corruption, and build institutional capacity to engage global powers effectively.

H.E. Dr Désiré Boniface Some situated India-Africa relations within the enduring legacy of the Bandung Spirit, underscoring its foundational principles of sovereignty, strategic autonomy, non-interference, and solidarity among formerly colonised nations. He noted that these principles remain relevant in an era marked by shifting global power configurations, leadership transitions in the United States, and growing strain on multilateral institutions such as the United Nations. In this context, he emphasised the need to revitalise South-South cooperation through pragmatic, mutually beneficial partnerships.

He argued that the Bandung Spirit must be reinterpreted to address contemporary geopolitical and economic realities, ensuring that engagement respects the sovereignty and developmental priorities of all 54 African states rather than treating the continent as a monolith. Countries such as Burkina Faso and Mali, reassessing external partnerships in the aftermath of French colonial influence, are increasingly seeking diversified engagements across the Global South, including with India.

He identified governance reforms, anti-corruption measures, institutional capacity-building, and technology transfer as central pillars of cooperation. He also highlighted sustainable economic models, local value addition, and skills development as essential for long-term resilience. Expanding educational exchanges, scholarships, and youth engagement with Indian universities and technical institutions were presented as practical and scalable pathways to deepen India-Africa ties.

Ambassador Anil Trigunayat examined the evolving geopolitical context shaping Africa's external partnerships. He pointed to the continued political and economic influence of France in Francophone Africa, the growing footprint of Russian investments, particularly in sectors such as steel and mining, and U.S. strategies that increasingly frame Africa within the broader objective of balancing China and Russia. Against this backdrop of competitive engagement, he introduced the concept of “AFRITUDE,” underscoring that African agency, priorities, and aspirations must be understood on their own terms rather than through external strategic lenses.



He argued that India shares deep-rooted historical and civilisational “umbilical connections” with Africa, grounded in anti-colonial solidarity and developmental cooperation. However, goodwill alone is insufficient and must be strategically leveraged. While India maintained a visible developmental presence in the 1960s and 1970s, momentum slowed in the 1990s amid domestic economic transitions. Connectivity initiatives and capacity-building efforts lacked sustained policy direction, and engagement was often disproportionately viewed through the prism of South Africa.

Today, with Africa central to the global critical minerals race and energy transition debates, India must enhance policy coherence, ensure timely delivery on commitments, and pursue multi-layered engagement, including bilateral, multilateral, regional, and sub-regional. Learning from China’s implementation strategies while drawing on diaspora networks and grassroots goodwill will be essential for building durable, mutually beneficial partnerships.

Dr Rajneesh Gupta emphasised that global politics has, particularly since the end of the Cold War, moved beyond a narrow conception of power defined solely by military capability. Contemporary influence, he argued, increasingly rests on soft power, normative appeal, and sustained engagement strategies that build trust over time. In this regard, India’s relationship with Africa cannot be understood only through trade volumes or strategic competition, but must also be viewed through its dense networks of cultural, historical, and societal linkages.

He highlighted how migration patterns and long-standing diaspora communities have created enduring bridges between India and several African countries. The presence of temples, gurudwaras, mosques, and shared festivals across the continent symbolises not only religious coexistence but also intergenerational ties that have shaped local economies and social landscapes. These people-to-people connections, he noted, often outlast formal diplomatic cycles and provide resilience during periods of political uncertainty. Strengthening educational exchanges, cultural diplomacy,

and community-level engagement, therefore, remains central to deepening India–Africa relations in a multipolar world.

Prof. Ajay Kumar Dubey underscored that although the Government of India has launched several Africa-focused initiatives over the years, engagement must expand beyond formal government-to-government frameworks. In a context marked by global disruptions, supply chain realignments, and the gradual weakening of institutionalised South–South cooperation, he called for renewed strategic thinking that is adaptive and forward-looking. Official diplomacy, while essential, cannot by itself sustain the depth and breadth of India–Africa relations.

He emphasised the growing importance of think tanks, academic institutions, and Track 2 platforms in generating innovative, policy-relevant proposals. Such forums, he argued, are better positioned to experiment with new ideas, identify emerging sectors of cooperation, and facilitate sustained dialogue insulated from immediate political pressures. Revitalising people-to-people ties, especially student mobility, research collaborations, and youth exchanges, was identified as a priority area requiring institutional support and clearer pathways.

Prof. Dubey also pointed to the inadequacy of prevailing media narratives, which often fail to capture the depth of grassroots connections and everyday interactions between Indian and African societies. Strengthening public communication, amplifying success stories, and investing in knowledge networks were presented as necessary steps to ensure that India–Africa engagement reflects both strategic intent and societal linkages.

Q & A session:

To a question on how India and Africa can become the “Voice of the Global South,” speakers responded that credibility depends on institutional strength, coordinated positions in multilateral forums, and the ability to deliver on commitments.

When asked about a blueprint for India–Africa relations, panellists highlighted win-win cooperation, project-based engagement, and diversification amid contested geopolitical space. Africa’s continued struggle with neo-colonial structures, particularly in Francophone regions, was acknowledged. India is viewed as an aspirational and credible partner, but collaboration must remain context-specific. Addressing questions on global uncertainty, U.S. policy shifts, and diaspora engagement, speakers referred to four major disruptions, mainly the COVID pandemic, the Ukraine war, the Gaza conflict, and political shifts in the U.S. Strategic responses could range from dominance in critical minerals to principled strategic autonomy. Diaspora engagement, they stressed, must be reciprocal, recognising African diaspora policies toward India as well.

PANELISTS

MODERATOR



PROF AJAY DUBEY
Distinguished Fellow, CRF

SPEAKERS



MS. RUCHITA BERI
Senior Fellow, Vivekananda
International Foundation (VIF)



DR. SUSHMITA RAJWAR
Associate Professor, Centre for African
Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University



DR. VEDA VAIDYANATHAN
Fellow,
Centre for Social and Economic
Progress (CSEP)



DR. SAMIR BHATTACHARYA
Associate Fellow
Observer Research Foundation (ORF)

SESSION III: SEEKING STRATEGIC CONVERGENCE: CLIMATE ACTION, CRITICAL MINERALS, AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The discussion opened with Ms. Ruchita Beri underscoring the significance of the dialogue and commending the organisers for convening a conversation that carries substantial strategic relevance. She emphasised that the evolving trajectory of India–Africa relations, particularly in the renewable energy sector, requires sustained analytical attention. According to her, a partnership roadmap already exists and is anchored in aligning India’s engagement with African priorities. She observed that energy has long constituted a central pillar of India–Africa relations. While India historically depended on the Gulf for energy imports, Africa entered India’s strategic energy calculus in the early 2000s, prompting diversification towards countries such as Nigeria, South Africa, and Angola. In the contemporary context—marked by geopolitical pressures and the Russia–Ukraine conflict—India’s renewed interest in African energy cooperation has acquired added urgency.

Ms. Beri argued that the global decline in fossil fuel dependence, driven by climate concerns and extreme weather events, is pushing countries toward greener alternatives. India, she noted, has made notable progress, achieving 50% of its cumulative installed power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2025, ahead of its Paris Agreement timeline. Solar energy, with an installed capacity of about 140.6 GW in 2025, and wind power, at approximately 52 GW, have been key contributors. India now ranks fourth globally in renewable energy capacity, third in solar, and fourth in wind. Given Africa’s vast but unevenly distributed renewable potential and its severe energy access deficit—around 600 million people lacking electricity and 970 million without clean energy—she highlighted strong convergence for cooperation.

She further noted that India’s renewable engagement in Africa is already underway through solar initiatives, including the International Solar Alliance launched in 2015 with France and Germany. With over 24 African members among its 125 participants, the platform demonstrates strong continental interest. Indian public and private firms have deployed solar projects across countries such as Mali, Sudan, Mozambique, and Tanzania. However, she cautioned that China’s dominant position—accounting for 59% of its African energy projects in solar and wind and investments of roughly US\$66 billion over fifteen years—poses a structural challenge. To strengthen its position, India must deepen participation in African regional initiatives, build collaborative technology platforms with like-minded partners, and ensure that its engagement supports local capacity creation rather than replicating extractive patterns.

Dr. Sushmita Rajwar situated climate change at the core of India–Africa cooperation, describing it as a South–South partnership grounded in shared vulnerabilities and developmental aspirations. She highlighted Africa’s acute exposure to climate shocks, including droughts, floods, erratic rainfall, and cyclones, which have displaced millions and depressed agricultural output. She emphasised climate finance, technology access, and digital capacity as priority areas. Illustrative examples included meteorological digital advisory platforms in Nigeria and Kenya, though she stressed that investment gaps remain substantial.



At the multilateral level, she noted India’s consistent advocacy of equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities under the UN climate regime. India’s contributions to climate finance and initiatives such as the India–Japan Low Carbon Fund, the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), and support for the loss and damage fund at COP27 demonstrate its growing role as a development partner. She also highlighted agriculture—particularly climate-resilient farming, millet promotion, and water-harvesting techniques—as a key avenue for cooperation through training, technology transfer, and institutional collaboration.

Dr. Veda Vaidyanathan drew attention to the strategic centrality of critical minerals for India’s energy transition and industrial growth. She argued that rising global demand necessitates cooperative agreements with mineral-rich African countries. Based on her field research, she identified three African priorities: leveraging minerals for industrialisation, strengthening mineral governance, and diversifying international partnerships. She pointed to India’s National Critical Mineral Mission (2025), the establishment of KABIL, and multiple African MOUs as evidence of policy momentum. India’s Geological Survey initiative in Zambia and capacity-building efforts such as the IIT Zanzibar campus were cited as practical pathways for value addition and workforce development. She stressed that technology deployment, AI-enabled mining, and targeted development finance could define a new phase of resource diplomacy, provided India remains sensitive to Africa’s historical concerns about extractive engagement.

Offering a contrasting perspective, Dr. Samir Bhattacharya cautioned against assuming that Africa primarily seeks externally defined “sustainable development.” He argued that Africa’s immediate requirement is broad-based development supported by infrastructure, reliable energy, and industrial capacity. Logistics bottlenecks, port congestion, and heavy dependence on dollar-denominated trade continue to constrain African economies. He stressed that Africa’s current moment is one of potential rather than automatic transformation. For India to be a meaningful partner, it must help African countries move up value chains through factory development, reliable electricity,

skills training, and soft infrastructure. He also highlighted currency volatility as a major concern and recommended promoting local-currency trade mechanisms. Long-term partnership frameworks insulated from political instability were deemed essential.

The Q&A session reflected strong academic engagement, with participants raising questions on geoeconomic strategy, critical mineral processing, academic collaboration, and the equity of South–South cooperation. Responding, Ms. Beri emphasised the importance of political stability and strategic convergence in selecting partner countries. Dr. Rajwar underscored the value of integrated research collaboration. Dr. Vaidyanathan highlighted the need to correct asymmetries in India–Africa knowledge networks and to prioritise processing and recycling ecosystems. Dr. Bhattacharya reiterated that multipolarity enhances Africa’s bargaining power and that India should adopt pragmatic, interest-based engagement.

In his concluding remarks, Prof. Ajay Dubey synthesised the discussion into three policy directions: revisiting and updating existing engagement formats, adopting calibrated funding strategies that balance SME participation with targeted large investments, and capitalising on India’s strong goodwill across Africa. He stressed the need to revive the India–Africa Forum Summit and to prioritise infrastructure partnerships. The overarching message of the event was clear: India must transition from merely maintaining presence in Africa to achieving sustained strategic relevance through responsive, capacity-building, and mutually beneficial cooperation.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Reform and Revitalise the India–Africa Forum Summit (IAFS)

Preparatory consultations for IAFS should begin well in advance, involving African ambassadors, the African Union Commission, regional economic communities, important trading/strategic partners of India in Africa and private sector stakeholders. Each summit should produce clearly defined deliverables; sectoral investment packages, regulatory harmonisation frameworks, technology partnerships, and capacity-building programmes. A joint monitoring and evaluation mechanism should track progress between summits, ensuring continuity and transparency. Credibility will depend not on the scale of announcements but on timely implementation.

2. Strengthen Bilateral Engagement Within a Multilateral Framework

While continental frameworks such as AfCFTA and AU Agenda 2063 are essential, bilateral engagement remains foundational. India should pursue tailored country strategies that account for variations in governance structures, industrial capacity, and resource endowments. For instance, partnerships with mineral-rich states should focus on value addition and processing, while engagements with manufacturing hubs may prioritise industrial parks and MSME collaboration. Simultaneously, India and African partners should coordinate positions within multilateral institutions to safeguard trade equity and reform global governance structures.

3. Protect and Reform the Multilateral Trading System

India and Africa share a common interest in defending a predictable, rules-based multilateral trading system. The weakening of WTO dispute settlement mechanisms and the rise of unilateral trade measures disproportionately harm developing economies. Coordinated negotiating positions on agriculture subsidies, digital trade rules, special and differential treatment, and development-friendly dispute settlement reform would strengthen collective leverage. A structured India–Africa consultative forum on WTO and G20 agendas could institutionalise such coordination.

4. Align Trade Strategy with AfCFTA and Regional Value Chains

India's trade strategy should embed itself within AfCFTA's vision of continental integration. Rather than engaging markets in isolation, Indian firms should be encouraged to participate in regional production networks spanning multiple African countries. This requires support for cross-border industrial corridors, harmonised customs procedures, and digital trade facilitation. Engagement with the 8 AU recognised regional blocs such as ECOWAS, SADC, and EAC will help integrate Indian investment into emerging regional value chains.

5. Support Africa's Industrial Transformation Beyond Extractivism

India must prioritise industrial transformation rather than commodity extraction. This involves establishing joint mineral processing facilities, agro-processing clusters, pharmaceutical manufacturing units, and technology parks. Lines of Credit and concessional finance should be linked to local skill development, technology transfer, and workforce training. Industrial parks and special economic zones co-developed with African partners can serve as anchor points for manufacturing diversification and employment-intensive growth.

6. Re-examining Economic Support under IAFS: From Lines of Credit to FDI-Centred Partnerships

Since the launch of the IAFS, India has extended over US\$12 billion in concessional Lines of Credit (LoCs) to African countries, financing infrastructure projects in power generation, railways, water supply, agriculture, and IT parks. While LoCs have played a vital developmental role, African policymakers increasingly seek long-term Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) that builds local industrial ecosystems, generates employment, and embeds technology transfer. Moving from a predominantly credit-based development partnership to an FDI-led co-production model would align with African demands for industrial transformation and job creation, while also supporting India's objective of securing resilient supply chains for critical minerals and intermediate goods.

7. Leverage Digital Public Infrastructure as a Development Multiplier

India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), including Aadhaar, UPI, and CoWIN, demonstrates scalable, low-cost digital governance models. Cooperation should focus on interoperable, open-source systems that enhance financial inclusion, reduce transaction costs, and improve service delivery. Joint training programmes for African digital administrators and cybersecurity professionals will ensure sustainability. Collaboration in fintech regulation and digital trade standards can position India and Africa as norm-shapers in emerging digital governance debates. In this context, India could propose the establishment of an India–Africa Digital Public Infrastructure Cooperation Framework to institutionalise knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, and regulatory dialogue in the digital governance domain.

8. Increasing the Presence of the Indian Banking System in Africa, with Focus on Francophone and Lusophone Regions

Trade between India and Africa has expanded to approximately US\$100 billion, yet financial connectivity remains underdeveloped. Limited Indian banking presence in Africa constrains trade financing, currency settlement mechanisms, SME credit flows, and project financing. While Indian banks such as the State Bank of India and Bank of Baroda have operations in select Anglophone African countries, their footprint in Francophone West Africa and Lusophone Africa remains limited. This is significant because Francophone Africa, linked through the CFA franc monetary system, includes fast-growing economies in West and Central Africa, while Lusophone countries such as Angola and Mozambique are resource-rich and strategically located. Expanding Indian banking presence would facilitate trade finance and letters of credit for Indian exporters; support Indian MSMEs entering African markets; enable local currency settlement mechanisms to reduce dollar dependence; strengthen compliance, risk assessment, and financial transparency.

9. Institutionalise Knowledge Partnerships and Correct Asymmetries in Research Collaboration

A recurring theme of the conference was the imbalance in India–Africa knowledge production and academic exchange. India should establish structured research consortia linking Indian universities, IITs, agricultural institutions, and African universities in areas such as mineral governance, renewable energy, fintech regulation, climate adaptation, and public health. Joint PhD programmes, co-funded research grants, and shared data repositories should be institutionalised. A dedicated India–Africa Research Fund could support collaborative projects with equal intellectual ownership. Knowledge partnerships must avoid extractive research models and instead prioritise reciprocal

capacity-building. Strengthening epistemic collaboration will ensure that policy design is informed by ground realities and local expertise rather than external assumptions.

10. Advance Climate-Resilient Agricultural Cooperation

Agriculture remains central to livelihoods in both India and Africa and is increasingly vulnerable to climate change. India should propose the establishment of an India–Africa Climate-Resilient Agriculture Partnership (IACRAP) that brings together agricultural universities, research institutions, and extension networks from both regions. The framework could support joint research on drought-resistant crops, millet cultivation, water-efficient irrigation technologies, and post-harvest management while facilitating demonstration farms and farmer training programmes in selected African agro-ecological zones. Linking this partnership with climate finance mechanisms and South–South cooperation funds would help scale climate-smart agricultural practices and strengthen long-term food security across participating countries.

11. Strengthen Maritime and Indian Ocean Cooperation

Given that India and many African states are littoral partners across the Indian Ocean, maritime cooperation should be elevated as a strategic pillar of engagement. Over 90% of Africa’s trade by volume moves by sea, making maritime security, port efficiency, and blue economy development critical to economic resilience. India can expand collaboration with African partners in areas such as maritime domain awareness, anti-piracy coordination, hydrographic surveys, coastal infrastructure development, and sustainable fisheries management. Joint naval training, coast guard cooperation, and information-sharing can further strengthen regional stability while supporting safe sea lanes and secure trade routes. India should therefore prioritise maritime cooperation with African littoral states by expanding naval training, port development partnerships, and blue economy collaboration across the Indian Ocean region.

12. Promote Industrial Skills Mobility and Workforce Partnerships

Africa and India both possess large and rapidly growing young populations, creating opportunities for deeper cooperation in skills development and labour mobility. Collaboration in vocational training and skill certification can support industrial growth while addressing emerging skill shortages in sectors such as renewable energy, logistics, mining, manufacturing, and digital services. Aligning training with industry needs and facilitating exchanges of technical professionals can promote knowledge transfer and long-term institutional linkages. India should therefore work towards formal skill-recognition arrangements and expanded technical training partnerships with African countries to facilitate mobility of skilled professionals and strengthen human capital cooperation.

13. Strengthen Strategic Communication and Public Diplomacy Architecture

One of the structural weaknesses in India–Africa relations is the limited visibility of successful partnerships and grassroots engagement. India has completed over 200 development projects and trained thousands of African officials annually. However, visibility gaps persist. India should invest in a coordinated strategic communication framework that highlights project outcomes, innovation partnerships, and capacity-building success stories. Media exchanges, journalist fellowships, documentary collaborations, and digital storytelling platforms can help reshape dominant

narratives that often marginalise Africa or portray engagement through narrow geopolitical lenses. Cultural diplomacy, through literature festivals, film collaborations, art exchanges, and youth forums, should complement economic cooperation.

14. Leveraging the Presence of the Indian Diaspora to Promote Multifaceted Bilateral Relations

The Indian diaspora in Africa, estimated at over 3 million people, constitutes one of the most enduring bridges between India and the continent. Concentrated in countries such as South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Mauritius, Uganda, and Mozambique, the diaspora has historically played a significant role in trade, entrepreneurship, finance, and political life. In countries like Mauritius, persons of Indian origin constitute a demographic majority, while in South Africa and East Africa they are deeply embedded in commercial networks. This diaspora contributes not only through remittances and business linkages but also through institutional connectivity, chambers of commerce, professional associations, philanthropic trusts, and educational institutions. To better harness this potential, India could institutionalise diaspora engagement by creating a structured India–Africa Diaspora Business and Investment Platform that facilitates networking, investment partnerships, and market access for Indian and African enterprises.

ANNEXURE

Background Note

India and Africa share an enduring partnership grounded in mutual respect, shared historical experiences, and a common aspiration for inclusive and sustainable development. Over the decades, this relationship has evolved into a comprehensive and multidimensional engagement spanning trade and investment, capacity building, technology, governance, and peace and security cooperation. India's diplomacy, shaped increasingly by its leadership role in the Global South, has prioritised elevating Africa's voice in global governance. A defining moment of this commitment was India's decisive role in securing the African Union's permanent membership in the G20 during India's G20 presidency in 2023, ensuring that African priorities are integrated into global decision-making frameworks.

In an era marked by intensifying geopolitical competition, where major powers such as China seek to expand their strategic footprint, India offers a distinct model of partnership anchored in trust, co-development, and demand-driven cooperation. India's vision emphasises shared growth, value creation, and resilience rather than extractive engagement or zero-sum competition. This diplomatic energy is also reflected in high-level political outreach, most notably PM Modi's visit to Ethiopia in December 2025. His visit underscored India's recognition of Ethiopia's centrality in the Horn of Africa and reaffirmed India's commitment to a more sustained, forward-looking engagement with the continent. Complementary developments, such as the elevation of India–Ghana relations to a comprehensive partnership, further illustrate the growing strategic depth and institutional maturity of India–Africa relations. Collectively, these initiatives underscore India's expanding collaboration across key sectors, including digital public infrastructure, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, and disaster resilience.

India-Africa Economic partnership: Deepening Trade, Technology, and Transnational Connectivity

India's economic diplomacy focuses on robust engagement with Africa, positioning economic activity, skill enhancement, and industrial innovation at the core of India–Africa relations. As per the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the economy of the continent is expected to grow from 2.8% in 2023 to 3.5% in 2024 and reach 4.1% in 2025, highlighting Africa's rising economic potential and strategic importance. Notably, bilateral trade between India and Africa surged to over \$100 billion in 2024–25, nearly doubling from \$56 billion in 2019–20, marking a historic high in economic relations. During this period, South Africa was India's largest export destination in the African region. Tanzania, Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Togo, Ghana, Mozambique, Benin, and Senegal were India's other key African export markets. Collectively, exports to these top ten destinations accounted for 68.22% of India's total exports to the continent in 2024–25, underscoring the growing depth and diversification of India–Africa economic engagement. Furthermore, India and Africa are jointly aiming for the \$200 billion trade target by 2030, within the ongoing sectoral partnerships in critical minerals, digitalisation, and advanced manufacturing. Africa is home to sizeable reserves of the world's critical energy transition minerals, and India's efforts to develop a domestic lithium supply chain align strategically with the continent's increasing emphasis on local beneficiation and value addition. Moreover, signature projects like the Pan-African e-network have connected 47 African countries to Indian expertise in digital education and telemedicine, with grant support from the Indian government. Major development cooperation aligns with Africa's Agenda 2063 and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), emphasising energy, agriculture, connectivity, healthcare, and public digital infrastructure.

India–Africa Partnership for an Equitable and Multipolar Global Order

The geopolitical landscape of the 21st century has placed Africa at the heart of global competition and collaboration. Rising interest from China, Russia, the Gulf states, and Western powers has elevated Africa's strategic value, especially in the context of energy transitions, maritime security, and multilateral reform. In this context, India and Africa have become important players in South–South cooperation, forming political partnerships based on mutual benefit rather than resource extraction or coercive influence.

India's diplomatic outreach demonstrates a long-standing commitment to Africa's stability and institutional resilience, encompassing peacekeeping deployments in Somalia, Congo, and Sudan, defence training under ITEC, and high-level visits across the continent. India's support for Africa's inclusion in global governance, especially in the G20, is a big step forward in geopolitics and strengthens Africa's role in creating a truly multipolar world order. As African states pursue Agenda 2063 and the Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIMS 2050), India's collaborative stance on maritime security, peacekeeping, cyber defence, and counterterrorism complements Africa's aspirations for sovereignty, security, and strategic autonomy.

A Future-Ready Partnership: Climate Action, Critical Minerals, and Sustainable Development

India's deepening engagement with Africa reflects a shared commitment to rebalancing global power structures and advancing a cooperative, multipolar order. Central to this engagement is the India–Africa partnership on climate action, clean energy, and sustainable development, which has become a defining pillar of contemporary South–South cooperation. This convergence was evident during the recent G20 Summit held in Johannesburg, November 2025, where both regions supported robust commitments to climate mitigation, adaptation financing, and green transition pathways. India's proposal of the Critical Minerals Circularity Initiative—a framework aimed at promoting recycling, efficient resource use, and sustainable processing—further underscored its forward-looking approach to responsible mineral value chains, an area of growing importance for African economies.

Recent sectoral initiatives also demonstrate how the partnership is expanding into new domains. The India–Africa Seed Summit 2025, held in Hyderabad, highlighted the role of climate-resilient seeds, agri-innovation, and regional seed trade in strengthening food security and environmental sustainability across Africa. In parallel, India's leadership through the International Solar Alliance (ISA) continues to generate tangible outcomes. India's USD 25 million pledge, alongside ISA's USD 10 million, is helping catalyse solar projects across the continent, while the Africa Solar Facility, a \$200 million blended-finance platform managed by Africa50, exemplifies effective multilateral cooperation to scale up renewable energy infrastructure.

EVENT SCHEDULE

Schedule	Particulars
9:30 – 10:00	Registration
10:00 – 10:50	<p>Opening Session</p> <p>Welcome Remarks: Mr Shishir Priyadarshi, President CRF & Dr Abhinav Pandya, Founder & CEO, USANAS</p> <p>Keynote Address: Shri Sudhakar Dalela, Secretary (Economic Relations), MEA</p>
11:00 – 13:00	<p>Session I: India-Africa: Deepening Partnership in Trade, Technology, and Transnational Connectivity</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <p>Mr Shishir Priyadarshi, President CRF</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>H.E. Mr Anil Sooklal, High Commissioner of South Africa to India</p> <p><i>Ways in which the AfCFTA can facilitate India's integration into African regional markets</i></p> <p>Amb Virendra Gupta, Former Ambassador of India to South Africa and Tanzania</p> <p><i>Prospect of cooperation in cost-effective technologies, digital public infrastructure, and innovation ecosystems for Africa's Development</i></p> <p>Dr Manish Karmwar, Asst. Prof. DU</p> <p><i>India's support to Africa's Industrialisation: Current Experience and Challenges</i></p> <p>Amb Anil Wadhwa, Former Ambassador of India to Italy & San Marino, Thailand, Oman and Poland & Lithuania</p> <p><i>Developmental Cooperation in Technology, Port and Infrastructure</i></p>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Session II: In Pursuit of an Equitable and Multipolar Global Order</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <p>Dr. Abhinav Pandya, Founder & CEO, the Usanas Foundation</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>H.E. Dr Desire Boniface Some, Ambassador of Burkina Faso to India</p> <p><i>Revisiting the Spirit of Bandung: India–Africa Cooperation and the Contemporary Global South</i></p> <p>Amb Anil Trigunayat, Former Ambassador of India to Jordan and Libya</p>

Great Power Engagement in Africa: India – Africa Partnership Model

Dr Rajneesh Gupta, Asso. Prof., JNU

Cementing India – Africa Partnership through Soft Power and Diaspora

Prof Ajay Dubey, Distinguished Fellow, CRF

Planning a new Africa-specific developmental agenda of India in the Trump era

15:30-15:45

Tea Break

15:45 – 17:15

Session III: Seeking Strategic Convergence: Climate Action, Critical Minerals, and Sustainable Development

Moderator:

Prof Ajay Dubey, Distinguished Fellow, CRF

Panelists:

Ms Ruchita Beri, Senior Fellow, VIF

India–Africa partnership for building an ecosystem in Renewable Energies

Dr Samir Bhattacharya, Associate Fellow, ORF

India-Africa Partnership for Sustainable Development

Dr Sushmita Rajwar, Associate Prof., JNU

India–Africa cooperation on climate action with Commitments for Growth

Dr Veda Vaidyanathan, Fellow, CSEP

India–Africa Cooperation in Emerging Areas: Opportunities for Cooperation in Critical Minerals

17:15 – 17:30

Concluding Session

Concluding Remarks:

Prof. Ajay Dubey, Distinguished Fellow, CRF

Vote of Thanks: Ms Poorvie, Research Consultant, CRF

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From Solidarity to Strategy: India–Africa Ties Enter a New Phase

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A conference titled 'India–Africa partnership in a changing global order' was held in the national capital on Monday, with

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By Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury, ET Bureau • Last Updated: Feb 23, 2026, 03:47:00 PM IST

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Synopsis
In an era of global transformation, India and Africa are stepping up their alliance.

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From solidarity to strategy: India-Africa ties enter new phase



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