



**India-Africa Business Dialogue & Exhibition**  
**@**  
**IV India Africa Forum Summit**

29-31 May 2026

**Concept Note**



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# 1. Context

India and Africa share a long-standing relationship rooted in centuries of trade, cultural exchanges, and a shared commitment to South–South cooperation. Over time, this relationship has evolved into a broad strategic and economic partnership spanning political engagement, trade and investment, development cooperation, capacity building, healthcare collaboration, digital transformation, infrastructure development, defence cooperation, and people-to-people linkages.

Economic engagement between India and Africa has expanded significantly in recent years. Bilateral trade has surpassed **USD 100 billion in FY 2024–25**, positioning India among Africa’s **largest trading partners** and one of the continent’s **top five investors**, with cumulative investments estimated at **USD 75–80 billion** across sectors such as telecommunications, energy, pharmaceuticals, infrastructure, mining, manufacturing and services.

At the institutional level, the **India–Africa Forum Summit (IAFS)**, launched in **2008**, serves as the principal platform for high-level political engagement between India and African countries. Previous editions held in **New Delhi (2008)**, **Addis Ababa (2011)**, and **New Delhi (2015)** have helped shape the strategic direction of the partnership through initiatives focused on development cooperation, capacity building, digital connectivity, healthcare, climate resilience and economic collaboration. The upcoming **4th India–Africa Forum Summit** is expected to provide renewed strategic momentum to the partnership and align future cooperation with **Africa’s Agenda 2063** and **India’s Viksit Bharat 2047 vision**.

## 2. About the India–Africa Business Dialogue (IABD)

The **India–Africa Business Dialogue (IABD)** will be organized alongside the India–Africa Forum Summit as the **flagship private-sector engagement platform**, bringing together business leaders, investors, policymakers, financial institutions and industry representatives from India and across Africa.

The Business Summit will serve as a key forum to translate the broader political vision of the India–Africa partnership into **concrete economic collaboration and commercial partnerships**. It will provide an opportunity for the private sector to actively contribute to strengthening trade, investment flows, technology transfer and industrial cooperation between the two regions.

The Summit will focus on identifying new avenues for **sustainable economic partnerships**, fostering investment opportunities and building stronger value chains between India and African economies. It will also facilitate dialogue on key sectors that are critical to Africa’s development priorities and where Indian industry can play a catalytic role.

### Key objectives of the India–Africa Business Dialogue include:

- **Facilitating high-level dialogue** between Indian and African business leaders, policymakers and development partners.
- **Promoting trade and investment partnerships** across priority sectors such as infrastructure, energy, manufacturing, digital technology, agriculture, healthcare and services.
- **Encouraging industrial cooperation and value chain integration**, particularly in emerging sectors such as green energy, digital innovation, fintech and critical minerals.
- **Showcasing business opportunities across African markets** and highlighting the role of the private sector in supporting Africa’s industrialisation and economic transformation.
- **Strengthening MSME, startup and innovation partnerships** between India and Africa.
- **Enabling B2B and B2G interactions**, investment discussions and partnership announcements.

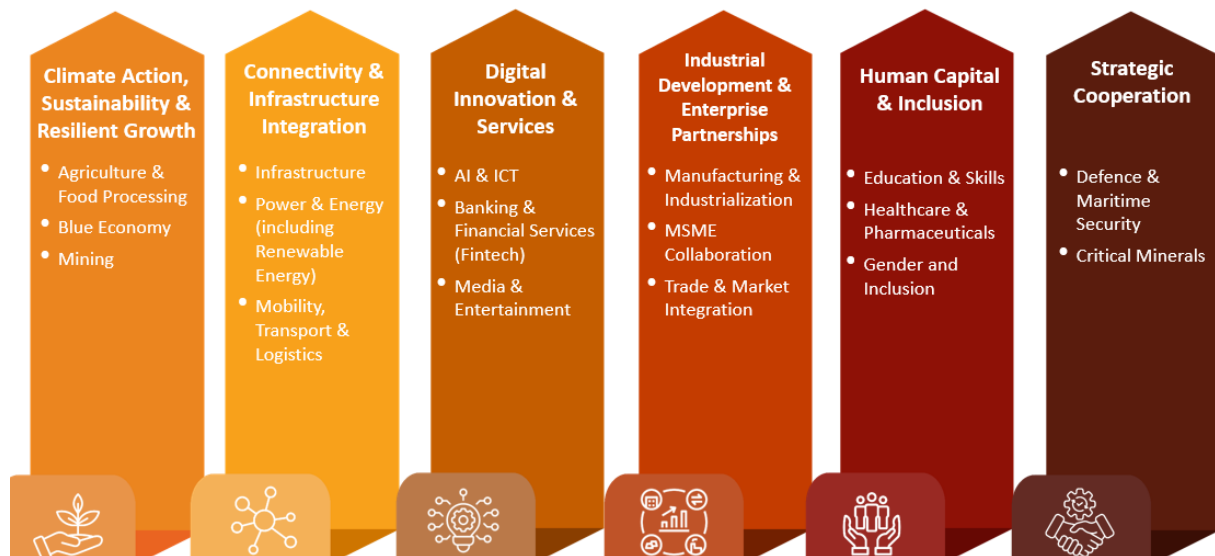
The Business Summit will feature **plenary sessions, sector-focused discussions, business-to-business meetings, investment dialogues and exhibitions**, providing

a comprehensive platform for companies and investors to explore collaborative ventures.

By bringing together government leaders and the private sector on a single platform, the India–Africa Business Summit will play a crucial role in **converting policy frameworks into practical economic outcomes**, strengthening long-term commercial partnerships and supporting the next phase of the India–Africa growth story.

### 3. IABD: Tracks and Priorities


The **IABD 2026** will feature sectoral focus through wider tracks that would prioritize the key enablers sought from the business summit.



#### 3.1 Sustainable & Resilient Economic Growth

##### Agriculture & Food Processing, Blue Economy, Mining & Critical Minerals

Africa’s agriculture sector employs over 40% of the continent’s workforce (World Bank, 2023) yet productivity remains significantly below global averages, contributing to persistent food insecurity and high import dependence. According to the African Development Bank (African Economic Outlook 2024), strengthening agro-processing and regional value chains is central to improving resilience and inclusive growth. India’s experience in climate-smart agriculture, digital farm advisory services, dairy cooperatives, irrigation management, and affordable agro-processing technologies provides scalable solutions to enhance productivity, reduce post-harvest losses, and build rural enterprise ecosystems.



Africa's blue economy, covering fisheries, maritime transport, coastal tourism, and ocean energy, represents a significant growth frontier for Indian Ocean and Atlantic littoral states. The African Union identifies sustainable marine resource management and port modernization as critical drivers of trade expansion. India's strengths in port development, shipbuilding, marine services, and coastal economic zone models can support sustainable exploitation of marine resources while reinforcing maritime trade connectivity.

Africa holds a substantial share of the world's critical minerals essential for the global energy transition, including cobalt, lithium, manganese, and platinum group metals (International Energy Agency, 2023). However, value addition remains limited. India–Africa collaboration in mineral processing, battery manufacturing, and downstream industrialization can strengthen resilient supply chains, promote local value capture, and support clean energy manufacturing ecosystems in both regions.

### **3.2. Connectivity & Infrastructure Integration**

#### **Infrastructure, Power & Energy (including Renewable Energy), Mobility, Transport & Logistics**


Africa's infrastructure financing gap is estimated at USD 130–170 billion annually (African Development Bank, 2024). Addressing deficits in transport corridors, power generation, and logistics systems is essential to unlock the full potential of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). India's development cooperation model—including concessional Lines of Credit, public-private partnerships, and technical capacity support—can help accelerate infrastructure delivery aligned with regional integration priorities.

Energy access remains a binding constraint, with over 500 million people in sub-Saharan Africa lacking electricity access (IEA, 2023). India's leadership in cost-effective solar deployment, grid modernization, distributed renewable systems, and green hydrogen innovation presents opportunities for collaboration in expanding reliable, affordable, and clean energy solutions.

### **3.3 Digital Innovation & Services**

#### **Digital & ICT, Banking & Financial Services (Fintech), Media & Entertainment**

Africa's digital economy is expanding rapidly, driven by mobile connectivity and fintech innovation. However, the continent accounts for less than 1% of global data center capacity (IFC, 2023), highlighting a significant infrastructure gap. India's digital public infrastructure model, including interoperable digital identity and payments systems—offers a replicable framework for advancing financial inclusion, e-governance, and secure digital transactions across African markets.



With Africa's urban population projected to reach nearly 60% by 2050 (UN DESA), demand for digital entertainment, smart tourism platforms, and e-commerce services will accelerate. Collaboration in content production, IT services, fintech ecosystems, and digital skills training can foster job creation, entrepreneurship, and cross-border cultural exchange.

### **3.4 Industrial Development & Enterprise Partnerships**

#### **Manufacturing & Textile, MSME Collaboration, Trade & Market Integration**

Manufacturing accounts for a relatively modest share of GDP in many African economies (UNCTAD Economic Development in Africa Report 2024), underscoring the need for structural transformation and industrial upgrading. India's experience in pharmaceuticals, automobiles, textiles, light engineering, and SME cluster development can catalyze localized manufacturing ecosystems and strengthen supply chain resilience.

The AfCFTA creates a market of over 1.4 billion people with a combined GDP exceeding USD 3 trillion (African Union, 2023). Strategic India–Africa enterprise partnerships can leverage this integrated market to promote joint ventures, technology transfer, standards harmonization, and expanded market access.

### **3.5 Human Capital & Inclusion**

#### **Education & Skills, Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals, Inclusion**

Africa's population is projected to double to nearly 2.5 billion by 2050 (UN DESA, 2022), making human capital investment a central development priority. India's long-standing cooperation in education, vocational training, digital learning platforms, and capacity building can support workforce readiness and entrepreneurship.

In healthcare, Africa accounts for approximately 25% of the global disease burden but only about 3% of the global health workforce (WHO, 2023). India's pharmaceutical manufacturing capabilities, telemedicine platforms, vaccine production, and affordable generic medicines provide strong foundations for deepened health sector collaboration.

### **3.6 Strategic Cooperation**

#### **Defence & Maritime Security**

Enhanced cooperation in defence and maritime security supports stability in key sea lanes, including the Indian Ocean region, which is critical for global trade and energy flows. Joint training, maritime domain awareness, and peacekeeping collaboration reinforce shared commitments to regional security and sustainable economic growth.

## 4. IABD: Forum Elements and Activities



### Matrix of Activities

Day I – 29 May		Day II – 30 May		Day III – 31 May	
AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	
Exhibition Showcasing Sectoral Best Practices in India and collaborative showcase for Africa					Close of Expo
<b>Business Summit Inaugural</b>  With Indian Minister and African Ministers who have arrived in India	<b>Exhibition walkthrough by</b>  VIPs after Business Summit Inaugural	<b>Sectoral Sessions</b>  Critical Minerals Mobility MSME & Trade Banking & Finance Healthcare Media		<b>Proposed Leaders</b>  <b>Walk-through Exhibition</b>	
<b>Sectoral Sessions</b>  Agriculture Infrastructure Digital & ICT Human Capital Defence & Maritime Energy					

## 4.1 Business Conference

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### a. Plenary Sessions

Flagship policy dialogue involving Heads of State, Ministers, multilaterals, and industry leaders.

#### Suggested sessions:

- Inaugural Session
- Trade Ministers Plenary

### b. Sectoral Sessions

Interactive deep dives on priority industries focusing on regulatory pathways, financing models, investment structures, and joint ventures.

#### Suggested sessions:

- Agriculture & Food Processing
- Infrastructure & Energy
- Digital & ICT
- Human Capital Growth
- Defence & Maritime
- Mining & Critical Minerals
- Mobility
- MSME & Trade
- Banking & Finance
- Healthcare
- Media & Tourism

### c. Country Sessions

Presentation of national priorities, investment pipelines, and bilateral project opportunities.

#### Suggested sessions:

- South Africa
- Angola
- Kenya
- Tanzania
- Egypt
- Ghana
- Democratic Republic of Congo

## 4.2 Exhibition

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The **India Africa Forum and Business Summit Expo** aim to provide renewed direction and scale to a modern India–Africa strategic partnership.

This initiative plans to make a tremendous impact on reinvigorating engagement and building a future-ready partnership between India and Africa. It seeks to consolidate India’s position as a reliable development partner, strengthen Global South cooperation, and build a resilient and mutually beneficial partnership.

### Participation in the Exhibition

The exhibition will feature participation from **Government Ministries / Departments as well as select Indian organisations and companies** that have played a significant role in strengthening the India–Africa partnership landscape.

### Objectives of the Exhibition

The exhibition aims to showcase India’s sectoral strengths, institutional capabilities and business leadership through integrated displays by both Government and industry.

Exhibitors will highlight:

- The **corporate or institutional story**
- **Milestones of achievements**
- **Uniqueness of business processes, governance models and best practices**
- **Africa footprint and engagement**
- Key drivers of growth and collaboration including:
  - Success stories
  - Global value chain linkages
  - Experience in India
  - Exports to Africa
  - R&D and innovation

Government Ministries and Departments will also present:

- Sectoral strengths and development initiatives relevant to African partners
- Progressive tools, technologies, know-how and practical applications developed and implemented by the Ministry / Department

- Major active and completed projects in India, Africa and globally
- India’s innovation, design and technology capabilities with relevance to African markets

## Format of Exhibition Displays

Participating organisations, companies and government bodies will showcase their work through technology-enabled and experiential exhibition formats, including:

- **Live product or technology demonstrations**
- Display of **key products or initiatives** that have contributed to leadership within the sector
- **Interactive multimedia and technology-enabled display systems**
- Presence of **senior officers or management representatives** at stalls to facilitate interactions and business discussions
- Engagement with visiting African delegations including **B2B, B2G and G2G interactions** where relevant

## Exhibition Timings

Date	Time	Activity
29 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	1100 hrs	Inauguration of Exhibition
29 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	1100 - 1800 hrs	Exhibition open for Summit Participants
30 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	0930 – 1800 hrs	Exhibition open for Summit Participants
31 <sup>st</sup> May 2026	TBC	Leaders Walkthrough

## 4.3 B2B Meetings

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Business-to-Business (B2B) meetings at the India Africa Business Dialogue will provide a focused platform for direct engagement between companies, investors, industry leaders, and trade representatives from India and Africa. These interactions are designed to promote practical business dialogue and facilitate the development of strategic partnerships across priority sectors.

The B2B component of the summit will focus on enabling participants to:

- Identify **trade and market access opportunities** between Indian and African businesses
- Explore **investment prospects and joint venture partnerships** across key sectors
- Establish **supply chain linkages and procurement partnerships**
- Promote **technology transfer, innovation collaboration, and capacity building**
- Strengthen **long-term commercial relationships and institutional partnerships**

Through these structured engagements, the B2B meetings aim to translate the broader objectives of the summit into tangible business outcomes, fostering deeper economic cooperation and sustainable trade partnerships between India and Africa.

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