



## 1. India became fifth largest investor in Africa: President Kovind

- How is India engaging to African continent in recent days?
- What is the importance of Africa for India and world?
- What are the areas of cooperation between India and Africa?
- What are the challenges for India in reaching out for Africa?

**GS paper 2 (Bilateral Groupings & Agreements involving India )**

**In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.**



**Date: 04 August, 2019**



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## What is the context about?



Recently, President Ram Nath Kovind commenced his seven-day state visit to Benin, Gambia and Guinea-Conakry.

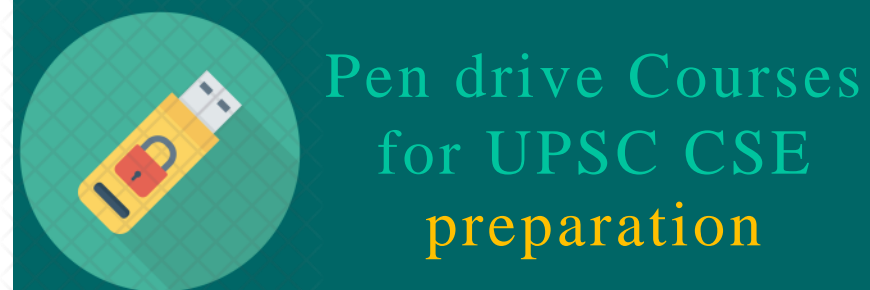


India's relation with Africa has been a historical one. In recent years, these ties have been sought to be imposed with deeper economic and strategic relationship.



The India-Africa summit which began in 2008 has seen three summits, last one being held in October 2015.

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## How is India engaging to African continent in recent days?



Technology has been at the centre of India's development partnership with countries in Africa, underlining that India is keen to share its digital revolution with Africa to enhance the well-being of its people.



The scientific gains from India's space programme have allowed us to strengthen communication, resource mapping and disaster management capacities in several African countries.



Air connectivity between India and Africa has got a boost with three new services to Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania.



President Ram Nath Kovind highlighted that India led the efforts to establish a Slave Trade Memorial at UN in New York and thanked the country Benin for its support towards global recognition of the indenture labour heritage.



## What is the importance of Africa for India and world?



Africa is home to over half a dozen of the fastest growing countries of this decade such as Rwanda, Senegal, and Tanzania etc making it one of the growth pole of the world.



Real GDP in Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa in the past decade has grown by more than twice the rate in 1980s and 90's. African continent has a population of over one billion with a combined GDP of 2.5 trillion dollars making it a huge potential market.



Africa is a resource rich nation dominated by commodities like crude oil, gas, pulses and lentils, leather, gold and other metals, all of which India lack in sufficient quantities. India is seeking diversification of its oil supplies away from the Middle East and Africa can play an important role in India's energy matrix.



## What are the areas of cooperation between India and Africa?



**Trade** – Indian-African synergies can be used for expanding sectors like tourism, banking, telecommunications, manufacturing and agriculture.



**Security** – Being the littoral states in the Indian Ocean, they can work towards establishing mechanisms to deal with threats to regional security including terrorism and piracy.



**Capacity Building** – Africa's expectation from India in the field of public health goes beyond just the supply of affordable medicine to cover assistance in developing the continent's public health services capacities.

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**Maritime Cooperation** – development of blue economy and renewable energy for the continent’s growth can be realized by Indian experience and the expertise to develop and manage the maritime resources.



**Food Security** – India and Africa face similar challenges in regards to hunger and undernutrition. Importing food grains from African nations will address nation’s food security problem. It will also provide opportunities to farmers of Africa to increase income, productivity and generate employment.



## What are the challenges for India in reaching out for Africa?



Ethnic and religious conflicts and governance issues in some countries make foreign contributors averse to venture in the region.



India's substantive presence in Africa has remained marginal as it focused on its own periphery through much of the Cold War period which limited its capabilities.



Since the end of the Cold War China's presence has grown in Africa, who has been providing soft loans to African states which has resulted in Chinese growing influence in the continent. With government institutions and businesses working in separate silos, India has no coordinated Africa policy nor does there seem to be an avenue where the strengths of both actors can be leveraged.