

India-Africa Digital Partnership

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India-Africa Digital Partnership: A New Era of Cooperation

Context

Africa Day, celebrated on **May 25**, marks the founding of the Organisation of African Unity in 1963 and reflects the continent's aspirations for unity, development, and peace. India has been a consistent partner in Africa's development journey, contributing significantly in areas such as infrastructure, education, renewable energy, and now, digital transformation.

India's Key Contributions to Africa's Development

- **State-led Financing:** India has extended over **US\$ 13 billion** in concessional loans and grants to African countries between **2010 and 2024**.
- **Lines of Credit:** India is the **second-largest** provider of credit to Africa, after China, supporting infrastructure and development projects.
- **Capacity-Building Initiatives:**
 - Several Indian educational institutions have signed MoUs to train African human resources.
 - **IIT Madras** launched its **first overseas campus in Zanzibar**, a milestone in educational diplomacy.
- **Trade and Market Access:**
 - India offers duty-free and preferential market access under the **Duty-Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme** to Least Developed Countries (LDCs).
 - India is Africa's **third-largest trading partner**, with bilateral trade touching **US\$ 82.1 billion**.

- **Renewable Energy Cooperation:**

- Through the **International Solar Alliance**, India committed **US\$ 2 billion** to solar projects across Africa, promoting energy security and sustainable electrification.
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India's Digital Approach to Africa

- **Alignment with AU's Strategy:** India supports the **African Union Digital Transformation Strategy (2020-2030)**, ensuring coherence with continental goals.

- **Pan-African e-Network:**

- Launched by India, this satellite-based platform enhances access to **tele-medicine**, **tele-education**, and digital connectivity.

- **Open-Source Digital Public Goods:**

- India promotes its digital platforms as **open-source, inclusive, and affordable**, enabling African countries to build sovereign and adaptable systems.

- **Digital Financial Inclusion:**

- India contributed **US\$ 2 million** to the **Africa Digital Financial Inclusion Facility (ADFI)** to support access to digital financial tools for underserved populations.
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Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and its Impact on Africa

- **Global DPI Support:**

- Initiatives like the **One Future Alliance (OFA)**, launched during India's G20 Presidency, aim to assist developing nations with funding and technical support for DPI implementation.

- **Sharing DPI Innovations:**

- India has been exporting its DPI models—**Aadhaar (digital ID)**, **UPI (digital**

payments), CoWIN (health platform), and DIKSHA (education platform)—to African nations.

- **Collaborations with African Nations:**

- In **2023, Zambia** signed an MoU with the Centre for Digital Public Infrastructure at IIIT-B to advance its **Smart Zambia Initiative**.
- **Togo** adopted India-inspired **MOSIP (Modular Open-Source Identity Platform)** for its national ID system.
- In **2024**, the **Bank of Namibia** signed a pact with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to develop a **UPI-like digital payment system**.

What Lies Ahead?

India and Africa are now poised to build a **new digital compact** grounded in **mutual respect, co-development, and sustainable institutional partnerships**. This model can offer a scalable framework for advancing **digital inclusion**, governance, and economic growth across the African continent.

