

India in Africa

India Ups the Game in Delivering Infra Projects in Partner Countries

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The development partnership between India and Kenya is also significant as it comes amid murmurs of protest on the African continent over China's terms of engagement with countries while extending loans for infrastructure projects.

The Rift Valley Textiles factory in Kenya was shut down in 2000. India extended a line of credit worth US\$29.95mn during Modi's visit to revive and modernise the factory. The contract to upgrade the factory was awarded to an Indian private company, Lakshmi Machine Works Ltd (LMW), which completed the project in June.

The factory now has a cotton processing capacity of 83 bales a day, up from 8 bales a day previously. It has an output capacity of 15 million metres per annum, up from 1.7 million metres per annum.

India had also promised to renovate the Mahatma Gandhi Graduate Library at the University of Nairobi through a grant of US\$1mn. This too has been completed on time, said government officials. "These projects are an example of how Indian assistance is making a difference to the economy and lives of people in African countries. The speed of our project delivery has also been appreciated," said T S Tirumurthy, Secretary, Economic Relations, in the Indian Foreign Ministry.

Some of the big-ticket projects completed by India recently in Africa include the construction of the presidential office in Ghana, the National Assembly building in



India has fulfilled its promise of reviving a textile factory in Kenya in a record time of less than three years, under a line of credit extended during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit in 2016. This is in sharp contrast to the days when the country was seen to be slow in delivering on its development partnership commitments especially in comparison with strategic rival China.

Gambia, and the Kosti power plant in Sudan. Africa is a key development partner of India garnering a sizeable portion of India's lines of credit assistance of US\$28bn extended in 2018-19.

Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said that project delivery would be a key focus area. He would hold monthly reviews of India's development projects to ensure their timely delivery. In the past, there have been complaints of time and cost overruns, giving India the reputation of being a well-meaning partner but whose efficiency in delivering on time is questionable.

India upping its game comes against the backdrop of China emerging as the single largest financier of African infrastructure, financing one in five projects and constructing one in three, according to a paper by Deloitte Africa.

"To date China has participated in more than 200 African infrastructure projects. Chinese enterprises have completed and are building projects that are designed to help add to or upgrade about 30,000 km of highways, 2,000 km of railways, 85 million tonnes per year of port throughput capacity, more than nine million tonnes per day of clean water treatment capacity, about 20,000MW of power generation capacity, and more than 30,000km of transmission and transformation lines," Deloitte Africa said.

Analysts opine that while India has a long way to go in catching up with China *vis a vis* undertaking big ticket infrastructure projects, there is some realisation in Africa that Chinese terms of engagement are maybe less than desirable and this could present India with an opportunity to take on more projects in Africa.

* Journalist, Mint. Abridged from an article appeared in the Mint on June 30, 2019

Collaboration in Aviation Sector

The Indian High Commissioner to Ghana, Birender Singh stated that India is committed to support Ghana to develop a strong and formidable aviation sector. Both countries had a long standing relation which should provide an easy path to work as development partners in various sectors of their economies.

He said India had made remarkable strides in the aviation industry and was prepared to assist Ghana to replicate the processes India took to achieve success.

Joseph Kofi Adda, Minister of Aviation highlighted some key concerns of the aviation sector in Ghana, including the dearth of training of personnel at the airports on equipment handling and for collaboration in that area.

(BG, 03.06.19)

Indian Supports AU Summit

To further deepen its presence in the African continent, India has offered a helping hand to Niger by granting US\$15mn to help organise the African Union (AU) Summit in July 2019.

Ajay Dubey, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University said that India needs a stronger presence in the AU as it largely goes by Banjul formula of the union to affect its aid and grants through India-Africa Forum Summit.

By extending this assistance, India will extend its influence in the AU. In the last five years, there have been 25 high level bilateral visits between India and Africa, a sign of a huge build rich continent. *(FE, 19.06.19)*

Offering Indian Scholarships

India has been offering full scholarships to Kenyans in the area of Technical and Vocational Education and Training through their various development assistance programmes.

The Indian High Commissioner to Kenya, Rahul Chhabra said that the scholarship scheme started in 1964 to help fellow developing countries achieve the objectives of skilled

India-Africa: The Way Forward

After seven decades, 55 African states are trying to sincerely decide on their own future course through greater and definitive integration.

Africans have made sincere efforts to unite and evolve multilateral institutions like the AU or the African Development Bank and several effective regional organisations be they related to financial, banking, customs or developmental priorities.

Despite the slow and occasionally wavering processes, they have been working hard to create a pan-African economic space which could provide them the requisite levers for international negotiability and protection. *(FE, 14.05.19)*



manpower in all fields for technological and economic development.

He stated that India offers a wide range of technical courses which equip trainers with requisite technical skills for the competitive job market and the year 2018-19, a total of 400 Kenyans had been sent to India for various courses on full scholarship. *(KNA, 23.04.19)*

Expanding India-Africa Trade

Chinese growth is likely to slow in the 2020s, as the population ages and productivity growth declines. Slower Chinese growth will not necessarily be detrimental for Africa, as Indian trade and investment is likely to increase.

Indian demand for raw materials is likely to benefit the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea and Zambia. So what is the potential for Africa-India trade?

African exports to Indian have increased partly as a result of India's duty-free tariffs preference scheme for least developed countries adopted in 2008. Africa-India trade could double by 2021. *(AR, 24.05.19)*

No Conditionalities for Africa

India's partnership with Africa is based on a model of cooperation which is responsive to the needs of African countries. It is demand-driven and free of conditionalities.

It is based on history of friendship, historical ties, and a sense of deep solidarity.

As Prime Minister has underlined, African priorities are our priorities. "There has been unprecedented intensification of our political engagement with Africa with 29 visits to African countries at the level of President, Vice President and Prime Minister apart from several Ministerial visits. The visits have been in both directions." *(ET, 28.05.19)*

India Reaches its Diaspora

Indian businesses in Africa have suggested the government to take steps, such as improving line of credit system, setting up of banks and liberalise visa policies to increase trade and investment with Africa.

These issues were highlighted by Indian business community in Africa during an interaction organised by the Ministry and Indian High Commissions and embassies of 11 African countries over Digital Video Conference on May 03, 2019.

It was attended by over 400 members of Indian business community in 11 African countries — Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Zambia, Mauritius, Nigeria, Mozambique, Ghana, South Africa, Botswana and Madagascar. *(ET, 07.05.19)*

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