International Relations · GS - II

India-Africa digital partnership is achieving mutual respect, co-development and long-term institutional partnerships. Elaborate.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2025	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Digital Public Infrastructure, UPI, India Stack, e-VBAB, e-AarogyaBharati, ITEC, capacity building, South-South cooperation, co-development, digital inclusion

Model Answer

Introduction

India-Africa digital cooperation is increasingly moving from a donor-recipient model towards South-South partnership based on technology sharing, capacity building and locally adaptable Digital Public Infrastructure.

1. Mutual respect

India's development partnership emphasises African priorities and local capacity rather than imposing a uniform technological model. India's stated approach includes supporting African talent and using its digital experience to improve public services, education, health and financial inclusion.

2. Co-development

India's DPI experience in UPI, digital identity, telemedicine and digital education provides adaptable technological building blocks. Cooperation involving UPI-style payment systems, digital public goods and capacity building allows African partners to customise solutions according to national requirements.

The adoption of UPI-related infrastructure in Namibia illustrates the emerging financial-digital dimension of this partnership.

3. Long-term institutions

Programmes such as e-VidyaBharati/e-AarogyaBharati and ITEC build enduring human and institutional capacity rather than merely transferring hardware. India's broader DPI strategy also promotes UPI, Aadhaar/MOSIP, DigiLocker and e-health solutions internationally.

Conclusion

Thus, India's digital partnership with Africa can become a durable model of South-South cooperation when technology transfer is accompanied by local ownership, cybersecurity, skills and sustainable institutions.

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