International Relations · GS - II

“If the last few decades were of Asia’s growth story, the next few are expected to be of Africa’s.” In the light of this statement, examine India’s influence in Africa in recent years.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2021	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

India–Africa partnership, South–South cooperation, development assistance, lines of credit, capacity building, Pan-African e-Network, trade and investment, healthcare, education, digital public infrastructure, China’s presence, strategic cooperation.

Model Answer

Introduction

Africa's demographic growth, urbanisation and resource potential have increased its global importance. India has strengthened its engagement through development partnerships, trade, capacity building and diplomatic cooperation.

India's Growing Influence

- **Development partnership:** India provides concessional lines of credit and supports infrastructure, agriculture and public services.
- **Capacity building:** Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programmes offer training and educational opportunities to African professionals.
- **Healthcare cooperation:** Indian pharmaceutical products and medical expertise contribute to affordable healthcare in African countries.

- **Digital cooperation:** Initiatives such as the Pan-African e-Network promoted connectivity and access to education and telemedicine.
- **Trade and investment:** Indian companies operate in sectors including pharmaceuticals, energy, telecommunications and agriculture.
- **Diplomatic engagement:** India and African countries cooperate in multilateral forums on development, climate justice and reform of global institutions.
- **Maritime security:** Cooperation in the Indian Ocean supports anti-piracy efforts, maritime awareness and regional stability.

Challenges

Competition from China and other powers, limited connectivity, project delays and differences among African countries complicate engagement.

Conclusion

India's influence in Africa rests on development cooperation, shared postcolonial experiences and people-to-people ties. Sustainable partnerships require timely project delivery, local capacity building and mutually beneficial trade.

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