

**High Commission of India
Pretoria**

Press Release

India will host the fourth edition of India-Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi from 28 to 31 May 2026. It is a pivotal platform to advance India-Africa relations across political, security, economic, cultural, trade, developmental partnership and people to people connect.

Institutionalised in 2008 as a structured mechanism to advance engagement between India and African countries, the India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-IV) will be hosted on 31 May 2026 in New Delhi in collaboration with the African Union Commission. Hon'ble External Affairs Minister of India, Dr. S. Jaishankar unveiled the logo, theme and website (<https://www.iafs2026.in>) of the IAFS-IV on 23 April 2026 in New Delhi. The Summit will be held under the theme "IA SPIRIT: India Africa Strategic Partnership for Innovation, Resilience, and Inclusive Transformation", reflecting the comprehensive nature of the India-Africa partnership, is expected to conclude with the adoption of the New Delhi Declaration, setting out key areas of future cooperation.

India is expecting a strong African participation, in view of the fact that India-Africa relations are anchored in a long-standing historical bond characterised by solidarity, shared aspirations and converging interests.

The political segment of the Summit will unfold in three stages: Senior Officials' Meetings on 28 May, Foreign Ministers' consultations on 29 May, and a Summit of Heads of State and Government on 31 May. New Delhi frames its partnership with Africa within a broader strategic vision aligned with Agenda 2063 and India's long-term development roadmap, Viksit Bharat 2047. This approach is further guided by 10 principles articulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Kampala in June 2018, while addressing the Ugandan Parliament, focusing on capacity-building, local value creation, open markets, technology transfer, and cooperation in key sectors such as education, agriculture and healthcare, alongside an emphasis on people-centric development.

As a curtain-raiser to the Fourth India–Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-IV), a Pre-Summit International Track – II Academic Conference will be organised by the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) in New Delhi on 22–23 May 2026 on the theme '*Shared Futures, Shared Strength: Expanding India–Africa Partnership*' to provide a platform for a candid and substantive exchange of perspectives and experiences among a diverse range of stakeholders. These include academics, scholars, strategic thinkers, diplomatic practitioners, public intellectuals, industry leaders, media professionals and civil society representatives

from both India and Africa. The conference aims to generate policy-relevant insights and actionable recommendations to inform the agenda and outcomes of IAFS-IV. It will also help identify priority sectors and practical pathways for deepening cooperation, while contributing to the shaping of a forward-looking, inclusive, and resilient India– Africa partnership.

On the economic front, India has become Africa's third largest trading partner, with bilateral trade exceeding \$100 bn and cumulative investments surpassing \$80 bn. This engagement has been reinforced through multilateral initiatives, including India's role during its G20 presidency that led to permanent membership for the African Union in the grouping.

The business dimension of the summit will include high-level plenary sessions, sector-focused discussions, business-to-business meetings and exhibitions. A dedicated India-Africa Business Dialogue and Exhibition will take place from 29-31 May in New Delhi, organised by leading industry bodies such as the Confederation of Indian Industry, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India and PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

India's economic engagement across Africa extends to infrastructure and development cooperation, with over 200 projects completed, spanning irrigation, power generation, manufacturing, technology parks and railway infrastructure. Other areas of cooperation include medical assistance, the provision of equipment such as ambulances and cancer treatment machines, as well as disaster relief operations including food-aid to countries such as Lesotho, Zambia, Malawi, Kenya and Mozambique. During the COVID-19 pandemic, India supplied medical aid to 32 African nations, with African countries among the main beneficiaries of the "Vaccine Maitri" initiative. Indian company Serum Institute in collaboration with South African Aspen Pharma has established the first vaccine manufacturing facility of Africa in Durban.

Defence cooperation has also expanded, with India training military personnel from several African countries and supporting the establishment of defence institutions in Nigeria, Ethiopia and Tanzania. In the space sector, India has provided technological applications including weather forecasting systems, early warning mechanisms and precision agriculture tools.

The Summit's cultural dimension will be led by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, which is organising a series of events throughout May. These include an India-Africa Dance and Music Festival on 23 May in New Delhi, preceded by a joint artistic workshop from 18 to 23 May involving African and Indian performers. A parallel initiative, the India-Africa Artists Partnership for Public Art, will focus on collaborative mural projects.

India also emphasizes expanding educational ties, noting that more than 35,000 Africans have received training under the ITEC programme over the past decade, while over 23,000 African students are currently studying in India. Institutional cooperation includes the

establishment of academic and technical centres such as the Gandhi Mandela Artisan Skill Development Center at Tshwane South TVET campus in Pretoria, Indian Institute of Technology campus in Zanzibar and specialised Forensic University in Uganda , alongside digital infrastructure initiatives and expanded e-visa facilities for 33 African countries.

With a diaspora of approximately 3.5 million people of Indian origin all across Africa, including half of them in South Africa, New Delhi highlights the role of people-to-people connections as a cornerstone of the partnership, reinforced by cultural exchanges.

The Summit is expected to consolidate a comprehensive framework for future engagements between India and Africa, across political, economic and cultural domains. India's partnership with Africa is marked by a frank and open consultative mechanism wherein we meet as partners not only to primarily discuss each other's economic needs and expectations, but to celebrate our unperturbed brotherhood and civilizational connect, amidst all changing global climate. We expect this edition of India Africa Forum Summit to be a landmark event that would re-define the contours of India-Africa relations, as the engagements are three-tiered cooperation at the Pan African, the regional as well as at the bilateral levels.

15 May 2026