

# 11

## CHAPTER

# India's Outreach to Africa

*After reading the chapter, the reader will be able to develop an analytical understanding on the following:*

- Concept of India's Outreach to Africa Programme
- Asia-Africa Growth Corridor
- Analysis of Indian PM Visit to Kenya and Tanzania

Since the coming of the new government in India in 2014, it has given a tremendous importance to reaching out to Africa. India's outreach to Africa began in early 2015 when senior ministers were sent to visit all 54 nations in Africa to invite them to India for the third IAFS in October, 2015. This spectacular diplomatic achievement later also saw India doing away with the Banjul formula. After the success of the summit, the second component of outreach began. As discussed in the previous chapters, the second component witnessed the Indian President and Vice President visiting African nations to strengthen bilateral ties. In the third component, we see the Indian Prime Minister reaching out starting July, 2016.



Thus, through this unique format, India was able to reassert people-to-people as well as government-to-government ties, along with building business link.

## Asia-Africa Growth Corridor

At the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of African Development Bank in Gandhinagar in May, 2017, the Indian PM, along with his Japanese and African counterparts, propounded the idea of an Asia–Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC). The idea had its origin in the discussion of Indian and Japanese PM in 2016. Under this initiative, a mega sea corridor based on ancient sea routes connecting Africa with India and South East and East Asia is being envisaged. The idea is to create a low cost, environment friendly sea corridor to boost investment, transport, trade and connectivity. India and Japan are going to play a major role in developing infrastructure. The creation of AAGC will be akin to making an investment corridor where Japan will contribute its expertise in infrastructure creation while India will bring its core diplomatic expertise. The priority areas of AAGC include projects related to health, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, food processing, disaster management, skill

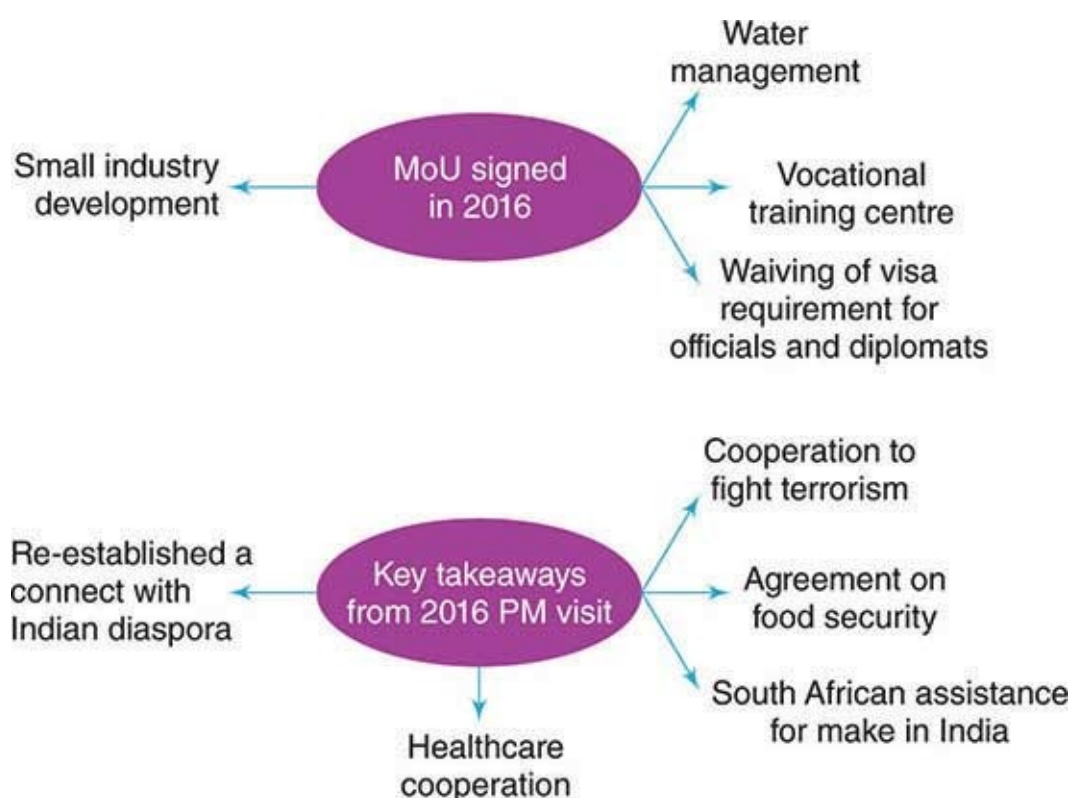
development and technology. Some scholars have theorised that the AAGC is a counter proposal to the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative or the BRI (explained in detail in [section H, chapter 2](#)). The AAGC is unique in many aspects. In contrast to the BRI, the AAGC is a purely sea based corridor, which means that it ensures a lesser carbon footprint. Secondly, in AAGC, the process is more democratic and consultative as the focus is to assist the African states in the ways they want. Thirdly, the AAGC is a corridor where the private sector will be playing a major role in contrast to the BRI, which will be completely state funded.



## Analysis of PM Visit to Kenya and Tanzania in July 2016

The Indian PM visited Kenya & held talks with Uhuru Kenyatta. India extended 44.95 million dollars line of credit to Kenya for assistance in small industrial development & textile sector. To strengthen our bonds over healthcare, India has committed development of a cancer hospital in Kenya. As Kenya being a maritime state is also affected by the threats of piracy, both nations have decided to undertake maritime cooperation. India has committed assistance to Kenya for development of its economy and also assistance for skill development.

During his visit to Tanzania, the PM visited the Barefoot College and also interacted with solar mamas. Solar mamas are trained to provide solar electricity in their villages. The Indian government is providing training to rural women from Africa for solar lighting and entrepreneurship. During his meeting with Tanzanian President John Magufuli, India agreed to provide 92 million dollars line of credit to Tanzania. The money will be used for improvement of water supply system in Zanzibar. India is assisting the country in its water projects and is also presently working on IT in Tanzania.



## *End of Part Questions*

1. Sustained India-Japan cooperation in Africa can match China's substantial outreach to Africa. Examine this statement in the light of the vision of the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor.
2. The Chinese naval base in Africa is likely to have consequences on India's security interests in the Indian Ocean. Examine.
3. What are the key achievements of India in the continental India Africa Forum Summits?
4. India must have a serious dialogue with African countries on its role in future peace keeping operations in the continent. Discuss.
5. The Third India Africa Forum Summit presented India an opportunity to establish itself as a preferred partner of Africa. Examine.
6. India should build on its strategic ties with Africa, by leveraging both its large market and traditional goodwill. Examine.
7. The African Development Bank has put in place a set of ambitious priorities that can unleash the real potential of India-Africa cooperation. Discuss.
8. A far wider cultural engagement with the continent is necessary to combat the latent racism among Indians. Examine the statement in the light of racial attacks on Africans in India.
9. India's education sector can drive a mutually beneficial human resources exchange to realise Africa's long term goals. Discuss.
10. Indian interests in Africa will benefit from timely implementation of projects. Examine the statement in the light of key hurdles in implementation of projects by India in Africa.
11. India's attitude towards Africa cannot remain imprisoned in the 'dark continent' stereotype. Neither can it be defined solely by the legacy of the colonial era. Our language of engagement needs to create a new edifice defined by an aspirational Africa's quest for a good life. Sketch your argument.