Asia Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC)

Why in news?

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- An annual meeting of the African Development Bank (AfDB) held recently in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
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- Prime Minster released a vision document on the “Asia Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC)”.
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What is AAGC?

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- It is a study jointly produced by three research institutions of India and Japan in consultation with other Asian and African think tanks.
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- It envisages closer engagement between India and Africa for “sustainable and innovative development”.
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- It will be anchored to four pillars:
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1. Development and cooperation projects;
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2. Quality infrastructure and institutional connectivity;
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3. Enhancing capacities and skills and
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4. People-to-people partnership.
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- It will accord priority to development projects in health and pharmaceuticals, agriculture and agro-processing, disaster management, and skill enhancement.
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- It will have special focus on Africa, India and South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia and Oceania.
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How it is different from China’s OBOR?

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- The approaches of India and China towards Africa are essentially different.
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- China concentrates on infrastructure and cheque-book diplomacy, whereas India promotes a broader spectrum of cooperation projects and programmes focussed on the development of Africa’s human resources.
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- China goes solo, while India is desirous of working with other willing nations to assist Africa as per the latter’s priorities.
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What should be done to make AAGC effective?

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- China is rapidly expanding its footprint in Africa.
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- So India and Japan do not have the luxury of time.
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- India and Japan should immediately initiate a few joint pilot projects involving the companies of India, Japan and a few African countries in identified areas such as health care, agriculture and blue economy.
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- They should increase the scope of their development projects, create synergy among themselves and engage proactively with other willing partners.
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Source: The Hindu

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