

Having multi-faceted engagement with Africa, the foreign policy implementation needs a comprehensive review. Critically Analyse (200 Words).

India and Africa have multi-faceted engagement since the 1950's. India has championed the interest of African nations through its soft power diplomacy like Non Alignment Movement, Indian support to UN Peace Keeping Force in Africa. Further across arena India continues to champion African interest.

Ways in which India champion African Interest

India tries to improve the social status of African nations through Skill and Knowledge transfer programmes of NPTCL Courses, IGNOU Channel and DD KISAN Channel. Further 40% of Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme slots are reserved for African nations. To make Africa economically prosper India has invested 100 million USD in Pan African e-Network for sustainable ICT. India also trains African Soldiers in India military Academies. To boost ~~all~~ in defence cooperation 1st ever defence ministers conclave was held recently in February 2020.

Need for review in foreign policy :

Though India maintains a bilateral trade more than \$55 billion it is \$15 billion lower compared to 2014-15. Current and immediate threat to be addressed is the China factor. China continues to pose dominance through its quick loans to African nations. For example Recently India's Vax diplomacy suffered due to it. China has also developed two railway lines in Africa. Next the extra regional competition over energy, mining, infrastructure also affects India's interest of "oil and beyond".

Way forward

Thus there is a need for comprehensive review over African foreign policy. India needs to diversify its composition of trade. India should also try to "leverage over its Trust factor" and "support of Africa" at UNSC. Increased co-operation with like minded partners like Japan could soften china's impact.