



Government of India



Confederation of Indian Industry



## 20<sup>th</sup> CII INDIA – AFRICA BUSINESS CONCLAVE *PROGRAMME AGENDA*

### *Thematic Pillars*



*Trade & Investment*



*Education, Skills &  
Capacity Building*



*Digital & Physical  
Infrastructure*



*MSME Collaboration*



*Financial Systems*



*Inclusion*



*Sustainability & Climate*



*Manufacturing &  
Industrialization*

## Trade & Investment

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Trade and investment are central to deepening the India-Africa partnership. Despite global volatility, bilateral trade remains resilient and is projected to cross USD 100 billion. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) presents a historic opportunity to create a unified market of 1.4 billion people. However, infrastructure bottlenecks, fragmented regulations, supply chain disruptions, unavailability of resilient financing solutions and limited industrial integration continue to hinder potential. This theme focuses on building stronger trade corridors, simplifying regulatory frameworks, and leveraging India's development experience to unlock mutual economic opportunities.

### Suggested Sessions

- [Improving Regional Integration and Multilateral Cooperation between India and Africa](#)
- [Leveraging Regional Supply Chain and Logistic Networks to Enhance Global Trade Integration](#)
- [Trade Finance: Unlocking Capital for Emerging Markets](#)

## Education, Skills & Capacity Building

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Africa's demographic advantage, over 60% of its population under 25, can become its greatest economic asset, if paired with meaningful investment in skills and education. Currently, only 6.5% of African youth receive vocational training, and many face a stark mismatch between education and job market needs. This theme addresses collaborative models for skill development, digital literacy, and vocational training that can empower Africa's young workforce. India's track record in skilling and capacity building offers relevant frameworks for scalable impact.

### Suggested Sessions

- [Advancing the Next Generation for Equitable Development of Human Capital](#)
- [Showcase and Insights from CII Centres of Excellence](#)

## Digital & Physical Infrastructure

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Infrastructure is the backbone of sustainable development. In Africa, challenges persist across transportation, energy, and digital connectivity with nearly 600 million lacking electricity and only 36% internet penetration. This theme highlights opportunities for collaboration in infrastructure financing, urban transit, ICT, and energy systems. India's experience in smart cities, metro systems, and digital public infrastructure can serve as transformative models to improve access, inclusion, and productivity across the continent.

### Suggested Sessions

- [Unlocking Africa's Potential through Sustainable Infrastructure Development](#)
- [Accelerating Africa's Digital Future through Innovation and R&D](#)

## MSME Collaboration

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MSMEs form the bedrock of both African and Indian economies, accounting for over 90% of businesses. Yet in Africa, they face systemic barriers: limited access to finance, infrastructure, and formal markets. The Conclave will focus on creating enabling ecosystems through digital tools, industrial parks, and targeted policy support. Drawing on India's success in formalizing and digitizing its MSME sector, the theme aims to foster resilient, competitive, and innovation-driven MSME ecosystems across Africa.

### Suggested Sessions

- [Enhancing MSME Growth through Strategic Policy and Industrial Collaboration](#)
- [Facilitating Financial Access for MSMEs](#)

## Financial Systems

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A dynamic and inclusive financial system is crucial to mobilize resources for development and empower private enterprise. In Africa, only a fraction of SMEs have access to adequate financing, and banking penetration remains uneven. The initiative will focus on strengthening financial architecture through banking reforms, fintech innovation, and inclusive credit mechanisms. India's digital financial ecosystem, including UPI and microcredit platforms, provides replicable models to bridge financial access gaps and support enterprise-led growth.

### Suggested Sessions

- [Boosting Business through Strong Banking and Financial Services](#)
- [Financial Partnerships for Africa's Growth](#)

## Inclusion

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Inclusive growth lies at the heart of sustainable development. Across Africa, social inequities persist—particularly in access to education, healthcare, and economic participation for women and youth. This theme explores targeted interventions to address gender disparities, rural inequality, and youth unemployment. With women comprising over 50% of the agricultural workforce but owning less than 15% of land, and youth jobless rates reaching 35% in some regions, this underscores the need for integrated, equity-driven strategies for inclusive progress.

### Suggested Sessions

- [Actions to Encourage Corporate Inclusion](#)
- [Strengthening Healthcare Capacity and Affordable Access in Africa](#)

## Sustainability and Climate

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*Climate resilience is no longer optional—it is a necessity. Africa is highly vulnerable to climate shocks, especially in agriculture and water systems, yet it also holds 60% of the world's uncultivated arable land and immense renewable energy potential. This theme focuses on building green infrastructure, scaling climate-smart agriculture, and transitioning to clean energy systems. With India's global leadership in solar energy and sustainable mobility, the partnership can accelerate Africa's shift toward a low-carbon, climate-resilient development model.*

### Suggested Sessions

- [Unlocking Africa's Agricultural Future through Innovation and Mechanization Advancing](#)
- [Driving Africa's Future with Affordable and Sustainable Mobility Solutions](#)
- [The Future of Energy: Shifting to Sustainable and Clean Energy Solutions](#)

## Manufacturing & Industrialization

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*Industrial development is vital for Africa's structural transformation. Despite its vast potential, manufacturing contributes just 10% to Africa's GDP, and productivity levels remain low. This theme explores policy, technology, and infrastructure solutions to build manufacturing ecosystems—leveraging Special Economic Zones (SEZs), regional value chains, and standards harmonization. India's experience in cluster-based industrialization and SME-led manufacturing excellence provides actionable insights for Africa's industrial leap forward.*

### Suggested Sessions

- [New Opportunities for Private Business in Africa](#)
- [Enhancing Africa's Manufacturing with Standards and Industrial Competitiveness](#)