

AFRICA'S TOP 100 ENTREPRENEURS

Of Indian Origin





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“The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), launched in 2021, presents a unified market of 1.3 billion people—a scale Indian enterprises understand intimately.”

For centuries, monsoon winds have carried Indian merchants to the shores of East Africa, establishing trade networks that predated European colonization.

The Indian diaspora in Africa—numbering approximately 3 million today—represents generations of entrepreneurs, professionals, and community builders who have become integral to African socio-economic life.

India was among the first nations to support African decolonization, and this shared anti-colonial heritage remains a powerful diplomatic asset.

India-Africa bilateral trade has grown exponentially from \$7 billion in 2001 to over \$98 billion in 2023, positioning India among Africa's top five trading partners. India's exports—pharmaceuticals, automobiles, software, machinery, and petroleum products—complement Africa's resource exports and emerging consumer markets.

Indian cumulative investments in Africa exceed \$75 billion, spanning telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, infrastructure, and agriculture.

This report uncovers some of the most prominent entrepreneurs and businessmen who have made this possible. With the power to influence trade and investment across the India-Africa corridor, they continue to play a major role in the economic development of the two regions.

It is an attempt not only to recognize and celebrate their professional and personal achievements but also an opportunity to learn from their personal journeys.

Message from the Chairman, India Africa Entrepreneurship Forum

“India and Africa stand at a shared frontier of innovation and inclusion—poised to scale a partnership built on trust, technology, and growth.”

This report profiles leading entrepreneurs, senior executives, and influential individuals of Indian origin across Africa, capturing their achievements through concise biographical sketches. These individuals offer deep local insight and serve as valuable partners for Indian businesses exploring opportunities on the continent.

India and Africa today stand at a shared frontier defined by innovation, inclusion, and long-term cooperation. Their partnership is rooted in trust—built over decades of solidarity, shared histories, and mutual respect. Unlike extractive or conditional models, India–Africa engagement is based on sovereign equality and genuine collaboration.

Technology has become the strongest accelerator of this relationship. India’s digital public infrastructure—from Aadhaar to UPI—provides a tested blueprint that African nations are adapting to expand financial inclusion and public services. Telemedicine, digital payments, and agri-tech solutions now connect expertise across both regions.

Trade has grown beyond \$100 billion, supported by India’s role as a key supplier of affordable medicines and a major hub for African students seeking technical and professional education. Entrepreneurial ecosystems in both regions increasingly intersect, strengthening commercial and cultural ties.

The true potential of this partnership lies in driving inclusive, last-mile growth. India’s experience in designing low-cost, scalable digital systems complements Africa’s youthful demographics and rising innovation hubs. As global dynamics shift, the India–Africa partnership offers a forward-looking model of equitable, capability-driven, and future-ready cooperation.



Sushil Jiwarajka
Chairman
India Africa
Entrepreneurship Forum



Message from the Convenor, India Africa Entrepreneurship Forum

“Connecting two continents, the annual India Africa Entrepreneurship & Investment Summit turns ideas into impact and dialogue into action.”

Over the last six years, the India Africa Entrepreneurship Forum has emerged as a trusted platform linking India's rapidly growing \$4 trillion economy with Africa's \$3.5 trillion frontier markets. It has facilitated cross-continental partnerships, joint ventures, and sector-focused collaborations in energy, healthcare, technology, and education. By promoting knowledge exchange and investor confidence, the Forum turns trusted connections into tangible business outcomes.

Looking ahead, the Forum has identified certain areas of focus that include:

- Trade integration & AfCFTA linkages: where India can align export rules, standards, and regional value-chain investments with the African Continental Free Trade Area to scale goods and services trade and tap into intra-African market growth.
- Agriculture & agro-processing: Africa needs productivity, storage, and value chain upgrades; India's agri-tech, seeds, cold chain, and small-farm machinery meet demand and can accelerate food security and exports. (FAO datasets stress agriculture's central role in African employment and resilience.)
- Digital economy & fintech: Mobile payments, payment rails, SaaS, and edtech are natural India-Africa exports and partnership areas; combined with local startups, they expand financial inclusion and cross-border digital services.
- Pharma & health services: India's generic drug and vaccine manufacturing can help localize supply, reduce costs, and build regional manufacturing hubs in Africa.
- Renewables & green industrialization: Collaborative investment in solar, mini-grids, and green manufacturing supports decarbonization and energy access.

Infrastructure, skills & manufacturing: India's concessional finance and contractor base can support transport, ports, skills centers, and light manufacturing to build regional value chains.



**Baljinder Sharma,
Convenor
India Africa
Entrepreneurship Forum**



**india
africa**
business network

Message from AJ Patel - Founder, TiE Global

“Join us in Cape Town as India and Africa come together to spark bold ideas and build a resilient future.”

In a rapidly shifting global landscape, where tariff-driven economic policies and protectionist trends are reshaping trade flows, the need for resilient South–South cooperation has never been greater. The recent tariff-based disruptions by major economies such as the United States underscore the urgency for India and Africa to strengthen their partnership—anchored in mutual respect, complementary capabilities, and shared growth.

Together, our regions represent over \$7 trillion in GDP and nearly three billion people—a vast demographic and economic strength that can define the future of inclusive globalization. The India–Africa Entrepreneurship Forum 2026 in Cape Town offers an essential platform to convert this potential into action.

Over two days, leaders from government, business, and innovation will explore how deeper collaboration in trade, technology, healthcare, digital infrastructure, renewables, and manufacturing can insulate our economies from external shocks while building enduring value chains. This is more than a conference—it is a strategic movement toward economic independence, regional integration, and shared prosperity. We connect ideas, investors, and innovators to build a new way of working that serves our shared interests.

Your participation will be instrumental in defining this next chapter of the India–Africa partnership. We look forward to welcoming you to Cape Town on 13–15 July 2026, to build together what the future demands: resilient growth and equitable opportunities.



Message from Dr. Thomas Abraham, Chairman, GOPIO

“For over two thousand years, the Indian presence in Africa has been defined by resilience, enterprise, and an unwavering spirit of partnership.”

It is with great pleasure that I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the publishers and contributors of Africa's Top 100 Entrepreneurs of Indian Origin. This remarkable publication is both timely and significant, offering a well-deserved tribute to a community whose contributions continue to deepen the historical, cultural, and economic ties between India and Africa.

For more than two millennia, the Indian presence in Africa has been defined by resilience, enterprise, and an enduring spirit of partnership. From the early traders who journeyed with the monsoon winds to today's innovators, entrepreneurs, professionals, and public leaders, people of Indian origin have played an integral role in shaping Africa's development story. Their accomplishments reflect not only individual excellence but also the shared values of hard work, integrity, and inclusivity that characterise the Global Indian Diaspora.

At GOPIO, we celebrate the achievements of Indian-origin communities worldwide—communities that continue to serve as bridges of goodwill, collaboration, and cultural understanding between their adopted nations and India. The distinguished individuals featured in this volume embody the very essence of that mission. Their influence extends beyond business and governance; they help shape a vision of shared prosperity that unites two of the world's most dynamic regions.

I commend the India Africa Entrepreneurship Forum for this forward-looking initiative and for honouring the exemplary individuals who strengthen the India–Africa relationship. May this publication inspire younger generations to carry forward this legacy of innovation, service, and global citizenship, and may it further reinforce the enduring partnership between our peoples.

On behalf of GOPIO International and its 100 chapters worldwide, I extend our warmest congratulations and best wishes for continued success.



**Dr. Thomas
Abraham
Chairman, GOPIO**



Message from M.R. Rangaswami, Founder, Indiaspora

“As Africa emerges as a frontier of innovation and India continues its ascent as a global knowledge hub, the synergies between the two are unprecedented. The diaspora, with its deep local insights and global perspective, serves as a natural connector, advancing trade, innovation, and sustainable development.”

The Indian diaspora in Africa stands as one of the most compelling chapters in the story of global partnership and human enterprise. For generations, people of Indian origin have contributed meaningfully to Africa’s economic, cultural, and civic life—serving as entrepreneurs, professionals, educators, and community leaders who have helped shape the continent’s development narrative.

Their success reflects not only personal achievement but also a shared legacy of trust, resilience, and collaboration. Across countries and communities, they have built institutions, created jobs, nurtured innovation, and fostered social progress. In doing so, they have strengthened the living bridge between India and Africa—a bridge founded on shared values, historical ties, and a common vision for a more inclusive and sustainable future.

The individuals featured in this directory embody the best of both worlds: India’s spirit of enterprise and Africa’s boundless potential. They represent the human connection that transforms commerce into collaboration and investment into impact. Through their leadership across key sectors—from technology and healthcare to agriculture, energy, and education—they are catalyzing opportunities that extend beyond borders, touching lives and shaping destinies.

This directory is both a recognition and a reaffirmation—a tribute to those who embody the spirit of partnership between India and Africa, and a reminder that our shared future will be built not just through policy or trade, but through people who believe in the power of connection, compassion, and collective progress.



M.R. Rangaswami
Founder, Indiaspora





JAYANTH MURTHY

KENYA | KAIZEN INSTITUTE (INDIA, SOUTH ASIA & AFRICA)

CEO

Jayanth Murthy has been a lifelong student and practitioner of Kaizen for more than three decades. He currently serves as the Joint Managing Director of Kaizen Institute, leading operations across India and Africa. Over the years, he has been deeply engaged in promoting and expanding the Kaizen philosophy—a work culture rooted in the spirit of continuous improvement. Widely recognised as Lean Management, Continuous Improvement, or Operational Excellence, Jayanth has facilitated Kaizen adoption in more than 30 countries, many across the African continent, spanning diverse industries and government institutions.

Born and educated in India, Jayanth earned his degree in Industrial and Production Engineering from the University of Mysore in 1990. He began his professional journey in the field of Value Engineering, leading independent consulting assignments in India and Africa. In 1996, he received a Japanese AOTS scholarship to study Quality Management in Osaka, Japan. His association with Kaizen Institute began soon after when he met Mr Grover, who established the India operations in 2000. Jayanth played a key role in launching Kaizen Institute's presence in Africa. Today, the Institute supports organisations across more than 15 African nations.

Throughout his career, Jayanth has led numerous large-scale Kaizen transformation initiatives across manufacturing, service, and public-sector organisations in South Asia and Africa. He has pioneered the adoption of KAIZEN™ within the governments of Mauritius, Kenya, Tanzania, and India, including engagement with the Office of the Prime Minister of India. In partnership with the Gates Foundation, Kaizen Institute's India and Africa teams continue to apply KAIZEN™ principles in healthcare supply chains and medical commodities distribution.

Jayanth is a Fulbright Fellow (2005) from Carnegie Mellon University, USA, and a recipient of the Monozukuri Jinzai Ambassador citation from AOTS, Government of Japan. He is also a frequent speaker at international conferences on Lean Management, Operational Excellence, and policy-driven productivity.