

Asia-Africa Growth Corridor: Vision document focusses on inclusivity

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Gandhinagar, May 24:

A vision document on the Indo-Japan initiative of the Asia Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC) lays down the framework for social and economic connectivity between the two regions in a more inclusive and sustainable manner.

The vision document, released at the 52nd annual meeting of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group here, emphasises on inclusivity and centrality of people, rather than focusing only on trade and economics, said Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General of RIS, a Central government organisation which is among the three entities mandated to prepare the vision document for AAGC.

Earlier this month, China launched its One Belt, One Road (OBOR) regional connectivity project, which is perceived as more centralised and trade-oriented.

The leaders from the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) took into account more than the trade aspect and focused on other social and people aspects while drafting the AAGC vision document.

360-degree perspective

“When this task was assigned to us, we focused not just on the physical connectivity but looked at it in a 360-degree perspective. It was like connecting the two monoliths of Asia and Africa that are not homogenous in nature. There is heterogeneity implicit in every aspect or element. Be it economics, ethos or culture,” said Anita Prakash, DG, Policy Department, ERIA.

Earlier, ERIA had drafted the masterplan on ASEAN connectivity as well as a vision document on Asia-Europe connectivity.

The AAGC takes into consideration changed global connectivity scenario post the 2008 crisis. On one hand, India’s centuries-old engagement with Africa provides a familiar ground to roll out the project.

On the other, Japan’s approach to quality infrastructure ensures inclusivity for small and medium enterprises.

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