Bharat-Africa Civilisational Linkages under G-21 and BRICS

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The unprecedented success of the 18th G20 summit is indeed a strong statement for reformed multilateralism and, moreover, a watershed moment for Indian diplomacy. The 18th G20 under the Indian Presidency was essentially a tribute to the relationship between Bharat and Africa. The inclusion of the AU in the G20 is undoubtedly one of the most significant accomplishments in the history of the G20 among everything that has been accomplished. AU's addition to the G20 aligns clearly with one planet, one family, and one future, also known as Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, which is a basic principle of Bharat. Similarly, BRICS has been actively pursuing a robust agenda of sector-wide collaboration. It should be appreciated that BRICS has evolved into a forum for talking about and debating problems that are important to the whole Global South, such as the need for development and multilateral system reform.Over two millennia have passed since the first contact between the two civilisations occurred. Our ties have become stronger in recent years as a result of our shared commitment to democracy, the rule of law, and pluralism. The two regions have been collaborating in a variety of fields, including trade and investment, defence, culture, and people-to-people contacts. The collaboration between Bharat and Africa is exemplified by its equitable, consultative, and cooperative nature under G-21 and BRICS. Some of the adages that are frequently used to celebrate and define the past, present, and future of the partnership between Bharat and the African continent include cultural and historical ties, political and emotional anti-colonial solidarity, diasporic goodwill, and an ingrained sense of true "South-South" collaboration. According to the current Indian dispensation, "Bharat and Africa under G-21 and BRICS will act as a catalytic agent for the new global order" and "help shape policies that shape the future of humanity" while "reflecting the voice and concerns of the Global South.".

Most crucially, both Bharat and Africa have emphasised the significance of a development-and human-centric agenda by supporting policies that make economic growth and poverty eradication the top priorities of emerging nations. As the "voice of the global south, both have reaffirmed that equitable benefit distribution should go hand in hand with global economic stability, emphasising social justice. Bharat and Africa's attitudes have placed a special emphasis on sustainable development. Both are vocal supporters of incorporating environmental concerns and social equity into G-20 and BRICS discussions. They have worked to advance the idea of a just transition to cleaner energy sources and emphasise the importance of climate finance for developing countries in their fight against climate change. Both havepromoted inclusivity and a more balanced economic order as part of their commitment to representing the interests of the Global South by calling for fair trade and investment practices, addressing trade barriers and protectionism that impede the economic development of Global South nations, better financial inclusion, healthcare, education, and bridging the digital divide. They have sought to utilise its presidency to open the way for a new, more open, and inclusive global order rather than seeing it as an image-building exercise.

Finally, both Bharat and African philosophical traditions emphasise the notion of unity or oneness in the cosmos. The universe is interrelated and harmonious, despite its diversity. The idea of interconnectedness is now universally accepted. The concept of global commons highlights the interconnectedness of natural systems and the relationship between nature and humans. Because it is a concept that brings people together rather than dividing them, Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and Ubuntu can be taken as the basis for the continuing conversation about international collaboration for tackling global challenges. It might be the cornerstone of the new multilateralism that is sorely required. In order to build a more peaceful and sustainable global society, Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and Ubuntu with their historical origins, philosophical foundations and contemporary relevance can inspire us to address current global issues. It is with this intention that Bharat and Africa seek to collaborate under the G-21 and BRICS to deepen, broaden, and intensify cooperation within the grouping and among the individual countries for more sustainable, equitable, and mutually beneficial development.

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