

**Remarks by High Commissioner Dr. Adarsh Swaika at a symposium on
“Reshaping India-Kenya Cooperation in the 21st Century”**

22 January 2026

Your Excellency Dr. Korir Singoei, PS, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chief Guest of today's event;

Chairperson GLOCEPS Brig Wilson Boinett and Executive Director Dr Kennedy Asembo;

Former Indian High Commissioner to Kenya Amb Rahul Chhabra

Deputy NSA; Special Envoy on Technology for the Republic of Kenya.

Esteemed Moderators, Speakers and Panelists;

Scholars and experts,

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning ! Namaskar ! Jambo!

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all today at this joint symposium organised by the High Commission of India and GLOCEPS, under a theme that is both timely and consequential: ***Reshaping India-Kenya Cooperation in the 21st Century.***

2. Let me begin by congratulating GLOCEPS for curating a programme that brings together strategic, economic and developmental dimensions of our partnership in a single and coherent conversation. At a time of profound global uncertainty, volatility and transition, such platforms for informed dialogue are not only useful but necessary.

3. India and Kenya share a relationship that is historic, people-centric and remarkably resilient. From centuries-old Indian Ocean exchanges to shared experiences during colonial rule and the freedom struggle, our ties have been shaped by human connections as much as by strategic considerations. That legacy continues to inform the nature of our modern partnership today.

4. Over the past decade in particular, India–Kenya relations have acquired renewed momentum. At the political level, regular high-level exchanges have provided strategic direction and trust. At the economic level, India is today among Kenya’s leading trade partners, with bilateral trade at around USD 3.5 billion. Nearly 200 Indian companies operate in Kenya across manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, ICT, energy, banking and infrastructure, contributing to employment, skills development and local value addition.

5. Our development partnership has remained demand-driven and capacity-focused. Lines of Credit, grant-supported projects and technical cooperation initiatives have supported priority sectors such as power transmission, healthcare, textiles and MSMEs. Equally important has been our strong cooperation in education and capacity building, with thousands of Kenyan professionals, civil servants and students trained in India over the years, creating a durable human bridge between our two countries.

6. India and Kenya have also deepened cooperation in defence, maritime security and peacekeeping, reflecting shared responsibilities in the Indian Ocean Region and beyond. The enunciation of BAHARI maritime vision document has added depth to our maritime cooperation. Our collaboration in humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and public health, including during the COVID-19 pandemic and recent floods, underscores the trust and reliability that underpin this partnership.

7. The symposium today is to look beyond what has been achieved to what lies ahead. The thematic sessions reflect emerging priorities that is expected to shape India–Kenya cooperation in the coming decade. Strategic collaboration in

the Indo-Pacific and Eastern Africa landscape, maritime security, renewable energy, rare earths, and the role of the diaspora are areas where our complementarities are increasingly evident.

8. Discussions on trade and investment, digital public infrastructure, health and pharmaceuticals, connectivity, supply chains, education and skills development speak directly to the developmental aspirations of our societies. India's experience with digital public infrastructure, affordable healthcare solutions, skills training at scale, and renewable energy transitions offers practical lessons that can be adapted, not transplanted, in partnership with Kenya. Similarly, Kenya's leadership in wildlife management and tourism, exploitation of geo-thermal energy and other such areas offer learning lessons for India.

9. As we look to the future, what is particularly encouraging is the alignment between India's long-term vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 and Kenya's Vision 2030. Both emphasize inclusive growth, industrialization, clean energy, digital transformation and human capital development. This alignment provides a strong foundation for a partnership that is not transactional, but transformational.

10. India's approach to Africa, and to Kenya in particular, is guided by partnership, mutual respect and shared growth. We see Kenya not only as a key bilateral partner, but also as an important interlocutor and vital regional hub in shaping Global South perspectives on global environmental governance, climate action and sustainable development.

11. I hope today's deliberations will generate ideas that are bold and forward-looking yet pragmatic. More importantly, they should help identify pathways that could translate intent into action.

12. Let me conclude by once again thanking the Chief Guest PS, MoFA for his kind presence today. We look forward to his address that will provide a vision for this key relationship. I also thank the moderators, Speakers and panelists

as well as the attendees for joining us for today's event. My special thanks to Former Indian High Commissioner Rahul Chhabra and CEO of NIPL of India for flying in from India for this event. And finally to GLOCEPS team under the leadership of Prof Asembo for making this event possible.

13. I wish the symposium productive discussions and meaningful outcomes, and I look forward to insights that will emerge over the course of the day.

Thank you very much. Asanteni sana.
