

# India's Role as a Vishwa Guru through Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: G20 and African Union

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## ABSTRACT:

India's journey towards becoming a 'Vishwa Guru' is significantly marked by its adherence to the ancient principle of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (the world is one family). This philosophy has gained renewed relevance in contemporary diplomacy, especially with the inclusion of the African Union in the G20, an initiative actively supported by India. This historic step strengthens Africa's voice on the global stage and strengthens India's role as a proponent of inclusive and equitable global governance.

India's foreign policy, supported by Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, is increasingly focused on building strong ties with Africa, a continent rich in cultural diversity and resources, yet often marginalized in global affairs. The World Bank's prediction of robust GDP growth in Africa highlights the continent's potential as a global development frontier. India, with its cultural heritage and democratic values, is well-positioned to develop a deep and mutually beneficial relationship with African nations. This partnership is proposed to go beyond economic collaborations, encompassing cultural exchange, shared knowledge, and mutual respect.

The G20's commitment to aiding Africa's infrastructure, healthcare, and education, particularly through technical and vocational training, aligns with India's vision of sustainable and inclusive development. By advocating for Africa's interests, including better market access and technology transfer, India is aiding the continent's growth and cementing its position as a global leader that champions the well-being of all nations. Ultimately, India's role as a Vishwa Guru in this context is not just about economic or political influence. It's about signifying a commitment to global harmony, peace, and shared prosperity, reflecting the timeless philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. As India strengthens its diplomatic and cultural bonds with Africa, it sets a precedent for a more interconnected and empathetic world order.

Moreover, this strategic partnership raises critical questions worth exploring in this analysis: How will India's emphasis on Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam reshape the dynamics of South-South cooperation, particularly in its engagements with African nations? Additionally, what are the potential challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for India in balancing its aspirations as a Vishwa Guru with the practicalities of geopolitical interests and regional dynamics?

Keywords: Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, India-Africa Relations, G20 Inclusion, Cultural Diplomacy, Sustainable Development