

India, Italy, and Kenya partner to drive sovereign AI adoption across Africa

By Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury, ET Bureau | Last Updated: Feb 20, 2026, 10:13:00 PM IST

Synopsis

India, Kenya, and Italy have launched a strategic trilateral partnership to co-design and deploy sovereign AI solutions across Africa. This initiative, leveraging the G7-endorsed AI Hub for Sustainable Development, aims to scale voice-enabled AI in agriculture, health, education, and public services, focusing on low-connectivity environments and local languages.



ET AI Briefing

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Marking a landmark outcome of the [AI Impact Summit 2026](#), India, Kenya, and Italy have announced a strategic [trilateral partnership](#) to co-design and deploy scalable, [sovereign AI pathways](#) across Africa. This collaboration, co-led by [EkStep Foundation](#), the Directorate of Digital Economy and Emerging technologies at the Kenya Ministry of ICT and Digital Economy, and the Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy, through the AI Hub for Sustainable Development, with UNDP, shifts AI implementation from fragmented experiments to AI diffusion pathways to scale impact in lives of billions of people with agency and empowerment.

Leveraging the G7-endorsed AI Hub for Sustainable Development, a partnership of UNDP and the Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy and aligned with Italy's Mattei Plan, the trilateral arrangement unites India, Italy and Kenya to collectively work with local public and private sector innovators to scale [voice-enabled AI solutions](#) tailored to African contexts, focusing on low-connectivity environments, local languages, and data ownership.

Key Focus Areas & Impact:

- Sector Impact: Deploying AI solutions in agriculture, health, education, livelihoods, and public services.

- **Core Infrastructure:** Utilizing shared horizontal enablers, including multilingual voice models and affordable compute, to reduce adoption barriers.
 - **Shared Ambition:** Working toward a goal of 100 AI Diffusion Pathways by 2030 to ensure trusted, contextual AI.
- This trilateral partnership will catalyze smart ecosystem pathways, combining India's innovation expertise, digital public goods and know-how, Kenya's on-the-ground ecosystem and leadership in Africa, and Italy's AI Hub focus on horizontal unlocks and industrial partners to deliver concrete, Africa-led progress. It is a crucial step toward building sovereign, green AI infrastructure that is Africa-led.

This effort follows the Nairobi AI Forum 2026 convened together with UNDP, which facilitated critical, immediate access for African innovators to computing resources and solidified the commitment to practical, impactful AI deployment through partnerships and financing.

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