

India, Africa must look at doubling trade to \$200 b in 7 years: Goyal

Our Bureau

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India and Africa should target doubling two-way trade to \$200 billion in seven years and try to include more African countries in the partnership so that its full potential is reached, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said.

As many as 33 African countries do not participate in India's Duty-Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) scheme for Least Developed Countries and they should take ad-

vantage of the scheme, the Minister said addressing the Special Plenary with Trade Ministers at the 19th CII India Africa Business Conclave in New Delhi on Wednesday.

DEEPER TIES

"Can we look at getting more and more countries to enjoy the fruits of this partnership and set a benchmark to double this trade number from \$100 billion to \$200 billion between India and Africa? I think we should look at doing that in seven years," Goyal said.

He pitched for deeper In-



BOOSTING RELATIONS. Piyush Goyal with other dignitaries at the 19th CII India-Africa Business Conclave in New Delhi ANI

dia-Africa bilateral partnerships in areas like critical minerals and entertainment, and added that technology-led cooperation in agricul-

ture will strengthen the food security of both regions.

Goyal said Africa can complement India's need for critical minerals needed for sec-

tors like EV. He said India could contribute significantly to the agriculture sector and proposed collaboration with plantations in Africa for export to India.

India's strengths in agriculture, pharmaceuticals, textiles, automobiles and renewable energy align with Africa's development needs, Goyal said.

He said Africa's strengths in mining, tourism, agricultural products, and manufactured goods complement India's growth requirements. The focus, he said, should be on equitable trade.