



CROSS BORDER BUSINESS ALLIANCE BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND INDIA

New Delhi, 02nd September 2024

INDIA – SOUTH AFRICA are inextricably linked by a shared history and culture that goes back a centuries ago. South Africa is the 2nd largest economy on the African continent, expected to reach a GDP of USD \$407.49 billion by the financial end of 2023 (Nigeria has remained the largest since rebasing its economy).

Beyond trade and commerce, Mahatma Gandhi's political activism in South Africa and the consequent influence on leaders such as Nelson Mandela who chose '**passive resistance**' which means '**non-violence**' as their guiding principle were instrumental in the peaceful independence of several African nations. Nelson Mandela was awarded India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna, for his role in anti-apartheid movement.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited South Africa from 22-24 August 2023 to participate in the 15th BRICS Summit and in the BRICS-Africa Outreach and BRICS Plus Dialogue. Prime Minister also had a bilateral meeting with met H.E. Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa on 23 August in Johannesburg on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit. The President Ramaphosa undertook a working visit to New Delhi to participate in the G20 Leaders' Summit on 9-10 September 2023. Earlier, President Ramaphosa paid a State Visit to India on 25-26 January 2019 and was the Chief Guest at the 70th Republic Day celebrations on 26 January 2019 in New Delhi.

DEFENCE COOPERATION

The Defence Cooperation between India and South Africa officially commenced in 1996 with the signing of an MoU on "Cooperation in the field of Defence Equipment" which was further revised by an MoU on "Defence Cooperation" in 2000. Consequently, an India- South Africa Joint Defence Committee (JDC) co-chaired by the Defence Secretaries of both countries was instituted, with eight editions of the same held till date.

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Indian Naval Ships (INS) regularly make port calls to South African ports. INS Sunayna and Trishul visited Durban from 21-25 August 2023 and 06-10 June 2023 respectively to commemorate the 130th anniversary of Pietermaritzburg Railway Station incident, the birth of Satyagraha and also to strengthen bilateral relations in the 30th year of diplomatic ties between both the countries..

The 7th edition of India, Brazil and South Africa Maritime Exercise (IBSAMAR) was conducted from 10-22 October 2022 at Port Elizabeth, South Africa and INS Tarkash participated from the Indian Navy. IN Ships Tarkash and Kolkata visited Cape Town from 1 to 13 October 2018 and participated in the 6th edition of IBSAMAR.

Both countries also regularly exchange high level military delegations to enhance military cooperation between the two countries. A 16-member NDC delegation led by Shri Vijay Nehra, IAS, SDS (CS) visited South Africa from 02-08 June as part of Foreign Study Tour of 64th NDC Course. Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, Chief of the Air Staff, Indian Air Force visited South Africa at the invitation from Lieutenant General W.S. Mbabmo, Chief of South African Air Force from 05-10 May 2024. A South African defence delegation led by Ms. Thandi Ruth Modise, Minister of Defence and Military Veterans visited India from 18- 22 October 2022 in connection with DefExpo 2022 at Gandhinagar and on the sidelines of DefExpo, the delegation also attended India-Africa Defence Dialogue and Indian Ocean Region Defence Ministers' Conclave. Visit of SA Chief of Army Lt. Gen. L.K. Mbatha took place in August 2022 and that of SA Air Force Chief, Lt Gen Wiseman Mbambo was held in November 2021. The maiden India-South Africa Defence Industry Webinar was held on 20 Sep 2020.

South Africa also deployed SA Navy's Liaison Officers at Information Fusion Center - Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) of Indian Navy from April 2022 onwards. Indian Navy conducted customised Ocean Sail Training for SA Navy officers in March 2022 and December 2022

South Africa Navy also participated in the MILAN exercises held in India on 18-27 February 2024 and earlier in February/March 2022. South African Navy's teams participated in Admiral's Cup Regatta in 2019.

Source: Ministry of EAM, India

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SKILL DEVELOPMENT

To address the shortage of skills among South Africans which is a national priority of the Government of South Africa, MoU on the setting up of the “Gandhi-Mandela Centre of Specialisation for Artisan Skills” (GMCoS) in South Africa was signed during the Prime Minister’s visit to South Africa in July 2018. The Centre, with the collaboration of Hindustan Machine Tools Limited (HMTL) offers technical expertise, training material, machines and equipment as well as interactive ICT equipment for video conferencing in a multi-skills formation comprising of four skills: mechanical fitter, electrician, boilermaker and millwright for all of which there is demand in South Africa. A fully-funded specialized two-week ITEC Media Training Programme on Journalism and Public Relations has been organized in two cities – Hyderabad and Delhi - from 26 February to 9 March 2024 for 30 South African professionals.

CHEETAH TRANSLOCATION PROJECT

A MoU on Cooperation in the Reintroduction of Cheetah in India was signed between the Republic of India and the Republic of South Africa on 17 January 2023. The MoU facilitates cooperation between the two countries, *inter alia*, to establish a viable and secure cheetah population in India. A first batch of 12 cheetahs (7 males, 5 females) were translocated from South Africa to India on 18th February 2023.

COMMERCIAL & ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Commercial relations have flourished since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1993.

India’s exports to SA for 2022 – 2023 amounted to USD \$ 8,474.42 million, and India’s imports from SA amounted to USD \$ 10,397.83 million.

Figures in million US\$	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
India’s Exports	4,108.17	3,934.20	6,085.29	8,474.42	8,707.53
India’s Imports	6,969.79	7,570.79	10,965.81	10,397.83	10,543.30
Total Trade	11,077.97	11,504.99	17,051.10	18,872.25	19,250.83

Source: Ministry of Commerce, India

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CLARION CALL

INDIA – SOUTH AFRICA both are the founding members of **BRICS** (an inter-governmental organisation) and fostering south – south cooperation and raising voice of ‘Global South’. Presently, in the midst of re-arranging world order whereas failure of multilateral institutions, jeopardise negotiations and economic stagflation taking places, the world facing the trust deficit and lack of mutual cooperation with each other and disparities at peak. Hence, the world need a new or an alternate mechanism whereas with a human centric approach by means of **“PEACE ECONOMY”**.

CONCLUSION

PEACE ECONOMY is an ‘Economy of Non-violence’ for instilling ‘Peace Led Sustainable Economic Co-development, Co-existence, Toleration and Non-violence’ with a defined aim and goal for spreading ‘Economic Fraternity’ considering ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ which means ‘The World is One Family’!

Both India – South Africa set a classic example in front of the global community in terms of inter-exchange of peace led economic ties, culture, food security considering mutually beneficial relationships considering ‘Co-development and Co-existence’.

Wishing Peace Led Economic Prosperity to the tax payers and citizens of both the nations!

Dr. Saurav Agrawal
Director General

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