

India-South Africa Relations

Historical Background

India's links with the struggle for freedom and justice in South Africa date back to the period during which Mahatma Gandhi started his Satyagraha movement in South Africa over a century ago. India was at the forefront of the international community in its support to the anti-apartheid movement; it was the first country to sever trade relations with the apartheid Government (in 1946) and subsequently imposed a complete -- diplomatic, commercial, cultural and sports -- embargo on South Africa. India worked consistently to put the issue of apartheid on the agenda of the UN, NAM and other multilateral organizations and for the imposition of comprehensive international sanctions against South Africa. The ANC maintained a representative office in New Delhi from the 1960s onwards.

Following talks between the then South African Government and the ANC, India's relations with South Africa were restored after a gap of over four decades with the opening of a Cultural Centre in Johannesburg in May 1993. Formal diplomatic and consular relations with South Africa were restored in November 1993 during the visit to India of the then South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha. A Consulate General was thereafter established in Johannesburg. The Indian High Commission in Pretoria was opened in May 1994, followed by the opening of the Consulate General in Durban the same month. Since Parliament in South Africa meets in Cape Town, a permanent office of the High Commission was opened there in 1996, which has been re-designated as Consulate General of India with effect from January 2011. In addition to its High Commission in Delhi, South Africa has a Consulate General in Mumbai.

Political Relations

Development of political relations since 1994

Against the background of India's consistent support to the anti-apartheid struggle, there has been a steady consolidation of our close and friendly ties with South Africa, both bilaterally and through the trilateral IBSA Dialogue Forum. A number of bilateral agreements have been concluded between the two countries since the assumption of diplomatic relations in 1993 in diverse areas ranging from economic and commercial cooperation, defence, culture, health, human settlements, public administration, science and technology and education. India's Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) has been a useful medium of promoting cooperation in development of human resources.

Recent High Level visits

Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh visited South Africa in March 2013 to attend 5th BRICS Summit held in Durban. PM's official delegation included Finance Minister Shri P.Chidambaram, Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma; and other senior officials. President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil paid a State Visit to South Africa in May 2012. President of South Africa, Mr Jacob Zuma paid a visit to India in March 2012 for 4th BRICS Summit. President Zuma, accompanied by Mrs Nompumelelo Ntuli-Zuma, had earlier paid a State Visit to India from 02 to 05 June 2010. President Zuma's delegation included 7 Cabinet Ministers [Ministers of International Relations and Cooperation, Defence, Public Enterprises, Trade & Industry, Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, Transport and Communications]. Three MOUs/Agreements were signed during the visit: (i) MOU on 2 Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors, (ii) Air Services Agreement and (iii) MoU on cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute of India and the Diplomatic Academy of South Africa. A 200-member strong business delegation as well as senior officials accompanied President Zuma on his visit. President Zuma met President, Vice President and Prime Minister; MOS for External Affairs as well as Chairperson of UPA and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha called on him. Discussions reflected the fraternal warmth and affection as well as the strategic partnership that characterize bilateral relations. President Zuma and his delegation also met Indian business leaders in Mumbai on June 2, 2010. The regular Parliamentary exchanges between India and South Africa continued. From South Africa, a joint Parliamentary delegation led by Speaker Mr. Max Sisulu and Chairperson, National Council of Provinces, Mr. M.J. Mahlangu, visited India on 8-14 July, 2012. A goodwill Parliamentary delegation led by Hon'ble Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources Shri Pawan Bansal, visited South Africa in October, 2012. There has been regular exchanges at Ministerial level including visit of Shri Pratik Prakashbapu Patil, MOS(Coal) in October 2012 and Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textile in January 2013. Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs addressed Indian Diaspora during his visit to South Africa at Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban in April 2013.

Joint Commission and Foreign Office Consultations

The India-South Africa Joint Commission at the level of Foreign Ministers was set up in 1994 to identify areas of mutually beneficial cooperation. The 7th session of the JMC was held in Pretoria in February 2008. During the visit, three Agreements on Customs Cooperation, S&T and visa free travel for diplomatic and official passport holders were signed. India hosted the 8th session of the JMC in March 2011 in New Delhi. EAM Shri S.M. Krishna headed the Indian delegation, while Minister Mashabane led the South African side. Four rounds of Foreign Office Consultations have also been held; the latest in Pretoria in May 2010. Secretary (West), MEA, Shri Vivek Katju headed the Indian delegation.

IBSA & BRICS Initiative

On June 6, 2003, the Foreign Ministers of India, Brazil and South Africa met in Brasilia and agreed to set up a Dialogue Forum for regular consultations on such matters. Subsequently, in 2006, this was upgraded to Summit level; five Summits have been held so far, the last in Pretoria in October 2011. IBSA Trilateral Ministerial meeting was held in New Delhi in March 2011. 16 Sectoral Working Groups have been established in areas such as health, agriculture, education, human settlements, S&T and defence. South Africa has also been admitted as a member of the BRICS grouping and attended the BRICS meeting held in April 2011 at Sanya, BRICS Summit held in March 2012 in New Delhi and South Africa hosted the 5th Summit at Durban in March 2013.

Commercial & Economic Relations

Commercial relations have flourished since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1993. On the trade front, value of bilateral trade has increased from US\$ 2.5 billion in 2003-2004 to US\$ 13.18 billion in 2012-13. During the visit of President Zuma to India, both sides agreed to work towards a target of USD 10 billion in bilateral trade by 2012. The trade target was revised to US\$ 15 billion by 2014 during the visit of Commerce and Industry Minister in January 2011 to South Africa as the bilateral trade target was achieved in FY 2010-11. Recent bilateral trade figures are as follows:

Figures in M.US\$	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
India's Exports	2,660.7	1,980.3	2058.5	3985.02	4731.17	5106.46
India's Imports	3,605.3	5,513.6	5674.5	7140.55	9973.11	8074.05
Total Trade	6,266.0	7,493.9	7733.0	11125 .57	14704.29	13180.51

Source: Ministry of Commerce

There is substantial potential for trade growth between the two countries. Exports from India to South Africa include vehicles and components thereof, transport equipment, drugs and pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, footwear, dyes and intermediates, chemicals, textiles, rice, and gems and jewellery, etc. Import from South Africa to India include gold, steam coal, copper ores & concentrates, phosphoric acid, manganese ore, aluminum ingots & other minerals.

Major investors include Tata (automobiles, IT, hospitality, and ferrochrome plant), UB Group (breweries, hotels), Mahindra (automobiles) and a number of pharmaceutical companies, including Ranbaxy, CIPLA, etc as well as IT companies and some investments in the mining sector. There is also growing South African investments in India led by SAB Miller (breweries), ACSA (upgradation of Mumbai airport), SANLAM and Old Mutual (insurance), ALTECH (set top boxes), Adcock Ingram (pharmaceuticals), Rand Merchant Bank (banking). First National Bank, a leading bank of South Africa opened its branch in Mumbai in April 2012. In 2012, 106774 Indian tourists visited South Africa while approx 58430 South African tourists visited India in 2011.

A 25-Member delegation led by Secretary, Mines, visited Cape Town on 3-8 February 2013 to attend Mining Indaba. A 42-member delegation led by Chairman, Apparel Export Promotion Council visited Cape Town on 11-13 March, 2013 for India Clothing and Textile Trade Show.

Culture

With the help of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), an intensive programme of cultural exchanges is organised throughout South Africa including scholarships for South African nationals. In addition to such cultural programming, a 'Shared Histories' Festival organized as a public-private partnership is also held, which held its fourth edition in 2010. The Fifth edition of the 'Shared Histories' Festival was underway in September 2011. The SA Minister of Arts & Culture Mr. Pallo Jordan visited India in December 2007 during which he also inaugurated a major South African art exhibition. Mrs. Ambika Soni, Minister for Tourism and Culture visited South Africa in August 2008 and signed the Programme of Cooperation (POC) in Arts and Culture for 2008-2011. A Festival of India in South Africa was jointly organized by Department of Arts and Culture South Africa and High Commission in Pretoria during June-August 2011 & a Festival of South Africa in India was organized in February-April 2013 under the POC. The 9th World Hindi Conference was held in September 2012 at Johannesburg.

ITEC

In FY 2013-14, under ITEC, 100 slots have been allocated to South Africa.

Indian Community

The major part of the Indian origin community came to South Africa from 1860 onwards as farm labour to serve as field hands and mill operatives in the sugar and other agricultural plantations of Natal (which was then a British colony). Most of these initial migrants were from Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh with some from eastern UP and Bihar. A second wave of Indians came after 1880. These were the "passenger Indians" – so-called because they paid their fares as

passengers on board a steamship bound for South Africa. This was the community of traders who mainly hailed from Gujarat.

Today, the South African Indian origin community numbers around 1.5 million and constitutes about 3% of South Africa's total population. About 80% of the Indian community lives in the province of KwaZulu Natal, about 15% in the Gauteng (previously Transvaal) area and the remaining 5% in Cape Town. South Africans of Indian origin are well-represented in Government, business, media, legal and other professions. The year 2010 marked the 150th anniversary of the first arrival of Indians in South Africa.

July 2013