



Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of India's Independence



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, accompanied by External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee, with SA Minister of Foreign Affairs Ms. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and Brazilian External Relations Minister Celso Amorim during IBSA Trilateral Commission meeting in New Delhi on 17 July 2007



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with Nelson Mandela in South Africa in October 2006. Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Anand Sharma, and PM's wife Smt. Gursharan Kaur are also seen.



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Thabo Mbeki in Pretoria on 2 October 2006



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Mbeki garlanding the bust of Mahatma Gandhi in the Phoenix Settlement in October 2006

Message from High Commissioner

August 15, 1947 is remembered by every school child – and by everyone else – in India as the Independence Day. Making history, the country attained its independence through a peaceful and non-violent revolution under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. The world too should remember the date for it heralded the end of colonialism.



Sixty years later, the country confidently marches on the path of progress. At least six key features are noteworthy about the contemporary reality in India.

'Unity in diversity' has been preserved in an atmosphere where pluralism is promoted in all spheres. Democracy has taken deep roots in the soil. Our democratic institutions could justifiably trace their origin to ancient times. Secularism forms an integral part of the people's mindset, strengthening our faith in dialogue rather than clash of civilizations.

Economic development, triggered by Jawaharlal Nehru's visionary policies, has picked up special momentum since 1991. Thanks to the strategy of economic liberalization and reform, India is now hailed as 'the fastest growing free market democracy.' The past 16 years have witnessed a remarkable transformation, even though sharp awareness exists that we still have a long way to go. Cultural vibrance, reflected in the growth of arts, music, literature, films and media define modern India. Finally, foreign policy dynamism and creativity show how India's world view has kept pace with the 21st century, in an enlightened and balanced pursuit of her principles and interests.

India values her age-old and multi-dimensional relations with Africa. Our basic approach is to promote mutual benefit in the larger interest of peace and development. Both the Government and India Inc remain deeply committed to promoting growth, employment, investment and capacity-building on the continent.

As a 'strategic partner', South Africa enjoys a special position in our foreign relations. But its importance transcends foreign policy. Our relationship has been moulded by a shared history as well as common ideas, ideals and icons. Relations with South Africa, in the recent years, have been marked by activism - purposeful and productive.

On the occasion of India's 60th Independence Anniversary, I convey our warm greetings to all Indian nationals and friends of India. May I also urge and encourage them to create an extraordinary synergy which helps the abiding India-South Africa friendship in scaling new heights in coming years.

R. K. Bhatia

India-South Africa Relations - the Story So Far

Rich History:

- Arrival of first Indians starting from 1860s
- Historical legacy of shared icon Mahatma Gandhi who stayed in South Africa from 1893-1914.
- India's consistent principled support to the anti-apartheid movement.
- Close relations between leaders of the two countries through several generations.

Relations since 1994

- The 'strategic partnership', first articulated by President Mbeki in 1996 when he had visited India as Deputy President, is now in operation in several fields ranging from defence to human resource development.
- Twenty eight Agreements in diverse fields have been signed.
- A number of other Agreements in areas such as Investment, Agriculture and Space are on the anvil.
- IBSA Trilateral Partnership has also gathered momentum.
- Recent high level visits:
 - President Mbeki's visit to India in 2003
 - Vice President and President of India to South Africa in 2004
 - Deputy President of South Africa to India in September 2006
 - Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit in September/October, 2006 for the joint celebrations of the centenary of Satyagraha.

Forthcoming high level visits:

- Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, President of the Congress Party and Chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) in August, 2007
- Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh for the IBSA Summit in October 2007
- External Affairs Minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee for the 7th session of the India-South Africa Joint Ministerial Commission in November 2007

India-South Africa bilateral trade:

- Has shown impressive growth, particularly during the last 3 years, touching US\$ 4 billion in 2005-06.
- The target, identified in the Tshwane Declaration, is to treble the bilateral trade by 2010.
- The India-South Africa CEOs' Forum, Chaired by Mr. Ratan

Tata from the Indian side and Mr. Patrice Motsepe from the South African side to hold its 4th session in Mumbai in August, 2007.

- An India Business Forum launched with CII's assistance, brings together all Indian companies in South Africa.
- India was a partner country at the Future 07 ICT Expo in Johannesburg.
- CII organized two major conclaves on Project Partnerships in Johannesburg and Cape Town.
- The Indian Merchants' Chamber's India Calling Conference was addressed by President Mbeki on August 3.
- A major Indian engineering exposition 'INDEE' is being organized in Johannesburg in October 2007.

Indian investments in South Africa:

- Have grown in quantity as well as diversity in recent years.
- Major investors include the Tatas, UB Group, Mahindras, Appolo and a number of pharmaceutical companies, including Ranbaxy andCIPLA.
- It is estimated that Indian companies are currently executing projects to the tune of over USD 2 billion in South Africa covering a broad range of sectors including automobiles, metallurgical industries, telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, processed foods, software development, minerals beneficiation, hospitality and financial services.
- Several South African companies also investing in India. Majors include ACSA and Bidvest, SAB-Miller, Altech, First Rand Bank, Old Mutual, Sanlam, Sasol, De Beers, BHP Billiton, Batemans and Sahara.

Indian assistance in skills development in South Africa:

- India proud to be partner in SA's Joint Initiative for Priority Skills Acquisition (JIPSA), spearheaded by the Deputy President.
- South Africa now offered 100 slots offered under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme.
- A number of India private sector organizations engaged in South Africa such as TATA, Sahara, Satyam, Ranbaxy, CII, Neotel, Rosy Blue and KGK are also assisting the South African Government by providing training in their institutions.
- The Confederation of Indian Industry has signed an MOU with the Umsobomvu Youth Fund to set up separate training centres for IT and vocational skills.

They said:

"We of Asia have a special responsibility to the people of Africa."

- Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, 1946

"The freedom of India started in South Africa; and our freedom will not be complete till South Africa is free."

- Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi

"India came to our aid when the rest of the world stood by or gave succor to our oppressors....When the doors of the international councils were closed to us, India opened the way. You took up our battle as your own battle. Now that we have been victorious, it cannot be said too often that our victory is also India's victory."

- President Nelson Mandela, 1995

"India and South Africa enjoy excellent bilateral relations.... developing strategic partnership with South Africa is something that unites all shades of political opinion in our country. We are therefore keen to work with South Africa to enhance and give more meaning and content to our strategic partnership. We have decided to maintain active contacts at all levels to deepen our mutual understanding on bilateral and international issues."

- Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, October 2006

"South Africa will always honour India as one of the most consistent and principled supporters of our struggle for liberation. It was India, even as she was barely independent and free herself, that utilised every conceivable opportunity to draw international attention to the evils of oppression and racial injustice, occupying an honoured place within the world family of nations as a strong voice of morality, national liberation, social justice and human dignity."

- President Mbeki, October 2006

INDIA: SHARING THE GAINS OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REVOLUTION

The IT industry in India has now grown into a broad based knowledge industry. Indian IT firms and IT professionals have won world wide recognition in terms of their technical competence, domain knowledge, experience and expertise for offering quality IT services, and their exposure to working on various platforms and systems.



High Commissioner R.K. Bhatia inaugurating Futurex ICT Exhibition in Johannesburg in May 2007. Also seen are: Conul General Navdeep Suri (L) and D.K. Sareen(R) Executive Director Electronics & Computer Software Export Promotion Council of India

Over 1,20,000 IT professionals are being trained and added to the talent pool every year in India as compared to 25,000 IT professionals in the USA. 62% of the Indian technical work force has more than 4 years of experience; over 70% have engineering degrees/ technical background. According to a McKinsey study, fully loaded costs for offshore work in India are 30-50% lower than those in the USA or Europe.

the 'Year of Broadband' in India. At present our broadband penetration is quite modest at 3 million connections. Due to the recent initiatives, it is expected that India would start adding more than one million broadband connections per month before the end of 2007.

With the revival of growth momentum and dynamism in the world's major economies, particularly the economies of the USA, Europe, Japan, Australia, South East Asian countries and the Far Eastern countries, India's computer software and services exports have been showing a regular upward trend. During 2006-07, India's software and services including ITES/BPO exports aggregated to US\$ 33.75 billion, and registered a growth of 39% over the previous year. India's share in the total world IT software and services market which is estimated at US\$ 650 billion, was 4.57% during 05-06. There is therefore, enough scope for improvement in India's share in the global IT market.

The growth of telecommunications in India in recent years has been phenomenal. We now have crossed the 200 million subscriber mark and thus have the third largest subscriber base. India is adding 7 million telephone subscribers every month. As our Minister of Communications and Information Technology pointed out recently, this amounts to "adding one customer per second during the working hours." He stressed: "Now the growth of telecom sector in India has surpassed that of China."

Further, the year 2007 has been christened as

INDIA-SA PARTNERSHIP UNDER ITEC PROGRAMME

In line with South Africa's philosophy of JIPSA and Asg-SA, India offers 100 short-term training programmes to the nominees of the Republic of South Africa every year under its widely known ITEC programme which covers 156 countries in Asia, East Europe, Central Asia, Africa and Latin America. India spends about Rs.500 million annually on ITEC activities and South Africa is one of the major partners of this programme. Since 1964, India has provided over US \$2 billion worth of technical assistance to developing countries under the ITEC programme which is a model of South-South cooperation.

The entire cost of training under these programmes, including return international airfare, tuition fees, accommodation charges, emergency medical treatment, stipend, book allowance and study tour, is borne by the Govt. of India.

During 2006, the nominees of the Govt of South Africa attended courses at several prestigious Indian institutes in a wide range of courses such as Government Accounts and Finance; Legislative Drafting; Parliamentary Practices and Procedures; Small Business Programmes; Essential Computer Skills for the e-World; Soft Skills in Basic IT; HIV; Agriculture and Rural Development; Geo-Informatics; International Economic Issues and Development Policy Research; Information Technology for Rural Development; Web-designing; Journalism; Design and Instructional Material Development; Office Technologies and Internet Applications; Rural Micro-Enterprises Development; Leadership Development for Administrators; Poverty and Livelihood Options for Rural Women; International Economic Issues and Development Policy Research; and Training Methods and Skills for Managers.



'SHARED HISTORIES' CELEBRATING INDIA IN SOUTH AFRICA

23 Aug – 31 October 2007

WORDS ON WATER

Indian Literature Festival

Readings at Exclusive Books, Hyde Park 23rd to 28th Aug 2007
Symposium at Wits University 27 Aug 2007

THREADS IN TIME

An exhibition of Textiles and Crafts from India

1st Sept to 31st Oct 2007 –
MUSEUM AFRICA

DOCUMENTARY FILM SERIES ON INDIA, CRAFTS, ENVIRONMENT AND HISTORY

2nd Sept – 2nd Oct Museum Africa. Daily Screenings

MRIGAYA

WORLD MUSIC

28th Aug - Pretoria

2nd Sep – Jazz On The Lake, Jo'burg,

8th Sept – Lenasia, Jo'burg

Food Festival

The Tastes of India from Kasmiri Wazwan to Andhra's Chettinad

30th Aug to 7th Sep - Le Canard Restaurant, Jo'burg

SHARMILA TAGORE - FILM RETROSPECTIVE

31st Aug - 6th Sep - Nu Metro Cinemas, Village Walk, Sandton

TRANSPPOSITION

Physical and Dance Theatre

28th Sep - Wits University Theatre

IMAGES OF TRUTH

An Insight Into the Life of Mahatma Gandhi

29th Sept – Wits University Theatre

PT. VIKKU VINAYAKRAM

SAPTAKSHARA

28th Sept – Live In Concert at Bass Line, Jo'burg

29th Sept - Lenasia



HOW THE SA ALUMNI SEE IT:

"I would grab the opportunity to go back again and would like to take part on further training programmes. We have a lot to learn from each other." - Albertus Johannes van der Merwe, CFO, Mngeni Local Municipality, KZN

"I strongly believe that this valuable exposure, combined with my previous community development and infrastructure delivery experience creates a strong personal platform to manage, streamline and sustain public resources meant for the poorest of the poor in our Country." - Juan R. Kok, Assistant Director: EPWP, Dept. Transport, Roads & Public Works, Northern Cape

"The diversity in the students was marvelous as it afforded us all the opportunity to imbibe knowledge we otherwise would never have. Something which I cannot place a value on is how much deeper the discussions ranged during our course, all because we had people from different strata represented....I would grab another opportunity to go back in a heartbeat." - Seema Diahnan, Columnist Sunday Times Extra

With best wishes from:



Johannesburg: Sandton City Twin Towers, East Wing – 2nd Floor
Tel: 011-784 0715/23;
Fax: 011-784 0759
E-mail: ce.durban@bankofbaroda.com

Durban: 91/121, Cowey Park, Cowey Road, Berea 4001
Tel: 031-2090133/41
Fax: 031 2093 366
E-mail: bobdbnsa@iafrica.com



3rd Floor, JHI House
11 Cradock Avenue
Rosebank, Johannesburg
Tel: 011 7784500
Fax: 011 7886769
Email: sbjobug@icon.co.za
URL: www.statebank.co.za
www.statebankofindia.com