



SOUTH AFRICAN CONSULATE-GENERAL
MUMBAI, INDIA

27 April 2021

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NEWSLETTER

Namaste,

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE OUR FREEDOM!

On 27 April, South Africa will be celebrating its 27th Freedom Day, which is a significant and historic day on our calendar and in our democratic existence as a nation. Freedom Day signifies the values of South Africa and its people in overcoming hardships. The day reminds us that our freedom was not free and that our road to democracy required untold sacrifice.

This year, we also commemorate the 150th anniversary of struggle icon and human rights campaigner Charlotte Maxeke. She and other selfless women of her generation fought against oppression at a time when such defiance was met with unrelenting force. Through their sacrifices, we now live in a country which recognises women as equal citizens, with equal rights and responsibilities.

South Africans will continue to build on the significant progress made since the first democratic elections in 1994 and remains united in building a better South Africa that will contribute meaningfully to the prosperity of all humankind.



THE YEAR OF:
**CHARLOTTE
MAXEKE**
THE MEANING OF FREEDOM
UNDER COVID-19

#FreedomMonth2021
#2021YearOfCharlotteMaxeke

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THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONSTITUTION OF SOUTH AFRICA



The year 2021 presents a significant landmark in the creation of constitutional democracy in South Africa as we are commemorating the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution into law.

The South African Constitution is widely acknowledged, not only as one of the most acclaimed and progressive constitutions globally, but also as the most transformative, with its primary concern being to facilitate change in political, economic and social relations in South Africa.

South Africa commemorates this milestone with the international community in recognition of the pivotal role played by many countries around the world in the fight against apartheid and the birth of our constitutional democracy in 1994. The commitment to the unconditional solidarity India gave to our nation remains appreciated and will continue to be remembered by all South Africans.

We therefore invite the people of India and the international community to join us in commemorating this milestone and partner with us as we strengthen our constitutional democracy going forward.

Bilateral relations between South Africa and India have matured into a Strategic Partnership that has a solid foundation of strong historical links; fraternal ties, which are cemented by the building blocks of vibrant commercial and people-to-people relations.

ENORMOUS OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Bilateral trade has grown significantly since the establishment of our diplomatic relations in 1993. India and South Africa share a common vision on a range of global issues and domestic challenges.

We enjoy strong relations that are currently driven by a Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC), which provides a solid platform to strengthen investment and bilateral trade relations between the two countries.

Bilateral trade has witnessed a significant increase from R54 billion (US\$715 million) in 2011 to R122 billion (US\$11 billion) in 2019.



The 10th Round of the JMC was held in New Delhi in January 2020 to also review the implementation of the Three-Year Strategic Programme of Cooperation (2019 – 2021), which was signed during the successful State Visit by President Cyril Ramaphosa to India.

President Ramaphosa also had the honour to participate as the Chief Guest of the Indian Government during the Republic Day celebrations that marked the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. At government level, we continue to strengthen economic relations with India, which are aimed at advancing our industrial policy and developmental agenda. Through interventions and bilateral meetings with our Indian counterparts and the private sector, key sectors offering profitable economic opportunities have been identified in South Africa and the African continent.

South Africa recognises India's potential as an investment destination, with South African companies such as FirstRand Group, Momentum Metropolitan and others already contributing to the Indian growth story. We have also identified that significant potential exists in India for South African agricultural products such as pears and apples and in the automotive components and the defence sectors.

Indian investment in South Africa has been significant, attracting investment across numerous sectors from companies such as Tata, Wipro and Cipla. Between 2003 and 2019, Indian companies committed to numerous Foreign Direct Investment projects. These projects represent a total investment of billions of rands and an impressive total of current and future jobs amounting to 10 660. These investments have assisted South Africa in combatting the challenges of poverty, unemployment and economic transformation and have further contributed towards skills development and transfer. Sectors such as agro-processing, auto/components, pharmaceuticals, plastics, metals, minerals, software/IT, hotels and tourism and financial services are open to doing business.

The growth of Indian businesses in South Africa is supported by a healthy and regulatory environment for business, a strong financial and banking sector and a sophisticated market.

South Africa offers all of these and many more. We are one of the most diversified and industrialised economies in Africa. More areas remain to be explored. We are ready to do business.

10 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD INVEST IN SOUTH AFRICA



1.

VIBRANT EMERGING MARKET

Growing middle class, affluent consumer base, excellent returns on investment.



2.

MOST DIVERSIFIED ECONOMY IN AFRICA

South Africa (SA) has the most industrialised economy in Africa. It is the region's principal manufacturing hub and a leading services destination.



3.

LARGEST PRESENCE OF MULTINATIONALS ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

SA is the location of choice for multinationals in Africa. Global corporates reap the benefits of doing business in SA, which has a supportive and growing ecosystem as a hub for innovation, technology and fintech.



4.

PROGRESSIVE CONSTITUTION & INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY

SA has a progressive Constitution and an independent judiciary. The country has a mature and accessible legal system, providing certainty and respect for the rule of law.



5.

FAVOURABLE ACCESS TO GLOBAL MARKETS

The African Continental Free Trade Area will boost intra-African trade and create a market of around 1.3-billion people with a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of USD2.3-trillion that will unlock industrial development. SA has several trade agreements in place, creating an export platform into global markets.



6.

ABUNDANT NATURAL RESOURCES

SA is endowed with an abundance of natural resources. It is the leading producer of platinum-group metals (PGMs) globally. Numerous listed mining companies operate in SA, which also has world-renowned underground mining expertise.



7.

ADVANCED FINANCIAL SERVICES & BANKING SECTOR

SA has a sophisticated banking sector with a major footprint in Africa. It is the continent's financial hub, with the JSE being Africa's largest stock exchange by market capitalisation.



8.

WORLD-CLASS INFRASTRUCTURE & LOGISTICS

A massive governmental investment programme in infrastructure development has been under way for several years. SA has the largest air- and sea-ports, as well as logistics networks in Africa, and is ranked number one in Africa in the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index.



9.

YOUNG, EAGER LABOUR FORCE

SA has a number of world-class universities and colleges producing a skilled, talented and capable workforce. The country boasts a diversified skills set, emerging talent, a large pool of prospective workers and government support for training and skills development.



10.

EXCELLENT QUALITY OF LIFE

SA offers a favourable cost of living, with a diversified cultural, cuisine and sports offering, generally superb weather all year round and a world-renowned hospitality sector.

To further support and facilitate investment in South Africa, InvestSA was launched as a division of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition as a One-Stop-Shop that is ready to advise and support Indian companies on their investment ventures into South Africa.

South Africa remains a vibrant and growing economy, which not only serves as a gateway for doing business on the African continent but as a regional manufacturing hub that offers numerous investment opportunities.

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement supports these opportunities. The AfCFTA came into effect on 1 January 2021 and aims to boost trade by harmonising a market of 1.3 billion people in 55 countries with a gross domestic product of US\$3.4 trillion.

According to the World Bank, "the agreement will lift 30 million Africans out of extreme poverty and boost the incomes of nearly 68 million others who live on less than \$5.50 a day. It will further boost Africa's income by US\$450 billion by 2035 (a gain of 7%) while adding US\$76 billion to the income of the rest of the world and increase Africa's exports by US\$560 billion, mostly in manufacturing."



The image shows a banner for the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). On the left, the African Union logo is displayed, featuring a map of Africa inside a circular emblem with the text "African Union" to its left. The main text of the banner reads "AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA" in large, bold, dark letters, with "Creating One African Market" in smaller, gold-colored text below it. To the right of the text is a photograph of a busy port with numerous colorful shipping containers (blue, red, orange) stacked in the foreground and large gantry cranes in the background under a sunset sky. At the bottom left of the banner, it says "A Flagship Project of Agenda 2063 The Africa we Want". At the bottom right, the website "www.au.int" is listed along with social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn.

Numerous investment opportunities have been identified, which include local content manufacturing across various sectors such as automotive and green economy opportunities in terms of independent power production and associated manufacturing. Further opportunities lie in the oceans economy and government has embarked on a campaign to fully exploit this potential, called Operation Phakisa, which includes aquaculture, ship repair and oil and gas.

South Africa has engaged and continued to play its part in global formations, including Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) and looks forward to the Indian Chairship of BRICS in 2021. Other international organisations in which we closely cooperate with India include the Indian Ocean Rim Association and India, Brazil, South Africa, promoting the developmental agenda of the Global South.

As the economic consequences of the Corona pandemic are felt disproportionately in emerging markets and developing countries, economic cooperation among countries will be indispensable for any post-pandemic recovery dispensation because the challenges of addressing the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment will remain. South Africa and India are leading the way in working with other likeminded countries in ensuring fair and equitable access to vaccines by developing countries.

In this regard, the joint South Africa-India proposal at the World Trade Organisation for an emergency temporary waiver of some Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) rules so that greater supplies of COVID-19 vaccines, treatment and diagnostic tests can be produced globally, is to be lauded. We trust that the people of India and South Africa have the strength, patience and resilience needed to overcome the current challenges.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU

South Africa's borders are open to all international travellers, including visitors from India. Strict enforcement of health and safety protocols, adopted to combat the spread of the Coronavirus, is maintained. We therefore invite you to visit our shores and enjoy the breathtaking beauty of our mountains, beaches, natural wildlife, vibrant culture and the warm spirit of the South African people.



TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD A BETTER TOMORROW!

The South African Consulate-General in Mumbai looks forward to working with our Indian partners and friends in cementing and deepening our relations.



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South African Mission Webpage: <http://www.dirco.gov.za/mumbai/>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/South African Consulate General, Mumbai, India>

Other relevant websites:

- Applicants for visas: www.vfsglobal.com
- South African Tourism: www.southafrica.net

- Department of International Relations and Cooperation: www.dirco.gov.za
- Department of Trade, Industry and Competition: www.dtic.gov.za
- InvestSA: www.investsa.gov.za
- Department of Home Affairs: www.dha.gov.za
- Department of Health: www.health.gov.za
- Information on health and safety protocols: <https://sacoronavirus.co.za>
- www.gov.za