

**Full Length Research**

# Challenges and Opportunity for India in South Africa

Sachin Tiwari

Research scholar, Banaras Hindu University. E-mail:sachintiwari1369@gmail.com

Accepted 28 August 2023

India Africa's operation within the Ambit of a multipolar world is an important development. India and South Africa's relationship is a key element of the emerging multipolar world. India South Africa's engagement is for setting the new Global world order in the way of multi-polarity. India and South Africa are emerging markets and these are interested in sustainable economic growth but reform in the financial and economic sector are yet to be achieved. Africa in recent years evoked renewed interest in the emerging powers with China and India staying put at the forefront. Africa's people in Business Review society and government are navigating the new architecture of global power relations on and outside the African continent. The emergence of China and India as global political and economic powerhouse especially in the last two digits has height and interest that link to the clear portents of a multipolar world in which countries like Brazil and India have come to exert increasing influence. India's perception of South Africa in the First World War Ira was saved by 5 mantras of economic operation engaging the person of Indian origin preventing and combating terrorism preserving peace and assisting African defense forces. The Ministry of State for India's external affairs formally asserted India's time-tested relationship with Africa. India's raw in Africa is going to increase. The role of political and economic elites in Africa to celebrate India's engagement its strategic positioning as an alternative development partner in the continent etc. is crucial for India. This article will critically analyze ethnic-religious conflict and governance issues and India the substances present in Africa have remained marginal as it focuses on its Periphery through much of the Cold War period which Limited its capabilities. Since the end of the cold war, China's presence has grown in South Africa which has been providing soft longs to Africans which has resulted in Chinese growing influence on the continent. With government institutions and business working in separate silos, India has no coordinated Africa policy nor does it same to be an avenue where the strength of both actors can be leveraged.

**Keywords:** China, Economy, BRICS, terrorism, Culture, Trade

**Cite this article as:** Tiwari, S (2023). Challenges and Opportunity for India in South Africa. Int. J. Polit. Sci. Develop. 11(1): 1-5

## INTRODUCTION

Over the last few decades, the relationship between India and the Republic of South Africa has blossomed. This account emphasizes historical linkages correlated with support of their efforts against imperialism, racial discrimination, the existence of the Indian Diaspora in South Africa, and their discrimination of important world

concerns. Following the end of the Cold War in 1994, both countries established diplomatic ties based on shared strategic, cultural, and economic interests. Following the establishment of diplomatic relations in November 1994, the two countries signed roughly 15 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) on a variety of topics, including financial defense and socio-cultural cooperation. The Government of India developed the

Focus Africa Plan in 2001-2002, which primarily focused on initiatives to strengthen the South African Corporation in the areas of bilateral commerce, investment prospects, technology transfer, and healthcare, among other things. The connection between South Africa and India has become stronger after President Thabo Mbeki's five-day official visit to India. The external ministers of India, South Africa, and Brazil met in Brasilia on June 6, 2003, for the initiative of the India-Brazil-South Africa Dialogue Forum (IBSA).

### **Challenges for India in South Africa**

India faces many challenges in its quest for cooperation with South Africa. Trade and business are not increasing at par with the EU and China. There is always the possibility of checkbook diplomacy of emerging China. Both countries are engaged more often on multilateral forums including the UN, World Bank, WTO, BRICS, IBSA, Indian Naval Symposium, IORA, and G20 than bilateral engagements. The perception of South African people about Indians is not free from racial mindset. Also, both countries have separate views on nuclear weapons as South Africa is a signatory to Non-Proliferation Treaty and Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. South Africa has been facing a political crisis since the Presidency of Nelson Mandela.

India has an example of negotiating cooperation based on human resource development and capacity building in South Africa. India offers affordable and intermediate technology in areas such as agricultural health information and medical technology that South Africa has greatly enjoyed. However, there has been some controversy over Indian companies investing in the agricultural sector. A few Indian companies have lent money for commercial crops and the production of biofuels. However, it is not only foreign powers that include developing African countries; other emerging powers such as China, Brazil, and Russia also participate in various activities across South Africa. To a large extent, Africa has embraced investment in underserved areas such as infrastructure and important links to productivity growth and poverty reduction. The challenge remains as to how the BRICS countries have different levels of communication with African countries that will develop the same cause for the organization and Africa. The Indian-African relations vessel poses both short-term and long-term challenges to the economic transformation framework. However, Africa needs to use negotiation strategies to harness the growing power of India as much as it does to promote development and globalization. Outside the economy, India's entry into Africa affects the social culture of the trader. Alas India Google's information about Africa is generally based on colonial affairs, and selected reports about the drought of women and wars have created a distorted image. This needs to

be addressed through informative media and cultural exchanges. Africa's image of India is based on a mix of Bollywood movies and love songs. The behavior of Indian traders and stories about its recent growth often mark the challenge the nation and the majority of its people face.

Although India has partnered with Africa for a long time, its efforts for change have been very small due to the lack of power in the Indian economy. Deep Chinese disputes and larger trade have seen the Garner for greater influence. China's investment in Africa has grown over the last decade. In 2014, China's two-nation trade in Africa was estimated at \$220 billion. Compared to India, Africa's trade between the two countries in March 2016 and March 2017 was 52 billion. Ensuring that China and India play down the Indian winter revelatory factor has a Such country's engagement in Africa. To reduce the strategic and economic competition in Africa between India and China, Speaking on behalf of the Foreign Ministry, Chinese Foreign Minister Gang Shung, said China and India were committed to helping Africa under the auspices of the South-South Corporation to accelerate industrial development and development. China and India are on the same page about this, as the Chinese official says so. Xi has signed several agreements promoting China's Belt and Road (BRI), much of which has been opposed by India. The truth is very different and clear. While New Delhi often incorporates allegations of its old historical ties with South Africa, there is no doubt that the new Indian focus on Africa for China is growing in Africa. China, over the past few years, has been strengthening its presence and influence in South Africa. As well as the total number of African countries in the Indian Ocean. India fears the growing interest in Chinese maritime in real life. In response, India is now trying to expand its corporation with several countries, including the Seychelles and Mauritius (including Xi, who included Mauritius on his African tour). The Indian cause and the real world will be even more important in the coming years when this maritime region carries two-thirds of the world's oil cargo and half of all boxed vehicles. New Delhi Africa is becoming more and more important because China is a deeper interaction for a reason. But at the same time, India's indifference for a long time is being ignored, and the lack of economic capacity is even worse when it comes to China's strategic and economic strategy. However, India's promise and commitment will be the judges against the Chinese project in the region. New Delhi's biggest challenge has been the inability to live up to its promise. There is little indication that India has done much about this, which adds to the doubts about India's ability to compete with China.

### **The Emerging Areas of Cooperation**

India is South Africa's fifth-largest export destination and fourth-largest import source, as well as its second-

largest commercial partner in Asia. In the next few years, both countries are aiming to promote trade values at home. Bilateral trade between India and South Africa increased from 1.73 billion dollars in 2001 to 11 billion dollars from 2020 to 2021, with Indian exports totaling 3 billion dollars and imports totaling 757079 million dollars. The two economies have agreed to increase bilateral trade and investment to \$20 billion by 2021. South Africa, especially Johannesburg, is a favorite destination for Indian investment companies that have established their African headquarters. Another important aspect of growing bilateral economic relations is the interconnectedness between the two countries. The third factor is the effective exchange of business delegates and the growing institutional framework that encourages such exchanges. South Africa has shown interest in the ability to exchange information early on in small and medium enterprises. The main items exported to India are textile materials, vegetable fabrics, leather products, and chemicals.

### **Defence Cooperation**

The defense sector is part of the oldest Indo-Sudanese Corporation. There are opportunities for defense trade and co-investment between India and South Africa. South Africa is the only arms producer and exporter on the continent. In the last few years of changing circumstances, there seems to be a great deal of cooperation between South Africa and India in relying on research and production. In 1997, when Prime Minister I K Gujral visited the country, South African Defense Minister Joy announced that the two nations would develop a strong security partnership. Central South Africa offers the full range of military equipment in India. and lands, as well as underwater operations

### **UN Reforms and Peacekeeping Missions**

The United Nations Reforms is also another permanent place where internal South Africans can work together. And the issue of India and South Africa sharing the most important bath is the transformation and development of the United Nations Security Council. India believes that the transformation and extension of the UN Security Council in both permanent and non-permanent phases is part of the United Nations reform process. India also believes that South Africa can play a key role in the overall process, both within the African Union and in the joint efforts of the African Union and the G-4. The idea of polytechnics in US peacekeeping operations was a talking point in South Africa. India participated in many peacekeeping missions during the 73rd year of independence, especially in Africa. These include MONUC (Congo), ONUMOZ (Mozambique), ONUC,

UNOSOM (Somalia), UNTAG (Namibia), UNITAF, UNOMIL (Liberia), MONUA (Angola), UNAMIR (Rwanda), UNAVEM and the UN's most irritated UN mission in Sierra Leone. After the Cold War, the UN's peacekeeping responsibilities fell on developing nations. South Africa and India are looking forward to expanding their partnership in UN transformation and various peacekeeping missions.

### **Tourism Cooperation**

South Africa's Indian population is estimated at 1.5 million and comprises approximately 3% of South Africans. About 5% of the Indian population lives in Cape Town, 15% in Gauteng, and the remaining 80% in Qiuulu Natal South Africa's Ink a province. Indian-led directors are widely represented in the legal regime of business media and other activities. The number of foreign tourists from South Africa increased steadily in 2001. Despite this, South Africa's share of the arrivals in India has dropped by about 0.6%-1% in recent years. The share of visitors from South Africa has seen a sharp decline since 2010. On the other hand, South Africa has seen a dramatic increase in Indian tourism in 2016.

### **Cultural Co-operation**

The Cultural Exchange, with the help of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, is organized throughout the Bob nation, including bursaries for South Africans. The South African Department of Arts and Culture has sent a cultural team to India to host an international music and dance festival. Ministers of art and culture from both states have visited to discuss the opening of major art exhibitions. Both tribes co-organized various national festivals with the help of the arts and culture department and the partnership program. The 9th Hindi Word Conference was held in September 2012 in South Africa. On June 21, International Yoga Day commemorates the integration of equipment with the Regional Organization in South African Cities in various cities in 2017 by mail and three ambassadors in assisting local organizations and organizations. An event such as questions about yoga, paint, and a t-shirt with a baby asana for young children was part of the celebration beyond the day of yoga.

### **In the Modi Era India and South Africa bonded and challenges**

In the era of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the bond between India and South Africa has witnessed both positive developments and certain challenges. Firstly, it is important to acknowledge the

deep historical and cultural connections between India and South Africa. Mahatma Gandhi's stay in South Africa during the early 20th century played a crucial role in shaping his philosophy and techniques of nonviolent resistance, which later influenced the Indian independence movement. This shared history has created a strong foundation for bilateral relations, fostering understanding and mutual respect.

During Modi's tenure, there has been a significant increase in diplomatic engagements between India and South Africa. High-level visits have taken place, strengthening political ties and promoting cooperation in various sectors. Moreover, both countries have actively participated in multilateral platforms such as BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) and the Indian Ocean Rim Association, working together on issues of mutual interest. Economic cooperation has also been a visible aspect of the India-South Africa relationship. Trade between the two nations has grown steadily over the years. South Africa has emerged as an important trading partner for India in Africa. Both countries have exchanged goods and services, with a focus on sectors such as information technology, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, and energy. These collaborations have contributed to economic growth and job creation in both nations.

Furthermore, cultural ties play a vital role in strengthening the bond between India and South Africa. The Indian diaspora in South Africa has made significant contributions to the country's development and has helped foster a bridge of understanding between the two nations. The celebration of Indian festivals, the popularity of Bollywood movies, and the appreciation for Indian cuisine highlight the cultural exchange that has taken place.

However, some challenges need to be addressed in the India-South Africa relationship. One such challenge is the issue of visas and work permits for Indian professionals in South Africa. There have been reported cases of delays and difficulties in obtaining these permits, which can hinder the flow of talent and expertise between the two countries. Another challenge lies in the need to further diversify and enhance trade relations. While there has been growth in bilateral trade, there is potential for greater collaboration in sectors such as tourism, manufacturing, and innovation. Efforts need to be made to identify new areas of cooperation and facilitate business interactions.

Additionally, both India and South Africa face common developmental challenges such as poverty, inequality, and unemployment. Sharing experiences and best practices in areas such as agriculture, healthcare, and education can contribute to addressing these social issues.

In conclusion, the bond between India and South Africa has grown stronger under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The historical connections,

increased diplomatic engagements, economic cooperation, and cultural exchanges have laid a solid foundation for this relationship. However, challenges such as visa requirements and diversifying trade need to be addressed to further enhance this bond. With continued efforts and cooperation, India and South Africa can build upon their shared values and aspirations for a better future.

The strong trade between India and South Africa is huge. The relationship between the two nations presents a great promise for the future. But New Delhi will need to begin to unravel if India's cooperation is to lead to a high-level visit. India's investment in Africa is costly, reaches a wide range, and is not always limited to the general investment sector. To maintain the momentum of building political and economic ties for this very important cause, steps must be taken to integrate and fund a sustainable South African development project. India and South Africa need to build on the solid foundation that already exists and move forward with the establishment of embassies in a sustainable manner for further ongoing high-level trade activities that include bringing about partnerships. And most importantly, there should be a continuous effort to improve South African studies in Indian research institutes and universities. South Africa is believed to be a continent where the human race is truly changing so that Africans can reverse the idea of India becoming a major cultural power, so building relationships and partnerships to show human intimacy in India and Africa can help. There should be a strong focus on current areas of cooperation, such as the development of economic and labor investment infrastructure. Cooperation between India and South Africa has a strong cultural and historical basis, and there is a consensus or connection between the two, and it is time to build on it continuously from here onwards, be it culture or security or a place like trade or agriculture technology.

## CONCLUSION

India has provided a cooperative model that negotiates and relies on human resource development and skills development in African countries. There is no doubt that India's domestic knowledge and success in developing the manufacturing and service sectors while promoting social inclusion at the national level have impressed several African countries that are determined to emulate this model in the future. India can be considered a partner that can provide an effective solution to the various problems of the continent. India-South Africa relations are still to be seen, and there is a possibility that both sides can benefit from this relationship. South Africa is poised to benefit greatly from its dialogue with India and other BRICS provinces. I hope that the relationship between India and South Africa marks the beginning of a

new African era in the future that will bring Amanda Nagawetha (power to the people).

## REFERENCES

1. Adams. (2015). Africa Debt Rising. Africa Research Institute. London. Retrieved from
2. AAGTR. (2013). Climate-change impacts, adaptation challenges and costs for Africa. Africa's Adaptation Gap Technical Report (AAGTR). United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Nairobi. Retrieved from <http://www.unep.org/pdf/AfricaAdapatationGapreport.pdf>,
3. ANRC. (2012). Africa's Natural Resources Wealth: A Snap Shot. African Natural Resources Centre (ANRC), Abidjan. Retrieved from <http://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/African-natural-resources-center-anrc/>,
4. APP. (2015). Global Goals, African Realities: Building a Sustainable Future for All. Africa Progress Panel (APP), Geneva.
5. Arora, M.C., and Chand, M., eds. (2015). India-Africa Partnership Towards Sustainable. Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC) & Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS). New Delhi.
6. Bayton-Glen (2012). Africa-India trade and investments play to strengths. Standard chartered on the ground report. August 8, 2012. <https://research.standardchartered.com/researchdocuments/Pages/ResearchArticle.aspx&R=96671>
7. Bates, B., Z.W. Kundzewicz, S. Wu, and J. Palutikof. J. (2008). "Climate Change and Water." Technical Paper. Geneva: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
8. Bhatia, R. (2015). Third India-Africa Forum Summit: A Critical Evaluation. Indian Foreign Affairs Journal Vol. 10, No. 4, October–December 2015, 368-382
10. Caminade et al. (2011). "Mapping Rift Valley Fever and Malaria Risk over West Africa using Climatic Indicators," *Atmospheric Science Letters*, 12: 96–103.
11. Dubey, A.K., and A. Biswas, ed.(2016). India and Africa's Partnership. A Vision for a New Future, New Delhi: Springer.
12. Elebute, K. (2014). Powering Growth: How can African economies overcome the paradox of resource-rich and access poor? Africa Arisen: The Blue-Sky Continent. KPMG Africa. Johannesburg. Retrieved from <https://www.kpmg.com/Africa/en/IssuesAndInsights/Articles-Publications/General-Industries-Publications/Documents/KPMG%20Africa%20Arisen.pdf>
13. EU (2016). EU Member Countries. European Union. Retrieved from [http://europa.eu/about-eu/countries/member-countries/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/about-eu/countries/member-countries/index_en.htm)
14. GFI (2016) Illicit Financial Flows. Global Financial Integrity. Washington DC. Retrieved at <http://www.gfintegrity.org/issue/illicit-financial-flows/>
15. HDR. (2014). Sustaining Human Progress Reducing Vulnerabilities and Building Resilience. Human Development Report. UNDP. New York. Retrieved from <http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hdr14-report-en-1.pdf>