

## Major trends and fluctuations in the Indo-South Africa Relationship: Analysis of the Dynamics

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**Abstract:** The chance of courage among India and South Africa has since a really long time been drawn vivaciously from chronicled sources, including the counter trailblazer customs of Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi, and advancing disillusionment with a different evened-out world solicitation that subordinates them from overall autonomous bearing. In this article, we consider the chronicled wavering embedded inside the way India by and by connects with and examines "Africa." We battle that parts of the Modi government's political endeavor are changing the meaning of India's relationship with "Africa." After a short speculative discussion and a thought about the irrefutable setting, we look at two late models in which India's relationship with Africa was depicted: the 2015 India-Africa Forum Summit and the new tumult over attacks on African students in India. This has, at this point, caused upset among India and other African states. But still, based on shared assurance and requests, there are signs that the chance of "India-Africa relations" itself can transform into a dynamic talk.

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**Keywords:** parts, trailblazer, girmittias, customs, India-Africa relation, summit, depicted, geopolitically, sustainability, diaspora, geo-strategic, cooperation, G20, bilateral trade, ties, investment, engagement, participation.

### Introduction

Overall investment through trade and hypotheses is a reality, yet there is also a huge demand for region-to-region cooperation plans. How should such common place investment be planned for normal benefit, and is there scope for such support in the food and agrarian regions, whose change and advancement are so fundamental in the improvement collaboration? Also, it may be asked, how much has the India-Africa joint effort as yet helped Africa and the negative quirk vice versa? (Dixit et al. 2018).

Considering these requests, this paper looks at the India-Africa association in terms of return and interest, generally speaking, and in the agro-food space explicitly since the beginning of the 21st century. The paper centers around courses of action and industry specialists. We extensively look at government-to-government (G2G) and business-to-business (B2B), or, one can also say, private region-to-private region (P2P) drives in the past and assess how to develop these drives that can help people in the two central areas spread out, say towards 2030. Various performers, similar to normal society affiliations and NGOs, may also accept critical parts in multi-performer associations in food structures in India and Africa. Trade and adventure relations are not just an issue of flitting

responses to inspirations and comparative advantages. Long-term institutional components and social relations matter for financial progression and affiliation .

As needs be, before we ship off our inquiry into the trade and adventure circle and how best they can be reached out in the years to spread out, we first look back at the social ties that India and Africa have made throughout the last not just several numerous years yet, forever and a day. It will not be a twist to say that understanding the sociology of people is a critical design block in developing financial relations. It is even more so in agriculture, which is consistently and insistently interweaved with culture. In like manner, this paper is composed as follows: In region 2, we look at certain ties among India and Africa reaching out back to something like a century or two, followed by calls and hypotheses starting around 2000 in region 3. In region 4, we present the organized endeavors among India and a couple of African countries in the field of cultivating, both on a G2G premise as well as on a P2P premise. In fragment 5, we summarize decisions for the way forward for the two regions that can convey more noticeable prosperity to their people. The paper furthermore has a long Annex that once-overs India's embodiment and occupation in express African countries all the more carefully and gives country-wise nuances that have benefited India's Line of Credit for sensitive advances (Davis 2018).

### **A Brief Sketch of Historical Ties among India and South Africa**

India has maintained social and monetary relationships with different African nations for a genuinely extended period of time. These ties could be traced to those occasions when Indian transporters used to voyage toward the east shore of South Africa in search of exchange, changing things from significant metals to agrarian things (EXIM Bank and Afrexim Bank, 2018). Regardless,

around the 1820s, there were enormous inflows of Indian subject matter experts (unnecessarily proposed as Girmitias, derived from the Awadhi word “Girmit,” signifying “game-plan”) from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Tamil Nadu, and so forth to the sugarcane bequests in Mauritius, Madagascar, and different settlements worked with by the British and French. The improvement of the Ugandan Railways (1896–1901), which connected Mombasa and the bank of Lake Victoria, impelled further development of Indian workers in Africa. Kenya and Uganda, both British locales, were reliant on Mombasa port for their outside exchange. To discuss the port with the central district, a rail line was begun to Nairobi in 1899. Different Indian experts who were secured with the headway of the rail course lines chose to settle down in East Africa and begin agrarian and exchange works (APEDA 2020).

In 1916, the English supplanted the Germans as the edge power in East Africa and urged Indians to encourage cotton and suggest their own creation techniques with African associates. Cotton was especially empowered during the World Wars’ time period as the British Cotton Growing Association required a consistent supply of rough substances to the British material industry. After the accomplishment with cotton, the English additionally requested that Indians empower the cotton and sugar industries in Africa. Out of the 54 African nations, India has ‘wonderful binds’ with nations like South Africa, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Ghana, and Mauritius, to name a couple of models. Now, individuals of Indian origin play fundamental roles in different areas, from authentic pioneering to mentoring to affiliations, and so forth, in different African nations.

A few Kenyan occupants of Indian beginnings incorporate senior conditions as legal advisors, judges, well-informed authorities, and scholastics. Today, around 3 million individuals of

Indian origin live in Africa; what's more, around 66% of these live in South Africa, Mauritius, and Reunion (WEF, 2015). In Ethiopia, e.g., Indians acknowledged a central role in the direction district during the 1960s, when there were sizeable measures of Indian educators in schools all over Ethiopia. Today, there are different Indian educators serving in the quickly expanding Ethiopian university framework. It is reviewed that now there are 2000–2500 Indian educators and scholastics in 30 schools and higher illuminating establishments in Ethiopia. In Uganda, Indians (counting people of Indian origin, PIOs) account for close to 1% of everyone, notwithstanding, and contribute essentially more noteworthy propositions to Uganda's examination pay, according to information from the Bank of Uganda and the Uganda Revenue Authority (Ministry of External Affairs, 2019). Nigeria is India's most conspicuous exchange with Africa. In Ghana, Indian businesspersons have a presence in different affiliations, going from pieces of clothing and materials to prescriptions and plastics. In Mauritius, people of Indian origin include around 68% of everyone. In South Africa, Indians comprise around 3% of everyone. Obviously, South Africa in addition implies the introduction of the considering 'Satyagraha' (adventure for truth) and typical resistance under the drive of Mahatma Gandhi, which later on changed into a basic political instrument for India's chance battle with the British. It also affected several managers from one side of the world to the other, from Martin Luther King in the USA to Nelson Mandela in South Africa (Beri 2020).

### **India's engagement with Africa**

India's approach to Africa has been laid upon due to its emerging geopolitics, geo-strategic and geo-economics considerations in the changing global order in the last decade. Historical roots of New Delhi engagement with Africa can be traced back in the backdrop of shared post colonial

contexts. The post cold war global political order has been conceived upon the neoliberal and social constructivists theories. Since decolonization of the India and Africa states, political leadership of both parties have presented independent stands in the broader spectrums of external affairs at multiple forums.

India has considerable goodwill within Africa and has a long-standing friendship based on common ideals with the continent. From US\$ 68.5 billion in 2011-12 to US\$ 90.5 billion in 2022-23, India's commerce with Africa has increased, and Indian investors have increased their presence in the continent. India ranked among the top five African investors in 2022, with total investments of US\$ 73.9 billion made between 1996 and 2022. India and Africa have worked together to effectively defend developing countries' interests in international forums, especially the World Trade Organization (WTO). Together, they advanced the Agriculture Framework Proposal and, more recently, an intellectual property right waiver for COVID-19 vaccines at the WTO, which was offered by South Africa and India.

In addition, the fourth India-Africa Forum conference ought to outline the future agenda and expand on the progress achieved at the G20 conference. Ultimately, a great deal has transpired since the previous India-Africa Forum Summit. The shift in the African continent's fortunes is the most notable difference. Growth has slowed throughout the continent in the new millennium, following a strong start.

The current state of affairs demands that India-Africa relations open a new chapter. While India-African ties will continue to be guided by the ideals of solidarity, mutual respect, and the 10 guiding principles that Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted in Uganda, there is an urgent need

to give attention to more modern needs, primarily those of food security and debt sustainability. Throughout the last three India–Africa Forum Summits, food security has been a major focal point and a crucial tenet of the India–Africa alliance. Nevertheless, food security is Africa's top priority due to the continent's current fragility and extreme reliance on food imports. Therefore, in the upcoming years, India–Africa cooperation should place a high priority on Africa's agricultural development and food security.

Hence, two more important objectives that both India and Africa should work toward are reforming the global financial system and reducing Africa's debt load. India and Africa ought to outline their future goals on the India–Africa Forum Summit forum. Geopolitically, many African sovereigns who have grown weary of the liberal western order find resonance in India's quest for a more equitable global order. India, one of the main players in the Brazil–Russia–India–China–South Africa (BRICS) alliance, has made no secret of the fact that it wants more participation in international organizations. This also applies to the United Nations (UN) Security Council, where India has been a strong voice in favor of Africa's Ezulwini Consensus and has advocated for a permanent seat. In 2005, the African Union adopted the Ezulwini Consensus, which outlines Africa's stance on reforming the United Nations Security Council. The consensus argues that Africa was underrepresented when the UN was established and in 1963. To address this, it demands that Africa be given two permanent seats with veto power and five non–permanent seats on the Security Council.

Similarities also exist with regard to climate change, as both India and Africa decline to be the West's scapegoats. This stance has supported emerging nations' interests in a manner that largely aligns with those of Africa. India has historically been a major military troop contributor to UN

peacekeeping operations in Africa. India has focused its military efforts in the Indian Ocean region, where it has long held a commanding position in island states like Mauritius and Seychelles. India is redoubling its comparative advantages to preserve its naval and diplomatic superiority as the Indian Ocean becomes a crucial battleground due to its strategic access and impact for energy resources and national security.

India's interaction with African countries is not without difficulties, though. Initially, Indian enterprises need to get over their "fear factor," which makes them frequently overestimate the risk associated with the continent. Given the dearth of knowledge about Africa's diversity, a large amount of sensitization will be needed for this.

India has a natural desire to see Africa flourish. India's External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, has reaffirmed that the continent's development is essential to the country's foreign policy objectives and a necessary condition for the globe to genuinely transition to multipolarity. The political and ideological concerns that shaped the alliance during the Cold War have become less important as India and other African nations have gained more international recognition. Security and economic development concerns now rule the India-Africa relationship.

India's Africa policy is driven by two main principles. The first is India's effort to guarantee the security of its energy and resources. Africa is ideally situated to supply India's expanding need for energy since India is one of the biggest oil consumers and is dependent on energy.

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expanding need for energy resources, as the latter is an energy-dependent nation and one of the biggest importers of oil. India also wants to lessen its dependency on the Middle East by diversifying its sources for LNG and crude oil imports.

The second driving force is seeking support from African nations for India's application for a permanent seat on the UNSC. Additionally, this driver aims to secure greater autonomy for global multilateral and financial organizations and to prioritize the agenda of the "Global South." The African Union's admission as a permanent member of the G20 under the Indian G20 Presidency is evidence of the significance India places on its ties to the continent.

From the days of fighting together against colonialism to a developing and complex collaboration in the twenty-first century under the framework of South-South cooperation, India and African nations have come a long way. The topic of India-Africa relations is gradually starting to gain more attention in our country's discourse.

Africa has a wide range of foreign partners to pick from these days. India will need to step up its relations with some major African nations, including South Africa, Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Mauritius, and Seychelles, and maintain regular consultations with African partners in order to genuinely stand out as Africa's partner of choice.

Racism is the second big problem in the room. There have been reports of attacks on Nigerian students in New Delhi, similar to what happened to China in 2020 when accusations of racism damaged that country's image in Africa. Mishra points out that Delhi's history of promoting

interpersonal communication is still dreadfully insufficient. Furthermore, The Gambia's recent "Made in India" cough syrup controversy has damaged the nation's brand, which it cannot afford.

As Africa's strategic ally, India has a clear chance to carve out a new role. However, ISS Today was informed by Sanusha Naidu of the Institute for Global Dialogue that New Delhi needs to make clear its values if it hopes to continue on a healthy path.

The African Union was admitted as a full member of the G-20 in the September 2023 summit in New Delhi, in part because of vigorous lobbying by India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi described Africa as "India's top priority" and stated, "The phrase 'Global South' is not just a diplomatic word. We have united in our opposition to colonialism and racism throughout our shared history. Mahatma Gandhi employed effective nonviolent and peaceful resistance strategies on African land. We are forming our modern relationships on this solid historical base.

The following triennial summit of the India-Africa Forum is scheduled for 2024. 47 African nations attended the Voice of the Global South Summit in January 2023.

### **Trade ties are returning after many years**

Indo-African relations date back to the Bronze Age season of the Indus Valley progression. Pearl millet really controlled in Africa has been found from the site of Chanhudaro, and there is something like one internment of African ladies from a similar site in like manner. It is as key recommended that Indus Valley sea rehearses include a journey to the horn of Africa and passing on back African yields from nearby African Diaspora to the Indus Valley since Pearl millet was made in

South Asia since the second thousand years BC, notwithstanding that there is no such demand from the Near East (Acemoglu et al. 2015). Black peppercorns were found stuffed in the nostrils of Ramesses II, put there as a piece of the embalment customs not long after his passing in 1213 BCE. In the second century BC, the Greek's records of Ptolemaic Egypt and its exchange relations notice Indian boats making the trip, and the Greeks started to use this information from Indian mariners to lead sea rehearsals in the Indian Ocean and lead business with the Indians clearly rather than depending on the center men. When the Romans uprooted the Greek relationship in Egypt, this started a 400-year season of exchange relations between the Roman Empire and India. Helped by the rainstorm winds, carriers exchanged cotton, glass spots, and different things as a compromise for gold and delicately cut ivory. The impact of the Indian game plan on the African area shows the degree of exchange improvement between the two civilizations.

### **India-Africa Forum Summit**

The India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) is the power stage for African-Indian relations. The IAFS is held once, in true form. It was first held from April 4 to April 8, 2008, in New Delhi, and was the very such gathering between the heads of state and administering assemblage of India and 14 nations of Africa picked by the African Union (Chakrabarty 2018). The second India-Africa summit took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where India and 15 African countries discussed ways to strengthen their partnership and enhance their ties. The third summit was held in New Delhi, India, from October 26 to 30, 2015. It began with official-level consultations, followed by a summit of heads of state and government on October 29, and concluded with bilateral meetings on October 30. This was the largest diplomatic outreach by the Modi government, involving delegates from many

African nations. While the 4th summit is still in line and pending for a couple of years, in January 2024, India hosted a virtual summit called "Voice of the Global South," attended by most African nations. Their suggestions were incorporated into India's G20 agenda. India's efforts led to the inclusion of the African Union as a permanent member of the G20, making it the second African country to join the group after South Africa.

### **India-Africa Bilateral Trade and Investment**

Individual exchange and theory ties among India and Africa are generally a consequence of strategic approaches attempted by corporate players. By the by, over the most recent twenty years, the Indian government has furthermore taken specific interest in fabricating more grounded attachments with African nations. It sent off a 'Center Africa' crusade in 2002, which got a further fillip with the goodbye of the India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) in 2008. The Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) started the 'Center Africa' program for additional exchange with African nations. All along, the program depended on Sub-Saharan Africa; now, at something almost identical in 2003, it was loosened up to cover North African nations as well. In 2008, with the key India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS), the Indian government conveyed a commitment of responsibility with African nations. The Duty-Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) was represented in the fundamental IAFS. Starting there on, a yearly conversation about exchange ministers of explicit nations was delivered as a reevaluation line of the second IAFS in 2011 to assess two-sided exchange issues. In like way, in 2017, India worked with the yearly gathering of the African Improvement Bank (AfDB) in Ahmedabad. The series of steps started by the Indian

government in the most recent twenty years extensively show India's endeavors in updating financial collaboration with African nations (Glover 2016).

Africa, as a progress force of India, at first became perceptible with the beginning of an attracted liability with Africa under the game plan of the IAFS. Till now, three appearances of IAFS have been created: 2008 (New Delhi, India), 2011 (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia), and 2015 (New Delhi, India), and the fourth structure is reserved to be held in the later part of 2020 in Africa. As shown by experts of India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), India has made 29 visits to African nations at the level of President, Vice President, and Prime Minister, beginning around 2014 (Gupta 2014).

Other than to the degree that authoritative level visits, every one of the 54 African nations has been covered by the Indian government. On the African side, more than 32 heads of African nations have visited India from 2016 to 2019. Industry affiliations like the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Federation of Indian Offices of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) have in like way extended their affirmation for expanding their quality in Africa. CII, up until this point, has worked with 14 India-Africa Project Partnership Conclaves starting around 2005. These occasions give stages to business pioneers from India and Africa to investigate attempts other than research experience, which open doorways. The theory of African state-run associations as well as relationships in these social occasions has stretched out without a doubt. CII sorts out Chalo Africa (Let's go to Africa), while FICCI has been sorting out drives like Namaskar Africa, a development of business gatherings (Carberry 2019).

### **India's corporate locale presence in South Africa**

India also kept up with progress drives in Africa under the wide standard of South-South Participation. During the 1960s and 1970s, exchange and theory relations were negligible in volume. Regardless, there were a couple of Indian affiliations that put resources into East African nations regardless, during the 1960s, when India's nearby plans were altogether prohibitive in directing the meager new trade needed for relationships to contribute abroad. India was tirelessly shy of new trade to some extent in 1947 and 1991, all around by virtue of a distorted exchange scale and an import replacement framework. From 1959 to 1960, the Birla Group set up a material plant in Ethiopia under a joint endeavor. In 1974, Pan Paper was set up, a joint endeavor between Orient Paper and Industries (a piece of the Birla Group), the Kenyan government, and the World Bank's International Finance Corporation. By and large, the hypotheses during that period were not entirely set in stone by a little heap of titanic Indian firms, yet the sums put in were usually more unassuming in size than contemporary streams (ICAR 2019).

The money-related changes in India in 1991 changed the deal concerning new trade. India conveyed getting changes in 1991 in light of the new trade emergency. India had new trade stores of just USD 1.4 billion in July 1991, palatable for just fourteen days of import bills. With colossal changes in rates (cutting back), de-permitting a basic piece of the business, and lessening high cost dividers on a few current things, India picked a substitute progression direction (MEA 2017). The new trade gradually stretched out from USD 1.4 billion in July 1991 to USD 480 billion preceding the completion of February 2020. As a piece of the generally financial changes started in 1991, India changed the guidelines and procedures for undertakings outside India. By 2003, with the opening of new trade, the roof on Indian theory outside the nation was nullified. Affiliations were permitted to contribute abroad with essentially no administrative cutoff points. Thusly, both public district

attempts and clandestinely held and recorded corporate substances have put resources into Africa reasonably recently (Pathak 2017).

One of the world's fastest-growing continents is Africa, and the Indian business community has played a significant role in this growth narrative. The Indian industrial sector has consistently placed a high priority on developing capacities, expanding infrastructure, and guaranteeing the creation of jobs. Indian businesses have increased their investments in Africa during the past ten years across a variety of industries. These include vehicles, information technology (IT) and services facilitated by IT, light manufacturing, agriculture, communications, and hydrocarbon exploration. Trade and investment have increased significantly as a result of this.

Trade between India and Africa has grown and deepened at a rapid pace. In absolute terms, two-way trade between India and Africa has grown five-fold between 2005-06 and 2015-16 – although it is nowhere near projected potential. With a series of initiatives and a big push from both sides, bilateral trade is expected to exceed US\$ 100 billion by 2018 (Viswanathan and Mishra 2019). Since 2003, commerce between India and Africa has increased by 18% yearly, to reach \$103 billion in 2023. India is now Africa's third-largest trading partner, behind China and the European Union.

Because of its geographic location across the Indian Ocean and the size of its Indian diaspora.

### **India-South Africa Trade Relations**

Bilateral commerce between the two nations was valued at approximately US\$18.87 billion in 2022–2023. Between April and October of 2023–2024, India and South Africa's bilateral commerce amounted to approximately US\$ 11.66 billion. Almost 5,020 different commodities to South Africa were shipped by India in the fiscal year 2022–2023, totaling to US\$ 8.47 billion. The main constituents included automotive and motor vehicles (\$1.54 billion), telecom instruments (\$0.21 billion), drug formulations and biological items (\$0.57 billion), industrial machinery for dairy (\$0.14 billion), other construction machinery (\$0.10 billion), and inorganic chemicals (\$0.09 billion). The value of petroleum products was as huge as US\$ 3.76 billion. Regarding South African imports, India brought in a total of US\$ 10.39 billion in imports through 1,149 items from the country during the fiscal year 2022–2023. Top imports included bulk minerals and ores valued at US\$ 0.43 billion, pulp and waste paper valued at US\$ 0.39 billion, gold valued at US\$ 3.36 billion, pearls, precious and semi-precious stones, copper and copper products, and coke, coal, and briquettes valued at US\$ 3.48 billion, US\$ 0.84 billion, and US\$ 0.78 billion respectively.

India and South Africa have maintained a solid and significant bilateral relationship since the last thirty years. Both countries have been working as friends to ensure mutual cooperation and collaboration. A total of US\$ 70 billion investment has been made by India in Africa, and it has also given US\$ 12.26 billion in lines of credit (LoCs) to the African nations. Currently, about 193 projects in various sectors, including oil and gas, mining, banking, pharmaceuticals, textiles, the automotive industry, and agriculture, have been finished, 66 are in the process of being executed, and 88 are in the pre-execution stage.

South Africa is ranked 37th in foreign direct investment equity flows in India with cumulative investments amounting to US\$ 595.87 million between April 2000 and September 2023. India's authorized total investments in Africa between April 1996 and March 2022 were US\$ 73.9 billion, of which 81.6% were made through Wholly Owned Subsidiaries (WOS) and 18.4% through Joint Ventures, Highest amount of investment from India has been made in manufacturing sector, with banking, insurance, real estate, and business services trailing behind. Agriculture, transportation, storage, and communication services have also received attention.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa held a bilateral meeting during the 2022 G7 summit in Germany where they talked about advancements in defense, education, and agriculture and stressed the importance of strengthening bilateral cooperation in areas like trade, investment, food security, pharmaceuticals, and digital financial inclusion. They also praised the WTO deal that helps developing nations produce the COVID-19 vaccine. Over a thousand delegates from African governments and businesses attended the 17th India-Africa Growth Partnership Conclave, which was organized by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and EXIM Bank in July 2022. The 11th India-South Africa Foreign Office Consultations session was conducted in New Delhi in August 2022, while the India-Africa Defence Dialogue (IADD), which aimed to strengthen defense, cyber security and maritime security, was held in Gujarat in October 2022.

Abhishek Mishra notes that India has historically concentrated on East and Southern Africa. Thanks to the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) of the Ministry of External Affairs, which has dedicated over a third of its accounts to African countries since 1964 in four

areas—capacity building, project assistance, scholarships, and institution-building—India has been able to extend its engagements to over 44 countries over time. More than 200,000 defense and civilian workers from 160 countries—mostly in Asia and Africa—have received its training. Africa has received half of India's EXIM Bank's foreign funding, technical support, and trade promotion initiatives (IDSA 2013).

### **India-South Africa Cooperation through multilateral forums**

The historical ties between India and South Africa have been emerging from their shared experiences under colonialism and apartheid. Both countries have fought for equality, justice, and socioeconomic development, and have been greatly influenced by the oppressive and retarding British imperial policies. The large Indian diaspora in South Africa, including descendants of indentured laborers brought by the Dutch East India Company in the 19th century, further strengthens the historical foundation of their diplomatic relations. The historical relations got strengthened further when the BRIC forum turned into BRICS with the addition of south africa in the grouping in 2010.

The historical and contemporary economic, social, and diplomatic ties between the Republic of India and the Republic of South Africa—two dynamic countries with exciting histories and bright futures—have an effect on the world economy. Their relationship has been further enhanced by their involvement in the BRICS alliance, which is currently made up of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, five important emerging countries of the world. In addition to representing authoritarian rather than democratic political systems, China and Russia have two of the five permanent seats on the UN Security Council (P5) and engage in global security governance in a manner distinct from that of the other BRICS countries. And thus the "IBSA Dialogue Forum," a

trilateral consultation mechanism between India, Brazil, and South Africa has been formed focusing on social, economic, and political cooperation between the three states. Former external affairs minister of India Late Mrs Sushma Swaraj stated during the 9th ministerial meet of the IBSA forum: “Values of democracy, pluralism, multiculturalism, tolerance, social-inclusion, rule-based international order, UN reforms, and shared commitment to 2030 agenda are enshrined deeply in IBSA cooperation. I want to emphasize here that we three share a lot more in common than other groupings and we should seek to strengthen these shared bonds”.

BRICS is growing further both with the expansion of its membership and increasing clout in the global economy, directly challenging the western economic dominance. With the addition of Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates in 2024, the multilateral organization will grow further challenging the hegemonic international economic world order dominated by the west. According to World Bank data from 2019, the BRICS countries account for more than 16% of global trade, 24% of global GDP, and 41% of the world's population. With south asia and africa being the fastest growing regions of the world with respect to economic growth rates, the BRICS cooperation and expansion can help to change the perception around lack of enterprising spirit in the states of these regions. India and South Africa have established a framework to strengthen bilateral ties and explore potential for mutual development as they witness the opportunities and challenges of the twenty-first century through their cooperation within BRICS. Cooperation through BRICS between the two states can also help in a more unitary front at the WTO negotiations and ensuring equity and fairness in global trade rules.

To maximize the benefits of their partnership and years-long engagement, India and South Africa need to adopt a forward-thinking approach with the goals of working together in the global forums. In this regard, four key areas are highly crucial as the world shifts towards a multipolar framework with the witnessing decline of the west and rise of the rest. First, strengthened diplomacy through regular multiple level meetings and different tracks can foster cooperation. Second, private sector engagement can boost economic potential by promoting business forums and investment summits. In this regard, India also needs to further promote para diplomacy at the level of provinces. Third, a people-centric and youth-focused approach, including tourism, academic collaboration, and cultural exchanges, can deepen societal ties and cultural ties and revisiting the historical links between both the states. Fourth, multilateral diplomacy within BRICS and IBSA can be utilized to address shared concerns like reforming international organizations and promoting the interests of developing nations in a world that still gets dominated by the western hegemonic institutions like IMF, world bank and WTO.

### **Conclusion**

Considering everything, it will overall be imparted that the local financial mix could clear the way for its kin to take a premium significantly more in the multilateral course of cash-related change by permitting them amazing chances to examine different streets regarding the financial change at a more limited size and size inside the area. This could add to their status in the multilateral movement process at a more noteworthy augmentation by adding to their ability and power profiles through joint exertion. India-Africa relations have developed persistently and continually all through the long stretch, having shown both change and congruity. During the trailblazer time frame, they

depended on an open door and the battle against expansionism according to the point of view of colonized individuals across the world. Not long after India's autonomy, Indo-African affiliation zeroed in on the chances of African nations. Essentially, in post-Cold War times, with the rise of India and an enormous number of African nations as liberal economies, relations have really grown progressively and quickly

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