

India and South Africa: Bonding Across Third World Borders

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The bilateral relations between the Republic of India and the Republic of South Africa have grown strong since the end of apartheid in South Africa in 1994. Both countries have since developed close strategic, cultural and economic ties. Both are former British colonies and full member states of the Commonwealth of Nations as republics.



A miniature sheet and 2 stamps depicting Gandhi as a young minister in South Africa and the other showing him in his old age in India was issued on 2nd October 1995.



India - South Africa



A set of two stamps along with a miniature sheet depicting the elephants of India and Africa was issued on 25 May, 2011 commemorating the 2nd Africa-India Forum Summit 2011.

The India–Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) is the official platform for the African-Indian relations. IAFS will be held once in every three years. It was first held from April 4 to April 8, 2008 in New Delhi, India. It was the first such meeting between the heads of state and government of India and 14 countries of Africa chosen by the African Union.



A set of six stamps and two Miniature Sheets (one of them metal coated) was released on 29th October 2015 on the occasion of 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi.

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- The experiments for which Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi created a fertile soil stood him in good stead during his later satyagrahas to awaken India to social equality, economic self-reliance and political freedoms.

- Gandhiji worked up the moral sanctions which compelled the British to see the injustices of their rule and to quit India.

- This was the peaceful prelude to the winding up of the British in South Asia and Africa.

- Mahatma Gandhi's crusade against racist laws was taken up by the Africa National Congress.

- Sir Nelson Mandela then headed a government of national reconstruction which sought to provide human answer to the challenges bequeathed to India by Mahatma Gandhi.



A set of two stamps and a Miniature Sheet was issued on 07 June 2018 featuring "Deendayal Upadhyaya" of India and "Oliver Reginald Tambo" of South Africa.

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**. Diplomatic and consular relations with South Africa were restored in November 1993 during the visit of the then South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha to India.

As of 2015, India has emerged as Africa's fourth largest trade partner behind China, EU & USA whilst **Africa** has emerged as India's sixth largest trading partner behind EU, China, UAE, USA & ASEAN.

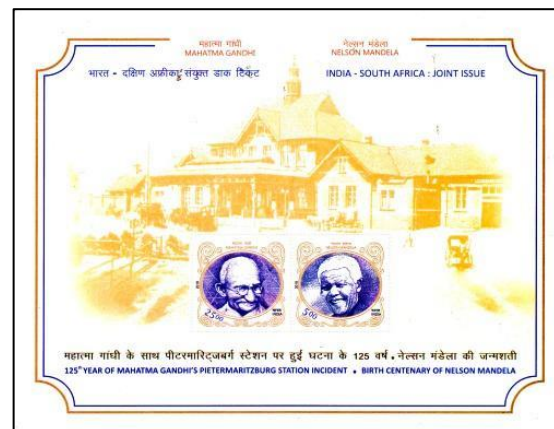
A set of two stamps and a Miniature Sheet was issued on 26 July 2018 featuring "Mahatma Gandhi" and "Nelson Mandela" on the occasion of 125th year of Mahatma Gandhi's Pietermaritzburg Station incident and birth centenary of Nelson Mandela.



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FDC issued to comm 20 years of strategic partnership between both the countries.



The year 2018 marks 25 years of establishment of diplomatic relations between India-South Africa.