

CONGRATULATING INDIA ON CHANDRAYAAN-3, SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENT CALLS IT MOMENTOUS OCCASION FOR BRICS

Modi, Ramaphosa Decide to Add Fresh Momentum to Defence, Agri, Trade Ties

Willing to donate more cheetahs, should you need, you have come to the home of cheetahs: Ramaphosa to Modi

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New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi met South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa on the sidelines of the 15th Brics Summit in Johannesburg on Wednesday and discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in defence, agriculture, trade and health, among other areas.

Both leaders reviewed the progress made in bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction at the progress achieved in various fields, including defence, agriculture, trade and investment, health, conservation and people-to-people ties, according to an external affairs ministry readout.

Both sides also exchanged views on continued coordination in multilateral bodies and regional and multilateral issues.

Ramaphosa expressed support for India's G20 presidency and appreciated New Delhi's initiative to give the African Union full membership of the G20. He conveyed that he looked forward to visiting New Delhi for the G20 Summit.

Modi congratulated Ramaphosa on the successful hosting of the Brics Summit and accepted Ramaphosa's invitation for a state visit to South Africa.

During the Brics Plenary session, Ramaphosa said he wanted to congratulate India for the Chandrayaan-3 mission. "I would like to congratulate India, particularly as you



Modi Picks Up Tricolour Placed as Marker on Stage

Johannesburg. Showing respect to the Indian flag, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday immediately picked up the Tricolour placed on stage at a Brics meeting here to mark the standing place of every leader so as not to step on it. A video of the meeting showed South African President Cyril Ramaphosa acknowledging the PM's gesture and picking up his country's flag after stepping on it. While Ramaphosa handed over his flag to an official, Modi kept the Tricolour with him. —PTI

HAILING INDIAN ROLE



SA President Ramaphosa appreciates

India's initiative for giving the African Union full membership of G20

speaking about the need for cooperation in space, in a few hours India's spacecraft Chandrayaan-3 will be landing on the moon. We congratulate you. This for us, as the Brics family, is a momentous occasion and we rejoice with you. We join you in the joy of this great achievement..."

Ramaphosa said he was "willing to donate more cheetahs to India".

agreement signed between the two nations.

The MoU facilitates cooperation between the two countries to establish a viable and secure cheetah population in India, promotes conservation and ensures that expertise is shared and exchanged, and capacity built, to promote cheetah conservation. This includes human-wildlife conflict resolution, capture and translocation of wildlife and community participation in conservation in the two countries.

Commercial relations between the two nations have flourished since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1993. Major Indian exports to South Africa include vehicles and components, transport equipment, pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, footwear, dyes and intermediates, chemicals, textiles, rice, and gems and jewellery, among other items. Major Indian imports from South Africa include gold, steam coal, copper ores and concentrates, phosphoric acid, manganese ore, aluminium ingots and other minerals.

The South African Indian origin community numbers around 1.5 million and constitutes about 3% of South Africa's total population. About 80% of the Indian community lives in the province of KwaZulu Natal, about 15% in the Gauteng (previously Transvaal) area, and the remaining 5% in Cape Town.

South Africans of Indian origin are well-represented in the government, businesses, media, legal and other professions.