



Research Article

## A Meta-Analysis of The Speeches of Nelson Mandela & Its Impact on the Trade Relations Between India and South Africa

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### Abstract

India and South Africa have had a historical relationship since ancient times. When South Africa was facing the slavery of apartheid culture, at the same time, India was fighting against Britisher for their independence. Mahatma Gandhi was an important link between both countries. He used his "Satyagraha" weapon in South Africa first. Then he implemented it on his land successfully against Englishmen and gained the independence of his country. Nelson Mandela had great admiration for Mahatma Gandhi and India. He was also a big supporter of nonviolence technique of struggle, and he used this technique to fight his struggle against apartheid. Mandela always mentioned India, Gandhi, and his "Satyagraha" technique in his speeches. In this research paper, we will analyse the commercial relationship between India and South Africa during the presidency of Nelson Mandela and how Mandela's speeches played a significant role in the expansion of business relations between both countries.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Nelson Mandela, the first black president of South Africa, made a milestone in the history of the world when after a rigorous 27-year imprisonment; he struggled hard against apartheid culture and was compelled to then South African government to declare it illegal. In 1994, the first democratic election was conducted in which every citizen of South Africa, despite being white or black, voted for the election of their government, and Nelson Mandela got victory in this election and became the first black president of his country. During his struggle against apartheid, he was much inspired by Mahatma Gandhi and his nonviolent technique, which can be understood by his speech, which he delivered at the Global Convention on Peace and Nonviolence in New Delhi on January 31, 2004:

“South Africa, the country that inspired the Mahatma and that was inspired by the Mahatma, chose a path of peace in the face of all the prophets of doom.”

This speech shows the respect of Nelson Mandela to India. So, it is obvious that the election of Nelson Mandela as a president of South Africa opened new ways for establishing commercial relations between South Africa and India. After becoming president, Nelson Mandela was very thankful to India for its contribution to the struggle against apartheid. He also appreciated the role of the South African Indian community in the establishment of a democratic system. He also expressed his gratitude to India in these words just after taking the oath of president on June 18, 1994, in the meeting of the India-South Africa Solidarity Meet: “India's unilateral decision to sever all links - economic, political, diplomatic, etc. - with the apartheid state in the forties as an expression of her abhorrence to racism served as a spur to our freedom movement.”

### Oratory Skill of Nelson Mandela:

Nelson Mandela was a great South African orator who influenced not only South African people but also reined to all over the world because of his charmed oratory skill. His skill as a wordsmith and communicator is a great legacy for future generations. As a great communicator, he knew very well the magic and power of words and language. He had the capacity to fit the proper word in the proper place. Nelson Mandela was an expert at using his facial muscles to emphasize his points when he spoke. He understood the importance of nonverbal communication; he stood straight, shoulders back, no swaying, and no rocking. He spoke at a steady pace and used pausing to stress crucial points effectively. Mandela plainly realized that many people were paying close attention to every word he spoke.

### Historical Background of India-South Africa Relationship:

Nelson Mandela always mentioned about the historical relationship between India and South Africa. He mentioned it in these words on June 18, 1994 in the meeting of India-South Africa Solidarity Meet when he became the president of South Africa:

“South Africa's relations with India date back centuries, starting in the seventeenth century when Indians formed part of the first batch of slaves who were brought from the East. They came in

larger numbers from 1860 onwards as indentured labourers and so-called passenger Indians.”

Mahatma Gandhi gave a new dimension to the connectivity between both countries in 1906 when he organised a meeting of around three thousand Indian residents in South Africa against apartheid culture, and he alerted the South African government against any type of racial discrimination. The most important aspect of India and South Africa is that Gandhi developed the “Satyagraha” philosophy in this African country and fully implemented it in his country against English men for getting freedom. So, the bond of struggle between South Africa and India is very great, and this is the most important ingredient behind the strong commercial relationship between India and South Africa. India was the first country to break its all-commercial relationship with South Africa in the opposition of apartheid culture in 1946 and, after then, prohibited fully on diplomatic relations, cultural relations, and sports relations. The African National Party, which was the spearhead in South Africa against racial discrimination, opened its office in New Delhi in 1960 for its unwavering support of India.

These steps of India prove that India strongly supported Nelson Mandela in his fight against apartheid. He had very grateful to India for its unwavering help in fighting against apartheid. It was the reason why, when Mandela became president of South Africa, his first priority was to maintain a good relationship with India.

### Political Relationship between India and South Africa:

Since the abolition of ethnic discrimination culture in South Africa in 1994, the reciprocal relations between India and South Africa have become more concrete and stronger. Since then, both nations have established strong strategic, cultural, and economic relations. On August 30, 1994, in his address to the South African Chamber of Business Banquet, Mandela hinted to his country's businessmen that there are great commercial opportunities in India for South African businessmen, and he requested that his business leader for taking the advantages of these hopes in India. He said:

“The scope afforded by this window is enormous by our standards. Are we determined enough to push forward, item by item, even beyond the danger point, as some East Asian countries did? To be more direct, do you have the kind of commitment, the necessary drive, to pursue this kind of success? Add to this, the concessions in Europe and Japan and the new opportunities in India and China. Are we geared for the effort which all this calls forth? I am sure you will respond to this need.”

Nelson Mandela knew well the importance of his political relationship with India. So, he took major efforts for establishing the good relationship between India and South Africa. He told about the urgent political relationship between both countries in his speech which he delivered on January 25, 1995 at the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation's oration:

“The conditions under which we operate today make it even more necessary and practicable for us to pursue this cause. Thus in seeking to strengthen Indo-South African relations, we do so also motivate by the need to forge a partnership whose significance should outstrip the narrow confines of our own

self-interest. While we should seek to exploit one another's lucrative markets; take maximum advantage of trade and investment opportunities; expand cultural, sporting and tourist relations; co-operate on security matters, including the combating of drug trafficking, we would be less than equal to the tasks at hand if we did not realize the broader canvass within which this has to take place."

It was the efforts of Nelson Mandela that in 1994, the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) signed MOU for future collaboration with the South African Chamber of Business (SACOB). CII extended its efforts and made partnerships with the National African Federated Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NAFOC) and the Afrikaanse Handles Institute in 1996. Many companies from India rushed to explore business opportunities in South Africa, including Shriram Industrial Enterprises, NSIC, EEPIC, TEXPROCIL, TATA, UB Group, DCM, SRF, Liberty Shoes, Torrent Pharmaceuticals, Ranbaxy, etc. The State Bank of India and Bank of Baroda have opened offices in Johannesburg and Durban, respectively.

Ties between India and South Africa increased on a large scale after the 1995 visit of Nelson Mandela to India. On January 25, 1995, Nelson Mandela addressed at the banquet hosted by the president of India. In this speech, Mandela made many common similarities between India and South Africa. Both countries have a long history of struggle against oppression. He said categorically, trade relations should be strengthened between both countries. It will be benefitted for the populations of both nations.

"We have benefited from the profound experiences of India, not least from the facilities you have offered us for the training of our cadres. The agreements signed this morning are a profound expression of the possibilities that exist for us to speed up the strengthening of our relations, including the critical areas of transfer of relevant technology, trade and investment."

This visit of Mandela boosted the commercial sectors of both countries. In 1995-96, the total trade between both countries was US\$575.6 million. It increased by around US\$2.5 billion after five years in 2000. The India-South-Southa Commercial Alliance was established to explore the opportunities between both countries. South Africa has expressed its interest in exchanging expertise in the development of small-scale and cottage enterprises. Textiles, leather hides and skins, chemicals, machinery and equipment, and vegetable products are the most commonly exported things from India. South Africa's major imports are base metals and goods, chemicals, wood pulp and paper, and mineral products.

Nelson Mandela focused on developing a type of environment in which small and large industries in both countries could grow easily. It was mentioned by Nelson Mandela in his speech on January 26, 1995, at the Indian Parliament on the unveiling of the statue of the first prime minister of India, Pandit Nehru. He pointed out:

"Our Programmed of Reconstruction and Development involve the transformation of our society with the purpose of addressing the needs of especially the poorest. In order to achieve this, we have adopted policies for shifting national priorities, and for the prudent and efficient use of our country's resources. These are combined with measures to create an environment for growth,

in which business, large and small, can thrive. It has led us to participate in the process of lowering barriers to world trade."

In 1997, the relationship between India and South Africa got a new flight when Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral reached South Africa. It was the first visit of any Indian prime minister to South Africa. Before this visit, Nelson Mandela visited South Africa two times after becoming president. On the visit of the first Indian prime minister, he was very delighted, and he expressed his joy in his speech, which he delivered at the banquet in the respect of Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral on October 07, 1997. He knew well that this visit would strengthen trade relations between both countries. Nelson Mandela wanted to cash the historical relations of both countries and to increase trade between both nations. He said:

"Each encounter between leaders of our countries, each exchange of delegations from government and the private sector, adds impetus to our growing economic relations. Though there have been many such meetings, the pace at which the relationship grows continues to inspire us."

He expressed his happiness that trade growth has been very fast since 1994 and hoped that it would reach a level at which the people of both countries would be benefitted on a large scale. He said in this speech:

"We draw immense encouragement from the fact that trade between us increased by over fifty per cent last year after a similar increase the year before; that cultural and tourist exchanges are burgeoning; that our Department of Trade and Industry's biggest foreign office anywhere is based in New Delhi; and that high level visits between India and South Africa have since 1994 become regular and frequent."

#### **Trade Development between India and South Africa since 1994**

Nelson Mandela was released from jail in 1990 after 27 years. It was the longest duration for any political prisoner in the world. He delivered his first speech on the balcony of Cape Town's City Hall after his release from prison on February 11, 1990. He said categorically in this speech that there is no future of apartheid in the world, and the South African government would have to end this ethnic culture. He said:

"Today the majority of South Africans, black and white, recognize that apartheid has no future. It has to be ended by our own decisive mass action in order to build peace and security. The mass campaign of defiance and other actions of our organization and people can only culminate in the establishment of democracy. The destruction caused by apartheid on our sub-continent is incalculable. The fabric of family life of millions of my people has been shattered. Millions are homeless and unemployed. Our economy lies in ruins and our people are embroiled in political strife."

The main consequence of this speech came in the form of the end of apartheid culture, and on March 17, 1992, President De Klerk officially announced the end of the apartheid system in South Africa.

After the end of apartheid culture, a new era of relationships started, and in 1993, diplomatic ties were established between both countries. With this start, business relations between both countries also came on a new face. In 1994, the Indian High

Commission was established in South Africa to provide a better platform to increase economic activity. India has become the fourth-largest import ally and seventh-largest export partner of South Africa in 2016.

**Summary of Total Indian Export to South Africa from 1996–1997 to 2022–2023**  
(Values in US\$ Million):

Year	Export in US\$ Million	Share of total Indian Export (%)	Growth (%)	Total Indian Export
1996-1997	316.9	0.9447		33,469.95
1997-1998	393.79	1.1321	24.54	34,784.98
1998-1999	387.72	1.1672	-1.54	33,218.72
1999-2000	285.4	0.7751	-26.39	36,822.49
2000-2001	310.67	0.6972	8.85	44,560.29
2001-2002	352.94	0.8053	13.61	43,826.72
2003-2004	483.98	0.918	37.13	52,719.43
2004-2005	539.35	0.8448	11.44	63,842.55
2005-2006	984.04	1.178	82.45	83,535.94
2006-2007	1,526.87	1.4811	55.16	103,090.53
2007-2008	2,241.61	1.7732	46.81	126,414.05
2008-2009	2,660.75	1.631	18.7	163,132.18
2009-2010	1,980.28	1.0687	-25.57	185,295.36
2010-2011	2,058.50	1.1516	3.95	178,751.43
2011-2012	3,912.37	1.5661	90.06	249,815.55
2012-2013	4,731.17	1.5463	20.93	305,963.92
2013-2014	5,106.93	1.7	7.94	300,400.58
2014-2015	5,074.29	1.6139	-0.64	314,405.30
2015-2016	5,301.99	1.7085	4.49	310,338.48
2016-2017	3,588.07	1.368	-32.33	262,291.09
2017-2018	3,545.95	1.2855	-1.17	275,852.43
2018-2019	3,825.21	1.2603	7.88	303,526.16
2019-2020	4,067.20	1.2322	6.33	330,078.09
2020-2021	4,108.17	1.311	1.01	313,361.04
2021-2022	3,934.20	1.3482	-4.23	291,808.48
2022-2023	6,085.29	1.442	54.68	422,004.40

(These statistics are based on the Data of the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.)

In 1996–97, India's exports to South Africa reached \$316.9 million. This growth came within two years of the presidential tenure of Nelson Mandela. After ten years in 2006–07, this export has reached more than five times to \$ 1,526.87 million. In 2016–2017, Indian export has reached \$3588.07 million, and

in 2022–2023, this export surged to \$6085.29 million. This data shows that Indian export has increased more than twenty times in 2022–23 in the three-decade relationship between the two countries.

**Summary of Total Indian Import from South Africa from 1996–1997 to 2022–2023**  
(Values in US\$ Million)

Year	Import in US\$ Million	Share of Total Indian Import (%)	Growth (%)	India's Total Import
1996-1997	321.05	0.8204		39,132.41
1997-1998	498.11	1.2007	55.15	41,484.49
1998-1999	1,351.88	3.1892	171.40	42,388.71
1999-2000	2,015.72	4.0527	49.11	49,738.06
2000-2001	1,021.91	2.0221	-49.30	50,536.45
2001-2002	1,440.90	2.8026	41.00	51,413.28
2002-2003	2,093.48	3.4089	45.29	61,412.14
2003-2004	1,899.19	2.4302	-9.28	78,149.11
2004-2005	2,197.67	1.9707	15.72	111,517.43
2005-2006	2,471.80	1.6571	12.47	149,165.73
2006-2007	2,470.14	1.3299	-0.07	185,735.24
2007-2008	3,605.35	1.4327	45.96	251,654.01
2008-2009	5,513.58	1.8155	52.93	303,696.31
2009-2010	5,674.50	1.9678	2.92	288,372.88
2010-2011	7,140.55	1.9311	25.84	369,769.13
2011-2012	10,971.76	2.2422	53.65	489,319.49
2012-2013	8,887.89	1.8111	-18.99	490,736.65
2013-2014	6,075.26	1.3495	-31.65	450,199.79
2014-2015	6,496.52	1.4500	6.93	448,033.41
2015-2016	5,948.42	1.5612	-8.44	381,007.76
2016-2017	5,833.75	1.5178	-1.93	384,357.03
2017-2018	6,834.70	1.4680	17.16	465,580.99
2018-2019	6,517.33	1.2678	-4.64	514,078.42

2019-2020	6,969.79	1.4682	6.94	474,709.28
2020-2021	7,568.20	1.9187	8.59	394,435.88
2021-2022	10,965.81	1.7887	44.89	613,052.05
2022-2023	10,397.83	1.4562	-5.18	714,042.45

(It is based on the Data of the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.)

Indian imports from South Africa also been increased on a large scale. In 1996-97, Indian import from South Africa reached \$321.05 million. This progress came within two years of Nelson Mandela's presidential stint. After ten years in 2006-07, this import has reached more than seven times to \$ 2,470.14 million. In 2016-2017, Indian import had gone to \$5,833.75 million, and in last year 2022-2023, this import surged to \$10,397.83 million. This data shows that Indian import has risen more than thirty-two times in 2022-23 in the three-decade bond of both countries.

## CONCLUSION

In this study, we analyse the export and import data between India and South Africa, and then we found that the commercial tie-up between both countries is very beneficial for both countries. This data also reflects that Indian export to South Africa expanded more than twenty times from 1996-97 to 2022-23 but South African export increased more than thirty-two times during this period. It was the foresight of Nelson Mandela. He knew well that South Africa had the capacity to export more to India, and the commercial relationship with India would give new opportunities to South African products. So, when he became the president of South Africa, he took many steps to improve relations between both countries, and his speeches always encouraged good relations between both countries. He also visited India two times to strengthen the relationship with India.

The oratory skill of Nelson Mandela had the ability to boost business associations between both countries. He always tried to cash Mahatma Gandhi due to his relationship with South Africa. Gandhi always attracted Indians to his country. South African export to India is more than 42% higher than Indian export to South Africa due to the powerful and effective speeches of Nelson Mandela.

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