

CLASS : _____



DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

UNIVERSITY OF DURBAN-WESTVILLE

TITLE :

SOUTH AFRICA - INDIA (

TRADE

S.A. PRESS CUTTING AGENCY

(Incorporating Press Clipping Bureau formerly at Essenwood Road, Durban)

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Date

23 SEP 1993

NATAL DAILY NEWS

Sanctions likely to be lifted soon

First trade delegation from India since '48

India is expected to soon announce the lifting of sanctions against South Africa. **Des Parker** reports.

THE first Indian trade delegation to visit South Africa since the National Party came to power in 1948 flew into Durban yesterday to renew ties with the city's business community.

The visit follows India's resumption of diplomatic relations with Pretoria and pre-empts an expected formal announcement later this month on the lifting of sanctions against South Africa.

Leader of the 10-man mission of members of the northern Indian PHD Chamber of Com-

merce and Industry, Devinder Singh, said in an interview he was reluctant to use the word "flood" to describe the level of interest in his country in business relations with SA.

"There is a great deal of interest in exploring prospects for two-way trade and joint ventures with South African business as both countries begin the process of globalising their economies," he said.

Great strides had been made in the commercial sector India in the two years since socialist policies were abolished in favour of privatisation and free trade.

Foreign reserves of \$2,2b in 1991 had grown to \$7,2b by last year, a trend that was expected to continue as more foreign companies took advantage of greatly relaxed investment restrictions and stock exchange rules.

Mr Singh highlighted five sectors in which his chamber believed business relations would prosper — food processing, iron

and steel, textiles and clothing, oil refining and construction.

The New Delhi government had created a Ministry of Food Processing, one of the main aims of which was to look after the interests of food companies and which was likely to contribute to an expected three-fold-plus increase in food exports in the next year.

Stressing that business relations were likely to develop along strictly commercial lines and not because of historic ties between families in the two countries, Mr Singh said he saw opportunities for fabric and apparel makers to exploit regional markets through new partnerships.

In the steel and construction industries, he saw prospects for technology exchange, while South African companies were now free to get involved in oil exploration in an industry that recently had been deregulated in India.

India renews trade ties

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — The first Indian trade delegation to visit South Africa since the National Party came to power in 1948 flew into Durban this week to renew ties with the city's business community.

The visit follows India's resumption of diplomatic relations with Pretoria and pre-empts a formal announcement, expected later this month, on the lifting of sanctions against South Africa.

The leader of the 10-man mission of members of the northern Indian PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr Devinder Singh, said in an interview that he was reluctant to use the word "flood" to describe the level of interest in his country in business relations with South Africa.

"There is a great deal of interest in exploring prospects for two-way trade and joint ventures with South African business as both countries begin the process of globalising their economies," he said.

Great strides had been made in the commercial sector of India in the two years since socialist policies were abolished in favour of privatisation and free trade.

Foreign reserves had more than tripled from 1991 to last year, a trend that was expected to continue as more foreign companies took advantage of greatly relaxed investment restrictions and stock exchange rules.

Mr Singh highlighted five sectors in which his chamber believed business relations between the two countries would prosper: food processing, iron and steel, textiles and clothing, oil refining and construction.

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One of its main aims was to look after the interests of food companies and this was likely to contribute to an expected three-fold-plus increase in food exports in the next year.

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Dr. H.

NATAL DAILY NEWS

South Africa and India in bid to improve links

Saturday News Reporters

IN a bid to improve diplomatic and economic relations, the Governments of India and South Africa will form an inter-ministerial committee from their Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Industry and Home Affairs and Tourism.

The new committee, which is expected to meet next week, will comprise Deputy Ministers in each department from the two countries and the Ministers of Tourism.

According to the South African Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the committee will place particular emphasis on the co-ordination and promotion of business ties between the two countries to facilitate the movement of people and goods.

Mr Renier Schoeman, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, said the committee was particularly important for South Africa's Indian community, which is one of the largest outside India and actively involved in business and trade.

"This is an indication of how seriously the Government sees this link. The main objective from our side is to facilitate business and trade links," Mr Schoeman said.

The committee would therefore focus on the movement of people and goods — visas, trade, industry and tourism.

The committee would invite people who ran into problems "to bring them to our attention."

08 OCT 1993
Date _____

Anger at India's tourist visa demand

FIERCE criticism has been levelled against the Indian authorities for their decision to refuse entry to South Africans without visas.

The visa requirements were announced in the wake of Air India's expansion into South

Mercury Reporter

Africa earlier this month.

South African Indians, who previously were allowed into India without restrictions, must now apply for visas at the Indian cultural centre in Johannesburg.

This has angered prospective tourists, who feel the application process is an unnecessary inconvenience since the majority of SA's Indian population is in Durban.

● The head of consular services at the Indian cultural centre in Johannesburg, Mr Satendar Kumar, said visas had not been a requirement in the past because of the lack of diplomatic ties.

"In the past, South Africans were not allowed in India, however, special concessions were made for those from the Indian community."

Dr Henning
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P.E. EVENING POST

India can expand SA trade to R22bn

NEW DELHI — India's trade with South Africa, following the lifting of sanctions, could reach R22bn "very quickly", Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee said yesterday.

"India can expand its trade with South Africa up to 20bn rupees (R22bn) in no time, according to some conclusions and a study by the Export-Import Bank of India," he told a news conference here.

"We have an ethnic Indian presence of more than a million in South Africa, mostly traders," Mr Mukherjee said.

India lifted trade and investment sanctions against South Africa on Sep-

tember 25, after an appeal at the United Nations by the ANC leader Nelson Mandela.

"Consequent upon the decision, all economic and commercial interaction including trade, investment and shipping with South Africa will be allowed with immediate effect," said Mr Mukherjee.

India proposed to send a high level official delegation to South Africa soon to talk trade, he said.

New Delhi allowed what it calls "people-to-people contact" between the two countries following a recent Commonwealth decision by establish-

ing a consular office in South Africa.

Mr Mukherjee said South Africa had huge mineral resources, good ports and a well-developed infrastructure.

He said India would shortly establish shipping links with South Africa.

"With imports estimated at \$17.4bn (R58bn) and exports at \$23.7bn (R80bn), South Africa is a market of great scope and size," Mr Mukherjee said.

In the past Indian goods worth up to R15bn a year were re-exported to South Africa from Mauritius, Hong Kong and Singapore. — Sapa-Reuter

8 OCT 1988

Trade with India expanding

NEW DELHI — India's trade with SA following the lifting of sanctions could expand rapidly, Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee said yesterday.

"India can expand its trade with SA up to 20-billion rupees (\$645m) in no time according to some conclusions and a study by the Export-Import Bank of India," he said.

India lifted trade and investment sanctions against SA on September 25.

"All economic and commercial interaction including trade, investment and shipping with SA will be allowed with immediate effect," Mukherjee said.

He said India proposed to send a high-level official delegation to SA soon to discuss trade.

Mukherjee said SA had huge mineral resources, good ports and a well-developed infrastructure. Shipping links between the two countries would be established shortly.

"With imports estimated at \$17,4bn and exports at \$23,7bn, SA is a market of great scope and size," Mukherjee said.

He said an export market existed for goods such as computer software, leather goods, ready-made garments, rice, engineering goods, transport equipment and vehicle parts.

"There is a possibility of technology tie-ups in food processing, pig-iron and coal mining technology," Mukherjee said.

He said there was scope for expanding the diamond trade and possibilities of joint ventures for exports to third countries.

"Trade relations and shipping links could also immensely increase export opportunities in other Frontline countries like Namibia, Mozambique, Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe," Mukherjee said.

He said India could import from SA minerals, rock phosphate and phosphoric acid.

In the past Indian goods worth up to \$450m a year were re-exported to SA from Mauritius, Hong Kong and Singapore. — Sapa-Reuter.

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India/SA trade could soon reach R2,2-bn: Min

NEW DELHI. — India's trade with South Africa following the lifting of sanctions could reach 20 billion rupees (R2,2 billion) very soon, Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee said yesterday.

"India can expand its trade with South Africa up to 20 billion rupees in no time according to some conclusions and a study by the Export-Import Bank of India," he told a news conference.

"We have an ethnic Indian presence of over a

million in South Africa, mostly traders," Mr Mukherjee said.

India lifted trade and investment sanctions against South Africa on September 25 after an appeal at the United Nations by the African National Congress leader Mr Nelson Mandela.

"Consequent upon the decision, all economic and commercial interaction including trade, investment and shipping with South Africa will be allowed with immediate effect," Mr Mukherjee said.

He said India proposed to send a high level official delegation to South Africa soon to talk trade.

India withdrew its ambassador from Pretoria in 1948 in protest against the imposition of racial segregation laws, the first country in the world to do so.

New Delhi allowed what it calls people-to-people contact between the two countries following a recent commonwealth decision by establishing a consular office in South Africa.

Mr Mukherjee said

South Africa had huge mineral resources, good ports and a well-developed infrastructure. He said India would shortly establish shipping links with South Africa.

"With imports estimated at \$17,4 billion (R59 billion) and exports at \$23,7 billion (R80,6 billion), South Africa is a market of great scope and size," Mr Mukherjee said.

He said a market existed for export to South Africa of items like computer software, leather goods, ready-made garments, rice, engineering goods, transport equipment and auto-parts.

"There is a possibility of technology tie-ups in food processing, pig-iron and coal mining technology," Mr Mukherjee said.

He said there was scope for expanding the diamond trade and possibilities of joint ventures for exports to third countries.

— Sapa-Reuter.