



BRICS CCI

NEWSLETTER

BUILDING BUSINESSES- BRICS & BEYOND

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NEWSLETTER

ABOUT BRICS CCI

Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa have emerged as ‘the protagonists’ in the world economy significantly and rapidly. The BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry was founded in 2012 with the efforts of eminent professionals, entrepreneurs, industrialists, bureaucrats, from BRICS and beyond having its headquarters in New Delhi, India and country offices in Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa. In nearly a decade old journey of the chamber, it has promoted Business Houses for trade and commerce from all BRICS nations and neighbouring countries. The Chamber is empanelled with NITI Aayog and recognized by the United Nations.

OBJECTIVES OF BRICS CCI

The objective of BRICS CCI is to create an enabling support system especially for the MSME segment of businesses, young entrepreneurs, women entrepreneurs, and Start-Ups from across all geographies. While the BRICS nations will remain at the centre of all activities, the chamber has taken in its credo to reach out to and enable young entrepreneurs from other friendly nations too. It proposes to be the ‘voice’ of entrepreneurs and helps them cultivate their business with due regard to social, cultural and security issues.



LEADERSHIP MESSAGES

From the Director General



Dr. B.B.L. Madhukar
Director General- BRICS CCI,
Former CMD-MMTC Ltd,
Chairman FORE School of
Management

Our vision at the BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry is to be the 'voice' of business communities, start ups and young entrepreneurs. Beyond providing a collaborative environment to enhance trade and commerce, our endeavour is to provide various platform through business meets, events and discussions. Our Chamber is now in its tenth year and in this short span we have achieved commendable growth. We hope you find the current issue of BRICS CCI newsletter an interesting and engaging read.



LEADERSHIP MESSAGES

From the Vice Chairman



Mr. Ashok Kumar Singh
Vice Chairman BRICS CCI,

The BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry has been taking big steps towards organising a range of business meets and creating many platforms for entrepreneurs, business leaders and corporations to discuss and collaborate for promoting successful tie ups.

There are so many areas that have emerged as potential opportunity for collaboration in trade and commerce ties between India and various countries in BRICS and Beyond.

Many sectors have indicated significant potential for attracting investment and trade tie ups. Our Chamber has been taking various initiatives to help promote dialogue and discussions amongst various stakeholders.

We hope you will find current issue of BRICS CCI newsletter informative



LEADERSHIP MESSAGES

From the Vice Chairman



Sameep Shastri

Vice Chairman BRICS CCI

**Chairman - Indian Institute of
Governance & Leadership**

Chairman - Lal Bahadur

Shastri Welfare Organisation

**President - Confederation of
Young Leaders.**

We live in a 'glocalised' world. In this new world order, sustainable development and international handholding is key. The BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry thrives on the ethos that unity amongst nations is the way forward. Together with our esteemed chamber members and the member nations, we aim to establish dialogue and create avenues that will help us deliver on the promise of a future that will let our generations to come flourish more than us.

Our success story lies in the strength we derive from within the organisation and also in the relationships we have forged with the like-minded organisations and think tanks of our fellow BRICS nations.

I hope together we will remain steadfast towards our commitment to uphold the principles of ethical business practices and inclusive development of all nations.

From the Director Finance



Mr. Sanjay Verma
Director Finance
BRICS CCI

BRICS Chamber of Commerce & Industry is a forum that addresses interface opportunities particularly in the context of the association of the five powerhouse nations, Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The context around which the member countries gravitate are high growth rates, huge economic potential and productive demographic developments. Notwithstanding the historical punctuation caused by Covid 19, the pursuit of our chamber remains steadfast as ever. I particularly look at BRICS CCI's two major constituencies, entrepreneurs and SMEs, as very relevant context in our country. Therefore, our endeavour to create an enabling ecosystem for them is also equally pertinent. To attain these goals through a non-profit and non-government organization such as ours is as challenging as it is stimulating. I am sure that BRICS CCI has a very important role to play in times ahead and I pledge myself as a humble resource for the organization. I thank Dr B B L Madhukar for showing me the way.

NEW MEMBERS

**Nivesa Advisors LLP, New Delhi
(Corporate Member)**



Mr Vikram Singhal has a vast and diversified experience of over 40 years of which 20+ years, has been at C-Level positions in managing complete businesses of multi-national corporations and large Indian conglomerates in the various engineering sectors including aerospace and defence, mobility including Ropeways / Cable Cars, auto components, railway products, food

industry, etc. He has been involved with cutting edge technologies in various engineering fields.

He has experience of establishing green field projects including manufacturing facilities as also setting up global companies in India. Has signed several joint ventures with overseas companies and acquired/operated European companies. He has been leading Ropeway Industry Sector in India for over 5 years and is recognized in India for his efforts to build up this industry from the basic stage, worked on policy suggestions from time to time.

Lerri Solar Technology (India) Pvt. Ltd. (Corporate Member)



Founded in 2000, LONGi is committed to being the world's leading solar technology company, focusing on customer-driven value creation for complete scenario energy transformation. Under its mission of 'Utilizing Solar Energy, Building a Green World' and brand philosophy of 'Steadfast and Reliable Technology Leadership', LONGi has dedicated itself to technology innovation and established five business sectors, covering mono

silicon wafers, cells and modules, commercial & industrial distributed solar solutions, green energy solutions and hydrogen equipment. The company has honed its capabilities to provide green energy and has recently embraced green hydrogen products and solutions to support global zero-carbon development.

Ganga Global Homes Pvt. Ltd (Corporate Member)



Ganga Realty has been leading the Real Estate industry for over three decades with delivery of numerous Residential and Commercial projects striving to incorporate learnings and good practices in every creation without compromising building standards with unwavering faith.

Mr. Aditya Gupta
(Individual Life Member)
Director-Marketing, BKG Automative Pvt. Ltd.



Established in 1996, BKG cater to Textile Industry where we manufacture Plastic Hangers & Accessories, Automobile Industry & Power Sector Industry & Construction Industry etc. for Intermediate components.

Organization is located in Bahadurgarh, Haryana having latest technology in terms of machines & processes. Because of in-built flexibility in manufacturing operations,

serving low lead time requirements is our Forte. We have a PAN India presence with current major buying houses like OVS, Primark, Carrefour (Home Textiles), The Chennai Silks, Spencer's Retail etc. B.K.G Automative Pvt. Ltd. is a DNV certified ISO 9001:2015 Organization has achieved GREEN Category in Audit carried out by Maruti Suzuki India Ltd.

Mr. Sushil Sharma
(Individual Life Member)
Founder & CEO, Marwari Catalysts Pvt. Ltd.



As far as the founding vision of Marwari Catalysts is concerned, Sushil Sharma believed that most of the innovators and talented minds are from Tier II & Tier III cities of India but because of lack of complete ecosystem proper work culture & opportunities, the younger generation migrates from smaller cities to larger cities. With future plans of launching the "next big thing" and fulfilling the dreams of many, Mr. Sushil Sharma is passionately contributing its bit in transforming India into an unstoppable economic powerhouse.

Ms. Swati Mehta
(Individual Life Member)
Co-Founder & COO, Empyreal Galaxy Pvt. Ltd.



Swati Mehta is the Co-Founder & COO of Empyreal Galaxy. She strongly believes that innovation should serve the purpose of making human lives better. An MBA, with more than fifteen years of experience in Talent Management, Strategy & Innovation, her speciality has been building innovation centric culture of high performance.

Mr. Shankey Agrawal
(Individual Life Member)
Partner, BMR Legal Advocates & Solicitors



Shankey Agrawal is Partner at BMR Legal. Shankey specialises in tax litigation and has been involved in a number of high-stake litigations, with over 12 years of robust experience in both direct and indirect tax litigation, which is his area of expertise.

He has also co-authored India Chapter in Bloomberg Tax's country Guides/VAT Navigator for the year 2021. He has also co-authored a book – "Goods & Services Tax: Decoding important issues and emerging litigation trends" published by Taxmann

Publications. He has distinction of appearing in most tax forums in the country, including the Tax Tribunals, High Courts and the Supreme Court. His practice includes advisory on complete tax issues to stakeholders from a vast pool of sectors ranging from banking and finance to retail and manufacturing.

NEW CHAPTERS

The Center and State Chapters of the BRICS CCI collaborate with the Government to develop laws, regulations, and incentives to control and support the sectors under its purview. The goals of the State Chapters includes:

- Help to formulate policies that will increase investments in India.
- Attract new / support expansion of services companies and start-ups from BRICS companies.
- Encourage trade between India and other BRICS nations.
- Drive higher value addition from India by employing India's youth talent in BRICS employment generation plan.
- Tax Policies and Reforms- To provide recommendations to the Government to create tax corridors, withholding tax treaties, and other business-friendly policies to promote commerce between the BRICS countries.



Vidhan Sabha, Bengaluru

BANGALORE CHAPTER

Bengaluru, often referred to as the Silicon Valley of India, is also an established headquarters to some of the largest public sector heavy engineering industries. Over the last few decades, the city has marched ahead by leaps and bounds to emerge as a leader in a plethora of sectors, backed by a robust IT, R&D and startup ecosystem, its highly skilled workforce and amiable weather are two standout features.

The Chamber's primary chapter, the Bangalore Chapter, strives to be one of the most proactive and forward-thinking Chambers in the nation. Some of India's most illustrious and significant industrial groups are represented among its membership. The strength of Chapter is its capacity to foresee future requirements, address problems, and set up the participants in the economy to take advantage of these changes and possibilities. Our member Nivesa Advisors LLP, led by Mr. Vikram Singhal (Managing Director) and Ms. Nidhi Goel (Partner) will be at the helm of the Chapter.



Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru



Cable Bridge, Surat



Science Centre, Surat

SURAT CHAPTER

Surat is now the commercial and economic center in South Gujarat, and one of the largest urban areas of western India. Surat will be the world's fastest growing city from 2019 to 2035, according to a study conducted by Economic Times. The city registered an annualized GDP growth rate of 11.5% over the seven fiscal years between 2001 and 2008. Surat was awarded "best city" by the Annual Survey of India's City-Systems (ASICS) in 2013. Surat is selected as the first smart IT city in India which is being constituted by the Microsoft CityNext Initiative tied up with IT services majors Tata Consultancy Services and Wipro.

The Surat Chapter of the Chamber, aspires to be one of the nation's most aggressive and forward-thinking Chambers. In order to advance consistency, cooperation, and integrated development of the Indian economy, the chapter collaborates with business and government at the local level and through strong national and international ties. Our member Sunbow Dyes & Chemicals LLP, led by Mr. Kunj Pansari (Managing Director) will be at the helm of the Chapter.

EVENTS LIST 2023

Date	Event Name
January 2023*	Gala Dinner/ Lunch Celebrating 10 Years of BRICS CCI
3rd February 2023*	Decoding Union Budget (Indirect Tax Webinar)
19th February 2023*	Investment Opportunities in Peru (Investment Vertical)
February 2023*	GST Input Tax Seminar (Indirect Tax Vertical)
March 2023*	Annual Summit and Felicitations 2023 (Women Vertical)
April 2023*	Masterclass on GST
May 2023*	Innovation and e-Mobility
June 2023*	Environment Human Life and Cost of Development
July 2023	Educational opportunities in BRICS Nations
August 2023	India on the Path to Net Zero
September 2023	Shining Stars of Biz World
October 2023	Legal Barriers to International Business
November 2023	Seminar on ABC of Investments
December 2023	Towards the 5G Future

Business Meets and Events

BRICS Energy Partnership Forum: For Sustainable Development (November 29, 2022)

BRICS CCI hosted the BRICS Energy Partnership Forum, aimed at deliberating coherent and pragmatic solutions to the rising energy demand for India and realise the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat towards a brighter future. The Forum brought in industry professionals from varied backgrounds ranging from government, industry leaders to start-ups under one roof.

Ashwani Kumar IAS graced the event as the special guest. He spoke about the need to work with coherent and pragmatic solutions to the rising energy demand for India to realize the vision of “Atmanirbhar Bharat” towards a brighter future.

Evgeny Griva (Dy. Trade Commissioner, The Trade Representation of the Russian Federation in the Republic of India) stated that Cooperation is growing not only in supplies of oil and gas, but also in terms of growing interest among major Russian thermal, nuclear, and hydropower generating companies in establishment of cooperation with counterparts from BRICS countries.



GST Seminar Digital - Understanding the revamped ITC provisions and final call for GST adjustments & rectifications for F.Y. 2021-22 (November 10, 2022)

The BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry held a webinar on “Understanding the revamped ITC provisions and final Call for GST Adjustments and Rectifications for FY 2021-22” on 10 November, 2022. The two sessions of the webinar involved discussions related to Revamped Provisions for availment of Input Tax Credit, Mandatory Reversal of Input Tax Credit in certain circumstances, Key changes in GST returns w.e.f. October 01, 2022, Adjustments & Rectifications with respect to outward supplies, Adjustments & Rectifications with respect to ITC/ Reverse Charge Mechanism, GST refund related changes and more.

The session provided stakeholders and experts, a common platform for exchange and dispersal of relevant information with respect to the new reforms.

Our panel consisted of eminent personalities from the industry:

Ms. Nidhi Goyal – Managing Partner at Avinav Consulting

Ms. Archana Jain– Founder of Archana Jain and Co

Mr. Shankey Agarwal– Partner at BMR Legal Advocates

Mr. Sarthak Garg– Partner at Garg Manoj and Associates

Mr. Sourabh Baser– Partner at BGJC & Associates

The event was a smashing success with many notable personalities in attendance.



Startup Stories: Unfolding the Unicorn Journey (September 9, 2022)

BRICS CCI hosted the 2nd edition of the Start-up Series 'Start-up Stories: Unfolding the Unicorn journey' aimed at providing a wholesome approach for young entrepreneurs and build young leaders to effectively articulate their ideas in a meaningful manner by networking, mentorship, partnerships, and funding for young entrepreneurs.

Shri Ashwini Kumar Chaubey, MoS Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Govt of India, graced the event as the chief guest. He spoke about the Indian values in Startup culture, stressing on the value of 'Vasudev Kutumbakam' in India emerging as a VishwaGuru.

Mr. Bibin Babu (Convenor Investment Vertical, BRICS CCI) stated that the only thing that can make global citizenship possible are Startups.

A one-of-kind lineup of eminent Unicorn and Soonicorn founders presented their experiences and thoughts as speakers and panelists

1. Mr. Varun Alagh (Co-Founder & CEO, Mamaearth)
2. Dr. Vaibhav Kapoor (Founder, Pristyn Care)
3. Mr. Gajendra Jangid (Co-Founder & CMO, CARS24)
4. Mr. Alakh Pandey (Founder & CEO, Physicswallah)
5. Mr. Prashant Pitti (Co-Founder, Ease My Trip)



The power packed event had an audience including H. E. Mr. Hugo Javier Gobbi– Ambassador, Embassy of Argentina in New Delhi, stated that Indian IT establishment in Argentina is one of the most recent developments in the affable relation of the two countries and H.E. Mrs. Hayet Talbi EP Bilel, Ambassador, Embassy of Tunisia in New Delhi, congratulated BRICS CCI for being at the forefront for promoting youth entrepreneurship.

The event was co-powered by FORE School of Management, WAI WAI India and supported by Payiza, Golden Ace Ventures LLP, TV BRICS, The BrandStory, and Startup India, came to a phenomenal conclusion with Mr. Raunaq Jaisinghani (Investment Specialist, Invest India) delivering the valedictory address and Vote of Thanks by Mr. Dipen Shah (Member, BRICS CCI) and Dr. Abhay Kaushik (The Brand Story).

Impact of Current Geopolitical Developments on Energy Sector (August 8, 2022)

The Energy Vertical of BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry held a webinar on Impact of Current Geopolitical Developments on Energy Sector on August 8, 2022. The session involved a discussion on the changes that are seen in the energy sector market in BRICS and beyond, along with understanding and analysing the trends that shall dictate the future market. The session brought a cohort of stakeholders and experts on a common platform in which the possible course of action for the future was deliberated and discussed. The session was seamlessly moderated by the Convenor of Energy Vertical Mr. Surya Jeedigunta, who very kindly welcomed and introduced our speakers.

The opening remarks were given by Ms. Anastasia Grineva, Consultant (Economic Division, The Trade Representation of Russia in India) reiterating the support of Russia towards renewable energy and building sustainability. The session successfully concluded after a round of answering questions posed by the participating delegates.



Webinar on Investment Opportunities in Belarus (July 21, 2022)

BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry in association with the National Agency of Investment and Privatization, Republic of Belarus held a webinar on Investment Opportunities in Belarus on July 21, 2022.

We were elated to have our Governing Body Member Mr. Rajesh Mehta welcome our speakers Mr. Dzmitry Karsouski, Director National Agency of Investment and Privatization, Mr. Vitaly Zholnerovich, Investor Support Specialist, National Agency of Investment and Privatization and Ms. Veronica Shavel, Regional Development Expert, National Agency of Investment and Privatization. The webinar had an interactive question and answer round which were answered by Mr. Dzmitry Karasouski. We are grateful to our Governing Body Member, Mr. Ruhail Ranjan for his concluding remarks for the National Agency of Investment and Privatization. We hope that our relationship with Belarus continues to grow stronger and we can collaborate on various ventures with the country in the future.



BRICS AND BEYOND NEWS

A special business incubator is being set up at OmSTU

One of the main initiatives of the last BRICS+ International Business Forum was the decision to create a business incubator at Omsk State Technical University in 2023. It should help aspiring entrepreneurs to successfully develop their businesses.

OmSTU seeks to become a driver of accelerated socio-economic development of Russia through the formation of the entrepreneurial potential of young people and the stimulation of innovative activity in the Omsk region.

The university is already an open regional platform for networking and discussing the technological needs of business – there are 31 student design offices and student research laboratories.

The main objective of the project is to create a platform where investors can collaborate with BRICS entrepreneurs and help create technology start-ups that have a chance to grow into large businesses. This is reported by the “Omsk Here” news and information portal, a partner of TV BRICS in Russia.

Source: tvbrics



Egypt joins BRICS Bank

The Egyptian government has announced that Cairo has joined the New Development Bank (NDB). The day before, the cabinet approved a draft presidential decision in this regard.

“The government has approved the draft presidential decision on the ratification of the agreement on the establishment of the BRICS New Development Bank and Egypt’s accession to the bank,” the cabinet said in a press release.

The BRICS Bank was established by its member countries in 2014. The financial institution regularly allocates funds for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in the alliance states.

Source: tvbrics



Algeria seeks to join BRICS alliance in 2023

Algeria hopes to join the BRICS alliance of major developing economies in 2023.

“God willing, 2023 will be the year when Algeria joins BRICS,” Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune said in an address on the national television channel.

Tebboune mentioned that the current BRICS members had already agreed to Algeria joining the alliance.

Algeria applied formally to join to the BRICS countries in November 2022. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov said that Moscow welcomes the intention of Algeria to join the alliance.

Source: tvbrics



BRICS exploring ideas to create fairer payment mechanism to reduce dollar dependence: South Africa.



BRICS is exploring ideas to create a fairer payment system that reduces dependence on dollars, South African Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor has said. South Africa is the current BRICS chair.

"We have always been concerned by the fact that there is a dominance of the dollar and that we do need to look at alternative... The systems currently in place tend to privilege very wealthy countries and tend to be really a challenge for countries, such as ourselves, which have to make payments in dollar.

Source: economictimes

India, UAE discuss future coop in BRICS, SCO framework; Iran FM speaks with Jaishankar

India and UAE have discussed possibilities of future cooperation within the framework of BRICS and SCO during the visit of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to UAE on Monday. On the same day Jaishankar also held telephonic conversation with his Iranian counterpart on a variety of issues including connectivity initiatives close on heels of Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister's visit to India.

Source: economictimes



How India used Brics statement for a workable peace on G20 Communique

As the next chair, the stakes were high for India. And it found a solution in the Beijing declaration of BRICS countries in June. In BRICS, Russia and China had agreed with India, Brazil, and South Africa to a more accommodating language that recognized each other's national position. It read: "We have discussed the situation in Ukraine and recall our national positions as expressed at the appropriate fora, namely the UNSC and the UNGA."

India used its leverage as a Brics member to get Russia to agree to transpose this onto the G20 communique since Moscow had already agreed to the same at the Beijing meeting. Importantly, it recognized "national positions" on the conflict.

Source: economictimes



Saudi Arabia wants to join BRICS, says South African president Cyril Ramaphosa.



Saudi Arabia wants to join the BRICS alliance, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has stated, signaling a dramatic potential expansion of the bloc amid growing tensions with the US over the Russia-Ukraine crisis.

Ramaphosa told reporters of Riyadh's BRICS inquiry, as he wrapped up his two-day state visit to the desert kingdom. The bloc is considered to have the fastest economic growth in the world, where the BRICS countries contribute about 25 per cent of the world's total output, and occupy about 26 per cent of the world's land. According to the global banking group Goldman Sachs, by 2050 the economies of the BRICS countries are expected to compete with the economies of the richest countries in the world.

Source: economictimes

COUNTRY OF FOCUS: SOUTH AFRICA



South Africa, officially the Republic of South Africa (RSA), is the southernmost country in Africa. With over 60 million people, the country is the world's 24th-most populous nation and covers an area of 1,221,037 square kilometres (471,445 square miles). Reflecting the country's diversity, South Africa has 11 official languages. South Africa has one of the world's younger populations by age, according to U.S. government estimates. The median age of a person in the country is 27.



Culture of South Africa

South Africa has been famously referred to as the rainbow nation because it is made up of so many diverse cultures and religions. Contained within South Africa's borders are Zulu, Xhosa, Pedi, Tswana, Ndebele, Khoisan, Hindu, Muslim, and Afrikaner people to name but a few. All of these people are united by calling South Africa home, and therefore their lives all contribute to forming a part of the country's heritage, identity and culture.

South Africa is a nation of about 60 million (as of 2021) people of diverse origins, cultures, languages, and religions. The South African black majority still has a substantial number of rural inhabitants who lead largely impoverished lives. It is among these people that cultural traditions survive most strongly; as blacks have become increasingly urbanised and Westernised, aspects of traditional culture have declined. Members of the middle class, who are predominantly white but whose ranks include growing numbers of Black, Coloured and Indian people, have lifestyles similar in many respects to that of people found in Western Europe, North America and Australasia.

South Africa's indigenous culture suffered during the years of apartheid and even native African singers began using English or Afrikaans. Bantu and its various dialects are undergoing a minor renaissance and musicians are adopting their native tongues once again. Traditional South African languages have survived in rural areas, where less everyday exposure to Westerners has taken place.

Dance is popular in all echelons of South African society, with particular dances representing the origins of its performers. Zulu dances are an amazing spectacle of warriors in traditional attire, which can be observed during the annual Royal Reed Dance or at cultural shows in Phezulu Game Park in KwaZulu Natal Province. South Africa has a rich sporting heritage and its three most popular are rugby, cricket and soccer. People in South Africa actively follow the Springboks and the Protease national teams and games are shown on televisions in many public establishments.

INDIA- SOUTH AFRICA NEWS UPDATE

JAN 27, 2022: INDIA-SOUTH AFRICA TRADE EXCEEDS \$10 BILLION TARGET SET BY LEADERS

Trade between India and South Africa has exceeded the USD 10 billion target set by the leaders of the two countries, Consul General Anju Ranjan announced at a reception to celebrate India's 73rd Republic Day.

"India-South Africa trade has crossed the landmark. We have achieved the 100 per cent target and now it has increased from USD 10 billion to USD 11.6 billion," Ranjan said.

This was despite the restrictions posed by the COVID-19 pandemic in both countries, she added.

We held many virtual exhibitions and buyer-seller meets in different sectors like ceramics, telecom, agriculture, printing and textiles during this period to improve bilateral trade between the two countries," Ranjan said.

"In between, we were able to send delegations to India for physical buyer-seller meets and exhibitions for food processing and handicrafts," the diplomat said as she highlighted that new ties were forged through visits to the various provinces of South Africa.

Source: Business Standard



NOV 22, 2022: LIBRARY CONTAINING ENGLISH, HINDI BOOKS INAUGURATED; REVIVAL OF MAHATMA GANDHI'S TOLSTOY FARM CONTINUES



Tolstoy farm in South Africa

On November 20, 2022, a library containing books in English and Hindi related to Mahatma Gandhi, India's relations with South Africa and literary works by Indian writers was officially inaugurated at the Tolstoy Farm, South Africa, the commune where the Mahatma started his Satyagraha campaign at the turn of the last century. It is a boost to the life-long dream of veteran South African Indian Gandhian activist Mohan Hira to restore the Tolstoy Farm, once a thriving self-sufficient commune, to its former glory.

The site, which was vandalised, was restored largely due to Hira's indefatigable pursuits, with assistance from sponsors and the Indian Consulate in Johannesburg.

The Tolstoy Farm is situated 30 km south of Johannesburg. Hira said the library would be open to researchers by appointment at this stage and to the general public once the entire project was completed.

Source: NDTV

JAN 12, 2023: SOUTH AFRICA MARKS THE COMPLETION OF 30 MOMENTOUS YEARS OF THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WITH INDIA

With the onset of new year, South Africa marks the completion of 30 momentous years of bilateral relationship with India. The two countries have always shared strong friendship and camaraderie and this bond dates back to over a century. Both the countries have been each other's closest allies and pillars of support in driving mutual growth. India and South Africa share deep historic ties – both countries' Independence struggles are deeply intertwined with each other. South Africa was the initiating ground for Gandhi's journey to become a Mahatma, a turning point that went on to influence world history.



The two countries have always shared strong friendship and camaraderie and this bond dates back to over a century. Both countries have been each other's closest allies and pillars of support in driving mutual growth. India and South Africa share deep historic ties – both countries' Independence struggles are deeply intertwined with each other. South Africa was the initiating ground for Gandhi's journey to become a Mahatma, a turning point that went on to influence world history.

Besides sharing deep historical and political ties, the mutual love for all things cricket, rich heritage, and warm hospitable culture and cuisine is what brings the two countries even closer.

Source: LeMatinal

MAY 23, 2022: SOUTH AFRICA INVITES INDIAN COMPANIES TO INVEST IN SEZS FOR EASIER ACCESS TO AFRICAN ECONOMY



The South African government has invited Indian companies to invest in their Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and export to the entire Africa, USA and European Union, as South Africa has signed trade agreements with them.

Speaking at an interactive session organized by All India Association of Industries (AIAI) and WTC Mumbai, Andrea Kuhn, Consul General, Consulate General of the Rep. of South Africa, Mumbai said, "There are more than 13 Special Economic Zones in South Africa, where Indian companies can invest and export to entire Africa, USA and European Union, with which we have trade agreements."

She assured visas to Indian businessmen and tourists in five working days stating that there are around 150 Indian companies in South Africa providing jobs to 20,000 people. Kuhn emphasized on rebuilding ties and forming a modern partnership to address common challenges of poverty, environment sustainability, under-development and other global issues. South Africa was further positioned as a gateway to Africa by pointing out that Indian companies can reduce the lead time to access African market from eight days to three days by in South Africa's SZE.

Source: KNN Bureau

“

Your entrepreneurship journey will be filled with many small steps but always keep the big picture in mind as you pursue your dream.

”



10 steps to becoming a Woman Entrepreneur

By Ruby Sinha



Ruby Sinha

Convenor, BRICS CCI
Women's Vertical and
Founder, sheatwork.com

Entrepreneurs come in several packages- some have left good jobs and fat pay packets to pursue their entrepreneurship dream, there are a quite a few who have been fired from the so called good jobs and have found entrepreneurship the next best option and there are also plenty who treat entrepreneurship as a good part time option while they pursue multiple passions...I belong to the rare breed of accidental entrepreneurs. My journey as an entrepreneur began while on a sabbatical post the birth of my second child. I started off as a part-time option from home but gradually I started loving being an entrepreneur with its multiple responsibilities combined with flexibility in terms of work schedules and ability to take independent decisions and have successfully managed to stay away from the lure of a well-paying job in the process. After facing several pitfalls in my entrepreneurship adventure which led me in some ways to understand why even now only around 14% of women are entrepreneurs in India (Source: sixth economic census), I feel that there a few tips which every aspiring woman entrepreneur especially in the digital space should be aware of before taking the plunge

- **Choose the right business:** First and foremost decide on what service you want to offer in tune with what your area of expertise is. For e.g.: if you have done a course in graphic designing and you think you have fresh ideas, you can start a business of wedding card designing.
- **Plan ahead:** One of the most challenging aspects of running a business is determining how to grow in a smart way. Create a one page business plan and a plan of who should be your key team members in your venture.
- **Cover all legal bases:** Decide on a business structure for your business like sole proprietorship, partnership etc. Personal liability, taxes, paperwork and regulations vary greatly among the different legal business structures
- **Create your business identity:** Create a name and visual identity for your business, get the cards printed. You can even create your website and email account by doing a bit of research on the internet. Identify an office space... initially co-working spaces also work well to save expenses or you can work out of your home if you do not require a team.
- **Use technology and social media:** Create Twitter and other social media accounts to help make those connections and spend a few minutes everyday to promote your business on these platforms. Technology support systems like Gsuite total range of functionality for businesses like domain names, email accounts, analytics etc.



- **Identify funding options:** Make use of available Central and various state government as well as bank schemes for women entrepreneurs. Portals like sheatwork.com provide comprehensive information on various government schemes.
- **Upgrade yourself regularly:** Always be ready to skill yourself up and upgrade your knowledge of the domain you are. Start reading blogs or Web forums related to your business. Most of us women especially working mothers are quite averse to professional networking but nowadays it doesn't necessarily mean that you have to step out of your house. You can join an online community of people who also do similar work.
- **Be ready to put on multiple hats:** As someone famously said that you are your Chief Operating officer as well as your Chief Plumbing Officer.
- **Don't take no for an answer:** Inevitably, you will hear "no" when running your own business. Don't stop there – ask the person who says no to recommend whom you should approach next.

Your entrepreneurship journey will be filled with many small steps but always keep the big picture in mind as you pursue your dream.

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Always be ready to
skill yourself up
and upgrade your
knowledge of the
domain you are.

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Amidst mounting global challenges such as increasingly severe climate change, security threats and the covid pandemic since 2020, it is urgent to restart and accelerate the progress towards a society, that leaves no one behind.

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Visualizing a better world

By Swati Mehta

Empyrean Galaxy, a company into manufacturing of lighter-than-air aircraft was founded in Jan 2020, with the vision of transforming human lives across the globe, by applying this technology to solve urgent societal issues.

The founders have come together with the dream of improving lives of billions of people globally by using modern airships. Airships which had already proved their mettle almost a century ago can make a strong comeback in a much safer and economical manner, thanks to the efficiencies that can be achieved by applying modern technologies of ML, AI, IOT and 3D printing. Advancements in modern materials and avionics give further edge to developing a very sophisticated product which has diverse applications in the field of aerial surveillance, aerial surveys and geographical mapping, transport of cargo to remote areas, humanitarian relief post disasters, provision of low-cost affordable internet to remote regions and much more.



Swati Mehta

Chief Operating Officer
Empyrean Galaxy

Listed below are some of the major business highlights since the time we started in 2020 -

1. Operational factory in Nashik
2. First prototype aerostat ready
3. Our first esteemed client - Indian Defence Services, for whom two important projects are in progress
4. Strong team of fifteen people with right mix of skill-sets, experience and diverse backgrounds.

This is just the beginning. Amidst mounting global challenges such as increasingly severe climate change, security threats and the covid pandemic since 2020, it is urgent to restart and accelerate the progress towards a society, that leaves no one behind.

We want to use the technology of lighter-than-air systems to eradicate global poverty, enhance nation's safety and economic prosperity, reduce global carbon footprint and drive sustainable growth and development in developing countries by removing constraints to effective trade, travel, security and connectivity.

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"Avoid cleaning your hair with very hot water, which can increase dryness. Always use lukewarm water for shampooing."

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Winterize your hair

By Dr. Bharti Taneja

The harsh winter winds can wreak havoc on your hair. Learn from veteran beauty expert **Dr. Bharti Taneja** on how to keep your locks nourished and protected through the cold months.

Update with the cold weather

The dry, cold air saps the moisture out of your strands, which can make your hair look dry, frizzy, lacklustre, and weak. Plus, the hot and dry air of blowers indoors also adds to the problem. Amp up your regular conditioning routine with moisture-rich hair treatments that deeply nourish the hair. Moreover, do not overlook the importance of conditioner after shampooing your hair. It is a vital part of hair care as it helps nourish and replenish hair. If dryness still persists you can also use live-in conditioners or serums.

Deal with dry scalp

In the winter, there's less humidity in the air, which can dry out your scalp and make it appear flaky. A hot oil scalp massage can be your answer to this dryness. The oil massage is not just relaxing, it also softens the scalp. You can also go for a hair spa twice a month, which is excellent for the rejuvenation of both your scalp and hair.

Do away with dandruff

In winter dandruff is a common problem. For dandruff, it is best to use an anti-dandruff shampoo followed by a good conditioner as these shampoos generally make the hair dry. Make sure that with shampooing your hair, you also clean your towel, pillow cover, and comb with an antiseptic lotion and sun dry them. Apply apple juice on the scalp with the help of cotton and leave it for half an hour. Wash it off with lukewarm water. This helps in treating dandruff. Also, avoid cleaning your hair with very hot water, which can increase dryness. Always use lukewarm water for shampooing.



Dr Bharti Taneja

Alps Beauty Group

Rashtrapati Award winner

World Record Holder

Flat to Fabulous

The cold winter winds tend to make the hair appear dull and flat. Infuse new life into your hair with some hair mousse and easy styling. Take some hair mousse (a very tiny amount) in your hand and run your fingers through your hair, fluffing them. This will give your hair a nice healthy looking bounce. If your hair looks too flat and there is no time for shampooing, go for the chic and quirky loose braids that are very in this season.

Secure with silk

Winter hats and caps are a fashion statement and a cold-weather necessity, so enjoy the fashionable look with stylish hats, and caps or you can pick a stylish silk scarf for your hair to protect it from harm.

Ditch the heat

While using a dryer is inevitable during winters, other hair styling products like curling iron or straightening iron should be used with caution. Their excessive use can leave the hair dry and brittle. Always apply a heat protecting serum or spray before using these hair styling products.

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If you have an original idea if you can learn while practically earning and if you have the commitment to never give up because the sky is the limit.

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What would attract you to a Startup?

By Arushi Gupta

Starting from my initial stages of learning, I have always heard why getting self-employed was better than getting a job.

That is why we had so much emphasis on small-scale industries and the need for them to be there in the economy. Recently the word 'Start Up' created a lot of excitement and it certainly makes me excited.

I would get attracted to the originality of the idea of the Startup. You can choose your passion over stability. The founder must understand the root of the problem they are addressing. The commitment of the founders is that they won't give up in difficult times. In India, Venture Capitalists are on the lookout to fund great ideas but Indians are just too skeptical about what would family or friends say when they get to know that you are going to work for a Startup. India has so much untapped potential just because we are afraid of risks we don't opt for a Startup. We have so many examples around us of Startups which flourished and became successful. If you have an original idea if you can learn while practically earning and if you have the commitment to never give up because sky is the limit.



Arushi Gupta

Assistant Director
BRICS Chamber of
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GALLERY



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