

It is with deep honor that I join you today to mark a significant moment in our shared journey towards solidarity and mutual cooperation. In response to Namibia's request last year for assistance due to the drought, the Government of India promptly resolved to extend its support, as it has done in previous years, by dispatching a consignment of 1,000 metric tons of rice and 1,000 metric tons of maize.

In an era where the world faces numerous challenges—be it economic disparities, climate change, or food security—our nations have taken a courageous step towards fostering friendship and support. It is a testament to our commitment to stand by our special partner, Namibia, in times of need.

The donation of rice and maize is not merely a transfer of resources; it is a symbol of our enduring friendship. It represents the spirit of cooperation and the belief that together, we can overcome any obstacle. As we know, food security is a fundamental human right. It is essential for achieving health, education, and sustainable development. With this contribution, we hope we were able to alleviate some of the challenges faced by the people of Namibia, ensuring that families have access to the nourishment they need to thrive.

India and Namibia share a history of close cooperation and mutual respect. Our relationship has been built on shared values, including democracy, diversity, and the pursuit of social welfare. In the face of adversity, we have stood shoulder to shoulder, reinforcing our commitment to the well-being of our people.

We reaffirm our support for Namibia's efforts to achieve food security, reduce poverty, and enhance the quality of life for all its citizens. We acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the Namibian Government under the leadership of President of Namibia, H.E. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah in advancing these goals, and we are proud to play a role in this important mission.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has worked tirelessly to make this mission possible. Let us not forget the efforts of our farmers, who toil endlessly to produce food for our nations, and of the officials who have facilitated this generous exchange.

As we move forward, let us strengthen our partnership through exchange of ideas, experience and technology, including in farming and agriculture. It is through such collaborations that we can build a sustainable future—one where every child has the opportunity to grow, learn and prosper.

Let us celebrate this moment as a beacon of hope and a reminder of the power of unity. Together, let us continue to support one another and work towards a world where no one goes hungry.

Long live India-Namibia friendship.

Thursday, 12 June 2025