

**Speech by High Commissioner at the Reception to mark India's
76th Republic Day**

(Friday; 7 February 2025)

Chief Guest Hon'ble Jenelly Matundu, Dy. Minister for International
Relations and Cooperation

Her Worship Cllr Ndesihafela Larandja, Mayor of Windhoek

His Worship Cllr Blasius Goraseb, Mayor of Swakopmund

Cllr Clemencia Hanases, Deputy Mayor of Windhoek

Executive Directors, Senior Officials of the Government of Namibia

Excellencies, Fellow Ambassadors, High Commissioners and
Members of Diplomatic Corps

Business and Industry leaders

Friends from media

President of India Namibia Friendship Association,

Members of Indian Community

Distinguished guests

It is with the utmost honour and privilege that I extend a warm welcome to all present as we gather to commemorate the 76th Republic Day of India. We are truly delighted by your presence on this momentous occasion, and I wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Chief Guest, esteemed dignitaries, and all distinguished guests for their continual friendship and support.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of our Republic Day, a significant milestone commemorating the adoption of the Constitution of India. Over the course of these 75 years, India has largely fulfilled the commitments we enshrined in our Constitution, which aspires to secure justice, liberty and equality for all citizens. In addition to fostering the advancement and prosperity of our nation, this framework has reinforced the unity and integrity of our country. We

have achieved this within a democratic paradigm, drawing upon the pluralistic and consultative fabric of our society.

The enduring relationship between India and Namibia, founded on solidarity, shared concerns, and mutual support, has gained renewed momentum over the past year through high-level engagements and bilateral initiatives.

India has consistently been at the vanguard of support for Namibia, both prior to and following its independence. In this context, the Government of India dispatched humanitarian assistance comprising 1,000 metric tons of rice and 1,000 metric tons of maize to the Namibian Government in response to the severe drought conditions in Namibia last year.

Indian Naval Ship Tushil, the newest missile frigate of India, made a port call at Walvis Bay in January this year, marking the fifth Indian Naval Ship to visit Namibia in recent years. Various capacity building activities were undertaken which included cross-deck visits, professional exchanges and interactions to strengthen maritime cooperation between the two navies.

On the sidelines of the 149th Inter Parliamentary Union Assembly, Speaker of Lok Sabha, the Lower House of Parliament of India, Hon'ble Om Birla held a meeting with the Speaker of the National Assembly of Namibia Hon'ble Peter Katjavivi. In the meeting, Hon'ble Om Birla noted that parliamentary diplomacy between India and Namibia can enhance cooperation in governance.

A three member delegation of Electoral Commission of Namibia led by its Chairperson Dr. Elsie Nghikembua visited New Delhi in January this year to attend the International Conference on the theme "2024: A Global Election Year - Reiteration and Reclaiming of Democratic Spaces" organised by the Election Commission of India. Dr. Elsie Nghikembua also met the Chief Election Commissioner of India, Mr. Rajiv Kumar.

Deputy Minister of Industrialisation and Trade Mrs. Verna Sinimbo visited India in August last year to take part in the 19th India Africa Business Conclave where she participated in a session on “Promoting Quality Standards for Achieving High Value Manufacturing Excellence in Africa”. She spoke on how India can collaborate with African nations in fields such as technology transfer, capacity building, infrastructure development and exchange of knowledge.

National Payments Corporation of India International Payment Limited (NIPL) and the Bank of Namibia signed a UPI Technology Licensing Agreement in April last year enabling collaboration between two sides in the area of digital payments. Namibia became the first country in the world, where NIPL has signed a Technology Agreement for deployment of real-time payments system with a Central Bank. Both parties executed a supplementary agreement to the primary technical agreement in December. The final launch of the product is expected to take place in September this year.

An MoU on Establishment of India-Namibia Entrepreneurship Development Centre has been finalised and will be signed soon. The Centre will provide technical services to new entrepreneurs, offer capacity building programmes to existing entrepreneurs in the area of performance improvement and growth SMEs, export marketing and total quality management.

At the invitation of the Ministry of External Affairs of India, two Namibian journalists – from The Namibian and from the Namibian Sun visited India in December last year.

Our bilateral trade has exhibited a remarkably positive trajectory. The total trade volume surged to US\$ 813 million, reflecting an impressive growth rate of 192% in Fiscal Year 2023-2024, as compared to Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Notably, India’s exports to Namibia increased by 88%, amounting to US\$ 453 million.

India has proudly contributed to Namibia’s developmental journey, and our bilateral development partnership continues to flourish. Last year,

we extended over 230 training and scholarship opportunities across a diverse array of fields. To date, more than 1,700 Namibian professionals, including 1,400 participants from the ITEC program, have benefited from training at Indian institutions.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your presence here today. I would also like to acknowledge the unwavering dedication of my colleagues at the High Commission for their efforts in organising today's event. Special thanks in advance to those who will perform in the cultural programme that will shortly follow.

May I invite you to raise your glasses in a toast:

- To the enduring life, robust health, and prosperity of His Excellency Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, President of Namibia; the President-elect, Her Excellency Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah; and the people of Namibia.
- To the continued health and well-being of our esteemed Chief Guest and all the distinguished guests gathered here today.
- And to the lasting friendship between India and Namibia.

Jai Hind. Viva Namibia.