

South Africa and India advance citrus trade cooperation

South African Deputy President Paul Mashatile says the first leg of his working visit to India has resulted in commitments from Indian business leaders to expand investments in South Africa and strengthen cooperation across several sectors, including agriculture.

Mashatile led a delegation of ministers and deputy ministers to India with the aim of deepening bilateral relations and promoting South Africa as an investment destination. During the visit, he met Indian Vice President Chandrapuram Ponnusami Radhakrishnan and President Droupadi Murmu. Discussions focused on trade, investment, skills development, infrastructure, and cooperation through multilateral platforms.

A key part of the visit involved meetings with business organisations and investors, including the Global Trade and Technology Council of India (GTTCI) and the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM). The South African delegation also met companies active in energy, water, infrastructure, agriculture, and information and communications technology, including Mahindra Group, Jindal Power, IGT Solution, Thermax, and UFlex.

According to Mashatile, discussions covered opportunities to expand investment in renewable energy, automotive manufacturing, mining, and infrastructure. The parties also explored cooperation in agricultural exports and agro-processing, mineral beneficiation, and vaccine manufacturing.

Among the outcomes highlighted by the Deputy President was progress on agricultural trade following India's notification of in-transit cold treatment for South African citrus exports. The measure is expected to provide additional market access opportunities for South African citrus producers.

Mashatile said the visit also reinforced cooperation between the two countries on reforming global institutions and supporting the interests of developing nations through platforms including BRICS, IBSA, the G20, and the United Nations. The

two countries also agreed to deepen people-to-people relations through their cultural and historical ties.

The second leg of the visit will take place in Hyderabad, where Mashatile is expected to meet leaders from the pharmaceutical and information technology sectors. Discussions will focus on partnerships linked to innovation, youth employment, and economic growth.

Reflecting on the visit, Mashatile said: "I committed myself to growing investment in South Africa and to building mutually beneficial relationships with India, rooted in shared prosperity. Our business in South Africa and India will be facilitated."

He added that further engagements are expected as South Africa and India continue efforts to strengthen economic cooperation and trade relations.

Source: SA News (<https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/mashatile-secures-investment-commitments-during-india-visit>)

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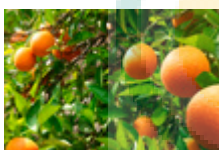
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