



At the valedictory session, Thabo Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa (seated 3rd from left), is flanked by (seated) Patrice Motsepe, Dr Ashwani Kumar and Niraj Bajaj. Those standing are Atul Gupta, M N Chaini, Navdeep Suri, Mark Fernandes, Rahul Bajaj, Dr Essop Pahad, Nayan Patel, Rajiv Bhatia and Deepak Premnarayen.

This century belongs to both of us, says Mbeki, President of South Africa

In an emotionally-charged speech delivered to an audience of over 350 people at the 'India Calling 2007' India-South Africa business conclave, Thabo Mbeki, President of South Africa, has asserted that the 21st Century will be an Indian Century, but Africans also believe that it will belong to them.

"The fact is that the this Century will belong to both India and South Africa," he has said. In view of this, it is prudent that both India and Africa must cooperate with each other for heading towards a glorious common

destiny by forging strong economic and business partnership between them.

President Mbeki said that India should strive to build strong business relationship not only with South Africa, but with all countries of African continent.

"India serves as an inspiring example to many of us. When we see the way that Indian business has developed globally, we see that it is filling a space that is important for the whole developing world.



A section of the august audience

Envoy invites investors to S Africa, cites huge opportunities

SEHLOHO Francis Moloi, High Commissioner of South Africa in India, says that bilateral trade between India and his country has doubled in the past two years - from \$ 2.4 billion in 2005 to 4.1 billion in 2007.

"We expect this sharp uptrend to accelerate further, with the two countries creating a robust political framework for further strengthening their business relations," said Mr Moloi addressing a press conference at IMC on July 10.

The press conference was called by IMC President Niraj Bajaj to announce the IMC's "India Calling 2007: India South Africa Business Conclave" in Johannesburg from August 1 to 3, 2007, and IMC Ladies' Wing's annual 'Call of the Peacock' exhibition on August 3-4.

Besides Mr Moloi and Mr Bajaj those who addressed the Press conference included Mr Nayan Patel, Chairman, India Calling Committee and Minal Bajaj, President, IMC Ladies' Wing.

Mr Moloi said that his country was enacting a new law to ensure that 15% of all gold and diamonds mined in South Africa would be

mandatorily benefited within the country. "This law will open a major window of opportunity for Indian investors, as India is the world leader in diamond cutting and production of jewelry," he said.

He hoped that the "India Calling" conference would provide a powerful thrust to the expanding business relations between the two countries.

Mr Niraj Bajaj said that the India - South Africa Business Conclave would help increase the two-way trade to \$15 billion by 2010. The conclave would enable businessmen to discover the potential in each other's country, and also help them identify business partners.

Minal Bajaj said that the Ladies' Wing's "Call of the Peacock" exhibition at Johannesburg would offer opportunities to women entrepreneurs of South Africa to display their products.

Among others who spoke included Deepak Premnarayan, Co-Chairman, India Calling Committee, Govin Reddy, Country Manager, International Marketing Council of South Africa and Vandana Kanoria, Chairperson of Ladies' Wing's Exhibition Committee. ■



Minal Bajaj, President Ladies' Wing, Nayan Patel, Chairman India Calling Committee, Sehloho Francis Moloi, High Commissioner of South Africa, Niraj Bajaj, President IMC, Deepak Premnarayan Co-Chairman India Calling Committee