

**High Commission of India,  
Pretoria**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

In a ceremony held at India House, Durban on 17 October 2017, General (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.), Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India, met with His Majesty, King Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu, King of the Zulus and presented a gift of tractors from the Government and people of India to the King of the Zulu people. The tractors "*FarmtracPro*" by Escorts are Made in India. The gift is symbolic of the mutual respect and goodwill that exists between the Indian and Zulu people, and in a broader context, India and South Africa.

2. The Minister of State for External Affairs is on an official visit to Durban from 16-18 October 2017. His visit coincides with the 8<sup>th</sup> IBSA Trilateral Ministerial Commission on 17 October 2017. He will also participate at the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Rim Association on 18 October 2017, where South Africa has assumed the Chair.

3. In the margins of the multilateral meetings, the Minister has a rich menu of engagement on the bilateral front. He is scheduled to meet the Foreign Minister of South Africa on 17 October 2017, when the two sides are expected to take stock of ongoing bilateral cooperation programmes, also charting the course for the next 5 Years' of a Strategic Cooperation Programme. He is also scheduled to visit the Ramakrishna Abalindi Old Age Home at Inanda, South Africa to inaugurate kitchen and dining room facilities sponsored by the Government of India, as a goodwill gesture in favour of the local South African community. He will also visit the Phoenix Settlement at Durban, where he will inaugurate the Mahatma Gandhi Centre for Information Technology, financed and set up by the Government of India. Financial assistance for both these welfare projects had been sanctioned following the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to South Africa in July 2016. Finally, the Minister will inaugurate "*Gandhi in Durban*", an exhibition which depicts the life of the Mahatma in Durban at the Local History Museum in the city.

4. On his arrival on 16 October 2017, the Minister of State for External Affairs had interacted with members of the Indian community in Durban at a reception hosted by the Consulate General of India, Durban.

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