

PM Modi Conferred with Namibia's Highest Civilian Award 2025

August 1, 2026 • vajiramandravi.com



On 9 July 2025, during his official visit to Namibia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded The Order of the Most Ancient Welwitschia Mirabilis, the country's highest civilian honour, by President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah. This recognition marked his 27th global honour, underscoring India's growing diplomatic and strategic ties with African nations. The award acknowledged PM Modi's contribution to democracy, sustainable development, and South-South cooperation. He dedicated the award to the 1.4 billion people of India, emphasizing the strength of the India-Namibia partnership built on mutual respect, development cooperation, and cultural ties.

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PM Modi Conferred with Namibia's Highest Civilian Award 2025 which is named after the Welwitschia mirabilis, a rare and long-living desert plant that symbolizes resilience and endurance. It is one of the most prestigious recognitions in the country and is reserved for global leaders who have made significant contributions to Namibia or to international cooperation.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the first Indian leader to receive this award, signifying his role as a transformative global figure. The conferment of this honour also highlights how India is increasingly seen as a dependable partner across Africa in areas such as infrastructure, education, and climate sustainability.

Facts About PM Modi and Namibia Civilian Honour	
Element	Details
Award Name	The Order of the Most Ancient Welwitschia Mirabilis
Awarded To	Prime Minister Narendra Modi
Awarded By	President of Namibia, Nangolo Mbumba
Date of Honour	July 9, 2025
Occasion	PM Modi’s official state visit to Namibia
Other African Awards Received	Highest civilian honours from Egypt, Kenya, and Tanzania

PM Modi Visit to Namibia 2025

PM Modi’s 2025 visit to Namibia marked the first by an Indian Prime Minister in nearly three decades. It was a key part of his multi-nation African tour aimed at enhancing India’s partnership across the continent. During the visit, he held bilateral talks with Namibian President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and addressed a joint session of the Namibian Parliament.

The two leaders signed multiple MoUs in sectors like digital public infrastructure, fintech (including UPI rollout), renewable energy, healthcare, disaster management, and education. The visit reflected India’s commitment to Africa through capacity building, skill development, and technology partnerships while promoting mutual growth and regional peace.

The Order of the Most Ancient Welwitschia Mirabilis

This award is Namibia’s highest civilian honour, named after a plant endemic to the Namib Desert that thrives in extreme conditions for over a thousand years, symbolizing endurance, uniqueness, and strength. The award is typically given to heads of state and distinguished international personalities who have shown commitment to Namibia’s development or to international peace and cooperation.

PM Modi received the Grand Commander grade of this honour, joining a select list of global statespersons. The award recognizes Modi’s contributions to India-Namibia relations, his support for Africa’s development, and

collaborative projects such as Project Cheetah, where Namibia provided cheetahs to India for conservation efforts.

India-Namibia Relations

1. **Diplomatic Ties:** Established in 1990, soon after Namibian independence; India was a vocal supporter of Namibia at the UN .
2. **Project Cheetah:** Namibia gifted cheetahs to India for the historic reintroduction project at Kuno National Park-described by Modi as “a powerful story of cooperation, conservation, and compassion”.
3. **Economic & Tech Ties:** Agreements signed for UPI rollout, critical minerals, healthcare, education, and digital infrastructure.
4. **Strategic Cooperation:** Includes initiatives under Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) and the Global Biofuels Alliance.
5. This visit signals a mutual push for deeper economic integration-bilateral trade is approaching USD 800 million, with ambitions to further diversify cooperation.

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/pm-modi-conferred-with-namibias-highest-civilian-award-2025/>

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