Talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa to strengthen ties between the two nations and step up cooperation in a range of areas, including defence, security and trade, took place over the weekend.

"New beginnings to old partnerships. PM @narendramodi warmly welcomes President of #SouthAfrica @CyrilRamaphosa ahead of delegation level talks. This is their fourth meeting within a year, highlighting enhanced engagement with South Africa & the African continent,” Raveesh Kumar, spokesperson for India’s Ministry of External Affairs, tweeted.

In another tweet, he said: “Fortifying strategic partnership. PM @narendramodi and South African President @CyrilRamaphosa held wide-ranging talks on cooperation in defence & security, trade & investment, skill development, S&T, education and technical cooperation and multilateral forums.”

Ramaphosa was the chief guest for the Republic Day Parade on Saturday. After concluding his working visit to Switzerland, where he attended the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, he embarked upon a state visit to India. Modi honoured Ramaphosa with the designation of chief guest for India’s 70th Republic Day celebrations which took place over the weekend.

The SA presidency said the two-day state visit entailed focused engagements on the strengthening of relations between South Africa and India in a broad range of sectors involving cooperation between the two governments and between the private sectors in the two BRICS member states.

- Nampa/ANA/PTI