

India-Zimbabwe Relations

Political Relations

India and Zimbabwe have a long history of close and cordial relations. India supported Zimbabwe's freedom struggle.

Former Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi attended Zimbabwean independence celebrations in 1980. There were frequent exchanges of high level visits until 1996, both bilateral and to attend Summits such as NAM, CHOGM and G-15. Former Prime Minister Shri Vajpayee and President Mugabe met twice in the year 2003 on the sidelines of UNGA and NAM Summit. Former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Shri Narasimha Rao and Shri H.D. Deve Gowda visited Zimbabwe to attend NAM Summit in 1986, CHOGM in 1991 and G-15 Summit respectively. Former Presidents Shri R. Venkataraman and Dr. S.D. Sharma paid official visits to Zimbabwe in 1989 and 1996 respectively.

Former President of Zimbabwe, Robert Gabriel Mugabe visited India several times, in 1981, 1983 [CHOGM & NAM Summits], 1987 [Africa Fund Summit], 1991 [to receive Nehru Award], 1993, 1994 [G-15 Summit] and 2015 to attend IAFS-III. Vice President Gen (Retd) C.G.D.N. Chiwenga visited India in March 2018 as a Special Envoy of President E.D. Mnangagwa and also attended the 13th edition of CII-Exim Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership. Zimbabwe has since then sent high-level delegations to CII-EXIM Bank Conclaves, including in 2023. Vice President Chiwenga again led the Zimbabwean delegation to CII-EXIM Bank Conclave in 2024.

Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri Venkaiah Naidu, visited Zimbabwe in November 2018. The Vice President was accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising of MOS for Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar, Members of Parliament, Shri K. Suresh and Shri V. Muraleedharan, and senior government officials. Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs Mr Muraleedharan's [MOS] visited Zimbabwe from 6-8 June 2022.

A Parliamentary delegation led by Hon'ble speaker of Parliament of Zimbabwe, Advocate Jacob F. N. Mudenda, accompanied by Hon'ble Webster Kotiwani Shamu, Member of parliament and Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade; Hon'ble Reuben Chikudo, Member of Parliament and Hon'ble Priscilla Moyo, Member of Parliament visited India from 7-11 December 2022.

Ministerial visits from Zimbabwe to India have taken place on a regular basis. Ms. Monica Mutsvangwa, Hon'ble Minister of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services, led a delegation comprising Dr. John Mangwiro, Deputy Minister of Health & Child Care, and Mr. C. Chiduwa, Deputy Minister of Finance, to India for the CII Exim Bank Conclave on India-Africa Growth Partnership, held in July 2022. Mr. M. Madiro, Deputy Minister of Transport and Infrastructure Development, visited India in August 2022, for discussions on collaboration in the infrastructure sector. Ms. Monica Mutsvangwa, Hon'ble Minister of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services, led a delegation to India in the month of November 2022, for attending the India International Film Festival. Mr. Raymond Machingura, Deputy Minister of Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation,

Science and Technology Development, for attending UNESCO-India Africa Hackathon, in the month of November 2022.

Hon'ble Minister of Industry & Commerce, Ms. Sekai Nzenza, participated and expressed her views on the theme "Developing synergies in the South: Trade, Technology, Tourism, Resources" in the Commerce, Trade and Industry Ministers' Session of the Voice of Global South Summit held on 13 January 2023 by virtual mode.

Deputy Minister of Energy & Power Development, Hon'ble Magna Mudyiwa, visited India to participate in the India Energy Week held from 6-8 February, 2023.

A delegation led by the Hon'ble Minister of Defence and War Veterans Affairs, Mrs. Oppah C.Z. Muchinguri visited India to participate in Aero India 2023 held in Bengaluru from 13-17 February 2023. She again visited India to participate in Aero India-2025 from 10-14 February 2025 in Bengaluru. During her visit MoU on Defence Cooperation was signed.

Minister for Energy and Power Development, Mr. Zhemu Soda led a delegation to India from 18-22 February, 2023 to attend ELECRAMA, the exhibition of electrical and allied electronics equipment and technology, being organized by Indian Electrical and Electronics manufacturer's Association (IEEMA).

Information Communication Technology, Postal and Courier Services Minister Tatenda Mavetera visited India for International Telecommunications Union (ITU) World Telecommunications Standardisation Assembly 2024 (WTSA 24) from 14-24 October 2024.

Mr. Raj Modi, Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce visited India to attend SVUM 2024 International Trade Show at Rajkot, Gujarat during 11-15 February 2024. Again, he led the Zimbabwean delegation to Madhya Pradesh Global Investors' Summit during 24-25 February 2025.

First Lady Mme. Amai Auxilia Mnangagwa, who is also the Health Ambassador, visited India for investments/business dealings from KIMS Hospital, Hyderabad on 10-15 June 2024.

Governor Mushayavanhu led a delegation for the High-Level Policy Conference of Central Banks for 2024 organised by the Reserve Bank of India in Mumbai from 20-22 November 2024.

7-member delegation of Members and Officers of Parliament from Portfolio Committee on Primary and Secondary Education visited India on study tour from 9-13 June 2025.

Anson Road, Harare was renamed as Mahatma Gandhi Road in July 2024. This is the first road in the country to be named after any Indian leader.

Foreign Office Consultations (FOC)

The First Foreign Office Consultations between India and Zimbabwe was held on 20th March 2017 in Harare. The second Foreign Office

Consultations were held in New Delhi on September 29, 2022. The Third Foreign Office Consultations were held in Harare on August 6, 2024.

Capacity Building Programmes (ITEC & ICCR Scholarships)

Assistance to Zimbabwe under the ITEC programme has been a regular feature of India's assistance to Zimbabwe for capacity building. ITEC is a successful and much sought after programme in Zimbabwe. Starting with 3 Zimbabweans in 1985, over 1400 Zimbabweans have been trained in short-term civilian courses in India under the ITEC programme. ITEC and ICCR scholarships are popular among Zimbabweans. India offers more than 250 scholarships to Zimbabwe under ITEC program. Separately, ICCR has also offered around 56 fully funded courses (for PhD and Post Graduate courses in various fields) in the last past five years. This year, 12 such fully sponsored courses are extended to Zimbabwe.

Through various memoranda of understanding entered with institutions of great repute in India, The Harare Institute of Technology [HIT] is sending its students to various Universities to get degrees in Master of Technology in various disciplines such as Delhi Technological University; Amity University, Manassar; Sharda University; Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University; Vellore Institute of Technology; Rabindranath Tagore University; IIT Madras; Indian Institute of Welding; National Institute of Foundry and Forging Technology; Marwadi University; IIT Kharagpur; Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology; Institute of Technology and Management and Sri Ramaswamy Memorial Institute of Science and Technology. In 2024, Government of Zimbabwe offered 250 Presidential Scholarships to students to study in India.

Government of Zimbabwe has selected 71 officers to attend Train-the-Trainer program to be conducted at Centurion University, Bhubaneswar. The ceremony was organized in December 2024.

Assistance/Aid extended

India granted US\$ 5 million for promoting SMEs [Indo-Zim Technology Centres] in Zimbabwe, a project inaugurated by President Robert Mugabe on August 4, 2008. The final phase of the project was completed in February 2013. Further upgrade was done with US\$ 2.93 million grant in 2018. India extended a grant of US\$ 1 million and announced an aid of 500 tons of rice to the Govt. of Zimbabwe in August 2016, in response to the international appeal made by Zimbabwe in the wake of national drought disaster. India again extended a grant of US \$ 1 million to Zimbabwe in June 2017 in response to the 2016-17 flood disaster international appeal made by the Government of Zimbabwe. The donation of 500 metric ton rice to the Govt. of Zimbabwe arrived in Harare and handed over to the concerned authorities in November 2017. India again donated 1,000 MT Rice to Zimbabwe in December 2024 to help the Government and people of the Republic of Zimbabwe. India established Vocational Training Centre under IFAS-1 at a cost of US\$ 1 million under Grant of GOI. The Centre was inaugurated on 20 February 2019 by President E.D.Mnangagwa.

Under the EXIM Bank of India's Buyer's Credit Agreement worth USD 49.92 million, M/s. Ashok Leyland Ltd. supplied around 635 vehicles and spare parts to the Ministry of Tourism & Hospitality Industry in October,

2015. Under the similar facility from EXIM Bank of India, BEML Ltd, India supplied worth USD 13.03 million mining equipment and blast hole drill and spare parts to Hwange Colliery Company Ltd., Zimbabwe. The mining equipments were commissioned on June 19, 2015 by Vice President Phelekezela Mphoko.

In pursuance of the announcements made during the visit of Hon'ble Vice President, Shri Venkaiah Naidu, to Zimbabwe in November 2018, India gifted emergency medicines worth US\$ 2.2 million in 2019-2020 as also 1,000 MT of rice. Further a consignment of 75,000 doses of Covid-19 vaccine, COVAXIN, and a consignment of 10 state of the art ambulances were gifted in 2021. An additional US\$ 19.5 million LOC for Deka Pumping & River Water Intake System [taking the total to US\$ 48.1 million]; US\$ 2.93 million grant for upgradation of 17 Indo-Zim Technology Centres.

MOS V. Muraleedharan also gifted anti-TB medicines worth about US\$ 100,000 during his visit from 6-8 June 2022. MOS also handed over a sewing machine to the First Lady from the consignment of 950 sewing machines being donated to the Angel of Hope Foundation, being run under the patronage of the First Lady. MOS, along with Minister of Higher & Tertiary Education Prof. Amon Murwira, commissioned the new CNC machines at the Indo-Zim Technology Centre at the HIT Campus in Harare.

HMT machines [mostly computer numerical controlled (CNC)] under Phase-2 of the US\$ 29.1 million Indo-Zim Technology Centre, project were handed over in 2019. MOS V. Muraleedharan, along with Minister of Higher & Tertiary Education Prof. Amon Murwira, commissioned the new CNC machines at the Indo-Zim Technology Centre at the HIT Campus in Harare.

India has also provided US\$ 1 million to Zimbabwe in 2021 for climate resilient agriculture in the districts of Chiredzi and Mangwe through the India UN Development Partnership Fund.

A state-of-the-art ECD Block, named after Mahatma Gandhi, at Masuku Primary School, Bulawayo, and built with Indian quick developmental project assistance, was inaugurated in July 2024, in the presence of Minister of State for Bulawayo Metropolitan Province, Judith Ncube, and Raj Modi, Deputy Minister of Industry & Commerce.

Commercial Relations

Zimbabwe looks at India as an important trade and investment partner. The bilateral trade figures are given below:

Year (April-March)	Exports to Zimbabwe (in million US\$)	Imports from Zimbabwe (in million US\$)
2019-20	161.13	13.59
2020-2021	175.72	5.71
2021-22	200.49	7.77
2022-23	157.33	9.18
2023 – 24	152.37	16.55
2024-25	206.01	53.55

(Source : DGFT)

The Indian investments in Zimbabwe are estimated at US\$ 600 million. Indian companies have made investments mainly in the beverages, pharmaceuticals and agro-processing industries. It is estimated that the total Indian investments are in the vicinity of US\$ 600 million - 650 million. Important Indian companies who have invested in Zimbabwe are (i) Varun Beverages (Zimbabwe Ltd, a Joint Venture of Varun Beverages (India) [a part of RJ Corp] and a local company, Glaciem Pvt Ld, (ii) Surface Wilmar Private Ltd, which is a JV between Midex Global Pvt Ltd, Indore, and Industrial Development Corporation of Zimbabwe, (iii) M/S Parrogate Industries / Agri Value Chain, who have invested in David Whitehead Textile Mill too (iv) ZimGold/Pure Oil Industries, and (v) Raha Cooking Oil. In addition there are some small companies in the mining sector too. There are also investments by Indian investors from third countries e.g. M/s Mount Meru etc.

Joint Commission Meetings

India and Zimbabwe signed Joint Commission Agreement in January 1987. Four meetings of the Joint Commission have been held so far – first in New Delhi in April 1987; second in Harare in February 1989; third in New Delhi in October 1990 and the fourth in Harare in January 1996. A SoM was held in Ministry of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi in February 2012, followed by the 2nd Joint Trade Committee meeting in Harare in March 2013. Government of India and the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe have also signed Air Services Agreement in June 2014.

Joint Trade Committee (JTC)

The third session of the India-Zimbabwe Joint Trade Committee was held on 13-14 May 2024 in New Delhi.

Business Delegations

A 11-member CII delegation visited Zimbabwe on 20-21 October 2024. The CII delegation led by Ambassador called on Hon. Vice President Gen (Retd) C.G.D.N. Chiwenga. Defence Minister Hon. Oppah Muchinguri Kashiri, Health & Child Care Minister Hon. Dr. Douglas Mombeshora, Minister of Industry and Commerce Hon. Mangaliso Ndlovu, Deputy Minister for Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion Hon. Kudakwashe Mnangagwa, and Attorney General Mrs Virginia Mabiza also interacted with the delegation.

A 15-member Indian business delegation led by FICCI participated in the 65th edition of the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) in Bulawayo on 21-23 April 2025. Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Trade Hon. Dr. Sheillah Chikomo, Deputy Minister for Industry and Commerce Hon. Rajesh Kumar Modi and Chairman of ZITF and ZIDA Mr. Busisa Moyo, graced the India-Zimbabwe Business Delegation.

Cultural Relations

Two journalists from Zimbabwe visited India for familiarization visit organized by the Ministry from 12-18 December 2024. Another two journalists from Zimbabwe visited India for Familiarization Visit of media editors/journalists from 7-15 June 2025.

20-member group consisting of cultural troupe and artisans from Zimbabwe participated in the 38th edition of Surajkund International Crafts Mela 2025 during 7-23 February 2025.

Defence Cooperation:

India and Zimbabwe signed MOU in Defence Cooperation in February 2025. Maiden Mini Defence Expo and Industry Interaction was organised by Ministry of Defence, Government of India in association with Ministry of Defence of Zimbabwe and Strategic Research and Growth Foundation (SGRF) India on 21 March 2025. Hon. Minister of Defence, Oppah Muchinguri Kashiri was the Chief Guest and Ambassador made welcome address.

Education

It is estimated that around 5,000 students are already enrolled in various Indian colleges and universities. 'Indian Higher Education and Career Fairs' as well as 'Study in India' Fairs have been organised regularly. In 2023 and in 2024, Government of Zimbabwe has awarded Presidential Scholarships to 250 students each to study in India.

Indian community

The beginning of Indian presence in Zimbabwe goes back to about 1890 when Indian plantation workers in apartheid South Africa crossed over to Zimbabwe in what was then known as Southern Rhodesia. This PIO community mostly of Gujarati origin has mainly engaged itself in retail trade or export-import business. Some members of the community hold US/Canadian/British/Australian passports. There are around 8,500 Zimbabweans of Indian origin. The expatriate Indian community, mostly business professionals, is around 1,500.

By and large, the Indian community is well respected in Zimbabwe and has maintained cordial relations with the majority community. Senator K.G Patel, who died in 2011, was a member of the Politburo and Central Committee of ZANU-PF, the ruling party and was accorded status of a national hero in 2012; Mr. Bharat Patel is now a Constitutional Court judge; and Justices A.M. Ebrahim and Mahomed Ali Adam have retired as Supreme Court and High Court judges, respectively. Justice (Retd.) A.M. Ebrahim had been awarded Pravasi Bhartiya Samman in 2004. Mr. Raj Modi, who was elected as ZANU-PF Member of Parliament from Bulawayo South Constituency, is the Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce, since September 2023.

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