

**Embassy of India
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PRESS RELEASE

Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr Kirti Vardhan Singh visited Zimbabwe for the first time from 26-28 June 2025. Before his arrival in Zimbabwe, he represented Government of India at the 50th National Day Celebrations of Mozambique in Maputo. His visit to Zimbabwe signifies the importance of India-Zimbabwe friendly, strong and active bilateral relations which is deeply rooted in historical connections between the two countries. India and Zimbabwe have linkages since the time of Munhumutapa kingdom in 16th century. It is estimated that approximately 10,000 persons of Indian origin are settled in Zimbabwe.

2. During his visit, Mr. Singh had a courtesy call on H.E. President Dr. Emmerson D. Mnangagwa and discussed ways and means to further strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries. They agreed that it is an opportune time to further expand bilateral relations between the two countries in new areas of cooperation.

3. He held bilateral meeting with Hon. Prof. Dr. Amon Murwira, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and reviewed ongoing bilateral cooperation. The two Ministers agreed to identify new areas of cooperation which will further deepen the existing steadfast bilateral relations and also would promote bilateral trade and investments. India-Zimbabwe bilateral trade figures are showing an upward trajectory and registered US\$ 259.56 million in the Financial Year 2024-25, up from US\$ 168.92 during the Financial Year 2023-24.

4. Given the active political and cultural relations, investment from India has seen an upward trajectory in recent years. Indian private sector has so far invested approximately US\$ 600 million which is increasing gradually. Similarly, number of Indian companies operating in Zimbabwe is also increasing steadily. It is estimated that Indian companies provide direct and indirect employment to around 15,000 Zimbabweans. India and Zimbabwe are looking forward to take major steps in newly identified areas such as mining, agriculture, healthcare & pharmaceuticals and capacity building.

5. Minister of State Mr. Singh also holds charge of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change in India. He held bilateral discussions with Hon. Dr.

Evelyn Ndlovu, Minister of Environment, Climate and Wildlife, in the field of environment and wildlife protection and also climate change adaptations. He urged Zimbabwe to join International Big Cat Alliance which could further open new areas of bilateral cooperation in the field of environment protection, preservation and management of wildlife and their habitats including technological adaptation to avoid human-wildlife conflicts.

6. India, through India-UN Development Fund has contributed in climate resilient agriculture infrastructure in Zimbabwe with a grant of US\$ 1 million. Indian Minister is also visiting Victoria Falls, a UNESCO protected site, and Hwange National Park to witness Zimbabwean best practices in the field of protection and preservation of natural sites and wildlife habitats. India and Zimbabwe have a history of supporting each other in various international fora including in the United Nations. India and Zimbabwe have supported each other's candidature for United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Non-Permanent seat for 2027-28 and 2028-29 respectively.

7. Zimbabwe is also a part of the International Solar Alliance, a global initiative led by India. Zimbabwe has actively participated in the India-led Forum, Voice of Global South. India and Zimbabwe have been active supporters of South-South Cooperation. Under India's Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme, capacity-building is the main stay of bilateral relations whereas Government of India provided over 250 scholarships to Government of Zimbabwe's officers for short term training courses in India.

8. India has actively participated in Zimbabwean development projects and extended necessary healthcare and humanitarian assistance from time to time. Mr. Singh said that Zimbabwe is home to a prosperous and flourishing Indian community who have become integral part of Zimbabwean society. He added that India-Zimbabwe relations are very important and very strong. He looked forward to further strengthen already existing strong and friendly bilateral relations between the two countries. Mr. Singh mentioned that Africa is a special focus in India's foreign policy.
