

India-Zimbabwe Relations

Political Relations

India and Zimbabwe have a long history of close and cordial relations. During the era of the Munhumutapa Kingdom, Indian merchants established strong links with Zimbabwe, trading in textiles, minerals and metals. Sons of the royal house of Munhumutapa journeyed to India to broaden their education. In the 17th century, a great son of Zimbabwe, Dom Miguel - Prince, Priest and Professor, and heir to the imperial throne of the Mutapas lived in Goa. An inscribed pillar stands today at a chapel in Goa, a tribute to his intellectual stature.

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 side-lines 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.

In June 2021, Zimbabwe ratified the Amended Framework of the International Solar Alliance [ISA], headquartered in India. The original Instrument of Acceptance was deposited with ED Division of MEA on 3 June 2021.

Other High Level visits

Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri Venkaiah Naidu, visited Zimbabwe from November 204, 2018. This was the first ever visit by an Indian Vice President and a high-level visit from India to Zimbabwe in the past 22 years. 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. A large business delegation visited Zimbabwe separately to coincide with the visit. During the visit, 5 MoUs on (i) Arts, Culture & Heritage, (ii) Geology, Mining and Mineral Resources, (iii) Traditional Medicines and Homeopathy; (iv) Broadcasting collaboration between Prasar Bharati and Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, and (v) Reciprocal Exemption of Visa Requirements for holders of Diplomatic Passports and an Action Plan on ICT were signed.

Earlier, the then Deputy Prime Minister Ms Thokozani Khupe had visited India from 22-25 February 2010 on a study tour. The then Vice President Mujuru participated in the 8th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership held on March 18-20, 2012 in New Delhi where Zimbabwe was the focus country. On the sidelines of this Conclave, the Vice President met with Indian dignitaries including PM and EAM and discussed issues of common concern. Vice President General (Retd) Dr. Constantino Chiwenga visited India in March 2018 as Special Envoy of President E.D. Mnangagwa and also to participate in the 13th edition of CII-Exim Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership. During his visit, he met with Hon'ble President and Vice President.

Ministerial visits from Zimbabwe to India have taken place on a regular basis. This year (2022), 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.

From India, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs Mr Muraleedharan's [MOS] visited Zimbabwe from 6- 8 June, 2022. During the visit, MOS paid a courtesy call on the President as also the Speaker of the National Assembly and met with Foreign Minister Dr. Frederick Shava. 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 handed over medicines to combat tuberculosis to Deputy Minister of Health & Child Care, Dr. John C. Mangwiro. 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. Earlier in June 2021, MOS had a virtual meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Dr. Frederick Shava.

Foreign Office Consultations (FOC)

The First Foreign Office Consultations between India and Zimbabwe was held on 20th March 2017 in Harare. The delegation on Indian side was led by Dr. Neena Malhotra, Joint Secretary (E&SA) and on the Zimbabwean side by Amb. Jonathan Wutawunashe, Director (Africa, Asia & Pacific). The second Foreign Office Consultations were held in New Delhi on September 29, 2022, with both sides undertaking a comprehensive review of bilateral relations. The parties expressed desire to further advance the relationship for the mutual benefit of both countries. Zimbabwe's delegation was led by Mrs. Rudo Faranisi, the Chief Director of Economic Cooperation, International Trade and Diaspora, in the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs and International Trade. The Indian side was led by Shri Puneet Kundal, Joint Secretary (East & Southern Africa), MEA.

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.

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, Manesar; 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.

Assistance/Aid extended

India gave an assistance of 50,000 tonnes of rice in 2003 when Zimbabwe experienced severe drought. Another similar assistance of 500 tonnes of rice was given on March 23, 2015. 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. India set up three 'Hole-In-The-Wall' computer learning stations in 2012. India extended a grant of US\$ 1 million and announced an aid of 500 tons of rice to the Govt. of Zimbabwe on 4th 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 on 1st 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 on 22nd November 2017. 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.

During the visit of Hon'ble Vice President, Shri Venkaiah Naidu, to Zimbabwe in November 2018, the following announcements were made: US\$ 310 million line of credit [LOC] for upgradation of Hwange Thermal Power Station, additional US\$ 23 million LOC for rehabilitation of Bulawayo Thermal Power Plant [taking the total amount to US\$ 110 million] and an additional US\$ 19.5 million LOC for Deka Pumping & River Water Intake System [taking the total to US\$ 48.1 million]; grant for construction of Mahatma Gandhi Convention Centre, US\$ 2.93 million grant for upgradation of Indo-Zim Technology Centre and gifting of 10 Indian made ambulances, gifting of lifesaving drugs and deputation of experts in five specialized areas.

In pursuance of the above, India gifted emergency medicines worth US\$ 2.2 million in 2019-2020 as also 1000 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. MOS V. Muraleedharan also gifted anti-TB medicines worth about US\$ 100,000 during his visit in June 2022.

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.

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.

The Embassy has initiated a platform for Indian corporates in Zimbabwe to sponsor meritorious students to India from their CSR fund in premier institutions like IITs and IIMs.

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.

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\$)
2017-18	163.54	62.20
2018-19	181.72	7.79
2019-20	161.13	13.59
2020-2021	175.72	5.71
2021-22	200.49	7.77
2022-23 (upto Sept 2022)	88.75	1.02

(Source : DGFT)

The Indian investments in Zimbabwe are estimated at US\$ 500 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\$500 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) ZimGold / Pure Oil Industries, (iv) Raha Cooking Oil and (iv) M/S Parrogate Industries / Agri Value Chain who have invested in David Whitehead Textile Mill too. 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 Mulk Holdings and 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 on June 19, 2014.

Business Delegations

Business delegations visit Zimbabwe at regular intervals. A 16-member delegation led by Shri Ravindra Nath, CMD of National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), New Delhi participated in the 11th Zimbabwe International Research Symposium held on 17-18 February, 2017 by Zimbabwe Research Council. Another, four member business delegation visited Bulawayo from 22-24 March, 2017. The delegation was led by Mr. Rajiv Chawla, Chairman, I am SME of India, Faridabad. CII led 9-member business delegation to attend annual conference and International Investment Forum of the Confederation of Zimbabwean Industries' (CZI) held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe from 2- 4 August, 2017.

An Indian delegation from NTPC and Indian Granite and Stone Industries visited Zimbabwe from 10-16 July 2018. A CII led business delegation visited Zimbabwe from 24-28 September 2018 and participated in the India-Zimbabwe ICT Conference on 24th September 2018 organized by the Embassy in association with the Zimbabwe Ministry of Information Communication Technology and Courier Services and the Zimbabwe-India Chamber of Commerce under the theme, 'Zimbabwe-India: Bridging the Digital Gap'. The CII business delegation also participated in the CZI annual Congress and International Investment Forum held in Bulawayo, from 26-28 September 2018. A large Indian business delegation, coinciding with the visit of Hon'ble Vice President of India from 2-4 November 2018

visited Zimbabwe where seven B2B MoUs/Agreements were signed. The two Vice Presidents addressed the Zimbabwe-India Business Forum held during the visit. A 4-member Indian business delegation visited Zimbabwe and participated in the Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries (CZI) annual Conference held in Victoria Falls in July 2019.

Officials from India Tourism Dubai participated in the 12th edition of Sanganai/Hlanganani World Tourism Expo was held in Bulawayo, the second largest city in Zimbabwe from 12-14 September 2019. More than 12 buyers from India including 10 travel agents and two travel writers participated in the Expo. The Indian Pavilion was awarded first runner-up.

A 15-member business delegation, led by Mr Asif Iqbal, President India Economic Trade Organisation and having members of India-Chapter of Zimbabwe-India Trade Council, arrived on 27 April, 2021, for a ten-day visit. The delegation visited Harare and Bulawayo. Zimbabwe-India Business Forum was held on 5 May during the visit of the delegation. The delegation also signed 19 MoUs in the fields of agriculture, mining, housing development, textiles, information and communication technologies, film making etc with their counterpart organisations in Zimbabwe. The delegation paid a return visit in October 2021 with 7 members and met with Deputy Minister of Mining as also Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce, apart from business associations and business counterparts.

Cultural Relations

An MoU on Cooperation in the field of Arts, Culture and Heritage between the two countries was signed on November 3, 2018 during the visit of Hon'ble Vice President of India to Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe and India had earlier signed an agreement in 1981.

The Govt. of India has been sponsoring visit of delegations from Zimbabwe to participate in the Surajkund International Crafts Mela. Mr Tendai Padenga, Dean of Harare Institute of Technology was awarded the 'ICCR Distinguished Alumni Award' on 28 January 2020 at a function held in Pune.

Embassy organized three editions (2016-2018) of cultural festival 'India in the Sunshine City', in association with the Ministry of Youth, Sports, Arts & Recreation of Zimbabwe, and M/S Team Work Arts, India.

A week long Namaste Zimbabwe Cultural Festival was organized in November 2021. The week included movie screening, bringing out special supplement on Indian defence industry, organizing health camp, broadcasting of a documentary on SBC etc. Kathak [by exponent Ms. Saumya Shukla], Manipuri Dance [Ibudhou Loyalakpa Group], vocal classical by Pt Dhananjay Kaul and associates, as also Bharatnatyam, Bollywood dance and music by local artistes, were showcased during the Festival.

Embassy has also been celebrating International Day of Yoga in the month of June in several cities of Zimbabwe. Due to outbreak of Covid-19, the International Day of Yoga in 2021 was celebrated online and through telecast on ZBC.

The Mission celebrated 152nd birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 2 October, 2021, by unveiling the Bust of Mahatma Gandhi in association with the Hindu Society of Harare at their premises. The Minister of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services, Mrs. Monica Mutsvangwa, unveiled the Bust.

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. At present, the number of Zimbabweans of Indian origin, who are predominantly from the State of Gujarat, is estimated at about 9000. This PIO community has mainly engaged itself in retail trade or export-import business, while the younger generation has mostly moved out of the country for better opportunities as professionals. Some members of the community hold US/Canadian/British/Australian passports. The expatriate Indian community, mostly business professionals, numbers around 1000.

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 2018.

Useful Resources:

For more information and latest updates visit

Embassy of India website: eoi.gov.in/harare

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/indiainzimbabwe>

Twitter handle: [@indiainzimbabwe](https://twitter.com/indiainzimbabwe)

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