

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 India-Africa Conclave in 2024. The delegation led by Vice President Chiwenga at 20th CII India-Africa Business Conclave in August 2025.

Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri Venkaiah Naidu, visited Zimbabwe in November 2018. Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs Mr Muraleedharan visited Zimbabwe from 6-8 June 2022.

Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs Mr. Kirti Vardhan Singh visited Zimbabwe from 26-28 June 2025. Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forests & Climate Change Mr. Bhupender Yadav led Indian delegation for COP15 to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in Victoria Falls in July 2025.

A Parliamentary delegation led by Hon'ble speaker of Parliament of Zimbabwe, Advocate Jacob F. N. Mudenda visited India from 7-11 December 2022.

Ministerial visits from Zimbabwe to India have taken place on a regular basis. Ms. Monica Mutsvangwa, Minister of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services, Dr. John Mangwiro, Deputy Minister of Health & Child Care, and Mr. C. Chiduwa, Deputy Minister of Finance visited 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; Ms. Monica Mutsvangwa, Hon'ble Minister of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services, led a delegation to India in November 2022; 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.

Minister of Industry & Commerce, Ms. Sekai Nzenza, participated 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, Magna Mudyiwa, visited India to participate in the India Energy Week held from 6–8 February, 2023. Hon. July Moyo, Minister of Energy & Power Development Visited India to participate in the *India Energy Week* in January 2026 in Goa.

A delegation led by the Minister of Defence and War Veterans Affairs, Mrs. Oppah C.Z. Muchinguri visited India to participate in Aero India 2023. She again visited India to participate in Aero India-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 in February 2023 to attend ELECRAMA.

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. He also participated at Global Investment and Tourism Expo and *Chalo Zimbabwe* organized by Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SGCCI) in Surat, in August 2025. Mr. Raj Modi was also part of Vice President Chiwenga-led delegation at 20th CII India-Africa Business Conclave in August 2025. He also led a delegation at India & Zimbabwe India Trade Conference, Kerala in August 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.

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.

Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe 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.

Members of Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Primary and Secondary Education of Zimbabwe visited India for study visit in June 2025.

Deputy Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water, Climate and Rural Development Davis Marapira visited India to participate in 4th Edition of World Food India in September 2025.

Deputy Minister of Information Communication Technology, Postal and Courier Services Dingumuzi Phuti participated at AI Impact Summit in February 2026.

On the sidelines of World Economic Forum (WEF)'s Annual Meeting 2026 in Davos, Zimbabwean delegation led by Prof. Dr. Amon Murwira, Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Trade has met with the Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Mr. Pralhad Joshi. Prof. Dr. Murwira also met with Chief Minister of Maharashtra briefly.

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.

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. Minister of Defence, Oppah Muchinguri Kashiri was the Chief Guest and Ambassador made welcome address.

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.

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.

Commercial Relations

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

Year	Exports to Zimbabwe	Imports from
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(April-March)	(in million US\$)	Zimbabwe (in million US\$)
2021-22	200.49	7.77
2022-23	157.33	9.18
2023-24	152.37	16.55
2024-25	149.31	17.68
2025-26 (Apr 2025 – Jan 2026)	142.04	5.59

(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 - 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 also invested in David Whitehead Textile Mill (iv) ZimGold/Pure Oil Industries, and (v) Raha Cooking Oil. In addition there are other small companies in mining, other manufacturing and service sectors also. There are also investments by Indian investors from third countries e.g. M/s Mount Meru etc.

Business Delegations

Embassy of India, from time to time, has been organising the visits of trade delegations from various Chambers of Commerce of India to Zimbabwe. Recently, a 11-member CII delegation visited Zimbabwe in October 2024. A FICCI-led Indian business delegation participated in the 65th edition of the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) in Bulawayo in April 2025. Again, a 10-member CII-led business delegation visited Zimbabwe in February 2026.

Cultural Relations

The Embassy has been organizing cultural performances by the cultural troupes sponsored by ICCR. 'Lok Kala Sandhya' (Folk Dance Evening) featuring Sanskruti Dance Academy of Gujarat to present Gujarati Folk & Dance performances in various cities of Zimbabwe from 26-30 September 2025.

As part of National Day celebrations and commemoration of 150 Years of *Vande Mataram*, Embassy of India organised 'Shastriya Nritya Prastuti' (Classical Dance Performance) featuring 10-member Kathakali troupe from The International Centre for Kathakali across Zimbabwe from 23-28 January 2026.

Four journalists from Zimbabwe visited India for familiarization visit organised by the Ministry in 2024 and 2025.

Zimbabwean group consisting of cultural troupe and artisans has been participating in the Surajkund International Crafts Mela for the past 6 years, under

MEA sponsorship. A 20-member group participated in 38th edition in February 2025; and a 23-member group participated in 39th edition of Surajkund International Crafts Mela during 31 January - 15 February 2026.

Education

It is estimated that around 5,000 Zimbabwean 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.

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.

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 68 fully funded courses (for PhD and Post Graduate courses in various fields) in the last six years. This year, 12 such fully sponsored courses are extended to Zimbabwe.

Through various memoranda of understanding entered with premier Indian institutions, 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, Bhubaneshwar. 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 in August 2008. Further, US\$ 2.93 million was granted in 2018 for upgradation of 17 Indo-Zim Technology Centres. India established Vocational Training Centre under IFAS-1 at a cost of US\$ 1 million under Grant of GOI. HMT machines [mostly computer numerical controlled (CNC)] under Phase-2 of the US\$ 29.1 million Indo-Zim Technology Centre, project was inaugurated in February 2019 by President E.D.Mnangagwa.

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 and donated 500 metric ton rice in November 2017. India again donated 1,000 MT Rice to Zimbabwe in December 2024.

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.

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].

MOS V. Muraleedharan also gifted anti-TB medicines worth about US\$ 100,000 during his visit from 6-8 June 2022. MOS also donated 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.

An US\$ 1 million to project for Climate Resilient Agriculture in the districts of Chiredzi and Mangwe was funded through the India UN Development Partnership Fund in 2021.

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.

March 2026