

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 – studied 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 Harare in 1980. There were frequent exchanges of high level visits until 1996, both bilateral or 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 Venkatraman 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) Dr.C.G.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.

Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri Venkaiah Naidu visited Zimbabwe from November 2-4, 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 Kodikkunnil 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.

Ministerial visits from Zimbabwe to India have taken place on a regular basis. Deputy Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural Settlement Vangelis Peter Haritatos visited India in September/October 2018 to attend the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention. Deputy Minister of Energy and Power Development, Magna Mudyiwa visited India from 2-5 October 2018 to participate in the 1st Assembly of the Solar Alliance. Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce, Raj Modi, visited India in November 2018 to participate as a Guest of Honour at the second edition of the India Gold and Jewellery Summit held in New Delhi and called on Shri Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce and Industry.

Minister of Industry & Commerce, N.M.Ndhlovu visited India in March 2019 to attend the CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership. Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises Development, Women Affairs and Community, Sithembiso Nyoni visited India to attend the 6th India International MSME Expo and Summit held in Delhi from 20-25 August 2019. Minister of ICT, Postal and Courier Services Mr Jenfan Muswere visited India to attend India Mobile Congress in Delhi on 14-16 October. Minister of Energy & Power Development, Mr Fortune Chasi visited India on 31 Oct-1 November 2019 for the 2nd General Assembly of ISA. During the visit an MoU on Cooperation in Power Sector was signed between NTPC and ZPC in New Delhi on 1.11.2019. Minister of Mines & Mining Development visited India for the Kimberley Process Plenary meeting from 18-22 November and the Deputy Minister of Mines & Mining Development, Mr Polite Kambamure visited Delhi to attend International Chrome Development Association Conference. Deputy Minister of Industry & Commerce, Mr Raj Modi visited India to attend Global Exhibition on Services in Bengaluru. He again visited Gujarat in end December/early January 2020 and met with Chief Minister of Gujarat and other prospective investors.

From the Indian side following Ministerial visits have taken place since 2011. Shri Jyotiraditya Schindia, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry led a business delegation in September 2011; Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry participated in business seminar in July 2012; He also led an Indian delegation to 2nd Joint Trade Committee in March 2013. Shri Sharma visited again in February 2014 with a delegation to review decisions taken during 2nd Joint Trade Committee; Shri Beni Prasad Verma, Minister of Steel led a delegation from 8-10 April 2013; Shri Harish Rawat, Minister of Water Resources led a WAPCOS delegation from 12-13 April 2013.; Col. (Retd.) Rajyavardhan Rathore, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, visited Zimbabwe on 26-27 August, 2015 to invite Zimbabwean dignitaries to attend IAFS-III. At the invitation of Government of Zimbabwe, An 8-member Election Observer Mission visited Zimbabwe in July 2018 to observe the elections held on 30 July 2018.

Capacity Building Programmes(ITEC & ICCR Scholarships)

Assistance under the ITEC programme has been a regular feature of India's assistance to Zimbabwe for capacity building. ITEC and ICCR scholarships are much sought after by Zimbabweans. During the last three years, 528 officials from Zimbabwe have availed of this programme. For the current year, a total of 217 ITEC slots have been allocated to Zimbabwe. 62 slots have so far been availed. Over 1400 Zimbabweans have been trained in short-term civilian courses in India under the ITEC programme over the last ten years.

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.

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-Zimbabwe Technology Centre) in Zimbabwe, a project inaugurated by President Robert Mugabe on August 4, 2008. The final phase of the project completed in February, 2013. India set up three 'Hole-In-The-Wall' computer learning stations in 2012. India is in the process of setting up a Vocational Training Center (under IAFS-I) and a Food Testing Laboratory (FTL) and a Rural Technology Park (RTP) under IAFS-II under aid budget. There has been no movement forward in the case of FTL and RTP. Besides, under GOI Line of Credit (LOC) worth US\$ 28.6 million upgradation of Deka Pumping Station and River Water Intake System is in progress. Another LOC Agreement worth USD 87 million was signed on October 27, 2015 in New Delhi on the side lines of IAFS-III between the Government of Zimbabwe and the EXIM Bank of India for renovation/upgradation of Bulawayo Thermal Power Plant. 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. which was commissioned on June 19, 2015 by Zimbabwean Vice President Phelekezela Mphoko. 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.

Both countries have signed two LOC Agreements on 4 April 2019 of additional USD 23 million and US\$ 19.50 million for Bulawayo Thermal Power Plant and Deka Pumping Station respectively. A formal offer was also made recently for LOC of US\$310 million for repowering the Hwange Thermal Power Station.

During the visit of Hon'ble Vice President Shri Venkaiah Naidu to Zimbabwe in November 2018 the following announcements were made: US\$ 310 million LOC for upgradation of Hwange Thermal Power Station, additional US\$23 million LOC for rehabilitation of Bulawayo Thermal Power Plant and an additional US\$19.5 million Line of Credit for Deka Pumping & river Water Intake System; grant for construction of Mahatma Gandhi Convention Centre, US\$2.93 million grant for Up-gradation of INDO-Zim Technology Centre and Gifting of 10 Indian made Ambulances, gifting of lifesaving drugs and deputation of experts in five specialized areas.

Ambassador handed over the first tranche of donation of medicines worth US\$250,000 on June 12, 2019 to the Zimbabwe Minister of Health and Child Care in

pursuant to the announcement of donation of life saving medicines worth US\$ 2.2 million made during the visit of Hon'ble Vice President to Zimbabwe in November 2018.

Ambassador of India handed over HMT machines [mostly computer numerical controlled (CNC)] under Phase-2 of the US\$ 29.1 million Indo-Zim Technology Centre, project to the Zimbabwe Minister of SME, and Women and Child Welfare, Ms. Sithembiso G.G.Nyoni on 9 September 2019. The machines will be commissioned in phases starting from the month of October 2019 and completed in the month of March 2020.

The Mission 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. Accordingly, two M.tech candidates have been accepted and joined the IIT Palakad on 5 January 2020. There is commitments from these corporates to sponsor 12 M.Tech students and 4 school students.

Commercial relations

Zimbabwe has, of late, started following 'Look East Policy' and India is now looked upon as an important trading as well as business partner.

Trade & Investment: Bilateral Trade

Year (April-March)	Exports to Zimbabwe (in million US\$)	Imports from Zimbabwe (in million US\$)
2013-14	158.06	12.50
2014-15	223.96	32.70
2015-16	205.08	24.45
2016-17	109.08	60.46
2017-18	163.54	62.20
2018-19	181.72	7.79

(Source : DGFT)

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. No Joint Commission meeting has been held since 1996 mainly due to Zimbabwe's economic turmoil. Dates for holding 5th JCM in Delhi are being worked out. 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. The Air Services Agreement between India and Zimbabwe was signed on June 19, 2014 in Harare.

Foreign Office Consultation

The First Foreign Office Consultation 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 Consultation covered gamut of areas

in the bilateral relationship which included Political, Economic, Trade & Investment, Cultural, Consular and Developmental Cooperation.

Business Delegations

The frequency of visits by business delegations from Zimbabwe has gone up in the last few years and a probable turn-around in the Zimbabwean economy in the future can open up considerable opportunities for Indian companies in agro-processing, mining, telecommunications, power and pharmaceuticals.

An Indian delegation from NTPC and Indian Granite and Stone Industries visited Zimbabwe from 10-16 July 2018 and held discussions with local authorities for entering into joint ventures. 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, the 2nd largest city in Zimbabwe, from 26-28 September 2018. The visit was successful in terms of the interest generated in the business opportunities in Zimbabwe. B2B sessions resulted in the striking of several deals, the agreements for which were signed during the visit of Vice President to Zimbabwe in November 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. Indian companies Mahindra and Sonalika Tractors participated in the 109th edition of Zimbabwe Agricultural Show on August 23, 2019. While Sonalika showcases Tractors of series of horse power (HP), Mahindra showcased Pick Up Trucks which is the focus product for Zimbabwe at present.

India has strong presence in pharmaceutical sector in Zimbabwe and Indian medicines are readily available in the local market. An Indian pharmaceutical company, "Shreya" had invested about US\$ 1 million in the largest pharmaceutical company of Zimbabwe – 'CAPS Ltd'. M/s Chadha Power of India were awarded a contract in April 2008 to refurbish four units at the Hwange Thermal Power Station near Victoria Falls.

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. Ambassador of India inaugurated the 'Incredible India' pavilion which was opened during the Expo. More than 12 buyers from India including 10 travel agents and two travel writers participated in the Expo. The Minister of Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation Kirsty Coventry also visited India Pavilion and complimented on India's participation. The Indian Pavilion was awarded first runner-up.

Investments: The exact figure of Indian investment in Zimbabwe is difficult to work out. However, the data available with Zimbabwe Investment Authority [ZIA] from 2017

shows a figure of approximately US\$ 300 million which is not a true reflection of India's investment in Zimbabwe as the data shows only fresh investments. All other investments coming through acquisition, liquidation, joint venture etc are not routed through ZIA. Indian companies have made investments mainly in the food processing sector, pharmaceuticals and agro-processing industries.

Varun Beverages (Zimbabwe) Ltd, a Joint Venture of Varun Beverages (India [a part of RJ Corp] and a local company, Glaciem Pvt Ltd [Zimbabwe's second biggest beverage maker] intends to increase its investment from US\$50 million to US\$150 million in the next three years to meet growing demand for its beverages. **Surface Wilmar (Pvt) Ltd**, a JV between Midex Global Pvt Ltd, Indore and Industrial Development Corporation of Zimbabwe, is the largest cooking oil manufacturer in Southern Africa with an investment of US\$100 million. **ZimGold** – Indian investor in the edible oil sector with the brand name, ZimGold has invested around US\$100 million. **Raha Cooking Oil** –another Indian investment in the cooking oil sector processing sector, with its plants in Norton, commissioned in 2018.

There are several mining companies operating in Zimbabwe whose investment figure is not possible to work out. Beginning of 2018 onwards, many more Indian mining companies have shown interest in Zimbabwe and are in the process of setting up their business. Some of them intend to invest much more in the coming few years. In health Sector, Sharda Group of Hospital has been awarded to run a Hospital in Bulawayo province, the second largest city in Zimbabwe. Apollo is also keenly looking to be the technical partner of the private hospitals in Harare.

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 signed an agreement in 1981 which facilitated cultural exchange programmes for the years 1992 to 1994; but due lack of capacity to reciprocate on the part of Zimbabwe, cultural interaction has become somewhat unidirectional. The Govt. of India sponsored the visit of a 14-member delegation to participate in the Surajkund International Crafts Mela held in February 2019. In the past, several music and dance troupes from India visited Zimbabwe and performed in prestigious festivals.

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.

The 3rd edition of 'India in the Sunshine City Festival' was organized from 6-16 September 2018 by the Mission in association with Zimbabwe Ministry of Youth, Sports Arts & Recreation and M/s Team Work Arts, India. The festival was a bouquet of India's rich heritage which included Bollywood, music, dance, theatre, yoga and food. Several workshops including local artists were also conducted. The festival has now become a part of the cultural landscape of Harare City.

As part of celebration of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Mission in collaboration with Ministry of Youth, Sports, Arts and Recreation, Sports & Recreation

Commission, National Athletics Association of Zimbabwe and the Hindoo Society organised a 'Mahatma Gandhi Run for Peace and Harmony on October 7, 2018.

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 the then Southern Rhodesia. At present the number of Zimbabweans of Indian origin, who are predominantly from the province of Gujarat, is estimated at about 9,000. The community has formed societies on religious lines, though they live in harmony. This PIO community has mainly engaged itself in retail trade or export-import business, while the younger generations have mostly moved out of the country for better opportunities as professionals. A few hundred PIOs hold British/Australian passports. As regards the expatriate Indian community, their number is 500. Some of them are on long term business/work permits while most are professionals engaged in computer software, accountancy, banking, etc.

By and large, the Indian community is well respected in Zimbabwe and has maintained cordial relations with the majority community. Senator K. G. Patel was a member of the Politburo and Central Committee of the ruling party, he died in 2011 and was given Hero's status in 2012. Mr. Bharat Patel is a Supreme Court Judge, Justice (Retd.) Justice Ahmed Ebrahim was awarded Pravasi Bhartiya Samman in 2004. Justice Bharat Patel, a PIO and High Court Judge, was appointed the judge of the Supreme Court of Zimbabwe in May 2013. Mr Raj Modi who was elected as ZANU-PF Member of Parliament from Bulawayo South has been appointed as Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce in September 2018. The Embassy successfully organized the First Indian Diaspora Convention on March 31, 2019 in Harare.

Useful Resources:

For more information and latest updates please visit

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

Embassy of India, Harare Facebook page: <https://facebook.com/embindia.harare>, [Twitter handle: @IndiainZimbabwe](https://twitter.com/IndiainZimbabwe).

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