

India-Eswatini Bilateral Relations

India's relations with Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) are close, friendly and cordial. Bilateral relations between India and Eswatini have been established in 1970. The first resident Indian Mission in Mbabane started functioning from 13 August 2019. Before that, High Commission of India, Maputo was accredited to the Kingdom of Eswatini. Eswatini's Resident Mission in India was opened in December 2025 and is headed by a Charge d' Affaires a.i.. Presently, High Commissioner of Eswatini to Malaysia, resident in Kuala Lumpur, is accredited to India. Shri N. Ram Prasad, High Commissioner of India to Eswatini assumed charge on 01 August 2023.

Recent high level Exchange of visits:

From Eswatini

HMK Mswati-III visits to India: His Majesty King Mswati III visited India first in October, 2015 to attend the 3rd India Africa Summit (IAFS-III) and called on the President and Prime Minister which helped to advance India's profile and presence in the Kingdom of Eswatini. His Majesty again visited India in March 2017 as a Guest of Honour for the CII-EXIM Bank Conclave and was hosted by the President. This visit of His Majesty gave further momentum to India's commercial and cultural profile in Eswatini. Earlier, His Majesty also attended the 2nd India-Africa Summit (IAFS-II) held at Addis Ababa in May 2011, and met with the then Prime Minister, Shri Manmohan Singh on the sidelines.

Visit of Minister of Natural Resources & Energy: Minister of Natural Resources and Energy of the Kingdom of Eswatini, Senator Peter Bhembe, with a three-member delegation consisting of the Managing Director of Eswatini Electricity Company, Acting Chief Geologist and Chief Mining Engineer, visited Delhi, Kolkata and Ahmedabad to study iron and steel production units in India in November 2019.

16th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave: Minister of Finance Neal Rijkenberg and Minister of Natural Resources & Energy Senator Peter Bhembe of the Kingdom of Eswatini participated in the virtual 16th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave held on 13-15 July 2021 and spoke on "Harnessing the Africa-India Opportunity: Connect, Create and Collaborate" and "Propelling Africa's thrust to achieve sustainable energy security" respectively.

Ministerial participation at ISA Meeting: On 26 August 2021, Minister of Natural Resources & Energy of the Kingdom of Eswatini Senator Peter Bhembe participated virtually in the Africa Regional Committee Meeting of the International Solar Alliance.

Eswatini delegation to 12th Edition of DefExpo 2022: HRH Prince Sicalo Nkopolo Dlamini, Principal Secretary, M/o National Defence & Security led Eswatini delegation at the 12th Edition of DefExpo 2022 held in Gandhinagar on 18-22 Oct 2022. His delegation included UEDF Commander (General Mashikilisane Moses Fakudze and three other officials. On the sidelines of DefExpo 2022, Eswatini delegation took part in the India-Africa Defence Dialogue and confirmed their approval for the Gandhinagar Declaration.

Visit of Minister of Education: Minister of Education Lady Howard Mabuza visited India to participate at the valedictory ceremony of the India-UNESCO-Africa Hackathon held on 22-25 Nov 2022. As many as 11 students and one coordinator from Eswatini took part in the Hackathon.

Visit of Eswatini Minister of Economic Planning & Development: Dr. Tambo Gina, Minister of Economic Planning & Development led a three-member Eswatini delegation for the met the 18th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave held on 14-16 June 2023 in New Delhi. In addition to participation in the Conclave, he met Secretary (ER) in the Ministry of External Affairs on 14 Jun 2023. He also met senior officials of EXIM Bank of India on the sidelines of the Conclave.

Eswatini Minister of Tourism & Environmental Affairs participates at VOGSS 2.0 Ministerial: Ms. Jane Mkhonta, Minister of Tourism & Environmental Affairs of the Kingdom of Eswatini participated in the Ministerial session of the Environment Ministers pertaining to the 2nd Voice of Global South Summit 2023 held virtually on 17 November 2023.

Visit of Eswatini Minister for Economic Development: Dr Tambo Gina attended the 19th CII India-Africa Business Conclave from 22-24 August 2024 at New Delhi.

Eswatini Minister of Finance, Hon. Neal Rijkerberg, participated at virtual meeting of Fiance Ministers' Session of VOGSS 3.0, chaired by the Finance Minister of India on 17th August 2024.

Eswatini Minister of health, Hon Mduduzi Matsebula participated in the International Health dialogue held in New Delhi from February 22-24, 2025.

Eswatini Agriculture Minister Hon Mandla Tshawuka visited New Delhi for the AARDO conference in February 2025.

Eswatini Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Hon Pholile Shakantu and her delegation participated in the first ever WAVES Summit held in Mumbai from 01-14 May 2025.

Eswatini Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Hon. Ms. Jane M. Mkhonto Simelane attended the first Assembly of International Big Cat Alliance held in New Delhi on 16 June 2025.

Eswatini Minister of Information, Communication and Technology Hon. Savannah Maziya and her delegation participated in the 20th edition of CII India Africa Business Conclave in New Delhi from 27-29 August 2025.

Minister for Natural Resources and Energy HRH Prince Lonkikhela visited India from 27-30 October 2025 to attend the eighth session of the International Solar Alliance Assembly in New Delhi and also to explore electric mobility policy.

From India

Visit of Speaker, Lok Sabha: In May 2010, former Speaker of Lok Sabha, Smt. Meira Kumar, visited Eswatini to attend the Mid-year Executive Meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA). During the visit, she also called on King Mswati III and the Prime Minister of Eswatini.

Visit of MOS, M/o External Affairs: Smt. Praneet Kaur, then MoS for External Affairs in 2011, visited Eswatini as PM's Envoy to invite the King to the IAFS-II held in Addis Ababa.

Visit of MOS, M/o Culture, Tourism & Civil Aviation: Dr. Mahesh Sharma, MoS for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation visited Eswatini in July 2015, as a Special Envoy of the Prime Minister to invite King Mswati III to the IAFS-III held in New Delhi in October 2015.

Visit of Hon'ble President of India: On 09-10 April 2018, Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, accompanied by the First Lady and a large delegation visited the Kingdom of Eswatini. During the visit, the President addressed a Joint Session of the Eswatini Parliament and conveyed Government of India's decision to open a resident Indian Diplomatic Mission in Eswatini. He was also conferred the highest honour of Eswatini, 'the Order of the Lion'. During the visit, the President witnessed the signing of MoU on Cooperation in Health Sector and an Agreement for exemption of visas for holders of diplomatic/service passports. The President also inaugurated the Royal Science & Technology Project, built with the Government of India Line of Credit of US\$ 20 million.

Visit of Minister of State for External Affairs and Textiles: Minister of State for External Affairs and Textiles, Shri Pabitra Margherita paid a visit to the Kingdom during 17-20 July 2025. During his visit he called on His Majesty King Mswati-III on 17 July 2025. He had a meeting with all the Cabinet Ministers including Russell Mmiso Dlamini, Hon. Prime

Minister of the Kingdom of Eswatini on 18 July 2025. He also visited the Royal Science and Technology Park in the Kingdom of Eswatini, built with a Government of India Line of Credit worth US\$20 million.

Recent Bilateral Consultations

In August 2017, bilateral consultations between the two countries were held in Mbabane. The Indian side was led by Dr. Neena Malhotra, Joint Secretary (E&SA).

The Second India-Eswatini Foreign Office Consultations were held in Mbabane on 19 Feb 2024. Mr. Puneet R. Kundal, Additional Secretary (East & Southern Africa), Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi and Mr. Nthangase Sizwe Newman Nthangase, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation of Eswatini were the Co-Chairs.

The first meeting of the JWG on Health Cooperation was held in virtual mode on 13th June 2024. The Indian side was led by Ms V. Hekali Zhimomi, Additional Secretary, M/o Health & Family Welfare and Eswatini side was presented by Dr V. Okello, Director, Health Services.

India donated sports equipment and apparel worth Emalengeni 84320/- (equivalent to Rs 4,04,025) to Eswatini for the SACU/SADC games.

High Commissioner, Mr N. Ram Prasad and Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Hon Appolo Maphalala signed the lease deed for the plot of land gifted by His Majesty King Mswati-III for construction of Chancery of the High Commission of India in Mbabane in December 2024.

High Commission organised the first ever Indian Film Festival in the Kingdom of Eswatini in 2024-25. The Senate President, HE Ms Lindiwe Dlamini inaugurated the film festival.

Multilateral: The two countries hold identical views on many regional, international and multilateral issues. Eswatini continues to support India and its candidature at various International Fora. Eswatini supported India for the non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council for the period 2021-2022. The Kingdom of Eswatini signed the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement in July 2021. Ratification of the same is awaited by the Parliament of Eswatini.

Bilateral Agreements/MOUs: (i) Trade Agreement - A bilateral Trade Agreement was signed by India and Eswatini in April 2002; (ii) MOU in the field of Health & Medicine - During the visit of Rashtrapati ji in April 2018, India and Eswatini signed a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine; and (iii) Visa Waiver Agreement - During the visit of Rashtrapati ji in April 2018, India and Eswatini signed a visa

waiver agreement for diplomatic and official passport holders of both countries. A protocol for including 'Service Passport' of the Kingdom of Eswatini in India-Eswatini visa waiver agreement has been agreed between the two countries and the same has been implemented w.e.f. 15 Nov 2023, (iv) Eswatini has formally joined the International Big Cat Alliance (IBSA) by signed the Framework Agreement on 31 July 2024. .

India's Development Partnership with Eswatini: Agreements for two Lines of Credit for US\$108.28 million for construction of Eswatini Parliament Building and US\$10.4 million for establishment of a Disaster Recovery Site for the National Data Center at the Royal Science and Technology Park (RSTP) were signed in June 2021. RSTP itself was constructed with a Line of Credit of US\$20 million and the same was inaugurated during the visit of Rashtrapati ji in April 2018. An Agriculture Development and Mechanization Project under US\$ 37.9 million LOC was completed earlier, which resulted in improving the maize productivity of Eswatini by multiple times.

Grant assistance: During State visit of Hon'ble President of India in April 2018, India gave a cash grant of US\$1 million to the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA). An in-kind donation of 700 tons of rice and 300 tons of beans was also made to NDMA. Medicines and medical equipment worth US\$ 3 million were granted. A grant assistance of US\$ 400,000 for construction of irrigation infrastructure in Lubuyane in the Hhohho region was also announced, which has since been completed. It helped the local farmers overcome from subsistence to commercial farming. The First Lady Mrs. Savita Kovind made a donation of 500 blankets to the Philani Maswati Foundation and the Khulisa Umntfwana Project, two charitable initiatives patronized by Her Majesty Queen Mother. India donated medicines worth Rs. 10 million on 26 June 2020. India was the first ever country to have donated 20,000 doses of Covishield/Covaxin vaccines to Eswatini on 11 March 2021 at a time most of the developed world was hoarding vaccines to cater to their own requirements. Under an MOU to strengthen bilateral cooperation in computer-aided education of children at elementary-level, three Hole-in-Wall Learning Stations were established. A total of 200 solar lamps provided by IIT Mumbai for school children in Eswatini for assembly and distribution were delivered to the school children from Sithobela on 27 February 2020. In December 2020, the Board of Directors of the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Trust Fund) has approved the proposal of the Kingdom of Eswatini titled "Addressing Water, Health and Poverty Nexus through WASH initiatives for Covid19 and Climate Change responses in Eswatini to receive funding to the tune of US\$ 999,350/-.

PCFD: Ms. Nomfanelo Simelane, Protocol Officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation, participated in the 69th Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (69th PCFD from 03-28 Oct 2022). Mr. Muzi Goodboy Dlamini, Protocol Officer

at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation, participated in the 70th Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (70th PCFD from 13-31 Mar 2023). With this, in all, there are 11 Eswatini officers took part in Ministry of External Affairs' PCFD course so far.

eITEC/ITEC: In April 2018, during his visit, Hon'ble Rashtrapatiji announced an increase of ITEC slots from 30 to 50. This was increased to 70 from the year 2025-26. As many as 166 emaSwati participated in 09 eITEC courses during Covid19 time. Out of these 09 training courses, 06 were exclusive to Eswatini. More than 400 Emaswati government officials have benefitted from the ITEC programme so far. Several UEDF officers have taken advantage of the defence training opportunities offered under ITEC and as awareness of the programme has spread, we have seen increasing participation every year.

ICCR Africa Scholarship Scheme: Since Academic year 2026-27, 40 ICCR slots have been allocated to Eswatini students.

Trade and commerce: India has a Trade Agreement with Eswatini since 2002 whereby both the countries have granted Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to each other.

Import-export: Figures in US\$ million (Source: Dept. of Commerce, GOI):

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26*
India's total exports to Eswatini							
Pharmaceuticals, distillate fuel, fertilizers and machinery and mechanical parts etc.	18.57	24.32	26.82	14.98	21.30	18.57	8.09
India's total imports from Eswatini							
Organic Chemicals etc.	7.03	50.87	234.98	4.92	18.91	33.61	6.97

***Data upto November 2025**

WAPCOS Limited, a Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India bagged a contract worth E3.2m (equivalent to US\$197,875) for consultancy services to carry out technical feasibility studies and detailed designs for the proposed northeastern grid reinforcement project of the Eswatini Electricity Company in December

2020. WAPCOS has been on the forefront of various developmental projects in Eswatini. It provided Project Management Consultancy services to many key projects of Eswatini. WAPCOS operations in Eswatini have seen prolific growth rapidly expanding its presence in recent times in sectors like Water, Power and Infrastructure.

Idam Infra, an ISO-certified Indian company with 14 years of professional experience in power/energy sector won a contract worth E855,000 (equivalent to US\$55,000) from the Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority (ESERA) for development of regulatory framework for Mini-Grids and Off-Grid Electricity Supply. With the help of their local partners, they have successfully completed the work during June-December 2021.

Cultural/Sports Cooperation

Surajkund Mela – A 20-member Eswatini delegation consisting of artisans, cultural troupe and potential buyers participate annually in the the Surajkund Mela.

International Tribal Dance Festival, Raipur – An 8-member Eswatini team took part in the International Tribal Dance Festival held at Raipur, Chhattisgarh on 28-30 Oct 2021.

India@75 Cricket Tournament – HCI Mbabane sponsored a cricket tournament held on 06 Feb to 24 Apr 2022, as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations in the Kingdom of Eswatini.

Deepavali Bazaars are organised regularly in collaboration with local bodies like Investment Promotion Authority and Municipal councils. These events created awareness and enthusiasm in the handicrafts and businesses of both Eswatini and India.

Chess – Eswatini team participated in the Chess Olympiad 2022 at Chennai and made some small but impressive beginnings.

Visit of Manipuri Dance Group – A 12-member Manipuri Dance Group from the Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy, Imphal visited the Kingdom of Eswatini under the aegis of ICCR from 29 Aug to 02 Sep 2022. An exclusive performance was organized for the Royal Family and two performances were held for the public.

India Day - High Commission of India annually celebrates India Day in conjunction with Mbabane Day. Now, India Day is a significant event that honours the strong and enduring friendship between India and Eswatini and is being celebrated with great vigour by the High Commission in collaboration with the Mbabane Municipal Council. Interalia, the event showcases the extensive collaboration between India and the Eswtini in the field of commerce, education, culture and development partnerships.

India Corners: As part of outreach activities, HCI Mbabane has set up India Corners at the National Libraries of Eswatini at Mbabane and Manzini. These India Corners are equipped

with computer hardware, internet connectivity, digital content and several books received from the Public Diplomacy Division of the Ministry of External Affairs, including a set each of 'Bharat Ek Parichay'. High Commission also established mini India Corners at (i) the University of Eswatini in Kwaluseni, (ii) Sifundzani High School in Mbabane, (iii) Good Shepherd College of Health Sciences, (iv) Purity High School in Siteki, (v) Woodlands High School in Mbabane, (vi) Matsanjeni Community High School, Lavumisa and (vii) Waterford Kamhlaba High School by donating books to their respective libraries.

Indian community: There is about a 3000-strong Indian community in Eswatini consisting of Indian-origin and Indian nationals. About 90 per cent of Indians community in Eswatini are from the State of Gujarat. Most of them are living in Eswatini since early 2000s. A few of them have migrated from South Africa over a period of time, having earlier settled there during colonial times. Most of the remaining diaspora members are from States like Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. While most of the Gujarati community members are relatively rich and well off compared to native population. Most of the supermarkets and businesses are owned/operated by them. A small section of other diaspora members are working in the Government departments and engaged in various other professions like practicing doctors, Professors/Lecturers/Teachers.

April 2026