

India-Uganda Bilateral Brief

Political Relations

India and Uganda share historical relations spanning over a century. Indians first came to Uganda at the beginning of the 20th century. India's freedom struggle inspired the early Ugandan activists to fight colonisation, and eventually, Uganda achieved freedom in 1962. India established its diplomatic presence in Uganda in 1965. During the reign of President Amin in the early 70's, around 60,000 Indians/PIOs were expelled. However, after coming into power in 1986, President General Yoweri Kaguta Museveni invited them back. Several progressive steps, like restoring properties seized from PIOs, encouraged many of those Indians to come back and make a fresh start. Relations between India and Uganda, over the years, have acquired a greater depth and breadth in areas such as political, defence, economic, commercial, cultural, education, health and tourism, to name a few.

Visits: High-Level visits (From India)

- i. The Hon'ble Vice-President of India visited Uganda in February 2017.
- ii. At the invitation of the President of Uganda, Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi undertook a State visit to Uganda in July 2018.
- iii. Hon'ble Speaker Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla, led an 84-member delegation to attend the 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held from 22-29 September 2019. The Indian delegation comprised MPs from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, the Secretary General of Lok Sabha, officers and Speakers/Dy. Speakers and MLAs from 25 State Legislative Assemblies.
- iv. Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan, visited Uganda for three days from 11-13 November 2021.
- v. Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, Dr. S. Jaishankar, paid an official visit to Uganda from 10-12 April 2023. During the visit, EAM called on the President of the Republic of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and held bilateral discussions with his counterpart Foreign Affairs Minister Gen Jeje Odongo and also met Minister of Water and Environment Sam Manghuso Chaptoris, Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs Vincent Ssempijja & Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives Mwebesa Francis. EAM also had interaction with the Indian business community to enhance business ties between India and Uganda. A G2G MOU was also signed with Uganda on 12 April 2023 for setting up of the first overseas campus of NFSU in Jinja, Uganda.
- vi. A high-level delegation led by Hon'ble Dy. Chairman, RS, Shri Harivansh, visited Uganda to attend the 27th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) held in Kampala from 3-6 January 2024.

- vii. Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, along with a high-level delegation, attended the Ministerial Meeting during the XIX Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and 3rd South-South Summits held in Kampala from 17 to 18 January 2024.
- viii. Hon'ble External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar, along with a high-level delegation, paid an official visit to Kampala for the NAM Heads of State and Government meeting from 19 to 20 January 2024. On the sidelines of NAM meetings, EAM held several bilateral meetings with his counterparts.
- ix. Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. V. Muraleedharan, along with a high-level delegation, participated in the G77/3rd South South Summit from 21 to 22 January 2024 in Kampala.
- x. Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Environment Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh, along with a high-level delegation paid an official visit to Uganda from 15–17 October 2025 to participate in the 19th NAM Mid-term Ministerial Meeting held in Kampala. MoS held call on Uganda's President General Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and also held bilateral meetings with Ugandan Foreign Minister Hon. (Gen.) Jeje Odongo and Minister of State for Environment Hon. Beatrice Atim Anywar. Delegation also include Secretary (West) Shri Sibi George who led India in the Senior Officials' Meeting (13–14 Oct).

High-Level Visits (From Uganda)

- i. Ugandan President Gen Yoweri Kaguta Museveni visited India twice on State Visits (October 1992 and April 2008), and once officially in October 2015 to attend the 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit. He has visited India four times in a private capacity.
- ii. Mr. Edward Ssekandi, Vice President of Uganda, attended the 9th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave held in New Delhi in March 2013. He again visited India in March 2018 to participate in the 13th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership in Delhi, where Uganda was a guest country. He also travelled to Mumbai to address the Uganda-India Investment Conference. He also met the Vice-President of India.
- iii. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of Uganda visited India in March 2017 to attend the CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership. He also called on the President and the Vice-President.
- iv. Henry Oryem Okello, Minister of State for International Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uganda, visited India to participate in the Africa Day celebrations during the Vibrant Gujarat Summit held in January 2019 in Ahmedabad.
- v. Energy Minister Irene Muloni participated in the PETROTECH-2019 held in New Delhi in February 2019.

- vi. Minister of Health Jane Ruth Aceng attended the Preparatory Meeting of the Global Fund Sixth Replenishment 2020-2022 held in New Delhi in February 2019.
- vii. Aggreu Bagiire Henry, Minister of Works and Transport of Uganda, visited India to participate in the 14th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave in March 2019.
- viii. Minister of State for Energy Hon'ble Simon D'Jang represented Uganda in the Second General Assembly of ISA held on 30-31 October 2019 in New Delhi.
- ix. Minister of Defence of Uganda Adolf Mwesige, and senior officers from the Ugandan Defence Forces visited India in February 2020 to attend the Defexpo and the India-Africa Defence Ministers Meet.
- x. A defence delegation led by Hon'ble Vincent Bamulangaki Ssempijja, Minister of Defence & Veteran Affairs, visited India in August 2022 to attend the first convocation ceremony of NFSU, Gandhinagar, Gujarat. During the visit, NFSU and the Ministry of Defence of Uganda signed an MoU to open NFSU's campus in Uganda.
- xi. A defence delegation led by Hon. Oleru Huda Abason, Minister of State for Defence and Veterans Affairs, participated in the DefExpo-2022 and India-Africa Defence Dialogue in October 2022.
- xii. Uganda Minister of State for Primary Education, along with the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, participated in the UNESCO-India-Africa (UIA) Hackathon held in Greater Noida, India, on 25 November 2022. The Minister attended the prize distribution ceremony as a special guest on behalf of the First Lady and the Minister of Education.
- xiii. Hon'ble Marksons Jacob Oboth, Minister of State for Defence and Veteran Affairs, accompanied by several senior officials of the Uganda Government, participated in the Aero India 2023 and SPEED Defence Minister's conclave held from 13-17 February 2023 at Yelahanka, Bengaluru, India.
- xiv. H.E. Francis Mwebesa, Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, and Hon. Evelyn Anite, Minister of State for Investment and Privatisation, Republic of Uganda, participated in the 20th CII India-Africa Business Conclave, scheduled from 27-29 August 2025 in New Delhi, India. Minister of Trade Shared his vision on Uganda's trade and industrial development, strengthening India-Africa trade ties and unlocking opportunities for businesses across sectors. and Minister of Finance shared her outlook on public-private collaboration between India and Africa, business synergies and sustainable investment.
- xv. H.E. John Mulimba, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, visited India and attended a reception on 28 November 2025 hosted by the Uganda High Commission in New Delhi to celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of Uganda-India Diplomatic Relations, in conjunction with Uganda's 63rd Independence Day.
- xvi. H.E. Amos Lugoloobi, Ministry of State for Finance, visited India and attended 2025 Global Forum Plenary Meeting on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes from 2-4 December 2025 in New Delhi. He was accompanied by

Uganda Revenue Authority Commissioner General John Musinguzi. Uganda has been selected to host the next Global Forum Plenary Meeting on Automatic Exchange of Information.

xvii. H.E. Dr. Chris Baryomunsi, Minister of ICT and National Guidance, visited India from 18-21 February 2026 to participate in AI Impact Summit 2026.

Voice of Global South Summits (VOGSS)

i. On 12th January 2023, Hon'ble Oryem Henry Okello, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (International Affairs), participated in the deliberations of the Foreign Ministers' Session of Voice of the South Summit hosted by Sh. S. Jaishankar, Hon'ble External Affairs Minister of India.

ii. Hon'ble Henry Musasizi, Minister of State for Finance, Planning and Economic Development (General Duties), participated in the deliberations of the Finance Ministers' Session of the 2nd Voice of the Global South Summit (2nd VOGSS) held virtually on 17 Nov 2023.

iii. The third Voice of Global South Summit (3rd VOGSS) was held virtually on 17 August 2024. Uganda participated in the Health Ministers' Session with the theme "One World-One Health", wherein Hon. Margaret Muhanga, MOS for Health (Primary Health Care), attended the Summit. In the Finance Ministers' session on "People-Centric Approach to Global Finance" in the 3rd VOGSS, Hon. Henry Musasizi, MOS for Finance (General Duties), participated.

Bilateral Cooperation & Assistance

i. Till date, two Foreign Office Consultations between India and Uganda have been held- on 30 April 2018 in Kampala & on 22 Nov 2022 in New Delhi- where issues of bilateral, regional and global importance were discussed.

ii. During the visit of PM of India to Uganda in July 2018, MoUs/Agreements on bilateral defence cooperation, exemption from visa requirement for official and diplomatic passport holders, Cultural Exchange programme and establishment of the Regional Material Laboratory in Uganda were signed.

iii. NCERT books announced during the PM visit were handed over in October 2019. The radiotherapy machine was commissioned at Mulago Hospital in February 2020. 44 utility vehicles for civilian use were handed over to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in March 2020. 36 military vehicles were handed over to UPDF in August 2020. Twenty laptops were handed over in August 2020, and four SUVs (Mahindra XUV) in December 2020 to the Ministry of East African Community Affairs.

iv. India donated 1 lakh HCQ tablets and 1 lakh Paracetamol tablets to Uganda in May 2020 to assist in fighting COVID-19. Govt. of India (GoI) also sent a consignment of medicines, consisting of 521 cartons, in August 2020. India also gifted 1 lakh Covishield vaccines to Uganda in March 2021.

v. The 2nd phase of the Pan-Africa e-network project has been launched by the GoI in Uganda. A university and a hospital have been identified for e-VBAB. Online courses by the partner universities in India have been started from the Academic Year 2020-21 under e-Vidya Bharati. Last enrolment was done in the year 2023, and it has been stopped after that. However, students enrolled in 2023 have been allowed to complete their courses.

vi. Launching of Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Indian Affairs. Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Indian Affairs was jointly launched on 3rd August 2022 by Rt. Hon. Anita Annet Among, Speaker, Parliament of Uganda and H.E. A. Ajay Kumar, High Commissioner of India, in the presence of Hon. Fred Opolot, MP, Chairman of the Forum. The forum enables continuous dialogue and enhanced cooperation among Parliamentarians of both countries.

vii. On 28th August 2022, NFSU, Gandhinagar, and the Ministry of Defence of Uganda signed an MoU to open NFSU's foreign campus in Uganda. Govt. of Uganda has earmarked 130 acres of land at Jinja for the permanent campus of National Forensic Science University (NFSU), which was inaugurated by EAM on 12 April 2023 during his visit to Uganda. The University has already started its operations in March 2024 and started its inaugural Academic Session (2025-26) on 2nd October 2025 by launching 4 programs – two Master's degree and two P.G. Diploma programs in the areas of Forensic Sciences, Homeland Security and Cyber Security & Digital Forensics.

viii. India also organised a special capacity-building course at SSIFS for 25-30 Ugandan diplomats between 12-23 June 2023, as offered during the Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) meeting held in New Delhi in November 2022. All expenditure on travel, stay, etc., was borne by the GOI.

Assistance for NAM Summit

GOI gifted 10 executive buses, 5 ambulances, 10 tractors and 2,664 flags (outdoor, conference, table & car flags) of NAM member States/Observer countries for the NAM Summit to Uganda as Grant-in-Aid. 10 trailers for the tractors were also gifted subsequently.

Defence Cooperation

i. An Indian Military Advisory & Training Team led by a Brigadier-level officer and assisted by two Colonels and one Group Captain is stationed at Uganda's Senior Command and Staff College (SCSC), Kimaka, since February 2010 to impart training to the senior officers of the Ugandan armed forces and select officers from East African countries. The present team, seventh since inception, joined in July 2025.

- ii. Uganda participated in the Indian Defence Expo 2022 & India Africa Defence Dialogue. Minister of State for Defence, Hon. Huda Abason Oleru, led the Ugandan delegation.
- iii. Uganda's participated in second edition of Africa-India Joint Military Exercise (AFINDEX) conducted from 21-29 March 2023, in which 24 African militaries participated in the event. The Chairman, National Enterprise Corporation (NEC) represented the Chief of Defence Forces, UPDF, at the Chief's Conclave.
- iv. GOI offers more than 50 training courses to Uganda's defence personnel under ITEC every year. For the training year 2025-26, 85 slots have been allotted in various Indian Army institutes and Indian Air Force institutes.
- v. A 15-member team of National Defence College (NDC) Uganda visited India from 27-31 May 2024.

Commercial Relations

a. **Annual Bilateral Trade Statistics (Value in US \$ Million) as per Ministry of Commerce, GOI**

Year	Exports from India to Uganda	Imports from Uganda to India	Total Trade
2019	576.62	31.17	607.79
2020	655.73	35.40	691.13
2021	694.56	57.49	752.05
2022	596.14	464.08	1058.22
2023	819.61	534.17	1353.78
2024	406.64	464.25	870.89
2025	421.82	42.07	463.89

b. Uganda is a beneficiary of Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme of India for Least Developed Countries. Major items of Indian exports to Uganda include pharmaceutical products, vehicles, plastic, paper and paperboard, and organic chemicals. Major commodities of imports from Uganda to India are edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers, coffee, tea, mate and spices, wood and articles of wood, wood charcoal, cotton, essential oils, and cocoa and cocoa preparation. Regular engagement between the private sectors in India and Uganda has deepened the involvement of Indian businesses in Uganda. A Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between India and Uganda has been in effect since 2004.

c. A 33-member business delegation led by Shri Dammu Ravi, Secretary (ER), MEA, visited Uganda from 08-10 April 2024. During the visit, a B2B meeting and a business conclave were organised, which were attended by the Uganda Agriculture Minister, MOS (Finance-Investments), Uganda's senior government

officials, prominent business houses/industrialists and Uganda & India's trade bodies.

d. Two-member team from Uganda's Ministry of Health & National Drug Authority visited India to attend the 'Policy Makers Forum' from 19-22 August 2024. The visit was fruitful, and the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) assisted the delegates in understanding India's drug quality, safety control regime, benefits associated with recognition of the Indian Pharmacopoeia and India's private sector capabilities in pharmaceutical production. The matter is being pursued with Uganda's Health authorities for considering its recognition.

e. An 18-member delegation from Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) visited Uganda from 22-23 October 2024: CII, in partnership with Equity Bank, brought an 18-member delegation to Uganda for an event 'India-Uganda Trade Mission' organised at Serena Hotel, Kampala, on 22-23 October 2024. The trade mission was attended by the Vice President of Tata Motors, the CEOs of Aptech, Ashok Leyland, and Airtel. The discussions were focused on expanding bilateral trade between Uganda and India and exploring opportunities for investment and collaboration with Ugandan businesses.

f. High Commission organised 'India Trade Show & Exhibition' on 20 March 2025 at Kabira Country Club, Kampala. 17 companies importing goods from India showcased their products. Kampala City Traders Association (KACITA), Uganda Manufacturers' Association (UMA) and Senior officers from M/o Trade attended the event. Uganda's Minister of State for Trade Gen. Wilson Mbasu Mbadi, was the Chief Guest at the event.

g. The 3rd meeting of the India-Uganda Joint Trade Committee (JTC) was held in New Delhi on 25-26 March 2025, wherein issues of bilateral interest for enhancing the trade cooperation and investment were discussed.

h. Hon. Francis Mwebesa, Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, and Hon. Evelyn Anite, Minister of State for Investment and Privatisation, Republic of Uganda, participated in the 20th CII India-Africa Business Conclave, from 27-29 August 2025 in New Delhi, India.

i. High Commission organised a 'India-Uganda Policy Dialogue on "Bilateral Relations: Opportunities for Trade, Investment & Collaboration"' in partnership with the prestigious Economic Policy & Research Centre (EPRC) and IBF Uganda in Kampala on 02 October 2025.

j. A multi-sectoral business delegation led by FIEO visited Uganda on 02-03 October 2025. The delegation participated in the policy dialogue. High Commission & IBF Uganda organised many B2B meetings, providing a platform to visiting companies to engage with Ugandan companies and explore business opportunities.

k. A UK-India Multi-Sector Trade & Investment Mission visited Uganda from 19-25 February 2026 which included delegation from the South Asian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SACCI) and Westminster Africa Business Association Ltd

(WABA). The SACCI delegation, led by Mahendrasinh C. Jadeja. included 15 Indian businessmen. The High Commission facilitated a Networking Meeting for the delegation on 19 February 2026. During the visit, President Yoweri Museveni hosted a lunch for the delegation, which was also attended by the High Commissioner. Separately, Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja also hosted a dinner for the delegates.

1. Around 35 Indian companies participated in the 5th Edition of Uganda Pharma & Healthcare Expo held in Kampala from 26-28 March 2026.

Scholarships and capacity-building training programmes

India is seen as a destination for quality and affordable education by Ugandans. The Government of India offers scholarships and fellowships to Ugandans from the Government and private sector to enable them to pursue undergraduate, post-graduate and research courses in India. Training courses in highly specialised areas are also conducted.

An estimated 1200 Ugandan students are presently studying in Indian universities. Over the years, hundreds of Ugandans have studied in Indian colleges and universities, including many Ugandan Ministers and high-ranking Government officials. An APTECH franchise and ISBAT University in Kampala have brought Indian education even closer to Ugandans.

An education delegation, "Study-in-India" Team, comprising around 25 members from Education Consultants India Limited [EdCIL], along with representatives of 11 key Universities in India, visited Kampala from 02 May 2024. The main purpose of the visit was to conduct an Educational Fair in Kampala on 02 May 2024, and to promote Indian Higher Education in Uganda.

Every year, 32 Ugandan nationals are selected for full-time scholarships under the Indian Council for Cultural Relations for pursuing undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral studies at various Indian universities. Other than these, 200 plus slots have been allotted to Ugandan nationals for short-term/medium-term civilian & Defence Institutes under various ITEC programmes of the Ministry of External Affairs.

Indian diaspora

The Indian community presents the strongest and most durable economic and cultural links with Uganda. It is estimated that at present, there are approx. 35,000 Indians/PIOs living in Uganda, of whom the majority are Indian passport holders. The Indian Community is mainly concentrated in Kampala and in the town of Jinja. Indians and PIOs play a leading role in the Ugandan economy, especially in manufacturing, trade, agro-processing, banking, sugar, real estate, hotels, tourism and information technology. They employ thousands of Ugandans, and are

amongst the biggest taxpayers in the country. PIOs and NRIs are estimated to have invested over US\$1 billion in Uganda in the last two decades. Indian Nationals/PIOs, who constitute less than 0.1% of Uganda's population, contribute a major part of Uganda's direct taxes.

'Indian Association' and Indian Women Association are two pan Indian associations representing different states and the Indian diaspora. However, there are more than fifty other community associations representing different states and communities displaying the rich cultural diversity of the Indian diaspora. The High Commission closely works with all these associations.

'India Day', an annual feature, showcases Indian culture and attracts thousands of visitors. The event serves to bring together the Indian and Ugandan communities. The Indian Association organises cultural performances on this occasion, wherein popular artists from India are invited to perform. The Indian community engages in philanthropic activities in equal measure. Individuals and companies of PIOs regularly perform their share of social responsibility. A share of proceeds from various events mentioned above is donated to social causes in Uganda, including sponsoring heart surgeries of Ugandan children in India, assistance to the homeless, organising blood donation camps, etc.

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