

India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee (JTC)

27 – 28 April, 2026

Nairobi, Kenya



Press Release on 10th Session of India–Kenya Joint Trade Committee (JTC)

India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee Reviews Expanding Bilateral Cooperation across Key Sectors

The 10th Session of the India–Kenya Joint Trade Committee (JTC) meeting was held on 27 – 28 April, 2026 at Nairobi, Kenya to review and strengthen bilateral trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. The meeting was Co chaired by Shri Rajesh Agrawal, Commerce Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry from Indian side and Ms. Regina AkotahOmbam, Principal Secretary, State Department for Trade from Kenyan side. Both sides noted the steady growth in bilateral trade, with India emerging as one of Kenya’s key trading partners. The total trade between India and Kenya stood at USD 4.31 Bn. in 2025-26. It has increased by 24.91% from USD 3.45 Bn. in 2024-25. The discussions focused on enhancing trade diversification,

addressing market access issues, and leveraging complementarities in sectors such as engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, and electronics.

The Committee reviewed progress on ongoing trade facilitation initiatives, including the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) to promote cooperation in the areas of Standardization, and conformity assessment. An MoU between the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) and Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) for exchange of pre-arrival customs information was also signed. The importance of finalizing this agreement was emphasized to streamline customs procedures and improve ease of doing business.

Another MoU was signed between Confederation of Indian Industry & India Kenya Chamber of Commerce and Industry to promote trade, investment, and industry collaboration on the sidelines of India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee Meeting.

Both sides acknowledged the potential for promoting trade settlement in local currencies. It was noted that Kenyan banks have already opened Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs) with Indian banks, and greater utilization of this framework could facilitate smoother bilateral transactions. The possibility of adopting a Local Currency Settlement (LCS) mechanism was also discussed.

Sectoral cooperation in emerging areas was also deliberated. In the engineering and manufacturing sectors, the Indian side highlighted opportunities to expand exports of automobiles, machinery, and construction equipment through trade facilitation measures and participation in exhibitions such as Autoexpo Kenya and The Big 5 Construct Kenya. The JTC also explored collaboration in infrastructure development, including railways, where India offered support for feasibility studies, project management, and supply of rolling stock for Kenya's Standard Gauge Railway. In shipbuilding, opportunities for collaboration with Indian shipyards were discussed to strengthen Kenya's maritime capabilities.

In pharmaceuticals, India underscored its role as a global supplier of affordable generic medicines and medical devices, proposing greater business-to-business engagement to support Kenya's healthcare needs. Both sides also discussed enhancing trade in agricultural products while addressing sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) barriers.

In renewable energy, India expressed readiness to support Kenya's clean energy ambitions, including solar and wind projects. Kenyan side informed that

it has recently conveyed its decision to sign International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement and look forward to signing the framework agreement at the earliest. In digital public infrastructure, discussions covered collaboration on UPI-like payment systems, Bharat Connect, and digital platforms to enhance financial inclusion.

Capacity building emerged as a key pillar of cooperation. India offered training programmes in sectors such as mining, earth sciences, healthcare, and education under initiatives like ITEC. Collaboration in higher education, digital learning platforms, and skill development was also discussed, along with promoting student mobility under the “Study in India” programme.

The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to a more diversified, balanced and future-oriented economic partnership, and agreed to take forward institutional mechanisms to facilitate trade, resolve pending issues, and promote greater business-to-business engagement.

Coinciding with the 10th Session of India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee meeting in Nairobi, an India-Kenya Joint Business Forum was held with participation of leading Indian and Kenyan businesses, including representatives from Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI). Commerce Secretary of India and Principal Secretary for Trade of Kenya gave key-note addresses and were joined by Chairman of KNCCI and CEO of InvestKenya. Speakers from both sides emphasised the importance of closer industry collaboration in driving a more robust, diversified and future-oriented India-Kenya economic partnership. The Forum provided a platform for industry leaders to engage on expanding trade and investment linkages, strengthening value chains, and unlocking opportunities across sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, infrastructure, digital technologies and services.

On the sidelines of the 10th session of Joint Trade Committee, India-Kenya Chamber of Commerce organised an interaction with the local Indian business under the chairmanship of Shri Rajesh Agarwal, Commerce Secretary, Department of Commerce, Government of India. The interaction was attended by the local Indian business community and the accompanying CII Business delegation and deliberations covered various aspects of incentives and opportunities of doing business in Kenya and served as an experience sharing session for businesspersons from both sides.
