

India-Peru Relations

Political Relations

India established diplomatic relations with Peru in March 1963. Until 1969, the Indian Ambassador in Chile was concurrently accredited to Peru. In September 1969, India opened its resident Mission in Lima. The first resident Indian Ambassador in Lima took charge in November 1973. India-Peru relations have traditionally been cordial and friendly. Since early 2000s, the relationship has acquired more economic and business content leading to a Joint Study on Feasibility of a Trade Agreement. Trade negotiations are ongoing with five rounds and an online inter-sessional meeting held so far. The multifaceted bilateral cooperation cover a range of areas, including health & pharma, energy & mines, textiles & agriculture, science & technology, defence & space, ICT & capacity building, people to people contacts & culture. India and Peru cooperate closely on multilateral matters.

Recent VVIP/VIP visits from India to Peru: President Shri K. R. Narayanan (1998); EAM Shri Yashwant Sinha (2003); MoS Defence Rao Inderjit Singh (2006); MoS External Affairs Dr. Shashi Tharoor (2010); Minister for Housing, Urban Poverty Alleviation & Tourism Kumari Selja (2010); MoS (C&I) Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia (2010). Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari (2013); MoS Railways Shri Adhir Ranjan Choudhury (2014); MoS for Environment, Forests & Climate Change Shri Prakash Javadekar (for COP20 – December 2014); Minister for Small Scale & Minor Industries and Tourism of Karnataka, Shri R.V. Deshpande visited Peru for a roadshow Invest Karnataka (August 2015), Minister for Finance, Corporate Affairs and Information & Broadcasting Shri Arun Jaitley (participated in World Bank/IMF Annual Meetings and Meetings of G24 and the Commonwealth FMs – October 2015), MoS Railways Shri Rajen Gohain transited through Lima on 19 & 22 April 2018 on his way to La Paz. Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu visited Peru from 10-12 May 2018, MoS Labour and Employment Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar transited through Lima on 4 September 2018, MoS External Affairs Shri V. Muraleedharan was on a bilateral visit from 22-24 August 2019. Secretary (East) visited Lima for the first India-Peru Joint Commission Meeting held on June 21, 2017; Secretary (Mining) visited Peru from 12-14 September 2018. An online interaction between the External Affairs Minister and the Peruvian Foreign Minister on 28 April 2020 focused on cooperation in dealing with the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, including exchange of best practices. It also highlighted the areas of priority and enabled both sides to re-commit themselves to strengthen cooperation.

Recent VIP / VVIP visits from Peru to India: President Alan Garcia (1987) - Chief Guest for Republic Day; President Alberto Fujimori (1997); Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism Mr. Alfredo Ferrero (2006); Vice Minister for Defence Mr. Rafael Aita Campodonico (2009) to attend "Aero India 2009"; Minister for Trade and Tourism Mr. Eduardo Ferreyros (2011); Vice Minister of Environment Mr. Hugo Cabiese (2011); Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Jose Beraun Aranibar (2012); Vice Minister for Foreign Trade Mr. Edgar Vasquez (August 2014); Vice Minister for Foreign Trade Mr. Edgar Vasquez (March 2017), Energy and Mines Minister Mr. Francisco Ismodes (October 2018).

Parliamentary contacts: In January 2003, two Vice-Speakers from the Peruvian Congress visited India to participate in the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the Indian Parliament. On 30 April, 2003, the Peruvian Congress reactivated the Peru-India Parliamentary Friendship League. In December 2007, the India-Peru Parliamentary Friendship Group was formed in the Indian Parliament. A 17-member Peru-India Parliamentary Friendship League was inaugurated on 13th December 2011. In April 2013, for the first time, an eight-member Peruvian parliamentary delegation led by Ms. Lourdes AlcortaSuero, Congresswoman and the President of the Peru-India Parliamentary Friendship League, paid an official visit to India. Four Indian Members of Parliament accompanied Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari on his official visit to Peru in October 2013. A Peru-India Parliamentary Friendship League headed by Mr. Roy Ventura Angle was constituted by the Congress of Peru in 2016. A multi-party parliamentary delegation accompanied Hon'ble Vice President during an official visit to Peru in May 2018.

Agreements: Many bilateral agreements have been signed by the two sides over the years, covering a wide range of areas. Some of the more recent ones include Customs Cooperation Agreement, Cooperation in New and Renewable Energy, Defence Cooperation Agreement, Establishment of a Joint Commission, Educational Exchange Programme, and MoU on Cooperation in Geology and Mineral Resources. Both countries are currently negotiating a Trade Agreement. So far five rounds have been held.

Assistance to Peru: India gifted medical aid of over 9 tonnes of essential medicines, including 900,000 Hydroxychloroquine tablets and protective gear on 14 August 2020. The India-Peru Centre for Excellence in Information Technology (IPCEIT) set up in Lima with the assistance of the Government of India commenced academic courses from March 2015. India offers to Peru regular training courses under its ITEC programme which is gaining popularity in Peru with more than 400 candidates having attended various courses so far. During 2019-20, Peru has been allotted 60 ITEC slots and additional 5 slots for master training in solar energy. Peruvian diplomats have been attending the PCFD courses at the Foreign Service Institute. Peruvian defence personnel have also attended defence courses in India. Two experts from CONIDA (National Commission for Aerospace Research and Development) have also attended the UNNATI (UNISpaceNanosatellite Assembly and Training) programme conducted by ISRO from 15 October – 15 December 2019 at Bengaluru.

India gave an amount of US\$ 500,000 to the Government of Peru as disaster relief assistance in the wake of a severe earthquake which took place on 15 August 2007. India has extended financial assistance of US \$26,222 for afforestation of a park in Lima named after Mahatma Gandhi. India contributed an amount of US\$ 150,000 in June 2017 towards reconstruction work in northern Peru affected by heavy rains and floods due to the El Niño phenomenon.

Commercial Relations

Trade between India and Peru is growing, with trade crossing the US \$1 billion mark in 2011-12 and the US\$3 billion mark in 2017-18. The total trade between two countries in the Financial Year 2020-21 was US\$2,285.57 million, of which India's

exports were worth US\$764.69 million and imports from Peru were US\$1,520.88 million.

Indo-Peruvian Trade (US \$ Million)						
Trade	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
India's exports	703.12 (-14.2%)	699.05 (-0.58%)	760.68 (9.23%)	721.00 (-5.21%)	764.00 (5.96%)	764.69 (0.09%)
India's imports	820.22 (38.93%)	1076.69 (31.27%)	2376.86 (120.76%)	2,405 (1.20%)	1,575.09 (-34.52%)	1520.88 (-3.44%)
Total	1523.34 (8%)	1775.74 (16.57%)	3137.54 (76.95%)	3,126 (-0.35%)	2,339.09 (-25.18%)	2,285.57 (-2.29%)

Source: DGCI & S, Department of Commerce, Government of India

Peru remained the fourth leading trade partner of India in LAC region, while India is Peru's ninth largest global trading partner. India's main exports to Peru include automobiles, motorcycles and three-wheelers, polyester and cotton yarns, pharmaceuticals, iron and steel products, plastic products, rubber, pipes for oil and gas industry, tyres, pipes etc. Main imports from Peru are gold, copper, synthetic filaments, phosphates of calcium, fresh grapes, fish flour, etc.

Several trade missions/business delegations have visited Peru representing sectors such as pharmaceuticals, leather, chemicals, engineering, apparel, cotton yarn, synthetic & rayon, handicrafts, plastic, food processing, and automotive parts. Virtual business interactions were held in 2020-21 on business opportunities for Indian companies with focus on sectors like medical devices, pharmaceuticals, critical health technologies, agricultural machinery, customized vehicles, leather and footwear, electronic products, technological services, textile machinery, fisheries, metal industry, Services, education, healthcare and entertainment industry as well as trade and investment opportunities.

Investments: Five Indian companies have currently invested in the mining sector in Peru. It is estimated that their present investment is to the tune of US \$30 million. Tata Consultancy Services have a sizeable operation in Lima and is increasing its presence in Peru. Tech Mahindra and Infosys also have a significant presence in Peru. All major Indian pharmaceutical companies have their representative offices or local subsidiaries here. Indian automobile firms Bajaj Auto, TVS, Hero Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra have local dealerships.

AJE Peru has opened a subsidiary in Maharashtra, AJE India Pvt. Ltd. manufacturing soft beverages. The operations started in December 2010. They have invested US \$15 million so far and plan to increase this in the future. A major Peruvian company, Resemen S.A.C., which specializes in mining machinery, has opened a subsidiary in New Delhi by the name of Reliant Drilling Ltd., following a major contract it has won from Hindustan Zinc Ltd. Several other mining services companies of Peru have set up operations in India such as Opermin and AAC Mining Executors Ltd. Lubricants major Vistony has set up a plant near Rewari (Haryana) and another plant in Delhi.

Cultural Relations

The 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Peru was celebrated on 25 March 2013. During the ceremony, a special postal stamp depicting TajMahal and Machu Picchu was issued. The Indian Cultural Centre under the Embassy conducts regular classes on AYUSH (lectures and workshops on Ayurveda and Yoga and extension activities with regional organizations), Hindi and the local Quechua language, Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Painting, Hindustani Music, Bollywood and theatre for kids. Documentaries on Indian culture have been screened and lecture demonstrations by experts have been organized at the cultural centre. The AYUSH Information Cell, set up with the help of Ministry of AYUSH, is promoting Ayurveda and other Indian traditional systems of medicine. A three-day workshop on “Healthy Aging through Traditional Systems of Medicine and Ayurveda” was held in Lima from 23-25 October 2019 in association with the Peruvian Ministry of Health. An expert on Ayurveda was deputed for this workshop by the Ministry of AYUSH. The International Day of Yoga (IDY) are being celebrated every year since 2015 at iconic locations, such as Machu Picchu, Caral Valley and prominent cities such as Lima, Cusco, Trujillo etc. Over 30 locals were trained to be Yoga trainers after they acquired QCI certificates as Yoga professionals. The 7th IDY was observed in Peru by organising 16 events using online platforms, in accordance with local health protocols and measures. The events included video blog competition on the topic of “How Yoga Changed My Life”, quiz competition on some basic facts about Yoga, sessions on different themes of Yoga and workshops on pranayama, meditation and Ayurveda.

Several events were organized to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. These included special talks, release of commemorative postal stamp, screening of documentaries on Mahatma Gandhi's life and message at leading universities in Peru, tree plantation drives, a cycling event, painting and quiz competitions, and a vegetarian food festival. Events were organized to conclude the two-year-long commemoration included messages from dignitaries including Foreign Minister of Peru, Poetry competition, painting competition, Gandhi Katha by Dr.ShobhanaRadhakrishna, water show at Parque de la Reserva depicting life and message of Mahatma Gandhi.

Indian Community

The size of the Indian community in Peru is small, numbering around 450, including PIOs, mainly engaged in business and trade. Indian professionals are providing technical service to companies. There are some Indian nationals with the Missionaries of Charity and other Christian organizations in Lima, Chimbote and Puno.

Useful Resources:

Website: www.eoilima.gov.in

Facebook: India in Peru& Bolivia; Centro Cultural India ;Becarios del ITEC

Twitter: @eoilima and @CCultural_India

You Tube: India in Peru & Bolivia

20 July 2021