

India- Ukraine Relations

Political Relations

With a population of over 40 million and an area of about 600,000 sq km, Ukraine is one of the largest countries in Europe. India has an extensive bilateral relationship with Ukraine, spanning all spheres of cooperation. India was one of the first countries to recognize Ukraine. Government of India recognized the Republic of Ukraine as a sovereign country in December 1991 and established diplomatic relations in January 1992. The Embassy of India in Kyiv was opened in May 1992. (India had a Consulate in Odessa, which functioned from 1962 till its closure in March 1999). Ukraine opened its Mission in Delhi in February 1993 – its first in Asia.

There has been a regular exchange of high-level visits between India and Ukraine. Most recent visits include the State visit of H.E. President APJ Abdul Kalam in 2005, State visit of H.E. President Viktor Yanukovych to India in December 2012, Visit of H.E. Mr. Ihor Prasolov, Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine in 2013, visit of Shri Anant Geete, Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises to Ukraine in 2016, Visit of H.E. Mr Stepan Kubiv, First Vice Prime Minister and Minister for Economic Development and Trade, to India in 2017 and 2019, Visit of Foreign Minister H.E. Mr Pavlo Klimkin to India in 2017, Visit of Minister of State for External Affairs, H.E. Mr. MJ Akbar to Ukraine in 2018, to name a few. There have also been regular interactions through Joint-Working Groups, Foreign Office Consultations, etc. in the spheres of Trade and Economic Cooperation, Science and Technology, Health care and Pharmaceuticals, Tourism, Defense, Consular matters, etc. There is also an increasing interest and interaction in the spheres of Yoga and Ayurveda.

India and Ukraine have signed several MOUs/Agreements in different spheres such as: Diplomatic relations, visa matters, consular matters, trade and commercial matters, space, science and technology, defense, etc. For more details and to see the list of agreements signed, please visit the following link: <https://mea.gov.in/treaty.htm>.

Commerce and Trade Relations

Bilateral trade between the two countries has grown significantly in the last 25 years, and in 2018-19, was almost US\$ 2.8 Billion. India is Ukraine's largest export destination in the Asia-Pacific and the fifth largest overall export destination. Main items of export from Ukraine to India are agricultural

Year	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020 (Provisional)
India's Export	259.11	310.16	330.10	390.80	463.79
India's Import	1,751.10	2,481.47	2,355.97	2,341.03	2,060.79
Total Trade	2,010.21	2,791.63	2,686.07	2,731.82	2,524.58

products, metallurgical products, plastics and polymers, etc. while pharmaceuticals, machinery, chemicals, food products, etc. are the major Indian exports to Ukraine. A number of Indian companies like Ranbaxy, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Sun Group etc. have their representative offices in Ukraine. Representatives of major pharmaceutical companies have also set up an 'Indian Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association in Ukraine.

Bilateral trade figures in the last 5 years are as follows (*in US\$ mn*):

Source: Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Cultural

There is a great interest in Indian culture in Ukraine at the public level, covering various aspects such as dances, yoga, philosophy, Ayurveda and spirituality. There are more than 30 Ukrainian cultural associations/groups spread across the country, engaged in promoting Indian art forms, and in particular, Indian dances. Most groups have learnt the Indian dances on their own and are promoting the same through festivals and by running dance classes.

The Embassy of India in Kyiv organized a nation-wide 'Festival of India' in 2017, which displayed the richness and diversity of Indian culture through performances by various music, dance groups and artists from India. International Day of Yoga is widely celebrated all over Ukraine, both by the Embassy as well as Yoga schools. The 2017 'Yoga Marathon' conducted by Embassy at Khreshchyatik street in the center of Kyiv created a Ukrainian record of the largest number of people doing yoga simultaneously with participation of 4052 yoga practitioners. 2018 and 2019 editions of the International Day of Yoga celebrations organized by the Embassy saw active participation of over 10,000 people in 22 cities across Ukraine. Most recently, IDY 2020 was celebrated through live online practice session, which was

simultaneously watched by more than ten thousand Yoga enthusiasts all over Ukraine. The 19th edition of the All Ukrainian Indian Dance Festival called Rhythms of Joy in 2019 saw participation of over 300 artists from all over Ukraine performing different Indian dance forms. During the year 2018-19, to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Embassy organized many diverse programs and events, which garnered great interest.

Some Indian movies have also been shot in Ukraine, for example: 'Winner' (shot in Lviv and Kyiv in November-December, 2016), '99 songs' (Under A.R. Rehman's YM studios, the team completed a shooting schedule in Ukraine in 2017, initial release- 2019), experts from a Ukrainian studio were involved in creating visual effects for the movie 'Bahubali 2: The Conclusion'.

Embassy also conducts regular classes in yoga, dances, painting, rangoli, Ayurveda, etc. at the Embassy premises, and these classes are open to all and free of cost.

ITEC Assistance/Other Training Programmes

India offers training programs to Ukraine under:

- ITEC (Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation) program, which offers training or capacity building programs in different centers of excellence in India.
- ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations) scholarship, which offers higher-level courses covering wide range of subjects in eminent Indian Institutions.
- Kendriya Hindi Sansthan Scholarship program, which offers scholarships to foreign students to pursue higher-level Hindi language courses.

Indian Community

A small but vibrant Indian community lives in Ukraine, comprising mostly of business professionals and students. There are about 18,000 Indian students studying in Ukraine, mainly in the field of medicine. Indian business professionals work predominantly in the fields of pharmaceuticals, IT, engineering, medicine, education, etc. 'India Club' founded by Indian expats in 2001, actively engages the Indian diaspora in Ukraine and organizes/supports several events- such as Diwali festival, Cricket tournaments, Holi festival, Indian dance festival, screening of Bollywood movies, etc.

Useful Resources

Website: www.eoiukraine.gov.in

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IndiaInUkraine>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/IndiainUkraine>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCD-RvxR8nAULcXGVvoKiqTQ>

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