

**Embassy of India**  
**Panama**

**India-Nicaragua Bilateral Relations**

Bilateral relations between India and Nicaragua are warm and friendly. Diplomatic relations between India and Nicaragua were established in March 1983. The Indian Embassy in Panama is concurrently accredited to Nicaragua. Nicaragua earlier had an Embassy in India, which was closed down in 1990. Currently, Nicaragua's Embassy in Tokyo is concurrently accredited to India. Nicaragua has Honorary Consuls General in Delhi and Mumbai. Recently, M.E.A. has accorded its approval to open a Resident Mission of Nicaragua in New Delhi.

**Major Bilateral Visits from Nicaragua to India**

The current President, H.E. Mr. Daniel Ortega Saavedra had visited India twice, in 1983 and 1986, during his earlier term as President. In 1983, President Ortega met Prime Minister, late Smt. Indira Gandhi. In 1986, he met PM, late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. The then Foreign Minister, Norman Caldera visited India in February 2004. In April 2006, The then Minister of Finance Alejandro Arguello visited India. Nicaraguan Foreign Minister, Mr. Samuel Santos Lopez, visited India in India in June 2008 to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> India-SICA Foreign Ministers' meeting. He also visited India in August 2013 and held a meeting with External Affairs Minister. He visited India yet again in Dec. 2013. General Alvaro Baltodano, Presidential Advisor for Investment Promotion and Foreign Trade (Minister-rank), led a delegation to participate in the India-LAC Investment Conclave, held by the FICCI from October 16-17, 2014 in New Delhi. Mr. Orlando Sologorzano Delgadillo, Minister of Development, Industry and Commerce, participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> India-LAC Conclave, held by CII from Oct. 8-9, 2015 in New Delhi. Ms. Sonia Castro Gonzalez (SCG), Minister of Health (MINSA), accompanied by Ms. Maria De Los Angeles Boedeker Herrera, Director of Cooperation, Ministry of Health met Minister of Health and Family Welfare (MHWF) on 30.07.2019 in New Delhi. Mr. Denis Moncada Colindres, Foreign Minister of Nicaragua visited New Delhi on 28.10.2019 and held meeting with External Affairs Minister.

**Major Bilateral Visits from India to Nicaragua**

No visit has taken place from India at President / PM level and Foreign Minister level. Shri Shivraj Patil, the then Speaker, Lok Sabha, led an eight-member Parliamentary delegation to attend 77<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Conference in April-May, 1987. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, the then Minister of Labour & Welfare, attended the inauguration of President, Mrs. Violeta Chamorro in April, 1990. Shri Mahendra Prasad, MP, visited Managua in April 2003. Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, the then MoS (Rural Development and Land Resources) visited Nicaragua from May 13-16, 2018. He had meetings with the Foreign Minister, Finance Minister and also held meeting with the Members of the National System for Production, Consumption and Trade.

**Foreign Office Consultations :** First Round of India-Nicaragua FOC was held on 17<sup>th</sup> Nov., 2014 in Managua. The talks were led by Shri R. Swaminathan, Special Secretary (AMS&CPV).

## **Bilateral Agreements**

An Agreement on Visa Waiver for Diplomatic and Official Passports was signed in 2008.

An MoU on setting up an IT Training Centre in Managua was signed in 2008.

Several agreements in areas such as Cultural Cooperation, Government to Government credit, and Economic Cooperation have been signed with Nicaragua.

In May 2019, Nicaragua has forwarded four new MoUs for cooperation in the field of Education, Health, Energy and Agriculture and they are under MEA's consideration.

International Solar Alliance: The Government of Nicaragua has signed the ISA Framework Agreement, ratification of the same is under process.

## **Support to India's candidature for various multilateral fora:**

Nicaragua has been supporting India's candidature for various UN bodies and other international organizations. This year, Nicaragua has extended support to India's candidatures for elections to the International Maritime Organization, Universal Postal Union, Commission for Juridical & Social conditions of Women(2021-2025) of ECOSOC, UN ECOSOC (2022-24), ICH of UNESCO (2020-24), Executive Committee of ICPO-Interpol and for the non- permanent membership of UNSC (2021-22).

## **Development Partnership Initiatives:**

India accords importance to deepening of Development Partnership ties with Nicaragua. This is evidenced by establishment of an IT training Center in Managua and extension of three LoCs of US\$ 10 million in 2013(project completed in June, 2019), US\$ 26.24 million in August 2014(under execution) and US\$ 31.29 million LoC in 2016(under execution) for various projects in power sector. The projects undertaken under LoCs are well appreciated by the Government of Nicaragua. Govt. of India has also approved two more LoCs to Nicaragua in the Health sector, out of which (i) for USD20.10 million for reconstruction of Aldo Chavarria Hospital is in the final stage of agreement with Exim Bank of India & (ii) for USD7.35 million proposed earlier for construction of Departmental Hospital in Silais Las Minas, for which Government of Nicaragua has sought diversion to use in Covid-19 related health projects and the same is under process with Government of India.

## **Development Partnership Initiative – Donation:**

India has made donation of medicines worth approximately US\$ 2 million over the years to Nicaragua. Government of India donated 1530 Kgs of medicines worth Indian Rupees 8,52,185/- to Nicaragua to combat dengue in April 2014, under the Govt Development Partnership Initiative. India donated medicines worth US\$ 50,000 to Nicaragua in 2018, and the consignment of medicines was delivered to the Ministry of Health of Nicaragua. In 2020

too, India has donated medical aid package for Covid-19 related medical assistance consisting of 3,10,000 HCQL tablets and other medicines and medical supplies.

### **Technical and Economic Cooperation:**

As part of India's offer to SICA countries to establish IT Training Centers in each capital, an IT Centre was set up in the Nicaraguan capital, Managua and was handed over to the host government in 2011. Mr. Guillermo Gonzales, Renewable Energy Analyst of the Ministry of Energy and Mines of Nicaragua participated in the Advanced Orientation Program in Solar Energy Technologies for the focal points of the International Renewable Energy Agency in the first half of April, 2017 at the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), NCR. Government of India had offered 5 ITEC slots during 2018-19 to Nicaragua and all were utilized. In 2019-20, the ITEC slots allocated to Nicaragua have been increased to 10.

### **India-Nicaragua Trade in US \$ million:**

Total Bilateral Trade: US\$69.12 million (2019-20).

Exports from India: US\$ 3.60 million.

Imports by India: US\$ 65.52 million

India's main exports include pharmaceuticals, cotton, automobiles and accessories, iron & steel, rubber & rubber products, etc., whereas, India's main imports consist of raw hides, skin & leather, wood & wooden articles, etc.

Gravita India SA, Nicaragua is an Indian company operating in the recycling sector. A few years ago, Praj Industries of Pune had set up an ethanol production plant for Nicaragua Sugar Estates Limited. Bajaj Industries sells a large number of auto-taxis, locally called Moto-taxi, and 3 wheelers regularly every year under an agency arrangement. Mahindra Jeep has also started selling in Nicaragua under an agency arrangement with Grupo Pellas of Nicaragua, the country's largest business group.

### **Cultural:**

From time to time, performances by Indian cultural troupes have been held in Nicaragua. An ICCR-sponsored 7-member Kathak dance troupe, performed in Leon city in Dec. 2013. A 15-member Odissi dance group sponsored by ICCR performed 'Shyama' in October 2011 at the most prestigious National Theatre. An eight-member dance troupe, sponsored by ICCR and led by Dr. Sonal Mansingh performed "NAYIKAA" in September 2011.

**International Day of Yoga:** The celebration of the International Day of Yoga was organized by the Embassy in 2015, 2016 and 2017 in Nicaragua, in cooperation with several local Yoga institutes and the Indian Community and they evoked popular responses. In 2020 the event was celebrated on a virtual platform with attendance of Ministers, Government functionaries, general public and yoga teachers.

**Kumbh Mela:** Mr. Oscar Perez visited India and participated in Kumbh Mela in Feb, 2019 at the invitation of the Government of India.

**Indian Community:** Indian community in Nicaragua numbers less than a dozen.

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September, 2020