

India-Nicaragua Relations

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 Mumbai.

Bilateral Visits

From India

1. Mr. R. Swaminathan, then Special Secretary (AMS&CPV) led an Indian delegation to Nicaragua for the first India-Nicaragua Foreign Office Consultations, held in Managua on November 17, 2014.
2. Shri Mahendra Prasad, MP, visited Managua in April 2003
3. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, the then Minister of Labour & Welfare, attended the inauguration of President Chamorro in April, 1990
4. Shri Shivraj Patil, the then Speaker, Lok Sabha, led an eight-member Parliamentary delegation to attend an IPU event in April-May, 1989.

From Nicaragua

1. Mr. Orlando Sologorzano Delgadillo, Minister of Development, Industry and Commerce, participated in the 6th India-LAC Conclave, held by the CII from October 8-9, 2015 in New Delhi.
2. 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.
3. Nicaraguan Foreign Minister, Mr. Samuel Santos Lopez, visited India from August 20-23, 2013 and held a meeting with EAM.
4. Cdr. Bayardo Arce, the Financial and Economic Advisor to President of Nicaragua, visited India on Nov. 25 – Dec. 1, 2012 and met Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Minister for New & Renewable Energy, Shri Milind Deora, MOS (Shipping, Communication & IT) and interacted with Indian businessmen at CII and also visited Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC).
5. Santos López, the then Foreign Minister, visited India in June 2008 to attend the 2nd India-SICA Foreign Ministers' meeting.
6. The then Health Minister Guillermo Gonzalez attended the International

Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza Conference in New Delhi in Dec 2007.

7. The then Minister of Finance Alejandro Arguello visited India in April 2006.
8. The then Foreign Minister Norman Caldera visited India in February 2004 as part of a SICA delegation
9. The current President Daniel Ortega had visited India twice, in 1983 and 1986, during his earlier term as President.

Bilateral Agreements

1. An Agreement on Foreign Office Consultations was signed in 2001.
2. An Agreement on Waiver of Visas for Diplomatic and Official Passports was signed in June 2008 during the India-SICA Foreign Ministers' meeting.
3. A MoU on setting up an IT Training Centre in Managua was signed in 2008.
4. Several agreements in areas such as Cultural Cooperation, Government to Government credit, and Economic Cooperation have been signed with Nicaragua.

The first India-Nicaragua Foreign Office Consultations, led by Mr. R. Swaminathan, Special Secretary (AMS&CPV) from the Indian side and Mr. Valdrack Jaentschke, Vice Minister for International Cooperation from Nicaragua, were held in Managua on 17 November 2014. The Minister of Finance and Public Debt of Nicaragua, Mr. Ivan Acosta, Director-General for Asia, Africa & Oceania in Foreign Ministry, Ms. Rossana Espinoza Ordonez, and high-ranking officials from the National Electricity Transmission Company (ENATREL), Pro-Nicaragua, the apex official agency for investment promotion, the Nicaraguan Institute of Social Security (INSS), among others constituted the Nicaraguan delegation. The Indian delegation included Ambassador to Panama with concurrent accreditation to Nicaragua and Costa Rica, Ms. Shamma Jain, and Ms. Indira Murthy, Director (LAC), Ministry of External Affairs. Mr. Swaminathan also called on Foreign Minister Samuel Santos Lopez. The meeting provided an opportunity for reaffirmation of mutual commitment to strengthen relations in the political, economic and commercial areas.

Ambassador Shamma Jain presented copies of her Letter of Credentials to Foreign Minister Samuel Santos Lopez on October 27, 2014. She had a fruitful meeting with the Foreign Minister, covering the entire gamut of bilateral relations. The Ambassador also held meetings with Mr. Orlando Solorzano, Minister for Development, Industry & Commerce, Valdrack Jaentschke, Vice Foreign Minister, and Salvador Mansell, Executive President of ENATREL, the state power company. She also held extensive discussions with General Alvaro Baltodano,

the Presidential Advisor for Investment Promotion and Foreign Trade Facilitation and the Head of Pro-Nicaragua, state trade and export promotion agency.

Trade & Economic Relations

India-Nicaragua Trade in US \$ million

Year	Exports	Imports	Total
2012	74.91	0.47	75.38
2013	85.53	2.25	87.88
2014	90.50	0.83	91.33
2015	119.08	1.98	121.06

(Source: ProNicaragua)

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.

The Government of India has extended three Lines of Credit to Nicaragua for assisting it in the development of its power sector: (i) US\$ 10 million in 2013 for two electric sub-stations and distribution projects at San Juan Del Sur and Augusto C Sandino International Airport in Nicaragua. The LoC agreement was signed in July 2013; (ii) US\$ 26.24 million in August 2014 for the Carlos Fonseca Substation/Transmission Line Project; and (iii) US\$ 31.29 million LoC for electric transmission line project in La Esperanza-La Gateada sector in Nicaragua.

A 16 member delegation from the Export Promotion Council of India Plastic (Plexconcil) visited Nicaragua on March 17, 2015 for a BSM with producers and buyers of plastics. The delegation also discussed business partnerships with Nicaraguan companies. The event was organized by Plexconcil, in coordination with the Embassy and the Chamber of Commerce & Services of Nicaragua. The delegation also called on Mr. Alvaaro Baltodano, President Advisor (Ministerial rank) for Foreign Trade and Investment.

India has approved donation of medicines worth US\$ 80,000 to Nicaragua in 2016. In April 2014, under its Development Partnership Initiative, Government of India (GOI) donated 1530 Kgs. of medicines to combat dengue in Nicaragua. In the wake of severe drought affecting Nicaragua and other Central American countries in 2001, India donated medicines worth US\$ 10,000 to Nicaragua. India donated medicines and surgical equipment worth Rs. 3.38 lakhs to Nicaragua in 1998.

PHARMEXCIL had sponsored the participation of a Health Ministry official and two pharmaceutical executives in the Pharma-LAC Conference, held in Hyderabad in June 2007.

A journalist from El Nuevo Diario newspaper visited India at the invitation of XP Division in April 2007.

Two prominent tour operators from Nicaragua participated in the Tourism Workshop for LAC region organized at New Delhi in April 2006.

18 Bajaj three-wheelers were donated to Nicaragua in November 2005 for use by the Ministry of Health in different municipalities across the country. Praj Industries of Pune has 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 agency arrangement. These Moto-taxis can be seen everywhere in the country. Mahindra Jeep has started being sold in Nicaragua under an agency arrangement with Grupo Pellas of Nicaragua, the country's largest business group.

GOI waived repayment of Rs.125 million Line of Credit in March 2004.

Cultural

From time to time, performances by Indian cultural troupes have been held in Nicaragua.

The celebration of the International Day of Yoga was organized by the Embassy at the iconic venue of Teatro Nacional Ruben Dario in June, 2015 and June 2016 in Managua, in cooperation with several local Yoga institutes and the Indian Community and it evoked a popular response. Deputies of the Nicaragua National Assembly supported and attended the celebrations.

An ICCR-sponsored 7-member Kathak dance troupe, led by Ms. Vidha Lal, performed in Leon, Nicaragua's second largest city, at the Municipal Theater and the National Theater in Managua in December, 2013. Both performances were attended by house-full audiences and were well appreciated. While the Mayor of Leon was the Chief Guest at the cultural event on December 15, General Alvaro Baltodono, Presidential Advisor for Foreign Trade and Investment, attended the inaugural ceremony at the National Theatre on December 16.

A 15-member Odissi dance group led sponsored by ICCR and led by Ms. Sutapa Talukdar performed 'Shyama' in October 2011 at the most prestigious National Theatre.

To commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Nobel-laureate Dr. Rabindranath Tagore, an eight-member dance troupe, sponsored by ICCR and led by Dr. Sonal Mansingh performed "NAYIKAA" in September 2011.

A Photographic Exhibition on the Churches of Goa "Velha Goa" was held in Managua, Leon, Estelli and Granada in November-December 2005.

Technical and Economic Cooperation

As part of India's offer to SICA countries to establish IT Training Centres in each capital, an IT Centre was set up in the Nicaraguan capital, Managua and trainers from NIIT were engaged in imparting training to students. At the end of two years, the two sides agreed to extend the validity by one more year and the Centre, on successful completion, was handed over to the host government in mid-2011.

Mr. Paul Daniel Budier Smith, First Secretary in the Ministry of External Relations of Nicaragua, participated in the 60th Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD), held at the Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi from 5 August 2015 to 4 September 2015.

Government of India offered 2 ITEC slots during 2016-17 to Nicaragua.

Indian Community

Indian community in Nicaragua numbers less than a dozen.

Useful Resources:

A) Website of Embassy of India , Panama

<http://www.indianembassyinpanama.com/>

B) Facebook Account :

Embassy of India in Panama :

<https://www.facebook.com/embassyofindiainpanama>

C) You Tube Account :

Embassy of India Panama,

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdnZ2n6EpfrFx12-GgRWRhA>

December 2016