

## **India-Honduras Bilateral Brief**

### **Brief Political:**

Indian Embassy in Guatemala is concurrently accredited to Honduras. Following our approval to their proposal of opening their Mission in New Delhi, Honduras is now in the process of opening its Mission.

India and Honduras enjoy cordial and friendly relations. Considering the India's growing bilateral political, commercial, cultural and developmental relations, India's Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi visited Honduras from 1-3 May 2022. During her visit to Honduras, Hon'ble MOS called on the President of Honduras, H.E. Ms. Iris Xiomara Castro Sarmiento. She also met Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Honduras, H.E. Mr. Antonio Garcia and discussed various bilateral, regional and international issues. MOS (ML) along with Minister of Agriculture H.E. Ms. Laura Suazo, laid the foundation stone for the US\$ 26.5 million Jamastran Valley Irrigation project, funded by Government of India through a Line of Credit.

Honduras has been consistently supporting India at the multilateral stage over the years.

### **High-Level Visits from India:**

- Feb 2005: Shri Rao Inderjit Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs visited Honduras.
- April 2015: Shri R. Swaminathan, Special Secretary (AMS & CPV), led the Indian delegation to Honduras for the first Foreign Office Consultations.
- May 2018: Shri Sudarshan Bhagat, Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, visited Honduras on 10-13 May.
- May 2022: Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture visited Honduras from 1-3 May 2022.

### **High-Level recent visit from Honduras:**

August 2023: In the 9<sup>th</sup> CII India – LAC Conclave held in New Delhi, a 4-member delegation comprising of H.E. Mr. Rodolfo Pastor, Secretary of State of the Presidency of the Republic of Honduras and Amb Eduardo Enrique Reina García, Secretary of State in the Office of Foreign Relations and International Cooperation attended the event.

**Bilateral Agreements:**

- Agreement for extending a Line of Credit worth US\$ 30 million between the Government of Honduras and the EXIM Bank of India signed in August 2006.
- MOU for setting up an IT Center in Tegucigalpa signed in January 2008.
- Agreement on waiver of visas for diplomatic and official passports in June 2008.
- MoU on Foreign Office Consultations was signed during the second India-SICA Foreign Ministers' meeting in Delhi in June 2008.

**Commercial Relations:**

Over the years India's exports are gradually increasing to Honduras. Currently, India's bilateral trade with Honduras stands at US\$ 208.76 millions out of which US\$ 182.43 millions are India's exports to Honduras. Pharmaceuticals, textiles (especially cotton yarn and fibres), Chemicals, engineering products, automobiles- two and three wheelers, motor vehicles/cars, auto components and parts, iron and steel, industrial machinery and parts, electrical machinery and equipment are the top products exported to Honduras.

**India-Honduras Trade (in million US \$)**

Year ( April - March)	Imports from Honduras	Exports to Honduras	Total trade
2020-2021	12.56	163.38	175.94
2021-2022	19.32	291.49	310.81
2022-2023	15.42	273.35	288.77
2023-2024	30.61	265.93	296.54
Apr'2024 – Nov'2024	26.33	182.43	208.76

(Source: DGCIS, India)

**Developmental Assistance:** India's development cooperation has been robust with Honduras. As Honduras was facing COVID-19 crisis, Government of India donated essential medicines and PPEs Honduras. Similarly, earlier, on many challenging times, Government of India has come forward with monetary and material support like India donated medicines and medical supplies to Honduras in 1998 and gave monetary support in the times of natural disasters like in October 2005. In 2024, through India-UNDP Fund, India has approved US\$ 800,000/- to Honduras for implementation of the project "Access to climate resilient and safe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene services (WASH) in the Gracias a Dios Department of Honduras". India has agreed to donate HADR material worth approx. US\$ 200,000/- to Honduras for the for damage caused by

Tropical Storm Sara in November 2024.

**Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC):** Government of India has offered 35 ITEC slots to Honduras for 2024-25. So far more than 150 Hondurans have received ITEC scholarship.

**Line of Credit:**

In 2014, India approved a US \$ 26.5 million Line of Credit (LOC) for Jamastran River Valley Irrigation Project. The project is estimated to irrigate 3,060 hectares of land and benefit about 1200 farmers. Due to several issues between M/s Apollo, the project implementing agency and the Honduras Ministry of Agriculture, the unutilized amount of US\$ 17.7 Million under LOC has been formally cancelled by both EXIM Bank and Honduras.

Another LOC for purchase of communication equipment, medical equipment, transportation equipment and aircraft ground support equipment for US\$ 30 million was signed in August 2006 of which US\$ 26.63 million was used for the project.

**IT Centre:** As part of India's offer to set up Centre of Excellence in Education in Information Technology (CEEIT) in SICA countries, the center was set up and handed over to the Honduran National Autonomous University in Tegucigalpa and training was provided by NIIT during 2008-2011. So far, more than 20,000 students have been trained in the Center. Ministry of External Affairs donated US\$ 83,905 for upgradation of the Centre of Information Technology at the National University of Honduras, in 2016, under the Grant-in-Aid of the LAC Division, for up gradation of the Centre. Currently, IT Centre is running in full capacity.

**Cultural Relations:** India and Honduras are witnessing rapid growth in cultural relations and growing popularity of Indian culture in Honduras. In June 2023, ICCR sponsored Odissi dance troupe 'Sankalp' led by Ms. Kasturi Patnaik performed at Manuel Bonilla National theatre in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. As part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, in May 2022, the ICCR sponsored Kathak troupe led by Ms. Soniya Parchure performed in the National Theatre in Tegucigalpa and in San Pedro Sula, commercial capital of Honduras. Similarly, ICCR sponsored ICCR Odissi dance group led by Ms. Jyotsana Rani Sahoo performed in Honduras to commemorate 71st Republic Day of India in February 2020. Prior to this, ICCR sponsored dance troupes performed in Honduras in September-October 2011 and September 2004.

**International Day of Yoga:** The Embassy has been successfully organizing International Day of Yoga festivals in Honduras since 2015. Yoga is followed by many and there are many yoga schools in Honduras. Mission celebrated 10<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga 2024 on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024 at Tegucigalpa, Honduras, wherein hundreds of

students from University of La Esperanza experienced yoga's physical & spiritual benefits. On 18 June 2023, as part of the series of Yoga events celebrated to mark the 9<sup>th</sup> International Yoga Day 2023, Embassy organised Yoga event at UPNFM University, Honduras. In 2022, Embassy organized 8th International Yoga Day in La Esperanza, Honduras in the presence of more than 150 yoga enthusiasts. Prior to that, International Day of Yoga (IDY) was celebrated at the UNESCO's World Heritage Site, the famous Ruins of Copán located in Honduras in 2019. Due to the pandemic, IDY 2020 was organized virtually.

**Indian Community:** There is hardly any Indian community; the number of Indians is about 25 including a few Mother Teresa missionary nuns. In October 2022, for the first time, Embassy organized celebrations of Diwali in Honduras with the Indian community. In March 2023, for the first time, Mission organized Holi Festival in Honduras in presence of Honduran Culture Minister along with 100 Indian community members and Friends of India.

**Useful Resources:** For more information and latest updates, please visit Embassy of India in Guatemala website:

<https://indemguatemala.gov.in>

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

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

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**11 February 2025**