

## India-Nicaragua Relations

### Political

Indian Embassy in Panama is concurrently accredited to Nicaragua. India has an Honorary Consul General in Nicaragua. Nicaragua earlier had an Embassy in India which was closed down.

### Visits

The last few visits from India to Nicaragua were those of Shri Shivraj Patil, Speaker, Lok Sabha, who led an eight-member Parliamentary delegation to attend an IPU event in April-May 1989, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Minister of Labour & Welfare who attended the inauguration of President Chamorro in April, 1990 and Shri Mahendra Prasad, MP in April 2003. From the Nicaraguan side, FM Norman Caldera visited India in February 2004 as part of a SICA delegation and Minister of Finance Alejandro Arguello visited India in April 2006. Health Minister Guillermo Gonzalez attended the International Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza Conference in New Delhi in Dec 2007. The present FM Samuel Santos López visited India in June 2008 to attend the second India-SICA Foreign Ministers' meeting. The current President Daniel Ortega had visited India twice in 1983 and 1986 during his earlier term as President. Indian Ambassador represented GOI at President Ortega's swearing-in ceremony held in Jan 2012. Cdr. Bayardo Arce, 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, Comm & IT) and interacted with Indian businessmen at CII and also visited AEPC.

### Bilateral Agreements

Several agreements in areas such as Cultural cooperation, on Government to Government credit, Economic Cooperation and Foreign Office Consultations have been signed with Nicaragua. An agreement on waiver of visas for diplomatic and official passports was signed in June 2008 during the India-SICA Foreign Ministers' meeting. An MoU on setting up IT Training Centre in Managua was signed and accordingly the IT Centre was established and functioned for two years successfully with the assistance of GOI. It was further extended by one year as requested by the Government of Nicaragua and after successful completion of the courses, the IT Centre was handed over to Nicaraguan authorities in June 2011.

### Trade and Economic

Particular	Trade (in million US\$)			
	2008-09	2009 - 10	2010 - 11	2011-12
Exports to India	0.61	0.35	0.91	1.02
Imports from India	20.70	23.20	30.01	45.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>21.31</b>	<b>23.55</b>	<b>30.92</b>	<b>46.72</b>

Source: Department of Commerce (India)

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

India donated medicines and surgical equipments worth Rs. 3.38 lakhs to Nicaragua in 1998. In the wake of severe drought affecting Nicaragua and other Central American countries in 2001, India donated medicines worth US\$ 10,000 to Nicaragua. GOI waived repayment of Rs.125 million Line of Credit in March 2004. 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-taxi locally called Moto-taxi, 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, country's largest business group.

Two prominent tour operators from Nicaragua participated in the Tourism Workshop for LAC region organized at New Delhi in April 2006. A journalist from El Nuevo Diario newspaper visited India at the invitation of XP Division in April 2007. 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.

As part of India's offer to several SICA countries to establish IT Training Centres, a centre has been set up in the Nicaraguan capital Managua and trainers from NIIT were engaged in imparting training to students. After termination of two years of the initial MoU on IT Centres, the two sides agreed to extend the validity by one more year and centre, on successful completion, has now been handed over to host government in mid-2011.

Nicaraguan government has sought LOC of US\$ 10 million from MEA for two electric sub-stations and distribution projects. It is under consideration.

## **Cultural**

From time to time performances by Indian cultural troupes have been held in Managua. A Photographic Exhibition on the Churches of Goa "Velha Goa" was held in Managua, Leon, Estelli and Granada in November-December 2005. To commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Nobel-laureate Dr. Rabindranath Tagore, an eight-member dance troupe led by Dr. Sonal Mansingh performed "NAYIKAA" in September 2011. Another 15-member Odissi dance group led by Ms. Sutapa Talukdar performed 'Shyama' in October 2011 at the most prestigious National Theatre. Both these visits were sponsored by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

## **India Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC)**

Government of India has offered 10 ITEC slots for 2012-13 and in 2011-12, 4 out of 10 allotted were utilised.

## **Indian Community**

There is hardly any Indian community in Nicaragua.

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