

India-Honduras Bilateral Brief

Political:

Indian Embassy in Guatemala is concurrently accredited to Honduras. Honduras is now in the process of opening its Mission in New Delhi.

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. Meenakshi 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.

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

High-Level Visits from India:

- (i) Shri Rao Inderjit Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs visited Honduras in February 2005.
- (ii) Shri Sudarshan Bhagat, Hon'ble Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, visited Honduras in May 2018.
- (iii) Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture visited Honduras in May 2022.

High-Level Visits from Honduras:

- (i) H.E. Mr. Rodolfo Pastor, Secretary of State of the Presidency of the Republic of Honduras in August 2023 for the 9th CII India – LAC Conclave, held in New Delhi.
- (ii) Ambassador Eduardo Enrique Reina García, Secretary of State in the Office of Foreign Relations and International Cooperation in August 2023 for the 9th CII India – LAC Conclave, held in New Delhi.

Bilateral Agreements:

- MOU for setting up an IT Center in Tegucigalpa.
- Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Honduras on abolition of visa requirement for holders of Diplomatic and Official passports.
- MoU on consultations between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of External Relations of the Republic of Honduras.

Commercial relations:

Over the years India's exports are gradually increasing to Honduras. Last year (2022-23), India's bilateral trade with Honduras was valued at US\$ 288.77. Pharmaceuticals, textiles (especially cotton yarn and fibers), 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
2018-2019	18.25	166.72	184.97
2019-2020	19.32	185.34	204.66
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 (Apr-June)	7.97	87.16	95.13

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.

Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC): Government of India has offered 35 ITEC slots to Honduras for 2023-24. So far around 197 Hondurans have undertaken capacity building training courses under the ITEC scholarship.

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. As a 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. Earlier also ICCR Sponsored dance troupes performed in Honduras in September-October 2011 and September 2004.

Recently, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) sponsored 8-member

Odissi Dance Group “Sankalp” led by Ms. Kasturi Pattnaik toured Tegucigalpa in June 2023 and performed at the National Theatre.

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. On 20 June 2023, as part of the series of Yoga events celebrated to mark the 9thInternational Yoga Day 2023, Embassy organised Yoga event at UPNFM University, Honduras. In 2022, Embassy had 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.

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/indiainguate>

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