

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.

Bilateral Visits

The current President, H.E. Mr. Daniel Ortega Saavedra had visited India twice, in 1983 and 1986, during his earlier term as President. Ms. Sonia Castro Gonzalez (SCG), Minister of Health accompanied by Ms. Maria De Los Angeles Boedeker Herrera, Director of Cooperation, Ministry of Health met Minister of Health and Family Welfare in July 2019 in New Delhi. Mr. Denis Moncada Colindres, Foreign Minister of Nicaragua visited New Delhi in October 2019 and met External Affairs Minister. In April 2023, EAM met Foreign Minister Denis Menconda during the India-SICA Foreign Ministers meeting in Panama.

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 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 and ratified the ISA Framework Agreement, and is a member of ISA alliance.

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(The project was 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.

Development Partnership:

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 GoI 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 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. Nicaragua has been allocated 25 courses under ITEC programme in 2022-23.

India-Nicaragua Trade in US \$ million:

Total Bilateral Trade: US\$119.33 million (2022-23).

Exports from India: US\$ 108.69 million.

Imports by India: US\$ 10.64 million

India's main exports include pharmaceuticals, cotton, automobiles and accessories, iron & steel, rubber & rubber products, etc., whereas, India's main imports consist of wood & wooden articles, nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and appliances, Iron and Steel 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. The celebration of the International Day of Yoga is organized every year in cooperation with several local Yoga institutes and the Indian Community and has evoked popular responses. 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 is close to 50.

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