

India – Honduras Bilateral Relations

Political:

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

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.

Visits from Honduras:

April, 2008: Honduran Defence Minister Aristides Mejia Carranza and held meetings with officials of Exim Bank and companies supplying equipment under the LOC.

June, 2008: Vice Foreign Minister Eduardo Enrique Garcia Reina to attend the second India-SICA Foreign Ministers' meeting.

Jan. 2013: The Honduran Agriculture Minister Jacobo Regalado and met Shri Tariq Anwar, MoS (Agriculture), Shri Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty, Secretary (ER), MEA, Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary (DARE) and visited IARI, Pusa.

Feb. 2013: Vice Defence Minister Carlos Roberto Funes to attend the AERO India 2013 in Bangalore.

Oct. 2014: Mr. Alten Rivera Montes, Minister of Economic Development to attend the VI India-LAC Investment Conclave.

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.

International Solar Alliance (ISA):

We have invited Honduras to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and have facilitated the Spanish version of the Framework Agreement. Honduras has expressed readiness to sign the agreement soon.

Trade & other delegations from India:

- March, 2012: A 3-member team from Bharat Electronics Ltd.(BEL), Bangalore, visited Honduras to provide assistance on maintenance and repairs of equipments supplied earlier under LOC by them.
- March, 2013: Plastics Export Promotion Council (PLEXCONCIL) for BSM.
- July, 2015: Synthetic Rayon Textile Export Promotion Council (SRTEPC) for BSM.
- October, 2016: A Trade Promotion Event was organized on 4th October, in the city of San Pedro Sula—the economic capital of Honduras, by the Honduran Chamber of Commerce with the collaboration of a Guatemalan enterprise, Stratech, representing major Indian brands in Central America.
- February, 2017: The Embassy organized a “Make in India” event, in association with the Consejo Hondurenos de Empresas Privada (COHEP) on 14th February, 2017.
- November, 2019: A 26–member delegation led by Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) comprising 18 companies visited Guatemala from 7-10 November to participate in the Ferret Expo 2019. After the FerretExpo, the delegation travelled to San Pedro Sula, Honduras for Buyer Seller Meet. This was organised with support of Cortes Chamber of Commerce and was held on 11th November, 2019.

Trade & other delegations from Honduras:

- April, 2006: Two prominent tour operators from Honduras participated in the Tourism Workshop for LAC region in New Delhi.
- June, 2007: Two delegates from Honduras participated in the Pharma-LAC Conference in Hyderabad.
- March, 2013: Five delegates from Honduran companies selected by Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) to participate in INDIASOFT 2013 at Kolkata under Hosted Buyers Programme of Department of Commerce.

Trade and Economic: India-Honduras Trade (in million US \$)

Year (April - March)	Imports from Honduras	Exports to Honduras	Total trade	% Growth
2010-2011	1.43	63.07	64.50	-08.99
2011-2012	7.77	91.66	99.43	54.15
2012-2013	17.82	109.99	127.82	28.55
2013-2014	22.59	107.90	130.49	02.09
2014-2015	25.31	187.56	212.87	63.14
2015-2016	15.91	155.05	170.96	-19.68
2016-2017	22.16	135.85	158.01	-7.57
2017-2018	13.32	146.17	160.49	1.57
2018-2019	18.25	166.72	184.97	15.25
2019-2020 (Apr-Dec)	15.78	123.95	139.73	--

(Source: DGCIS, India)

Items of Export by India: Dyes, drug formulations, two & three wheelers, motor vehicles, industrial machinery, iron & steel, rubber products, etc.

Items of Import by India: Wood & wood products, coffee, paper & paper products, spices, aluminum articles, etc.

India Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC):

Government of India has offered 35 ITEC slots to Honduras for 2019-20.

Line of Credit: In 2014, India approved a US \$ 22.5 million Line of Credit (LOC) for Jamastran River Valley Irrigation Project. The contract was signed in August, 2016 and the project is being executed by M/s. Apollo International. The preliminary work on the project has already started. Subsequently, they signed an addendum to the contract incorporating changes in the scope and modification in the design of the project. Accordingly, the cost of the project was also increased to US\$ 26.5 million. They sought Government of India approval for the above changes which was given on 16 February 2018.

Another LOC for purchase of communication equipment, medical equipment, transportation equipment and aircraft ground support equipment for US\$ 30 mn. was signed in August 2006 of which US\$ 26.63 mn was used for the project. The Honduran side has informed that they would not be utilizing the undisbursed amount of US\$ 3.37 mn. under the LoC. We have subsequently conveyed that the unutilized amount is treated as cancelled and no further disbursements under the captioned LoC shall be made.

Assistance:

- India donated medicines and medical supplies worth Rs.3.38 lakhs to Honduras in 1998.
- In the wake of a serious drought in Central America in 2005, GOI donated medicines worth US \$10,000 to Honduras in October 2005.
- GOI also donated 26 Bajaj three-wheelers in November 2005.

IT Centre:

As part of India's offer to set up IT Training Centers in SICA countries, an IT 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 upgradation of the Centre.

Cultural:

September, 2004: The first ever dance performance by an Indian troupe took place when a Bharatanatyam dance troupe led by Dr. Ananda Shankar Jayant performed in Honduras.

September, 2011: An ICCR-sponsored, 8-member dance troupe led by Dr. Sonal Mansingh performed "NAYIKAA" to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Nobel-laureate Dr. Rabindranath Tagore.

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

February, 2020 A 6-member ICCR-sponsored Odissi dance group led by Ms. Jyotsana Rani Sahoo will be performing in Honduras to commemorate 71st Republic Day of India.

International Day of Yoga:

The Embassy had successfully organized International Day of Yoga festivals in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. Yoga is followed by many and there are many yoga schools in Honduras. International Day of Yoga (IDY) was celebrated at the UNESCO's World Heritage Site, the famous Ruins of Copán located in Honduras. The event was attended by H.E. the Minister of Economic Development of Honduras, Mr. Arnaldo Castillo; and the Vice Minister of Economic Integration and Foreign Trade, Ms. Alejandra Chang, and other senior Government officials including Director of Tourism. A large pool of international yoga instructors too participated in the first ever IDY celebrations in Copan Ruinas, an archaeological site of the ancient Mayan civilization.

Indian Community:

There is hardly any Indian community; the number of Indians is about 10-15 including a few Mother Teresa missionary nuns.

Useful Resources:

For more information and latest updates, please visit Embassy of India in Guatemala website: <http://www.indemguatemala.gov.in>

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

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

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