Embassy of India

### Panama

**India-Nicaragua Bilateral Relations**

**Political**

 The Indian Embassy in Panama is concurrently accredited to Nicaragua.. Nicaragua earlier had an Embassy in India which was closed down in 1990. The Indian Embassy in Panama is concurrently accredited to Nicaragua. Currently, Nicaragua’s Embassy in Tokyo is concurrently accredited to India. Nicaragua has Mr. Vivek Burman, owner of Dabur Group as its Honorary Consul General in Delhi, and Mr. Paresh Kirtilal Mehta, owner of a pharmaceutical company in Mumbai.

**Bilateral Visits**

**From India**

1. Mr. R. Swaminathan, Special Secretary (AMS&CPV) led an Indian delegation to Nicaragua for the first India-Nicaragua Foreign Office Consultations, held in Managua on November 17, 2014.
2. Shri Mahendra Prasad, MP in April 2003
3. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Minister of Labour & Welfare who attended the inauguration of President Chamorro in April, 1990
4. Shri Shivraj Patil, Speaker, Lok Sabha, led an eight-member Parliamentary delegation to attend an IPU event in April-May 1989

**From Nicaragua**

1. General Alvaro Baltodano, the Presidential Advisor for Investment Promotion and Foreign Trade (Minister-rank), led a delegation to participate in the India-LAC Investment Conclave, held by the FICCI on October 16-17, 2014 in New Delhi.
2. Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Samuel Santos Lopez visited India from August 20-23, 2013 and met EAM.
3. Cdr. Bayardo Arce, the 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 Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC).
4. FM Santos López visited India in June 2008 to attend the 2nd India-SICA Foreign Ministers’ meeting.
5. Health Minister Guillermo Gonzalvez attended the International Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza Conference in New Delhi in Dec 2007.
6. Minister of Finance Alejandro Arguello visited India in April 2006.
7. FM Norman Caldera visited India in February 2004 as part of a SICA delegation
8. The current President Daniel Ortega had visited India twice in 1983 and 1986 during his earlier term as President.

**Bilateral Agreements**

1. Foreign Office Consultations 2001
2. An Agreement on Waiver of Visas for Diplomatic and Official Passports was signed in June 2008 during the India-SICA Foreign Ministers’ meeting.
3. A 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.

**India-Nicaragua Trade in US $ million**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Exports** | **Imports** | **Total** |
| 2011 | 52.43 | 0.57 | 53 |
| 2012 | 74.91 | 0.47 | 75.38 |
| 2013 | 85.53 | 2.25 | 87.88 |

Source: Pro-Nicaragua (Nicaragua’s apex Investment Promotion Agency)

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

 India donated medicines and surgical equipment 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. In April 2014, under its Development Partnership Initiative, Government of India (GOI) donated 1530 Kgs. of medicines to combat dengue in 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-taxis, locally called Moto-taxi, and 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, the 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 SICA countries to establish IT Training Centres in each capital, an IT Centre was set up in the Nicaraguan capital, Managua and trainers from NIIT were engaged in imparting training to students. At the end of two years, the two sides agreed to extend the validity by one more year and the Centre, on successful completion, was handed over to the host government in mid-2011.

The Government of India has extended three Lines of Credit to Nicaragua for assisting it in the development of its power sector: (i) US$ 10 million in 2013 for two electric sub-stations and distribution projects at San Juan Del Sur and Augsto C Sandino International Airport in Nicaragua. The LoC agreement was signed in July 2013; (ii) US$ 26.24 million in August 2014 for the Carlos Fonseca Substation/Transmission Line Project; and (iii) US$ 31.29 million LoC for electric transmission line project in La Esperanza-La Gateada sector in Nicaragua.

Ambassador Shamma Jain presented copies of her Letter of Credentials to Foreign Minister Samuel Santos Lopez on October 27, 2014. She had a fruitful meeting with the Foreign Minister, covering the entire gamut of bilateral relations. The Ambassador also held meetings with Mr. Orlando Solorzano, Minister for Development, Industry & Commerce, Valdrack Jaentschke, Vice Foreign Minister, and Salvador Mansell, Executive President of ENATREL, the state power company. She also held extensive discussions with General Alvaro Baltodano, the Presidential Advisor for Investment Promotion and Foreign Trade Facilitation and the Head of Pro-Nicaragua, state trade and export promotion agency

 The first India-Nicaragua Foreign Office Consultations, led by Mr. R. Swaminathan, Special Secretary (AMS&CPV) from the Indian side and Mr. Valdrack Jaentschke, Vice Minister for International Cooperation from Nicaragua, were held in Managua on 17 November 2014. The Minister of Finance and Public Debt of Nicaragua, Mr. Ivan Acosta, Director-General for Asia, Africa & Oceania in Foreign Ministry, Ms. Rossana Espinoza Ordonez, and high-ranking officials from the National Electricity Transmission Company (ENATREL), Pro-Nicaragua, the apex official agency for investment promotion, the Nicaraguan Institute of Social Security (INSS), among others constituted the Nicaraguan delegation. The Indian delegation included Ambassador to Panama with concurrent accreditation to Nicaragua, Ms. Shamma Jain, and Ms. Indira Murthy, Director (LAC), Ministry of External Affairs. Mr. Swaminathan also called on Foreign Minister Samuel Santos Lopez. The meeting provided an opportunity for reaffirmation of mutual commitment to strengthen relations in the political, economic and commercial areas. It was agreed that key sectors, such as pharmaceuticals, automotive, IT, agriculture, energy and human resource development required a greater focus. The wide-ranging discussions also encompassed regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest. It was also agreed that visa for Indian businessmen, recommended by the Indian chambers of commerce & industry, will be facilitated by the Nicaraguan side.

##### 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 150th 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).

 An ICCR-sponsored 7-member Kathak dance troupe led by Ms. Vidha Lal performed in Nicaragua’s second largest city Leon’s Municipal Theater (with a capacity of 650) on Dec. 15, 2013 and National Theater in Managua (with a capacity of 1200) on Dec. 16, 2013. Both performances were attended by house-full audience and were well appreciated. While the Mayor of Leon was the Chief Guest at this cultural event on Dec. 15, General Alvaro Baltodono, attended the inaugural ceremony at National Theatre on Dec. 16.

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

 Government of India offered 10 ITEC slots for 2012-13, and also for 2013-14. In view of the growing demand for ITEC slots worldwide, Nicaragua has been allotted 5 slots for 2014-15.

##### Indian Community

 There is no Indian community in Nicaragua.

\*\*\*

January 2015.