

India- Ukraine Relations

Political Relations

With a population of over 40 million and an area of about 600,000 sqkm, Ukraine is one of the largest countries in Europe. India has an extensive bilateral relationship with Ukraine, spanning all spheres of cooperation. India was one of the first countries to recognize Ukraine. Government of India recognized the Republic of Ukraine as a sovereign country in December 1991 and established diplomatic relations in January 1992. The Embassy of India in Kyiv was opened in May 1992. (India had a Consulate in Odessa, which functioned from 1962 till its closure in March 1999). Ukraine opened its Mission in Delhi in February 1993 – its first in Asia.

There has been a regular exchange of high-level visits and interactions between India and Ukraine. Among most recent interactions, Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi and President of Ukraine Mr. Volodymyr Zelensky had telephone conversation on 04 October 2022, EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar met Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal on the sidelines of the UNGA on 21 Sep 2022 and Ukrainian FM on the sidelines of the ASEAN summit on 12 Nov 2022 at Phnom Penh in Cambodia.

There have also been regular interactions through Joint-Working Groups, Foreign Office Consultations, etc. in the spheres of Trade and Economic Cooperation, Science and Technology, Health care and Pharmaceuticals, Tourism, Defense, Consular matters, etc. There is also an increasing interest and interaction in the spheres of Yoga and Ayurveda.

India and Ukraine have signed several MOUs/Agreements in different spheres such as: Diplomatic relations, visa matters, consular matters, trade and commercial matters, space, science and technology, defense, etc. For more details, please visit the following link: <https://mea.gov.in/treaty.htm>.

Commerce and Trade Relations

Bilateral trade between the two countries has grown significantly in the last 25 years, reaching US \$ 3.386 billion in 2021-22. Main items of export from Ukraine to India are agricultural products, metallurgical products, plastics and polymers, etc. while pharmaceuticals, machinery, chemicals, food products, etc. are the major Indian exports to Ukraine. A number of Indian companies have their representative offices in Ukraine. Representatives of major pharmaceutical companies have also set up an 'Indian Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association in Ukraine.

The trade figures for the last 5 years are as follows:

Values in US \$ Millions

| S.No. | Year | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 |
|-------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. | Export | 330.10 | 390.80 | 463.81 | 450.97 | 472.68 |

| | | | | | | |
|-----|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 6. | Import | 2,355.97 | 2341.03 | 2060.79 | 2139.86 | 2913.61 |
| 11. | Total Trade | 2,686.07 | 2731.82 | 2765.14 | 2590.83 | 3386.29 |

[Source: Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi]

Humanitarian Assistance :

Taking into account the humanitarian crisis caused by the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, India decided to extend humanitarian Assistance to Ukraine and neighboring countries. Since February 24, Government of India has provided 12 consignments measuring 99.3 tons of humanitarian assistance to Ukraine and neighboring countries comprising medicines, blankets, tents, tarpaulin, medical equipment, etc. GoI is also providing financial assistance for reconstruction, remodeling and refurbishment of Kyiv Gymnasium of Oriental Language No. 1. In addition, Indian Pharmaceutical Companies have donated more than USD 8 million worth of medical aid and financial assistance to Ukraine. Many other Indians, who are permanent residents of Ukraine, and Indian organizations have provided food, and other humanitarian relief to the people of Ukraine.

Cultural

There is a great interest in Indian culture in Ukraine at the public level, covering various aspects such as dances, yoga, philosophy, Ayurveda and spirituality. There are more than 30 Ukrainian cultural associations/groups spread across the country, engaged in promoting Indian art forms, and in particular, Indian dances. Most groups have learnt the Indian dances on their own and are promoting the same through festivals and by running danceclasses.

The Embassy of India in Kyiv organized a nation-wide ‘Festival of India’ in 2017, which displayed the richness and diversity of Indian culture through performances by various music, dance groups and artists from India. International Day of Yoga is widely celebrated all over Ukraine, both by the Embassy as well as Yoga schools. The 2017 ‘Yoga Marathon’ conducted by Embassy at Khreshchatik street in the center of Kyiv created a Ukrainian record of the largest number of people doing yoga simultaneously with participation of 4052 yoga practitioners. 2018 and 2019 editions of the International Day of Yoga celebrations organized by the Embassy saw active participation of over 10,000 people in 22 cities across Ukraine. The 19th edition of the All Ukrainian Indian Dance Festival called Rhythms of Joy in 2019 saw participation of over 300 artists from all over Ukraine performing different Indian dance forms. During the year 2018-19, to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Embassy organized many diverse programs and events, which garnered great interest.

Most recently, the Embassy marked the 8th International Day of Yoga at Chancery premises on 21 June 2022 and the 153rd Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at the Mahatma Gandhi’s statue at Oasis of Peace at the A.V. Fomin Botanical Garden in Kyiv, on 2 October 2022.

Some Indian movies have also been shot in Ukraine, for example: ‘Winner’ (shot in Lviv and Kyiv in November-December, 2016), ‘99 songs’ (Under A.R. Rehman’s YM studios, the team

completed a shooting schedule in Ukraine in 2017, initial release- 2019), experts from a Ukrainian studio were involved in creating visual effects for the movie 'Bahubali 2: The Conclusion'.

ITEC Assistance/Other Training Programmes

India offers training programs to Ukraine under:

- ITEC (Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation) program, which offers training or capacity building programs in different centers of excellence in India.
- ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations) scholarship, which offers higher-level courses covering wide range of subjects in eminent Indian Institutions.
- Kendriya Hindi Sansthan Scholarship program, which offers scholarships to foreign students to pursue higher-level Hindi language courses.

Indian Community

There is a small but vibrant Indian community in Ukraine, comprising mostly business professionals and students. Indian business professionals are predominantly engaged in manufacturing, packaging, trading and service industry. The local Indian community has formed an association called "India Club" which organizes cultural and sports events.

Useful Resources

Website: www.eoiukraine.gov.in

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IndiaInUkraine> Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/IndiainUkraine>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCD-RvxR8nAULcXGVvoKiqTQ>

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