

## **Brief Embassy Report on Bilateral Relations – ITJ Division, DGCIS, Kolkata.**

### **India-Colombia Bilateral Relations**

#### **A. Introduction**

1. Indian Trade Journal (ITJ) division of the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS) brings out weekly publication on Embassy Profile Report providing information on recent policy changes and happenings in other countries that may be of interest to the Indian trading community. This is the Embassy Profile Report for 08.10.2025 depicting the Embassy of Colombia.

2. Colombia and India established diplomatic relations on 19 January 1959 and celebrated 60 years of establishment of diplomatic ties in 2019. In March 1972, Colombia opened its Embassy in New Delhi. India opened its Embassy in Colombia in 1973. Mr. Juan Miguel Yacamán Farah is Honorary Consul of India (appointed in February 2017) in Barranquilla (Atlanti co province). Colombia has appointed Honorary Consuls in Bengaluru, Mumbai and Kolkata.

3. India and Colombia enjoy friendly and cordial bilateral relations. Over the years, the relationship between the two countries have strengthened and diversified in all areas of mutual interest encompassing political, commercial and cultural fields. Foreign Office Consultations mechanism was established in 1995. The last (9<sup>th</sup> round) Foreign Office Consultations took place on 7 May 2021 through video conference.

#### **B. Commercial Relations (Trade and Foreign Investment) – Recent facts & figures**

4. The trade and investment linkages between India and Colombia form an integral component of the multi-faceted partnership between the two countries. As a trading partner of India, and as per latest compiled and available statistics with DGCIS, India's exports to Colombia in 2023-24 were worth USD 1.22 billion and imports from Colombia were worth USD 3.09 billion. Total bilateral trade in goods between India and Colombia was worth USD 4.31 billion in 2023-24. In 2024-25 total bilateral trade in goods amounted to USD 6.56 billion (India's exports: USD 1.47 billion and India's imports: USD 5.09 billion). An account of Bilateral commodities trade in goods from 2020-21 to 2024-25 is as under:

#### **Export-Import statistics between India-Colombia from 2020-21 to 2024-25**

**(USD Billion)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total trade</b>	<b>Import</b>	<b>Export</b>
2020-21	2.26	1.40	0.86
2021-22	4.34	2.96	1.38
2022-23	4.08	2.63	1.45
2023-24	4.31	3.09	1.22
2024-25	6.56	5.09	1.47

*(Source: Department of Commerce, India)*

5. Imports from Colombia to India have seen a surge over the last 3 financial years, due to increasing demand of oil from Colombia and therefore, of imports,. India's imports from Colombia mainly comprise mineral fuels such as oil and coal, gold, precious stones led by emeralds, aluminum, zinc, wood (teak), plastic etc. India's main items of exports to Colombia include vehicles (motorcycles etc.), engineering goods, chemicals, cotton, pharmaceuticals, iron & steel products, etc.

6. Colombian investment in India is estimated to be approximately USD 5 million and Indian investment in Colombia is estimated to be USD 300 million (excluding OVL's investment including in its joint venture with Mansarovar, of a total of approx. USD 1.5 billion). Indian investment in Colombia is mainly in the oil, automobile, agro- chemicals, IT and pharmaceuticals sectors.

7. Indian companies in Colombia are mainly concentrated in the oil, IT, pharmaceutical, agrochemicals, and infrastructure and two-wheeler sectors. ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL), the only Indian public sector enterprise in Colombia, has both independent operations and a joint venture with Chinese Company Sinopec called Mansarovar Energy Colombia Ltd (MECL).

- i. Technology/ IT/ ITES: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Tech Mahindra, Mahindra Comviva, Infosys, Wipro, IGT Services and Technologies Colombia SAS, Quadratyx, TraQIQ, Hinduja Global Solutions, Zensar, Zoho Corporation, etc.
- ii. Pharmaceuticals: IPCA, CIPLA, Aurobindo Pharma, Dr.Reddy's, MSN Labs.
- iii. Agrochemicals: United Phosphorus Limited, Sharda Cropchem Ltd.
- iv. Automobiles and tractors: TVS, Bajaj, Hero, Sonalika, Mahindra, Uno Minda, Royal Enfield.
- v. Plastics and Packing: Essel Propack.
- vi. Infrastructure: Shapoorji Pallonji, Jindal Steel.
- vii. LEDs: Lighting Havell's Sylvania.

### **C. Other Major Areas of Cooperation:**

- India and Colombia have signed multiple Agreements/ MoUs in diverse areas including trade promotion, cooperation in science and technology, defence, IT, tourism, space, health, traditional systems of medicine, culture, etc.
- On 24 April 2020, under the MoU for cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector, India and Colombia organized the first virtual Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas of the Government of India and the Ministry of Mines and Energy of the Government of Colombia.
- The Mission has been taking several initiatives for promoting bilateral trade and investment. The trade facilitation activities include responding to trade queries, addressing trade disputes, assisting visiting export promotion councils/industry associations in organizing their events [Buyer Seller Meets (BSMs), Reverse BSMs, Road shows, India Forums, etc.], advising and facilitating meetings for visiting Indian businessmen, encouraging participation of Colombian buyers/importers to major trade events organized in India and vice-versa. The Mission has also taken a proactive approach in promoting Indian exports through meetings

with local companies, National Hydro-Carbon Agency, government authorities and other stakeholders to boost bilateral trade and investment between India and Colombia.

➤ From FYs 2020-21 to 2023-24 more than 80 physical and virtual B2B meets and BSMs between Indian delegation led by Indian Export Promotion Councils/chambers of commerce such as AEPC, Pharmexcil, CAPEXIL, SEPC, GJEPC, FIEO, ESEPC, EEPC Indian Chamber of Commerce, Chemexcil, EPCH, Plexconcil, FIEO, SRTEPC, Texprocil, among others, and Colombian chambers of commerce and buyers/ importers were organized in the sector of pharmaceuticals, textiles, gems and jewellery, renewable energy, steel, ceramics, printing and publishing, information technology, services, etc. Delegation of Indian textile companies led by SRTEPC and Texprocil participate in the flagship textile event of Colombia, Colombiatex. Delegation of Indian manufacturers of electronics and electrical goods, construction materials, auto spare parts have participated in flagship fairs of Colombia.

➤ To promote tourism and investment, the Mission has organized Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Odisha, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh States' promotion days, under the state facilitation activities and road shows, business meetings of tour operators from India. Mission has also collaborated with ANATO, the flagship tourism fair of Colombia for promotion of tourism to India.

➤ The last ITEC day was celebrated at the Embassy on 29 September 2023, where ITEC alumni, representatives from Ministry of Education and its agency ICETEX and Ministry of Foreign Affairs participated. Under the ITEC programme, 25 school teachers have been trained in teaching of English language every year since 2015, except in 2020, 2021, and 2022. In October 2023, 52 teachers were trained at EFLU Hyderabad. More than 150 ITEC scholarships have been offered to Colombian professionals since 2019-20.

➤ An MoU on cooperation in Science and Technology between India and Colombia was signed on 11 June 2005. The first meeting of Joint Committee, envisaged under the MoU, took place in Colombia in March 2017. A delegation from India comprising scientist Jagdish Chander and Prof. Ramesh Chandra constituted the Committee. During this meeting, a Program of Cooperation was signed. The Indian delegation visited the Los Andes University of Bogota, where they were shown the research facilities and laboratories. The delegation also visited a bamboo preservation and drying plant in the city of Pereira, a bamboo-boards production factory and the Pereira University of Technology. On 14 April 2021, the second meeting was held through a video conference between Department of Science (GoI) and Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation took place. Bilateral technical cooperation in areas of frontier technologies including training under the ITEC program was discussed. Exchange of information on the composition of the delegation of the two sides for organizing the next Joint Committee meeting was also agreed.

➤ India and Colombia signed an MoU in information technology in 2001. In February 2024, India and Colombia signed an MoU in IT stack. A workshop on e- hospital and e-office between Ministry of ICT and MEITY was held in May 2024.

➤ India and Colombia signed an MoU for cooperation in Health in 2010. The first Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting in health cooperation was held between India and Colombia

on 15 February 2022.

➤ India and Colombia signed an MoU for cooperation in traditional systems of medicine in October 2018. So far, three Joint Working Group meetings have been held, first in February 2019, second in May 2019 and the last being in October 2023.

➤ On 29 November 2018, ISRO successfully launched FACSAT 1 satellite of Colombian Air Force on PSLV-C43/HysIS mission. It was the first ever Colombian Air Force Nano satellite. This was a historic occasion in India-Colombia relations and received excellent publicity for India's prowess in the field of space sciences. Two Colombian officers attended training at ISRO facilities in India from October-December 2019 under UNNATI (UNISpace Nanosatellite Assembly & Training by ISRO).

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➤ India and Colombia signed an MoU for cooperation in Health in 2010. The first Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting in health cooperation was held between India and Colombia on 15 February 2022. An Indian delegation from Department of Pharmaceuticals visited Cartagena to attend the Annual Health Forum held from 8-10 June 2022. On 11 June, the Embassy also organized meeting between the Indian delegation and Department of Pharmaceuticals of the National University of Colombia to explore potential areas of cooperation with NIPER, Hyderabad in areas of pharmaceuticals education and research.

➤ There is growing interest among Colombians about India's culture and heritage. The International Day of Yoga (IDY) events have given a further fillip to the popularity of Indian culture. Indian festivals, dances, music, gastronomy, spirituality are of increasing interest to Colombians. Some Colombians, who earlier learnt Indian classical and folk dances in India, are now professional performers. In April 2023, India and Colombia signed Cultural Exchange Programme 2023-26 during the visit of EAM to Colombia.

➤ Several festivals, performances, exhibitions, and film shows have been organized by the Embassy during the last few years. The Embassy in collaboration with local talent has organized dance performances at various universities during the course of the International weeks held by them. Several visits of troupes from India to Colombia and vice versa have taken place. The Mission has been celebrating Gandhi Jayanti, Tagore Jayanti, Guru Nanak Jayanti, every year with enthusiastic participation from Colombia.

➤ Yoga is very popular in Colombia and a number of Yoga institutes are engaged in organizing regular yoga classes. Yoga Teacher (TIC) deputed by ICCR had been on the strength of the Mission from January 2016 till June 2020. Using the availability of TIC, the Mission was able to organize lectures/conferences/presentation on Yoga and Indian Culture, yoga classes for general public, diplomatic corps, corporate sector and Embassy officials. The Mission also organized Yoga Instructor Diploma Courses in Externado University and Piloto University. The Mission has been organizing International Day of Yoga (IDY) in several cities of Colombia. Some of these events are organized by the Mission and the remaining in association with yoga institutes and municipalities. Over 10,000 Yoga enthusiasts participate in these events.

➤ The Indian Community in Columbia comprises of approximately 700-800 members. Majority of them are professionals, employed with IT firms like TCS, Tech Mahindra, etc. Indian Associations, Amigos de la India and Somos Indios are Indian associations, which organize Indian festivals and other cultural activities in which both Indians and Colombians participate.

*Source:* [www.mea.gov.in](http://www.mea.gov.in)