

## **Brief Embassy Report on Bilateral Relations – ITJ Division, DGCI&S, Kolkata.**

### **India-Ecuador Bilateral Relations**

#### **A. Introduction:**

1. Indian Trade Journal (ITJ) division of the Director 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 depicting the Embassy of Ecuador.

2. India-Ecuador established diplomatic relations in 1969. The Embassy of India in Bogota is concurrently accredited to Ecuador. Initially, Ecuador opened its Embassy in New Delhi in 1973, which functioned till 1977. The Ecuadorian Embassy re-opened in February 2005 and a Consulate General in Mumbai was established in 2013. India and Ecuador signed MoU on Foreign Office Consultations in 2000.

3. In April 2018, then EAM met the then Foreign Minister of Ecuador, Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa in Baku on the sidelines of the Mid-term Ministerial Conference of the Non Aligned Movement (NAM). In September 2018, then EAM met the Ecuadorean Foreign Minister, Mr. Jose Samuel Valencia Amoreson the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

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

4. As a trading country partner of India, and as per latest compiled and available statistics with DGCI&S, India's exports to Ecuador during 2023-24 have been recorded at 459.22 million US Dollar and India's imports from Ecuador during the same reference period stands at 797.02 million US Dollar. India's imports from Ecuador were significantly high in 2022-23.

**Export-Import statistics as per India's Ministry of Commerce data bank from 2019-20 to 2023-24 are as follows :**

#### **Export-Import statistics from 2019-20 to 2023-24**

**(US Dollar Million)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total trade</b>	<b>Import</b>	<b>Export</b>
2019-20	614.60	361.60	253.00
2020-21	541.14	333.25	207.89
2021-22	1317.26	1012.40	304.86
2022-23	1416.20	1016.41	399.79
2023-24	1256.24	797.02	459.22

*(Source: Department of Commerce, India)*

5. India's main export items to Ecuador: Vehicles, Iron and steel, plastics and related articles, pharmaceutical products, Aluminum and articles thereof, etc. India's main import items from Ecuador: Gold, Mineral fuels/oils, wood and articles of wood, cocoa and cocoa preparations, natural pearls & semiprecious stones, coffee etc. In recent years, several Indian Export Promotion Councils have expressed interest in expanding business ties with Ecuador. There is growing demand for Indian pharmaceutical products and automobiles in Ecuador. Mining and oil and gas sector present opportunities.

6. Several Indian companies are operating in Ecuador in the IT sector (Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, etc); pharmaceutical sector (MSN Laboratories, CIPLA, etc); agrochemicals (UPL, Sharda Cropchem Limited, etc); automobiles and tractors (Hero Moto Corp, Bajaj, Mahindra, TVS, Sonalika, etc.). India's investment in Ecuador is estimated to be US\$ 2.3 million, mainly in the construction, agriculture and trade sectors. Ecuadorian investment in India is insignificant.

### **C. Other Major Areas of Co-operation**

- Several Agreements/ Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) have been signed between India and Ecuador for cooperation in the fields of defence, economic and commercial links, technical cooperation and culture.
- A number of MOUs/Agreements are under consideration of both sides including the Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP); Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA); MOU on cooperation in AYUSH; Technical cooperation; Information Technology and Information and Communication Technology (ICT); etc.
- Ecuador has been appreciative of India's role in the UN and has supported UN reforms including reforms of the UN Security Council. Ecuador has expressed support for the permanent membership of India in the UNSC. At the IAEA, Ecuador supported India's Safeguard Agreement in August 2008. Ecuador belongs to the G20 group with India in WTO.
- Under the MOU on Economic Cooperation (2013), a Protocol to establish a Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) was concluded in 2015. In May 2017, at the first meeting of the JETCO, the two countries decided to conclude a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA). The Joint Feasibility Studies for the PTA were concluded in July 2019 and a protocol was signed to commence formal negotiations on the PTA in October 2019.
- On the request of Ecuador, India donated medicines, worth US \$ 1 million through two separate donations. Government of India donated 15 tonnes of medicines/equipment worth Rs. 1,61,29,957 to Ecuador in the wake of earthquake.
- Indian culture, yoga and philosophy is very popular in Ecuador. Several Centres/schools impart training in yoga and Indian culture. India and Ecuador also have a Cultural Cooperation Agreement. A group of 3 Indian artisans is imparted training and exchanged handicrafts making experiences in Cuenca, Ecuador and on the local hospitality by CIDAP (Centro Interamericano de Artesanías y Artes Populares). Divine Value School of Yoga of Ecuador has signed an MoU for Cooperation in Yoga with Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY) in January 2020.

- Over the last few years, the Embassy of India in Bogota, which is concurrently accredited to Ecuador, has been receiving Grant-in-Aid from Ministry of Culture, which is being utilized for yoga, Gandhi@150 related events, etc. through groups and Association of Friends of India who are involved in the promotion of promoting Indian culture and heritage.
  
- The Embassy of India in Bogota, concurrently accredited Ecuador has been organizing International Day of Yoga in Ecuador in several cities (Quito, Guayaquil, Cuenca, Manta etc.). Some of these events were organized by the Mission and also in association with yoga institutes and municipalities. There is scope for cooperation in traditional medicine in Ecuador and interest in this regard has also been evinced by Ecuador. A draft MOU for cooperation in AYUSH is under consideration of Ecuador.
  
- Ecuador has a growing Indian community numbering around 355 (300 NRIs and 55 PIOs). Most of the community members are working in the services sector. In the capital city Quito, TCS, has a sizeable number of Indians on its roll. Several Indian nationals are engaged in the teak wood business. The Indian community gets together to organize cultural festivals such as Diwali. The Embassy organizes consular camps periodically to provide consular services in Quito, Guayaquil and Cuenca cities.

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