



President's Visit to Bolivia

Recently, President of India completed his visit to **the Plurinational State of Bolivia**.

- This was the **first ever visit by an Indian president** to Bolivia.
- Bolivia also conferred the highest State Honour of Bolivia on President of India.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia

- Bolivia is **officially known as the Plurinational State of Bolivia**.
- It is a **landlocked country** located in western-central **South America**.
- The **capital of Bolivia is Sucre** while the seat of government and **financial center is located in La Paz**.
- In 2009, a new constitution changed the country's official name to "Plurinational State of Bolivia" in **recognition of the multi-ethnic nature of the country**



Outcome of Visit //

- **8 memorandum of understandings (MoUs) were signed between India and Bolivia** concerning fields of culture, visa waiver for diplomats, the exchange between diplomatic academies, mining, space, traditional medicine, the establishment of Centre of Excellence in IT and the Bi-Oceanic Railway project.
- Bolivia also joined the **International Solar Alliance** by signing the framework agreement.
- **Lithium Deposit Exploration**
 - **Both sides also agreed to work together for exploration and extraction of the vast Lithium deposits of Bolivia.**
 - **Lithium is a key resource used in making batteries that India needs** for its clean technology initiatives such as increased use of electric cars. It will be a boost to India's FAME II scheme.
 - India agreed to facilitate Bolivian supplies of lithium Carbonate to India and foster joint ventures for Lithium battery/cell production plants in India.

- **Financial Aid**

- Under the framework of South-South Cooperation, **India gave a US\$ 100 million Line of Credit to Bolivia for financing development projects in sectors that Bolivia may choose.**

India-Bolivia Relations

- The Indian Embassy in Peru is concurrently accredited to Bolivia since April 1981.
- Bolivia opened a resident Mission in India in 2012.
- **Trade Relations**
 - **India-Bolivia bilateral trade has grown in the last two years and it stood at US\$ 875 million in 2018.**
 - 60% of Bolivian gold is exported to India.
 - **Bolivia is the 8th leading trading partner of India in the Latin America region.**
 - There is a scope for diversifying trade basket to further strengthen the bilateral trade.

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