

India – El Salvador Bilateral Relations

Political:

The Embassy of India in Guatemala is concurrently accredited to El Salvador. India has an Honorary Consul General in El Salvador. El Salvador opened its Embassy with a resident Ambassador in New Delhi in 2008. El Salvador and India enjoy close and friendly relations.

Bilateral visits from India:

- September 2004: Shri Rao Inderjit Singh, MOS [EA]
- August, 2012: Secretary (West) and JS (LAC) to hold the first Foreign Office Consultations.
- June, 2013: Mrs. Krishna Tirath, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Women and Child Development (WCD)
- July, 2015: MOS Shri V. K. Singh to attend the Eighth Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies in San Salvador.

Bilateral visits from El Salvador:

- February 2004: Minister of Foreign Affairs, Maria Eugenia Brizuela de Avila
- March, 2007: Minister of Foreign Affairs Francisco E. Lainez.
- December, 2007: Vice Minister for Salvadorans Abroad, Ms. Margarita Escobar.
- January, 2008: Vice President Ana Vilma de Escobar to attend the CII Partnership Summit.
- June, 2008: Vice Foreign Minister Eduardo Calix to attend the second India-SICA Foreign Ministers' meeting.
- February 2009: Vice President Ana Vilma de Escobar to attend the India-Latin America and Caribbean Conclave organized by CII in Bengaluru.
- March, 2011: Minister of Foreign Affairs Hugo Martinez.
- November, 2011: Dr. Erlinda Handal Vega, Vice Minister of Science & Technology met Dr. D. Purandeswari, MOS, Human Resource Development and MOS, S&T & Ministry of Earth Sciences Dr. Ashwani Kumar.
- December, 2014: Mr. Carlos Castaneda, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Second, India-El Salvador Foreign Office Consultations.

NAM: September, 2011: Smt. Preneet Kaur, MOS [PK] met Mr Carlos Castaneda, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Integration & Economic Affairs in Belgrade on the margins of 50th anniversary commemoration of NAM.

ISO: June, 2017: A six-member delegation from India led by Ms. Preeti Sudan, Secretary, Department of Food & Public Distribution, consisting of G.S. Sahu, Chief Director (Sugar & Veg. Oils), B.L. Sharma, Director, Cane Development & Sugar Industry, UP, and three members from the Indian Sugar Manufacturers' Association (ISMA), took part in the 51st Council Session of the International Sugar Organization (ISO) was held on 20-23 June, 2017 in San Salvador.

Trade delegations from India:

March, 2014: Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL);
Plastics Export Promotion Council (PLEXCONCIL).

August, 2014: Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council of India
(PHARMEXCIL)

July, 2015: The Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council
(SRTEPC) of India organized the first-ever exclusive Exhibition
of Indian synthetic, rayon and blended textiles.

Trade & other delegations from El Salvador:

April, 2006: Two tour operators from El Salvador participated in the
Tourism Workshop for LAC region at New Delhi.

June, 2007: Salvadoran delegations, sponsored by PHARMEXCIL
attended the Pharma-LAC Conference in Hyderabad

March, 2008: Three Salvadoran delegates attended the INDIASOFT
conference in Hyderabad.

April, 2016: Three Salvadoran delegates attended the iPHEX 2016
organized by PHARMEXCIL.

Bilateral Agreements:

- MOU on Foreign Office Consultations between MEA and the Ministry of External Relations of El Salvador signed in February 2004.
- Agreement for waiver of visas for diplomatic and official passports signed in June 2008.
- MoU on setting up IT Training Centre in San Salvador signed in 2008. Accordingly, the IT Centre was established and functioned for 2 years successfully with the assistance of Government of India through NIIT. On the

request of El Salvador, it was further extended by one year and after successful completion of the course, the IT Centre was handed over to Salvadoran authorities in June 2011.

- Agreement on Science, Technology & Innovation signed in August 2012.

Trade and Economic:

India-El Salvador Trade (in million US \$)

Year (April - March)	Imports from El Salvador	Exports to El Salvador	Total trade	% Growth
2010-2011	05.40	24.06	29.46	57.27
2011-2012	08.27	37.52	45.79	55.44
2012-2013	08.64	56.06	64.71	41.31
2013-2014	07.99	65.11	73.10	12.97
2014-2015	10.27	61.48	71.76	-01.84
2015-2016	06.18	68.54	74.72	04.15
2016-2017	05.77	60.49	66.26	-11.32
2017-2018	09.02	69.45	78.47	18.43
2018 (Apr.-Oct)	2.83	45.41	48.24	--

Main exports by India; Pharmaceuticals, fabrics, organic chemicals, plastic and plastic articles.

Main imports by India: Wood & wood products, iron & steel, etc.

India Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC): Under the ITEC, Dr. Anitha Karun, Principal Scientist (Horticulture) and an expert on tropical fruits, coconut & mango, visited El Salvador. Dr. Karun worked with National Agricultural Research Centre of El Salvador from July-August 2013.

The Government of India has offered 30 ITEC slots to El Salvador for 2018-19. Additionally, the Central American Integration System (SICA) Secretariat, which has its headquarters in El Salvador, has been offered 5 ITEC slots for 2018-19.

Mrs. Krishna Tirath, Minister of State for Women & Child Development, during her visit in 2013 offered scholarships from Ministry of Women & Child Development to 10 emerging young women leaders from El Salvador for a study tour to India. The study tour by the selected candidates took place from February-March, 2014.

Bilateral Collaborations: A 4-member Indian delegation from Department of Electronics and IT visited El Salvador in February-March 2013 and took part in an IT Workshop organized by Agency for Science & Technology of Ministry of Education of El Salvador. Three broad areas of cooperation viz. (i) capacity building; (ii) training of trainers; and (iii) upgradation of GOI-set up IT Centre at

ITCA were identified. The delegation also had an interaction with faculty members and students of IT Training Centre at ITCA.

Donations:

- Government of India donated medicines and medical stores worth Rs. 5 lakhs to El Salvador as relief supplies for the victims of the 1998 Hurricane Mitch.
- Government of India also donated medicines worth US\$10,000 in August 2005 and 18 Bajaj three-wheelers in November 2005.
- In Nov 2009, hurricane 'Ida' caused extensive loss of life and damage to infrastructure in El Salvador. Government of India made a cash donation of US\$ 250,000 as humanitarian aid to El Salvador.
- Government of India made a cash donation of US\$ 100,000 as humanitarian aid to El Salvador in December 2011 in the wake of devastating Tropical Depression 12-E which caused considerable loss in late 2011 of human lives and damage to infrastructure in El Salvador.

International Day of Yoga: The Embassy, in association with Dr. José Matías Delgado University and Yoga Centres of El Salvador, organized the Fourth International Day of Yoga on 23 June 2018 at the University Campus in San Salvador. The event received good publicity and was attended by a large number of people, including media house. Many Government officials and diplomats also attended the event.

Cultural linkages:

- October 2005: Cultural troupes from India visited El Salvador and gave performances;
Exhibition of the Churches of Goa "Velha Goa" was held in San Salvador.
A 'Friends of India' Association was formed.
- September, 2011: An ICCR-sponsored, 8-member dance troupe led by Dr. Sonal Mansingh performed "NAYIKAA" to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Nobel-laureate Dr. Rabindranath Tagore.
- October, 2011: An ICCR-sponsored, 15-member Odissi dance group led by Ms. Sutapa Talukdar performed 'Shyama' at the most prestigious National Theatre.
- Feb-March, 2013: An Indian Film Festival was organized in San Salvador where 15 blockbuster Indian films were screened.
- January, 2015: An ICCR-sponsored visit by a Rajasthani dance Troupe gave performances in San Salvador.

Indian Community: There is hardly any Indian community, and number of Indians is less than a dozen. Some of them are Mother Teresa missionary nuns.

Useful Resources: For more information and latest updates, please visit Embassy of India in Guatemala website: <http://www.indemguatemala.gov.in>
Embassy of India, Guatemala Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/EmbajadaIndiaGuatemala>
Embassy of India, Guatemala Twitter page: <https://twitter.com/IndianEmbassyGT>
