

## India – El Salvador Bilateral Relations

India and El Salvador enjoy close and friendly relations. The Embassy of India in Guatemala is concurrently accredited to El Salvador, while El Salvador opened its Embassy with a resident Ambassador in New Delhi in 2008.

### **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: Gen. V.K. Singh, MOS (VKS) 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, and Integration & Economic Affairs in Belgrade on the margins of 50<sup>th</sup> 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 51<sup>st</sup> 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.
- El Salvador has signed the ISA Framework Agreement in June 2018 but has not ratified it. The General Directorate of Legal Affairs of MoFA informed on 21 January 2019, that it was moved to the Legislative Assembly for the respective ratification process.

**Trade and Economic:**

### India-EI Salvador Trade (in million US \$)

Year ( April - March)	Imports from EI Salvador	Exports to EI 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
2018-2019	4.20	78.66	82.86	5.59
2019-2020	2.1	51.13	53.32	(Apr-Dec)

**Main exports by India:** Pharmaceuticals, automobiles (two & three wheelers), 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 had offered 10 ITEC slots to El Salvador for 2019-20. Additionally, the Central American Integration System (SICA) Secretariat, which has its headquarters in El Salvador, has been offered 5 ITEC slots for 2019-20.

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.

**Line of Credit:** A Line of Credit of US\$ 15 million was announced by GOI during the visit of Foreign Minister Lainez in March 2007. In June 2008, under India-SICA FM level dialogue meeting, US\$ 10 million LOC was offered to El Salvador. This offer was increased to US\$ 30 million during India-SICA Ministerial Meeting in 2015. However, El Salvador has not been able to utilize the LOC due to IMF-imposed restrictions on borrowings. In addition, all external loans have to be approved by Parliament.

**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 the Ministry of Culture and the Municipality of San Salvador's Cultural Secretariat of El Salvador, organized the Fifth International Day of Yoga on 23 June 2019 at the Plaza Salvador Del Mundo, the most famous emblematic monument of the capital city and a national symbol of hope and faith of the Salvadoran people. The event received good publicity and was attended by a large number of people, including media house. Many Government officials and diplomats, including H.E. Ms. Suecy Callejas, Minister of Culture of El Salvador 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.
- May, 2019: An ICCR-sponsored visit by a 4-member Jugalbandi Instrumental Group gave performances with the members of the National Folkloric Ballet of El Salvador at the National Theater of Santa Ana and National Theater of San Salvador.
- May, 2019: A Vegetarian Food Festival was organized at hotel Crowne Plaza in San Salvador, as part of the yearlong celebrations of the 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- May, 2019: The "Bharat Ek Parichay (Know India): Sharing knowledge with the world" corner was set up in the Library of the National University of El Salvador.

February 2020: A 6-member ICCR-sponsored Odissi dance troupe led by Ms. Jyotsana Rani Sahoo will be visiting El Salvador during 4-5 February, 2020 to commemorate the celebration of 71st Republic Day of India.

**Indian Community:** There is hardly any Indian community, and number of Indians is less than a dozen. Some of them are nuns working in Missionaries of Charity.

**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>

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**31 January 2020**