

## **India-Chile Relations**

### **Political**

#### **Bilateral relationship:**

India-Chile relations are characterized by warmth, friendship and commonality of views on a wide range of issues. In 2009, India and Chile celebrated 60 years of establishment of diplomatic relations which coincided with the visit to India by the President of Chile, H.E. Dr. Michelle Bachelet Jeria. Chile shares India's concerns over the threat of international terrorism and has regularly condemned the acts of cross-border terrorism that India has suffered. The Chilean Parliament strongly condemned the terrorist attack on the Indian Parliament and the terrorist attacks in Mumbai. Both countries share similar views on expansion and reforms of the UNSC. Chile has articulated its support for India's claim to a permanent seat in the UNSC in a Joint Statement issued at the conclusion of the official visit of Chile's Foreign Minister to India in April 2003 and Chile has continued to express this stand in India's favour regularly since then. The bilateral relations have strengthened over the years with the exchange of high-level visits.

#### **Visits:**

High-level visits have been exchanged by both sides. Hon'ble Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi (1968), Hon'ble President Shri Shankar Dayal Sharma (1995) and Hon'ble President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil (2008) have visited Chile. Likewise, Presidents of Chile, H.E. Mr. Ricardo Lagos Escobar (2005) and H.E. Dr. Michelle Bachelet Jeria (2009) have visited India. In 2012, Dr. Michelle Bachelet visited India as the Executive Director of the UN Women.

Many Ministerial visits have also been exchanged between both countries. The recent visits from India to Chile include those of Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, Hon'ble MOS (Commerce and Industry) in September 2010; Shri Dinsha J. Patel, Hon'ble MOS for Mines in April 2011; Dr.S.Y.Quraishi, Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner of India in July 2011; Smt.Meira Kumar, Hon'ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha in January 2012; Shri Sachin Pilot, Hon'ble MOS(C&IT) in April 2012; Shri Salman Khurshid, Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs in February 2013; Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Hon'ble Minister of New and Renewable Energy in September 2013 and Shri J.D.Seelam, Hon'ble MOS(Revenue) in March 2014. A eleven-member Indian Goodwill Delegation of Parliamentarians, led by Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Hon'ble MOS (Textile, Parliamentary Affairs, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation) visited Chile in November 2014. A four member Indian Parliamentary delegation led by Dr.Sunil Baliram Gaikwad, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), and officers from the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats, attended the World e-Parliament Conference held in Valparaiso, Chile from 28-30 June, 2016. In addition, Defence Chiefs from all the three Services of India and Chile have exchanged visits.

Ministerial visits from Chile to India include H.E. Mr. Alfredo Moreno Charma, Foreign Minister (who represented Chile as the pro-tempore President of CELAC at the First India-CELAC Troika Meeting) and also for bilateral talks with Indian authorities in August 2012 and H.E. Mr. Luis Mayol, Minister of Agriculture in June 2013. An official Chilean delegation headed by H.E. Mr. Eduardo Frei, Ambassador on Special Mission to the Asia-Pacific, and former President of Chile, visited India from November 20-30, 2015.

The Sixth Round of India-Chile Foreign Office Consultations were held in New Delhi on 31, October, 2014.

**Agreements:**

India and Chile have signed Agreements/MOUs covering various fields of cooperation viz. PTA, Sports, S&T, Antarctica, Defence, Air Services, Agriculture, New and Renewable Energy, Education, Outer Space, Geology and Mineral Resources.

**ITEC Programme:**

The ITEC Programme is popular in Chile. The Embassy of India currently offers around 25 ITEC scholarships to Chilean nationals.

**Trade and Economic Relations**

Bilateral trade has grown substantially to reach record levels each way. Chilean exports to India grew steadily from 2009 to 2012. Indian exports to Chile have also grown by 36.9%, 22.6% and 40.9% respectively over the same period. In 2012, Indo-Chilean bilateral trade was US\$ 3.29 billion and in 2013, bilateral trade was US\$ 2.87 billion. During 2014 the bilateral trade has reached US\$ 3191.60 million as per Chilean trade figures. In 2014, there has been a slight decrease in Indian exports to Chile due to the uncertainty about the carbon tax proposed to be levied on diesel vehicles which affected automobile exports from India. In 2015, the bilateral trade reached US\$ 2712.74 million. Following table gives the bilateral trade between India and Chile in million US Dollars:

Year	Exports from India to Chile (CIF)	Imports from Chile by India (FOB)	Total Indo-Chilean bilateral trade
2009	278.07	908.35	1186.42
2010	380.91	1581.95	1962.86
2011	467.03	1964.99	2432.02
2012	658.45	2636.82	3295.27
2013	693.90	2182.70	2876.60
2014	619.85	2571.75	3191.60
2015	685.76	2026.98	2712.74
2016 (Jan-June)	345.84	703.20	1049.04

*Source: Santiago Chamber of Commerce (In Million US Dollars)*

The above bilateral trade figures do not include India's exports to the Free Trade Zone of Iquique, which amounted to US\$ 39.2 million in 2010, US\$ 42.9 million in 2011, US\$ 60.8 million in 2012, US\$ 45.4 million in 2013 and US\$ 34.18 million in 2014, Imports from India in 2015 amounted to US\$ 22.1 million (CIF); and India's service exports, which too amount to some US\$ 20 million. Around xix percent of the companies working in Zofri Zone in Iquique are of Indian origin.

High value-added Indian items such as commercial vehicles (TELCO, MAHINDRA), motor cars (Tata Motors, Suzuki Maruti, Hyundai), two wheelers, and bulk pharmaceuticals have entered the Chilean market. Other traditional items being

imported by Chile are garments, handicrafts, textiles, carpets, and hand tools. India's imports from Chile are predominantly copper, iodine, chemical wood pulp, molybdenum concentrates, and fresh apples.

Recent Indian business delegations that visited Chile were: PHARMEXCIL delegation in March 2012 and July 2015; Apparels Exports Promotion Council (AEPC) in March 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2016; Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) in November 2013 and March 2015; Sports Goods Export Promotion Council delegation (SGEPC) in November 2013; Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council of India (ESC) in March 2014, Council for Leather Exports(CLE) in August 2015.

A 20-member Chilean Business delegation, jointly led by CamIndia (Chile-India Chamber of Commerce), Santiago Chamber of Commerce, Asia Pacific Chamber of Commerce and Mujeres del Pacifico, visited India from 14-24 November, 2015, and participated in the India International Trade Fair and had other business meetings.

An India Tourism Road Show led by Secretary(Tourism), with the participation of around 15 Indian tour operators, was held in Santiago on 29 September, 2014, by the India Tourism Office, New York, the Ministry of Tourism and the Embassy of India in Santiago.

The India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) organized an exclusive Indian Trade Fair - "Expo India 2015" in Santiago from March 11-15, 2015. The event was a huge success which attracted around 52,000 people. The ITPO organized another Trade Fair - "Expo India 2016" - in Santiago from 2-6 March, 2016, which was equally successful with attendance by nearly 60,000 people. Both the fairs had a diverse display profile, viz. engineering, information technology, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, textiles, leather goods, handicrafts, food industry, sports goods, tourism & hospitality, new and renewable energy sources, etc.

Another Indian Trade Fair was organised in the city of Concepcion from 12-20 March, 2016, with the participation of around 40 Indian companies which took part in the Expo India Trade Fair in Santiago.

### **Cultural Relations**

Chileans have a lot of interest in the cultural traditions of India. Yoga and Ayurveda are quite popular in Chile. Yoga is practiced by a large number of Chileans. There are numerous Yoga and Ayurveda schools of differing philosophies across the length of the country. Chileans are also interested in learning Indian classical dances. There are quite a few dancers trained in Indian Classical dance forms. However, Bollywood music and dance is more popular in the country. Indian cuisine is appreciated and Indian restaurants offer a fine dining experience. A number of cultural organisations such as Hindu temple, ISKCON, Brahmakumari Samaj, Kundalini Yoga, Iyengar Yoga, Bikram Yoga, Art of Living, Instituto Difusion Budista, Shudha Dharma Mandalam, etc., have come up in Chile.

On 21 June, 2015, the first International Day of Yoga was celebrated in a grand way in Santiago and other major cities like Punta Arenas, Iquique, Concepcion and Vina del Mar. The second International Day of Yoga was celebrated on 24 June, 2016 in

Santiago, and other cities of Chile, which saw huge participation by people from all walks of life.

A “Festival of India in Chile” was organized on 29 November, 2015. The Festival was a musical and dance extravaganza with more than 60 artistes performing in the day-long event, which also included a photographic exhibition, mini film festival, activities for kids, handicrafts and textiles from India, food festival, lectures and workshops on Ayurveda and Yoga by leading institutes in Chile. The festival was attended by more than 7000 people.

On the occasion of the 125th Anniversary celebrations of Dr.B.R.Ambedkar, a seminar was organised on 17 March, 2016, with a lecture by Prof. Augustin Paniker. Another seminar was organised on 15 April, 2016, focussed on the life and works of Dr.B.R.Ambedkar.

### **Indian Community**

The origins of the Indian community in Chile can be traced back to 1905. Currently, there are around 2000 persons of Indian origin as well as NRIs. Around 60% of them have obtained Chilean nationality. One third of them live in the northern free port of Iquique and the rest are in Santiago, Valparaiso, Vina del Mar, and Punta Arenas. Their main occupation is trading. The number of professionals and expatriates working in sectors such as ICT, including BOP and KPO, has been increasing of late. The Indian community has integrated itself well within the Chilean society.

#### **Useful Resources:**

For more information and latest updates please visit the Website and Facebook page of the Embassy of India, Santiago.

Website: <http://www.embajadaindia.cl>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/IndianEmbassy.Santiago>

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