

Embassy of India  
Bratislava  
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### **India - Slovakia Relations**

India – Slovakia relations are friendly and free from any bilateral issues. The two countries have, generally, been supportive of each others candidatures in international organizations. Both the countries are cooperating well in international fora and have been, by and large, supportive of each other’s candidatures.

#### Visits from India to Slovakia during 2015–November 2022:

Retd. Gen (Dr.) V.K. Singh, the then MoS for External Affairs participated in GLOBSEC Security Forum 2016 followed by bilateral discussions with Slovak authorities and V-4 Foreign Ministers (on the sidelines of the Forum) from 15-17 April 2018; the then MoS for External Affairs Shri M.J. Akbar, participated in the political dialogue and attended the GLOBSEC Forum 2018 from 15-18 May 2018. He held high-level meetings with Mr. Miroslav Lajcak, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs & 72<sup>nd</sup> President of the UNGA, Mr. Lukas Parizek, State Secretary in the Foreign Ministry, Mr. Richard Rasi, Deputy Prime Minister for Investment and Informatisation and Mr. Peter Gajdos, Minister of Defence of the Slovak Republic; During 2-4 June 2022, EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar participated in the GLOBSEC Bratislava Forum 2022 and held bilateral discussion with H.E. Ivan Korcok, Foreign Minister of Slovakia, EAM also met H.E. Eduard Heger, Prime Minister of Slovakia, on the sidelines of the GLOBSEC Forum.

#### Visits from Slovakia to India during October 2015–November 2022:

Mr. Vazil Hudak, Minister of Economy held meeting with Shri Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Railways from 07-10 October 2015; Mr. Miroslav Lajcak, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs attended 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia – Istanbul Process at Amritsar from 2 - 5 December 2016, as a Representative of Ms. Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Mr. Miroslav Lajcak, Foreign and European Affairs Minister visited India as President-elect of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Session of UNGA and called on PM Modi and Smt. Sushama Swaraj, the then Minister of External Affairs on 28 August 2017; State Secretary Mr. Lukas Parizek visited India from 26-28 September 2017 and held meetings with the then MoS for External Affairs Retd. Gen (Dr.) V. K. Singh and MoS for Defence, Subhash Bhamre. H.E. Mr. Vojtech Ferencz, State Secretary and First Deputy Prime Minister of the Ministry of Economy, Slovak Republic led a delegation to New Delhi for the 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the India-Slovakia Joint Economic Committee (JEC) meeting held on 13 February 2019. During his stay in India, H.E. Mr. Vojtech Ferencz, State Secretary of the Ministry of Economy met with Mr. C. R. Chaudhary, Minister of State, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, other high ranking officials from FICCI, CII, and headquarters of TATA, etc. Mr. Vojtech Ferencz, State Secretary and First Deputy Prime Minister in the Ministry of Economy participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> India-Europe 29 Business Forum (IE29BF) held on 20 – 21 November 2019 in New Delhi. During his stay, he held bilateral meetings with with Mr. Pratap Chandra Sarangi, Minister of State, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India. Mr. Lukáš Parízek, State Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> India-Europe 29

Business Forum held on 20 – 21 November 2019 in New Delhi. During his stay, he met with Mr. V. Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India.

Foreign Office Consultations:

The Indo-Slovak Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations (FoCs) was signed in July 1994. According to the Protocol, the Parties are expected to hold regular annual consultations at the level of Deputy Minister or Head of Department, alternatively in New Delhi and Bratislava. In April 2018, last FoC was held in Delhi – Mr. Michal Kovac, Director, Asia and Pacific Department, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Slovak Republic and Mr. Subrata Bhattacharjee, Joint Secretary(CE), MEA headed the consultations from Slovak and Indian side, respectively.

<b>Commercial Relations</b>	<b>Bilateral Trade (in € million)</b>				
	2022 (Jan-August)	2021	2020	2019	2018
India’s Export	€345.0	€355.2	€273.3	€276.3	€273.0
India’s Import	€98.8	€139.7	€85.2	€100.5	€72.6
Total Trade	€443.8	€494.9	€358.5	€376.8	€345.6
Trade Balance	€246.2	€215.5	€188.1	€175.8	€200.4

India-Slovakia Trade:

As per Slovak Statistical Office data, major items of India’s export to Slovakia during January 2021- August 2022 include footwear, part of footwear, garments, tires, motor vehicle parts, medicaments, wire & cable, seats. Major items of import from Slovakia include piston engines, motor vehicles, pumps, electric motors, transmission shafts, measuring instruments, wire and cables, machinery. In 2020, India’s import from Slovakia recorded a year-on-year decrease of 15% to €85.2 million and India’s export to Slovakia decreased by 1% to €273.3 million. Trade balance was in favour of India and reached €186.2 million. Total trade was €358.5 million, a drop by 5%. In 2021, India’s export to Slovakia reached €355.2 million, an increase of 30% in comparison to the same period of 2020. Import from Slovakia stood at €139.7 million, an increase of 64% year on year. Total trade was €494.9 million, a growth by 38%.

Indian Investments in Slovakia:

Slovakia has attracted foreign investment from a large number of countries, especially from the USA (US Steel, KPMG, IBM, InoBat Auto), Germany (Volkswagen, BASF, Lidl), France (Peugeot-Citroen, Faurecia, Danone), South Korea (Kia Motors, Samsung Electronics), and Japan (Panasonic, Sony).

In December 2021, M/s Amara Raja Batteries Limited, Hyderabad, stated company’s plans to invest in InoBat Auto, Bratislava, a technology developer and manufacturer of premium innovative batteries for E-mobility. This step will significantly enable Amara Raja access to expertise that will help deploy the required technologies for the manufacture of batteries for E-Mobility applications. The investment thereby will open new R&D avenues while allowing it to adapt InoBat’s highly innovative battery technology to the markets that Amara Raja

already serves. InoBat is currently developing a battery research and development centre and production line in Voderady, Slovakia and the next phase of the project will focus on a manufacturing scale-up through a number of gigafactories planned across Europe and globally.

In January 2020, CK Birla Group through its company National Engineering Industries (NEI) acquired Slovakia-based Kinex Bearings. Kinex has an annual turnover of around €60 million, rich history in engineering and bearing production. It supplies products to over 80 countries and employs around 1,000 workers in its two production plants in Slovakia (Bytca and Kysucke Nove Mesto) with a capability to produce bearings for railways, industrial segments and textile industry.

Tata Motor's Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) state-of-the-art automobile plant with an investment of €1.4 billion with annual manufacturing capacity of 150,000 vehicles started the construction in September 2016 and its operation began in October 2018. It received financial support of €125 million from the Slovak government as well. The Land Rover 'Discovery' was the first model being produced at the facility. The new version of the Land Rover 'Defender' production also started from December 2019.

In 2017, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) opened branch in Bratislava. TCS is providing IT Services for Jaguar Land Rover in Nitra.

In 2017, Dhoot Transmission, Aurangabad-based wiring harness manufacturer acquired TFC Cable Assemblies plant in Slovakia. TFC manufacture wiring harnesses, wiring looms, and cable assemblies for automotive industry.

In the past, Indian companies explored investment opportunities in auto accessories, tire manufacturing, and the spa and wellness sector in Slovakia. Although Slovakia has the advantage of a good infrastructure, key geographic location, a skilled labour force and is a Euro zone member, its neighbours – Hungary and Poland proved larger domestic markets and lower costs and have proven to be somewhat more attractive to Indian investors.

#### *Slovak Investments in India:*

Slovakian rail freight cars and bogies manufacturer Tatravagonka a.s., Poprad acquired a 26 percent stake in Jupiter Group, Kolkata in 2015. Tatravagonka is headquartered in Slovakia and is the leading designer and manufacturer of freight wagons in Europe with approximately 40 percent market share. Budamar Logistics owns 50 percent of Tatravagonka and is a leading transportation, freight forwarding and logistics provider with strong presence in Central Europe. Budamar is also into the rail car leasing business and has a fleet of over 10,000 wagons. Jupiter Group, which manufactures freight wagons, railway components and railway equipment has announced the acquisition of over 60 percent stake in Madhya Pradesh based company Commercial Engineers & Body Builders Co. Ltd. (CEBBCO) in February 2019.

GMP Slovakia, s.r.o., a worldwide leader in the production of steel reels, drums, take aparts reels and handling equipments for the wire and cable industry has its main manufacturing plant located in Pribenik. It's second manufacturing plant, GMP Reels India, was founded in 2013 and is located in Nashik, Maharashtra. In December 2019, GMP Reels India moved to a bigger new plant with industrial area of around 3,000 sqm.

HTC Investment, a.s., Slovakia is the owner Zetor Tractors, a.s. based in Brno, Czech Republic. In 2014, Zetor Tractors, a.s. launched its sale subsidiary Zetor India Pvt. Ltd., Chandigarh. In January 2020, Zetor Tractors, a.s. signed an MoU on cooperation with VST Tillers Tractors Ltd., Bangalore in order to develop a new tractor designed primarily for the Indian market.

In 2020, Mr. Martin Kusik, former partner in the M/s Penta Investments s.r.o., Bratislava Group, whose assets are estimated at 460 million euros, bought through his Czech company M/s Odyssey 44 a.s., Prague, a stake in M/s IDFC First Bank, Mumbai. As on June 2021, Odyssey 44 owned 3.68% shares of the Bank.

Joint Economic Committee:

The Joint Economic Committee mechanism was started in May 1995. The 10<sup>th</sup> Session of India-Slovakia Joint Economic Committee on Economic and Commercial Cooperation was held in New Delhi on 13 February 2019. JEC was co-chaired by Ms. Nidhi Mani Tripathi, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Ms. Michaela Vozarova, Director General, Strategic Section, Ministry of Economy, Slovak Republic. The 11<sup>th</sup> session is due to be held in Slovakia, as per mutually agreed dates by both the sides.

Economic and Commercial Engagements (2019 – November 2022):

President of the Indian Chamber of Commerce in Slovakia (INDCHAM) attended the Vibrant Gujarat Summit, held on 18-20 January 2019 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The Chamber signed MoUs with the BRICS Chambers and the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce.

The Vidarbha Defence Industries Association (VDIA) held defence investors summit in Nagpur on 28 February – 1 March 2019, focused on Slovak and Czech defence companies. Following Slovakian companies participated - INDCHAM, CSM Industry (UDS Trucks), Cargen Start (Starters and Alternators), Way Industries (Bozena de-mining), ESET (endpoint security systems), Innovatrics (Biometric ids), and Incoff Aerospace (creators of drones and avionics of Shark plane).

Automotive Component Manufacturer's Association (ACMA), India, 11-members CEOs delegation visited Slovakia on 6 February 2019. Embassy organized a Business Forum and B2B meetings with the Slovak companies at the Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency (SARIO) premises. A visit to the Tata Group's Jaguar Land Rover plant at Nitra was also undertaken. They held a meeting with the State Secretary (equivalent to Minister of State in GOI) and other senior officers in the Ministry of Economy.

Representatives of M/s Indo-MIM Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore, dealing with precision-engineered products using metal injection molding participated in the International Engineering Fair, on 21-24 May 2019 at Agrokomplex Exhibition Center, Nitra and interacted with the Commercial Representative.

Director of M/s Dineshchandra R. Agrawal Infracon Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad, Gujarat visited Slovakia in June 2019 and discussed ways and means for business expansion. Commercial & Economic Wing arranged meetings for him with the senior government officials, i.e. Senior State Counsellor in the Ministry of Economy and with the Head of expert working group, Ministry of Transport and Construction. Further, in August 2019, Commercial Counsellor

coordinated with Director of M/s Dineshchandra R. Agrawal Infracon Pvt. Ltd. the visit of Mr. Ivan Carnogursky, CEO of M/s IPEC Group, Slovakia, who visited Gujarat and Rajasthan and held meetings with the top officials of the firm M/s Dineshchandra R. Agrawal Infracon Pvt. Ltd. plus visited their ongoing projects in order to explore possible joint business cooperation.

Commercial Representative participated in the 'Diplomatic Day' organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (MOFEA) on the occasion of the 46<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Agricultural and Food Exhibition 'Agrokomplex 2019' on 23 August 2019 at the Agrokomplex National Exhibition Center in Nitra. H.E. Mr. Anton Stredak, State Secretary, MARD along with Mr. Boris Zemko, Director of International Coordination Department, MARD and Mr. Pavol Sykorcin, Secretary General, MOFEA interacted with the participants.

Commercial Representative attended in the 'BiznisNet' organized by the Slovak Business Agency on 3 October 2019. A Business Forum was organized during BiznisNet and cooperation opportunities in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector between India and Slovakia were presented to the participants.

Director of Indian Importers Chambers of Commerce and Industry (IICCI), New Delhi visited Slovakia and participated in the Slovak Matchmaking Fair organized by Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency (SARIO) on 24 October 2019 in Bratislava.

On 20 November 2019 Lukáš Parížek, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs; Vojtech Ferencz, State Secretary of the Ministry of Economy together with Piyush Goyal, Minister of Trade, Industry and Railways, Government of India inaugurated the 5th annual India-Europe Business Forum in Delhi. The main themes of the Business Forum were renewable energy resources, pharmaceutical industry, cooperation in the area of high-tech and innovation technologies in industry, and the starting-up of P2P processes to enhance commercial ties. At the Forum, the Slovak Republic was represented by a 40-member delegation, which included a 20-member business delegation. State Secretary Vojtech Ferencz and State Secretary Lukáš Parížek emphasized Slovakia's interest in enhancing economic cooperation with India, with the focus on areas with added value and also presented Slovakia as an interesting destination for tourists.

During Mr. Vojtech Ferencz, State Secretary, Ministry of Economy visit to India in November 2019, he was received by Mr. Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways. He also held a bilateral meeting with Mr. Pratap Chandra Sarangi, Minister of State of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, GoI. Further, Mr. Ferencz held meetings with Mr. Subhash Chandra, Secretary (DP), Ministry of Defence, GoI and Mr. Vikram S. Kirloskar, President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

9 traders from India participated in the Christmas Days fair at Incheba Expo in Bratislava held from 4-22 December 2019. Commercial Representative visited the Fair and met with the Indian traders.

M/s CSM Industry, Tisovec participated in the DefExpo 2020 in Lucknow on February 5-8 2020 and signed a MoU with BEML on delivery of first joint project – UDS-BEML excavator. M/s CMS industry will produce and supply the superstructure, the UDS defense excavator, and BEML will make the chassis. In the signed MoU, both parties agreed to build a first demo machine to be tested by Indian Army before it gets into serial production. The MoU

was signed by BEML's Director of Defence Mr. R. H. Muralidhara and CSM Managing Director Mr. Tomáš Maroš in the presence of Hon'ble Minister of Defence of India on 7 February 2020.

On 12 February 2020, Commercial Representative met with Mr. Martin Polonyi, Director General, International Relations Section and Mr. Julian Kupka, Head of International Legal Affairs Unit, Ministry of Finance and discussed the status regarding termination of the old agreement and Ministry's comments/views on the draft new Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement prepared by the Indian side.

On 26 February 2020, Commercial Representative organized a Briefing Session on Union Budget. She presented the highlights of Union Budget 2020-21 and Economic Survey 2019-20. The event was attended by the Indian community members as well as Slovak officials.

Commercial Section organized a Business Forum in Kosice to be held on 25 March 2020 in cooperation with the Kosice Regional Chamber of the Slovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Indian Chamber of Commerce in Slovakia (INDCHAM) with participation of Slovak dignitaries and business community. However, the event was cancelled at the last minute due to the outbreak of Covid-19 cases in that region.

On 17 June 2020, Commercial Representative met with Mr. Jozef Rajtar, Director, International Cooperation Department, Slovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry and discussed various aspects of cooperating to enhance trade and investment including the prospect of arranging a virtual buyer seller meet with the Trade Promotion Council of India. She also briefed on the GoI adopted new policy, reform and economic stimulus initiatives to promote India as an investment destination under the 'Make in India' policy including several opportunities in different sectors.

On 13 July 2020, Commercial Representative met with Mr. Vladimir Hodal, newly appointed India Desk Officer, Bilateral Trade Cooperation Department, Ministry of Economy and discussed bilateral economic and trade relations.

On 10 July and 24 July 2020, respectively, Commercial Representative held meetings with Mr. Juraj Petruška, Counsellor, Economic Policy Department, Ministry of Foreign and European Union and discussed various aspects.

On 19 August 2020, Commercial Representative met with Ms. Marta Ziakova, Chairperson and Mr. Mikulas Turner, General Director of International Relations Department, Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic (UJD SR) and discussed status of proposed MoU between UJD SR and Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) of India.

A 2-page article on business opportunities in India and presenting 'Make in India', 'Invest India' and 'Indian Trade Portal' initiatives to local business community was published in August issue of the Slovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry monthly magazine.

In September 2020, amendments proposed by the Slovak Office of Standard, Metrology and Testing (UNMS SR) for renewal of MoU agreeable to Indian side and the amended draft MoU between the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and UNMS SR has been sent to Slovak side for their consideration/comments.

In September 2020, Commercial Section prepared to organize the 'States Day' to promote tourism and trade interaction in the Indian States of Rajasthan and Mizoram. Tourism brochures and Standees were designed and printed in Slovakia for the event. However, due to surge in Covid-19 cases and curfew/partial lock-down declared by the Slovak Government, this event could not take place.

In January 2021, Commercial Representative met with Mr. Sandeep Raj Sarin, CEO of M/s Meditrade s.r.o., Bratislava and discusses opportunities for supply of medical and ayurveda products to Slovak market.

In February 2021, Commercial Representative met with Mr. Sorab Anand Jain, CEO of M/s Leanvia s.r.o., Secovce. The company developed a software for Hospital Management. This solution automates the patient appointment system and manages inventory at medical centers/hospitals.

In March 2021, the Commercial Section supported the Indian Oilseeds and Produce Export Promotion Council (IOPEPC), Mumbai in organizing a Virtual Buyer Seller Meet for Oilseeds, Raisins and Spices held on digital platform. Slovak Association of Commerce and Indian Chamber of Commerce and Culture participated in the event from Slovakia.

In April 2021, Commercial Representative attended virtual event 'Innovation Day' hosted by State Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs Ingrid Brockova.

In May 2021, due to surge of Covid-19 cases, Commercial Section explored possibility of supply of various medicament/medical equipment and zeolite crystals for use in India with the Health Ministry, Pharmaceutical Associations and local companies.

In May 2021, in a 'India-EU Leaders' Meeting' follow-up action, Commercial Representative approached the National Bank of Slovakia regarding possible acceptance of RuPay Cards and UPI Apps in Slovakia.

In September 2021, Commercial Section in cooperation with the Indian Chamber of Commerce in Slovakia organized 'States Promotion Seminar' in Puchov. The event promoted investment, trade & tourism in the States of Mizoram, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh. Mayor of Puchov and several neighbouring cities along with around 60 local entrepreneurs attended the Seminar.

In September 2021, Commercial Representative attended the virtual 29th Annual General Meeting organized by the EU Chambers of Commerce in India, Mumbai.

In November – December 2021, representatives of the Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency (SARIO), as part of the organization team for the Slovak business mission's participation in the 7th Smart Cities India Exhibition and Conference to be held on 23-25 March 2022 in New Delhi, met with the Smart Cities Expo organizers as well as with CII and FICCI representatives.

In December 2021, Commercial Representative delivered a Opening speech citing latest developments in Indian economy, sector for potential cooperation, and investment opportunities in the States of Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh at the "Focus India: Entrepreneurship and Business Opportunities in India, Intellectual Property Protection" Webinar organized by the Slovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bratislava, India IP

SME Helpdesk and Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry (EUROCHAMBERS), Brussels.

In December 2021, Commercial Representative met Mr. Sanjay Barua, an NRI working with Stiga Company in Poprad and discussed investment opportunities in Slovakia.

In January 2022, Commercial Representative addressed the participants in the ‘Webinar on India-Slovak Defence Industry Cooperation’ and stated that the past two decades have seen good trade relations between India & Slovakia and our future cooperation could be led by meaningful JVs/TOTs between our defence industries. The online event was organised by the Ministry of Defence, GoI, Slovak Ministry of Defence in cooperation with the Embassy of India in Slovakia, Embassy of Slovak Republic in India, Slovak Defence Industry Association Agency (ZBOP) and FICCI. Top representatives of Indian and Slovak companies have presented their portfolios, areas of interest and possible opportunities for cooperation.

In January 2022, Commercial Representative attended review meeting on the progress of Export Target for FY2021-22 towards achieving the target of USD400 billion export hosted by JS(FT-Europe), DoC. As per data retrieved from the Slovak Statistical Office, the export target of USD213 million fixed for Slovak Republic for the FY2021-22 was achieved.

Slovak Agency for Investment and Trade Development (SARIO), Embassy of Slovakia in New Delhi and 9 small and medium-sized enterprises participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> Smart Cities Exhibition and Conference held from 23-25 March 2022 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The Slovak delegation had a national booth at the fair. More than 250 bilateral meetings were held with potential Indian business partners interested in cooperation opportunities, especially in the field of research, development and innovation. Ambassador-designate of Slovakia Mr. Róbert Maxián spoke in a panel discussion on the Ambassadors' Perspective on the Vision for the Development of Sustainable Smart Cities. Ambassador highlighted the implemented innovative projects, the benefits of doing business in Slovakia in the field of research and development, as well as "success stories" of Slovak business entities in India.

Commercial Representative visited the ‘Furniture and Living 2022’ Fair held on 27 April – 01 May 2022 at Agrokomplex Exhibition Center, Nitra and interacted with M/s Aryaza, s.r.o., Bratislava and M/s Living Global Interio, s.r.o., Bohumin, Czech Republic, importers and traders of Indian furniture and interior decorations.

Representative from the Embassy visited 47<sup>th</sup> edition of ‘Agricultural and Food Exhibition’ held from 18-21 August at Agrokomplex Exhibition Center, Nitra and interacted with Mr. Zdenko Soltys of M/s Zora-Mimex servis s.r.o. Brzotin, Slovakia. The company has business ties with M/s Farmtract Tractors Europe.

## **Cultural Relations**

Asian Weekend (2-3 August, 2019): The Embassy of India, in collaboration with the Embassies of Vietnam, Indonesia, Japan, China and Korea and the Bratislava Cultural and Information Centre (BKIS) took part in the Asian Weekend held at the Main Square, Bratislava. The event saw culinary and traditional cultural performances from the 6 Asian countries and was well received by tourists visiting the country and locals of Slovakia. A cultural group sponsored by ICCR performed during the event.

2<sup>nd</sup> Indian Festival (14 September, 2019): India Klub, a local Indo-Slovak Cultural Society, organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> Indian Festival in Bratislava on 14 September 2019 at the city centre, with the support of the Embassy and Bratislava Old Town Administration. The festival included stalls for Indian food, handicrafts, garments, home textiles, henna, sari show and a colourful cultural programme, which witnessed about 500 people.

550<sup>th</sup> Guru Nanak Devji celebrations: The Mission organized 550<sup>th</sup> Guru Nanak Devji celebrations on 22 September 2019 in the Embassy premises. It was attended by over 50 members of local Indian community.

Bharat ek Parichay: The Mission has distributed books under 'Bharat ek Parichay' initiative of the Ministry to prominent local universities.

Day of Indian Cuisine (18 October 2019): A day of Indian Cuisine was organized at the School of Gastronomy, Petralka. Ambassadors from Eight countries participated in the Event. The event was covered extensively by the local media. About 90 people participated in the event including students from the school of Gastronomy. An Indian chef prepared the food in the school of Gastronomy with the participation of students who were taught about preparation of Indian cooking.

Gandhi@150 celebrations: As part of Gandhi @150 celebrations, a tree planting event was organized in collaboration with the Slovak Indian Friendship society. 150 Linden Trees were planted near Liptovsky Mikulas on this occasion. A 9 member Bharatnatyam troupe led by Shri Satyajit Cherubala from ICCR rendered a performance on topic "Philosophy of Non-Violence of Mahatma Gandhi in Contemporary Mode". The dance performance was held at Bratislava during Asian Weekend and at Piestany. On 3rd October, 2019, Mission organized a lecture by Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna, a veteran Gandhian, at Constantine the Philosopher University Nitra. The event was attended by over 80 students and faculty members.

As part of conclusion of Gandhi@150, Mission organized a virtual celebrations on 2 October 2020 by hosting talks by Mr. Pavol Demes, Former Foreign Minister, Ms. Anna Racova, Slovak author on Gandhi and Mr. Alok Jain, General Secretary, Deendayal Research Institute.

As a part of celebration of 150th Birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Mission organized a photography exhibition titled 'Life of Mahatma Gandhi' during the period from 6 – 19 February 2020 in the premises of the famous Bratislava Castle. Painting on Gandhi by famous local artists were also exhibited on this occasion. Around 150 visited the exhibition.

A children painting competition was organized on 3 October 2020 by the Slovak-Indian friendship society in cooperation with Embassy in Slovakian schools. Awards were announced during the Gandhi@150 celebrations organized by the Society.

International Day of Yoga: IDY 2020 was celebrated by the Mission on 21 June 2021. Due to the prevailing situation caused by the COVID 19 pandemic and consequent restrictions on social gathering, International Day of Yoga was celebrated by the Mission on its online platforms. During IDY celebrations at Liptov in 2021, hand print textile poster was made as part of India @ 75 celebrations.

International Day of Yoga: IDY 2022 was celebrated by the Mission on 18 June at the iconic Bratislava Castle. The celebration began with a welcome address by the Ambassador, Dr. Mr.

Martin Klus, State Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and Ms. Romana Tabak, Member of Parliament and Chairwoman of Parliamentary Friendship Group with India. It was followed by Common Yoga Protocol by Ms. Jaiwanti, former TIC in the Embassy and concluded with Shanti Mantra and light refreshments. About 150 participants joined the celebration.

### AKAM

Screening of video for the global digital Painting and Poster Making Competition to mark AKAM.

Screening of short video clips titled “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Celebrating 75 Years of India’s Independence.”

Illumination of Slovak National Theatre with India’s tri-colour on our National Day.

A photo Exhibition 'Churches of India', by Benoy K Behl was launched at Ruseburgh University.

Organized Navratri festival with India diaspora.

National Unity Day Pledge on 29th October 2021.

Release of documentary on Sardar Vallabbhai Patel on 31st October 2021.

Ayurveda Day was celebrated on 2 November 2021. Several videos by Ayurveda Doctors and local practitioners were prepared and launched on our social media handles on this occasion.

Ambassador led the Embassy officers in reading of the Preamble on Constitution Day. Book launch of 'Gandhi and Slovaks' compiled by Mr Martin Sismis was organized on Constitution day. HOM addressed the dignitaries that included former Slovak Foreign Minister and Leader of India – Slovakia Parliamentary Friendship Group.

As part of AKAM, Embassy in cooperation with India Friendship Society organised a children painting competition in Lipovsky Mikulas on 16 September 2022.

As part of AKAM, Embassy in cooperation with India Klub organised a cultural event in Bratislava on 23 September 2022.

As part of AKAM, Embassy organised a reception on 30 September 2022. Ambassador handed over certificates to Indian students who helped in evacuation of Indian nationals from Ukraine.

### India@75

'Mission organized various virtual events including release of video on the reminiscences of a Slovak Tourist, to promote Tourism to India. To promote Indian culture, a Video on Dances of India by famous Artists was released on Mission's Social media platform.

Social media campaign highlighting India's achievements on India@75

### ***Indian community:***

The NRI/OCI population in Slovakia is estimated to be around 550. Most OCIs [total around 80-100] are engaged in small businesses, such as groceries, garments and textiles, ethnic handicrafts and restaurants. NRIs on the other hand can be divided into two groups: the first consisting of 40-50 technically qualified IT and other professionals on short term assignments of 1-2 years, and the second group working as cooks and waiters, and masseurs/masseuses at ayurvedic and other spas. There are about 300 students studying in Slovakia. The

Embassy maintains regular contact with them and associates during our National Days celebrations and other occasions. There is one association of 'Indians in Slovakia'.

## **November 2022**

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### Useful Resources:

- Mission website: <https://eoibratislava.gov.in>
- Facebook: @IndiainSlovakia
- Youtube channel: Indiainslovakia
- Twitter account: @IndiaInSlovakia