

India - Slovenia Relations

Republic of Slovenia attained independence from Yugoslavia in 1991. India recognized Slovenia on 11 May 1992. India supported Slovenia for membership at the UN. Slovenia was admitted into the UN on 23 May 1992.

Opening of Resident Missions

Slovenia opened its resident mission in New Delhi in August 2002. The Mission, initially headed by Charge d'Affaires, was upgraded to Ambassador-level in September 2009. India opened its resident Mission in Ljubljana in February 2007.

High-level Visits

India and Slovenia share cordial bilateral relations. **From the Indian side:** Gen. V.K. Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs attended the Bled Strategic Forum (31 Aug-1 Sept 2014); a Parliamentary delegation was led by Smt. Meira Kumar, former Speaker of Lok Sabha (26-30 May, 2013); Smt. Prineet Kaur, MOS (EA) participated at the annual Bled Strategic Forum in 2009, 2010 & 2013; Shri Anand Sharma, then MOS (EA) visited for inauguration of the Chancery premises of Embassy of India (March 2008); MOS for Finance (Revenue) Shri Gingee N. Ramachandran (Jan 2003); MOS for S&T Prof. Y.K. Alagh (Feb 1997).

From Slovenian side: H.E. Dr. Milan Berglez, President of the National Assembly led a 7-member Parliamentary delegation to India (24-27 Nov, 2015); H.E. Mr. Alojz Peterle, Member, European Parliament and Former PM of Slovenia participated in the World Culture Festival organized by the Art of Living at New Delhi (March 2016); Mr. Peter Macek, State Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science & Sport led a delegation for the CII's Knowledge Expo 2014, New Delhi (Nov 2014); Dy.PM and FM Mr. Karl Erjavec attended the 11th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi (Nov 2013); Mr. Zerjav Radovan, former Dy.PM and Minister for Economic Development and Technology (Jan 2013); former President Dr. Danilo Turk attended the Delhi Sustainable Summit (Feb 2010); State Visit of H.E. Mr. Borut Pahor as PM to India (13-16 June 2011); Former President Dr. Janez Drnovsek attended inauguration of International Conference on Human Values organised by the Art of Living Foundation in Bangalore (Jan 2006) & the Satyagraha Centenary Conference in New Delhi (Jan 2007); other high level visits include those by former Foreign Minister Dr. Dimitrij Rupel (May 1992), Dy.PM for Economic Relations Dr. Dravorin Kracun, Ministers for Science & Technology - Dr. Rado Bohinc, Dr. Lojze Marincek and Dr. Jure Zupan.

Slovene Parliamentary Friendship Group with India

The Parliamentary Friendship Group with India was established on 6 February 2009. Ms. Suzana Lep Simenko is the Chairman of the Slovene Parliamentary Friendship Group with India since 21 May, 2015. She was also a member of the Slovene Parliamentary delegation that visited India in November, 2015. In Nov 2009, the then Chairman of the Friendship Group, accompanied by two more members, visited India at the invitation of Government of India.

Bilateral Agreements/ Protocols/ MOUs

- Agreement on setting up Joint Committee on Bilateral Trade and Cooperation (1993)
- Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (1995)
- Agreement between FICCI/ASSOCHAM and the Slovene Chamber of Commerce and Industry to set up Joint Business Council (1995)
- Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations (1996)
- Cultural Agreement for cooperation in the fields of culture, arts, education, sports and mass media (1996)

- National Centre for Trade Information, India (NCTI) – Chamber of Commerce of Slovenia (CCS) Agreement for reciprocal sharing of information (1997)
- Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (2003)
- Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) – Slovenian Export Corporation (SEC) Cooperation Framework Agreement (2003)
- Bilateral Air Services Agreement (2004)
- MOU between ICCR and University of Ljubljana for establishment of Hindi Chair (2009)
- Agreement on Mutual Promotion and Protection of Investments (2011)
- MOU between the Bureau of Indian Standards and Slovenian Institute for Standardization (2011)
- MOU between the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru and University of Nova Gorica for Cooperation in the Field of Research and Education (2011)
- MOU for the establishment of Long Term Chair of Hindi at Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana (2011)
- MOU between Air India, Aerodrom Ljubljana and Adria Airways (2011)
- Protocol amending the Bilateral Air Services Agreement (2012)
- Agreement on Short-Stay Visa Waiver for Holders of Diplomatic Passports (2013)
- Agreement between Air India and Adria Airways on code-sharing arrangements (2013)
- MOU between PrasarBharati and RTV on Co-operation in Broadcasting (2013)
- MOU between NIMS University of Rajasthan, Jaipur and University of Primorska on Cooperation in the Fields of Education and Science and Research (Nov 2014)
- Agreement on Gainful Occupation of Dependents of Members of Diplomatic Missions and Consular Posts (April 2015)
- Protocol Amending the Convention and the Protocol for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income (May 2016)
- MOU between Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), Ministry of AYUSH and University of Primorska (July, 2016)

India-Slovenia Foreign Office Consultations

There have been eight sessions of the FOCs so far, the last at New Delhi in July 2010. Slovenia will host the next session of FOC at Ljubljana.

Science and Technology

Joint Committee on S&T Cooperation was established by an agreement in 1993. India-Slovenia JWG on S&T met in New Delhi on 19 Nov, 2014 and identified joint projects for implementation. Agreement on S&T Co-operation was extended to cover the period 2015-18.

JCTEC

The bilateral Joint Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation (JCTEC) has so far held eight sessions. The 8th Session of India-Slovenia JCTEC was held on July 16, 2013 in New Delhi. Next JCTEC Session may be held in Ljubljana in 2017.

Bilateral Trade

During the period January-April 2017, total bilateral trade has been to the tune of Euro90.60mn. Indian exports amounted to Euro61.30mn and India imported goods worth Euro29.30mn from Slovenia. So far the balance of trade has been in favour of India. Total bilateral trade in 2016 was Euro 306.89 mn. India exported goods worth Euro 219.81mn and imported goods worth Euro 87.08 mn with balance of trade in India's favour. However, India's exports decreased in comparison to the corresponding period in 2015, when the

total bilateral trade figured at Euro 306.97mn and India had exported goods worth Euro 234.64 mn and imported merchandise worth Euro 72.33 mn.

India has been participating at the Celje International Trade Fair since 2009. In 2014, 18 Indian companies participated which increased to 26 companies in 2015. India participated for the 8th time at the 49th MOS (International Trade and Business) Fair in Celje (Sept 2016) at which 15 Indian companies participated. GOI Tourism Office participated at the Alpe-Adria Tourism & Leisure Fair in Ljubljana (Jan, 2016) & Embassy participated at this fair in Jan 2017; Embassy participated at 12th Altermed Fair March 2016 and 2017; Dao Yah Fair (March 2017); a group of 8 businessmen and professionals visited Slovenia to participate at Slovenia-India Business Forum 2017, at Ljubljana (May 2017); two business roundtable events entitled "Doing Business with India" were organized in collaboration with the Municipality of Jesenice (May & June 2016). India was a Focus Country at the annual Alpe Adria International Tourism Show at Ljubljana (Jan 2015); India participated at Dao Yah Fair (Jan 2015) and 11th Altermed Fair at Celje (Mar 2015). A business roundtable entitled "India :New Frameworks for Business and New Business Opportunities" was organized by Embassy of India, in collaboration with Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Slovenia, in Ljubljana (May 2015), Celje International Trade Fair (Sept 2015) India took part in 51st International Wine Fair 'Vino Ljubljana' (Oct 2015). India was a focus country at the Business Bled Strategic Forum (Sept 2014). A business delegation from FICCI and CII also visited Slovenia during the Bled Strategic Forum. A Tourism seminar of tour operators and travel agencies of India and Slovenia was held in Ljubljana (March 2015).

M/s Pipistrel, the Slovenian maker of ultralight aircraft, signed a deal to deliver 194 trainer aircraft worth Euro 17 mn to India (Oct 2015). Slovenia participated in the CII Partnership Summit, Jaipur (Jan 2015); the First India-Central Europe Business Forum organised by FICCI in New Delhi (March 2014); 2nd India-Central Europe Business Forum (ICEBF) at Bangalore (Oct 2015); State Secretary at the Slovenian Ministry of Education, Science & Sport led a delegation for the CII's Knowledge Expo 2014 in New Delhi (Nov 2014). Former Minister of Economic Development and Technology Mr. Zerjav Radovan accompanied by a business delegation visited New Delhi, Agra and Kolkata (Jan 2013). A large business delegation accompanied then Prime Minister Borut Pahor during his State Visit to India (June 2011). The delegation visited Mumbai, Delhi and Bangalore.

Cultural Cooperation

The Mission has been organizing DAYS OF INDIA Festival in Slovenia since 2014. Under this rubric the Mission organized its 4th Edition in January 2017. The events included concert by ICCR sponsored 2-member group led by Anjan Saha who played Sitar and Subrata Manna on Tabla at Ljubljana (26-31 Jan), an exhibition of digital prints of paintings by Tagore at Grosuplje (28 Jan), exhibition entitled 'Leaders of India' at Novo Mesto (28 Jan) along with a workshop on Yoga; 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (Jan 2017); a 2-day workshop entitled - "An Introduction to Hindi Language and Literature" (Jan 2017) H.E. Mr. Mitja Bervar, Chairman of the National Council of Slovenia inaugurated an ICCR sponsored exhibition of photos by Amit Pasricha, entitled 'Sacred India' (Feb 2017); an exhibition on calligraphy by Satish Gupta was inaugurated at the Ljubljana Ethnographic Museum (March 2017), a festival of Indian Cinema at Bled and Skofja Loka (April 2017); celebrations for 3rd IDY in Slovenia began on 10 June with the organisation of an event by Yoga in Daily Life at Mozirje Botanical Garden at which around 500 Yoga enthusiasts participated; Embassy of India organized the 3rd IDY on 17 June at a picturesque public park, Tivoli Garden, in Ljubljana at which more than 100 persons were present at any given time. A Kannada film BHARJARI was shot at Kamnik, Štanjel, castle Sevnica Ljubljana and Celje castle in Slovenia (June 2017).

In 2016, the Mission organized 3rd edition of Days of India, the celebrations for which began on 25 January with inauguration of ICCR sponsored "Phulkari" Exhibition of Indian embroidery from Punjab and Haryana and a concert of Hindustani classical music; a photo exhibition on Gandhiji at Nove Fužine (Jan 2016); an exhibition of paintings and films based on short stories by Rabindranath Tagore (6-8 May) at Goriska Brda; an evening of Indian classical music "Magic of Santoor" (19 May); a week of Indian classical music at five different cities (21-26 May); celebrations of 2nd IDY 2016 on 18 June, with 'Family Festival of Yoga in Nature' organised by Yoga Association of Slovenia at Mozirje, Celje at which 1200 people participated; IDY by the Faculty of Sports and the Yoga Federation of Slovenia at Ljubljana (21 June); an exhibition of water colour paintings 'Monuments of India' (12 Aug-24 Sept), an exhibition of digital prints of paintings by Tagore at Jesenice (30 Aug); a concert of Indian classical music (23 Sept); a B2B event on Cooperative Entrepreneurship with Social Impact (16 Oct), two songs for a Kannada movie 'Naanu Mattu Varalakshmi' were also shot in Slovenia in 2016. In 2015 & 2014, Days of India; the Book – Letters from a Father to his daughter – was translated into Slovene and released on 19 Nov, 2014; release of a joint stamp to commemorate 125th birth anniversary of Jawaharlal Nehru (Nov 2014); India week (1-5 Dec, 2014); screening of Indian films at Open Isola Film Festival & Bled Film Festival (June 2014) and Ljubljana International Film Festival (Nov 2014).

A bust of Jawaharlal Nehru was unveiled at Dobrovo, Goriska Brda in May 2013. A statue of Mahatma Gandhi, donated by ICCR, was installed at Slovenj Gradec on 1 October 2010. A bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, donated by ICCR, was set up in November 2011 in the Municipality of Maribor - the Cultural Capital of Europe for 2012.

Ms. Alenka Smerkolj, the Development Minister of Slovenia, Executive Director of the Managers' Association of Slovenia, President of the All Ladies League Slovenia & the founder of the Envir Connective Centre, participated at the Women Economic Forum (WEF), one of the biggest women's global conferences held at New Delhi (May 2017). A five member theatre group 'Preseren Theatre' from Kranj participated at the 6th International Theatre Festival 2017 at Kolkata (May 30- June 4, 2017 organized by Kalindi Bhartyajon in association with ICCR, Kolkata. Distinguished Slovenian Professor of Philosophy, Prof. (Dr.) Lenart Skof, University of Primorska, visited India (9-18 March, 2016) under the aegis of Academic Visitors Programme 2015-16. At the invitation of GOI, Gregor Kos, President, Slovenia Yoga Union attended 2-Day International Conference on "Yoga for Body & Beyond" (22 -23 June, 2016) at New Delhi. Gopal Arora, Professor in Delhi University and Secretary of the Antar-Rashtriya Sahyog Parishad, a Delhi-based NGO, was deputed by ICCR to attend International Roma Conference organised by the European Roma Union and Ministry of Culture of Slovenia (March 2016). Secretary, AYUSH visited Slovenia in Sept 2014 and inaugurated AYUSH Information Centre at the Chancery premises. Slovenian delegation led by the Rector of University of Primorska, participated at the 6th World Ayurveda Congress at New Delhi (Nov 2014).

Indian Community-There is a very small Indian community of about 150, including PIOs, which comprises mainly of persons married to Slovenians and a few IT professionals.

Useful Resources:

Embassy of India, Yangon website: <http://indianembassy.si/>

Embassy of India, Yangon Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/eoi.ljubljana>

July 2017