

India – El Salvador Relations

Political

Indian Embassy in Panama 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 has shown keen interest to expand and deepen relations with India.

Visits

There have been several visits between the two countries. Shri Rao Inderjit Singh, MOS [EA] visited El Salvador in September 2004. Salvadoran FM Maria Eugenia Brizuela de Avila visited India in February 2004; Vice President Ana Vilma de Escobar visited India in January 2008 to attend the CII Partnership Summit, FM Francisco E. Lainez visited India in March 2007; Salvadoran Vice Minister for Salvadorans Abroad, Ms. Margarita Escobar visited India in Dec 2007. Vice Foreign Minister Eduardo Calix visited India in June 2008 to attend the second India-SICA Foreign Ministers' meeting. Vice President Ana Vilma de Escobar attended India-Latin America and Caribbean Conclave organized by CII in Bengaluru in February 2009. Salvadoran FM Hugo Martinez visited India during 27-29 March 2011. Smt Preneet Kaur, MOS [PK] met with Mr Carlos Castaneda, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Integration & Economic Affairs in September 2011 in Belgrade on the margins of 50th anniversary commemoration of NAM. Vice Minister of Science & Technology made a week-long visit to India during 23-30 Nov 2011 and met Dr. D. Purandeswari, MOS, Human Resource Development and MOS, S&T & Ministry of Earth Sciences Dr. Ashwani Kumar. Secretary (West) and JS (LAC) visited San Salvador in August 2012 to hold the first Foreign Office Dialogue between India and El Salvador and signed an Agreement on Science, Technology & Innovation between the two countries.

Bilateral Agreements

MOU on Foreign Office Consultations between MEA and the Ministry of External Relations of El Salvador was signed in February 2004. An Agreement for waiver of visas for diplomatic and official passports was signed in June 2008. An Agreement on Science, Technology & Innovation was signed in August 2012. An MoU on setting up IT Training Centre in San Salvador was signed in 2008 and accordingly the IT Centre was established and functioned for 2 years successfully with the assistance of GOI through NIIT. It was further extended by one year as requested by the Government of El Salvador and after successful completion of the course, the IT Centre was handed over to Salvadoran authorities in June 2011. It has trained over 1000 Salvadoran students so far. They now want its further upgradation.

Trade and Economic

Particular	Trade (in million US\$)
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	2008-09	2009 - 10	2010 - 11	2011-12
Exports to India	5.84	5.37	5.40	11.13
Imports from India	16.78	13.37	24.06	37.52
Total	22.62	18.74	29.46	48.65

Source: Department of Commerce (India)

India's main exports include pharmaceuticals, fabrics, organic chemicals, plastic and plastic articles, whereas, India's main imports include wood & wood products, iron & steel, etc. 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. El Salvador could not avail this earlier due to IMF imposed restrictions on borrowings, but recently El Salvador Government is actively considering to utilize this loan for health projects including purchase of medicines from India. Two tour operators from El Salvador participated in the Tourism Workshop for LAC region organized at New Delhi in April 2006. PHARMEXCIL sponsored the participation of two Salvadoran delegates in the Pharma-LAC Conference held in Hyderabad in June 2007. Three delegates attended the INDIASOFT conference in Hyderabad in March 2008.

As part of India's offer to several SICA countries to establish IT Centers, an IT Training Center has been set up at the Central American Technological Institute (ITCA) in San Salvador and trainers from NIIT were engaged in imparting training to students. NIIT Training Center has gained popularity in El Salvador.

GOI donated medicines and medical stores worth Rs. 5 lakhs to El Salvador as relief supplies for the victims of Hurricane Mitch a few years ago. GOI 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. GOI made a cash donation of US\$ 250,000 as humanitarian aid to El Salvador. GOI 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.

Cultural

Cultural troupes from India have visited El Salvador and given performances. Exhibition of the Churches of Goa "Velha Goa" was held in San Salvador in October 2005. A 'Friends of India' Association has been formed. To commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Nobel-laureate Dr. Rabindranath Tagore, an eight-member dance troupe led by Dr. Sonal Mansingh performed "NAYIKAA" in September 2011. Another 15-member Odissi dance group led by Ms. Sutapa Talukdar performed 'Shyama' in October 2011 at the most prestigious National Theatre. Both these visits were sponsored by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

India Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC)

Government of India has offered 30 ITEC slots for 2012-13 and in 2011-12, 12 out of 20 allotted were utilised. Deputation of Ms. Anitha Karun in the field of coconut farming has been finalised. 2-3 experts under ITEC to El Salvador in field of Tropical Fruits & Microfinance are under consideration.

Indian Community

There is hardly any Indian community, but number of Indians is about a dozen. Some of them are Christian and Mother Teresa missionary nuns.

January 2013