

India – El Salvador Bilateral Brief

Brief Political:

The Embassy of India in Guatemala is also accredited to El Salvador, which established its Embassy in New Delhi with a resident Ambassador in 2008.

India and El Salvador share close and friendly relations, with regular Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) helping to maintain momentum in bilateral ties. The most recent, the fourth FOC, was held in New Delhi on 1 May 2023. The Indian delegation was led by Secretary (East) Saurabh Kumar, while Ambassador Adriana Mira Mario, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, represented El Salvador.

During the third FOC, an MOU was signed between the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) and the Specialized Institute of Higher Education for Diplomatic Training of El Salvador. Additionally, an agreement for the visa waiver for diplomatic and official passports was signed in June 2008 and remains in effect.

El Salvador has consistently supported India at multilateral forums and is a member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), having signed the ISA Framework Agreement on 26 June 2018 and ratified it on 6 November 2019.

High-Level visits from India:

August 2024: Hon'ble MoS for External Affairs and Textiles, Shri Pabitra Margherita, visited Salvador. During the visit, he called the Hon'ble President of El Salvador and met with Foreign Minister and discussed the bilateral relations.

January 2023: Hon'ble MoS for External Affairs and Culture, Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi visited El Salvador in January 2023. During the visit, she called on H.E. Dr. Nayib Bukele, President of El Salvador; and met H.E. Ms. Alexandra Hill Tinoco, Minister of Foreign Affairs; H.E. Ms. Mariemm Pleitez, Minister for Culture and H.E. Mr. J. Miguel Kattan, Secretary of Commerce and Investment.

July 2015: Hon'ble MoS, Gen. V.K. Singh visited El Salvador to attend the Eighth Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies in San Salvador.

High-Level recent visits from El Salvador:

May 2023: Ambassador Adriana Mira Mario, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs visited India for the 4th FOC held on 1st May 2023 in New Delhi.

February 2023: H.E. Ms. Alexandra Hill T., Minister of Foreign Affairs

visited India and had a good discussion with H.E. Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, on full range of bilateral relations.

February 2023 Colonel Ennio Elvidio Rivera Aguilar, Vice Minister of National Defence, led 3-member delegation to visit Bengaluru, India to attend the Aero India-2023, in February 2023.

Bilateral Agreements:

- MoU on Consultations between India and El Salvador, signed on February 02, 2004
- Agreement for waiver of visas for diplomatic and official passports, signed in June 2008 and is in force.
- Agreement between India and El Salvador on Cooperation in Science Technology and Innovation, signed on August 21, 2012.
- El Salvador has signed the ISA Framework Agreement on 26/06/2018 and ratified it on 6/11/2019.
- MOU between the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS, MEA) Republic of India and Specialized Institute of Higher Education for Diplomatic Training, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of El Salvador, signed in 2021.

Commercial Relations:

India exported goods worth US\$ 99.28 million during the period April-November 2024, to El Salvador. Pharmaceuticals, textiles (especially cotton yarn and fibres), Chemicals, engineering products, automobiles - two & three wheelers, motor vehicles/cars, auto components and parts, iron and steel, industrial machinery and parts, electrical machinery and equipment are the top products exported to Honduras. El Salvador is close to US and due to its strategic location; there are huge opportunities for Indian IT companies for nearshoring from where they can serve the U.S. markets. Indian automobiles, engineering products, pharmaceuticals and textiles have a decent market in this country and the scope of expansion is enormous. There is one Indian BPO company in the country which has given direct employments to around 400 Salvadorians.

India-El Salvador Trade (in million US \$)

Year (April - March)	Imports from El Salvador	Exports Salvador	Total trade
2020-2021	3.82	84.12	87.94
2021-2022	4.11	62.06	166.17
2022-2023	2.31	126.98	129.29
2023-2024	2.60	128.91	131.51
April-November 2024	2.58	99.28	101.86

Developmental Assistance:

India's development cooperation has been robust with El Salvador. Over the years, India has been supportive to El Salvador, during COVID times; India supplied essential medicines and PPE kits. Similarly, earlier, India supplied medicines during the 1998 Hurricane Mitch; in August 2005; and donated 50 tons of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HADR) material to El Salvador for people affected by tropical storms in June 2024. Through India-UNDP Fund, India donated US\$ 1 million to support education for around 6,000 children from vulnerable communities in El Salvador & the project has been completed in 2024.

IT Centre: 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 period, the IT Centre was handed over to Salvadoran authorities in June 2011.

India Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC): So far 211 Salvadorans have been trained in India under ITEC scholarships. Five Salvadorian diplomats have been trained at SSIFS under the Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) Programme in 2005, 2012, 2016, 2017 and 2022. Similarly, as a part of 'ITEC On Site' programme, a four-member Indian Mining Expert delegation visited El Salvador from 3-7 October 2022. During their visit, they visited different abandoned mining sites for further studies across El Salvador with the accompanying delegation from the Ministry of Economy of El Salvador. In July/August 2023, 36 Diplomats from El Salvador participated in the 1st Special Course organized by Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) in New Delhi.

Cultural Relations:

There is a growing awareness of Indian culture in El Salvador. For strengthening cultural relations, Mission organizes different cultural programmes. Between 27-29 June 2023, 8 member ICCR sponsored Indian dance troupe 'Sankalp' led by Ms. Kasturi Pattnaik gave mesmerizing Odissi dance performances at San Salvador National Theatre, Santa Ana National Theatre and Theatre Francisco Gavidia in San Miguel. Through these performances, the troupe left a lasting impression on the Salvadoran audience, promoting cultural exchange, fostering the appreciation of Indian dance and cultural traditions. In May 2022, Embassy in association with Ministry of Culture of EL Salvador organized performances by the ICCR sponsored Kathak dance troupe led by Ms. Soniya Parchure in San Salvador and Santa Ana.

Similarly, to mark the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas), the Mission organized Unity Concerts by ICCR sponsored Indian Music band Purple Fusion in El Salvador cities in the first week of November 2022.

Earlier also various cultural events such as visits of dance troupes from India, like Indian Film Festival (February 2022, and August 2022), Indian Food Festival (September 2021) have been held in El Salvador.

International Day of Yoga: As a conclusion to the International Day of Yoga, the Embassy of India in collaboration with the Municipality of Soyapango, El Salvador, organized a remarkable Yoga event on 19 July 2024, in which around 400 enthusiastic Yoga lovers gathered to celebrate this ancient practice in San Salvador. In the previous year, on 30th July 2023, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, El Salvador, the Mission organized the IDY 2023 with the participation of hundreds of Yoga lovers. Similarly, in June 2022, the Embassy in collaboration with the consortium of 15 Yoga studios in El Salvador organized the 8th edition of IDY in San Salvador. More than 150 yoga practitioners participated during the event.

Holi Festival: The Embassy in association with the Ministry of Culture celebrated Festival of Holi in March 2023 in the picturesque Cuscatlán Park in San Salvador, in which more than 5000 Salvadorans and Indian community members participated.

Diwali Festival: The Embassy in association with Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized the first-ever Diwali celebration in San Salvador in November 2022, in which more than 100 dignitaries and community members participated.

Indian Community:

The numbers of Indians are around twenty. Some of them are working in BPO, pharmaceuticals, hospitality and in a Missionaries of Charity.

Useful Resources:

For more information and latest updates, please visit Embassy of India in Guatemala website: <https://indemguatemala.gov.in>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IndiaInGuatemala>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/indiainguate>

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