

India- Slovakia Relations

India- Slovakia relations are friendly and free from any bilateral issues. The two countries cooperate well in international fora and have been supportive, by and large, of each other's candidatures in election in multilateral organizations. Notable instances during 2012 included Slovakia's support to the Indian candidature for the UN's Joint Inspection Unit, Justice Shri Dalveer Bhandari to International Court of Justice (ICJ), and India's support for the Slovak candidature for the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. Slovakia supports permanent membership for India in UNSC. Slovakia also supported the waiver of NSG guidelines to enable international cooperation with India in civilian nuclear energy.

Important Bilateral treaties and Agreements:

- Protocol on Scientific cooperation between Slovak Academy of Sciences and Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (1995)
- Agreement for formation of the Indo—Slovak JBC (1995)
- MOU on Defence Cooperation (1995)
- Air Services Agreement (1996)
- Agreement on Cooperation in Science & Technology (1996)
- Agreement on Scientific Cooperation between Indian National Science Academy & Slovak Academy of Sciences (2001)
- Economic Cooperation Agreement (2004)
- Programme of Cooperation in the field of Culture (2004)
- Bilateral Investment Promotion Agreement (2006)
- Programme of Cooperation between Ministry of Culture of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic for the period 2011-2013

Visits from India to Slovakia during 2012-2013:

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| 16-22 September 2012 | Shri Birender Prasad Baishya, M.P. Rajya Sabha and former Union Minister led Indian Weightlifting Team consisting of 14 members to Kosice, Slovakia in the 3rd Youth (Boys & Girls) Weightlifting Championships. |
| 29-31 October 2012 | Smt. Preneet Kaur, MOS (PK) and her delegation comprising of JS (CE) and her PS visited Slovakia. |

Visits from Slovakia to India during 2012-2013:

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| 1-19 October 2012 | Mr. Jan Ilavsky, State Secretary of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic attended the 11 th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Hyderabad. |
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Bilateral Trade Statistics (in million):

(In million)

| | 2012 (Jan-Oct) | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 |
|---------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| India's Exports | € 149.423 | € 206.679 | € 164.410 | € 123.395 | \$144.095 |
| India's Imports | € 51.105 | € 68.933 | € 71.682 | € 57.521 | \$ 99.854 |
| Bilateral Trade | € 200.528 | € 275.612 | € 236.092 | € 180.916 | \$ 243.949 |
| Trade Balance (X-I) | € 98.318 | € 137.746 | € 92.728 | € 65.874 | \$ 44.241 |

(Courtesy:- Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic)
Slovakia joined the Euro Zone w.e.f Jan 01, 2009

India – Slovakia Trade Basket: Major items of India's exports to Slovakia during 2009 to 2012 include textiles and clothing accessories, footwear, inorganic chemicals, yarns and related products, plastics and pharmaceuticals. Major items of import from Slovakia include iron and steel products, road vehicles, industrial machinery and parts thereof, organic chemicals, and pharmaceutical products (antibodies) etc. A Slovak company has also been supplying axles for TATRA trucks being assembled by Bharat Earth Movers Ltd (BEML)

Investment: Slovakia has attracted foreign investment from a large number of foreign companies, especially from the US (US Steel), Germany (Volkswagen) France (Peugeot, Citroen), Republic of Korea (Kia Motors and Samsung Electronics) and Japan. More than 80 per cent of its industry has already been privatized. However, there are no significant Indian investments in Slovakia, or from Slovakia into India. In the past, Indian companies have explored investment opportunities in auto accessories, tyre manufacturing, and the spa and wellness sectors in Slovakia, without anything concrete materializing so far. Although Slovakia has the advantage of a good physical infrastructure, key geographical location, a skilled labour force and is a Eurozone member, its neighbours Hungary and Poland provide larger markets and lower costs and have proven to be somewhat more attractive to Indian investors.

Joint Committee: Under the trade agreement signed with Slovakia in 1993, an Indo-Slovak Joint Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (ISJEC) was set up in May 1994. So far six meetings have been held. In the 6th meeting held in India in Nov. 2006, a Protocol was issued to increase bilateral trade & cooperation in areas like pharmaceuticals, chemicals & petrochemicals, textiles and finalize programmes for cooperation in Forestry, S&T, energy, IT, agriculture and defence.

Indo-Slovak Joint Business Council: An agreement on the formation of Indo-Slovak Joint Business Council was signed between the Slovak Chamber of Commerce & Industry and FICCI/ASSOCHAM on 29 March 95. The JBC has so far held 5 sessions in Bratislava and Delhi, the last having been held in April 04 in Delhi. CII had organized an 'Enterprise India' trade exhibition in

Bratislava in Oct 05 with the participation of 35 Indian Companies. A five-member delegation from the Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council visited Slovakia in 2006.

S&T Cooperation: An Agreement on Cooperation in Science & Technology was signed in 1996. It envisages cooperation in joint research projects, exchange of specialists/scientists, organization of bilateral workshops/exhibitions etc.

ITEC Programme: With effect from current financial year, 10+2 ITEC slots are offered to Slovakia annually. Eight slots have been utilised so far.

Student Exchange Programme: The ICCR offers 2 slots every year to Slovak students for higher studies in India. Slovakia offers 1-2 slots to Indian students.

Estimated NRI/PIO: NRI/PIO population in Slovakia is estimated to be around 200. However, this is an unofficial estimation and, being a relatively small number, is prone to fluctuation.

Air link with India: There are no direct air links between India and Slovakia. However, the Vienna International Airport, which has a direct daily flight to New Delhi, is located in close vicinity of Bratislava and serves as the principal airport for Slovakia.

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