

**Embassy of India
Guatemala**

PRESS RELEASE

**Visit of Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, Smt.
Meenakshi Lekhi to El Salvador**

Minister of State for External Affairs and Minister of State (MOS) for Culture, Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi visited El Salvador from 17-19 January 2023. During the visit, MOS called on H.E. Dr. Nayib Bukele, President of El Salvador; and met with 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.

2. During the meeting with Hon'ble President, MOS discussed ways to further enhance bilateral relations especially India's development cooperation with El Salvador and growing bilateral economic relations. MOS and Hon'ble President also discussed cooperation at the multilateral level including at the UN. MOS also invited El Salvador to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

3. During the meeting with Minister Hill, both the Ministers reviewed the entire bilateral relations which spans to political, economic, cultural and developmental cooperation areas and decided that the next Foreign Office Consultations would be held soon on a mutually convenient date in New Delhi. Minister Hill lauded India's supply of COVID vaccine and essential medicines to the countries during the challenging times of the pandemic. Secretary Kattan and MOS discussed enhancing trade relations between two countries and opportunities for Indian companies for investment in El Salvador. With the meeting with Minister Pleitez, MOS discussed about growing cultural relations. As India celebrates its 75 years of Independence, both the Ministers inaugurated Indian Film Festival in the University to mark Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

4. Similarly, under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (India@75 celebrations), MOS delivered talk on '75 years of India's Growth Story' at the Dr Jose Matias Delgado University in San Salvador. Hon'ble Minister participated in a Yoga Event at the iconic Cuscatlán Park in the capital city. Hon'ble Minister also

participated in a tree plantation drive at the Park.

5. MOS interacted with the members of the Indian Community and business leaders in El Salvador during her visit and briefed them about the drastic socio-economic development in India under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji.

6. India shares close, warm and friendly relations with El Salvador, reinforced by our rich tradition of cooperation in the bilateral and multilateral arena. The trade between two countries is on upswing. In 2021-22, for the first time it crossed the figure of US \$ 165 million. El Salvador is also a significant beneficiary of Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme.

7. The visit of the Minister of State shows the importance India attaches to the bilateral relations with El Salvador. The visit is expected to provide further momentum to our bilateral partnership and enhance the mutual goodwill among our people.

19 January 2022
San Salvador