

**Embassy of India
Guatemala**

INDIA – EL SALVADOR BILATERAL BRIEF

Political:

The Embassy of India in Guatemala is concurrently accredited to El Salvador. El Salvador opened its Embassy with a resident Ambassador in New Delhi in 2008.

El Salvador and India enjoy close and friendly relations. Regular Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between two countries has helped both countries to keep momentum in bilateral relations. Last FOC (third) was held in San Salvador on 17 September 2021. During the FOC, both sides comprehensively reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations including health, trade and investment, tourism, aquaculture, energy, transport and aviation. And also discussed areas like infrastructure, culture, consular and development partnership. The Indian side was led Secretary (East) in the MEA Riva Ganguly Das, and the El Salvadoran side was led by Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Integration and Economic Promotion Ambassador Adriana Maria Mira.

During the third FOC, 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 of the Republic of El Salvador was signed. Similarly, Agreement for waiver of visas for diplomatic and official passports signed in June 2008 and is in force.

El Salvador has been consistently supporting India at the multilateral stage over the years.

El Salvador is a member country of International Solar Alliance (ISA) and has signed the ISA Framework Agreement on 26/06/2018 and ratified it on 6/11/2019.

Commercial relations:

Currently, commercial relations are on the upswing; with India exporting goods worth US \$162.06 million in 2021-22, India's highest ever export to El Salvador. Pharmaceuticals, textiles (especially cotton yarn and fibers), Chemicals, engineering products, automobiles- two and 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 to El Salvador	Total trade
2017-2018	09.02	69.45	78.47
2018-2019	4.20	78.66	82.86
2019-2020	3.2	79.34	82.55
2020-2021	3.82	84.12	87.94
2021-2022	4.11	162.06	166.17

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 and in August 2005.

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 208 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.

Cultural relations:

There is a growing awareness of Indian culture in El Salvador. As a part of strengthening these cultural relations, Mission organizes a different cultural programmes. As a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, Embassy in association with

Ministry of Culture of EL Salvador organized performances by the ICCR sponsored Kathak troupe led by Ms Soniya Parchure in May 2022 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 visit 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:

The Embassy of India in collaboration with the consortium of 15 Yoga studios in El Salvador organized the 8th edition of International Day of Yoga in San Salvador in June 2022. More than 150 yoga practitioners participated in the event.

Indian Community:

The numbers of Indians are around twenty. Some of them are working in BPO, pharmaceuticals, hospitality and in a Missionaries of Charity. In November 2022, for the first time, Embassy and Foreign Ministry of El Salvador organized celebrations of Diwali at the premises of the Foreign Ministry, with the Indian community.

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>
