Embassy of India
Guatemala

India – El Salvador Bilateral Brief

Political

The Embassy of India in Guatemala is concurrently accredited to El Salvador, while El Salvador established its resident Embassy in New Delhi in October 2008. Bilateral relations between the two countries have witnessed steady growth in recent years, with increasing political engagement and high-level exchanges. Pabitra Margherita visited El Salvador in August 2024, while Presidential Advisor Ibrahim Bukele visited India in April 2024 to explore cooperation in metro rail, buses, and 5G technology. Earlier, Meenakashi Lekhi visited El Salvador in January 2023 and Foreign Minister Alexandra Hill Tinoco visited India in February 2023. President Nayib Bukele has conveyed support for India's growing global role and El Salvador has consistently supported India in multilateral fora.

Regular Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) have played an important role in maintaining momentum in bilateral relations. The 4th FOC was held in New Delhi on 1 May 2023, during which both sides reviewed cooperation in health, trade, tourism, energy, transport, infrastructure, culture, and development partnership. The 5th round of FOC is expected to be held in El Salvador this year at the Vice-Minister level. El Salvador is also an active member of the International Solar Alliance and hosts the headquarters of the Central American Integration System in San Salvador. India and SICA continue to strengthen regional cooperation through regular Foreign Ministers' meetings, including the 5th India-SICA Meeting held in New York in September 2025 and the SICA–India Action Plan discussions held in El Salvador in February 2026.

Visit of Minister of State for External Affairs and Textiles to El Salvador:

Shri Pabitra Margherita visited El Salvador from 19–20 August 2024, marking the first high-level visit from India following the formation of new governments in both countries. During the visit, he met President Nayib Bukele and Foreign Minister Alexandra Hill Tinoco to discuss strengthening bilateral cooperation in infrastructure, trade, technology, healthcare, education, and digital transformation. The visit also witnessed the launch of pilot projects developed by Centre for Development of Telematics in the areas of cybersecurity, early warning systems, and cell broadcasting systems, along with the signing of an MoU on Cybersecurity between C-DOT and El Salvador aimed at enhancing cooperation in innovation and cyber security.

Visit of El Salvador Foreign Minister Hill to India: Foreign Minister Hill visited India from 09-13 February 2023. EAM & FM Hill had good discussions on full range of bilateral relations, including political and economic ties, and agreed to strengthen cooperation in areas of healthcare, solar activities, capacity building,

expanding commerce and people-to-people relations. The two Ministers also exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest. They agreed to strengthen India-SICA engagements. EAM welcomed El Salvador's support for India's candidature for Non-Permanent Membership of UNSC for 2028-29.

Visit of Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture to El Salvador: Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture Meenakashi Lekhi visited El Salvador from 17–19 January 2023 and called on President Nayib Bukele besides holding meetings with Foreign Minister Alexandra Hill Tinoco and other senior Ministers. During the visit, she delivered a lecture on "75 Years of India's Growth Story" and participated in Yoga and tree plantation events under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.

Ambassador Raj Kumar Singh presented credentials to Vice President Félix Ulloa on 21 November 2025 and held discussions on trade, investment, digital infrastructure, healthcare, and cultural cooperation. During the visit, the Ambassador met several senior Ministers and stakeholders to discuss trade and investment, a possible Free Trade Agreement, infrastructure, agriculture, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, and technology partnerships. The Mission also organized the "India–El Salvador: Building Economic Cooperation and Mutual Growth" Business Seminar, an ITEC Alumni Dinner, and a Hindi film screening in Spanish, while discussions were also held on expanding diplomatic training cooperation, scholarships, and cultural initiatives.

Commercial relations

Commercial relations between India and El Salvador have continued to expand, with Indian exports reaching approximately US$ 149 million during 2024–2025. Key Indian exports include pharmaceuticals, textiles, chemicals, automobiles, engineering goods, machinery, and electrical equipment. El Salvador's strategic proximity to the U.S. market offers significant opportunities for Indian IT and nearshoring companies, while an Indian BPO company currently provides direct employment to around 400 Salvadorians. To further strengthen trade ties, the Embassy has organized several Buyer-Seller Meets, and during the 4th Foreign Office Consultations in 2023, El Salvador invited India to join the Central American Bank for Economic Integration.

India-El Salvador Trade (in million US $)

Year (April - March)	Imports from El Salvador	Exports to El Salvador	Total trade
2020-2021	3.82	84.12	87.94
2021-2022	4.11	162.06	166.17
2022-2023	2.31	126.98	129.29

2023-2024	2.60	128.91	131.51
2024-2025	3.79	149.00	152.79
2025-2026	3.60	164.59	168.19

Lakshmi Capital has emerged as an important partner in infrastructure cooperation with El Salvador through proposed investments of nearly US$ 2 billion in metro rail and public transport projects. MoUs signed with Salvadoran authorities cover metro rail development and bus procurement, while India has also offered cooperation in 5G and digital infrastructure. In April 2024, Presidential Advisor Ibrahim Bukele led a high-level delegation to India, accompanied by the Minister and Vice Minister of Transport, to explore collaboration in infrastructure and technology, while experts from Delhi Metro Rail Corporation earlier visited El Salvador for technical assessments of the metro project.

The Embassy of India in Guatemala actively promoted economic engagement through business and investment events in San Salvador during November 2025, bringing together Ministers, officials, investors, and business leaders to explore cooperation in ICT, pharmaceuticals, renewable energy, infrastructure, agritech, and manufacturing. During the Ambassador's visit, discussions were also held on the proposed underground metro project and supply of buses by Ashok Leyland. El Salvador has additionally shown growing interest in pharmaceutical cooperation with India, highlighted by a major pharmaceutical forum held in San Salvador in February 2026 with participation from international and Indian companies.

Developmental Assistance

India and El Salvador share a strong development partnership, with India extending assistance during crises such as Hurricane Mitch, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the severe depression of June 2024, when India provided 50 tonnes of HADR assistance worth around US$ 1 million. Through UNDP-India funds, India is also supporting a US$ 1 million "Reading at Home" project benefiting vulnerable children across 74 municipalities in El Salvador through educational and digital learning resources. Capacity building cooperation has further expanded with the signing of an MoU on 5 February 2026 between the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service and the Diplomatic Institute "Doctor José Gustavo Guerrero" of El Salvador for cooperation in diplomatic training and academic exchanges.

India Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC): Under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme, 208 Salvadoran professionals have been trained in India across diverse sectors. Five Salvadoran diplomats have also attended the Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service between 2005 and 2022. In 2023, India organized a special Public Diplomacy course for 36 Salvadoran diplomats, while an Indian mining expert delegation visited El Salvador in 2022 under the "ITEC

On Site" programme. El Salvador has also expressed interest in further Indian training support in areas such as digital governance, renewable energy, software development, technological innovation, and water resource management.

Cultural Relations

There is growing awareness and appreciation of Indian culture in El Salvador, with the Embassy regularly organizing cultural programmes to strengthen people-to-people ties. In January 2026, the Rajasthani dance troupe "Senu Sapera" performed at Santa Tecla and the National Library in San Salvador. Earlier, ICCR-sponsored dance troupes including the Odissi group "Sankalp" in 2023 and a Kathak troupe in 2022 performed in major cities across El Salvador, promoting Indian classical dance and cultural traditions. The Embassy also organized Unity Concerts by the Indian music band Purple Fusion in November 2022, besides Indian Film Festivals and Indian Food Festivals, which received enthusiastic participation from Salvadoran audiences.

International Day of Yoga: As part of the celebrations of the International Day of Yoga (IDY), the Embassy of India, in collaboration with the Municipality of Soyapango, organized a major Yoga event in San Salvador on 19 July 2024, attended by around 400 Yoga enthusiasts. Earlier, the Embassy, together with the Ministry of Culture of El Salvador, organized IDY 2023 on 30 July 2023 with participation from hundreds of Yoga practitioners. In June 2022, the Embassy also partnered with a consortium of 15 Yoga studios in El Salvador to organize the 8th edition of IDY in San Salvador, which witnessed participation of over 150 Yoga practitioners.

Indian Community

The numbers of Indians are around twenty. Some of them are working in pharmaceuticals, hospitality and in 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. In March 2023, more than 500 Salvadorans and Indian community members participated in Holi Celebrations organized by the Embassy and Salvador Culture Ministry at iconic Cuscatlán park in San Salvador with Vice Culture and Vice Foreign Ministers of El Salvador.

Useful Resources:

For more information and latest updates, please visit Embassy of India in Guatemala website: https://indemguatemala.gov.in
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