

Embassy of India  
Bratislava

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India - Slovakia Relations

India – Slovakia relations are friendly and free from major bilateral issues. The two countries are cooperating well in international fora and have been, by and large, supportive of each other's candidatures. *[Slovakia supported India's candidature to the following]:*

- Justice Shri Dalveer Bhandari's selection to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for the term 2018-2027 with a reciprocal support arrangement to support Slovakia's Judge Peter Tomka for the term 2021-2030.
- Reciprocal arrangement for India's candidature to UNSC non-permanent seat for the term 2021-22 and Slovakia's candidature to UNSC non-permanent seat for the term 2028-2029. The Slovak side has reinstated for reciprocal support seeking mutually pro quid quo arrangement for its candidature to the UNSC seat 2028 – 2029.
- India's re-election to the Executive Board of the UNESCO for the term 2017 - 2021.
- Council of International Maritime Organization(IMO) for election to category 'B' for the term 2020 – 2021.
- Dr. Neeru Chadha as a Member of the International Tribunal for the Law of Sea (ITLOS) for the term 2017-2026.
- Wassennar, Australia Group at its 42nd Member.
- Council of the International Telecommunication Union(ITU).
- Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)'s appointment as External Auditor for WHO for the term 2020 – 2023.
- India's re-election to the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for the term 2020 - 2022.

**Political Relations** Important Bilateral treaties and Agreements:-

- MOU on Defence Cooperation (1995)
- Air Services Agreement (1996)
- Protocol for Agreement on Cooperation in Science & Technology (1996)
- Agreement on Scientific Cooperation between Indian National Science Academy & Slovak Academy of Sciences (2001)
- Protocol for Economic Cooperation Agreement (2004)
- Programme of Cooperation in the field of Culture (2004)
- Agreement for the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments between the Republic of India and the Slovak Republic (2006)
- Bilateral Investment Promotion Agreement (2006)
- MoU on Technical Cooperation in Railway sector, between Ministry of Railways of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic (effective from 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2015)

- MOU on the implementation of EU-India Horizontal Air Service Agreement between India and Slovakia on the four provisions relating to liberalization of cargo service effective from 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2017.

- Action Plan for Implementation of MoU between Office of Standards, Meteorology and Testing, Slovakia and the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) (2017).

Visits from India to Slovakia during 2015 – December 2019: Retd. Gen (Dr.) V.K. Singh, the then MoS for External Affairs participated in GLOBSEC Security Forum 2016 followed by bilateral discussions with Slovak authorities and V-4 Foreign Ministers (on the sidelines of the Forum) from 15-17 April, 2018; the then MoS for External Affairs Shri M.J. Akbar, participated in the political dialogue and attended the GLOBSEC Forum 2018 from 15-18 May, 2018. He held high-level meetings with Mr. Miroslav Lajcak, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs & 72<sup>nd</sup> President of the UNGA, Mr. Lukas Parizek, State Secretary in the Foreign Ministry, Mr. Richard Rasi, Deputy Prime Minister for Investment and Informatisation and Mr. Peter Gajdos, Minister of Defence of the Slovak Republic.

Visits from Slovakia to India during 2015 – December 2019: Mr. Vazil Hudak, Minister of Economy held meeting with Shri Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Railways from 07-10 October, 2015; Mr. Miroslav Lajcak, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs attended 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia – Istanbul Process at Amritsar from 2 - 5 December, 2016, as a Representative of Ms. Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Mr. Miroslav Lajcak, Foreign and European Affairs Minister visited India as President-elect of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Session of UNGA and called on PM Modi and Smt. Sushama Swaraj, the then Minister of External Affairs on 28 August, 2017; State Secretary Mr. Lukas Parizek visited India from 26-28 September, 2017 and held meetings with the then MoS for External Affairs Retd. Gen (Dr.) V. K. Singh and MoS for Defence, Subhash Bhamre. H.E. Mr. Vojtech Ferencz, State Secretary and First Deputy Prime Minister of the Ministry of Economy, Slovak Republic led a delegation to New Delhi for the 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the India-Slovakia Joint Economic Committee (JEC) meeting held on 13 February, 2019. During his stay in India, H.E. Mr. Vojtech Ferencz, State Secretary of the Ministry of Economy met with Mr. C.R. Chaudhary, Minister of State, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, other high rank officials from FICCI, CII, and headquarters of TATA, etc. Mr. Vojtech Ferencz, State Secretary and First Deputy Prime Minister in the Ministry of Economy participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> India-Europe 29 Business Forum (IE29BF) held on November 20 - 21, 2019 in New Delhi and delivered the speech during the Forum. During his stay, he held bilateral meetings with Mr. Pratap Chandra Sarangi, Minister of State, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India. Mr. Lukáš Parizek, State Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> India-Europe 29 Business Forum held on November 20 - 21, 2019 in New Delhi. During his stay, he met with Mr. V. Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India.

**Commercial Relations**

Bilateral Trade (in

€ million)

	2019 (Jan-Oct)	2018	2017	2016	2015
India's Export	€235.9	€273.0	€285.8	€264.6	€268.4
India's Import	€79.0	€72.6	€50.0	€50.3	€53.7
Total Trade	€314.9	€345.6	€335.8	€314.9	€322.1
Trade Balance	€156.9	€200.4	€235.8	€214.7	€214.7

The total India-Slovakia bilateral trade represented 0.22% of Slovakia's global trade in 2018.

**India-Slovakia Trade Basket:** As per Slovak Statistical Office data, major items of India's export to Slovakia during 2018-19 include footwear, part of footwear, garments, tires, motor vehicle parts, medicaments, wire & cable, inorganic acids. Major items of import from Slovakia include machinery for rubber and plastic industry, piston engines, pumps, electric motors, transmission shafts, measuring instruments, bearings. In 2018, India's import from Slovakia recorded a year-on-year increase of 45.2% to €72.6 million and India's export to Slovakia decreased by 4.5% to €273.0 million. Trade balance is in favour of India and reached €200.4 million.

**Investment:** Slovakia has attracted foreign investment from a large number of countries, especially from the USA (US Steel), Germany (Volkswagen), France (Peugeot-Citroen), South Korea (Kia Motors, Samsung Electronics), and Japan. Tata Motor's Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) state-of-the-art automobile plant with an investment of €1.4 billion with annual manufacturing capacity of 150,000 vehicles started in October 2018. It received financial support of €125 million from the Slovak government as well.

In January 2020, CK Birla Group through its company National Engineering Industries (NEI) acquired Slovakia-based Kinex Bearings. Kinex has an annual turnover of around €60 million, rich history in engineering and bearing production. Its supplies products to over 80 countries and employs around 1,000 workers in its two production plants in Slovakia (Bytca and Kysucke Nove Mesto) with the capability to produce bearings for railways, industrial segments and textile industry.

In the past, Indian companies explored investment opportunities in auto accessories, tire manufacturing, and the spa and wellness sector in Slovakia. Although Slovakia has the advantage of a good infrastructure, key geographic location, a skilled labour force and is a Euro zone member, its neighbours – Hungary and Poland proved larger domestic markets and lower costs and have proven to be somewhat more attractive to Indian investors.

Slovakian rail freight cars and bogies manufacturer Tatravagonka a.s, Poprad acquired a 26 percent stake in Jupiter Group, Kolkata in 2015. Tatravagonka is headquartered in Slovakia and is the leading designer and manufacturer of freight wagons in Europe with approximately 40 percent market share. Budamar Logistics owns 50 percent of Tatravagonka and is a leading transportation, freight forwarding and logistics provider with strong presence in Central Europe. Budamar is also into the rail car leasing business and has a fleet of over 10,000

wagons. Jupiter Group, which manufactures freight wagons, railway components and railway equipment has announced the acquisition of over 60 percent stake in Madhya Pradesh based company Commercial Engineers & Body Builders Co. Ltd. (CEBBCO) in February 2019.

Joint Economic Committee: The Joint Economic Committee mechanism was started in May 1995. The 10<sup>th</sup> Session of India-Slovakia Joint Economic Committee on Economic and Commercial Cooperation was held in New Delhi on February 13, 2019. JEC was co-chaired by Ms. Nidhi Mani Tripathi, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Ms. Michaela Vozarova, Director General, Strategic Section, Ministry of Economy, Slovak Republic. The 11<sup>th</sup> session is due to be held in Slovakia in 2020.

Economic and Commercial Engagements: Slovakia was one of the partner countries at the Uttar Pradesh Investors Summit 2018 held on 21-22 February 2018 in Lucknow. Following Slovak companies attended the Summit:- INDCHAM, Elcom, TomarkAero, Danube Capital Advisors, Schmidt Rozmer, Indimex, Tufepro, Sportvideo, Nuclear, Herbal Health, SEAK Energetics, Kryptobanka, Credit Trading. These companies presented themselves at the Country Session Discussion Panel and offered investments in the field of smart city solutions, IT, green energy as well as the aerospace industry. Five MoUs were signed on cooperation in aviation, defence, fire protection, and smart city.

Slovak delegation visited DefExpo 2018 held on 11-14 April 2018 in Chennai. It comprised officials from the Ministry of Defence and representatives of defence manufacturers M/s Konstrukta Defense, DMD Group, MSM Group, EVPU, VRM, Exponea and Tomark Aero. The Indian Chamber of Commerce in the Slovak Republic in cooperation with Vidarbha Defence Industrial Hub (VDIH) in Nagpur, Maharashtra presented possibilities of the Nagpur Hub to the delegation.

In July 2018, representatives of M/s CSM Industry, manufacturer of trucks and excavators used by mining, defence, firefighting and patrol units participated in Vidarbha Defence Industries Association's Investors Summit in Nagpur. They also met Shri Deepak Kumar Hota, BEML Chairman on business opportunities between the two sides.

India's Tata Group owned Jaguar Land Rover state-of-art automobile manufacturing plant at Nitra started its production on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2018. As on December 2019, it employs approx. 3000 workers. The Land Rover 'Discovery' is the first model being produced at the facility. The new version of the Land Rover 'Defender' production also started from December 2019.

President of the Indian Chamber of Commerce in Slovakia (INDCHAM) attended the Vibrant Gujarat Summit, held on 18-20 January, 2019 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The Chamber signed MoUs with the BRICS Chambers and the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce.

The Vidarbha Defence Industries Association (VDIA) held defence investors summit in Nagpur on February 28-March 1, 2019, focused on Slovak and Czech defence companies. Following Slovakian companies participated - INDCHAM, CSM Industry (UDS Trucks), Cargen Start (Starters and Alternators), Way

Industries (Bozena de-mining), ESET (endpoint security systems), Innovatrics (Biometric ids), and Incoff Aerospace (creators of drones and avionics of Shark plane).

Automotive Component Manufacturer's Association (ACMA), India 11-members delegation visited Slovakia on February 6, 2019. Embassy organized a Business Forum and B2B meetings with the Slovak companies at the Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency (SARIO) plus a visit to the Tata Group's Jaguar Land Rover plant at Nitra. They also held a meeting with the State Secretary and other senior officers in the Ministry of Economy.

Mr. T.K. Pandey, Director of Indian Importers Chambers of Commerce and Industry (IICCI), New Delhi visited Slovakia and participated in the Slovak Matchmaking Fair organized by Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency (SARIO) on October 24, 2019 in Bratislava.

On November 20, Lukáš Parížek, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs; Vojtech Ferencz, State Secretary of the Ministry of Economy together with Piyush Goyal, Minister of Trade, Industry and Railways, Government of India inaugurated the 5th annual India-Europe Business Forum in Delhi. The main themes of the business forum were renewable energy resources, pharmaceutical industry, co-operation in the area of high-tech and innovation technologies in industry, and the starting-up of P2P processes to enhance commercial ties. At the Forum, the Slovak Republic was represented by a 40-member delegation, which included a 20-member business delegation. State Secretary Vojtech Ferencz and State Secretary Lukáš Parížek emphasized Slovakia's interest in enhancing economic co-operation with India, with the focus on areas with added value and also presented the Slovak Republic as an interesting destination for tourists.

During his visit to India, Mr. Vojtech Ferencz, State Secretary in the Ministry of Economy was received by Mr. Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways. He also held a bilateral meeting with Mr. Pratap Chandra Sarangi, Minister of State of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Gol. Further, Mr. Ferencz held negotiations with Mr. Subhash Chandra, Secretary (DP), Ministry of Defence, Gol and Mr. Vikram S. Kirloskar, President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

**Cultural Relations:** Yoga classes: A Teacher of Indian Culture (TIC) deputed by ICCR since December, 2017 is conducting yoga classes within the Embassy premises. Four classes of 60 minutes duration are taking place on working days. These classes have gained massive popularity with an attendance of up to 70 people a day. Besides the classes at Embassy, the TIC conducts Yoga class for professors at Slovak Medical University once a week.

International Day of Yoga: IDY 2019 was celebrated in Bratislava on 22nd June, 2019 at the iconic Medical Garden with the support of city of Bratislava and various Yoga associations and organizations. The occasion was graced by the presence of Mr. Martin Klus, Member of Parliament of the Slovak Republic. It was followed by Common Yoga Protocol conducted by TIC and concluded with light refreshments. About 125 participants joined the celebration. IDY was

organized in various other cities of Slovakia too.

Asian Weekend (2-3 August, 2019): The Embassy of India, in collaboration with the Embassies of Vietnam, Indonesia, Japan, China and Korea and the Bratislava Cultural and Information Centre (BKIS) took part in the Asian Weekend held at the Main Square, Bratislava. The event saw culinary and traditional cultural performances from the 6 Asian countries and was well received by tourists visiting the country and locals of Slovakia. A cultural group sponsored by ICCR performed during the event.

2<sup>nd</sup> Indian Festival (14<sup>th</sup> September, 2019): India Klub, a local Indo-Slovak Cultural Society, organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> Indian Festival in Bratislava on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 at the city centre, with the support of the Embassy and Bratislava Old Town Administration. The festival included stalls for Indian food, handicrafts, garments, home textiles, henna, sari show and a colourful cultural programme, which witnessed about 500 people.

Gandhi@150 celebrations: As part of Gandhi @150 celebrations, a tree planting event was organized in collaboration with the Slovak Indian Friendship society. 150 Linden Trees were planted near Liptovsky Mikulas on this occasion. A 9 member Bharatnatyam troupe led by Shri Satyajit Cherubala from ICCR rendered a performance on topic "Philosophy of Non-Violence of Mahatma Gandhi in Contemporary Mode". The dance performance was held at Bratislava during Asian Weekend and at Piestany. On 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2019, Mission organized a lecture by Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna, a veteran Gandhian, at Constantine the Philosopher University Nitra. The event was attended by over 80 students and faculty members.

550<sup>th</sup> Guru Nanak Devji celebrations: The Mission organized 550<sup>th</sup> Guru Nanak Devji celebrations on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2019 in the Embassy premises. It was attended by over 50 members of local Indian community.

Bharat ek Parichay: The Mission has distributed books under 'Bharat ek Parichay' initiative of the Ministry to two prominent local universities.

Day of Indian Cuisine (18 October, 2019) - A day of Indian Cuisine was organized at the School of Gastronomy, Petrazalka. Ambassadors from Eight countries participated in the Event. The event was covered extensively by the local media. About 90 people participated in the event including students from the school of Gastronomy. An Indian chef prepared the food in the school of Gastronomy with the participation of students who were taught about preparation of Indian cooking.

Indian community

The NRI/OCI population in Slovakia is estimated to be around 550. Most OCIs [total around 80-100] are engaged in small businesses, such as ethnic groceries, garments and textiles, handicrafts, and restaurants. NRIs on the other hand can be divided into two groups: the first consisting of 40-50 technically qualified IT and other professionals on short term assignments of 1-2 years, and the second group working as cooks and waiters, and masseurs/masseuses at ayurvedic and other spas. There are about 300 students studying in Slovakia. The Embassy maintains regular contact with them and associates during our National

Days celebrations and other occasions. There is one association of 'Indians in Slovakia'.

February 2020

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- Useful Resources: Mission website: [www.eoibratislava@mea.gov.in](http://www.eoibratislava@mea.gov.in)
  - Facebook: @IndiainSlovakia
  - Youtube channel: Indiainslovakia
  - Twitter account: @[IndiaInSlovakia](https://twitter.com/IndiaInSlovakia)