

## **Brief Embassy Report on Bilateral Relations – ITJ Division, DGCI&S, Kolkata.**

### **India-Chile Bilateral Relations**

#### **A. Introduction**

1. Indian Trade Journal (ITJ) division of the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS) brings out weekly publication on Embassy Profile Report providing information on recent policy changes and happenings in other countries that may be of interest to the Indian trading community. This is the Embassy Profile Report depicting the Embassy of Chile.

2. India-Chile relations are characterized by warmth, friendship and a commonality of views on a widerange of issues. Chile shares India’s concerns over the threat of international terrorism and has regularly condemned the acts of cross-border terrorism that India has suffered. Both countries cooperate extensively in multilateral fora and share similar views on climate change/renewable energy issues and on expansion and reforms of the UNSC.

#### **B. Commercial Relations (Trade and Foreign Investment) – Recent facts & figures**

3. India’s exports to Chile had been growing steadily since 2009, with the exception of a slight decrease in 2014, when a new carbon tax on diesel vehicles in Chile adversely affected motor vehicle exports from India, but this sector has seen a big recovery. The expanded preferential trade agreement began implementation in May 2017 and since then India’s exports to Chile have increased. While still higher than the amount in 2017, Indian exports to Chile in 2019 were less than 2018 because of the impact of the social crisis. India’s trade with Chile has registered a negative growth over a couple of years due to the global slowdown and the domestic social crisis and labour unrest in Chile. The trade has now picked up and recovered in 2021-22 onwards.

**The Export-Import statistics as per India’s Ministry of Commerce data bank from 2019-20 to 2023-24 are as follows :**

#### **The Export-Import statistics from 2018-19 to 2022-23**

**(US Dollar Million)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Exports from India to Chile (CIF)</b>	<b>Imports from Chile by India (FOB)</b>	<b>Total Indo-Chilean bilateral trade</b>
2019-20	793.43	1175.67	1969.10
2020-21	805.00	670.60	1475.60
2021-22	1181.92	1371.16	2553.08
2022-23	1166.43	1435.83	2602.26
2023-24	1183.05	1514.10	2697.15

*(Source: Department of Commerce, Government of India)*

4. India's export to Chile are diversified and constitute motor vehicles/cars, drug formulations, chemicals, products of iron & steel, man-made yarn, fabrics, cotton fabrics, made-ups, RMG Cotton including accessories, auto components, electric machinery and equipment, leather goods, rubber products, bulk drugs, drug intermediates, footwear of leather, iron and steel, aluminum & its product, ceramics & allied products, RMG man-made fibers etc.

5. Former President of Chile and President Bachelet's Special Envoy to the Asia Pacific, Mr. Eduardo Frei, led business delegations to India in October 2017 and August 2019. There have been many visits by various organizations (such as CII, FICCI, PHDCCI, ITPO, CLE, PHARMEXCIL, AMA, EPCH, HEPC etc) from India to Chile to hold BSMs/B2B meetings, participate in Trade Fairs, and to organize road shows in the areas of pharma, apparel, handicrafts, leather, chemicals and allied products, sports goods, information technology, tourism, etc. A delegation of Confederation of Chilean Industry (SOFOFA) visited India from 19- 26 June 2023 and held meetings with several Government authorities as well as CII and other Chambers. SOFOFA and CII held the first meeting of India Chile Business Council on 19 June 2023 in New Delhi. The 9<sup>th</sup> India-LAC Business Conclave is scheduled for 3-4 August 2023 in NewDelhi.

### **C. Other Major Areas of Co-operation:**

- India and Chile have signed Agreements/ MoUs covering various fields of cooperation such as Sports, S&T, Antarctica, Defense, Air Services, Agriculture, New and Renewable Energy, Education, Outer Space, Geology and Mineral Resources, and Gainful employment of spouses and eligible dependents of diplomatic personnel. During MoS (VK)'s visit to Chile in May 2018, an MoU was also signed on the establishment of a high-level Joint Commission between India and Chile. During visit of Hon'ble President on 1 April 2019, agreements for cultural exchange and cooperation in mining sectors were renewed and an agreement was signed on cooperation in disability sector. The Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement between India and Chile was signed on 9 March 2020 and came into effect from 19 October 2022 after ratification of both countries.
- Investments: As far as Indian investment in Chile is concerned, based on the information given by various companies, it amounts to about US\$620 million. Indian companies have entered the Chilean market by acquiring Chilean companies or setting up joint ventures. Chilean investment in India amounts to US\$ 118 million (source: DIPP). In addition, Chilean Financial Institutions have invested more than US\$ 3.2 bn in the Indian Financial sector.
- 25 slots are offered to civilians every year and we have seen a good response, especially in courses for English language, IT skills, Legislative drafting, Audit, E-Governance, Renewable energy and Environmental technologies. On the defence side, slots are offered regularly for Staff College, NDC, NDA, and HDMC.
- Indian culture is very popular here in Chile. There are a large number of local Yoga schools (Kundalini Yoga, Iyengar Yoga, Bikram Yoga etc.) and practitioners. Chile has declared 4<sup>th</sup> November as National Day of Yoga. There are also quite a few Chileans who have learned Indian

classical dance and music, some of whom run their own schools. Bollywood music and dance is also popular. Indian cuisine is appreciated and there are many Indian restaurants in Santiago. Organizations such as ISKCON, Brahmakumari Samaj, and Art of Living are also flourishing. There are Hindu Temples in Santiago, Iquique and Punta Arenas. There is also a small but thriving community of Buddhists.

- Cultural events are organized regularly by the Embassy, and get a good response. For the first time, India officially participated in the “Santiago a Mil” International Theater Festival held in January 2018 in Santiago with performances/workshops by Mr. Astad Deboo and his group. The year long celebrations for the 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was launched by MOS, Gen. (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.), who was in Chile for the 8<sup>th</sup> CII India-LAC Conclave. In 2020, virtual celebrations were organized for International Yoga Day, Independence Day (including a festival of patriotic films) and Mahatma Gandhi’s birth anniversary.
- Embassy has actively celebrated Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) by organizing a series of events both virtual and physical. Various exhibitions on Indian themes on Indian delicacies, Khadi products, Indian classical dances, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, etc. were held. Events on Diwali, Gandhi Jayanti, Ayurveda, etc. were held by the Embassy with big participation of Indian community and friends of India in Chile. In addition, Embassy organized in association with the Cultural Corporation of Las Condes and a two-month long exhibition on ‘Rumals of Chamba – Pahari Embroidery’ on 22 June – 28 August 2022 in association with Artequin Museum. Hon’ble MoS for External Affairs, Smt Meenakshi Lekhi, participated in the Curtain Raiser event of International Day of Yoga organized at Hotel Marriott on 4 May, 2022 during her two day visit to Chile. The Gymnasium of Las Condes Municipality joined hands with the Mission in organizing a physical programme on the occasion of ‘International Day of Yoga’ in June 2022 and June 2023.
- The origins of the Indian community in Chile can be traced back to 1905. Currently, it is estimated that there are around 3950 Overseas Indians (1800 NRIs and 2150 PIOs) living in Chile. One third of them live in Iquique and the rest are in Santiago, Valparaiso, Vina del Mar and Punta Arenas. The majority are from the Sindhi community who are mainly engaged in business, and have integrated well with Chilean society. In addition, there is a constant flow of professionals and businessmen from India, working mainly in the ICT and financial services sectors and also in Indian companies represented in Chile.

**Source:** [www.mea.gov.in](http://www.mea.gov.in)