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THE CONSULAR CHRONICLES

NEWSLETTER



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EDITOR'S NOTE

Greetings of the Season

The year 2018 was vibrant and kept us all busy with many interesting events, many New Members joined and there were wonderful memories of the World Congress to share. The start of the year was celebrated with the AGM and Consular Day at Delhi and followed by the 5th Anniversary Celebrations of the Bangalore Chapter.

The Nation in Focus for this issue is Mexico and our Special Feature is "World Congress – Brussels" in Pictures.

Our readers have welcomed the feature - A Special Guest and in this issue we have a contribution by H.E Ms. Dana Kursh – Consul General of Israel at Bangalore.

We welcome New Members to HCCD-India and look forward to welcoming many more in the coming year.

Warm Regards

Suresh Vaswani
Vice President HCCD-India
Hon. Consul of Benin

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Mr. Sandeep Maini

Honorary Consul of Mexico at Bangalore

Mr. Chandrasekarpura Sundarmurthy Prakash

Honorary Consul of Czech Republic at Bangalore

Mr. H.V.S Krishna

Honorary Consul of Mali at Bangalore

Mr. Manish Shahra

Honorary Consul of Chile at Mumbai

Mr. Shantilal M Kavar

Honorary Consul of Malawi at Mumbai

Mr. Maulik Jasubhai

Honorary Consul of Austria at Mumbai

Mr. Sunil Khanna

Honorary Consul of Estonia at Mumbai

Mr. Vijay Mehta

Honorary Consul of Romania at Chennai

Mr. Charan Kamal Singh Bhalla

Honorary Consul of Nauru at New Delhi

Mr. BVR Mohan Reddy

Honorary Consul of Germany at Hyderabad

Mr. Sunil Kanoria

Honorary Consul of Spain at Kolkata



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DELHI

The AGM and Consular Day of HCCD-India was celebrated on 11th January 2019 at New Delhi. The Consular Day Celebrations held at Hotel Maurya was a grand affair and attended by a large number of Honorary Consuls from all Chapters and more than 200 guests including Ambassadors, Consul Generals, Ministry Officials and Leading Members of the Society. Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri – Minister of State for Housing & Urban Affairs–Independent Charge was the Chief Guest.





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NATION IN FOCUS - MEXICO

India – Mexico Relation

Mexico was the first Latin American nation to recognize India immediately after its Independence in 1947. Formal diplomatic relations were established in 1950.

Today, India and Mexico are amongst the largest democracies and rapidly emerging economies of the world, representing two ancient civilizations whose first encounters date back to the colonial period of the 16th century through the Manila Galleon Pacific trade route.

During the last 70 years, friendship and cooperation between the two nations have grown steadily, as demonstrated by the visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June 2016, who, at that time, announced the strengthening of India's privileged partnership with Mexico.

Mexico is one of the most competitive countries in the world in terms of productive investment and international business development. It is also one of the world's most open economies, with a network of free trade agreements granting preferential access to 46 international markets. It is this tremendous economic and cultural diversity, distributed over an enormously complex and varied physical environment, that gives Mexico its unique character.

Trade and Investment

Mexico is an increasingly important actor in global value chains, with a growing participation in some of the most dynamic sectors of the world's economy. In all likelihood, the car you drive, the plane you took a few weeks ago, your computer or your mobile phone contain parts produced in Mexico.

A strategic ally in the expansion plans of the world's leading multinationals, Mexico offers many competitive advantages, not least macroeconomic stability, a growing domestic market, legal certainty, a strategic geographic location, a skilled workforce and experience in medium- and high-technology manufacturing, which, together, constitute a unique, highly competitive platform for international trade and investment, confirming that Mexico is synonymous with opportunity.

Foreign investment is one of the main steps to enter the global market and, in recent times, India has taken the necessary steps to make its presence felt worldwide. In Mexico, the accumulated investment of India is estimated at 2.5 billion dollars, through the 70 Indian companies (approx.) established in Mexican territory.



Mexico-India current scenario



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Indian companies look at Mexico as an important investment destination due to its accessibility and geographical position between the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean, Mexico's broad and growing infrastructure is a getaway to both North America and Latin America, and potentially to Europe and Asia. Mexico ranks the 5th in LAC in the ICG Infrastructure pillar and 59 in 140 countries.

The sectors with the best performance for Indian investments in Mexico are IT, pharmaceuticals, agro-chemicals and automotive. Most of the Indian companies find their home in the West North-Central region of the country, mainly of the automotive industry due to the incentives that the region offers and strategic location for the sector; 65% of total investments during 2017 corresponded to this sector.

In 2017, India became part of Mexico's ten largest trading partners, as well as the year in which Mexico emerged as India's most important trading partner in the Americas after the US. In the same year, exports from Mexico to India increased by 67%. The trade gap has been reduced considerably due to the increase of Mexican exports to India, especially of exported crude oil.

Mexico is the largest investor in Latin America in India, with a total of 1,000 million dollars. There are 12 Mexican companies operating in various sectors, including auto parts, entertainment, information technology, energy, processed foods and industrial products.

How to start a business approach to Mexico?

Through ProMéxico, which is the Government Agency, under Ministry of Economy, in charge of the attraction of direct foreign investment and the export of goods and services, as well as the internationalization of Mexican companies in order to contribute to Mexico's economic and social development and strengthen the country's image as a strategic business partner.



Tourism

Mexico ranks as the 6th receptor of international tourist worldwide, this could be attributed to the fact that few nations on Earth support as many plant and animal species as Mexico does, its nature diversity is huge, and also because throughout its history, Mexico has been home to great artists, including great painters such as the well-known Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera, Rufino Tamayo; photographers like Juan Rulfo, sculptors as Sebastián, and muralists like David Alfaro Siqueiros and José Clemente Orozco along with many others.

The heritage from the Mayas and other Indians combined with the work of modern artist that have made impressive murals, sculptures, and jewelry is the reason which is why foreigners are captivated.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has recognized 34 World Heritage Sites in Mexico, making it one of the largest numbers of Heritage Sites in Latin America, and ranked sixth in the world. These sites vary from hued sand dunes and craters to breathtaking biodiversity, over 130 indigenous languages, and well-preserved archaeological sites. Mexico is the perfect place for the insatiable history and nature lovers.

Educational Collaborations Mexico-India

At present there are 9 active agreements of cooperation between Mexican and Indian Institutions.

Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education (ITESM) is ranked 199th in the world. The flagship campus is in Monterrey, state capital of Nuevo Leon and Mexico's third largest city. It comprises students from 30 countries making it a multicultural campus.

Mobility programs undertaken by the Government of Mexico

Created in 2011, the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID) is an agency of Mexico's Ministry of Foreign Affairs which is responsible for developing international cooperation between countries.



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MUMBAI

A farewell party was held for Mr. Ajit Singh, the Consul General of Singapore and his wife, Balveer, at the Bombay Gymkhana.

Mr. Ajit Singh was an extremely popular and well-known Consul General and a plaque was presented as a farewell gift, in appreciation of his friendship.

This event was well attended by the Members of the Consular Corps, both Career and Honorary.

The Mumbai Chapter of HCCD-India also held an event to bid farewell to Mr. Sanjay Verma, Chief of Protocol, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, before he proceeded on his next assignment as Indian Ambassador to Spain.

Mr. Verma has been a pillar of support to our members and was the Chief Guest at our AGM a couple of years ago.

Almost all the entire Diplomatic community turned up in full strength to wish him all the very best in his new assignment as Ambassador of Spain.





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CHENNAI

Formal Reception to welcome HE Paramasivam Pillay Vyapoory, GOSK acting President of the Republic of Mauritius in Chennai was hosted by the Consuls of El Salvador & Mauritius in Chennai held on 17th October 2018 at Crowne Plaza Hotel, Chennai.



"HCCD Chennai Meeting" for the last quarter of 2018
held at Ramada Plaza, Chennai



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SPECIAL FEATURE

The 12th World Congress held at Brussels October 4th to 7th was the most successful event . The delegates were welcomed to the most fascinating locations – The City Hall of Belgium, The Senate and The Egmont Palace. HCCD-India was represented by 8 Members.





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BANGALORE

The Bangalore Chapter celebrated its 5th Anniversary at the Taj Westend and His Highness Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar and Srimati Trishika Kumari Devi attended the event. The evening with over 100 guests included members of the Diplomatic Core and other leading personalities and was a memorable one.





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H.E Ambassador of Czech Republic with Honorary Consul Mr. Prakash Pushpak
at Inauguration of Consulate at Bangalore



Honorary Consul for Latvia Mr.K P Balasubramaniam receiving letter of appreciation
from H.E Ambassador of Latvia



Members of Bangalore Chapter at AGM at Delhi



H.E Ambassador of Mexico with Honorary Consul Mr. Sandeep Maini
at Inauguration of Consulate at Bangalore



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A SPECIAL GUEST



DANA KURSH

Consul General of Israel to South India

LET THERE BE WATER

Nobel Prize winner Hungarian Bio-Chemist, Albert Szent-Gyorgyi (1937) famously said "Water is life's mater and matrix, mother and medium. There is no life without water."

This statement holds good for generations to come. Decades ago, to give access to clean water for the future generations, water-starved Israel innovated methods to save and recycle the available little water on its land. Today, Israel exports water to its neighbors, and is happily sharing the knowledge of saving and recycling water across the globe.

With India, Israel shares a special bond and works closely in the fields of Agriculture, Water, Cyber Security, Space Technology, and more. Clearly, agriculture and water are interconnected and create instant association between both the nations that will last for many more years to come. When PM Modi visited Israel in 2017, the two Prime ministers declared a strategic partnership when it comes to water.

Israel's Embassy and Consulates in India, have taken up many projects in Water and Agriculture. Under MASHAV (Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation), Israel has created nearly 30 Centers of Excellence across India where Israelis and Indians cultivate the land together. This is the largest project MASHAV has in the world. In these CoEs, farmers are being trained to adopt and adapt Israeli technology to the local conditions with the final goal of "MORE CROP FOR EVERY DROP."

Israel was also a partner country in the Bangalore Tech Summit 2018, where the consulate General of Israel to South India dedicated an entire session to the subject - "Let There Be Water". The panel had eminent personalities like Mr. Manoj Rajan, Additional Secretary to Agriculture Ministry, and head of the committee for implementing Israeli Agriculture technology in Karnataka; Mr. Avinash K R of Vyoda Pumps, a startup who won a grant under the Indo-Israeli 40\$ million I4F fund (India-Israel R&D and Technological Innovation Fund); Ms. Sindhu Cherian, CEO of Ayala Natural Biological Systems Pvt Ltd; Mr. Vikas Sonawane from Netafim Irrigation India Pvt Ltd; Mr. Dan Alluf, head of MASHAV India; and Mr. Raghavendra Hegde from Everstone Capital, translator of the book "Let There Be Water" by Seth M Siegel to Kannada, which eventually became one of the best sellers. These speakers shared their experience of the Indo-Israeli water partnership from different prospective: Governmental, large companies, small startups, and private business men.

The Indo-Israel partnership in Water runs much deeper with efforts of many of our trainers and farmers who are willing to open doors to us and adopt the technology. We look forward to share these technologies with the entire world so that we can provide clean water to our future generations, which is indeed life's mater and matrix, mother and medium.

Welcome to **Velankani Group**

Headquartered in Bangalore, India's IT capital, Velankani Group is a fast-growing conglomerate engaged in diverse businesses, including Information Systems and Technology, Electronics, Infrastructure Development, Hospitality, Renewable Energies and Sustainability. With a global workforce spread across three continents, Velankani Group believes in the power of vertical integration and delivers competitive solutions to customers worldwide.



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The Gateway, Andheri



The Autograph, Dadar

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WF-48, Opp. Phoenix & VR Mall



Oasis, Off Sarjapur Road

CHENNAI PROJECTS



The Metrozone, Anna Nagar



The Gardenia, Anna Nagar



Techno Park, Old Mahabalipuram Rd.



Greens, Perumbakkam



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