

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

### **India- Czech Republic Bilateral Relations**

#### **A. Introduction**

1. Indian Trade Journal (ITJ) division of the Directorate 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 for 15.10.2025 depicting the Embassy of Czech Republic.
2. India's relations with former Czechoslovakia and with present Czech Republic, have always been warm, friendly and have a long history. In the medieval ages, Kingdom of Bohemia (now a part of Czech Republic) traded with India in precious goods and Indian spices. During the Czech National Revival- a cultural movement which took place during the 18th and 19th centuries with the purpose of reviving the Czech language, culture and national identity, prominent Czech scholars got inspired by ancient Indian culture. They found similarity between Czech and mother of all languages, Sanskrit. Diplomatic relations were established with Czechoslovakia on 18th November, 1947. After the dissolution of Czechoslovakia on 1st January, 1993 India immediately recognized the Czech Republic.

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

3. As a trading country partner of India, and as per latest compiled and available statistics with DGCI&S, India's exports to Czech Republic during 2024-25 was recorded at 2062.67 million USD and India's imports from Czech Republic during the same reference period stood at 734.47 million USD. India's exports to Czech Republic were significantly high in 2024-25. An account of Bilateral commodities trade in goods from 2020-21 to 2024-25 is as under:

#### **Export-Import statistics between India and Czech Republic from 2020-21 to 2024-25**

**(USD Million)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total trade</b>	<b>Import</b>	<b>Export</b>
2020-21	878.60	393.12	485.48
2021-22	1220.35	592.10	628.25
2022-23	1947.41	778.09	1169.32
2023-24	2126.60	736.81	1389.79
2024-25	2797.14	734.47	2062.67

*(Source: Department of Commerce, India)*

4. India's top exports to Czech Republic are Rubber, Organic chemicals, Railway, tramway locomotives, and rolling stock, Articles of iron or steel, Electrical and electronic equipment, Machinery, including nuclear reactors and boilers. India's top imports from Czech Republic are Ceramic products, Pharmaceutical products Arms and ammunition, Pearls, precious stones, metals, and coins Tanning, dyeing extracts, and pigments, Explosives, pyrotechnics, matches, and pyrophorics, Wood and articles of wood, Tools, implements, and cutlery of base metal, Man-made filaments etc.

5. Indian investment in the Czech Republic is significant in the IT and automotive sectors, with major Indian companies like Infosys, Motherson, and Tata Global Beverages have established a presence there. Other Indian investments are in pharmaceuticals and textiles, and there is growing cooperation in areas like defence, food and energy. This is supported by strong bilateral ties, including agreements like the Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA), and regular exchanges through the India-Czech Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation.

### **Other Major Areas of Co-operation**

- Several Agreements/ Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) have been signed between India and Czech Republic for cooperation in the fields of defence, economic and commercial links, technical cooperation and culture.
- The bilateral Defence Cooperation gained momentum with the signing of MoU on Bilateral Defence Cooperation in October 2003 and thereafter a Joint Defence Committee has been setup. So far six such meetings of JDC have taken place with the last meeting taking place in New Delhi on 3 February 2020. The Czech defence companies have been regularly supplying military equipment to Indian armed forces.
- In 2019 under the joint collaboration in Science and Technology, 20 high ranking projects were selected out of 187 joint proposals. India and Czech Republic are working in niche technologies given the later's strength as the incubator of Technologies in strategic sectors such as defence, nuclear energy, cyber security, AI, Big Data, nanotechnology, laser etc. In June 2017, ISRO launched Czech nano satellite -VZLUSAT-1 (size 20 cm x 10 cm x 10 cm and weight 2 kg), the first Czech technological satellite. Its mission is to verify new products and technologies on Earth's orbit. The satellite was developed by the Czech Aerospace Research and Test Centre (VZLU) in cooperation with Czech companies and universities.
- Czech Republic strongly supported India's full membership of Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) through its constructive role in NSG and in EU deliberations. During the visit of the President of India in September 2018 both countries agreed to commit towards strengthening global non-proliferation efforts including peaceful use of nuclear energy.
- Czech Republic supported India in the recently held elections for non-permanent membership of UNSC for 2021-22 and will support India's candidature for 2028-29 on a reciprocal basis. It also supports comprehensive reform of UN and India's credentials for permanent membership of UNSC. Both sides provide mutual support for their candidature in various UN bodies/organizations and other multilateral agencies.
- Indology has a very old tradition in Prague, starting with establishment of a Chair in Sanskrit in the prestigious Charles University in 1850s. Indian languages like Hindi, Bengali, Tamil are currently taught

in this University. Czech educational institutions—particularly technical universities and medical colleges, are working with their Indian counterparts through exchange programs. There are about 1500 Indian students studying medicine, engineering, life sciences and physical sciences in various Czech universities. In January 2020 Czech Foreign Minister, announced an expansion in quota for fast track visas for highly skilled/professionals from India. In addition, the Czech Government has agreed to strengthen the preferential regime through Project Student as a special arrangement to facilitate movement of Indian students and researchers.

➤ The Embassy actively highlighted and celebrated all traditional Indian Festivals as well as the Government initiatives during 2024. To mention a few important events: The 10th edition of IDY with the theme 'Yoga for self and the society' was organized in Brno, Prague and Karlovy Vary. Embassy in cooperation with the Indian community and friends of India, organised Bharat Week from 2-6 September which started with an Indian cuisine cooking workshop “Taste of India –a culinary journey”; a Bollywood Dance Workshop and a Garba dance(ICH of Humanity by UNESCO) session; Experience India, an annual Indian street festival; A talk titled "Beyond Earth: India's Space Odyssey" was organised at the Czech University of Life Sciences (CZU) which highlighted India's impressive achievements in space exploration. Celebrations end with a 3.3 km long India-Czechia Friendship Cycle Rally.

➤ The iconic AKAM week was celebrated in January 2022 with the theme: ‘Tagore- century of connecting Ganga and Vltava through music and culture’ with the donation of a bust of Rabindranath Tagore which was set up besides the bust of Tagore scholar, Vincenc Lesný, at the latter’s birth place in Komarovice In August 2022. A special Orchestra symphony concert in Karlovy Vary played instrumental version of Rabindranath Tagore’s composition as a tribute. The Culture wing of the Embassy actively collaborates with the local Czech community as well as the Indian community to promote and propagate Indian culture through various activities including screening of Indian movies, talks, performing art and community events by local talent and artistes from India from time to time. In 2022, Classical Indian music performances in Sarod and Dhrupad Vocal by artistes from India were organised. Books on Indian epics mythology and folklore are also gifted to Municipal Libraries and Schools.

➤ Czech Republic is a popular destination for the Indian tourists. Around 70,000 Indian tourists visit the Czech Republic annually. Around 12 000 Czech nationals also visit India annually. India’s e-visa scheme is presently being utilized by 85% of Czech visitors.

➤ Approximately 9000 Indian nationals- mostly IT professionals, business personnel and students are residing in Czech Republic. In addition to registered Indian associations, there are several informal associations of Indians/people of Indian origin, who organize community events in association with the Embassy.

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