

India-Romania relations

India and Romania established diplomatic relations in 1948, and raised it to Ambassadorial level in 1968.

Political Relations

Bilateral political relations between India and Romania are warm and friendly. The two countries celebrated 70 years of diplomatic relations in 2018.

Bilateral Visits

The state visit of President Traian Basescu to India in October 2006 created many opportunities for enhanced co-operation and understanding and was a turning point in our bilateral relations. Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, MOS (C&I) visited Bucharest during February 1-2, 2012 for the 17th Session of the India-Romania Joint Economic Commission, which was co-chaired by the Romanian Minister for Economy, Trade and Business Environment Mr. Ion Ariton. H.E. Mr. Titus Corlatean, Romanian Foreign Minister visited India from March 6-8, 2013 and met EAM and MOS(PK). During the visit, an Agreement on Extended Partnership was also signed. In addition, the DTAA was also signed during his visit. Mrs. Grapini, Minister delegate for SMEs/Business Environment/Tourism visited India from April 19-21, 2013. Mr. Sorin Encutescu (SE), State Counsellor for Defence & Security Issues (Deputy NSA) in the PM's Office visited India from 23-29 November 2014. Smt Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs visited Romania for bilateral consultations in April 2010. Minister of State in the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Mrs. Krishna Raj paid a goodwill visit to Romania from 12-16 November 2016.

The last high-level visit to Romania from India was on 18-20 September, 2018 when Vice President (VP) of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu visited Romania. VP visited Romania at the invitation of the President of the Senate of Romania – Mr. Calin Popescu Tariceanu – after a gap of 13 years. The visit coincided with the 70th year of establishment of our diplomatic relations, centenary year of birth of modern Romania and 5th year of signing of the 'Framework Agreement on Extended Partnership Cooperation,' between our two countries. VP inaugurated an AYUSH Information Cell and also released a book on Ayurveda. Prior to this, in 2005, our then Vice President Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat had visited Romania.

Foreign Minister of Romania Mr. Teodor Viorel Melescanu paid an official visit to India on 24-27 November 2018.

Parliamentary Visits

An Indian Parliamentary delegation led by Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Health and Family Welfare visited Romania in June 2003. Romanian Senate President Vacaroiu led a multi-party delegation to India in December 2003. The Romanian Parliament has created its friendship group for India. Mrs. Ana Birchall, Chairperson of Romania-India Parliamentary Friendship Group visited India from April 22-25, 2013. An all party parliamentary delegation led by Mr. Zgonea, President of the Chamber of Deputies of Parliament of Romania visited India during December 6-12, 2014.

Bilateral Trade between India and Romania:

India-Romania trade statistics for the last five years are as follows:

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
TOTAL	713.3	565.0	575.0	810.62	745.59
Export	416.8	255.7	257.6	398.90	430.30
Import	296.5	309.3	317.4	411.72	315.29
Balance	120.3	-53.6	-59.8	-12.22	115.01

(Department of Commerce, Govt. of India statistics in US\$ million)

Main Indian exports to Romania included vehicles other than railway or tramway, electrical machinery and equipment, nuclear reactors, boilers, electrical machinery and equipment, iron and steel, plastic and articles thereof, rubber and articles thereof organic chemicals, ceramic products, pharmaceutical products. Main Indian imports from Romania during the above mentioned period were nuclear reactors, boilers and machinery, edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers, inorganic chemicals, organic or inorganic compounds of precious metals, vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling stock, organic chemicals, electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof, articles of iron or steel, optical, photographic cinematographic measuring, checking precision, medical or surgical installations, iron and steel, rubber and articles thereof.

Indian Investments in Romania:

Major companies like Wipro, Infosys, TCS, Arcelor-Mittal SA, SunPharma, Dr.Reddy's Labs, UCO Raymonds, Sunwave Pharma, Repower Systems, Thakral Group, FERCO Group, Prodigy, Prime Healthcare, Transdanube Industries, Evaluserve, Asmita S.A., GHCL Limited, CineGrand, are present in Romania.

Romanian investments in India:

Romanian companies such as Altantia SPA, Saira Seats SAS, Simest SPA, Summer Conf SRL, Hanna Instruments Romania SRL, Omnia Professional SRL, FSS Activ Group SRL, STX RO Electroturlicea SRL, Mihaela Carmen Popa, Jan Joost Kotte, Chistina Veronica Garlasu, Rulmentul Berlad, have all invested in India.

JECs and JWG:

The 17th session of the India-Romania Joint Committee for Economic Cooperation (JEC) was held in Bucharest on 1-2 February, 2012. The Indian delegation was led by Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia. The Romanian side was led by H.E. Mr. Ion Ariton, Minister of Economy, Trade and Business Environment.

The 18th Session of the India-Romania Joint Economic Committee (JEC) was held in New Delhi on 7th April, 2017. A Joint Protocol was signed by the two sides after the meeting.

Ms Maria Grapini, Romanian Minister-delegate for SMEs, Business Environment and Tourism, visited India in April 2013 during which an MoU on Textiles was signed.

ITEC and Other Exchanges:

Till date, Romania has used 107 ITEC slots. Romania has been allotted 05 slots under the ITEC Scholarship Programme for the year 2019-20. Romanian diplomats have also attended various courses conducted by the Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi, for Foreign Diplomats. Scholarships under the ICCR programmes have also been offered to Romania.

Cultural Cooperation:

India and Romania signed a Cultural Agreement in 1957, which provided for cooperation in culture, science, education, literature and arts. Following this Agreement, Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) were formulated and implemented. ICCR-sponsored dance troupes have been visiting Romania every year and performing at various cities to an appreciative audience. Embassy of India, Bucharest has been collaborating with local cultural groups such as Rabindra Nath Tagore Cultural Centre, Bucharest to organise "Namaste India" festival, which has become an annual affair and has become extremely popular in Romania. Similarly, International Day of Yoga is being regularly celebrated in Romania every year since 2015 and is being attended by a growing number of people. The Embassy of India participated in the sixth edition of Asia Fest at Romexpo, Bucharest and organized an exhibition of traditional Indian textiles including products by the Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) from 16 – 18 November 2018 as part of the celebrations of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. An ICCR sponsored classical Indian dance troupe (Mohiniattam form), led by Dr. Neena Prasad, and accompanied by 3 musicians, visited Romania from 27 May to 5 June 2019 and performed at 6 different cities {Cluj-Napoca (28 May), Oradea (29 May), Bistrita (30 May), Iasi (31 May), Bucharest (3 June), Constanta (4 June) in Romania under the 11th edition of 'Namaste India' festival organised by Rabindranath Tagore Cultural Center Association under the patronage of the Embassy of India to Romania. The Bucharest University of Economic Studies organized "India Week" from 15-19 July, 2019. The students were introduced to the Indian culture, cuisine, Hindi language, etc. During this period, a documentary on Gandhiji was shown and a discussion on his life and times was also held on 19th July, 2019.

Indian Community

The Indian community in Romania, including PIOs and their families, numbers around 1100. Recently, there has been a considerable increase in the number of Indian workers joining the IT and the construction sector in Romania. There are about 110 Indian students attending courses in Romanian institutions, mainly pursuing medicine on a self-financing basis at Timisoara, Oradea, Bucharest, and Iasi. Others are businessmen, professionals and technical specialists. There are four Indian restaurants in Bucharest, one in Timisoara and one in Galati.

Useful Resources

Website: www.eoibucharest.gov.in

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IndiainRomania/>

06 February 2020
Bucharest, Romania