

Introduction

Contacts between India and the Kingdom of Morocco go back to the 14th century when the famous traveler and writer from Tangier, Ibn Batuta, travelled to India. In modern history, India was active in the UN supporting the Moroccan freedom movement and recognized Morocco as an independent and sovereign country on 20 June 1956 immediately after it gained its independence. Diplomatic relations were established in 1957. Over the years, India and Morocco have developed strong friendly relations and active mutually beneficial cooperation based on shared values and respect for each-others' sensitivities.

Desire to build an intensive interaction culminated in the first landmark visit of Indian Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee to Morocco in February 1999 followed by the visit of Moroccan PM Mr. Abderrehman Youssoufi to India in February 2000.

After ascending to the throne, HM King Mohammed VI chose India for his first visit to an Asian country in 2001. Relations have been further intensified following the meeting of King Mohammed VI with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 29 October 2015 on the sidelines of the third India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III) held in New Delhi.

Some of the notable high-level visits exchanged between India and Morocco are:

- Visit of Hon'ble Vice President of India, Dr. Zakir Hussain in 1967
- Vice President of India, Shri K R Narayanan in 1993
- Visit of Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri. Mohammad Hamid Ansari in 2016
- Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee visited Morocco in February 1999, which was the first ever Prime Ministerial visit to Morocco
- His Majesty **King Mohammed VI** paid the first official visit as the King of Morocco to India in 2001. His Majesty King Mohammed VI led the Moroccan delegation to India in October 2015 to participate in the 3rd India Africa Forum Summit. His meeting with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 29 October 2015 on the sidelines of the third India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III) led to high momentum in joint activities and bilateral cooperation. It is reflected in around 30 Ministerial visits and interactions since October 2015 and signing of more than 40 MoUs/Agreements in the areas including defence, counter-terrorism, cyber security, space, agriculture, vocational training etc.

Some of the recent Ministerial visits from India to Morocco include:

- **Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers, Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, visited Morocco from 20–22 January 2023. During the visit, he held high-level meetings with the Chairman & CEO of OCP, Dr. Mostafa Terrab, and Morocco’s Minister of Health and Social Protection, Mr. Khalid Ait Taleb. A significant outcome of the visit was the signing of three MoUs between OCP and Indian fertilizer companies to ensure the supply of **1.7 million metric tons (MT)** of phosphate fertilizers to India throughout 2023.
- **Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, H.E. Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman**, visited Marrakech, Morocco, from 9–16 October 2023, to participate in the IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings. While there, she co-chaired the **fourth G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting** under the Indian Presidency.
- **Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways, Shri Ajay Tamta**, visited Marrakech from 17–21 February 2025, for the 4th Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety. On the sidelines, he engaged in discussions with the Moroccan Minister of Transport and Logistics, Mr. Abdessamad Kayouh, focusing on potential bilateral collaboration in **road infrastructure development**.
- **Minister of State (IC) for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, and Education, Shri Jayant Chaudhary**, participated in the 3rd GITEX Africa in Marrakech from 14–16 April 2025. He held extensive bilateral meetings with key Moroccan officials, including Prof. Azzedine El Midaoui (Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research & Innovation), Mr. Younes Sekkouri (Minister of Economic Inclusion, Small Business, Employment & Skills), and Mr. Mohamed Saad Berrada (Minister of National Education, Preschool & Sports).
- **Hon’ble Raksha Mantri, Shri Rajnath Singh**, paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Morocco on 22–23 September 2025, at the invitation of his counterpart, Mr. Abdeltif Loudiyi (Minister Delegate in charge of the National Defence Administration). He was accompanied by a high-level delegation, including Vice-Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Pushpendra Singh and Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan. The ministers signed a landmark **MoU on Defence Cooperation**, establishing a framework for industrial collaboration, capacity building, and counter-terrorism. Additionally, they inaugurated a new **Tata Advanced System Maroc** production plant in Berrechid, which will manufacture **WhAP 8x8 armoured vehicles** for the Moroccan Armed Forces.
- **Dr. Neena Malhotra, Secretary (South), Ministry of External Affairs**, visited Morocco from 18–21 November 2025, for bilateral political consultations with H.E. Ambassador Fouad Yazourh. During her visit, she met with several senior officials, including the Minister of Youth, Culture and Communication, the Secretary of State for Foreign Trade, and the Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, as well as the CEO of OCP Group. The discussions focused on deepening cooperation across diverse sectors of mutual interest.

Recent Ministerial visits from the Kingdom of Morocco to India include:

- **Mr. Ryad Mezzour, Minister of Industry and Trade of Morocco** visited India to participate in the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024 from 10-12 January, 2024. He also met Minister of Commerce and Industry Mr. Piyush Goyal on the sidelines.
- **H.E Mr. Omar Hejira, Secretary of State in charge of Foreign Trade of Kingdom of Morocco** accompanied by a large business delegation participated in the 4th edition of World Food India, New Delhi organized by Ministry of Food Processing Industries from 25-28 September 2025
- **Rear Admiral Mohamed Tahin of the Royal Moroccan Navy** visited India from 24 to 27 November 2025 on an invitation of Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff of the Indian Navy. He met with Admiral Tripathi and they discussed enhancing naval cooperation, structured training exchanges, and maritime security. He also visited key Indian naval establishments, including the Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region and the Southern Naval Command in Kochi.

Government to Government Institutional Mechanisms

India and the Kingdom of Morocco have established several institutional mechanisms that meet regularly to advance bilateral cooperation.

- A key pillar of this engagement is the Joint Commission for Trade and Investment, headed by the respective Ministers of Commerce and Industry. Preparations are currently underway for its next (VII) meeting, scheduled to be held in the coming months.
- The Foreign Ministries of both nations conduct regular Foreign Office Consultations, providing a platform to discuss a wide range of bilateral, regional, and global issues of mutual interest.
- Furthermore, India and Morocco have established several Joint Working Groups (JWGs) to facilitate specialized cooperation in sectors such as Health, Water Resources, Mining and Geology, Counter-Terrorism, Renewable Energy, Peaceful Use of Outer Space, and Fertilizers. These groups meet periodically to review progress and coordinate joint activities.
- The Kingdom of Morocco remains a steadfast partner in South-South cooperation; notably, H.E. Dr. Leila Benali, Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, participated in the 3rd Voice of the Global South Summit, contributing valuable insights to the Energy Ministers' Session.

Cooperation Between Think Tanks

Indian and Moroccan think tanks have developed a deep and productive engagement over the years. The **Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA)** maintains a formal partnership via an MoU with the **Royal Institute of Strategic Studies (IRES)**. Similarly, Morocco's **Policy Center for the New South (PCNS)** maintains excellent linkages with prominent Indian institutions, including the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) and the RIS Global South Centre of Excellence. It is also a member of DAKSHIN. The PCNS is a regular participant in the **Raisina Dialogue**, publishes policy papers on India-centric subjects, and collaborates closely with **Gateway House** and **ICRIER**.

ECONOMIC & COMMERCIAL RELATIONS

Bilateral Trade

- The bilateral trade between India and Morocco in year 2025 has grown to USD 3.819 billion compared to USD 2.66 billion in year 2024.
- Exports from India mainly consist of petroleum products, electronic items including mobile phones, automotive parts, textiles and yarns, engineering goods, chemicals and specialty chemicals, plastics, and spices.
- India is a major importer of phosphatic fertilizers from Morocco. Main items of Moroccan exports to India are phosphate fertilizers (DAP, SSP), phosphoric acid, metallic ores and metal scrap and some inorganic chemicals.

Indian Companies in Morocco

The economic partnership between India and Morocco has seen a remarkable surge, with leading Indian enterprises establishing a robust presence across diverse sectors. From high-tech manufacturing to essential infrastructure, these companies are not only expanding their global reach but also contributing significantly to Morocco's economic development.

- India's automotive majors – **Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra, and Ashok Leyland** maintain a strong market share through dedicated local representatives. **Tata Advanced Systems Ltd** has reached a significant milestone by setting up a production plant for ground combat vehicles, marking a new era in defense cooperation. **TVS Motor Company** has successfully introducing its flagship models to the North African market. Tier-1 suppliers like **Varroc Lighting Systems** and **Motherson Sumi** operate advanced manufacturing facilities within the country.
- **IMACID**, a strategic joint venture between Indian majors and Morocco's OCP, is active in phosphoric acid production. In the mining sector, **Gujarat Fluorochemicals Ltd. (GFL)** maintains a strong operational presence while the **Samta Group** is building a first of its kind plant in Morocco to produce Aluminum and Copper.

- Indian pharmaceutical leaders are playing a vital role in Morocco's healthcare landscape. **Sunpharma** and **CIPLA** have established a reputation for excellence, providing high-quality, affordable medicines and contributing to the local healthcare supply chain through their sophisticated operations.
- Leading Indian contractors like **Larsen & Toubro, Sterling and Wilson, and KEC** continue to bolster Morocco's energy grid through the execution of major power transmission and infrastructure projects
- In the hospitality and travel sectors, the **Oberoi Hotel Group** and **Satguru Travels** are delivering premium services, further strengthening the people-to-people and business ties between the two nations.
- In IT Services, **HCL** has established a world-class Knowledge Process Outsourcing (KPO) center in Technopolis Rabat, tapping into local talent to provide global tech solutions. TCS is developing a new development center in Morocco.
- Specialized Manufacturing companies like **Sumilon** (Green Plastics), **Tejas Network** (telecommunications), and **Indore (Fiber Optics)** are leveraging Morocco's strategic location to serve the broader Mediterranean and African markets with cutting-edge technology and materials.

Cooperation in Digital Public Infrastructure and Information Technology

- A **Centre of Excellence in Information Technology (CEIT)** was set up in Technopark, Casablanca under IAFS-II development programme in 2018. It was handed over to the Moroccan side in January 2020. CEIT has imparted training to around 700 Moroccan students/professionals till date. India has proposed to the Moroccan Government to upgrade the centre with the latest equipment.
- The IIIT- Bengaluru has helped in developing **Morocco's National Population Register** based on its Modular Open-source Identity platform (MOSIP), which is similar to India's Aadhar UID system based on biometrics. Based on MOSIP, Morocco has also developed a National Social Family Register that is used for better targeting of beneficiaries of government social support programmes.
- Indian IT company HCL Software and Atlas Cloud Services, a subsidiary of Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P) signed an MoU in February 2024 to provide a platform that would enable development of Digital Public Infrastructure applications to Moroccan government services and welfare schemes online.

Agriculture

India and Morocco have signed a MoU on Cooperation in the field of Agricultural Research and Education on Agricultural Cooperation. Under this MoU, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research

(ICAR) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Marine Fisheries, Rural Development and Water and Forests of the Government of Morocco have developed a Work Plan for exchange of visits by the Scientists from India and Morocco to each other's countries.

Renewable Energy

National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) of India which is a leader in renewable energy in India and the Moroccan Renewable Energy Agency MASEN have signed an MoU in 2022 to work together in the renewable energy sector. India and Morocco have a JWG on Renewable Energy. India organized a special training Course under its technical cooperation programme on Cross Border Energy Trading and Green Hydrogen for officials from Moroccan Agency for Sustainable Development (MASEN), Office National d'Electricité (ONEE), Autorité Nationale de Régulation de l'Electricité (ANRE) and Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development in 2024-25 at the NTPC School of Business.

Cooperation in Peaceful use of Space

India and Morocco signed an MOU on cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in September 2018. Under this MoU, a Joint Committee on Space Cooperation was setup to facilitate collaboration in outer space. Indian Space Research organization (ISRO) has organized several workshops for Moroccan officials in collaboration with CRTS in the area of remote sensing.

DEFENCE COOPERATION

India and Morocco have shown keen interest to expand their defence industry cooperation with a view to diversify their supplier bases. M/s Tata Advance Systems Limited has set up a production plant in Morocco for production of ground combat vehicles for use by the Moroccan Defence Forces.

India- Morocco MoU on Defence: The defence cooperation between India and Morocco received a big impetus by the visit of Defence Minister of India Sri Rajnath Singh to the Kingdom of Morocco in September 2025. He along with Moroccan Minister delegate to the Head of Government in charge of the National Defence Administration Mr Abdeltif Loudiyi signed an MoU on Defence cooperation which has provided an institutional framework for collaboration in defence industry, capacity building and counter terrorism.

Morocco and India have excellent cooperation in capacity building and training of defence officers. Moroccan military officers especially from Royal Morocco Navy have been regularly participating in the training programmes conducted in India. Indian Naval Ships have been visiting Morocco regularly for goodwill visits. High-level delegations from the National Defence College (NDC) regularly visit Morocco on study tours.

CULTURAL RELATIONS

There is a deep-seated and abiding interest in Indian art and culture throughout Morocco. Hindi cinema enjoys immense popularity, with Moroccan television channels regularly broadcasting Indian feature films. Under a formal agreement for cultural cooperation, the two nations regularly sign **Cultural Exchange Programmes (CEP)**, facilitating the exchange of artists who showcase the diverse facets of

Indian classical music and dance. **ICCR-sponsored troupes** frequently visit Morocco to participate in prestigious events, such as the **Fez Festival of Sufi Culture**, held annually in October.

The Embassy also collaborates with local Indo-Moroccan organizations, including the **India Association of Morocco** and the **India–Morocco Friendship Association (IMFA)**, to celebrate major festivals like Holi and Diwali. Other significant events include **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, Hindi Diwas, National Unity Day**, and flagship festivals like **Namaste India** and **Festival of India**, organized in partnership with local cultural institutions. The Mission also conducted a wide array of activities to commemorate **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**.

Yoga continues to gain significant traction in Morocco. Every year, on the **International Day of Yoga**, the Embassy organizes multiple sessions at iconic locations across cities such as Rabat, Casablanca, Kenitra, Marrakech, Meknes, and Tangier, in collaboration with local yoga organizations and practitioners.

Recently, the Embassy hosted a cultural celebration at the **UNESCO-listed Chellah Archaeological Site** to mark the historic inscription of **Deepavali** on UNESCO’s Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The event, which also promoted various Indian states, brought together senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, members of the diplomatic corps, and prominent Moroccan cultural figures.

TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING

The **Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC)** programme is highly sought after in Morocco. To date, over **900 Moroccan nationals** have benefited from ITEC, with a record 264 participants in the 2022–23 cycle alone. Specialized courses have been tailored for Moroccan officials in cutting-edge fields such as **cross-border energy trading, deep learning, cybersecurity, and water resource management**. Additionally, Moroccan students regularly avail themselves of the **ICCR Africa Scholarship Scheme** to study at premier Indian educational institutions. In the diplomatic sphere, Moroccan officials frequently attend the **Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD)** at the **Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS)** in New Delhi. Morocco has also been an active participant in various capacity-building initiatives under **IAFS-III**.

COOPERATION TO COMBAT COVID-19

Morocco was a key partner during the pandemic and was among the first countries to procure **Covishield** from the **Serum Institute of India (SII)**, which supplied a total of **7 million doses** to the Kingdom. Furthermore, India facilitated the supply of substantial quantities of essential medicines to assist Morocco in its fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

INDIAN COMMUNITY

The Indian community in Morocco numbers approximately **1,350 members**. The core of the diaspora consists of established merchants in the textiles, garments, and industrial sectors, primarily based in the commercial hub of **Casablanca** and the port city of **Tangier**. Over the last decade, the community has expanded as Indian entrepreneurs have increasingly set up manufacturing and business units within the **Free Zones** near Casablanca and Tangier.

India in Morocco on Social Media:

Please see the following social media handles of the Embassy of India in Morocco for more information on current developments on bilateral relations.

- (i) Website: www.indianembassy rabat.gov.in
- (ii) X- (Twitter): @indembrabat
- (iii) Facebook: IndiaInMorocco (Embassy of India, Rabat)
- (iv) Instagram: indianembassymorocco
- (v) Whatsapp: IndiainMorocco.
- (vi) YouTube: @IndiainMorocco (India in Morocco)
