

INDIA-NORTH MACEDONIA: BILATERAL RELATIONS

1. India and the Republic of North Macedonia share cordial and friendly relations with no outstanding bilateral issues. Mother Teresa, who was ethnic Albanian, was born in Macedonia and lived there till 18 years of age.
2. After Macedonia declared independence from former Yugoslavia in January 1992, India was one of the 40 co-sponsors of the Resolution in the UN General Assembly for its admission into the UN under the provisional name of Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM).
3. Following the signing of Prespa Agreement with Greece on 17 June 2018 to resolve the long-standing dispute over the name, the country was renamed as the Republic of North Macedonia w.e.f. 14 February 2019.

Diplomatic Representation

4. The Indian Embassy in Bulgaria is concurrently accredited to North Macedonia.
5. The Republic of North Macedonia has an Embassy in New Delhi since 2008. Republic of North Macedonia has appointed Honorary Consuls in Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and Bangalore.

High level / Ministerial Visits

6. Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi visited North Macedonia from 10-11 July 2023. During her visit MoS (ML) had bilateral meetings with Ms Fatmire Isaki (FI), Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Daim Luci (DL), Deputy Minister of Culture of the Republic of North Macedonia. She also called on Mr. Talat Xhaferi (TX), President of the National Assembly.
7. Mr. Bujar Osmani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia visited India from 31 August to 1 September, 2023. This was the first visit of Mr. Bujar Osmani to India. During the visit Mr. Bujar Osmani called on the Hon'ble Vice President of India Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar and had bilateral meeting with the Foreign Minister of India Dr. S. Jaishankar. He also had a meeting with the Deputy NSA Shri Vikram Misri and also visited Mother Teresa House and paid tribute at the Mother Teresa Memorial in Kolkata. He also held meeting with officials of the Government of West Bengal.

Economic Cooperation

8. North Macedonia got EU candidate status in December 2005 and is entitled to duty-free exports to EU member-countries. It has low profit tax, low-income tax and zero tax on reinvested profit.
9. The India- North Macedonia bilateral trade.

Year	India's Exports to N. Macedonia (US\$ millions)	India' s Imports from N. Macedonia (US\$ millions)	Total Bilateral Trade (US\$ million)
2019 – 20	22.61	14.51	37.12
2020 – 21	23.20	5.82	29.02
2021 – 22	30.52	01.19	31.72
2022 - 23	27.90	01.37	29.27

(Source: Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, GOI)

10. Main items of Indian exports to North Macedonia are: Organic Chemicals, Iron and Steel, Textiles and Fabrics; Electrical machinery, Scientific & Medical Instruments, Mechanical machinery; Ceramic, Rubber Articles etc. bituminous minerals; agricultural & forestry tractors; partly or wholly stemmed pre-stripped flue-cured tobacco, coffee; sesame seeds; single cotton yarn of combed fibers; Auto parts, Pharmaceuticals pneumatic elevators & conveyors etc.

11. Main items of North Macedonian exports to India are: ferro-alloys, marble and travertine, electrical machinery & equipment and plastics. Machinery, Ships and Boats, Iron and Steel, Mineral Fuels, Electrical machinery, Auto accessories.

12. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Balkan-India Business Association and the Macedonian Chambers of Commerce in November 2017 to enhance bilateral trade and commerce.

Bilateral Cooperation under ITEC / PCFD Programme:

13. Government of India offers scholarships under ITEC programme to North Macedonia and there are 2 slots for Macedonian candidates. Macedonian diplomats participate in the Professional Course for foreign diplomats organized by the Foreign Service Institute from time to time. This year one young diplomat from North Macedonia attended the Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) organized by our Foreign Service Institute in India and two Parliament employees attended the Lok Sabha training under ITEC

Cultural Cooperation

14. Macedonians evince keen interest in Indian culture. Shankar's International Painting Competition is popular in North Macedonia and Macedonian children regularly participate in this competition. Tourism is an area which holds prospects for both the countries. North Macedonia, with its beautiful landscapes may become an attractive destination for Indian film Industry. Some Indian films were shot at locations in Macedonia, including Tamil blockbuster 'Mersal'.

15. Yoga is popular in North Macedonia. The International Yoga Day are regularly celebrated there in association with the Art of Living, North Macedonia, ISKON and other Yoga centers.

Indian Community

16. The Indian community in North Macedonia is very small. As per our records, there are 7 OCI holders and 44 Indian nationals, some of them engaged in the IT sector, teaching at universities or working as executives in multinational companies. There are very few Indian students in North Macedonia.

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