

**Embassy of India
Bucharest**

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, Minister of State (Commerce & Industry) visited Bucharest on 1-2 February 2012 for the 17th Session of the India-Romania Joint Economic Commission, which was co-chaired by Romanian Minister for Economy, Trade and Business Environment, Mr. Ion Ariton. Mr. Titus Corlatean, Romanian Foreign Minister visited India on 6-8 March 2013 and met External Affairs Minister and Minister of State for External Affairs. Mrs. Grapini, Minister Delegate for SMEs/Business Environment/Tourism visited India on 19-21 April 2013. Mr. Sorin Encutescu, State Counsellor for Defence & Security Issues (Deputy NSA) in the PM's Office visited India on 23-29 November 2014. Mrs. 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 on 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 President of 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 Extensive Partnership Cooperation,' between our two countries. VP inaugurated an AYUSH Information Cell and also released a book on Ayurveda. Prior to this, in 2005, 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.

Recent Bilateral Exchanges

At the invitation of Foreign Minister of Romania, Minister of External Affairs (EAM), Dr. S. Jaishankar addressed the Annual meeting of Romanian Diplomacy on 8 September 2021.

Secretary (West), Shri Vikas Swarup and State Secretary in the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Cornel Feruta, held virtual consultations on 17 June 2020 for a compre-

hensive review of the bilateral relations. Virtual Foreign Office Consultations between India and Romania were held on 27 October 2020.

Foreign Minister of Romania, Mr. Bogdan Aurescu addressed the Raisina Dialogue online in April 2021.

On 1 July 2021, Minister of State for External Affairs (MoS), Shri V. Muraleedharan had a virtual interaction with the Indian community in Romania, highlighted efforts of government led by PM Narendra Modi to boost Indian economy and to ensure welfare of Indian community abroad.

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. It is chaired by Mrs. Claudia-Mihaela Banu. Mrs. Ana Birchall, then Chairperson of Romania-India Parliamentary Friendship Group visited India in April 2013. An all party parliamentary delegation led by Mr. Zgonea, then President of the Chamber of Deputies of Parliament of Romania visited India on 6-12 December 2014.

Agreements

Recently signed important agreements include:

- (i) MoU between Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of India and Ministry of Tourism of Romania on Cooperation in the Field of Tourism.
- (ii) The Joint Statement on establishing an Extensive Partnership between India and Romania.
- (iii) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Romania on Exemption of Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic Passports.

Bilateral Trade between India and Romania

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

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
TOTAL	575.0	810.62	745.59	543.83	565.81
Export	257.6	398.90	430.30	316.64	371.84
Import	317.4	411.72	315.29	227.19	193.97
Balance	-59.8	-12.22	115.01	89.45	177.87

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

Main Indian exports to Romania include 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 include 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

Indian investment in Romania is estimated to be in the range of USD 1-1.5 billion. 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 and Rulmentul Berlad have invested in India.

JECs and JWGs

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 then MoS for Commerce & Industry, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia. The Romanian side was led by 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 7 April 2017. The 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.

ITEC and Other Exchanges

Till date, Romania has utilised over 100 ITEC slots. Romanian diplomats have also attended various courses conducted by Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS). 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. Ayurveda is practised by an increasing number of doctors and experts in Romania. AMN Romania regularly organises Ayurveda events. The first Ayush Information Cell in Bucharest was inaugurated in April 2021. Cluj Centre for India Studies is located in Babes-Bolyai University, one of the leading universities of Romania. The first India Study Centre in Bucharest was inaugurated in Romanian American University in December 2021. 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 7th International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2021 was celebrated at four places in Romania: On 21 June (Seeds of Happiness Centre) & 25 June 2021 (Roaba de Cultură) and Cluj-Napoca & Timisoara on 26 & 27 June 2021. An online event ‘Yoga for well-being’ was also held on 20 June 2021.

Indian Community

The Indian community in Romania, including NRIs and PIOs, numbers around 10000, including approx. 8000 workers. Recently, there has been a considerable increase in the number of Indian workers joining the IT and the construction sectors in Romania. There are about 100 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.

**15 December 2021
Bucharest, Romania**