

India - Montenegro Bilateral Relations

Political relations

India's relations with Montenegro have traditionally been close and friendly since the days of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) of which it was a constituent republic. India recognized Montenegro as an independent sovereign state on August 2, 2006 and also established diplomatic relations with Montenegro thereafter. India's Ambassador in Vienna is concurrently accredited to Montenegro.

Some bilateral visits and exchanges took place while Montenegro was still a part of FRY/Union of Serbia and Montenegro. After Montenegro became independent, the first incoming ministerial visit was that of Minister of Finance, Dr. Milorad Katnic, who visited India from February 8-15, 2011 to attend a Conference "India as a Global Power: practicing Liberal Values at Home and Abroad" organised by Mont Pelerin Society. He took the opportunity to meet Minister of State for Finance, Shri Namo Narain Meena.

Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Integration Milan Rocen visited India from April 10-12, 2012 at an invitation extended by External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna. It was the first high level visit from either side since Montenegro's independence in 2006. The aim of the visit was to establish political contacts at high level.

Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen (Dr.) V.K.Singh (retd.) visited Montenegro on September 2 & 3, 2014. It was the first ever visit to Montenegro by an Indian dignitary after Montenegro's independence. During his visit he met President Filip Vujanovic, Prime Minister Milo Djukanovic and DPM and Foreign Minister Mr. Igor Luksic. While the main focus of discussions was on expansion of cooperation in the field of investments and economy through exchange of visits, boosting overall cooperation, especially in the areas of education, culture and science was also discussed.

External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar met President of Montenegro H.E Milo Đukanović on the sidelines of GLOBSEC 2022 Bratislava Forum in June 2022. Both leaders noted the friendly ties between the two countries and the close cooperation in the multilateral fora. They discussed ways to expand our relations across sectors especially in the areas of investment, culture, tourism and renewable energy. The Montenegrin President specially appreciated our ongoing collaboration in the field of ITEC.

The first round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) was held in Podgorica in July 2009. The latest FOC were held in New Delhi on 13 March 2019. Both sides emphasized the need to build upon the close and traditional bonds of friendship and to avail opportunities for economic and commercial cooperation for mutual benefit.

Bilateral Agreements

- MOU on Cooperation in Tourism

- MOU on Cooperation between Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi and the Diplomatic Academy, Podgorica.

Economic relations

Major economic activities in Montenegro, which may be of interest to Indian investors, are tourism and hospitality, agriculture, dairy, fisheries and food processing. Montenegro is also upgrading its basic infrastructure in areas such as roads, electricity transmission, renewable energy, ports etc. Some of these may also be of interest to Indian investors.

Trade with India (in million EUR):

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
India's exports	11.437	12.2	15.781	20.29	11.31	10.44
India's imports	0.011	0.01	0.001	0.12	0.015	0.34
Total trade	11.449	12.21	15.782	20.41	11.325	10.78

Data based on information by Montenegrin Statistics Office

India's exports were Coffee, tea and other food items, tobacco, textile yarn, fabrics and readymade garments, electric /electronic parts, machinery, medicaments, and pharmaceuticals.

Culture and Education

India has included Montenegro under its Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC). Short duration training courses are offered to the officials of the Government of Montenegro under this programme in diverse areas such as audit, public expenditure management, WTO etc. Professional courses for foreign diplomats conducted by the Foreign Service Institute in New Delhi have also been availed by the Foreign Ministry of Montenegro to train its diplomats. Mission celebrated the ITEC Day in March 2022 in Podgorica, which was attended in large numbers by the Diplomatic Community, ITEC Alumni and Indian Community in Montenegro.

Several dance and music performances by Indian artists have been held across major cities in Montenegro. Indian films have been also screened in Podgorica. Various Indian television serials (like Balika Vadhu) are telecasted in Montenegro and said to have a wide audience.

An exhibition of the paintings of Dr. Tatjana Burzanovic was hosted by ICCR in New Delhi and in Kolkatta in November-December 2016. The exhibition was inaugurated in New Delhi on 21st October by Prof. Lokesh Chandra, President of ICCR and Mr Amarendra Khatua, DG (ICCR). Through her paintings, Dr. Burzanovic has painted illustrations from Bhagvad Gita and teachings of Tagore

Exhibitions of paintings of Dr. Burzanovic was also held in Podgorica in 2007 and in April 2014. President Vujanovic was also present for the inaugural event in April 2014. The Mission has brought out a coffee table book in Montenegrin and English, with the paintings of Dr. Tatjana Burzanovic based on her thesis and

work done on her artistic interpretations of Bhagvad Gita.

In recent past, a few ICCR sponsored Dance and Music troupes have travelled to Montenegro and performed in several cities including Podgorica, Tivat, Budva, and Niksic. Yoga and Ayurveda is also quite popular in Montenegro.

An Indian Bollywood event was organised at the KIC Budo Tomovic Centre, Podgorica in 2014. Three Indian movies with Serbian subtitles were screened and received a tremendous response.

International Day of Yoga is being celebrated with great enthusiasm across Montenegro over the past several years.

Useful Resources:

1. Embassy website: www.eoivienna.gov.in
2. Embassy Facebook: www.facebook.com/IndiaInAustria
3. Embassy Twitter handle: @IndiainAustria
4. Embassy Commercial Newsletter: [India Newsletter](#)

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