

India – Moldova Relations

India recognized Moldova on December 28, 1991 and diplomatic relations were established on March 20, 1992. India-Moldova relations are friendly and cordial. India and Moldova co-operate well on matters of mutual interest at multilateral fora. Moldova usually accredits its Ambassador in Baku, Azerbaijan, concurrently to India. In April 2023, Moldovan side informed that it has decided to open its Embassy in India. India accredits its Ambassador in Bucharest. India-Moldova Foreign Office Consultations have been instituted and one session was held in January 2003 in Chisinau. Moldova has been supportive of Indian candidatures in multilateral fora.

Minister of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Mr. D. V. Sadananda Gowda visited Moldova on 2-4 November 2016. Minister of State for External Affairs, Mrs. Preeti Kaur visited Moldova from 22-25 September 2013 on an official visit. Ms. K K Shailaja Kumari 'Teacher' Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Kerala, visited Moldova from 29 Nov to 1 Dec 2019.

From the Moldovan side two high level visits took place in quick succession in 1993. In March, the President of Moldova, Mircea Snegur visited India. This was followed by visit of their Vice Premier Coscodan in the same year. Deputy PM Valentine Kunayev visited India in 1994. A Moldovan delegation headed by Mr. Victor Bodi, Secretary General of the Government participated in the e-World Forum 2011, held in New Delhi from 1-3 August 2011. Mr. Bodi also met Mr. Sachin Pilot, Minister of State for Communication and Information Technology and discussed possibilities of cooperation in the field of IT. Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Moldova Mr. Tudor Ulianovschi paid an official visit to India from 11–15 August 2018. Ms. Georgeta Mincu, Minister of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of the Republic of Moldova, visited India during 9-10 September 2019, to attend the 14th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. Mr. Vladimir Bolea, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture & Food Industry paid a bilateral visit to India from 31 July – 1 August, 2023. Three Members of Parliament of Moldova visited India to attend 11th Batch of GenNext Democracy Network Programme from 17-26 August, 2023.

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar met the Moldovan Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr. Nicu Popescu on the sidelines of UNGA on September 2022 in New York.

Moldovan Environment Minister, Ms. Iordanov Iordanca-Rodica participated online in the G20 Voice of South Summit in January 2023.

Agreements: During the State visit of Moldovan President Mircea Snegur in March 1993, the following six agreements were signed:

- Declaration on Principles and Directions of Cooperation;
- Agreement on Cooperation in Education, Science, Culture, Arts, Mass Media, Sports, Tourism and Youth Affairs;
- Protocol of Consultations between MEA and the Moldovan Foreign Ministry;
- Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation;
- Agreement on Economic & Technical Cooperation; and
- Agreement on cooperation in Science & Technology

Bilateral Trade and Investments

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

Trade data	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-23
Export from India	7.14	8.63	8.71	11.58	9.03	11.96
Imports by India	1.57	0.39	0.25	1.00	0.09	3.93
Total	8.71	9.02	8.96	12.58	9.12	15.89

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

Major articles of exports to Moldova include pharma products; fabrics impregnated, coated or covered with plastics or laminated with plastics & textiles; ceramic tiles and slabs for paving or wall covering; mobile devices-including phones & electronics equipment; organic and inorganic chemicals; mineral fuels and oils; stones used for construction work; machinery & electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; vehicles parts and accessories, rubber, cereals; and miscellaneous edible preparations.

Main articles of Indian imports from Moldova are edible vegetables oil seeds, fruits, miscellaneous grains; cyclic alcohols and their halogenated, sulphonated, nitrated or nitro sated derivatives; fruit and Vegetable juices, animal blood & amino Compos; mineral water, machinery and mechanical appliances and parts thereof; and fruit jams.

There have been some visits by commercial delegations from either side. Moldovan Chamber of Commerce and Industry visited India with a 7 members delegation to participate in the India International Trade Fair in New Delhi in 2004. Three Pharma delegations led by PHARMEXCIL visited Moldova in 2010, 2012 and 2016. ICC delegation of 28 Indian companies participated in the Fashion Expo in Chisinau during October 2018. A PHD Chamber of Commerce delegation from India visited Moldova during September 2019.

India-Moldova Trade Forum in hybrid mode was organized in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO), Organization for the Development of Entrepreneurship (ODE), Moldova and the Light Industry Employers' Association from the Republic of Moldova (APIUS) on 17 November 2022. More than 60 Indian and Moldovan businessmen from textile, leather and related industries participated in the event. A four-member Moldovan delegation attended the 11th International Silk Fair in July 2022.

In December 2021, KEC International, a part of the Indian RPG concern, won the tender for the construction of the 400 kv Overhead Power Transmission Line on the Vulcanesti-Chisinau. Another Indian company Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. has been selected as consultancy partner for this project. Power Grid has started their work on the project.

GOI Assistance to Moldova

India has extended humanitarian assistance to Moldova from time to time. In response to an appeal for disaster relief, following a severe drought in Moldova in the summer of 2000, a consignment of 10 tonnes of pharmaceuticals worth Rs.2 million was gifted to the Government of Moldova in May 2001. India also provided relief assistance of US\$ 100,000/- in 2011 in the wake of floods in Moldova. The Government of India donated about 6000 Kgs. of medicines, medical consumables and other medical supplies in July 2020, as part of India's assistance to the Government of the Republic of Moldova in the context of COVID-19 pandemic. This included 700 disposable surgical gowns, 1750 protective equipment (non-woven LDPE/POAQUE Cape hood) and 3,500 surgical gloves.

In March 2022, India extended humanitarian assistance to deal with the refugees from Ukraine. Humanitarian assistance consisting of pharmaceuticals, 500 surgical gloves, 2000 protective eye

goggles, 1000 tarpaulin, 250 solar lamps, 200 dignity kit for men/women and 250 synthetic sleeping mats.

In 2023, India gave USD 1 million under India-UN Development Partnership Fund for development of register-based statistical system in Moldova under the supervision of UNFPA. This was the second tranche. Earlier, too, a grant of USD 1 million had been given for the first phase.

ITEC and Other Exchanges

Moldova has significantly increased its utilization of ITEC slots since 2010. Moldova has been allotted 05 slots under ITEC Scholarship Programme for the Year 2022-23 and one slot have already been availed of by the Moldovan participant. Moldovan diplomats have also attended various courses conducted by the Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi, for Foreign Diplomats.

Cultural Relations

An exhibition “India My Love” displaying works by the well-known Moldovan photographer Mrs. Gulnara Vishku was held from 12-18 November 2004 at the National History Museum, Chisinau. An ‘India Evening’ was organised in cooperation with India-Moldova Cultural Association on 27 March 2019 in the Free International University of Moldova. An India Centre was inaugurated in the International Free University of Moldova (ULIM), Chisinau to mark India@75 celebrations. In April 2022, the Indo-Mold Business and Cultural Organization (IMBCO) started Hindi classes for beginners in Chisinau. In May 2022, ‘Disha’, a cultural festival took place at the Nicolae Testemițanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Chisinau where Indian medical students showcased Indian dance and music. A photographic exhibition entitled “Lens Vision”, was held on 21-22 May 2022 where a collection of 72 photographs by the President of the “Bengal Photography Institute” were displayed. Hindi Day was also celebrated in Chisinau, Moldova on 16 September 2022. The International Day of Yoga has been celebrated in Chisinau, Moldova every year since 2015. The 9th International Day of Yoga 2023 was celebrated in Chisinau and was attended by more than 100 yoga enthusiasts.

Indian Community

The Indian community in Moldova numbers around 900, out of which about 850 are medical students. A business and cultural association of Indians, Indo-Mold Business & Cultural Organisation (IMBCO) in Moldova was formed in 2017 and is active in social and commercial activities and is in touch with the Embassy.

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