

## **India – Moldova Relations**

India recognized Moldova on December 28, 1991 and diplomatic relations were established on March 20, 1992.

### **Bilateral Relations**

India-Moldova relations are friendly and cordial. The two countries cooperate well on matters of mutual interest at multilateral fora. In April 2023, Moldova announced its decision to open an embassy in India. The Moldovan Ambassador arrived in India in June 2023. India accredits its Ambassador in Bucharest to the Republic of Moldova.

### **Interaction between EAM and FM of Moldova**

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar met the then Moldovan Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr. Nicu Popescu on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2022 in New York.

### **Recent Bilateral Visits & Interactions**

- Mr. Vladimir Bolea, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture of Moldova visited India from 30-31 July 2023. He had discussion with Sushri Shobha Karandlaje, Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. He also had meetings with Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Shri Sanjay Verma, Secretary (West).
- Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Moldova Mr. Tudor Ulianovschi paid an official visit to India from 11-15 August 2018.
- Minister of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Mr. D. V. Sadananda Gowda visited Moldova from 2 to 4 November 2016.
- 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 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.
- Ms. K K Shailaja Kumari 'Teacher' Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Kerala, visited Moldova from 29 Nov to 1 Dec 2019.
- Moldovan Environment Minister, Ms. Iordanov Iordanca-Rodica participated online in the G20 Voice of South Summit in January 2023.

- Moldovan State Secretary of Ministry of Finance, Mr. Ion Gumene participated in Finance Ministers' session of virtual "2nd Voice of the South Summit-23" on 17 November 2023.
- Former Moldovan Prime Minister, Ms. Natalia Gavrilita, visited India as ICCR's Distinguished Visitor from 23 January to 1 February 2024.

### **Parliamentary Visits**

Three young Members of Parliament from Moldova participated in the 11th batch of GenNext Democracy Network Programme organised by ICCR from 17-26 August 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
- On 10 May 2024, Mr. Pavan Kapoor, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs of India and Mrs. Ana Taban, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Moldova in India, signed an agreement on visa waiver for diplomatic and official passports between India and Moldova.

### **Bilateral Trade and Investments**

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

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Export</b>	<b>Import</b>	<b>Total Bilateral Trade</b>	<b>Trade Surplus</b>
2020-21	11.58	0.22	11.8	11.36
2021-22	9.03	1	10.03	8.03
2022-23	11.99	3.93	15.92	8.06
2023- 24	12.51	4.24	16.75	8.27

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

Major articles of export to Moldova include a wide range of products. These encompass drugs and pharmaceutical products, engineering goods, ceramic products and glassware, organic and inorganic chemicals etc.

Main articles of Indian imports from Moldova include a variety of products such as animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products, prepared edible fats, and animal or vegetable waxes, Cereals, optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking precision, medical or surgical instruments and apparatus, along with their parts and accessories.

There have been some visits by commercial delegations from both sides. A 7-member delegation from Moldovan Chamber of Commerce and Industry visited India 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

A two-member delegation from the Republic of Moldova - Invest Moldova participated in the 3rd Edition of the International SME Convention 2023, held in New Delhi. Five companies from Moldova participated in the UP International Trade Show, organized between September 21-25, 2023, in Greater Noida, UP, India. Two companies from the Republic of Moldova participated in the 6th Global Exhibition on Services (GES), organized between November 14-16, 2023, at the India Expo Center and Mart, Greater Noida.

### **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 0.55 million had been given for the first phase.

### **ITEC and Other Exchanges**

Moldova has significantly increased its utilization of ITEC slots since 2010. Moldova was allotted 05 slots under ITEC Scholarship Programme for the Year 2023-24 out of which 3 slots were utilized. Moldovan diplomats have also attended various courses conducted by the Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi, for Foreign Diplomats.

### **Cultural Relations**

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) began offering 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, featuring a collection of 72 photographs by the President of the Bengal Photography Institute. Hindi Day was celebrated in Chisinau on 16 September 2022. The International Day of Yoga has been celebrated annually in Chisinau since 2015. The 10th International Day of Yoga was celebrated at the Institute for Physical Education & Sport on 23 June 2024, with more than 200 yoga enthusiasts participating. Additionally, a photo exhibition titled 'Impressions from India' was inaugurated on 4 June 2024 at the National History Museum of Moldova in Chisinau, and remained open until 30 June 2024.

### **Indian Community**

The Indian community in Moldova numbers around 1200, out of which over 1100 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.

**Bucharest  
15 July 2024**