

## **India-Romania Bilateral 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 75 years of diplomatic relations in 2023. India and Romania regularly support each other on several multilateral issues and work in tandem at the UN and other international organizations. Foreign Office Consultations have been instituted to review bilateral relations.

### **Interactions between EAM and FM of Romania**

EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar and former Foreign Minister of Romania, Mr. Bogdan Aurescu met on the sidelines of Munich Security Conference on 19 February 2022. FM Aurescu's visit to India in April 2021 to attend the Raisina Dialogue was cancelled due to the pandemic, but he had attended the Dialogue online. At the invitation of former FM Aurescu, EAM addressed the Annual Meeting of Romanian Diplomacy on 8 September, 2021. They also interacted briefly at the Foreign Ministers' lunch in Bled, Slovenia on 3 September, 2021, and met on the sidelines of EU-Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum in Stockholm on 13 May 2023.

Mrs. Luminita-Teodora Odobescu, the Foreign Minister of Romania visited India from 23 to 24 February 2024 to participate in the Raisina Dialogue. She also had a bilateral meeting with EAM on the sidelines. Following the meeting, a Joint Declaration marking 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of Joint Statement on Establishing an Extensive Partnership was issued.

### **Recent Bilateral Visits**

- Former Vice President (VP) of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu visited Romania on 18-20 September 2018. He visited Romania at the invitation of President of Senate of Romania – Mr. Calin Popescu Tariceanu.
- The then Foreign Minister of Romania, Mr. Teodor Viorel Melescanu, paid an official visit to India from 24 to 27 November 2018.
- Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Minister of Civil Aviation visited Romania from 1-7 March 2022 as Special Envoy of PM for Operation Ganga. During this visit, he called on PM of Romania, Mr. Nicolae Ciuca and had an online meeting with Vice PM and Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Mr. Sorin Grindeanu.
- The Minister of State in the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Mrs. Krishna Raj paid a goodwill visit to Romania from 12-16 November 2016.

### **Agreements**

Recently signed important agreements include:

MoU between Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of India and Ministry of Tourism of Romania on Cooperation in the Field of Tourism.

- (i) Joint Statement on establishing an Extensive Partnership between India and Romania.
- (ii) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Romania on Exemption of Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic Passports.

- (iii) Cultural Exchange Programme between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Romania for the period 2022-2027.
- (iv) Romania signed Framework Agreement for joining International Solar Alliance on 3 December 2023.
- (v) A Joint Declaration marking 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of Joint Statement on Establishing an Extensive Partnership issued on 23 February 2024.

### **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, then Minister of Economy, Trade and Business Environment.

The 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **FOCs**

5th FOCs was held at Secretary level in Bucharest on 12 June 2023. Indian side was led by Shri Sanjay Verma, Secretary (West) and Romanian side by Mr. Traian Laurentiu Hristea, State Secretary. Secretary (West) also met Chairperson of the Foreign Policy Committee of Chamber of Deputies (Lower House) of the Romanian Parliament, Mrs. Rozalia-Ibolya Biro. President of Parliamentary Friendship Group with India, Mrs. Claudia Mihaela Banu and other members of the Foreign Policy Committee and India Friendship Group were also present.

4<sup>th</sup> Foreign Office Consultations between India and Romania were held on 14 November 2022 in New Delhi at JS/DG level – from India JS(CE) Shri Arun Kumar Sahu, and from Romania, Ms. Olivia Todorean, Director General for Global Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Romania led the consultations.

### **Bilateral Trade between India and Romania**

India-Romania 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>
2019-20	316.64	227.19	543.83	89.45
2020-21	371.84	193.97	565.81	177.87
2021-22	592.74	263.10	855.84	329.64
2022-23	744.44	562.21	1306.65	182.23
2023-24	1780.00	1200.80	2980.80	579.20

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

Main Indian exports to Romania include a diverse range of products. These encompass Petroleum Products, engineering goods, drugs and pharmaceuticals, ceramic products and glassware, man-made yarns/fabrics, readymade garments of all textiles, organic and inorganic chemicals, Plastic and linoleum, electronic goods, mica, coal and other ores, oil seeds, fruits and vegetables, rice, leather and leather manufacturers, marine products, tobacco, coffee, gems and jewellery etc.

Main Indian imports from Romania include a variety of products. These comprises of Machinery, boilers, animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products, Optical items Electrical, electronic items , Mineral fuel, oils, distillation products, cereals, rubbers, iron and steel, plastics, wood and article of wood, article of iron and steel, wool and animal hairs, vehicle parts etc.

### **Indian Investments in Romania**

Indian investment in Romania is estimated to be in the range of USD 1.5 billion. Major companies like Wipro, Infosys Consulting SRL, TCS, Arcelor-Mittal SA, SunPharma, Dr. Reddy's Labs, GENPACT Romania SRL, HCL Technologies Romania SRL, Liberty Galati SA, Sunwave Pharma,Thakral Group, FERCO Group, Prime Healthcare, Transdanube Trading SRL, Evaluserve, Wipro Pari are present in Romania.

### **Romanian investments in India**

Romanian companies such as Hanna Instruments Romania SRL, Omnia Professional SRL, FSS Activ Group SRL, Vard Tulcea, STX RO Electroturlicea SRL had invested in India. Total investment is less than USD 50 million. However, in the last few years, there have been no major investments observed.

### **ITEC and Other Exchanges**

Till date, Romania has utilised over 110 ITEC slots. In 2022-23, 12 Romanian participants attended various ITEC programmes in India. Romanian diplomats have also attended various courses conducted by SSIFS.

4 MPs and 1 Mayor participated ICCR's Gen Next Democracy Programme from 05-14 September 2022 at New Delhi.

Two journalists from Romania visited Delhi and Hyderabad from 13 to 20 March, 2024 as a part of a familiarization visit organized by Government of India.

### **Cultural Cooperation**

On 1 July 2022, the Cultural Exchange Programme between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Romania was signed for the period 2022-2027. Embassy of India in Bucharest has been collaborating with local cultural groups such as Rabindra Nath Tagore Cultural Centre in Bucharest to organise "Namaste India" festival, which has become an annual and has extremely popular event in Romania. Similarly, the International Day of Yoga has been celebrated regularly in Romania every year since 2015, with a growing number of participants. The 10<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga 2024 was celebrated in a record number of 17 cities in Romania. Ayurveda is practiced by an increasing number of doctors and experts in Romania, and AMN Romania regularly organises Ayurveda events. The first Ayush Information Cell in Bucharest was inaugurated in April 2021. The Cluj Centre for India Studies is located in Babes-Bolyai University, one of the leading universities of Romania and the Romania-India Study Center, inaugurated in December 2021, is located in Romanian-American University in Bucharest. A 5-Member ICCR Troupe led by Ms. Leena Malakar visited Targu Jiu, Romania from 20-25 August 2023 to give cultural performances. They participated in International Folklore Festival, "Acasa La Brancusi" and conducted workshop during their visit.

### **Indian Community**

The Indian community in Romania, including NRIs and PIOs, numbers around 9000, including approx. 8100 workers. Recently, there has been a considerable increase in the number of Indian workers joining the construction and other sectors in Romania.

Bucharest  
15 July 2024