

**Visit of H. E. Mr. M. J. Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs to Malta  
(8-10 July 2018)**

Minister of State for External Affairs H. E. Mr. M. J. Akbar visited Malta from 8-10 July 2018. The visit took place as part of the regular exchanges between India and Malta. During the visit, Minister of State H. E. Mr. M. J. Akbar met Foreign Minister of Malta H. E. Mr. Carmelo Abela and held discussions on various aspects of bilateral ties as well as other issues of mutual interest.

Minister of State H. E. Mr. M. J. Akbar called on Prime Minister of Malta H. E. Dr. Joseph Muscat and President of Malta H. E. Ms. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca on 9 July 2018.

India and Malta share a rich common heritage in the context of Commonwealth. Relations between the two countries have strengthened considerably in recent years with India opening its resident Mission in Malta last year. India's economic ties with Malta have grown stronger with annual bilateral trade reaching around USD 350 million last financial year. The size of Indian community in Malta has also gone up in recent times. A new beginning has been made in recent years on the cultural front, with an Indian film being shot in Malta and courses on Sanskrit grammar being taught at University of Malta.

**Malta  
July 9, 2018**