

India-Romania Relations

Diplomatic relations were established in 1948. Political relations are warm, stable and friendly. Regular bilateral consultations have been held between the two Foreign Offices, the last FOC was held on December 14, 2012. There are at least 22 bilateral agreements some of which are of a framework nature. The areas include economic co-operation, culture, science and technology and investment protection. Romanians have an abiding interest in traditional Indian culture, spiritual practices and medicine as well as in the mass culture of Indian films. Rabindranath Tagore and the philosopher Mircea Eliade are regarded as two symbols of this interest though there are many others. Eminescu is the national poet. HE Titus Corlatean, the Foreign Minister of Romania paid an official visit to India from March 7-8, 2013. During his visit an Agreement for Extended Partnership between India and Romania was signed. H.E. Mrs. Maria Grapini, Minister Delegate for SMEs, Business Environment and Tourism of Romania visited India in April 2013 and an MOU on Textiles was signed during her visit between two countries. A Textiles delegation from India with business component visited Romania in June 2013 and held Joint Working Group meeting with Romanian counterparts. Mr. Parvez Dewan, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism of India also visited Romania in June 2013.

17th Meeting of India-Romania Joint Economic Commission:

1th Meeting of India-Romania Joint Economic Commission was held at Bucharest from February 1-2, 2012. Protocol for JEC was signed by Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia and Mr. Ion Ariton, Romania's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business Environment. Two JWG's on (i) Petroleum and Gas & (ii) SMEs were also held during January 30 to February 1, 2012.

Economic and Commercial Relations:

Bilateral Trade and Investments

During 2011-12, bilateral trade reached US\$727.27 million (India's exports were US\$269.54 mn and imports were US\$ 457.73 mn. During 2012-13 (Apr-Sept) bilateral trade was measured at US\$ 294.34 mn (Exports US\$ 130.86 mn, Imports US\$ 167.53 mn). The principal **export** items to Romania included electric machines, devices & equipment, common metals, chemical and allied industries products, plastic and rubber materials, textiles, food products, beverages and tobacco, vegetable products, paper and cardboard and its scrap, articles made of stone, cement, ceramics, glass and optical photographic, cinematographic, medical instruments and devices. The main items of **import** from Romania were common metals, sound and image displayers & recorders, chemical and connected industrial products, plastic, rubber materials, textiles, vegetable products, transport vehicles and mineral products. Ranbaxy, Gujarat Heavy Chemicals (GHCL), WIPRO, Genpact and Raymonds have a presence in Romania. Arcelor-Mittal has considerable investments from Europe into Romania.

ITEC and other exchanges

Romanians have utilized ITEC courses quite effectively since their introduction in 1995. In addition Romanians study mainly cultural subjects and Hindi in India under sponsorships from the ICCR and the Central Hindi Institute in Agra and New Delhi.

Indian students study in Romanian Universities mainly in medicine.

Consular Matters

There has been a steady increase of visitors to India from Romania. Romania expects to join the Schengen Area visa regime in the period 2013-14 and Indian travelers will be governed by that regime.

Air links

Romania is well-connected to most European capitals with direct flights from India and also to Turkey and the Gulf. The regional cities of Timisoara and Cluj-Napoca are also connected to West European capitals.

Indian community

The Indian community in Romania numbers around 950. A substantial number are students in Timisoara, Oradea and Constanta. There are several venues honouring Indians including a street in Bucharest named after Mahatma Gandhi.

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