India - Romania Relations

India and Romania established diplomatic relations in 1948 and raised it to Ambassadorial level in 1968. However, contacts between the two countries and civilizations pre-date this. Transylvania born philologist Alexander Csoma de Koros travelled to India in 1820, and lived for many years in Zanskar and Calcutta (he is buried in Darjeeling). Romania’s national poet Mihai Eminescu was attracted to Indian languages and literature and translated a book on Sanskrit grammar into Romanian from German. Eminent Romanian philosophers and poets, like Bogdan Hasdeu, George Cosbuc, and Lucian Blaga, were deeply influenced by their encounter with Indian thought, and this found reflection in their works, Prince Carol II toured India for five months in 1920. Rabindranath Tagore visited Romania in 1926 and received a doctorate *honoris causa* from the University of Bucharest. Mircea Eliade spent four year (1928-1932) studying philosophy and Sanskrit at Calcutta University. The sculptor Constantin Brancusi was inspired by Indian motifs and visited India in 1937 to execute a commission for the Maharaja of Indore.

Political Relations

Bilateral political relations between India and Romania are warm and friendly. India and Romania have in the past supported each other on multilateral issues and worked in tandem at the UN. Foreign Office Consultations have been instituted to review bilateral relations. The last round of FOC, at DG level, was held in Bucharest on December 14, 2012. The earlier round at Secretary (West)'s level was held in New Delhi in June 2009. A ‘Joint Declaration for Extensive Partnership’ was signed during the visit of the Romanian Foreign Minister, Mr. Titus Corlatean, to India in March 2013.

Bilateral Visits

The State visit of President Traian Basescu to India in October 2006 created many opportunities for enhanced co-operation and understanding and was a turning point in our bilateral relations.

The 17th Session of the India-Romania Joint Economic Commission co-chaired by MOS(C&I) Mr. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia and Romanian Minister for Economy, Trade and Business Environment Mr. Ion Ariton was held on February 1-2, 2012 in Bucharest and was preceded by the JWG on Petroleum & Natural Gas and JWG on SMEs.

H.E. Mr. Titus Corlatean, Romanian Foreign Minister visited India from March 6-8, 2013 and met EAM and MOS(PK). An Agreement on Extended Partnership was also signed. In addition the DTAA was also signed during his visit. He visited Delhi again from November 2013 for participation in 11th ASEM Foreign Minister’s meeting.

Mrs. Grapini, Minister delegate for SMEs/Business Environment/Tourism visited India in April 2013. An agreement on Cooperation in the field of Textiles was signed during the visit.

Mr. Sorin Encutescu, State Counsellor for Defence & Security Issues (Deputy NSA) in the PM's Office visited India in November 2014.
The last high level visit from MEA to Romania was that of Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs, in April 2010. Among high level visits from India to Romania in the past two decades were the visit of President Shri. Shankar Dayal Sharma in 1994 and that of Vice President Shri. Bhairen Singh Shekhawat in October 2005.

**Parliamentary Visits**

An Indian Parliamentary delegation led by Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Health and Family Welfare visited Romania in June 2003. President Shri Pranab Mukherjee was part of this delegation. Romanian Senate President Vacaroiu led a multi-party delegation to India in December 2003.

Mrs. Ana Birchall, Chairperson of Romania - India Parliamentary Friendship Group visited India from April 22 - 25, 2013.

An all party parliamentary delegation led by Mr. Zgonea, President of the Chamber of Deputies of Parliament of Romania visited India during December 6-12, 2014.

**Trade and Economic Cooperation**

**Historical background** – Bilateral cooperation in the past covered projects in India in petroleum, petrochemicals, power and metallurgy. Romania was involved in projects in oil refinery at Guwahati and Bihar, the thermal power plant in Singareni, the Mangalore palletising plant, the Durgapur agglomeration plant and the Hyderabad tractor plant. In 1993, an Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation envisaging mutual MFN treatment and trade in hard currency was concluded. Existing bilateral institutional mechanisms to promote trade and economic cooperation emanate from the Joint Economic Committee at the Government level.

**Bilateral Trade between India and Romania**

Bilateral trade is around US$ 600-800 mn mark. However, there exists considerable potential for an increase. India-Romania trade statistics over the last three years is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trade data</th>
<th>2012-13</th>
<th>2013-14</th>
<th>2014-15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exports from India</td>
<td>283.15</td>
<td>286.10</td>
<td>416.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imports by India</td>
<td>311.12</td>
<td>375.65</td>
<td>296.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>594.27</td>
<td>661.75</td>
<td>713.24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(Department of Commerce, Govt. of India statistics in US$ million)*
The main Indian exports to Romania were electric machines, devices & equipment, common metals, chemical and allied industries products, plastic and rubber materials, textiles, food products, beverages and tobacco, etc.

The main Indian imports from Romania were Vehicles (other than railway carriages or tramway) and parts thereof, Iron & Steel, organic chemicals, etc.

Specific sectors/products have been identified for focus. These include pharmaceuticals and nature-based medicines and medical devices, agriculture and agricultural products and devices, automotives and parts thereof, engineering goods, iron and steel, chemicals, rubber etc.

Indian Investments in Romania

Major companies like Wipro, Genpact, SunPharma (formerly Ranbaxy), Dr. Reddy’s Labs, UCO Raymonds, Sunwave Pharma, Thakral Group (IT infrastructure), FERCO Group (forest and wood products), Prodigy (IT software), Prime Healthcare have significant presence in Romania. Arcelor-Mittal has considerable investments from Europe into Romania.

Romanian investments in India

Cumulative FDI inflows from Romania into India during April 2000 to May 2015 were in the range of US$ 7.01 million. Romania ranks 81 in terms of FDI inflows into India. Romanian companies have invested in India in diverse sectors including infrastructure (like roads, bridges, Railways, tunnels, pipelines, ports, harbours etc), specialized railway parts, fixtures and fittings, textiles, scientific medical and surgical instruments, data processing, software and consultancy, electrical installations, tourism, drugs, medicines and allied products, etc..

JECs and JWG

The 17th session of the India-Romania Joint Committee for Economic Cooperation (JEC) was held in Bucharest on 1-2 February, 2012. Coinciding with the JEC, two Joint Working Groups – one on Oil & Natural Gas (3rd) and the other on SMEs (1st) – were also held in Bucharest.

Other visits

A 12 member delegation from Association of Indian Industries, Mumbai visited Bucharest in April 2014 to participate in the General Assembly Meeting of WTC.

A 5 member delegation led by Health Minister of Romania Dr. Nicolae Banicioiu visited India during in January, 2015 to attend PHARMEXCIL Buyer-Seller meet alongside VIBRANT GUJARAT 2015 in Ahmedabad. A delegation of 26 members from Indian Pharmaceutical companies led by PHARMEXCIL visited Bucharest in February 2015.
Agreements

The Joint Statement on establishing an Extensive Partnership and the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement was signed during Foreign Minister Corlatean’s visit on March 8, 2013. The MOUs on Cooperation in the field of Textiles was signed during the visit of Mrs. Maria Grapini, Romanian Minister Delegate for Business Environment, Tourism and SMEs to India in April 2013. The MoU between the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board of India and National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control of Romania for the Exchange of Information and Co-operation in the field of Regulation of Nuclear Activities for Peaceful Purposes was signed between India and Romania in Vienna in September 2012. Agreements for Cooperation in the field of S&T, Maritime Transport and Air Services Agreement are under consideration.

Bilateral cooperation under ITEC/PCFD/ICCR Programme

Candidates from different fields from Romania have been going to India under the ITEC scheme to attend different training modules. Till date Romania has used hundred ITEC slots. Romania has been allotted 5 slots a year, which have been consistently utilised. Since 1993, 8 Romanian diplomats attended the Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) in Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi. ICCR scholarships have been utilized successfully by Romanians studying Indian dance, classical and popular music, classical dances, Hindi, Film/TV technology and other academic subjects.

Cultural Cooperation

India and Romania signed a Cultural Agreement in 1957. A new CEP for the years 2011-2015 was signed in Bucharest in March 2011. Renewal of this CEP which expired in December 2015 is under consideration. A Romanian ballet troupe visited India in early 2012. Sahitya Akademi published from Romania (i) Sach Leta Hai Aakar & (ii) Jhonpri Wale aur Anya Kahania under the CEP.

In May 2014 three cultural performances were organised in Bucharest with ICCR sponsored Rajasthani Folk Dance Group. An ICCR sponsored painting exhibition, ‘Kalpana’ was organized in Ploiesti in November 2014.

The Embassy collaborates with local cultural group Rabindra Nath Tagore Cultural Centre to organise “Namaste India” festival every year.

Cooperation in Education sector

A Hindi Chair was established by ICCR at University of Bucharest in 1998 and a Hindi teacher from ICCR has been teaching at the University since 2006. A fresh MOU was signed in September 2015 after lapse of the previous MOU. A new Hindi teacher has since joined under the MOU. Since 2003, Hindi language and a course on Indian authors in English are also being taught at the Sapientia-Hungarian University of Transylvania at Miercurea Ciuc. A Romanian teacher is sent by the Romanian side to
Delhi University for teaching Romanian. Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj, has signed MoUs with Ambedkar University, Delhi and Jadavpur University, Kolkata for exchange of professors.

**Indian community**

The Indian community in Romania numbers around 950. The majority are students (nearly 250 Indian students attend courses in Romania institutions, mainly pursuing medicine on a self-financing basis at Timisoara, Oradea, Bucharest, Constanta and Iasi). Others are businessmen, professionals and technical specialists. There are four Indian restaurants in Bucharest, one in Timisoara and one in Galati.

**Useful Resources:**

Embassy of India, Bucharest website:  
[http://eoiromania.in/](http://eoiromania.in/)  
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February 2016