

India-Moldova Relations

India recognized Moldova on December 28, 1991 and diplomatic relations were established on March 20, 1992. India-Moldova relations are friendly and cordial. India and Moldova cooperate well on matters of mutual interest at multilateral fora. Moldova usually accredits its Ambassador in Baku, Azerbaijan, concurrently to India. India accredits its Ambassador in Bucharest. India-Moldova Foreign Office Consultations has been instituted and one session was held in January 2003 in Chisinau. Moldova has been supportive of Indian candidatures in multilateral fora.

Minister of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Mr. D. V. Sadananda Gowda visited Moldova, 2-4 November 2016. MOS (PK) Mrs. Preneet Kaur visited Moldova from 22-25 September 2013 on an official visit. Ms. K K Shailaja Kumari 'Teacher' Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Kerala, visited Moldova from 29 Nov to 1 Dec 2019.

From the Moldovan side two high level visits took place in quick succession in 1993. In March the President of Moldova, Mircea Snegur visited India. This was followed by visit of their Vice Premier Coscodan in the same year. Deputy PM Valentine Kunayev visited India in 1994. Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Moldova Mr. Tudor Ulianovschi paid an official visit to India from 11 – 15 August 2018. 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 14th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

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*

Bilateral Trade and Investments

Bilateral trade between India and Moldova has been low in the past few years, hovering around US\$ 10 mn. In 2018-2019, India exported goods worth US\$ 8.63 mn and imported goods valued at US\$ 0.39 mn from Moldova. The trade data for the last 4 years is as follows:

<i>Trade data</i>	<i>2015-2016</i>	<i>2016-2017</i>	<i>2017-2018</i>	<i>2018-2019</i>
<i>Export from India</i>	<i>7.81</i>	<i>6.71</i>	<i>7.14</i>	<i>8.63</i>
<i>Imports by India</i>	<i>4.89</i>	<i>11.73</i>	<i>1.57</i>	<i>0.39</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>12.7</i>	<i>18.44</i>	<i>8.71</i>	<i>9.02</i>

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

Major articles of exports to Moldova include Pharma products; vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling stock and parts and accessories thereof; electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; miscellaneous chemical products; organic chemicals; optical, photographic cinematographic measuring, checking precision, medical or surgical instruments and apparatus parts and accessories thereof; articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, mica or similar materials; nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances and parts thereof; cereals; and miscellaneous edible preparations. Main articles of Indian imports from Moldova are edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers; oil seeds, fruits, miscellaneous grains, industrial or medicinal plants, straw and fodder; wool, fine or coarse animal hair, horsehair yarn and woven fabric; optical, photographic cinematographic measuring, checking precision, medical or surgical instruments and apparatus parts and accessories thereof; edible fruits and nuts; beverages, spirits and vinegar; nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances and parts thereof; miscellaneous chemical products, pharmaceutical products; rubber and articles thereof.

Indian experience in IT and traditional medicine such as Ayurveda and wellness regimens like yoga, meditation etc has attracted attention in Moldova which is keen on Indian investment.

There have been sporadic visits by commercial delegations from either side. Moldovan Chamber of Commerce and Industry visited India with a 7 member delegation 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. Again, a PHD delegation from India visited Moldova during September 2019.

A Moldovan delegation headed by Mr. Victor Bodi, Secretary General of the Government participated in the e-World Forum 2011, held in New Delhi from 1-3 August 2011. Mr. Bodi also met Mr. Sachin Pilot, Hon'ble Minister of State for Communication and Information Technology and discussed possibilities of cooperation in the field of IT.

Moldova is keen to increase its export of agricultural produce to India including its wines. Apart from IT and Pharma and medical devices, agricultural and industrial machinery and machine tools are commodities which could be looked at for greater economic cooperation.

ITEC and Other Exchanges

Moldova has significantly increased its utilization of ITEC slots since 2010. Moldova has been allotted 05 slots under ITEC Scholarship Programme for the year 2019-20, out of which 04 slots have been utilized till date. Moldovan diplomats have also attended various courses conducted by the Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi, for Foreign Diplomats.

Cultural Relations:

Bilateral cultural interaction has been limited in the recent past. An exhibition “India My Love” displaying works by the well-known Moldovan photographer Mrs. Gulnara Vishku was held from 12-18 November 2004 at the National History Museum, Chisinau. An ‘India Evening’ was organised in cooperation with India-Moldovan Cultural Association on 27 March 2019 in the Free International University of Moldova. The International Day of Yoga has been celebrated in Chisinau, Moldova every year since 2015. The Embassy of India in Bucharest celebrated the 5th International Day of Yoga at the University of Physical Education & Sports, Chisinau on Sunday, 23 June, 2019.

Indian Community:

The Indian community in Moldova numbers around 700, out of which about 550 are medical students. A cultural association of Indians in Moldova was formed in 2001 and is active in social and commercial activities and is in touch with the Embassy.

Useful Resources

Website: www.eoibucharest.gov.in

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IndiainRomania/>

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