

India - Albania Relations

Diplomatic relations were established in 1956 with the Indian Ambassador resident in Rome concurrently accredited to Tirana. They were suspended in 1964-65. In 1984, Albania signalled its interest for better relations with India and was taken to accredit the Indian Ambassador in Bucharest was accredited concurrently to Tirana, from 27 April 1990. Bilateral political relations between India and Albania are cordial and friendly. Foreign Office consultations were held in February 2003 in Tirana and in New Delhi in January 2006. Albania opened an embassy in New Delhi in early 2008. The Foreign Minister and Speaker of Albania paid their first visits to India in 2008 and 2010, respectively.

Bilateral Agreements

A Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations exists and discussions have taken place on a Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) and a bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPA).

Bilateral Trade and Investments

Trade between India and Albania is minimal, and is dominated on the Indian side by export of Indian pharmaceuticals. Bilateral trade between India and Albania during 2010-11 was US \$ 11.70 million (India's exports were US\$ 11.58 million and imports were US \$0.12 mn) India also exports coffee chemical industry products; vegetable products; mechanical, electrical machinery and equipment; textiles; tires and plastic products. There are three shops in Tirana that exclusively sell Indian products (fashion garments, furniture, furnishings and souvenirs) imported via Turkey and Greece. India imports chemical industry products and metal alloys.

ITEC and other exchanges

India offers 2 slots annually to Albania under ITEC. Albanian diplomats have trained at the Foreign Service Institute of the Ministry of External Affairs. Albanian TV has telecasting Indian documentaries.

Consular matters Visas are now issued by the Albanian Mission in New Delhi. Albanians apply for visas at the Indian Mission in Bucharest.

Air links with India Travel routes to Albania from India are through Rome, Frankfurt, Vienna, Istanbul or Dubai.

Indian community

The Indian community in Albania is miniscule (less than 20). Occasionally Indian personnel have been used to complete construction projects. The international airport of Albania is named after Mother Teresa who is regarded as an Albanian national personality.

February 2012