

Bilateral Brief on India-Monaco Relations

The Republic of India and the Principality of Monaco officially established diplomatic relations on 21 September 2007. Consular relations between the two countries have existed since 30 September 1954. India and Monaco enjoy cordial relations and the two countries have gradually developed their relations in various fields. Trade, tourism and taxation matters are some of the leading areas of cooperation.

Major Visits:

Visits to India

- February 4-5, 2019: visit of His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco paid an official visit to India with a high level delegation, call on President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind and meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Call on by External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj
- December 8 to 10, 2016: H.S.H. Princess Charlene visit to Madurai, Tamil Nadu.
- October 1 to 6, 2010: Visit of H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco to the Commonwealth Games in New Delh, meeting with Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh on October 04, 2010.
- Brief interaction between Prince Albert II and Vice President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu on November 10, 2018 in Paris during a cocktail hosted by the French President

Official Visits from India to the Principality of Monaco

- May 21 to 22, 2018: visit of Shri Pon Radhakrishnan, Minister of State for Finance and Shipping, meetings with Mr. Jean Castellini, the Minister of Finance & Economy, and Mr. Gilles Tonelli, Minister of Foreign Affairs & Cooperation.
- November 4, 2014: visit of Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Rajnath Singhto attend an Interpol meeting.
- July 31, 2012: Shri S. S. Palanimanickam, Minister of State for Finance, to sign bilateral Agreement on exchange of tax information
- October 14, 2010: Courtesy visit by the Indian Tourism Minister.
- May 2003: A visit to the Principality by H.E. Mr Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting on a touristic and cultural visit.
- October 2000: visit by Ms. Najma Heptulla, President of the Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

2. During the visit of MoS Finance to Monaco in May 2018, following areas were identified for possible cooperation:

- i) Technology and Investment partnership in Smart Cities Projects of India.
- ii) Renewable energy and environmental protection.
- iii) Security in smart cities.
- iv) Protection of marine and ocean resources.
- v) Tourism, especially coastal and cruise-liner tourism.
- vi) Advanced construction technologies including the ones related to land reclamation from sea.

Consular and Community Relations:

3. India has no consular representation in Monaco. The Ambassador of India in Paris is concurrently accredited to the Principality of Monaco.

4. Consular relations between the Principality and India have existed since 30 September 1954, the date on which Mr. R. Chattaram, Honorary Consul General in New Delhi, was appointed. Last Honorary Consul General of Monaco in New Delhi was Mr. Kushal Pal Singh, who remained in position from 23 July 1990 to 30 January 2015.

5. It is estimated that 38 Indians reside in Monaco. However, several Indian tourists visit Monaco. Prominent Indians living in Monaco include Pravin Kathau, who owns a private equity firm and heads Monaco's Association of Private Equity Firms; Hemant Sondhi, who is the convenor of the Indian community in Monaco; Nehar Mehta, Nice-based Indian classical musician and impresario who has organised large cultural events in South France and Monaco.

6. In July 2021, India approved the visa waiver for diplomatic passport-holders of Monaco. The same was communicated to the Monaco authorities.

Economic and Commercial Cooperation:

7. During HSH Prince Albert's official visit to India, he and his delegation of Monegasque business leaders met Indian business representatives at an event organised by FICCI. Commerce & Industry Minister, Shri Suresh Prabhu also attended the event. An MoU was also signed between FICCI and Monaco Economic Board.

Trade figures (in US\$ million)

Year	India's Exports	India's Imports	Total Trade
2015-16	1.05	1.53	2.58
2016-17	1.53	1.11	2.65
2017-18	1.94	1.07	3.01

8. Bilateral goods trade has had a generally upward trajectory in last few years. However, in these years, India's exports have significantly increased while imports from Monaco have seen a decline. Still, India's share in Monaco's imports remains only about 0.3% (period Jan-Dec 2017).

Bilateral trade in goods takes place in the following areas:

9. More than a third of imports into India consist of plastic and non-metallic products, and almost 25% from the manufacture of transport equipment. Major items include rubber, plastic & other mineral and non-mineral products; distribution network and waste water treatment: waste management & purifying; products for the chemical industry; manufacturing goods, repair and installation of machinery & equipment; transport material; machinery & equipment; textile articles, apparel industry, leather & footwear; computer, electronic & optical products; electrical installations & recreational activities.

10. Almost 40% of exports from India consist of textile and clothing industry, and nearly 30% from the manufacture of machines and equipment. Major items include

textiles, apparel , leather & footwear; rubber & plastic products and other non- metallic mineral products; manufacturing goods, repair and installation of machinery & equipment; products for the chemical industry; agriculture, forestry & fishing; computer, electronic & optical products; metal & metal products except machinery and equipment; machinery & equipment; products from the timber & paper industry & pharmaceutical products.

11. The volume of bilateral trade is small but scope exists for enhancing trade and diversifying the trade basket on both sides. Opportunities exist for collaboration with Monegasque companies in cutting edge technology and in the services sector.

Cooperation on Climate and Energy

12. During his 2019 visit, Prince Albert II participated in a conference “Energy and Climate”, organised by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in New Delhi. Key areas of potential cooperation include climate change, biodiversity, pollution control, ocean and Blue Economy. Monaco has highly reputed institutions for oceans and scientific research.

13. Prince Albert II Foundation (with the Prince as the President) supports the Prince’s environmental priorities by hosting global events and funding universities, research institutions and NGOs internationally, especially in Least Developed Countries (LDCs). It has provided a limited level of support to a few NGOs in India. Ms. Sunita Narain of the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) sits on the Board. Potential areas of cooperation with this Foundation include renewable energy, plastic pollution, river pollution, marine conservation and biodiversity.

14. Monaco has also pledged to join the International Solar Alliance when the amended framework of the ISA comes into force.

Cooperation in Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance

15. Both India (w.e.f 1st June 2012) and Monaco (w.e.f. 1st April 2017) are signatories to the Multi-lateral Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in tax matters (MAC), which is the most comprehensive multilateral instrument available for all forms of tax co-operation to tackle tax evasion and avoidance, a top priority for all countries.

16. Both India (w.e.f 3rd June 2015) and Monaco (w.e.f 1st April 2017) are signatories to the Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement on the Common Reporting Standards (MCAA for CRS). Further, both India (signed on 12th May 2016) and Monaco (signed on 2nd November 2017) are signatories to the Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement on the exchange of Country-by-Country Reports (CbC MCAA). These facilitate automatic exchange of information which increases transparency and provide tax administrations with relevant and reliable information to carry out investigations as well as perform efficient and robust transfer pricing risk assessment analysis.

17. Both sides are committed for first automatic exchanges from 2018 and the financial institutions in both jurisdictions are collecting financial account information in respect of residents of other jurisdiction from 1st January 2017 onwards.

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