
Brief on India - Malta Relations

India and Malta enjoy friendly and cordial relations. India was one of the first countries to recognize the independence of Malta in 1964 and establish diplomatic relations in 1965. In 2025, India and Malta celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of their Diplomatic Relations.

2. The High Commission of India in Malta was opened in 2017 and the first resident High Commissioner of India took charge in January 2018. Malta opened its High Commission in New Delhi in July 2007 with a resident High Commissioner.

3. India-Malta bilateral relations have been warm and friendly, with a number of visits having been exchanged between the two sides. A list of high-level visits is as follows:

HIGH LEVEL VISITS

From India to Malta:

(i) Visit of Hon'ble Vice President of India Shri M.Venkaiah Naidu, to Malta

Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, paid an official visit to Malta from 16-18 Sept 2018. The Vice President was accompanied by Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla, MoS (Finance), four Members of Parliament and other senior government officials. Apart from his talks with the President of Malta H.E. Ms. Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, during which

the two leaders discussed the whole gamut of bilateral relations and also cooperation in multilateral and international forums, Vice President also had meetings with the Speaker of the House of Representatives Dr. Angelo Farrugia, Acting Prime Minister & Minister of Economy Dr. Christian Cardona (where the Minister of Education of Malta and Foreign Minister were also present), and the Leader of Opposition Dr. Adrian Delia.

Three MoUs, namely MoU on Maritime Cooperation; MoU on Mutual Cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs, India and Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies, University of Malta; and MoU in the field of Tourism Cooperation, were signed in the presence of the two leaders.

During the visit, a Business Forum was organized jointly by the Malta Chamber of Commerce and the Confederation of Indian Industries, which was addressed by the two leaders.

(ii) Visit of Minister of State for External Affairs Shri M.J. Akbar to Malta

Minister of State for External Affairs Shri M.J. Akbar paid an official visit to Malta from 8-10 July, 2018. Apart from holding delegation-level talks with FM Carmelo Abela, MoS called on the President of Malta Ms. Marie Louise Coleiro Precca and Prime Minister of Malta Dr. Joseph Muscat.

(iii) Visit of Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan to Malta

Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, visited Malta to participate in the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) Standing Committee held in Malta in January 2019.

(iv) Visit of Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture Smt Meenakshi Lekhi in August 2022

Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi paid an official visit to Malta from 21-23 August, 2022. During her visit, Minister of State met Foreign Minister of Malta Dr. Ian Borg and called on President of Malta Dr. George Vella. She also met Tourism Minister Mr. Clayton Bartolo and Minister for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government Mr. Owen Bonnici.

(v) Visit of Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, Amb. Sibi George, in March 2026

Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, Amb. Sibi George, visited Malta from 26-29 March 2026, for the 4th Round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC). The FOC was co-chaired by Secretary (West) and Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, Government of Malta. During the visit Secretary (West) called on Dr. Ian Borg, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister and met Brigadier Clinton J O' Neill, Commander of the Armed Forces of Malta and Dr. Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi, Minister for European Funds and Implementation of the Electoral Programme.

During the visit, Secretary (West) chaired a Roundtable Discussion on bilateral economic relations with prominent stakeholders. He also paid a visit to the state-of-the-art premises of Indian Company Torrent Pharma in Malta.

From Malta to India:

(i) **Minister of Finance of Malta Prof. Edward Scicluna visited India in February 2018** to participate in the Global Business Summit organized by the Economic Times and Yes Bank. He also met Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley and Commerce & Industry Minister Shri Suresh Prabhu.

(ii) **Minister for Energy and Water Management of Malta Mr. Joseph Mizzi** visited India in February 2018, to visit the Streamcast Technology Data Centres in New Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata.

(iii) **Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion of Malta Mr. Carmelo Abela** visited India in March 2018 leading a large business delegation. During the visit, Minister Abela participated in the India-Europe Business Forum, hosted by FICCI in New Delhi. He met External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj and Minister of State for External Affairs Shri M.J. Akbar during the visit.

(iv) **Parliamentary Secretary for local Government and Communities of Malta Mr. Silvio Parnis** led the Maltese delegation to the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention held in New Delhi on 29 Sept. - 2 Oct. 2018.

(v) **Maltese Minister for Home Affairs and National Security of Malta, Mr. Michael Farrugia**, participated in the 'National Conference on Cyberlaw, Cybercrime and Cybersecurity' in Delhi from 14-16 Nov. 2018.

(vi) **Prime Minister of Malta Dr. Joseph Muscat** accompanied by Minister for the Economy, Investment and Small Business of Malta Dr. Christian Cardona and a large business delegation from Malta attended the Vibrant Gujarat Summit from 18-20 January 2019. PM Muscat also met Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on the margins of the Summit.

(vii) **Minister for Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change of Malta Dr. Jose Herrera** visited India to participate in the UNCCD COP14 meeting hosted by India from 2-13 September 2019 and addressed the meeting on 9 September 2019.

(viii) **Minister for Active Ageing Dr. Jo Etienne Abela** attended the Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh Conference during 6-8 October, 2022. During his extended visit till October 13, discussions were held for possible collaboration in the pharmaceutical and medical devices industry. He led a team of representatives from Malta Medicines Authority and Malta Enterprises and visited Torrent Pharma in Ahmedabad and Aurobindo Pharma in Hyderabad.

(ix) **Minister of Economy, European Funds and Land Mr. Silvio Schembri** took part in the Special Plenary Session of the CII India-Europe Business and Sustainability Conclave on 1 March 2023 in New Delhi. On 28 February, 2023 Minister Schembri presented his views in an interactive session at the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry at New Delhi.

(x) **Minister of Foreign and European Affairs and Trade Dr. Ian Borg** visited India from 06-08 October 2023. He was accompanied by senior officials of the Malta Financial Services Authority. Dr. Borg met External Affairs Minister, Dr. S Jaishankar and had detailed discussions on entire gamut of bilateral relations, including trade & investment, maritime cooperation, renewable energy, tourism, culture and people-to-people ties.

(xi) **Visit of Hon'ble Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malta, Dr. Angelo Farrugia** to India to attend the 28th CSPOC (Conference of Speaker and Presiding Officer of the Commonwealth) in January 2026.

xii. **Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Malta, Dr. Ian Borg** visited India in March 2026, to attend the Raisina Dialogue as a Keynote Speaker. During the visit, he met with External Affairs Minister, Dr. S Jaishankar and discussed various aspects of the bilateral relationship.

Previous bilateral visits:

India to Malta:

- President R. Venkataraman visited Malta in 1990.
- Shri Kamal Nath, Minister for Commerce & Industry visited Malta in November 2005 as Head of Indian delegation to CHOGM.
- Smt. Preneet Kaur, MoS, External Affairs visited Malta from 07-10 April 2013 at the invitation of Foreign Minister of Malta.
- Prof. K.V.Thomas, Chairman, Public Accounts Committee along with Shri Shivkumar Chanabasappa Udasi, MP Lok Sabha, visited Malta to attend the Westminster

Workshop: “*Effective, Independent and Transparent Public Accounts Committees for Robust Public Financial Oversight*” from 01-05 June, 2015.

- EAM Smt. Sushma Swaraj attended the CHOGM Summit 2015 from Nov. 25-29, 2015 as Head of the Indian delegation, and MoS (VKS) represented India at the Foreign Ministers' segment of CHOGM from Nov. 5-26, 2015.

Malta to India:

- Prime Minister of Malta, Dr. Edward Fenech Adami visited India in 1989.
- Dr. Censu Tabone, President of Malta visited India in January 1992.
- In March 2005, Dr. Michael Frendo, Foreign Minister of Malta, paid an official visit to India. He met EAM and Commerce Minister. A Protocol for Foreign Office Consultations between the two countries was signed during the visit.
- Mr. Vincent A. De Gaetano, Chief Justice of Malta, visited India in Dec. 2006, to participate in a Conference of Jurists in Lucknow, and met with the then Chief Justice of India.
- A five-member goodwill Parliamentary delegation headed by the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs, Jason Azzopardi, visited India in March 2007 at the invitation of Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs of India.
- Foreign Minister of Malta in his capacity as the Chairman of the Steering Committee of Commonwealth Connects [on bridging the digital divide], visited India in March 2007, to take part in Commonwealth Connects 2007 - e-Partnership Summit, held in New Delhi.
- Mr. Louis Galea, Speaker of the Maltese Parliament visited India in Jan. 2010 for the Commonwealth Speakers meeting.
- Dr. Tonio Borg, Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister of Malta visited India in Jan. 2010.

- The Maltese Foreign Minister, Dr. George Vella met EAM, Shri Salman Khurshid, in Nov. 2013, on the sidelines of ASEM in New Delhi. During the visit, an agreement on waiver of visa requirement for holders of diplomatic passports was signed.
- Mr. Leo Brincat, Minister for Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Change, visited India in Feb. 2015 to participate and address the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2015 organized by TERI in New Delhi.

Other High-Level Meetings

- **Meeting of EAM with Maltese DPM & FM on UNGA sidelines:** EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar met with Deputy PM and Foreign Minister of Malta, Dr. Ian Borg, on September 24, 2024 in New York. The Ministers shared their perspectives on contemporary issues and on taking forward the bilateral ties.

4. **India-Malta Foreign Office Consultations:** The second round of DG-level India-Malta Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) were held in Malta on April 20, 2018. Discussions were held on bilateral political matters, trade and economic matters, cultural relations as also on regional and multilateral issues of common interest.

The third round of FOC took place in New Delhi on 29 September 2023 co-chaired by Shri Sanjay Verma, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs and H.E Mr. Christopher Cutajar, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs & Trade, Malta. The meeting provided an opportunity for reviewing bilateral engagements and exchanging views on regional and global issues of mutual interest, including developments in our respective neighbourhoods. Both sides also discussed furthering relations in sectors such as trade and

investments, consular, migration, skill development, health & pharma sector and cultural linkages.

The fourth round of FOC took place on 27 March 2026, co-chaired by Amb. Sibi George, Secretary (West) from the Indian side and Mr. Christopher Cutajar, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs from the Maltese side. At the FOC, both sides reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction at the steady progress in India-Malta ties, marked by the milestone of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2025. The recent upswing in bilateral engagement marked by high-level visits was highlighted at the meeting. The discussions focused on areas of cooperation such as trade and investments, tourism, technology and innovation, maritime sector and cooperation in educational and cultural fields.

5. The first meeting of Joint Committee on Maritime Cooperation between India and Malta was held in virtual mode on 26 November 2024.

Bilateral Agreements

6. The following Agreements/MOUs have been signed by both sides:

Agreements/MoUs signed and in force:

- Cultural Cooperation Agreement – signed in 1992.
- Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation – signed 8.4.2013 entered into force 7.2.2014.
- Protocol for FOCs – signed in 2005 during visit of Maltese Foreign Minister Dr. Michael Frendo to India.

- Agreement on waiver of visa for holders of Diplomatic Passports - signed on 10.11.2013, and entered into force on 7.2.2014.
- MoU on Maritime Cooperation between India and Malta - signed on 17.9.2018.
- MoU for Cooperation between Foreign Service Institute (FSI), MEA, and Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC), Malta, - signed on 17.9.2018.
- MOU in the field of Tourism Cooperation - signed between the Ministry of Tourism of Malta and Ministry of Tourism of India, on 17.9.2018.
- Agreement for authorizing the dependents of members of a Diplomatic Mission or Consular Post, to engage in gainful employment – signed in Malta on 24.6.2024.
- MoU between respective Financial Services Regulatory Authorities IFSCA and MFSA signed on 24.2.2026.

Trade and economic relations

Trade:

7. The bilateral trade between the two countries is currently around USD 400 mn. It has seen an uptick in recent years and has increased by 12% in the last one year. It is expected to increase further in light of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement recently concluded during the 16th India-EU Summit in New Delhi. This agreement brings together two of the world's largest economies with 25% of global GDP.

Bilateral trade figures of recent years are as follows:

(FY April -March, Figures in US\$ Millions)

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
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India's Exports	229.52	208.20	317.04	477.22	312.76	496.11	351.09
India's Imports	43.76	121.90	23.70	22.88	51.35	35.68	24.01
Total Trade	273.28	330.10	340.75	500.11	364.10	531.79	375.10

[Source: Department of Commerce, GoI]

[FY January -December, Figures in EUR€ Million]

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
India's Exports	142.4	157.1	180.5	164.8	251.63	230.04	312.42	349.99
India's Imports	11.4	21.3	24.3	35.1	25.75	39.15	26.06	31.35
Total Trade	153.8	178.4	204.8	199.9	277.38	269.19	338.48	381.34

[Source: NSO, Malta]

8. Main items of **India's exports** to Malta are in the category of pharmaceutical products, petroleum products, wheat, organic chemicals, and ceramic products. The main commodity of Indian exports to Malta has been Pharma products, currently representing about 40% of India's total exports to Malta. The main items of **India's imports** from Malta are in the category of organic and inorganic chemicals, integrated circuits, machinery, and sorted/recovered paper.

Investment:

9. There are 114 Indian companies registered in Malta. Indian pharma companies are a success story in Malta, including M/s Aurobindo Ltd, M/s Misom Labs Ltd and M/s Torrent Pharma Ltd. Recently, during the official visit of Dr. Ian Borg, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Malta to India in March 2026, Maltese company Farsons Ltd launched Kinnie, a popular Maltese soft drink in India.

10. The High Commission regularly hosts economic events, including a webinar for promoting investments bilaterally as well as a Roundtable Discussion with relevant stakeholders held recently in 2026.

International Solar Alliance (ISA):

11. Malta signed the ISA Framework Agreement in New Delhi on February 20, 2024. Malta is the 119th country to join the ISA.

Goodwill Ship visits:

12. The Indian Naval Ship INS Sudarshini visited Malta from 12 to 15 March 2026 as part of the Lokayan 2026 voyage. The port call strengthened bilateral maritime ties through high-

level calls-on, highlighting maritime cooperation between India and Malta. The High Commission hosted a reception in the honour of the ship, attended by high-level Maltese government dignitaries, and organized a public viewing of the ship for the Indian community and a special yoga session for the crew. Indian naval ships regularly visit Malta on goodwill visits. Previous visits include the visit of INS Darshak in April 2002 and visits of INS Tarangini in February 2007, June 2015, May 2018 and May 2022.

Culture:

13. A cultural agreement between India and Malta was signed in 1992 and remains in force. Cultural events like celebration of Indian festivals, film festivals, food festivals and performances of Indian cultural troupes have been organized by the High Commission. A statue of Mahatma Gandhi was gifted by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) to Malta. Malta Post issued Commemorative Stamps on the occasion of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Previously, Malta Post had issued a commemorative stamp on Mahatma Gandhi in 1969, on the occasion of 100th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

14. The International Day of Yoga is celebrated very enthusiastically in Malta. The High Commission has a Teacher of Indian Culture under ICCR who regularly organizes yoga sessions in Malta.

15. As part of the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of India-Malta diplomatic relations, a special reception was organized on August 8, 2025 where the President of Malta attended as Chief Guest. A Rajasthani Folk Song & Dance Group, sponsored by ICCR, performed at the event.

Indian Community

16. The Indian diaspora in Malta has grown rapidly in recent years. It is expected to be around 25,000 now, forming the largest cohort of foreign workers in Malta, comprising primarily of healthcare workers, skilled professionals - both in IT & pharma - and workers in hospitality, transport and construction sectors. The number of Indian students in Malta has also witnessed a rise in recent years.

June 2026