

## **India - Malta Relations**

India and Malta enjoy friendly and cordial relations. India was one of the first countries to recognize independence of Malta in 1964 and established diplomatic relations with it in 1965.

The High Commission of India was reopened in Malta in Jan 2017 and the resident High Commissioner of India took charge in Jan 2018. Malta opened its High Commission in New Delhi in July 2007 and has Honorary Consuls in Kolkata, Chennai, and Mumbai.

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

### **HIGH LEVEL VISITS FROM BOTH SIDES**

#### **From India to Malta:**

- President Shri R. Venkataraman visited Malta in 1990.
- External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj visited Malta on 25-29 November 2015 to attend the CHOGM Summit 2015 as head of the delegation, whereas the Minister of State for External Affairs Gen. (Dr.) V. K. Singh represented India at the Foreign Ministers' segment of CHOGM.
- Minister of State for External Affairs Shri M. J. Akbar visited Malta on 8-10 July 2018.
- Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, accompanied by Minister of State (Finance) Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla, three Members of Parliament from Rajya Sabha and one Member of Parliament from Lok Sabha visited Malta on 16-18 September 2018. During his visit, Vice President met President of Malta Ms. Marie-Lousie Coleiro Preca, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malta Mr. Anglu Farrugia and Acting PM and Minister for the Economy, Investment and Small Businesses of Malta Dr. Christian Cardona. Three MoUs on (i) Maritime Cooperation between Ministry of Shipping, India and Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects, Malta; (ii) Mutual cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute, India and The Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic

Studies, University of Malta; and (iii) Tourism Cooperation between India and Malta were signed during the visit.

- Speaker, Lok Sabha Smt. Sumitra Mahajan visited Malta on 9-11 January 2019 to participate in the Standing Committee Meeting of the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth.

Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi visited Malta during 21-23 August 2022. She called on the President of Malta Dr. George Vella and met Foreign Minister Dr. Ian Borg, Tourism Minister Mr. Clayton Bartolo and Minister for National Heritage, Arts and Local Government Dr. Owen Bonnici.

### **From Malta to India:**

- Prime Minister of Malta Dr. Edward Fenech Adami visited India in 1989.
- President of Malta Dr. Censu Tabone visited India In January 1992.
- Foreign Minister of Malta Dr. Michael Frendo visited India in March 2005.
- Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs Mr. Jason Azzopardi led a five-member goodwill Parliamentary delegation to India in March 2007.
- Foreign Minister of Malta Dr. Michael Frendo, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Steering Committee of Commonwealth Connects visited India in March 2007 to take part in Commonwealth Connects 2007- e-Partnership Summit held in New Delhi.
- Speaker of the Maltese House of Representatives Mr. Louis Galea visited India In January 2010 for the Commonwealth Speakers meeting.
- Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister of Malta Dr. Tonio Borg visited India in January 2010.
- Minister for Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Change Mr. Leo Brincat visited India in February 2015 to participate and address the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2015 organized by TERI in New Delhi.

- 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.
- Minister for Energy and Water Management of Malta Mr. Joseph Mizzi visited India In February 2018.
- 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. He met External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj and Minister of State for External Affairs Shri M.J. Akbar during the visit.
- 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 on 18-20 January 2019. PM Muscat also met Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on the margins of the Summit.
- 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.

Minister for Active Ageing Jo Etienne Abela attended the Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (FRCSEd) Conference during 6-8 October, 2022.

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 1st March 2023, in New Delhi.

Minister of Foreign and European Affairs and Trade Dr. Ian Borg visited India from 06-08 October 2023. Dr. Borg met External Affairs Minister, Dr. S Jaishankar and had detailed discussions on bilateral relations, including trade & investment, maritime cooperation, renewable energy, tourism, culture and people-to-people ties.

**Foreign Office Consultations (FOC)** : India and Malta held the 3rd round of FOC on 29 September 2023 in New Delhi, 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 FOC provided an opportunity for reviewing bilateral engagements and exchanging views on regional and global issues of mutual interest, including developments in our respective neighbourhoods, EU, Ukraine conflict, G20 outcomes under India's Presidency, cooperation in multilateral fora, and UNSC reforms. Both sides also discussed furthering relations in sectors such as trade and investments, consular, migration, skill development, health & pharma sector and cultural linkages.

### **Trade and economic relations**

**Trade:** 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
<b>India's Exports</b>	229.52	208.20	317.04	477.22	312.76	496.11
<b>India's Imports</b>	43.76	121.90	23.70	22.88	51.35	35.68
<b>Total Trade</b>	273.28	330.10	340.75	500.11	364.10	531.79

*[Source: Department of Commerce, GoI]*

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 items of **India's imports** from Malta are in the category of organic and inorganic chemicals, integrated circuits, machinery, and sorted/recovered paper.

### **Culture:**

A cultural agreement between India and Malta was signed in 1992 and remains in force. Cultural events like film festival, food festivals, performances of Indian cultural troupes have been organized by the High Commission. There is a statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Malta gifted by Indian Council for Cultural Relations

(ICCR). Malta Post issued Commemorative Stamps on the occasion of 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The International Day of Yoga is being regularly celebrated in Malta. The Indian musical band 'Astitva', sponsored by the Indian Council of Cultural relations, participated at the Destination North festival in September 2023 in a first such visit by a cultural troupe from India to Malta in many years. The High Commission organized Indian Film Festival on 16-17 March 2024 in Valletta and on 11-14 April 2024 in Gozo. In partnership with Indian community, the High Commission organises various Indian festivals in Malta.

### **Indian Community**

Indian community in Malta is estimated to be around 18,000. The Indian diaspora in Malta has grown rapidly in recent years. In addition to health care sector, the other sectors employing Indians include Hospitality Industry, Construction sector, IT sector and related services. Several Indian Associations like Malta Malayalee Association, Malta Tamil Association, Bengali Association Malta, Gujarati Association and Navodaya Sanatan Group have been formed in recent years.

### **Useful Resources :**

Website: <https://www.hcimalta.gov.in>

X:@indiainMalta

Facebook page : India in Malta - High Commission of India, Malta

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