

India-Romania Bilateral Relations

India and Romania established diplomatic relations in 1948, and raised it to Ambassadorial level in 1968.

Political Relations

Bilateral political relations between India and Romania are warm and friendly. The two countries celebrated 75 years of diplomatic relations in 2023. To commemorate this milestone, joint commemorative stamps of India and Romania were released by External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar on September 17, 2024, in the presence of Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Romanian Ambassador to India, Ms. Daniela-Mariana Sezonov-Tane. India and Romania regularly support each other on various multilateral issues and collaborate closely at the UN and other international organizations. Foreign Office Consultations have been established to review and strengthen bilateral relations.

Romania was the second European Union country to send medical assistance to India during the second wave of COVID-19. In April 2021, it dispatched a special flight carrying 80 oxygen concentrators, 75 oxygen cylinders, and 20 high-flow oxygen therapy devices.

During the evacuation process of Indian citizens from Ukraine to India, the Romanian government eased entry requirements in Romania for Indian citizens at Ukraine-Romania border, providing shelters, food, assistance at airport, etc. During a telephonic conversation on 28 February 2022, PM Modi thanked the then Romanian PM Ciuca for Romania's support in evacuating Indians from Ukraine through Romania.

Interactions between EAM and FM of Romania

External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar and former Foreign Minister of Romania, Mr. Bogdan Aurescu met on the sidelines of Munich Security Conference on 19 February 2022. FM Aurescu's visit to India in April 2021 to attend the Raisina Dialogue was cancelled due to the pandemic, but he had attended the Dialogue online. At the invitation of former FM Aurescu, EAM addressed the Annual Meeting of Romanian Diplomacy on 8 September, 2021. They also interacted briefly at the Foreign Ministers' lunch in Bled, Slovenia on 3 September, 2021, and met on the sidelines of EU-Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum in Stockholm on 13 May 2023.

Ms. Luminita-Teodora Odobescu, the then Foreign Minister of Romania had a bilateral meeting with EAM on the sidelines of Raisina Dialogue on 23 February

2024. Following the meeting, a Joint Declaration marking 10th Anniversary of the signing of Joint Statement on Establishing an Extensive Partnership was issued.

On the sidelines of the 79th UN General Assembly, EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar met Ms. Luminița Odobescu, then Foreign Minister of Romania. More recently, EAM also met Mr. Emil Hurezeanu, the current Foreign Minister of Romania, on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference (MSC) 2025 on 14 February 2025. The External Affairs Minister met Ms. Oana-Silvia Toiu, Foreign Minister, on the sidelines of the 80th United Nations General Assembly in New York and subsequently held a meeting with her on 4 February during the Critical Minerals Ministerial in Washington, DC.

Bilateral Visits

- **1965:** President of India, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, visited Romania.
- **1973:** President of India, Dr. Varahagiri Venkata Giri, visited Romania.
- **1981:** Prime Minister of India, Smt. Indira Gandhi, visited Romania.
- **2005:** Vice President of India, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, visited Romania.
- **October 2006:** President of Romania, Mr. Traian Băsescu, paid a State Visit to India, which marked a turning point in bilateral relations and created opportunities for enhanced cooperation and understanding.
- **April 2010:** Minister of State for External Affairs, Mrs. Preneet Kaur, visited Romania for bilateral consultations.
- **February 2012:** Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, visited Bucharest to co-chair the 17th Session of the India-Romania Joint Economic Commission with the Romanian Minister for Economy, Trade and Business Environment, Mr. Ion Ariton.
- **March 2013:** Romanian Foreign Minister, Mr. Titus Corlățean, visited India and met the External Affairs Minister and Minister of State (PK). During the visit, the Agreement on Extended Partnership and the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) were signed.
- **April 2013:** Romanian Minister-Delegate for SMEs, Business Environment and Tourism, Ms. Maria Grapini, visited India.
- **November 2014:** State Counsellor for Defence & Security Issues (Deputy NSA) in the Romanian Prime Minister's Office, Mr. Sorin Encutescu, visited India.
- **12-16 November 2016:** Minister of State for Women and Child Development, Mrs. Krishna Raj, paid a goodwill visit to Romania.
- **18-20 September 2018:** Former Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, visited Romania at the invitation of the President of the Romanian Senate, Mr. Călin Popescu-Tăriceanu. The visit coincided with the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations, the centenary of modern Romania, and the 5th anniversary of the Framework Agreement on Extensive Partnership Cooperation. During the visit, the Vice President inaugurated an AYUSH

Information Cell, released a book on Ayurveda, and an MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Tourism was signed.

- **24–27 November 2018:** Romanian Foreign Minister, Mr. Teodor Viorel Meleşcanu, paid an official visit to India.
- **1–7 March 2022:** Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, visited Romania as the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Operation Ganga. He called on the Prime Minister of Romania, Mr. Nicolae Ciucă, and held an online meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Mr. Sorin Grindeanu.
- **23–24 February 2024:** Romanian Foreign Minister, Ms. Luminița-Teodora Odobescu, visited India to participate in the Raisina Dialogue and held a bilateral meeting with the External Affairs Minister.
- **3–7 November 2025:** Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Mr. Jitin Prasada, visited Romania for the Joint Economic Committee (JEC) meeting.

Parliamentary Visits/Interactions

- **June 2003:** An Indian Parliamentary delegation led by Smt. Sushma Swaraj, then Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Health and Family Welfare, visited Romania.
- **December 2003:** The President of the Romanian Senate, Mr. Nicolae Văcăroiu, led a multi-party parliamentary delegation to India.
- **April 2013:** Mrs. Ana Birchall, then Chairperson of the Romania–India Parliamentary Friendship Group, visited India.
- **December 2014:** An all-party parliamentary delegation led by Mr. Valeriu Zgonea, then President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of Romania, visited India.
- **June 2022:** A virtual meeting between Indian and Romanian parliamentarians was held.

Agreements

Recently signed important agreements between India and Romania include:

- (i) MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Tourism in September 2018
- (ii) Joint Statement on establishing an Extensive Partnership
- (iii) Agreement on Exemption of Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic Passports.
- (iv) Cultural Exchange Programme for the period 2022-2027 was signed on 1 July 2022
- (v) Bilateral Defence Cooperation Agreement was signed in New Delhi on 28 March 2023
- (vi) Bilateral Land Agreement was signed in New Delhi on 31 January, 2023

- vii) Romania signed Framework Agreement for joining International Solar Alliance in Dubai on 3 December 2023.
- viii) A Joint Declaration marking 10th Anniversary of the signing of Joint Statement on Establishing an Extensive Partnership was issued on 23 February 2024.

JECs and JWGs

The 17th session of the India-Romania Joint Committee for Economic Cooperation (JEC) was held in Bucharest on 1-2 February 2012. The Indian delegation was led by then MoS for Commerce & Industry, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia. The Romanian side was led by Mr. Ion Ariton, then Minister of Economy, Trade and Business Environment.

The 18th Session of the India-Romania Joint Economic Committee (JEC) was held in New Delhi on 7 April 2017. The Joint Protocol was signed by the two sides after the meeting. The 19th Session of JEC was held in Bucharest on 5th November, 2025 and was led by Mr. Jitin Prasada, MoS(Commerce & Industry) and Romanian side was headed by Mr. Radu-Dinel Miruta, Minister of Economy, Digitalization, Entrepreneurship and Tourism of Romania. The Joint Protocol was signed by the two sides after the meeting. During his visit he also met with the Ministers from Energy, Investments & EU Projects, Labour, Foreign Affairs and State Secretary M/o Transport.

Foreign Office Consultations(FOCs)

5th FOCs was held at Secretary level in Bucharest on 12 June 2023. Indian side was led by Shri Sanjay Verma, Secretary (West) and Romanian side by Mr. Traian Laurentiu Hristea, State Secretary. Secretary (West) also met Chairperson of the Foreign Policy Committee of Chamber of Deputies (Lower House) of the Romanian Parliament, Mrs. Rozalia-Ibolya Biro. President of Parliamentary Friendship Group with India, Mrs. Claudia Mihaela Banu and other members of the Foreign Policy Committee and India Friendship Group were also present.

Former Secretary (West), Shri Vikas Swarup, and State Secretary in the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Cornel Feruta, held virtual consultations on 17 June 2020 for a comprehensive review of the bilateral relations. Virtual Foreign Office Consultations between India and Romania were held on 27 Oct 2020 at JS/DG level - From India JS (CE), Ms. Neeta Bhushan, and from Romania Mr. Radu Safta, Director General for Global Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Romania, led the consultations. 4th Foreign Office Consultations between India and Romania were held on 14 November 2022 in New Delhi at JS/DG level – from India JS(CE) Shri Arun Kumar Sahu , and from Romania, Ms. Olivia Todorean, Director General for Global Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Romania led the consultations. Next FOCs at Secretary level is scheduled to be held in New Delhi in early 2026.

Bilateral Trade between India and Romania

India-Romania trade statistics for the last five years are as follows:

Financial Year	Export	Import	Total Bilateral Trade	Trade Surplus
2021-22	592.74	263.10	855.84	329.64
2022-23	744.44	562.21	1306.65	182.23
2023-24	1780.00	1200.80	2980.80	579.20
2024-25	1035.93	410.18	1446.11	625.75
2025-26	974.77	250.70	1225.47	724.07

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

Main Indian Exports to Romania

India's exports to Romania comprise a diverse basket of products reflecting the complementary nature of bilateral trade. Key export items include petroleum products; engineering goods; drugs and pharmaceuticals; ceramic products and glassware; man-made yarns and fabrics; ready-made garments and textiles; organic and inorganic chemicals; plastics and linoleum products; electronic goods; mica, coal and other ores; oilseeds; fruits and vegetables; rice; leather and leather products; marine products; tobacco; coffee; and gems and jewellery. These exports cater to Romania's industrial, manufacturing and consumer market requirements and have shown steady growth in recent years.

Main Indian Imports from Romania

India's imports from Romania mainly consist of industrial and intermediate goods required for manufacturing and infrastructure sectors. Major imports include machinery and boilers; electrical and electronic equipment; optical and precision instruments; mineral fuels, oils and distillation products; animal or vegetable fats and oils and their derivatives; cereals; rubber products; iron and steel; plastics; wood and articles of wood; articles of iron and steel; wool and animal hair; and vehicle parts and components. These imports support India's industrial and manufacturing supply chains.

Indian Investments in Romania

Indian investments in Romania are estimated to be in the range of USD 1-1.5 billion, making India one of the significant Asian investors in the country. Indian companies have established operations primarily in IT services, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, and industrial sectors. Major Indian companies

present in Romania include Wipro, Infosys Consulting SRL, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Genpact Romania SRL, HCL Technologies Romania SRL, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Liberty Galați SA, Thakral Group, FERCO Group, Prime Healthcare, Transdanube Trading SRL, Evalueserve, and Wipro PARI, among others. These investments contribute to employment generation, technology transfer, and integration of Romania into global service and manufacturing networks.

Romanian Investments in India

Romanian investment presence in India remains modest in comparison, with cumulative investments estimated at approximately USD 13.17 million. Romanian companies such as Hanna Instruments Romania SRL, Omnia Professional SRL, FSS Activ Group SRL, Vard Tulcea, and STX RO Electroturlicea SRL have established business engagements or investment interests in India across industrial equipment, services, and manufacturing sectors. However, in recent years, no major new Romanian investments in India have been recorded, indicating scope for further expansion of bilateral investment flows.

ITEC and Other Exchanges

Till date, Romania has utilized over 120 ITEC slots. 6 Romanian participants attended various ITEC programmes in India in 2024-25. Romanian diplomats have also attended various courses conducted by SSIFS. One Romanian diplomat attended the 5th Special Course for Diplomats from ASEM Countries conducted by SSIFS in October 2019. One diplomat from Romanian Foreign Ministry was nominated to attend 3rd Annual Disarmament and International Security Affairs Fellowship Programme at SSIFS, New Delhi from 14 March-01 April 2022. The course was postponed. Scholarships under the ICCR programmes have also been offered to Romania. One candidate attended Hindi course conducted by Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra in August 2025. 4 MPs and 1 Mayor participated ICCR's Gen Next Democracy Programme from 05-14 September 2022 at New Delhi. One diplomat from Romanian Diplomatic Institute participated in 48th Annual Meeting of the International Forum on Diplomatic Training (IFDT) in New Delhi from 14-18 November 2022. One journalist from Romania visited India from 28 October to 5 November, 2025 as part of a familiarization visit organized by Ministry of External Affairs.

Cultural Cooperation

India and Romania share a long-standing cultural partnership rooted in a Cultural Agreement signed in 1957, which laid the foundation for cooperation in culture, science, education, literature, and the arts. This agreement led to the formulation and implementation of Cultural Exchange Programmes (CEPs), further strengthening bilateral cultural ties. A significant milestone in this cooperation was the signing of the Cultural Exchange Programme for 2022–2027 on 1 July 2022, reaffirming the shared commitment of both nations to promote cultural understanding and exchange.

Under the aegis of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Indian dance troupes regularly visit Romania, performing in multiple cities to enthusiastic audiences. The Embassy of India in Bucharest has been actively collaborating with local cultural organizations, notably the Rabindranath Tagore Cultural Centre, to organize the “Namaste India” festival. This vibrant celebration of Indian culture has become an annual highlight in Romania's cultural calendar, drawing large audiences and wide acclaim.

The International Day of Yoga (IDY) has been observed annually in Romania since 2015, with steadily increasing participation. The 11th IDY in 2025 was celebrated in cities across Romania, reflecting the growing popularity of yoga among Romanians. Ayurveda, India's traditional system of medicine, is also gaining traction in the country. An increasing number of local doctors and practitioners are embracing Ayurveda, and AMN Romania regularly organizes dedicated events. Ayurveda Day 2025 was celebrated in October, with the participation of more than 100 Indian and Romanian experts and enthusiasts. Romania also hosts the first AYUSH Information Cell in Bucharest, inaugurated in April 2021, to promote Indian systems of medicine.

Romania hosts two prestigious centres of Indian studies. The Cluj Centre for Indian Studies (CCIS) at Babeş-Bolyai University, one of the country's top academic institutions, publishes the *Romanian Journal of Indian Studies*, which released its 9th edition in 2025. The Romania-India Study Centre at the Romanian-American University in Bucharest, inaugurated in December 2021, organizes lectures every semester by visiting Indian professors on subjects ranging from architecture to law and business.

Cultural diplomacy was further showcased by the visit of a 8-member ICCR troupe ‘Ghumti Gauri’ led by Ms. Sonal Jayeshkumar Parikh in October 2025. The troupe participated in the Diwali festival in Brasov and Bucharest and also performed in Iasi and Cluj-Napoca..

Indian cinema enjoys a deep-rooted popularity in Romania. Before 1989, Bollywood films like *Awara* (1951) and *Shree 420* (1955) were widely popular. Post-2012, films like *Jab Tak Hai Jaan*, *Dhoom 3*, and *Sultan* were screened. Bollywood TV channels and serials (*Gangaa*, *Doli Armaano Ki*, *Sasural Simar Ka*) have gained viewership among both older and younger generations, contributing to greater cultural familiarity with India. At present there are three TV channels in Romania devoted exclusively to Bollywood content. Embassy hosted a special screening of “All We Imagine as Light” by Payal Kapadia, in collaboration with Voodoo Films in Jan 2025. Since August 2025, every month, Embassy screen Indian movie in the Chancery with enthusiastic participation by the Indian diaspora and friends of India.

On 17 September 2024, a commemorative joint postal stamp was issued to celebrate 75 years of India-Romania diplomatic relations. In New Delhi, the release ceremony featured External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of

Communications Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, and Ambassador of Romania H.E. Mrs. Daniela-Mariana Sezonov Țane.

Indian Community

The Indian community in Romania, including NRIs and PIOs, numbers around 13500, including approx. 10000 workers. Recently, there has been a considerable increase in the number of Indian workers joining construction and other sectors in Romania. There are about 224 Indian students attending courses of medicine, agricultural sciences and veterinary medicine in Romanian institutions, mainly pursuing medicine on a self-financing basis at Timisoara, Oradea, Bucharest, and Iasi. Others are businessmen, IT professionals, technical specialists and representatives of Indian pharmaceutical companies. There are four Indian restaurants in Bucharest, one in Timisoara, one in Galati and one in Brasov. In 2025, Mr. Jaggannath Shekhar Asthana from Romania was conferred the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award. In October 2025, Embassy celebrated Diwali with more than 600 members of Indian diaspora and friends of India.

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