

India-Moldova Relations

Political Relations:

India recognized Moldova on December 28,1991 and diplomatic relations were established on March 20,1992. India- Moldova relations are warm, stable and friendly and there are no pending issues of dispute. Moldova cooperates well on matters of mutual interest with India at multilateral fora including UN where both countries have exchanged support for their candidates through reciprocal support mechanism. In 1993 India provided Rs. 5 million worth of pharmaceuticals to Moldova. Following a severe drought in 2000 India gifted a consignment of 10 tonnes of pharmaceuticals worth Rs. 2 million in May 2001.India also provided a relief assistance of US\$ 100,000 in 2011 in the wake of floods in Moldova. Moldova usually accredits its Ambassador in Baku, Azerbaijan concurrently to India, whereas Indian mission in Romania is concurrently accredited to Moldova also. Moldova has appointed an honorary Consul in New Delhi since 2011. MOS(PK) Mrs. Preneet Kaur paid an official visit to Moldova from September 22-25,2013, the first high level visit from India after a long gap of twenty years. Previously in March 1993 H.E. Mr. Mircea Snegur, President of Moldova had paid a state visit to India. During his visit a Declaration on Principles and Directions of Cooperation and agreements on Cooperation in the fields of (i) Education, Science, Culture, Arts, Mass media, Sports, Tourism (ii)Protocol of Consultations between MEA and Moldovan Foreign ministry (iii) Agreement on Trade and Economic Relations (iv) Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation (v) Agreement on Science and Technology were signed. Later Deputy Prime Minister Valentine Kunayev had paid a visit to India in May,1994. During the visit of MOS(PK) to Moldova in September,2013 the subject of opening of resident Indian embassy in Moldova and of a Moldovan embassy in India was raised and both sides expressed keen desire to open resident missions subject to availability of necessary budgetary support. During MOS(PK)'s meetings with the PM, President and Foreign Minister of Moldova both sides expressed keen desire to upgrade and elevate the level of bilateral exchanges with the possibility of visits at the level of PM, President and Foreign Minister. India-Moldova Foreign office consultations have been instituted and one session was held in January 2003 in Chisinau when JS(CE) had visited Chisinau for FOC. An FOC was proposed in 2012 but the proposal did not materialize. An Agreement on exemption from visa for Diplomatic and Official passport holders and Civil Aviation are also under consideration.

Commercial Relations:

India-Moldova bilateral trade has been rather modest. During 2012-13 bilateral trade was measured at US\$ 9.63 mn (Exports US\$ 8.94 mn, Imports US\$ 0.69 mn). During 2011-12, bilateral trade reached US\$ 8 million (India's exports were US\$ 7.5 mn and imports were US\$ 0.5 mn).

Principal export commodities were pharmaceuticals, food products, chemical and related industrial products, auxiliary equipments and parts. Indian pharmaceutical companies operating in Moldova are ranked tenth in terms of medicine import by Moldova touching US\$ 4-5 million annually. Indian experience in IT and traditional medicine has attracted attention in Moldova which is keen on Indian investment. Moldova has also offered use of facilities at the State Medical University of Moldova for Indian investors in the field of pharmaceuticals. There have been visits by commercial delegations from both countries. A 7-member delegation from the Moldovan Chamber of Commerce and Industry attended the International Trade Fair in New Delhi in November 2004 for the first time. A 17 Member Pharmexcil delegation from India had visited Moldova during December 5-8, 2012, as a part of the delegation's visit to Russia, Moldova, Belarus and Turkmenistan and met the Drug Agency Staff of Moldova and also held a buyer-seller meeting. They were provided information regarding legal and technical procedures for entering the Moldovan drug market. During her visit to Moldova in September, 2013, MOS(PK) held detailed discussions with the Minister of Health to understand the problems faced by Indian pharmaceutical companies. She also met the President of the Moldovan Chamber of Commerce and discussed possibilities of cooperation in various sectors of the economy such as agriculture, education, energy, medicine etc. It was also decided that Chambers of Commerce and business delegations from both countries should meet more frequently to focus on areas of cooperation. Moldova expressed a keen desire to market Moldovan wines in India, and Moldovan and Romanian wines have participated in Indian Food Fairs.

Cultural Relations

The people of Moldova, like other CIS countries, have an abiding interest in Indian culture, Indian dances and Indian films. Moldova's national poet Mihai Eminescu (1850-1889) was interested in the ancient Indian languages and literature of India and translated Franz Bopp's Sanskrit Grammar and Glossarium Sanscritorium into Moldovan (Romanian). Eminescu was deeply influenced by this encounter with Indian thought. This found

reflection in his works. There is a great affinity towards Indian dances and there are local Moldovan groups involved in promotion of India's culture. In addition Moldovans visit India for yoga, spiritualism and study of Indian languages, dances etc. Local TV Channels occasionally telecast India movies and programmes.

There is a strong interest among Moldovan students for availing ICCR and ITEC scholarships. Moldovans have utilised ITEC training courses quite effectively since their introduction in 1995, they utilized all the slots allocated in 2010 and 2011. For 2012-13 fifteen slots were allotted and for 2013-14 three slots were allotted which have been utilised. There has been a steady increase of visitors to India from Moldova. Moldovan diplomats have also shown keen interest in PCFD Courses organized by FSI and every year diplomats from Moldova have been attending the course.

A Moldovan delegation headed by Mr. Victor Bodi, Secretary General of the Government participated in the e-World Forum 2011, held in New Delhi from August 1-3, 2011. Mr. Bodi also met Mr. Sachin Pilot, Hon'ble Minister of State for Communication and information Technology and discussed possibilities of cooperation in the field of IT.

Indian community:

The Indian community in Moldova is miniscule, numbering less than 100. Most of the Indian nationals are engaged in Pharmaceutical sector, importing and selling Indian medicines, while there are some students in the State Medical University of Moldova. There are a few Indian professionals employed with multinational companies and banks. A few Indian nationals have married Moldovan nationals and acquired permanent residency. Indian community had formed a Cultural Association in 2001-2004 and it has now been revived with the help of Embassy. MOS(PK) met the members during her visit in Sept, 2013.

Useful Resources:

For more information and latest updates please visit
Embassy of India, Bucharest website:
<http://www.embassyofindia.ro/>

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