



**NATIONAL APEX CHAMBER**

**Report on  
PHD Chamber Business Delegation  
to Serbia, Malta and Romania**

**COINCIDING WITH THE VISIT OF  
SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU  
HON'BLE VICE PRESIDENT OF INDIA**

**14 - 20 September 2018**

**Serbia**



**Malta**



**Romania**





## ABOUT THE DELEGATION

PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) mounted a Business Delegation to Serbia, Malta and Romania from 14-20 September 2018 coinciding with the visit of Mr. Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Vice President of India and participated in the Business Events in the three countries. The business events were attended by the who's who of the industry, Ministers, Bureaucrats and other decision makers from India, Serbia, Malta and Romania.

Mr. Vikram Gera, Co-Chairman, International Affairs Committee for Central Europe met the Hon'ble Vice President of India along with the Indian Diaspora and encouraged the Indian Diaspora to look at India as a business destination. He mentioned that the Indian economy is growing at a very fast pace and this is an opportune time to strengthen ties between India and the three Central European countries.

Mr. Vikram Gera, Co-Chairman, International Affairs Committee for Central Europe was accompanied by Mr. Yogesh Srivastav, Principal Director, PHDCCI.

The Business Forums in the three countries generated enthusiasm among the businessmen as they got an opportunity to hear the Vice President about India's transformative initiatives and its growth story. Hon'ble Vice President underlined the growing importance of India globally, what the Government is doing in India to attract foreign businessmen and entrepreneurs and the improvement in the World Bank's Ease of Business Index by climbing up 42 places over the past two years. He highlighted four key features that need to be recognized which he called 4Ds – Democracy, Demographic dividend, Demand and Diaspora.

MOUs that were signed by the Government of India during the visit related to plant protection, tourism, air services, and maritime cooperation.

The main objective of the delegation was to find business opportunities in Serbia, Malta and Romania and interact with key decision-makers in the public as well as private sector to explore avenues and scope for the Indian businessmen.

## DISCUSSIONS

### SERBIA (14-16 September 2018)

Hon'ble Vice President of India addressed the business representatives of India and Serbia at the Business Forum and interacted with the Indian Community during the visit.

During the discussions, it was highlighted that agriculture is a major economic activity both in India and Serbia and we can benefit from each other's expertise in agriculture and food processing sector. Moreover, Serbia, with its fascinating history and landscape, has the potential to attract Indian tourists. Serbia also has strength in some areas of defence production. India's strength in IT sector is globally renowned. Apart from IT, Serbia can also benefit from India's capability of producing high quality generic medicines.

Signing of Agreements on Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine will help in enhancing trade in fruits, vegetables and processed products and the revised Air Services Agreement will enhance connectivity besides boosting trade and tourism. While there is a need for boosting our bilateral trade, investment in each other's countries and more innovative approaches are vital for strengthening economic ties.

Mr. Vikram Gera during the Business Forum mentioned that Serbia is emerging as a destination for Indian investments in Eastern Europe and could emerge as Delhi's gateway to the region. He also said that there is a lot of room for broadening and enhancing the volume of economic cooperation. Investment cooperation, production cooperation and scientific and technological cooperation in the IT sector of India are highly promising as well as the cooperation in areas of Agro, automobile, defense, pharmaceuticals and filmmaking industries. He stressed on the area of information technology having great potential for cooperation where India is among the global leaders. The Indian IT sector works on numerous projects for companies in the EU and Serbian companies could offer support for clients in Europe. On the other hand, individual Serbian companies have software solutions that could prove extremely interesting to partners in India.

Mr. Vikram Gera also met H.E. Mr. Aleksandar Vucic, President of Serbia and Mr. Marko Cadez, President, Serbia Chamber of Commerce and Industry and presented the credentials of PHD Chamber to them. He also interacted with the business representatives from Serbia in B2B meetings in the Serbian Palace. He met the Mayor of Belgrade and exchanged views and business ideas.

H.E. Mr. Subrata Bhattacharjee, Indian Ambassador in Serbia met delegates from PHD Chamber and offered his support for their initiatives.

Mr. Gera was also interviewed by DD News and Serbia TV at Belgrade wherein he talked about the Chamber's commitment towards strengthening trade ties between India and Serbia.





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## GLIMPSES



Evening reception with the Indian Community with Shri Venkaiah Naidu, Honorable Vice President of India



Meeting with the Mayor of Belgrade



Meeting with H.E. Mr. Aleksander Vucic,  
President of Serbia



Meeting with Mr. Mark Cadez, President  
of Serbian Chamber of Commerce

### MALTA (16-18 September 2018)

Hon'ble Vice President of India addressed the business representatives of India and Malta at the Business Forum and interacted with the Indian Community during the visit.

It was highlighted that Malta can take the advantage of India's highly skilled professionals in the field of IT, financial services, transport, tourism and India's advancement in affordable, quality healthcare facilities. India can also cooperate in the use of the ancient sciences of yoga and ayurveda to promote healthcare and wellness.

The signing of three MoUs namely (i) MoU on Maritime Cooperation between Ministry of Shipping, India and Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects, Malta; (ii) MoU on Mutual Cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute, India and The Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies, University of Malta, and (iii) MoU in the field of Tourism Cooperation between India and Malta mark a good beginning in an effort to enhance relations between the two countries.

Hon'ble President of Malta H.E. Ms Marie Louise Coleiro Preca acknowledged Indian diaspora's positive contribution to the Maltese society especially in sectors like Health care and Information Technology and emphasized that the scope of mutual cooperation is very high in several sectors such as ICT, pharmaceuticals, maritime cooperation, tourism, to name a few.





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Mr. Vikram Gera had a meaningful interaction with Mr. Frank V. Farrugia, President, Malta Chamber of Commerce and members of the Malta Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Gera also had the privilege of meeting the Hon'ble President of Malta H.E. Ms Marie Louise Coleiro Preca and extended his best wishes to her and also invited her to PHD Chamber on behalf of the President, PHD Chamber.

## GLIMPSES



Evening Reception with Shri Venkaiah Naidu, Honorable Vice President of India



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Mr. Vikram Gera presenting PHD Chamber's memento to Hon'ble Vice President of India



Mr. Vikram Gera with H.E. Ms Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, President of Malta



Interaction with Mr. Frank V. Farrugia, President, Malta Chamber of Commerce and members of the Chamber



Mr. Vikram Gera presenting credentials to Mr. Frank V. Farrugia, President of Malta Chamber of Commerce



## ROMANIA (18-20 September 2018)

Hon'ble Vice President of India addressed the business representatives of India and Romania at the Business Forum and interacted with the Indian Community during the visit, where he mentioned that this visit came at an opportune time coinciding with completion of 70 years in the journey of our diplomatic relations.

The presence of large number of Romanian business people in the Business Forum indicated growing interest in strengthening our trade and investment relationship, especially in sectors - information technology, manufacturing, infrastructure, logistics, defence, pharmaceuticals, infrastructure, real estate, tourism etc.

Signing of Memorandum of Understanding on Tourism between the two countries has been an endeavour in facilitating tourism on both sides and increasing people to people connectivity.

Given the increasing interest and popularity of Yoga and Ayurveda in Romania, the Ho'ble Vice President of India inaugurated the AYUSH Information Cell and unveiled a Book on Ayurveda.

Mr. Vikram Gera also met Ms. Ana Barchall, Vice Prime Minister of Romania during the visit and reiterated PHD Chamber's objective of contributing to deepening economic linkages between the two countries.

## GLIMPSES



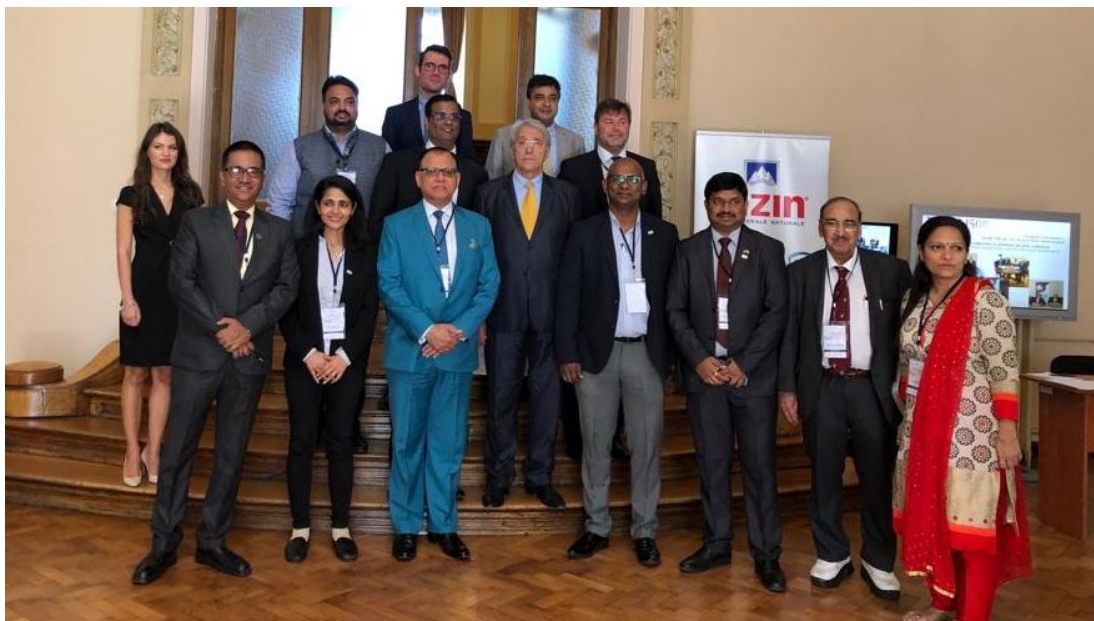
Signing of MOU by Mr. Vikram Gera, Co-Chairman (International Affairs Committee for Central Europe), PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry and with Mr. Sorin Dimitriu, President of Bucharest Chamber of Commerce and Industry



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Meeting with Ms. Ana Barchall, Vice Prime Minister of Romania



Interaction at the Bucharest Chamber of Commerce and Industry



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# **Report compiled by International Affairs Committee for Central Europe**

**PHD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**

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### About Us

**PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry**, a leading Industry Chamber of India, ever since its inception in 1905, has been an active participant in the India Growth Story through its Advocacy Role for the Policy Makers and Regulators of the Country. Regular interactions, Seminars, Conference and Conclaves allow healthy and constructive discussions between the Government, Industry and International Agencies bringing out the Vitals for Growth. As a true representative of the Industry with a large membership base of 1,30,000 direct and indirect members, PHD Chamber has forged ahead leveraging its legacy with the Industry knowledge across sectors (58 Industry verticals being covered through Expert Committees), a deep understanding of the Economy at large and the populace at the micro level.

At the National level, the PHD Chamber is well represented in 16 States with its own offices and MOUs with eleven Partner Chambers in different States.

At the Global level we have been working with the Concerned Ministries, Embassies and High Commissions to bring in the International Best Practices and Business Opportunity.

#### PHD Chamber has special focus on seven thrust areas:

- Infrastructure
- Housing
- Health
- Education & Skill Development
- Agriculture & Agri-business
- Industrial Development
- Digital India

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