

Press Release

Official Visit of Dr. Neena Malhotra, Secretary (South), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India to the Kingdom of Morocco 18–21 November 2025 | Rabat

Dr. Neena Malhotra, Secretary (South) in the Ministry of External Affairs of India paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Morocco from 18- 21 November 2025. Her visit was in the context of regular bilateral consultations between India and Morocco aimed at strengthening their ongoing cooperation and building the momentum towards the high-level engagement. During her visit, Dr. Malhotra held meetings with the senior officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, as well as met with the Minister of Youth, Culture and Communication, H.E. Mr. Mohammed Mehdi Bensaid; the Secretary of State for Foreign Trade, Mr. Omar Hjira; and the Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, H.E. Ms. Leila Benali. She also met with the Chairman & CEO, OCP Group, Mr. Mostafa Terrab.

2. Secretary (South) met with H.E. Ambassador Fouad Yazourh, Director General for International Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates. Their discussions covered the full gamut of bilateral relations and cooperation, including political dialogue, economic and trade partnership, defence and security cooperation, cultural ties, development partnership, and people-to-people exchanges. The meeting was also attended by Director Mr. Omar Kadiri and Head of Asia Division, Ms. Nezha Riki as well as the Ambassador of India to Morocco, Shri Sanjay Rana. Both sides agreed to maintain regular exchanges between the Ministries and to hold the next round of the Foreign Office Consultations in New Delhi at a mutually convenient date.

3. In the meeting of Secretary (South) with H.E. Mr. Mohammed Mehdi Bensaid, Minister of Youth, Culture and Communication, the two sides discussed the preparations for commemorating the 70th anniversary of establishment of their diplomatic relation during 2026-27 through joint events, including cultural festivals, youth exchanges, academic collaborations, and reciprocal cultural weeks in India and Morocco. Minister Bensaid highlighted the impressive growth of Morocco's gaming and digital creative industries and invited Indian companies to explore investment and partnership opportunities. Secretary (South) welcomed these proposals and emphasized the strong potential for cooperation in youth initiatives, cultural innovation, and creative economy sectors.

4. The meeting of Secretary (South) with H.E. Mr. Omar Hjira, Secretary of State for Foreign Trade, Ministry of Industry & Trade reviewed the bilateral trade and commercial cooperation. Their discussions covered deepening of trade exchanges as well as opportunities in pharmaceuticals, automobiles, IT services, textiles, agro-processing. Both sides resolved to encourage the exchange of business delegations to effectively explore and harness the emerging commercial opportunities within their respective economies.

5. Secretary (South) in her meeting with H.E. Ms. Leila Benali, Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development discussed opportunities for cooperation in renewable energy, bilaterally as well as through the membership of the International Solar Alliance (ISA). Both sides recognized strong complementarities in their respective energy-transition strategies and agreed to enhance collaboration through collaboration in developing sustainable mining value chains, private-sector engagement, and capacity-building, including under India's ITEC programme. Secretary (South) invited Minister Benali to visit India for the forthcoming India Energy Week to be held in Goa during January 2026.

6. Secretary (South) met with Mr. Mostafa Terrab, Chairman and CEO of OCP Group, a longstanding partner for India in fertilizers and phosphate supply. They discussed strengthening long-term strategic supply arrangements, potential joint ventures in fertilizer supply chain, and cooperation in sustainable agriculture and soil health. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to working together to enhance food-security cooperation.

7. India and Morocco enjoy a long-standing and friendly partnership, which has gained significant substance and momentum since the visit of His Majesty King Mohammed VI to India in 2015, during which he met with the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi. Bilateral relations have expanded across sectors, with more than 40 bilateral agreements currently in force, and growing cooperation in strategic areas, including cooperation in defence production.

8. The visit of Dr. Neena Malhotra, Secretary (South) to Morocco successfully reaffirmed the enduring strength of friendship between India and the Kingdom of Morocco based on shared values and mutual respect. Both sides expressed sincere appreciation for each other's significant economic and political successes, and agreed to maintain the positive momentum in their relations by ensuring regular, high-level contacts and consultations. They also acknowledged that the year 2027 will mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Morocco, and discussed appropriately commemorating this important milestone through a comprehensive programme of events and exchanges. Both sides reiterated their firm commitment to further deepening their partnership and expanding cooperation across various areas of mutual interest, including trade, technology, tourism, and people to people exchanges.
