

October 2018
Advertorial

 **The Indian EXPRESS**
JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

FINANCIAL EXPRESS
Read to Lead

MALTA

An Initiative With **RED**
Read. Engage. Deliver.



कलाति



Welcome to a unique voyage of Indian economic and global self-discovery, with in-depth discussions that will leave no room for doubt. This series is a unique kaleidoscope into the world around us and has been born from my own journey to over 50+ countries navigating the business and political fields to deliver the very best know-how and advice on emerging markets. As modern day India grows, so does the need to explore; to follow in the footsteps of progress and search out destinations that not only provide us with key features of profitability and certainty, but also identify countries that truly are supportive of the Indian growth story and goes beyond the initial courting stage. Equally, I introduce you to a powerful discussion of how Indians are perceived to the world and the real issues you should be aware of. Welcome to our first journey - Malta

The Inside Story of Malta

Advice from the specialists

Global Indian Perspective with Dr. Shashi Tharoor

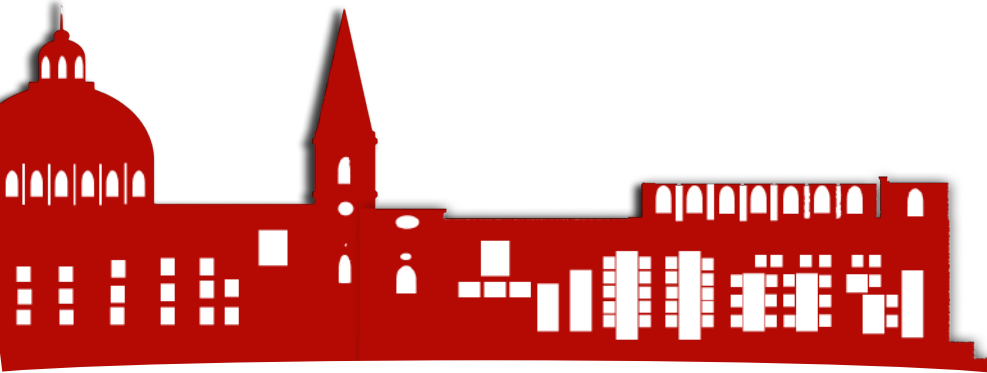
Special thanks to Henley & Partners, MIIPA and The Government of Malta for their support to Global Indians



@ASIANOBLEART



MALTA



Malta: an island of possibilities for the new generation of Global Indians

By Rajan Nazran

Walking through the Maltese capital of Valletta you would be forgiven in thinking it was an active film set for a historical blockbuster. It instantly becomes obvious why it was selected as European city of Culture 2018 and is quickly becoming the favoured spot for recent Bollywood film productions; Thugs of Hindustan and Bharat. Every



street corner is an orchestra of authentic culture that permeates through the exquisitely carved sandstone architecture, with live street musicians displaying studio-talented performances or families enjoying

alfresco organic dining with warm dusky views of the calm Mediterranean sea (with one of the 365 historic churches nearby for good measure!).

Malta is an interesting country that offers several opportunities for Global Indians. Do not get me wrong, she's had her fair share of international incidents, including the European refugee crisis, but there is another narrative that our community would benefit from.

Decisive Leadership

One thing that is directly attributed to the success of this island is the strides made by Prime Minister Joseph Muscat to bring Malta firmly onto the centre stage of European affairs. He activated the swift waves of economic reforms that

"He activated the swift waves of economic reforms that changed the fate of the country; one that could be victim of the region's financial turmoil, to one of the very few operating at a substantial surplus"

changed the fate of the country; one that could be victim of the region's financial turmoil, to one of the very few operating at a substantial surplus, including its technological presence as the

Blockchain Island. As both an active member of the Commonwealth and the EU, he also actively engaged both parties by hosting a successful CHOGAM as well as gaining EU approvals for international reforms.

Global Wealth

With the strategic assistance of Henley and Partners, the Government released the Individual Investment Program (IIP), with the main idea to close the gap of international talent to Malta. As you will soon learn, citizenship and residency is now becoming

a global phenomenon. Malta, along with a small number of reputable countries and service providers like Henley and Partners and GICG, are leading the way in professionalism and reliability in this sector. The Maltese IIP program is a true maturity of product offering that provides direct access to the world markets whilst providing a range of protective instruments that could assist Global Indians.

When you consider the fact that Indians are truly a global community, it's a shock that the passport of India only allows you visa free access to 59 countries whereas the Maltese passport offers visa free or visa-on-access to over 183

countries. This combined with the added security of the EU citizenship and the various vehicles that are offered within the country for personal finance solutions through to corporate set ups through companies like KSI Malta, make the above interesting for a number of reasons, including ship registration opportunities, residency and fund management options.

"whilst providing a range of protective instruments that could assist Global Indians"

During my journey through Malta, I also invited 2 leading experts to accompany me: Jagjit Singh Nazran who was a former board member and head of legal for Santander Asset Management UK, NED of several FinTech

companies and special advisor to a number of family offices for global Indians and Lawrence Narayan, Director of The Macquarie Group in Australia and private investor. Both provided their critical eye on the deeper conversations and tested the waters on the viability of the particular opportunities marketed by the Government which you can read more about online. The reality is, we are the first testing call for our audience when considering opportunities globally. So with my eye for accuracy, I have elected to only involve within this feature companies that we collectively saw as being a credible fit for our community. Without further ado, I welcome you to your Global Indian series and introducing you to Malta.

Globalisation brings choice

As we move towards the third decade of the 21st century, it is undeniable that India is a major international financial and corporate powerhouse. Indian capital and corporate capability are major influences on global business.

With this dynamic comes choice for Indians, and a major reversal of the recent historical experience. Many of the historical "Indian" communities around the world are not the result of positive choice. Whilst the Indian diaspora has been remarkably successful around the world, from East Africa to the UK and beyond, it cannot be denied that this success has come against a challenging backdrop and was not always the result of a positive choice.

Today however a new generation of Indian business leaders have the choice to base themselves where a globalised world brings them the most advantage. Indian businesses are now global businesses. Indian corporate leaders are globally respected and are in demand across all major industrial vertical sectors. From technology to finance; from oil and gas to retail, Indian leaders are in serious demand.

This demand brings a new decision for the Indian ultra-high net worth community. We are witnessing the creation of a new Indian diaspora, one that is the result of personal choice based on massive global corporate and financial success. So, where do the leaders of a new generation of "Global Indians" want to base themselves? Where makes most sense form both a business sense, but also in terms of lifestyle?

As global leaders in the residency

and citizenship planning, Henley & Partners knows that the answer is always entirely individual. There is no "standard" model, because all our clients have their own unique success story. However, we have seen a long standing and significant Indian interest in Malta as a base for Global Indians looking to access European and global markets. This is perhaps unsurprising, given Malta and India's ties and Malta's unique status as an historical trading and meeting point.

Malta & India; Historical ties, modern bonds

The Maltese global Indian community were originally the leaders of the Maltese silk trade, running family owned businesses that developed over decades through both the 19th and early 20th Century. The community remains an integral if small part of Maltese society, entirely integrated into modern Maltese economy and society.

Significantly, the lines of communication remained in place following the independence of both India and Malta. International treaties have been agreed to facilitate efficient global trade, with significant Indian FDI flowing into Malta such as the Indian pharmaceutical company Aurbindo Pharma, which has invested €16 million and set up a manufacturing plant in Hal Far.

The economic relationships are not purely industrial and investment based. Malta has built on its very strong tourism and hospitality industry and has provided an incredible venue for Indian wedding celebrations. The most expensive wedding

in Maltese history was for an Indian couple, cost €2m, took place over three separate locations and was truly spectacular.

With India's growing global trading and economic muscle combined to a globally mobile population and Malta's investor friendly policies combined with its strategic location, this relationship is set to grow and grow.

Malta as an international trading and cultural centre

Malta has a unique global position. At the heart of the Mediterranean. It was for many years a fortress; however it would be wrong to overlook Malta's role as a gateway, and meeting place between "West" & "East" and between "North" & "South". Malta was and remains a place where diverse cultures interact and trade.

Proudly both Maltese & European, the Maltese people are entirely welcoming to anyone that wishes to either visit or invest in the Maltese islands. We have been here for almost twenty years and I can honestly say I've never felt less than at home.

Malta as a natural FDI location

Over the past decades, the Maltese economy, backed by the necessary legislation, has diversified well in the highend manufacturing and services industries, establishing Malta as a sound financial jurisdiction, a popular tourist destination, and a hub for the information and

communications technology and gaming industries.

According to the latest EU forecast, Malta's economic growth is expected to remain well above the EU average, securing the country's public finance surplus and record-low unemployment levels.

The combination of Malta's strategic location, EU & Schengen membership and investor friendly policy means that it is an ideal gateway for international investors looking to establish an EU presence.

Malta creates multiple exciting possibilities for a new generation of Global Indians.

Henley & Partners is the global leader in residence and citizenship planning. Each year, hundreds of wealthy individuals, families and their advisors rely on our expertise and experience in this area. Our highly qualified professionals work together as one team in over 30 offices worldwide. The concept of residence and citizenship planning was created by Henley & Partners in the 1990s. As globalization has expanded, residence and citizenship have become topics of significant interest among the increasing number of internationally mobile entrepreneurs and investors whom we proudly serve every day.

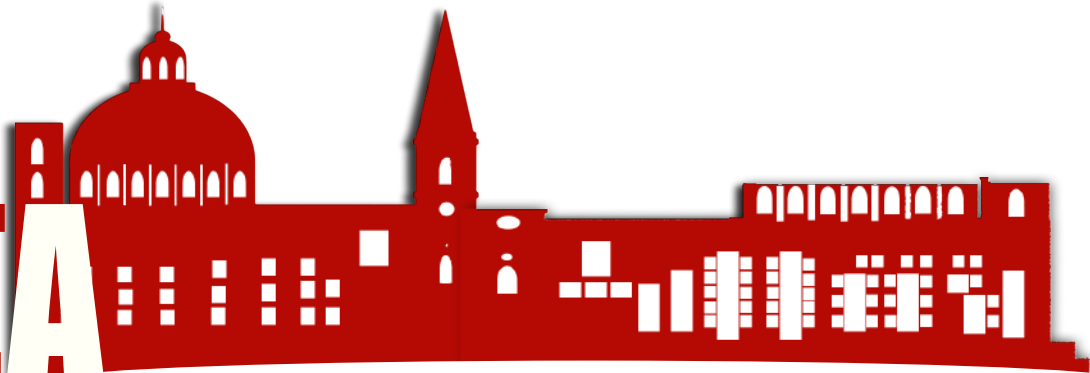


Dr Juerg Steffen, Managing Partner

"Residence and citizenship planning was created by Henley & Partners in the 1990s and they are trusted experts in this area"
- R.N



MALTA



Malta's IIP and it's positive success



INDIVIDUAL INVESTOR
PROGRAMME

Malta is one of the fastest growing and importantly, one of the most stable European economies, presenting virtually zero unemployment, business growth and lifestyle opportunities that many, from afar, strive and dream to achieve.

One might ask, what's the trick. How come this little-known tiny island in Europe travelled so far and so fast? The answer is easy, but carries different, complex facets. Based on a highly endeavouring and enterprising local population with a variety of accepting cultures. Malta opened its doors to talented individuals around the globe, presenting them with the chance to build a better and safer life for their families and be part of a welcoming community, which they can choose to call home.

Today, Malta offers financial stability and endless business opportunities for Indian business leaders who utilise our jurisdiction for further global presence.

The tool to open these doors proved to be a programme whereby one can, through a genuine link and a direct contribution to Malta, become a Maltese citizen through the Individual Investor Programme.

Today, Malta's economy is stronger through this initiative and the advantages are not limited to financial gains.

It also fits our nature as Mediterraneans and plays to the tune of our strongest assets, that is, our true Maltese spirit of innovation, hospitality, multiculturalism and pluralism.

"Today, Malta offers financial stability and endless business opportunities for Indian business leaders who utilise our jurisdiction for further global presence"

Albeit being a fairly nascent entrant to the citizenship by investment sector, in just over 4 years Malta has nurtured what is considered to be one of the leading investment migration programmes globally. We ventured



Jonathan Cardona, CEO
Malta Individual Investor Programme Agency

into this market driven by the prospect that Malta can enrich its human capital and attract market leaders who can provide added value by sharing their business acumen and not as a quick fix to address budget deficit. In fact, without the programme, Malta still retains a very healthy budget Surplus.

This put us in a strong position to filter the applications and choose only the best candidates; those who meet all the regulatory standards. It is our duty to safeguard the interests of the country and its citizens through meticulous screening and steep, yet fair economic contribution. The rigorous due

diligence process we employ is the cornerstone of our success. Yet we need to keep advocating transparency and good governance in the way we administer the programmes. Our value-add proposal is not oriented at whoever wants a citizenship to join our global community. It is intended only to those who know that there will be thorough scrutiny, yet once the door is opened, all the advantages of being Maltese, and keeping European values at heart.

Maintaining the integrity of the economic citizenship programmes is mandatory. Ultimately, this is what every citizen wants, what every nation wants and what every applicant of high moral standards wants. Individuals will not feel at ease knowing that their own personal safety is compromised, or that they cannot do business in a nature that suits them. It benefits us, but it also benefits the applicant. An application gone wrong can jeopardise the whole industry.

Much has been said about the economic gains our country has derived from the citizenship by investment programme, which is attracting an ever-growing number of hardworking families seeking freedom, stability and global mobility.

Results so far have actually been very positive with Malta's citizenship programme becoming one part of the puzzle which makes up our economic and financial success which we are registering year on year.

The real success of the Individual Investor Programme is far-reaching..

The Individual Investor Programme has put our island squarely

on the map and has been based on the like-minded talent we have been able to attract. Malta is increasingly featuring top of mind with globetrotting investors and high net-worth individuals who are seeking more freedom to travel.

Investment migration is creating a melting pot of business know-how, experiences, skills and funding that are positively contributing to our society by stimulating business, increasing job creation, increasing revenue and augmenting our human capital. This is enabling us to break new ground through innovative foreign direct investment.

Culturally, Malta, is also benefiting from citizenship by investment. Fascinated by the richness of the island's culture and heritage, IIP applicants feel morally obliged to contribute to this sector. There are

"Malta is increasingly featuring top of mind with globetrotting investors and high net-worth individuals who are seeking more freedom to travel"

"which is attracting an ever-growing number of hard-working families seeking freedom, stability and global mobility"

countless stories of individuals sharing their own private art collections or making financial contributions in support of local talent.

Funds garnered from the Individual Investor Programme are also enabling us

to address social issues that have been left outstanding for generations. Government has already announced plans to support healthcare and social housing. This is just the beginning of an interesting journey, which will see us take Malta to new heights.

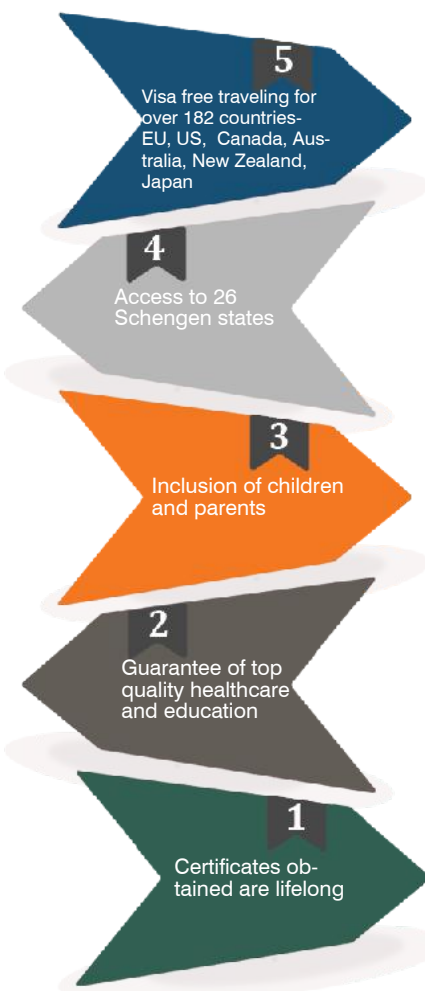
Because of the Individual Investor Programme, today our country can claim to be stronger, more diverse and more open to the world.

Jonathan Cardona is the Chief Executive Officer of the Malta Individual Investor Programme Agency (MIIPA). The Individual Investor Programme is designed to attract global high net worth individuals to obtain Maltese Citizenship and who can share their talent, expertise and business connections. The IIP is highly regarded and considered to have the best due diligence procedures and in turn has become the most exclusive and sought-after programme in the world. Jonathan is also an advisor on EU Affairs to the Prime Minister of Malta.

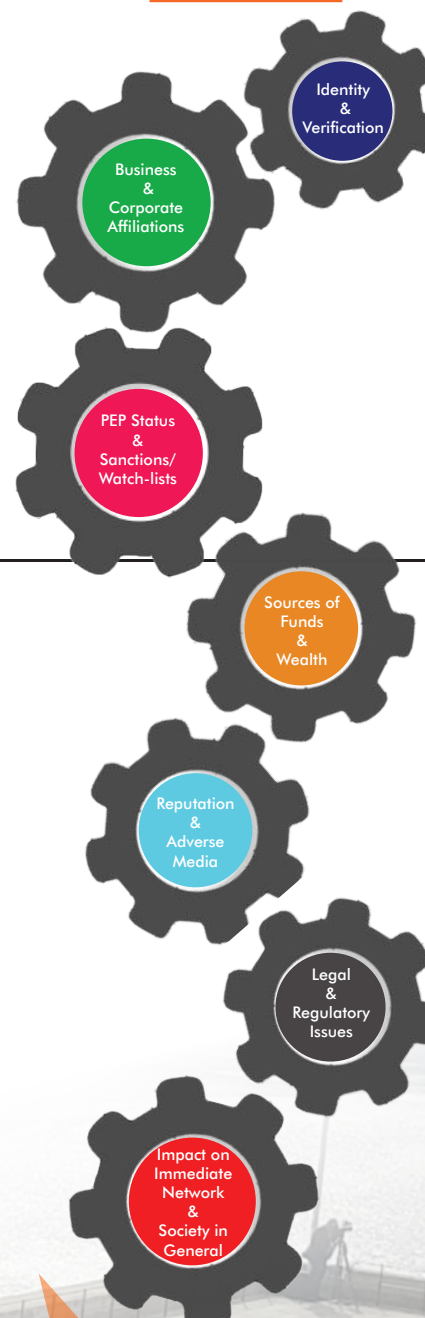
Email: jonathan.a.cardona@iip.gov.mt



Facts



Risk Matrix



Smarter Due Diligence Process

Professionals within the citizenship by investment industry know too well that they carry a lot of responsibility on their shoulders. Agents have to make sure that they do their own due diligence on the applicants to guarantee that they only put forward reputable individuals, whilst countries have to put monetary interests aside and seek the best interests of their own jurisdiction and partner countries.

A stringent due diligence framework is essential to impede security risks. Citizenship by Investment Units need to have all the safeguards in place in order to detect any possible abuse of investment migration programmes for money laundering or criminal activity. The application processing time and documentation required for each application are usually very good indicators of the rigorousness of the due diligence process for a particular investment migration programme.

Malta conducts what has been termed as the 'gold-standard' of due diligence processes in the industry; a multi-tiered evidence-based risk matrix that goes into a serious level of detail. The current iteration of the Individual Investor Programme

(IIP) risk matrix consists of multiple levels of risk, across seven categories. Through this risk matrix, the IIP has been able to undertake a more structured risk assessment, which facilitates a more objective and systematic review of applications. This ultimately resulted in case officers being able to conduct a more thorough risk assessment that facilitates new levels of standardisation, transparency and integrity, which will ultimately result in increased levels of trust in the industry.

This level of in-depth analysis is only possible because Malta has access to the required resources and support to be able to conduct such stringent due diligence, including, the required monetary budget, the human resource, the network of service providers, the techniques and the insight gained through four years of intense scrutiny from a number of bodies, including international media. Like all other operators, the Malta Individual

Investor Programme Agency (MIIPA) needs to make sure that only reputable individuals are granted citizenship rights to Malta and the EU for the sake of the other citizens. Malta

"Through this risk matrix, the IIP has been able to undertake a more structured risk assessment, which facilitates a more objective and systematic review of applications. This ultimately resulted in case officers being able to conduct a more thorough risk assessment that facilitates new levels of standardisation, transparency and integrity, which will ultimately result in increased levels of trust in the industry"

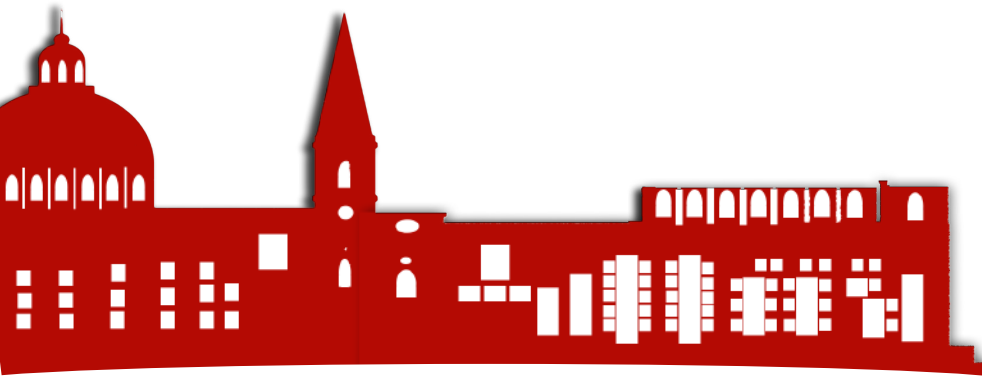
of best practice and governance in the field.

Malta's aim has always been to carefully select, through the right checks and balances and a rigorous due diligence process, the right

"The agency is highly active worldwide and is working towards key partnerships. By far one of the leaders in the field"
- R.N



MALTA



Global Mobility: Indian Perspective

Global mobility is not a newly-introduced trend but it has significantly increased over the years. For decades, many successful Indian business stories involved global mobility, with the likes of Jamsetji Tata who travelled extensively in the 1900s while starting what is known today as the Tata Empire.

The 1990s witnessed a series of major changes in the global sphere. The technological shift created by the internet, together with a relatively global adoption for trade openness and financial liberalisation, supported by a reduction in transport and communication costs, favoured an unprecedented increase in international mobility, both for individuals and business activities.

In India, during the second half of the 1990s and 2007, a series of internationally orientated policies, initiated by the government of P V Narasimha Rao, enabled a strong rise in Foreign Direct Investments (FDI). India became the world's leading business process outsourcing (BPO) hub, with a significant increase in companies establishing partial or full production bases in India, such as Wal-Mart, General Motors, IBM, Toyota, Renault, Zara, Mango, Benetton and many call centres for service providers in various sectors. More recently, the "Make in India" initiative launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014, encouraging foreign companies to manufacture their products in India and increase their investments, enabled India to become the top global destination for FDI in Green-field projects in 2015, with over US\$ 60 billion, beyond USA and China. The success of several government initiatives was also reflected in the unemployment rate which reached its all-time lowest record in 2014 with 3.41 per cent.

There is a clear correlation between the economic development of the country and the relationships, links and partnerships India managed to build and the strategic position it managed to acquire during the global shift, thanks to its resources, infrastructure and the skilled and talented community of leaders, entrepreneurs and workers. India proved to be a major success story in the field of long-term economic growth. These major changes had a positive influence on the Indian economy but what about the impact of the Indian businesses internationally? Has the Indian community been able to take advantage of this economic change on a global scale?

In the early 2000s, many Indian businessmen sensed the opportunities brought by this evolution, such as Dhrew Shringi, Manish Amin and Sabina Chopra who co-founded Yatra.com in 2006, when they identified the lack of online travel booking websites for the Indian market. It is today the second largest online travel website in India. That same year another major event transformed the approach to global

mobility, when St Kitts & Nevis revamped its citizenship program and opened its borders to new investors. It was the starting point of a new approach towards the investment migration industry, making it more accessible to successful and talented individuals from limited visa-free access countries to enjoy more freedom of movement while supporting the economy of the sponsoring country.

Today's companies are created globally from the moment they enter into business; operations are being managed remotely, talents are acquired across the globe and investors are secured wherever they are located. In this context, missing business opportunities or being overly taxed for going global because of administrative issues could result in serious financial losses. This ongoing and increasing situation is faced by many individuals around the world, especially in the US where a steady stream of Americans has renounced their citizenship since the implementation of stricter tax rules, as the country imposes taxes on its citizens based on citizenship and not residency. In contrast with the global mobility movement in recent years, more and more countries have decided to tighten their borders and paths to immigration, leaving immense disparities in freedom of travel between citizens of different countries. Among the least advantaged ones feature countries like China with visa-free access to 78 countries and India with access to only 59 countries as opposed to more privileged countries like Germany with access to 188 countries (*numbers as at 2018*). In an era where globalisation has never been this significant, it considerably restricts the mobility perspectives of Indian citizens and limits their opportunities for investments, business partnerships and tax efficiency. Although Indian Entrepreneurs have made their mark globally and managed to establish successful companies,

"An Indian Entrepreneur could establish a company in Malta, serving clients based in Germany, whilst travelling freely to any of the EU/EEA countries for business or personal purposes"

for a Singaporean passport, which allowed him to live in Asia while capitalising in the fastest-growing shipping market at that time, to further develop his company and remove the tax on global income he was getting as a US citizen. This wise move brought him to the 14th position of The Forbes Singapore's 40 richest in 2007 with more than \$490 million Net Worth.

At GICG, we have helped hundreds of individuals wanting to have a base in the best jurisdiction suited for them. Since 1996, we have developed strong ties with both our global clients and various governments

that we support in the creation and audits of citizenship and residency programs. We have been part of the investment immigration industry long enough to understand the importance of tailor-made solutions, answering client needs depending on their business, as well as family and personal circumstances. Over

the years, we have identified the main areas of concerns for the Indian community and believe that residency programs such as the Malta Residency and Visa Programme (MRVP) offer strong benefits without critical disruption.

Introduced in 2015 by virtue of the Immigration Act (CAP. 217, through L.N 288/2015, and amended by L.N 189/2017), the MRVP entitles government approved individuals from outside the European Union (EU) and the European Economic Area (EEA) to a certificate allowing the beneficiary and his/her registered dependents the right to reside, settle or stay indefinitely in Malta. This certificate also allows all the applicants to travel freely throughout the EU, EEA and Switzerland. Admission to this program is granted after an investment of circa €330,000 depending on the applicant's circumstances. As physical relocation is not an obligation, the residence permit could considerably improve the global business capacities of the applicant. For example, an Indian Entrepreneur could establish a company in Malta, serving clients based in Germany, whilst travelling freely to any of the EU/EEA countries for business or personal purposes. Alternatively, Indian citizens who would like to take full advantage of the strategic location Malta offers, as Robert Viswanathan Chandran did with Singapore, while being able to work, live or study in any of the EU countries and travel visa-free to over 160 countries (including the US and Canada) should consider the Malta Individual Investment Programme (MIIP). Launched in 2014 (under L.N 47/2014), it is the first citizenship-by-investment program of its kind to be endorsed by the European Commission, thanks to its robust due diligence processes, approving only first-class and reputable applicants. In order to qualify, the applicant must fulfil the following three criteria: a contribution to the Social and Economic Fund of Malta, an investment in a real estate property and a financial instrument approved

by the government, for an approximate total sum of €900,000 depending on the individual's circumstances. This program delivers a passport from one of the safest and most prominent EU countries, opening doors to the European market within a timeframe of 12 months.

Over the years, Malta and India have developed strong ties. Malta has hosted many splendid Indian weddings, the most extravagant of which took place in 2017 with an average expenditure of €2 million. Several wedding planning agencies have even decided to take over this business segment by only focusing on organising Indian weddings in Malta. Additionally, the Bollywood film industry also developed a strong interest in the small Mediterranean island since several movies were shot in Malta recently. All those links between the Maltese and Indian culture reflect the existing bonds between the two countries, which are anticipated to witness further development in the coming years.

As the Indian community expands phenomenally all over the world, so does the Indian culture. Citizenship solutions available are simply a manner of enhancing the travel and business abilities to nationals of countries with less mobility power like India but does not devalue the culture and identity of those individuals. Understanding this element created a greater recognition of the industry's benefits which is illustrated by the strong global increase in citizenship and residency offers and demands for the past 20 years. At GICG, our in-house lawyers and local agents strive to develop personalised solutions for every client, not only in Malta but in all the prime jurisdictions offering residency or citizenship programs such as Cyprus, Greece, Montenegro and The Caribbean.

Atef El Kadi is the Managing Director of Global Information Consulting Group (GICG), a multinational firm and licensed agent offering citizenship, residency and investment solutions for clients across the globe. Atef has been in the investment migration industry since 1996 and has an extensive track record of supporting global clients in their search for the ideal investment solution for their personal and business needs. He also assists many governments in the creation and audit of citizenship and residency programs. He

started with the promotion of the Québec immigration-by-investment program and progressively expanded its portfolio to other successful programs in Dominica, St Kitts & Nevis, Cyprus, Greece, Montenegro and Malta. Atef is a regular speaker at renowned industry events where he provides his expertise, vision and analysis of the actual and future trends of the market.



Atef El Kadi, Managing Director
Global Information Consulting Group

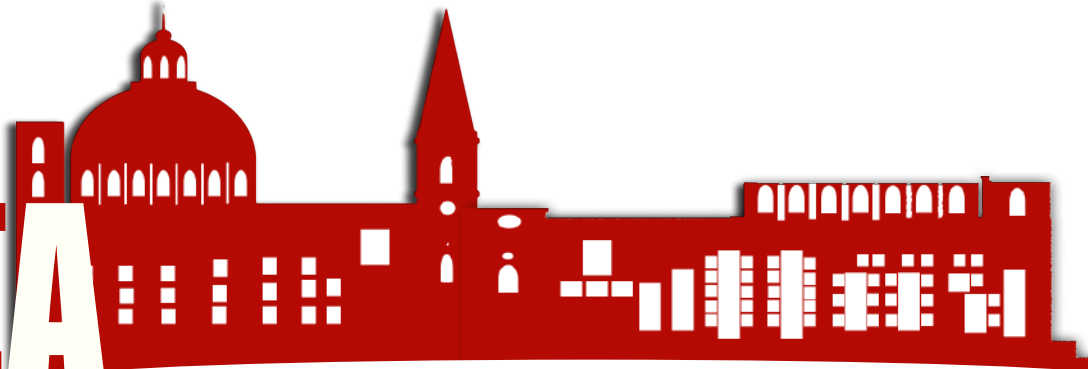
Since 1996, we have developed strong ties with both our global clients and various governments that we support in the creation and audits of citizenship and residency programs.

Indian-born businessman Robert Viswanathan Chandran, founder and former CEO of Chemoil Energy, recognised at an early stage. He first got his US citizenship in 1981 after building his fortune from real estate investments in California. In 2005, he decided to relinquish his citizenship

"GICG actively assists countries in citizenship and residency programs in addition to providing tailored services for individuals"
- R.N



MALTA



MRVA
MALTA RESIDENCY
VISA AGENCY



The Malta Residency Visa Programme(MRVP)

In conversation with Roderick Cutajar

Two years since its launch, the Maltese Residency by Investment Programme (RBI) or as is better known MRVP, has continued to gain significant levels of trust and positivity internationally. This qualitative RBI-Programme, has already attracted hundreds of applications and growing from all over the world. The Malta Residency Visa Agency, has effectively managed to position the Programme as a distinctive return on investment RBI. It is strictly after passing through rigorous due diligence checks and balances that applicants are provided a residency card. The scope is to attract talented people, generations of families and entrepreneurs that are of a good repute to invest on the islands. The level of due diligence carried out at MRVA should provide peace of mind to those aspiring in purchasing a safe second residency away from their country of origin in Europe as only the deserving ones are approved as residents of Malta and Gozo. It is comprehensible that prior to deciding in investing in an RBI, various elements are taken into consideration by the prospective applicants.

Benefits of the Programme

MRVP is a permanent residency programme approved by the European Union. It provides beneficiary and dependants the right to stay or settle indefinitely in Malta or Gozo. MRVP provides access to the twenty-six countries in the Schengen Zone three months in every six months. It is open to generations of families. There are no age restrictions for dependants to apply nor a minimum stay requirement. MRVP residents are also entitled in

“MRVP is a permanent residency programme approved by the European Union. It provides beneficiary and dependants the right to stay or settle indefinitely in Malta or Gozo”

finding suitable employment or setting up a business in Malta or Gozo. During my travels in different parts of the world to promote the residency programme as well as my meetings with people of a different cultural background, many families choose Malta as the right country to Invest. Hereunder is a list of how and why MRVP continues to be endorsed as a top RBI:-

MRVP Application Procedure

To apply for the Malta Residency Visa Programme, a prospective investor is expected to contact an approved accredited agency/agent. The criteria is as follows:-

Administration fee:

€30,000 for a family (€5,500 non-refundable with application pack); Parents-in-law & Grandparents €5,000 per capita;

Qualifying Investment:

€250,000 in Malta Government Stock or any other equities listed and trading on the Malta Stock Exchange (for a retention period of five years only);

Qualifying Property:

€10,000 rent per annum in the South of Malta or €12,000 rent per annum in the North OR
€270,000 outright purchase in the South or
€320,000 in the North;

Health Insurance:

A suitable medical insurance to cover the entire family

MRVP will perform all the necessary due diligence checks prior to issuing a letter of approval in principle requesting settlement of the outstanding application fee balance and the provision of the remaining Programme requirements as per the above.

The Indian-Market

It is truly an honour and a huge responsibility to promote the Malta and Gozo residency by investment programme across the globe. The intangible benefits are invaluable. The team at MRVA is very passionate, customer oriented and knowledgeable. The support by the Government of Malta is always forthcoming.

The Indian market is extremely important to us. We feel this Programme has the right ingredients and attributes to attract high quality Indian investors and families to our-



Roderick Cutajar M.Sc (HRM & Development), IMCM, Dip.HRM, MIM
Chief Executive Officer

“ I am confident that in the next few months, MRVP will become India’s preferred residency by investment programme”

shores. We are promoting a successful, reputable and trustworthy RBI. I am confident that in the next few months, MRVP will become India’s preferred residency by investment programme.

CEO Insights:

The beauty of the two islands surrounded by the Mediterranean sea, the warm climate, the friendly

double taxation agreements;

The prevailing flourishing economy

(Moody recently provided an

‘A3’ positive Rating and Fitch

an A+ Rating), Malta con-

sidered as one of the most

robust economies in Europe;

The renowned high level

standard Education Systems

and quality teaching;

The English Language, English

being the second national lan-

guage in Malta;

The unique affordable

sea-front property,

prestige farmhouses

and villas – property

being a lucrative

investment in

Malta as many

investors opt

to purchase

property in

a coun-

try with

a very

strong

economy;

The excel-

culture and

the unique history of the country;

The safety and security the islands

offer and the sense of well-being

and belonging;

The multi-cultural environment that

accepts diversity and reinforces

equity;

The employment opportunities

(unemployment currently at a low

4.1% only);

The transparent competitive tax sys-

tems and the availability of over sixty

lent health care services, a state-

of-the-art state hospital supported

by a network of public and private

providers;

The yachting industry and its strong

legal and regulatory platform –

(yacht registration, chartering, etc.)

The diverse industries setting up

operations in Malta - Gaming, Pro-

duction of Movies, Bitcoin & Crypto-

currency, etc.

Contact: indiamrvp@mrva.eu

Fast Facts of Malta

3 islands of Malta:
Gozo, Comino and Malta,
the country that sits about
50 miles south of Sicily



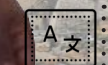
For the best Maltese fusion food head to the tuk tuk in Valletta



THEY DRIVE ON THE LEFT!



There are circa
1000
Indians in Malta today



The official languages are English and Maltese



Valletta, its current capital, is one of the most concentrated historical areas in the world, according to UNESCO



Malta has a well - established small trading community of Sindhi - Indian descent, that traces its roots to migrants starting around 1887, much after the arrival of Maltese in Indian following British take over of Malta in 1800



Comino, the smallest of the island, is virtually uninhabited - save one hotel- and is carless. Blue Lagoon is its biggest attraction



For uninterrupted sunshine then May to September is the best time to visit Malta. Winter months are also great for activity holidays



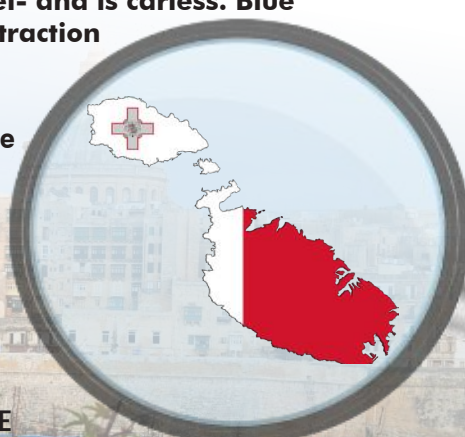
THE BRITISH RULED MALTA UNTIL 1964, WHEN IT BECAME INDEPENDENT



While both **India** and **Malta** were under British rule, Malta served as one of the trading roots for exporting silk. India made clothes were sought after by Europe

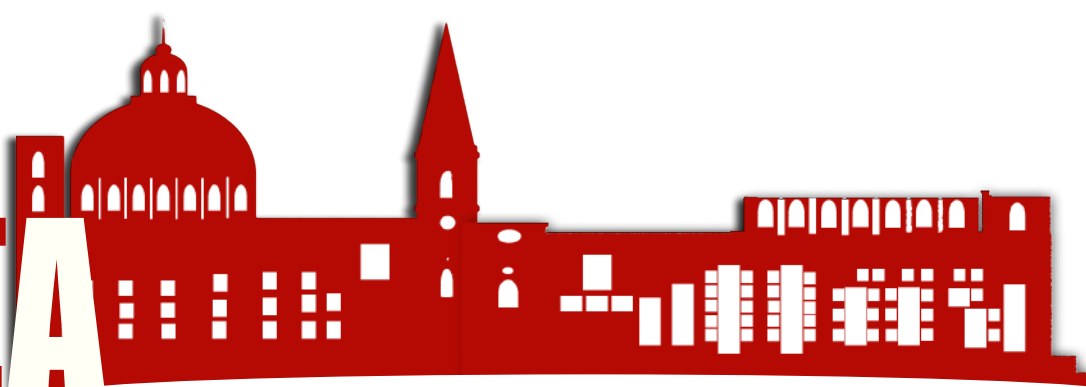


Hollywood (and Bollywood) films have been shot here, including Captain Phillips, Gladiator, Troy, Thugs of Hindostan and TV’s Game of Thrones



“Residency has direct tax implications, make sure you understand its full impact by consulting with the experts”
- R.N





Malta: Living in an EU Island in the Mediterranean Sea

By Dennis Mark Gauci

Described as one of the best places to reside worldwide, Malta is reputed to be an ideal choice for prospective investors seeking to do business in the European Union (EU). The island has been a member state of the European Union since 2004 and was admitted to the United Nations in 1964.

Malta lies at the centre of the Mediterranean, 288 km north of Africa and 93 km south of Sicily. Boasting political stability, a sound banking system and a very low crime rate, Malta is an ideal European financial hub with strong connections in both North Africa and the Middle East.

Malta also boasts a strong presence of foreign direct investment (FDI) thanks to its efforts in creating an ideal environment for foreign investors.

Why Do Expats Enjoy Malta?

Since joining the EU in 2004 and the Schengen area in 2007, there are currently over 21,000 foreigners, which make up around 5% of the total population, living in Malta.

- *The island offers the possibility of residency programmes to foreign individuals seeking to reside in the EU and/or travel freely in the Schengen Area.*
- *The island's short distances between destinations saves commuting time.*
- *Over 300 days of sunshine per year and crystal clear sea.*
- *English is a national language with Maltese, and is spread all over the island.*
- *Friendly and hospitable population.*
- *Low crime rate.*
- *Low cost of living when compared with other EU countries*
- *Excellent medical services, with a government hospital and several private clinics around the island*
- *An enviable social life catering for all ages, with bars and restaurants to suit all budgets and tastes. Rich culture, and several ongoing events like big concerts and outdoor festivals*
- *A wide variety of property for buying or rent*
- *A respected university and also above UK-average schooling in English-speaking schools*

dmgauci@ksimalta.com

What are the Malta Residency schemes available for Indian Nationals?

By Bernard Charles Gauci

Malta offers a range of residency and citizenship schemes that has made it a popular



Bernard Charles Gauci - Partner

expat destination in recent years. The programmes allow foreign nationals to reside in the EU and travel freely in the Schengen Area.

Thanks to its flexible taxation system, sandy beaches and remarkable history, Malta has increasingly become the preferred schemes including The Individual Investor Programme (IIP) and The Malta Residence and Visa Programme (MRVP).

“Malta also boasts a strong presence of foreign direct investment (FDI) thanks to its efforts in creating an ideal environment for foreign investors”

The Individual Investor Programme (IIP)

The Individual Investor Programme (IIP) leads to citizenship of Malta, and is aimed at foreign individuals, who contribute to the economic development of Malta, and their families.

It is the first citizenship programme in the European Union to be recognized by the European Commission.

In order to be eligible, applicants must satisfy the following criteria:

- *The acquisition of real estate with a minimum value of EUR 350,000 to be held for at least 5 years; or*
- *Lease a residential immovable property in Malta for a period of 5 years, at an annual rent of at least EUR 16,000; and*
- *Make a contribution to the National Development and Social Fund consisting of EUR 650,000 for the main applicant and an additional EUR 25,000 per direct dependents, including the spouse and minor children.*
- *An investment in stocks, bonds or special purpose vehicles to be identified by Identity Malta, for a minimum value of EUR 150,000 to be held for a minimum period of 5 years.*

KSİ Malta is licensed and authorised by Identity Malta to submit applications on behalf of individuals seeking to apply for the IIP Programme.

At KSİ Malta we have experts that can help you by performing the necessary due diligence checks and give you an indication whether your application is likely to succeed or not.

Through our vast business network and connections we can furthermore provide you with advice on finding the right real estate, and also provide you with step-by-step guidance throughout the application process.

The Malta Residence and Visa Programme (MRVP)

The MRVP scheme offers its beneficiaries and dependents the possibility of a Universal Schengen Visa. With such a residence permit, the applicant and his dependents have the possibility of travelling freely across the Schengen

Area without the need of a VISA.

To be eligible for the MRVP programme, the applicants must be third country nationals who are not long-term residents of Malta. Furthermore, they must pass all due diligence procedures and satisfy the following criteria:

- *Hold a qualifying property in Malta valued at least EUR 320,000 (EUR 270,000 if situated in the south of Malta or Gozo) or renting it for at least EUR 12,000 per annum (EUR 10,000 if situated in the south of Malta or Gozo);*
- *Have an annual income of at least EUR 100,000 or accumulated capital of EUR 500,000;*
- *Holds a qualifying investment of an initial value of EUR 250,000;*
- *Pay a non-refundable administration fee of EUR 5,500 and the balance of EUR 24,500 upon approval*

The MRVP and IIP are not the only programmes through which one could become resident of Malta. There are several other means which relate to an individual's situation, such as employment, business or retirement, which can take the form of tax residence programmes, namely:

- *The Global Residence Programme or the Residence Programme*

These offer amongst the quickest ways of obtaining Maltese residences. They also offer beneficial taxation possibilities. One must hold a qualifying property of EUR 275,000 if acquired in the North of Malta, EUR 250,000 if acquired in Gozo, and EUR 225,000 in the South of Malta. Instead, the property can also be rented, in which case the minimum lease would be EUR 9,600 per annum if the property is leased in the North of Malta, and EUR 8,750 per annum if leased in Gozo or in the South of Malta. There are also national costs involved, including: EUR 6,000 if the property in question is in the North of Malta and EUR 5,500 if the property in question is in the South of Malta or Gozo.

- *The Malta Retirement Programme*

Whilst this may not necessarily suit all persons moving to Malta for retirement, in certain cases it may offer enhanced tax advantages. The cost of property related to this scheme is the same as 'The Global Residence Programme' (see above). On the other hand the national costs involved are EUR 2,500 with the application which must be submitted by an Authorised Registered Mandatory.

- *Programmes for persons of certain skills and/or qualifications in particular industries*

Qualified persons holding senior positions within Maltese companies in: Research and Development; Aviation; Gaming; Financial services; IVF Medical services; Maritime, Oil & Gas; could benefit from a flat tax rate of only 15% on their salaries

Besides the above mentioned tax advantages, these Programmes also offer Visa-free Schengen travel possibilities and allow the issuance of tax residence certificates from the Maltese tax authorities.

Maltese Private Taxation

As soon as a person obtains Maltese residence/citizenship due consideration must be given to the Maltese tax implications, if any. The good thing is that Malta's taxation

manifests a very attractive remittance basis of tax. In other words, unless a person earns income in Malta or brings foreign non-capital income to Malta, no Maltese taxes would apply except for a minimum of EUR 5,000 in annual tax in certain cases. Any tax residence certificates issued by the Maltese authorities would be recognized by worldwide tax authorities for the purpose of double tax relief.

Working Permits

There are various ways on how a foreigner may obtain a working permit. One of them is by registering a Maltese company with EUR 500,000 share capital and then operate a business from Malta.

bgauci@ksimalta.com

Malta offers huge business opportunities for India

By Joseph Gauci

With its liberal trade policies and low tax regime, Malta has huge trade opportunities to offer India, especially in the manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, logistics, energy and financial services.

Business between the two countries has historical significance as both are former colonies and trade between the two countries started back in 1887, when some Indian merchants transferred their business to start selling handcrafts from Malta.

Since joining the EU in 2004, Malta has become one of the favourite destinations for international businesses. In fact companies like Aurobindo Pharma and other Indian firms have already shown great confidence in Malta by setting a base on the island.

Though both countries may be different geographically they have a lot of similarities including the fact that English is widely spoken. In fact a bilateral agreement was signed between the two countries which takes care of issues like double taxation.

Malta also offers a lot of advantages including:

- *Free and good education system*
- *Outstanding communications*
- *Flight connections to all Europe and North Africa*
- *Efficient Freeport*
- *Excellent free health care*
- *Lowest corporate tax in Europe at 5%*
- *Grants for businesses through the Malta Enterprise and the EU.*

Coupled with the above

Malta also offers incentives to film companies through the Malta Film Commission by offering a maximum 22% rebate on the spending of the production of movies on the island.

Infact, in the last two years we have seen the first film productions from Bollywood in Malta.

Malta has become ideal for foreigners to obtain residency in Malta. With great Mediterranean weather, welfare, proximity to Europe, short travel distances and with its low crime it is an ideal place to live as a foreigner especially for business, leisure, retirement or work purposes.

Although Malta is just 316 square kilometres, it also offers all the luxuries which one expects in a modern country. About 1.6 million tourists visit Malta annually, which is about 4

times its population.

Economically Malta is very strong in pharmaceuticals, aviation, shipping, logistics, banking, betting and financial services. The GDP has been steadily around 4%-6% in the last 5 years and all areas of the economy has grown rapidly. In fact, more than 20% out of the workforce of 195,000 are foreigners.

Malta will now be the first in the EU to regulate ICO's, cryptocurrencies, the setting up of cryptocurrencies exchanges and service providers of Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT). Our office has specialized personnel on this area.

KSİ Malta - A leading Maltese firm

KSİ Malta is one of Malta's leading taxation, legal advisory and corporate firms. Its diverse team of dedicated professionals prides itself on its expertise, which further strengthens the firm's competitive edge.

KSİ Malta uses its ample experience in assisting local businesses to grow as well as in supporting international companies interested in establishing themselves and operating in Malta. Our firm makes use of all the business contacts it has in order to support clients' business requirements.

Furthermore, the firm guarantees the utmost commitment to all its clients, whilst offering an efficient and tailored service.

The firm also assists international companies to raise venture capital. The amounts range from EUR 5 million to EUR 15 million. Companies must not be older than 7 years and must be already profitable.

KSİ Malta is a member of Morison KSİ, a global association of leading professional service firms, established to meet cross-border accounting, auditing, tax and business consulting needs of clients. It consists of 161 member firms, is present in 85 countries, employs over 10,000 staff, and has a turnover of over \$1 billion.

jgauci@ksimalta.com



Joseph Gauci - Managing Partner

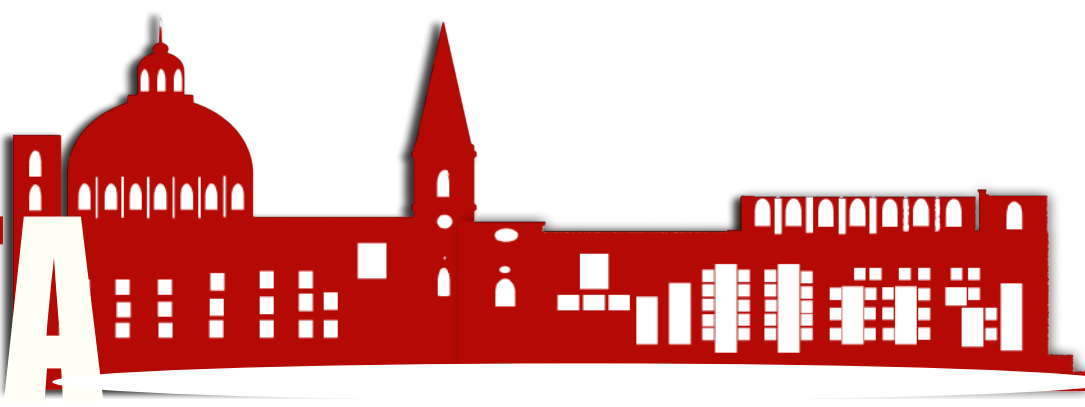
For more information visit www.ksimalta.com

“KSİ are one of the most knowledgeable tax advisors in the country especially for Global Indians with a vast coverage area”

- R.N



MALTA



Exploring the Personal Insurance needs of High Net Worth Individuals

LAFERLA

Your reliable insurance partner |

High Net Worth Individuals often have complex risk profiles and exposures, leading to more elaborate insurance requirements. Whether searching for adequate insurance cover for their assets, legal expenses or life and healthcare insurance, HNWIs and their family offices should always seek the advice of a partner with experience in handling such requirements, to relieve the pressures and demands for technical knowledge that insurance planning carries.

Common insurance packages for HNWIs include cover for international real estate, yachts, aircraft, automobiles, travel, health and life insurance.

Property Insurance

When owning a portfolio of properties, one may not necessarily consider the insurance requirements as quickly as one would look at other issues such as tax implications.

However, with the right advice, property owners will be guided to protect themselves against risks which are specific to the region or territory in which their properties are located, including weather and natural risks as well as other issues such as liability towards employees on the premises and high value artworks, collections and other precious items.

When insuring several properties, one should consider taking out a single policy covering private collections including fine art, wines, antiques, rare books, precious stones and metals, and other memorabilia. This makes administration easier, especially since a centralised inventory is usually kept by the individual or their family office.

Did you know that homes and valuable collections are the most underinsured risks in personal lines of insurance? The main reason for this is that many individuals do not carry out regular valuations of their property and valuables. It is recommended to have a valuation carried out at least every couple of years, and the updated values should be reflected on the insurance policy to ensure that the property is adequately covered.

Yacht & Aircraft Insurance

Two types of insurance cover that require highly specialised underwriting are yacht and aircraft insurance. As a basis under both types of insurance cover, it usually makes most

sense to take out a package for hull, liability, workers' compensation and personal accident cover for aircraft pilots, yacht captains, and their respective crews.

Aviation insurance for aircraft as well as the related liability risk should be tailored to suit not only the aircraft type itself, but also its intended use and area of operation. Is the aircraft used for corporate travel, personal travel or chartered out to third parties? Does the aircraft operate into designated 'high-risk' territories? Crew insurance requirements for visa approval in destination countries and other issues can also be pre-empted by an experienced insurance provider. Yacht insurance offered for more luxurious vessels is typically based on 'all risks' coverage, which means that the vessel is covered against damage or loss regardless of the cause, save for any standard specific exclusions. A yacht insurance policy should also automatically offer cover on dry land – for example, if a loss occurs while the vessel is dry-docked. Similar to aviation risks, if the yacht is being offered for charter, one must ensure that its insurers have been advised and that the policy is amended accordingly. Crew must also be adequately insured in line with international maritime requirements, depending on the area of operation.

Travel, Health and Life Insurance

Travel insurance aimed at High Net Worth Individuals would offer much higher benefit limits than a standard policy. However, monetary limits aside, the most valuable element of a travel insurance policy is the emergency assistance services offered under the policy. It is the response offered by this service that should assist in turning an emergency into a manageable event. A high-end travel insurance policy

should offer, amongst other benefits, 24/7 assistance and management of medical emergencies through a vast worldwide network of medical providers and hospitals; security assistance including evacuation in the event of natural disasters, terrorism, civil unrest and even disease outbreaks; security advice before and during a trip if travelling to unstable locations; and assistance



Mark Jr and Keith Laferla

“Common insurance packages for HNWIs include cover for international real estate, yachts, aircraft, automobiles, travel, health and life insurance”

with stolen or lost luggage, passports and cash. Although a travel insurance policy will cover medical expenses incurred as an emergency whilst travelling, it will not cover planned treatment for any medical conditions. This is where private health (or medical) insurance comes in. A great private health insurance policy will offer access to the world's best medical centres and will cover most medical conditions. However, health insurance will generally not cover pre-existing medical conditions, so it is best to start this policy when one is still young and healthy. Children insured under a family plan will be able to take out their own individual cover upon reaching adulthood without medical underwriting, so no pre-existing medical conditions will be excluded (subject to other general exclusions) since this scenario is treated as a continuation of cover.

Life insurance has become a very important component of wealth planning strategies for HNWIs. Life insurance is used to manage issues such as formation of a trust for wealth transfer to the next generation, estate planning, tax planning and even philanthropic donations.

When planned correctly, life insurance allows families to finance costs associated with death, without having to liquidate any assets.

Family Office Insurance Cover

Individuals who employ the services of a Family Office may commonly also require indemnity insurance, legal expenses cover, employers' liability cover (also known as workers' compensation cover) and directors & officers liability cover. More complex set-ups may even require even broader insurance products. Each organisation may have vastly different insurance requirements and thus ongoing consultation with seasoned experts is thoroughly recommended.

Other Types of Insurance Cover

The international insurance market has recently seen developments aimed at High Net Worth Individuals, with new products emerging to suit the present and future HWNI. Some of these products include kidnap, ransom & extortion insurance; and equine insurance for race-horses and show-horses. Other products are also being further developed, such as personal & home security services offered in property insurance packages; and emergency response training services offered to crew on yachts and aircraft.

As the demand for such specialised products continues to grow, there is no doubt that existing insurance products will continue to develop and evolve, and insurers will continue to design new products to satisfy the ever-growing needs of High Net Worth Individuals.

“Today, Laferla is the leading insurance provider for applicants of the Maltese Citizenship and Residence by Investment programmes - the MIIP and MRVP programmes, providing services to over 1,000 High Net Worth and Ultra High Net Worth individuals and families”

The Authors

Maltese brothers Keith and Mark Laferla Jr are second-generation owners of the Laferla Insurance Group in Malta, a family business which was founded in 1984. Keith and Mark both hold the ACII qualification by the Chartered Insurance Institute (UK) and have both been awarded the status of Chartered Insurer by the same Institute. They are also both recognised members of the Investment Migration Council (Geneva).

Today, Laferla is the leading insurance provider for applicants of the Maltese Citizenship and Residence by Investment programmes - the MIIP and MRVP programmes, providing services to over 1,000 High Net Worth and Ultra High Net Worth individuals and families. With their experience in dealing with such clients, the group also offers independent consultancy for HNWIs and UHNWIs and their family offices internationally.

Contracting the services of an independent consultant will guarantee that you are receiving guidance and advice in your best interest.

Contact Keith on klaferla@laferla.com.mt and Mark on mlj@laferla.com.mt for further information.

Laferla Insurance Agency Ltd. is enrolled in Malta under the Insurance Intermediaries Act, 2006, to act as an Insurance Agent for MAPFRE Middlesea plc (MMS). MMS is authorised by the Malta Financial Services Authority (MFSA) to carry on both Long Term and General Business under the Insurance Business Act, 1998. Laferla Holdings Ltd. is an enrolled Tied Insurance Intermediary in Malta under the Insurance Intermediaries Act, 2006 for MAPFRE MSV Life plc (MMSV). MMSV is authorised by the Malta Financial Services Authority (MFSA) to carry on long term business under the Insurance Business Act 1998. Independent consultancy offered by Laferla Services Ltd. All entities are regulated by the MFSA.

Global Education

With over 400 years of history, we are the leading and most prestigious higher education institution in Malta. For all these years, University of Malta (UM) has been the hub for international academic exchange on the island.

We seek to carry out academic research and provide a vibrant higher education setting in the arts, sciences and the humanities. The courses at UM are designed to produce highly qualified professionals in multiple disciplines. The high level of teaching in English language made it possible for us to open the doors for international students. In fact in the last five years UM has experienced a significant increase in the number of international students, from EU countries, North America and Asia.

We also have multiple agreements with international institutions from several countries including US, India and China.

The academic body is committed to high standards of research and teaching and every member of at UM plays an important role and contributes to an outstanding student experience. UM has a prestigious medical school and multiple other faculties that bestow both undergrad and postgrad degrees in engineering, humanities business, sciences and nursing. Besides the main campus, situated at Msida, there are three other campuses: Valletta, Marsaxlokk, Gozo. The

Msida campus is in the centre of the island 20 minutes drive away from the island's main airport, less than 5 km away from the capital city, Valletta and within walking distance from Sliema, the most cosmopolitan town on the island.

UM has a student population of 11,500 students with students coming from 92 different countries. Like India, Malta took its Independence from Britain in 1964 but the British influence has left its mark on the education system. As a result entry requirements to UM are very similar to those in UK.

Our advice to the Indian students is to consider Malta because it is one of the safest countries in the Schengen area with very good connections to all other European states. These factors in addition to the high standard of teaching and research, enrich the student experience at the oldest University in the Commonwealth countries, outside UK. The cost of living in Malta is lower when compared to our neighbouring countries and so are the tuition fees. You can email us for further support and advice about studying at the south most EU country on info@um.edu.mt. We are already accepting applications for over 500 undergraduate and postgraduate programmes for October 2019.



L-Università ta' Malta

“It is a requirement to have active insurance for both residency and citizenship purposes Laferla is the leading provider”
- R.N



MALTA



The Global Indian Perspective

Personal viewpoints
expressed by the authors



Politician and Author

By Dr. Shashi Tharoor

India is the only country that has an official acronym for its expatriates-NRIs or "Non-Resident Indians". In my book, India: From Midnight to Millennium I had suggested, only half-jokingly, that the question is whether NRI should stand for 'Not Really Indian' or, instead, 'Never Relinquished India'. But in reality, given the remarkable achievements of our expatriates and the extraordinary impact they have had in their adopted communities across the world, I think it is fair to say that they fall into a third bracket: the National Reserve of India.

The global Indian community represents a strong sense of Indian-ness, (borrowing a phrase from our former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh), a sense that reflects the very ethos of India--our heritage as a diverse and democratic country, open to the contention of ideas and interests within it, unafraid of the prowess or the products of the outside world, wedded to the democratic pluralism that is our greatest strength, and determined to liberate and fulfil the creative energies of its people.

Our diaspora is special not only for their economic success but for also being recognised as pioneers in innovation, for their capacity for entrepreneurship and for the diversity that they represent. The presence of successful and influential Indians in so many countries is also a source of direct support for India for our country receives billions of dollars as remittances and several other economic benefits and investments that collectively drive a large part of our growth as a nation.

India's engagement with its global community is symbiotic, the strands of both sides of the relationship are equally important to create a resilient and robust bond. Last year, India held the first-ever conference for PIO-Parliamentaria from across the world, there have also been efforts to organise Pravasi Bharatiya Divas across the world to celebrate the global Indian community. There are ongoing programmes launched by the government including the Know India Programme (KIP), Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC) and the PBD conventions allow the Indian community to engage with the Indian government

and express their interests and concerns. Key to all of this is for the government to maintain and promote positive relations with the global Indian community and the countries they reside in. This must be done through mutual cooperation, socio-culture exchanges and good economic relations of trade and commerce and ultimately, a commitment towards a long-term, mutually prosperous future that will benefit both India and the global Indian community.



Nigerian Business Magnet

By James Lakhiani

Having lived in Africa since the age of 17, I have spent more years living abroad than in the country of my birth, India. This begs the question: what makes me feel closer to my Indian roots, culture and traditions than the place I call home, just like many of my fellow Global Indians? In Nigeria, where I have lived for 35 years, I am totally at ease. Not saying life or business is easy here yet over 3 million people of Indian origin choose Africa as their home, out of which roughly 200,000 of them have settled in Nigeria. Not a big number compared to the NRIs settled

in USA for example. Nevertheless mainly economic migrants, Indians look to the untapped opportunities Africa has to offer. Many intend to stay for a few years. The majority decide to make it a permanent move. However, they never forget their roots, making the annual ritual of going to their homeland a must, as well as upholding the essence of being Indian within a tight Knit community. The business and trade relationship between India and Africa grows from strength to strength having grown 35% every year from 2005. As India seeks to increase its footprint in Africa, I look forward to seeing India build its relationship with its almost forgotten diaspora on the Continent.

"Unfortunately we have had to overcome and are still overcoming a range of challenges and difficulties and many suffer abject oppression mainly due to our ethnicity"



Former President of Guyana
By Donald Ramotar

Guyana is often described as the land of six people. Indo Guyanese make up the majority of the population and our legacy started from over 180 years ago as we arrived from India as bonded labor for the sugar estates after the emancipation of African slaves by the British. Our country is small and we are proud of our ethnic diversity.

We have played a critical role in shaping Guyanese history and subsequently its economy for the better and we still hold dearly our roots to India. Ask any proud Guyanese and the celebration of fusion culture and adapted linkage is present.

Unfortunately we have had to overcome and are still overcoming a range of challenges and difficulties and many suffer abject oppression mainly due to our ethnicity.

When the government changed in May 2015 to the Peoples National Congress led Government (PNC/APNU), the new regime passed a range of actions that evidently highly discriminated the ethnically Indian population, to levels which have had a detrimental effect on our economic growth and national development.

Disturbingly over 7000 Sugar workers, majority of which are Indo Guyanese, were forcefully dismissed from service, disgustingly being denied severance pay that was in need and rightfully theirs. We have seen a significant rise in Police corruption on our community with frivolous charges being made in expectancy of bribes to be paid. There is a rise in violent attacks especially during times of political instability and many of our farmers have been evicted from lands that they have been cultivating for decades. The business community also suffers from underhanded tactics through corrupt custom officials and many are forced to pay bribes for the basic services that one would expect.

Our Prime Minister of Indian origin has been undermined and serves as mere window dressing. He has witnessed the atrocities, offering little support and no action.

While all of this is taking

place, the international community has been deafeningly silent, including those with embassies in Guyana.

We are Indians and under colonial Britain we were exploited and deliberately underdeveloped. It was the resources and labor of the entire Indian subcontinent that transformed the United Kingdom to a position of global dominance.

Today our ancestral home of India is on the rise as a world super power. Surely it's important that India is aware of the plight of many in its diaspora and if as a diaspora we matter, now is the time to champion the cause of people of Indian descent wherever they face oppression, exploitation and discrimination.

We are proud to be people of Indian origin and have fought hard to keep our roots alive. Yet the yoke of oppression and discrimination is still upon our shoulders.



Social Entrepreneur and Artist

By Balbir Nazran

"As India we are on the cusp of critical change and are accelerating at an unprecedented speed to keep up with international demands and in our own right being positive disrupters to the norm"

was only when we left for the UK due to civil unrest by ship with my family that I started to understand more about India and arriving to the cold shores of the UK, I was almost reminded of it on a daily basis from the groupings of communities present. Later in life I started to take an interest in the arts and set up an

"I see India as a mosaic of cultures that are yet to be fully discovered and its people, artists who craft its magic around the world"

Asian women's group where we assisted women with mental health issues in creative self-discovery. My "Indianness" came to the foreground as we crafted embroidery pieces

that eventually toured across UK museums, leading me to meet the Queen. I have always advocated for Asian women empowerment. I see India as a mosaic of cultures that are yet to be fully discovered and its people, artists who craft its magic around the world.



American Musician

By Manan Pandya

My Indian heritage plays a major role in my art and was the music I grew up listening to in an immigrant household. We have an incredibly rich culture and I'm proud to be associated with an amazing group of talented South Asians around the

world. Being born in the States, I was blessed with exposure to many unique individuals that shaped the civil narratives I hope to inspire back in the motherland. We used to be much more curious as a people before we boxed ourselves into castes, religions, sexualities, and genders. The rules are evolving, so must we.



The Pioneer

By Puneet Agarwal

Being a global Indian, means being connected to the world at large, whilst aligning ourselves with continuous advancement and breakthroughs that enable us to achieve more. As India we are on the cusp of critical change and are accelerating at an unprecedented speed to keep up with international demands and in our own right being positive disrupters to the norm.

Our own family business CJ Darcl Logistics employs over 3000 individuals in over 200 locations and our joint ambition with CJ logistics of Korea is to become one of the largest logistics companies in the world by 2020. Being of a global mindset is paramount to the actualization of our ambition and being a proud global Indian is a brand recognition that we can do things the right way and integrate ourselves into world-leading companies.

Puneet Agarwal is a 3rd generation entrepreneur – leading the technology led digital transformation of his family business CJ Darcl Logistics and is the founder of India's leading tech startup - Fretron.

Staff



Rajan Nazran
Series Producer

David Roth
Lead Analyst

Divya Nazran
Strategy Director, Accounts

Vanisha Patel
Media Artist

Paul Roberts
Economic Researcher

Jagjit Nazran
Specialist Advisor

Lawrence Narayan
Specialist Advisor

Special thanks to Emmanuel Fernandes at The Indian Express - our journey partners, Paddy Blewer, Stuart MacFeeters, Alex Hopkin and Charles Mizzi.

Images courtesy of Monica Farrugia