

# **INDIA-KYRGYZ REPUBLIC BILATERAL RELATIONS**

## **General**

1. Historically, India has had close contacts with Central Asia, especially countries which were part of the Ancient Silk Route, including the Kyrgyz Republic. During the Soviet era, India and the then Kyrgyz Republic had limited political, economic and cultural contacts. Following the independence of Kyrgyz Republic on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 1991, India was among the first countries to establish diplomatic relations on 18<sup>th</sup> March 1992. The resident Mission of India was set up on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1994.

## **Political Relations**

2. Bound by historical and civilizational links, political ties between India and the Kyrgyz Republic have traditionally been warm and friendly. India and Kyrgyz Republic are Strategic Partners. Kyrgyz Republic supported India in securing full membership of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and has also supported the bid of India for permanent membership of the UN Security Council. In recent times, India-Kyrgyz relations have expanded in several areas of bilateral engagement, including defence, security, trade and investment. Both countries also share common concerns on threat of terrorism, extremism and drug-trafficking.
3. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1992, the two countries have exchanged several visits at a high political level. These are as follows:

### **(a) From India:**

- i. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi (13-14 June 2019)
- ii. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi (11-12 July 2015)
- iii. Former Vice President Shri Krishan Kant (August 1999)
- iv. Former Vice President Shri K.R. Narayanan (September 1996)
- v. Former Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao (September 1995)

### **(b) From Kyrgyz Republic:**

- i. Former President Mr. Sooronbay Jeenbekov (30 May 2019)
- ii. Former President Mr. Almazbek Atambayev (December 2016)

- iii. Former President Mr. Askar Akaev visited India four times in March 1992, April 1999, August 2002 and November 2003
- iv. Former Prime Minister Mr. Apas Jumagulov (May 1997)

### **Visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to the Kyrgyz Republic in June 2019**

- 4. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi attended the Summit meeting of the Heads of States of SCO which was followed by an official visit to the Kyrgyz Republic on 13-14 June 2019. Prime Minister and then Kyrgyz President Mr. Sooronbay Jeenbekov met both in narrow and extended formats. Fifteen bilateral agreements/ documents including a Bilateral Investment Treaty, Protocol amending Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation and Fiscal Evasion, MoU on cooperation in Health, Information and Communication Technology, and Defence Cooperation were signed. In addition to the above, Joint Statement on Strategic Partnership and a five-year roadmap for Trade and Economic cooperation were adopted during the visit.
- 5. President Jeenbekov and Prime Minister Modi jointly inaugurated the India-Kyrgyz Business Forum. During the visit, India-Kyrgyz Joint Textile Exhibition was held in Bishkek. Prime Minister also announced a Line of Credit (LoC) of US\$ 200 million for financing development projects in the Kyrgyz Republic.
- 6. President of Kyrgyz Republic Mr. Sadyr Zhaparov met Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on the sidelines of COP26 at Glasgow in November 2021. Both leaders discussed a broad range of bilateral and multilateral cooperation issues.

### **1<sup>st</sup> India-Central Asia Summit**

- 7. At the initiative of PM Shri Narendra Modi, the 1<sup>st</sup> India-Central Asia Summit (ICAS) was held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022 in virtual mode. All the five Presidents of the Central Asian Republics, including President of the Kyrgyz Republic Mr. Sadyr Zhaparov, participated in the ICAS. A Declaration was adopted at the Summit.

### **Foreign Minister Level visits/ meetings**

8. Then External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt. Sushma Swaraj visited the Kyrgyz Republic on 3-4 Aug 2018 during her three nation tour of Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.
9. Mr. Chingiz Aidarbekov, then Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, visited India on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and had bilateral meetings with then EAM and Minister of State for Finance Mr. Shiv Prakash Shukla.
10. Then External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj visited Bishkek on 21-22 May, 2019 to attend the Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of SCO member states.
11. EAM Dr. S.Jaishankar met then Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Mr. Ruslan Kazakbaev on the sidelines of the SCO Foreign Ministers Meeting in Dushanbe in September 2021.
12. EAM later paid an official visit to the Kyrgyz Republic on October 10-11, 2021. During this visit, EAM held bilateral meeting with Mr. Ruslan Kazakbaev, then Kyrgyz Foreign Minister, and called on President of the Kyrgyz Republic Mr. Sadyr Zhaparov. A Dictionary of Common Words in Hindi and Kyrgyz languages was unveiled and books were gifted to the Mahatma Gandhi Manas Library during the visit. EAM also handed over an offer of LoC of US\$ 200 million, which was announced in June 2019 during the visit of Prime Minister Modi to the Kyrgyz Republic. An MoU on Indian Grant Assistance for implementation of High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP) in the Kyrgyz Republic was signed during the visit.
13. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the India-Central Asia Dialogue was held in Delhi on 18-19 December 2021 at which then Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Mr. Ruslan Kazakbaev participated.
14. Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs and Culture Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi visited the Kyrgyz Republic from 9-12 June, 2022. During her visit, MoS called on the Chairman of Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic Mr. Akylbek Zhaparov and reaffirmed India's commitment to be a reliable partner in the developmental journey of the Kyrgyz Republic. During her meeting with the Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Mr. Zheenbek Kulubaev, MoS took stock of the state and prospects of bilateral relations and also exchanged views on regional and international issues of

importance. MoS discussed ways to further enrich India- Kyrgyz Republic cultural cooperation in her meeting with then Kyrgyz Minister of Culture, Information, Sports and Youth Policy Mr. Azamat Zhamankulov and also signed the bilateral Cultural Exchange Programme for the period 2022-26. MoS participated in the Curtain Raiser events leading to the International Day of Yoga as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations in the Kyrgyz Republic. MoS also interacted with the Indian community, including students, in Bishkek and Cholpon-Ata (Issyk-Kul Lake). The visit of MoS provided impetus to further deepen our strategic relations with the Kyrgyz Republic bilaterally and in the framework of India-Central Asia Summit.

15. EAM Dr. S.Jaishankar met Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Mr. Zheenbek Kulubaev on the sidelines of the SCO Foreign Ministers Meeting in Tashkent on 29 July, 2022.
16. Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic Mr. Zheenbek Kulubaev participated in the 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Council of Foreign ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organization(SCO) to be held in Panaji, Goa from 4 to 5 May 2023. He had a bilateral meeting with EAM Dr. S Jaishankar on the sidelines of the meeting on 5 May, 2023.
17. Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India (EAM), visited Bishkek on 25-26 October, 2023 during which he led the Indian delegation to the 22nd meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (CHG) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). This was held under the Chairmanship of the Kyrgyz Republic.
18. During this visit, EAM called on President of the Kyrgyz Republic H.E. Mr. Sadyr Zhaparov on 25 October, 2023. EAM conveyed the personal greetings of Prime Minister of India H.E. Mr. Narendra Modi. Both sides discussed bilateral cooperation between India and the Kyrgyz Republic specifically in the sectors of banking, energy, health, pharmaceuticals, defence, agriculture and investments. EAM also conveyed the support of India for the successful Presidency of the SCO Council of Heads of Government by the Kyrgyz Republic.
19. EAM met Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic H.E. Mr. Zheenbek Kulubaev in Bishkek on 25 October, 2023. Both

discussed about the steps to be taken for further strengthening India-Kyrgyz cooperation with special emphasis being given to the fields of trade and economy, development projects, health and education. Both the Ministers also discussed regional and international issues of mutual interest and exchanged views on Afghanistan, West Asia and on connectivity.

20. EAM addressed the 22nd session of the CHG of SCO at Bishkek on 26 October, 2023.

### **Voice of Global South Summit**

21. The Kyrgyz Republic participated in all three Voice of the Global South Summits in virtual format. First Deputy Minister of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr. Kanatbek Sadykov, participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> Summit on 12-13 January 2023. He took part in the Session of the Environment Ministers on “Balancing Growth with Environment Friendly Lifestyles (LiFE)”.
22. The Second Edition of Voice of Global South Summit was held on 17 November 2023 virtually. A Video Address by H.E. Mr. Sadyr Zhaparov, President of the Kyrgyz Republic, was played at the inaugural Leaders’ Session hosted by Prime Minister, H.E. Shri Narendra Modi. In the Finance Ministers’ session, Kyrgyz side was represented by Mr. Ruslan Tatikov, Deputy Finance Minister.
23. The Third Edition of Voice of Global South Summit was held on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2024 virtually. In the Health Ministers’ Session, Kyrgyz side was represented by Mr. Meder Ismailov, First Deputy Minister of Health. In the Youth Ministers’ Session, Kyrgyz side was represented by Mr. Askar Shaikidinov, Head of the Youth Policy Department of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth Policy.

### **Defence Minister Level visits/ meetings**

24. Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, then Raksha Mantri, visited Kyrgyzstan from 28-30 April 2019 to attend the Meeting of the Defence Ministers of SCO member states.
25. Shri Rajnath Singh, Raksha Mantri, met Lt. Gen. Baktybek Bekbolotov, Minister of Defence of the Kyrgyz Republic, on 24 August, 2022 at Samarkand in Uzbekistan on the sidelines of the

meeting of the Defence Ministers of SCO Member States. Both sides discussed issues of bilateral defence cooperation between the two countries.

26. Kyrgyz Defence Minister Lieutenant General Bekbolotov Asankalievich participated in the SCO Defence Ministers meeting on 28th April, 2023 in New Delhi. He also held a bilateral meeting with Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh on the sidelines of this meeting in New Delhi on 28th April, 2023.

### **Other Ministerial level visits/ meetings**

27. Then Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh led the Indian delegation for meeting of the Heads of Emergency Departments of the SCO member states on 24-25 August, 2017.
28. Secretary of the National Security Council of the Kyrgyz Republic Marat Imankulov visited India for the 1<sup>st</sup> India-Kyrgyz Republic Strategic Dialogue in New Delhi on 26 October, 2021. Mr. Imankulov visited New Delhi again on 10 November 2021 for the Delhi Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan.
29. Mr. Marat Imankulov, Secretary of the Security Council of the Kyrgyz Republic, participated in the First India-Central Asia Meeting of National Security Advisers/ Secretaries of Security Councils held on 6 December, 2022 in New Delhi. The National Security Advisers/ Secretaries of the National Security Councils of India, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan also participated in the meeting. Turkmenistan was represented by their Ambassador in New Delhi. Mr. Imankulov also had a bilateral meeting with Mr. Ajit Doval, National Security Adviser of India. A Joint Communiqué was issued at the end of the meeting.
30. Minister of Energy of the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr. Taalaibek Ibraev participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition of India's flagship energy event "India Energy Week -2023", held under patronage of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, GoI, at the Bangalore International Exhibition Center from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023.
31. Kyrgyz Transport and Communications Minister Mr. Tekebaev Tilek Kydyrmaevich along with three delegates participated in the 10th Session of the Transport Ministers of the Member States of

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) held on 28th April 2023 in New Delhi, India.

32. Mr. Edil Baisalov, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Kyrgyz Republic and co-Chairperson of India-Kyrgyz Inter-Governmental Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation (IKIGC) visited India to participate in the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of iPHEX-2023 held from 05-07 July, 2023 at HITEX Exhibition Center, Hyderabad, India. During the visit, he held bilateral meetings with (i) Commerce and Industry Minister and co-Chairperson of IKIGC Shri Piyush Goyal on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023 on bilateral cooperation, and (ii) Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi to discuss further steps for expanding and consolidating the strategic partnership between India and Kyrgyz Republic.
33. A virtual meeting was held between our Commerce and Industry Minister, Mr. Piyush Goyal and the Minister of Economy and Commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic Daniyar Joldoshevich Amangeldiev on 30th May, 2023. During the bilateral talks, both the sides discussed wide range of issues related to bilateral trade, e-commerce, pharma, education, food procession etc.

### **Parliamentary Cooperation**

34. One of these decisions is to set-up a India-Central Asia Parliamentary Forum (ICAPF) for interaction between the Parliaments of India and the Central Asian Republics. The Lok Sabha has proposed to set up the ICAPF. The ICAPF may meet once every two years. The Chair may rotate in an alphabetical order. The first meeting could be hosted by India in early 2023. The Kyrgyz Parliament (Jogorku Kenesh) has conveyed support for this proposal. However, the first meeting of the ICAPF is yet to be convened.
35. Jogorkyu Kenesh has constituted a three-member India-Kyrgyz Parliamentary Friendship Group. It is chaired by Mr. Bakyt Tentishev. Ms. Elvira Surabaldieva and Mr. Chingiz Aidarbekov (former Foreign Minister) are other members of this group.

### **Foreign Office Consultations (FOC)**

36. The 12<sup>th</sup> round of India-Kyrgyz Republic Foreign Office Consultations were held in Bishkek on 14th November, 2022. The

Indian delegation was led by Shri Sanjay Verma, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, and the Kyrgyz delegation was led by Mr. Aibek Muhtarovich Artykbaev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic.

37. During the consultations, both sides undertook a comprehensive review of their bilateral ties in diverse areas including Political, Economic, Commercial, Defence, Development Partnership, Capacity Building, Education, Consular Matters, Cultural cooperation and Connectivity. Both sides examined the implementation of the decisions taken during the First India-Central Asia Summit held on 27th January, 2022. The discussions also included how to increase trade and investment between the two countries. The two sides also exchanged views on regional and international matters of mutual interest and agreed to strengthen their cooperation in UN and other multilateral forums.
38. During this visit, Secretary (West) also had a meeting with Ms. Indira Sharshenova, Deputy Minister of Digital Development of the Kyrgyz Republic. The possibilities of cooperation in the field of IT sector, including sharing of experience from India's digital initiatives were discussed.

### **Commercial Relations**

39. India-Kyrgyz Republic bilateral trade during the year 2023 was nearly US \$ 96 million. India's exports to the Kyrgyz Republic were US\$ 88.40 million, while India's imports were US \$ 7.50 million.

(in millions US\$)

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Imports from India</b>	31.45	42.01	41.72	45.48	107.39	88.40
<b>Exports to India</b>	5.77	3.10	6.75	5.17	10.47	7.50
<b>Turnover</b>	37.22	45.11	48.47	50.65	117.86	95.90

40. Exports from India to the Kyrgyz Republic among other items comprise of sugar & sugar confectionery, pharmaceutical products, electric machinery & equipment, articles of clothing & clothing accessories (knitted, crocheted or crocheted), organic chemical compounds & nuclear reactors.



41. Imports from Kyrgyz Republic by India include oil-seeds, fruits, medicinal plants, straw, fodder, mineral fuel, oil and products of their distillation, vegetables, tubers etc.
42. Kyrgyz Republic has received a small investment from Indian businessmen in the mining and hospitality sectors. Agro-processing, education, pharmaceuticals, IT, Textiles are some other areas of opportunities.
43. A five-year Road-map for Trade and Economic Cooperation was adopted during the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in June 2019. Roadmap is aimed at creation of favourable conditions for accelerated growth of bilateral trade, diversification of products and increase in foreign investment.
44. India-Kyrgyz Business forum was held on 14-15 June 2019. Then Kyrgyz President Jeenbekov and Prime Minister Modi jointly inaugurated India-Kyrgyz Business Forum on 14th June 2019. 150 Kyrgyz participants and 50 participants from India including delegation from FICCI attended the event. Addressing the Business Forum, Prime Minister Modi highlighted the opportunities for investors from India in areas of medicines, textiles, railways, hydropower, mining and minerals and tourism.
45. During the visit of Prime Minister, India-Kyrgyz Joint Textile Exhibition was held in Bishkek from 13-26 June 2019. Both sides agreed to explore joint collaborations and cooperation in the fields of textiles, handicrafts, fabrics and arts.
46. Implementing Prime Minister's announcement during his visit, India-Kyrgyz Trade Expo titled 'Namaskar Eurasia' was organised in Bishkek from 9-11 October 2019 by FICCI in partnership with Embassy of India, Department of Commerce and the Kyrgyz Government. The Expo was inaugurated by then Kyrgyz Minister of Defence General Raimberdi Duisheniyev and Deputy Chairman, State Agency of Industry, Energy and Subsoil Use, Amanbai Kayipov. A Joint India-Kyrgyz Symposium on Defence Production was also organised during the Expo.

**India-Kyrgyz Republic Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation (IKIGC)**

47. The IKIGC on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological

Cooperation was set up in 1992. The 10<sup>th</sup> session of IKIGC was held in a virtual format on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2022. It was co-Chaired by Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles, Government of India, and Mr. Talantbek Oruskulovich Imanov, Minister of Digital Development of the Kyrgyz Republic. The talks were held in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

48. IKIGC held that there was immense potential for expansion of bilateral trade between India and the Kyrgyz Republic. Both sides discussed mutual cooperation and steps to further enhance them in the fields of Trade & Economy, Development Partnership, Investment, Digitalization, Intellectual Property, Agriculture, Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals, Textiles, Education, Environment, Standardization & Metrology, Banking, Transport, Labour, Mining and Power sectors. Emphasis was given to increase the bilateral trade and investment opportunities. India is keen to participate in trade shows and exhibitions in the Kyrgyz Republic and invited the Kyrgyz Republic to take part in trade expos in India. The sides agreed to take necessary measures to increase the interaction of exporters and importers of the two countries and expand the trading basket.
49. A Protocol of the 10<sup>th</sup> session of the IKIGC was signed between India and the Kyrgyz Republic.

### **Development Cooperation**

50. During the Second Meeting of the India-Central Asia Dialogue held on 28 October 2020, India announced a Government of India LoC offer/ availability of USD 1 billion for five Central Asian Countries including the Kyrgyz Republic. In addition, India has also made an offer of LoC of US\$ 200 million to the Kyrgyz Republic, which was announced in June 2019 during the visit of Prime Minister Modi to the Kyrgyz Republic. The LOC are for priority developmental projects in the Kyrgyz Republic in fields such as connectivity, energy, IT, healthcare, education, agriculture, etc.
51. India has extended technical assistance to the Kyrgyz Republic for the establishment of an IT center at the Kyrgyz State University of Construction, Transportation and Architecture, Bishkek; Potato processing plant at Talas; Language laboratory at the Diplomatic Academy, Bishkek; Tele-medicine links connecting six hospitals in

Kyrgyzstan, and Bhabhatron-II equipment and Imaging simulator for treating cancer patients. India gifted IT equipment (PCs, Tablets and Notebooks) worth Rs. 27.40 lakhs to the Central Election Commission of Kyrgyz Republic for use during the Parliamentary elections held on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

52. India has, as assistance to the Kyrgyz Republic, to combat pandemic, donated thirty thousand tables of HydroxyChloroquine (HCQ). Kyrgyz government assisted in evacuation of nearly fourteen thousand Indian nationals (most of them medical students) to various destinations in India under the *Vande Bharat* Mission.
  
53. Seven diplomats from the Kyrgyz Republic participated in a customized course for young diplomats from the countries of Central Asia, including the Kyrgyz Republic, from 14-25 October 2024 at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS). This course was offered by India at the First India-Central Asia Summit held virtually on 27 January, 2022. The training programme included modules on India's foreign policy, India's relations with Central Asia, new trends in Diplomacy, global landscape and India's Foreign Policy, India & the Global South: Partners in Sustainable Development, India-UN Reforms, India and Central Asia: Revisiting Heritage and Cultural Linkages, Digital Public Infrastructure of India, National Education Policy 2020 & Internationalization Initiatives, Space Security, IMEC-Enhancing Global Trade and Connectivity, AI and Emerging Technologies, Vaccine and Health Diplomacy, India's Defence Diplomacy and Defence Cooperation, Assessing climate change & renewable energy, counter terrorism and security paradigm, civil use of nuclear energy, Cinemas of India, India-SCO relations, climate change and sustainable water management, challengers to growing food insecurity & new AgriTech Measures, Holistic Healthcare: Ayurved, critical minerals-opportunities and challenges, India's relation with Russia, SDGs and Sustainable Tourism and South-South Cooperation & Development Partnerships. There were also sessions on Ayurveda and Yoga. As a part of their study tours in New Delhi, the diplomats undertook visits to Prime Minister Museum and Library, Election Commission of India, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Gurgaon automobile plant of Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. They also undertook a day-long visit to Jaipur to see the Jaipur Fort, Hawa Mahal and Industry visit.

## **ITEC**

54. India has allocated 100 slots for various courses under the ITEC programme to the Kyrgyz Republic. These programmes provide opportunities for capacity development of Kyrgyz nationals. There are nearly 1,500 ITEC alumni in the Kyrgyz Republic. Applicants from the Kyrgyz Republic are required to submit their application at the website: [www.itecgoi.in](http://www.itecgoi.in).

## **Cultural Relations**

55. There is appreciation of Indian culture in the Kyrgyz Republic. A Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) between India and the Kyrgyz Republic for 2022-26 was signed in June 2022.
56. Minister of Culture, Tourism and Development of North Eastern Region Shri G. Kishan Reddy hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> India-Central Asia Culture Ministers' Meeting through video conferencing on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2023. The Culture Minister of Kyrgyz Republic Mr. Maksutov Altynbek Askarovich participated in the meeting virtually. The Ministers presented their perspective to take forward their leaders' commitment to further strengthening cultural cooperation in the region. In the meeting, Indian side proposed a Joint Statement in testimony, to which the participants agreed to convey their consent at the earliest to acknowledge the meeting and its continuance at regular intervals. Kyrgyz side has conveyed that they have no comments to offer on the draft Joint Statement. The Joint Statement will be issued upon its finalization
57. An India Study Centre has been set up in the prestigious National Library in Bishkek in November 2014.
58. On 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021, Mahatma Gandhi – Manas Library was officially dedicated in a ceremony at Manas-Chingiz Aitmatov National Academy in Bishkek.
59. Delegations of Kyrgyz Artisans/Artists participated in Surajkund Mela in February 2023 and 2024.
60. Kyrgyz Republic hosted the XVII International Festival of traditional culture and crafts "OIMO-2023", from 27-30 July, 2023 at Bishkek, from 1-3 August, 2023 at Tamchy village and from 3-6 August, 2023 at Cholpon-Ata city of Kyrgyz Republic. With the support of

Department of MSME&T, Government of West Bengal, Rural Craft and Cultural Hubs of West Bengal, India, a four-member delegation, sponsored by MSME visited Kyrgyz Republic to participate in this event. The delegation consisted of Mr. Subho Karmakar (Dokra Artist), Khukurani Chabari Chitrakar (Patachitra Artist) and Afruja Khatum (Kantha Artist).

61. An 8-member Bollywood Dance Group led by Dr. Rekha Mehra from ICCR performed in Bishkek and Osh cities from 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2024 to 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2024. The event was organized in collaboration with the Kyrgyz Ministry of Culture, Sports & Youth Affairs under the Cultural Exchange Programme.
62. The 10th International Day of Yoga (IDY) was organized by the Embassy in the cities of Bishkek, Issyk-Kul, Jalalabad, Kant and Osh in the Kyrgyz Republic on the theme of “Yoga for self and Society”.
63. A 20-member Youth Delegation representing diverse fields and regions of Kyrgyz Republic visited India from 5-13 March, 2024 under the rubric of India-Central Asia Summit held in January 2022. The delegation visited Delhi, Ahmedabad and Agra. While at Ahmedabad, the Delegation called on Shri Acharya Devvrat, Hon’ble Governor of Gujarat and interacted with Dean of National Forensic Sciences University, CAO of IIM, Ahmedabad and the Director of the Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad. While in Delhi, the delegation called on Hon’ble Minister of External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar and Hon’ble Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Shri Anurag Thakur. The delegation visited PM Museum, India Gate, Humayun’s Tomb, Taj Mahal, Red Fort and Sabarmati Ashram. The Delegation had an opportunity to witness first-hand understanding of India’s economy; its technological, industrial and research capabilities as well as India’s rich cultural heritage and diversity.
64. Yoga classes at Embassy premises also being held regularly. Many Yoga enthusiasts are learning Yoga at the Ayush Centre in the premises of Embassy of India, Bishkek.
65. Kathak dance classes are also being organized at the Ayush Centre in the premises of Embassy of India, Bishkek. The classes are being conducted by a qualified Kathak Dance Teacher from India.

66. An unveiling ceremony of the Glass Box for the conservation of the reconstructed 8th century statue of Gautam Buddha was held on 8 July, 2024 at the National Historical Museum of the Kyrgyz Republic in Bishkek. This Glass Box along with the pedestal has been gifted by the Government of India.

## **DEFENCE COOPERATION**

67. Important facets of bilateral defence cooperation between India and the Kyrgyz Republic include training Kyrgyz personnel in Indian defence establishments, joint exercises, conduct of exchange programmes and joint research at the Kyrgyz-India Mountain Bio Medical Research Centre (KIMBMRC), Bishkek.
68. During PM's visit in June 2019, four MoUs were signed on bilateral defence cooperation, viz, MoUs between Indian National Security Guards and Kyrgyz National Guards, Indian High Altitude Warfare School, Gulmarg and Kyrgyz Combat Training Centre, Balykchi, Indian National Defence Academy and Kyrgyz Defence Academy and lastly, DRDO and National Centre of Cardiology and Internal Medicine, Bishkek.
69. An six member delegation from National Cadet Corps (New Delhi) visited the Kyrgyz Republic from 24-30 September 2024 as part of Youth Exchange Programme.
70. An 18-member delegation from College of Defence Management (CDM), Secunderabad, Ministry of Defence, visited Kyrgyz Republic from 20-24 February 2023 to study Higher Defence Management practices and strategic security imperatives pertaining to Kyrgyz Republic. The delegation held discussion with Kyrgyz counterparts and called on Kyrgyz dignitaries.
71. A four-member delegation from Additional Directorate General of International Cooperation (Foreign Training Team), Ministry of Defence visited Kyrgyz Republic from 18 Feb to 28 Feb 2023 to attend Mountain training for Kyrgyz Armed Forces personnel at Joint Mountaineering Training Centre (JMTC), Balykchy, Kyrgyz Republic.

lic. The training was a part of India-Kyrgyz Defence Cooperation Plan 2022-23.

72. An eight member team from Kyrgyz Army under Defence Cooperation Plan 2023 visited Ladakh, India for the 4th India-Kyrgyz Joint Mountaineering expedition to peak Stok-Kangri (6153 mtrs) from 27 February to 18 March, 2023.
73. A two-member delegation led by Chief of the Air Defence Forces of the Kyrgyz Republic (equivalent to Chief of Air Staff) participated in the 14th edition of AERO INDIA 2023 an Aerospace, Defence and Civil Aviation Exhibition from 13-17 February 2023 at Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru.
74. The first ever Joint Working Group Meeting on Defence was held in Bishkek from March 6-7, 2023. Indian delegation was led by Shri Vishwesh Negi, Joint Secretary(IC), Ministry of Defence. Both sides discussed various issues of mutual interest to take forward the bilateral cooperation in the Defence area.
75. Training on varied medical issues was conducted by a two-member Mobile Training Team from Directorate General Medical Services (DGMS), at Military Hospital of the Ministry of Defence of the Kyrgyz Republic from 25-29 March 2024. The training was attended by 21 personnel of the Kyrgyz Armed Forces and requisite training certificates were issued by the DGMS.
76. The second Joint Working Group Meeting on Defence was held in New Delhi from July 8-9, 2024. Indian delegation was led by Shri Vishwesh Negi, Joint Secretary(IC), Ministry of Defence and Kyrgyz Delegation was led by Colonel Ormokoiev RA, Chief of Military Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Defence of the Kyrgyz Republic. Both sides discussed various issues of mutual interest to take forward the bilateral cooperation in the Defence area.
77. India-Kyrgyz Joint Forces Special Exercise KHANJAR-XI was held from 22 January to 03 February, 2024 at Special Forces Training School, Bakloh. 20 soldiers from Special Forces (SF) of the Kyrgyz Armed Forces participated in the exercise. The elite Special Forces of India and the Kyrgyz Republic exchanged experiences and best practices in Counter Terrorism operations in mountainous terrain

and built-up areas.

### **Consular Affairs**

78. There are about 200 Non-Resident Indians and Persons of Indian Origin apart from 16,700 students (estimated) in Kyrgyzstan.
79. E-visa services are available for the citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic. The e-Visa system allows citizens of Kyrgyzstan to obtain Indian visa using Internet. There will not be any need to visit the Embassy in person if e-visa facility is being availed. The e-Visa has five sub-categories i.e., e-Tourist visa, e-Business visa, e-Medical visa, e-Medical attendant visa, and e-Conference visa.
80. The applicants are advised to only visit Government of India website with address <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in> for visa service or clarification. For any clarification or doubt, one can also send an email to [indian-evisa@gov.in](mailto:indian-evisa@gov.in).

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**30<sup>th</sup> December, 2024**