

India-Kyrgyz Republic Bilateral Relations

Historically, India has had close contacts with Central Asia, especially countries which were part of the ancient Silk Route, including Kyrgyz Republic. During the Soviet era, India and the then Kyrgyz Republic had limited political, economic and cultural contacts. Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi visited Bishkek and Issyk-Kul Lake in 1985. After the independence of Kyrgyz Republic on 31 August, 1991, India was among the first to establish diplomatic relations on 18 March 1992; and the resident Mission of India was set up on 23 May 1994.

2. Political ties with the Kyrgyz Republic have been traditionally warm and friendly. Kyrgyz Republic supported India in securing full membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and also supports India's bid for permanent seat at UNSC. Both countries share common concerns on threats of terrorism, extremism and drug-trafficking. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1992, the two countries have signed several framework agreements, including on Culture, Trade and Economic Cooperation, Civil Aviation, Investment Promotion and Protection, Avoidance of Double Taxation, Consular Convention etc.

3. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had visited Kyrgyz Republic on 11-12 July, 2015 during his historic Central Asia visit. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Kyrgyz Republic on June 13-14, 2019 to attend the meeting of Council of Heads of State of Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Prime Minister also paid an official visit to the Kyrgyz Republic on 14 June, 2019 after the conclusion of the SCO Summit. During the visit, India and the Kyrgyz Republic established Strategic Partnership and signed the Joint Declaration on Establishing Strategic Partnership. 15 documents, including Bilateral Investment Treaty, Road map on Trade and Economic Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Kyrgyz Republic for the Five-Year period (2019-2024), MoU on Cooperation in the field of Health, MoU between Export-Import Bank of India and the Investment Promotion and Protection Agency of the Kyrgyz Republic, MoU between India and the Kyrgyz Republic on cooperation on Information and Communication Technology, MoU on cooperation in the field of Legal Metrology, MoU between Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) of India and National Institute of Strategic Studies (NISS) of the Kyrgyz Republic were signed during the visit.

4. The 10th India- Kyrgyz Republic Foreign Office Consultations took place in Bishkek on 20 April, 2019. The Kyrgyz delegation was led by Deputy Foreign Minister and the Indian side was led by Secretary (West).

5. The India- Kyrgyz Republic Inter Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation was set up in 1992. 9th Session of India- Kyrgyz Republic Inter Governmental Commission (IGC) on Trade & Economic Scientific and Technological Cooperation was held on 15-16 November, 2018 in New Delhi.
6. EAM visited the Kyrgyz Republic on 03-04 August 2018, during her three nation tour of Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Kyrgyz Foreign Minister, Mr. Chingiz Aidarbekov, visited India from 27-31 January, 2019. RM visited Kyrgyzstan for the SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting on 28-29 April, 2019. EAM visited Bishkek on 21-22 May, 2019 to attend the SCO Foreign Ministers' Meeting.
7. Bilateral trade between India and Kyrgyz Republic in 2017-18 was about USD 59.53 million, of which India's exports were worth USD 28.59 million and imports were valued at USD 30.94 million. A five year roadmap to enhance trade and investments as the present state is far below potential was signed between India and the Kyrgyz Republic on 14 June, 2019 during the visit of Prime Minister to Bishkek.
8. Connectivity remains one of the biggest challenges for trade between India and Kyrgyz Republic. Air Manas (Pegasus Asia Airline) had started direct flight on Bishkek-Delhi-Bishkek sector since 20 February 2015. The flight operates thrice a week, and has contributed significantly to growth of tourism.
9. Technical assistance under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Program, particularly in terms of human resources development, is an important component of India's economic involvement in Kyrgyz Republic. Kyrgyz Republic has utilized 77 slots for 2017-18. More than 1274 professionals from Kyrgyz Republic have received training in India since 1992. 80 ITEC slots have been sanctioned for 2018-19.
10. Bilateral cooperation between the two countries has steadily increased in recent years. Agreement on Defence Cooperation, signed during the visit of Prime Minister Modi in July 2015, has been an important milestone that has laid the framework for defence cooperation between the two sides.
11. Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR has now become an annual affair. The sixth 'Khanjar' exercise was conducted between Indian and Kyrgyz Special Forces in March, 2019 in Bishkek. Fifth exercise was conducted in India in CIJW School, Varaingte (Mizoram) in 2018.
12. There is a great appreciation for Indian culture. Mission in Bishkek

has established an India Study Centre in the prestigious National Library of Kyrgyz Republic on 14 November 2014. The Center is running with the help of volunteers and imparts training in English and Hindi languages, Yoga and Kathak. Another center has been opened in Kara Balta, near Bishkek. Numerous Kathak, yoga, Indian dance, fusion music and Bollywood workshops/concerts have been organized to propagate and popularise Indian culture and traditions.

13. There are about 100 Indian nationals apart from 8000 students in Kyrgyz Republic. An Agreement establishing visa free regime for diplomatic and/or official/service passports has been effective from April, 2014.
