**PROTOCOL OF 9TH SESSION**

**OF THE INDIA-KYRGYZ INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION ON TRADE, ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION**

The 9th Session of the India-Kyrgyz Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as IK-IGC) was held on 15-16 November, 2018 in New Delhi, India.

The IK-IGC was co-chaired by:

1. Mr. Suresh P.Prabhu,

Minister of Commerce and Industry,

Government of India

1. Mr. Kosmosbek Cholponbaev

Minister of Health,

Government of the Kyrgyz Republic

The composition of the Indian and Kyrgyz delegations (hereafter referred to as ‘Both sides’ is at Annexure 1).

During discussions, held in a business-like and constructive atmosphere, both sides discussed issues of bilateral cooperation in areas of mutual interest, and agreed as follows:

1. **Review of Status of Bilateral Trade**

According to the data of National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic, the bilateral trade between Kyrgyzstan and India is as follows: *Million USD*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Years** | **Export from KR to India** | **Import from India to KR** | **General Trade** | **Trade Balance** |
| 2013 | 0.7 | 26.3 | 27.0 | 25.6 |
| 2014 | 2.6 | 25.2 | 27.8 | 22.6 |
| 2015 | 1.2 | 22.7 | 23.9 | 21.5 |
| 2016 | 2.3 | 22.7 | 25.0 | 20.4 |
| 2017 | 3.5 | 28.8 | 32.3 | 25.3 |
| 2018  (Jan-Aug) | 2.9 | 19.4 | 22.3 | 16.5 |

According to the data of Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics of Government of India, the bilateral trade between Kyrgyzstan and India is as follows

*Million USD*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Years** | **Export from India** | **Import from KR to India** | **General Trade** | **Trade Balance** |
| 2013-2014 | 34.54 | 0.64 | 35.18 | 33.90 |
| 2014-2015 | 37.76 | 0.77 | 38.53 | 36.99 |
| 2015-2016 | 25.11 | 1.79 | 26.90 | 23.32 |
| 2016-2017 | 30.44 | 1.48 | 31.92 | 28.96 |
| 2017-2018 | 28.59 | 30.94 | 59.53 | (-)2.35 |
| 2018-19 (Apr-Sep)  Prov. | 14.72 | 0.07 | 14.79 | 14.65 |

Taking into account the above-mentioned data of the Kyrgyz-India bilateral trade, Sides agreed that trade has good potential to develop and agreed to strengthen cooperation for increasing bilateral trade and expansion of the trade basket.

**2. Cooperation in enhancing the bilateral trade**

2.1 Kyrgyzstan and India have agreed to identify sectors where both Sides could engage in bilateral trade since presently the shares between both the Sides are quite low as compared to total trade made with the rest of the World. Both sides agreed to share the corresponding information.

2.2 Both sides agreed that they will try to participate in the major trade exhibitions on potential sectors which will be identified. Both the sides agreed to exchange the list of trade exhibitions / trade fairs for more active participation which could boost bilateral trade.

2.3 In order to promote trade, partiesdecided to share the mandatory inspections’ / regulations requirement to be fulfilled at the time of exporting / importing of any product.

2.4 Indian Side informed about various Export Promotion Councils and other export related institutions  from where  one can get the details of exporters /importers   and agreed to share the list of such institutions. Therefore, on the same lines, Kyrgyz side should also share such list of institutions so that exporters/importers   from both sides could interact and through this mechanism bilateral trade could be facilitated and enhanced as and when required.

2.5Both sidesdesired to share and exchange information  between   banking  and  financial institutions   in order to expand cooperation in this field in order  to facilitate  export-import transactions  between the companies.

2.6 Both the sides agreed to share official information about identifying a single window cell in their respective countries for clarifying the queries of the exporters and in supporting them in identifying suitable buyers/sellers.

**3. Cooperation in Investment Sector**

3.1 Rationalisation and liberalisation of FDI policy is the constant endeavour of Government of India which has put in place an investor-friendly policy on FDI, under which FDI up to 100% is permitted, under the automatic route, in most sectors/activities. FDI policy is reviewed on an ongoing basis, with a view to making it more investor friendly. Significant changes have been made in the FDI policy regime in recent times, to ensure that India remains increasingly attractive and investor-friendly.

3.2 In the light of the wide-ranging opportunities, recent initiatives like Make in India, Ease of Doing Business, Startup India etc. and a liberal FDI regime made available by the Government of India, there is lot of potential for FDI from Kyrgyzstan into India.

**4. Cooperation in the field of agriculture**

4.1 Kyrgyz side proposed the Indian side to conduct training programs for the specialists of agriculture sector on animal husbandry, poultry and animal diseases covering diagnostics and disease forecasting and epidemiological surveillance. In this regard, mutual study visits of specialists are proposed to be organized.Indian side informed Kyrgyz side that training can be provided to personnel in livestock and poultry production, management and health aspects covering disease surveillance, disease diagnostic and disease forecasting.

4.2 The Indian side through DARE/ICAR agreed to provide technological support in agriculture sector, particularly in the areas of agricultural biotechnology, cultivation technology of agricultural crops, plant protection and bio-safety to strengthen cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and India. Kyrgyz side requested Indian side to assist in the operation of bio-genetic laboratory on identifying animal DNA molecules.Indian side offered to share the hybrids suitable for various agro-ecologies across India with Kyrgyz side for adaptive demonstration trials so that the best bet hybrids could be popularized.

4.3 Indian side requested Kyrgyz side to provide the name of organizations, local farmers, entrepreneurs and participants for training at Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi or other crop specific ICAR research institute as per the need. On the request of Indian side, Kyrgyz side agreed to provide the Indian side data base of agricultural entrepreneurs.

4.4 Kyrgyz Side proposed to consider for the creation of joint food and food processing ventures for agricultural and meat products for export to the EAEU markets.

4.5 Indian side informed Kyrgyz side that APEDA, a statutory body under Ministry of Commerce & Industry is involved in accreditation of certification bodies for organic certification and can provide capacity building for organic certification and standards for organic products. For certification and for facilitating standards for organic products, the Kyrgyz side proposed Indian side to facilitate creation of infrastructure for organic certification by APEDA.

4.6 Both Sides agreed to increase the agricultural product exports to the market of each other country.

4.7 Kyrgyz side requested Indian side to assist in the following:-

- incubation methods and breeding of fresh water fish

- fish disease prophylactic treatment

- primary processing and storage of fish and fish products

- creation of electronic data base for the pastures monitoring and assessment

- conducting of remote sensing of mountainous pastures including geo-information system

4.8 Indian side also proposed:

* Cooperation in skill development program in farm mechanization and allied sectors.
* Export of farm machineries like seed drills, tractors, seed planter, power weeder, plant protection equipments, threshers / multi-crop reapers, straw reapers, combine harvesters etc.
* Transfer and sharing / import of technology available with Kyrgyz for precision and automated farm machineries.
* Supply/export of seed of some crops / varieties of vegetables maize, and hybrid of those crops which can be identified by the Government of Kyrgyzstan
* Possibilities of site visits of National Seed Corporation (NSC) farms

**5. Cooperation in the field of Healthcare and Pharmaceutical sector**

5.1 Both the sides agreed to initiate the work on the preparation of a draft Agreement on Cooperation between Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Government of India.

5.2 Kyrgyz Side proposes to examine the possibility of constructing pharmaceutical plant and medical equipment plant in Kyrgyz Republic.

Kyrgyz Side also proposes the creation of joint venture for medical and laboratory equipment production in Kyrgyz Republic.

5.3 Kyrgyz Side proposes to facilitate educational service export between the two sides.

5.4 Kyrgyz Side proposes to participate in the realization of PPP projects in health sector and examine the possibility of creation of rehabilitation, diagnostics and laboratory centers.

5.5 Kyrgyz Side proposes to consider providing concessions for the Kyrgyz citizens’ treatment who are suffering from critical diseases, particularly in transplant and oncology.

5.6. Kyrgyz Side proposes possibility of providing software “Planning System” for the BHABHATRON II which was supplied by Government of India earlier on humanitarian grounds.

5.7 Kyrgyz Side proposes to consider the possibility of establishing joint Kyrgyz-India clinic in International University of Kyrgyz Republic.

5.8Considering the importance of the health care sector in ensuring the quality of living standards, Indian side informed  Kyrgyz side that:-

* India has necessary expertise to provide Telemedicine products both hardware, software and biomedical equipment, solutions and undertake deployment in selected hospitals, region wise or countrywide.
* Most of the post care visits could be managed with virtual video visits (Tele Follow-ups) through tele-medicine video conference and electronic exchange of medical records.
* India grants permission, as per the provisions, in respect of foreign doctors for Temporary Registration to practice medicine in India on specific recommendations of Medical Council of India, New Delhi for the purpose of teaching, research or charitable work only.
* The students studying UG Medical Courses in foreign countries are given permission by Ministry of Health  & Family Welfare, Government of India for visiting India for completing elective training part of their course, in various hospitals/medical institutions in India.
* Foreign national students are allowed to seek admission in various UG and PG medical courses in all private Medical and Dental Colleges in India against the seats under NRI quota. Their admissions are subject to the condition  of fulfilling the eligibility criteria prescribed in MCI’s/DCI’s Regulations.
* Considering the importance of health in ensuring the quality of life of the population, Kyrgyz side agreed to consider the possibility of mutual invitation of specialists to the seminars, symposiums, conferences and congresses on public health.

5.9 Kyrgyz Side proposes establishment of Veterinary Institute in Agriculture University of Kyrgyz Republic jointly with an Indian counterpart.

**6. Cooperation in the field of information technology and e-governance**

6.1 Indian side proposed Kyrgyz side to participate in INDIASOFT 2019 and INDIA ELECTRONICS EXPO 2019 to be held on4th& 5th February 2019 at Hyderabad, India.

The Indian side can assist in several business ventures between CIS and Indian IT companies, including strategic alliances, collaborations, marketing and distribution tie –ups etc. and thus enhance IT trade, especially in the software sector between the two countries.

The delegation can witness a world of innovative IT products being launched at the event by the participating Indian IT companies which will cover a spectrum of sectors. The events websites are [www.indiasoft.org](http://www.indiasoft.org) and [www.indiaelectronicsexpo.com](http://www.indiaelectronicsexpo.com).

6.2 Promoting Business Alliance Meet

Indian side proposed Kyrgyz side to organize business Alliance meet with a view to enhance India’s ICT trade with CIS, it will be good to organize business alliance meets. It is anticipated that such an interaction between Kyrgyz Republic and Indian IT companies would lead to a closer and deeper realization of capability of Indian IT specialists and would gradually lead to a series of strategic alliances and joint ventures.

This would also act as an awareness campaign for India’s ICT capabilities to Kyrgyz ICT industry. Such a pro-active action would also open new vistas for Indian and Kyrgyz companies to enter into long-term strategic alliances, establish joint ventures and market their product and services and creating export opportunities for SMEs to explore newer markets.

6.3 Kyrgyz side expressed its readiness to provide assistance to Kyrgyz companies in participating in the events organized by the Indian side.

6.4 Kyrgyz side requested India side to consider the following areas for cooperation:

* Training of Kyrgyz specialists and students in Indian educational institutions in the field of IT and Cyber Technology within the framework of short-term and long-term courses in India
* Exchange of experience in compiling electronic archives, cyber security, vehicle control and driving licenses.

**7. Cooperation in the field of environmental and technical safety**

Kyrgyz side requested Indian side for cooperation on the following:-

* 1. material and technical equipment of the department, in particular the acquisition of a mobile laboratory (mobile laboratory of fire and technical expertise, a testing construction laboratory);
  2. on the joint creation of an information educational and methodological center for the training of state inspectors on environmental and technical security, as well as a bilateral exchange of work experience and internship in relevant inspections in the Republic of India;
  3. Organization of a bilateral meeting between the State Inspectorate for Environmental and Technical Security of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Bureau of Indian Standards on Metrological Surveillance;
  4. Organization of a bilateral meeting between the State Inspectorate for Environmental and Technical Security of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Department of Atomic Energy of India on the issues of ensuring radiation and nuclear safety;
  5. Short-term courses in the framework of the Indian ITEC program for theState Inspectorate for Environmental and Technical Security of the Kyrgyz Republic.

**8. Cooperation in the field of culture, information and tourism**

8.1 Indian side requested Kyrgyz side to specify the areas and subjects relating to socio-cultural and economic development of Kyrgyz Republic to which media persons from India can be exposed to and for the larger benefits of both sides.

8.2 Both sides also agreed to exchange information on the most significant cultural events held in both the countries.

8.3 Both sides agreed to consider completing the process of signing of the Agreement between the Ministry of Culture, Information and Tourism of Kyrgyz Republic and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of India on cooperation in the field of information and mass-communication.

8.4 Kyrgyz side proposes to the Indian side to invest in the tourism sector by way of infrastructure projects in the Kyrgyz Republic.

**9. Cooperation in the field of Textiles and Clothing Industry**

Kyrgyz side requested Indian side to consider investing in the textile and clothing industry and the creation of joint enterprises for the production of sewing and knitted goods.

**10. Cooperation between the Chambers of Commerce and Industry**

10.1 Both sides agreed to exchange information and participation of Kyrgyz and Indian companies in exhibitions and fairs held in both countries, preferably by January 2019. Participation in these events will make it possible to visually demonstrate the potential of export products of domestic production; will allow conducting negotiations, visit enterprises in order to see the prospects for cooperation.

10.2 Both sides agreed to hold business to business forums between Kyrgyz and Indian companies, as well as the exchange of business and commercial information and search for partners.

**11. Cooperation in the banking sector**

In order to exchange information within the framework of the functions of banking supervision and regulation, exchange of experience and consultations on this issue, both sides agreed to resume the discussions on the issue of signing a Memorandum between the National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Reserve Bank of India on cooperation and information exchange in the field of banking supervision.

**12. Cooperation in the field of labor and social development**

12.1 Indian side informed Kyrgyz side that Ministry of Labour and Employmentof India is implementing National Career Service (NCS) Project for transformation of the employment services in the country. As a Mission Mode Project for transformation of the National Employment Service, a variety of employment related services  like Career Counselling, Vocational Guidance, Information on Skill Development Courses etc. are being provided under the NCS Project. The NCS portal has a rich repository of career content of over 3600 occupations.

12.2 Indian side  requested Kyrgyz side that the mentioned  project can be used to exchange to provide work experience and professional development in the field of employment promotion.

**13. Cooperation in Mines Sector**

13.1 Considering the possibilities of participation in tenders and auctions, Indian side requested Kyrgyz side to provide specific information with regard to details of tenders and auction process and its dates of the sub soil resources.

13.2 Indian side requested Kyrgyz side regarding the requirements of Kyrgyz geoscientists for customised training course as per their needs, so that suitable training modules could be devised and training imparted to them in GSI’s training institutes in India.

**14. Cooperation in Standards, Metrology and Certification sector**

14.1 Indian side requested Kyrgyz side to consider partnership opportunity with Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) for capacity / skill building of Kyrgyz specialists and transfer of technologies to Kyrgyz industry as CSIR has the State-of-the-art training facilities in terms of expertise, vast infrastructure, modern equipment, latest instrumentation, pilot plants and design facilities in a wide range of areas.

14.2 Both sides expressed satisfaction on exchange of information between Center for Standardization and MetrologyandBureau of Indian Standards in the fields of standardization and conformity assessment. The parties agreed on extension of the BIS-CSM-MoU for further period of 3 years in line with Articles 8.1of the mentioned Memorandum for continuing the cooperation.

**15. Next meeting of the Kyrgyz-Indian Intergovernmental Commission**

The parties agreed to hold the tenth meeting of the Kyrgyz-Indian intergovernmental Commission on Trade-Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, the specific terms of which will be determined through diplomatic channels.

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This Protocol was signed in the city of New Delhi of the Republic of India \_\_\_ November 2018 in two copies, each in the Russian and English languages.

**For the Government of For the Government of**

**The Kyrgyz Republic The Republic of India**

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**KosmosbekCholponbaev Suresh P. Prabhu**

***ANNEXURE 1***

**Delegation list of Indian side**

1. Mr. Suresh Prabhu Minister of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, Co-chairman of India-Kyrgyz IGC

2. Mr.Bidyut Behari Swain Additional Secretary, FT(CIS), DoC

3. Mr. Manish Prabhat, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs

4. Prof Ram Upendra Das, Head & Professor, Centre for Regional Trade,

Centre for Research on International Trade (CRIT)

4. Mr.S.K.Ranjan Deputy Secretary, FT(CIS), DoC

5.  Ms. Kala M. Variar, Director (International Relations), BIS

6. Mr.M.S.Dhillon, Adviser (Trade), Dept. Of Agriculture Cooperation & Farmers Welfare

7. Mr. S. N. Bhagat, Director, M/o. Mines, GSI

8. Dr.Vivek Upadhyay Foreign Tax Division, Deptt.of Revenue

9. Mr.Ashish Dutta Deputy Secretary, DIPP

10. Dr. R. G Bambal, Department of Agriculture & Family Welfare

11. Dr.Shika Anand, DGE, Ministry of Labour and Employment

12. Mr.Lalit Kumar, Economic Advisor, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance

13. Mr.Raghav Bhatt, Deputy Director, DFS, Ministry of Finance

14. Ms. Kala Variar Director (IR), BIS

15. Dr.A.K.Misra, Deputy Secretary, ICAR

16. Mr.T.B.Bavisigar, Under Secretary, DARE

17. Dr.GaganGarg, Assitt. Commissioner (Trade), DAHD&F

18. Ms.Debasmit Roy Chakraborty Deputy Director, FICCI

**Delegation list of Kyrgyz Republic**

1.Mr. Kosmosbek Cholponbaev - Minister, Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic, Co-Chairman of Kyrgyz-India IGC, Head of delegation

2. Mr. Rinat Sydygaliev Expert, International Cooperation Division, Government of Kyrgyz Republic

3. Mr. Ernist Tilekov Head of National Centre of oncology under Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic

4. Ms. Maria Alybaeva Deputy Director, Archive Agency State Registration Service under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic

5. Ms. Zina Karaeva Dean of Linguistics Faculty of International University of Kyrgyzstan

6. Ms. Kymbat Asylbaeva Head of the Legal Support Division of the State Inspectorate for Environmental and Technical Security under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic

7. Mr. Zhumabek Asylbekov Head of the EAEU and WTO Issues Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Food Processing and Melioration of the Kyrgyz Republic

8. Mr. Osmonali Masaliev Head of the International Cooperation Sector of the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic, Chairman of the expert part of the Commission

9. Ms. Zhanna Ilyina Leading Specialist of the Information and Communication Technologies and Electronic Services Policy Forming Division of the State Commission of Information Technologies and Communications of the Kyrgyz Republic

10. Ms. Zhibek Davlesova Leading Specialist of the International Cooperation Division of the Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic – Secretary of the Commission