

**PROTOCOL OF 7th SESSION
OF INDIA - KYRGYZSTAN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL
COMMISSION ON TRADE, ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC AND
TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION**

The 7th Session of the India-Kyrgyzstan Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as IK-IGC) was held on 16th – 17th March, 2015 in New Delhi, India.

The IK-IGC was co-chaired by:

- (i) Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman,
Minister of State (MoS) (I/C),
Department of Commerce (DoC),
Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MoCI),
Government of India (GoI).
- (ii) Mr Kubanychbek Turdubaev,
Minister of Energy and Industry,
Government of Kyrgyzstan.

The composition of the Indian and the Kyrgyz delegations (hereafter referred to as 'Sides') is at **Annexure 1**.

During discussions, held in a business-like and constructive atmosphere, both Sides deliberated and agreed as follows:

1. Review of Status of Bilateral Trade and Investment

1.1. Data pertaining to trade as per the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Government of India organization are tabulated below:

(A) Trade in Goods:

(in US\$ mn.)

Year	Exports from India	Indian Imports from Kyrgyzstan	Total Trade	Trade Balance
2010-11	25.79	1.20	26.98	24.59
2011-12	30.55	0.89	31.44	29.66
2012-13	34.99	2.09	37.07	32.90
2013-14	34.54	0.64	35.18	33.90
2014-15 (Apr- Sep)P	20.37	0.25	20.62	20.12

P-Provisional

1.2. As per the official data of the Kyrgyz Side the trade figures are as follows:

(US\$ mn.)

Year	Exports from Kyrgyzstan to India	Imports from India to Kyrgyzstan	Total Trade	Trade Balance
2010	0.6	21.6	22.2	21.0
2011	18.3	28.3	46.6	20.0
2012	0.5	29.3	29.8	28.8
2013	0.7	26.3	27.0	25.6
2014	2.6	25.2	27.8	22.6

1.3. While taking note of the above trend in Indo-Kyrgyz bilateral trade, both Sides felt that trade is far below potential and there is need to step up cooperation in order to increase bilateral trade.

1.4. Kyrgyz Side has suggested to consider the possibility of implementation of familiarization visits to relevant Ministries, agencies and organizations of India to adopt experience in the field of export promotion and development:

- Sharing of experience of Export Promotion Councils of India in promoting exports;
- Sharing of experience on development of institutes supporting trade in India and their interaction with private sector, state bodies, business associations;
- Sharing of exporter's experience on usage of instruments on available information on trade;
- Sharing of experience of usage of information and communication technologies for information sharing and trade promotion, management of trade portal, traceability of monitoring systems of products, etc.;
- Sharing of experience of small and medium enterprises on entering into new markets.

(B) Investment

1.5. Both sides noted that the current bilateral investment is very small and the two Governments as well as the business community have to make special efforts to enhance investment flows between the two countries.

1.6. Both sides also noted that the two countries have several complementarities, which can be leveraged to mutual advantage. Kyrgyzstan is quite rich in natural resources- agricultural produce, and minerals. India, on the other hand, is a major consumer of these commodities that serve as active ingredients to fuel its industrial growth.

1.7. Both Sides agreed to exchange information about the business opportunity and relevant regulations of doing business in both countries. The investment promotion agencies of the two countries have to play an important role in this regard. (InvestIndia under the Department of Industrial Policy and

Promotion, Government of India and Investment Promotion Agency under the Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic).

1.8. The Kyrgyz side suggested to establish cooperation with InvestIndia in the field of investment promotion, sharing of experience and to conclude Memorandum of Cooperation.

1.9. The institutional arrangements like Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA) and Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) are already in place which provide due comfort to the investor community.

2. Cooperation in Agriculture Sector & Animal Products

2.1. Both Sides noted that wider avenues for augmenting trade in agricultural and food products may be explored and trade basket in agricultural sector may be diversified.

2.2. Indian side stated that as a follow up of the previous IGC, the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has expressed willingness to collaborate in designing and commissioning a 30 ton per day production of dairy product facility in Kyrgyzstan.

2.3. India expressed interest on exporting banana, wheat flour and broken rice to Kyrgyzstan. The Kyrgyz side was requested to provide information on sanitary, phytosanitary (SPS) and other requirements.

2.4. Both the Sides agreed to involve private investors to launch the Potato Processing Plant in Talas. The Kyrgyz Side will extend all support to give required permissions to operate the plant on a commercial level.

3. Cooperation in Pharmaceutical and Health Sector

3.1. Taking into consideration the importance of healthcare for ensuring quality living standards, the Sides agreed to consider the following issues:

- a) To sign the Memorandum between the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of India on cooperation in the field of health care and pharmacy.
- b) To consider possibility of professional development of medical experts of the Kyrgyz Republic in healthcare institutions of India, as well as training on workplaces in the field of oncology, cardiac surgery, endovascular surgery, transplantology and phlebology.
- c) To develop cooperation on introduction of modern technologies in the healthcare, including telemedicine.

3.2 Indian side proposed for cooperation in the field of traditional medicine:

- a) Sharing of experience in regulation, education etc. of traditional medicine;
- b) Providing TM (AYUSH Systems) experts/expertise to Kyrgyzstan as per demand;
- c) Kyrgyz students may be encouraged to avail scholarships in AYUSH Systems to undergo degree level courses like BAMS, BUMS, BHMS etc.
- d) Setting up of AYUSH information Cell in the premises of Indian Mission of Kyrgyzstan;

- e) Signing of MoU between two countries on 'Cooperation in the field of Traditional Medicine'.
- f) Popularising Yoga in Kyrgyzstan.

4. **Cooperation in Energy Sector**

4.1. Both Sides signed an MoU between Ministry of Energy and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) on cooperation in the field of hydropower for development of bilateral cooperation in the energy sector.

4.2. Both the Sides agreed that there is huge potential for cooperation in the field of fuel-energy complex, including in the field of renewable energy sources (use of solar energy, wind power and bio-mass for electric and heat energy generation, as well as bio fuel).

4.3. The Kyrgyz Side suggested to organize training courses for power engineering specialists of Kyrgyzstan in the field of renewable energy sources. Indian side advised Kyrgyz Side to utilize the training courses offered by TERI under ITEC on a regular basis.

5. **Cooperation in Construction & Infrastructure & Mining Sector**

Both Sides agreed for cooperation in mining, railways, construction and infrastructure as given below.

5.1. Indian side proposed following proposals for cooperation:

- a) Co-operation in setting up of new railway locomotive depot at Tuzbel and Karasu for repair and maintenance of 3TE 10M, 4TE 10M locomotive

- b) Creating repair facilities for wheels and axles of railways at Belevodskoe
- c) Construction of crushing and screening plants for minerals

5.2. Kyrgyz Side offered to cooperate in the construction sphere in the following areas:

- a) Indian investment and construction companies should be involved in the construction of housing in the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- b) Creation of facilities for production of construction material on the existing bases;
- c) Cooperation between Kyrgyz and Indian Institutes in the construction sphere (exchange of experience, training, consideration of advanced construction technologies, urban contemporary design of buildings, structures, uses modern computer-electronic technology).

5.3 The Indian side informed the Kyrgyz side of the availability of need based training facility to geoscientists of Kyrgyzstan at Geological Survey of India (GSI) Training Institute.

6. Cooperation in Textiles and Leather Sector

Textile

6.1. Both Sides noted that there is good scope for further strengthening the cooperation in the textile sector (including readymade garments, apparels, man-made fibres, etc), as the exports from India to Kyrgyzstan in the sector account for almost 50% of the total exports from India.

6.2. Both the Sides agreed that there is potential to increase trade and investment relations in textiles, including processing of ginned cotton in cotton fabric and yarn (including mixed, as well coarse and semi coarse wool), on manufacture of silk, as well as processing into semi-manufactured and ready goods.

6.3 Both sides signed an MOU between Ministry of Textiles of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Energy and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic on cooperation in the field of textile Industry

Leather

6.3. Indian side informed that India's share in Kyrgyz market is only 1.88% and leather goods is a major item of export from India to Kyrgyzstan.

6.4. As a follow up to the previous protocol of the IGC, Indian side provided 10 CDs of Directory of members of CLE containing list of members of the Council of Leather Exports (CLE) including exporters of leather goods and footwear to the Kyrgyz side. CLE has also received the list of producers of raw hides and skins and leather. Indian Side requested to provide following additional information so that accordingly the details may be shared with Indian exporters:

- a) Availability of hides, skins and leather in Kyrgyzstan
- b) Export duty if any on export of raw hides and skins and leather, semi processed leather like wet blue, crust leather etc. and also finished leather.
- c) Mode of transport of hides and skins and leather from Kyrgyzstan to India.

- d) Whether the producer of raw hides and skins are interested in export of raw hides and skins to India and whether they are interested in any joint venture for technical collaboration with the Indian companies.

6.5. Indian Side requested the Kyrgyz Side to consider the feasibility of reducing the import duty on leather articles and footwear from the present 10% to 5%. The Kyrgyz side informed that since Kyrgyzstan has signed a treaty to join the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), with the enforcement of the Treaty, such matters would be decided at the level of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC).

7. Cooperation in Standards and Metrology Sector

7.1. The Kyrgyz Side proposed comprehensive cooperation in the field of standardization and metrology. For this purpose the Kyrgyz Side proposed cooperation at the level of concerned National Institutions in both countries – Centre for Standardization and Metrology (CSM) and the State Inspectorate for Metrological Supervision (SIMS) in Kyrgyzstan and the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Indian Institute of Legal Metrology and National Physical Laboratory in India.

7.2. The Sides agreed to consider signing the MoUs between CSM and BIS on cooperation in the field of Standardization and Conformity Assessment at an early date. The Kyrgyz side proposed signing another MoU in the area of metrology, including legal metrology between respective national institutions.

7.3. The Kyrgyz Side sought sharing of Indian experience and expertise on all aspects of standardization viz.

- a) Adoption and approval of standards

- b) Quality testing and compliance assessment methods for products such as melamine, antibiotics, pesticides, food products, etc.
- c) Setting up a modern laboratories including food labs equipped with high accuracy equipment for chromatography, spectrophotometry, immunoenzymatic assay, flamingly induction spectrophotometry, etc
- d) Criteria & method for selection of national quality awards
- e) Application of international standards such as ISO/IEC 17025, ISO/IEC 17043; conduct of audit for award of international standards and their compliance
- f) Training of Kyrgyz personnel on all aspects of standardization and metrology; slots in Indian institutes for obtaining post graduates and doctoral degrees.

7.4. The Kyrgyz Side sought sharing of Indian experience and expertise on all aspects of metrology viz.

- a) The laws related to metrology
- b) Sharing of knowledge on all modes of measuring
- c) Familiarization with metrological infrastructure of India
- d) Training of Kyrgyz specialists at training centres and seminars
- e) Conducting and organization of calibration
- f) Sharing of experience in conducting metrological supervision:-of packed food, in the field of healthcare, veterinary and mutual settlement between producer (seller) and consumer (buyer)

8. Cooperation in Communications & Information Technology Sector

8.1. Kyrgyz Side requested India's assistance in setting up IT parks and sharing India's experience in computerization/ e-governance.

8.2. Indian side suggested a visit to India by an IT expert team from Kyrgyzstan for preliminary discussions on the setting up of High-Tech Industrial Parks, Innovation and Nanotechnology, exchange of experience in the area of IT-Industry and development of e-Governance infrastructure.

9. Other Issues

(A) Education

9.1. Indian Side noted the requirement of Kyrgyzstan in English language courses. In this connection both Sides noted with satisfaction the successful functioning of the English Language Centre under Diplomatic Academy of Kyrgyz MFA. Further, the Kyrgyz Side has suggested increasing the number of slots in ITEC (Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation) for English language courses for healthcare specialists which will be considered by India.

9.2. Indian Side informed that the 85 slots have been provided for Kyrgyzstan in the ITEC programme for 2013-14.

9.3. Both Sides recalled paras 9.9 of the protocol of the 6th IK-IGC regarding exploring the possibility of concluding an agreement on mutual recognition of diplomas in the field of higher education and scientific degree. The Indian side requested a draft of the proposed agreement from the Kyrgyz side. Both sides agreed to expedite conclusion of the agreement.

9.4. Both Sides recalled paras 9.10 of the protocol of the 6th IK-IGC regarding initiative of the Indian side to establish the Kyrgyz-India Institute for Education in Bishkek. The Kyrgyz side requested the Indian side to expedite the matter of the Institute. The Indian side informed that the proposal is under active consideration through MEA. After a Joint Working Group meeting at Ministry of External Affairs held in New Delhi in July, 2014, it has

been considered to commission a feasibility study through EdCIL(India) for this purpose.

9.5. Both sides reiterated their commitment to upgrade the India Kyrgyz centre for IT under the Kyrgyz State University of Construction, Transport and Architecture named after N. Isanov in Bishkek.

(B) Culture

9.6. The sides agreed to expedite the approval and signing of an agreement between the Ministry of Culture, Information and Tourism of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Ministry of Culture, Republic of India on cooperation in the field of culture.

(C) Information and Mass Communication

9.7 The Kyrgyz side suggested to :

- a) Conclude an agreement on cooperation in the field of information and mass communication between the Ministry of Culture, information and tourism of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Republic of India.
- b) Conclude agreement on cooperation in the field of tele-radio broadcasting between the Public Broadcasting Corporation of the Kyrgyz Republic and Doordarshan and All India Radio in order to exchange produced content on a reciprocal basis for its placement in television channel broadcast.
- c) Organise and carry out exchange of media tours for representatives of mass media of the Kyrgyz Republic and India with the goal of mutually showcasing the positive achievements in both countries.



The Indian side requested the Kyrgyz side to send proposals in this regard.

(D) Visa Issues

9.8 The Indian side requested the Kyrgyz side to simplify the existing visa regime and consider a Visa Facilitation Agreement for India, in line with the existing Kyrgyz Non-Visa regime for other nations, to promote greater people to people and business to business exchanges between the two countries. The Kyrgyz side informed to look into this matter.

10. The 8th Session of the India-Kyrgyzstan Inter Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation will be held in Bishkek in 2016. Dates and agenda will be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

Signed on 17th March, 2015 at New Delhi in two originals, each in English and Russian languages, both texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence, the English text shall prevail.

For the Government of the Republic of India	For the Government of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan
 Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of State (I/C) Department of Commerce (DoC) Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MoCI) Government of India	 Mr Kubanychbek Turdubaev, Minister of Energy and Industry Government of Kyrgyzstan

Participants of 7th Session of IK-IGC**Indian Side:**

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2.	Adamkulova Samargyul - Ambassador extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Republic of India;
3.	Choduev Erkinbek - Deputy minister of agriculture and melioration of the Kyrgyz Republic;
4.	Shadyhakhonov Kalysbek - State-secretary of the Ministry of education and science of the Kyrgyz Republic;
5.	Akhmedzhanova Ainura - Director of the State Inspectorate for metrological supervision under the Ministry of economy of the Kyrgyz Republic;
6.	Utebaev Meder - Expert of Division of international cooperation of the Office of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic;
7.	Niyazov Bekbo - Leading specialist of the Division of external ties and project realization of the Ministry of energy and industry of the Kyrgyz Republic;
8.	Turgunbaeva Asel - Head of the Division of international cooperation of the Ministry of economy of the Kyrgyz Republic – secretary of the Kyrgyz part of the Commission;
9.	Kalybek Uulu Bekturgan - Engineer programmer of the Kyrgyz-Indian center of information technologies.