**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 Kyrgyzstan. During the Soviet era, India and the then Kyrgyzia Republic had limited political, economic and cultural contacts.  Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi visited Bishkek and Issyk Kul lake in 1985. Since the independence of Kyrgyz Republic on 31st August, 1991, India was among the first to establish diplomatic relations in 1992; the resident Mission of India was set up in 1994.

**Political relations**

        Political ties with the Kyrgyz Republic have been traditionally warm and friendly. Kyrgyzstan supports India’s bid for permanent seat at UNSC and India’s role in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

        Both countries share common concerns on threat 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.

        At the institutional level, Foreign Office Consultations (the Sixth Session was held in New Delhi in August 2011) have provided a useful forum for exchange of views on bilateral and international issues, thereby facilitating greater understanding. An India-Kyrgyz Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation was set up in 1992. The 6th Session was held in Bishkek on 18-19 July 2013 and a protocol was signed between the two countries.

        The Indo-Kyrgyz diplomatic relations reached its 20th year in 2012.  India announced its Connect Central Asia Policy during the visit of the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. E. Ahamed to Kyrgyzstan on 10-13 June 2012 with the first India-Central Asia Track-II Dialogue held in Bishkek. During the visit, he called on Kyrgyz Prime Minister and held bilateral cooperation discussion with the Kyrgyz Foreign Minister.

      Our close bilateral ties were reinforced by several high-level visits as under:

**From India**:

* Prime Minister Sri Narasimha Rao (September 1995);
* Vice President Sri K.R. Narayanan (September 1996);
* Vice President Sri Krishan Kant (August 1999);
* Minister of External Affairs Shri Yashwant Sinha (January 2003);
* Raksha Mantri Shri George Fernandes (November 2003);
* Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Murli S. Deora (August 2007);
* Raksha Mantri Shri A.K. Antony (July 2011);
* Minister of State for External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed (June, 2012);
* Minister of State for Commerce Dr. D. Purandeswari (July 2013);
* Minister of External Affairs Shri Salman Khurshid (September 2013);
* A 16 member NDC delegation led by Major General Anurag Gupta (11-16 May, 2014).

**From Kyrgyz Republic**:

* President Akaev visited India four times (March 1992, April 1999, August 2002, and November 2003);
* Vice-Prime Minister, Ms. Mira Jangaracheva (March 1997);
* State Secretary, Mr. I. A. Abdurazakov (April 1997);
* Prime Minister, Mr. Apas Jumagulov (May 1997);
* Chairman of the Legislative Assembly of the Kyrgyz Parliament Mr. Usup Mukambaev led a Parliamentary delegation (25th July to 1st August, 1997);
* A 4-member group of the Kyrgyz Parliamentarians (February 1999);
* Defence Minister Lt. General I. Isakov (November  2005);
* Foreign Minister Mr. Ednan Karabaev Oskonovich  (February 2008);
* Defence Minister Kudaiberdiev Abibilla Alymovich (September 2011);
* Defence Minister Maj. General Talaibek Omuraliyev (September 2013);
* Foreign Minister Erlan Abdyldaev (February 2014).

**Commercial Relations**

        Indo-Kyrgyz trade was US$ 35.13 million in 2013-14. India’s exports to Kyrgyzstan was US$ 34.49 million whereas Kyrgyz exports to India was US$0.64 million. Apparel and clothing, leather goods, drugs & pharmaceuticals, fine chemicals, and tea are some of the important items in our export basket to Kyrgyzstan.  Kyrgyz exports to India consist of raw hides, metalifers ores & metal scrap etc.

        The fifth India-Kyrgyz Joint Business Council meeting between Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Kyrgyz Chamber of Commerce and Industry took place in Bishkek on 19 March 2014.

        In 1995, India had extended a US$ 5 million line of credit to Kyrgyzstan; out of this, US$ 2.78 million were disbursed for four projects – a plant for manufacturing toothbrushes, a polythene bag manufacturing plant, a toothpaste production plant and a pharmaceutical plant.  Kyrgyz Republic repaid US$ 1.66 million and the balance amount was converted to grant.

        During the visit of President Akaev to India in August 2002, Government of India had offered setting up an IT development centre and a potato processing plant in Kyrgyzstan. An MoU for setting up of a IT Development Centre was signed in Bishkek on March 20, 2006. HMT (I), the Indian implementing agency, set up the Indo-Kyrgyz Centre for Information Technology in Bishkek and the Centre was formally inaugurated by Indian Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Murli S. Deora on 15th August, 2007. Presently, this Centre is imparting short duration IT courses and has trained over 1000 professionals from Kyrgyzstan by now.

        An MoU was signed in May, 2009 for setting up a potato processing plant (for production of potato chips and potato flakes) at Talas, Kyrgyzstan. The project is being undertaken under India’s Aid to Central Asia.  The plant was inaugurated by Shri E. Ahamed, MoS for External Affairs on 12th June, 2012. GOI provided assistance for setting up a mountain bio-medical research centre in Kyrgyzstan at Too Ashu Pass.  The Centre was inaugurated on 5th July, 2011 by Rakhsa Mantri Shri A. K. Antony.

        Technical assistance under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Program, particularly in terms of human resources development, is the cornerstone of India’s economic involvement in Kyrgyzstan.  Kyrgyzstan has utilized 85 slots for 2013-14.  More than 950 professionals from Kyrgyzstan have received training in India since 1992.

**Cultural Relations**

        In general, there is appreciation of Indian culture. The Centre for Indian Studies set up in Osh State University in 1997 has been useful in providing an exposure to Indian culture and civilization to academicians and intelligentsia in this country. The Chair has been discontinued since 2010 unrests in Osh. Two workshops of Kathak dance were conducted one each in Bishkek (January 2014) and Issyk-kul (July 2014).

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