

India - Ukraine Relations

Political Relations:

Immediately after the breakup of the Soviet Union, Government of India recognized the Republic of Ukraine as a sovereign independent country in December 1991. The Embassy of India in Kyiv was established in May 1992 and Ukraine opened its Mission in New Delhi in February 1993. India and Ukraine enjoy warm and friendly relations.

The MOUs/Agreements signed between India and Ukraine include agreements on Protocol on Establishment of Diplomatic Relations, Agreement on Culture, Arts, Education, Tourism, Sports, Mass Media Cooperation, Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation, Framework Agreement on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Merchant Shipping Agreement, Assistance on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Tourism, Memorandum of Understanding in the field of Standardization, Metrology, Conformity Assessment and Quality, Avoidance of Double Taxation, Promotion and Protection of Investments, Air Service Agreement, Extradition Treaty, Cooperation in Science and Technology, Foreign Office Consultation, Visa Free Travel by the holders of Diplomatic Passports. The agreements signed during the visit of President of Ukraine to India in December 2012 include: Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Civil and Commercial matters, Defence Cooperation and Exchange of Technical Information and Cooperation in Nuclear Defence and Radiation Protection.

Bilateral relations between India and Ukraine were intensified, especially in the aftermath of the successful State visit of H.E. President Yanukovich to India in December 2012. Secretary (Fertilizers) visited Kyiv in January 2013 to explore the opportunities for future cooperation in the fertilizer sector between the two countries. Taking cue from the directives of the Joint Statement of the Presidential visit, the meetings of the Indo- Ukrainian Joint Working Group on Fertilizers(March 20, 2013), Trade and Economic Cooperation (March 20-21, 2013); Tourism(April 8, 2013); Pharmaceuticals(April 15-16, 2013) and Science and Technology(April 22-23, 2013) were held in New Delhi. The Third round of Consular Consultations was held in Kyiv in May 2013. Joint Secretary (PV) led the Indian Delegation and stressed on the need for an early decision on the Visa Facilitation Agreement proposed by India.

Air Chief Marshal Norman Anil Kumar Browne led a Defense delegation to Kiev from 14-19 October 2013. The sides signed a protocol on increasing cooperation between the Ukrainian and Indian Air Forces.

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E. Ahamed, chaired the Fifth Session of the India-Ukraine Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological, Industrial and Cultural Cooperation held on 13 November 2013 in New Delhi. He was accompanied by a 15-member official and 12-member business delegation from Ukraine. A Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in Joint Ventures and Research and Development in Pharmaceuticals and Bio-pharmaceuticals between the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India, and the State Administration of Ukraine on Medicinal Products was signed. The Ukrainian Business Delegation held an interactive session with Indian business community organized by the Federation of Indian

Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). Pharmaceuticals constitute the bulk of India's exports to Ukraine amounting to about US\$ 110 million in year 2015-16.

The Governor of Dnipropetrovsk State in Ukraine, Mr Dmytro Kolesnikov, led a five member official delegation to visit Bengaluru from 18-22 November 2013. The Governor met the top management of Infosys Ltd and interacted with the Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce. The Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce on 20 November 2013 signed a MoU with the Dnipropetrovsk Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

A high-level delegation of 24 Indian Armed Forces Officers led by Major General Vinod Kumar Pillai, Deputy Commandant of the Army War College at MHOW, undertook a study tour to Ukraine from 20-25 October 2013. The team had extensive discussions at the National Defense University at Kyiv and visited a few prominent Defense related institutions and companies of Ukraine.

The 2nd Joint Working Group meeting on Health care and Pharmaceuticals (21-22 January 2016) and the 3rd JWG meeting (5-6 May 2016) on Trade and Economic Cooperation were held in Kyiv.

Shri Anant G. Geete, Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises visited Ukraine from 9-12 November 2016 at the invitation of Mr. Stepan Kubiv, First Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine to reinvigorate friendly relations between India and Ukraine.

Mr. Stepan Kubiv, first Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Trade visited India at the invitation of Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry to participate in 23rd edition of Partnership Summit for Sustained Growth in the emerging Global Economic Order in association with CII and Government of Andhra Pradesh in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh on 28-29 January, 2017. During his visit, he also called on Shri M.J. Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs on 26 January 2017.

Government of Ukraine has also introduced w.e.f. 16 April 2017 'Visa on arrival facility' for Indian citizens for tourism and business purposes with maximum validity of 15 days (with terms and conditions). This facility is available on Boryspil, and Zhuliany Airports in Kyiv and at Odessa International airport. Other details are available at <http://visa.mfa.gov.ua>

Trade and Economic Cooperation

Bilateral trade has grown substantially during last 25 years. In 2016, India was the 6th largest export destination for Ukraine with an export of US\$ 1.94 billion. Bilateral trade stood at US\$ 2.34 billion and made India Ukraine's 8th largest trading partner. During January – May 2017, according to statistics available, India has become the 3rd largest export destination for Ukrainian commodities (**Source: State Statistics Service of Ukraine**) . Sunflower oil constitutes nearly 64% of total Ukrainian export to India. In fact, India is the biggest destination for Ukrainian sunflower oil. There is an ongoing attempt to enhance export of pulses from Ukraine to India. From India, pharmaceutical products are the biggest export to Ukraine. India is the third largest exporter of pharmaceutical products to Ukraine,

after Germany and France, in value terms. A number of Indian companies like Ranbaxy, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Sun Group etc. have their representative offices in Ukraine. Representatives of major pharmaceutical companies have set up an 'Indian Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association in Ukraine. Other items include chemicals of organic origin, tobacco, plastic, coffee, tea, rubber, etc.

The trade figures for the last 5 years are as follows:

		Values in US \$ Millions				
S.No.	Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
1.	EXPORT	520	481	349	260	311
2.	%Growth	5.82	-7.41	-27.50	-25.74	19.89
3.	India's Total Export	300,401	314,405	310,339	262,031	244,802
4.	%Growth	-1.82	4.66	-1.29	-15.57	-6.58
5.	%Share	0.17	0.15	0.11	0.10	0.13
6.	IMPORT	2,657	1,805	2,239	1,751	2,481
7.	%Growth	7.86	-32.09	24.06	-21.79	41.70
8.	India's Total Import	490,737	450,200	448,033	380,665	340,902
9.	%Growth	0.29	-8.26	-0.48	-15.04	-10.45
10.	%Share	0.54	0.40	0.50	0.46	0.73
11.	TOTAL TRADE	3,177	2,286	2,588	2,010	2,792
12.	%Growth	7.52	-28.05	13.21	-22.32	-38.89
13.	India's Total Trade	791,137	764,605	758,372	642,696	585,704
14.	%Growth	-0.52	-3.35	-0.82	-15.25	-8.87
15.	%Share	0.40	0.30	0.34	0.31	0.48
16.	TRADE BALANCE					
17.	India's Trade Balance	-190,336	-135,794	-137,695	-118,634	-96,101

[Source: Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi]

In the economic field, bilateral cooperation continued to strengthen with nearly 20 Indian companies from the Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) participating in the Ambiente Ukraine – a plastics exhibition in Kyiv from 9-12 October 2013 in Kyiv. This was followed by a 17 Member Indian business delegation under ASSOCHAM which took part in the INTERAGRO FAIR in Kyiv 30-31 October 2013.

An Indian company Kalpataru Power Transmission Ltd India has successfully completed a project “750 KV Rivne NPP – Kiev Substation Transmission Line”, which was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Petro Poroshenko, the President of Ukraine on 21 December 2015.

Defence Cooperation

Ukraine has been a reliable source of military technology and equipment for India since its independence. A Defence Cooperation Agreement was signed on 12 December 2012 and has come into force on 17 June 2013. Indian companies both in public and private sectors are collaborating with Ukrainian companies in this area.

ITEC Assistance/Other Training Programmes:

India offers 20 scholarships to Ukraine under ITEC and 5 scholarships under ICCR and Kendriya Hindi Sansthan (2) schemes.

Culture:

There is great interest in Indian culture in Ukraine at the public level, covering various aspects such as dances, yoga, philosophy, Ayurveda and spirituality. There are more than 30 Ukrainian cultural associations/groups spread across the country, engaged in the promoting Indian dances. Most groups have learnt the Indian dances on their own and are promoting the same through festivals and by running dance classes. An organization called “All Ukrainian Association of Indologists” is engaged in organizing seminars, exhibitions on different topics relating to India. A Ukrainian Hindi teacher of the Taras Shevchenko National University, Kyiv was awarded the Vishwa Hindi Samman at 9th World Hindi Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa in September 2012.

The 16th edition of the ‘All Ukrainian Dance Festival of Indian Dances’ was held on October 01-02 in Kyiv Conservatoria. Around 350 local artists participated in the event. 75. ICCR sponsored a visit of the renowned Kathak dancer Richa Jain to be head of jury of the festival and to perform. She held a workshop of kathak dance that was attended by around 30 leaders of Ukrainian dance groups. The festival is jointly organized by the Indian community, the Indian Ukrainian Friendship Association and the federation of the Indian dance in Ukraine.

An Indian film named “WINNER” has been shot in Ukraine in 2016 which has raised awareness of Ukraine in India and has attracted Indian film producers to shoot their films in Ukraine.

Festival of India: The inaugural event of “Festival of India” yearlong celebrations to mark 25 years of India-Ukraine Diplomatic relationship and 70 years of India’s Independence was held on 8 March 2017 in Kyiv. A number of cultural programmes and dances are being held in various parts of Ukraine spread throughout the year for which Indian/performers artists have been visiting Ukraine to show case India’s culture.

The 3rd international Day of yoga was celebrated in a grand way by holding of a Yoga Marathon followed by yoga protocol on 18th June 2017 at Khreshchiatyk

Street, the centre of Kyiv City. The event was attended by around 4052 people including local dignitaries, diplomatic corps, Indian diaspora, friends of India and enthusiastic yoga lovers from different cities of Ukraine. Another event, a Yoga Mela was also organized on 21 June 2017 in a park in the centre of Kyiv where a dance performance was given by the visiting dance group Lok Rang from Rajasthan as part of Festival of India celebrations. The event also showcased culture, henna work and different cuisines of India. The events were concluded by recitation of Shanti Mantras received from the Ministry and were extensively covered by print and electronic media.

Celebrations of India @70 were organized by holding a flag hoisting ceremony at the Embassy in the morning and a reception/cultural programme at the House of Ukraine in the evening. A cultural programme followed by a qawwali performance was organized for 550 plus audience consisting of Ukrainians, diplomatic corps and Indian community. Later in the night, a video clip of tricolor with the logo India@70 was displayed on a prominent building 'Gulliver Mall' located in the heart of Kyiv. The display of Indian tricolor looked stunning, fabulous and mesmerizing adding pride to our national glory. The display was much appreciated by onlookers as it had quite an impact because of the running video clip instead of stationary lights.

Indian community:

The size of the Indian community in Ukraine, excluding students, is estimated to be about two thousand. There are above 8,000 Indian students enrolled in various Ukrainian medical/technical universities. Most Indians here are in business, representing various Indian firms, some in exports, and a few in manufacturing. The local Indian community has formed an association called "India Club" which organizes cultural events. The Indian Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association (IPMA) was set up nearly ten years ago. An Indian NRI businessman has been awarded the Padma Shri in January 2014.

Due to the heightened hostilities in the east of the country, nearly 1000 Indian medical students were successfully evacuated by the Embassy with the cooperation of the Ukrainian Government - to Kyiv and onward to India in June 2014. Subsequently, most of the returning students have relocated to other Medical Universities in Ukraine.

Useful Resources:

Embassy of India Kyiv Website: <http://embassyofindiaukraine.in/index.php>

Facebook page : <https://www.facebook.com/IndiaInUkraine>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/IndiainUkraine>

You tube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXBf6vqqcy5KTsUGUp3NdZA>

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