

## **India - Kazakhstan Relations: Bilateral Brief**

### **1. Background**

I. Relations between India and Kazakhstan are ancient and historical, going back to more than 2000 years. There has been a constant and regular exchange in goods and, more importantly, exchange of ideas and cultural influences. The journey of Buddhism from India to Central Asia and Sufi ideas from Central Asia to India are two such examples.

### **2. Political relations**

II. India was one of the first countries to recognize the independence of Kazakhstan. Diplomatic relations were established in February 22, 1992. The Embassy of India was opened in Almaty in May 1992 (moved to Astana in November 2007) and the Embassy of Kazakhstan in New Delhi in 1993. The capital of Kazakhstan was shifted from Almaty to Astana in 1997.

III. The first PM of India Shri Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru visited Almaty in 1955. The first President Nursultan Nazarbayev visited India in February 1992. He was also the Chief Guest at the Republic Day parade in New Delhi on 26 January 2009. The first President Nursultan Nazarbayev visited India in February 1992. Thereafter, he has visited India in 1993 (transit visit), 1996, 2002 and 2009. He was the Chief Guest at the Republic Day parade in New Delhi on January 26, 2009. India and Kazakhstan bilateral relations were enhanced to Strategic Partnership during this visit. President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev participated in the First India-Central Asia Summit in virtual format hosted by India on 27 January 2022, which coincided with the 30th Anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Central Asian countries.

IV. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Kazakhstan in July 2015 (bilateral visit) and June 2017 (for SCO summit when India was admitted as a full member of the SCO). Other PM-level visits from Indian include those of the Late Shri PV Narsimha Rao in 1993, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in June 2002, and Dr. Manmohan Singh in April 2011. Vice-Presidents Shri K.R. Narayanan and Shri Hamid Ansari visited Kazakhstan in 1996 and 2008 respectively.

V. During the visit of Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi (2015), Param Bilim Supercomputer was gifted to Kazakhstan. Param Bilim Supercomputer was upgraded and operationalised on 28 June, 2025 in Akkol, Kazakhstan.

VI. Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi participated in the 17<sup>th</sup> SCO Summit in Astana on 8-9 June 2017. India was admitted as a full member of the SCO during the Summit. Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi chaired the virtual SCO Council of Heads of State Summit on 04 July 2023 under the Indian Chairmanship.

### **VII. Important Visits**

**(a) Visits of Prime Ministers of India to Kazakhstan**

| <b>S. No.</b> | <b>Prime Minister</b>         | <b>Period of Visit</b>       |
|---------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1.            | H.E Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru    | 1955 (Almaty)                |
| 2.            | H.E Shri P.V Narsimha Rao     | 1993                         |
| 3.            | H.E Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee | June 2002                    |
| 4.            | H.E Dr. Manmohan Singh        | 15-16 April 2011             |
| 5.            | H.E Shri Narendra Modi        | 07-08 July 2015 (Bilateral)  |
| 6.            | H.E Shri Narendra Modi        | 08-09 June 2017 (SCO Summit) |

**(b) Visit of Vice President to Kazakhstan**

| <b>S. No.</b> | <b>Vice President</b>    | <b>Period of Visit</b> |
|---------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1.            | H.E Dr. S. Radhakrishnan | 1956                   |
| 2.            | H.E Shri K. R. Narayanan | 1996                   |
| 3.            | H.E Shri Hamid Ansari    | 2008                   |

**(c) Other Important engagements**

| <b>Name of visiting dignitary from India</b>                                           | <b>Period of visit</b> | <b>Nature of Visit</b>                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| H.E. Smt. Sushma Swaraj, EAM                                                           | Aug 2-3, 2018          | Bilateral                                                                 |
| H.E. Smt. Nirmala Seetharaman, Defence Minister                                        | October 2-4, 2018      | Bilateral                                                                 |
| H.E. Shri Harivansh Narayan Singh, Deputy Chairman Rajyasabha                          | September 23-24, 2019  | 4 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of Eurasian Countries' Parliament                 |
| H.E. Shri V. Muraleedharan, MoS for External Affairs and MoS for Parliamentary Affairs | November 11-12, 2019   | To attend Astana Club Meeting                                             |
| H.E. Dr. S. Jaishankar, EAM                                                            | October 11-12, 2021    | To attend 6 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of Ministers of Foreign affairs of CICA |
| H.E. Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi                                                             | June 12-14, 2022       | Bilateral                                                                 |

|                                                                     |                  |                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| H.E. Dr. S. Jaishankar, EAM                                         | July 3-4, 2024   | To participated in the SCO Council of Heads of State Summit                               |
| Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)<br>Shri Rajiv Kumar               | 22-24 June 2024  | Meeting with the Chairman of the Central Election Commission of Kazakhstan Nurlan Abdirov |
| Hon'ble Chief Justice of India Dr. D.Y. Chandrachud                 | 19 - 20 May 2024 | Meeting with the Chairman of Supreme Court of Kazakhstan, Mr. Aslambek Mergaliev          |
| Hon'ble Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha Shri Harivansh Narayan Singh | 10-12 April 2025 | Parliamentary Delegation for IPU in Uzbekistan                                            |

**VIII.** EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar visited Kazakhstan on 11-12 October 2021 and participated in the 6th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA). He called on President Tokayev and conveyed greetings from PM Modi and his invitation to visit India in 2022. He discussed bilateral relations and conveyed India's proposal on the mutual recognition of Covid vaccination certificates. MoS Meenakshi Lekhi participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> CICA Summit on 13 October 2022 in Astana as the Prime Minister's Special Envoy.

**IX.** EAM participated in the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) chaired by Kazakh Prime Minister Askar Mamin via videoconference on 25 November 2021.

**X.** EAM met Mr. Mukhtar Tileuberdi, the Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan on 24 September 2019 in New York on the sidelines of UNGA. On 10 September 2020 also, EAM met him on the sidelines the SCO Meeting of Foreign Ministers in Moscow. EAM again met the Kazakh DPM and FM Tileuberdi (i) on 30 March 2021 in Dushanbe, on the sidelines of 9<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process (ii) on 16 July 2021 in Tashkent, on the sidelines of Connectivity Conference (International Conference "Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity, Challenges and Opportunities"). (iii) on 19 Dec 2021 in New-Delhi on the sidelines of 3rd Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the India – Central Asia Dialogue (iv) on 29 July 2022 on the sidelines of the meeting of the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

**XI.** Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Mukhtar Tileuberdi visited New Delhi on 18-21 December 2021 to participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of

India-Central Asia Dialogue. On the sidelines, they held bilateral meeting on 19 December 2021.

**XII.** On May 05, 2023, EAM Dr Jaishankar held a bilateral meeting with Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Murat Nurtleu on the sidelines of SCO Council of Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Goa, India.

**XIII.** On 17 November 2023, Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Murat Nurtleu took part in a virtual panel session of the Ministerial meeting on the theme "India and the Global South: Joint development for a Better Future", which took place within the framework of the 2nd Summit "The Voice of the Global South".

**XIV.** On 22 May 2024, Secretary (ER) Shri Dammu Ravi participated in the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Astana.

**XV.** On 28 October 2020, the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of Ministers of External Trade and Economy of the SCO member States was held in virtual format. The Indian side delegation was led by Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister for Commerce and Industry and the Kazakh delegation was led by Mr. Ruslan Dalenov, Minister of National Economy of Kazakhstan.

**XVI.** The 19th Summit of SCO Council of Heads of Government was held on 30 November 2020 in video-conference format in which Vice President of India Shri Venkaiah Naidu Chaired the meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government hosted by India and the Kazakh delegation was led by Mr. Askar Mamin, Prime Minister of Kazakhstan.

**XVII.** On 4 September 2020, Raksha Manti Shri Rajnath Singh met Defence Minister of Kazakhstan Lt. Gen. Nurlan Yermekbayev, on the sidelines of joint meeting of the Defence Ministers of SCO, CIS and CSTO members in Moscow. Defence Minister of Kazakhstan Lt. Gen. Nurlan Yermekbayev visited India on 7-10 April 2021 and met with RM Rajnath Singh. Kazakhstan's National Security Committee Chairman Karim Massimov, who was also former PM of Kazakhstan visited India and participated in the Delhi Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan on 10 November 2021. He met PM Modi along with NSAs and Security Council Chiefs of other countries. A meeting between RM Rajnath Singh and Col Gen Ruslan Zhaksylykov, Defence Minister of Kazakhstan was held on 23 August 2022, on sidelines of SCO Defence Ministers meeting at Tashkent.

**XVIII.** Mr. Askar Zhumagaliyev, Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan visited India on 20-22 September, 2018. H.E. Mr. Kanat Bozymbayev, Minister of Energy accompanied by Mr. Yermek Kosherbayev, Deputy Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan visited India to attend Petrotech-2019 on 10-12 February held in New Delhi. Mr. Yuri Ilyin, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan visited India to attend the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Heads of Officers of the SCO member states on joint urban earthquake search and rescue exercise held on 4-7 November, 2019 in New Delhi. Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Mr. Askar Mamin participated in the 19th Summit of SCO Council of Heads of Government (hosted by India), held on 30 November 2020, in virtual format.

**XIX.** Mr. Bakyt Sultanov, Deputy Prime Minister-Minister of Trade and Integration visited India on 2-4 June 2022 to Co-Chair the India-Kazakhstan Intergovernmental Commission, which was held on 03 June, 2022.

**XX.** In February 2026, Prime Minister of Kazakhstan, H.E Mr. Olzhas Bektenov visited India to attend the AI Impact Summit and held talks with PM of India, Sh. Narendra Modi. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Digital Development and AI, Mr. Zhaslan Madiyev was part of the Kazakh delegation.

### **3. Bilateral Mechanisms**

**I. Foreign Office Consultations (FOC)** at the level of Deputy Foreign Ministers/Secretary (West) are held to discuss the entire range of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. The 7<sup>th</sup> round of FOC was held in November 2020 through DVC [Digital Video Conference]. The Indian side was led by Shri Vikas Swarup, Secretary (West) and the Kazakh side was led by Mr Shakhmat Nuryshev, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The last (8<sup>th</sup> round) of FOC was conducted in physical form in New Delhi on 13 February 2023. The Indian side was led by the Secretary (West) Shri Sanjay Verma and the Kazakh side was led by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr Kanat Tumyshev. The 9<sup>th</sup> FOC has been proposed by the Indian side to be conducted from 27-28 February, 2026 in physical mode in Astana.

### **4. India Central Asia Dialogue (ICAD)**

**I.** Kazakhstan is also part of the India-Central Asia Dialogue (ICAD). The first meeting of the ICAD which was held in Samarkand on 12-13<sup>th</sup> January 2019, under which the 1st India-Central Asia Business Council (ICABC) meeting was organized by FICCI on 6 February, 2020 in New Delhi. The 2<sup>nd</sup> India-Central Asia Dialogue (ICAD) was held on 28 October 2020 in digital video conference format. Indian side was led by H.E Dr. S Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister, and Kazakh side was led by H.E. Mr. Mukhtar Tileuberdi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan. The 2nd ICABC was held on 28 October 2020 through video conference, organized by FICCI. The 3rd ICAD was held in New Delhi on 18-20 December 2021. Kazakhstan was represented by H.E Mr. Mukhtar Tileuberdi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The Fourth ICAD was held in New Delhi in June 2025. DPM & FM, H.E Murat Nurtleu led the Kazakh delegation. The Fifth ICABC was also organized by FICCI on the sidelines of ICAD 2025.

### **5. India-Central Asia Summit**

**I.** The first ever India-Central Asia Summit at the level of leaders was held on 27 January 2022 in virtual format, wherein Kazakh side was represented by President of Kazakhstan. President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev stressed on further development of trade and economic cooperation, transport and logistics sector and increasing the volume of

mutual investments in the areas of mining and metallurgical complex, agriculture, green energy, healthcare and the pharmaceutical sector, artificial intelligence, Big Data, the Internet of Things, online commerce, cyber-security, creation of laboratories in Kazakhstan in the field of telecommunications & electronics industry, and training of highly qualified IT specialists. He proposed to open an engineering office and an information technology school for Central Asia with Indian IT giants.

**II.** FICCI organized an India-CA virtual conference on Energy on 24 August 2022.

**III.** A three member delegation led by Mr Gizat Nurdauletov, Secretary of the Security Council of Kazakhstan, visited New Delhi and Agra from 05 to 07 December for the inaugural India-Central Asia Meeting of Secretaries of Security Councils / NSAs.

**IV.** A 20 member delegation from Kazakhstan participated in the 10 member Youth Delegation Program organized by Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs under the aegis of India-Central Asia Summit from 17-23 November 2022.

**V.** The First Meeting of the JWG on Afghanistan was held in New-Delhi on 07 March 2023. The Kazakh delegation was led by Ambassador-at-Large of the MFA Talgat Kaliyev

**VI.** On 03 April, Minister of Culture, Tourism and Development of North Eastern Region Shri G. Kishan Reddy hosted the first India-Central Asia Culture Ministers' Meeting through video conferencing. From Kazakh side, the Minister of Culture and Sports Askhat Oralov participated.

**VII.** The 1st meeting of India-Central Asia JWG on Chabahar port was held in Mumbai on 12-13 April 2023. In the meeting, Kazakhstan invited India to be the part of North South Roadmap.

## **6. Cooperation in UN and Multilateral**

**I.** India and Kazakhstan actively cooperate under the aegis of Multilateral Fora including CICA, SCO and the UN organizations. India has been a consistent supporter of Kazakhstan's initiative on Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and is actively participating in the process. Kazakhstan supports India's permanent membership in an expanded UNSC and had extended its support for India's non-permanent membership in 2021-22. India supported Kazakhstan's successful candidature for non-permanent membership of UNSC in 2017-18.

[Note: Tej Kadam: India - Kazakhstan Joint Statement named 'Tej Kadam' during PM Modi's bilateral visit to Astana (08 July 2015): "President Nazarbayev reiterated Kazakhstan's full support for India's permanent membership in an expanded UNSC."]

II. India assumed rotational presidency of SCO in September 2022 culminating in SCO Council of Heads Meeting on 4 July 2023, in virtual format. During the India's presidency, following important visits took place:

### Kazakh Participation in SCO Events

| S. No. | Meeting                                                                                      | Date                      | Name and Designation                                                                                                             |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.     | Meeting of the Chairmen of the Supreme Courts of the SCO Member States,                      | 10-12 March 2023, Delhi   | Delegation led by Mergaliev Aslambek Amangeldievich – Chairman of Supreme Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan;                   |
| 8      | Meeting of SCO Heads of Tourism Administrations                                              | 17-18 March 2023, Kashi   | <u>Delegation led by Yerzhan</u> Malikovich Yerkinbayev, Vice-Minister of Culture and Sports of the Republic of Kazakhstan       |
| 9      | Meeting of SCO Ministers of Physical Culture and Sports                                      | 15 March 2023 , New Delhi | Delegation led by Yerzhan Malikovich, _____Yerkinbayev, Vice-Minister of <u>Culture and Sports of the Republic of Kazakhstan</u> |
| 10     | Meeting of Secretary of Security Councils of SCO Member States                               | 29 March 2023             | Mr. Gizat Nurdauletov<br>Aide to the President - Secretary of the Security Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan                 |
| 11     | The 20th Session of Culture Ministers' Meeting of SCO Member States (held <b>Virtually</b> ) | 03 April 2023             | Minister of Culture and Sport Askhat Oralov participated                                                                         |
| 12     | 11th meeting of the heads of the emergency situations agencies of the SCO member countries   | 20 April 2023             | Kazakh Emergency Situations Minister Yuri Ilyin. Also held bilateral with HM Amit Shah                                           |

|     |                                                |                  |                                                                                                                           |
|-----|------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 13  | SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting                 | 27-28 April 2023 | Kazakh Defense Minister Col. Gen. Ruslan Zhaksylykov participated physically and had bilateral with RM Rajnath Singh      |
| 14  | SCO Transport Ministers' Meeting               | 28 April 2023    | Dy Chairman of Transport Committee of the Ministry of Industry and Infrastructural Development Mr Ali Altay participated. |
| 15  | SCO Council of Foreign Ministers' Meeting      | 05 May 2023      | Kazakh DPM -FM Muat Nurtleu participated and had bilateral with EAM Jaishankar.                                           |
| 16  | SCO Health Ministers meeting (Online)          | 12 May 2023      |                                                                                                                           |
| 17  | SCO Agriculture Ministers Meeting (Online)     | 12 May 2023      |                                                                                                                           |
| 18  | SCO Ministers of ICT (Online)                  | 13 May 2023      |                                                                                                                           |
| 19  | SCO Minister of Science and Tech (Online)      | 16 May 2023      |                                                                                                                           |
| 20. | SCO Council of Heads of State Summit (Virtual) | 04 July 2023     | President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev participated.                                                                             |

## 7. Defence Cooperation

I. Defence cooperation is an essential pillar of our strategic partnership with Kazakhstan. The Indo-Kazakh Defence Cooperation is carried out under the framework of an agreement on 'Defence and Military Technical Cooperation' signed in July 2015. Bilateral defence cooperation currently comprises military-technical cooperation, military education and training, joint exercises, bilateral visits, joint sports and adventure activities and a Youth Exchange Program (YEP) between NCC and the Voenni Kafedra (cadet corps) in Kazakhstan.



**II.** In 2018, India and Kazakhstan agreed for deployment of a Kazakh contingent under the Indian Battalion at UNIFIL, Lebanon. About 530 Kazakh armed forces personnel have participated in the mission so far. Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, the then Raksha Mantri visited Kazakhstan on 2-4 October 2018 for bilateral talks and joint Flag-off of the 1st Kazakh contingent to UNIFIL. After four rotations at Company level, India agreed on a rotation at platoon level which was followed by the sixth to tenth rotation, of six personnel each.

**III.** A 16-member delegation participated in Def Expo 2020 from 05-07 February 2020 at Lucknow. A three-member delegation from Ministry of Defence of Kazakhstan, led by Lt Gen Ruslan Shpekbayev, Deputy Defence Minister, visited Gandhinagar, Gujarat from 17-19 October 2022, in connection with Defence Expo-2022 and a two-member delegation visited India in February 2023 for Aero India 2023. A two member delegation, led by Chief of Department of International cooperation of Ministry of Defence of Kazakhstan visit New Delhi on 5 December 2022 for joint services staff talks.

**IV.** On 4 September 2020, Mr. Rajnath Singh, RM, had productive interaction with the Defence Minister of Kazakhstan, Lieutenant General Nurlan Yermekbayev, on the sidelines of Meeting of the Defence Ministers of SCO members in Moscow. Lt. Gen Nurlan Yermekbayev, Minister of Defence of Kazakhstan paid an official visit to India on 7-9 April 2021. During the visit, Kazakh Defence Minister held bilateral meetings with RM and NSA. A meeting between RM Rajnath Singh and Col Gen Ruslan Zhaksylykov, Defence Minister of Kazakhstan was held on 23 August 2022, on sidelines of SCO Defence Ministers meeting at Tashkent. Shri Pankaj Kumar Singh, Dy NSA led India's delegation at SCO RATS in Astana from 7-9 September 2023. Indian delegation led by Shri Rajesh Arya, AS(NSCS) attended the SCO RATS GLE meeting in Astana from 3-6 September 2023. MOS for Defence & Tourism, Shri Ajay Bhatt met with Mr Sultan Kamaletdinov, Deputy Minister of Defence of Kazakhstan and discussed bilateral defence cooperation, including the UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting in Ghana on 6 December 2023.

**V.** India and Kazakhstan conducted a 13-day military exercise "KAZIND-21" from 30 August to 11 September 2021 in Taraz, Kazakhstan with a focus on counter-insurgency/counter-terrorism operation in the mountainous, rural scenario under UN mandate. "KAZIND-22" was conducted at Umroi (Meghalaya) from 15-28 December 2022. 'Exercise KAZIND-2023' was held at Otar, Kazakhstan from 30 October to 11 November 2023, in which for the first time Air Forces of both countries and Airborne Assault Forces of Kazakhstan also participated. The 8th edition of the India-Kazakhstan joint military exercise, KAZIND-2024, was held in Auli, Uttarakhand from September 30<sup>th</sup> – October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024. KAZIND 2026 is scheduled to be held in Kazakhstan.

**VI.** About 370 defence personnel have availed of the short term specialized capacity building training programmes offered under the scheme. In August 2021, two members from Indian Army officers were deployed to Kazakh National University (NDU), Astana as English Language instructors. The second rotation of the training team is currently underway.

**VII.** 6th meeting of the India-Kazakhstan JWG on Defence took place in Bengaluru on 22 November 2023. Both sides discussed issues of defence cooperation and matters of mutual interest. The meeting was co-Chaired by JS(IC) Vishwesh Negi and Kazakh Vice Minister, Ministry of Industry and Construction Azamat Beispekov. Seventh JWG on Defence and Military-technical Cooperation was held in Astana in April 2025 to carry defense collaboration forward.

**VIII.** The 5th Meeting of India-Kazakhstan Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism was held in Astana on 08 April 2024. The Indian side was led by Joint Secretary (CT), K.D. Dewal.

## **8. Security**

**I.** Kazakhstan's National Security Committee Chairman Karim Massimov, who was also former Prime Minister of Kazakhstan, visited India to participate in the Delhi Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan, held on 10 November 2021. During the regional conference, Karim Massimov met NSA. He, along with NSAs and Security Council Chiefs of other countries, also had a meeting with PM Modi.

**II.** An MOU on Cooperation between National Security Councils of the two countries was signed in February 2012. First regular consultations between the National Security Secretariats were held in Astana on 27-28 February 2017. The third consultations were held in Delhi on 5-6 March 2019.

**III.** The 4th India-Kazakhstan Security Dialogue was held in Astana on 3 August 2023, co-chaired by Amb. Vikram Misri, Deputy National Security Adviser of India and Mr. Nurzhan Kajiakbarov, Deputy Secretary of the Security Council of Kazakhstan.

**IV.** NSA Shri Ajit Doval led Indian delegation at the 2nd meeting of the National Security Advisors/Secretaries of the Security Councils of India and Central Asia held in Astana on 17 October 2023. Further, NSA Shri Ajit Doval participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Secretaries of the Security Council/National Security Advisors on 16 October 2025 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

**V.** NSA Ajit Doval participate in the 19th annual meeting of the secretaries of the security councils of the SCO member states in Astana on 02-03 April 2024.

**VI.** Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane participated in SCO Defence Ministers' meeting in Astana on 26 April 2024.

## **9. Trade & Economy**

**I.** The India-Kazakhstan Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) established in 1993 is the apex bilateral institutional mechanism for developing trade, economic, scientific,

technological, industrial and cultural cooperation between the two countries. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on the Indian side and Ministry of Trade and Integration on the Kazakh side have been the nodal ministries with respective Ministers as the Co-Chairs of the Commission. The 14<sup>th</sup> round of IGC was held on 03 June 2022 in New Delhi. Nine Joint Working Groups (JWGs) have been established in the areas of Counter Terrorism, Trade & Economic Cooperation, Defence & Military Technical Cooperation, Transport, Connectivity and Logistics, Information Technology, Hydrocarbons, Textiles, Tea Debt and Space Cooperation. It was decided to set up three new Joint Working Groups on Chabahar port, Pharmaceuticals and Healthcare to take forward bilateral relations in the respective spheres.

**II.** Kazakhstan is India's largest trade and investment partner in Central Asia. As per statistics of Kazakhstan for 2025, total bilateral trade between India and Kazakhstan amounted to USD 923 million (5.22 % increase from 2024).

**III.** FICCI and Chamber of International Commerce of Kazakhstan have set up a Joint Business Council (JBC) to promote trade, economic and investment cooperation between the two countries. First meeting took place in 2016 in Astana and the second meeting of the JBC was held in New Delhi on 16 February 2018.

**IV.** The 8th JWG meeting on Trade and Economy Cooperation was held through Video Conference on 24 January 2025.

**V.** APEDA, the organization promoting Indian agro-products sent a delegation to Almaty and Astana in June 2018 that conducted wet sampling of different varieties of Indian mangoes in prominent stores of Kazakhstan. Similarly, a Tea delegation visited Almaty in August 2018 and conducted tea promotion events and held B2B meetings. EEPC India under the aegis of Ministry of Commerce and Industry organized India pavilion at Kazbuild and Aquatherm 2019 which was held at Almaty, Kazakhstan on 4-6 September, 2019. In the India Pavilion, around 30 Indian engineering companies participated to showcase their product and capabilities in the areas of Construction material and Equipment, hardware and tools, Roofing and Technology, window Décor, HVAC equipments and Services, Water purification, Accessories and Valves. A delegation led by CAPEXIL comprising 18 Indian companies exhibited their products at the Kazcomak Expo held in Almaty on 18-20 September 2019 and also held B2B meetings with local businessmen. Ministries of Tourism from the states of Kerala, Rajasthan and delegates from Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India and businessmen from Indian tourism sector attended the PATA Travel Mart 2019 held in Astana on 18-20 September, 2019 to promote tourism in India.

**VI.** PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) of India and the Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil) visited Almaty on 28-29 March, 2022. During the visit they had a conference and a series of B2B meetings with Kazakh counterparts.

**VII.** The Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC) of India business delegation paid a visit to Almaty (Kazakhstan) on 9-10 February, 2023. Delegation consisted of companies from various sectors such as logistics, tourism, health-care, education, consultancy, IT, construction, animation, etc. The official visit a comprised 2 days business program: B2B event and industrial visits.

**VIII.** On August 24, 2023, a business delegation of the Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI), comprising more than 20 companies from the ceramics and vitrified tiles sector visited Almaty.

**IX.** Kazakhstan's Vice Minister of Trade and Integration, Kairat Torebayev led a Kazakh delegation to the 10th Global Dynamic Gujarat Summit from January 10-12, 2024.

**X.** Commercial events conducted by Embassy of India during FY 25-26, Astana is appended below.

| <b>S.No.</b> | <b>Description of Event</b>                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Attendees<br/>(Including Indian Business, Kazakh Businesses, Diplomats, Visitors and Indian/Kazakhstan Government Officials)</b> |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1.</b>    | India-Kazakhstan Tourism Business Forum in Almaty, June 23, 2025                                                                                                                | 160                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>2.</b>    | Conference & Exhibition on Ayurveda & Traditional Medicine in Almaty, September 11-12, 2025                                                                                     | 800                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>3.</b>    | Promotion of wellness Tourism during celebration of Onam in Almaty, September 21, 2025                                                                                          | 100                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>4.</b>    | Indian Food Festival in Almaty, September 24-27, 2025                                                                                                                           | 200                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>5.</b>    | Conference on "India and Kazakhstan: Forging Partnership in an Age of Disruption" in association with Narxoz University & HeartLand Expert Analytical Center, November 13, 2025 | 100                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>6.</b>    | Opening of ODOP Wall in RoI in Almaty, December 10, 2025                                                                                                                        | 50                                                                                                                                  |

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |             |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>7.</b>  | Seminar with Bank CenterCredit: “Kazakhstan–India: Opportunities for Cooperation in 2026” in Almaty, December 10, 2025                                                                                  | 40          |
| <b>8.</b>  | Tea Tasting Event and Promotion of Indian Coffee during the National Day Reception in Astana, January 23, 2026                                                                                          | 300         |
| <b>9.</b>  | (a) Tea Tasting Event and Promotion of Indian Coffee during the National Day Reception in Almaty, January 27, 2026<br>(b) ODOP Exhibition during the National Day Reception in Almaty, January 27, 2026 | 270         |
| <b>10.</b> | Indian Tea Festival in Almaty (January 28, 2026), Shymkent (March 20, 2026), Turkestan (March 21, 2026), Celebration of Nauryz Festival in Karavan Saray, Turkestan (March 21, 2026)                    | 900         |
| <b>11.</b> | India Kazakhstan Pharma Business Meet, 27 March 2026, Almaty                                                                                                                                            | 250         |
| <b>12.</b> | Engagements of Head of Commercial Wings, SS (Commercial)                                                                                                                                                | 60          |
| <b>13.</b> | Tentative Total Number of People Engaged through Events and Meetings conducted by the Commercial Wing                                                                                                   | <b>3230</b> |

## **10. Connectivity**

I. There are 16 direct flights between Delhi and Almaty everyday. In 2024, approx 1200 medical tourists from Kazakhstan visited India. Further, 23000 Kazakh tourists visited India and 146000 India tourists visited Kazakhstan in 2024. In 2025, Indian tourist arrival in Kazakhstan are expected to cross 2,00,000.

## **11. Cultural relations**

I. India and Kazakhstan enjoy close cultural relations that manifest in popularity of yoga, Indian films, dance and music in Kazakhstan. Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre in Astana is engaged in various cultural activities, including conducting of yoga, dance and music classes. India provides scholarships in various disciplines under the ICCR Scholarship programmes for students from Kazakhstan. In 2025, 34 celebrations of International Day of Yoga was celebrated across 21 cities of Kazakhstan, engaging a total of 8500 participants.

II. There are 10 slots allocated to Kazakhstan under General Scholarship Scheme under ICCR. The courses offered including i) Agriculture, Food and Fertilizers, ii) Artificial Intelligence, iii) Banking, Finance, Accounts and Audit, iv) Cyber Technologies, v) Education, vi) Engineering and Technology, vii) Hindi Language, viii) Environmental and Climatic Changes, ix) Government Function, x) health and Yoga, xi) Human Resource Development and Planning etc.

III. Kazakhstan's Filarmonia Chamber Choir of more than 80 Kazakh musicians reached in Delhi to participate in the 33rd edition of the Lakshminarayana Global Music Festival in New Delhi. MOS Meenakshi Lekhi inaugurated Bharat Symphony on 5 January 2024.

## **12. ITEC/Development Assistance:**

I. Kazakhstan has been a partner country of India under the ITEC program since 1992. India offers around 10,000 civilian training slots and 3,200 defense training slots world-wide, including 100 civilian slots and 25 defense slots to Kazakhstan. Since 1992, more than 1500 professionals from Kazakhstan comprising about 1130 civilian participants and about 370 defence personnel have availed of the short term specialized capacity building training programmes offered under the scheme.

## **13. Consular Matters**

I. India and Kazakhstan have an agreement on visa free entry for Diplomatic and Official passport holders. India has extended e-VISA facility to Kazakh citizens. Since July 08, 2022, Kazakhstan has extended visa-free stay in Kazakhstan for up to 14 days to Indian citizens holding ordinary passports. During the COVID period, this e-visa was suspended but it is now operational since 06 December 2022. The maximum duration of the visitor's visa-free stays is 42 days within every 180 days. India also offers 30 days Gratis VISA to Kazakh nationals in Tourism VISA, Medical VISA and Medical Attendant VISA categories.

## **14. COVID Cooperation**

I. In April 2020, Government of India provided 30000 tablets of Hydroxychloroquin as humanitarian assistance to Kazakhstan for its fight against COVID-19.

II. In May 2021, in view of the sharp deterioration of the epidemiological situation in India around 40 tonnes of air cargo (61.5 lakh medical masks, 4 lakh respirators, 50,000 anti-plague suits, and 105 portable artificial lung ventilation devices made in Kazakhstan) was sent to India by the Govt. of Kazakhstan as humanitarian aid to combat the COVID-19.

## **15. Indian community**

I. The size of the Indian community is about 11,000 in Kazakhstan. Out of this, about 10,000 are Indian students and the rest are in various professional fields.

II. Several special evacuation flights operated by Air India under the VBM and charter flights evacuated 3,745 Indian nationals from Kazakhstan to India. The evacuated Indian nationals included medical students, tourists, professionals and workers.

## **16. Important Visits from Kazakhstan to India**

### **(a) Visit of President of Kazakhstan to India**

| S. No. | President                    | Period of Visit                              |
|--------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1.     | H.E. Mr Nursultan Nazarbayev | 1996                                         |
| 2.     | H.E. Mr Nursultan Nazarbayev | 2002                                         |
| 3.     | H.E. Mr Nursultan Nazarbayev | 2009 as a Chief Guest in Republic Day parade |

### **(b) Visits from Kazakhstan to India since 2014**

| S. No. | Name of visiting dignitary to India                                                                                                                                                                          | Period of visit       |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.     | Vladimir Shkolnik, Minister of Energy visited India to attend 12 <sup>th</sup> India-Kazakhstan Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical, Industrial and Cultural Cooperation. | Jun 15-17, 2015       |
| 2.     | Asset Issekeshav, Minister of Investment and Development met with Minister of Steel and Mines Narendra Singh Tomar                                                                                           | Jun 15-17, 2015       |
| 3.     | Askar Zhumagaliyev, Deputy Prime Minister met with the Minister of Communications and Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad.                                                                            | September 20-22, 2018 |
| 4.     | Kanat Bozymbayev, Minister of Energy attended Petrotech 2019 in India                                                                                                                                        | February 10-12, 2019  |

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|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 5.  | Defence Minister of Kazakhstan Lt. Gen. Nurlan Yermekbayev met with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.                                                                                                                                     | 7-10 April 2021     |
| 6.  | Kazakhstan's National Security Committee Chairman and former PM Karim Massimov participated in the Delhi Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan                                                                                      | 10 November 2021    |
| 7.  | Deputy PM and Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan Mukhtar Tileuberdi Participated in the 3rd Meeting of Foreign Ministers of India-Central Asia Dialogue in New Delhi.                                                                       | 18-19 December 2021 |
| 8.  | Deputy PM and Minister of Trade and Integration Bakhyt Sultanov visited India to co-chair the 14th Session of India-Kazakh Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical, Industrial and Cultural Cooperation. | 2-3 June 2022       |
| 9.  | Deputy Foreign Minister Kanat Tumysh visited India for India-Kazakhstan Foreign Office Consultations (FOC)                                                                                                                              | 13 February 2023    |
| 10. | Deputy Prime Minister-Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Murat Nurtleu visited Goa for SCO Council of Foreign Ministers' Meeting and held bilateral with EAM Dr Jaishankar                                                                  | 05 May 2023         |
| 11. | CEC Kazakhstan, Mr. Nurlan Abdirrov visited India to attend an International conference organized by ECI                                                                                                                                | January 2025        |
| 12. | DPM & FM, H.E Murat Nurtleu participated in the Fourth India Central Asia Dialogue organized in New Delhi                                                                                                                               | June 2025           |
| 13. | CEC Kazakhstan, Mr. Nurlan Abdirrov visited India to attend an International conference organised by ECI                                                                                                                                | 21-23 January 2026  |
| 14. | Prime Minister of Kazakhstan, H.E Mr. Olzhas Bektenov, along with Minister of Digital                                                                                                                                                   | 19-20 February 2026 |



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|  | Development and AI, Mr. Zhaslan Madiyev visited India to attend the AI Impact Summit |  |
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*April 2026*