

**Embassy of India
Budapest**

**(Bilateral Brief)
Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Introduction

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is located in the central part of the Balkan Peninsula. It shares border with Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro. Following the break-up of former Yugoslavia, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) emerged as one of the six independent countries. The country is divided into two sub-state entities, the majority Bosniaks (Muslim-Croat Federation FBiH) and the majority Serbs *Republika Srpska (RS) and an autonomous territory of Brčko* . The independence of the country was marked by unprecedented ethnic conflict. The Dayton Peace Accord signed in Paris in 1995, resulted in return of peace and it laid down the Constitution and other administrative structures of the country.

Bilateral Relations

2. Bilateral relations have been warm and friendly. Diplomatic relations were established in 1995. Indian Ambassador in Budapest Shri Kumar Tuhin is concurrently accredited to Sarajevo and presented his credentials on September 18, 2019.
3. Unprecedented floods struck the country in May 2014 which inundated one third of the country. The Government of India extended humanitarian financial aid of US\$ 100,000.
4. Shri Suresh P. Prabhu, Hon'ble Minister of Railways, visited BiH from 6-8 July 2016 as a Special Envoy of the Prime Minister. An MOU between Election Commission of India and Central Election Commission of BiH was signed in January 2017, in India. Foreign office consultations have been held regularly. The 1st FOC was held on December 19, 2002 in Sarajevo and the second round of FOCs was held in New Delhi on April 5, 2011. The Third FOCs were held in Sarajevo on 21-22 April, 2014. Secretary (West) led the Indian delegation. Both India and Bosnia & Herzegovina maintain a steady level of engagement on economic, culture, tourism and people-to-people contacts by participating in various events. The bilateral trade is in the vicinity of USD 86 mn, with balance of trade in India's favour. Main items of trade are textiles, cotton, articles of iron and steel, glassware, organic chemicals, carpets, mineral fuels, inorganic chemicals, sports equipments etc. The Embassy regularly participates in economic fairs in Mostar and Sarajevo. 5th International Day of Yoga was organised by the Embassy in 6 cities of Bosnia & Herzegovina for over two days from 15-16th June, 2019. Busts of Gandhiji and Gurudev Tagore were unveiled in the city of Milici in 2018. Embassy also participated in the 9th Sarajevo Scholarship Fair. The ITEC program has seen a good response and a number of officials from Bosnia and Herzegovina have attended training programs in India on government of India scholarship.