

## **India-Ukraine Relations**

Indian Embassy in Kyiv was established in May 1992 and Ukraine opened its Mission in New Delhi in February 1993. India has friendly relations with Ukraine. Ukraine has been cooperating with India at the international fora. Ukraine stands for peaceful solution of problems between India and Pakistan, and supports the resolving of the Kashmir issue on the basis of Shimla agreement. More than 18 bilateral agreements have been signed between India and Ukraine, including agreements on Cooperation in Science and Technology, Foreign Office Consultation, Cooperation in Space Research, Avoidance of Double Taxation and Promotion and Protection of Investments, and free visa travel by holders of diplomatic passports.

### **Commercial and Economic Relations:**

Ukraine is India's second largest trading partner among CIS countries. Bilateral trade turnover has increased from USD 138.62 million in 1992 to USD to US\$ 2.242 billion in 2010-11 (India's exports were US\$823.64 and imports were US\$1,418.46 million).

The major commodities exported by India to Ukraine include pharmaceutical products, iron and steel, plastic and its articles, nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof, oil seeds, miscellaneous edible preparations, articles of apparel and clothing, accessories, knitted or crocheted, organic chemicals, coffee, tea, spices, tobacco, etc. The major product group imported by India from Ukraine include iron and steel, fertilizers, animal or vegetable fats and oils, mineral fuels, edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers, organic, inorganic chemicals, nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances etc.

A number of Indian companies like TATA International, Ranbaxy, Dr. Reddy's, Himalaya Herbals, Cadila, Sun Pharma etc. have representative offices in Ukraine. India is the second largest exporter of pharmaceutical products to Ukraine in monetary terms. The India-Ukraine Inter-governmental Commission for cooperation in trade, economic, scientific, technological, industrial and cultural cooperation, established in April 1994, has so far held three meetings.

### **Science and Technology Relations:**

The S&T between India and Ukraine Agreement was signed in May 1992 for cooperation in scientific research. There is an ongoing programme of cooperation in space technology between ISRO and its counterpart Ukrainian agency NSAU. Ukraine has participated in the modernization of coke oven batteries and renovation of Indian steel plants. It also supplies gas turbines for thermal, hydel and nuclear power plants.

### **ITEC Assistance/Other Training Programmes:**

India offers 15 scholarships to Ukraine under ITEC (10) and ICCR (3) schemes. Draft Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of education remains under consideration by both countries.

### **Consular Matters:**

Issue of business and tourist visas to Ukrainian visitors has been on the increase in the past couple of years. There has been a great interest among the Ukrainian tourists to visit India,

especially after the introduction of a direct flight between Kyiv and Delhi in December 2003. The Mission issued 20,014 visas in 2011.

**Air links/Travel Routes:**

Ukrainian Airline Aerosvit started operations of direct flights on the sectors Kyiv-Delhi-Kyiv from December 2003. At present it operates only two weekly flights. Other convenient travel routes are by Air India from Delhi to Frankfurt and by Lufthansa to Kyiv and vice versa. Yet other possibilities are travel through Abu Dhabi, Moscow, Istanbul, Vienna, Paris and London.

**Indian community**

The size of the Indian community in Ukraine, excluding students, is estimated to be less than a thousand. There are about 2,500 Indian students enrolled in various Ukrainian medical universities. Most Indians here are in business, representing various Indian firms, some in exports, and a few in manufacturing.

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