

Brief on India-Mongolia Bilateral Relations

Brief Historic Background

India and Mongolia are Strategic Partners, Spiritual Siblings and Third Neighbours with centuries old deep civilizational linkages through Buddhism. Of late, 4Ds Dharma, Democracy, Development Partnership & Digital Development Cooperation, have become pillars of India Mongolia relationship. Historically, India and Mongolia have interacted since antiquity through the shared heritage of Buddhism. Some Indian & Mongolian historians have conjectured about migration of some tribes from Kangra kingdom to Mongolian territory 4300 years ago. Mangaldev, son of the King headed the migrants and majority of them returned to India after staying there for about 2000 years though there is no historical evidence yet to prove this. In 1924, the then Prime Minister of Mongolia Mr. A. Amar mentioned in his book – “Short History of Mongolia” that Mongolian forefathers came from backside of Himalayan Mountains. Another interesting connection often quoted, is about ‘Ganga Nuur’ lake which accordingly to many Mongolians derived its name after ‘Ganga River’ in India from where some Mongolian Lamas brought water and poured into the lake in Sukhbaatar Province and naming it so. Many words in Mongolian language trace roots in Sanskrit and Pali.

2. As for Buddhism, it appears to have traversed to Mongolian steppes through Tibet and Himalayan region. During the Hunnu State of 3rd century BC and later during the period of Great Mongol Empire Buddhist monks, several traders from India visited Mongolia. In 552 BC, a Lama Narendrayash from the State of Udayana (Northern India) with some others visited Nirun state. To most Mongols, India is the land of Buddha, Lamas and students from Mongolia used to travel to Nalanda, once the largest residential University in India, to study Buddhism.

“India and Mongolia are ancient lands of the ancient people of Asia. The historic and cultural collaboration between India and Mongolia is most fascinating and unique and is as old as the history of the spread of Indian culture and ideas into Central Asia and Siberia. We in India consider the Mongol veneration of Sanskrit, a matter of special privilege. We hold the people of Mongolia in high esteem for preserving in translation as well as in manuscripts, the vast collection of our precious Sanskrit text on our philosophy, poetry, logic and astronomy lost by us over centuries. In modern times, too many Mongols visited India—the land of Buddhism” - Late Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji, former Prime Minister / EAM in 1978

3. In modern times, Buddhism has been promoted by cultural and literary contacts between the people of India and Mongolia. Prof. Raghu Vira, founding member of International Academy of Indian Culture in Delhi discovered that Mongolia’s spiritual

and literacy heritage was the golden light, the Altangerel, the Suvana-Prabhava-Sutra, or the irreducible diamond in the rock of Vajra-chedika. In recent times, Prof. Lokesh Chandra collaborated with his father Prof. Raghu Vira and completed the "New Tibeto-Mongol Pantheon" in 20 volumes and also edited 108 large volumes of the Mongolian Kanjur or Buddhist Canon. These accounts confirm that both India and Mongolia were in close direct contacts especially during 5-7 century AD and it seems that Buddhism in Mongolia accelerated the process of further spread of Indian culture in Mongolia. The intellectual development of Mongolia is ostensibly influenced by the Mahayana school of Buddhism, its philosophy and philosophical treatises of Nagarjuna used in simplified expression and terminology. Mongolian Buddhism is predominantly the Yellow Hat sect of Buddhism practiced in Tibet and China but over the centuries, it has evolved into its own version, having incorporated the pre-Buddhist religion of 'Tengrism' as well as 'Shamanistic' influences.

4. Late Ambassador of India to Mongolia, 19th Bakula Rimpoche during his 10 years tenure in Mongolia from 1990-2000 contributed immensely to consolidating this legacy of Buddhist connection with India and was instrumental in reviving 100s of Buddhist monasteries in Mongolia and setting up of revered Pethub Monastery in UB city. Since 2019, extra efforts have been devoted by the Mission to further deepen, intensify and consolidate our shared heritage of Buddhism with Mongolia by initiating 'Digitization of 1 million ancient Buddhist Manuscripts; installation of Life size statue of Lord Buddha and 2 disciples in Gandan Monastery (jointly inaugurated virtually by Hon. PM & President Battulga in Sept 2019); 10 additional ICCR scholarships for Buddhist studies in India; arranging repeat telecasts on MNB of Mongolian dubbed 55-episode Indian TV serial on Lord Buddha; assisting Gandan Monastery in holding of 50th anniversary of ABCP, 3rd Edition of Hinduism-Buddhism *Samvaad* in Mongolia and coordinating reprinting of 100 sets of (108 volumes each) sacred Mongolian *Kanjur* by Ministry of Culture. In addition, to further promote and reinforce our cultural & spiritual connect, the Mission facilitated printing/release of a commemorative stamp on Rev. Kushok Bakula Rimpoche by Mongol Post in June 2022 and arranged exposition of 4-pieces of Holy Buddha (Kapilvastu) Relics, after a gap of 29 years from National Museum of India for 11 days at the Gandantegcheling monastery starting on 'Buddha Day' (June 14, 2022) alongside Mongolian Buddha (Tooth) relic. These 'relics' were brought by a special C-17 IAF aircraft by Minister of Law and Justice, Shri Kiren Rijiju and 20th Kushok Bakula Rimpoche and were accorded protocol courtesies due to a '**State Guest**' including reception at Airport by Minister of Culture, Former Speaker and Chairperson of India-Mongolia Parliamentary Group.

Several present day Mongolian scholars, 93+ year old Prof. Gandendarama through his translations of Indian epics like Ramayana, Mahabharata, Kalidasa and about 30 more books into Mongolian language and Prof Shrindev's translation of 8 volumes of 'Dhammapada' from Pali to Mongolian language have also highlighted close historical connect between the two countries and pitched in for furthering the bond of cultural heritage with Mongolia. Through his initiative, Prof. Shirindev has also installed a life size replica of Ashoka Pillar Obelisk in Uvs Province to mark the Vesak

Buddha Day in May 2022. Prof Shirindeev has taught the Vipassana technique of meditation to more than 40,000 Mongolian nationals.

Diplomatic Relations

5. India's diplomatic relations with Mongolia were established on 24th December 1955 and in January 1956, the first Mongolian Ambassador was posted to New Delhi. However, the Indian Resident Mission in Ulaanbaatar was opened on 22 February 1971 and prior to that Indian Ambassador in Moscow (T.N. Kaul) was concurrently accredited. Mongolians appreciate India's support to its membership in United Nations in 1961 which was championed by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru. In 1991, India supported Mongolia's membership to Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). Mongolia along with India and Bhutan co-sponsored famous UN Resolution for the recognition of Bangladesh as an independent country in 1972. In 2020, the Mission marked the 65th anniversary of India-Mongolia diplomatic relations in 2025, 70th anniversary of establishment of India-Mongolia diplomatic relations was celebrated.

6. The first ever visit **at the level of PM by** Shri Narendra Modi to Mongolia in May 2015 to mark the 60th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Mongolia brought in a paradigm shift in our relationship, which was elevated to the level of "Strategic Partnership" with Mongolia – the fourth country in the world to do so. The momentum thus generated has been sustained by several high level exchanges in the last several years (Visits of Home Minister & EAM - 2018, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas - Oct 2019, MOS(EA) – Nov 2021, Minister of Justice Shri Kiren Rijiju, Raksha Mantri, Shri Rajnath Singh – 2022, Shri Om Birla, Speaker – July 2023, Governor of Bihar-Oct. 2024) and by initiating of process of construction of first Oil Refinery in Mongolia under Exim Bank LoC – the single largest project of assistance of India - capable of refining 1.5 million MMTPA (equivalent to approximate 60%-70% of Mongolian energy consumption), Inauguration of Cyber Security Training Centre (CSTC) – Sep 2022, Exposition of Sacred relics of Lord Buddha – June 2022 has further consolidated goodwill and friendship while contributing to further consolidation of development partnership with Mongolia.

The successful state visit of President of Mongolia H.E. Khurelsukh Ukhnaa in Oct 2025 has further strengthened the Strategic partnership.

High Level Visits from India to Mongolia

Shri P. Kumaran, Secretary East (Sept, 2025)

Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, Defence Secretary (June, 2025)

Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, Governor of Bihar (30 Sept – 05 Oct 2024)

Shri Rajiv Kumar, Chief Election Commissioner (25-29 June 2024)

Shri Saurabh Kumar, Secretary (East) (12-15 Sept 2023)

Shri Om Birla, Speaker of Lok Sabha (July 6-8, 2023)

Shri Rajnath Singh, Minister of Defence (Sep 5-7, 2022)

Shri Kiren Rijiju, Minister of Law & Justice (June 13-16, 2022) with Buddha Relics
 Dr R R Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs (Nov 23-26, 2021)
 Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum (Oct 8-10, 2019)
 Shri Kiren Rijiju, MoS (Home), (3-6 July 2018) for 2nd Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR)
 Shri Rajnath Singh, Minister of Home Affairs (21-24 June 2018)
Smt Sushma Swaraj, EAM (24-26 April 2018)
 Shri Hamid Ansari, Vice President (2016) for ASEM meeting
 Smt Sumitra Mahajan, Lok Sabha Speaker (2016)
Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister (May, 2015)
 Smt Pratibha Devisingh Patil, President (2011)
 Smt Meira Kumar, Lok Sabha Speaker (2010)
 Shri GMC Balayogi, Lok Sabha Speaker (2001),
 Shri Krishan Kant, Vice-President (1999)
 Shri P.A. Sangma, Lok Sabha Speaker (1997)
 Shri K. R. Narayanan, Vice-President (1996),
 Shri Shivraj Patil, Lok Sabha Speaker (1995),
 Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, Vice-President (1992),
 Shri R. Venkataraman, President (1988)
 Dr. Balram Jharkar, Lok Sabha Speaker (1985),
 Dr. G.S. Dhillon, Lok Sabha Speaker (1974),
 Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Vice-President (1957),

7. The first ever and historic visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Mongolia (16-18 May 2015) as a part of 'Act East' policy, has proven to be a watershed period for India Mongolia relations. The declaration of 'Strategic Partnership', signing of 22-point Joint Statement, announcement of USD 1 Billion LoC for development of Infrastructure in Mongolia – being utilized for building 1st Oil Refinery - and 13 agreements (*Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Prisoners, Revised Air Services Agreement, Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Animal Health and Dairy, MOU on establishment of a Joint India-Mongolia Friendship School, MOU on cooperation in the area of Traditional Systems of Medicine, Cultural Exchange Program for 2015-18, MOU on Cooperation in the field of Border Patrolling & Surveillance, MOU on cooperation between National Security Councils, and MOU on gifting a Bhabatron-II Cancer Therapy Machine (implemented) to the National Cancer Centre in Ulaanbaatar*) in diverse fields set the tone for the accelerated economic cooperation with Mongolia. PM was accorded with the privilege of addressing the Mongolian Parliament on a Sunday. Never before in the history, Mongolian Parliament convened on a holiday for any visiting foreign dignitary.

8. Subsequently, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with Prime Minister J. Erdenebat met on the sidelines of St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (June 2017) and also met thrice with the then President Kh Battulga on the margins of Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit at Qingdao, China (June 2018) and Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) in Vladivostok (Sep 2019) before holding full bilateral meeting in

New Delhi during State Visit to India (Sept 2019). PM's meetings with Mongolian President was prominently noted in Mongolian media for enhancing bilateral relations.

9. External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar, had a bilateral meeting with Mongolian Foreign Minister Mr D. Tsogtbaatar in Aug 2019 while attending the East Asia Summit (EAS) & Foreign Ministers Meeting at Bangkok followed by telephonic call with him in May 2020. Former FM Tsogtbaatar, who attended 2019 Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi had a close connection with former EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj whom he would address as "Sister" and the then EAM would address him as "Brother" in letters exchanged. EAM also met the new Foreign Minister Ms. B. Battsetseg on the margins of CICA meeting in Kazakhstan on Oct 12, 2021 and held a pull aside meeting during COP 26 in Glasgow in Nov 2021. EAM also had bilateral meeting with FM Battsetseg during Munich Security Conference in Feb 2022. He also met FM Battsetseg at UN in Sept 2024 and had a brief meeting with the Prime Minister of Mongolia during SCO Summit in Islamabad on 15-16 October 2024. EAM also met & held discussions with FM Battsetseg during the Munich Security Conference on 15 Feb. 2025 **and the Critical Minerals Ministerial at Washington on 02-04 Feb, 2026.**

10. **Speaker of Great Khural, G. Zandanshatar** accompanied by 6 parliamentarians visited India in Dec 2021 following which Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha paid a reciprocal visit to Mongolia from July 6-8, 2023 accompanied by 5 MPs, Secretary General and parliamentary delegation during which views were exchanged on enhancing parliamentary cooperation and bilateral relations. Two Protocols of Cooperation were also signed on parliamentary matters.

Listed below are the visits of Mongolian dignitaries to India

Mr. Khurelsukh Ukhnaa, President of Mongolia (Oct 13-16, 2025)

Mr. Munkhtushig Lkhanaajav, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs- Raisina Dialogue and FOC (16-19 March 2025)

Brig. Gen. Gankhuyag Dagvadorj, State Secretary, Ministry of Defence (5-11 Feb. 2025)

Maj. Gen. Lakhagvasuren Kh., Head of General Agency for Border Protection (02-07 Feb. 2025)

Mr. Enkhbat Damdin, Secretary General, State Great Khural of Mongolia (25 Feb – 01 March 2024)

Mr. Amartuvshin Gombosuren, Vice Foreign Minister (21-23 Feb. 2024) – for 9th Edition of Raisina Dialogue

Mr. G. Ganbayar, Vice Minister for Education & Science (19-21 Dec., 2022)

Ms. Solongo Bayarsaikhan, Vice Minister for Justice & Home Affairs, 18-19 Nov. 2022(for NMFT)

Gen. G Saikhanbayar, Defence Minister of Mongolia, Oct 17-22, 2022 (For Def Expo)

Mr G. Zandanshatar, Speaker of Parliament of Mongolia (Nov 30-Dec 5, 2021)

Mr Oyun Edene, Minister/Chief Cabinet Secretary (6-12 Jan 2020) – Present PM

Mr. Kh Battulga, President of Mongolia (Sept 19-23, 2019)

Mr. B. Baatarzorig, Chairman of Civil Service Council (CSC) (2-6 July 2019)

Mr. L. Bold, Member of Parliament (Feb 2019) – for attending Kumbh

Mr. D. Sumiyabazar, Minister of Mining & Heavy Industry (10-12 Feb 2019) –(*for Petrotech 2018 and signing of Contract with EIL and Mongol Refinery*)

Mr. D. Tsogtbaatar, Foreign Minister of Mongolia (8-10 January 2019)
(*For Raisina Dialogue*)

Dr. Baymbasuren Lamjav, Vice Minister of Health (Sept-Oct 2018)

Mr. D. Sumiyabazar, Minister of Mining (June 2018)

Mr. D. Zagdjav, Deputy Minister of Mining & Heavy Industry (April 2018)

Mr. N. Enkhbold, Minister of Defence (Mar 2018)

Mr. Ts. Batbayar, Vice Minister, Ministry of Environment and Tourism (Mar 2018)

Mr. G. Munkhbayar, Minister of Construction & Urban Development (Dec 2016)

Mr. U. Khurelsukh, Deputy Prime Minister (Nov 2016)

Mr. L. Purevsuren, Foreign Minister (April 2016)

Mr. T. Dulamdorj, Deputy Defence Minister (Dec 2016)

Mr. Ts. Elbegdorj, President (2009)

Mr. N. Enkhbayar, Prime Minister (2004)

Mr. Natsagiin Bagabandi, President (2001)

Mr. Natsagiin Bagabandi, Speaker of Parliament (1996)

Mr. Ochirbat, President (1994)

Mr Bathmunkh, Chairman of the Presidium (Mar 1989)

Mr. U. Tsendenbal, Prime Minister (1973)

Mr U. Tsendenbal, Chairman of the Presidium (1959)

11. **Covid Cooperation**- Responding to request of the Mongolian government, India became the first country to gift 150,000 doses of 'Made in India' *Covishield* Vaccine by Astra Zeneca in February 2021, a gesture that generated and reinforced tremendous goodwill among Mongolian leadership and public alike and kick-started their vaccination drive with the Prime Minister Oyun Erdene taking the first shot of *Made in India* vaccine. Later during the second wave of Covid pandemic, Government of Mongolia donated USD 1 million to the Indian Red Cross Society for fight against Covid, while Province of Dornogobi donated MNT 178.5 million (USD 65,000) and a parliamentary campaign initiated by Chairperson of India-Mongolia Friendship Group, collected about MNT 155.5 million and deposited to PM Cares Fund in addition to many individual and private donations that collected about MNT 50 million approx for PM Cares fund.

12. **Bilateral Cooperation Mechanism**: India and Mongolia have 'India-Mongolia Joint Committee on Cooperation (**IMJCC**)' chaired at Ministerial level. 6th meeting of IMJCC was held in Ulaanbaatar on 25 April, 2018 under the Chair of Smt Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister of India and Mr. D. Tsogtbaatar, Foreign Minister of Mongolia.

The 5th meeting of IMJCC was held in New Delhi in April, 2016 under the Chair of MoS(EA) Gen (Retd.) V.K. Singh and Mr. L. Purevsuren, Foreign Minister of Mongolia. Amidst Covid enforced environment, 7th Joint Commission Meeting was organized in December 2020 virtually which with EAM and the Mongolian Chief Cabinet Secretary

(present Prime Minister Oyun Erdene) as Co-Chair. At this IMJCC, the two Ministers virtually released 65th anniversary commemorative stamp by Mongol Post and EAM virtually handed over 25-volumes of sacred Mongolian Kanjur which was reprinted by Ministry of Culture of India. The next round of the IMJCC is to be held soon.

13. **Indo-Mongolian Foreign Office Consultations:** Before 2023, the last FOCs were held on 23 December 2016 in Ulaanbaatar. JS (EA) in MEA led the Indian side. The Acting Director, Department of Asia, Africa & Pacific Regions Co-chaired the consultations from the Mongolian side. State Secretary, MFA visited India in the first week of November 2018 to discuss bilateral issues. In Sept 2023, Secretary East, Shri Saurabh Kumar paid an official visit to Mongolia (12-15 Sept 2023) and held bilateral discussions with the State Secretary, MoFA and reviewed progress of the ongoing Developmental Projects of Oil Refinery, ABVCEITO & Friendship School.

On 19 March 2025, Mr. Munkhtushig Lkhanaajav, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia led delegation held talks with Secretary (East), MEA. The Mongolian State Secretary also attended the Raisina Dialogue on 17-18 March 2025 at New Delhi. 2025). It was agreed to raise the level of the consultation to Secretary level. Secretary(East) Shri P. Kumaran visited Mongolia from 21-24 Sept 2025 and held broad discussions with State Secretary, MoFA as well as with Ministers of Education, Industry & Mineral Resources and Secretary, NSC.

14. **International Cooperation:** Mongolia has been traditionally supporting India in the United Nations and various other international forums. It has supported us for the non-permanent seat of the UN Security Council (UNSC) for 2011-2012. **India and Mongolia declared support to each other for UNSC non-permanent seats respectively for terms 2021-22 and 2023-24.** Mongolia voted in favour of India's proposal to Yoga's inscription into the list of UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage. India also voted for registering Mongolian legacy on "Mongolian Traditional Custom to Worship Mountain and Ovoo" in the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage. Mongolia has publicly reiterated its support for India's membership to the permanent seat of expanded UNSC. Since 2017, Mongolia supported Indian candidates to the:

- (i) International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)
- (ii) Executive Board of UNESCO for the term 2017-2021,
- (iii) World Custom Organization (WCO)
- (iv) Council of the IMO in Category 'B' during 30th session of the IMO Assembly in 2017,
- (v) Advisory Committee Elections for Human Rights Council / 36th meeting of HRC in Geneva in 2017
- (vi) International Court of Justice [*For ICJ Mongolia's support was on reciprocal basis*]
- (vii) Executive Board of the UNESCO at 39th General Conference for term 2017-2021
- (viii) 3rd group of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) during 40th Assembly, 2019
- (ix) World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) for the term 2020-2022
- (x) Council of the IMO in Category 'B' during 31st session of IMO Assembly in 2019

- (xi) India's candidature at the World Custom Organization (WCO) – Sep 2019
- (xii) Asia Pacific Group seat of the UN Security Council for the term 2021-22
- (xiii) Inter-governmental Committee for Safeguard of Intangible Cultural Heritage– Sep 2020
- (xiv) *UN Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary (ACABQ) in November 2020*
- (xv) Re-election of India to the Postal Operation Council (POC) at Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire - Aug 2020
- (xvi) Supported BIS for membership of Int'l Organization for Standardization for 2022-24 – Sep 2021
- (xvii) Candidature of the CAG as External Auditor of IAEA for term 2022-2027 – Sep 2021
- (xviii) Candidature for UNESCO Executive Board membership 2021-2025 – Nov 2021
- (xix) Candidature for Secy General for Asian Productivity Organisation in Tokyo – June 2022
- (xx) Candidature at Commission on Limits of Continental Shelf 2023-2027 – June 2022
- (xxi) Candidature for the President of International Fund for Agri Dev (IFAD) – Jul 2022
- (xxii) Supported India's candidature at UNESCO ICH elections in Paris – July 2022
- (xxiii) Candidature for SG of Asian Pacific Postal Union at Bangkok - July 2022
- (xxiv) Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage for 2022-26
- (xxv) Re-election to the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) - Oct 2022
- (xxvi) Re-election to Council of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in Region E (Asia and Australasia) for the term 2023-26
- (xxvii) Candidature of Dr. V. P Singh, for post of SG of Asian Pacific Postal Union (APPU)
- (xxviii) Candidature of Ms. Revathi Mannepalli as a Member of Radio Regulations Board (RRB) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), for the term 2023-26
- (xxx) Candidature of Dr.SK Pattanayak as President, International Fund for Agricultural Development (July 2022)
- (xxxi) CAG re-election as External Auditor of WHO for the term 2024-2027 in Geneva – May 2023
- (xxxii) Mr. VK Srivastava for Executive Board of TIR Convention for TIR 2023-24 – May 2023
- (xxxiii) Candidature of Dr. M Mohapatra re-election to Executive Council, WMO Region II in Geneva - May 2023
- (xxxiv) Candidature for the re-election to the membership of the Council of the IMO under Category 'B' for the biennium 2024-25.
- (xxxv) Candidature in the election of members of WCO Policy Commission and WCO Finance Committee, World Customs Organisation
- (xxxvi) Candidature in the election of members of the UN Economic and Social Council for 2026-2028 term.
- (xxxvii) Candidature for re-election to Postal Operations Council (POC) and Council of Administration (CA) of the UPU for 2026-2029 term.

15. **Defence Cooperation** received a massive boost during the visit of Defence Minister of India, Shri Rajnath Singh to Mongolia in Sept 5-7, 2022. Immense display of warmth and hospitality by the Mongolian President and Supreme Commander of MAF, U Khurelsukh, Speaker of the Parliament and his counterpart Defence Minister Gen. Saikhanbayar contributed to reinforcing importance of India as a close strategic partner of Mongolia. During visit, RM announced gifting of 2 ALS Indian made Ambulances and 200 special winter clothing which were delivered by Indian Defence Ministry in July 2023 to Mongolian Armed Forces.

RM also inaugurated Cyber Security Training Centre (CSTC) established through funding by Govt. of India, at the National Defence University of Ministry of Defence of Mongolia during his visit in Sept 2022. Since its inauguration, 2 Indian Army officers are regularly being deployed for capacity building in English language of MAF and cyber security training which has further consolidated defence cooperation with Mongolia.

Immediately following RMs visit, in Oct 2022 Gen. Saikhanbayar, Defence Minister of Mongolia visited India along with 3-member high level delegation to attend DefExpo-2022 in Gandhi Nagar and also had bilateral meeting with RM and paid a courtesy call on the Vice President. Impressed by India's defence capabilities, Mongolian Defence Minister expressed keen desire to establish a Small Arms Ammunition factory in Mongolia, procuring light armoured vehicles for MAF & sourcing material for MAF uniforms. A 6-member delegation from Mongolian Ministry of Defence visited India in Sept 2023 to discuss the procurement of arms from India. Previously, Mr. N. Enkhbold, the then Minister of Defence visited India in March 2018 and held bilateral talks with RRM, RM, NSA and COAS.

India-Mongolia also held Joint Working Group (JWG) for Defence cooperation discussions and meets annually. The 11th JWG was held in New Delhi during Feb 10-11 2023 for which Mr Gankhuyag, State Secretary in Mongolian MoD led a 5-member delegation which later, also attended Aero India 2023 in Bengaluru and subsequently visited Troop Comforts Limited(TCL), Kanpur, Gliders India Ltd, Advanced Weapon and Equipment India Ltd, Munition India Ltd to explore possible sourcing of Indian defence equipment to Mongolia while the 10th JWG was held virtually on 16th April, 2021 between Ministries of Defence of India and Mongolia at the level of JS (International Cooperation) and State Secretary of Mongolian Ministry of Defence. 12th JWG was held in Ulaanbaatar on 16-17 May 2024 which was led by Shri Amitabh Prasad, JS(AP), MoD. 13th JWG was held at New Delhi on 7th Feb. 2025 which was led by Brig General Gankhuyag Dagvadorj, State secretary, Ministry of Defence of Mongolia along with 3 other officers. The entire delegation also participated in the Aero India 2025 in Bengaluru. Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, Defence Secretary led a senior officer delegation to Mongolia (13-15 June 2025) and held bilateral talks on several issues of bilateral cooperation in the defence sector.

At military level, joint India-Mongolia exercise '*Nomadic Elephant*' is held annually. During pandemic impacted period no bilateral exercises could be held). Since 2003,

Indian Armed Forces Observers have regularly participated (at Observer level) in the Annual multilateral peace keeping exercise '*Khan Quest*' in Mongolia. For the first time ever, participation at Khan Quest was upgraded to contingent level in June 2022, with a 40-member platoon from 'Ladakh Scouts' participating in KQ-2022 that included 2 female peacekeepers, who also attended Female Peacekeepers International Conference (FPIC) in Ulaanbaatar. At the Khan Quest 2023, a 40-member contingent from Garhwal Regiment represented in the event (19 June -02 July 2023) whereas a 45-member Indian Army team from J&K Light Infantry participated in the Nomadic Elephant 2023 from 17-20 July 2023. In 2024, from 03-16 July, Mongolian contingent participated in the Nomadic Elephant exercises with Indian Army in Meghalaya whereas a 40-member team from Madras Regiment participated in the Khaan Quest Multilateral Exercises in Mongolia from 24 July – 11 August 2024. Indian contingents from Laddakh Scouts participated in the Nomadic Elephant exercises in Mongolia in May/June 2025. Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh attended the valedictory function and also participated in the opening event of Khaan Quest 2025 in which Indian Army contingent also participated.

16. **Border Protection Agency Cooperation:** The BSF (MHA) of India and the Mongolian General Authority for Border Protection (GABP) have been closely cooperating on border patrolling and related subjects for over eight years. This cooperation has been formalized in the form of a MoU in May 2015 during PM's visit. A Joint Steering Committee (JSC) was constituted for furthering this cooperation. The first meeting of the JSC was held on 21-23 Dec 2016 in Ulaanbaatar. The Indian delegation was led by Secretary (BM), MHA. A BSF delegation led by DG, BSF visited Mongolia from 28-30 October 2018 to discuss further cooperation. Several proposals on capacity building & technical assistance, including supply of integrated server to GABP by BSF was agreed. In Sept 2021, the renovated Control and Command Centre of GABP was formally inaugurated jointly by Acting Chief of GABP and Ambassador which included USD 1.2 million servers & systems supplied under grant from our MHA. MOS(EA), Dr R R Singh also inspected the upgraded Control and Command Centre during visit to Mongolia in Nov 2021. Establishment of equipment for second phase of up-gradation of GABP Control & Command Centre has been completed and inspected by BSF team on 13 June 2024 and has been formally handed over. In Jan & Feb. 2024, 26 GABP officials were nominated under ITEC for specialized training at NSG, Manesar.

The 10th DG Level Border Coordination Conference was held in New Delhi from 6-11 Feb. 2025. The Mongolian side was led by Maj. Gen. Lakhagvasuren Kh., Head of GABP & five senior levels officials while the Indian side was led by Shri Daljit Singh Chawdhary, DG BSF.

17. **Disaster Management Cooperation** between National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) picked up pace in the recent years. In 2018, 25 officers of NEMA were trained in India under ITEC. During the visit of President of Mongolia to India in September, 2019, an MoU on cooperation in the field of Disaster Management and Disaster Risk Reduction

was signed between NEMA of Mongolia and NDMA of India. Despite Covid pandemic, NEMA of Mongolia had forwarded an Action Plan to NDMA in March 2021 which was expected to be implemented during 2023-2024 depending upon mutually convenient dates. India donated US\$20,000/- to NEMA on 19 March 2024 to support relief measures for *Dzud* (winter storms) which severely affected Mongolia during its winter season (Nov. 2023-March 2024)

18. **Commercial, Economic and Technical Cooperation:** The foundation for economic partnership with democratic Mongolia was laid during the visit of then Minister for Commerce Shri Pranab Mukherjee in 1994, 2 MoUs pertaining to the establishment of a Joint Trade Sub-Committee and Co-operation between the Planning Commission of India and the National Development Board of Mongolia were signed. An agreement for co-operation in the field of Geology and Mineral Resources was signed in September 1996. In 1996, an Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation between India and Mongolia was signed. The Agreement provides for MFN status to each other in respect of customs duties and all other taxes on imports and exports. During the visit of President Bagabandiin in 2001, both sides signed an Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement which is currently under review. Given geographical transportation challenges, our bilateral trade is modest in value & volumes. Main items of exports to Mongolia include sugar, medicines, mining machinery, mechanical & auto parts, steel pipes / tubes etc. Imports from Mongolia include raw cashmere wool, leather etc.

19. Since last many years, the Mission has focused on harmonizing **3 Ts – Trade, Tourism and Technology** - recommended by the Ministry while attempting to expand & enhance our bilateral trade and economic cooperation with Mongolia. A dedicated Business meet titled 'Expanding 3T horizons with Mongolia' was organized by the Mission in March 2022 in association with Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MNCCI) and 3 Chambers of Commerce from India with attracted participation from 250 businessmen and entities. **Towards expansion of bilateral trade** in non-mining sectors with Mongolia, several focused and concerted efforts have been made by the mission to increase the contents of 3Ts. To take advantage of the spin off benefits generated by India's single largest project of assistance for construction of USD 1.7 billion Oil Refinery in Mongolia, in May 2019, the first ever India-Mongolia Oil and Gas Exhibition was jointly organized by the Embassy of India, Ministry of Mining and Heavy Industry, Mongol Refinery and Engineers India Ltd in which 32 reputed Indian companies, including TATA Projects, ASCONS, IGSEC and 3 Mongolian companies showcased their products and services. The Mission also arranged the first India Education Fair in August, 2019 in which 5 Indian Universities participated to highlight opportunities for international standard education in 900+ universities in India at highly economical cost. In November, 2019, to highlight economic collaboration in MSME sector, for the first time ever, 40 Indian MSME companies led by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry participated in the 'Misheel Expo' in Mongolia. The second edition of Oil and Gas Exhibition in Sept/Oct 2022 coinciding with Mining Expo, however, could not be held due to Covid pandemic. In Jan 2020, as a part of 65th

anniversary celebrations of India-Mongolia diplomatic relations, the Mission along with MNCCI also arranged a day-long business event titled “India: Land of Business Opportunities” highlighting Make in India, Skill India, Digital India and other areas of core competence. Despite Covid, 9 of the 25 planned activities were celebrated physically including a Gala concert on Jan 26, 2021, pan-Mongolia painting competition in Feb which attracted unprecedented 976 entries from school children on the theme India-Mongolia: Past, Present and Future under overarching theme of “Shared Heritage, Strategic Partnership and Promising Future”, establishment of India-Mongolia Friendship Park in July 2020, Minting of Gold/Silver coins on Mahatma Gandhi by Mongol Bank in October 2020, Release of 65th anniversary commemorative stamp by Mongol Post & an Exhibition on bilateral ancient relationship in Dec 2020. In November 2022, in association with ITPO & Ministry of AYUSH, the mission organized an SME focused ‘India Pavilion’ at the International Distributors Mongolia Expo in Misheel in which 14 Indian companies participated. A 14-member team led by Economic Advisor, Ministry of Mines and consisted of members from Geological Survey of India, HCL, NMDC, MECL and NALCO participated in the 12th International Mining and Oil Expo (MINEX-2023) which was held from 3-5 October 2023.

20. In 2024, Mission undertook several initiatives in promotion of bilateral trade by organizing many virtual and physical meetings for senior level delegates from Ministry of Coal, Steel and Mines of India. Several PSU (SAIL, NMDC, MOIL) and Private Steel companies (JSW, Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel) also visited to explore the possibility of importing Coking Coal from Mongolia. Senior official level delegation from Ministry of Steel and Mines of India participated in the MINEX 2024 in October 2024. Coal India delegation participated separately in the Mongolia Mining Week 2024 in October 2024. Mission also organized meetings with various business associations and Chambers of Commerce of India in the pharmaceutical sector in collaboration with European Bank for Reconstruction & Development (EBRD) and Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MNCCI). Mission also initiated talks between Mongolian companies and IREL India in June 2025.

21. Given the small size of Mongolian population, Mongolia does not have as much of a leisure tourism potential. However, there is **potential for ‘Spiritual Tourism’** as well as **‘Medical Tourism’** – both of which have been prioritized by the Mission as focus areas. In 2020, despite Covid pandemic, India-Mongolia Health Cooperation Centre (private institution) was established to attract Mongolians for various treatments in India of liver, Ophthalmological treatment, cancer and heart ailments. A tele-medicine centre was established in Intermed Hospital where Apollo Hospital is offering online consultation followed by treatment in India, if needed. In the last 2 years, Indian super specialty hospitals like Fortis & Artemis have also engaged resident representatives in Ulaanbaatar to boost medial tourism to India. The number of ‘Medical Visas’ issued by the Mission has remained signification. In 2023, 378 ‘Medical Visas’ were issued whereas in 2024, 2025 & 2026 (till 31st March, 2026), 334, 220 and 49 ‘Medical Visas’ were issued.

22. Like other developing economies of the world, Mongolia too has placed great importance to promote Digital and E-Governance concepts. To make this transition, GoM had cooperation with China, Korea, Japan in the region. The biggest push in this direction was the construction of **Atal Bihari Centre of Excellence in IT, CT & Outsourcing**, through a Line of Credit of US\$20 Million, which started in Aug 2021 and expected to be completed by **end of 2026**. Upon completion, this Centre would boost Indian IT Technology sector in Mongolia by providing local training in 16 specialized tailor made IT courses to over 1000 IT professionals in Mongolia besides generating about 850+ outsourcing jobs. In July 2022, the Mission made a formal offer on behalf of CSIR for technology transfer, Covid combat and management protocol, immunity booster medicines developed in India and digital platform for management with Mongolian Ministry of Health to promote 'Made in India' technologies. The Mission is also pursuing an MoU with Mongolian Ministry of Health on the recognition of Indian Pharmacopoeia Standards.

23. Though bilateral trade has registered steady increase over the last few years, yet it is not commensurate with our excellent relationship and goodwill for India. Figures gathered from National Statistical Office(NSO) of Mongolia are listed below:

(in USD million)							
Source: Mongolian NSO							
Imports/Exports	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
India's Exports to Mongolia	37.1	34.6	63.6	91.0	64.32	110.372	99.332
India's Imports from Mongolia	1.2	0.74	0.28	0.74	1.11	0.504	1.480
Total Bilateral Trade	38.3	35.3	63.8	91.7	65.43	110.876	100.812

24. **ITEC Assistance:** Since 2011-12, the number of ITEC slots for civilian training programme were increased to 150 per year and during visit of Hon. PM in May 2015, a further increase of 50 slots took ITEC scholarships for Mongolia to 200. Though the slots were reduced by 50 in 2017, effective FY 2019-20, 200 slots were approved including 40 slots for group training of Mongolian professionals/engineers/technicians for the Mongol Refinery being constructed under Indian LoC of USD 1.7 billion. Since resumption of physical ITEC courses in post Covid pandemic period from July 2022, 149 lots were utilized for 2022-2023. In FY 2023-24, 85 ITEC slots were used. Prominent

special capacity building programmes that have been organized for Mongolian dignitaries & high government officials in recent years include

- (i) 20 officials of NEMA in Nov 2017-Feb 2018
- (ii) 13 State Secretaries at IIPA New Delhi in March 2018
- (iii) 25 Mongolian Diplomats attended a tailor made course at FSI, New Delhi Oct 2019
- (iv) 18 Provincial Governors and 7 high officials led by the then Chief Cabinet Secretary Mr Oyun Erdene (later on he became PM) attended a special course in Public Governance at IIM, Indore in Jan 2020.
- (v) 20 Engineers/Technicians of Mongol Refinery for special group course in Refinery Operations and Maintenance completed in Feb 2020
- (vi) 30 Mongolian Rural Women attended Solar Energy course at NISE Nov 2022
- (vii) 14 MFA Diplomats for special course at SSIFS, New Delhi in Oct-Nov 2023
- (viii) 30 senior level officials (JS & Director) from Cabinet Secretariat, MoFA and nominated from other Ministries by Govt. of Mongolia (Feb. 2025)
- (ix) 30 Engineers and Technicians from Mongol Refinery for special training by Engineers India Ltd (Feb 2025)
- (x) 30 senior members of the level of Director General / Director from various Mongolian Ministries nominated by Cabinet Secretariat.
- (xi) 15 officials of Ministry Digital Development from 25.02.2026 – 10.03.2026
- (xii) 29 officials of University of Internal Affairs from 02.03.2026 – 13.03.2026
- (xiii) 31 officials of Mongolian Refinery from 24.03.2026 – 14.04.2026

192 ITEC slots were utilized in 2024-25, 274 ITEC slots were utilized in FY 2025-26 which is highest utilization till now **and had 100% utilization.**

25. **ICCR scholarships:** For the Academic Year 2022-23, Mongolia was offered 50 slots (20 slots each under Aid to Mongolia and General Cultural Scholarship Scheme and 10 slots under Cultural Exchange Programme/Education) while 10 were offered for special courses for Buddhist studies in Varanasi and Leh Institute with effect from 2020-2021. For AY 2025-26, under ICCR Scholarship, 20 scholarships slots for Mongolian nationals under **Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Scholarship Scheme (Formerly Aid-to-Mongolia Scholarship Scheme (G0183))** at Indian Universities / Institutes were announced. (20 slots i.e. 3 slots for Research Courses- PhD / D. Lit. etc., 7 slots for Post Graduate courses- MA, M.Com, MBA, MCA, M.Sc etc. and 10 slots for Under Graduate courses - BA, B.Com, BBA, BCA, B.Sc etc.). In **2024-25**, a total of 27 slots were used by the Mongolian candidates while in 2025-26, a total of 12 slots **were used.**

26. **Rajiv Gandhi Polytechnic College for Production & Art (RGPCPA):** During the visit of Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, Vice President in 1992, it was decided to setup a Vocational Training Centre in Mongolia with skill building and training facilities in 8 fields. Over the period of time, RGPCPA has become a centre of repute in Mongolia and continue to cited as an excellency model of development cooperation from India. After PM's visit to Mongolia, during 2015-16 six faculties of vocational training have been

upgraded in the Centre in 2 phases at a total grant of about US\$ 2.84 million. **The College students participate in Embassy's Events & Cultural programmes. There is a functional Indian Culture Centre at the College.**

27. **Atal Bihari Vajpayee Centre for Excellence in ICT:** An agreement was signed in September 2001 during the visit of Minister for IT Pramod Mahajan to Mongolia, for the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Centre of Excellence (ABVCE) in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Mongolia and 5 Community Information Centres (CICs) in 5 provinces (Khovsgol, Bulgan, Kharkhorin, Darkhan-Uuland Sukhbaatar). Subsequently, it was agreed by the Mongolian Ministry of Education(MMoE) to establish a full-fledged Centre of Excellence in IT in Ulaanbaatar by using the LoC of US\$20 million for establishing the Centre, which was announced during the State visit of President Smt Pratibha Devi Singh Patil to Mongolia in July 2011. Later, the Centre was re-named after former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in May 2015 and actual construction – which got delayed due to Covid pandemic – commenced in August 2021. In August, 2019, MMoE signed an agreement with Lovely Professional University (LPU) for Package-II Agreement for developing curriculum, software, programme, training of trainers and students and supply of equipment. On March 16, 2020 MMoE signed contract with PK Saxena Contractor for Package-I Agreement for construction of building. The Ground Breaking ceremony of the centre was carried out by Mongolian Minister of Education on Aug 12, 2021. For the package-2, LPU has finalized 16 specialized courses in consultation with MOES and has already given training to Mongolian staff at its campus in India. ABVCEITO is expected to be completed by mid-2026.

28. **Solar Energy:** The first solar energy electrification project from India was executed by the Central Electronics Ltd. and formally inaugurated in April 2006 in Dadal Soum cost of project is approx. US\$ 100,000. Under ITEC, a special 3-month training for 30 Mongolian Rural women was organized at the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) from Nov 2022-Feb 2023. At the request of Mongolian Foreign Minister, former EAM approved a solarification project for the Mongolian Foreign Office in 2018 costing about USD 500,000. Towards this, Ministry signed an MoU with National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) in May 2024 for floating a tender. **The tender has been awarded and the work is likely to be completed in 2026.**

29. **India-Mongolia Friendship School:** Following signing of an MoU in May, 2015 during the visit of Hon. PM, Government of Mongolia allotted 2.9 hectares plot in prestigious Zaisan Hill of Ulaanbaatar city in Nov 2021 for construction of a 'India-Mongolia Friendship Secondary School' under a USD 5.277 million Grant-in-Aid project from Gol. In July 2022, M/s WAPCOS India was contracted as 'Project Management Consultant'. After finalizing architectural design and financial estimates, a tender for construction & supply of equipment/furniture was floated in Feb 2023 and M/s P K Saxena was awarded contract for construction in Sept 2023. The construction work at the project site started on 9 October 2024 and is progressing fast. The project is expected to be handed over by Aug-Sept 2026 as per schedule.

30. **Oil Refinery Project:** During the visit of Hon. Prime Minister in 2015, a line of credit (LOC) of US\$ 1 Billion was approved for development of infrastructure, which the Government of Mongolia decided to utilize for construction of its first ever Oil Refinery in Dornogobi Province with a capacity of 1.5 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA). The ground breaking ceremony of this prestigious and milestone development partnership Oil Refinery Project (ORP), which is India's single largest project of developmental assistance, was jointly done in June 2018 by the then Mongolian PM U Khurelsukh (current President) along with Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Rajnath Singh. ORP is being constructed in 4 contracts (**Packages**) – EPC 1, 2, 3 & 4 for which Engineering India Ltd (EIL) is the Project Management Consultant (PMC). In 2018, during the visit of then Minister of Petroleum, Shri D Pradhan, GOI approved an additional USD 236 million for ORP. Actual construction of EPC 1 works by JMC India (now KPIL) commenced in Jan 2021. The **first package** (EPC-I) is completed and all the units have been taken over by Mongol Refinery. EPC-II, III & IV of the ORP was awarded to Megha Engineering (MEIL) who started the works in April 2023. Both the EPC-II & III works are progressing well. Due to exceeding of overall estimated construction cost of ORP, the Govt of Mongolia requested for additional financing for EPC-IV which was also approved by the Govt. of India in Nov. 2024. The total cost now stands at US\$1.7 billion under Line of Credit from EXIM Bank. ORP is considered as a 'milestone energy security project' for Mongolia and it has received support cutting across party lines. From time to time leadership of Mongolia has been inspecting progress of ORP that includes 2 visits by President, 3 by PM and 1 by Speaker while Minister of Industry & Mineral Resources also pays regular visits to ensure timely completion of this project which has been declared as a 'Strategic Project' by GOM.

A high-level composite delegation from various Ministries led by SS & FA, MEA visited Mongolia to review the progress of ORP from 11-16 May 2025 and held several high-level meetings with Government of Mongolia. **The tender date of completion of the Project is Feb 2028.**

31. **Humanitarian Assistance:** Humanitarian assistance worth US\$ 20,000 in the form of beds, bedrolls, toys, etc for the children of herders in Sukhbaatar Aimag (severely affected by harsh winter 'Zud') was provided in 2017. Deputy Prime Minister and other senior officials from the Province were present during this donation ceremony. Another humanitarian assistance worth US\$50,000 was provided by the Government of India to the flood affected Provinces (Bayan Ulgii, Arhangai and Huvsgul) of Mongolia in August 2018. India also donated an amount of US\$20,000/-, in March 2024, to GoM to support relief measures for *Dzud* (winter storms) which severely affected Mongolia during its winter season (Nov. 23-March 24)

32. **Medical Missions:** A team of 17 Indian Rotarians doctors led by Mr. R.K. Saboo, Ex-President of Rotary International undertook the second medical mission to Mongolia in May 2019 and conducted about 300 surgeries and donated medical equipment/medicines worth USD 12000. The first medical mission was undertaken by

them in August 2017 when Indian doctors conducted neurosurgery, microsurgery, anesthesiology, audiology, plastic surgery, etc. and trained the Mongolian doctors. Medical equipment worth of US\$ 30,000/- (approximately) donated to various Mongolian hospitals. Indian Rotarian have offered to treat 10 Mongolian poor children free of cost for their heart surgeries, which is reported to have been utilized by Mongolian children in 2018.

In a significant contribution under 'Aid-to-Mongolia', MEA sanctioned organizing of a camp to provide prosthetic limbs to nearly 600 Mongolian citizen through Shri Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS) Jaipur. The camp was organized by the Mission in Ulaanbaatar from September to November 2024, where more than 650 disabled people were fitted with prosthetic limbs by the Indian technicians free of cost.

33. **Cultural Cooperation:** The India-Mongolian Agreement on Cultural Cooperation was first signed in 1961 and a CEP between the two countries has always remained in force. The Agreement envisages co-operation in the fields of education by way of scholarships, exchange of experts, participation in conferences etc. The CEP was renewed in 2003, 2005, 2009, **2015, 2019 and most recently in Oct 2025** during the visit of Mongolian President. During the visit of Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, the then Human Resources Development Minister to Mongolia in July 2002 an MOU on cooperation in the field of education was signed. Within framework of which a large number of Indian literary works including Panchtantra, Ramayana, Shakuntala, Ritu Samhara, Kamasutra, Godaan, Gabanand Kati Patang have been published in Mongolian language as also major Buddhist scriptures.

A "Festival of India" was organized in 2015 in Ulaanbaatar to mark the 60 years of diplomatic relations with Mongolia was organized in November 2015. A dance troupe from Mongolia performed in various cities in India in January 2018 and a traditional Indian Dance Troupe performed in 3 cities in Mongolia including capital city Ulaanbaatar in March 2018. A special Laddakh Mask Dance troupe visited Mongolia to perform at the Asian Buddhist Conference on Peace (ABCP) in June 2019 and also performed in Darkhan Province. There are regular exchanges of cultural troupe and performances of Indian performing groups that are well appreciated in Mongolia. Under ICCR patronage, a 8 member Mongolian Dance Group performed during Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj, Jammu & New Delhi in Feb. 2025.

The "Ayurveda Day" was celebrated for the first time in UB on 15 December 2017 by organizing an India-Mongolia Scientific Conference on Traditional Medicine and a special compilation of scientific papers presented in this event was published. The 3rd Ayurveda Day was celebrated on 5 November 2018 at Otoch Manramba University. The 5th Ayurveda Day could not be held in Nov 2020 due to Covid. The Mission celebrated 6th Ayurveda Day in Nov. 2021 and 8th Ayurveda Day in Nov. 2023 at the AYUSH centre in cooperation with Pethub Monastery in Ulaanbaatar. 9th Ayurveda Day was organized

on 29 October 2024 at Chancery where approx. 45 people from various fields attended the function.

Hindi films are fairly popular in Mongolia. The serial Mahabharata, dubbed in Mongolian, has been telecast on Ulaanbaatar TV. A photographic exhibition entitled "Path of Compassion", another one titled 'Amrita Shergil Revisited' and an exhibition of 540 Indian paintings based on a private collection have been organized in Mongolia. In March 2018 Mongolian film festival was celebrated in Kolkata, where Mongolian films were shown. Similarly, the Mission organized 'Indian Film festival' in Ulaanbaatar city from 27-29 March 2019 in which three Hindi movies, Neerja and Dangal & Queen were screened. In May 2020, Indian 55 episodes of TV serial 'Buddha' was dubbed in Mongolian and aired by the National Broadcaster, MNB, three times due to popular demand. Separately, the Mission organized Indian Film weeks in Khovd Province & UB city where dubbed/subtitled popular Bollywood movies were shown. **In 2025, Film Festivals were held at School no. 69 and the Rajeev Gandhi Polytechnic College.**

ICCR had donated 50 sets of Kanjurs (Urga & Narthang) to various Mongolian Institutions Monasteries in 2017 and in Oct 2022, 50 more sets of Sacred Kanjur (108-volume each) reprinted by the Ministry of Culture as a part of India@75 and were presented to various monasteries. A fresh set of **40** copies (108 volumes each), sent by Ministry of External Affairs **were distributed in November 2025**. The Mission has got 21 volumes of Indian classic literature translated into Mongolian language by Dr. Gendendarm and were published with financial assistance from ICCR. In 2019, Lama Shirendev, a Mongolian Indologist translated 8 volumes of 'Dhammpada' from Pali into Mongolian language. In 2019, the Mission, with the assistance of Centre for Indian Studies in Mongolia organized two academic conferences and a photo exhibition highlighting centuries old cultural connect and historical similarities between India and Mongolia in the Mongolian National University of Humanities and CITI University. During the visit of President Battulga in Sep 2019, a gold plated statue of Lord Buddha and his two disciples were virtually unveiled by PM Modi and President Battulga at Gandan Monastery and renovation of Museum-cum-Library in Gandan Monastery was also initiated. Subsequently, an MoU for digitization of 1 million Buddhist manuscripts was signed between Gandan Monastery and Embassy during visit of MOS(EA) in Nov 2021. **The Project was inaugurated in November 2025 and is progressing well.**

To mark the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev ji and 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the mission planted 700 plants in the National Park in Oct/Nov 2019 and created an 'India Garden' by installing commemorative plaques. In June & August 2024, tree plantation activities were conducted at Chancery by Ambassador on the occasion of World Environment Day and 'One tree in the name of Mother' campaign. The Mission has also set up several special 'India-corners' in Ulaanbaatar including at Rajeev Gandhi Polytechnic Institute, CITI University, E-mart near National Park, **Etugen University, School no. 69** and donated several books.

It is pertinent to mention that for the last 24 years, a Pan-Mongolia Indian dance competition titled "Melody of Ganga" among school children is being organized by the Mission at the Children Palace in Ulaanbaatar. However, during 2020-2022, this competition could not be held due to Covid pandemic. In March 2023, it attracted over 400 Mongolian children dancers from 13 provinces of Mongolia. The last edition was held on 5th April 2025 in which more than 450 children participated from all over Mongolia.

For the last 33 years the Mission has been organizing **Hindi Language classes** in Mongolia and every year 2 to 4 students are granted scholarships to study Hindi language at Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra. So far over 320 Mongolian students have learnt Hindi at KHS, Agra and at the Hindi classes in Ulaanbaatar.

The Embassy in Feb. 2025 organized two important exhibition highlighting the centuries old cultural connect between India and Mongolia. On 7 Feb. 2025, as part of the celebrations of 70th year of diplomatic relations, Embassy inaugurated the exhibition of rare paintings from a 13th century book "*Jami Al-Tawarikh-A compendium of Histories*" with the collaboration of Rampur Raza Library at the Chinggis Khaan Museum. These miniature paintings depicted the history of Chinggis Khaan, his ancestors and their successors down to the period of Mongol ruler Ghazan Khan. From 21-28 Feb 2025, Embassy in collaboration with Zanabazar Fine Art Museum, organized the "*Sanskriti-Indian Art & Craft Exhibition*" where nearly 200 artifacts and paintings were displayed.

34. **Indian Community:** The Indian community in Mongolia is small, numbering about 100 or so, according to Mongolian Immigration figures (not including 2700+ current temporary workers, according to construction season, deployed at the site of Oil Refinery Project in Dornogovi Province and at ABVCEITO, IMFSS sites in Ulaanbaatar). Most Indians are either employed in organized sector (Teachers, IT professionals or are self-employed such as operating Indian restaurants which are popular with the Mongolians and foreigners in Mongolia). There is a small number of Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) and likewise a small number of Mongolians are connected to India either by way of being married to Indians or been born and raised in India. Embassy celebrates Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) and organizes get together at Diwali and other important festivals. The community also joins during Annual Diplomatic Women's charity Bazar. There are several Indian Restaurants run by Indians in Mongolia. Indian community is instrumental in promotion of cricket in Mongolia.

Recommended books and useful Resources:

1. Chinggis Khan, Making of the Modern World by Jack Weatherford
2. A Secret history of Mongol Queen by Jack Weatherford
3. Embassy of India, Ulaanbaatar website:
<http://www.eoimongolia.gov.in>
4. Embassy of India, Ulaanbaatar Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/India-in-Mongolia>
5. Embassy of India, Ulaanbaatar X account:

<https://x.com/indiainmongolia>

6. Embassy of India, Ulaanbaatar Instagram account:
<https://instagram.com/indiainmongolia>

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