

**Embassy of India  
Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia)**

**Brief on India-Mongolia Bilateral Relations**

**Brief Historic Background**

For most Mongolians, India is a “spiritual neighbour”, a declared ‘third neighbor’, a ‘strategic partner’ and center for pilgrimage. Of late, 4 Ds 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. Since 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 Suvarna-Prabhasa-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 ‘Tengarism’ as well as ‘Shamanistic’ influences.

4. Late Ambassador 19<sup>th</sup> 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 by our 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 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ABCP, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of Hinduism-Buddhism Samvaad in Mongolia and coordinating reprinting of 100 sets of (108 volumes each) sacred Mongolian Kanjur by Ministry of Culture (expected to be distributed towards end of 2022). In addition, to further promote and reinforce our cultural & spiritual connect, the mission facilitated printing/release of a commemorative stamp on Rev. Kushok Bakula Rimpoché by Mongol Post in June 2022 and arranged exposition of 4-pieces of Holy Buddha (Kapilvastu) Relics, after a gap of 29 years from our National Museum 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 our Minister of Law and Justice, Shri Kiren Rijju and 20<sup>th</sup> Kushok Bakula Rimpoché and were accorded protocol courtesies due to a 'Head of State' including reception at Airport by Minister of Culture, Former Speaker and Chairperson of India-Mongolia Parliamentary Group.

Several present day Mongolian scholars, 90+ 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. Though his initiative, Shirindev has also installed a life size replica of Ashoka Pillar Obelisk in Uvs Province to mark the Vesak Buddha Day in May 2022.

### **Diplomatic Relations**

5. In 2020, the mission marked the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of India-Mongolia diplomatic relations. Our diplomatic relations with Mongolia were established on 24<sup>th</sup> December 1955 and in January 1956, the first Mongolian Ambassador was posted to New Delhi. However, our resident Mission in Ulaanbaatar was opened on 22 February 1971 and prior to that our 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.

6. The first ever visit by PM Shri Narendra Modi to Mongolia in May 2015 to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> 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 5 years (Visits of Home Minister & EAM - 2018, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas - Oct 2019, MOS(EA) – Nov 2021, Minister of Justice Shri Kiren Rijju and Raksha Mantri, Shri Rajnath Singh – 2022 ) and by initiating of process of construction of first Oil Refinery in Mongolia under Exim Bank LoC of USD 1.236 Billion – the single largest project of assistance - capable of refining 1.5 million MTPA (equivalent to approximate 75% 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.

### **High Level Visits from India to Mongolia**

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

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

Shri Kiren Rijju, 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 Rijju, MoS (Home), (3-6 July 2018) for 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Jharkhar, Lok Sabha Speaker (1985),  
Dr. G.S. Dhillon, Lok Sabha Speaker (1974),  
Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Vice-President (1957),

7. During the state visit of President Smt Pratibha Devi Singh Patil to Mongolia in July 2011, a line of credit of US\$20 million was announced for setting up of “Centre of Excellence for IT, Communication & Outsourcing” in Ulaanbaatar. Later, this Centre has since been 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. Earlier, in November 2016, India had upgraded Rajiv Gandhi Polytechnic College for Production and Art and the Centre for Excellence in Information & Communication Technology Education in a phased manner at a cost of US\$2.84 million.

8. 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 – now being utilized for building 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

9. Subsequently, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with Prime Minister J. Erdenebat met in the sidelines of St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (June 2017) and also met thrice with the immediately past 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 his State Visit to India (Sept 2019). PM’s meetings with Mongolian President was prominently noted in Mongolian media for enhancing bilateral relations.

10. 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 last bilateral meeting with FM Battsetseg took place during Munich Security Conference in Feb 2022.

11. The first Bilateral meeting between Speaker of Lok Sabha Shri Om Birla and Speaker of Great Khural (Mongolian Parliament) Mr Zandanshatar (SZ) was held in Vienna in Sept 2021 on the margins of Fifth World Conference of Speakers at which a formal invitation was extended to Mr Zandanshatar to visit India. SZ 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 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. 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 our 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. 6<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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, 7<sup>th</sup> 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 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative stamp by Mongol Post and EAM virtually handed over 25-volumes of sacred Mongolian Kanjur being reprinted by Ministry of Culture.

**13. Indo-Mongolian Foreign Office Consultations**: The last round of FOCs was 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. Next round of FOCs is expected to be held in New

Delhi at Secretary level depending on mutually convenient dates. In Sept 2023, Secretary East, Shri Saurabh Kumar paid an official visit to Mongolia to hold bilateral discussions with the State Secretary, MFA and review progress of the ongoing Developmental Projects of ORP, ABVCEITO & Friendship School.

**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 30<sup>th</sup> session of the IMO Assembly in 2017,
- (v) Advisory Committee Elections for Human Rights Council / 36<sup>th</sup> 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 39<sup>th</sup> General Conference for term 2017-2021
- (viii) 3<sup>rd</sup> group of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) during 40<sup>th</sup> Assembly, 2019
- (ix) World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) for the term 2020-2022
- (x) Council of the IMO in Category 'B' during 31<sup>st</sup> 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

**15. Defence Cooperation** received a massive boost during the visit of Defence Minister of India, Shri Rajnath Singh to Mongolia from Sept 5-7, 2022. Unusual 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. The announcement by RM of gifting of 2 ALS Indian made Ambulances and 200 special winter clothing special and defence training courses under ITEC Programme to Mongolian Armed Forces (being offered for the last 2 decades now averaging about 18-20 slots a year) was well received by Mongolian MoD.

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 our 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 and detailed Prof Ulziit Luvsanjav to coordinate with DDP. Previously, Mr. N. Enkhbold, the then Minister of Defence visited India in March 2018 and held bilateral talks with RRM, RM, NSA and COAS.

There is also an India-Mongolia Joint Working Group (JWG) for Defence cooperation that meets annually. The 11<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> JWG was held virtually on 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

At military level, joint India-Mongolia exercise 'Nomadic Elephant' is held annually. The last two editions were held at Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia) from July 17-30, 2023 and from 05- 18 October 2019 at Bakloh (HP), India (During pandemic impacted period no bilateral exercises could be held). In addition, 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 39-member contingent from Garwal J&K Light Infantry represented Indian Army.

Joint inauguration of a Cyber Security Training Centre (CSTC) in the Ministry of Defence, fully funded by GoI, during visit of our RM Shri Rajnath Singh in Sept 2022 and ongoing deputation of 2 Indian Army officers for capacity building in English language of MAF, is likely to consolidate our defence cooperation further with Mongolia. The most recent important exchange was deputation of 12 young cadets of MAF for Republic Day Parade 2023, under youth exchange programme fully funded by our MOD.

**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) has been 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. BSF has informed that tender for the second phase of upgrade of GABP Control & Command Centre is in the final stages of completion and likely to be finalized in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2023.

**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, NEMA of Mongolia had forwarded an Action Plan to NDMA in March 2021 which is expected to be implemented during 2023-2024 depending upon mutually convenient dates.

**18. Energy Cooperation:** A Working Group for cooperation in the field of nuclear energy has been set up between the respective agencies of the two countries i.e. the DAE and the Nuclear Energy Agency of Mongolia. The second meeting of this Working Group was held in Mumbai from 10-12 December 2012. The

3rd JWG meeting was held in March 2017 in Ulaanbaatar. Another JWG was constituted for cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy but there has not been any progress by either side due to Covid pandemic conditions.

**19. 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 and auto parts, etc. Imports from Mongolia include raw cashmere wool.

20. Since last 3 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 1.236 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 Mission had planned the second edition of Oil and Gas Exhibition in Sept/Oct 2023 coinciding with Mining Expo, however, due to Covid enforced restrictions and quarantine regime, the event could not be held. In Jan 2020, as a part of 65<sup>th</sup> 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 impacted environment, 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 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative stamp by Mongol Post & an Exhibition on bilateral ancient relationship in Dec 2020. The mission also commissioned a market survey & study to explore innovating ways to promote Indian MSME, Health and Pharma Sector in Mongolia was commissioned in Jan 2022. In November 2022, in association with ITPO & Mo/AYUSH, the mission organized an SME focused 'India Pavilion' at the International Distributors Mongolia Expo in Misheel in which 14 Indian companies participated.

21. Given 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 was established** which is attempting to attract Mongolians for various treatments like liver, Ophthalmological treatment, cancer and heart ailments. Due to persistent efforts of mission, 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 since 2022, have registered a sharp increase and so far in

2023, an average of 35 'Medical Visas' are being issued. A 'Medical and Wellness Tourism Event' is planned in the second half of 2023.

23. 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 has been in discussions with China, Russia, Estonia, India and Sweden. The biggest push in this direction from the mission is **USD 20 million Atal Bihari Centre of Excellence in IT, CT & Outsourcing** construction of which started in Aug 2021 and expected to be completed in mid-2023. 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. Ongoing construction of this Centre is likely to be completed in 2024. In addition, Indian Ministry of Defence is in advanced stage of establishing a Cyber Security Training Centre in the Mongolian MOD which would give boost Indian cyber technology in Mongolia and might create a ripple effect. In July 2022, the Mission made a formal offer on behalf of our 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.

24. Though bilateral trade has registered steady increase over the last few years and expected to touch USD 100 million in 2023, yet it is not commensurate with our excellent relationship and goodwill for India. Figures gathered from MNCCI are listed below:

(Million USD): Source: Mongolian NSO					
Imports/Exports	2019	2020	2021	2022	Jan-Aug 2023*
India's Exports to Mongolia	37.1	34.6	63.6	91.0	47.92
India's Imports from Mongolia	1.2	0.74	0.28	0.74	0.987
<b>Total Bilateral Trade</b>	<b>38.3</b>	<b>35.3</b>	<b>63.8</b>	<b>91.7</b>	<b>48.90</b>

25. **ITEC Assistance:** Since 2011-12, the number of ITEC slots for civilian training programme were increased to 150 per year and during visit of our PM in May 2012, 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 1.236 billion. Since resumption of physical ITEC courses in post Covid pandemic period from July 2022, 149 lots have been utilized for 2022-2023. 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 (now 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

26. **ICCR scholarships:** For the Academic Year 2022-23, Mongolia has been 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 slots have also been offered for special courses for Buddhist studies in Varanasi and Leh Institute with effect from 2020-2021. Since post pandemic resumption of ICCR scholarship in 2022-2023, about 43 candidates out of 77 applicants, received confirmations against reduced quota of 40 slots allocated to Mongolia.

**27. 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, TGPCPA 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.

**28. 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, 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 capital city using the LoC of US\$20 million. PM Modi along with Mongolian PM laid the foundation stone in May 2015 of this center in the campus of Mongolian University of Science and Technology (MUST) and subsequently, Indian PSU WAPCOS was awarded Project Management Consultancy (PMC) for the establishing the Centre. Towards this, 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 during Covid enforced environment, MMoE signed contract with PK Saxena Contractor for Package - I Agreement for construction of BPO Building. The Ground Breaking ceremony of this IT Centre was done by Mongolian Minister of Education on Aug 12, 2021 and construction work is currently underway. For the package-2, LPU has already finalized 16 specialized courses in consultation with MOES and have offered to start some of these immediately from an alternate site pending completion of the building. ABVCEITO is expected to be completed in the second half of 2024, if no further disruption occurs.

**29. 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 Ruran 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 1/2 million. Towards this, detailed feasibility studies, cost estimates have already been shared with the Ministry which is processing the required approvals. Now that pandemic enforced travel restrictions have been eased, the project is likely to commence in the second half of 2023.

**30. India-Mongolia Friendship School:** Following signing of an MoU in May, 2015 during the historic visit of PM, Government of Mongolia finally allotted 2.9 hectares plot in prestigious Zaisan Hill in Nov 2021 for construction of a 'India-Mongolia Friendship Secondary School' in Ulanbataar as a USD 5.5 million Grant in Aid project from GoI. In July 2022, Ms/ 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, which emerged as L1 was awarded contract for construction in Sept 2023. Actual construction of this high impact development partnership project is likely to commence in before onset of winter of 2023.

**31. Oil Refinery Project:** During the historic & first ever visit of Prime Minister to Mongolia in 2015, a line of credit (LOC) of US\$ 1 Billion was approved for development of infrastructure, which the Government of Mongolia finally decided to utilize for construction of its first ever grass root Oil Refinery Project (ORP) 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 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 to be constructed in 4 phases – EPC 1, 2, 3 & 4 for which Engineering India Ltd (EIL) is offering PMC. In 2018, during the visit of then Minister of Petroleum, Shri D Prahdan, GOI approved an additional USD 236 million for ORP. Actual construction of EPC 1 works by JMC India commenced in Jan 2021 and are due to complete in Nov 2023, whereas EPC 2&3 works were started by Megha Engineering (MEIL) in April 2023. Since due to Covid pandemic, the overall estimated construction cost of ORP exceeded USD 1.236 billion, after some protracted negotiations, EPC 4 contract was finally signed in Sep 2023. ORP is considered as a 'milestone energy security project' for Mongolia and it has received support cutting across party lines. From time to leadership of

Mongolia has been inspecting progress of ORP that includes 2 visits by President, 2 by PM and 1 by Speaker while Minister of Mining also pays regular visits to ensure timely completion of this project which has been declared as a 'Strategic Project' by GOM.

**32. Humanitarian Assistancess:** 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. Deputy Prime Minister and other senior officials from the Province were present during this donation ceremony. In the past years also, Gol provided considerable assistance on various occasions. Also humanitarian assistance worth US\$50,000 was provided by the Government of India to the flood affected Provinces (Bayan Ulgee, Arhangai and Huvsgul) of Mongolia in August 2018.

**33. 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.

**34. Digital Connectivity Network:** The Government of Mongolia sought India's assistance on expansion of network in rural areas and improvement of infrastructure of main ICT network. Proposal is under consideration with the Mongolian authorities.

**35. 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 and 2015 and most recently in Sept 2019 during the visit of Mongolian President until 2023. 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. During PM's visit in May 2015, it was agreed to implement a new project for digitization of ancient manuscripts in Gandan Monastery with the assistance by CUTS (Varanasi) however, this project has not gone through due to various hurdles at National Library and monasteries end.

A "Festival of India" was organized in 2015 by the mission 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.

An International Conference on Chinggis Khaan, His Legacy and Indian Culture was organized by the ICCR in September 2016 in Ulaanbaatar. The second such Conference was held in JNU on 9 January 2018. Ehipassiko Mongolia conference was held at New Delhi on 15 March to support Mongolian language learners and to attract young researchers to the Mongolian study.

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 3<sup>rd</sup> Ayurveda Day was celebrated on 5 November 2018 at Otoch Manramba University. The 5<sup>th</sup> Ayurveda Day planned to be celebrated on Nov 13, 2020 could not be celebrated over sudden shut down of city and ban on hosting conferences, events and public gathering on detection of community spread of corona virus.

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.

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. 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.

To mark the 550<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev ji and 150<sup>th</sup> 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. During 2019-2020, the mission also set up 3 special 'India-corners' at Rajeev Gandhi Polytechnic Institute, CITI University and at E-mart near National Park and donated more than 600 books. It is pertinent to mention that **for the last 23 years, a Pan-Mongolia Indian dance competition titled "Melody of Ganga" among school children** is being organized by the mission with the help from Indian Culture Centre at Children Palace. However, during 2020-2022, this competition could not be held due to COVID-19 situation. The latest edition in March 2023 attracted over 400 Mongolian children dancers from 13 provinces.

For the last 30 years the mission has been organizing **Hindi Language classes** in Mongolia and every year 3/4 students are granted scholarships to study Hindi language at Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra annually. So far over 300 Mongolian students learnt Hindi at KHS, Agra and in the Hindi classes.

To commemorate 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the India-Mongolia diplomatic relations in 2020, a painting competition was organized by the mission with the help from Creativity Centre which attracted a record number of 976 entries from students in the age group 6-16. The mission is planning to print a 'Book' of the award winning paintings. The mission also organized several events despite Covid pandemic situation that include setting up of India-Mongolia Friendship Garden, Release of Gold/Silver coins minted by Central Bank of Mongolia on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mahatma besides facilitating telecast of the Indian 55-episode TV serial of 'Buddha' dubbed in Mongolian language between Association of Mongolian Buddhist Devotees, a part of Gandan monastery and Zee India, release of a special commemorative stamp by Mongol Post on 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Dec 2020 by EAM.

Despite pandemic enforced environment, the mission continued its activities in virtual and physical/hybrid mode, within permissible limits of guests in 2021. Since easing of restrictions from Nov 2021, as a part of Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav(AKAM), the mission has organized about 54 events including painting competition, India@75 Freedom Run by 75 Hunnu Harley Bikers, biweekly telecast of Mongolian dubbed Bollywood movies on several TV channels, installed a Life size Ice Sculpture of Taj Mahal at the Sukhbaatar Square in Jan 2022 for 40 days display with the help from Mayor's office/Indian & Mongolian companies, coordinated live telecast of RD parade at Sukhbataar Square, organized a Paragliding show, planted about 200 trees in National Park & Music Conservatory, organized week long International Day of Yoga including Yoga

Festival by MYF, First T-20 Cricket League in Mongolia in July 2022. A 10-member Mongolian National Dance Ensemble was hosted by the Indian organizers to perform during Tribefest-2022 in Raipur in Nov 2022.

**36. Indian Community:** The Indian community in Mongolia is small, numbering about 200-250 or so, according to Mongolian Immigration figures (not including 600+ temporary workers deployed at the site of Oil Refinery Project in Shainshand). 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). Interestingly, presently 2 Indian nationals are heading regional offices of International Organizations in Mongolia – Mr. Tapan Mishra, Coordinator of UN and Mr. Vinod Ahuja, Head of UNFAO 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 regularly 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.

**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.eoi.gov.in/ulaanbaatar/>
4. Embassy of India, Ulaanbaatar Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/India-in-Mongolia>
5. Embassy of India, Ulaanbaatar Twitter account:  
<https://twitter.com/IndiainMongolia>
6. Embassy of India, Ulaanbaatar Instagram account:  
<https://instagram.com/IndiainMongolia>

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**Oct 2023**