

9th SESSION OF THE INDIA - KYRGYZ IGC HELD IN NEW DELHI¹

Commerce Minister, Suresh Prabhu and Mr. Kosmosbek Cholponbaev, Minister of Health, Government of the Kyrgyz Republic Exchanging protocol on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation

The 9th Session of the India-Kyrgyz Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation (IK-IGC) was held on 15-16 November, 2018 in New Delhi and concluded with signing of Protocol. The IK-IGC was co-chaired by The Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, and Mr. Kosmosbek Cholponbaev, Minister of Health, Government of the Kyrgyz Republic.

India and Kyrgyzstan have identified potential sectors where both sides may engage in areas like healthcare and pharmaceutical, environmental and technical safety, agriculture, information, tourism and culture, textiles and clothing, banking, labor and social development, mines and standards, metrology and certification sector.

Both sides agreed to hold business to business forums between Kyrgyz and Indian companies as well as the exchange of business and commercial information and search for partners.

Kyrgyz side proposed to consider the creation of joint food and food processing ventures for agriculture and meat product for export to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) markets. It requested India to assist in incubation methods and breeding of fresh water fish, fish disease prophylactic treatment, primary processing and storage of fish and fish products, creation of electronic data base for the pastures, monitoring, assessment and conducting of remote sensing of mountainous pastures including geo-information system.

The parties agreed to hold the tenth meeting of the Kyrgyz-Indian inter-governmental Commission on Trade-Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.

GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY COME TOGETHER AT A WORKSHOP ON ONLINE COURSE ON DIGITAL PAYMENTS LAUNCHED BY NITI AAYOG IN COLLABORATION WITH DOT AND ITU²

A workshop on the “Online Course on Digital Payments” was organised on 12th November 2018 under the Chairmanship of Shri Ratan P Watal, Principal Advisor, NITI Aayog and Member Secretary to EAC-PM. The course was developed by International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in collaboration with NITI Aayog and Department of Telecommunications (DoT) with inputs from key stakeholders targeting mid-level Government Officers / Academicians engaged in training.

The course covered various aspects related to Digital Payments such as standards, interoperability, security issues, futuristic trends like distributed ledger technologies, etc. and was divided into three modules. Over 80 participants from various Government Departments / Training Institutions / Academia registered in this programme.

Mr. Sudhakar Ramasubramanian, MD and CEO, Aditya Birla Idea Payment Bank and Co-Chair, FICCI Fintech Committee delivered the opening remarks at this workshop. Shri Ashish Narayan, Programme Coordinator, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific then shared the key learnings of this course and provided the overall feedback to the Chair. Shri. B N Satpathy, Senior Consultant, EAC-PM set the context for the workshop and provided a 3-step way forward:

¹ Available at: <http://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1552993>

² Available at: <http://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1552830>

- Based on the experience from the course, training and academic institutions from across India could plan/develop similar courses on Digital payments in their respective institutions;
- NITI Aayog may explore the possibility of using this course as a benchmark and may develop future courses on ICT in collaboration with ITU, DoT and other Ministries on priority topics and
- Good project assignments that are submitted in this course could be invited for presentation, further developed and considered for piloting and support by stakeholders in India.

The key component of this workshop was the presentations on various assignment undertaken by participants. The workshop displayed some of these ideas suggested by participants. During the industry interaction, Members from the fintech fraternity and financial institutions shared some of their insights on how some of these projects can be made more viable and also extended support on the existing technological infrastructure that can be leveraged from the implementation point of view. Shri Ratan Watal, Principal Advisor, NITI Aayog and Member Secretary, EAC-PM in his concluding remarks appreciated the collective efforts of institutions involved in this exercise and acknowledged the enthusiasm of various participants who presented their ideas in the workshop. He observed that the online course has not only achieved its objective but also gone beyond it and has produced some innovative ideas for promoting Digital Payments. At the end, he mentioned that there is lot of scope for furthering Digital Payments in the country for which there is a need to organise similar capacity building exercises.

Team ICSI

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