

Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was established in 1991 to ensure continued cooperation in trade and military policy and recognition of borders between the States which formed part of the erstwhile USSR (except Baltic States). Russian Federation, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan are the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan fall in Asia and are commonly known as Central Asian Republics (CAR). Relations between India and countries of the CIS Region have remained close and cordial since the Soviet era. However, bilateral trade and commercial relations are still to achieve its true potential.

Recognizing the potential of CIS region, FICCI's CIS DESK has been actively fostering India's Economic and Commercial relation with these Countries through its sectoral and bilateral initiatives by way of organizing delegations, Exhibitions, reverse buyer seller meet, Meeting with Head of States, etc. The desk closely works in coordination with CIS Missions in New Delhi, Indian Mission in CIS Countries and various Ministries of Government of India. It provides a forum to the Indian Industry for developing their business, raising relevant issues hindering trade, providing inputs on policy change, etc. It has set up Joint Business Council Agreement/ MoU with various Apex Chamber of Commerce & Industry in CIS countries. JBC provides a regular and recognized forum at the Apex level for promotion of economic activities between businessmen and industrialists of two regions.

Potential Sectors for Collaboration between India and CIS countries are:

- Food Sector and Agribusiness : Food Processing, Agro Products, Machinery & Equipment, Packaging, Fertilizers, Irrigation, etc
- Pharmaceuticals & Healthcare: Medicines, Formulations, Medical devices, Hospitals, etc
- ICT: Telecom, Technology parks, e-governance, IT training, Business Processes, etc
- Textiles: Textile Machinery, Readymade garments, etc
- Energy: Power Generation & Transmission, Oil Refining & Petro-Chemicals, Oil & gas exploration

The JBC Agreements/ MOU's signed in the region are given below:

| Country | Counterpart Organisation |
|-------------|---|
| Armenia: | Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen (Employers) of Armenia |
| Belarus: | The Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry |
| Kazakhstan: | Kazakhstan Chamber of Commerce & Industry |
| Kyrgyzstan: | Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Kyrgyz Republic |

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|-------------|--|
| Russia | Russian Federation Chamber of Commerce & Industry (RFCCI) |
| Ukraine: | Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce & Industry, ICC Ukraine |
| Uzbekistan: | Chamber of Commodity Producers and Entrepreneurs of Uzbekistan |
| Tajikistan | Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Tajikistan |

Bilateral trade between India and CIS countries (in US \$ million) for the year 2011-12

| Country | Export | Import | Total Trade |
|--------------|---------|---------|-------------|
| Armenia: | 38.39 | 5.96 | 44.26 |
| Azerbaijan | 71.62 | 842.59 | 914.22 |
| Belarus | 121.72 | 176.68 | 298.20 |
| Georgia | 121.74 | 60.76 | 182.50 |
| Kazakhstan | 244.39 | 166.35 | 410.74 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 30.55 | 0.67 | 31.22 |
| Moldova | 7.50 | 0.50 | 8.00 |
| Russia | 1728.27 | 4624.53 | 6402.80 |
| Tajikistan | 21.28 | 7.09 | 28.37 |
| Turkmenistan | 43.95 | 73.56 | 60.84 |
| Ukraine | 491.22 | 2374.23 | 2865.45 |
| Uzbekistan | 89.39 | 61.58 | 150.97 |

Source : Ministry of Commerce, Govt of India