

Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China on Opening a New Route for Indian Pilgrimage (Kailash Mansarovar Yatra) to the Tibet Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China

The Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as "the two sides"),

Recalling the decision taken by the two sides in 1981 to resume Indian Pilgrimage (Kailash Mansarovar Yatra) through the Lipulekh Pass/Qiangla and the Protocol between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China on Indian Pilgrimage (Kailash Mansarovar Yatra) to the Tibet Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China of 20 May 2013;

Acknowledging the cooperation extended by the People's Republic of China and the relevant authorities of the Tibet Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China in arranging the pilgrimage every year;

Taking cognizance of the need to meet the demand of Indian pilgrims to the Tibet Autonomous Region of China and to further promote friendly exchanges between the two countries;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

Upon the request of the Indian side to further facilitate visits by pilgrims from India to Mt. Kailash (Gang Renpoche) and Mansarovar (Mapam Yun Tso) in the Tibet Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China,

the Chinese side agrees to open a new route for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra through Nathula Pass.

This Pilgrimage (Yatra) will be conducted on the basis of the special arrangement made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China and organized by the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India.

Article 2

Considering that a large number of Indian pilgrims visit Mt. Kailash (Gang Renpoche) and Mansarovar (Mapam Yun Tso) through tour operators and travel agents, the two sides agree to discuss modalities to allow such pilgrims to enter or exit China through Nathula Pass in accordance with each other's regulations and procedures, without affecting the Indian Pilgrimage (Kailash Mansarovar Yatra) being organised by the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India.

Article 3

The two sides agree to work out the implementation modalities for Indian pilgrims entering or exiting China via Nathula Pass through diplomatic channels.

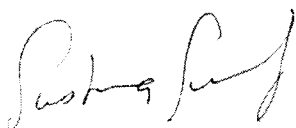
Article 4

This Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect from the day of signing and shall be valid for a period of five years and shall be automatically extended for a further period of five years at a time, unless either of the two sides gives to the other a notice, in writing, six months in advance of its expiry, of its intention to terminate the Memorandum.

The two sides can modify and supplement the Memorandum of Understanding through written consent.

Signed in duplicate in New Delhi on the 18th of September 2014 in Hindi, English and Chinese languages, all three being equally authentic. In case of divergence, the English text shall prevail.

**For the Ministry of External Affairs
of the Republic of India**



**Name: Smt. Sushma Swaraj
Designation: External Affairs
Minister**

**For the Ministry of Foreign
Affairs of the
People's Republic of China**



**Name: Mr. Wang Yi
Designation: Minister of Foreign
Affairs**