India and Kazakhstan sign extradition treaty

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News

Kazakhstan's news agency 'Kazakhstan Today' reported on 3 Nov 2026 that India and Kazakhstan have signed an extradition treaty. Kazakhstan's Prosecutor General Berik Asylov and India's Ambassador to Kazakhstan Y.K. Sailas Thangal signed it at a ceremony hosted by the Prosecutor General's Office. It provides for each country to hand over persons wanted for criminal prosecution or to serve a court-imposed sentence. Together with the existing pacts on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and transfer of sentenced persons, it completes the legal-cooperation framework. (Reports do not state where it was signed.)

Key facts

Report	3 Nov 2026 – 'Kazakhstan Today' (kt.kz); signing place not stated
Signatories	Berik Asylov – Prosecutor General of Kazakhstan; Y.K. Sailas Thangal – Indian Ambassador (credentials to President Tokayev, 28 Aug 2025)
Purpose	Surrender of persons wanted for prosecution or to serve a sentence
Earlier pacts	Mutual legal assistance (criminal) – New Delhi, 17 Aug 1999; legal assistance (civil) – Astana, 16 Apr 2011; transfer of sentenced persons – Astana, 8 July 2015

Note	The Indian Embassy's list also shows an 'Extradition Treaty – New Delhi, 24 Jan 2009'; but Kazakhstan is not in MEA's list of extradition-treaty countries; reports do not explain its relation to the 2026 signing
Indian law	Extradition Act, 1962; Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) handles extradition requests

Background

- Law: the Extradition Act, 1962 lays down the procedure for surrendering fugitives from and to India; it applies to treaty States by notification; no surrender for offences of a political character (Section 31). Officers at Joint Secretary (Consular) level in the MEA receive requests. For economic offenders, the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 allows confiscation of property.
- Principles: 'dual criminality' – the act must be an offence in both countries; 'rule of speciality' – the person may be tried only for the offence for which he was surrendered. As per the MEA list, India has treaties with 37 countries and arrangements with 10.
- Transfer of prisoners: the 2015 India–Kazakhstan agreement was given effect by a Home Ministry notification (2017) under the Repatriation of Prisoners Act, 2003 – a convicted foreigner can serve the sentence in his own country.
- Relations: a 'Strategic Partnership' was announced when President Nazarbayev was Republic Day chief guest in 2009. India announced its 'Connect Central Asia' policy in 2012; the first India–Central Asia Summit was held virtually in Jan 2022. Kazakhstan is a key supplier of uranium for India's nuclear power plants.

Tamil Nadu link: there is no direct Tamil Nadu link to this news. Related fact: India has had an extradition 'arrangement' with Sri Lanka, across the Palk Strait, since 1978 (MEA list) – relevant to cases of fugitives crossing via the Tamil Nadu coast.

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