



सत्यमेव जयते

Embassy of India ASTANA

Republic of Kazakhstan

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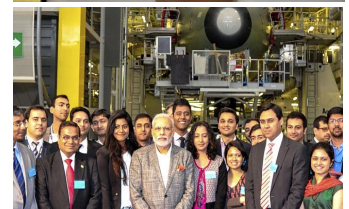
Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits France, Germany and Canada (April 9-16)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi undertook a three-nation tour to France, Germany and Canada from April 9-16, 2015. He began his tour with France (April 9-12) where he held a Summit meeting with President Francois Hollande on April 10. During the meeting, the two leaders reviewed bilateral relations and discussed cooperation in the fields of defence, nuclear energy, economy, railways, space, culture and education besides people to people ties. At the end of the talks, seventeen agreements/MOUs and three Letters of Intent were signed which included a key pact between India's Larsen and Turbo and French nuclear giant Areva. The two sides also reached decision to buy 36 Rafale jets from France in fly-away condition. Prime Minister's programme included an interactive session with CEOs of French infrastructure and defence companies where he invited them to invest in India.

Prime Minister visited Airbus's Toulouse Headquarters on April 11, after which the French aviation giant assured that its Indian outsourcing will increase from \$400 million to \$2 billion over the next five years as part of the Indian government's Make in India initiative. Prime Minister visited Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES) - the French Government space agency in Toulouse and got an update on the latest inventions and technological upgradations in space science. He also visited the Neuve-Chapelle Memorial and paid floral tributes to Indian soldiers who were martyred in the First World War. Prime Minister addressed a gathering at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris and released a portal containing all information relating to the celebration of International Day of Yoga on June 21, 2015.

During his three-day visit to Germany from April 12-14, Prime Minister Modi, along with Chancellor Merkel, inaugurated the 'India Pavilion' at the Hannover Fair where India is a partner country this year with the participation of about 400 Indian companies and more than 100 Indian CEOs besides 3000 German delegates. He addressed an India-German business summit and outlined his goals for "Make in India" campaign. He assured the German companies that India is now a changed country with the regulatory regime much more transparent, responsive and stable. In his bilateral talks, the Prime Minister focussed on how Germany could work with India in its developmental agenda. He visited a railway station in Berlin amid his government's agenda of modernizing Indian Railways. He also paid a visit to Siemens Technical Academy, which is considered a leader in vocational education.

Prime Minister Modi arrived in Canada on April 14 on the final leg of his tour. He was accorded ceremonial welcome in Ottawa on April 15. He met Governor General David Johnston and PM Stephen Harper. Prime Minister also visited Toronto and addressed Indian Diaspora in Toronto on April 16. Thirteen agreements for deepening bilateral cooperation in the areas of civil aviation, railway transportation, education and skills development, space, social security and healthcare were signed during the visit, which included a deal for supply of uranium from Canada to India over the next five years. Prime Minister's visit to Canada (April 14-16) was the first standalone bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister in last 42 years.



"Namaste India Festival" in Kazakhstan

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations and the Embassy of India, Astana organized Namaste India Festival in Kazakhstan from April 2-5, 2015. As part of the festival, two cultural groups, a Sitar and Kathak dance group led by Sitar Maestro Pandit Prateek Chaudhuri and eminent Kathak danseuse Anupriya Mukherjee and a Manipuri dance troupe from Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy led by Shri Thoiba Oinam visited Kazakhstan. The two groups held in total five performances, three in Astana, one in Almaty and one in Temirtau, Karaganda.

The first performance of Sitar and Kathak group was held at Kazakhstan University of Humanities and Law, Astana on April 2. Around 200 students attended the performance. The second performance was held at National Art Gallery, Astana on April 3 where over 300 people including local government representatives, prominent Kazakh nationals, members of the diplomatic corps, dance and music lovers of Kazakhstan and other friends of India attended the show. The troupe enthralled the audience with their captivating music and dance which featured solo sitar recitals, solo Kathak dance performance and a fusion of Indian classical and light melodies with duet of Sitar and Kathak.

The Manipuri dance group had a performance each at Almaty, Astana and Karaganda. A short film on Manipur was screened before the performance. The first Manipuri dance performance was held at the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (KazNU) on April 2. Mr. Galym Mutanov, Rector of KazNU was the Chief Guest at the performance. About 400 people including representatives of the local government, members of diplomatic corps, students and faculty members of KazNU and Mahatma Gandhi school, members of Indian community and people from different walks of life attended the performance.

At Astana, the Manipuri Dance performance was held at National Art Gallery on April 4. It was attended by over 300 people including representatives of local government, prominent Kazakh nationals, representatives of the diplomatic corps, members of the Indian community, dance and music lovers and other friends of India. The performance in Karaganda on April 5 was attended by more than 750 people including members of Indian community and workers of ArcelorMittal, Temirtau, JSC. Ms. Sholpan Mirza Hassimova, Deputy Mayor of Temirtau was the chief guest at the function. At the end, a group of children from Kazakh Cultural Centre, Temirtau performed two items of Bollywood dance.

The Manipuri dance group enthralled the audiences with their delightful and captivating dance performance which included group dance numbers Pung Cholom and Dhol Cholom, two items of martial art dance Thangta and two solo items, Dasa Avatar and Krishna Vandana. The group received standing ovation from the audiences.

The Embassy received assistance from ONGC Videsh Ltd.; ArcelorMittal, Temirtau; National Art Gallery, Astana; Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty; M/s KEC International Limited; Tea Board of India; Gateway International Inc.; M/s Fly Dubai and Kazakhstan National University of Humanities and Law, Astana in organizing the festival in Kazakhstan.



Ambassador visits Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty

Ambassador Shri Harsh K. Jain met Mr. Galym Mutanov, Rector, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (KazNU) on April 2, 2015. The Rector warmly welcomed Ambassador and briefed him about his visit to India in the 3rd week of March 2015. During the visit, Rector met H.E. Shri Satyanarayan Mohanty, Secretary (Higher Education), Government of India, Dr. Ashok Kumar Chauhan, founder of the Amity University, Mr. Dinesh Singh, Vice Chancellor, Delhi University and Dr. Priya Ranjan Trivedi, President, Confederation of Indian Universities. He also visited Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi and met representatives of ANI news channel and Indian branch of Encyclopedia Britannica.

The Al-Farabi Kazakh National University and Amity University signed an Agreement of Cooperation. The students of KazNU presented a scintillating cultural performance devoted to Nauryz festival at Amity University.

Ambassador congratulated Rector on his successful visit to India and assured him of Embassy's full support in further strengthening the academic and cultural linkages between the two countries. They discussed further cooperation between the Embassy and the University in promoting Indian studies, youth exchanges, award of ICCR and ITEC scholarships, celebration of International Day of Yoga etc. Later, both watched Manipuri dance performance by a troupe from Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy at the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University.



Lecture on "Changing Structure of International Relations and Foreign Policy of India"

Ambassador Ashok Sajjanhar, Secretary National Foundation for Communal Harmony, India and former Ambassador of India to Kazakhstan, Sweden and Latvia delivered a lecture on "Changing Structure of International Relations and Foreign Policy of India" on April 2, 2015. The lecture was organized by the Institute of Oriental Studies at the Institute of World Economy and Politics, Almaty. About 40 people attended the lecture. Among the prominent participants were Sheikh Abdsattar Haji Derbsali, former Grand Mufti of Kazakhstan, Mr. Bulat Sultanov, Director, Research Institute for International and Regional Cooperation, Prof. Dr. Meruert Abusseitova, Director, Archival Historical Material Research Centre and Dr. Laura Yerekeshveva, Deputy Director, UNESCO Chair Coordinator, Institute of Oriental Studies. Ambassador Shri Harsh K. Jain welcomed the participants and briefly spoke on India-Kazakhstan relations.



Ambassador visits Kazakhstan Gharysh Sapary

Ambassador Shri Harsh K. Jain visited Kazakhstan Gharysh Sapary at the invitation of Mr. Marat Nurguzhin, Acting President. Mr. Nurguzhin made a brief presentation on the activities of the organization and future projects. Ambassador noted the achievements made by Gharysh Sapary in the last 10 years with appreciation. The two discussed the possibility of cooperation between the space organizations of the two countries.



REUTERS

Moody's upgrades India rating outlook to positive

The ratings upgrade is the first ever in recent history due to 3 quarters of sustained hard-work by Modi Govt

“ Govt's recent measures to address inflation, keep external balances in check, simplify the regulatory regime for investors, increase foreign direct investment & facilitate infrastructure development will

**-Allow India to continue to outperform its peers
-Improve India's macro-economic, infrastructure and institutional profile ”**



Renewed confidence in India will act as a launching pad for investment

Celebration of Holi and Nauryz and holding of Festival of Indian Tea at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty

Department of Far East and South Asian Studies, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University organized a function to celebrate Holi and Nauryz festivals on April 3, 2015. A Festival of Indian Tea was also organized on the occasion. The function was hosted by Dr. Bayan Jubatova, Dean of the Faculty of Oriental Studies and was attended by Faculty members of the Department and Hindi/Urdu language students. Mr. Naveen Kapur, Second Secretary(Cons), Representative Office of India, Almaty attended the celebration and addressed the gathering. He spoke briefly about the importance of Holi and Nauryz and gave an overview of Indian Tea. A brief power point presentation on Indian tea was made on the occasion. The function ended with an impressive cultural programme by the students of the university.



Defence Attache visits Semey

Colonel L.S. Lidder, Defence Attache, Embassy of India, Astana visited the Semey State Medical University on April 8, 2015. He met Rector Mr. Tolebay K. Rakhypbekov and Vice Rector Ms. Zhunussova Aigul Bitimbayevna and interacted with the faculty and Indian students studying in the university.



India's new trade policy merges all export schemes into two

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Make in India" initiative in the backdrop and a target of raising India's exports to \$900 billion by 2020, a new five-year Foreign Trade Policy was unveiled on April 1 that recasts all external commerce programmes into two schemes.

The new five-year Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 provides a framework for increasing exports of goods and services, as well as generation of employment and increasing value addition in the country, in keeping with the "Make in India" vision of the Prime Minister. The focus of the new policy is to support both the manufacturing and services sectors, with a special emphasis on improving the ease of doing business. The key highlights of the Policy are :

- Increase exports to \$900 billion by 2019-20, from \$466 billion in 2013-14.
- Old promotion schemes subsumed under two schemes - "Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS)" and "Services Exports from India Scheme (SEIS)".
- Higher level of rewards under MEIS for export items with high domestic content and value addition.
- Incentives extended to units located in special economic zones (SEZs.).
- Export obligation reduced to 75 percent to promote domestic capital goods manufacturing.
- Duty credit scrips made freely transferable and usable for payment of custom duty, excise duty and service tax.
- Mainstreaming of state governments and various ministries in formulating FTP.
- FTP will be reviewed after two-and-a-half years.
- Agricultural and village industry products would be supported across the globe at the rates of 3 percent and 5 percent.
- Focus on defence, pharma, environment-friendly products and value-added exports. Source: Indo-Asian News Service.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches International Day of Yoga Portal

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, flanked by UNESCO Director General Irena Bukova, launched International Day of Yoga portal, idayofyoga.org, on April 10, 2015 after addressing a gathering at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris. The portal will contain all information outlining and publicizing events relating to the celebration of the first International Day of Yoga on 21 June, 2015.

International Day of Yoga
(21 June 2015)



President Nazarbayev signs decree on "Nurly Zhol"

President Nursultan Nazarbayev signed a decree on April 6, 2015 on the "Nurly Zhol" State Program for infrastructure development for 2015-2019. The "Nurly Zhol" Program (the shiny path to the future) is the new economic policy initiative of the Government of Kazakhstan which was announced by President Nazarbayev in November 2014. Under the policy, Government of Kazakhstan will implement major road/rail projects, reconstruct roads of national importance and create industrial and energy infrastructure in different parts of the country. Development of housing infrastructure especially affordable housing, creation of social infrastructure like schools, hospitals, museums etc. and support to SMEs to help create new jobs will also be taken up under this program. The funds for implementing the program will mainly come from the National Fund of Kazakhstan. The implementation of the program is expected to promote economic growth in the country both from short and long term perspectives, help create new jobs, increase business activity and enhance transit potential of Kazakhstan.



President Nazarbayev addresses Youth Forum in Astana

A youth forum titled "Towards New Victories with the Nation's Leader" was held in Astana on April 10. President Nazarbayev addressed the forum and said that Kazakhstan has to prepare for the future competition in the world market within the Eurasian Union. He told the gathering that there was no ideal free market economy in the world and that market regulators were being used by the states in accordance with their interests. He pointed out that all developed countries support their industries, agriculture and business through subsidies and put barriers on the way of foreign products. He said that Kazakhstan was already among the world's 50 most competitive economies and that this had been achieved in only two decades through the development of economy, industrial sector, agriculture, education, healthcare and other factors. He added that now the country's main goal was to catch up with the world's leading economies in terms of quality of life and for that it was necessary to double GDP per capita from its present level of USD \$13,000 per person.



Kazakhstan to hold comprehensive subsurface study of the Caspian Depression

According to Ministry of Energy of Kazakhstan, the Caspian Depression will become the world's largest center for oil and gas production in the future. Based on this assessment, Kazakhstan plans to develop and implement a comprehensive program of geological studies of deep subsurface and hydrocarbon resources of the Caspian Depression in the next three to five years. The work on the programme will be conducted within the framework of implementation of the project "Eurasia" and executed by the newly created International Consortium of well-known oil companies. Preliminary work on the project will include reprocessing of geological and geophysical material of the past and conducting of large-scale geophysical investigations with the construction of the new two-level regional profiles. The location will be determined on the basis of the results of the geophysical studies and drilling of an ultra-deep parametric well with a depth of presumably 14-15 km in the central zone of the Caspian Depression. The work on the project will be coordinated by an interagency working group which was created on November 13, 2013. The Ministry informed that the issue of fiscal and non-fiscal benefits and preferences for the participants of the project was currently being studied in consultation with interested state bodies in Kazakhstan.

Incredible India Destination: Ooty

Ooty is a prominent hill station located in the Western Ghats in the southern State of Tamil Nadu. It is covered by lofty blue mountains, beautiful lakes, dense forests and sprawling grasslands. Miles of tea gardens and eucalyptus trees greet the visitors en-route Ooty. The hill station itself is a picturesque picnic spot with several tourist attractions such as the Rose Garden, Ooty Botanical Gardens having rare plant species, Ooty lake with a full-fledged Boat house established alongside the lake, Stone House, the first bungalow constructed in Ooty and a wax museum that houses life-size look-alike wax statues of personalities of Indian history, culture and heritage. There is also a Deer Park located on the edge of Ooty Lake which houses a number of deer species.

The diverse landscape of Ooty also offers an opportunity to explore a number of adventure sports and recreational activities, including hand gliding. Mudumalai National Park, a Tiger Reserve and one of the first wildlife sanctuaries established in India is home to endangered Indian elephants, vulnerable Gaur, Chital, Bengal Tigers and Indian Leopards and other wild life. There are four beautiful lakes in the vicinity of Ooty - Emerald Lake, Avalanche Lake, Porthimund Lake and Upper Bhavani.

Ooty is connected to the rest of India by road and rail. The Nilgiri Mountain Railway (NMR) is one of the oldest mountain railways in India. In July 2005, UNESCO added the Nilgiri Mountain Railway as an extension to the World Heritage Site of Darjeeling Himalayan Railway.

Other prominent tourist spots around Ooty include Doddabetta peak, Pykara village, Wenlock Downs, Kamaraj Sagar Dam, Mukurthi National Park, Needle hill viewpoint, Frog hill viewpoint and Parsons Valley Reservoir.



PHOTO FEATURE

Namaste India Festival — Divine India Presentation



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Namaste India Festival Manipuri Dance Performance



Celebration of Holi, Nauryz and Festival of India Tea at Al-Farabi University, Almaty



Ambassador at Kazakhstan Gharysh Sapary



Ambassador at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University



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