

सत्यमेव जयते

Embassy of India
ASTANA

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits Kazakhstan

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid an official visit to Kazakhstan on July 7-8, 2015 at the invitation of President Nursultan Nazarbayev. He was accorded warm welcome and received by Prime Minister Karim Massimov at the Astana International Airport. In a special gesture, PM Massimov accompanied PM Modi to all his engagements on July 7 and hosted a private dinner in the evening.



In his first official engagement, PM Modi held bilateral talks with PM Massimov, where they discussed bilateral relations especially focused on trade and economic cooperation. The two Prime Ministers then travelled to Nazarbayev University, where PM Modi delivered an address on India's relations with Central Asia. The address was attended by over 300 students and faculty members of the university, senior representatives of the government, heads of diplomatic Missions, think tanks, Indologists and members of Indian community.



Thereafter, PM Modi inaugurated India-Kazakhstan Centre of Excellence in Information and Communication Technology at L.N. Gumilev Eurasian National University. PM Modi interacted with the engineers, faculty and students at the Centre and had a video-conference with the C-DAC representatives, who created the supercomputer PARAM donated by India to the Centre.



In the evening, the two Prime Ministers co-chaired a Roundtable interaction with the CEOs of two countries representing sectors such as infrastructure, mining, pharmaceuticals, oil and gas, renewable energy, power, information technology, banking etc. During the Roundtable, the two Prime Ministers formally launched the drilling of first exploratory well at the Satpayev Block in the north Caspian Sea, which is being jointly explored by Indian company, OVL, and KazMunaiGas, through a video-link. The business interaction also witnessed exchange of five MOUs:-



- MOU between Invest India and KaznexInvest on Roadmap on Bilateral Trade & Investment Cooperation.
- MOU between "Kazakhstan Temir Zholy" JSC and Adani Ports and SEZ.
- MOU between Samruk-Energy JSC and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited.
- Agreement on Cooperation for establishing Business Council between FICCI and Chamber of International Commerce.
- Work Plan on Agricultural Cooperation between ICAR and KazAgroInnovation JSC.

On July 8, Prime Minister Modi was received by President Nursultan Nazarbayev at Akorda Presidential Palace with full ceremonial welcome. The two leaders held bilateral talks in both restricted and delegation level formats, where they discussed entire range of bilateral relations and regional and international issues of mutual interest. President Nazarbayev termed PM Modi's visit as a historic event. They agreed to work together for further strengthening of bilateral relations between the two countries. During the meeting, PM Modi extended invitation to President Nazarbayev to visit India, which he gladly accepted.



At the end of the bilateral talks, President Nazarbayev and PM Modi approved "Tej Kadam": India-Kazakhstan Joint Statement, which lays down the roadmap for further strengthening of bilateral relations and jointly briefed the press. "Tej Kadam" means "fast Steps" in both Hindi and Kazakh languages. They also witnessed the signing of five Agreements/MOUs that would further strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries:-



- Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons;
- Agreement on Defence and Military-Technical Cooperation;
- MOU on Cooperation in the field of Physical Culture and Sports;
- MOU on Cooperation between Ministry of Railways, Government of India and Kazakhstan Temir Zholy; and
- Purchase Contract for Uranium for 2015-2019.



This was followed by an official lunch hosted by President Nazarbayev in honour of the Prime Minister. A scintillating cultural performance including Kazakh folk and traditional music, a Bharatnatyam dance performance, Bollywood songs and instrumental music, was held during the lunch.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifts books on Religions Born in India to President Nazarbayev

Prime Minister presented President Nursultan Nazarbayev a set of books relating to religions born in India. President Nazarbayev has held the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions every three years at the Palace of Peace and Accord in Astana since 2003. The presentation set included an English translation of *Guru Granth Sahib* and specially commissioned reproductions from the manuscripts collection of National Museum, Delhi. The reproductions included one of Jainism's most revered texts Bhadrabahu's *Kalpasutra* (15th century AD) in Prakrit; one of Buddhism's most important scriptures *Ashtasahrtrika Prajna-paramita* (12th century AD) in Sanskrit; and a Persian translation of Valmiki's *Ramayana* (18th century AD) in nastaliq script.



Joint Press Briefing by President Nazarbayev and PM Narendra Modi

Following the conclusion of the bilateral talks, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Nursultan Nazabayev jointly briefed the media. In his press statement, President Nazarbayev said:

"During the talks we discussed a wide range of issues. We agreed to continue the active political dialogue, develop relations at all levels, comprehensively strengthen economic and trade, cultural and humanitarian relations. The development of the strategic partnership with India is one of the priorities of the Asian vector of our foreign policy."



"Trade and economic dimension is the main locomotive of the bilateral relations. Kazakhstan is the largest trade partner of India in Central Asia. Last year, trade turnover reached 1.3 billion dollars. We have gained considerable experience in the framework of joint work in the sphere of information technology, oil and gas industry, agriculture, nuclear energy and pharmaceuticals. From 2005 to the first half of 2014 the volume of attracted direct investment from India exceeded 200 million dollars. Today 492 joint Kazakh-Indian enterprises operate in our country."

"Evidence of this is the similarity of our positions on many important issues, stable and close ties, complementary economy and the prospects for transit-transport sphere. Also a business forum, held in the framework of the visit, creates an additional basis for strengthening bilateral cooperation."

"Start of the exploration drilling in the oil block Satpayev and the conclusion of a contract for the delivery to India of 5000 tons of uranium in the years 2015-2019 is evidence of our systematic cooperation in the energy sector."

"Kazakhstan and India show mutual support for election to the non-permanent members of the Security Council. Astana also supports the efforts of New Delhi to become a permanent member of the Security Council. Our views coincide on the question of reforming the United Nations."

"We see this event as an important milestone in the deepening and promotion of cooperation and friendship. Kazakhstan is ready to continue this tradition and to maintain the high dynamics of the exchange of visits at all levels. Our country is open to cooperation and mutual understanding."

The full text of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's press statement is reproduced below:-

"I am delighted to visit this beautiful country. It has been a short but a memorable and rewarding visit. I would like to express my deep gratitude to President Nazarbayev and the people of Kazakhstan for the exceptional welcome and hospitality.

Excellency, I congratulate you once again on your 75th birthday. I wish you great health and a long life of service for your country and humanity. Mr. President, your leadership is deeply admired. You have put Kazakhstan on the path of rapid progress. You have also played a stellar role in regional and global affairs. I congratulate the people of Kazakhstan on the occasion of 550th anniversary of the Kazakh Khanate and 20th anniversary of the Constitution of Kazakhstan. I also learnt that this beautiful new capital is still celebrating Astana Day. So, this is really a good time to visit Kazakhstan.

Last evening I spoke about my vision for India's relations with Central Asia. Kazakhstan will play a critical role in advancing this vision. We greatly value our relationship with Kazakhstan. We have enormous synergies of markets, resources and skills for a strong bilateral relationship. We discovered remarkable convergence in our economic policies, approaches and strategies in a number of areas. We have shared perspectives on many international issues, including regional peace, connectivity and integration; reforms in the United Nations; and combating terrorism.

Kazakhstan is our biggest economic partner in the region. But our relations are modest compared to our potential. We will work together to take economic ties to a new level. Kazakhstan was one of the first countries with which we launched civil nuclear cooperation through a uranium purchase contract. We are pleased to have a much larger second contract now. We intend to expand cooperation in other minerals as well. Hydrocarbons is another area of high priority for us. Last evening, we launched the drilling operations for exploration in the first oil field with Indian investments in Kazakhstan. I am pleased that President Nazarbayev responded positively to my request to consider additional mature blocks for Indian investments. We will also give priority to investment in both directions in manufacturing and infrastructure. I was very encouraged by the interaction at the business roundtable yesterday that I chaired with Prime Minister Massimov. We expect a new roadmap for cooperation from the joint business council of our chambers of commerce and industry.

Kazakhstan's Green Bridge Vision is similar to India's ambitious plan of adding 175 GW of renewable energy in the next seven years. This is another priority area of cooperation, including in the manufacture of equipment. In addition, India will participate on a large scale in the Expo 2017 in Astana.

We will also enhance cooperation in Space and Information Technology, including their application for governance and development. We both agree that connectivity is an important issue, but one that we will address. The International North South Transport Corridor, the Iran-Turkmenistan-Kazakhstan rail link, India's interest in joining the Ashgabat Agreement on trade and transit and India's investment in Chahbahar Port in Iran will strengthen connectivity. The joint study group on India's proposal for a Free Trade Agreement with Eurasian Economic Union is a step towards our closer economic integration.

Development of human resources is a priority for both countries. Yesterday, I inaugurated the India-Kazakhstan Centre of Excellence in Information & Communication Technologies at the Eurasian National University. We are pleased to have contributed a super computer from India.

Consistent with our focus on youth, we have launched a new youth exchange programme with six Kazakh universities for the next five years. Our defence and security cooperation is an important dimension of our strategic partnership. We both want to make it stronger, including in defence manufacturing. We welcome the new Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Cooperation.

President and I agreed on the pressing need for reforms of the United Nations and its Security Council. I thank him for Kazakhstan's continued support for India's candidature for a permanent seat in a reformed United Nation's Security Council and for a UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

I reiterated India's support for Kazakhstan's candidature for a non-permanent seat in the UNSC for 2017-18. I am also grateful to him and the people of Kazakhstan for the support in making the International Day of Yoga on June 21st a huge global success. Mr. President, thank you for a very productive and pleasant visit. I feel that this visit has opened the door to a much broader and deeper relationship, including many new areas of productive cooperation.

I have extended an invitation to President Nazarbayev and look forward to receiving him in India."

Prime Minister's address at Nazarbayev University

Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered an address at Nazarbayev University on July 7, 2015.

The full text of his address is reproduced below:-

"Prime Minister Karim Massimov,
Mr. Shigeo Katsu, President of the University,
Students and eminent guests.



I am delighted to be here. Mr. Prime Minister, I am deeply honoured that you have joined us today. You are a person of learning and many talents. I learnt today that your skills in Hindi and yoga are among them.

It is a great privilege to embark on a journey of all five nations of Central Asia. This might be the first time this has happened. I am truly excited to visit a great country and a great region that has been called the pivot of human history. It is a land of beauty and cultural splendor, of outstanding achievements and great heroism. It is also a region of continuous engagement with India since human civilization began. So, I have come here, drawn by history and goodwill and as a neighbour, to write a new chapter in an ancient relationship.

Tonight, as I speak to the people of Central Asia, I could not have chosen a better venue than the Nazarbayev University. In its short life, it has emerged as an excellent centre of education. And, I congratulate the first batch that has graduated this year. The university reflects the vision of President Nazarbayev that education is the foundation of a nation's progress and leadership. It recalls the wisdom of the great Kazakh writer, Abai Kunanbaev, who spoke about education as the shield and pillar for Kazakh people. Today, Kazakhstan is a nation of global stature and respect. This is not just because Mother Nature has been generous to you with resources of every kind. It is because of your investment in education, human resources and infrastructure. These have helped increase the size of the economy four times in the last ten years. It is because of your leadership in advancing peace and cooperation in the great Eurasian region. It is your vision that has given us the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building in Asia. Kazakhstan is a voice of responsibility and maturity in international forums, including the United Nations. No Indian will forget Kazakhstan's generosity in making way for India's bid for the membership of the UN Security Council in 2011-12. We stand solidly behind you for your bid in 2017-18.

Like Kazakhstan, the rest of Central Asia is on the rise. It is just over two decades since nations here gained independence and regained their identity. The countries of Central Asia are endowed with rich human and natural resources. I am coming from Tashkent. Uzbekistan is experiencing rapid economic growth and progress. Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan are turning their resources into a promise of a more prosperous future. You have built modern, inclusive and pluralist nations at a time when many in the region are caught in conflict and instability. Your success is as important for the region as it is for the world. Central Asia is at the crossroads of Eurasia. It has been caught in the currents of history and it has also shaped it. It has seen rise and fall of empires. It has witnessed trade thrive and ebb. For monks, merchants and monarchs, it has been both - a destination and a passage. It has been an intermediary of cultures and faiths from across Asia. Your gifts to human civilization have been rich. Your imprint on human progress has been lasting. And, over the last two thousand years and more, India and Central Asia have influenced each other profoundly. For centuries, Buddhism flourished in this part of the world and even influenced Buddhist Art in India. Through here, it spread eastward. As I stood in the Gandan Monastery in Mongolia this May, I marveled at that journey of faith that linked Asia across its daunting landscape.

The confluence of Indian and Islamic civilizations took place in Central Asia. We enriched each other not only in spiritual thought, but also in medicine, science, mathematics and astronomy. The Islamic heritage of both India and Central Asia is defined by the highest ideals of Islam - knowledge, piety, compassion and welfare. This is a heritage founded on the principle of love and devotion. And, it has always rejected the forces of extremism. Today, this is an important source of strength that brings India and Central Asia together. The richness of our ties is written into the contours of our cities and our daily lives. We see this in architecture and art, handicraft and textile and in most popular food. The dargahs of Delhi resonate with Sufi music that draws people from all faiths. The cities of Central Asia have become centres of yoga and Hindi long before the world came together to celebrate the International Day of Yoga on 21st June. Uzbekistan has recently completed fifty years of radio broadcast in Hindi. Our epics Ramayana and Mahabharata were popular on Uzbek TV as they were in India. Many of you wait for the release of the latest Bollywood film with the same excitement as people in India. This is the source of goodwill between our people. It is the foundation of a relationship of hearts and emotions. And, it cannot be measured only by the scale of trade or the demands of States.

It was evident when President Nazarbayev and the leaders of other Central Asian Republics came to India soon after their nation's independence. Since then, our political engagement has deepened. Our defence and security cooperation is growing. Trade is expanding, but it is still modest. Our cooperation in energy sector has begun. Later today, we will launch the drilling of the first oil well with Indian investments in Kazakhstan. Indian investments in Central Asia have started flowing in. And, so have Indian tourists in growing numbers. More than 50 flights a week connect the five Central Asian capitals to India. And it takes about the same time as it would take to fly to Chennai from Delhi. Our strongest progress is in human resource development. Thousands of professionals and students from Central Asia have trained in India. Many from India come to the universities in the region. We have established Centres of Excellence in Information and Communication Technology in the region. And we are also pleased that we have three Indian cultural centres in the region. Yet, we will be the first to say that the engagement between India and Central Asia falls short of its promise and potential.

We have a special place in our hearts for each other. But, we have not paid as much attention to each other as we should. This will change. That is why I am travelling to all five countries in the region in the early stages of my Government. Both India and Central Asia cannot achieve their full potential without each other. Nor will our people be safer and our region more stable without our cooperation.

India constitutes one-sixth of humanity. It is a nation of 800 million youth that is an enormous force of progress and change for India and the world. Our economy is growing at 7.5% every year. We can sustain higher growth rates long into the future. India is the new frontier of opportunities for the world. Central Asia is a vast region of immense resources, talented people, rapid growth and a strategic location. So, I am here to start a new era in our relationship with Central Asia. India is prepared to invest more in a new partnership of prosperity. We will work together not just in minerals and energy, but in industries such as pharmaceuticals, textiles, engineering and small and medium enterprises. We can invest in refineries, petrochemicals and fertilizer plants here. We can harness our strength in information and communication technology to create wealth and opportunities for our youth. Today, I will inaugurate a Centre of Excellence in Astana with a Super Computer from India. We can use the reach of Space technology for closer partnership in development and resource management. I also see vast opportunities in areas like agriculture and dairy. We can renew our old ties in traditional medicines. Central Asia is a natural destination for the Indian tourists. We are intensifying our exchanges in culture, education and research. And we will connect our youth more. In this troubled world, we must also strengthen our defence and security cooperation to defend our values, our nations' security and our region's peace. We live at the frontier of instability. We live close to the crucible of extremism and terrorism. We see terrorism spawned by nations and groups. Today, we also see cyber space become a platform without borders for terror to draw recruits to its cause. From theatres of conflicts to the calm neighbourhoods of distant cities, terrorism has become a global challenge as never before. It is a force that is larger and more enduring than its changing names, locations and targets. So, we must ask ourselves: Will we let a generation of youth be lost to guns and hate, because they will hold us accountable for their lost future? So, during this visit, we will strengthen our defence and security cooperation in the region. But, we will also combat terrorism by the strength of our values and our commitment to humanism.

This is a responsibility that India and Central Asian nations owe to our shared inheritance and to the future of our region. Our shared values and aspirations are also the foundation of closer international partnership, including in the United Nations. But, in a transformed world, we also see the growing institutional erosion of the United Nations. As nations that are committed to international order, we must work to make it relevant to our times. So, as the United Nations turns 70, we should press for reforms of the United Nations, especially its Security Council. India's membership of Shanghai Cooperation Organization will deepen our regional partnership. And we have begun a study on a Free Trade Agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union for deeper integration with this region. This is an era in which Space and Cyber are making roads and rails less relevant. But, we will also restore our physical connectivity for trade, transit and energy. The International North South Transport Corridor opens a competitive and quick route for India to Eurasia. And, I hope all of Central Asia will join it. We hope to join the Ashgabat Agreement on trade and transit. India's investment in Chahbahar Port in Iran will bring us closer to Central Asia. I also hope that we can restore the traditional route to Central Asia through Pakistan and Afghanistan. We can draw confidence from the agreement between Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India on the gas pipeline.

This region has prospered the most when we have been connected. Indeed, our hopes of an Asian Century will be realized, when we see Asia as one - not as South, West, East or Central. Asia will rise when we all prosper together. For that, we must connect Asia's different parts. India is at the crossroads of Asia's land and sea routes. We understand our responsibility. And, we are working with a sense of priority to connect ourselves to the East and the West, by land and sea. There is a surge of interest in reconnecting Asia with itself and beyond. Our former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji called for a New Silk Route Initiative here in 2002. Today, all of Asia seeks the revival of the glorious ancient Silk Road. But, we must also remember the lessons of history. The Silk Road flourished and waned with the fortunes of Central Asia. The end of the Silk Road did not just come about from the rise of sea-based trade of the new European powers. It also happened because Central Asia was no longer a bridge between regions, but the new fault line between great empires to the east, west and south. When it was no longer the hub of trade, but a land in the shadows of the high walls of the powers around it, Central Asian nations declined and trade withered. The success of connectivity through and across Central Asia is important. For that, the great nations of Central Asia must flourish and regain their central role in Eurasia. From Europe to Asia, all nations must foster a climate of cooperation and collaboration, not competition and exclusion, in this region. The region must remain stable and peaceful, free from conflict and the violence of extremism and terrorism. And, as Central Asia links the East and the West, it must also connect to the South. For that is how it always was. In an age of globalization, Asia cannot remain fragmented. And, Central Asia cannot remain distant and disconnected from India. I am confident that we can make it happen. Our ancestors crossed the mighty Himalaya, Karakoram, Hindu Kush and Pamirs for spiritualism, knowledge, and markets. We will all work together to build the Silk Route of the 21st century. We will connect through space and cyber as we will by air, land and sea.

Let me conclude with a few lines from Abduraheim Otkur, a poet of this region. He said:

"Our tracks remain, our dreams remain, everything remains, far away, yet.
Even if the wind blows, or the sand shift, they will never be covered, our tracks,
And the caravan will never stop along the way, though our horses are very thin;
One way or another, these tracks will be found someday, by our grandchildren;
Or our great grandchildren."

I say this to you: India and Central Asia will redeem that promise.

Thank you."

"Tej Kadam" : India-Kazakhstan Joint Statement

On conclusion of bilateral talks during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Kazakhstan, the two sides issued a Joint Statement, "Tej Kadam", which has same meaning, fast steps, in Hindi and Kazakh languages. The full text of the Joint Statement is reproduced below:-

"At the invitation of Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, paid an official visit to the Republic of Kazakhstan on July 7-8, 2015.

During the visit, Prime Minister Modi met with President Nazarbayev and Prime Minister Massimov. The talks were held in a warm and friendly atmosphere in a spirit of mutual understanding, which traditionally characterize India-Kazakhstan relations.

President Nazarbayev and Prime Minister Modi noted the strategic partnership established during the State visit of President Nazarbayev to India in January 2009, based on mutually beneficial cooperation in various spheres and a shared desire for regional and international peace and stability. Leaders of both countries agreed that the visit of Prime Minister Modi would serve to expand the strategic partnership for the benefit of people of both countries.

Prime Minister Modi congratulated President Nazarbayev on his 75th birth anniversary and noted the impressive all-round socio-economic development and progress achieved by Kazakhstan, as well as its important role in promoting regional and international peace and security.

Prime Minister Modi congratulated the people of Kazakhstan on Astana Day, the 550th Anniversary of the Kazakh Khanate and the 20th Anniversary of the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Prime Minister Modi underlined the growing political and economic role of Kazakhstan, which contributes to stability and development in the region.

President Nazarbayev noted the importance and role of India in regional and global affairs and appreciated its contribution to peace and stability as well as the positive influence of the rapidly growing economy of India on the world economy. In this, President Nazarbayev sees a special role of the Indian leader in inspiring global confidence in India.

Prime Minister Modi highly appreciated the initiative of President Nazarbayev on institutionalization of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, which has emerged as an important organization strengthening peace, stability and security in Asia and noted Kazakhstan's efforts on transformation of the CICA to the Organization on Security and Development in Asia. President Nazarbayev expressed gratitude for India's continued support of CICA's activity and contribution to the Conference. He also appreciated India's active support to various Kazakhstan's international initiatives, including Expo-2017.

The two Leaders welcomed the signing of an Agreement on defence and military-technical cooperation which would further widen the scope of bilateral defence cooperation including regular exchange of visits, consultations, training of military personnel, military-technical cooperation, joint exercises, special forces exchanges and cooperation in the area of UN peacekeeping operations.

The Leaders welcomed signing of the Treaty on Transfer of Sentenced Persons between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of India and the Memorandum of Understanding in the field of physical culture and sports.

Prime Minister Modi noted the new economic policy 'Nurly Zhol' (Bright Path) as well as five institutional reforms initiated by President Nazarbayev. In his turn President Nazarbayev highlighted several economic programmes initiated by Prime Minister Modi, including the "Make in India" initiative to transform India into a manufacturing hub.

The Leaders expressed satisfaction at the gradual increase in bilateral trade in recent years, and agreed to work closely to expand bilateral trade by addressing structural impediments between the two countries. Both Leaders welcomed the organization of Business Forum with participation of leading business CEOs of both countries as well as creation of a Joint Business Council during the visit, which provided a platform for renewed cooperation between the businesses of the two countries. The Leaders noted that the signing of an Agreement between the Chamber of Foreign Commerce of Kazakhstan and Federation of Chambers of Commerce of India (FICCI) will serve to promotion of business linkages. The leaders also emphasized the importance of closer interactions between investment promotion agencies of the two countries.

The Leaders welcomed signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between JSC «Kaznex Invest» and «Invest India», which includes a "Road Map" on Trade, Economic and Investment Cooperation, which would identify concrete projects in various sectors and assist in efficient implementation of projects in both the countries to activate bilateral trade and economic relations.

The Leaders noted the successful 12th Meeting of the Kazakhstan-India Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological, and Cultural Cooperation in New Delhi on 16-17 June 2015, where new initiatives and proposals to strengthen cooperation in different sectors between countries have been explored. The Leaders called on the IGC to monitor implementation of the understandings reached, including through regular meetings of the various Joint Working Groups at the official level, as well as consultations between foreign offices of both countries on political, consular and visa matters.

Both Leaders welcomed the establishment of Joint Study Group between India and the Eurasian Economic Union on the feasibility of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The Leaders acknowledged that the proposed FTA would create an enabling framework for expanding economic linkages between Kazakhstan and India.

The Leaders agreed to collaborate closely in the framework of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) as well as through bilateral initiatives to improve surface connectivity between two countries and the wider region. They welcomed recent initiatives by India to operationalize the INSTC, including the hosting of a stakeholders conference in Mumbai on 12 June 2015. They called upon the next INSTC Council meeting to be held in India in August 2015 to take necessary decisions to facilitate usage of the corridor by traders of these countries. The Leaders agreed that the Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran rail-link, operationalized in December 2014, become a linked corridor of the INSTC. The Leaders also welcomed ongoing bilateral discussions aimed at setting up a dedicated freight terminal in one of the Western sea-ports of India for trade with Kazakhstan. They hope that these initiatives will serve as the basis for enhanced economic and commercial interaction between the two countries in the days ahead. In this connection, the Parties welcomed signing of Memorandum on Mutual Understanding on Technical Cooperation in the sphere of railways between the NC "Kazakhstan Temir Zholy" JSC and the Ministry of Railways of India.

The Leaders acknowledged the importance of collaboration in the hydrocarbons sector and welcomed the formal commencement of drilling of the first exploratory well in the Satpayev block which coincided with the visit. They agreed to expeditiously explore new opportunities for further joint collaboration in this sector. The Leaders further noted the agreement reached at the IGC meeting for a joint feasibility study to explore the possibility of transportation of oil and gas either through pipeline or as LNG from Kazakhstan to India.

The Leaders affirmed the importance of cooperation in the sphere of civil nuclear energy. They welcomed the signing of a Contract between NC "KazAtomProm" JSC and NPCIL for a renewed long term supply of natural uranium to India to meet its energy requirements.

The Leaders welcomed the signing of Plan of Action between JSC "KazAgroInnovation" and Indian Council of Agricultural Research for cooperation in the field of agriculture. The Leaders noted that pharmaceuticals, mining, textiles, information technology, banking, and health are promising areas for future cooperation between the two countries and agreed to extend full support to joint projects in realizing potential in these areas on a mutually beneficial basis.

The Leaders welcomed the inauguration of the Kazakhstan - India Centre of Excellence in Information and Communication Technologies at the L.N. Gumilev Eurasian National University in Astana with India's assistance. They hoped the Centre will contribute to advance skill development in high performance computing and facilitate scientific research in Kazakhstan.

The Leaders noted the celebration of 50 years of Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme and acknowledged the contribution of the ITEC programme in capacity building of nearly 1000 professionals from Kazakhstan in different sectors.

The Leaders noted efforts to enhance air connectivity between the two countries and welcomed the decision to increase the number of frequencies allotted for early operations by designated carriers between the two countries.

The Leaders acknowledged ongoing cultural exchanges in the framework of the bilateral Programme of Cooperation in the field of culture and art. They extended support for organizing cultural events in each other's countries and to consider exchange of reciprocal Cultural Festivals in Kazakhstan and India. With the purpose of further strengthening cultural ties, the Leaders expressed interest in study of common historical heritage and promotion of touristic sites in Kazakhstan and India.

Prime Minister Modi thanked President Nazarbayev for supporting the UN resolution on the International Day of Yoga and successful organization of the first International Day of Yoga on 21 June 2015 in Kazakhstan.

The two Leaders noted the broad convergence of their views on regional and international issues and their mutual support in international organizations. They emphasized that strengthening of cooperation in multilateral frameworks between Kazakhstan and India would contribute to regional and international stability and development.

The Leaders noted the rising challenge posed by terrorism in many parts of the world and in their immediate region and underlined the importance of a stable and secure environment for peaceful economic development. They agreed to continue their active engagement in the fight against terrorism and extremism including exchange of information.

In this context, they highlighted the importance of regular inter-agency consultations and meetings of the Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism. The Leaders also called for early conclusion of the UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

Expressing concern at the slow progress on the UN Security Council reform, both leaders called for concrete outcomes to be achieved in the 70th anniversary year of the United Nations. They reaffirmed their commitment to Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) to comprehensively reform the Security Council including expansion in both categories of membership.

President Nazarbayev reiterated Kazakhstan's full support for India's permanent membership in an expanded UNSC as well as for India's candidature to the non-permanent seat of UNSC for the period 2021-22. Prime Minister Modi reiterated support for the candidature of Kazakhstan for the non-permanent seat of the UNSC for the period 2017-18.

Both Leaders agreed to strengthen cooperation in the framework of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and underlined that the SCO platform would be a useful addition to ongoing bilateral and regional initiatives to expand cooperation.

The Leaders expressed satisfaction with the outcomes of the official visit and shared the view that this visit has made a positive contribution towards expansion of the strategic partnership between the two countries. President of Kazakhstan Nazarbayev expressed deep appreciation to Prime Minister Modi for the visit which underlines the importance which India places on the development of its relations with Kazakhstan.

Prime Minister Modi expressed his gratitude to President Nazarbayev and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the warm hospitality extended during the visit.

Prime Minister Modi invited President Nazarbayev to visit India. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.

Astana, July 8, 2015

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

Prime Minister Narendra Modi began his 5-nation Central Asian tour with first stop at Tashkent on July 6. He was received at the airport by Uzbek Prime Minister Shavkat Miromovich Mirziyoyev and his cabinet colleagues. Prime Minister met Prime Minister Mirziyoyev, where the two leaders discussed the entire range of bilateral relations. He held bilateral talks with President Islam Karimov at Presidential Complex on bilateral and regional issues including the situation in Afghanistan. During the visit, the two sides reached understanding on a wide range of issues to further deepen the strategic partnership between the two countries.

Prime Minister Modi paid tributes at the National Monument of Independence and Humanism in Tashkent. He laid a floral wreath at the bust of Lal Bahadur Shastri. His programme included an interaction with indologists and members of Indian community. He also briefly interacted with school children.

Three MoUs/agreements for boosting cooperation between the foreign offices of the two countries and in the field of culture and tourism were signed during the visit.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Ashgabat on 10-11 July, 2015 at the invitation of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. He was received warmly and with full ceremonial honours at Oguzkhan Palace by President Gurbanguly, who also hosted a dinner in his honour. The two leaders held talks in both restricted and delegation level formats and reviewed the full range of bilateral relations. They signed a Joint Statement, which identifies eight areas for enhanced cooperation between the two countries including in the spheres of political, defence, economic, energy, connectivity, international cooperation, Science & Technology and culture.

During the visit, Prime Minister Modi laid wreaths at the Mausoleum of the First President Saparmurat Niyazov and at the National Monument for Independence. He unveiled a bust of the Mahatma Gandhi and inaugurated a Centre for Traditional Medicine & Yoga in Ashgabat.

Seven agreements/MOUs including a defence cooperation agreements and MOUs on fertilizers, tourism, yoga and traditional medicine, sports and programme of cooperation in science and technology were signed during the visit.



Prime Minister visited Kyrgyzstan on July 11-12, 2015. He was accorded a ceremonial welcome at Manas International Airport and received by Prime Minister Temir Sariyev with a full guard of honour.

The visit to Kyrgyzstan started with the laying of a wreath at the Victory Monument. Prime Minister Modi held restricted and delegation level talks with President Almazbek Atambayev and exchanged views on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. PM Modi held separate meetings with PM Sariyev and Speaker Asylbek Jeenbekov.

During the visit, Prime Minister gifted medical equipment to a field hospital, inaugurated some tele-medicine links and watched a live tele-consultation between a hospital in Kyrgyz city of Osh, a Bishkek hospital as well as AIIMS and APOLLO at the Indian side. He also unveiled a statue of Mahatma Gandhi and launched the second phase of the Kyrgyzstan-India Mountain Biomedical Centre.

Four agreements/MOUs signed during the visit included one for cooperation between election authorities of the two countries as well as in the fields of defence, standards and culture.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Tajikistan on July 12-13, 2015 on the last leg of his Central Asian tour. He was received by Prime Minister Qohir Rasulzoda at Dushanbe International Airport and accorded a ceremonial welcome at Qasr-e-Millat, Dushanbe.

Prime Minister Modi held restricted and delegation level talks with President Emomali Rahmon during which they decided to step up cooperation in the spheres of defence, connectivity and in fight against terrorism. He visited the India-Tajikistan Friendship Hospital in Gurgon Teppa in Southern Tajikistan. He laid a floral wreath at the Ismaili Somoni Monument in Dushanbe and unveiled a bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore along with President Rahmon. The two leaders also addressed an agriculture workshop, which was attended by more than 1500 people.

During the visit, the two sides signed a Programme of Cooperation in the field of culture for the period 2016-18. They also exchanged a Note Verbale for setting up of computer labs in schools in Tajikistan.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveys greetings to President Nursultan Nazarbayev on his 75th birthday

Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveyed his heartiest greetings and felicitations to President Nursultan Nazarbayev on his 75th birthday on July 6, 2015 and wished him good health, well being and success in the days ahead.

In his congratulatory message, Prime Minister Modi also wrote that India admired the extraordinary vision and leadership of President Nazarbayev in guiding Kazakhstan's development as a nation and its rapid progress over the past two and half decades.

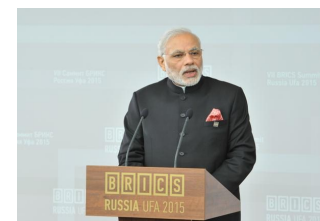
He also tweeted in Kazakh language on President Nazarbayev's 75th birthday and wished him long life and good health.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi participates in the BRICS and SCO Summits at Ufa

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Ufa on July 8-9, 2015 to participate in the 7th BRICS Summit. He also attended SCO Summit.

Addressing the BRICS Business Council, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stressed on the need for a stronger economic integration among the BRICS Nations. He held wide-ranging talks with other BRICS leaders and discussed ways to enhance cooperation to mitigate global challenges.



Speaking at the Plenary Session of the BRICS Summit, Prime Minister Modi complimented BRICS Nations for their active support and participation during the International Day of Yoga on June 21. He stressed on the need of combating terrorism collectively. He described climate change as one of the foremost global challenges and called for focus on renewable energy and energy efficiency. He proposed setting up of a BRICS Agriculture Research Centre. Prime Minister Modi said that Eurasia was filled with great energy and dynamism and that the region had the potential to become a leading economic corridor and trade route of the world. Prime Minister proposed "Das Kadam" or ten steps for the future cooperation among BRICS nations including in the fields of trade, railways, digitization, auditing, urbanization etc.



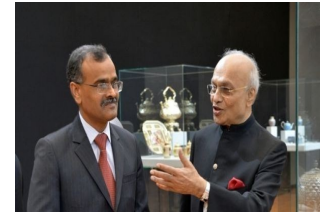
Indian Prime Minister for the first time attended the SCO Heads of State Council Plenary Session in preparation for India joining as member state of the SCO. Speaking at the occasion, Prime Minister Modi expressed satisfaction on India's admission as a new member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. He assured India's full cooperation to SCO and said that India would deepen its engagement in human resource development, information and communication technology, pharmaceuticals and health, banking and capital markets, MSMEs, and food sectors.



On the sidelines of BRICS and SCO Summits, Prime Minister held bilateral meetings with several leaders. He met President of Russia, China, Brazil and South Africa. He also held talks with President of Iran, PM of Pakistan and President of Afghanistan.

"Tea, Art and History" Exhibition in Astana

A "Tea, Art and History" exhibition of the Chitra Collection by Newby dedicated to the art of tea opened in Astana on July 6, 2015 at the National Museum. The Chitra Collection is the biggest single tea accessories collection in the world numbering over 1,500 rarest tea-related objects. The collection includes priceless sets of teapots, tea cups, bowls, samovars and boxes for storage of tea. The collection is owned by Mr. Nirmal Sethia, founder of the Newby Teas and named after his wife. About 100 objects from the collection were showcased at the exhibition in Astana. The exhibition will remain open for three months. Ambassador Harsh K. Jain attended the inauguration ceremony on July 6, 2015.



Sania Mirza, First Indian Women to Win Wimbledon Women's Doubles Tennis Title

Sania Mirza became the first Indian woman to win a grand slam event when she and her Swiss partner Martina Hingis defeated the Russian pairing of Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina to win Wimbledon women's doubles tennis title, 2015.



India's PSLV deploys five British satellites into orbit

Indian Space Research Organization's (ISRO) Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) conducted its thirtieth flight on July 10 from the Launch Pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre and deployed five British satellites into a sun-synchronous orbit. The quintet included three satellites to image the Earth and support disaster monitoring and relief and two to test technologies that could be used on future spacecrafts. The total weight of the British satellites was 1440 kg, making it the heaviest commercial launch ever undertaken by India.



PHOTO FEATURE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Kazakhstan (July 7-8, 2015)

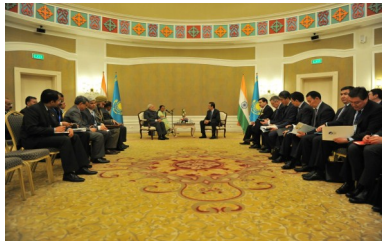


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Visit of Prime Minister of India to Kazakhstan (July 7-8, 2015)



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