

सत्यमेव जयते

Embassy of India ASTANA

Inside this issue:

Prime Minister Modi Meets President Nazarbayev	1
Prime Minister Visits USA	1
Prime Minister Visits Saudi Arabia	2
President of Maldives Visits India	2
President Nazarbayev Attends 4th Nuclear Security Summit	3
President Nazarbayev Condolences Deaths in a Fire Tragedy in Kerala	3
Ambassador Meets Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs	3
Embassy Celebrates 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar	4
Defence Attache Visits South Kazakhstan Region	4
ITEC Training Programme for the year 2016-17 Announced	4
Prime Minister Inaugurates Maritime India Summit 2016	5
The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge Visit India	5
India—World's Largest Remittance Recipient in 2015 : World Bank	5
India Ranked 6th in Top 10 Largest Manufacturers List : UNIDO	6
India Retains Top Spot in Credit Suisse Emerging Markets Consumer Survey	6
India Powers South Asia Growth Story : World Bank	6
"Make in India" a Success : Moody's	6
Incredible India : Destination - Dadra and Nagar Haveli	7
Photo Feature	

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Prime Minister Modi Meets President Nazarbayev

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met President Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev on the sidelines of the 4th Nuclear Security Summit in Washington on 1st April, 2016.



The Nuclear Summit deliberated on the crucial issue of threat to nuclear security. Leaders discussed ways and measures to strengthen the global nuclear security architecture, especially to ensure that non-state actors do not get access to nuclear material.

Prime Minister Visits USA

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited USA on 31st March and 1st April, 2016 to participate in the 4th Nuclear Security Summit in Washington. In his address on the theme "nuclear security threat perceptions", Prime Minister Modi said that the recent terror attacks in Brussels showed the real and immediate threat of terrorism to nuclear security. He called for focus on three contemporary features of terrorism viz., use of extreme violence by terrorism as a theatre, terrorists being tech-savvy and greater risk posed by state actors working with nuclear traffickers and terrorists.



Prime Minister attends Nuclear Security Summit

He observed that while terror has evolved and terrorists are using 21st century technology, the countries' responses are rooted in the past. He pointed out that terrorism is globally networked and its reach and supply chains are global, but the nation states still act nationally to counter the threat and genuine cooperation among them is not global. He urged everyone to drop the notion that terrorism is someone else's problem. He emphasized that nuclear security must remain an abiding national priority and all states must completely abide by their international obligations.



PM meets Indian Scientists of LIGO Project

Prime Minister Modi met a team of scientists from Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO) on 31st March. The LIGO made a historic detection of gravitational waves emanating from two merging black holes 1.3 billion light years away in September, 2015. The team led by Director of National Science Foundation Dr. France Cordova, included three young Indian scientists who worked on the LIGO project. Dr. Cordova explained how India is extremely important for the future of the LIGO project. Prime Minister Modi urged the Indian scientists to visit Indian Universities and interact with Indian students to inculcate in them a sense of curiosity and discovery. An MoU was signed to establish a LIGO in India, which would be the first LIGO observatory outside USA.

On the sidelines of the Summit, Prime Minister Modi met New Zealand Prime Minister Mr. John Key on 31st March. Prime Minister John Key expressed interest in signing an FTA with India. Prime Minister Modi spoke about India's interest in getting dairy technology from New Zealand against the backdrop that New Zealand is one of the world leaders in terms of dairy technology and food processing while India is the world's largest producer of milk.

Prime Minister Modi met Prime Minister of Canada Mr. Justin Trudeau on 1st April. He sought cooperation in the areas of coal gasification and underground mining of coal. Prime Minister Mr. Trudeau responded that Canada would be happy to cooperate in these fields. He totally concurred with Prime Minister Modi's suggestion that Canadian professors and teachers teach at Indian universities for three to six months during winter months in Canada. Prime Minister Modi met Prime Minister of United Kingdom Mr. David Cameron. They discussed defence cooperation and visa issues. Prime Minister Modi also met Prime Minister of Japan Mr. Shinzo Abe. Prime Minister Abe conveyed that a survey Mission would be coming from Japan in May to take forward the Convention Centre project in Varanasi.

Prime Minister Visits Saudi Arabia

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on April 2-3, 2016. His Majesty King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud received him in Riyadh on 3rd April. They held restricted and delegation level talks. They called upon all states to reject the use of terrorism against other countries, dismantle terrorism infrastructure where it exists, cut off any kind of support to the terrorists operating from their territories against other states, and bring perpetrators of acts of terrorism to justice.



Prime Minister highlighted the key initiatives made by the government to improve the ease of doing business in the country, simplify and rationalize existing rules and relax foreign direct investment norms in key areas, including rail-ways, defence and insurance. He encouraged the Saudi companies to participate in projects creating mega industrial manufacturing corridors, smart cities as well as Digital India and Start up India programmes. The Saudi side expressed its interest in investing in infrastructure develop-ment in India and welcomed India's interest in investing in the Kingdom.

The two leaders agreed to transform the buyer-seller relationship in the energy-sector to one of deeper partnership focusing on invest-ment and joint ventures in petrochemical complexes, and cooperation in joint exploration in India, Saudi Arabia and in third countries. They agreed to strengthen cooperation between educational institutions, universities and higher research institutions of the two countries. They stressed upon the need to pursue UN reforms, including of the Security Council through an expansion to make it more representative, credible and effective.

Prime Minister Modi visited the L&T workers' residential complex in Riyadh on 2nd April. L&T is part of a consortium, which is building a section of Riyadh Metro. He appreciated that Indian workers are fondly remembered in various parts of the world where they have completed many prestigious projects. He visited the All Women IT and ITES Centre of Tata Consultancy Services in Riyadh on 3rd April. He interacted with the all-women workforce. He said that when women power becomes a part of the development journey, it gathers fresh momentum.

Prime Minister Modi interacted with Saudi CEOs and Indian business leaders. He spoke about the policy initiatives taken to spur growth and progress in India and the sectors suitable for Saudi investment. He suggested that Saudi investment in fertilizers, warehousing, cold chain facilities and agriculture would be a win-win partnership, as it would ensure good quality food products for Saudi Arabia. He underlined that India's health sector, which is extremely cost competitive, offers immense scope for health tourism.

Prime Minister Modi was conferred Saudi Arabia's highest civilian honour "the King Abdulaziz Sash". Five Agreements/MOUs on cooper-ation on labour; technical Cooperation between the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO); cooperation in the field of handicrafts; cooperation on exchange of intelligence related to money laundering, financing of terrorism and related crimes; and cooperation on investment promotion.

President of Maldives Visits India

President of Maldives Mr. Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom paid an official visit to India on April 10-11, 2016. He met Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in New Delhi on 11th April. In their joint press statement after the meeting, Prime Minister Modi said that it is in India's strate-gic interest to have a stable and secure Maldives. He underscored that the contours of India-Maldives relations are defined by the two countries' shared strategic, security, economic and developmental goals. He reaffirmed that India is conscious of the security needs of Maldives. He added that India understands its role as a net security provider in the Indian Ocean and is ready to protect its strategic interests in the region. He spoke about the multi-faceted security cooper-eration between India and Maldives. Referring to the agreement signed on 'South Asia Satellite', he stated that the Satellite would benefit Mal-dives in the fields of education, health and tourism. He emphasized that India is a well-wisher and would match steps with Maldives in its journey towards progress.



President Abdulla Yameen met President Pranab Mukherjee on 11th April. President Mukherjee said that India attaches high importance to its 'neighbours first' policy and Maldives has a place of privilege within that. He reaffirmed that India as the largest democracy would continue to extend all support for the strengthening of democratic institutions in Maldives. President Abdulla Yameen said that the Government of Maldives is firmly committed to its 'India First' Policy. He said that the two countries are bound by strong civilizational and cultural links. He stated India is the only foreign country he has visited more than once and this was his third visit in two years.

Six Agreements/MOUs were signed on avoidance of double taxation of income derived from international air transport; exchange of information with respect to taxes; orbit frequency coordination of 'South Asia Satellite'; conservation and restoration of ancient mosques and joint research and exploratory surveys in Maldives; cooperation in the field of tourism; and Defence cooperation.

President Nazarbayev Attends 4th Nuclear Security Summit

President Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev visited the United States of America from 31st March to 1st April, 2016 to participate in the 4th Nuclear Security Summit in Washington.

In his address, President Nazarbayev drew attention of the participants to the fact that Kazakhstan is among the top 20 countries with the highest level of security of nuclear facilities and materials. He explained that Kazakhstan implemented a set of nuclear security measures at the national level including the improvement of system of export control of nuclear materials. He informed that Kazakhstan is currently working on the establishment of the Identification Centre of Nuclear and Radioactive Materials. He also informed that research reactors of the Institute of Nuclear Physics in Almaty have been converted to low-enriched fuel. He added that a similar project at the National Nuclear Centre would be fast-tracked. He underscored that all nuclear facilities in Kazakhstan are under the comprehensive supervision of the IAEA.



President Nazarbayev stated that Kazakhstan is now the world's largest producer of uranium ore and stressed that the country is going to take its rightful place in the global technological chain of producers of nuclear fuel for peaceful purposes. He said that the country's major contribution was the establishment of a Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) Bank under the auspices of IAEA and those willing to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes can make use of the Bank's resources. He mentioned that Kazakhstan relinquished the stockpile of nuclear weapons inherited from the former Soviet Union in early 1990s and a world without nuclear weapons should become the main goal of mankind in the 21st century. He stated that there are still tens of thousands of people suffering from diseases caused by radiation and 1.5 million hectares of land is contaminated by radioactivity in Kazakhstan. He sought expansion of systematic international support for rehabilitation of population and decontamination of land and water territory of the former test site. 18 countries issued a joint statement welcoming the establishment of LEU Bank in Kazakhstan and noting the significant progress made in this regard over the past one year.

President Nazarbayev emphasized that a global network of counter-terrorism should be created under the aegis of the UN with the participation of all countries to ensure that the nuclear weapons do not fall into the hands of terrorists. He appreciated that the nuclear summits held at the initiative of US President have brought significant benefits. The summits enabled the heads and representatives of more than 50 countries to come together to address the most pressing issues of nuclear security. He suggested that the initiative to hold the Nuclear Security Summits should be continued as the problem has not been solved yet. He stated that Kazakhstan has the moral right to hold such an event in the future because it closed its nuclear test site and abandoned the world's fourth largest nuclear arsenal.

President Nazarbayev held bilateral meetings with several leaders on the sidelines of the summit. An American newspaper "The Hill" carried an article by President Nazarbayev titled "the path forward from the Nuclear Security Summit" on 4th April.

President Nazarbayev Condoles Deaths in a Fire Tragedy in Kerala

President Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev sent a message of condolence to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi over the fire tragedy at Puttingal Devi temple in Kollam district of Kerala, which took place at the time of fireworks display and left more than 100 people dead on 10th April, 2016. President Nazarbayev stated that he learnt about the tragedy with regret and deep sorrow and expressed condolences to the bereaved families and relatives of the victims on his own behalf and on behalf of the people of Kazakhstan.



Ambassador Meets Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ambassador met Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Akylbek Kamaldinov on April 5, 2016 and discussed issues relating to bilateral cooperation between India and Kazakhstan.

Mr. Akylbek Kamaldinov was appointed as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs on March 4, 2016. Prior to this appointment, he had held several important positions including Head of External Relations Division in the Prime Minister's Office from August, 2003 to April, 2007 and Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Japan from May, 2007 to March, 2016.



Embassy Celebrates 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

The Embassy celebrated the 125th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar at the Indian Cultural Centre (ICC) in Astana on 14th April, 2016. The celebration began with garlanding of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's photograph by Ambassador and lighting of lamp by Smt. Vandana Jain, Spouse of Ambassador.



A short documentary on the life of Dr. Ambedkar and a slideshow of his photographs followed the lamp-lighting ceremony. This was followed by keynote address by Ambassador who welcomed all the guests and congratulated them on the occasion. He said that Babasaheb was an outstanding leader of India's freedom struggle and a staunch crusader for the rights of the oppressed sections of the society. He underscored that Dr. Ambedkar was a born genius, an outstanding scholar, visionary, educationalist, philosopher, legal luminary, social reformer, political leader and above all the chief architect of India's Constitution. He stated that his life was an illustration of courage and conviction.

Illustrating his scholarly credentials, Ambassador said that Dr. Ambedkar's PhD thesis of 1923 titled "The Evolution of Provincial Finance in British India" provided the academic basis for establishment of Finance Commission of India and the guidelines presented by Dr. Ambedkar to the Royal Commission on Indian Currency & Finance in 1925 formed the basis for conceptualization of Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Ambassador pointed out that Dr. Ambedkar's biggest and most important contribution was his role as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution of India. He emphasized that Dr. Ambedkar's message, work and life are an inspiration to all and his multifaceted contribution to the country can never be forgotten.

Shri Atanu Rakhsit, Assistant Professor, Dr. Prashant Janwal, Assistant Professor and Shri Alex Pappchen James, Associate Professor at Nazarbayev University also spoke on the life and multifaceted contribution of Dr. Ambedkar. Following their speeches, Ms. Chandrani Ojah, Kathak Dance Teacher, Mr. Bhaskar Ojah and Students of the ICC presented a scintillating cultural programme. This was followed by a short Quiz on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and award of prizes to the members of audience who gave correct answers. A display of books on Dr. Ambedkar was also organized. The celebration ended with light refreshments.

Defence Attache Visits South Kazakhstan Region

Col. L.S. Lidder, Defence Attaché visited South Kazakhstan Region from April 4-6, 2016. He visited South Kazakhstan State Pharmaceutical Academy, Shymkent and met Mr. Bauyrzhan Makhmatov, Pro-rector of Organisational and Economic Work and Col. Almas Aytov, Head of Military Chair. He visited M. Auezov South Kazakhstan State University and met Lt. Col. Zhakyp Kenzhebeyev, Head of Military Chair. He also visited International Kazakh Turkish University, Turkestan and met Rector Mr. Abdibekov Uailhan Seyidauly.



He discussed the Youth Exchange Programme between Voenni Kafedra of Kazakhstan and National Cadet Corps (NCC) of India, visited the facilities of Voenni Kafedra and interacted with the staff and cadets.

ITEC Training Programme for the Year 2016-17 Announced

The Government of India has announced ITEC (Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation) programme for the year 2016-17 (April, 2016 to March, 2017). The ITEC programme offers short term courses in various disciplines such as Accounts, Audit, Banking, Finance, Management, Small & Medium Enterprises, Rural Development, IT, Telecommunication, English language, Environment, Renewable Energy, etc in different centres of excellence in India. The Government of India bears the entire cost of training.



Officials in government, public and private sectors, universities, chambers of commerce and industry, etc are eligible to apply. The candidates should possess the requisite academic qualifications and work experience laid down by the respective institutions. They should fill up the applications online and submit the print-out of the applications to the Embassy through the nominating Ministry/Organization. The details of the programme and guidelines for submitting the application are available at the Embassy's website : <http://indembastana.in/ieb.php?id=ITEC%20Programme>.

Prime Minister Inaugurates Maritime India Summit 2016

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Maritime India Summit, 2016 at Mumbai on 14th April, 2016. In his address, Prime Minister Modi said that Indians are inheritors of a glorious maritime heritage saying that the world's first dock was built at Lothal in Gujarat around 2500 BC during the Harappan Civilisation.



He explained that India's vast coastline of 7500 kms, strategic location on all major shipping highways, 14,000 kms of navigable inland waterways, and expansive and productive hinterland offer a huge investment opportunity. He stated that 250 projects have been identified for investment in the maritime sector, which include various infrastructure development opportunities in 12 major ports. He spoke about several reforms and initiatives taken by the government to facilitate growth of port and related sectors.

The Summit was held from April 14-16, 2016 showcasing projects in sectors such as port development and modernization, greenfield ports, shipbuilding, ship repair and ship breaking, inland water transportation, coastal shipping, lighthouse tourism and cruise shipping, hinterland connectivity and logistics handling facilities. More than 5000 delegates from India and 42 other countries participated in the Summit. 13 thematic sessions and 3 special sessions on various aspects of maritime sector were held in which more than 80 eminent speakers from India and abroad deliberated and shared their vision and experience. 81 international companies, 80 Indian private sector companies and 36 government-owned entities participated in the exhibition. One of the top attractions at the Summit was a Special Ship Museum depicting India's glorious maritime history and heritage.

The summit attracted investments worth Rs 82,905 crores (US\$ 12.43 billion). A total of 141 MoUs and Business Agreements were signed by various players in the maritime sector.

Minister of Oceans and Fisheries of Republic of Korea Mr. Kim Young-Suk, Bangladesh Shipping Minister Mr. Shahjahan Khan, Maldives Economic Development Minister Mr. Mohamed Saeed, Mauritius Minister of Ocean Economy (Marine Resource) Mr. P Koonjoo, Madagascar Minister of Tourism, Transports and Meteorology Mr. Addriantiana Ulrich, Sudan Minister of Transport, Roads and Bridges Mr. Makkawi Mohamed Awad Oshi and South Africa's Deputy Minister of Transport Mr. Sindiswe Chikunga were among the important dignitaries who attended the summit.

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge Visit India

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Prince William and Kate Middleton visited India from April 10-16, 2016. They arrived in Mumbai on 10th April. They visited Oval Maiden Public Park where they joined the children playing cricket. They attended a dinner organised as a charity fund-raiser where prominent personalities from the fields of business, politics, sports and cinema were present. On 11th April, the royal couple launched the third edition of Tech Rocketship Awards, whereby successful Indian startup entrepreneurs are flown to the UK to meet venture capitalists and mentors.



The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on 12th April. Their engagements in New Delhi included visits to India Gate, a memorial to honour Indian soldiers who died in World War I, and Gandhi Smriti, where Mahatma Gandhi lived for 144 days before he was assassinated on January 30, 1948.

The couple visited the Kaziranga National Park, which hosts two-thirds of the world's one-horned rhinoceros, in Assam. After making a one day trip to Bhutan, they visited Taj Mahal in Agra on 16th April.

Engagement with the British royal family has been an integral component of India-UK relations. The visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge is reflective of the continued high level engagement between India and UK.

India - World's Largest Remittance Recipient in 2015 : World Bank

World Bank announced that India was the world's largest remittance recipient in 2015. In its annual report titled "Migration and Development Brief" released on 14th April, 2016, the Bank said that India retained its top spot in 2015, attracting about USD 69 billion in remittances.

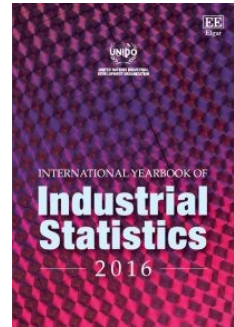


The World Bank, however, noted that the amount of remittance received in 2015 showed a decline of 2.1% as compared to 2014, which marked the first decline in remittance since 2009. The Bank stated that the reduction in the amount of remittance was due to reduced flows of remittance from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States, which are hit by low oil prices.

India Ranked 6th in Top 10 Largest Manufacturers List : UNIDO

A UNIDO report ranked India sixth among the world's 10 largest manufacturing countries. India previously held the 9th rank. 2016 edition of the International Yearbook of Industrial Statistics published by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) found that in India, the Manufacturing Value Added (MVA) grew by 7.6% in 2015 compared to the previous year.

The UNIDO's report stated that the global growth rate of manufacturing production slowed to 2.8% in 2015, which was possibly due to reduced manufacturing growth rates recorded by major developing and emerging economies. The report said that manufacturing value added (MVA) growth rate of developing and emerging industrial economies dropped to 4.5 per cent in 2015 from 5.4 per cent in 2014. It also said that the manufacturing value added (MVA) of industrialized economies grew by 1.5 per cent in 2015.



India Retains Top Spot in Credit Suisse Emerging Markets Consumer Survey

India retained its top spot in a Credit Suisse Consumer Confidence Survey in emerging markets with Indian participants expressing higher confidence about their current and future finances and relatively lower inflation expectations. India topped the scorecard in 2015 as well.

Credit Suisse Research Institute's Emerging Consumer Survey 2016 said that the relative strength of India's economy reflected in the increasing incomes of Indian consumers. It noted that the average Indian respondent's income was increased by double-digits in contrast to a decline in the overall emerging markets average.

The survey highlighted a fast growth in demand for product categories with low penetration in the country. The Credit Suisse expects that while penetration levels in India will continue to improve, another overarching trend will be premiumisation as affluent Indians look to acquire better products.



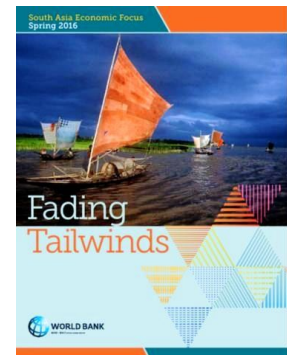
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India Powers South Asia Growth Story : World Bank

The World Bank said that South Asia, led by robust growth in India, remains the world's fastest growing region despite turbulence elsewhere. In its biannual report "South Economic Focus", the World Bank said that limited exposure to global turbulence and increasing investment in the region were the key to its continuing growth.

The World Bank estimates that the South Asian Region would grow from 7.1% in 2016 to 7.3% in 2017. The Bank emphasizes that as the largest economy in the neighbourhood, India sets the pace for South Asia. It anticipates that Indian economy would accelerate from 7.5% in 2016 to 7.7% in 2017 based on the expectation of strong private investment, a push in infrastructure spending, an improved investment climate and leveraged corporate and financial balance sheets. The World Bank's estimates are aligned with India's own growth projection of 7 to 7.75% for 2016-17 reflected in RBI's Economic Survey.



"Make in India" a Success : Moody's

Moody's Investors Service said that India's rising foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows reduced the current account deficit and the external financing needs. In a report released on 7th April, 2016, the credit rating agency observed that India's current account deficit is now more than covered by its FDI inflows. The agency stated that net FDI inflows into India hit an all-time high in January 2016, at \$3 billion on a 12-month moving average basis, highlighting the success of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's "Make in India" initiative.

The Moody's underscored that the rise in FDI points to stronger investor interest in India on the back of robust economic growth. It reaffirmed that these trends are positive, as they lower India's susceptibility to external shocks at a time when capital flows to emerging markets are volatile and global weak economic conditions, particularly in the Gulf States, may dampen remittances.



Incredible India Destination : Dadra and Nagar Haveli

Dadra and Nagar Haveli, a Union Territory in western India, is endowed with nature's munificence. Its capital is Silvassa, located at a distance of 168 km from Mumbai. With an area of 487 sq.km., Dadra and Nagar Haveli captivates visitors with its promise of a gorgeous kaleidoscope of flora and fauna. Daman Ganga River flows through the territory. The Western Ghats range rises to the east and the foothills of the range occupy the eastern part of the territory.

Vanganga lake garden, Hirwa Van Garden, Dudhni lake, Madhuban dam, Tribal Museum, Deer Park and Vasona Lion Safari are popular tourist attractions in Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

Vanganga lake garden is a well-maintained park with jogging tracks and thatched huts. The huge lake in the garden has an island at the center, which stands connected to the garden by a bridge reflecting the influence of Japanese architecture. The garden is very popular among film makers with many film songs picturized there.

Hirwa Van Garden, situated on the Silvassa-Dadra road, has mesmerizing waterfalls, beautiful cascades, small springs, stone walls, arches, lush greenery, colorful flowers and crisscross walkways. There is a separate play section for children.

Dudhni Lake is a vast expanse of water surrounded by small hills. The water sports available there include rowing boats, speed boats, water scooters, kayaks, canoes, jet skis and shikara rides. Trekking through the dense forests and camping on the river side would be a memorable adventure.

Madhuban Dam offers excellent facilities to indulge in water sports. The views of dense forests around are stunning. There are luxurious tents with cooking facilities. Tribal Museum at Silvassa preserves and portrays the rich heritage of tribal culture and civilization in its pristine form.

Vasona Lion Safari is home to majestic kings of the jungle. Visitors are driven in vans to admire the Asiatic lions in their natural habitat. Deer Park situated on the Silvassa-Khanvel road boasts of a variety of deer species and a diverse bird population. There is a watch tower from where one can get a panoramic view of entire park as well as the distant madhuban dam.

Vandhara udyan park, Bal udyan park, Nakshatra garden, Butterfly park, Swami Narayan temple, Tadmekshwara temple, Om temple and Church of our lady of piety are other major tourist attractions in Dadra and Nagar Haveli.



Dudhni Lake



Madhuban Dam



Tribal Museum



Vasona Lion Safari



Vanganga Lake Garden



Swami Narayan Temple

PHOTO FEATURE

Celebration of 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar at Astana

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