



सत्यमेव जयते

Embassy of India ASTANA

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Prime Minister Visits South Africa

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid an official visit to South Africa on July 7-9, 2016. He met President Mr. Jacob Zuma in Pretoria on July 8, 2016. President Zuma recalled India's support in their struggle for freedom and the role of Mahatma Gandhi. He lauded the valuable contribution by the people of Indian descent to the development of South Africa. He welcomed the e-Tourist visa facility extended to South Africa. He appreciated the liberalization of FDI regime and urged South African investors to consider defence, financial and pharmaceutical sectors for investment in India. Prime Minister Modi commended South Africa for extending 10-year multiple-entry visas to business persons from BRICS countries.



Prime Minister Meets President Jacob Zuma



PM on train journey to Pietermaritzburg

The two leaders identified defence, agro-processing, human resource development, infrastructure, manufacturing, mines, minerals, IT, renewable energy, pharmaceuticals, tourism, S&T and financial services as the focus areas for deeper cooperation. South Africa sought India's cooperation in its programme "Operation Phakisa", which focuses on rebuilding its marine and ship-building industry. The leaders emphasized the urgent need for reform of UNSC and international financial systems, and international efforts on counter-terrorism.

In the Joint Press Statement, Prime Minister Modi said that his visit is an opportunity to pay homage to two of the greatest souls to have ever walked on the Earth - Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela. He outlined how the relations between the two countries have advanced with concrete outcomes and the potential to expand economic ties further. He said that industry to industry ties can bring rich economic gains, give new shape to the partnership and help the two countries play a robust regional and global role.

In his address at the India-South Africa Business Meet, Prime Minister Modi called for diversifying the trade basket between the two countries. He informed that the processes for doing business in India are being simplified. He stated that "Start-up India" has been launched to incubate ideas and develop them into enterprises. He pointed out that the two countries are uniquely positioned to complement each other.

Prime Minister Modi visited Nelson Mandela Foundation in Johannesburg. He addressed the Indian community at a stadium where more than 11,000 people were present. He stated that it was the birthplace of Satyagraha and South Africa's welfare was a matter of great concern for Mahatma Gandhi. He reaffirmed that as South Africa works for economic prosperity, safety and security, it would find in India a trusted and reliable partner. He stated that the Indian community members are a window to India's heritage and their achievements, contribution and success make India proud.

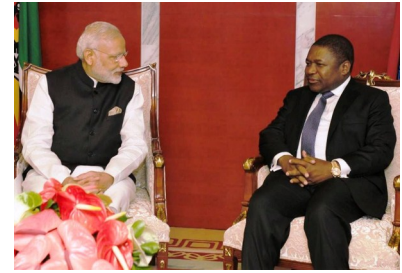
Prime Minister Modi relived the train journey of Mahatma Gandhi by travelling from Pentrich to Pietermaritzburg by train on July 9, 2016. He visited the spot where Gandhiji was offloaded at Pietermaritzburg. He inaugurated an exhibition at the Waiting Hall where Gandhiji spent the night. He travelled to Phoenix and visited the farm where Gandhiji spent formative years of his political work. He also visited Sarvodaya, Gandhiji's residence in Phoenix. He planted pepper and bark tree at the Phoenix Settlement along with Ms. Ela Gandhi, granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi and former Member of Parliament in South Africa.

Prime Minister Modi attended a special reception held in his honour by the Mayor of Durban. He applauded the extraordinary diversity of Durban and stated that by protecting it, they help advance Mandela's dream of a Rainbow Nation. He met Mr. Gounder and Mr. Moonsamy, two surviving members of 1946 Passive Resistance.

Four Agreements/MOUs were signed on ICT, Tourism, establishment of Grassroots Innovation in the area of Science and Technology, and cooperation in Arts and Culture.

Prime Minister Visits Mozambique

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid an official visit to Mozambique on July 7, 2016. He met President Mr. Filipe Nyusi in Maputo. They held detailed discussions on the shared vision of the two countries for a stronger partnership. They agreed to work together to support the Mozambican defence forces by building capacities and institutions, training of personnel and supply of equipment. President Nyusi highlighted agricultural development as his top priority. The two leaders noted the discussions held by Indian experts on agricultural cooperation and agreed to put this cooperation on fast track. Prime Minister Modi stated that Mozambique is one of the gateways for Indian investments into Africa and about one fourth of all Indian investments in Africa are in Mozambique.



In the joint press statement, Prime Minister Modi said that partnership between the two countries is driven by a convergence of capacities and interests in various fields. He reaffirmed India's commitment to buy pulses from Mozambique, which would help meet India's requirement and would also raise farmer's incomes in Mozambique. He pointed out that health care is another area where India's capacities and Mozambican needs match well. He announced that India would donate essential medicines for the Mozambican public health system. In the banquet speech, Prime Minister Modi stated that India remains ready and committed to share its experiences, technology, capacity and concessional credit with Mozambique in line with its priorities.

Prime Minister Modi visited the National Assembly of Mozambique and held discussions with the President of the National Assembly, Ms. Veronica Macamo. He offered the use of Indian training institutions for capacity building of the staff of the National Assembly through training scholarships offered by Government of India. He visited the Centre for Innovation and Technological Development (CITD) at the Science and Technology Park, which was built through an Indian LOC. He donated four buses to the CITD. He interacted with the students and met the alumni of Indian educational institutions. He also interacted with the Indian community members in Maputo and complimented them for keeping Indian traditions alive over generations.

Three agreements/MOUs were signed on purchase of pulses from Mozambique, cooperation in the field of youth affairs and sports, and prevention of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals and related matters.

Prime Minister Visits Tanzania

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid a State Visit to Tanzania on July 9-10, 2016. He met President Dr. John Pombe Magufuli in Dar-es-Salaam on July 10, 2016. President Magufuli expressed appreciation for India's continued commitment towards supporting Tanzania's development efforts by providing training on technical and capacity building and extension of developmental projects using grants and concessional credits. He invited greater participation of qualified Indian personnel, specifically teachers and trainers in areas of mutual interest.



The two leaders agreed to deepen partnership in agriculture and food security including through enhanced export of pulses from Tanzania to India; work together in development and use of natural gas; partner in building industrial economy, capacities and institutions in Tanzania; and deepen the trade and investment partnership by encouraging greater industry to industry ties. They also agreed to broaden cooperation in the fields of production and distribution of power, development of infrastructure, mining and information technology. They noted the completion of US\$ 100 million water supply augmentation project for Dar-es-Salaam with the support of India's concessional credit. They welcomed the agreement signed for a water supply project in Zanzibar with a line of credit of US\$ 92 million from India. They noted that the two countries were working on a number of other water projects for 17 cities in Tanzania and Prime Minister Modi stated that India is willing to consider an additional US\$ 500 million line of concessional credit for these projects.

The two leaders recognized the vibrancy of people to people contacts by the introduction of e-tourist visas to Tanzania last year and subsequent removal of visa fees for Tanzanian business travelers to India. They jointly announced holding of a festival of Indian culture in Tanzania within a year. In the banquet hosted by President Magufuli, Prime Minister Modi reaffirmed that India is ready to share its experience, expertise, capacities and technology with Tanzania. In the joint press statement, Prime Minister Modi informed that President Magufuli and he agreed to deepen the overall defence and security partnership between the two countries especially in the maritime domain.

Prime Minister Modi interacted with a group of about 30 rural women solar engineers who are trained in fabrication, installation, use, repair and maintenance of solar lanterns and household solar lighting by Barefoot College, Tilonia (Rajasthan) under Government of India supported programmes. He met the members of Indian diaspora.

Five Agreements/MOUs were signed on cooperation in water resource management and development, waiver of visa for Diplomatic and Official passport holders, Joint Action Plan between National Small Industries Corporation of India and Small Industries Development Organization of Tanzania, establishment of Vocational Training Centre at Zanzibar and providing a LOC of US \$92 million for water supply system in Zanzibar.

Prime Minister Visits Kenya

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid a State Visit to Kenya on July 10-11, 2016. He met President Uhuru Kenyatta on July 11, 2016. They hailed the warm and cordial relations between the two countries and reiterated their commitment to continued expansion of the ties.

Prime Minister Modi handed over 30 field ambulances, manufactured by Ashok Leyland, to the Kenya Defence Forces. He offered to share India's expertise on space-based applications for management of natural resources, weather forecasting and disaster management. President

Uhuru Kenyatta welcomed India's offer to extend a LOC for geothermal projects and agricultural mechanization. He appreciated the LOCs of US\$ 29.95 million to upgrade Rift Valley Textiles Factory and US\$ 15 million to IDB Capital Limited for development of small and medium enterprises. He also appreciated the power transmission line projects being executed by Indian companies under a LOC of US\$ 61.6 million.



On healthcare sector, Prime Minister Modi announced the gifting of a telecobalt cancer therapy machine - the Bhabhatron II; donation of essential medicines and medical equipment; and capacity building and training programmes. He assured that positive consideration would be given to extend a LoC for establishment of a 100-bed Cancer Hospital in Kenya. He announced that a 'Festival of India' would be hosted in Kenya in Oct-Nov, 2016. He announced a grant of US\$ 1 million for renovation of Mahatma Gandhi Graduate Library at the University of Nairobi. The two leaders welcomed the setting up of an ICCR Chair for Indian Studies at the University of Nairobi. In response to Kenya's request to develop its film industry, India offered to consider deputation of faculty to the School of Film Making in Nairobi. Prime Minister Modi announced that India would support training and capacity building in the areas of transmission of clean and renewable energy, grid management and energy efficiency. Kenya welcomed the Indian initiative 'African Development through Indian Technologies and Innovations' (ADITI) that aims to spur growth both in Africa and India.

In the joint press statement, Prime Minister Modi emphasized that India stands ready to share its development experiences and expertise with Kenya. In his address at the banquet hosted by President Uhuru Kenyatta, Prime Minister Modi reaffirmed that India is ready to join hands with Kenya in fulfilling its development priorities in various sectors. The two leaders attended the India-Kenya Business Forum. They stressed the need for the business communities to exploit existing potential in trade and investment. Prime Minister Modi said that India is ready to share its experience to help Kenya become a regional medical hub.

Prime Minister Modi visited the University of Nairobi, offered floral tributes at Mahatma Gandhi's statue and addressed the students. He also toured the UN offices in Nairobi. Earlier, Prime Minister Modi addressed the Indian community on July 10, 2016. He praised the role of the diaspora in nurturing India-Africa relations saying that they are the Ambassadors of India, the living embodiments of India's eternal values.

Seven Agreements/MOUs were signed on defence cooperation, LOCs of US\$ 15 million to IDB Capital Limited for development of small and medium enterprises and US\$ 29.95 million for upgrading Rift Valley Textiles Factory, exemption of visa for holders of Diplomatic Passports, cooperation in National Housing Policy Development and Management, Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to taxes on income, and cooperation between Bureau of Indian Standards and Kenya Bureau of Standards.

India Hosts Second BRICS Youth Summit

India hosted the 2nd BRICS Youth Summit in Guwahati, Assam on July 1-3, 2016 on the theme "Youth as Bridge for Intra-BRICS Exchanges". Youth delegates from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) participated in the summit. In the working sessions, fruitful deliberations were made on skill development, entrepreneurship, social inclusion, youth voluntarism and youth participation in governance, etc. The Guwahati BRICS Youth Summit 2016 Call to Action was adopted at the meeting.

The programme for the youth summit included thematic debates, cultural events, site-visits and interactive sessions with local youth. The youth summit also served as an occasion to introduce India's North-East to the BRICS youth.



Earlier, External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj met the youth delegates in New Delhi on 30th June, 2016. She said that during India's BRICS Chairmanship for the year 2016, a series of events are being organised with special focus on youth such as BRICS Under-17 Football Tournament, Young Diplomats' Forum, Young Scientists' Conclave, Film Festival, Urbanisation Forum, Smart Cities Workshop, Local Bodies Conference, Wellness Conclave and Convention on Tourism. She said that making BRICS people-centric is India's priority and hence, BRICS events are organized across the cities and provinces of India and the BRICS Summit itself would be held in Goa in October. She said that the deliberations in the youth summit would provide valuable inputs to the leaders in the BRICS Leadership Summit. She said that "Building Responsive, Inclusive and Collective Solutions" is the core theme for India's BRICS Chairmanship. She underscored that in its short journey, BRICS has left an indelible mark on the global economic and financial architecture.

Kazakhstan Celebrates 18th Capital City Day

Kazakhstan celebrated the Day of Capital City "Astana" on July 6, 2016. President Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev congratulated the people of Kazakhstan and wished them happiness and prosperity.

President Nazarbayev launched festive events dedicated to the Capital City Day at the square of the ethno-memorial complex "Atameken" during a flag-raising ceremony on July 4, 2016. He stated that Astana is growing rapidly and is changing for the better. He highlighted that the city unites and inspires the entire country. He announced that one millionth resident of Astana city was born on July 4, 2016.

He attended a reception dedicated to the Capital City Day on July 5, 2016. In his address, he said that the capital city is the backbone of a country and the mirror reflecting the life of the entire country. He described the establishment of the new capital city in Kazakhstan as the golden page of the history of the country. He emphasized that Astana is the symbol of unity, belief, strength and potential of Kazakhstan.

He stated that Astana hosted several events of global scale, which helped the city make significant development. He emphasized that Astana is looking into the future and its development pace makes it an example of new standards for the entire Eurasian region. He noted that small and medium-sized businesses are developing, the infrastructure is improving and new cultural facilities are opened on a regular basis in Astana. He observed that Astana has become an embodiment of the country's independence, spirit of freedom, innovations and development and it is the center of motherland for the people of Kazakhstan.

Members of Parliament, Diplomatic Corps, government officials, representatives of state bodies, literati, and people from business, cultural and educational fields attended the festive ceremony.

The Supreme Council of Kazakhstan decided to transfer the capital city from Almaty to Akmola on July 6, 1994. Akmola replaced Almaty as the capital of Kazakhstan on December 10, 1997. Akmola was renamed as Astana on May 6, 1998.



Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Visits Kazakhstan

The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu transited through Kazakhstan on July 9-10, 2016 on his way to Yekaterinburg to participate in the International Industrial Exhibition "INNOPROM 2016". He arrived in Almaty on July 9. He made a brief visit to Koktobe and met the former Mayor of Astana and current Defence Minister Mr. Imangali Tasmagambetov in Almaty.

Ambassador Shri Harsh Jain received the Chief Minister in Astana on July 10. The Chief Minister visited the Embassy residence. In his brief tour of the city, he visited the Beiterk Tower, the Monument of Independence and the National Museum. He met Mayor of Astana Mr. Asset Issekeshiev. They decided to establish close cooperation between the city of Astana and Amaravati, the new greenfield capital city of Andhra Pradesh.



An Indian Couple on Expedition from Mumbai to London Visits Kazakhstan

Mr. Louis Dsouza and Ms. Janet Dsouza, who are on an expedition, "The Lifetime Journey 2016" from Mumbai to London and back by Car, met Ambassador Shri Harsh Jain in Astana on July 11, 2016. The couple, aged 63 and 55 years, reached Kazakhstan on July 5, 2016 via Myanmar, China and Kyrgyzstan.

The expedition that was flagged off in Mumbai on May 20, 2016, would take them to nearly 40 countries over a period of seven months. They have taken a break from their own logistic business in India to undertake this tour to meet the people of different countries and understand their culture.



India Achieved the Fastest Domestic Passenger Growth in the World : IATA

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) said in its "World Air Transport Statistics", released on 5th July, 2016 that India achieved the fastest domestic passenger growth in the world in 2015. It said that India's annual growth of 18.8% in a market of 80 million domestic passengers surpassed that of Russia (11.9%), China (9.7%) and the United States (5.4%).

The global airlines association pointed out that India outpaced the rest of the major markets in terms of passenger load factor (PLF) and revenue passenger kilometres (RPK). The data showed that India's RPK, a gauge that measures actual passenger traffic, rose by 17.2 per cent in 2015. Similarly, the PLF increased by 6.4 per cent to 82.8 per cent in 2015. Besides, India was ranked as the third largest passenger market in Asia.



India Has the Most Transparent Companies in Emerging Economies

Transparency International's report "Transparency in Corporate Reporting: Assessing Emerging Market Multinationals" published on July 11, 2016 says that India has the most transparent companies because of a strong regulation system firmly in place. It states that with the score of 75 per cent or more, Indian companies have the highest average score in any country in organizational transparency.

The report underscores that vast majority of the world's biggest emerging market companies have failed on transparency, creating an environment for corruption to thrive in their businesses and in the places they operate. It says that hundred fastest-growing companies based in 15 emerging market countries and operating in 185 countries around the world scored an average of 3.4 out of 10, where 0 is the least transparent and 10 is the most transparent. It assesses the public disclosure practices of emerging market multinationals based on three dimensions: the reporting of key elements of their anti-corruption programmes; the disclosure of their company structures and holdings; and, the disclosure of key financial information on a country-by-country basis.



Three Sites in India Inscribed in World Heritage List

UNESCO has listed the Excavated Remains of Nalanda Mahavihara (Nalanda University) in Bihar, Khangchendzonga National Park in Sikkim and Capitol Complex in Chandigarh as World Heritage Sites during the 40th session of World Heritage Committee Meeting held in Istanbul from July 10-20, 2016.

The Nalanda Mahavihara, founded in 5th century CE, was an international centre for organized learning. It was a rare combination of outstanding achievements in institution-building, site-planning, art and architecture. It attracted scholars from Indian subcontinent and beyond and received patronage of local rulers and foreign kings for unbroken period of 800 years. The Khangchendzonga National Park includes a unique diversity of plains, valleys, lakes, glaciers and Mount Khangchendzonga, the world's third highest peak (8,586 metres). It is home to a significant number of endemic, rare and threatened plant and animal species. The Capitol Complex, designed by Architect Le Corbusier in the 1950s, comprises Legislative Assembly, Secretariat and High Court of the States of Punjab and Haryana.



NRI's Allowed to Join NPS Online

The Government of India has announced that Non Resident Indians (NRIs) can join and subscribe to National Pension System (NPS) online through eNPS on June 17, 2016.

Till now, NRIs could open NPS accounts only by submitting paper applications at the bank in person. Recognizing the vital role played by NRIs in Indian economy, the process of joining the NPS has been eased whereby the NRIs can open NPS Accounts online through eNPS (<https://enps.nsdl.com/eNPS/LandingPage.html>), if they have valid Aadhaar Card or PAN Card. They can join NPS on Repatriable or Non-Repatriable basis through their NRE/FCNR/NRO accounts. In case of Non-Repatriable Scheme, the NPS funds would be deposited only in their NRO accounts at the time of maturity or during partial withdrawal.

Both Repatriable and Non-Repatriable schemes will greatly appeal to NRIs who intend to return to India after their employment abroad, in view of their attractive returns, low cost, flexibility and being regulated by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), a Regulator established by the Central Government. NPS has been designed to provide a long term solution to their old age income security.

NPS Registration is now much easier

Open NPS account online in two ways

- Using your Aadhaar Card for instant account opening
- Using your PAN Card with your bank account details.

You can also contribute online if you are an existing NPS Subscriber.

Register in NPS to avail of following benefits:

- Get a unique Pension ID (UPI) for your NPS account
- Get a unique Pension ID (UPI) for your NPS account
- Get a unique Pension ID (UPI) for your NPS account

Registration under eNPS:

- You can open your NPS account online using Aadhaar No. and IT (PAN) card/FCNR/NRO.
- You can open your NPS account online using PAN card/FCNR/NRO.
- You can open your NPS account online using PAN card/FCNR/NRO.

For more information visit www.eNPS.org.in

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Incredible India Destination : Nalanda

The "Excavated Remains of Nalanda Mahavihara (Nalanda University)", the great monastic-cum-scholastic establishment, are located 88 km away from Patna, the Capital of the State of Bihar. It presents a key archaeological evidence of a truly international centre for organised learning. The once world famous university attracted students from India and other parts of the world during the period 5th - 12th centuries AD. The antiquity of the place can be gauged from the fact that Buddha used to make frequent visits to this place. It has been inscribed in the World Heritage List during the 40th session of World Heritage Committee Meeting held in Istanbul from July 10-20, 2016.

A renowned Chinese traveller Mr. Hiuen-Tsang, who came to India in the 7th century and studied at Nalanda, has referred to Nalanda University in glowing terms. From his accounts, it can be said that the university was a great centre of education and was famous even in far-off countries. According to him, the number of students at the university was 10,000 and the faculty consisted of great minds drawn from different parts of India.

Thematic and iconographic assimilation of features from major art-centres of the sub-continent with local practices is evident in the art of Nalanda. While Nalanda stucco influenced practices in Thailand, its metal art influenced art of the Malayan archipelago, Nepal, Myanmar and Tibet travelling out through scholars.

Nalanda Archaeological Museum, Nalanda Stupa, Nava Nalanda Mahavihara and Hiuen Tsang Memorial Hall are other tourist attractions in Nalanda.

Nalanda Archaeological Museum has a small but beautiful collection of Buddhist and Hindu bronze statues and a number of undamaged statues of Lord Buddha that were found in the excavated area. The collection includes copper plates, stone inscriptions, coins, pottery, etc. Two enormous terracotta jars of 1st century stand intact behind the museum in a shaded enclosure.

Nalanda Stupa flanked by flights of steps and terraces, votive stupas and beautiful sculpture give a glimpse of the glorious past. Tradition has it that stupas or tumuli were built over the ashes of Buddha.

Nava Nalanda Mahavihara is devoted to study and research in Pali literature and Buddhism. It is a new institute, where students from foreign countries also study.

Hiuen Tsang Memorial Hall is a new construction in memory of the great Chinese traveller, Hiuen Tsang.



Excavated Remains of Nalanda Mahavihara



Excavated Remains of Nalanda Mahavihara



Excavated Remains of Nalanda Mahavihara



Nalanda Archaeological Museum



Hiuen Tsang Memorial



Nava Nalanda Mahavihara

PHOTO FEATURE

Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Visits Kazakhstan

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