

सत्यमेव जयते

Embassy of India ASTANA

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Heart of Asia—Istanbul Process Ministerial Conference held in Amritsar

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President of Afghanistan Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani jointly inaugurated the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process on Afghanistan on the theme "Addressing Challenges, Achieving Prosperity" in Amritsar on 4th December, 2016.



In his inaugural address, Prime Minister Modi said that since the turn of this century, the international community has extensively engaged in Afghanistan through multiple programmes of political, social, military, economic and developmental support. He emphasized that the international community must protect and build on the gains of the last 15 years and march ahead because at stake is not just the future of Afghanistan that has invested in a vision of development, democracy and pluralism, but the peace and stability of the entire region and beyond.

He suggested that in order to make sure that the citizens of Afghanistan self-sustain peace and economic growth, it is necessary to ensure an Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled process; demonstrate strong collective will to defeat terror networks that cause bloodshed and spread fear; continue and increase the bilateral and regional commitments of material assistance for Afghanistan's development and humanitarian needs; and work to build stronger positive connectivity between Afghanistan and other countries of the region.

He reaffirmed that India's commitment to brave Afghan brothers and sisters is absolute and unwavering and the successful record of India's partnership in projects, big and small, in Afghanistan speaks for itself. He highlighted that India's joint efforts with Afghanistan educate the young and nurture their skills; provide health care and improve agriculture; build infrastructure and institutions; and allow traders and small businesses in Afghanistan to connect with immense commercial and economic opportunities in India. He said that India sees Afghanistan as the hub for strengthening links of connectivity between South Asia and Central Asia.

He pointed out that India's efforts extend to all corners of Afghanistan as evident from construction of India-Afghanistan Friendship Dam (Salma Dam) in Herat, Parliament Building in Kabul, Zeranj-Deleram highway and India-Afghanistan-Iran cooperation on Chahbahar. He also spoke about India's plan to connect Afghanistan with India through an air transport corridor. He said that additional US\$ 1 billion earmarked by India for capacity building in Afghanistan would extend to water management, health, infrastructure, energy and skill development.

Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley and Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Mr. Salahuddin Rabbani co-chaired the Ministerial Conference. The conference considered three major issues: countering terrorism to create stability and security in Afghanistan; providing connectivity to Afghanistan to strengthen economic activities; and ensuring development, which is essential for the progress of Afghanistan. During the Conference, various delegations expressed appreciation for the constructive role played by India in supporting Afghanistan.

The Conference adopted the Amritsar Declaration which recognized terrorism as the biggest threat to peace and stability and demanded immediate end to all forms of terrorism, and support, financing, safe havens and sanctuaries to it. It called for early finalization of the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and early meeting of experts to discuss a draft Regional Counter-Terrorism Framework Strategy, recently prepared by Afghanistan, for its early finalization. It reiterated the strong support of the Heart of Asia countries for Afghanistan's efforts to use its geographic location to enhance wider regional economic cooperation.

Prime Minister Modi and President Ashraf Ghani held bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the Conference. They also visited the Golden Temple, the holiest Gurdwara of Sikhism, in Amritsar.

45 delegations from participating and supporting countries, international organizations and 4 guest countries participated in the Conference. From Kazakhstan, Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Akylbek Kamaldinov attended the Conference.

President of Indonesia Visits India

President of Indonesia Mr. Joko Widodo paid a State Visit to India from December 11-13, 2016. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi received him on 12th December and held extensive talks on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest. They noted that India and Indonesia are friendly maritime neighbours with deep civilizational links including common heritage of Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam. They welcomed the convergence in the political, economic and strategic interests of the two countries that provides an enduring basis for a long-term strategic partnership. They agreed to strengthen cooperation in energy efficiency, renewable energy technologies, information and communication technology, space and food security.



Prime Minister Modi briefed President Widodo about the government's efforts to transform India through innovative initiatives such as "Make in India", "Digital India", "Skill India", "Smart City", "Swachh Bharat" and "Start-Up India" and invited Indonesian businessmen to avail these opportunities. President Widodo briefed Prime Minister Modi on Indonesia's recent reforms and steps taken to enhance the ease of doing business in Indonesia and invited Indian companies to invest in pharmaceuticals, infrastructure, IT, energy and manufacturing industries.

The leaders emphasized the importance of further consolidating the security and defence cooperation and agreed to increase the frequency of defence exchanges, training and joint exercises, including among Special Forces. They welcomed the launching of first direct flight between the two countries (Jakarta-Mumbai) by Garuda Indonesia Airline and encouraged promotion of direct shipping links, private sector investment in port and airport development projects, including through Public-Private Partnerships or other concession schemes.

They issued a "Statement on Maritime Cooperation", which encompasses cooperation in a broad range of fields including maritime industry, security, safety and navigation. The Statement emphasized the need to combat, prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, and promote Sustainable Fisheries Governance between the two countries. The leaders addressed a joint press conference. The first meeting of India-Indonesia CEOs Forum was held on 12th December.

President Shri Pranab Mukherjee received President Widodo and hosted a banquet in his honour. He said that India welcomes Indonesia's emergence as a vibrant and pluralistic democracy with an open society based on the shared values of syncretism, tolerance and respect for diversity. He stated that India looks forward to work with Indonesia to achieve the full potential of economic co-operation, maritime and air links and in increasing reciprocal investments.

Two MOUs on cooperation in youth affairs & sports, and standards and a Joint Communiqué on illegal and unauthorized fishing were signed during the visit.

Prime Minister of Qatar Visits India

Prime Minister of Qatar Sheikh Abdullah Bin Nasser Bin Khalifa Al-Thani paid an official visit to India on December 2-3, 2016. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi received him on 3rd December. They reviewed the state of bilateral relations and exchanged views on ways and means to further expand and consolidate the close, multi-faceted relationship between the two countries, underpinned by age-old trade and people-to-people contacts. They exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest, with particular reference to the security situation in West Asia, Middle East and South Asia.



The leaders agreed to increase the level of participation in infrastructure development projects on either side and exchange information on available investment opportunities in a regular and timely manner. They agreed to expedite steps to put in place the necessary framework so that economic actors on both sides can take full advantage of the opportunities available, particularly in the area of infrastructure, special economic zones, civil aviation, energy, petrochemicals, health, pharmaceuticals, information technology, education, tourism and agriculture.

Prime Minister Sheikh Abdullah called on President Pranab Mukherjee on 3rd December. President Mukherjee said that India accords high importance to its relations with the countries in the Gulf and sees Qatar as a key interlocutor in the Gulf and Arab world. He said that India's relations with Qatar are deep-rooted in history and have been nurtured by active contacts amongst the people of the two countries through trade and commercial ties over centuries. He stated that Indian companies are willing to be partners in infrastructure development being undertaken by Qatar in preparation for the FIFA 2022 World Cup and Qatar's development plans under "Vision 2030". Prime Minister Sheikh Abdullah said that Qatar sees India as a strategic partner and is keen to expand relations with India.

Four Agreements/MOUs on visa-free travel of holders of Diplomatic, Special and Official Passports; cooperation in cyber space and combating cyber crime; framework for project experts for Indian companies in Qatar; and greater collaboration and exchange in the field of management of national ports; and a letter of Intent for grant of e-visas for tourists and businessmen were signed during the visit.

Kazakhstan Participates in the 4th India-Central Asia Dialogue in New Delhi

Indian Council of World Affairs organized the 4th India-Central Asia Dialogue in New Delhi on December 1-2, 2016. Ambassador Nalin Surie, Director General, ICWA and Ms. Sujata Mehta, Secretary(West) inaugurated the Dialogue.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Nalin Surie said that both the regions are confronted with complex challenges and common problems including issues of connectivity, terrorism, socio-economic development, the situation in Afghanistan and religious extremism. He stated that the ongoing Dialogue is one small step in moving forward towards identifying common approaches and areas of cooperation to confront the challenges for the benefit of the people and

the countries of these regions. He noted that India's collaboration with the countries of Central Asia is the outcome of an approach based on mutual benefit and obvious complementarities. He emphasized that efforts must be made to jointly dismantle bottlenecks to future growth and prosperity.

In her keynote address, Ms. Sujata Mehta recalled that during first such dialogue the participants had noted that the political warmth and proximity between India and Central Asia is not equally manifest in the scale of economic exchanges between them and emphasized the need to work for a convergence between these two aspects. She said that the current scenario, regionally and internationally, presents immense challenges but also offers potential for India and Central Asia to qualitatively enhance their engagement. She stated that both India and Central Asia are factors of peace, stability, growth and development in the region and the world and stronger relations between them would contribute to increased security and prosperity of these countries and the world. She emphasized that India's vision for future cooperation between India and Central Asia is ambitious and at the same time realistic.

The Dialogue was divided into five technical sessions on "India-Central Asia amid Changing Global Dynamics", "India in Regional Integration & Multilateral Processes", "India-Central Asia: Building Energy & Surface Transport Connectivity", "Regional Security Situation: Changing Threat Perceptions" and "India-Central Asia: Finding Economic, Political and Cultural Compatibility".

15 experts and scholars from five Central Asian countries and 10 from India participated in the Dialogue. From Kazakhstan, Dr. Laura Yerekesheva, Deputy Director, Institute of Oriental Studies; Mr. Iskander Akylbayev, Research Fellow, Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies; and Mr. Zhumabek Sarabekov, Foreign Policy Expert, Institute of World Economy and Politics attended the Dialogue. Dr. Yerekesheva chaired the session "India-Central Asia amid Changing Global Dynamics".

The ICWA organizes the annual India-Central Asia Dialogue at Track-II level in sync with "Connect Central Asia" policy. The Dialogue provides an important platform for scholarly discussions on the whole range of bilateral, regional and multilateral issues. This year, the Dialogue was arranged in track 1.5 format involving participation of governmental representatives. It included an innovative webinar format enabling participants from the Central Asian countries and other stakeholders to participate through web and make interventions and ask questions.



Kazakhstan Participates in Seminar "Heart of Asia and Connectivity" in Amritsar

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) jointly organized a Seminar on "Heart of Asia and Connectivity" in Amritsar on 3rd December, 2016 on the eve of the 6th Ministerial Conference of Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process on Afghanistan on 4th December, 2016.

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and Shri Gautam Ghosh, Director, FICCI and Shri Manpreet Vohra, Ambassador of India to Afghanistan spoke at the inaugural session. The participants dwelled on various aspects of the situation in Afghanistan and the region under the sessions on "Connectivity of ideas and borders as bridges", "Multimodal transport connectivity and transit", "Trade and investment connectivity" and "Economic and development cooperation".



Experts and scholars from Heart of Asia countries participated in the Seminar. From Kazakhstan, Dr. Ashkat Kessikbayev, Permanent Secretary, International Turkic Academy, Astana and Dr. Laura Yerekesheva, Deputy Director, Institute of Oriental Studies, Almaty participated in the Seminar.

Embassy Participates in the 9th Annual Diplomatic Charity Bazaar

The Embassy participated in the 9th Annual Diplomatic Charity Bazaar organized by Ambassadors' Spouses at the Radisson Hotel, Astana on 4th December, 2016. The Charity Bazaar was inaugurated by Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Roman Vassilenko. The Indian stall, decorated in traditional Indian style, was one of the main attractions. It sold Indian souvenirs, garments, costumes, jewellery and handicrafts, and offered application of henna (mehandi) tattoos. Indian snacks and tea also drew a large number of visitors.

The Embassy handed over the sale proceeds of KZT 300,000 for the charity.



Kazakhstan Participates in "Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process" in Amritsar

Deputy Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan Mr. Akylbek Kamaldinov participated in the 6th Ministerial Conference of Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process on Afghanistan in Amritsar on December 3-4, 2016.

In his address, Mr. Kamaldinov said that Kazakhstan would continue to actively contribute to international efforts to stabilize the situation in Afghanistan at both multilateral and bilateral levels. He expressed confidence that further promotion of regional cooperation would help the emergence of Afghanistan as a stable state, whose territory would not foment security threats including terrorism and drug crimes in the region.



He stated that Kazakhstan has become the first country in Central Asia to be a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2017-2018, which would be an additional opportunity for strengthening security and stability in the region. He called on the regional countries to unite in the fight against international terrorism, extremism, illegal migration, drug trafficking and other global challenges and reaffirmed that these issues would be the highest priority in the forthcoming Kazakhstan's membership in the UN Security Council.

Buyer-Seller Meet in Pharmaceutical Sector in Almaty

The Embassy and Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (PHARMEXCIL) in collaboration with Kazakhstan-India Business Council organized a Buyer-Seller Meet in Almaty on 5th December, 2016.

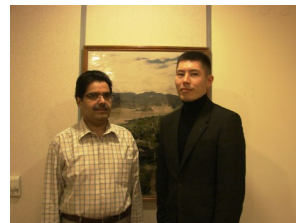
At the inaugural session, Mr. R. Gururaj, First Secretary spoke about the opportunities available for Indian pharmaceutical companies in Kazakhstan; Mr. Raghuvver Kini, Executive Director, Pharmexil, made a presentation on the strengths of Indian pharmaceutical industry; Mrs. Khassanova Mariyam, Deputy Director, National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of Kazakhstan outlined the measures of support for foreign businesses in Kazakhstan; Mr. Azhmat Alimov, Deputy Co-Kazakhstan-India Business Council, spoke about the measures taken by the Council to promote the trade and commercial ties between India and Kazakhstan; and Mr. Frans Stobbelaar, Pharma Consultant, World Bank, gave a brief overview of drug regulatory system in Kazakhstan.



34 Indian companies representing various subsectors such as generic products, nutrition, herbal and ayurvedic medicines and 40 Kazakhstani pharmaceutical companies participated in the Meet.

Kazakhstani Professionals Participate in ITEC Training

Mr. Berik Medetbekov, Engineer at the Institute of Atomic Energy of the National Nuclear Centre of Kazakhstan, was selected for the course "International Training Programme on Solar Energy Technologies and Applications" at the National Institute of Solar Energy, Gurgaon from 28th November to 16th December, 2016. Ms. Galiya Akhmetova, Scientific fellow at the A.I. Barayev Scientific Production Centre for Grain Farming was selected for the course "Applications of Biotechnology and its Regulation" at the Energy and Resources Institute, New Delhi from 28th November to 16th December, 2016.



राष्ट्रीय संग्रहालय के बारे में मेरे अनुभव

- कजाखस्तान गण-राज्य में भारत के राजदूत श्री हर्ष कुमार जैन

एक राजनयिक के रूप में अपने कर्तव्यों का निर्वाह करते हुए मैंने बहुत-से देशों की यात्रा की है जिनमें रूस, यूक्रेन, ब्रिटेन और नेपाल शामिल हैं। इस बात में कोई संदेह नहीं कि इनमें से हर देश ने मेरे दिल पर एक अमिट और विशेष छाप छोड़ी है। यहाँ मैं कजाखस्तान के बारे में अपने अनुभव बताता हूँ। कजाखस्तान अनंत तक फैले घास के विशाल मैदानों का देश है जहाँ मुझे भारत के राजदूत के रूप में अपने देश का प्रतिनिधित्व करने का सौभाग्य मिला। सितंबर 2014 में जब मैंने और मेरी पत्नी ने पहली बार कजाखस्तान की सरजमीं पर अपने कदम रखे तो वहीं से हमने इस खूबसूरत और मनमोहक देश को जानने का सिलसिला शुरू कर दिया।



एक आम कहावत है: "किसी देश के इतिहास को जाने बिना उस देश को जानना असंभव है"। कजाखस्तान जाने की अपनी तैयारियों के क्रम में मैंने इस अनूठे देश के बारे में पढ़ा, किंतु कजाखस्तान के बारे में जो जान और जानकारी मुझे किताबों और ऑनलाइन उपलब्ध सामग्री से मिली वह नाकाफी मालूम हुई। अस्ताना पहुंचने पर जिन स्थानों का हमने सबसे पहले भ्रमण किया उनमें कजाखस्तान गणराज्य का राष्ट्रीय संग्रहालय भी था। यह संग्रहालय कजाखस्तान के इतिहास, संस्कृति, लोक-जीवन और वहाँ की परंपराओं, देश के रूप में कजाखस्तान के दुनिया के नक्शे पर उभरने और उसकी आजादी का एक उत्कृष्ट मार्गदर्शक है।



संग्रहालय में पहुंचने पर मैं और मेरी पत्नी इसकी भव्यता, सम्मोहनकारी अभिकल्प और इसकी विशालता से बहुत प्रभावित हुए। स्वतंत्रता चौक के नाम से विख्यात मुख्य चौक पर निर्मित यह शानदार भवन वास्तुशिल्प के उसी कोटि के बेजोड़ भवनों के समूह में अपनी संगति सिद्ध करता प्रतीत होता है। केवल एक अंतर है और वह है इस भवन का विशेष प्रयोजन- यह कजाखस्तान के बेशकीमती ऐतिहासिक और सांस्कृतिक धरोहर का खजाना है।

इस संग्रहालय का भीतरी भाग भी उतना ही चित्ताकर्षक है जहाँ तलों वाले इस संग्रहालय में 11 हॉल हैं जिनका भ्रमण करना हमारे लिए मंत्र-मुग्ध कर देने वाला अनुभव रहा। ये हॉल प्राचीन काल से आधुनिक काल तक इस क्षेत्र के इतिहास को प्रतिबिंबित करते हैं।

इस संग्रहालय में जिस पहली शै से गाड़ ने हमारा परिचय कराया वह था कुल्लेजिनका स्मारक। इस पवित्र अवशेष को ऐतिहासिक परंपराओं को जनमानस में पुनर्जीवित करने और आजादी के लिए इंसानी इच्छा के प्रतीक के रूप में यहाँ स्थापित किया गया है और इसको श्रद्धा सुमन अर्पित किए जाते हैं। स्मारक पर प्राचीन रुनिक लेख उकेरे गए हैं। हमें पता चला कि कुल्लेजिन तुर्की लोगों का एक सर्वश्रेष्ठ कमांडर था। उसने बहुत-से खानाबदोश जाति समूहों को एक झण्डे तले एकत्रित किया और खानाबदोश साम्राज्य की परंपराओं को जारी रखा। उस समय ऐसा कोई नहीं था जो उसकी ताकत को चुनौती दे पाता। यह कुल्लेजिन ही था जिसने अपनी आखिरी सांस तक प्राचीन तुर्क भूमि की रक्षा की, जिसका एक हिस्सा आज का कजाखस्तान है।

इस क्षेत्र के इतिहास के जन्म से अपने भ्रमण की शुरुआत करते हुए हमने पुरातात्विक हॉल का दौरा किया जहाँ हमने पाषाण, कांस्य और लौह काल के मानव इतिहास के स्मारकों को देखा जो बुनियादी औजारों, रसोई घर के बर्तनों, सजावटों और आवास स्थलों के रूप में संजोए गए थे। मध्यकाल में कजाखस्तान के भूभाग का इतिहास मध्यकालीन किलाबंदियों और भव्य कब्रों के नमूनों के रूप में रखा गया था जिनमें से एक को दुनियाभर में जाना जाता है- वह है महान विचारक, कवि और उपदेशक खोजा अहमद याशोई की भव्य कब्र। हम मध्यकाल के वास्तुशिल्पियों और शिल्पकारों द्वारा बनाए गए भव्य भवनों और स्मारकों से बहुत प्रभावित हुए।

प्रदर्शनी में घूमते हुए हम एक ऐसे परिवेश में पहुंच गए जो कभी ग्रेट सिल्क रोड के रास्तों के आसपास रहा होगा। ग्रेट सिल्क रोड हजारों किलोमीटर तक फैली हुई थी जिस पर से होकर झुलसते रेगिस्तानों, नयनाभिराम नखलिस्तानों और पहाड़ी दर्रां को पार करते हुए बहुमूल्य सामानों से लदे हुए कारवां गुजरा करते थे। ग्रेट सिल्क रोड, उसके भव्य व्यापार रास्ते, जो ईसा पूर्व दूसरी सदी से पंद्रहवीं शताब्दी तक पूरब, पश्चिम और दक्षिण को जोड़ते थे उन्होंने बहुत-से अनूठे शहरों और राज्यों, ऐतिहासिक स्मारकों, रीति-रिवाजों और परंपराओं, इस क्षेत्र के देशों और उनके लोगों के बीच ऐतिहासिक, सांस्कृतिक, व्यापारिक, आर्थिक, राजनीतिक और राजनयिक संबंध स्थापित करने में अपना योगदान दिया। मध्य एशिया खासकर कजाखस्तान मुख्य मार्गों के मिलान बिंदु के केंद्र में स्थित था जिनमें से एक रास्ता भारत को जाता था। भारत से कपड़ा, मसाले, कीमती नग, रंग और हाथी दांत का सामान लाया जाता था। बौद्ध धर्म भारत से मध्य एशिया तक फैला और बाद में मध्य एशिया और पूर्वी तुर्किस्तान से होता हुआ चीन तक फैल गया। ईसाई धर्म और बाद में इस्लाम सीरिया, ईरान और अरब से होता हुआ मध्य एशिया तक पहुंचा।

ग्रेट सिल्क रोड की एक बहुमूल्य धरोहर नवरोज़ उत्सव था जो आज भी भारत और कजाखस्तान सहित बहुत-से देशों में मनाया जाता है। नव वर्ष के आगमन के प्रतीक का यह उत्सव शक-सिथियन काल में और कजाखस्तान के भूभाग में सरमैटियन कबीलों के युग में लगभग 3000 वर्ष पहले शुरू हुआ। बाद में कुछ शक कबीले घूमते हुए भारत आए और यहीं रच-बस गए। शक काल अथवा "शक युग" एक आधिकारिक कैलेंडर के रूप में आज भी भारत में प्रचलित है जिसकी शुरुआत 78 ईसा पूर्व 22 मार्च को हुई। इस कैलेंडर के अनुसार नव वर्ष 22 मार्च को आरंभ होता है। कजाखस्तान में नवरोज़ इसी दिन मनाया जाता है।

मैंने और मेरी पत्नी ने गहन रुचि के साथ प्रदर्शन-मंजूषाओं को देखा जिसमें सिथियन-शक संस्कृति की खोज को संजोया गया था और जो स्वर्ण आभूषणों, हथियारों के नमूनों, घोड़ों की साज-सज्जा और कला की अन्य कृतियों के रूप में रखे गए थे। हम बेरल और इसिक कब्र टीलों में की गई पुरातात्विक खोज से बेहद प्रभावित हुए। दुनियाभर में "गोल्डनमेन" के रूप में विख्यात- शक कबीले के नौजवान के वस्त्रों और सार्फों का तथाबेरल घोड़ों की बेहद खूबसूरत साज-सज्जा का पुनः निर्माण अद्भुत है और प्राचीन कबीलों की संस्कृति और कला को प्रदर्शित करता है।

जब हम संग्रहालय के मानव जाति विषयक हॉल में दाखिल हुए तो हमें ऐसा लगने लगा मानो हम तारों भरे आकाश के तले अनंत तक फैले कजाख के विशाल घास के मैदानों के बीचों-बीच किसी कजाख गांव में खड़े थे। यह असाधारण अनुभूति नवीन प्रौद्योगिकी के कारण ही संभव हुई थी। हमें युर्त बहुत आकर्षक लगा। युर्त खानाबदोश कजाख लोगों का परंपरागत घर है। हमें मालूम हुआ कि युर्त बेहद सुविधाजनक चलता-फिरता घर हुआ करता था जो प्रकृति और जीवन के अनुकूल बनाया जाता था और इसकी कई किस्में हुआ करती थी जैसे: उत्सव युर्त, अतिथि युर्त, नवविवाहित दंपतियों के लिए युर्त आदि। मैं युर्त की खूबसूरत बाहरी और भीतरी सजावट से प्रभावित हुआ जिसे काष्ठ, चमड़े, नमदा और ऊन से बनाया गया था। हमें ऐसा प्रतीत हुआ मानो हम आभूषणों की दुनिया में पहुंच गए हैं। रोजमर्रा के जीवन की वस्तुएं आधुनिक कजाख लोगों के पूर्वजों के उच्च कौशल और कला के प्रति उनकी समझ को दर्शाती हैं।

इतिहास हॉल, जो सदियों पुरानी महत्वपूर्ण ऐतिहासिक घटनाओं और विनाशक लम्हों की जीती-जागती यादों से भरा है, के बारे में जानकारी लेते हुए हमें ऐसा लग रहा था कि हम कजाख लोगों के इतिहास के पन्नों को पलट रहे थे, कजाख खनात के प्रादुर्भाव से लेकर कजाख लोगों का जुंगारुओं के खिलाफ सौ साल चली जंग, बीयों (न्यायाधीशों) के संस्थान की शुरुआत, कजाख बातिरों (योद्धाओं) के पराक्रमी कारनामे जिन्होंने आक्रांताओं के खिलाफ यलगर का नेतृत्व किया, रूस के साथ मिलना, सोवियत शक्ति की स्थापना, राजनैतिक दमन का क्रूर समय, कजाखस्तान का दूसरे विश्व युद्ध में भाग लेना, अछूती भूमियों का विकास, विज्ञान, संस्कृति और उद्योग का फलना-फूलना, नए शहरों का विकास, सेमिप्लात्स्क परीक्षण स्थल में परमाणु परीक्षण और अल्माटी में 1986 के दिसंबर की घटनाएं। कजाखस्तान की जनता ने आजादी के लिए अपने संघर्ष में लंबे समय तक कठिनाइयों का सामना किया। अंत में कजाखस्तान ने 16 दिसंबर, 1991 को अपनी आजादी की घोषणा के साथ संप्रभुता हासिल की।

कजाखस्तान की आजादी से लेकर आज के दिन तक उसकी उपलब्धियों को आजादी हॉल की प्रभावपूर्ण प्रदर्शनी- मंजूषाओं में दिखाया गया है। कजाखस्तान के प्रथम राष्ट्रपति नूर सुल्तान नजरबायेव के विवेकपूर्ण और कल्पनाशील रहनुमाई के बिना ये उपलब्धियां हासिल करना संभव नहीं था। उन्हीं के कारण कजाखस्तान आज एक आजाद और बहुजातीय देश के रूप में दुनिया में विख्यात है जिसकी एक प्राचीन और विशिष्ट संस्कृति है, जो प्रचुर प्राकृतिक संसाधनों से भरा पड़ा है और जहां की जनता सत्कारशील और शांतिप्रिय कोम है।

कजाखस्तान में रहने का आनंद लेते हुए और अपने आधिकारिक कर्तव्यों का निर्वहन करते हुए मैं इस बात के अधिकाधिक प्रमाण पाता हूँ कि भारत और कजाखस्तान में बहुत-सी बातें समान हैं। हमारे दोनों ही देश बहुजातीय, बहुधार्मिक और बहुभाषिक धर्मनिरपेक्ष देश हैं। अंतरराष्ट्रीय मसलों पर हमारे समान विचार और मत, हमारे एक जैसे मूल्य, राजव्यवस्था और आर्थिक नीतियों की समानता हमारे द्विपक्षीय संबंधों के आगे विकास और विस्तार के लिए ठोस आधार हैं। नियमित रूप से संस्कृति और कला उत्सवों के आयोजन, अंतरराष्ट्रीय योग दिवस और महात्मा गांधी का जन्म दिवस मनाने, भारतीय फिल्म उत्सवों, संयुक्त प्रदर्शनियों आदि का आयोजन करने से हमारे मैत्रीपूर्ण संबंध और मजबूत होते हैं। राष्ट्रीय संग्रहालय इन कार्यक्रमों के आयोजन के लिए एक प्रतिष्ठित स्थान है।

06 जुलाई, 2015 को कजाखस्तान में भारतीय राजदूतावास ने कजाखस्तान गणराज्य के राष्ट्रीय संग्रहालय, कजाखस्तान के संस्कृति और खेल मंत्रालय, ब्रिटिश लाभ निरपेक्ष परोपकारी संस्था एन. सेठिया फाउंडेशन, कजाखस्तान के राष्ट्रीय बैंक और जेएससी "एयर अस्ताना" के साथ मिलकर "चित्रा बाय न्यूबी" अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रदर्शनी का आयोजन किया, जो कजाखस्तान की राजधानी अस्ताना दिवस और कजाखस्तान गणराज्य के राष्ट्रीय संग्रहालय की प्रथम वर्षगांठ को समर्पित थी। लंदन में रखी गई "चित्रा बाय न्यूबी" संग्रहण, पुरावशेषों का एक निजी संग्रहण है जो चाय के इतिहास और चाय कला से संबंधित हैं। इस प्रदर्शनी का आयोजन करने वाला कजाखस्तान पहला देश था। भारतीय मूल के एक ब्रिटिश व्यवसायी और लोकोपकारक श्री निर्मल सेठिया द्वारा यह संग्रहण किया गया था और इसे कजाखस्तान लाया गया था। इस संग्रहण में यूरोप, एशिया और अमरीका से लाई गई 1500 से भी अधिक सजावटी कृतियां शामिल हैं। 98 कलाकृतियां अस्ताना लाई गई थीं जिनमें चाय के बर्तन, चाय के कप, कटोरियां, केतलियां और चाय को स्टोर करने के लिए बक्से शामिल थे जो दसवीं शताब्दी से लेकर वर्तमान समय तक के थे। राष्ट्रपति नजरबायेव ने प्रदर्शनी का दौरा किया और इसकी भूरि-भूरि प्रशंसा की।

कजाखस्तान में "भारत उत्सव- 2016" का 07 अक्टूबर, 2016 को राष्ट्रीय संग्रहालय में सुश्री स्मिता नागदेव के सितार वादन के साथ आधिकारिक तौर पर शुभारंभ किया गया। यह उत्सव भारत की स्वतंत्रता की 70वीं वर्षगांठ, कजाखस्तान की आजादी की 25वीं वर्षगांठ और भारत तथा कजाखस्तान के बीच राजनयिक संबंधों की स्थापना की 25 वीं वर्षगांठ को समर्पित किया गया था।

हम आशा करते हैं कि भविष्य में राष्ट्रीय संग्रहालय के सहयोग से ऐसे और भी उत्सव मनाए जाएंगे। मैं संग्रहालय को संयुक्त रूप से सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमों के आयोजन और भारत से आने वाले शिष्टमंडलों के लिए संग्रहालय की यात्रा के आयोजन में निरंतर सहायता और सहयोग देने के लिए हृदय से उनका आभार प्रकट करता हूँ। इस संग्रहालय का बहुत बड़ा ऐतिहासिक और सांस्कृतिक महत्व है। यह कजाखस्तान और यहाँ के दोस्ताना लोगों के ऐतिहासिक अतीतका एक बहुत पाषाणकोश है। मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि इस संग्रहालय की लोकप्रियता बढ़ती जाएगी और यह अपने कार्यकलापों और यहाँ प्रदर्शित की जाने वाली नायाब कृतियों तथा वस्तुओं की संख्या में इजाफा करता रहेगा। मैं संग्रहालय और उसके निदेशक श्री दरखान मिनबे को अपने सभी प्रयासों में महान सफलता की कामना करता हूँ।

Celebration of the Day of the First President of Kazakhstan

The Day of the First President was celebrated in Kazakhstan on 1st December, 2016. It is celebrated on 1st December since 2012 to commemorate the election of President Nazarbaev as the President of Kazakhstan in the national elections held on 1st December, 1991 securing 98.7 per cent of votes. The celebration recognizes the hard work put in by the citizens of Kazakhstan to create the new country and pays tribute to the Leader of the Nation.



President Nazarbayev addressed the National Youth Forum on the Day of the First President. He emphasized that education and entrepreneurship are important in a modern world. He said that his policy was always focused on development of young generation and as a result, now, every young citizen of Kazakhstan has opportunities for education, employment and housing.

He stated that transitioning to a knowledge-based economy is important for sustainable growth and Kazakhstan must join the list of world's 30 most-developed countries on the basis of knowledge-based economy. He noted that the number of young researchers and scientists has increased since independence and emphasized that Kazakhstan's universities must present the same environment for innovations as the leading international universities.

He informed that 55 projects of young entrepreneurs have received favourable government-backed loans this year and opportunities for entrepreneurship and employment are available in tourism, construction, public services, small scale industries and agriculture. He said that free education for first blue-collar job and guaranteed employment are provided under the scheme "Professional Education for All and the Employment Road Map - 2020".

More than 1,000 entrepreneurs, professionals of various fields, scientists, students, actors, sportsmen and leaders of youth organisations attended the Forum.

Ambassador's Greetings on the Day of the First President of Kazakhstan

Ambassador Shri Harsh Jain greeted the President and the People of Kazakhstan on the occasion of the Day of the First President of Kazakhstan. His greetings were published in *Vechnaya Astana* (Asana Evening) daily newspaper in Russian language on 1st December, 2016.



In his greetings, Ambassador mentioned that the day of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan is a special occasion to celebrate all the great achievements and progress made by Kazakhstan under the wise leadership and guidance of President Nazarbayev in the last 25 years of Kazakhstan's independence. He underscored that the bilateral relations and close friendship between the people of two countries have flourished during this period and achieved many milestones.

He wished the President and all people of Kazakhstan good health, happiness, peace and prosperity and expressed confidence that Kazakhstan would continue to make further progress and grow in its stature in the world community under the astute guidance of First President of Kazakhstan.

"Kuresi in Kazakhstan" Inscribed in the UNESCO's List

Kazakhstan's national wrestling "Kuresi" was inscribed as an element in the UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity during the 11th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 28th November to 2nd December, 2016.

The Kuresi is a type of wrestling in Kazakhstan that requires players to battle it out on foot, the objective being to get the opponent's shoulders on the ground. At present, kuresi is a national sport in Kazakhstan practised by men and women up to professional level. International competitions also take place. The practice of kuresi teaches younger generations in Kazakhstan to respect their history and culture, and aim to be like the heroic Baluans (wrestlers). It also helps to build tolerance, goodwill and solidarity amongst communities.



Falconry and Nowruz were also included in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO. These two were multinational proposals and Kazakhstan was one of the countries which nominated them for their inscription in the List.

Prime Minister Modi Inaugurates "PETROTECH-2016"

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the PETROTECH-2016, India's flagship biennial international oil and gas conference and exhibition, on December 5, 2016. The theme of the three-day conference was "Hydrocarbons to fuel the future - Choices & Challenges".

In his address, Prime Minister Modi said that India is the world's fastest growing large economy, poised to account for one fourth of the incremental global energy demand between 2013 and 2040 and expected to consume more oil than the whole of Europe in 2040. He mentioned energy access, energy efficiency, energy sustainability and energy security as the four pillars of his vision for India's energy future.

He highlighted that the new Hydrocarbon Exploration and Production Policy provides for uniform license for exploration and production for all forms of hydrocarbons including shale oil and gas and coal bed methane; open acreage policy allowing bidders to choose the acreage to be explored by them; revenue sharing model instead of profit sharing to reduce the scope for disputes; and marketing and pricing freedom for the crude oil and natural gas produced. He expressed hope that India's oil and gas sector companies would take the opportunity to tie up with their foreign counterparts to explore for more equity oil. He urged Indian energy companies to become multinational; and work towards India-Middle East, India-Central Asia, and India-South Asia energy corridors.

The Petrotech Conference showcased the strengths and potential of Indian Hydrocarbon industry to the world besides providing a vibrant platform for exchange of ideas, sharing of experience, knowledge and technological development across various segments of hydrocarbon industry and opportunities for business collaborations. Over 100 eminent speakers and 6,000 delegates from 68 countries, including technologists, scientists, planners, policy-makers, management experts, entrepreneurs, service-providers and vendors participated in the Conference. Along with the Conference, PETROTECH Exhibition was also held with the participation of about 600 exhibitors from over 50 countries. 11 MOUs were signed including a consortium agreement between IOCL, BPCL and HPCL to set up India's biggest oil refinery cum petrochemical complex with a ~60 MMTPA capacity along the western Coast of India in the State of Maharashtra.



Yoga Inscribed in the UNESCO's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

Yoga, one of the ancient Indian practices, was inscribed as an element in the UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity during the 11th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1st December, 2016. All the 24 members of the Intergovernmental Committee unanimously supported India's proposal for inscribing Yoga in the list.

Yoga combines elements of physical training, breathing exercises and meditation to enable a person to lead a healthier life and realize the presence of peace, awareness and joy within. It promotes flexibility, suppleness, strength and stamina, tones the internal organs of the body, makes the mind calmer and more controlled, and improves concentration. Yoga has been used for thousands of years to promote health and prevent diseases. It is particularly useful in curing many lifestyle related ailments in the modern society.

Yoga has become the 13th intangible cultural heritage listed with UNESCO from India so far.

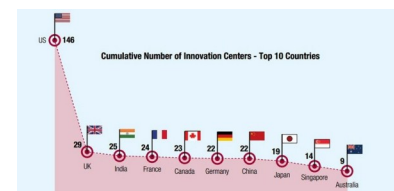


India Tops Asia in Innovation Chart, Third Biggest Globally

India has emerged as the most preferred destination for innovation in Asia and third biggest globally, with 'Silicon Valley' of the east, Bengaluru leading the charge, according to a research by global consulting major Capgemini Consulting's Digital Transformation Institute in collaboration with Fahrenheit 212 and in partnership with Brian Solis of Altimeter.

The report released on 14th December, 2016 said that 9 new innovation centres were opened in the country during the period from March to October, 2016, taking total number of innovation centres to 25. It stated that Bengaluru, where three new innovation centres were opened during the period and an announcement by Apple to establish a startup accelerator was made, leads the Indian challenge on innovation and is ranked 5th hub at global level. It underscored that the number of active incubators in the country increased by 40% to 140, with a bulk 66% of them in tier-II and tier-III centres.

The research said that efforts taken by the government are the prime moving factor for emergence of the country in the list. It attributes increased footprint in smaller cities to the Internet of Things Policy for 2016-2020 and the "Startup India" initiative launched in early 2016.



Incredible India

Destination: Sundarban National Park

The Sundarban National Park, located in the State of West Bengal, is an entrancing preserve for the Royal Bengal Tigers. Declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1987, the Park is also home to a wide range of fauna, including 260 species of birds, aquatic mammals and other endangered species such as the estuarine crocodile and Indian python. It is criss-crossed by hundreds of creeks and distributaries. It is part of the world's largest estuarine delta formed by mighty rivers - the Ganges, the Brahmaputra and the Meghna - and filled with lush vegetation and islands of salt-tolerant mangrove forests, which make up a biodiversity hotspot. The Sundarbans mangrove forest is a dazzling panorama of wildlife in a spectacular natural setting.

Bhagatpur Crocodile Project, Sajnekhali Bird Sanctuary, Project Tiger Reserve and Piyali Island are major tourist attractions in the Sundarban National Park.

Bhagatpur Crocodile Project is renowned for having a hatchery of the largest estuarine crocodiles in the world. Sunderbans National Park is also noted for its conservation of the Ridley Sea Turtle.

Sajnekhali Bird Sanctuary is located on the confluence of Matla and Gundi rivers. It boasts one of the largest concentrations and varieties of bird life in the world. Prominent among them are seven colourful species of Kingfisher, Plovers, White bellied Sea Eagle, Lap-Wings, Whimbrels, Curlew, Sandpipers and Pelican.

Project Tiger Reserve is India's homegrown initiative to protect the tigers' dwindling numbers. Occupying an area of 2585 sq. km., the Reserve is home to about 270 Royal Bengal Tigers, which have adapted themselves very well to the saline and aqua environments and are extremely good swimmers.

Piyali Island, situated on the banks of Piyali river, is gateway to the Sunderbans. The island is heaven of tranquility and shaded by mangrove forests.

Kolkata is the nearest airport for reaching the Sundarban National Park. It is accessible only by riverine waterways. Motor launch services are available from Namkhana, Raidighi, Sonakhali and Najat. These embarkation points are connected to Kolkata by good motorable roads.



Blue-eared Kingfisher



Royal Bengal Tiger



Piyali Island



Ridley Sea Turtle



Mangrove Forest



Boat ride at Sundarbans

PHOTO FEATURE

Kazakhstan Participates in the 4th India-Central Dialogue in New Delhi



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Embassy Participates in the 9th Annual Diplomatic Charity Bazaar



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Buyer-Seller Meet in Pharmaceutical Sector in Almaty




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