

सत्यमेव जयते

## Embassy of India ASTANA

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# Embassy of India ASTANA NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 10

June 1, 2016

## Prime Minister Visits Iran

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid an official visit to Iran on May 22-23, 2016. He met President Dr. Hassan Rouhani. They exchanged views on bilateral relations, evolving regional situation and global issues of mutual interest. President Rouhani appreciated India's stance and support for close cooperation extended to Iran during the period of sanction and emphasized that Iranian people would never forget the positive role played by India in this regard. The two leaders were united in their determination to build a strong, contemporary and cooperative relationship that draws upon the strength of the historical and civilisational ties between the two countries, leverages their geographical proximity and responds to the needs of an increasingly inter-dependent world. They were of the view that their governments must enable and encourage utilisation of the emerging opportunities to the maximum possible extent in all areas of economic and commercial cooperation, in particular, connectivity, infrastructure, energy, trade and investment.



**CHABAHAR PORT**  
A DEFINING PARTNERSHIP FOR REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY

Will significantly enhance India's connectivity with Afghanistan, Central Asia & beyond

India ready to invest US \$20 billion

Already extended over US \$100 million LOC for berths & jetties

In their joint press interaction, President Rouhani said that Iran has always attached great importance to its relations with India and Chabahar can become a very big symbol of co-operation between the two countries. Prime Minister Modi stated that India and Iran are not new friends and their friendship is as old as history. He emphasized that the outcomes and agreements signed would open a new chapter in the strategic partnership. He termed the bilateral agreement to develop the Chabahar port and related infrastructure and availability of about US\$ 500 million from India for that purpose as an important milestone.

Prime Minister Modi, President Rouhani and President of Afghanistan Dr. Ashraf Ghani witnessed the signing of an Agreement on establishment of a Trilateral Transport and Transit Corridor with the participation of Afghanistan, India and Iran.

In the joint press conference by the three leaders, President Rouhani stated that with joint investments, India could be connected to Afghanistan, Central Asia and Europe. He declared that the day would henceforth be called the Day of Chabahar.

President Ghani said that the three countries wanted to prove that geography is not their destiny and it can be changed with their will. He stressed that 100 years from now, historians would remember that day as the start of regional cooperation.

Prime Minister Modi spoke about various benefits arising out of the establishment of the corridor for the region. He called it a corridor of peace and prosperity. He emphasized that the economic fruits of the Chabahar Agreement would expand trade, attract investment, build infrastructure, develop industry and create jobs for the youth. He stated that the arc of economic benefit from the agreement would extend beyond the three nations and its reach could extend to the depths of Central Asian countries. He mentioned that when linked with the International North South Transport Corridor, it would touch South Asia at one end and Europe at the other, which could bring down the cost and time of the cargo trade to Europe by about 50% from that of the traditional sea routes.

Prime Minister Modi inaugurated a Conference on "India and Iran, Two Great Civilizations: Retrospect and Prospects" jointly organized by Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Farhangistan. He released a rare manuscript, Persian translation of the Panchatantra (Kalileh Wa-Dimneh). Earlier, he visited the Bhai Ganga Singh Sabha Gurudwara shortly after arriving in Tehran on 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

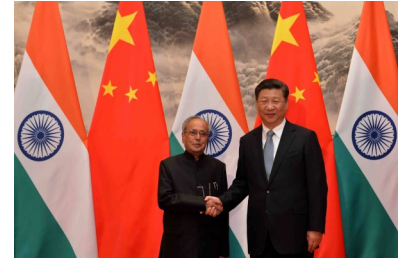
Prime Minister Modi called on Supreme Leader Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Hosseini Khamenei on 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

12 Agreements/MOUs were signed during the visit including a bilateral contract on Chabahar port by India Ports Global Private Limited and Arya Banader of Iran providing for development and operation of two terminals and five berths with cargo handling capacities for ten years; Cooperation between EXIM Bank and Ports & Maritime Organization regarding credit of USD 150 million for Chabahar port; Confirmation Statement between EXIM Bank and Central Bank of Iran on availability of credit up to Rs. 3000 crore (US\$ 450 million) for import of steel rails and implementation of Chabahar port; Cooperation between IRCON of India and CDTIC of Iran to provide services by IRCON including superstructure work and financing of the project (US\$ 1.6 billion) for construction of Chabahar-Zahedan railway line which forms part of transit and transportation corridor in trilateral agreement; Cooperation between the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation Limited of India and the Export Guarantee Fund of Iran; and Cooperation between National Aluminium Company Limited and the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organisation.

## President Visits China

President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee paid a State Visit to China from May 24-27, 2016. He arrived on 24<sup>th</sup> May in Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong Province, which accounts for 20 per cent of bilateral trade and 40 per cent of Indian nationals in China.

President Mukherjee visited Beijing on May 25, 2016. He met President of China Mr. Xi Jinping on May 26, 2016. Premier of the State Council Mr. Li Keqiang called on President Mukherjee. President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang fondly recounted their recent visits to India. They appreciated the visa facilitation measures adopted by India including introduction of e-visa facility for Chinese nationals. They spoke about the steps being taken by China to bring better balance in bilateral trade, including facilitating greater import of agricultural and pharmaceutical products from India. They expressed their resolve to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable resolution of the boundary question at an early date. They welcomed India's membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and expressed the belief that it would strengthen the Organization and contribute to regional stability.



President Mukherjee welcomed greater Chinese investment to India especially in its flagship programmes such as 'Make in India', 'Digital India', 'Skill India', 'Smart Cities', etc. The leaders agreed that relationship between the two countries transcends bilateral dimensions and has regional and global salience. They emphasised the importance of close cooperation in all international fora. The two countries agreed to engage in practical cooperation in various sectors such as railways, industrial zones, smart cities, renewable energy, power, space, aviation, etc.

President Mukherjee addressed eminent cultural and academic personalities at an event co-hosted by Embassy of India and Chinese People's Association for friendship with foreign countries. He said that the possibilities for closer cooperation between the two countries are limitless and realizing the full potential of the relationship is a shared responsibility. He urged distinguished leaders in the fields of art and culture to transform India-China ties saying that they can minimize discord and disharmony, and increase synergy between the two countries.

President Mukherjee visited Peking University and paid floral tribute at the bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore on May 26, 2016. He delivered a lecture on the topic "India-China Relations: 8 steps to a people-centric partnership". He suggested following steps to realize the vision of a people-centric partnership with China: (i) enhancing mutual trust and respect, (ii) expanding youth exchanges, (iii) promoting greater cooperation and co-production of audio-visual media, (iv) fostering greater intellectual and cultural exchanges, (v) expanding tourism contacts, (vi) encouraging greater civil society interaction on developmental challenges, (vii) stronger cooperation in multilateral fora and (viii) broader trade and investment ties. He attended a Round Table of Vice Chancellors and heads of higher educational institutions of India and China. He spoke about India's centres of higher learning of 6th century, which cultivated contacts and academic exchanges with famed institutions of other countries in the region and beyond. He underlined the far reaching initiatives taken by the government of India to revive the tradition and create world class educational centres of excellence.

Earlier, during his visit to Guangzhou, President Mukherjee addressed the Indian community on May 24, 2016. He emphasized that India's policy towards China is to expand areas of cooperation and reduce differences.

He met Secretary of the provincial committee of the Chinese Communist Party of Guangdong Mr. Hu Chunhua and Governor of the Guangdong province Mr. Zhu Xiaodan on 25th May. They conveyed their strong interest in promoting business and people to people ties with India, especially the State of Gujarat with which they have a sister-province relationship. President Mukherjee addressed the India-China Business Forum at Guangzhou. He urged the business sectors of the two sides to take advantage of abundant opportunities available in India and China, which are today the engines driving global economic growth. He reiterated India's commitment to provide a conducive environment for more investments from China.

President Mukherjee visited the Hualin Temple, which marks the arrival of Indian monk Bodhidharma in China in 6th century AD and stands testimony to the close cultural and historical linkages that bind the two countries together.

10 MOUs providing for enhanced faculty and student exchanges as well as collaboration in research and innovation were concluded between the higher educational institutions of the two countries during the visit.

## Ambassador Participates in the 155th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore

Ambassador Shri Harsh Jain visited Ust-Kamenogorsk in East Kazakhstan Region on May 16-17, 2016 at the invitation of Director of the East Kazakhstan Regional Architectural Ethnographic and Landscape Reserve Museum Mr. Nikolai Alexeevich Zaitsev to participate in the 155th birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore.

Ambassador addressed the guests and garlanded the bust (installed in October, 2009) of Rabindranath Tagore at Ethnopark "Zhastar". In his address, Ambassador stated that Rabindranath Tagore was a multifaceted genius, a highly talented personality, an eminent poet and writer, visual artist, musician and philosopher but above all a humanist. He underscored that Gurudev's works were inspired by his quest for inner truth and a sense of solidarity that transcends borders and breaks down barriers of religion, race or language. He stated that Rabindranath Tagore's poetic endeavor, *Gitanjali*, won him the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913, which made him the first Asian to receive that prestigious award.



Ambassador highlighted that Rabindranath Tagore has a unique distinction of being the composer of national anthems of three countries saying that his compositions '*Jana Gana Mana*' and '*Amar Shonar Bangla*' are the national anthems of India and Bangladesh respectively and the Sinhalese translation of a song written by him in Bengali is the national anthem of Sri Lanka.

He informed that the first Russian language translation of Tagore's poem *Gitanjali* was made in 1917 by Ivan Bunin who himself later became the first Russian Noble Laureate in literature, while the credit for translating the works of Tagore into Kazakh language goes to gifted writer and poet Aubakir Nilibayev, who was awarded Padma Shri by Government of India in 2004. He spoke about the deep-rooted, historical and cultural linkages between India and Kazakhstan as well as the friendly relations between India and East Kazakhstan region in particular.

Regional Head of Culture, Archives and Documentation Division Ms. R.K. Nurmukhanova also spoke on the occasion and paid floral tribute to Rabindranath Tagore. Ambassador gave prizes to Ms. Bayan Tursunova, Ms. Kamila Buketova and Ms. Kaziza Dauletbekova of East Kazakhstan State University who won the essay competition on life and works of Rabindranath Tagore. An Indian tea festival was organized where the preparation of tea was demonstrated. Over 1000 people sampled the Indian tea. Members of ISKCON presented vedic bhajan and dance performance at the Palace of Indian Raja, a part of the museum complex. Creative Cultural Groups of the city presented cultural programme at the festive concert in the evening. Yoga Instructor and Kathak Dance Teacher from Indian Cultural Centre, Astana conducted master classes of yoga and kathak dance respectively.

## Ambassador Participates in the Inauguration of Astana Build 2016

18th Kazakhstan International Construction and Interiors Exhibition "Astana Build-2016" was held in Astana from May 18-20, 2016. Over 200 companies in building and construction industry from 17 countries participated in the exhibition.

Ambassador Shri Harsh Jain participated in the inauguration of the exhibition along with Head of Department of Construction and Woodwork Industry Mr. Nursultan Saymasayev, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Republic of India Mr. Bulat Sarsenbayev, Trade Representative of the Russian Federation Mr. Alexander Yakovlev, Chairman of the Union of Builders of Kazakhstan Mr. Talgat Ergaliev and Sales Director of ITECA Exhibition Company Mr. Boris Danilenko.



In his address, Ambassador informed that 45 Indian companies led by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) were participating in the exhibition displaying a wide range of construction equipment, building interiors & fittings, floor, wall and ceiling finishes, marble & granite products, lighting equipment, CCTV & remote monitoring control systems, etc.

He stated that the construction sector contributes 8% to India's US\$ 2.1 trillion economy, employs over 33 million people and is growing at a robust rate of 8.1%. He noted that both India and Kazakhstan have a lot in common in terms of strong emphasis on infrastructure development as a driver for growth, focus on affordable housing and development of smart cities. He commented that an impressive presence of Indian construction companies in the exhibition demonstrates their readiness to share their rich experience with their Kazakhstani counterparts, and market their products and services to Kazakhstan.

Ambassador also inaugurated the "Indian Pavilion" at the exhibition and interacted with the Indian companies participating in the exhibition. He hosted a dinner in the evening in honour of the Indian exhibitors and participants of the Institutional Meeting of India-Kazakhstan Joint Business Council.



## Ambassador Participates in 1st Institutional Meeting of Joint Business Council

The 1st Institutional Meeting of India-Kazakhstan Joint Business Council, co-chaired by Mr. Yerzhan Shaikenov, CEO of Tengri Bank and Mr. Dinesh Sood, Senior Partner of Sun Group, was held in Astana on May 19, 2016.

Ambassador Shri Harsh Jain delivered a keynote address on "Defining Economic Cooperation for the Future". He stated that the meeting is one of the important outcomes of the Joint Business Forum chaired by the Prime Ministers of the two countries during Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit to Kazakhstan in July, 2015.



Ambassador gave a brief account of the evolution of economic relations between the two countries since independence of Kazakhstan in 1991. He noted that the bilateral trade and economic cooperation have not kept pace with the rapid economic growth witnessed by the two countries. He observed that the major bottleneck is the lack of efficient surface connectivity. He, however, opined that opening up of the Iran-Turkmenistan-Kazakhstan rail link in December 2014, signing of an MOU by Kazakhstan Temir Zholy and Adani Ports to explore the possibility of setting up a cargo terminal at Mundra port last year and India's collaboration with Iran to build Chabahar port would improve transport connectivity in coming years.

He stressed that the Inter-Governmental Commission, respective Joint Working Groups and the Joint Business Council need to be more effective in resolving the outstanding issues including simplification of visa regime for Indian businessmen and identifying new areas of mutually beneficial cooperation.

Given India's rapid economic growth in next few years, he stated that there is a strong potential for future economic cooperation between the two countries in hydrocarbon and renewable energy, mineral resources, agriculture and food processing, defence, fertilizer, education, tourism and entertainment industry. He also identified the service industry including IT, English and medical education, health services and medical tourism, financial and consultancy services as the areas which offer opportunities for close cooperation. He urged both Co-Chairs to identify priorities and chart out a clear programme of action to realize expansion of bilateral trade and investments between India and Kazakhstan.

Mr. Shaikenov stated that the Joint Business Council would provide a platform for promoting business relations between India and Kazakhstan. Mr. Sood emphasized that the Joint Business Council should adopt specific goals and targets for expanding bilateral economic relations. Ambassador of Kazakhstan to India Mr. Bulat Sarsenbayev and Chairman of Chamber of International Commerce (CIC) Mr. Ruslan Sultanov also spoke on the occasion.

FICCI & CIC signed a protocol of the 1st Kazakhstan-India Joint Business Council. The protocol reaffirmed commitment by both sides to further strengthen economic cooperation and set specific goals and task for further development of economic and socio-cultural ties between India and Kazakhstan.

## Ambassador Meets Indian Women Boxing Team

A 20-member Indian Women Boxing Team participated in the 9<sup>th</sup> AIBA (Amateur International Boxing Association) Women's World Boxing Championship, 2016 in Astana from May 19-27, 2016. Ambassador Shri Harsh Jain met the team including Hon'ble Member of Parliament Ms. M.C. Mary Kom at the competition venue on May 21 and extended his best wishes to the members of the team.

One Indian boxer, Ms. Sonia Lather, won the silver medal in 57 kg category in the championship.



## Ambassador Meets Telugu Film Cast and Crew

An 18-member Indian Cinema team led by Mr. M. Prabhakar, Line Producer of RJ Cinemas, Hyderabad visited Kazakhstan to shoot a Telegu Movie "Vaishakhham" at select locales including iconic buildings, monuments and picturesque locations in Astana and Almaty.

Ambassador Shri Harsh Jain met the team during the shooting at Astana Aquarium. He congratulated the director Ms. Jaya Boyidapu, line producer Mr. M. Prabhakar, the main cast Ms. Avantika and Mr. Harish Varma and other team members on the initiative to shoot some parts of the film in Kazakhstan and extended his best wishes for the success of the movie.



## Master Classes on Yoga in Karaganda

Dr. Brijesh Gupta, Yoga Instructor at Indian Cultural Centre, Astana visited Kazakhstan Academy of Yoga, Karaganda on May 30-31, 2016. He conducted a master class on Common Yoga Protocol for yoga instructors, as part of the preparation for the celebration of International Day of Yoga at Karaganda on June 26, 2016. He also conducted two master yoga classes for pregnant women at the Academy.



## NCC Cadets Visit Kazakhstan

A 13-member National Cadet Corps (NCC) delegation led by Col. Kirpal Singh visited Kazakhstan from May 16-27, 2016 under the Youth Exchange Programme between NCC of India and Voenni Kafedra of Kazakhstan.

The delegation comprised 12 cadets who hailed from 12 different states in India. The cadets visited Al-Farabi Kazakh National Pedagogical University, Almaty and Taraz State University, Taraz from May 16-20, 2016 and May 21-26, 2016 respectively. They participated in various training, cultural and sports activities along with the cadets of Voenni Kafedra of the Kazakhstani universities. They visited prominent cultural and historical places such as Central State Museum of



Kazakhstan, Museum of Kazakh National Musical Instrument, Park of 28 Panfilov and Zenkov Cathedral in Almaty, and AkyrTas and Ayesha Bibi Mauseum in Taraz. They had meetings with Rectors and faculty members of Voenni Kafedra and shared their experience. Col. L.S. Lidder, Defence Attache at the Embassy met the cadets.

## Prime Minister of Fiji Visits India

Rear Admiral (Retd) Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, Prime Minister of Fiji, met Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in New Delhi on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2016.

Prime Minister Modi expressed his condolences for the loss of life in Fiji due to the Category 5 Cyclone Winston, which struck Fiji on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2016. He assured that India stands ready to provide all possible assistance to Fiji in the rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts. He reaffirmed his commitment made at the 2nd FIPIIC Summit in Jaipur in August 2015, to strengthen cooperation in Disaster Management with all Pacific Island countries, including through the establishment of a Space Technology Applications Centre for the region.



Prime Minister Bainimarama thanked Prime Minister Modi for the US\$ 1 million in assistance and 45 tonnes of relief material provided by India in the immediate aftermath of the cyclone. The two leaders also discussed avenues for strengthening bilateral cooperation in solar and renewable energy, agriculture, education and health.

## India's Growth to Rise to 8% in FY 2018-19 : Fitch

Fitch, a global rating agency, announced that India's economic growth rate would slowly accelerate to 8% by fiscal year ending March 2019, driven by gradual implementation of structural reforms, higher disposable income and improvement in economic activity.

**Fitch**Ratings

In its latest Global Economic Outlook released on 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2016, Fitch expects India's GDP to grow 7.5% in fiscal year ending March 2016 and improve to 7.7% in the current fiscal year ending March 2017 and further to 7.9% in the fiscal year ending March 2018. According to Fitch estimates, India remains the fastest growing country across the world with GDP in 2016 estimated to grow at 7.55% year on year as against the global GDP growth of 2.5%.

Fitch expects higher disposable income to contribute to faster GDP growth. It points out that in rural areas, purchasing power will be supported by above-average rainfall from the monsoon, as expected by the India Meteorological Department, after two years of below-average rainfall, while urban consumption is likely to be supported by a hike in civil servant wages following recommendation of the 7th Pay Commission for an increase in salaries by almost 24 per cent. The global rating agency said that the passage of the Bankruptcy Code earlier this month is a positive step towards implementation of big ticket reforms in India.

## India's First Indigenous Space Shuttle Flight-Tested Successfully

Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) successfully flight-tested India's first Reusable Launch Vehicle-Technology Demonstrator (RLV-TD) on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2016. The launch of RLV-TD, weighing 1.75 tonnes, is an important achievement and takes India into the ranks of leading nations of the world with space shuttle capabilities.

In the experimental mission, HS9 solid rocket booster carrying RLV-TD lifted off from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. At the height of 56 km, RLV-TD separated from HS9 booster and ascended to a height of about 65 km. From the peak altitude of 65 km, RLV-TD began its descent followed by atmospheric re-entry at around Mach 5 (five times the speed of sound). The vehicle's Navigation, Guidance and Control system accurately steered the vehicle during this phase for safe descent. After successfully surviving high temperatures of re-entry with the help of its Thermal Protection System (TPS), RLV-TD successfully glided down to the defined landing spot over Bay of Bengal, thereby fulfilling its mission objectives. The vehicle was successfully tracked during its flight from ground stations and a shipborne terminal.



The critical technologies such as autonomous navigation, guidance and control, reusable thermal protection system and re-entry mission management were successfully validated during the flight. Termed the Hypersonic Flight Experiment, it was the first of a sequence of four test flights to validate various technologies.

## India Ranks 3rd in EY's Renewable Energy Index

India's renewable energy sector has been ranked third in the world in the EY's Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI) issued in May, 2016. EY's report underscored that India's position is the result of the strong focus of the government on renewable energy as well as timely implementation of renewable energy projects. It noted the falling cost of renewables and their growing ability to challenge and displace fossil fuel generation without subsidy in any market. It indicated that wind continues to be at a pricing premium to solar in India as well as in the rest of the world.

EY pointed out that the emerging markets now represent half the countries in the 40-strong index whereas a decade ago, only two countries including India were attractive enough to compete with more developed markets for investment.

The index ranks 40 markets on the attractiveness of their renewable energy investment and deployment opportunities, based on a number of macro, energy market and technology-specific indicators. The methodology has been refreshed in the May edition to reflect greater focus on energy imperative, policy stability and routes to market.

### THE TOP 10

1. United States of America
2. China
3. India
4. Chile
5. Germany
6. Brazil
7. Mexico
8. France
9. Canada
10. Australia

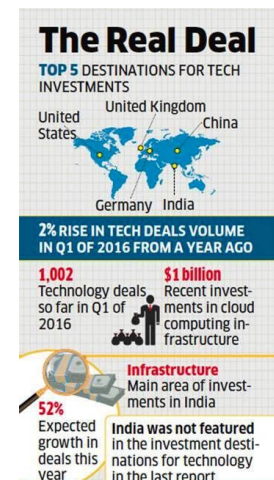
Source: EY

## India Ranks 3rd in Global Tech Investment Destinations List : EY

India retained third spot in Ernst & Young's list of most attractive investment destinations for technology transactions. The multinational professional services firm, EY's 14th biannual Global Capital Confidence Barometer (CCB) - Technology Report, based on a survey that covered 182 technology executives around the world, named the US, the UK and India as the top three destinations for technology investment in that order.

According to EY, there is a shift towards shared infrastructure globally and that is the main area of investments in India. It said that India's reputation as an IT and IT-enabled services powerhouse has received a great impetus with the heightened velocity of global digital transformation. It underscored that India's domestic technology market is picking up and there's a marked improvement in the investment climate.

EY informed that more recently, the emergence of cloud computing has become an attractive bet, with investments in cloud computing infrastructure in India touching US\$ 1 billion and major players becoming increasingly active in this space. It highlighted that India scores high on being a technology hub and its strength is in its ability to adopt new technology.





## Incredible India Destination : Ajmer

Ajmer in the State of Rajasthan was founded by Raja Ajaypal Chauhan in 7th century AD. It is surrounded by the Aravalli mountain range. The Ajmer Sharif Dargah, Adhai Din Ka Jhonpda, Soniji Ki Nasiyan, Ajmer Government Museum and Anasagar lake are popular tourist attractions in Ajmer.

The Ajmer Sharif Dargah houses the tomb of Garib Nawaz, also known as Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti, the founder of the Chisti order of Sufism. Built in the 13th century, the shrine is popular among people of all faiths. The shrine is considered to be a place of fulfillment of wish for the devout. Emperor Akbar and his queen visited the shrine every year in observance of a vow when they prayed for a son. Emperors Akbar and Shah Jahan had built mosques inside the shrine complex.

Adhai Din Ka Jhonpda was originally built to function as a Sanskrit College and was later converted into a mosque in 1192. Forty columns support the roof, but no two are alike and the ornaments are exceptional in their decorations.

Soniji Ki Nasiyan, a Digambara Jain Temple, is a wonderful example of ornate architecture. Constructed in the 19th century, this temple is counted among the richest temples in India. Its main chamber, known as Swarna Nagari (city of gold), has several gold plated wooden figures.

Ajmer Government Museum is housed within the magnificent fortified palace of Emperor Akbar, which was built in 1570. It houses a rich collection of Mughal and Rajput armour, sculpture and paintings.

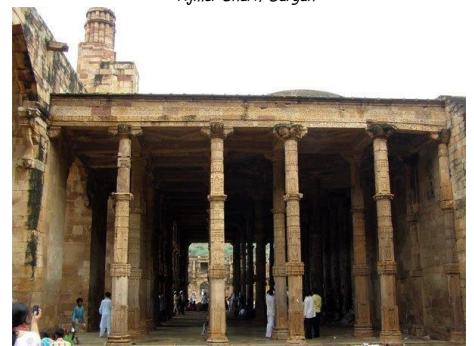
Anasagar lake is a scenic artificial lake built by King Arnoraj Chauhan between 1135 and 1150 AD. Arnoraj was also known as Anaji, which gives the lake its name. Many years later, Mughal Emperor Jahangir laid out the Daulat Bagh Gardens near the lake and Emperor Shah Jahan built five pavilions between the garden and the lake.

Pushkar, 13 km away from Ajmer, is an ancient Hindu pilgrimage township, situated at a height of 510 metres and surrounded by hillocks on three sides. A temple dedicated to Lord Brahma on the lakeside is an important pilgrimage centre. Thousands of pilgrims take a holy dip in the lake in October and November, when the Pushkar Fair, a camel fair, is also held.

Sai Baba Temple, Mayo College, Prithvi Raj Chauhan Smarak, Swami Dayanand Saraswati Smarak (Rishi Udhyan), Circuit house, Taragarh Fort, Chasma a Noor (Happy Valley) and Lake Foy Sagar are some of the other tourist attractions in Ajmer.



*Ajmer Sharif Dargah*



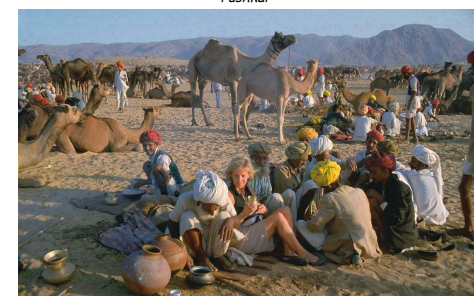
*Adhai Din Ka Jhonpda*



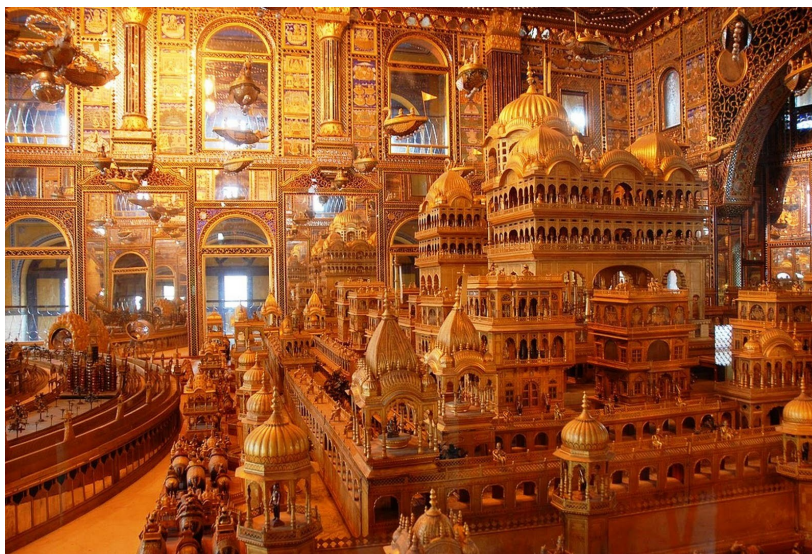
*Anasagar Lake*



*Pushkar*



*Pushkar Fair*



*Soniji Ki Nasiyan*



## PHOTO FEATURE

### *Ambassador Participates in the 125th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore*



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### *Ambassador Participates in 1st Institutional Meeting of Joint Business Council*



### *Ambassador Meets Indian Women Boxing Team*



### *NCC Cadets Visit Kazakhstan*



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