



सत्यमेव जयते

Embassy of India ASTANA

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Prime Minister Modi Visits Germany

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Germany on May 29-30, 2017. German Federal Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel received him at the Schloss Meseberg, outside Berlin, on 29th May. They discussed various issues of mutual interest while acknowledging that Indo-German Strategic Partnership is based on common values of democracy, free trade and a rule-based international order. Prime Minister Modi emphasized the importance of cohesiveness in the European Union and its significance as a force of stability in the world.



The leaders attended the fourth India-Germany Inter Governmental Consultations (IGC) in Berlin on 30th May, 2017. They agreed to enhance cooperation in the fields of vocational education and

training, higher education, innovation in Science and Technology, maritime technology, blue economy, railways, clean energy, health, alternative medicine, social security, resource efficiency, renewable energy, startups, disaster management, mutual assistance in criminal matters and counter terrorism.

The leaders welcomed the implementation of a Fast Track System for German companies, which enables both the countries to identify and solve problems faced by German investors in their operations in India. They encouraged their respective business enterprises to enter into arrangements for co-development and co-production of commercial aviation and defence equipment in India. They appreciated the efforts of High Technology Partnership Group (HTPG) to identify specific opportunities for high technology collaboration, including in priority areas of skills development in manufacturing.

They noted that sustainable urban development was agreed as a new priority area of bilateral cooperation between India and Germany in 2016 and Germany intends to provide financial and technical assistance in the range of 1 billion Euros until 2022. They underscored that Kochi, Coimbatore and Bhubaneswar have been identified for bilateral collaboration on sustainable urban development.

The leaders welcomed the growing number of Indian students in German Universities. Chancellor Merkel agreed to address visa issues being faced by Indian students. They welcomed the implementation of German language teaching in Kendriya Vidyalayas as well as Germany's efforts to promote modern Indian languages in German educational institutions.

At the joint press conference, Prime Minister Modi said that an outcome oriented momentum is perceptible in relations between the two countries. He said that German partnership is important for the Skill India Mission. He stated that cooperation is also envisaged in the sports arena, particularly in football.

Prime Minister Modi and Chancellor Merkel attended a Business Meeting where top CEOs from both countries were present. In his address, Prime Minister Modi said that efforts are made to make India a global manufacturing hub. He pointed out that India offers a globally cost competitive manufacturing eco-system, a vast pool of skilled professionals with knowledge and energy, world class engineering education base and strong R&D facilities, growing domestic market and a liberal FDI Policy regime. He said that opportunities exist in India for German companies in building millions of houses, setting up of hundreds of smart cities, modernization of railway networks and stations, setting up of high speed rail corridors, etc.

He called on President of Germany Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier on 30th May.

12 Agreements/MOUs were signed during the visit on cooperation in the fields of digitalization, cyber policy, health, alternative medicine, collaboration between Foreign Service Institutes, railway safety, sustainable urban development, vocational education and skill development, etc.

Prime Minister Modi Visits Spain

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid an official visit to Spain on May 30-31, 2017. He met President of the Spain Mr. Mariano Rajoy in Madrid on 31st May. They exchanged views on various aspects of bilateral relations and expressed their commitment to further strengthening the ties. They acknowledged that India and Spain share a strong commitment to principles and values of democracy, freedom, rule of law, respect for human rights and territorial integrity of States. They recognized their common responsibility towards ensuring international peace and security, promotion of free trade, open and inclusive international order and environmental sustainability.



Prime Minister Modi announced opening of an Indian Consulate in Barcelona. President Rajoy welcomed the move stating that it would help in further deepening bilateral economic, cultural and people to people ties. He congratulated Prime Minister Modi on India's fast economic growth and welcomed the efforts of Government of India to provide a positive business environment for foreign companies and further international investment, for which, adequate protection of investments and legal certainty are instrumental.

The leaders agreed to deepen cooperation in cyber security, defence, transport infrastructure, renewable energy, tourism, culture, health, science and technology, blue economy, astrophysics, biotechnology, life sciences, oncology, and innovation driven joint R&D projects in sectors such as biosensors, biopesticides, bioeconomy, waste to energy, e-health and flexible electronics.

President Rajoy welcomed the positive contributions being made by Indian companies to the Spanish economy in the fields of IT, pharmaceuticals and automobiles. He complimented the contributions of the Indian community in Spain in different spheres of life. He announced Spain's intention to organize a Year of Spain in India in 2020 to further the exchanges and mutual understanding in the areas of culture, science, economy and interaction between the civil societies. Prime Minister Modi announced installation of a statue of Mahatma Gandhi in the Canary Islands.

Prime Minister Modi called on His Majesty King Felipe VI on 31st May. He met with CEOs of Spanish Business and Industry. He said that there is immense potential for further growth of Spanish investments in India, particularly in sectors such as infrastructure, renewable energy, food processing, auto, chemicals and textiles. The first meeting of the India-Spain CEOs Forum was held on the sidelines of the visit.

Seven agreements were signed during the visit on cooperation in civil aviation, organ transplantation, cyber security, renewable energy, transfer of sentenced persons, waiver of visa for holders of diplomatic passports, and cooperation between Foreign Service Institute of India and Diplomatic Academy of Spain.

President of Palestine Visits India

President of the State of Palestine Mr. Mahmoud Abbas paid a State Visit to India from May 14-17, 2017. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi received him in New Delhi on 16th May, 2017. The leaders acknowledged that relationship between India and Palestine is built on the foundation of long-standing solidarity and friendship. Prime Minister Modi said that India has been unwavering in its support of the Palestinian cause and hopes to see the realization of a sovereign, independent, united and viable Palestine, co-existing peacefully with Israel.



The leaders had extensive exchange of views on the situation in West Asia and the Middle East Peace Process and agreed that the challenges in West Asia must be addressed through sustained political dialogue and peaceful means. Prime Minister Modi reaffirmed that India would continue to support the development and capacity-building efforts of Palestine, particularly in the areas of information technology, youth and skills development. In the joint press conference, Prime Minister Modi said that India is undertaking project assistance for a flagship Techno-park project in Ramallah, which would serve as an IT hub in Palestine offering a one-stop solution for all IT-related training and services.

President Shri Pranab Mukherjee received President Abbas on 16th May and hosted a banquet in his honour. He congratulated President Abbas on his re-election as Chairman of Fateh Party and said that in his re-election, people of Palestine have made it clear that their primary aspiration is for peace and a strong leader who will lead them towards the fulfillment of their aspirations. He expressed satisfaction that the two countries have agreed to intensify mutual co-operation in the fields of security, agriculture, education, culture, healthcare and sports.

President Abbas visited the Centre for Development of Advance Computing, Noida on 15th May to forge cooperation between Palestine - India Techno Park being built by India in Palestine and Indian IT industry. He also gave an address at the India Islamic Cultural Centre, New Delhi.

Five Agreements/MOUs were signed during the visit on cooperation on Visa Exemption on Diplomatic and Official Passports, Youth Affairs and Sports, Agriculture, Health, and Information Technology and Electronics.

Prime Minister of Mauritius Visits India

Prime Minister of Mauritius Mr. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth paid a State Visit to India on May 26-28, 2017. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi received him in New Delhi on 27th May. He said that Prime Minister Jugnauth's first overseas visit to India after taking over as the Prime Minister reflects the depth of ties between the two countries. He stated that bonds between the two countries are not limited to Governments, but they extend to the people and societies who take pride in the shared roots and weave a rich tapestry of friendship in diverse areas.



The leaders agreed that effective management of conventional and non-conventional threats in the Indian Ocean is essential to pursue economic opportunities, protect the livelihood of communities and provide security to the people. Prime Minister Modi emphasized that the two countries should keep up the vigil against piracy that impacts trade and tourism, trafficking of drugs and humans, illegal fishing and other forms of illegal exploitation of marine resources. They agreed to further strengthen the cooperation in hydrography, skill development, renewable energy, tourism and people-to-people contacts.

Prime Minister Modi pointed out that the agreement signed on Line of Credit of US\$ 500 million from India to Mauritius is a good example of India's strong and continuing commitment towards development of Mauritius. The leaders noted that India is supporting the National Coast Guard of Mauritius in augmenting its capacity through Project Trident and has taken a decision to renew the life of the Coast Guard Ship Guardian, which was provided to Mauritius under a grant assistance programme.

Prime Minister Jugnauth called on President Shri Pranab Mukherjee on 27th May, 2017. President Mukherjee said that India would like to cement its close historic ties with Mauritius. He expressed happiness that Special Economic Package grants are being used to fund Metro Express, new Supreme Court building, ENT Hospital, supply of digital tablets and social housing project. Prime Minister Jugnauth attended a business meeting organized by CII, FICCI and Assocham on 26th May. He was felicitated at a civic reception hosted by the India Foundation on 27th May, 2017.

Five Agreements/MOUs were signed during the visit on cooperation on Maritime Security, Marine Sciences and Technology, setting up of Civil Services College in Mauritius, Line of Credit Agreement Between SBM Mauritius Infrastructure Development Co. Ltd and Export-Import Bank of India, and Submission of Instrument of Ratification of International Solar Alliance by Mauritius.

Prime Minister Modi Inaugurates the Annual Meeting of AfDB in Gandhi Nagar

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the 52nd Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the African Development Bank in Gandhinagar (Gujarat) on 23rd May, 2017 on the theme "Transforming Agriculture for Wealth Creation in Africa".



In his address, Prime Minister Modi said that India's partnership with Africa is based on a model of cooperation, which is responsive to the needs of African countries, demand-driven and free of conditions. He recalled that India offered US\$ 10 billion for development projects over the next five years and a grant of US\$ 600 million at the 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit in October, 2015.

Prime Minister Modi said that more than 33,000 scholarships have been offered to officials from African countries under ITEC Programme since 2007. He highlighted the successful completion of Pan Africa e-network project for tele-medicine and tele-network covering 48 African countries where 5 leading universities in India offered under graduate and post graduate programmes and 12 super-speciality hospitals offered consultations and continuous medical education benefiting around 7,000 students. He announced that next phase would be launched soon. He spoke about the successful completion of Cotton Technical Assistance Programme for African Countries launched in 2012 shortly. He underscored India's contribution to the African Development Fund, the African Development Bank, the Highly Indebted Poor Countries, etc.

He pointed out India's improvement in all macro-economic indicators in recent years and shared some of the strategies adopted by the government such as payment of subsidies directly to the poor, universal neem-coating of urea to curb diversion of subsidized fertilizer to non-agricultural uses, issuing soil health cards to farmers to increase crop yield, opening of over 280 million bank accounts for the poor under Jan Dhan Yojana and universal biometric identification system called Aadhaar to ensure that the benefits reach the intended beneficiary.

Prime Minister Modi held bilateral meetings with President of Benin Mr. Patrice Talon, President of Senegal Mr. Macky Sall and Vice President of Côte d'Ivoire Mr. Daniel Kablan Duncan on the sidelines of the meeting. Former President of Ghana Mr. John Dramani Mahama called on Prime Minister Modi. Djibouti, Cote d'Ivoire, Somalia, Ghana and Comoros signed the ISA framework agreement to join the International Solar Alliance. The meeting held from May 22-26, 2017 provided a forum for representatives of government, business, civil society, think-tanks, academia and the media to debate key issues on Africa's development and discuss the Bank's performance in delivering on its mandate.

Delegation from Ministry of Defence and Aerospace Industry Visits ISRO

A delegation from Ministry of Defence and Aerospace Industry of Kazakhstan led by Mr. Malik Olzhabekov, Acting Deputy Chairman of the Aerospace Committee visited Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), Bengaluru from May 29-30, 2017. Mr. Bolat Sarsenbayev, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to India also joined the delegation. The two sides discussed a wide range of topics for enhancing India-Kazakhstan cooperation in the field of space. The delegation also visited technical facilities and got acquainted with the Satellite Integration Testing Establishment and Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network. The two sides signed the agreed minutes of the meeting and decided to form a Joint Working Group to further progress cooperation in this field.



NCC Cadets Visit Kazakhstan on Youth Exchange Programme

A 14-member National Cadet Corps (NCC) delegation led by Col. Shreenath visited East Kazakhstan State University, Ust-Kamenogorsk and Al-Farabi Kazakh National Pedagogical University, Almaty from May 14-26, 2017 under the Youth Exchange Programme (YEP) between NCC of India and Voenni Kafedra of Universities of Kazakhstan.

The delegation comprised 12 cadets drawn from 12 different states in India. The NCC cadets participated in various training, cultural and sports activities together with the cadets of the Voenni Kafedra of the two Universities. They visited prominent places of historical and cultural significance such as Central State Museum of Kazakhstan, Museum of Kazakh National Musical Instrument, Park of 28 Panfilov and Zenkov Cathedral in Almaty and Zhastar Park, Ethnography and History Museum, etc in Ust-Kamenogorsk. They met the Rectors and Faculties of Voenni Kafedra of the Universities and shared their experiences.



16th Session of Secretariat of Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions

The 16th Session of the Secretariat of Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions was held in Astana on 18th May, 2017. In his address, Chairman of the Senate of Parliament of Kazakhstan and Head of the Secretariat Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev said that the global community can counter the challenges and threats from terrorism, risk of nuclear catastrophe and geopolitical tensions only through joint actions, constructive dialogue and compromises.

The representatives of various religions and international organizations participated in the Session. The Session decided that the 6th Congress of the Leaders of World and Traditional Religions would be held on October 10-11, 2018.

Dr. Kala Acharya, Director, K.J. Somaiya Bharatiya Sanskriti Peetham from India participated in the Session.



Applications are Invited from Youth of Indian Origin for Know India Programme

The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India has announced six editions of Know India Programme (KIP) for the year 2017-18 with participation of 40 overseas Indians in each programme. The applications for the four editions of KIP (41st - September 3-27, 2017; 42nd - October 1-25, 2017; 43rd - November 1-25, 2017 and 44th November 29 to December 23, 2017) are invited by 21st July, 2017. The 45th and 46th KIPs will be held in early 2018 and applications for them will be accepted in October, 2017.

The KIP is an orientation programme for diaspora youth conducted with a view to promote awareness on different facets of life in India and the progress made by the country in various fields such as economy, industry, education, science & technology, communication & information technology and culture. It provides a unique forum for students and young professionals of Indian origin to visit India, share their views, expectations and experiences and develop closer bonds with contemporary India.

This programme is open to the youth of Indian origin (between 18-30 years). Non-resident Indians (NRIs) are not eligible for this programme. Minimum qualification required is graduation from a recognized University or enrolled for graduation. The Participants are provided with local hospitality, gratis visa and 90% of cost of return air tickets. Eligible candidates may apply for the programme online at: <http://kip.gov.in/>



Prime Minister Modi Inaugurates India's Longest Bridge

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated India's longest bridge, the 9.15 km long Dhola-Sadiya Bridge, over River Brahmaputra in Assam on 26th May, 2017. The bridge will ensure 24X7 connectivity between the States of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, marking a major transformation from the ferry-based day-only connectivity, which collapses during floods. It will also reduce the distance between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh by 165 km and the travel time by 5 hours.

Addressing a public meeting at Dhola, Prime Minister Modi said that the bridge opens the door for large scale economic development of the North East. He informed that the Government is placing great emphasis on the development of waterways as well. He stated that enhanced connectivity between the North-East and other parts of the country is a priority for the Government and work has been greatly speeded up in this regard. He added that good connectivity in the North-East would also link the region with the economy of South-East Asia. He also spoke of the immense tourism potential of the North-East.



India Becomes First Country to Create National Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction

India has become the first country to create a National Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction. The UN praised India at the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction organized by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) in Cancun, Mexico from May 22-26, 2017 for leading a global intervention aimed at lessening the losses incurred due to natural disasters.



The 2017 Global Platform marked the first opportunity for the international community to review global progress on implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction adopted in Sendai (Japan) in March, 2015 and endorsed by the UN General Assembly. The Sendai Framework is a 15-year voluntary, non-binding agreement, which recognizes the primary role of the State in reducing disaster risk. Though 87 countries expressed their commitment to the Sendai Framework, India is the only country so far to have produced implementation plans.

India No.1 FDI Recipient for 2nd Year in a Row

India retained the world's number one location for Greenfield FDI investment for the second consecutive year in 2016. According to the fDi Report 2017 compiled by fDi Intelligence, a division of the Financial Times Ltd, FDI by capital investment increased by 2% to US\$ 62.3 billion in 809 projects in India during 2016. The report released on 25th May, 2017 said that the global investment landscape changed considerably in 2016 as FDI gravitated to locations experiencing the strongest economic growth, while locations in recession or facing high levels of uncertainty registered major declines.



Mukesh Ambani Leads Forbes List of Global Game Changers 2017

Chairman of Reliance Industries Mr. Mukesh Ambani tops the Forbes' Second Annual Global Game Changers List released on 16th May, 2017 for his game changing efforts to bring internet to India's masses. Referring to his company, Reliance Jio Mobile Network's efforts to spread internet penetration in India, the Forbes said that Oil and Gas Tycoon entered the country's telecom market with a bang, offering fast internet at cheap prices, gained 100 million customers in six months and set off a wave of consolidation in the market.



The list features the most influential 25 business leaders from around the world based on corporate growth, innovation and international presence. In order to be considered for the Forbes Global Game Changers list, the leaders must be running a for-profit operation with a market value of at least US\$1 billion that grows and innovates better than its peers.

Kazakhstani Professionals Attend ITEC Programme

Ms. Nazerke Kanagatova, Project Manager at Tamur LLP, Astana and Ms. Nurgul Dyussupova, Engineer Consultant at Colvir Kazakhstan, Astana were selected for the "Specialized Programme on E-governance Application Development" conducted by "the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Noida" from 10th July, 2017 to 29th September, 2017 under ITEC programme, funded by the Government of India.



Incredible India Destination: Kutch

The Kutch region in Gujarat is known for the nature at its spectacular and barren best. The walled city of Bhuj, headquarters of the Kutch district, derives its name from Bhujia fortress, which overlooks the city from a hill nearby. A large part of the district is known as Rann of Kutch, a shallow wetland, which submerges in water during rainy season and becomes dry during other seasons. History weighs heavily on the Kutch region, home to the Harappan sites. Bhuj gained prominence when it became the capital of Jadeja Rajput rulers in the mid-16th century. The city's beguiling bazaars sell a wide variety of world renowned Kutch handicrafts. Bhuj also serves as a springboard for visits to Flamingo City, a bird watcher's paradise.

Rao Pragmalji's Palace, Jain Dadavadi, Aina Mahal, Chhatris and Khengar Park are some of the major tourist attractions in Bhuj.

Rao Pragmalji's Palace, built in the 19th century, is an ornate Italian marble and sandstone building. The Jain Dadavadi, dedicated to Lord Adinath, is an ancient Jain shrine attracting devotees. Aina Mahal, built 350 years ago, houses Maharaja's private collection of paintings, royal furniture, textiles, arms, ivory work, manuscripts, etc. The Chhatris (Cenotaphs) were built by Jadeja Ruler Rao Lakha in the 18th century at cremation sites of the rulers. The popular Khengar Park is located outside Bhuj and has a beautiful lake.

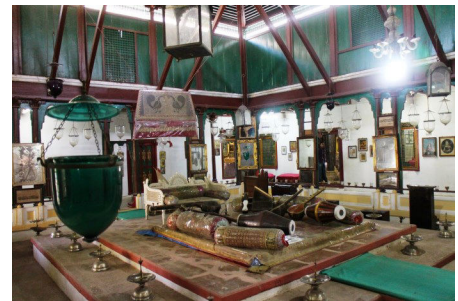
Mohammed Pannah Mosque, Swami Narayan Temple and Kutch Museum are other major tourist attractions in Bhuj.

Anjar (41 km away from Bhuj) is the venue of many popular fairs. Hodaka village (53 km) is famous for its craft such as decorative mirrors, lamps, hand fans, letter boxes, wall hanging, wood, metal and mud work especially the exquisite silver jewellery.

Mandvi (75 km), founded in 1581 AD, has a fortification with 25 bastions. It is a well-known centre for production of handicrafts. Rukmavati Bridge in Mandvi was built in 1883 and is the longest existing one of its kind in India. Mandvi is also known for its beautiful silver sand beach and the imposing Vijayvilas Palace. Bhadreswar (75 km) is the site of the ancient Bhadravati Nagri of King Yuvnashva mentioned in the Mahabharata. Dholavira, one of the oldest and largest Indus Valley Civilisation sites in India, is about 100 kilometres from Bhuj.



Kutch Silver Jewellery



Aina Mahal



Flamingo City



Vijay Vilas Palace



Mandvi Beach



Kutch Embroidery

PHOTO FEATURE

Delegation from Ministry of Defence and Aerospace Industry of Kazakhstan Visits ISRO



NCC Cadets Visit Kazakhstan on Youth Exchange Programme



6/1, Kabanbai Batyr Avenue,
5th floor,
Kaskad Business Centre,
Astana.

Tel. Phone: + 7 7172-925700/925701
Fax: + 7 7172-925716
E-mail: info.astana@mea.gov.in

Visit us: indembastana.in

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