



सत्यमेव जयते

Embassy of India ASTANA

Inside this issue:

German Chancellor visits India	1-2
President of India visits Jordan	2-3
President of India visits Palestine	3
President of India visits Israel	4
ACMA Buyer-Seller Meet	4
Celebration of Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and International Day of Non-violence	5-6
NCC Delegation visits Kazakhstan	6
Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Chess Tournament	7
Art Yoga Studio celebrates its 3rd anniversary	7
Initiatives to encourage tourism in India	7
Electronics Development Fund Policy	7
Incredible India : Destination—Ahmedabad	8
Photo Feature	9

Embassy of India ASTANA NEWSLETTER

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German Chancellor Visits India

Dr. Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany visited India from October 4-6, 2015 for 3rd Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC). She led a large delegation comprising several cabinet members and high profile business leaders.

Welcoming Dr. Merkel, President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee said that India attaches high importance to its strategic partnership with Germany. He said that relations between the two countries are founded on common principles of democracy, rule of law and tolerance. He emphasized that India and Germany should work for closer integration of their economies and greater political understanding. The German Chancellor warmly reciprocated President's sentiments and said that Germany shares common values with India. She stated that the world economy remains fragile and the two countries need to work together to stabilize it.

The third IGC meeting was held on 5th October where Prime Minister Modi and Chancellor Merkel agreed to steer the strategic partnership between India and Germany into a new phase by building on growing convergence on foreign and security issues and the complementarities between the two economies. The two leaders shared their common concern about the growing threat and reach of terrorism and extremism and underscored their readiness to build closer collaboration to counter these challenges.

In order to intensify the exchange of views on issues of common concern, both sides agreed to establish a new Policy Planning Dialogue between the Foreign Ministries. They also agreed to initiate collaboration between the Foreign Service Institute of India and the Foreign Service Academy of Germany to facilitate more exchanges between young diplomats from both countries. Both leaders reaffirmed that technology intensive manufacturing can become a key pillar of their Strategic Partnership. In the field of transport, they believed that India's railway modernization and expansion plans open up commercial opportunities for German companies. They agreed that the aviation industry offers new opportunities for investments and encouraged their respective business enterprises to enter into arrangements for co-development and co-production of commercial aviation and defence equipment in India including transfer of know-how and technologies. The leaders agreed to enhance collaboration towards the common aim of developing climate-friendly, efficient and sustainable solutions for India's expanding energy needs. Prime Minister Modi welcomed the Germany's intention to initially commit 120 million Euro for a project aiming at a comprehensive improvement of the environmental situation in selected cities in the Ganga river basin. They also agreed to explore collaboration under the 'Digital India' initiative. A new International Centre for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences in India will form nucleus for ambitious research and act as a visible forum for exchanges among outstanding scholars from two countries. The two sides agreed to initiate discussions on simplifying respective visa procedures and making them as easy and transparent as possible. They also agreed to facilitate mutual assistance in criminal matters.

In a joint press briefing, Prime Minister Modi said that 1600 German companies present in India, and growing in number, would be strong partners in creating a global workforce in India. He noted that German cooperation and assistance in areas like smart cities, clean Ganga and waste management have taken a concrete shape. He appreciated Germany's assistance of over 1 billion Euros for India's Green Energy Corridor and a new assistance package of over 1 billion Euros for solar projects in India. He expressed gratitude to Chancellor Merkel and the people of Germany for the return of the 10th century statue of Durga in her Mahishasurmardini avatar from Jammu and Kashmir.



Chancellor Calls on President



PM meets Chancellor

In a joint statement on climate change and energy technology cooperation, Prime Minister Modi and Chancellor Merkel underscored their determination in tackling climate change and transitioning towards sustainable development. They launched Indo-German Working Group on Climate Change under the Indo-German Environment Forum to regularly discuss climate policy and exchange views on the two countries' transition to low-carbon economies. They decided to forge an Indo-German Climate and Renewable Alliance to harness technology, innovation and finance to make affordable, clean and renewable energy accessible to all and foster climate change mitigation efforts.

Chancellor Merkel visited Bengaluru on 6th October. At the Bosch Engineering and Innovation Centre in Bengaluru, the two leaders were given an overview of the activities undertaken to serve the common man in areas such as detection of eye disease and immediate assistance to accident victims. At the Bosch Vocational Centre, they were briefed on skill development programmes run for school dropouts. Both the leaders attended a business forum organized by NASSCOM and the Fraunhofer Institute. In his address, Prime Minister Modi highlighted that at a time of global slowdown, India represents a bright spot for investments. He gave an overview of the steps taken by the government to address the long-pending concerns of investors. He talked about the various investment opportunities available in India such as building of 50 million houses, setting up of 100 smart cities, modernization of railway network and stations, generation of 175 GW of renewable energy, construction of transmission and distribution networks, national highways, bridges and metro rails. He lauded Chancellor Merkel for her vision where German Engineering and Indian IT fuse to create world class products.

During the visit, 14 Agreements/MOUs between government bodies and 4 Agreements/MOUs between other institutions were signed on development cooperation, solar energy partnership, skill development and vocational education and training, security cooperation, aviation security, disaster management, Indo-German Science and Technology Centre, Indo-German partnerships in higher education, plant protection products, railways, manufacturing, fast-track system for German companies in India, advanced training of corporate executives and junior executives from India, promotion of German as a foreign language in India and promotion of modern Indian languages in Germany, food safety, agricultural studies and participation of young Indian scientists in natural sciences for the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings.



PM and Chancellor visit Bosch Engineering and Innovation Centre



PM and Chancellor attend Business Forum

President of India visits Jordan

President of India Mr. Pranab Mukherjee paid a state visit to Jordan from October 10-12, 2015. He met His Majesty King Abdullah-II Ibn Al Hussein followed by delegation level talks. Both leaders agreed to strengthen cooperation in counterterrorism measures and defence. The subject of enhancing cooperation in trade, economics and investment figured in their discussions against the backdrop that Jordan has huge reserves of shale gas and phosphate and India is the largest importer of phosphate from Jordan. The two leaders inaugurated a US\$ 860 million project of Jordan-India Fertilizer Company, a joint venture between IFFCO and the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company to produce phosphoric acid for export to India. President Pranab Mukherjee donated 100,000 Jordanian Dinars to Queen Rania's trust fund for social projects. He announced a line of credit of USD 100 million to Jordan as project assistance. He also announced to double the number of slots to 50 a year for training of Jordanian professionals under ITEC programme.

King Abdullah-II supported India's candidature for permanent membership in the expanded UN Security Council. He expressed willingness to enter into long term arrangements for supply of phosphates to India and establish more joint ventures to meet the demand of phosphoric acid, rock phosphate and DAP. He also expressed his desire to encourage Indian companies to work with the Jordanian ICT companies.

President Pranab Mukherjee attended a reception hosted by Ambassador for Indian community and Jordanian friends of India. In his address, President said that India considers Jordan to be an oasis of peace and progress in the middle east region. He mentioned that India lauds the progressive policies of the King of Jordan and deeply appreciates his humanity in offering refuge to almost one and a half million innocent men, women and children who have been displaced from their homes by the ravages of war. India appreciates his efforts and tireless endeavours within the region and beyond to inculcate tolerance and understanding amongst communities. He emphasized that it is urgent and imperative for all sides to give up sectarian violence and hatred and instead, embrace tolerance, humanity and harmonious coexistence.



President meets King Abdullah-II

On 11th October, President of India Mr. Pranab Mukherjee met Prime Minister of Jordan Dr. Abdullah Ensour followed by delegation level talks. Comprehensive convention on international terrorism, United Nations reform and engagement between India and Jordan in economic field were among the subjects that featured in the discussions. Prime Minister Ensour said that there was a favourable atmosphere for Indian companies to invest in Jordan. He identified Information Technology, pharmaceutical, automobile, textile, construction and renewable energy as the core areas where the two countries could have more joint ventures and further collaborations. President Mukherjee outlined the direction of Indian economy and the measures taken for creation of jobs and attracting investments. Both the sides agreed to take measures to soar up bilateral trade and investments.

President Pranab Mukherjee visited the Senate of Jordan where the discussions were centered on the salient features of the systems existing in the two countries. He also visited the University of Jordan. In his address, he mentioned about the growing bilateral relations and India's friendly relations with the Arab world in general. The university conferred an Honorary Doctorate in Political Science on him. He gratefully accepted the recognition and expressed hope that it would help enhance the existing close cooperation between the two countries especially in the education sector. President inaugurated a major avenue named after Mahatma Gandhi in Jordan.

Six agreements/MoUs were signed between India and Jordan on maritime transport, IT and electronics, standardization and conformity assessment, cultural exchange programme, cooperation between foreign service institutes and cooperation between news agencies.

President of India visits Palestine

President of India Mr. Pranab Mukherjee paid a state visit to Palestine from October 12-13, 2015. He met President of Palestine Mr. Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Dr. Rami Hamdallah.

President Abbas briefed President Mukherjee about the evolving situation in Israel-Palestine relations and emphasized that they were seeking a peaceful resolution of the Palestinian issue. He said that Palestine seeks a negotiated settlement on the basis of the 1967 borders and desires to live as a friendly neighbour. President Pranab Mukherjee reiterated India's principled support to the Palestinian cause and called for a negotiated solution resulting in a sovereign, independent, viable and united state of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital. He announced the doubling of the number of slots to 100 a year for training of Palestinian professionals in India under ITEC programme and the increase of the general scholarships to Palestinian students for college education in India from 10 to 25 a year. He presented a cheque for USD 5 million for Palestine's budgetary support. He announced five projects at the total cost of USD 17.79 million viz., setting up of a Techno Park in Ramallah, Palestinian Institute of Diplomacy, India-Palestine Centre for Excellence in ICT and Innovation in Gaza, India Studies Chair at Al-Quds University and Cooperation between Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi and Birzeit University in the West Bank. President Abbas appreciated India's support and thanked President Mukherjee profusely for staying overnight in Ramallah, being the first Head of State from any country to do so. He assured the President that they were seekers of peace following in the footsteps of Mahatma Gandhi.



President Mahmoud Abbas hosted a banquet in honour of President Pranab Mukherjee in Ramallah on 12th October. In his address, President Pranab Mukherjee said that India's policy on Palestine has three core dimensions : solidarity with the Palestinian people, support to the Palestinian cause and partnership in Palestine's nation and capacity building efforts. He said that India would like to see the people of Palestine living within secure and recognized borders, side by side and at peace with Israel, as endorsed in the Arab Peace Initiative, the Quartet roadmap and relevant UN Security Council resolutions. He congratulated President Mahmoud Abbas on the historic installation of the national flag of Palestine at the United Nations on 30th September and said that India shares Palestine pride and joy and also its sense of optimism that it is an important step towards realization of the dream of people of Palestine for a separate homeland.

President Pranab Mukherjee witnessed naming of an important roundabout and a road in Ramallah as Midan-Al-Hind (India Roundabout) and Shereya-Al-Hind (India Road) respectively. In his address, President Pranab Mukherjee said that they are not only landmarks in Ramallah but also represent a landmark in the longstanding and close friendship between the people of India and Palestine.

He visited Al-Quds University on 13th October. He inaugurated the India-Palestine Centre for Excellence in ICT in the University. The University conferred a Honorary Doctorate on him. President Pranab Mukherjee said that he valued it as a sign of friendship and regard of the people of Palestine for India and for him. He mentioned some of the instances where India had stood by Palestine in international forums since 1947. He said that around 12,000 Palestinian students had graduated from Indian Universities, many of whom on scholarships offered by the government of India and today, they serve as a bridge between the two countries.

President of India visits Israel

President of India Mr. Pranab Mukherjee paid a state visit to Israel from October 13-15, 2015. He visited Mt. Herzl and paid respects to the victims of the holocaust at the Yad Yashem, the World Centre for Holocaust Research on 13th October. He attended Indian community reception hosted by Ambassador. In his address, President appreciated that Indians all over the world are successful not only as dedicated professionals and hardworking businessmen, but also as model citizens. He said that India considers Israel as a valued partner.



President Pranab Mukherjee met President of Israel Mr. Reuven Rivlin and Prime Minister of Israel Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu on 14th October. They held discussions on bilateral issues and international relations including the situation in Syria. President Mukherjee acknowledged that India and Israel have major collaborations in the fields of power, ports and railways. As Israel has strengths in IT, pharmaceuticals and cyber security, he invited Israeli entrepreneurs to invest in India in these fields. President Reuven Rivlin hosted banquet in honour of the visiting dignitary. In his banquet address, President Pranab Mukherjee talked about the historical linkages between India and Israel. He said that people of India first welcomed members of the lost tribes of Israel more than 2000 years ago. He informed that Hebrew was taught as a subject in Indian educational system much before the State of Israel was established. He highlighted the fast trajectory of India's economic growth and the transformation of Israel into a hi-tech power house. He emphasized that the time is opportune to further strengthen economic cooperation and intensify collaborations in Science and Technology.

President addressed the Knesset on 14th October. He spoke on the democratic system in India and the role played by Parliament in making laws, scrutinizing the functioning of the executive and granting financial sanctions. He informed that government of India has undertaken new initiatives in economic policies aimed at raising agricultural productivity, promoting manufacturing for employment generation and boosting the services industry and suggested that India and Israel could work together in each of these areas. He concluded with the remarks that India and Israel are separated by two seas but joined by their common belief in the power of diversity and democracy. President Pranab Mukherjee visited Hebrew University on 15th October. The university conferred Doctor Philosophiae Honoris Causa on him. In his acceptance speech, he said that he greatly valued this gesture of friendship. He informed that eminent Vice Chancellors of premier Indian universities had accompanied him to explore and pursue possible collaborations with counterpart universities in areas of shared interest. He recalled the government of India's recent decision to extend e-tourist visa facility to Israeli nationals.

During the visit, 2 governmental agreements on avoidance of double taxation and cultural exchange programme for the period 2015-18, and 8 agreements/MOUs between the educational institutions of the two countries were signed.

ACMA Buyer-Seller Meet

The Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA) organized a Buyer-Seller meet between auto component manufacturers of India and spare part dealers, distributors, importers and automobile manufacturers of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan at Almaty on 8th October, 2015 with the support of Kazakhstan Auto Business Association, Almaty Region National Chamber of Entrepreneurs and Kazakh OEM Autoprom. 16 key auto component manufacturers from India participated in the Meet. Mr. Vinnie Mehta, Director General, ACMA welcomed the participants and made a power point presentation on capabilities and growing export opportunities of the automotive sector in India.



Ambassador Shri Harsh Jain inaugurated the event and delivered key note address. He said that India has emerged as the fastest growing large economy in the world since last quarter of 2014. Quoting IMF report, he said that India is expected to grow at the rate of 7.3% in 2015 and 7.5% in 2016. He informed that India has emerged as the most favoured destination for foreign direct investment outpacing China and USA in 2015, demonstrating the significant impact made by the Make in India campaign launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India a year ago, which enthused both domestic and international investors. He noted that Indian auto component industry has registered an average annual growth of 11% in the last five years reaching a turn over of US\$ 38.5 billion in 2014-15. The exports of auto components have grown on an average by 22% in the last five years to US\$ 11.2 billion. He recalled the visit of Prime Minister of India to Kazakhstan three months ago when he placed a special emphasis on enhancing connectivity and developing economic cooperation between the two countries. Ambassador further recalled that Kazakhstan is India's largest trade and investment partner in Central Asia and India is the largest trade and investment partner of Kazakhstan in South Asia. He noted that Kazakhstan is the most developed and prosperous country in Central Asia, adding that Kazakhstan's automotive sector has witnessed a significant growth in the last five years and today, every fifth Kazakh citizen owns a vehicle. Ambassador informed that Kazakhstan is making significant investments in the infrastructure sector including roads and highways, which would further promote the growth of automotive sector in Kazakhstan. He pointed out that this provided for huge opportunities for joint collaboration and exports of Indian automotive components to Kazakhstan. For Kazakh entrepreneurs interested in riding the wave of high economic growth in India, he informed that 100% Foreign Direct Investment was allowed under automatic route in the automotive sector.

Celebration of Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and International Day of Non-Violence

Embassy of India and Kazakhstan State Humanities and Law University (KazGUU) Academic Diplomatic Club jointly organized the celebration of 146th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and International Day of Non-Violence on 2nd October, 2015. Ambassadors, diplomats, government officials, faculty and the students of KazGUU attended the celebration. A documentary film on Mahatma Gandhi was screened to the students before the event. A photo and book exhibition was also organized at the venue.

The celebration began with the garlanding of the bust of Mahatma Gandhi by the dignitaries. Ms. Renata Faizova, Director (International Cooperation) of KazGUU and Ambassador Shri Harsh Jain welcomed the guests. In his address, Ambassador said, "there is no better way to celebrate Gandhi's birthday than to remember the ideals he stood for viz., Ahimsa (non-violence), Satya (truth), Asteya (honesty), Aparigraha (non-possessiveness and non-attachment) and Brahmacharya (Celibacy). He said that while non-violence had its origin in the teachings of Lord Rishabdev, an epoch-making man who lived over 5000 years ago in India, Mahatma Gandhi was the first one to apply the principle of non-violence successfully in the modern political landscape at a large scale. He spoke in detail about the life of Mahatma Gandhi and his contribution to India's freedom struggle. He said that it was through the force of his teachings, his words, his ideas, his own life and personal example that he was able to move the whole nation and people as one. He recalled that Mahatma Gandhi believed in non-violence as the greatest force at the disposal of mankind.

He informed that the struggle and victory of Indian independence movement resonated throughout the British empire. Gandhi is responsible for the civil rights movements in 12 countries across 4 continents. Many Nobel Laureates such as Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela, Dalai Lama of Tibet, Lech Walesa of Poland, Aung San Suu Kyi of Myanmar and Desmond Tutu of South Africa drew inspiration from Gandhi. Gandhi also inspired prominent personalities in science and business such as Albert Einstein and Apple co-founder Steve Jobs. He said that over 150 countries including Kazakhstan have depicted Gandhi on their postal stamps and over 70 countries including Kazakhstan have installed statues of Mahatma Gandhi. He recalled that Government of Kazakhstan also named a street and a school in Almaty after Mahatma Gandhi and that the Embassy supports a Gandhi Memorial Chess Tournament for school children every year in Kazakhstan. He concluded by saying that the principle of non-violence is essential to secure a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding and harmony in the world; the ideals Gandhi stood for in theory and practice are universal in character in both space and time; and they shall remain relevant across generations and continue to offer solutions to challenges faced by humanity.

Deputy Director of Department of Asia and Africa of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Mr. Khairat Akhmetalin represented the Government of Kazakhstan at the celebration and read out a message from Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Askar Mussinov, "Mahatma Gandhi followed the principle of achieving freedom through peace and non-violence. He is known not only as an outstanding freedom fighter of India, but also a man who fought for right and justice. In India, his name is sounded with the same reverence as we pronounce the names of saints. Gandhi was an adherent of ancient Indian tradition, ahimsa, which means that issues should be resolved through dialogue, reconciliation and harmony. On his initiative, Indians boycotted British goods and institutions and demonstratively violated a number of laws. His struggle against caste and inequality is widely known. He conducted the struggle by non-violent method and sought to prove that violence can't be applied even for the highest ideals. The method of Mahatma Gandhi continues to bring benefits to the mankind. I like to stress that people of Kazakhstan have not forgotten the great son of India. In 2002, one of the streets and a school in Almaty were named after him. In 2003, a monument was built in honour of Gandhi in Kazakhstan. The monument symbolizes the incredible relations and the friendship existing between the ancient steppe democracy and the world's largest democracy as well as the global force of Gandhi's doctrine. I believe that the life and work of Mahatma Gandhi have become a bridge of friendship between Kazakhstan and India".

In his address, Ambassador of South Africa Mr. Shirish Soni recalled that Mahatma Gandhi was born in Porbandar in India, where his great grandfather was born and Mahatma Gandhi lived for several years in the city of Natal in South Africa where he himself was born. He informed that they are working on building a Mahatma Gandhi Centre on the ground of Natal Indian Congress soon. Recalling Gandhi's life in South Africa, he said, "while working in South Africa, Gandhi witnessed the discriminatory treatment meted out to Indian and African communities by the British. It transformed him from a Lawyer to a very powerful social and political activist. He remembered the incident of his



being kicked out from first class compartment of a train by the conductor at Pietermaritzburg throughout his life, which shaped his future work. He protested against the British legislation imposing a tax of 3 Pounds on Indians intending to stay in South Africa beyond their term of indentured labour. He also protested against the requirement of possessing a pass with finger prints by Indians. When he led a protest march from Johannesburg to Durban, many of the railway and mining workers joined him. Gandhi lived in the Phoenix settlement for some period of time. In Phoenix, he launched a newspaper 'Indian Opinion', which was published in Tamil, Hindi and English languages. It was the first alternative media in South Africa. The house he lived in the Phoenix settlement is now preserved as a national monument. Seminars, conferences and Gandhi's birth anniversary celebrations are organized at the site to promote peace and harmony".

He said that the seed sowed in Africa by Gandhi has spread far and wide. He pointed out that one day people in Kazakhstan will speak about President Nazarbayev in the same manner as the Americans speak about Martin Luther King and they in South Africa speak about Nelson Mandela. He said, "I am sure one day as you look through your own history, you will appreciate the common thread of non-violence. Kazakhstan gave up an arsenal of nuclear weaponry with foresight, vision and commitment to walk away from nuclear war. The biggest threat facing this region is the innocent young people like you being plucked by radical elements. My appeal to you, the students: never allow anybody to convince you to take up arms on the pretext of religion."

In his remarks, Rector of KazGUU Mr. Talgat Narikbayev said, "Mahatma Gandhi was one of the most successful leaders. He was a politician, writer, intellectual and orator. He was the man who believed in non violence. As Mahatma Gandhi said, non violence and truth are inseparable and presuppose one another. Every person has to treat others with respect, compassion and love. When we uphold the core values of tolerance in our everyday life, it is tantamount to following the teachings of Gandhi."

In his vote of thanks, Ambassador of Norway and Co-Chairman of KazGUU Academic Diplomatic Club Mr. Ole Johan Bjornoy said, "it is my privilege to propose a vote of thanks on this occasion. As we have seen here today through speeches, exhibitions and documentary screening, Gandhi's legacy is an inspiration for many and more needed than ever. The values of non-violence and truth that Gandhi stood for are as relevant today as they are ever. I think you are all grateful that this event has again reminded us of all these. It is therefore, a pleasure for me, on behalf of the KazGUU Academic Diplomatic Club, to express my gratitude to those who are responsible for organizing this event and the speakers for sharing Gandhi's inspiring legacy with us."



NCC Delegation Visits Kazakhstan

A 14-member National Cadet Corps (NCC) delegation led by Lieutenant Colonel J.S. Cheema visited Abai Kazakh National Pedagogical University, Almaty from 28th September to 7th October, 2015 under the Youth Exchange Programme between the NCC and VoenniKafedra of the University. The delegation comprised 12 cadets who hailed from 12 different states of India. They met Prof. Serik Praliev Zhailaovich, Rector of the University, and participated in various training programmes, cultural and sports activities with the cadets of the Voenni-Kafedra of the University. The cadets sang a Kazakh song, Kara Zhorga during the cultural programme held in the University, which received immense appreciation from the audience. 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 at Almaty. The cadets participated in the celebration of 146th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and International Day of Non-Violence organized by the Representative Office of the Embassy of India at the Gandhi Park in Almaty on 2nd October. InCham Kazakhstan, an Indian association in Almaty, felicitated and hosted lunch for the delegation.



Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Chess Tournament

The Mahatma Gandhi School in Almaty organized a Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Chess Tournament with the support of the Embassy and Almaty City Chess Federation from October 2-5, 2015. Students from schools in all districts of Almaty participated in the tournament. The closing ceremony was held on 5th October in the school premises. Ambassador Harsh Jain attended the event. Among other dignitaries who attended the event were Mr. Zhambylov Baimurat Muratkhanuly, Second Secretary of Bostandyk Region 'Nur Otan' Party, Mr. Birtaliyev Sayan Kadyrovich, Head of Sports and Tourism Department of Almaty City Education Management and Mr. Kim Sergey Evgenyevich, Executive Director, Almaty City Chess Federation. Mr. Zhiembayev Erulan Asentaily, Director, Mahatma Gandhi School welcomed the guests. Ambassador Shri Harsh Jain congratulated the winners of the tournament and presented awards to the winners under various categories of the tournament.



In his address, Ambassador spoke about importance of chess as a sport to exercise the most important organ of our body : the brain. He also spoke on the life and ideals of Mahatma Gandhi of specific relevance to children. He emphasized that Gandhi's life, ideas and work are of crucial importance to all those who want to make a better world. He concluded his remarks by reiterating the advice given by Mahatma Gandhi to his grandson shortly before his assassination to avoid the following seven sins : Politics without principle, Pleasure without conscience, Knowledge without character, Commerce without morality, Science without humanity, Wealth without work and Worship without sacrifice.

Art Yoga Studio Celebrates its 3rd Anniversary

Art Yoga Studio in Astana celebrated its 3rd anniversary of its establishment on 3rd October, 2015. Ambassador Harsh Jain congratulated Ms. Assem Ossipova, owner of the Art Yoga Studio and spoke about benefits of yoga. The celebration on the occasion included Bollywood dance performed by students of the studio and a Kathak dance performance by Mrs. Chandra Ojha, Dance Teacher at Indian Culture Centre, Astana. Art Yoga Studio conducts classes on yoga, bollywood and ballet dance.



Initiatives to Encourage Tourism in India

The Government of India has launched web based e-ticketing for important monuments such as Taj Mahal in Agra and Humayun's Tomb in New Delhi. Further, Archaeological Survey of India has identified 25 model monuments for e-ticketing and making free public wifi available therein. Free wifi zones are already available in some touristic places such as Khan Market and Connaught Place in New Delhi; Shivaji Park, Navi Mumbai and Metro Station in Mumbai; MG Road, Brigade Road, Shanti Nagar, Yashwantpur and Indira Nagar in Bangalore; Kankariya Lake, Gandhi Ashram, Iskon Mall, Science City and Madhopura Market in Ahmedabad and between NIT Patna and Dunapur in Bihar. Google has partnered with government of India to make free wifi available in 500 Railway Stations in India.



Electronics Development Fund Policy

To promote electronics manufacturing in India, Government of India has launched a policy that envisages setting up of an Electronics Development Fund (EDF) to foster R&D and innovation in electronics, IT and nano electronics. Under the policy, there are also various other schemes such as Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) Scheme, Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS) and Semi-conductor Wafer Fabrication Manufacturing Facilities. EMC Scheme supports creation of world class infrastructure for attracting investments in the Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) Sector. The scheme provides grant assistance to set up both Greenfield and Brownfield EMCs across the country. The financial assistance under the scheme is in the form of grant-in-aid. The M-SIPS was launched to promote large scale manufacturing, offset disability and attract domestic and global investments into the ESDM Sector. The scheme is available for new projects as well as project expansions. It provides subsidy for investments in capital expenditure—20% for investments in SEZs and 25% in non-SEZs. For high technology and high capital investment units like fabs, reimbursement of central taxes and duties is also provided. More details are available at www.deity.gov.in/electronicindia.



Incredible India Destination : Ahmedabad

Ahmedabad, named after Sultan Ahmed Shah, who founded the city in 1411, was the centre of Mahatma Gandhi's non-violent struggle for India's independence for many years. Today, the city is as famous for its burgeoning information technology and scientific industries and avant-garde design as it is for its medieval architecture. Ahmedabad built its fortune on the thriving textile industry, which earned it the nickname "the Manchester of the East". Notwithstanding its newfound attractiveness as a business destination, this largest city in the state of Gujarat remains steeped in history and has a wealth of historical attractions.

Sabarmati Gandhi Ashram, situated on the west bank of Sabarmati River, was Mahatma Gandhi's residence during his fight for India's independence from 1917-1930. In 1931, he started his famous salt march to Dandi from the ashram. One can experience the serene ambience of the ashram and see Gandhi's belongings on display.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Museum is housed in the Moti Shahi Mahal, which was constructed between 1612 and 1618 for Shah Jahan. The museum showcases the artefacts and belongings of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and also includes two multimedia halls that shed light on various aspects of Sardar's life.

Ahmed Shah's mosque is one of the most famous monuments in Ahmedabad. It was built in 1414 and is reminiscent of Hindu and Jain architecture. Dada Hari Step-Well was built in 1500 AD by Sultan Bai Harir with elaborate craftsmanship to provide access to a permanent source of water during long dry seasons. Bhadra fort was built by Ahmed Shah in 1413. One would feel like stepping into the medieval period while entering this fort through its arched gates. Balvatika is a popular children's park. Located in a dramatic setting on the banks of Kankari lake, it offers a whole lot of recreational activities for kids and families.

Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary, situated at 64 km west of Ahmedabad, attracts over 210 species of birds from November to February. The lake and the extensive reed beds and marshes spread over 120 sq. kms. are an ideal habitat for aquatic plants and animals. Its migratory bird population includes rosy pelicans, white storks, brahminy ducks, herons and flamingos, which come from as far as Siberia.

Kochrab Ashram, Auto World Vintage Car Museum, Geeta Mandir, Hatheesingh Jain Temple, Jumma Masjid, Jhulta Minar (Shaking Minarets), Kankaria Lake, Sundervan Snake Park, Swami Narayan Temple and Teen Darwaja are some other tourist attractions in Ahmedabad.



Dada Hari Step-Well



Sabarmati Gandhi Ashram



Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Museum



Ahmed Shah's Mosque



Auto World Vintage Car Museum



Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary

PHOTO FEATURE

Celebration of Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and International Day of Non-Violence at Astana on Oct 2, 2015



Celebration of Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and International Day of Non-Violence at Almaty on Oct 2, 2015



Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Chess Tournament at Almaty from Oct 2-5, 2015



ACMA Buyer-Seller Meet at Almaty on 8th October, 2015



Celebration of 3rd Anniversary of Art Yoga Studio, Astana on 3rd Oct, 2015



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