

सत्यमेव जयते

Embassy of India
ASTANA

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India Hosts 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit

India hosted 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) from October 26-29, 2015 at New Delhi. 41 Heads of States/Governments and other leaders represented all 54 African countries in the summit. India and Africa have a historic relationship based on mutual respect, trust and solidarity. In recent times, the relationship has witnessed progress and has grown into a mutually beneficial partnership. The 3rd IAFS served as a landmark event in the journey towards further cementing the strong ties between India and Africa.

On the eve of IAFS, 4th India-Africa Trade Ministers meeting was held on 23rd October. In her address, the Minister for Commerce and Industry Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman said that India would endeavour to share its experience and expertise on value addition in partnering with African countries to enhance livelihood and attain a better quality of life.

External Affairs Minister Ms. Sushma Swaraj inaugurated the India-Africa Friendship Rose Garden at New Delhi on 25th October. Speaking on the occasion, she said that flowers signify love, dedication, friendship and brotherhood and the Rose Garden symbolizes India-Africa friendship, which in the coming years is going to blossom like the flowers of the garden.

India-Africa Editors Forum was held on 25th October. External Affairs Minister Ms. Sushma Swaraj appreciated that media fraternity has made the two societies aware of the commonalities that bind India and Africa together.

In his interaction with the journalists at the India-Africa Editors Forum, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi highlighted the similarities that exist between India and Africa. He said that population of India equals the population of entire African continent and 65% of population is below 35 years of age. He added that many of the leaders in Africa today have had their education and training in India. He mentioned that solar power is the another aspect that links India and Africa and is going to play a major role in mitigating the effects of climate change.

Senior officials' meeting was held on 26th October where the senior officials of India and African countries deliberated on the issues concerning cooperation between India and Africa.

Ministerial meeting of 3rd IAFS was held on 27th October. In her address, External Affairs Minister Ms. Sushma Swaraj spoke about India and Africa's longstanding ties and presence of 3 million strong Indian diaspora in Africa and their contribution to their home countries. She mentioned about the cooperation between India and Africa on trade and investments. She also recalled India's active participation in the international efforts to meet the challenges posed by pandemics including Ebola and HIV/AIDS in Africa.



Prime Minister meets African Trade Ministers



Inauguration of India-Africa Friendship Rose Garden



PM interacts at India-Africa Editors Forum



Senior Officials Meeting



Ministerial Meeting



Seminar on Focus Africa

EXIM Bank of India organized Seminar on Focus Africa on 27th October. In her address in the seminar, Minister for Commerce and Industry Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman informed that the government is looking at the feasibility of providing cost-effective credit facilities to build capacities in developing nations, particularly in Africa. Industry chambers including FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM organized an exhibition highlighting the main areas of cooperation such as Agriculture, Science and Technology, Infrastructure, Energy, Innovation and Health.

Apex business chambers of India viz., FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM jointly organized India-Africa Business Forum on 28th October. In her address in the Forum, External Affairs Minister Ms. Sushma Swaraj encouraged Indian and African business enterprises to take advantage of 'Make in India' initiative to work towards mutually beneficial joint business ventures.

On 28th October, Prime Minister hosted a dinner, which the African leaders attended in Indian attire.

In his address at the India-Africa Forum Summit on 29th October, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi spoke about the historical ties between India and Africa and their united stand in the international forums. He appreciated the strong measures taken by African governments to improve healthcare, education and agriculture. He informed that India is now a major source of business investments in Africa and reaffirmed that India would expand tele-education and would continue to build institutions in Africa. He said that India would enhance cooperation with Africa in healthcare, affordable medicines, space technology, sustainable development of blue economy, clean energy, sustainable habitats, public transport and climate resilient agriculture. He emphasized that the global institutions cannot be representative of the world if they do not give voice to Africa with more than a quarter of UN members or the world's largest democracy with one-sixth of humanity. He announced that India would provide support for African Union's peacekeeping efforts and would train African peacekeepers. To add strength to the partnership between India and Africa, Prime Minister announced that India would offer a concessional credit of US\$ 10 billion over the next five years in addition to the ongoing credit programme. He also announced a grant assistance of US\$ 600 million to the African countries.

President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee received dignitaries attending the 3rd IAFS on 29th October and hosted a banquet in honour of them. President said that India and Africa understand each other because both have diverse lands and have multiplicity of religions, ethnicities, tribes, languages, dialects and cultures. He emphasized that the diversity ensures that India and Africa value co-existence, dialogue, mutual understanding and peace.

The Summit adopted two documents namely India-Africa Framework for Strategic Cooperation and Delhi Declaration 2015. The documents represent multi-dimensional South-South Cooperation covering the sectors : Economic Cooperation, Trade and Industry, Agriculture, Renewable Energy, Blue Economy, Infrastructure, Education, Skill development and Health. The Summit agreed to establish a regular formal monitoring mechanism to ensure that agreed areas of cooperation and identified projects are implemented in a timely manner.

Prime Minister along with other dignitaries released commemorative coins and stamps at the conclusion of the summit. On the sidelines of the summit, Prime Minister held bilateral meetings with Heads of States/Governments.



Business Exhibition



India-Africa Business Forum



At dinner hosted by Prime Minister



Prime Minister addresses the Summit



President hosts Banquet

Kazakhstan implemented more reforms than any other country—World Bank

World Bank's report on "Doing Business 2016 : Measuring Regulatory Quality and Efficiency", proclaims that Kazakhstan is the leader not only in the region, but in the entire world in a number of implemented reforms. The report says that in 2014, Kazakhstan introduced seven reforms in areas such as registration of new businesses, property, dealing with construction permits, raising of credits, protecting minority interests, enforcing contracts and resolving insolvency problems. In the global ranking, Kazakhstan rose by 12 positions to 41st place in the 'ease of doing business' ranking among 189 countries.



Astana Hosts 6th International Investment Forum

The 6th International Investment Forum "Astana Invest 2015" was organized in Astana from October 28-31, 2015 with the objective to attract foreign investors, reconstruct and develop existing industrial assets and promote new projects. The Forum organized an exhibition—a demonstration of investment projects of industrial parks and zones "Made in Astana", "Smart Astana", "Astana Expo-2017" and "Modern urban transport". In his address, First Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Mr. Bakytzhn Sagintayev invited foreign investors to participate in the second wave of privatization in Kazakhstan. He informed that privatization process would be transparent and Kazakhstan has significant potential for investment. Talking about the measures taken to promote business cooperation, he said that Kazakhstan has abolished visa for business visitors from 19 countries and would soon abolish visa for 34 member countries of Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).



3500 businesspersons, experts and representatives of business chambers from 56 countries participated in the 6th International Investment Forum. Astana Administration signed agreements with 37 major foreign companies to attract investments in various projects worth more than 1.5 billion US Dollars. From India, Mr. Srinivas Bommidala, Chairman (Airports), GMR Group along with his senior executives attended the Forum.

Meeting of WFSC International Organizing Committee

The meeting of World of Spiritual Culture (WFSC) International Organizing Committee was held in Astana on October 17-18, 2015 to decide on the date and venue of 2nd WFSC, its theme, goals and objectives, number of participants, etc. Among the delegates who arrived from several other countries were Sis. Sudha Rani Gupta, International Coordinator of Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyala and General Director of Centre of Spiritual Culture in Moscow, Mr. Chowduri U. Rao of Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi and Mary Pat Fisher of Gobind Sadan (India). Ambassador Shri Harsh Jain also attended the meeting. The International Organizing Committee decided to hold the 2nd WFSC at Brahma Kumaris Om Shanti Retreat Centre in Gurgaon, 30 km from New Delhi from October 16-19, 2016. They also decided to keep the profile of the Forum the same as in the first Forum held in Astana in 2010 i.e., with the participation of high level dignitaries from all over the world representing main religions, philosophy, culture, politics, education, etc.



Laying of Foundation Stone for Amaravati

Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for Amaravati, the new capital for the State of Andhra Pradesh amid much fanfare on 22nd October, 2015. In his address, Prime Minister said that the new city represented the spirit of a state that would lead an economic revolution in India. He assured that the Central government would back the State government in its efforts to grow as an economic power house and hoped that Amaravati would be a model for innovative urban development technologies. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu said that his aim was to create a capital city that would make India proud and the world envious.



The new capital, to be developed on a land of 7500 Sq.km., is located between the cities of Vijayawada and Guntur on the banks of river Krishna. For construction of the capital, farmers voluntarily gave up their land in response to a new scheme announced by the state government whereby they would get developed plot besides annuity payment for 10 years. The building of a new capital city was necessitated following creation of a new State of Telangana carving out of Andhra Pradesh as 29th State in June, 2014 and the existing capital Hyderabad becoming capital of the new State.

NRI Divas

The State of Uttar Pradesh (UP) in India is organizing the first ever NRI (Non-Resident Indian) Divas focused on the State's diaspora on January 4-5, 2016 in the city of Agra. During the event, Shri Akilesh Yadav, Chief Minister of UP will unveil major policy decisions planned for the State's diaspora. The session will highlight the concerns of NRIs and provide a platform to discuss their investment proposals. The government has recently established the Department of NRIs to create an effective relationship with NRIs and provide support services for any issues faced by them. The state government also plans to roll out cards certifying NRIs/PIOs from UP which would entitle them to prompt response from government functionaries in addition to other third party benefits. The State Government is inviting the NRIs from UP to attend the NRI Divas.



Incredible India

Destination : Bhubaneswar & Puri

Bhubaneswar, the capital of the state of Odisha, is scenic, lively, green and clean with a rich cultural life. Known for its temples, the city is a major centre of attraction for tourists from far and wide. Hundreds of temples dot the landscape of the old town. The activities of temple building of Odishan style flowered from its very inception to its fullest culmination extending over a period of 1000 years. Today, Bhubaneswar is an embodiment of its dashing modernity and glorious past. Bhubaneswar can be visited round the year, but the ideal time especially for visitors from cold climate is from October to March.

Rajarani temple is set in picturesque surroundings, noted for its intricate carvings of flora, animal and human figures. The temple constructed in 11th century has an unusual tower and has no deity. Mukteswar temple constructed in 10th century is famous for the stone arch and sculptures depicting stories from Panchatantra and is considered the gem of Odishan temple architecture. Twin hills of Khandagiri and Udaygiri contain varieties of rock-cut caves built mainly for Jain monks in 1st—2nd century B.C. Some of the caves have beautiful carvings. Dhauli stands as a testimony of the famous Kalinga war fought there in 261 BC, which changed Emperor Ashoka to an apostle of peace. The earliest rock-cut figure of an elephant is noticed on the top of the edict. Sisupalgarh, an excavated ancient township, was a fortified town surrounded by a natural moat and was probably the capital of Kalinga in 2nd century B.C.

Parsurameswar temple, Ananta-Vasudeva temple, Brahmeshwar temple, Svarnajalewara temple, Odisha State Museum, Odisha Modern Art Gallery, Regional Plant Resource Centre, Regional Science Centre, Nandan Kanan Zoological Park, BDA City Centre, Indira Gandhi Park, Mahatma Gandhi Park and Buddha Jayanti Park are some of the other tourist attractions in Bhubaneswar.

Around 60 kms from Bhubaneswar is Puri. It is one of the four main Hindu pilgrim centres in India and is famous for its Jagannath temple. The 65 metre high temple built in 12th century is one of the most magnificent monuments of India. A 16-sided monolithic pillar stands in front of the main gate. Two stone lions guard the Eastern main entrance. Golden beach in Puri is famous for its golden sand, surf and sun. Early morning sunrise is a beautiful sight on the beach. Some of the other important temples are Gundicha, Lokanath, Sunaragauranga, Daria Mahabir and Tota Gopinatt. There are a number of holy tanks such as Narendra, Markandeya, Sweta Ganga and Indradyumna. There are many monasteries locally known as Mathas, which are also of touristic interest.



Udaygiri Caves, Bhubaneswar



Dhaulti, Bhubaneswar



Nandan Kanan Zoological Park, Bhubaneswar



Jagannath Temple, Puri



Golden Beach, Puri



Mukteswar Temple, Bhubaneswar

PHOTO FEATURE

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President meets African Leaders



Prime Minister arrives for the Summit



Foreign Ministers Meeting



Prime Minister attends the Summit



Prime Minister visits Business Exhibition



Dignitaries release commemorative coins and stamps



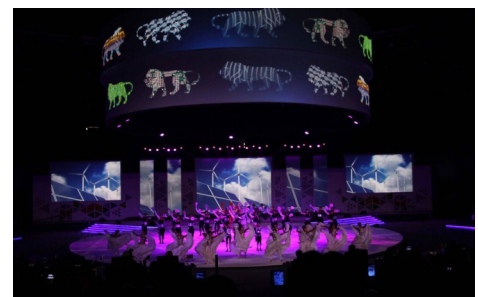
Seminar on Focus Africa



First Ladies from Africa visit Swaminarayan Akshardham



Cultural Programme at the Summit



Cultural Programme at the Summit

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