

सत्यमेव जयते

Embassy of India
ASTANA

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Embassy of India ASTANA NEWSLETTER

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Prime Minister of India Attends G20 Summit in Turkey

Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi visited Turkey from November 14-16, 2015 to attend G20 Summit at Antalya. Prior to G20 Summit, he attended BRICS Leaders' meeting on 15th November. He condemned the terrorist attacks of 13th November in Paris and stressed that the need for a united global effort to combat terrorism was never more urgent. He said that India is honoured to assume the chairmanship of BRICS from 1st February, 2016. He emphasized that BRICS must place its priorities on the agenda and activities of G20. He said that in the area of development, G20 must place priority on effective implementation of Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and ensure adequate funding for it. In the area of global finance, he listed out certain measures for G20 to focus upon including implementation of decisions to restructure global economic institutions and greater collaboration between multilateral and regional financial institutions. He expressed hope that the New Development Bank would start its operations quickly and added that its first project should be on clean energy, preferably across all BRICS countries.



Prime Minister meets BRICS leaders



Prime Minister at G20 Summit

At the G20 Working Lunch on Development and Climate Change, Prime Minister Modi urged G20 to align itself with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) adopted by the UN saying

that it would stimulate faster and a more broad-based economic growth. He highlighted that India's Development Goals are aligned with the SDGs. He informed that India's plans for addressing the challenges of climate change include establishment of an additional capacity of 175 GW of renewable energy by 2022; cut in subsidies on fossil fuel and tax on coal; and creating National Clean Energy Fund of US\$ 3 billion to promote clean technologies. Noting that remittances are a key source of income for households and support for the economy in developing countries, he called upon the G20 to define a target date before 2030 to reduce the high cost of transferring remittances.

At the G20 Working Session on Inclusive Growth : Global Economy, Growth Strategies, Employment and Investment Strategies, Prime Minister Modi said that to stimulate global economic growth, public investments should be enhanced. He suggested that Multilateral Development Banks should enlarge their capital base to support infrastructure needs of developing countries. He pitched for labour mobility and skill portability for stable long term economic growth. He said that India's impressive economic growth of 7.5%, reduced inflation, current account and fiscal deficits, and flagship programmes such as Make in India, Skill India, Digital India, Industrial Corridors and Smart Cities would boost growth and employment in India and would be a source of strength for the global economy.

At the G20 Working Dinner on Global Challenges-Terrorism and Refugee Crisis, Prime Minister Modi said that terrorism is the principal global challenge and some countries still use it as an instrument of state policy. He mentioned that the changing character of terrorism—global links, franchise relations, home-grown terrorism and use of cyber space for recruitment and propaganda as the changing character of terrorism—offers new threat to pluralist and open societies. Prime Minister proposed ten measures for the G20 to act upon to tackle terror together.

At the G20 Working Session on Enhancing Resilience on 16th November, Prime Minister Modi commended the G20 for its successful efforts to build a more resilient and open global financial system. He outlined some key aspects for enhancing resilience of banking and financial sector. He said that his government had zero tolerance on corruption and black money and enacted a new law to deal with undisclosed assets and income kept abroad. He impressed upon the need for greater international cooperation for return of illicit money to the country of origin and called for addressing the barriers of excessive banking secrecy, and complex legal and regulatory framework.

At the G20 Working Lunch on Trade and Energy, Prime Minister Modi emphasized that a transparent, equitable, non-discriminatory and rule-based global trading system is essential for global economy. He outlined India's plans for enhancing clean energy capacity and hoped that international support and cooperation would enable it to achieve its goals. He suggested certain measures for G20 to adopt to enable it to meet its energy needs, combat climate change and create huge economic opportunities.

Prime Minister Modi held bilateral meeting with Prime Minister of Australia Mr. Malcolm Turnbull on 15th November. The two leaders announced completion of procedures for the India-Australia Civil Nuclear Agreement signed in September, 2014 paving the way for its coming into force. He also met President of European Council Mr. Donald Tusk and President of European Commission Mr. Jean Claude Juncker on November 15 and President of Turkey Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister of Spain Mr. Mariano Rajoy and King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Saudi Arabia on November 16.

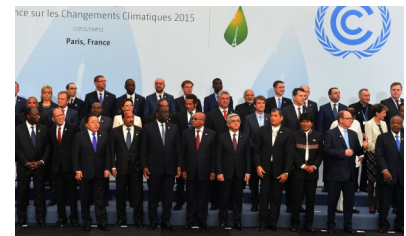
Prime Minister of India Attends COP-21 Summit in Paris

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Paris from November 29-30, 2015 to attend annual Conference of Parties (COP)-21 Summit on Environment and Climate Change. In his address at the COP-21 Plenary held on 30th November, he said that while the prosperous have a strong carbon footprint, the world's billions at the bottom of the development ladder were seeking space to grow. He added that democratic India must grow rapidly to meet the aspirations of 1.25 billion people, 300 million of whom are without access to energy. He outlined the ambitious targets set by India to reduce emissions intensity per unit GDP by 33-35% of 2005 levels by 2030 and achieve 40% of installed capacity based on non-fossil fuels. He expressed hope that advanced countries would assume ambitious targets and pursue them sincerely as they had the most room to make the cuts and make the strongest impact. He emphasized that the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities must remain the bedrock of the collective enterprise across all areas—mitigation, adaptation and means for implementation. He stressed that developed countries must fulfill their responsibilities to make clean energy available, affordable and accessible to all in the developing world and must mobilize US\$ 100 billion annually by 2020 for mitigation and adaptation in the developing countries.

Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the India Pavilion at COP-21 showcasing India's commitment to Climate Action. He said that the pavilion is a window to India's heritage and progress, traditions and technology, and aspirations and achievements. He underscored that climate change is not of India's making, but it is the result of global warming that came from the prosperity and progress of an industrial age powered by fossil fuel. He added that India's commitment to tackle climate change arose from its timeless traditions and beliefs. He elaborated on how changes were taking place in India to meet the target of 40% installed capacity based on non-fossil fuel by 2030. He said that India approaches negotiations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in a spirit of partnership, which must be based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities.

At the Innovation Summit in COP-21 hosted by US President Mr. Barack Obama, Prime Minister Modi said that the world had assembled in Paris to change the course of the planet to a sustainable path. He mentioned that access to energy and better life is a universal aspiration, so are clean environment and healthy habitats. He added that the world must come together in a partnership to bring clean energy within the reach of all. He stressed that the partnership would combine the responsibility of government with the innovative capacity of private sector.

Prime Minister Modi and President of France Mr. Francois Hollande jointly launched International Solar Alliance. The Alliance is a group of nations between Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn brought together for harnessing the power of the Sun. President Hollande described Solar as a participatory energy and hailed Prime Minister Modi's initiative as a paradigm shift. Prime Minister Modi highlighted the unique convergence of ecology, economy and energy. He announced that India would host the initiative of the Alliance at the premises of National Institute of Solar Energy and would provide land and contribute approximately US\$ 30 million to build the Secretariat infrastructure. He described that day as the sunrise of new hope not just for clean energy, but also for villages and homes still in darkness.



Prime Minister attends COP-21 Summit



Prime Minister visits India Pavilion



Prime Minister attends Innovation Summit



Prime Minister addresses at the launch of International Solar Alliance

Prime Minister of India Visits Malaysia

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Malaysia from November 21-23, 2015. Attending the 13th ASEAN-India Summit in Kuala Lumpur on 21st November, Prime Minister Modi outlined the key aspects of trade, connectivity and development partnership with ASEAN. He indicated that cooperation in Science, Technology and Space between India and ASEAN would be strengthened. He committed a line of credit of USD 1.0 billion to promote projects supporting physical and digital connectivity between India and ASEAN. He announced enhancement of ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund from US\$ 1 million to US\$ 5 million. He also announced setting up of an ASEAN-India Innovation Platform to facilitate commercialization of low cost technologies, technology transfer and collaborative R&D projects. He offered GPS-Aided Geo-Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) services to ASEAN countries. He also offered 100 training slots to ASEAN nations in Indian institutions on renewable energy.

Attending the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit and the 10th East Asia Summit on 22nd November, Prime Minister Modi applauded the ASEAN members for realizing the vision of the ASEAN community and charting the path to 2025 by signing the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ASEAN 2025. He spoke about the global challenge of terrorism. He defined his vision for the East Asia summit. He reaffirmed that India would remain active participant in the ASEAN-led security dialogue and cooperation forums.

Prime Minister Modi unveiled the statue of Swami Vivekananda at Ramakrishna Mission in Kuala Lumpur and together with Prime Minister Razak jointly inaugurated Torana Gate at the entrance of Little India in Bricksfield.

Prime Minister Modi held bilateral talks with Malaysian Prime Minister Mr. Dato Seri Mohd Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak on 23rd November. In their joint press statement, Prime Minister Modi said that India deeply values its relations with Malaysia and that India desires to raise its level of presence in the Malaysian economy and urged greater Malaysian participation in areas such as expansion and upgradation of infrastructure, Make in India and Smart cities projects. Three MOUs on Cyber Security, Cultural Exchange Programme and monitoring performance of government programmes were signed.



PM attends ASEAN-India Summit



PM addresses Indian Community



PM Meets Prime Minister of Malaysia

Prime Minister of India Visits Singapore

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Singapore from November 23-24, 2015. He delivered 37th Singapore lecture "India's Singapore Story" on 23rd November. He paid homage to the architect of modern Singapore Mr. Lee Kuan Yew. He spoke about how India-Singapore story has grown. He spoke about the challenges of Asia and the need to augment economic engagement with all parts of Asia. Reiterating India's position on terrorism he stated that countries must be held accountable for providing sanctuaries and support.

Prime Minister Modi called on President of Singapore Mr. Tony Tan Keng Yam on 24th November and held bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong. The leaders discussed cooperation on skills development, urban development, modern urban infrastructure, transport and defence. Combining the modernism of Singapore and the heritage sites of India was also discussed. Singapore showed interest in doubling the weekly flights from Singapore to India. Both sides noted that Buddhist Circuit requires improved connectivity and agreed to exchange views on it through experts. Prime Minister mentioned about possibility of opening up of Indian Railways to 100% foreign investment. The two Prime Ministers signed a Joint Declaration on Strategic Partnership and released commemorative stamps on Rashtrapati Bhavan and Istana.

Nine Agreements/MOUs were signed on Defence Cooperation, Extension of loan of artifacts to the Asian Civilizations Museum of Singapore, Cooperation in the fields of Arts, Heritage, Archives and Library, Cyber Security, Civil Aviation, Planning, Capacity building, urban planning and governance and combating illicit trafficking of narcotics.

Prime Minister Modi paid homage at the Indian National Army Memorial Marker where Netaji Subash Chandra Bose had laid the foundation stone for a memorial dedicated to the 'Unknown Warrior' of the Indian National Army in July, 1945. He also visited the Institute of Technical Education. Addressing the Indian community in Singapore, Prime Minister Modi hailed the Indian Diaspora as a living example of the whole world being one family.



PM calls on President of Singapore



PM visits Institute of Technical Education



PM pays homage at INA Memorial Marker

President of Kazakhstan delivers Annual State of the Nation Address

President of Kazakhstan Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev delivered Annual State of the Nation Address on the theme "Kazakhstan in the New Global Reality: Growth, Reforms and Development" on November 30, 2015. He mentioned that global crisis, instability in world markets in finance, hydrocarbon and commodities causing decline in demand for Kazakh exports, deep loss in oil revenues, imposition of sanctions against some countries by some of the major powers and international terrorism are the major global challenges, which hurt Kazakhstan's economy.



President informed that Kazakh Parliament is working on a new legislation to implement more than 80 laws under the '100 steps' from January 1, 2016. He announced that comprehensive anti-crisis and structural changes would be implemented in five areas : social policy, financial sector, budgetary policy, privatization and competency regulation, and investment policy. Under the new investment policy, President visualized that Kazakhstan would grow at 5%, double its manufacturing capacity to reach an annual export figure of US\$ 30 billion and attract investments of US\$ 100 bn over the next 10 years. The President proposed formation of new growth drivers : private investments with a focus on transnational corporations, creation of regional drivers of economic growth, making effective use of the economic potential of neighbouring countries including China, Russia, Iran, Mongolia, India, Pakistan, Central Asia and the Caucasus, conclusion of FTA of Eurasian Economic Union with key regional markets, development of the system of training technical personnel and increasing the innovative potential of Kazakhstan's economy.

President Nazarbayev instructed the government to develop a new privatization programme covering all state-owned entities. He expressed hope that Kazakhstan would attract major multinational corporations to its privatization drive. The President called upon entrepreneurs and businessmen to actively participate in the privatization process. He reaffirmed that anti-monopoly oversight would be strengthened. He said that pension assets would be brought under the management of private companies in 2016.

President Nazarbayev ruled out hiking of tax rates even after the tax revenues had fallen by 20%. He informed that the country's tax system would see some changes in 2017 involving replacement of existing VAT with sales tax and adoption of a three-level tax regime - general tax, tax for the self-employed and special tax regime for SMEs and Agricultural sector. He added that all ineffective tax incentives would be stopped and instructed the government to conduct a full audit of all budgetary programmes. President urged the National Bank of Kazakhstan to conduct stress test of all banking sector subjects on non-performing loans and made it clear that banks which are unable to solve the problem of capitalization must leave the financial system. He spoke of the necessity to ensure effective functioning of the financial sector under floating exchange rate and stressed that the national currency, Tenge, would no longer be supported by the interventions from the National Bank.

President Nazarbayev spoke about developing a new social policy to extend state-targeted support only to the needy citizens based on an assessment of their real incomes and living conditions. Noting that priority of the state in social policy should be massive investment in human capital, he called for modernization of education and healthcare sectors. He declared that a new project of providing free vocational education to all would take off in 2017. He announced that a new employment roadmap would be developed in the first quarter of 2016 and short-term training and skills development programmes would be organized.

He urged all political parties, public associations and all citizens to be imbued with a common concern for the welfare of the homeland and to take an active part in the implementation of the Address. He hoped that the country would overcome the new global crisis successfully.

AKTOBE INVEST-2015

Third International Investment Forum "AKTOBE INVEST-2015" was held at Aktobe on November 27, 2015 to unveil investment opportunities of Aktobe region and attract investors into the real sector of the economy. The Forum held an exhibition of investment projects of Aktobe region demonstrating a variety of industries and services. The Forum offered several panel discussions on government support to investments and helped the participants familiarize themselves with the investment projects in oil extracting, gas processing and chemical industries as well as in ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy. Governor of Aktobe Region Mr. Berdibek Saparbayev informed that 700 foreign companies were now working in the region and an industrial zone with the area of 200 ha was established specially for investors. He invited the investors to enter into mutually beneficial cooperation and assured that the regional authorities would provide necessary assistance to them. The country's largest hydrocarbon reserves and 340 mineral deposits are located in the Aktobe region. Minister of Energy Mr. Vladimir Shkolnik elaborated the high potential of Aktobe region for development.



More than 100 foreign companies from Finland, China, Russia and Japan attended the Forum. 12 Agreements/MOUs were signed with the investors during the Forum. Mr. R. Gururaj, First Secretary at the Embassy of India in Astana attended the Forum.

Kazakhstan Interested in Supplying Gas to India via TAPI Pipeline

Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan Mr. Erlan Idrissov said in the third Summit of Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) held in Tehran on 23rd November, 2015 that Kazakhstan is interested in supplying up to 3 billion cubic metres of natural gas to India annually through the proposed TAPI gas pipeline from Turkmenistan to India via Afghanistan and Pakistan.



Mr. Erlan Idrissov said that Kazakhstan remains a reliable partner in stabilizing world energy market and is interested in mutually beneficial cooperation. He informed that Kazakhstan planned to produce 42.2 billion cubic metres gas this year. He said that in addition to the plans to increase natural gas production, Kazakhstan is also actively developing its production and export of liquefied natural gas. He stated that international gas transit through Kazakh territory amounted to more than 65 billion cubic metres this year and spoke about the projects implemented to increase the country's transit capacity. He stressed that Kazakhstan would continue to play an active role in establishing and transporting the main gas stream between Europe and Asia, North and South, while remaining a reliable partner for everyone involved in the gas industry.

The summit was attended by representatives of GECF member and observer countries including Kazakhstan. The participants discussed the prospects of gas industry development and the benefits of using it as an alternative energy source.

4th Session of India-Kazakhstan Joint Working Group in Astana

The 4th Session of India-Kazakhstan Joint Working Group on Trade & Economic Cooperation was held at Astana on November 19-20, 2015. The Indian side was led by Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatra, Joint Secretary (FT-CIS), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, New Delhi and the Kazakh side was led by Mr. Kairat Torebayev Kalmukametovich, Director, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of National Economy, Republic of Kazakhstan.



Both sides reviewed the status of bilateral economic cooperation and discussed wide range of issues to boost bilateral trade and investment. The identified areas of cooperation included power, energy, telecommunication, IT, Transport and connectivity, Healthcare, Leather, Textiles, Mining, Chemicals and Fertilizers, Agriculture, and gems and jewellery. Both sides agreed to discuss simplification of visa regime to promote bilateral trade in the next bilateral consular consultations. Both sides also agreed to identify future opportunities for investments in each other's countries and implement the Roadmap for trade and investment signed during the visit of Prime Minister of India to Kazakhstan in July, 2015. The two sides also discussed future action on conclusion of Free Trade Area between Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and India.

FICCI-KAZNEX Invest Road Show in New Delhi

FICCI in association with KAZNEX Invest organised a Road Show on Investment attractiveness of Special Economic Zones of Kazakhstan in New Delhi on November 23, 2015. Dr. Didar Singh, Secretary General, FICCI welcomed the dignitaries and recalled the signing of an MoU between 'Invest India' and 'Kaznex Invest' earlier this year to promote cooperation on trade and investment.



Ambassador of Kazakhstan to India Mr. Bulat Sarsenbayev urged Indian Investors and business community to invest in different sectors of Kazakhstan including petrochemical, machinery and metallurgy. Referring to the Iran-Turkmenistan-Kazakhstan railway line, inaugurated last year, he said that it would boost India's exports to Central Asia and Europe.

Mr. Shambu Kumaran, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs stated that there is an extraordinary commitment at the highest political levels in India and Kazakhstan to take the relationship to higher levels. He affirmed that government would extend full support to forge closer business ties between the two countries. Mr. Shiv Khemka of Sun Group shared his experience of doing business in Kazakhstan for several years in beverages, mining and tech sectors. He said that with Kazakhstan joining the Eurasian Economic Union, economic links with Kazakhstan would throw open a market of 400 million people.

Mr. Almas Aidarov, Deputy Chairman of "KAZNEX Invest" outlined the features of 10 special economic zones in Kazakhstan and emphasized that Kazakhstan was ready to support Indian business initiatives. The officials of CBRE India and KAZNEX Invest made power-point presentations. B2B meetings between KANEX Invest officials and Indian delegates took place. The Road Show was attended by around 100 delegates.

Indian women trio traverse 20,000 kms on Jeep from New Delhi to London via Kazakhstan

Ms. Nidhi Tiwari, an outdoor education specialist, Ms. Rashmi Gururaja Koppar, Hotel Management professor and adventure sports enthusiast and Dr. Soumya Goyal, Physical Therapist at M.S. Ramaiah Hospital travelled from New Delhi to London by car.



The three women flagged off their expedition on 23rd July, 2015 and completed it in 97 days covering 21,477 kms and crossing 17 countries including India, Myanmar, China, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Finland, Czech Republic, Germany, Belgium, France and the United Kingdom. The trio entered Kazakhstan from Nukus, passed through Beyneu and exited from Atyrau. Ms. Nidhi Tiwari was the sole driver of the expedition and drove more than 20,000 kms. With no back-up vehicle, the mothers in their mid-30s pushed all boundaries to create awareness on women empowerment. The trip was sponsored by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Ministry of External Affairs, Mahindra First Choice Wheels, Lenovo India, Via.com, @Round Table India Area 6, M.S. Ramaiah Memorial Hospital, Social Empowerment by Empowering Women SEEW and Tea Trails India.

India ranked No.1 Investment Destination by EY's Attractiveness Survey

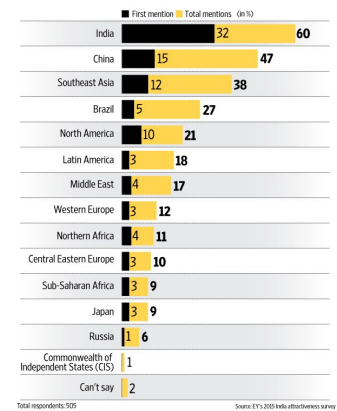
The EY's Attractiveness Survey 2015 ranks India as the No.1 Investment Destination in the world with a strong endorsement of the "Make-in-India" programme. The survey which is based on the views of 500 top global decision makers from 28 countries, was conducted in the first half of 2015.

According to the survey, India has emerged as the number one FDI destination in the world during the first half of 2015. With FDI capital inflows of US\$ 30.8 billion, India has outpaced all other economies, moving up to the premier position from fifth spot during the corresponding period of the previous year. A leading 32% of international investors ranked India as the most attractive market, while 60% placed the country among the top three investment destinations.

According to the survey, respondents believed that ongoing economic reforms are increasing opportunities for them to develop their companies profitably in India. Enthusiasm is strongest among companies with annual revenue exceeding US\$ 2 billion. Overall, 71% of respondents from big companies think that India will be more attractive than any other region. Respondents who already have business activities in India are more confident about the country's attractiveness, perhaps an indication of its real potential and equally of its relatively low awareness among those who have not invested in the country. Among those who are not established in India, 35% rank India their most attractive option.

INDIA TOP INVESTMENT DESTINATION: EY POLL

India has been named the most attractive country for investment in a survey of more than 500 global investors published by accounting firm EY on Wednesday. Thirty-two percent of the 505 executives questioned said India was their favoured market for investment.



35th India International Trade Fair

The 35th India International Trade Fair (IITF) was held in New Delhi from November 14-27, 2015 with the theme 'Make in India'. Inaugurating the Fair, President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee said that the Fair presents an ideal platform for the global fraternity which has a shared interest in trade relations to enhance peace and prosperity. He stated that the IITF endeavours to preserve, protect and promote India's cultural heritage through collaboration amongst government, industry and artisans, craft persons and weavers.



First five days of the Fair were reserved for business visitors and it was open for the public from 19th to 27th November. The Fair provided an ideal platform to showcase quality products and strength of Indian industry besides opening new avenues to learn from competitors. Extending India's global appeal for investment in diverse sectors, 'Smart Cities', 'Digital India', 'Model Villages', 'Clean Ganga Mission' and 'Jan Dhan Yojana' were depicted in the central and state government pavilions. About 7000 firms from India and abroad participated in the Fair. Overseas participation was from Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Cuba, Egypt, Germany, Guyana, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, UAE, Uganda and Vietnam. About 1.8 million people including 55 foreign delegates and 400 business visitors from 48 countries visited the Fair. The Fair concluded with an award presentation ceremony on 27th November. South Africa bagged the Gold Medal followed by South Korea with Silver, while Egypt achieved the Jury Recommendation in the foreign participation category.

Incredible India Destination : Pune

Pune, home to some prestigious universities, educational and research institutes, is aptly dubbed "The Oxford of the East". Once the bastion of Maratha power, the city also boasts of beautiful architecture, museums and wide array of restaurants, cafes and entertainment. Pune has earned the sobriquet "Queen of Deccan" for its scenic beauty due to the idyllic setting of the city in the Sahyadri mountain range. This second largest city in the state of Maharashtra is also a travel destination for its religious places. In recent times, it has emerged as a famous IT hub of India. What makes Pune still more significant is that from Pune, one can plan exciting trips to hill stations, forts, palaces of pilgrimage, etc.

Aga Khan Palace/Gandhi National Memorial, built in 1892 by Imam Sultan Muhammad Shah Agakhan III, is an impressive building with Italianate arches, suites, salons and spacious lawns. The palace was used by the British to intern Mahatma Gandhi and his wife Kasturba Gandhi, who died in this palace, from August 9, 1942 to May 6, 1944. The famous movie, *Gandhi*, was shot here.

Shinde Chhatra, the memorial of the great Maratha nobleman Mahadji Shinde, is architecturally among the best. Raja Dinakar Kelkar Museum holds a large repository of beautiful, unusual and ancient artefacts.

Bund Garden, one of the most visited parks in Pune, is a welcome haven for migratory birds during winter. Empress Garden, also known as Soldiers' Garden, is the habitat of several rare species of trees and flowers. Shaniwar Wada, Tribal Museum, Chaturshringi temple and Pataleshwar caves are some of the other tourist attractions in Pune.

Uruli Kanchan, 30 kms away from Pune, is famous for Naturopathy Centre started by Mahatma Gandhi and his disciple Manibhai Desai in 1946. All types of diseases and disorders are said to be cured there. Chinchwad, 16 kms away from Pune, is famous for temples and Samadhi of Moraya Gosavi. Purandar Fort, located at an altitude of 1350 metres in the Western Ghats at a distance of 38 kms from Pune, was the capital of the great Maratha leader Chhatrapati Shivaji. Lonavala-Khandala are popular twin hill stations at a distance of 64 kms from Pune. Mahabaleshwar is a popular hill resort at the distance of 120 kms from Pune. Panshet Dam, 45 kms away from Pune, offers a unique water sports holiday.

Raigadh Fort, Sinhagad Fort, Balaji Temple, Mulshi Lake, Bhatghar Dam, Karla Caves, Lohagad and Visapur Forts, Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary, Mahabaleshwar Hill Station are some of the other tourist attractions near Pune.



Shinde Chhatra



Raja Dinakar Kelkar Museum



Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary



Karla Caves



Lonavala-Khandala hill stations



Aga Khan Palace/Gandhi National Memorial

PHOTO FEATURE

4th Session of India-Kazakhstan Joint Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation from November 19-20, 2015



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Indian women trio's expedition from New Delhi to London by Car



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