

On May 18, 2024, Global India Business Forum (GIBF), a leading international business chamber, had conducted the India-Central Asia Business Conclave in Pune, India.

Diplomats from Central Asian countries and more than 350 plus businesspeople, exporters, importers and investors were present for the conclave. The participating countries were Russia, Iran, Tajikistan, Belarus, Mongolia, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Armenia.

The diplomats included - H.E. Mr. Sardor Rustambaev, Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Republic of India; H.E. Mr. Elchin Huseynli, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Republic of India; H.E. Mr. Ganbold Dambajavyn Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Mongolian People's Republic to the Republic of India; H.E. Mr. Vahagn Afyan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Armenia to the Republic of India; Mr. Aliaksandr Matsukou, Consul General of the Republic of Belarus to the Republic of India; Dr. Davoud Rezaei Eskandari, Consul General of the Islamic Republic of India; Mr. Habib Mirzozoda, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Republic of Tajikistan to the Republic of India; Mr. Khurshidbek Samiev, Trade-Economic Counsellor of the Republic of Uzbekistan; Mr. Aitmagambetov Epmek Yermek, Second Secretary of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Republic of India; Mr. Alexander Rybas, Trade Commissioner, Embassy of Russian Federation in the Republic of India; Mr. Hamid Sharifi, Consular Assistant of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Assistant of the Islamic Republic of Kazakhstan to the Republic of India; Mr. Alexander Rybas, Trade Commissioner, Embassy of Russian Federation in the Republic of India; Mr. Hamid Sharifi, Consular Assistant of the Islamic Republic of Iran; and Mr. Mamed Akhmedov and Mr. Alexander Miasnikov, trade assistants at the Russian Embassy.

## **Investment Opportunities in Central Asia**



Central Asia, a region historically known as a crossroads of trade and culture, is rapidly emerging as an attractive destination for international investors. The region is witnessing substantial economic reforms, expanding infrastructure, and increasing international trade ties. With rich natural resources, a strategic location, and a young and growing population, Central Asia presents a diverse range of investment opportunities for businesses and investors across various sectors.

**Energy and Natural Resources:** Central Asia is endowed with abundant natural resources, making the energy sector one of the most attractive for investment. Some of the lucrative industries in this sector include - Oil and Gas, Renewable Energy and Mining.

**Infrastructure and Construction:** The Central Asian region is undergoing significant infrastructure development to support economic growth, trade, and connectivity. As urbanization accelerates in cities, the demand for residential, commercial, and industrial real estate is rising. There is wide scope for investment in Transport and Logistics, Warehousing and Logistics Management, Real Estate and Urban Development.

**Agriculture and Agribusiness:** Central Asia's fertile land and favorable climate conditions provide significant opportunities in agriculture, agribusiness, and food processing. The region is an important producer of grains, cotton, fruits, and vegetables. Investments in agriculture technology (AgTech), including irrigation systems, fertilizer application and precision farming, food processing, livestock farming, and there is rising demand for meat, dairy products, and leather. Investing in modern livestock farming, dairy processing, and animal feed production is a growing opportunity.

**Technology and Startups:** The digital transformation of Central Asia is a key area of focus, and several countries in the region are making strides in fostering a vibrant startup ecosystem. The industries worth investing include - Information Technology (IT) and Software Development, app development, cloud computing, and cybersecurity solutions, E-commerce and online marketplaces, FinTech and Digital Banking, mobile/digital payments, and blockchain technology.

**Tourism and Hospitality:** Central Asia is rich in cultural heritage, natural beauty, and historical landmarks, which positions it as an emerging destination for tourism. Tourism infrastructure, including hotels, resorts, and tourist attractions, eco-tourism, cultural tourism, and adventure tourism or visiting the historical sites presents opportunities for investment in hospitality and related services.

**Financial Services and Banking:** As Central Asia becomes more integrated into global trade networks, the demand for financial services, particularly in banking and insurance, is growing. Microfinance is also emerging sectors with significant growth potential, especially in countries with underdeveloped banking infrastructures.

## **The Conclave Highlights**

The India-Central Asia Business Conclave began with Ganesh Vandana and the Indian National anthem in the morning on May 18, 2024.

Founder-Global President of Global India Business Forum, Dr. Jitendra Joshi delivered the opening note with information about GIBF, its motto, achievements and purpose of the India-Central Asia Business Conclave. The diplomats were felicitated with a memento, shawl and the Puneri turban by the Founder and Global President of GIBF, Dr. Jitendra Joshi, and Co-founder and Secretary General Deepali Gadkari.

The diplomats shared engaging presentations about their respective countries, emphasizing the Central Asia's prominence as the most happening and sought-after in the world, teeming with untapped business opportunities and the potential Indian exporters and importers have in their respective countries.

GIBF's mouthpiece, The Business Tycoons, featuring Central Asian countries was inaugurated by the diplomats, Dr. Joshi, and Deepali Gadkari.

The event also saw the inauguration of GIBF's Business and Cultural Councils between India and each of the Central Asian countries. The conclave included question and answer session wherein the diplomats answered the queries of the business delegates. The conclave concluded with a well-organized B2B meeting.

