

35th Know India Programme (KIP) Partner State – Maharashtra
5th to 29th May 2016

Know India Programmes are organised by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India with the objective of familiarizing the Indian Diaspora Youth, in the age group of 18 – 30 years, with a view to introduce India to them and promote awareness of different facet of Indian life, India's cultural heritage, art and also the phenomenal transformations taking place in India and the achievements made by the country and thereby bringing them closer to the land of their ancestors. The programme provides a unique forum for students and young professionals of Indian origin to visit to India, share their views, expectations and experiences and to bond closely with the contemporary India..

The 35th Know India Program involved a stay of 25 days / 26 nights in India for 40 participants from 9 countries namely - FIJI, Israel, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, Netherlands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Trinidad & Tobago. The first phase of the programme started with the visit of the KIP delegates to Partner State- Maharashtra. The Programme for Partner State was organised by State Government of Maharashtra & Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) in coordination with Ministry of External Affairs, Govt and FICCI. The Second phase of the programme included an overnight stay at the city of Taj Mahal, Agra. Finally in the Third phase of the programme included exploring the capital city of Delhi by visiting historical monuments, religious places, Meetings with Government of India officials, Meeting with MP, FICCI NGOs, industrial areas and cultural training institutes etc. The Programme for Agra and Delhi was organised by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry in association with Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

The KIP participants called on Hon'ble Chief Minister and Minister of Tourism, Government of Maharashtra during their stay at Mumbai. Hon'ble State Tourism Minister, Government of Maharashtra and senior ministry officials of MTDC also participated in the interactive meeting.

FICCI organised an Interactive Session on Indian Economy with 35th Know India Programme Delegates during their stay at Delhi. The Meeting was chaired by Mr Harshavardhan Neotia, President FICCI & Chairman Ambuja Neotia Group. Secretary General of FICCI Dr. A Didar Singh gave the welcome address. Special Address was given by Mr D M Mulay, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. Dr. Sanjaya Baru, Consulting Fellow for India International Institute for Strategic Studies gave a talk on "India's Economic Rise". Ms. Vani Rao, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs also interacted with the KIP Group and addressed their queries. Vote of Thanks was proposed by Ms Ambika Sharma, Director General- International Affairs, FICCI. The Interactive Session with 35th Know India Programme Delegates was moderated by Mr Manish Singhal, Assistant Secretary General of FICCI.