**Factsheet on President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev’s state visit to China and the** **China-Central Asia Summit**

**Overview**

President of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, was on a state visit to China on May 17-19, during which he also participated in the China-Central Asia Summit on May 18-19.

On May 17, President Tokayev held talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Xi’an. During the meeting, Xi Jinping described the ties between China and Kazakhstan as “unbreakable.”

On May 18, President Tokayev participated in the Kazakh-Chinese investor roundtable aimed to foster joint ventures between Kazakh and Chinese businesses. A welcome ceremony for Central Asian leaders participating in the China-Central Asia Summit was also held on this day.

**Outcomes of President Tokayev’s visit**

* The visit resulted in the signing of **47 business and investment-related documents totalling $22 billion** with Chinese enterprises and investors. For example, CITIC Construction signed five commercial documents with Kazakh partners for joint implementation of projects in the energy and petrochemical industries worth more than $1.6 billion.
* The delegations from both countries signed **22 documents**, including:
* A memorandum of intent to establish **cultural centres** between the Kazakh Ministry of Culture and Sports and the Chinese Ministry of Culture and Tourism
* An agreement on the **establishment of sister city** relations between Shymkent and Xian
* An agreement between the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University and Xian Northwestern Polytechnical University to open a **university branch in Almaty**.
* Governments of both countries signed documents on the **development of the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route**, technical and economic cooperation, international road transport, and cooperation plan in industrialisation and investment.
* President Tokayev attended the ceremony of launching the construction of **Kazakhstan’s logistics centre at Xian’s dry port**. This hub connects the Shaanxi region with Kazakhstan and Central Asia. It will then open the route to Europe, Türkiye and Iran.
* Tokayev opened the **National Pavilion of Kazakhstan on JD.com electronic platform**, China’s largest online platform for selling goods and services.
* Kazakhstan’s **Consulate General opened in Xian**. Along with the diplomatic corps, the consulate building will include representative offices of national companies to promote Kazakhstan's economic interests.
* President Tokayev and President Xi signed a **joint statement**, reaffirming their commitment to continuously deepen the eternal all-round strategic partnership based on eternal friendship, deep mutual trust and solidarity.
* An **intergovernmental agreement on visa-free travel** was signed between the two countries. Citizens of Kazakhstan visiting China for tourism, medical treatment, transit, and business meetings will be able to stay in the country visa-free for 30 days. This will also be applied to the citizens of China traveling to Kazakhstan.

**Outcomes of** **China-Central Asia Summit**

* Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and China signed the **Xian Declaration of the China-Central Asia Summit**, approved the list of outcomes of the meeting and outlined a plan for the future development of relations between China and Central Asia.
* The signed declaration reads that **China and the Central Asian countries should support each other** on issues concerning each other's core interests.
* President Xi proposed to **strengthen mechanisms for cooperation**, expand economic ties, deepen connectivity, expand energy cooperation, enhance development capabilities, strengthen cultural exchanges, and safeguard regional peace.
* In particular, they vowed to build a **China-Central Asia community** with a shared future and provide firm support on core issues such as sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity in addition to opposing external interference in domestic affairs.
* Chinese President Xi Jinping unveiled a **grand plan for Central Asia's development**, from building infrastructure to boosting trade. He pledged **26 billion yuan ($3.7 billion)** in fresh loans and grants to the five Central Asian countries.
* Chinese President Xi Jinping hailed a **“new era” of ties with Central Asia**.
* China and Central Asian countries agreed to hold the China-Central Asia summit every two years and for the **next summit to be held in Kazakhstan**.
* China will **upgrade bilateral investment agreements with Central Asian countries** and raise cross-border freight volume with the region.
* China also voiced support for the construction of a **cross-Caspian Sea international transport corridor**, stating that China will strengthen the construction of transportation hubs of China-Europe freight train services.
* The summit was the **first of its kind** since the establishment of formal relations 31 years ago. The event is unprecedented as it brings together all of the region’s leaders in-person in China all at once.

**Key facts on the Kazakhstan-China relations**

* China is **one of the five biggest investors in the Kazakh economy**, with a total investment exceeding **$23 billion**.
* Bilateral trade volume hit a **record high of $31 billion** at the end of last year.
* Last year, **23 million tons of freight** were transported by rail between the two countries.
* **Goods transportation surged by 35%** in the first quarter of this year, surpassing **7 million tons**.
* **Kazakhstan’s exports to China increased by 5% to $2.6 billion** in the first quarter of this year, while imports grew by **56% to $3.3 billion**.