

**MERI, Centre for International Studies (CIS), Faculty  
Academic Visit to Almaty, Kazakhstan  
April 27 to 06 May 2026**

Dr. Beena visited Almaty, Kazakhstan, from April 27 to May 06, 2026, as an invited speaker and visiting scholar for a series of academic and cultural engagements hosted by leading academic institutions in Kazakhstan. The visit proved to be highly enriching and provided an important platform for strengthening academic cooperation, intercultural dialogue and scholarly engagement between India and Kazakhstan.

During the visit, Dr. Beena was invited to participate and speak at **the International Scientific and Practical Conference on "Security, Geopolitics and Turkic Integration in the Triangle: Central Asia–South Caucasus–Middle East,"** jointly organised by **Al-Farabi Kazakh National University.** The conference brought together distinguished scholars, diplomats, researchers and policy experts from different countries to deliberate on emerging geopolitical developments, regional security dynamics, connectivity and the growing role of Turkic integration in Eurasian politics.

At the conference, she presented her academic perspectives on regional cooperation, strategic connectivity and India's engagement with Central Asia and the South Caucasus. The discussions highlighted the increasing importance of academic diplomacy and intellectual exchange in addressing contemporary geopolitical challenges. The interaction with scholars and experts from Kazakhstan and other participating countries contributed significantly to mutual understanding and scholarly collaboration.

As part of the academic programme, Dr. Beena was also invited by **Kazakh National Women's Teacher Training University** to deliver lectures and participate in seminars as a Visiting Scholar. The sessions focused on international relations, regional geopolitics, India–Central Asia relations and emerging global challenges. The academic interactions with faculty members, researchers and students were highly productive and reflected a strong interest in strengthening educational and cultural ties between India and Kazakhstan.



The participant made a valuable contribution to the implementation of educational and cultural initiatives, as well as academic and scholarly activities aimed at promoting international academic cooperation and intercultural exchange.

During her stay in Almaty, she had the opportunity to visit several important cultural and historical landmarks of Kazakhstan. These included the National Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which serves as one of the country's major intellectual and cultural centres, preserving valuable literary and historical resources. She also visited Panfilov Park and the historic Ascension Cathedral, which reflects Kazakhstan's rich historical and architectural heritage. In addition, visits to Republic Square and the Central State Museum of Kazakhstan provided deeper insights into the history, culture and national development of Kazakhstan.

The visit further highlighted the deep historical and cultural connections between India and Kazakhstan. Both countries share centuries-old links through the Silk Route, cultural exchanges, trade interactions and civilizational contact. In recent years, India–Kazakhstan relations have expanded in the fields of education, energy, culture and strategic cooperation. Academic visits and scholarly exchanges such as this play an important role in strengthening people-to-people connectivity and enhancing mutual understanding between the two countries.

Overall, the visit to Kazakhstan was academically enriching and diplomatically significant. It contributed to the promotion of international academic cooperation, encouraged intercultural engagement and further strengthened the growing partnership between India and Kazakhstan in the fields of education, research and regional dialogue.