

Shivpuri Colony resident goes to Kazakhstan to pray for world peace

Pt Gauri Shankar was part of a nine-member delegation that attended a forum on the role of religion in maintaining global peace



'It was a memorable experience,' says Pt Shankar

LALITHA JAYARAAMAN

PT Gauri Shankar, Vedic scholar, resident of Badrinath building, Shivpuri Colony, was part of a nine-member delegation that went to Kazakhstan in Central Asia.

The congregation was initiated by President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, and was held on Sept 23 and Sept 24 at Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, for an exchange of views on the role of religion in maintaining peace in the

world.

Panditji says, "The forum was mainly conducted for peace and mutual understanding among various religions. This was the first time that such a congregation that included participants from 18 countries of all religions was

held. Although we were initially skeptical about the programme, it has been a memorable experience."

The participants also prayed for peace and prosperity of all the nations. Panditji has been touring the world giving lectures on Bharata

Natya Shastra and Vedas etc., says, "It is not true that Hinduisim is on the decline and people have no respect for it. On the contrary, I have noticed that Hinduism has a great impact on the whole world."

lalitha@mid-day.com

Who the nine-member delegation was

- Dr SK Somaiya, Chairman of Indology and Inter-Religious Dialogue Research Centre
- Mahamantradas, director, ISKCON
- Sri Sugendra Theerta Swamiji
- Anand Shankar Pandya, Vishwa Hindu Parishad
- Cardinal Joseph Tomko, head of Vatican Delegation
- Minora Sonoda, head of Shinto Temples Association (Japan)
- Bishop of Croydon Nicholas Bains
- JR Blanning Gauf, Canterbury Archbishop's secretary
- K Griboski, president of Religion and Social Policy Centre (US)