

BISMILLAH IR RAHMAN IR RAHIM

"In the Name of God, Most Gracious, Most Compassionate"

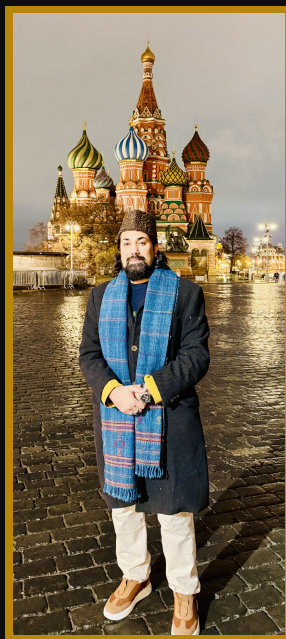
# CHISHTY FOUNDATION

Ajmer Sharif • Rajasthan • India

OFFICIAL VISIT REPORT | ARCHIVE & RECORDS DOCUMENT

## VISIT TO MOSCOW

Russian Federation • April 2026



Haji Syed Salman Chishty at the iconic Red Square, Moscow, Russian Federation

### HAJI SYED SALMAN CHISHTY

Gaddi Nashin • Dargah Ajmer Sharif • Chairman, Chishty Foundation

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## DOCUMENT INFORMATION & OVERVIEW

Ref. No.	CF/VR/MOS/04-2026
Document Type	Official Visit Report — Archive & Permanent Record
Classification	Institutional Archive • Office of the Gaddi Nashin
City	Moscow, Russian Federation
Date of Visit	April 2026
Led By	Haji Syed Salman Chishty, Gaddi Nashin, Dargah Ajmer Sharif
Accompanying	Mr. Suhail Vakil (Al Vakil Manpower Co.) • Mr. Ilyas (Russian Mufti Rep.)
Report Date	17th April 2026
Status	Final — For Permanent Archive

### Introduction

This document constitutes the official archive record of the visit by **Haji Syed Salman Chishty**, Gaddi Nashin of Dargah Ajmer Sharif and Chairman of the Chishty Foundation, to **Moscow, Russian Federation** in April 2026. Moscow formed the centrepiece of the broader Russia visit, comprising the most significant diplomatic, interfaith, and community engagements of the entire mission.

Carried in the spirit of the timeless Chishti message of *love, peace, and service to humanity*, the Moscow engagements encompassed: an official meeting at the **Embassy of India**; a landmark interfaith dialogue at the **Grand Cathedral Mosque**; a tribute at the **Gandhi Statue**; and warmly personal meetings with Russian dignitaries, business leaders, and friends of Dargah Ajmer Sharif.



Haji Syed Salman Chishty at the iconic Red Square, Moscow, with St. Basil's Cathedral illuminated behind him.



Haji Syed Salman Chishty with Russian dignitaries and friends of Dargah Ajmer Sharif at an elegant reception gathering in Moscow.

## EMBASSY OF INDIA, MOSCOW

Official Diplomatic Meeting — Moscow

The principal diplomatic engagement of the Moscow visit was the official call at the **Embassy of India in Moscow**, where Haji Syed Salman Chishty was received by **H.E. Vinay Kumar**, Ambassador of India to the Russian Federation, **Mr. Nikhilesh Giri**, Deputy Chief of Mission, and senior Embassy officials.

<b>Ambassador</b>	H.E. Mr. Vinay Kumar — Ambassador of India to the Russian Federation
<b>DCM</b>	Mr. Nikhilesh Giri — Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Moscow
<b>Embassy Officials</b>	Senior officers of the Embassy of India, Moscow
<b>Delegation</b>	Mr. Suhail Vakil (Al Vakil Manpower) • Mr. Ilyas (Russian Mufti Rep.)
<b>Agenda</b>	Public Diplomacy • Bilateral Trade • Manpower Cooperation Spiritual Bonds • Interfaith Dialogue • BRICS Framework



Official delegation photograph at the Embassy of India, Moscow. Haji Syed Salman Chishty with H.E. Ambassador Vinay Kumar, DCM Mr. Nikhilesh Giri, and senior Embassy officials, beneath the national emblem and flag of India.



Haji Syed Salman Chishty presenting the Chishty Foundation publication to H.E. Ambassador Vinay Kumar, with DCM Mr. Nikhilesh Giri.



Haji Syed Salman Chishty in personal dialogue with H.E. Ambassador Vinay Kumar at the Embassy of India, Moscow.

### Key Discussions at the Embassy:

- Public diplomacy and strengthening people-to-people connections through cultural, spiritual, and academic channels.

- Bilateral trade and economic cooperation including manpower mobility and Indian business presence in Russia.
- The deep civilisational, spiritual, and historical bonds shared between India and Russia.
- Interfaith dialogue between Indian and Russian Muslim communities.
- India's prominent role within BRICS and opportunities for multilateral cooperation.
- Spiritual diplomacy as a meaningful complement to formal bilateral diplomatic engagement.

### **Delegation at a Historic Moscow Venue**

Prior to and around the Embassy engagement, the delegation was photographed at a historic architectural venue in Moscow, reflecting the grandeur and heritage of Russia's capital city.



*The Chishty Foundation delegation at a historic venue in Moscow.*

## TRIBUTE AT THE MAHATMA GANDHI STATUE, MOSCOW

In a deeply symbolic act of homage, Haji Syed Salman Chishty paid tribute at the **statue of Mahatma Gandhi** located in Moscow — a monument that stands as testament to the enduring friendship between India and Russia, and to the universal appeal of Gandhi's message of truth, non-violence, and service.

The Chishti message and Gandhi's philosophy share the same sacred root: the infinite dignity of every human soul, and love as the supreme force in the universe. The visit to the Gandhi statue was not merely symbolic — it was a spiritual act of communion between two of India's greatest gifts to the world.



Haji Syed Salman Chishty at the Mahatma Gandhi statue, Moscow. Inscription: "My life is my message." — M. Gandhi.

## GRAND CATHEDRAL MOSQUE OF MOSCOW

*Interfaith Dialogue with Russian Muslim Leadership*

The most spiritually elevated engagement of the entire visit was the meeting at the **Grand Cathedral Mosque Center of Moscow** — one of the largest mosques in Europe, accommodating up to 10,000 worshippers. Haji Syed Salman Chishty held a special personal dialogue with **Hazrat Damir Mukhetdinov**, First Deputy Chairman of the Religious Board of Muslims of the Russian Federation and Principal of the Moscow Islamic Institute.

The meeting was facilitated by **Mr. Ilyas**, representative of Deputy Grand Mufti Sheikh Damir Hazrat, serving under **H.H. Mufti Sheikh Ravil Gaynutdinov**, Chairman of the Russian Muftis Council and the Religious Board of Muslims of the Russian Federation. The dialogue was conducted in an atmosphere of the highest Islamic brotherhood, with the sacred calligraphy of *Allah* presiding above.



*Presenting the Chishti Foundation publication to Hazrat Damir Mukhetdinov, Grand Cathedral Mosque, Moscow.*

*Receiving a gift from Hazrat Damir Mukhetdinov at the Grand Cathedral Mosque Center, Moscow.*

*Exchange of official publications and gifts with senior mosque officials, Grand Cathedral Mosque, Moscow.*



*Group photograph at the Grand Cathedral Mosque of Moscow with Hazrat Damir Mukhetdinov and senior mosque officials. The sacred calligraphy of Allah is prominently displayed. The meeting concluded with Prayers for World Peace, Unity and Harmony.*

## THEMES OF THE MOSQUE DIALOGUE

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The conversation with Hazrat Damir Mukhetdinov ranged across the full spiritual and intellectual landscape of India–Russia Muslim relations, with particular focus on the following themes:

### ◆ **Spiritual & Intellectual Exchange**

An open and elevated exchange of vision between the Indian Sufi tradition — as embodied by the Chishti silsila of Ajmer Sharif — and the living traditions of Russian Islamic scholarship and mystical philosophy.

### ◆ **Educational Cooperation**

Deepening educational ties between the Moscow Islamic Institute and Ajmer Sharif-affiliated institutions, including proposed exchange programmes for scholars, students, and researchers.

### ◆ **Community & Youth Engagement**

Developing structured programmes for youth engagement, community cooperation, and cultural exchange between Indian and Russian Muslim communities.

### ◆ **Business & Cultural Initiatives**

Identifying shared platforms for business and cultural initiatives rooted in Islamic values of justice, compassion, and brotherhood.

### ◆ **Global Peace Advocacy**

Advancing global peace through the universal Sufi message of love, tolerance, and service to humanity — the timeless message of the Chishti tradition.

### ◆ **Prayers for World Peace**

The dialogue concluded with Prayers for World Peace, Unity and Harmony — a collective and deeply moving supplication offered together by both leaders. Both reaffirmed their commitment to building enduring bridges across nations, faiths, and communities.

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*“The convergence of the Chishti message of love with the living Islamic tradition of Russia creates a bridge between our two peoples — built not of steel but of the spirit.”*

— **Haji Syed Salman Chishty, Grand Cathedral Mosque, Moscow**

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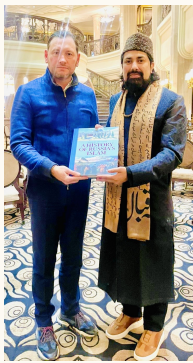
## DIGNITARIES, BUSINESS LEADERS & FRIENDS OF AJMER SHARIF

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Beyond the formal engagements, Haji Syed Salman Chishty held a rich programme of personal meetings across Moscow with Russian dignitaries, intellectuals, business figures, and longstanding friends and devotees of Dargah Ajmer Sharif. These encounters — conducted in some of Moscow’s most distinguished venues — formed the living fabric of the visit’s spiritual and diplomatic texture.



*Haji Syed Salman Chishty with an illustrious gathering of Russian dignitaries, business leaders, and friends of Dargah Ajmer Sharif at an elegant private reception in Moscow.*



*Presenting and discussing the Chishty Foundation publication with Russian contacts at a luxury Moscow hotel.*



*Exchanging A History of Russia's Islam with a Russian contact — a symbolic exchange of civilisational knowledge.*



*Visit to a luxury Moscow boutique with friends — the warmth and informality of personal diplomacy.*

## KEY OUTCOMES & WAY FORWARD

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### ◆ Diplomatic Ties Strengthened

The official meeting at the Embassy of India reinforced the Chishty Foundation's standing as a credible partner in India's spiritual and public diplomacy with Russia, with the Foundation's publication formally presented to the Ambassador.

### ◆ Interfaith Bridge Established

The dialogue with Hazrat Damir Mukhethdinov at the Grand Cathedral Mosque has laid the foundation for an ongoing institutional relationship between the Chishty Foundation and Russian Muslim leadership, with proposed joint programmes in education, youth exchange, and spiritual diplomacy.

### ◆ BRICS Positioning

Discussions at the Embassy level aligned the Foundation's mission with India's BRICS leadership, positioning interfaith engagement and spiritual diplomacy as meaningful dimensions of India's multilateral soft power.

### ◆ Cultural & Knowledge Exchange

The mutual exchange of publications — Chishty Foundation's work and *A History of Russia's Islam* — has seeded an ongoing dialogue between Indian Sufi scholarship and Russian Islamic intellectual tradition.

### ◆ Friends of Ajmer Sharif in Russia

The personal meetings with Russian friends and devotees of Dargah Ajmer Sharif strengthened bonds of spiritual friendship and opened avenues for future collaborative engagement in Russia.

### ◆ Media Coverage

The Moscow visit received wide national coverage across leading Indian publications in English, Hindi, and Urdu, including Lokmat Times, Salar News, and national dailies, amplifying the Chishti message of peace internationally.

### Way Forward

The Moscow visit has opened doors for sustained, structured engagement. Proposed next steps include: the establishment of a formal **India–Russia Sufi Dialogue Forum**; educational exchange between the Moscow Islamic Institute and Indian institutions; a **reciprocal visit by Russian Muslim leadership to Dargah Ajmer Sharif**; and joint business and community initiatives with the Indian diaspora network in Moscow.

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*“The bonds between India and Russia are ancient and sacred. When spiritual wisdom walks hand in hand with diplomatic vision and honest trade, we build not merely partnerships between nations — we build peace between peoples. This is the noble way.”*

— **Haji Syed Salman Chishty, Gaddi Nashin, Dargah Ajmer Sharif**

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### CHISHTY FOUNDATION • AJMER SHARIF • INDIA

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*This document is an official archive record of the Chishty Foundation. Reference: CF/VR/MOS/04-2026. Prepared April 2026.*