



सत्यमेव जयते

## Embassy of India Astana

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# Embassy of India ASTANA NEWSLETTER

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## President Pranab Mukherjee visits Russia

President Pranab Mukherjee visited Russia from May 7-11, 2015 at the invitation of Russian President Vladimir Putin to attend the 70th anniversary celebrations of Victory Day in Moscow. He was accompanied by Minister of State for Railways, heads of several top educational institutions and a 75-member Indian Army contingent which took part in the military parade during the Victory Day celebrations. He held bilateral talks with President Putin where the two leaders discussed mutual cooperation in various sectors including civil nuclear cooperation, defence ties and partnership in higher education. The two leaders reviewed the economic relationship and agreed to work towards achieving targets of USD 30 billion in trade and USD 15 billion in investment. The two sides also discussed issues relating to infrastructure development and smart cities.



President Mukherjee held separate meetings with Rectors of prominent Russian universities and eminent Indologists and urged them to build "living contacts" with Indian universities and academics. He delivered a keynote address at the Russian Diplomatic Academy, Moscow where he was conferred with honorary doctorate. He said that Russia has been a pillar of strength at difficult moments in India's history and has contributed to India's development, growth and security.

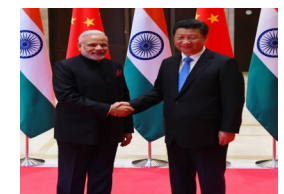


During the visit, President Mukherjee also interacted with other world leaders including the Presidents of the Czech Republic, Vietnam, Mongolia, Palestine, China, Kazakhstan, Serbia and UN Secretary General. He also inaugurated the Festival of Indian Culture 'Namaste Russia' on May 10, which will travel to nine cities of Russia. An agreement between Department of Science & Technology and Russian Science Foundation on cooperation in science and technology and eight MoUs on higher education were signed during the visit.



## Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits China (May 14-16, 2015)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited China from May 14-16, 2015. This was his first visit to China as Prime Minister. President Xi Jinping set aside the protocol and received Prime Minister Modi with fanfare in his hometown in Xi'an. This was the first time that a foreign leader was received outside Beijing. He was accorded traditional Tang Style welcome. The two leaders shared some private moments together at Big Wild Goose Pagoda before leading the delegation level talks. Later in the evening, the Prime Minister visited some places of cultural interest before travelling to Beijing.



In Beijing, Prime Minister received a grand ceremonial welcome at the Great Hall of People, ahead of his talks with Premier Li Keqiang. Later, the two leaders led the delegation level talks and held candid, constructive and friendly discussions on all issues. A record 24 agreements/MoUs for cooperation in various spheres including railways, mining, outer space, earthquake science and engineering, tourism, sister-cities and establishment of Consulates in Chengdu and Chennai were signed. The two sides also held the first meeting of the India-China State and Provincial Leaders' Forum which was attended by Chief Ministers of Gujarat and Maharashtra and six Governors and Mayors from China.



The joint statement issued during the visit highlighted the importance of relations between India and China, as two major powers, for the peace, security, development and prosperity of Asia and the world. The joint Yoga-Taichi event with the world heritage site of Temple of Heaven as backdrop, highlighted the cultural connectivity between the two countries. PM Modi's spontaneous selfie with Premier Li Keqiang became a rage as "the most powerful selfie ever".

Prime Minister's last stop in China was in Shanghai where he held an interactive session with Chinese CEOs and addressed the India-China Business Forum. 26 B2B agreements/MoUs worth more than US\$ 22 billion spanning a wide range of industries were signed between the two sides. Prime Minister also visited Fudan University and launched a Centre for Gandhian and Indian studies there.



## Launch of International Day of Yoga in Astana

Embassy of India, Astana in collaboration with Embassy of Republic of South Africa, United Nation's Office and KAZGUU Academic Diplomatic club organized the launch of International Day of Yoga, UN Academic Impact and UN Mandela Day at Kazakhstan University of Humanities and Law, Astana on May 13, 2015. The programme was attended by more than 400 university students. Mr. Maksut Narikbayev, President of KAZGUU University, Mr. Shirish Soni, Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa, Mr. Tolegen Mukhamedzhanov, President of the Kazakh International Association, Peace through Culture and Shri R. Gururaj, Acting Director, Indian Cultural Centre addressed the gathering and spoke about the health benefits of yoga. The programme included a flash mob of university students, who participated in a yoga dance performance led by Mrs. Ruweida Soni, Spouse of South African Ambassador. The programme lasted for about an hour.



## Ambassador attends Military parade and lays flowers at "Otan Ana" monument

Ambassador attended the Military parade held at the Kazakh Eli Square, Astana on May 7, 2015 to commemorate the Defender's of Fatherland Day and to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Victory in the World War II. He also attended the ceremony for laying of flowers at "Otan Ana" Monument, Otan Korgaushylar Square, Astana on May 8, 2015, and laid flowers at the Monument.



## Indian community participates in Unity Day celebrations in Almaty

Indian community participated in Unity Day celebrations in Almaty on May 1, 2015. An Indian stall showcasing Indian handicrafts and food items attracted a large number of visitors. Arrangements were made for Henna painting which became a major attraction. A bollywood dance performance by the Centre for Indian Classical Dances, Almaty and a Hindi song by a young Kazakh singer added Indian flavour to the celebrations. A banner of 'International Day of Yoga' was also prominently displayed for creating awareness about the IDY celebrations on June 21, 2015.



## ASSOCHAM delegation participates in 22nd Kazakhstan International Healthcare Exhibition, 2015 (May 13-15, 2015)

A 50-member delegation from the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) visited Kazakhstan for participation in the 22nd Kazakhstan International Healthcare Exhibition, 2015 at the Atakent Exhibition Centre, Almaty on May 13-15, 2015. The delegation included manufacturers and exporters of a wide range of healthcare products. The Indian companies exhibited several state of the art medical equipment, medical instruments as well as samples of various formulations which attracted a number of visitors. The participation of Indian companies in the exhibition helped in generating interest in Indian healthcare products. The Indian companies had several networking sessions with local partners, who were impressed by both the quality as well as the affordability of the Indian medical supplies.



## Starting up a new business in India made easier

Government of India relaxed the procedures for setting up companies in India by introducing a single integrated electronic application form INC 29. The entrepreneurs wishing to set up new enterprises now need to fill out only one application form as against eight separate forms earlier for allotment of Directors Identification Number up to three directors, reservation of name, incorporation of company, commencement of business and appointment of directors of the proposed company. The new form will be in addition to separate forms that are already in use for registering a company in India. The relaxed procedure is expected to improve ease of doing business in India.

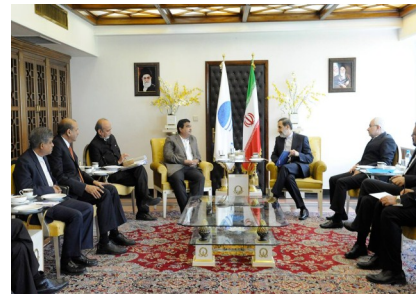
## K V Kamath appointed as President of New Development Bank

Eminent banker K V Kamath has been appointed as the head of the USD 50 billion New Development Bank being set up by BRICS. Mr. Kamath will have a five year term at the bank, which is likely to be operationalised within one year. Mr. Kamath is currently the non-executive Chairman of the India's largest private sector bank ICICI.



## India and Iran sign MoU for development of Chabahar port

India and Iran signed an inter-Governmental MoU on May 5, 2015, regarding India's participation in the development of the Chabahar Port. The MoU will enable the Indian and Iranian commercial entities to commence negotiations towards finalization of a commercial contract under which Indian firms will lease two existing berths at the Port and operationalize them as container and multipurpose cargo terminals. The availability of a functional container and multipurpose cargo terminal at Chabahar Port would provide Afghanistan's garland road network system alternate access to a sea port, significantly enhancing Afghanistan's overall connectivity to regional and global markets, and providing a fillip to the ongoing reconstruction and humanitarian efforts in the country.



## India-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement passed by Indian Parliament

The historic India-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement Bill was unanimously passed by the Indian Parliament on May 11 paving the way to settle India's 41-year-old border issue with Bangladesh. The passage of the bill will help in operationalizing and ratifying the Boundary Agreement that provides for exchange of territories. The measure, apart from demarcating the boundaries, would also help in checking illegal immigration.



## Moody's predicts 7.5% GDP growth for next two years

According to global credit rating agency Moody's, India's GDP growth is likely to average about 7.5 per cent over the next two years due to improvement in business environment induced by reforms like inflation-targeting framework, regulatory simplification, and increase in FDI limits.



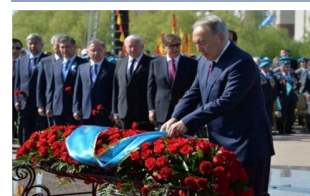
## 70th anniversary of Victory Day celebrated in Astana

A Military parade was held in the Kazakh Eli Square, Astana on May 7, 2015 to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Victory in the World War II (The Great Patriotic War). The Military parade was the largest in the history of Kazakhstan with participation of over 5000 military personnel including 200 women soldiers, 227 pieces of military hardware and 70 military aircrafts and helicopters.

The parade was commanded by Lieutenant General Maikhev Murat Zhalelovich, Commander-in-Chief of Land Forces of Republic of Kazakhstan. President Nazarbayev and Minister of Defence Imangali Tasmagambetov reviewed the parade. The parade consisted of both historical and contemporary parts. Over 300 Kazakhstani Military personnel dressed in the Red Army Uniform marched with the colours of the legendary 72<sup>nd</sup> mechanised also known as the Irreplaceable Brigade in the historical part of the parade. A large number of Kazakhs had served in the brigade during the World War II.

One of the highlights of the parade was the carrying of the exact replica of Red Victory Banner raised over the Reichstag Building in Berlin on April 30, 1945 by Kazakh soldier Rakhymzhan Koshkarbayev and fellow soldier Grigoriy Bulatov. Military equipment from the World War II period was also displayed during the parade. The Military contingents representing all components of Kazakh security forces participated in the march past followed by a display of military hardware and a scintillating flypast and air show. The military hardware included T-72B Main Battle Tanks, TOS-1 multiple rocket launcher, Infantry fighting vehicle, Armoured fighting vehicles BTP-82 and howitzer P-30. The air show featured 75 helicopters and aircrafts. The pilots of MIG-29 and SU-25 formed number 70 in the sky. President Nazarbayev congratulated Kazakhstanis on Fatherland Defender's Day and on the Victory Day.

A ceremonial laying of flowers at the 'Otan Ana' Monument on Otan Korghashylav Square (Motherland Defenders) was held on May 8, 2015 to celebrate the Victory Day. The event was attended by senior government, military officials, members of the diplomatic community, veterans and local people. The ceremony started with laying of flowers by President Nazarbayev, followed by a review of ceremonial guard of honour. Later the President interacted with veterans present at the ceremony.



## President Nazarbayev chairs the first session of new government

President Nursultan Nazarbayev chaired the first session of the new Government on May 5. He reiterated the importance of implementing five institutional reforms for State building and modernization of Kazakh society. He noted the need to embark on a programme of privatization of agriculture land through a transparent process for efficient land use and management. He informed that Kazakhstan will build a new trans-Kazakhstan multi-modal corridor from western China to Aktau port. He also declared that Kazakhstan will soon bring in a law for universal declaration of income-expenditure.

At the session, Prime Minister Karim Massimov informed that all the ministries and agencies have been instructed to map out programs and suggest plan of action within next three months in line with the presidential decree and that the proposal on further reforms will be submitted for the President's consideration by the end of June.

PM Massimov held a regular meeting of the Cabinet on May 7 during which the Initial Action Plan for 2015 was discussed and approved. The plan includes 214 items in two sections featuring five institutional reforms in the first section and the priorities of current economic policy in the second section.



## Kazakhstan's external trade registers negative growth in Q1 of 2015

As per the figures released on May 15 by National Statistical Agency, the external trade of Kazakhstan in the first quarter of 2015 (USD 19.123 billion) decreased by 38.6%. While the exports for the quarter (USD 11.93 billion) decreased by 47.3%, the imports (USD 7.184 billion) also registered a decrease of 15.2%.

Government of India  
**National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)**  
 Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation

## 'Nirmal Ganga Bhagidaari'

Join Us in Cleaning Ganga

### Call for proposals from Organizations/Donors/Overseas Indians

Pollution in River Ganga is mainly on two accounts: nallahs/drains carrying municipal and/or industrial effluents into the River Ganga and river surface pollution such as pious refuse, solid waste, disposal of dead bodies, etc. The focus of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) so far has been on creation of treatment capacities (Sewage Treatment Plants) and related infrastructure for abatement of pollution caused by domestic/industrial sewage.

#### Ongoing Projects in 50 towns on the banks of River Ganga

- Sanctioned Cost: Rs. 5909 Crores
- Treatment capacity sanctioned: approximately 1000 Million Liters per Day (MLD)
- Sewerage network sanctioned: approximately 4000 km
- Further New Projects to be sanctioned in May 2015: Rs. 1700 Crores

#### Projects in Pipeline

- Targeted Additional Treatment Capacity: 3000 MLD
- Priority Towns: 118
- Coverage of Rural Sanitation: 1649 Gram Panchayats



Treatment Plant, Kanpur



Treatment Plant, Varanasi



Treatment Plant, Allahabad



Treatment Plant, Haridwar

Now, NMCG intends to expand its footprint to tackle river surface pollution and other areas. The projects are expected to start from June, 2015.

- River Surface Cleaning Equipment (e.g. Trash Skimmers, Trash Booms, Ro-BOAT etc.)
- Spargers/Aerators
- Boats with aeration mechanism
- Electric crematorium
- Improved wood based crematorium
- Outreach activities/community awareness
- Biodiversity conservation
- Skill development—eco-friendly livelihoods for those dependent on River Ganga (Boatmen, Dhobis, Fishermen etc.)
- Waste /litter collection, segregation, and management
- Heavy duty vacuum cleaners for Ghats
- Pious refuse - collection, recycling and management
- Toilets/bio-toilets on Ghats
- Solid waste collection from drains
- Dumpers to transfer of waste to landfill/recycling sites.
- Fencing of drains
- High efficiency Clarifiers on drains
- Innovative wastewater treatment technologies
- Any other relevant areas.
- Any other relevant areas

Proposals are invited from Organizations/Donors/Investors from India & Abroad/Overseas Indians to join hands in this endeavour.

**Intending Implementing Organizations (Government bodies, NGOs, Academic institutions/others)** may prepare a project on any of the above areas and submit them to NMCG.

Donors/Sponsors may pick up specific projects/Implementing Organizations. They may also propose/contribute to projects in remembrance of their ancestors or an event. A commemorative plaque may be placed as per approved guidelines.

**Overseas Indians** may partner with India Development Foundation for Overseas Indians (IDF-OI) and Overseas Indians Facilitation Centre (OIFC) for collaborating with/contributing to such projects

The proposals submitted by organizations should include the budget and timelines required for completion. Documentary proof with respect to legal status, registration details including FCRA status, financial status, performance, and relevant experience shall be enclosed along with the proposal. A committee comprising representatives from relevant government departments will scrutinize all eligible entries. Projects recommended by the Committee will be proposed to prospective donors/investors/CSR funding/philanthropic donations by Overseas Indians as the case may be. The proposals will be considered on a rolling basis throughout the year.

Philanthropic donations by Overseas Indians will be routed through the India Development Foundation for Overseas Indian (www.idfoi.org), a not-for-profit Trust set-up by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Government of India, to channelize the philanthropic propensities of Overseas Indians into the country's social development projects.

Overseas Indians interested in, investing in projects in the areas listed, and/or, any other form of economic engagement may connect with Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC), a partnership between Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) (www.oifc.in)

**National Mission for Clean Ganga**  
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### Indian community participates in Unity Day celebrations in Almaty



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### Launch of International Day of Yoga in Astana on May 13, 2015



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### ASSOCHAM delegation participates in 22nd Kazakhstan International Healthcare Exhibition



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