



सत्यमेव जयते

Embassy of India  
ASTANA

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# Embassy of India ASTANA NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 8

June 1, 2015

## Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits Mongolia (May 16-17) and South Korea (May 18-19)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid an official visit to Mongolia on May 16-17, 2015. This was the first ever Prime Ministerial visit from India to Mongolia. He began the tour with a visit to Gandan Monastery where he gifted a Bodhi tree sapling to the Chief Abbott of the Monastery. He received a ceremonial welcome at the State Palace after which he and his Mongolian counterpart Prime Minister Chimedijn Saikhanbileg led the delegation level talks. Later, Prime Minister Modi was hosted by Prime Minister Saikhanbileg at his official residence, Ikh Tenger for dinner.



One of the highlights of the visit was the address by Prime Minister Modi to the State Great Hural, the Mongolian Parliament on May 17, which was convened specially for him on Sunday, a public holiday. He held bilateral talks with President Elbegdoj Tsakhia and laid foundation stone for Vajpayee ICT Training Centre in Ulaanbaatar. He handed over the Bhabhatron equipment at the National Cancer Center of Mongolia, which will give boost to cancer care in Mongolia. He also announced a credit line of USD 1 billion to Mongolia to expand economic capacity and infrastructure in the country.



Prime Minister's programme included a visit to Mini-Naadam Festival in Ulaanbaatar, where he witnessed horse racing, traditional wrestling and archery. He also attended a yoga programme organized by Art of Living Foundation in Ulaanbaatar.



During the visit, the two sides decided to upgrade their relationship from Comprehensive to "Strategic Partnership" and signed fourteen agreements/MoUs in various spheres laying down the framework for future cooperation between the two countries.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Seoul on May 18 on the last leg of his three-nation tour. He commenced the visit with an address to the Indian community. He was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the residence of President Park Geun-hye, after which the two leaders led the delegation level talks and addressed a joint press conference. President Park held a special banquet in honour of the Prime Minister.



In his press statement, Prime Minister Modi said that vast opportunities exist for participation of Korean companies in 'Make in India' campaign. He said that India considered Korea as a crucial partner for infrastructure development and for developing a world class manufacturing sector in India. He invited the Korean companies to invest in ship-building and defence sector and emphasized on the need for deeper cooperation in defence technology and manufacture of defence equipment in India.



During the visit, the two sides upgraded the bilateral relationship to 'Special Strategic Partnership'. They also established a Joint Working Group on ship building. Seven agreements/MoUs for cooperation in areas ranging from taxation to transport were signed during the visit.

Prime Minister Modi addressed the VI Asian Leaders Conference in Seoul on May 19. He also attended the first India-ROK CEOs Forum and held individual meetings with some of the top Korean business leaders. He visited the urban renewal project on Cheonggyecheon Stream, a modern public recreation space in Seoul created from what was once a dirty stream and is now a model for similar projects around the world. He also visited Hyundai Heavy Industries Headquarters in Ulsan, which is one of the largest shipyards in the world.



## Visit of Shri Yashwant Sinha, former External Affairs Minister and Finance Minister of India to Kazakhstan

H.E. Shri Yashwant Sinha, Former External Affairs Minister and Finance Minister of the Republic of India visited Astana from May 20-22, 2015 for attending the Astana Economic Forum. He spoke at the Plenary Session on "Economic, Financial & Monetary Shifts in the Global Economy" on May 21.

On the sidelines of the Forum, Shri Sinha met H.E. Mr. Karim Massimov, Prime Minister of Kazakhstan on May 22 and H.E. Mr. Yerbolat Dosayev, Minister of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan on May 21. He attended the dinner hosted by Prime Minister Massimov on May 21 and the plenary session on 'Infrastructure - Driver of Sustainable Economic Growth' addressed by President Nazarbayev on May 22.

Shri Sinha delivered a lecture on 'Global Economic Trends' at Kazakhstan Humanities and Law University (KAZGUU), Astana on May 22, which was attended by about seventy students and faculty of the university. The lecture was followed by a brief question-answer session.

Among his other engagements, Shri Sinha visited Baiterek tower, a monument that has come to symbolize the city of Astana.



## VISIT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE DELEGATION TO KAZAKHSTAN FROM MAY 18-24, 2015

A delegation of 18 officers led by Lieutenant General NS Ghei, AVSM\*\*, Commandant, National Defence College (NDC) and comprising one Lieutenant General and 16 officers of the rank of Brigadier General and equivalent visited Kazakhstan from May 18-24, 2015. The delegation included one officer each from Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam. The visit was part of a study tour undertaken by NDC students every year for gaining a closer understanding of the socio-political, economic, foreign policy and security issues of important countries in India's neighbourhood.

The delegation had an interactive session with Ambassador Harsh K. Jain, who briefed them on the broad contours of India-Kazakhstan relations. The delegation visited National Defence University (NDU), Astana and Ministry of Defence, Republic of Kazakhstan, where the delegation interacted with Major General Askhat Ryspayev, Commandant NDU and Major General Mukhtarov Talgat Sabitovich, Deputy Minister of Defence and other senior officials of the Ministry of Defence of Kazakhstan. The delegation also visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and met with H.E. Mr. Askar Mussinov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan.

During their visit to Almaty, they visited the "Partnership for Peace" Training Centre (KAZCENT) and Military Institute of Land Forces. They interacted with Mr. Tlek-kabul Ramazanov, Vice Rector of Research Innovation Affairs and faculty of International Relations at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty. The delegation also visited S.M. Kirov Machine Building Plant JSC at Almaty and some prominent places of cultural and historical importance in Astana and Almaty such as ALZHIR Museum, National Museum of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Bayterek, Central State Museum of Kazakhstan, Museum of Kazakh National Musical Instruments, Park of 28 Panfilov and Zenkov Cathedral. The delegation left for Paris on 24 May 2015 for the second leg of their study tour.



## Embassy participates in International Day function at QSI School, Astana

Embassy of India participated in the International Day function at QSI, School Astana on May 22, 2015. An Indian stall showcasing Indian products and publicity material and demonstration of yoga by Yoga Teacher of Indian Cultural Centre, Astana added Indian flavour to the function.



### Ambassador's meetings with Minister of Culture and Sports, Chairman of Temir Zholy, Chairman of the Committee on Investments and Deputy Chairman of KazKosmos

Ambassador Shri Harsh Jain met H.E. Mr. Muhamediuly Arystanbek, Minister of Culture and Sports of Kazakhstan on May 25 and discussed bilateral cooperation in the field of culture and sports between the two countries. Ambassador briefed the Minister on the preparations for the celebration of the first international day of yoga on June 21, 2015. He invited him as the chief guest on the occasion of special yoga session in the morning of June 21, which H.E. Mr. Muhamediuly Arystanbek kindly accepted and assured the Ambassador of his Ministry's support to the event.

Ambassador Jain met Mr. Askar Mamin, Chairman, JSC Kazakhstan Temir Zholy on May 23 regarding the latter's forthcoming visit to India.

He met Mr. Yerlan Khairov, Chairman of the Committee on Investments to discuss bilateral cooperation in trade-economic and investment spheres as also the forthcoming visit of H.E. Mr. Asset Issekeshov, Minister of Investments and Development of Kazakhstan to India.

Ambassador met Mr. Shaimagambetov Yerkin, Deputy Chairman of KazKosmos on May 22 and discussed the possibility of furthering cooperation between the space agencies of the two countries.



### Government relaxes FDI norms for overseas Indians

The Government of India on May 21 approved certain amendments to the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy to make investments by overseas Indians into the country easier and simpler. Investment by overseas Indians under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) will now be treated as a domestic investment at par with investments made by residents. Overseas Indians for the purpose will comprise Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) and Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs). The amendment is expected to result in greater inflow of remittances and investments into the country.

### India emerges as 2nd biggest shareholder in Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

India has emerged as the second biggest stakeholder in the 57-nation Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank after a meeting of its chief negotiators in Singapore on May 23. While the China's share in the bank will be 30.85 per cent, India will follow with a share of 10.85 percent. The shares of other countries such as Indonesia, Germany and South Korea will range between 3.93 percent and 3.99 percent. India is expected to allocate nearly \$11 billion towards the share capital of the \$100 billion bank, which will fund infrastructure projects across the world.

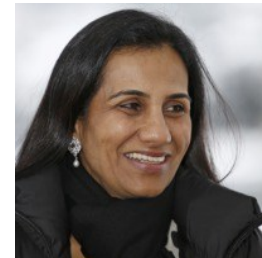
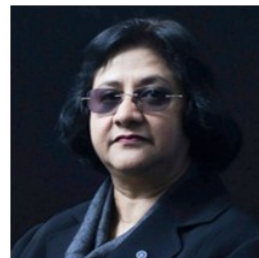


### India's GDP grew by 7.3% in FY 2014-15

According to the data released by Central Statistical Office on May 29, the Indian economy grew by 7.3 percent in FY 2014-15. Gross value added (GVA) for manufacturing sector grew by 7.1% compared to 5.3% in the previous year. Financial services reported 11.5% growth while trade and hotels segment was up by 10.7%. Agriculture and mining sectors grew by 0.2% and 2.4% respectively. The figures for the last quarter of FY 2014-15 (January-March 2015) were even more impressive with GDP registering a growth of 7.5 percent and manufacturing picking up substantially (8.4%).

### Four Indians among Forbes list of world's 100 most powerful women

State Bank of India chief Arundhati Bhattacharya, ICICI bank head Chanda Kochhar, Biocon founder Kiran Mazumdar Shaw and Hindustan Times Media chairperson Shobhana Bhartia figure in the Forbes's 12th annual list of the world's 100 most influential women. Two women of Indian-origin PepsiCo Chief Indra Nooyi and Cisco Chief Technology and Strategy Officer Padmasree Warrior have also made to the list.



## VIII Astana Economic Forum (May 21-22, 2015)

The VIII Astana Economic Forum (AEF) was held in Astana on May 21-22, 2015. The theme for this year's Forum was "Infrastructure - the Driver of Sustainable Economic Growth".

The forum was attended by political leaders, Nobel laureates, representatives of International Financial Institutions, members of diplomatic corps, businessmen and special invitees. President Nazarbayev, Prime Minister Karim Massimov, Mr. Xavier Bettel, Prime Minister of Luxembourg, Ms. Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator, Mr. Alfred Gusenbauer, former Chancellor of Austria, Mr. Shaukat Aziz, former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Romano Prodi, former Prime Minister of Italy, Mr. Aleksander Kwasniewski, former President of Poland, Mr. Yashwant Sinha, former External Affairs Minister and Finance Minister of India, Mr. Jose Graziano Da Silva, Director General of Food and Agricultural Organizations and Nobel laureate Finn Kydland were among the prominent participants at the forum.

In his address at the Forum on May 22, President Nazarbayev proposed creation of a multimodal Eurasian transcontinental corridor connecting China & Europe through the territory of Kazakhstan, which could provide free transit of goods from Asia to Europe. He also proposed creation of a new economic integration organization in Eurasia - a United Eurasian Economic Space, which could be a permanent platform for discussing the proposals for further economic development of the continent.

He informed that Kazakhstan would complete the construction of the Kazakh section of the highway connecting "Western Europe to Western China" within this year. He added that Kazakhstan was involved in construction of several railway and road projects which give it access to the Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran route, the Persian Gulf port of Bandar Abbas, Gulf countries, west coast of India and South Pakistan. He added that all these projects were aimed at increasing the transit potential of the country and of the entire EEU.

President Nazarbayev informed that the infrastructure being developed for "Expo-2017" would be used for creation of an international financial center in Astana based on Dubai model and hoped that it would become the main financial hub of the Central Asian region in the future.

He said that in response to the global economic crisis, Kazakhstan has embarked on a comprehensive state programs of industrial-innovative development and 'Nurly Zhol'- 'the Shiny Path to the Future' under which a new economy and a new infrastructure framework is being built in the country.

He recalled the five institutional reforms unveiled by him during election campaign and said that the implementation of the same has already begun with the publication of "100 Concrete Steps—Modern State for All".



### 100 Concrete Steps for Implementing Five Institutional Reforms published

Government of Kazakhstan published a document on May 20 elaborating the 100 Concrete Steps for implementing five institutional reforms. The document lays down a roadmap for bringing about radical changes in Kazakh society and the State. The concrete steps are basically shorter and more precise measures for implementing the institutional reforms for strengthening professional state apparatus, the rule of law, expanding industrialization and economic growth, looking into identity and unity aspects and forming an accountable government.

## Incredible India Destination "Mysore"

Located at the base of the Chamundi Hills about 150 km southwest of the state capital, Bengaluru, Mysore (also known as Mysuru) is the third largest city in the southern state of Karnataka. Mysore was the capital city of the Princely Kingdom of Mysore during the reign of Wodeyar dynasty for nearly six centuries till the independence of India in 1947. The Wodeyars were the patrons of art and culture, which contributed significantly to the cultural growth of the city.

Mysore is famous for its magnificent palaces, yoga related health tourism, silk sarees and the festivities that take place during Dasara festival when the city receives a large number of domestic as well as foreign tourists. Mysore Palace is one of the most visited monuments in India. The Jayalakshmi Vilas and Lalitha Mahal are also well-known palaces.

A short distance from Mysore city are Brindavana gardens, which are well-known for musical fountain show held every evening. The adjacent Krishnaraja Sagar dam, an example of excellent engineering is also a prominent tourist attraction.

Among the other popular recreational destinations, Mysore has Sand Sculpture Museum, Mysore Zoo, Regional Museum of Natural History, Folklore Museum, Railway Museum and the Oriental Research Institute. When in Mysore, one can also visit Shravanabelagola, world's largest monolithic stone statue of Bahubali or Gommateshwara (dating 978-993 AD), an important Jain pilgrimage centre, which is located at a distance of 84 kms. from Mysore. Chandragupta Maurya, first historical emperor to unify most of Greater India into one State, meditated here after he became a Jain monk and died in 298 BC.

For wildlife enthusiasts, the popular destinations near Mysore include Nagarhole National Park, the wildlife sanctuaries at Melkote and BR Hills and the bird sanctuaries at Ranganathittu and Kokrebellur. Karanji and Kukkarahalli lakes are also located here.



## PHOTO FEATURE

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### VISIT OF NDC DELEGATION TO KAZAKHSTAN (18-24 MAY, 2015)



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