

सत्यमेव जयते
Embassy of India
ASTANA

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Embassy of India ASTANA NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 12

August 1, 2015

Prime Minister of Kazakhstan visits India

Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Mr. Karim Massimov halted in India on his way to Malaysia on 28th July, 2015. He visited Taj Mahal, Agra. During the visit, he also held business meetings.

Mr. Karim Massimov has been the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan since January, 2007 except for a short period from September, 2012 to April, 2014, during which he was Head of the Presidential Administration of Kazakhstan.



Historic Enclave Swap Between India and Bangladesh

At the stroke of midnight on 31st July, 2015, all 14,214 people living in 51 Bangladeshi enclaves in India became Indian citizens. It is an independence that came late, but arrived nonetheless. At the same time, 111 Indian enclaves in Bangladesh merged with that country. Out of 37,000 people living there, 979 opted to move to India.

The swapping of enclaves took place in accordance with the steps agreed to between India and Bangladesh during Prime Minister Narendra

Modi's visit to Bangladesh on June 6-7, 2015 pursuant to the 1974 Land Boundary Agreement and 2011 Protocol, instruments of ratification of which were exchanged during the visit. Following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit, Office of the Registrar General of India, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and district authorities of the concerned districts worked systematically and in a coordinated fashion to ascertain the nationality options of the enclave residents. The actual option taking exercise in the enclaves in India and Bangladesh was carried out by 75 teams from July 6-16, 2015. 30 observers from both the governments were also present in the enclaves during the survey. Data from this joint exercise is being verified by the Office of Registrar General of India and the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

After successfully completing the exercise of ascertaining the nationality options of enclave residents, ground was prepared for the movement of those residents who exercised the option of moving from an Indian enclave to the Indian mainland. Both the governments are working closely together to facilitate trouble-free movement of these residents before the stipulated date of November 30, 2015.

July 31, 2015 is a historic day for both India and Bangladesh. The day marks the resolution of a complex issue that has lingered since independence. It also marks the day from which enclave residents on both sides of the border will enjoy the benefits of nationality of India or Bangladesh, as the case may be, and thus have access to civic services, education, healthcare and other facilities provided by the two governments to their respective nationals.

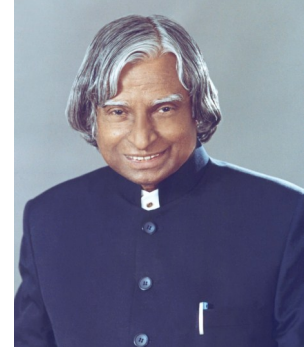


The tricolor flies high amid scenes of joy and hope in Cooch Behar after exchange of enclaves.

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, former President of India, Passes Away on July 27, 2015

Dr. Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam, 11th President of India from 2002 to 2007, passed away on 27th July, 2015 at the age of 83. As a mark of respect to the departed dignitary, government of India observed state mourning from July 27 to August 2, 2015. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, and thousands of others attended the last rites of former President at his hometown, Rameswaram.

President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee expressed heartfelt condolences over demise of Dr. Kalam. He said, "the passing away of former President of India, Bharat Ratna Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam is a deep personal loss for me. I will always cherish my long association with him. As President of India, Dr. Kalam was immensely popular and greatly admired. His warmth, humility and simple ways endeared him to one and all. He had a special love for children and sought to constantly inspire the youth of our country through motivational speeches and personal interaction. In his passing away, we have lost a great son of India who dedicated his entire life for the welfare of the motherland and its people".



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi condoled Dr. Kalam's death stating "Dr. Kalam had been a leadinglight who will always be remembered for his services to the country. He was a great scientist who contributed immensely in the field of science and technology as well as space. I have lost a marg darshark. He was a source of inspiration for the whole country, particularly the youth. Even in his last days, he remained connected".

Dr. Kalam was adored and admired across the masses in India. He went on to become a statesman from a scientist and used his imagination and powerful words to inspire an entire country of over a billion people. Those who met him were captivated by his engaging personality and those who saw or heard him on television or radio imbibed every word as inspirational mantra.

Dr. Kalam's illustrious life had humble beginnings in a coastal village in Tamil Nadu's Rameswaram. He was born on 15th October, 1931. His father operated a ferry service and as a boy, Dr. Kalam had to support his studies by earning money as a newspaper vendor. He studied aeronautical engineering at the Madras Institute of Technology in 1960 after graduating in physics from St. Joseph's College in Tiruchirappalli.

Dr. Kalam joined the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) as Scientist. After his transfer to Indian Space Research Organization in 1969, Dr. Kalam became project director of India's first indigenous Satellite Launch Vehicle, SLV-III. It successfully injected the Rohini satellite in the near earth orbit in July, 1980 and made India an exclusive member of the Space Club. Dr. Kalam, popularly known as Missile Man of India, developed and operationalized the AGNI and PRITHVI missiles as Chief of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme during the 1980s and the 1990s. Dr. Kalam worked as the Scientific Advisor to the Defence Minister and Secretary of the DRDO from 1992 to 1999. He played a pivotal role in India's Pokharan-II nuclear tests in 1998.

His transition from scientist to statesman took place on 25th of July, 2002 when he was sworn in as the 11th President of India. He began a term which made him the most popular President to date. His simple living, untiring enthusiasm for duty to the nation and above all, his undying belief in the great possibilities for India earned him the sobriquet "people's President".

He penned ten books, but also took out time to mingle with children. The children simply loved him because he became one among them, a man with long grey hair but playful, bright eyes and words that set their imagination on fire. In his autobiography, 'Wings of Fire', Dr. Kalam wrote, "we are all born with a divine fire in us. Our efforts should be to give wings to this fire and fill the world with the glow of its goodness".

He was bestowed with numerous awards and honours from India and abroad. In recognition of his contribution to scientific research and modernization of defence technology in India, he was awarded the India's highest civilian honour, Bharat Ratna, in 1997. His life is a lesson in itself for those who feel daunted by adversity and challenges. All of us can draw inspiration from his words : "Dream is not that which you see while sleeping, it is something that does not let you sleep".



Kazakhstan Joins WTO

President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev and Director General of WTO, Roberto Azevedo, signed the protocol on Kazakhstan's joining the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva on July 27, 2015. The occasion came after nearly two decades of extensive negotiations. President Nazarbayev described the signing as a "historic event".

According to the WTO, "the package agreed with Kazakhstan is a high quality one, which makes a valuable contribution to enhancing access to markets and upgrading terms of multilateral trade systems, thereby strengthening the WTO".



In his speech at the WTO, President Nazarbayev noted the significance of Kazakhstan's accession to the WTO to achieve the goals set in the long-term development strategy "Kazakhstan-2050" as well as to develop foreign trade and expand cooperation with foreign investors. He informed that Kazakhstan has been adjusting its economic policies for a long time. He expressed readiness for constructive cooperation with Kazakhstan's international partners within the framework of the WTO and Kazakhstan's commitment to build a world class and diversified economy.

Kazakhstan's agreements with WTO include lowering tariffs on goods to an average of 6.1 per cent (tariffs on agricultural products at 7.6% and 5.9% for non-agricultural products) and freezing of export duties for 370 tariff lines out of which 55 will be frozen at 0%. Kazakhstan will also be bound by the list of commitments of the Russian Federation on export duties as and when a common Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) policy on export duties is implemented. Kazakh Vice Minister of Agriculture stated, "we have plans to increase the state support which won't affect Kazakhstan's accession into the WTO in any way, because we are within the set limits".

The Minister for Economic Integration Ms. Zhanar Aitzhanova, who led the accession talks at WTO, underlined the continuation of the policy of liberalization and reforms, especially in the telecommunications sector where caps on foreign investment will be removed.

Kazakhstan has to review and ratify the documents agreed in Geneva before 31 October, 2015. After ratification, the WTO will formally allow Kazakhstan into WTO, which is expected by December, 2015.

Executive Chairman of Kaznex Invest visits India

Mr. Borisbiy Zhangurazov, Executive Chairman, Kaznex Invest visited India on July 28-31 to discuss implementation of the RoadMap signed during the visit of Prime Minister of India to Kazakhstan on July 7-8. During his visit, he had meetings with representatives of several Indian companies.

Mr. Zhangurazov also met FICCI officials. Kaznex Invest and Sonalika Tractors, India signed an MoU for purchase and possible production of agricultural machinery including tractors in Kazakhstan during his visit.



Indian students win one silver and three bronze medals in International Olympiad in Informatics

An Indian team consisting of four students participated in 27th International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI) held in Almaty from 26th July to 2nd August, 2015. Ms. Malvika Raj Joshi won a silver medal and Mr. Arjun Pitchanathan, Mr. Kushagra Juneja and Mr. Tanay Nilesh Kothari won bronze medals.

The International Olympiad in Informatics is organized annually for secondary school students from across the globe. A maximum of four participants are allowed from each country. The annual event that began in 1989 is one of the most prestigious computer science competitions in the world. 322 contestants from 83 countries participated in the competition this year. The competition spread over two days, tests the student's skills in computer programming and the underlying mathematics.



Participation of Kazakh Professional in ITEC Course

Ms. Aigul Tulegenova, an employee of national company Kazakhstan Temir Zholy as Software Engineer was selected for the course "Certificate of Proficiency in English Communication and Web Designing" conducted by APTECH, New Delhi from 20.8.2015 to 25.11.2015, under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC). Mr. Ram Kumar, Second Secretary(PPS) handed over the air tickets to Ms.Aigul Tulegenova for her travel to India.



Work on India-Bangladesh Rail Link Progresses

The government of India has approved Rs. 1000 crore for a 15-km India-Bangladesh railway project connecting Agartala in India to Akhaura in Bangladesh. Five km link falls in Indian territory and the rest in Bangladesh. The new railway connectivity between India and Bangladesh will boost socio-economic, trade and business ties between the two countries. The 1,650-km distance between Agartala and Kolkata would be reduced to 515 km once the rail track is constructed through Bangladesh. The project has gained momentum after it was discussed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bangladesh on June 6-7, 2015.

Indian Space Odyssey : After Mars Mission, ISRO Looks Beyond

Buoyed by the success of its low cost maiden mission to Mars, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is busy working on a number of new launches and missions. This includes a second mission to Moon, a Sun mission, an Astrosat mission, SAARC satellite and possible new missions to Mars, Venus and an asteroid.

The second mission to Moon planned for 2017-18, intends to expand India's scientific knowledge and upgrade its technological capability. Unlike India's first mission to the Moon which only had an orbiter, Chandrayaan- 2 will have an orbiter, lander and rover to perform mineralogical and elemental studies of the lunar surface.



The Astrosat mission aims to establish an astronomical observatory in space, a sort of 'mini' Hubble. The Sun mission would study the solar dynamics in the chromosphere and the corona. The SAARC satellite, expected to be launched before December 2016, will help foster ties with neighbouring countries.

ISRO has also taken up development of a new generation launch vehicle named GSLV Mk-III, with capability to launch up to 4 ton class of satellites to Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO). As part of the development, an experimental flight of GSLV Mk-III with passive cryogenic stage was successfully launched on 18th December 2014 to validate the critical atmospheric regime of the flight. The endurance hot test of high thrust indigenous cryogenic engine of GSLV Mk III has been successfully conducted for duration of 800 seconds on 16th July, 2015. The actual launch of GSLV Mk-III is slated for 2016. This will make the country self-reliant in launching heavier satellites.

Ambassador visits Tamgaly Tas and Charyn Canyon

There are several archeological and petroglyph sites in Kazakhstan which provide valuable information about the spread of Buddhism in the region. The most startling discovery was that of images of Buddhas and Bodhisattvas carved in deep relief on a major rock face overlooking the Ili River at Tamgaly-Tas. Tamgaly Tas is located about 60 kms north of Almaty on way to Bakanas. It is about 20-25 kms from Kapshagai.

Ambassador visited Tamgaly Tas on July 20, 2015. The rock engravings are located on the bank of Ili river near one of the main river crossings and a prominent halting place on the ancient nomad's route. There are three Buddha images engraved on the main rock and another Buddha image on an adjacent boulder. The three engravings on the main rock represent Buddha Sakyamuni, Bhodhisattva Avalokitesvara and Bhaisjyaguru (Buddha of Healing).

In the first engraving, the right hand of Buddha Sakyamuni touches the earth, described to summon the goddess earth to witness his supreme enlightenment. In the central image, Avalokitesvara, the Bodhisattva of Compassion sits in a Buddha-like posture with his front pair of hands joined in devotional mudra, upper hand holds a rosary and the left hand a lotus flower.

The third image is that of Bhaisjyaguru, venerated as the Healing Buddha. Buddhist Mantra, ཨོཾ་མ་ཎི་པདྨེ་ཧུམ་ , "Om Mani Padme Hum" is engraved on the bottom part of the main rock. The recital and repetition of this mystic formula is believed by Buddhists to subdue evil, ensure longevity and obtain temporal blessings. The Buddha figure on the adjacent boulder represents Buddha Nageshvararaja.

There is a cluster of rocks short distant away, where there are several popular Buddhist mantras, including "Om Mani Padme Hum" with an image that has been identified by some researchers as that of Buddha Akshobyi.

Ambassador visited Charyn Canyon on July 19, 2015. The Charyn (Sharyn) river has carved 150 to 300 meters deep Canyon into the otherwise flat land. A part of the Canyon is known as the Valley of Castles for its unusual rock formations. The Valley is about 2 kms long and 20 to 80 meters wide. It is located about 200 kms east of Almaty and is part of Charyn National Park.



Incredible India

Destination : Andaman and Nicobar Islands

The Andaman and Nicobar (A & N) Islands float in splendid isolation in the Bay of Bengal in the east of Indian Mainland. A paragon of beauty, these islands present a landscape of scenic and picturesque extravaganza, shimmering like emeralds in the Bay of Bengal.

Once a hill range extending from Myanmar to Indonesia, these picturesque undulating islands, islets numbering around 556, are covered with dense damp and evergreen forests and endless varieties of exotic flora and fauna. Most of these islands are in the Andaman Group, 24 of which are inhabited. In the Nicobar Group, 13 islands are inhabited. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are separated by the Ten Degree Channel, which is 150 kms wide.

The A & N Islands have been declared as two of the 218 endemic bird area of the world. As many as 280 species and sub-species of birds exist in these islands, 105 of them being endemic. There are about 96 Wildlife Sanctuaries, nine National Parks and one Biosphere Reserve in the islands.

The Islands have a tropical climate. The south-west monsoon sets in A & N islands towards end of May and the north-east monsoon in November. There is no fury of hot summer, no chilling winter, no water clogging, or traffic jams. For those who want to enjoy boating, swimming, snorkeling and sightseeing, all 12 months are a season. Season for nature lovers is May to December, when forest is lush green and water falls are at their prime. Divers can enjoy the best during December to April and bird watchers during winter times.

Port Blair, the capital of the Union Territory of the A & N Islands, is located on the east coast of the South Andaman Island. It is the gateway to the pristine islands. In Port Blair, the main places to visit are the Mahatma Gandhi National Park, Andaman Water Sports Complex, Chatham Saw Mill, Mini Zoo, Corbyn's Cove, Chidiya Tapu, Wandoor Beach, Forest Museum, Anthropological Museum, Fisheries Museum, Naval Museum, Ross Island and Viper Island. Other places of tourist interest in Andaman and Nicobar Islands include Havelock Island famous for Radha Nagar Beach, Neil Island for scuba diving and snorkelling, Cinque Island, Saddle Peak, Mt. Harriet and Mud Volcano.

One can reach A & N Islands from mainland India by air or sea. There are daily direct flights to Port Blair from Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata. There are also flights from Bhubaneswar on certain days. Ships sail from Chennai, Vishakapatnam and Kolkata. There are three-four sailings a month and the ship voyage takes 50-60 hrs.



Port Blair



Beach activities at North Bay



Scuba Diving



Neil Island



Radha Nagar Beach

PHOTO FEATURE

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Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Mr. Karim
Massimov at Taj Mahal on July 28, 2015



Logo approved for 3rd India-Africa
Forum Summit, New Delhi,
October 26-29, 2015

Petroglyphs at Tangaly Tas, Kazakhstan



Charyn Canyon, Kazakhstan



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