

सत्यमेव जयते

## Embassy of India ASTANA

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# Embassy of India ASTANA NEWSLETTER

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## India Celebrates 69th Independence Day on August 15, 2015

India celebrated its 69th Independence Day on 15th August, 2015 with fervor and enthusiasm. Indian community spread across the globe participated in the celebrations.

In his address on the eve of Independence Day, President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee extended warm greetings to all Indians. He acknowledged democracy as the most precious gift of Indian Constitution, which reshaped our ancient values into a modern context and institutionalized multiple freedoms. He cautioned that this finest inheritance needs constant care for preservation. Expressing disappointment at the way the Parliament has been functioning of late, he called upon the political parties to take corrective measures.

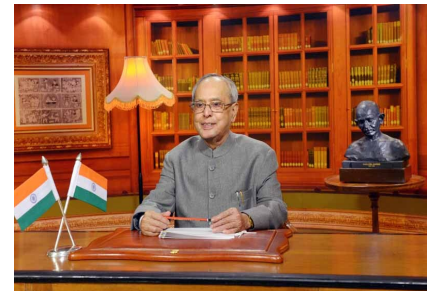
He hailed the commendable performance of Indian economy during the last decade. He stressed that our policies must be geared to meet the 'Zero Hunger' challenge in a foreseeable future. He recalled the ancient Indian education system of guru-shishya parampara where the guru moulded the destiny of a shishya and the student acknowledged the debt of the teacher with devotion and humility. He asked students, teachers and the authorities to introspect on today's reality and emphasized that a nation which forgets the idealism of its past loses something vital for its future. He urged people to guard against the vested interests chipping away social harmony in an attempt to erode many centuries of secularism.

Recognizing the shared destiny of Indian sub-continent, he said that we must strengthen connectivity, expand institutional capacity and enhance mutual trust to further regional cooperation. He expressed happiness at the resolution of long pending land boundary issue with Bangladesh. Talking tough on terror, he said that neighbours must ensure that their territory is not used by forces inimical to India. Infiltration into our territory and attempts to create mayhem will be dealt with a strong hand, he added.

He noted that India is a complex country of 1.3 billion people, 122 languages, 1600 dialects and 7 religions and its strength lies in its unique capacity to blend apparent contradictions into positive affirmations.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi unfurled Indian tricolor at the Red Fort in New Delhi on 15th August, 2015, and delivered his second Independence Day speech. He gave a broad overview of achievements of India over the last 15 months. He said that the unity, simplicity and brotherhood of all Indians is the strength of the nation, and casteism and communalism have no place in our society.

Prime Minister explained how various initiatives of the government have resulted in good governance. In this context, he highlighted the recent auctions of coal, spectrum and FM radio licences in a



President addresses the Nation



Prime Minister unfurls the National Flag



Prime Minister addresses the Nation

transparent manner. He mentioned the PAHAL scheme, by which the subsidy on purchase of LPG cylinders is directly credited into the bank accounts of intended beneficiaries, which resulted in savings of Rs. 15,000 crore. He said that the government was focusing on raising farm productivity and providing electricity and irrigation to farmers. He mentioned that Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, a scheme to achieve convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level, expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on-farm water use efficiency, enhance adoption of precision-irrigation, etc, had been launched with an outlay of Rs. 50,000 crore.

He expressed satisfaction that some of the resolves made in his last year's independence day address have been fulfilled. He said financial inclusion had received a big boost with the opening of 170 million bank accounts through Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana. He said that Rs. 20,000 crore deposited in the Jan Dhan accounts reflected the "richness of India's poor". The Prime Minister announced the "Start-Up India" initiative, which would encourage entrepreneurship among the youth of India. He said that the government had resolved to connect with electricity all the 18,500 villages, which still remain without power within next 1000 days. He highlighted the resolve of 125 crore Indians, as "Team India", to make India a developed nation by 2022, the 75th anniversary of independence.

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## Indian Independence Day Celebrations in Kazakhstan

Embassy of India, Astana celebrated the 69th Independence Day of India on 15th August, 2015 with great fervor and enthusiasm. Ambassador Shri Harsh K. Jain unfurled the national flag at the Embassy Residence in Astana and Shri Naveen Kapur, Second Secretary unfurled the national flag at the Representative Office of India in Almaty.

Indian nationals, Persons of Indian Origin and Friends of India participated in the celebrations. The unfurling of the national flag was followed by national anthem and reading of President of India's address to the nation on the eve of Independence Day. Ambassador interacted with the guests following the flag hoisting ceremony in Astana.




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## State Visit of President of Mozambique to India

President of the Republic of Mozambique, Mr. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, paid a state visit to India from August 4-8, 2015. He was accompanied by a high power delegation including four senior Ministers and three Members of Parliament. President of India hosted banquet in honour of the visiting dignitary.

President Nyusi held bilateral talks with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. A Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of new and renewable energy was signed during the visit. They discussed specific projects undertaken by Indian companies in Mozambique in gas, railways and coal and the ways and means of enhancing the cooperation in these fields in the long run. Prime Minister also discussed the possibilities of India and Mozambique cooperating in Ocean Economy. India offered to send a delegation to work with Mozambique to identify specific areas for cooperation.



President Nyusi's visit included a trip to the state of Gujarat. During the trip, he visited Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad, where he had attended a four-month Management Development Course in 2003. He also visited Anand, known as the milk capital of India, and the Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University near the state capital, Gandhinagar.

India and Mozambique have traditionally enjoyed close and friendly relations anchored in shared political values of the struggle against colonialism, mutually beneficial cultural and commercial exchanges and extensive people to people contacts for hundreds of years. 20,000 people of Indian origin in Mozambique are an important link between the two countries. It is a coal-rich country and has recently discovered a large amount of gas. It is a large country with relatively small population. Mozambique hosts nearly 25% of Indian investments in Africa. India is an important destination for Mozambicans for higher educational and high quality healthcare facilities.

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## Kyrgyzstan enters Eurasian Economic Union

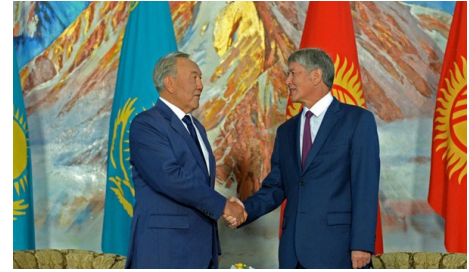
Kyrgyzstan entered Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) as its fifth member with President of Kazakhstan Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev signing the Kazakh law ratifying Kyrgyzstan's accession into the EAEU on August 5, 2015.

President Nazarbayev paid a working visit to Kyrgyzstan on August 11-12, 2015 and along with President of Kyrgyzstan, witnessed *via* a live video link the removal of customs controls on seven road and one railway check points on the Kazakh-Kyrgyz border from their meeting place in Cholpon-Ata on Lake Issyk-Kul on August 12.

Speaking on the occasion, President Nazarbayev stressed the importance of integrating Kyrgyzstan into EAEU underlining that it meets the interests of Kazakhstan and will further expand economic cooperation between the two nations. He said that it would create new business opportunities for the two countries and would revive mutual trade. In turn, Kyrgyz President expressed confidence that the joint operations within the EAEU framework would further strengthen bilateral relations. He added that there should not be any boundaries between the two brotherly nations in the future.

During their bilateral meeting, both the leaders focused on a number of substantive issues of cooperation in areas of investment and industry, road construction, tourism and the use of resources of trans-border rivers. President Nazarbayev supported the initiative for construction of a new road linking Almaty in Kazakhstan and Issyk-Kul in Kyrgyzstan. The new road, expected to be completed by 2017, will halve the distance between Almaty and Issyk-Kul and will increase tourist arrivals to Issyk-Kul from Almaty.

Russia and Belarus had already ratified the agreement on Kyrgyzstan's accession to the EAEU. The removal of customs control is one of the key components of the Treaty on the EAEU, which envisages freedom of movement of goods, services, capital and workforce within the union.



## Trans-Caspian Rail Route Launched

Trans-Caspian rail route was launched at Alyat, a new Azerbaijani seaport on the Caspian sea on August 3, 2015. The route stretches from Shikhezi in China to Alyat seaport ending in Kishly, a suburb of Baku, *via* Dostyk and Aktau in Kazakhstan. It involves transportation of entire train across the Caspian Sea by ferry. Mr. Askar Mamin, President of Kazakhstan Temir Zholy participated in the event along with Azerbaijani Deputy Prime Minister, Vice Minister of Transport and Azerbaijan Railway Chairman. They met at Nomad Express Train that covered 3500 kms from Shikhezi to Alyat in five days delivering caustic soda to Azerbaijan. The transport route was created under Kazakhstan's Nurlu Zhol new economic policy and China's New Silk Way Programme.



The route provides opportunity for transportation of goods between Asia and Europe. Mr. Askar Mamin remarked that the trans-Caspian route has great development potential making Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan a bridge between Asia and Europe. He mentioned about the proposal to launch a container train from China to Istanbul through Azerbaijan and Georgia before the end of this year. In his address, Azerbaijan Railway Chairman stated that the rail route would contribute to an increase in cargo transport to the Caucasus States, Turkey and Europe.

The locomotive of the Nomad Express train was produced in Astana and supplied under a financial leasing agreement and funded by Kazakhstan Development Bank under export support policy provided under the Nurlu Zhol programme.

## Disaster Relief Support to Myanmar in Response to Flood Emergency

India swiftly airlifted emergency relief supplies to Myanmar in the wake of Cyclone Komen, which affected 12 Regions and States of Myanmar.

The cyclone caused widespread floods and landslides. President of Myanmar declared Chin and Rakhine States, and Magway and Sagaing Regions as 'natural disaster zones requiring emergency assistance on 31st July, 2015. Government of Myanmar specifically requested Government of India to send emergency supplies of rice and medicines by air to locations that were hard to reach through other means.



## Sundar Pichai named Google CEO

India-born Sundar Pichai was named Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of tech giant, Google. He was company's Vice President and was directly responsible for the company's core products viz., Google Search, Android, Chrome, Infrastructure, Commerce, Maps, Google Apps and enterprise solutions. He is the latest to join the elite club of Indian executives heading global technology companies.

Sundar Pichai, 43, was born in Chennai and graduated from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur before doing Masters from Stanford University and MBA from Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He is married to Anjali Pichai from Kota in Rajasthan, who graduated in Chemical Engineering from IIT, Kharagpur.



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi congratulated Sundar Pichai on his appointment as the CEO of Google.

## Cochin Becomes World's First Solar Power-Run Airport

India's Cochin International Airport in the State of Kerala has become the first airport in the world to run fully on solar power. A solar power project commissioned in the airport this week is estimated to generate about 50,000 units of electricity a day. This coupled with an existing solar plant commissioned in 2013 will be sufficient to meet all the power requirements of the airport.

Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) expects generation of more solar power than what is required for the airport. Excess power generated would be sold to Kerala State Electricity Board. The CIAL Director, Shri A.C.K. Nair said that turning to green energy would mean cutting carbon dioxide emission from coal-powered power plants by 3 lakh tonnes over next 25 years. The CIAL has adorned many firsts in its cap like being the pioneer in public-private-partnership model in the country in building an airport to introducing a path-breaking rehabilitation package for evictees.



## PAHAL enters Guinness Book of World Records

Government of India's PAHAL Scheme has been acknowledged by the Guinness Book of World Records for being the largest cash transfer programme (households) in the world.

Under the PAHAL-Direct Benefits Transfer for LPG (DBTL) Consumers Scheme, consumers buy the LPG cylinders at market price and the subsidy given by the government as per their entitlement of subsidized LPG cylinders is directly credited into their bank accounts. It replaced the previous system of selling subsidized LPG cylinders to all the consumers. This scheme ensures that the subsidy reaches only the intended beneficiaries, as a result of which sale of subsidized LPG cylinders has reduced by 25% causing considerable savings to the government.

The government of India launched the PAHAL (DBTL) Scheme in 54 districts of the country on 15th November, 2014 and in the remaining districts of the country on 1st January, 2015. 139 million LPG consumers joined the PAHAL

Scheme as on 13th August, 2015. In order to benefit the poor, PAHAL (DBTL) Scheme is accompanied by a 'Give it up' campaign requesting people to voluntarily give up their LPG subsidy, if they can afford to do so. In response, about 2.3 million LPG consumers have voluntarily given up their LPG subsidy so far.



## Saina Nehwal Wins World Badminton Championship Silver Medal

World No.2 shuttler Saina Nehwal won silver medal in World Badminton Championship held in Jakarta on 16th August, 2015. Olympic bronze medalist, Saina, defeated Indonesia's Lindaweni Fanetri in a women's single semi-final on 15th August, 2015 and became the first Indian to enter the final of the World Badminton Championships.

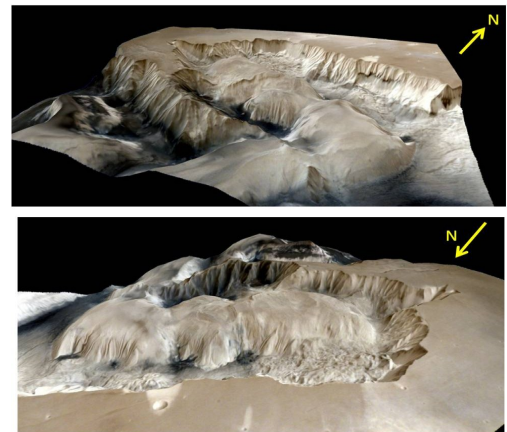
Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi congratulated Saina Nehwal saying "A Silver at the World Badminton Championships is a momentous feat. Congratulations to Ms. Saina Nehwal. Her accomplishments truly inspire".



## India's Mars Orbiter Sends Home Stunning Pictures of Grand Canyon of Mars

Mangalyaan, India's Mars Orbiter, captured a close look at the Ophir Chasma, part of a canyon on Mars surface. The word Chasma has been designated by International Astronomical Union to refer to an elongate, steep-sided depression. Ophir Chasma is part of the largest canyon in the solar system known as Valles Marineris. The walls of the Chasma contain many layers and the floors contain large deposits of layered materials. NASA has called Valles Marineris "the Grand Canyon of Mars". The Canyon is 62 km wide depression bordered by high cliffs. Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has posted on its website a 3D-Visualisation of the Canyon to get an understanding of the vastness of Valles Marineris.

ISRO launched Mangalyaan into space on 5th November, 2013. It entered Mars orbit in September, 2014 making India the first country to successfully undertake a mission to Mars in its maiden attempt. The Mission costed US\$ 74 million. ISRO is now setting its sights on developing and launching Mangalyaan 2 between 2018 and 2020.



## Wholesale Inflation Falls to Historic Low of (-)4.05%

India's wholesale inflation fell to a historic low of (-) 4.05% in July, 2015 owing to fall in prices of vegetable and fuel. The wholesale price index-based inflation (WPI) has been in the negative since November, 2014. The retail inflation based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) also fell to a multi-year low of 3.78% in July, 2015 on account of cheaper food prices, fruits and cereals. As the inflation is under control, Indian businesses are hopeful that Reserve Bank of India would reduce interest rates in its next monetary policy review to boost economic growth in the country.

### RELIEF FOR POLICYMAKERS

**July 2015**

- Wholesale prices plunged for the ninth consecutive month in July on the back of a decline in food and fuel prices
- India Inc stepped up its call for a reduction in interest rates by Reserve Bank, citing sharp decline in both wholesale as well as retail inflation data

Wholesale prices in %

Food Articles	%
Cereals	-1.6
Rice	-2.9
Wheat	1.9
Pulses	35.8
Vegetables	-24.5
Potato	-49.3
Fruits	-4.5
Milk	5.3
Overall	-4.1

## OIFC's India Connect Programmes and Initiatives

Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has set up Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC) in partnership with Confederation of Indian Industry to strengthen economic engagement with Non-Resident Indians (NRI) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIO). The OIFC has a panel of knowledge experts, each specialized in different domains, to help Indians staying abroad make their investment with safety and profitability. Each investor will be given customized professional support irrespective of the size of investment. The details of the initiatives launched by the OIFC are available at the website : [www.oifc.in](http://www.oifc.in)



## Incredible India Destination : Ajanta and Ellora Caves

The rock-cut caves at Ajanta and Ellora in the state of Maharashtra are world famous and illustrate the degree of skill and artistry that Indian craftsmen had achieved several hundred years ago. Ajanta dates from 100 B.C., while Ellora is younger by 600 years. Both are UNESCO World Heritage Sites and protected monuments under Archaeological Survey of India.

In Ajanta, there are 30 caves in a mammoth horseshoe-formed rock overlooking a gorge. The caves have been carved out of solid rock with little more than a hammer and chisel and the faith and inspiration of Buddhism over a span of 600 years. Many of the caves have the most exquisite detailed carvings on the walls, pillars and entrances as well as magnificent wall paintings. The paintings and sculptures on Buddha's life belong to the more mellow and ritualistic Mahayana Buddhism period. They provide a panorama of life in ancient India and are a source of all kinds of information such as hairstyles, ornaments, textiles, musical instruments, architecture, customs, etc. A particular style was formed from this collection of classical Indian art and it travelled with Buddhism to many parts of the world. Similar paintings can be seen in Sigiriya in Sri Lanka, Bamiyan in Afghanistan, temples and shrines in China, Nepal and Japan.

At Ellora, there are cave temples and monasteries excavated out of the vertical face of an escarpment. Extending in a linear arrangement, 34 caves contain Buddhist, Hindu and Jain temples. Ellora represents the epitome of Indian rock-cut architecture. The magnificent Kailasa temple in cave No.16 is the largest monolithic structure in the world. Jaina caves reveal specific dimensions of Jain philosophy and tradition and present exceptionally detailed art work.

Ajanta caves are located at 106 kms from Aurangabad and Ellora at 30 kms from Aurangabad. Aurangabad is directly air-linked to Mumbai, Delhi, Jaipur and Udaipur. Train and bus services are also available from Mumbai.

Within 100 kms from Ellora is the abode of one of Maharashtra's most revered saint, Sai Baba of Shirdi. Popularly known as the child of God, Sai Baba preached tolerance towards all religions and the message of universal brotherhood.



## PHOTO FEATURE

### 69th Independence Day Celebrations in India



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### 69th Independence Day Celebrations in Astana



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