

सत्यमेव जयते

Embassy of India ASTANA

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Embassy of India ASTANA NEWSLETTER

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Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Visits UAE

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid an official visit to United Arab Emirates on August 16-17, 2015. He met His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of UAE Armed Forces. He also met His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai.

India is UAE's second largest trading partner and UAE India's third largest trading partner. Indian community of 2.5 million is a major part of UAE's vibrant society and its economic success.

The two sides agreed to elevate the India-UAE relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership. They agreed to denounce and oppose terrorism in all forms and manifestations calling on all states to reject and abandon the use of terrorism against other countries, dismantle terrorist infrastructure and bring perpetrators of terrorism to justice. They vowed to strengthen cooperation in various fields such as trade, education, energy, space, peaceful use of nuclear energy, counter terrorism operations, maritime security, cyber security, law enforcement, anti-money laundering, drug trafficking and other transnational crimes. They agreed to cooperate in manufacture of defence equipments in India and establish a strategic security dialogue between the two governments. The two leaders also agreed to facilitate participation of Indian companies in infrastructure development in UAE and encourage the investment institutions of UAE to raise their investments in India including through establishment of UAE-India infrastructure Investment Fund for US\$ 75 billion.

At the dinner hosted by His Highness Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Managing Director of Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, Prime Minister briefed his UAE interlocutors on his vision of development for India. He informed them about Make in India initiative, energy implications of establishing 100 smart cities, upgrading railway and mainstreaming industrial corridors.

Prime Minister Modi visited Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi and Masdar, a zero carbon city. His visit to Masdar city, a hub of cleantech and S&T innovation, assumed great significance because India is pursuing an ambitious programme of having 175 giga watts of solar and wind energy by 2022. At Masdar city, he had a high-powered meeting with UAE businesspersons representing virtually all sectors of UAE economy. He urged the businesspersons to look at India as a long term investment destination. He outlined the particular sectors in which investment from UAE would have a significant edge.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also visited ICAD residential city in Abu Dhabi and interacted with Indian workers. A longstanding wish of the Indian community to have a temple in Abu Dhabi was fulfilled with the announcement by the government of UAE to allot land for the purpose during the visit. He addressed Indian diaspora at Dubai International Cricket Stadium on August 17 where about 50,000 members of Indian community were present.



Prime Minister meets Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi



PM with VP and PM of UAE and Ruler of Dubai

President of Seychelles Visits India

Mr. James Alix Michel, President of Seychelles paid a state visit to India on August 25-27, 2015. The visit followed Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's landmark visit to Seychelles in March, 2015. President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee received the visiting dignitary and hosted a banquet in his honour on 26th August, 2015. He lauded President Michel for the impressive progress made by Seychelles under his stewardship. He said that economic reforms, and expansion and diversification of the economy along with his simultaneous focus on social welfare have shown splendid results. Seychelles now stands among the countries recognized by the World Bank as High Income Group countries and is ranked by UNDP as a country with the third highest Human Development Index in Africa in the year 2014.



Prime Minister Modi hailed President Michel as a strong global voice on climate change, especially for small island countries. He said that good progress had been made on the implementation of decisions taken during his visit to Seychelles in March. President Michel's visit to India imparted additional momentum to bilateral relations. He announced that aircraft, naval vessels and coastal radar systems would be provided to Seychelles for strengthening surveillance capability. He said that the bilateral agreement on cooperation in blue economy is a huge step forward in the relationship between two countries. The two countries look forward to cooperation in space, management of land and marine resources, fisheries, weather forecasting and disaster management. President Michel said that vibrant Indian community, which constitutes 11% of total population, in Seychelles is a catalyst in bolstering strategic partnership and our convergent bilateral interests. He said that Seychelles is willing to be a partner in the maritime security cooperation with India and is pleased to have India as a partner in the development of blue economy. He appreciated India's all kinds of support to Seychelles.

In presence of Prime Minister Modi and President Michel, five agreements were signed on 26th August on 'Air services', 'Exchange of information on taxes', 'Providing one Dornier Maritime Aircraft to Seychelles', 'Cooperation in the field of blue economy' and 'Cooperation on agricultural research and education'.

India Hosts 2nd FIPIC Summit

The Second Summit of the Forum for India Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) was held at New Delhi and Jaipur on August 19-21, 2015. The FIPIC comprising 14 Pacific Island nations was formed and its first summit was held during Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit to Fiji in November last year with the objective to strengthen and deepen the partnership in the development efforts of Pacific Island countries by sharing experience and expertise as well as intellectual, financial and technological resources.



President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee received the Heads of States/ Governments participating in the FIPIC Summit on August 20, 2015. He said that India proposed to enhance engagement with Pacific island countries in the sectors

where mutual interests merge such as human resource development, capacity building, health care, renewable energy, adaptation measures for disaster management and infrastructure management. He said that India desires to share its knowledge and expertise in the fields of IT, health, solar energy, disaster mitigation and management, agriculture and natural gas exploration with the countries where they can be adopted for sustainable development.

In his remarks at the summit held in Jaipur, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said that the initiatives announced in the last summit had been implemented such as increasing India's annual grant-in-aid to Pacific island countries from US\$ 125,000 to US\$ 200,000, e-tourist visas, deputation of Indian experts in the area of coir industry and special training programme for their diplomats. He stated that as climate change is a pressing concern for all, India has set a target of additional capacity of 175 GW of renewable energy by 2022. He said that India would establish an Institute for Sustainable Coastal and Ocean Research and a Space Technology Application Centre in the region. Indian navy would extend direct support and capacity building especially for coastal surveillance and hydrographic surveys. He announced enhancement of slots to the region under Government of India's ITEC and Scholarship Programmes. At least one Information Technology laboratory will be established in each Pacific island country. To promote trade and investment opportunities, FIPIC Trade Office will be established in FICCI, New Delhi. Support would be extended for development of micro, small and medium enterprises. He conveyed India's readiness to set up a pharmaceutical manufacturing plant and distribution centre in the Pacific island region and offered a line of credit for this project. Prime Minister announced that visas would be issued gratis to the nationals of Pacific island countries.

Attorney General of India visits Kazakhstan to attend the 13th Meeting of Prosecutors Generals of SCO

Mr. Mukul Rohatgi, Attorney General of India, accompanied by Mr. P. S. Patwalia, Additional Solicitor General, visited Kazakhstan to participate in the 13th meeting of Prosecutors Generals of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) held in Astana on August 26-28, 2015. He also held bilateral meetings with Kazakh Prosecutor General Mr. Askhat Daulbayev, Chairman of Kazakh Supreme Court Mr. Kairat Mami, Armenian Prosecutor General Mr. G. Kostanyan, Russian Prosecutor General Mr. Yuri Chayka and Afghan Prosecutor General Mr. Noor Habib Jalal.



The meetings of Prosecutors Generals of SCO focused on fight against corruption, terrorism, extremism, trafficking of drugs and psychotropic substances, human trafficking and illegal migration. The participants noted that manifestations of terrorism and extremism acquired an international character and affect all states regardless of their military and economic power. A protocol was signed on strengthening cooperation on mutual legal assistance, exchange of experience and countering transnational threats.

President of Kazakhstan Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev met the heads of delegations on 27th August, 2015 and discussed key aspects of the rule of law, security and stability in the region. He underscored the importance of developing effective joint steps in the fight against terrorism and extremism and other forms of transnational crimes.

Mr. Rapol Zhoshybayev, First Deputy Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan visits India

Mr. Rapol Zhoshybayev, First Deputy Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan and Commissioner of Astana EXPO 2017, visited India on August 17-19, 2015.

Mr. Zhoshybayev met Secretary (MER) in the Ministry of External Affairs and discussed bilateral cooperation and India's participation in the Astana EXPO 2017. Secretary (MER) assured him that India would be well represented in the exhibition. On his part, Mr. Zhoshybayev agreed to allot additional 1000 sq. m. of space to India at the EXPO 2017. He also met Commerce Secretary, Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism and President of Indian Trade Promotion Organisation and discussed cooperation in the development of tourism, liberalization of visa regime, introducing direct flights between New Delhi and Astana and organizing Indian Culture Days in Kazakhstan coinciding with Astana EXPO 2017. A Memorandum for Cooperation in the field of tourism was signed between JSC Astana EXPO-2017 and Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO). Mr. Zhoshybayev also visited technology parks and scientific institutions in Bangalore, known as the silicon valley of India.



Kazakhstan Moves to Free Floating Exchange Regime

Kazakhstan Tenge, the Kazakh currency, plunged to 255.26 from 188 a US Dollar on August 20, 2015 when Kazakhstan introduced a monetary policy based on inflation targeting and moved from exchange rate corridor to free floating exchange rate.

Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Mr. Karim Masimov explained that fundamental negative changes in the global economy warrant a new monetary policy to maintain balance between economic growth and price stability. The exchange rate will be based on market supply and demand taking into account the fundamental internal and external macro economic factors. He said that the new monetary policy would contribute to strategic objectives of the economic policy such as achieving long term sustainable growth of domestic economy, low inflation, increasing employment and improving welfare of the population.

Major changes in the global economic situation, particularly the economic conditions of Kazakhstan's main trading partners—Russia and China - and low prices of Kazakhstan's export products warranted a change in the monetary policy. Oil, gas and metals constitute 75% of entire export of the country and its exports in the first half of the year slumped by 73%.



Agreement on IAEA Low Enriched Uranium Bank

Kazakhstan and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) signed an agreement in Astana on 27th August, 2015 to set up the IAEA Low Enriched Uranium Bank (LEU) at the Ulba Metallurgical Plant in Oskemen, Kazakhstan. The Bank will be operated by Kazakhstan and will serve a physical reserve of LEU, basic ingredient of nuclear fuel, for eligible IAEA member states. After signing the Agreement with Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan Mr. Erlan Idrissov, Director General of IAEA Mr. Yukiya Amano said, "as the world's largest uranium producer with expertise in peaceful nuclear technology, Kazakhstan is well suited to hosting the IAEA LEU Bank".



The IAEA LEU Bank will have a reserve of up to 90 metric tonnes of LEU and will be subject to IAEA safeguards. The establishment of the Bank is funded through US\$ 150 million of voluntary contributions from The Nuclear Threat Initiative, USA, European Union, UAE, Kuwait, Norway and Kazakhstan. The IAEA LEU bank is part of global efforts to create an assured supply of nuclear fuel to countries in case of disruptions in the open market or other existing supply arrangements.

Kazakhstan had offered to host the IAEA LEU Bank in response to the IAEA's request for expression of interest in July, 2011. Russia and IAEA have signed an agreement to allow transit of LEU and equipment to and from the IAEA LEU Bank through Russia.

Summer School Workshop on Manuscriptology and Codicology

The Institute of Oriental Studies, Almaty with support from Embassy of India in Astana organized a Summer School Workshop on Manuscriptology and Codicology in Almaty on August 24-26, 2015. The theme of the workshop was the study of manuscripts and inscriptions which are found in various parts of Kazakhstan and have left a significant imprint on the course of intraregional and world history.

Ambassador Shri Harsh K. Jain addressed the participants in which he stressed the centuries-long tradition of interactions between Central and South Asia, Kazakhstan and India and the importance of academic contacts and links. Prof. Kala Acharya, Director, K. J. Somaiya Bharatiya Sanskriti Peetham, Mumbai gave a lecture on 'Manifold dimensions of the Development of Sanskrit and Pali', in which she focused on the manifold dimensions of Sanskrit and Pali as contained in Vedic Sanskrit, Classical Sanskrit, Hybrid Sanskrit and Pali. Prof. Malhar Kulkarni, a Sanskrit Professor at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai gave a talk on 'Text, Transmission and Reconstruction with special reference to Sanskrit texts' and introduced to the audience the basic concepts of manuscriptology with a special reference to classical Sanskrit texts. Prof. Francis Richard, Scientific Director, University Library of Languages and Civilizations, Paris spoke about Codicology as an auxiliary science for historians. The lectures were followed by a Q & A Session. Certificates of participation were awarded to the speakers by Prof. Meruyert Abusseitova, Director, Information Center of Historical Materials, Institute of Oriental Studies, Almaty.



Kazakh Girl Receives Heart Transplant in India

The heart of a 12-year-old boy from the state of Kerala in India now beats in a 10-year-old Kazakh girl after successful heart transplantation conducted at Fortis Malar hospital, Chennai on 18th August, 2015.

Ms. Dilnas Isan, a 10-year old Kazakh girl, had been admitted in the Fortis Malar Hospital, Chennai for the last four months with cardiomyopathy, a condition in which the heart swells abnormally and becomes too weak to pump blood. Her heart was made to pump with supportive ingestible.

The parents of Master Adith Paulson, a 7th Standard Student, who met with a car accident at Thrissur in Kerala on 17th August, 2015, agreed to donate his heart to the Kazakh girl. The organ was removed at Medcity, Kochi by a team of doctors from Fortis Malar Hospital and airlifted to Chennai by a private aircraft. The heart was swiftly transported from Chennai airport to the hospital through a green corridor, a route specially created without red signals, and successfully transplanted in the girl.



Master Adith Paulson

Know India Tourist Seminars in Kazakhstan

Embassy of India in Astana and India Tourist Office, Frankfurt organized the "Know India Tourist Seminar" in Astana on 25th August, 2015 and Almaty on 26th August, 2015. About 50 major tour operators and travel agents in Astana and 30 tour operators and travel agents in Almaty attended the respective events.

Ambassador Shri Harsh K. Jain welcomed the participants and spoke about the vast tourism potential of India and growing cooperation between India and Kazakhstan in tourism sector. Shri Jitendra Jadhav, Assistant Director, India Tourist Office, Frankfurt made a detailed presentation on some of the major Indian tourist attractions. A lucky draw sponsored by Air Astana was held and the winners were provided with return air tickets to India. A cultural programme comprising Indian classical dance performance was organized at the events followed by sampling of Indian cuisine.



ISRO Launches GSLV-D6

Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) successfully launched GSLV-D6 (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle) on 27th August, 2015. GSLV-D6, equipped with indigenous Cryogenic Upper Stage (CUS), placed 2117-kg advanced communication satellite, GSAT-6, into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO). It was the fifth developmental flight of GSLV and the third to carry the indigenous CUS. The flight of 416 tonne, 49 m tall GSLV-D6 marks the second successful launch of indigenously developed cryogenic engine, the first being on 5th January, 2014.



One of the advanced features of GSAT-6 satellite is its S-Band unfurlable antenna of 6 m diameter. This is the largest satellite antenna realized by ISRO. The satellite provides communication through five spot beams in S-band and a national beam in C-band for strategic users.

Participation of Kazakh Professionals in ITEC Courses

Mr. Timur Sagatbekovich Zhussupov, Chief Specialist in the Hospital of Medical Centre of the Administration of the President's Affairs of Kazakhstan, was selected for the course "Management Development Programme on Operation, Maintenance and Repair of Bio-medical Equipment" conducted by Central Scientific Instruments Organization from 9.9.2015 to 3.11.2015 under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC). Ms. Zhansaya Berdenova, Treasury Accountant in Agip Caspian Sea B.V., was selected for "Certificate Course in Corporate Governance and Excellence in Management of Public Enterprises" conducted by International Management Institute from 7.9.2015 to 1.10.2015. Mr. Ram Kumar, Second Secretary(PPS) handed over the air tickets to the two candidates.



National Voters' Service Portal

Election Commission of India has launched 'National Voters' Service Portal' for online registration and other related services such as searching name, change in address and correcting entries on electoral roll. The portal can be used by Non-Resident Indians to enroll themselves and avail other related services. The portal can be accessed at www.nvsp.in.



New Pension Scheme for Non-Resident Indians

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority of India has announced New Pension Scheme (NPS) for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs). NRIs between the age of 18-60 are eligible to join the NPS. Contributions to the scheme can be made from NRE or NRO Account. The subscribers can choose the pension fund and investment choice depending upon their requirements. The contribution to the NPS is eligible for tax benefits under Sections 80 CCD(1) and 80 CCD 1(B). There is no restriction on repatriation of pension, whether annuity or lump-sum. More details are available at : <http://pfrda.org.in/WriteReadData/Links/NPS%20for%20NRIs%20-Presentation17fc71e-ccda-40a8-abf9-982a78fbf3e3.pdf>



Incredible India Destination : Hyderabad

Hyderabad is the capital of southern Indian state of Telangana. The city is a hub for film industry, world-class public and private hospitals, research institutions, information technology industry, and biotech and pharma industry. Hyderabad offers a variety of tourist attractions such as ancient monuments, gardens and resorts, lakes, parks, museums, delectable cuisine and an exciting shopping experience. Hyderabad claims to have the most delicious Biryani in India.

Charminar, a four-sided archway with four soaring minarets of 48.7 m, is a monument and mosque. The monument was built in 1591 to mark the end of a deadly epidemic raging at that time. The structure is famous for its profuse stucco decorations and arrangement of impressive balustrades and balconies.

Salar Jung Museum, situated close to the Musi river, houses the world's largest private collection of arts, artifacts and antiques by Mir Yousuf Ali Khan Salar Jung-III who served as Prime Minister to Nizam of Hyderabad. The museum is a royal treat for art collectors with its 43,000 art objects and 50,000 priceless books and manuscripts.

Birla Mandir, sparkling white structure visible through skyline of modern Hyderabad, was built with white marble in 1976. The temple located near Hussain Sagar Lake combines the architectural styles of Utkal (Oriya) and South India.

Nehru Zoological Park, considered to be among the best zoos in Asia, is home to more than 1500 species of birds, animals and reptiles. The best attraction of the zoo is lion safari. Lumbini Park, KBR National Park and Mrugavani National Park are other important parks in Hyderabad.

Hussainsagar Lake, excavated in 1562, makes tourists enjoy the cool breeze smoothly caressing their senses on a pleasant evening. The tank bund is dotted with elegant statues of eminent historic personalities. A monolithic statue of Buddha is an added attraction. Boating and water sports are a regular feature in the lake. Osmansagar lake and Shamirpet lake, located on the outskirts of Hyderabad, are also a major tourist attraction.

Golconda Fort, Qutub Shahi Tombs, Chowmohalla Palace, Taramati Baradari, Mecca Masjid, State Archaeological Museum, Nizam's Silver Jubilee Museum,HITEC city, Laad Bazaar and Birla Planetarium are other tourist attractions in the city.



Nehru Zoological Park



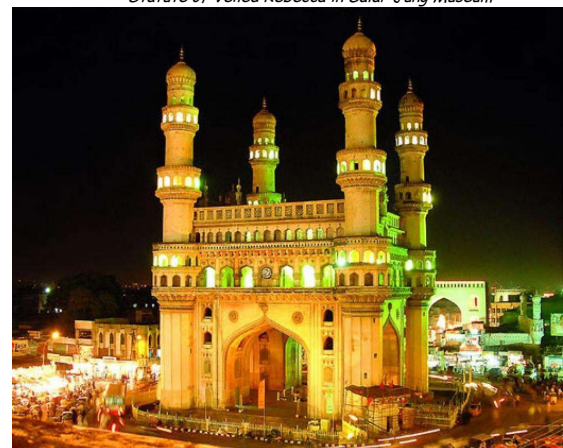
Birla Mandir



Statute of Veiled Rebecca in Salar Jung Museum



Hussainsagar Lake



Charminar

PHOTO FEATURE

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**Attorney General of India
meeting the Chairman of
Supreme Court of Kazakhstan
on 26th August, 2015**



**Summer School Workshop on
Manuscriptology and Codicology
at Almaty on
Aug 24-26, 2015**



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**Know India Tourist Seminars at Astana & Almaty
on 25th and 26th August, 2015**

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