

सत्यमेव जयते

Embassy of India
ASTANA

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Embassy of India ASTANA NEWSLETTER

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Prime Minister of India Visits United Kingdom

Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi visited United Kingdom from November 12-14, 2015. He met Prime Minister of UK Mr. David Cameron and also held delegation level meetings on 12th November. Their discussions covered wide range of issues including security, defence, cyber cooperation, technological and military-to-military cooperation, counter terrorism and climate change. On trade and economy, the leaders discussed possibilities for partnership in India's flagship initiatives like Make in India, Clean India, Smart Cities, Skills India and Digital India. Both sides expressed their desire to collaborate in leveraging the city of London as a global financial hub for raising infrastructure financing for India's ambitious infrastructure projects. They welcomed the launch of rupee-denominated bonds to be issued by leading Indian private sector players in London for the infrastructure projects in India. Both sides decided to set up a new India-UK fund under India's recently-launched National Infrastructure Investment Fund. Prime Minister Modi reaffirmed the government's strong commitment to continue the economic reforms to attract foreign direct investment and elaborated upon the government's recent significant liberalization initiatives.

In the joint press conference, Prime Minister Cameron said that India and UK were natural partners as the oldest and largest democracies. Prime Minister Modi said that it was a relationship of immense importance to India. He emphasized that the conclusion of civil nuclear agreement was a symbol of mutual trust and the resolve to combat climate change. He hoped that the agreement for cooperation in India's Global Centre for Clean Energy Partnerships would strengthen safety and security in the global nuclear industry. He announced that India would launch a new fast track mechanism for UK investments in India. He thanked Prime Minister Cameron for strong British support to India's permanent membership of UN Security Council and membership of international export control regimes.

Prime Minister Modi paid homage at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Parliament Square followed by his address to the joint session of parliament. In his address, he spoke about the close historical linkages between the two countries and cooperation on history, economy, education, defence, science and technology, etc. Expressing concern over terrorism and extremism, he emphasized that the world must speak in one voice and act in unison to combat the challenge and called for early adoption of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism in the United Nations. On climate change front, he said that those who have the means and know-how must help meet the universal aspiration of humanity for clean energy and a healthy environment. He stressed that a target of 175 GW of additional capacity in renewable energy by 2022 and reduction of 33-35% emission intensity by 2030 are just two of the steps of a comprehensive strategy adopted by India.



PM attends delegation level meeting



PM at Joint Press Conference



Paying of homage to Mahatma Gandhi



PM addresses in the Royal Gallery of the Houses of Parliament



UK-India CEO Forum

Prime Minister Modi addressed the business community of the city of London at Guildhall. He explained the results arising out of bringing the Indian economy back on track. He underlined the measures taken to address the long pending regulatory and taxation concerns. He said that India is now one of the most open countries for foreign investments. He noted that UK is the third largest foreign investor in India and India has emerged as the third largest source of FDI for UK. However, he stressed that there is significant potential for India and UK to further strengthen their economic ties.

Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Cameron attended the UK-India CEO Forum on 13th November. In his remarks, Prime Minister Cameron referred to the Prime Minister Modi's vision and intent for transformation of India. In his address, Prime Minister Modi said that economic ties are important elements of the relationship between the two countries. He referred to the government's recent initiatives such as Make in India, emphasis on infrastructure, opening up of FDI in various sectors and commitment towards 50 million new houses by 2022. He said that investment by British companies in India would be a win-win partnership for both countries. CEOs from both sides observed that present time represents a tidal wave of opportunity for investors in India.

Her Majesty the Queen hosted lunch for Prime Minister Modi. He gifted the Queen some photographs taken during her visit to India in January-February, 1961.

Prime Minister Modi addressed a massive gathering of British-Indian community at the Wembley Stadium in London in the presence of Prime Minister Cameron. He emphasized that India's immense diversity is its speciality, pride and strength. He informed that all major religions of the world are present in India in big numbers. He said that the Indian diaspora carries these values with them wherever they go and hence they are great ambassadors for India. Prime Minister Cameron said, "it won't be long before there is a British-Indian Prime Minister in 10, Downing Street", citing the contributions of British-Indians in various fields. He also announced a direct flight from London-Ahmedabad, which was well received by Indian community.

Prime Minister Modi unveiled a statue of Basaveshwara, a 12th century Indian scholar, at Lambeth in London on 14th November. Speaking at the event, he described Basaveshwara as a great philosopher and social reformer, who had fought against social evils of his time and worked for the strengthening of democracy at the grassroots. Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the Dr. Ambedkar Memorial at King Henry's Road in London. The house where Dr. B.R. Ambedkar lived while studying at the London School of Economics in 1921-22, was recently purchased by the government of the state of Maharashtra and was converted into the memorial.

Prime Minister Modi visited the Jaguar-Land Rover Manufacturing Unit at Solihull. Owned by India's Tata Group, it is UK's largest private sector employer.

Five outcome documents viz., Vision statement on UK-India summit 2015, Joint statement on UK-India summit 2015, Defence and international security partnership, India-UK joint statement on energy and climate change and Statement of intent on partnership for cooperation in third countries were finalized during the visit. The Civil nuclear agreement was also concluded. 28 business to business agreements amounting to over £ 9.2 billion were also signed during the visit.



Prime Minister meets Her Majesty The Queen



PM addresses Indian community at Wembley



PM unveils statue of Basaveshwara



PM inaugurates Dr. Ambedkar Memorial



PM visits Jaguar-Land Rover Manufacturing Unit

Participation of Kazakh Professionals in ITEC Courses

Ms. Gulnar Sarseke, Associate Professor at Kazakh Linguistic Department, L.N. Gumilov Eurasian National University, Astana and Ms. Perizat Karimova, Human Resources Administrator in Guest Office Kazakhstan LLP, Astana were selected for the course 'ITP on global human resource management' conducted by 'National Institute of Labour, Economic Research and Development, New Delhi' from 17.11.2015 to 28.12.2015 under the ITEC programme. Shri Ram Kumar, SS(ITEC) handed over air tickets to the two candidates for their travel to India. He also briefed them about the course and the city of New Delhi.



Vice President of India Visits Indonesia

Vice President of India Mr. Mohammad Hamid Ansari paid an official visit to Indonesia from November 1-4, 2015. He called on President of Indonesia Mr. Joko Widodo on 2nd November. He also met Vice President of Indonesia Mr. Jusuf Kalla. Vice President Mr. Kalla called for increasing the bilateral trade to US\$ 25 billion from the current level of US\$ 20 billion. Both sides agreed to invest in infrastructure sector in each other's countries. They also agreed that Joint Working Group on Coal may work out an arrangement for long term exports of coal from Indonesia. The discussions covered the proposal for provision of Electronic Voting Machines to Indonesia by India. Both sides agreed to revive biennial Trade Ministers' Forum, which has not met for a while. In the joint press conference, Vice President Ansari said that India and Indonesia are committed to increasing the bilateral trade and mutual investments as well as expanding cooperation in defence and counter terrorism.



Vice President calls on President of Indonesia



Vice President unveils bust of Mahatma Gandhi

Vice President Mr. Ansari addressed a public meeting in Jakarta on 2nd November. In his address, he emphasized that India's vast consumer market, youthful and skilled human resources and expertise in Information Technology coupled with Indonesia's natural resources, youthful population and strategic location would provide a platform for enhanced economic engagement.

Vice Presidents of India and Indonesia inaugurated India-Indonesia Business Forum Meeting on 3rd November. In his address, Vice President Mr. Ansari asserted that innovative spirit of Indian industry, backed by a strong government research and development push and a network of

quality educational institutions make India and the Indian companies the most promising business partners today. He emphasized that India launched its flagship programme of 'Make in India' for the ease of doing business through simplification of existing rules and regulations. He added that infrastructure development and energy security are key areas of cooperation for emerging economies like India and Indonesia.

His visit also included a trip to Bali. He unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi at Udayana University in Bali on 4th November. In his address in the University, he spoke about the historical, religious and cultural ties between India and Indonesia. He said that there is a strong potential for development of two-way tourism and a strong case for establishment of direct flights between the two countries. He recalled that one of the faculty members of the University Mr. Ibu Ni Wayan Gedong Oka, had promoted Gandhian philosophy and set up Gandhi ashrams in Bali and Java.

Two MoUs were signed on cooperation in new and renewable energy sector and cooperation in cultural field during the visit.

Vice President of China Visits India

Vice President of China Mr. Li Yuanchao visited India from November 3-7, 2015. He visited Ajanta Caves in Maharashtra on 4th November. He visited Jorasanko Thakur Bari, the ancestral home of Nobel Laureate Poet Rabindranath Tagore, in Kolkata on 5th November. He met Governor of West Bengal Mr. Keshari Nath Tripathi and Chief Minister of West Bengal Ms. Mamata Banerjee. The Chinese side evinced interest to set up an economic investment zone in the State of West Bengal. They also showed interest in investing in infrastructure development, tourism and auto hub in the State.



Vice President Mr. Li Yuanchao met Vice President of India Mr. Mohammad Hamid Ansari at New Delhi on 6th November. He lauded the dynamic leaderships of India and China and said that the combined GDP of US\$ 12 trillion made India and China cooperation a necessity. He also met Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi. Prime Minister warmly recalled the visit of President Xi Jinping to India last year and his own visit to China in May this year. He highlighted opportunities in Railways, Smart cities, Infrastructure and Urban transport for cooperation between India and China. Both agreed that peaceful, cooperative and stable relations between India and China are vital for regional and global peace and prosperity.

Vice President Mr. Li Yuanchao called on President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee. President Mukherjee said that India-China relations witnessed all round progress in recent years. He noted that India-China trade now stands at USD 70.59 billion and stressed that India welcomes Chinese companies to participate in 'Make in India'. Vice President Mr. Li Yuanchao warmly reciprocated the President's sentiments and said that closer ties between the two countries would not only benefit the both but also help usher in the Asian Century. He congratulated India for its rapid development and said that China is determined to promote cooperation in all fields.

Vice President Mr. Li addressed a meeting of Indian and Chinese entrepreneurs. He said that India and China promoted the development of Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor and welcomed India's participation in Chinese projects like the Belt and Road Initiative.

In presence of the Vice Presidents of India and China, two MOUs were signed on sharing of hydrological data of the Satluj river and organizing an exhibition of ancient Indian culture in China.

Launch of Yoga and Kathak Dance Classes at Nazarbayev University

Ambassador Shri Harsh Jain launched the yoga and kathak dance classes at Nazarbayev University, Astana on 6th November, 2015. In his address, Ambassador welcomed the guests and recalled the visit of Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi to Kazakhstan in July, 2015 and his address at the Nazarbayev University on his vision of India's relations with Central Asia. Ambassador informed that in their discussions, Prime Minister Modi and President of Kazakhstan Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev shared a keen desire to deepen cooperation in all areas that can bring people, especially the youth in closer contacts. He added that taking into account a keen interest in Indian culture, music and dance among the youth in Kazakhstan, Prime Minister Modi offered to support the establishment of a Centre for Indian Music and Dance at the Nazarbayev University. Ambassador expressed satisfaction on fulfilling the offer made by the



Prime Minister with the launch of yoga and kathak dance classes. He announced that three Yoga and two Kathak dance classes would be conducted every week and invited the students to take part in them. He gave a brief account of the benefits of Yoga, which is an ancient Indian practice and way of life. He also explained about the Indian classical dance, Kathak, which originated about 2500 years ago.

Ms. Kadisha Dairova, Vice President (Student Affairs and International Cooperation) of the University also spoke on the occasion. Dr. Brijesh Gupta, Yoga Instructor demonstrated some yoga postures, Ms. Chandrani Ojah, Kathak dance teacher performed a Kathak dance sequence and Mr. Bhaskar Ojah performed flute recital. Mr. Yelzhas Kemenov, Director (Sports Centre) of the University proposed vote of thanks.

Ambassador visits Aktobe

Ambassador Shri Harsh Jain visited Aktobe from November 7-8, 2015. He met Mayor of Aktobe Region Mr. Berdibek Saparbayev on 7th November. The Mayor informed Ambassador of the investment opportunities in the region, in particular, the Aktobe Industrial Zone. They discussed strengthening of cooperation between India and Aktobe region in economic and cultural fields. They noted that there is huge potential for enhancing the current economic cooperation. Their discussions also focused on cooperation in the fields of education, health and sports.



At the House of Assembly of People of Kazakhstan in Aktobe, a ceremony was held for awarding prizes to the winners of the painting competition 'the Bright Colours of India', jointly organized by Embassy of India, Institute of Oriental Studies in Almaty and Children's

Palace of Aktobe. Ambassador welcomed the guests and gave prizes to the winners of the painting competition under various categories. In his address, Ambassador spoke about the deep-rooted historical and cultural linkages between India and Kazakhstan from ancient times to the present. He mentioned about the regular cultural exchanges taking place between India and Aktobe region. He thanked the children from various schools in Aktobe region who participated in the competition and congratulated the winners. He appreciated that the paintings demonstrate the cross-cultural awareness, creative imagination and the high talent of the children of Aktobe. Mayor Mr. Berdibek Saparbayev also spoke on the occasion.

A cultural programme by the children of Aktobe was organized at the event. Dr. Brijesh Gupta, Yoga Instructor and Ms. Chandrani Ojah, Dance Teacher of Indian Culture Centre in Astana and Mr. Bhaskar Ojah, a flute exponent, attracted the audience with their scintillating performance. An exhibition of the paintings drawn by the children in the competition was also arranged at the event.

Ambassador visited Nazarbayev Intellectual School, K. Zhubanov Aktobe Regional State University, A. Moldagulova Memorial Museum and Children's Palace at Aktobe. He presented books on India to the School and the Children's Palace.

Centre for Indian Classical Dances, Almaty Wins International Competition

The Centre for Indian Classical Dances, Almaty participated in the 5th International Competition "Kaleidoscope Talents, Autumn - 2015" at Zywiec, Poland from November 4-8, 2015. The Grand Prix of the Competition was awarded to the Centre for winning four first prizes in their performance of Indian classical dance 'Bharatanatyam' and modern dance 'Bollywood style' under the categories of Adults and Children. Ms. Akmaral Kainazarova, Ms. Lyazzat Polatbek, Ms. Kundyz Abisheva and Ms. Aigerim Baibossynova won the prizes under the adult category and Ms. Aryana Beisebai, Ms. Adema Mashkeyeva and Ms. Nailya Iminova won under the children category.



APCRDA Delegation Visits Astana

A delegation led by Mr. Ajay Jain, Secretary, Municipal Administration and Urban Development, State Government of Andhra Pradesh, comprising 7 other officials and experts from the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) visited Astana from Nov 2 to 4 to study the best practices adopted by the Akimat of Astana (City Administration) in the development of Astana City.

The APCRDA has been tasked with the development and management of 'Amaravati' and directed to study the best examples of global cities reputed for features like Urban Planning, Architecture, and Master Plan etc. APCRDA has selected Astana City as one of the model cities for such a study.



The delegation had useful meetings with the city administrative authorities (Akimat of Astana) and other agencies responsible for implementing smart city projects. The delegation were briefed about master plan of Astana city, landscaping techniques, zoning patterns and architectural techniques. The experts from Astana Gen-Plan also explained urban concepts through architectural models and segmented urban maps of the city. Delegation had meetings with experts dealing with Astana's urban and civic legislations pertaining to construction activities, modes of city transportation, green projects and use of technology to provide civic amenities.

The delegation visited city's solid waste treatment plant and were briefed on Astana City's programme of modernization of solid waste management practices. They met officials from Astana Innovations and discussed key activity areas like implementation of "Smart Astana" concept, "Safe city" project, technological business incubation and development of 3D technologies potential in the capital.

Privatization Plan of Kazakhstan

In response to growing economic crisis, Kazakhstan is preparing to embark on an ambitious privatization plan that will oversee a full or partial privatization of government-owned entities in key industries - metallurgy, oil and gas, telecommunications, railways and aviation, to attract foreign investments. Mr. Umirzak Shukeyev, Chief Executive of Samruk-Kazyna, the national sovereign wealth fund, announced a privatization programme that would involve selling some of the most valuable 200 state-owned assets to foreign investors and auctioning of over 600 local government-owned entities to highest bidders.

This is the second stage of privatization in accordance with the previously approved privatization plan for 2014-16 by the Government of Kazakhstan. Samruk Kazyna announced that the privatization programme of 2015-16 will include public float of key state-owned companies in sectors such as electricity generation and distribution, oil production, telecommunication, railway transportation and uranium extraction. The government will also exit from 32 smaller companies through sale to strategic investors in an auction process. Shares of the Samruk-Energo (leading power producer), KTG Aimak and KTG Almaty (regional gas transportation companies), Trans-telecom (telecommunications operator) and KazTemirTrans (railway transportation company) will be listed for public offering in 2015.



In 2016, shares of the National Uranium Company Kazatomprom, National Railway Company Kazakhstan Temir Zholy, SKZ Kazatomprom (sulfuric acid plant), KazMunaiGas and KazTransGas (oil companies) are expected to be offered to public. Samruk Kazyna also mentioned that Kazakhstan's largest state companies would most likely seek stakes not less than 25% on the international stock markets. Vice-president of Kazakhstan Temir Zholy, the national rail company, said it was looking for international investors to run its passenger operations, including selling tickets and owning train carriages. Samruk Kazyna has issued a preliminary indicative list of state-owned enterprises. Local agencies have, however, informed that the process of listing of companies for privatization during 2015-16 is still underway and a final listing will be made public in the next couple of weeks.

Incredible India Destination : Kolkata

Kolkata, formerly called as Calcutta, was established in 1690 as the trading post for the English East India Company. It is now the capital of the eastern state of West Bengal and is the third most populated metropolitan in India. The city that once served as the showpiece capital of the British power in India is noteworthy for its colonial architecture.

Jorasanko Thakurbari is the ancestral home of Asia's first Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore. It was built by Prince Dwarkanath Tagore, the grandfather of Rabindranath Tagore, in 18th century. It has been converted into a museum and learning centre of dance, music and other arts. The museum contains various articles that depict and describe the life and times of the Tagores.

Victoria memorial is located on the banks of the river Hoogly. It is a fine specimen of Indo-Sarsenic architecture and Kolkata's most recognizable landmark. The foundation stone of this domed structure was laid by King George V, the then Prince of Wales in 1906. The museum houses an excellent collection of British royal family including paintings and manuscripts.

Indian museum, established in 1814, is one of the most visited museums in India. This eclectic museum is a treasure-trove of artefacts belonging to different periods of Indian history. Exhibits of the museum include the dinosaur skeleton and replica of the Barhut Stupa of 2nd century BC .

Marble Palace was built by Raja Rajendra Mullick in 1835. This landmark exudes an old-world charm with its marble walls, floors, antique collections, paintings, floor-to-ceiling mirrors and marble statues.

Birla temple is a more recent addition to the city's pilgrimage points. This temple in south Kolkata attracts all kinds of people, not just pilgrims, through its architectural splendor. Built of marble, this Lord Vishnu temple looks spectacular at night.

Race course located to the west of Victoria Memorial is regarded as one of the best in India. It was established in 1820. The racing seasons are from July to September and from November to March. Apart from races, the ground is used for playing polo.

Swamy Vivekananda's house, Botanical gardens, Eden gardens, Zoological gardens, Science city, Rabindra Sarobar lake, Nalban boating complex and numerous shopping centres are other tourist attractions in Kolkata.



Victoria Memorial



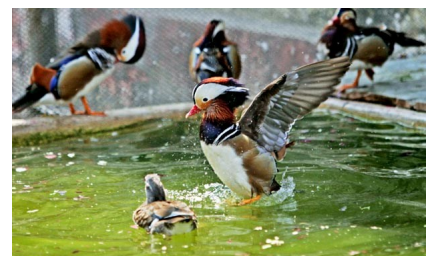
Indian Museum



Marble Palace



Birla Temple



Zoological Garden

REMNANTS OF RABINDRANATH'S LEGACY

The green marble floor of the corridor outside the Japanese gallery in Ram Bhawan of Jorasanko Thakurbari. Pictures by Sanjoy Ghosh

One of the many painted likenesses of Tagore, either drawn or sculpted, in the museum

Rabindranath Tagore's dining room with the furniture in no particular order. Chaitanyadeb Chattopadhyay's painting of a Bengali wedding is covered with cellophane

Chimery's portrait of Babu Nando Coomarlal Tagore with a ruffled garish blue velvet coat

Some of Vidyasagar's belongings relegated to a dusty corner of the Renaissance gallery on the second floor

A furniture dump overlooking Minakshi Deb's kitchen. A crude concrete head possibly of Abanindranath Tagore keeps watch

Jorasanko Thakurbari

PHOTO FEATURE

Inauguration of the Centre for Indian Music and Dance at Nazarbayev University, Astana on 6th November, 2015

6/1 Kabanbay Batyr Avenue,
5th floor, Kaskad Business
Centre, Astana.

Tel: (Code: + 7 7172) 925 700 /
701 / 702 / 703

Fax: (Code: + 7 7172) 925 715 /
925 717

E-mail: cons.astana@mea.gov.in



Centre for Indian Classical Dances, Almaty awarded prizes in 5th International Competition "Kaleidoscope Talents, Autumn-2015" held at Zywiec, Poland from November 4-8, 2015



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