

सत्यमेव जयते

## Embassy of India ASTANA

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# Embassy of India ASTANA NEWSLETTER

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## Prime Minister Modi Visits Russia

Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi paid an official visit to Russia on December 23-24, 2015 for the 16th India-Russia Annual Summit. Russia's President Mr. Vladimir Putin hosted Prime Minister for a tete-e-tete over dinner at the Kremlin on the evening of December 23.



Prime Minister meets President of Russia

Prime Minister Modi visited EMERCOM, Russia's National Crisis Management Centre on December 24. He was given an overview of the actual functioning and real-time monitoring operations of the Centre. Prime Minister took keen interest in the disaster prevention and response activities being coordinated by the Centre as well as its global outreach. EMERCOM is a multi level coordination centre designed to provide inter-agency coordination and alert people about the threat of emergency situations.



Prime Minister visits EMERCOM

Prime Minister laid wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier before meeting President Putin for the Summit. The leaders began the 16th Annual Summit with a restricted meeting followed by delegation level talks over a working lunch. The two leaders attended the India-Russia CEOs Forum. Prime Minister invited India's 'partner in security', Russia, to become 'partner in prosperity' too. He stated that Russia was a vital and long term partner not only in energy and mineral resources, but also in cutting edge technologies. President Putin said that high technology, innovation, energy, aircraft building, pharma and diamonds were promising areas for India-Russia cooperation. The two leaders agreed to institutionalize CEOs Forum with two annual meetings-one each in India and Russia.



Prime Minister attends Friends of India Event

In the joint press briefing, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi stated that he had great appreciation for India-Russia strategic partnership. He said that he sees Russia as a significant partner in India's economic transformation and in shaping a balanced and multi-polar world. He added that agreement on manufacture of Kamov 226 helicopter in India was the first project for a major defence platform under 'Make in India' mission. Referring to the progress made on a number of other defence proposals, he said that they would boost defence manufacturing in India and India's defence readiness with next generation equipment. Speaking about cooperation in the field of nuclear energy, he said that the two countries are making progress on the plans for twelve Russian nuclear reactors at two sites and agreement signed that day would increase Indian manufacturing content in those reactors. He mentioned that following their last summit, India created a special notified zone to facilitate direct trade between Russia, the world's largest uncut diamond exporter, and India, which processes 90 per cent of the world's uncut diamond. He said that India and Russia share the belief that the world must unite and take concerted action on combating terrorism without distinction and discrimination between terrorist groups and target countries.

Prime Minister Modi attended the Friends of India event, which featured performances of Indian art forms (classical and folk dances) by Russian artists. The event showcased the popularity of Indian cultural traditions in Russia and its importance of inter-cultural understanding. Prime Minister complimented the performers, especially, Sati Kazanova, a Muslim Russian Singer, who flawlessly chanted vedic mantras. He said that it is a matter of pride that many people in Russia express their fondness for India's cultural heritage.

Sixteen Agreements/MOUs were signed on simplification of requirements for mutual travels of certain categories of citizens of the two countries; mutual travel regime for holders of diplomatic and official passports; cooperation in the field of helicopter engineering; cooperation for combating customs violations; localization of manufacturing in India for Russian-designed Nuclear Reactor Units; technical cooperation in railways; construction of solar energy plants; development of Centre of Excellence for Heavy Engineering Design at Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC), India; upgradation and modernization of HEC's manufacturing facilities; cooperation in the field of broadcasting; investment cooperation in the Russian Far East; geologic survey; creation of joint venture in JSC VankorNeft; and cooperation on onshore geologic survey, exploration and production of hydrocarbons between Indian and Russian companies.

## Prime Minister of India Visits Afghanistan

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Afghanistan on December 25, 2015. He met President of Afghanistan Mr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani.

President Ghani and Prime Minister Modi jointly inaugurated the National Assembly Building constructed by India under India-Afghanistan Development Cooperation in Kabul. The leaders also unveiled "Atal Block" in the Parliament complex. Addressing the members of both the houses of Parliament in the newly inaugurated premises, Prime Minister Modi complimented the people of Afghanistan and their elected representatives on consolidation of democracy in the country. He thanked the government and the people of Afghanistan for the honour accorded to India for naming a block of the National Assembly Building after the former Prime Minister of India Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee.

He assured the government of Afghanistan of Indian assistance for a new Administrative Block of the National Assembly. He said that in the heart of every Indian and Afghan, there is boundless love for each other. He was delighted to mention that Afghan cricket team had found its home ground near Delhi and was practicing for next year's world cup. He announced 500 scholarships for the children of the martyrs of Afghan security forces in addition to the existing scheme of 1000 scholarships every year for Afghan students in India. He emphasized that as Afghans take responsibility for their future, the world must stand with them in solidarity and support and the promise and the opportunities of the 21st century belong to Afghan youth as much as anyone else in the world. He reaffirmed that India would always be with Afghanistan at every step of its journey to peace and prosperity.



*Prime Minister meets President of Afghanistan*



*Inauguration of Afghan Parliament Building*

In their meeting, Prime Minister Modi and President Ghani expressed their happiness that the India-Afghanistan relationship had blossomed in recent times with renewed vigour, vitality and a contemporary view. They discussed key aspects of utilization of India's pledged assistance of over US\$ 2 billion for development in Afghanistan. The two leaders welcomed the part played by over 100 completed and ongoing Small Development Projects (SDP) in creating community infrastructure at the local level. Prime Minister conveyed that the total SDP outlay was envisaged to grow to US\$ 200 million by 2020. Prime Minister assured that India would expeditiously supply 170,000 tones of wheat to meet Afghanistan's urgent needs. The two leaders decided that modalities for supply of 1000 new buses from India to Afghanistan would be developed. With regard to strengthening of Afghanistan's defensive capabilities, the two leaders pointed out that the Mi-25 helicopters provided by India and their maintenance facility would address an important requirement.

## Prime Minister of India Visits Pakistan

Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi visited Pakistan on his way back to New Delhi from Kabul on December 25. Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr. Nawaz Sharif warmly received him at the Lahore airport. Both the Prime Ministers flew together in a chopper to Raiwind, where wedding of Prime Minister Sharif's grand-daughter was being held. Amidst the celebrations, both the leaders discussed India-Pakistan relations. The two leaders expressed their desire to carry forward the dialogue process for larger good of peoples of the two countries and agreed to continue and enhance contacts and work together to establish good neighbourly relations.

After blessing the bride, Prime Minister Modi accompanied by Prime Minister Sharif departed from Raiwind. Prime Minister Sharif saw him off at the airport. The brief visit has given fresh impetus to the bilateral relations between the two countries.



## Kazakhstan Celebrates 24th Anniversary of its Independence

Kazakhstan celebrated 24th anniversary of its independence on 16th December, 2015. President of Kazakhstan Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev congratulated all Kazakh nationals on the nation's independence day. He emphasized that independence, sovereignty and freedom are the greatest values for each nation. He said that according to Science, every ethnic group in the world has at least one unique quality, which confirms that the population of Kazakhstan has 100 special and unique features. He called it an exclusive advantage to the country. He emphasized that each ethnic group in Kazakhstan is its asset and a treasure.



President Nazarbayev said that about 1.2 billion people live in different parts of the world affected by conflicts and instability and 42,000 people are forced to leave their homes every day in search of safety. He added that more than 13,000 terrorist attacks claimed the lives of 33,000 people. Against this background, he urged the people to value their lives under entirely different conditions—in peace and security, building sustainable and dynamic state. Speaking on the economy, President Nazarbayev said that despite the challenges posed by world economy, Kazakhstan retained the positive dynamics of growth of its economy. He spoke about the implementation of second five year plan of industrial development and the Nurlı Zhol programme. He mentioned that establishment of 120 new enterprises worth 800 billion Tenge, creation of 10,000 permanent jobs and allotment of apartments to young people and low-income families are some of the achievements made by the country in the year 2015. He also stated that Kazakhstan's accession to WTO, entry into the list of world's top 50 exporters and improvement in UN Human Development Index by 14 positions, and orbital space flight by a third Kazakh national and establishment of a low-enriched uranium bank in the country are some of the significant events which took place in the last one year.

President Nazarbayev presented awards to outstanding citizens in the fields of Art, Science, Sports, Politics and Military Service on the eve of independence day.

## President of India Congratulates Kazakhstan on its Independence Day

President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee congratulated Kazakhstan on the 24th anniversary of its independence on 16th December. In his congratulatory message to President Nazarbayev, President Mukherjee extended warm greetings and felicitations to him and the people of Kazakhstan on the occasion.



President Mukherjee expressed immense pleasure on the impressive progress made by Kazakhstan in all spheres in the last twenty four years under President Nazarbayev's leadership. He stated that the bilateral relations between the two countries have also progressed steadily during this period. He noted that the visit of the Prime Minister of India to Kazakhstan in July, 2015 has further deepened the strategic partnership and opened up new avenues for cooperation. He expressed confidence that the friendly relations between the two countries will continue to scale new heights in the future and contribute towards the further development and prosperity of our peoples.

He conveyed his best wishes for the personal well being of President Nazarbayev and for the progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Kazakhstan.

## Kazakhstan Jumps 14 Positions in UNDP Human Development Index

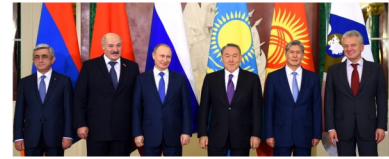
Kazakhstan jumped 14 places from its position last year to be ranked 56th out of 188 in the annual 2015 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report. The country was also placed this year in a group with a high Human Development Index (HDI). Kazakhstan's HDI has been steadily improving each year since 1990.

According to the report, Kazakhstan's life expectancy at birth is 69.4 years (66.5 years in 2014), gross national income per capita is US\$ 20,867 (US\$ 19,441 last year) and expected and mean years of schooling are 15 and 11 respectively. These are three basic dimensions of HDI—to lead a long and healthy life measured by life expectancy at birth, the ability to achieve a decent standard of living measured by gross national income per capita and the ability to acquire knowledge measured by expected and mean years of schooling.



## Kazakhstan Elected to EAEU Presidency

Kazakhstan was elected to chair the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) for the year 2016 in the meeting of Council of Heads of Member States of the EAEU held in Moscow on December 21, 2015. In his address, President of Kazakhstan Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev said that the year 2016 would be a difficult year due to instability in the global economic environment and hence, the member countries would have to work under special conditions. He reaffirmed that Kazakhstan would make all possible efforts for further dynamic development of the integration association and would work actively to deepen contacts with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which would expand the capabilities of the member countries and strengthen the EAEU. The meeting decided to begin the electronic declaration of goods transported within the EAEU in 2016. The leaders also discussed joint strategy under the new free trade zone between Ukraine and the European Union beginning January 1, 2016.



## Kazakhstan Voenni Kafedra Cadets Visit India

A nine-member delegation consisting of two officers and 7 cadets from Voenni Kafedra of Universities of Kazakhstan led by Colonel Sagat Mukushev, Head of Military Chair of Voenni Kafedra of Taraz State University, visited India from November 21 to December 4, 2015 under the Youth Exchange Programme between the National Cadet Corps (NCC) of India and Voenni Kafedra of Kazakhstan.

The cadets participated in a Desert Safari Camp organized by Deputy Director General of NCC at Jaisalmer in the State of Rajasthan from November 23-28, 2015. The cadets went on trips to the villages located near Jaisalmer by camel safari. They visited the historical



sites and monuments including Jain temples in Jaisalmer. They also participated in the cultural programme organized by the NCC. Then, the cadets went to Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan, where they visited monuments of historical and cultural importance. They further went to Agra in the State of Uttar Pradesh, where they visited Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri. The visit provided an opportunity to the young Kazakh cadets to enrich themselves with the knowledge of Indian History, Culture, Tradition and Modern-day life.

## Indian Embassy Participates in VI Investment Forum "Baikonur Invest"

The VI Investment Forum "Baikonur Invest" was organized at the city of Kyzylorda in Kyzylorda Region on December 14, 2015 to attract investments under Public Private Partnership model in various sectors such as healthcare, education, civil aviation and construction. Representatives of regional government agencies, national companies, international and local financial institutions, diplomatic representatives, construction companies, medical and educational institutions participated in the Forum.

Mayor of Kyzylorda Region Mr. Krymbek Kuserbayev said that the region's development over the next 10 years would be based on the strengths of the region such as mineral resources (zinc, vanadic ores, ferrous ores, vanadium, etc); production of construction materials viz., glass, cement, enrichment of quartz sand, limestone, dry construction mixes, foam-glass processing; agriculture and tourism. He emphasized that Kyzylorda region is leading the way in the diversification of the national economy stating that processing industry of Kyzylorda region registered a growth of 122.2% in the past 3 years contributing 13.5% to the region's GDP and industrial output grew by more than 400% in the same period. Mayor said that labour productivity, especially in processing industry, is targeted to double over the next 10 years. He assured that he would not cancel any of the projects planned under the country's investment and industrial development program and all projects would be implemented as planned.



Deputy Mayor of Kyzylorda Region Mr. Kenzhekanuly Ranuan underlined the importance of PPP projects saying that they are the driving force behind the development of the region in the last two years and pointed out that eight PPP investment projects amounting to US\$ 63.8 million are in progress and seven projects worth US\$ 23.3 million are being planned.

In the Forum, an Agreement was signed between National Chamber of Entrepreneurs "Atameken" and Akimat of the region on a pilot project "Microbusiness Kyzylorda" to help create new businesses and employment in rural regions of Kyzylorda province.

Mr.R. Gururaj, First Secretary(Commerce) at the Embassy of India in Astana attended the Forum.

## ISRO Launches Six Singaporean Satellites

Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)'s PSLV-C29 (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) successfully launched six satellites of Singapore from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota on 16th December, 2015. The PSLV-C29, standing 44.4 metres tall and weighing 227.6 ton, launched the six pay loads into a 549 km circular orbit inclined at an angle of 15 degrees to the equator. The satellites were launched into the low earth orbit for 'remote sensing' applications. The satellites launched are a 400-kg TeLEOS-1, Singapore's first commercial earth observatory satellite, and two micro satellites and three nano satellites. These satellites would help the city-state get information on disaster monitoring and urban planning.

This is the eleventh flight of PSLV in 'core-alone' configuration (without the use of solid strap-on motors). Besides launching the satellites, ISRO tested the rocket's fourth stage/engine's ability to restart after it was cut off around 17 minutes into the flight. The shut off and restart of the fourth stage engine was done as a first step towards launching multiple satellites in different orbits.

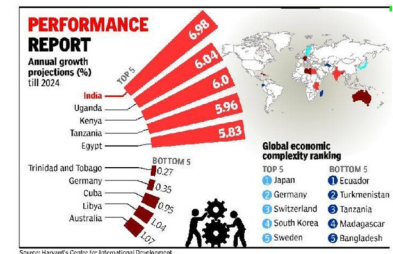
With this commercial launch, ISRO's PSLV has successfully put 57 foreign satellites into space so far. The achievement demonstrates India's increasing space capabilities.



## India likely to top World's Growth Chart : Harvard Study

An influential study by Harvard's Centre for International Development (CID) on the basis of 2014 trade data, the latest available, says that India would grow at 7% and has the potential to be the world's fastest growing economy over the next decade till 2024, far outpacing China that could slow to 4.3%. Helmed by Prof. Ricardo Hausmann who heads the CID and leads the research for the 'Atlas of Economic Complexity', the study presents an optimistic picture for India based on increasing sophistication of its industry, ability to adapt to changing global demand and variety in exports.

Prof. Hausmann says that India made important gains in productive capabilities allowing it to diversify its exports into more complex products including pharmaceuticals and even electronics. He notes that India's gains in complexity of its economy along with an ability to continue improving will drive higher incomes, which will position India to lead global economic growth over the coming decade.



## Launch of Multimedia Website by All India Radio

All India Radio launched a multimedia website <http://airworldservice.org/>. It is presently available in English, Hindi and Urdu languages. The content consists of rich bouquet of news, current affairs, programmes on culture, heritage, music, art, tourism, health care, issues relating to economy, investment, development, education, etc. The website has a blend of text, pictures, video and audio components, and features live streaming of radio programmes. It also has a segment on "Radio On Demand".

The External Services of All India Radio has been broadcasting in 27 languages (15 foreign and 12 Indian) reaching out to more than 140 countries through medium and short wave. The foreign languages are Arabic, Baluchi, Burmese, Chinese, Dari, French, Indonesian, Persian, Pushtu, Russian, Sinhala, Swahili, Thai, Tibetan and English (General Overseas Service) and the Indian languages are Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Nepali, Punjabi, Saraiki, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu. The broadcasts are aimed at Indians living abroad as well as others worldwide. The programmes of AIR have wide following as is evident from large number of letters and e-mails received by the different language services.

The External Services Division projects to the world India's view point, progress and policies along with its art and culture. With the changing scenario, its role has been further expanded due to an increasing number of Indian Diaspora as well as foreigners interested in knowing India. It endeavours to provide them with information, education and entertainment with programmes on India's diverse and multifaceted society.

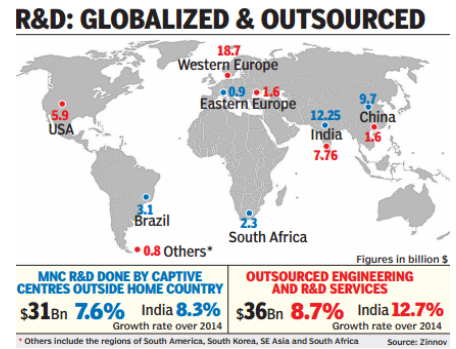


## India No.1 Choice for Global Tech R&D

India remains the No.1 location for Multi-national Corporations (MNCs) to establish product engineering and R&D centres outside their home countries and the growth of these centres in India is outpacing the average global growth. India accounted for US\$ 12.3 billion, or 40 per cent, of the total US\$ 31 billion of globalized engineering and R&D in 2015, according to a study by consulting firm, Zinnov. Compared to 2014, the revenues of the captives in India grew by 8.3 per cent as against the global growth of 7.6 per cent. China follows India with revenues of US\$ 9.7 billion.

Zinnov finds that 69 per cent of all new offshore technology centres were set up in India in 2015. During the past two years, a spate of new centres were set up and the older ones were expanded including those of Exxon Mobil, Lowe's, Visa, Victoria's Secret, JC Penny, CME Group, Wells Fargo and British Telecom. Zinnov also finds that engineering

and R&D outsourcing to third parties is beginning to outpace growth of captives in India. India is the second biggest outsourcing destination after Western Europe. India accounted for US\$ 7.8 billion, or 21.6 per cent, of the total outsourced engineering and R&D services of US\$ 36 billion in 2015. Compared to 2014, it grew at 12.7 per cent, as against the global growth of 8.7 per cent.



## A Big Boost for Solar Rooftops in India

The government of India has approved the scaling up of budget from Rs. 600 crore (US\$ 90 million) to Rs. 5000 crore (US\$ 750 million) for implementation of Grid Connected Rooftop systems over a period of five years up to 2019-20 under National Solar Mission. This will support installation of 4200 MW Solar Rooftop systems in the country in next five years.

The capital subsidy of 30% will be provided for general category States/Union Territories and 70% for special category States i.e., North-Eastern States including Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Lakshadweep, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. There will be no subsidy for commercial and industrial establishments in the private sector, since they are eligible for other benefits such as accelerated depreciation, custom duty concessions, excise duty exemptions, tax holiday, etc. The capacity of 4200 MW power will come up through the residential, government, social and institutional sectors.



A large potential is available for generating solar power using unutilized space on rooftops in buildings. Solar power generated by each individual household, industrial, institutional, commercial or any other type of buildings can be used to partly fulfil the requirement of the building occupants and surplus, if any, can be fed into the grid. So far, 26 out of 29 States have notified their regulations to provide Net Metering/ Gross metering facilities to support solar rooftops installations. Now, it is possible to generate solar power from the solar rooftop systems at about Rs.6.50/kWh. This is cheaper than the diesel gen-sets based electricity generation as well as the cost at which most DISCOMs (Distribution Companies) would make power available to the industrial, commercial and high-end domestic consumers. With the new initiative, India will emerge as a major country utilizing the roof space for solar rooftop systems on such a large scale.

The Government has revised the target of National Solar Mission from 20,000 MW to 1,00,000 MW by 2022, out of which, 40,000 MW is to come through grid connected solar rooftop systems. The 40,000 MW will result in abatement of about 60 million tonnes of CO2 per year and will help to fulfil the commitment of India towards its contribution to mitigating the effect of Climate Change.

## Participation of Kazakh Professionals in ITEC Courses

Ms. Aliya Shaimuratova, Specialist at the Department of International Relations of Kokshe Academy, Kokshetau in Akmola Region, was selected for the course 'Certificate of Proficiency in English and Business Communication' conducted by 'Aptech, New Delhi' from 14.1.2016 to 23.3.2016. Mr. Aidos Dauletov, Expert at the Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Finance, was selected for the course 'Certificate Course in English Fluency and IT Skills' conducted by 'CMC, New Delhi' from 11.1.2016 to 1.4.2016. Shri Ram Kumar, SS(ITEC) handed over air tickets to the two candidates for their travel to India. He also briefed them about the courses and the city of New Delhi.



## Incredible India Destination : Lucknow

Lucknow, the capital of the State of Uttar Pradesh, is famed for its Nawabi era finesse and amazing food. It is home to extraordinary monuments depicting a fascinating blend of ancient, colonial and oriental architecture. Lucknow was the epicentre of the 1857 War of Independence, and much before that, it was the seat of a line of Nawabs who gave the city its unique identity. Modern Lucknow, extending along the banks of the Gomti river, is a seamless blend of the medieval and the modern, as new shopping complexes and ultra-modern malls are popping up all over the city.

Rumi Darwaza was built by Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula in 1784. This colossal and ornate gateway is said to be identical in design to an ancient portal at Constantinople in Turkey. It is a huge ornate structure marked by an eight faceted chhatri in its uppermost part. Hussainabad Imambara, constructed by Mohammed Ali Shah in 1832, houses his tomb and that of his mother. It has a white dome and several turrets and minarets. The walls of the mausoleum are decorated with verses in Arabic. Chandeliers, gilded mirrors, colourful stucco, the King's throne and ornate tazia or replicas of the tombs at Karbala adorn the interior.

Asafi Imambara, a colossal tomb, was built by Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula in 1784 and is one of the architectural delights in Lucknow. Within the complex is an imposing Asafi mosque. Shah Najaf Imambara, located on the bank of Gomti river, houses the tombs of Nawab Ghazi-ud-din Haidar and his wives including Mubarak Mahal who was a European.

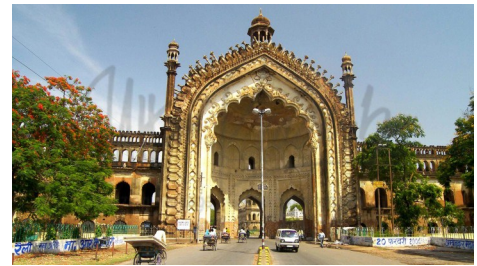
The Residency reminds one of the dramatic events during the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857 also hailed as the first war of independence. Built for the British Resident in 1800, the building is known for the Siege of Lucknow involving besieging of the British community by the rebels.

The State Museum, a favourite spot for recreation, houses a large collection of artefacts and memorabilia as well as sculptural masterpieces dating back to 3rd century AD. La Martiniere, a fort-like building, was designed and built by a Frenchman Major General Claude Martin. It is a fine specimen of the seamless blend of European and Mughal architectural styles. Today, it is a prestigious boarding school.

One can visit the following other tourist attractions from Lucknow : Kukrail Reserve Forest (9 km); Kashishwar Mahadev Temple (15 km); Shaheed Smark, Kakori (22 km); Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary (43 km); Lodheshwar Mahadev Temple, Mahadeva (62 km); Samaspur Bird Sanctuary (122 km); A bird sanctuary and a large lake at Sandi (130 km); and an ancient Lord Shiva temple at Gola Gokaram Nath (167 km).



*Asafi Imambara*



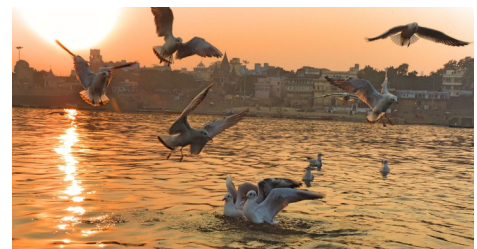
*Rumi Darwaza*



*Hussainabad Imambara*



*La Martiniere*



*Gomti River*



*Indira Gandhi Planetarium*

PHOTO FEATURE

*Performance at BEST OF KHAN SHATYR 2015 by Ms. Chandrani K. Ojah, Dance Teacher at Indian Cultural Centre, Astana*



*New Year Celebration at the Embassy of India, Astana*

*Kazakhstan Voenni Kafedra Cadets visit India*



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