

सत्यमेव जयते

Embassy of India ASTANA

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Embassy of India ASTANA NEWSLETTER

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Prime Minister Modi Visits Vietnam

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid an official visit to Vietnam from September 2-3, 2016. He met Prime Minister Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc on 3rd September and held extensive discussions. They agreed to elevate the current Strategic Partnership between the two countries to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with the desire to contribute to regional peace, stability, cooperation and prosperity.



They urged the leaders of business and industry to explore new business opportunities in the following identified priority areas for cooperation: hydrocarbons, power generation, renewable energy, infrastructure, tourism, textiles, footwear, medical, pharmaceuticals, ICT, electronics, agriculture, agro-products, chemicals, machine tools and other supporting industries.

Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc welcomed the establishment of the Tracking and Data Reception Station and Data Processing Facility in Vietnam, which would increase capabilities of Vietnam and ASEAN countries in remote sensing with numerous commercial and scientific applications. Both Prime Ministers welcomed ongoing cooperation in the establishment of capacity building institutes in Vietnam in IT, English language training, entrepreneurship development, high-performance computing and other areas and expressed satisfaction at the finalization of development partnership projects including the establishment of Vietnam-India English and IT Training Centre at the Telecommunications University in Nha Trang and the Centre for Excellence in Software Development and Training at Ho Chi Minh City.

Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc welcomed the offer to train 15 Vietnamese diplomats at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi and 25 Vietnamese students of Vietnam National University Faculty of Oriental Studies at the Indian Institute of Management, Bengaluru. Prime Minister Modi announced special annual scholarships for Vietnamese students for advanced Buddhist studies at Masters/Doctoral level courses and for study of Sanskrit in Indian institutes for the members of the Buddhist Sangha in Vietnam. The leaders welcomed opening of Indian Cultural Centre in Hanoi shortly.

In the banquet hosted by Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister Modi cited the Cuu Long Delta Rice Research Institute as a prime example of bilateral cooperation. He stated that India helped set up the Institute in the Mekong Delta, provided agricultural experts and trained its faculty in India and today, Vietnam is the world's third largest rice exporter. He expressed happiness at having partnered with Vietnam in its emergence as a major rice producing and exporting country.

In the joint press conference, Prime Minister Modi announced a Line of Credit of US\$ 500 million for facilitating deeper defence cooperation. He also announced a grant of US\$5 million for construction of an Army Software Park at the Telecommunications University in Nha Trang. He said that the agreement signed for construction of offshore high-speed patrol boats is one of the steps to give concrete shape to bilateral defence engagement.

Prime Minister Modi also met President Mr. Tran Dai Quang, the General Secretary of the Communist Party Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong and the Chairperson of the National Assembly Ms. Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan. He visited the Quan Su Pagoda. Interacting with the monks, he said that while some came to Vietnam to make war, India had come with the message of peace - the message of Buddha, which has endured.

12 Agreements/MOUs were signed during the visit on cooperation in Exploration and Uses of Outer Space for peaceful purposes, Avoidance of Double Taxation, UN Peacekeeping Matters, Celebrating 2017 as the "Year of Friendship", Health, Information Technology, Cyber Security, Standardization and Conformity Assessment, Establishment of the Centre of Excellence in Software Development and Training, Sharing of White Shipping Information, Construction of Offshore High-Speed Patrol Boats and cooperation between the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences and the Indian Council of World Affairs.

Prime Minister Modi Visits China to Attend Annual G20 Leaders Summit

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited China from September 3-5, 2016 to attend Annual G-20 Leaders Summit in Hangzhou.

At the Opening Ceremony of the Summit, Prime Minister Modi said that the global situation faces complex political and economic challenges and called for an action oriented agenda of collective, coordinated and targeted action by G20. He laid out an agenda for structural reforms to revive global growth.



In discussions on "More Effective and Efficient Global Economic and Financial Governance", Prime Minister Modi explained why a stable global economic and financial system is imperative for growth. He noted that fighting corruption, black money and tax evasion is central to effective financial governance. In discussions on "Robust International trade and Investment", Prime Minister Modi said that global trading regime must respond to the needs and priorities of developing nations and global value chains must provide them a level playing field. He urged G20 to act to stimulate investment flows. He stated that global investment principles shouldn't be prescriptive and countries need policy space depending on national circumstances and developmental focus.

In discussions on "Inclusive and Interconnected Development", Prime Minister Modi explained how Agenda 2030 could be an enabler to transform societies and bridge deep inequalities. At the final session of G20, Prime Minister Modi said that many global issues may not seem economic but, carry significant economic cost. He noted climate change as the foremost challenge where Paris Agreement showed the way forward. On global and public health security, he said that global partnerships are required in sharing new vaccines and providing access to affordable drugs for developing world.

Prime Minister Modi chaired a meeting of the BRICS leaders on 4th September. The leaders discussed issues of global political and security significance, the need for collaboration and cooperation in counter terrorism, preservation of climate, collaboration for cross border anti-corruption, SDGs and energy. Prime Minister Modi referred to India's core theme for BRICS this year of looking for collective solution for various issues. He informed that over 100 events are being organised across the country in the run up to the 8th BRICS Summit hosted by India in Goa in October, 2016.

On the sidelines of the Summit, Prime Minister Modi held bilateral meetings with the leaders of Argentina, Australia, China, France, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and UK.

Prime Minister Modi Attends the 14th ASEAN-India and 11th East Asia Summits

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Lao PDR to attend the 14th ASEAN-India Summit and the 11th East Asia Summit in Vientiane on 8th September 2016. At the ASEAN-India Summit, Prime Minister Modi and ASEAN leaders reviewed ASEAN-India cooperation and discussed its future direction under each of the three pillars of politico-security, economic and socio-cultural cooperation.



In his opening statement at the ASEAN-India Summit, Prime Minister Modi said that enhancing connectivity in all its dimensions—physical, digital, economic, institutional and cultural—is

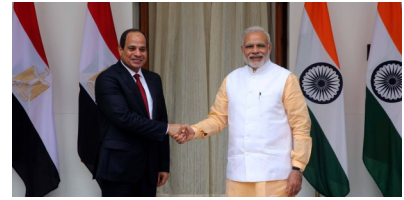
at the heart of India's strategic partnership with ASEAN. He underlined that India's readiness to link its economic success and share development experiences with ASEAN nations especially the CLMV countries drives its engagement with ASEAN. In his response to the remarks by the ASEAN leaders, Prime Minister Modi reiterated India's commitment to the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity. He proposed a Joint Task Force on connectivity to work on extension of India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway to Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. He stated that cooperation in Science and Technology is a crucial element of developmental engagement and proposed to enhance the ASEAN-India Fund with an additional grant of US\$ 50 million. He proposed to commission a project for mapping Indian inscriptions along the Mekong river in SE Asia to document civilizational ties.

At the 11th East Asia Summit, the leaders discussed matters of regional and international interest and concern including maritime security, terrorism, non-proliferation, irregular migration, etc. In his address at the East Asia Summit, Prime Minister Modi highlighted that competing geo-politics, traditional and non-traditional challenges threaten peace, stability and prosperity of the region. He urged the ASEAN to continue to lead and remain central to efforts aimed at greater regional integration and co-operation. He stated that terrorism is the most serious challenge to open and pluralistic societies and called for a collective effort to combat it. He announced India's initiatives to help devise coordinated approaches and responses for natural disasters. He reiterated India's commitment to support the realisation of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

On the sidelines of the Summits, Prime Minister Modi held bilateral meetings with the leaders of China, Japan, Korea, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Russia and USA.

President of Egypt Visits India

President of Egypt Mr. Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, paid a State Visit to India from September 1-3, 2016. He met Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 2nd September. The two leaders held extensive talks covering the entire gamut of bilateral relations. They decided to intensify the bilateral relationship based on the three pillars of closer political and security cooperation, deeper economic engagement and scientific collaboration, and wider cultural and people-to-people contacts.



President Al-Sisi appreciated Prime Minister Modi's gesture of supplying 20,000 MT of rice to Egypt at friendship price the previous month. Prime Minister Modi welcomed Egyptian investments in India under the 'Make in India' initiative in manufacturing and service sectors. President Al-Sisi invited Indian participation in the Suez Canal Economic Zone, particularly in sectors such as petro-chemicals, energy, agriculture, healthcare, education, skills and IT.

Prime Minister Modi announced that the first Indian Chair in the Arab world would be established in Ain Shams University in Cairo and an Indian professor of Biotechnology would begin his tenure shortly. The two leaders expressed their appreciation for the Pan African E-network Project at Alexandria University that specialises in tele-medicine and tele-education. They welcomed the completion of establishment of a textile vocational training centre in Shubra el Kheima and solar electrification of Agaween Village. They agreed to expand cooperation in the field of space utilising India's expertise in launching satellites and other advances in space technology.

The two leaders concurred that the signing of the Agreement on Maritime Transport between India and Egypt during the visit would facilitate maritime commerce and transit of naval vessels. In the joint press conference, Prime Minister Modi said that the two leaders have agreed on an action oriented agenda that responds to socio-economic priorities of the two countries, promotes trade and investment ties, secures the societies, helps build peace and harmony in the region, and advances the engagement on regional and international issues.

President Al-Sisi said that the visit has proven the depth of relations and ties of cooperation between Egypt and India, and their convergence of views regarding most international and regional issues. He praised the strong relations between both countries, asserting that each party is keen to continue cooperation in order to find solutions for various international issues.

President Shri Pranab Mukherjee hosted a banquet in honour of President Al Sisi. President Mukherjee said that India and Egypt enjoy historic and civilizational ties and expressed confidence that President Al Sisi's visit would strengthen India-Egypt partnership and take it to a higher level. President Al-Sisi attended a business event coordinated by FICCI where he delivered a keynote address and invited Indian businessmen to explore new and emerging business opportunities in Egypt.

President of Afghanistan Visits India

President of Afghanistan Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani paid a working visit to India on September 14-15, 2016. He met Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 14th September. They held discussions covering a wide range of matters of mutual interest.



Prime Minister Modi reiterated India's abiding support for a unified, sovereign, democratic, peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan. He announced an allocation of a sum of US\$ 1 billion to Afghanistan for capacity and capability building in the spheres of education, health, agriculture, skill development, empowerment of women, energy, infrastructure and strengthening of democratic institutions. He proposed to supply world class and easily affordable medicines from India and enhance cooperation in solar energy through mutually agreed instruments.

The two leaders discussed the regional situation and expressed grave concern at continued use of terrorism and violence in the region for achieving political objectives. They agreed that this phenomenon presented the single biggest threat to peace, stability and progress in the region and beyond. Both leaders reaffirmed their resolve to counter terrorism and strengthen security and defence cooperation.

President Ashraf Ghani met President Shri Pranab Mukherjee at Rashtrapati Bhavan. President Mukherjee reaffirmed that India would always stand by the people of Afghanistan as their proud country courageously deals with its challenges. President Ashraf Ghani assured that the Government of Afghanistan would continue to do everything possible to ensure the safety and security of Indian nationals in Afghanistan.

President Ashraf Ghani attended an interactive business meeting where he highlighted the economic opportunities and potential of Afghanistan to senior Indian industry and trade captains. He also addressed a gathering of strategic experts on "Fifth Wave of Political Violence and Global Terrorism" at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses.

President Nazarbayev Attends G20 Summit

President Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev participated in the G20 Summit held in Hangzhou, China on September 4-5, 2016. In his address at the Summit, President Nazarbayev said that the current G20 Summit was being held at a very difficult time with declining rates of global economic growth, trade and capital flows, which affect the welfare of millions of people around the world.



He stated that formation of new transcontinental trade and investment associations may lead to a diminution of the World Trade Organization's (WTO) role and fragmentation of the world economy and these processes may become the beginning of a new stage of war in the international markets, because the path of global development largely depends on the coherence of the entire international community. He added that the leading role in regulating the international economy and finance should be played by a single global organization. He suggested that such a global economic regulator can be created through transformation of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) into the Global Development Council.

President Nazarbayev suggested to develop more substantive proposals to stabilize exchange rates around the world including developing countries. He supported the approach that new industrial revolution, digital economy and innovations are deemed as a measure of revival of global economy. He stated that implementation of this objective is possible only based on the principle of inclusiveness and suggested to designate a centre of dialogue between G20 and developing countries. He offered to utilize G-Global Information and Communication Platform of Kazakhstan for such dialogue, which is open to all the participants. He informed that this platform brings together more than 30,000 experts from 140 countries.

He stated that Kazakhstan actively supports implementing the UN's sustainable development goals, the Paris agreement and the principles of green economy. He invited the participants to take part in the upcoming international exhibition EXPO 2017 in Astana, which will be held under the theme "Future Energy".

Following the discussions, the participants of the Summit agreed on a new innovative approach for the development of the world economy. President Nazarbayev's proposal for establishment of a Global Development Council was included in the Hangzhou Consensus.

Kazakhstan Wins Record Number of Medals in Rio

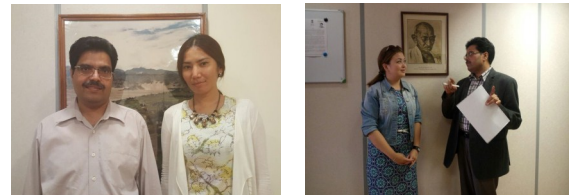
Kazakhstan won the most medals in its history at the 2016 Summer Olympics held in Rio. The Kazakhstani athletes won 17 medals - three gold, five silver and nine bronze, which put the country at 22nd position in the medal tally among 206 countries. Kazakhstan ranked 1st in boxing medal count with 3 medals: 1 gold and 2 silver.



President Nazarbayev felicitated the Olympic champions at a ceremony held on 26th August. He called the Olympic medals won by Kazakhstani sportsmen as a worthy present to the 25th anniversary of the country's independence. He awarded the gold, silver and bronze medalists with Barys State, Parassat and Kurmet Orders respectively. He commented that Kazakhstani athletes' victory at the Games demonstrated the unity of the multi-ethnic people of the country.

Kazakhstani Professionals Participate in ITEC Courses in India

Ms. Bayan Imannurova, Manager of the Legal Support Department of JSC "KTZ Freight Transportation" was selected for the "Certificate Course in Corporate Governance and Excellence in Management of Public Enterprises" conducted by the "International Management Institute, New Delhi" from September 5-30, 2016. Ms. Nailya Abdukhalikova, Legal Advisor of the Republican State Enterprise "National Reference Centre for Veterinary" was selected for the course "Progress to Proficiency - Basic" conducted by the "English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad" from September 13 to December 2, 2016.



Shri Ram Kumar, SS(PPS/ITEC) handed over air tickets to the two candidates and briefed them about the courses.

Ms. Ela Gandhi Delivers Lectures at Universities in Astana

Ms. Ela Gandhi, Granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi, visited Astana from August 28 to September 3, 2016. She attended international conference on "Building a Nuclear Weapon Free World" on August 29-31 and delivered lectures on "Promoting the use of nonviolent methods of conflict resolution and its importance today" at Kazakhstan Law and Humanities University on Sep 1, 2016 and at Eurasian National University and Nazarbayev University on September 2, 2016. The lectures were jointly organised by the Embassies of South Africa and India in Astana.



In her lectures, Ms. Ela Gandhi said that the present generation believes that violence is the only way to resolve conflicts and if the perpetrator of the evil is eliminated, the evil would go away; but, research reveals that the evil would remain and sometimes would even fester and become bigger when the perpetrator is eliminated.

She stated that her organisation follows another way of resolving conflict i.e. Mahatma Gandhi's most powerful legacies, Satyagraha and Sarvodaya. She noted that some people refer to Satyagraha as passive resistance campaigns or Gandhians as pacifists. But, she highlighted that Mahatma Gandhi's demonstrations were assertive, active and forceful, yet not aggressive and violent. She explained that Sarvodaya means the good of all and to achieve the good of all means to work towards an egalitarian society where people will be able to eliminate the root of tensions.

She narrated a story to highlight that there are three very important fundamental principles of Satyagraha: (i) Satyagraha is based in a belief and faith in oneself; (ii) Good will always triumph in the end; and (iii) It is important to listen to the argument presented by the other carefully. She emphasized that satyagraha or nonviolent methods do not seek to defeat or humiliate or eliminate the other person, but it is about transformation and recognizing that each person has value.

She quoted Martin Luther King as having summarized nonviolence in the following five basic points: (i) We do not injure the opponent but take the injury on ourselves; (ii) It requires more courage than violent action does; (iii) It is based on love and acceptance of the other; (iv) Empathy with the other and ability to see and feel what the other sees and feels; (v) Oppose as strongly as possible the deed but not the doer. She quoted Albert Einstein as saying, "Brutal force cannot be met successfully for any length of time with similar brutal force,... Let us do whatever is within our power so that all people of the world may accept Gandhi's gospel as their basic policy before it is too late."

She informed that recognising the need to curb violence and find nonviolent solutions, UN General Assembly adopted a resolution moved by India and seconded by South Africa to declare 2nd October, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, as international day of nonviolence on 27th June, 2007. She concluded her speech by quoting Albert Einstein as saying, "there is an extremely powerful force that, so far, science has not found a formal explanation to. It is a force that includes and governs all others, and is even behind any phenomenon operating in the universe and has not yet been identified by us. This universal force is LOVE".

The Embassy Celebrates the Hindi Diwas

Embassy celebrated the Hindi Diwas at the Indian Cultural Centre (ICC), Astana on 14th September, 2016. The celebration began with the lighting of lamp by Ambassador Shri Harsh Jain, followed by screening of a short video on Hindi.



Ambassador welcomed the guests and spoke about the significance and objective of celebrating Hindi Diwas and the efforts made for promotion of Hindi in Kazakhstan. He said that the Embassy supported the publication of first Hindi-Kazakh-Hindi dictionary by Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty. He stated that the Hindi language is already being taught at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University and Centre for Indian Classical Dances in Almaty. He informed that the Embassy has begun supporting Hindi language classes for the children of Indian community in Almaty since May this year. He highlighted the increasing importance being given to use of Hindi in official work and advised the officials of the Embassy to expand use of Hindi in day to day functioning.

Dr. Prashant Jamwal, Assistant Professor, Nazarbayev University spoke about the origin and evolution of Hindi language. Shri Dhawal Shah, Assistant Professor, Nazarbayev University narrated a story in Hindi. Shri Anup Sharma, Teacher, MIRAS International School and Ms. Ashana Lidder recited Hindi poems. Ambassador awarded prizes to the winners of Essay Competition on "Bharat ki Rajbhasha ke Roop Mein Hindi" viz., Shri Sushil Singh Rathore, Dr. Brajesh Gupta and Shri Rohit Jain. It was followed by a cultural programme by the ICC.

Ambassador Participates in the 6th Central Asian Trade Forum in Almaty

Ambassador Shri Harsh Jain participated in the 6th Central Asian Trade Forum on the theme "Export Potential and Trade Development: New Challenges and Opportunities in Central Asia" organized by the USAID's Regional Economic Cooperation Project in Almaty on September 7-8, 2016. He spoke at the panel discussion on "Economic and Geopolitical Conditions for Export Potential and Trade Development in Central Asia" and Round table on "Enhancing Economic Ties between India and Central Asia".



In his address, Ambassador expressed gladness that a business delegation from Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is participating in the Forum this year for the first time. He stated that India's bilateral trade with the region increased from US\$ 85 million in 1997-98 to US\$ 819 million in 2015-16; but, it is very low if it is compared with India's total trade or India's trade with countries surrounding Central Asia.

He highlighted that India's rapid economic growth offers an enormous potential for expansion of economic relations with Central Asian region. He noted that there is a strong economic complementarity between India and the region in terms of resources, manpower and markets.

He stated that India can provide a range of goods and services to Central Asia such as pharmaceuticals, meat, fish and other sea products, motor cars, tractors, rice, tea, textiles, fabrics, ready-made garments, marble, granite, leather products, engineering goods, IT software, health-care services, tourism, education, consultancy and entertainment products. He added that similarly, export of various commodities such as hydrocarbons, non-ferrous metals including gold, copper, silver and uranium, fertilisers, cashew nuts, oil seeds, lentils and a variety of fruits including apples can be enhanced from Central Asia to India.

He suggested that Indian companies can help develop the trade potential in Central Asia by forging partnerships in production of hydrocarbons, renewable energy, mining, agriculture, food processing, pharmaceutical, healthcare, fertilisers, engineering consultancy and EPC services, education, banking, financial services, information technology, tourism, hospitality, textile, garments, media and entertainment industries.

He mentioned the lack of efficient transport connectivity, information and credibility gap and difficult visa regime as some of the main impediments hampering growth of India's trade with and investments in the region. He outlined the efforts made to remove the impediments and identify opportunities to promote trade and economic cooperation with the region such as development of Chahbahar port in Iran, operationalization of the International North South Transport Corridor, and extending support to businesspersons from the region to participate in trade fairs, exhibitions and buyer-seller meets in India and vice versa.

An 11-member CII delegation led by Mr. Prasanna Sarambale, Vice President, Sterling and Wilson Pvt. Ltd., comprising companies from varied sectors such as construction, healthcare, solar energy, power, etc participated in the Forum. They met Ambassador on 7th September, attended B2B meetings on September 6-7, 2016 and interacted with Almaty Chamber of Entrepreneurs, India-Kazakhstan Joint Business Council and the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Culture, Almaty.

Mother Teresa Declared a Saint

Mother Teresa was canonised by Pope Francis at a mass in St. Peter's Square in Vatican City on September 4, 2016. External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj represented India at the canonisation ceremony.

In his message, President Shri Pranab Mukherjee said that Mother Teresa was an embodiment of compassion and dedicated her entire life to serving the poorest of the poor as well as the destitute and forsaken. He stated that Mother Teresa saw herself as 'small pencil in the hands of the Lord' and went about her work quietly, offering smiles and warm human gestures. He noted that Mother Teresa undertook her work with great love and commitment and provided dignity and respect to those who had been defeated by life. He appreciated that Mother Teresa established the Missionaries of Charity in 1950 and today, its branches in several countries continue their service to humanity, reaching out to the needy, regardless of their religion or social status.



Born to Albanian parents in Macedonia in 1910, Mother Teresa came to India in 1929. She was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1979. In recognition of her selfless and dedicated services, India conferred on her its highest civilian award 'Bharat Ratna' in 1980. She died on September 5, 1997 and was beatified in October, 2003 by the Late Pope John Paul.

India Tops the Global Survey for Best Value Flights

India tops the Aviation Price Index released by online travel agency Kiwi.com, making it the best value location for international and domestic flights worldwide.

The Index released on 6th September, 2016 says that India offered the least expensive domestic flights on both low-cost and legacy airlines at US\$ 2.27 and US\$ 2.67 respectively per 100 km of travel. It also says that India has the lowest average flight cost of US\$ 3.25 per 100 km of travel while factoring in both domestic and international journeys.

10 COUNTRIES OFFERING THE LEAST EXPENSIVE FLIGHTS

Country	DOMESTIC FLIGHTS COST/100KM		INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS COST/100KM		Average cost/100 km
	Low Cost Airline	Legacy Airline	Low Cost Airline	Legacy Airline	
India	\$2.27	\$2.67	\$3.54	\$4.51	\$3.25
Malaysia	\$2.32	\$5.81	\$2.11	\$4.88	\$3.78
Russia	\$7.02	\$6.32	\$3.18	\$7.01	\$5.88
Portugal	\$4.04	\$14.57	\$2.80	\$5.41	\$6.71
Indonesia	\$4.34	\$5.68	\$6.18	\$11.14	\$6.84
Azerbaijan	\$6.03	\$11.69	\$2.93	\$7.10	\$6.93
South Africa	\$5.69	\$9.94	\$6.33	\$7.36	\$7.23
Algeria	\$9.16	\$10.43	\$5.17	\$5.92	\$7.67
Philippines	\$5.23	\$8.26	\$3.93	\$13.61	\$7.76
Sweden	\$8.97	\$15.14	\$2.81	\$5.33	\$8.06

All figures in US\$ Source: Kiwi.com

Kiwi.com calculated the domestic flight costs by finding an average of flight costs from the country's capital to up to five major cities within the country or a major city in a neighbouring country where no domestic flights were available, while international costs were calculated from the capital of each country to up to five international hubs within the same continent. The agency checked all the flights for the same dates of travel (or neighbouring dates where necessary) on-and off-season, taking into account the same destinations and travel scheduling.

Three Indians Figure in Fortune's 50 Most Powerful Women International List

India's top women bankers, Ms. Arundhati Bhattacharya, Chairperson and Managing Director of State Bank of India; Ms. Chanda Kochhar, Managing Director and CEO of ICICI Bank; and Ms. Shikha Sharma, Managing Director and CEO of Axis Bank are among the 50 most powerful women based outside the USA, according to the Fortune's "50 Most Powerful Women International" list. They are ranked 2nd, 5th and 19th positions respectively in the list released on 9th September, 2016.



The Fortune says that Ms. Bhattacharya orchestrated the State Bank of India's merger with six other groups, a plan that, once complete, would result in one of the largest lenders in Asia.

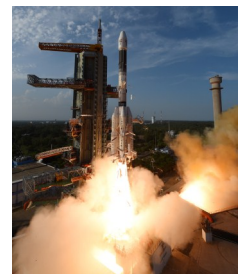
The Fortune comments that Ms. Kochhar is regarded even by rival bankers as a "visionary". It highlights that she has been at the helm of India's largest private sector lender with consolidated assets of US\$ 139 billion for seven years and has overhauled the nation's consumer retail business.

The Fortune commends that Ms. Sharma led Axis Bank from an underrepresented bank to the nation's fastest growing private sector lender, with revenue up 15 per cent to US\$ 7.9 billion in 2015 and nearly 3000 branches across 1,800 cities and towns.

ISRO Successfully Launches Weather Satellite INSAT-3DR

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) successfully launched the tenth flight of India's Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle, GSLV-F05, equipped with indigenous Cryogenic Upper Stage (CUS), from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota on 8th September, 2016. It carried a 2211-kg advanced meteorological satellite 'INSAT-3DR', the heaviest satellite ever launched from India.

The INSAT-3DR would provide a variety of inputs essential for accurate weather forecasting. For this, it is equipped with three payloads (instruments), namely, a Multispectral Imager, Sounder and Weather Data Relay Transponder. The INSAT-3DR also carries a satellite aided Search and Rescue Transponder that would pick up and relay alert signals originating from distress beacons of maritime, aviation and land based users, and would assist in search and rescue operations of security agencies.



Ambassador Signs CICA Convention

Ambassador Shri Harsh K. Jain signed the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Secretariat, its Personnel and Representatives of Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) on 14th September, 2016 at the CICA Secretariat in Astana in the presence of H.E. Mr. Gong Gianwei, Executive Director of CICA.



Incredible India Destination: Kodaikanal

Kodaikanal, a charming hill station, stands amidst sylvan beauty on the southern crest of the upper Palani Hills in the state of Tamil Nadu. It is located 2,133 m above sea level and is also referred to as the Princess of Hills. Kodaikanal is well known for the Kurinji flower which blooms once in 12 years in December and covers the valley in a beautiful sea of blue. It last bloomed in 2006; the next bloom is expected in 2018.

Kodaikanal Lake, Coaker's Walk, Bryant's Park, Astrophysical Observatory, La Saleth Church, Pillar Rocks, Dolphin's Nose, Silver Cascade Falls and Perumal Peak are major tourist attractions in and around Kodaikanal.

Kodaikanal lake, spread over an area of 24 hectares and skirted by a 4.8 km tarred road, is the main attraction of the hill station. It is an excellent place for boating and fishing. Coaker's Walk runs along a steep slope on the southern side of Kodaikanal. It offers best views of plains.

Bryant's Park, located on the eastern side of the lake, covers an area of over 20 acres and boasts of over 740 varieties of roses. Flower show is conducted every year in May. Astrophysical Observatory, founded in 1899, is situated at a height of 2,347 m. La Saleth Church, a 150 year old heritage church, is one of the two shrines dedicated to Our Lady of Saleth (the other one being in France).

Pillar Rocks, 7 km away from Kodaikanal, are 122 m high rocks with imposing boulders. Dolphin's Nose, 8 km from Kodaikanal, is a flat rock projecting over a breathtaking 2,000-metre deep chasm.

Silver Cascade Falls are located about 8 km from Kodaikanal lake where excess water from the lake surges down in the form of a roaring, 180-foot high waterfall. Perumal Peak, 20 km from Kodaikanal, commands a fine view of the valley below.

Kurinji Andavar Temple (3 km); Dolmen Circle (18 km), site of ancient settlements; Berijam Lake (21 km); Kukkai Caves (40 km); Thalaiyar Falls (40 km); and Lord Dandayudhapani Temple in Palani (64 km) are some of the other major tourist attractions near Kodaikanal.



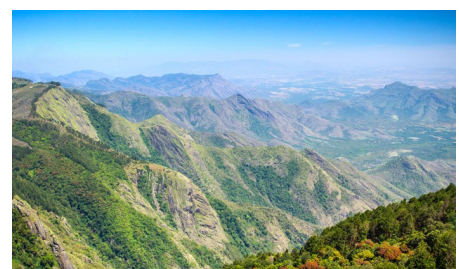
Coaker's Walk



Pillar Rocks



Dolphin's Nose



Perumal Peak



Silver Cascade Falls



Kodaikanal Lake

PHOTO FEATURE

The Embassy Celebrates the Hindi Diwas

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Ms. Ela Gandhi Delivers Lectures at Universities in Astana



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