

सत्यमेव जयते

## Embassy of India ASTANA

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# Embassy of India ASTANA NEWSLETTER

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## Prime Minister Modi Visits Japan

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid an official visit to Japan on November 11-12, 2016 for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit. He called on Emperor Akihito on 11<sup>th</sup> November. He met Prime Minister Mr. Shinzō Abe. They appreciated the deep civilizational links between the people of the two countries and underscored their shared commitment to democracy, openness and the rule of law as key values to achieve peaceful co-existence. They underlined the need to intensify cooperation in high technology, space, clean energy, infrastructure, smart cities, bio-technology, pharmaceuticals, ICT, education and skills development.



The leaders welcomed the steady progress made in the flagship Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) Project and noted that the construction work would commence by the end of 2018 and the operation would start in 2023. They decided to cooperate on the development of human resources in the manufacturing sector in India through "Manufacturing Skill Transfer Promotion Programme", whereby 30,000 persons would be trained over next 10 years with Japanese style manufacturing skills and practices through establishment of the Japan-India Institutes for Manufacturing (JIM) and the Japanese Endowed Courses (JEC) in engineering colleges.

Prime Minister Modi conveyed his appreciation for Japan's readiness to provide its state of the art defence platforms such as US-2 amphibian aircraft. He appreciated Japan's efforts to support the construction of a Convention Centre in Varanasi and recognised its symbolic importance as a sign of strengthening bilateral ties.

Prime Minister Abe commended Prime Minister Modi's strong commitment to improve business environment in India and welcomed reforms undertaken for liberalising investment policies, simplifying and rationalising taxation system through passage of historic Goods and Services Tax Bill, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and other measures. He expressed appreciation for the facilitation provided by the "Japan Plus" for the Japanese companies in India. He announced a relaxation of visa requirement for Indian students and thanked Prime Minister Modi for extending the Visa on Arrival facility as well as ten-year visas to Japanese tourists and investors.

In the joint press conference, Prime Minister Modi described the signing of the Agreement for Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy as a historic step in the engagement of the two countries to build a clean energy partnership.

Prime Minister Modi interacted with the members of India-Japan Business Leaders' Forum and attended the CII-Keidanren Business Luncheon on 11<sup>th</sup> November. In his address, Prime Minister Modi said that the very word "Japan" in India is a benchmark of quality, excellence, honesty and integrity. He emphasized that a combination of Japan's technologies and India's human resources would create a win-win situation.

In a banquet hosted by Prime Minister Abe, Prime Minister Modi said that the people of India have long hailed the dedication and dynamism, vigour and vitality, and achievements of the Japanese people. He stated that Japanese companies have much to gain by participating in India's flagship development initiatives and India, in turn, has much to gain from Japan's unparalleled status as the leader in technology and innovation.

Prime Minister Modi travelled to Kobe on 12<sup>th</sup> November along with Prime Minister Abe on the famed Shinkansen bullet train - the technology that would be applied for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Railway. They visited the Kawasaki Heavy Industries facility, where the high speed railway is manufactured. He also interacted with the Indian community.

Ten Agreements/MOUs were signed during the visit on cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy, transfer of manufacturing skills, outer space, marine and earth science, agriculture and food related industry, transport and urban development, textiles, cultural exchange, sports, and between the State Government of Gujarat and Hyogo Prefectural Government.

## President of India Visits Nepal

President Shri Pranab Mukherjee paid a State Visit to Nepal from November 2-4, 2016. He met President Smt. Bidhya Devi Bhandari on 2<sup>nd</sup> November. They discussed a wide array of issues of mutual interest and agreed to take forward the relationship between the two countries on the basis of trust, goodwill and mutual benefit. They recognized that the two countries should focus on implementation of ongoing bilateral development and connectivity projects as well as projects for post-earthquake reconstruction of Nepal.



At the banquet hosted by President Bhandari, President Mukherjee praised the resilience of the people of Nepal in the face of acute adversity. He said that the natural disaster caused untold hardship last year and the people of India considered it their duty to come to the assistance of their brethren in Nepal as swiftly as possible. Prime Minister of Nepal Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' called on President Mukherjee on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

President Mukherjee visited Kathmandu University, which conferred Honorary Doctorate on him. He announced that Nepali students would have the opportunity to pursue graduate and post-graduate courses in Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) on a regular basis from 2017 onwards. He noted that an additional 23 post-graduate scholarships for courses in hydel power and water resources management in IIT, Roorkee have been offered to Nepali engineers and experts this year.

President Mukherjee visited Pashupatinath Temple. He announced that India would assist in renovation and upgradation of Ghats near the temple. He attended a civic reception hosted by Kathmandu Municipal City. In his address, he said that there are no two sovereign nations in the world like India and Nepal, sharing a common culture and having an open border between them. He attended a seminar 'Nepal and India: Exploring New Vistas' organized by India Foundation and Neeti Anusandhan Pratishthan Nepal and shared his vision for advancing India-Nepal relations.

He visited the ancient city of Janakpur where he attended a civic reception on 4<sup>th</sup> November. In his address, President Mukherjee said that Janakpur is the city of Goddess Sita, who is revered both in India and Nepal. He announced construction of two dharmashalas along the Parikrama Path around Janakpur for the use of pilgrims. He addressed Gurkha ex-servicemen of Indian Army at Pokhara. He appreciated brave Gurkhas for serving in India for the last 200 years and informed that 32,000 Gurkha soldiers are now serving in the Indian Army and 126,000 ex-servicemen are drawing pension in Nepal. He also attended an Indian community reception hosted by Ambassador of India at the India House.

## Prime Minister of UK Visits India

Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Ms. Theresa May visited India from November 6-8, 2016 on her first bilateral visit outside Europe. She met Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 7<sup>th</sup> November. They discussed all aspects of India-UK relations and emphasized working together on a contemporary and forward-looking global partnership to promote peace, security and prosperity of the two countries and act as a force for good in the world.



The leaders noted that India is the third largest investor in the UK and the second largest international job creator with Indian companies having created over 110,000 jobs in the UK. They agreed to establish India-UK Clean Energy R&D Centre on solar energy with joint investment of £10 million and announced launching of an Anti-Microbial Resistance initiative with joint investment of £15 million. Prime Minister Modi said that there is high level of interest from UK in 'Smart City' projects in Pune, Amaravati and Indore with deals worth £9 billion having been signed by UK companies and encouraged more participation.

Prime Minister May announced that the UK would invest over £160 million across 75 start-up enterprises. She announced an additional £20 million for a Start-Up India Venture Capital Fund and a new commitment of £12 million to support India's Skill India Mission. The leaders welcomed an investment of £20 million in the UK-India Education Research Initiative creating 50 new partnerships in 2017.

In the joint press conference, Prime Minister Modi said that Science and Technology is a vibrant and fast growing space in the partnership between India and the UK. He highlighted that Indian companies are successfully raising finance from London with the London Stock Exchange hosting several Rupee denominated Masala bonds. The leaders inaugurated the India-UK Joint Tech Summit hosted by the Confederation of Indian Industry and the Department of S&T. They attended the India-UK CEO Forum and welcomed the suggestions made by the Forum.

Prime Minister May called on President Pranab Mukherjee. President Mukherjee said that relations between the two countries are rooted in history as well as equally a partnership for the 21st century. Prime Minister May said that her visit reflects the strength of the relationship and UK's keenness to build for the future. She travelled to Bengaluru on 8<sup>th</sup> November. She visited the facility of aerospace parts manufacturer Dynamatics Technologies and interacted with startups at an event organized by NASSCOM. She also visited Sri Someshwara Temple.

Two MOUs were signed during the visit on ease of doing business and cooperation in the field of intellectual property.

## President Nazarbayev Addresses Second Annual Meeting of Astana Club

The second annual meeting of Astana Club was held in Astana on November 14-16, 2016. President Nazarbayev addressed the participants on Kazakhstan's role in global and regional issues including nuclear disarmament on 14th November. He outlined the importance of creating a world based on the principles of justice, trust, cooperation and universal responsibility. He emphasized that the world can solve any problems, overcome the contradictions and develop a common global development strategy for the 21st Century by means of dialogue and negotiations.



President Nazarbayev said that the economic crisis that started in 2008 is the source for today's geopolitical and geo-economic fears. He stated that the slump in prices of oil and metals, collapse of securities markets and national currencies, and slowdown in global trade caused global economic risk. He emphasized that it is more important to find new points of economic growth and mutually beneficial cooperation among the countries rather than dwelling on problems.



He underlined the prospects for cooperation between the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and the European Union. He suggested that emerging macro-regional trade associations, including the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, the Trans-Pacific Partnership and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership should target creation of a single Eurasian trade and cooperation space. He said that Kazakhstan's mission is to make Central Asia a strong bridge with two-way traffic between East and West, and North and South so that there is a territory of interaction and collaboration, a model of peace, trust and global security.

He highlighted that people of Kazakhstan are now leading a comfortable life by comparing the current state of economy and the standard of life of the people with that of early 1990s. He said that the programmes of the government are geared towards promoting education and health of the people, which are essential for achieving the goals set in the Kazakhstan-2050 Strategy to be among the 30 most developed countries in the world.

More than 50 experts in economy, politics and international relations from 21 countries participated in the meeting. They discussed a wide range of topical issues including influence of global challenges on the Eurasian continent, standpoints of leading countries on the region, infrastructure, resources, economic development, development of human capital and consolidation of the Eurasian continent and its transformation into a space of partnership rather than a space of battle.

From India, Mr. Sunjay Joshi, Director and Dr. Samir Saran, Vice President, Observer Research Foundation participated in the Astana Club meeting. The Astana club is an international discussion platform created in 2015 by the First President's Fund in partnership with leading international scientific centers and devoted to the development of Eurasia. The discussions at the meeting are held under Chatham House rules.

## Ambassador Attends the Closing Ceremony of 6th Gandhi Memorial Chess Tournament

Ambassador Shri Harsh Jain attended the closing ceremony of the Sixth Gandhi Memorial Chess Tournament organized by the Mahatma Gandhi School, Almaty and Almaty City Chess Federation on 7th November, 2016. The school organized a month long celebration dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi, which concluded with the closing ceremony of the chess tournament.



In his address, Ambassador appreciated the school for organizing chess tournament dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi and expressed gladness at the participation of a large number of children in it. He spoke about the Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence and noted the achievement of both India and Kazakhstan winning independence through non-violent means. He quoted Mahatma Gandhi's words "Be the change you want to see in the world" and urged the audience to follow his advice and begin the change in themselves that can make the world a better place. He awarded prizes and trophy to the winners of the chess tournament and congratulated them.

Mr. Erulan Zhiembayev, Director of the School; Mr. Bekezhan Tokkozhayev, Representative of Nur Otan Party; Ms. Irina Grishchenko, Executive Director of Kazakhstan Chess Federation; Mr. Nazarov Ernar, Director, Centre of Physical Culture and Sports; and Mr. Kim Sergey, Executive Director, Almaty City Chess Federation also spoke on the occasion. The Centre for Indian Classical Dances, Almaty led by its Director Ms. Akmaral Kainazarova, conducted a short cultural programme.

## Kazakhstan Participates in 12th FICCI Higher Education Summit 2016

The 12<sup>th</sup> FICCI Higher Education Summit 2016 was jointly organized by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in New Delhi on November 10-12, 2016.

The Summit comprised (i) an International Exhibition where more than 100 exhibitors from leading Indian Institutions showcased their best practices to the global participants; (ii) Global Conference attended by more than 1000 Indian and foreign University Presidents, Vice Chancellors, Deans and others; (iii) Regional Forums for CIS, Asia, Middle East and Africa; (iv) RBSM and B2B Meetings attended by over 300 international stakeholders of 64 countries including CIS; and (v) Campus Visits for interested foreign delegates to the participating Institutes. In addition to policy deliberations, the Summit focused on developing an ecosystem for strategic partnerships in the education sector between India and other countries. It provided a forum for international educational providers interested to partner and engage with Indian higher educational institutions and encouraged them for collaborations and partnerships.



Mr. Anatoliy Kremenchutskiy, Eurasian National University, Astana; Mr. Richard Castleberry, Nazarbayev University, Astana; and Ms. Akbota Rustemova, Kazakh National Medical University, Almaty participated in the Summit from Kazakhstan.

## Kazakhstan Participates in Seminar on "Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process"

Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) hosted a Seminar on "Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process" in New Delhi on November 10-11, 2016 in the run up to the Ministerial Conference of the "Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process" to be held in Amritsar in December, 2016. Shri Nalin Surie, Director General, ICWA delivered welcome address. Ms. Sujata Mehta, Secretary(West) delivered keynote address.



The seminar deliberated on a range of issues concerning Afghanistan and role of Heart of Asia member countries in building a stable, secure and prosperous Afghanistan and the region. It explored the themes : "Afghanistan's development - role of Heart of Asia members; Status of CBMs; Integrating Afghanistan: Promoting connectivity; Progress on counter terrorism efforts in Afghanistan; and Promoting regional stability and security".

Academics, Scholars and Experts from member countries of Heart of Asia participated in the Seminar. Mr. Marlen Sugralinov, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Oriental Studies, Almaty participated in the seminar from Kazakhstan.

## India Participates in "World Food Kazakhstan 2016" in Almaty

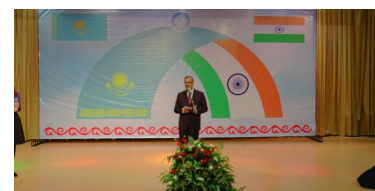
"World Food Kazakhstan 2016", an international exhibition dedicated to food industry, was held in Almaty from November 2-4, 2016. The exhibition showcased various products such as fruits, vegetables, dairy products, baby foods, snacks, soups, wines, spirits, mineral water, minerals, meat, poultry, seafood, tea, coffee, equipment and different technologies in the sections "Food and Beverage", "Equipment and Technology", "Ingredients", and "Bakery and Confectionery". The extended business program of the event included master classes by top chefs and seminars of specialized professionals.



362 companies from 33 countries participated in the exhibition. From India, Tea Board India, a statutory body of the Government of India under the Ministry of Commerce; and two companies viz., M/s Allana Sons Ltd and M/s Fazlani Exports Ltd participated in the event.

## Ambassador Attends "Kazakh-India Friendship" Concert at Astana Medical University

Astana Medical University organized a concert "Kazakh-India friendship" dedicated to the celebration of Indian festival "Deepavali" on 1st November, 2016. Ambassador Shri Harsh Jain attended the concert as the Chief Guest. Rector of the University Mr. Mazhit Shaidarov and Ambassador addressed the audience.



## Celebration of Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Almaty

The Embassy with support from Tengri Bank, Kazakhstan celebrated the 141st birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at Almaty on 6th November, 2016. The celebration began with the lighting of lamp and garlanding of the portrait of Sardar Patel by Ambassador. It was followed by screening of feature film "Sardar" by Ketan Mehta and documentary "A man of Silence - Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel", and speeches by Ambassador and members of audience. Ambassador also made a presentation on the celebration of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Bengaluru from January 7 -9, 2017 urging the Overseas Indians to register for the event.



## Ambassador Delivers a Talk at the Astana Toastmasters Club

Ambassador Shri Harsh Jain delivered a talk on "India-Kazakhstan Relations" at the meeting of the Astana Toastmasters Club dedicated to India on 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2016. He also answered questions from the participants. Earlier, President of the Club Ms. Korlan Bektassova delivered opening remarks. At the conclusion of the meeting, the participants performed an Indian dance in flash mob. The Club is a non-profit organization with the mission to contribute to building a community of leaders able to think critically and eager to improve public speaking, communication and leadership skills to address variety of global issues and pass on their knowledge to the public.



## Bollywood Movie "Love You Family" Shot in Kazakhstan

Khushi Motion Pictures, Mumbai visited Kazakhstan from October 29 to November 11, 2016 to shoot some parts of bollywood movie "Love You Family". The film directed by Mr. Sachindra Sharma has Mr. Salman Yousuf Khan and Ms. Aksha Pardasany as lead actors. The crew shot the film in and the mountainous areas near Almaty.



## Officers of Armed Forces of Kazakhstan Attend ITEC Training

Captain Kuandykov Vesset and Senior Lieutenant Arman Atygayuly of Armed Forces of Kazakhstan were selected for the Commando Course (Officer)-307 conducted by Junior Leader Wing, Belgaum from 22<sup>nd</sup> November to 29<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 under ITEC Programme Category-I. Col. L.S. Lidder, Defence Attaché at the Mission handed over air tickets for their travel to India. He also briefed them about the course curriculum and the city of Belgaum.



## Pravasi Haryana Divas

As part of its Golden Jubilee Celebrations, the Government of the State of Haryana is organizing Pravasi Haryana Divas (PHD) on 10th & 11th January, 2017 at Kingdom of Dreams, Gurugram with the objective to recognize the achievements of NRIs and PIOs of Haryana as well as those from Haryana who are now settled in other States of India, and to harness their energies in the future development of Haryana.

The Government of Haryana is aiming at not only highlighting available avenues for investments in various sectors, but also offering concrete opportunities for meaningful contribution towards improving the lives of the people of Haryana. Parallel sectoral sessions, and B to G and B to B meetings will be organized during the PHD. Two Pravasi Haryanvis who have made significant contributions in Trade, Industry, Health, Education, IT, Engineering, Services, Art, Culture, Entertainment, Tourism and Social Services will be honoured.

The members of Indian diaspora wishing to participate in the event may register at [www.pravasiharyanadivas.in](http://www.pravasiharyanadivas.in).



## Prime Minister Modi Inaugurates AMCDRR 2016

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the three-day 7<sup>th</sup> Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) 2016 in New Delhi on 3rd November, 2016. In his address, Prime Minister Modi said that seven of the top ten countries in the world in terms of number of deaths due to disasters are in the Asia-Pacific. He outlined a ten-point agenda for renewing the efforts towards disaster risk reduction: all development sectors must imbibe the principles of disaster risk management; work towards risk coverage for all; encourage greater

involvement and leadership of women in disaster risk management; invest in risk mapping globally; leverage technology to enhance the efficiency of disaster risk management efforts; develop a network of universities to work on disaster issues; utilize the opportunities provided by social media and mobile technologies; build on local capacity and initiative; ensure that the opportunity to learn from a disaster is not wasted; and bring about greater cohesion in international response to disasters. He offered to make India's space capabilities available to any country for purposes of disaster risk management.

The AMCDRR 2016 was the first major inter-governmental event after the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-30 at the third UN World Conference in Sendai, Japan in March, 2015. The Sendai Framework identifies targets and priority action areas towards reducing disaster risk. The AMCDRR aimed at setting the direction for implementation of the Framework in the Asian region and devising a mechanism for monitoring its progress. It adopted the New Delhi Declaration, a political commitment of participating governments towards preventing and reducing disaster risk, and the 'Asian Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework', which focused on how to reduce disaster risk at national and local levels.

Mr. Yuriy Viktorovich Ilin, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr. Marat Khassenov Maidanovich, Head of Division for Prevention of Emergency Situations of the Committee for Emergency Situation and Mr. Valeriy Petro Victorovich, Director of the Centre for Emergency Situation and Disaster Reduction from Kazakhstan attended the AMCDRR Conference.



## India Rises to Second Spot on Global Biz Optimism Index

India was ranked second on the "Global Index of Business Optimism" during the third quarter (Jul-Sep) of 2016 improving its rank by one spot from the previous quarter, as per the latest Grant Thornton International Business Report released on 7th November, 2016.

The report states that the improvement in the optimism ranking reflects the reform agenda of the government and its efforts on improving the climate for doing business including likely implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST). It notes that high business optimism was also complimented by the rise of employment expectations.

### LOOKING UP

Business optimism index during July-September 2016

- 1 - Indonesia
- 2 - India
- 3 - The Philippines

SOURCE: Grant Thornton International Business Report

## ECI Launches Online Survey Among Overseas Indian Voters

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has initiated an online survey in collaboration with Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) for Non-Resident Indians to determine their registration and participation rates and gather their opinions and voting preferences. The link may be seen at [www.everyvotecounts.in](http://www.everyvotecounts.in). The survey will run through the month of November-December, 2016.



The Representation of the People Act, 1950 was amended with effect from 10th February, 2011 to make special provisions for citizens of India residing outside the country to get enrolled as an elector in the constituency in which his/her place of residence in India as mentioned in his/her passport is located. The online survey is part of the steps taken by the ECI to reach out to the Non-Resident Indians so that they get enrolled and vote in elections in their respective constituencies.

## Indian Classical Dance Group "Nataraja" Performs at ICC

Indian Classical Dance Group 'Nataraja', Arkalyk, Kostanay Region led by its Director Ms. Aigerim Ossipova organized a cultural programme at Indian Cultural Centre, Astana on 1st November. The performance included Indian Classical, Folk and Bollywood Dances as well as Kazakh, Russian and Uzbekh Folk Dances. The Group won several prizes at a dance competition held in Almaty on 30th October.



## Incredible India Destination: Bekal

Bekal, 50 km from Mangalore airport, is a natural wonder in the State of Kerala. Endowed with crystal-clear azure waters of the Arabian Sea, the splendid Bekal Beach, located on the shoreline of Pallikkara village of Kasaragod, is known for stunning beauty and unspoilt elegance. The imposing fort at Bekal is one of the biggest pulls for visitors to this beach. Today, Bekal allures visitors willing to enjoy backwaters, hill destinations and water sport facilities.

Bekal fort, Bekal fort beach, Ananthapura lake temple, Kappil beach, Mallikarjuna temple and Malik Deenar Mosque are major tourist attractions in Bekal.

The Bekal Fort spread over 40 acres of land was built by the rulers of the ancient Kadampa dynasty. The 300-year-old fort, shaped like a giant key-hole, is one of the largest and best-preserved forts in Kerala. The Bekal fort beach is beautiful with stunning white sand and pristine water all around it.

Ananthapura Lake Temple, dedicated to Lord Vishnu, is an attractive 9th century Hindu temple situated in the middle of a lake in Kasaragod district. Mallikarjuna Temple is devoted to Lord Shiva known there by the name Mallikarjuna.

Kappil Beach is one of the most exciting locations to relax and enjoy. The wide, sweeping stretch of silver sands, fringed by thick groves of casuarinas and total solitude of the surroundings attract visitors. The Kodi cliff provides an ideal spot for the adventurous souls and offers a panoramic view of the Arabian Sea.

Malik Deenar Mosque built in the typical Kerala style is believed to have been founded by Malik Ibn Deenar, one of the companions of Prophet Muhammad.

About 30 km away from Bekal lay the Valiyapamba Backwaters which is one of the most scenic backwaters in Kerala. It includes Kunnuveedu and Padanna beaches. The backwater is also dotted with numerous islands. It also offers enticing boat cruises.

Hosdurg Fort (15 km from Bekal) built in 19<sup>th</sup> century looks imposing with its round bastions. The place is known for Nithyanandasram, an internationally recognized spiritual centre with 45 caves.



*Bekal Fort*



*Bekal Fort Beach*



*Ananthapura Lake Temple*



*Kappil Beach*



*Malik Deenar Mosque*



*Valiyapamba Backwaters*

## PHOTO FEATURE

### *Ambassador Attends Closing Ceremony of 6th Gandhi Memorial Chess Tournament*



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### *Ambassador Attends Kazakh-India Friendship Concert at Astana Medical University*



### *Celebration of Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Almaty*



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### *Ambassador Delivers a Talk at the Astana Toastmasters Club*



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### *Indian Classical Dance Group "Nataraja" Performs at ICC*



  
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