



सत्यमेव जयते

Embassy of India ASTANA

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Embassy of India ASTANA NEWSLETTER

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President of Kyrgyzstan Visits India

President of Kyrgyzstan Mr. Almazbek Atambayev paid a State Visit to India from December 18-21, 2016. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi received him on 20th December. They held a fruitful exchange of views and discussed the full range of issues covering friendly cooperation, bilateral relations, and the regional and international situation. They noted that people of India and Kyrgyzstan have historic and cultural ties since time immemorial and expressed satisfaction at the upward trend in broadening these ties since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries 25 years ago.



President Atambayev appreciated Prime Minister Modi's offer to conduct special courses for the Members and the staff of the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan. He appreciated establishment of three IT Centers at Kyrgyz Military Institutions and upgradation of an IT Centre by India in the last two years. He thanked India for the support and assistance provided in equipping the Kyrgyz Military Field 2nd Level Hospital for UN Peacekeeping Missions and welcomed the offer of assistance in training. The leaders noted the annual "Khanjar" series of India-Kyrgyzstan military exercises and the joint army mountaineering expedition, which reflect the high level of mutual trust between the two countries. They also noted the joint construction of Kyrgyz-Indian Mountain Training Centre in Balykchi, which would conduct training for the armed forces of Kyrgyzstan and host Kyrgyz-Indian joint mountain training exercises.

President Atambayev praised India's contribution in setting up a Telemedicine Network in Kyrgyzstan and its expansion to the remaining regions of the country. The leaders expressed satisfaction over growing links between private hospitals of the two countries. They noted the progress achieved in cooperation in the field of agriculture. President Atambayev welcomed the assistance of India in establishing aromatic industry and consultancy in the field of organic farming. Prime Minister Modi appreciated the support of Kyrgyzstan to the Kyrgyz-India Mountain Bio-Medical Research Center. The leaders noted the challenges posed by terrorism and extremism in the world and emphasized the importance of ensuring a stable and secure environment for peaceful economic development.

In the joint press conference, Prime Minister Modi said that the relationship between India and Kyrgyzstan is filled with goodwill from centuries of shared historical links. He said that the two countries are also bound by a common belief in democratic values and traditions. He stated that India regards Kyrgyzstan as a valuable partner in the common pursuit of making Central Asia a region of sustainable peace, stability and prosperity. He informed about the decision to hold a series of events to commemorate the 25th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in March, 2017.

President Shri Pranab Mukherjee received President Atambayev and hosted a banquet in his honour on 20th December. He expressed gladness to see that Kyrgyzstan has progressed so well in the last 25 years. He said that one of its finest achievements is its steadfast preference for and adherence to democracy. He underscored that both the nations, being pluralistic societies, share the view that harmonious co-existence of citizens of diverse faiths and ethnicities is vital for a nation's progress and growth.

President Atambayev attended the India-Kyrgyz Business Forum jointly organized by FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM on 21st December. In his address, he said that the current bilateral trade between India and Kyrgyzstan is much below the potential and urged Indian businessmen to explore cooperation in various sectors to expand the horizon of bilateral commerce and trade between the two countries. He informed that Kyrgyzstan is emerging as a hub for trade and investment with new business-friendly measures and adoption of revamped laws from 1st January, 2017. He stated that reduced rate on credit and establishment of trade zones would allow Indian businesses to function smoothly. He assured that Kyrgyzstan would soon issue e-visas to businessmen from India.

Six Agreements/MOUs on cooperation in the fields of tourism; agriculture and food industry; youth development; exchange of information on training programmes of diplomats; youth exchange programme; and broadcasting and exchange of audiovisual programmes, and also a Bilateral Investment Treaty were signed during the visit.

President of Tajikistan Visits India

President of Tajikistan Mr. Emomali Rahmon paid a State Visit to India from December 14-18, 2016. He arrived in New Delhi on 16th December after visiting Kerala. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi received him on 17th December. They held wide-ranging talks on bilateral, regional and international issues. Noting that 2017 would mark the 25th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Tajikistan, they reaffirmed their commitment to take bilateral relations to greater heights.



The leaders stressed the importance of taking joint measures to expand and diversify present bilateral trade, which is below potential. They agreed to increase the scope and scale of economic engagement in the fields of hydel-power, Information Technology, pharmaceuticals and healthcare. President Rahmon invited Indian investment in Tajikistan including in four Free Economic Zones. He recalled India's contribution in rehabilitation of Varzhob-I Hydel Power Plant and informed that Tajikistan is planning to build a number of small and medium hydroelectric power projects and invited investments by Indian companies.

The leaders decided to collaborate for capacity building in Tajikistan in the area of application of space technology for human development. They reiterated their interest in cooperating in farming sector for self-sufficiency in food. President Rahmon lauded the initiatives of the International Solar Alliance and noted that solar energy projects could be very useful in remote mountainous areas of Tajikistan. The leaders stressed the importance of improving regional connectivity for realizing the full potential of trade and underlined the importance of International North South Transport Corridor. They decided to celebrate the 25th year of establishment of Diplomatic relations between the two countries in a befitting manner through festivals, cultural events, conferences and other means of mutual interaction.

In the joint press conference, Prime Minister Modi said that India and Tajikistan face multiple security challenges and threats, which endanger not just the two countries, but cast a long shadow of violence and instability over entire region. President Rahmon said that Tajikistan would intensify its defence and counter-terror cooperation with India and work to stabilise Afghanistan. He reaffirmed that Tajikistan would support India's candidature for Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and India's bid for permanent membership of the UN Security Council.

President Shri Pranab Mukherjee received President Rahmon and hosted a banquet in his honour on 17th December. He appreciated President Rahmon's role in ensuring peace and stability in Tajikistan which has a similar salutary effect in the region.

Four Agreements/MOUs were signed during the visit on avoidance of double taxation and prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income; cooperation on Broadcasting in Exchange of Audio-Visual Programs; exchange of financial intelligence related to money laundering, related crimes and financing of terrorism; and announcement of initiation of bilateral investment treaty between the two countries.

India-Kazakhstan JWG on Trade and Economic Cooperation held in New Delhi

The 5th Session of India-Kazakhstan Joint Working Group (JWG) on Trade and Economic Cooperation led by Shri Sunil Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce of India and Mr. Kairat Torebayev, General Director of International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of National Economy of Kazakhstan was held in New Delhi on December 22-23, 2016.

Both sides expressed satisfaction at the successful completion of the Joint Study Group Report on the feasibility of Free Trade Agreement between Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) and India and hoped that the process of obtaining internal clearances by both sides would be completed by end-December, 2016 thereby paving the way for commencement of formal trade negotiations in early 2017.



The Kazakh side expressed interest in establishing cooperation with leading Indian companies dealing with production and sale of phosphorus pentasulfide and its derivatives. Both sides expressed interest in further development of bilateral cooperation in the exploration and development of mining in Kazakhstan and hoped that MOUs in this regard could be concluded in the first quarter of 2017.

India suggested Kazakhstan to liberalise its current visa regime for Indian citizens and in this regard proposed to hold the second round of Consular consultation in the first quarter of 2017. The JWG also discussed the early operationalization of International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) to give further impetus to bilateral trade.

The JWG agreed that there is potential for promoting investments in the spheres of Oil and Gas, Civil Nuclear Energy, Chemicals, Food Processing, Public Health, Pharmaceuticals, Information Technology, Mining and Metals. Both sides underlined the need to augment connectivity and promote cooperation in Service Sector.

President of India's Greetings on Independence Day of Kazakhstan

President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee extended his greetings and felicitations to the people and President of Kazakhstan on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of Kazakhstan's Independence on 16th December, 2016. He conveyed his best wishes for success, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Kazakhstan. He said that the impressive progress made by Kazakhstan in all spheres during the last 25 years owes much to the wise leadership of President Nazarbayev. He stated that the close and friendly cooperation between India and Kazakhstan has grown in last 25 years and expressed confidence that through the common endeavours, broad-based and friendly bilateral relationship would continue to deepen further for the mutual benefit of the people of the two countries.



Ambassador Gives Interview to TV Channel "Asyl Arna"

TV Channel "Asyl Arna" telecast an interview of Ambassador Shri Harsh Jain on 30th December, 2016.

Q. Dear Mr. Ambassador! Thank you for agreeing to give an interview to us! How do you appraise the relations between India and Kazakhstan?

A. I would highly appraise close and friendly relations between India and Kazakhstan. These relations are based on shared values and deep-rooted historical and cultural linkages. Both our countries are multi-ethnic, multi religious, multi linguistic societies committed to following secular policies. The bilateral relations have been growing steadily ever since the independence of Kazakhstan in 1991. India was one of the first few countries to recognize the independence of Kazakhstan and establish diplomatic relations. On an average, there is a high-level visit between the two countries every 2-3 years. These visits have helped in shaping the direction of bilateral relations and further deepening and strengthening mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries.



An important milestone in the relations was the adoption of strategic partnership between the two countries in January 2009 during the visit of President Nazarbayev to India as the Chief Guest on the occasion of the 60th Republic Day of India. The strategic partnership opened new areas of bilateral cooperation such as hydrocarbon sector and cooperation in the field of space and civil nuclear energy. The visit of India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Kazakhstan last year further strengthened this partnership. In the last 25 years, we have established close cooperation in many fields. It includes political consultations on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest, cooperation in multilateral forums, trade and economic cooperation, cooperation in the fields of defence, education, culture and development partnership.

Views of both our countries coincide on all major regional and international issues. India supported Kazakhstan's candidature for the non-permanent membership of UN Security Council in 2017-18 and Kazakhstan supports India's claim for permanent membership of the UN Security Council. India also supports Kazakhstan's CICA and non-proliferation initiatives and actively participates in the Congress of World and Traditional Religions. One of the first major investments in Kazakhstan came from Indian businessman Mr. L. N. Mittal. Today, Kazakhstan is India's largest trade and investment partner in Central Asia. In my view, the relations between the two countries have a great future.

Q. Which spheres do you think require further development?

A. Our bilateral relations are dynamic in character. There is a significant transformation taking place in both countries. India has grown rapidly in the last 25 years becoming the third largest economy in the world by purchasing power parity. India has initiated major economic reforms in the last two years making it the most open economy for Foreign Direct Investment and the fastest growing large economy in the world. India has also made significant progress in scientific and technological fields. India has a prominent voice in global affairs and international forums.

Kazakhstan too has grown rapidly in the last 25 years and has taken initiatives that have enhanced its regional and international prestige. There is, therefore, a vast scope for us to deepen and widen our relations in all spheres of bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Our economies are mutually complementary. We are both a strong voice for peace, tolerance and stability in the world. Kazakhstan is rich in natural resources. India, on the other hand, is one of the largest importers of hydrocarbons and minerals. It has a well-developed manufacturing sector and service industry. There is thus an enormous potential for expanding cooperation in energy security, mineral resources, agriculture, textiles, trade, tourism, IT, entertainment and service industries, defence, education and cultural fields. Indian companies can assist Kazakhstan in building infrastructure under its Nurly Zhol programme. We also need to work together to build efficient transport connectivity between the two countries.

Q. How would you appraise the social and economic development of today's Kazakhstan?

A. In my view, Kazakhstan has made an incredible socio-economic progress in the last 25 years. Kazakhstan's GDP has increased 16 fold since independence. The average income of people in Kazakhstan has also increased manifold. Kazakhstan has made rapid progress in education and health sectors. Moreover, the investments Kazakhstan is making in the human resources and physical infrastructure will pay the country greatly in future. It has built a world-class capital city Astana which every Kazakhstani citizen can be proud of.

Q. Which spheres of Indian economy are important for Kazakhstani business?

A. India is a rapidly growing economy and a huge market. Kazakhstan can take advantage of our geographic proximity and excellent political relations to tap into this market by building strategic partnerships in areas where it has the competitive strength, such as hydrocarbons and mineral resources, agriculture, tourism and investments in Indian economy.

Q. Which spheres of prospective relations with Kazakhstan require further expansion?

A. In my view, Indian vector in Kazakhstan's multi-vector foreign policy needs strengthening. Kazakhstan can greatly benefit by expanding this vector. Both our countries have similarities in foreign policy and views on international issues. We share the same extended neighbourhood that affect peace, security and stability in our region. As I said earlier, our economies complement each other but in India, the economy is largely driven by the private sector. There are great cultural affinities between our two countries. I therefore consider that further expansion of our political and security cooperation, people to people contacts, trade and investment cooperation by developing close relations between the businessmen in India and Kazakhstan, better transport connectivity, more intense cultural and academic exchanges, further expansion in defense and education cooperation, would greatly benefit both countries.

Q. Dear Mr. Ambassador, thank you for your answers. In conclusion, I have a question about your growth in diplomatic career?

A. Well, I have had a very satisfying diplomatic career which began 23 years ago. My first substantive assignment was to Moscow, where I began as third Secretary and was promoted to Second Secretary. I then went to Kiev, Capital of Ukraine, where I spent two years. My responsibility was trade and economic relations, development partnership and cooperation in the field of science and technology between the two countries. I then moved to St. Petersburg in Russia as First Secretary responsible for Consular and Commercial matters. I spent three years in St. Petersburg before returning to Delhi. In Delhi, I was responsible for putting in place massive reconstruction assistance that India is providing to Afghanistan since the end of 2001. It was one of the most satisfying assignments in my diplomatic career. I was promoted and sent to India's High Commission in London where I served as Political Counselor for multilateral relations.

I then moved to India's embassy in Kathmandu, Capital of Nepal. I was responsible for entire range of trade, economic and commercial relations between the two countries. Thereafter, I returned to India and was made in-charge of global cyber issues in the Ministry of External Affairs. I served as India's Representative in the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on the developments in the field of information and tele-communications in the context of international security. I received further promotion during this period and was appointed Ambassador to Kazakhstan.

Q. This year Kazakhstan celebrates 25th anniversary of independence. What are your wishes to people of Kazakhstan?

A. I, on behalf of the people of India and on my own behalf, congratulate the people of Kazakhstan on the 25th anniversary of its Independence. It is an occasion to celebrate all the great achievements and progress made by Kazakhstan during the last 25 years. Our bilateral relations and eternal friendship has also flourished during this period and achieved many milestones. I wish people of Kazakhstan peace, prosperity and well-being on this occasion.

Kazakhstan Participates in International Film Festival of Kerala

Kazakhstan participated in the "21st International Film Festival of Kerala" organized by Kerala Chalchithra Academy and Ministry of Culture of Kerala in Thiruvananthapuram from December 9-16, 2016. The country-focus of the festival was Kazakhstan. The following films produced by Kazakhfilm Film Studio were screened under the category "Focus on Kazakhstan": 'Daughter-in-Law' (E. Tursunov), 'Old Man' (E. Tursunov), 'Student' (D. Omirbayev), and animated film 'Kazakh land' (B. Daurenbekov).



Mr. Serik Apyrmov, film director from Kazakhstan, was a member of 6-member jury. 185 films from 62 countries were shown in the festival. The International Film Festival of Kerala is being held since 1996.

Kazakhstan Celebrates the 25th Anniversary of Independence

President Nazarbayev congratulated the people of Kazakhstan on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of its independence on 16th December, 2016. He attended a ceremonial meeting devoted to the anniversary in Astana on 15th December.

In his address, President Nazarbayev recalled that the country was in a desperate situation in 1991. He said that as Kazakhstan embarked on its independent journey, the country plunged into wild capitalism; collapse of command economic system left millions of people destitute; experts and politicians predicted disintegration of the country or emergence of civil war; and the population fell from 17.5 million to 14.9 million.

He said that on the contrary, today, Kazakhstan is recognized as a successful and prosperous state throughout the world. He expressed gratitude to all citizens of Kazakhstan for their contribution to the benefit of their homeland. He said that it is symbolic that in the year of its 25th anniversary, Kazakhstan was elected as a member of the UN Security Council.

He said that Kazakhstan, according to leading international experts, has given the world a vivid example of a country's economic miracle. He drew attention to the progressive development of the society. He said that Kazakhstan has created a unique model of peace and harmony. He praised businesspersons saying that they achieved success by their hard work without the help of initial capital. Among the key successes, he noted the establishment of new capital, Astana, which became one of the fastest growing mega-cities. He said that Astana has become a source of the spirit of independence and unity. He stated that economic success helped enhance public welfare schemes. As part of the social welfare programmes, he announced 20% increase in pension and lump sum child allowance.

He said that by 2050, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) would account for 50 percent of economy and spending on research and development would rise to 3 percent of GDP, which would bring Kazakhstan to the level of countries with knowledge-based economies. He stressed that all citizens, regardless of place of residence, sex, age or social status would be able to receive high-quality education and health care. He expressed hope that key universities in Kazakhstan would be among the leading universities of the world. He stated that the reforms and public welfare programmes would help increase life expectancy of Kazakhstanis up to 82 years.

President Nazarbayev suggested redistribution of power among the country's different branches of the government. He said that Kazakhstan would continue to be a presidential form of government, but it is necessary to consider redistribution of powers among the President, Government and Parliament. He announced that a special commission would be set up to look into the issue.

He said that the country pays due attention to its role in the international arena, including Eurasian economic integration initiatives, leadership in the global anti-nuclear movement and contribution to peace-making efforts. He said that even after a thousand years, the work of the current generation, which selflessly created a new country, would inspire its descendants and help them carry the country forward. He unveiled a monument dedicated to the 25th anniversary of Independence of Kazakhstan in Astana on 16th December, 2016.



New Visa Policy of Kazakhstan Announced

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan announced a revised visa policy on 20th December, 2016 aimed at creating a more favourable investment climate, encouraging business contacts and developing tourism potential of the country with effect from 1st January, 2017. According to the revised visa policy, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan will deal with the approval of invitations for entry of foreign nationals into Kazakhstan and the inviting party can apply for registration of invitations at any of the immigration offices across the country as against the two foreign offices in Astana and Almaty at present.



Some of the salient features of the liberalized visa policy are: Single entry visas will be issued for a period up to 90 days and multiple-entry visas for a period up to 3 years depending upon the purpose of the visit; Kazakhstan's Diplomatic Missions abroad are vested with powers to issue single-entry visa for business purposes without approval from the Headquarters; and Foreign nationals will be allowed to change the category of visa while in Kazakhstan depending on the merits of the case. The revised visa policy is available at: <http://indembastana.in/docs/New%20Visa%20Policy%20of%20Kazakhstan%20with%20effect%20from%201st%20January,%202017.pdf>.

There is no change in the rules relating to registration of foreigners and hence, citizens of India wishing to stay in Kazakhstan for more than 5 days should get themselves registered with the local migration police within 5 calendar days of their arrival in Kazakhstan.

New Indian Passport Rules Announced

The Government of India announced new Passport Rules to streamline, liberalize and ease the process of issue of passport on 23rd December, 2016. The new Passport Rules relating to submission of proof of Date of Birth and issue of passports to children with single parent and adopted children would significantly ease the process for such applicants. The new rules allow submission of any of the several prescribed documents as proof of date of birth in place of birth certificate only. The new Passport Rules are available at: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx>.



Last Date for Exchange of Old Bank Notes Extended for Indian Citizens Abroad

The Government of India has announced that Resident Indian Citizens and Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) who were not in India during the period from 9th November to 30th December, 2016 can exchange demonitized Rs. 500 and Rs. 1000 bank notes till 31st March and 30th June, 2017 respectively at the Reserve Bank Offices in Mumbai, New Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Nagpur. While there is no monetary limit for exchange of bank notes by Resident Indian Citizens, the NRIs can exchange a maximum of Rs. 25,000.



The detailed terms and conditions and the procedure for availing the facility are available at: <https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=10808&Mode=0>.

Government Launches a Portal for Accessing Various Services on Single Platform

The government of India launched a government services portal (<https://services.india.gov.in/>) on 19th December, 2016 with the aim to provide seamless access to government services under various ministries and government entities. The Indian citizens will be able to avail different services such as application for PAN card, scholarship, jobs, digital certificates, voter IDs, passports and visa through the single window. As of now, a total of 1,955 services related to education, health, electricity, water and local services, justice and law, pensions and benefits have been listed on the website.



India is Third in Green Building Rankings

India secured third position this year in the US Green Building Council (USGBC) annual ranking of top 10 countries for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), a green building rating system. The report released on 14th December, 2016 said that India has 15.90 million gross square metres (GSM) of LEED-certified space and about 2,386 projects are participating in LEED across the country. It stated that India is also among the top 10 countries making progress in sustainable building design, construction and operations. It expects the number of green buildings to double every three years globally and emphasizes that India is a part of that trend.

Mr. Mahesh Ramanujam, CEO of USGBC said that with a focus on LEED and green buildings, India is prioritising environmental and human health in the built environment on a holistic scale and moving towards achieving a green building for all. Buildings account for an estimated one third of global emissions and a green certification provides cost-effective solutions to climate change as such structures generate significant environmental, economic and societal benefits. The LEED-certified buildings save energy and water, reduce carbon emissions and create a healthier environment for residents and the larger community.



ICC Participates in 50th Anniversary of Registration of ISKCON

"International Society for Krishna Consciousness" (ISKCON) celebrated the 50th anniversary of its registration at Hotel Ramada Plaza, Astana on 25th December, 2016. Ms. Chandrani K. Ojah, Kathak Dance Teacher and Mr. Bhaskar K. Ojah, Music Teacher at the Indian Cultural Centre, Astana performed at the event. The celebration included rendition of devotional songs and screening of a video on ISKCON activities.



Incredible India Destination: Allahabad

Allahabad in the State of Uttar Pradesh is a city of many dimensions. According to Hindu mythology, Lord Brahma, the God of Creation, chose this land for 'Prakrishta Yajna' and it came to be known as 'Prayag' or 'Allahabad'. Vedas and the epics - Ramayana and Mahabharata - refer to this place as 'Prayag'. Many important events in India's struggle for freedom also took place here such as emergence of the first Indian National Congress in 1885 and the beginning of Mahatma Gandhi's non-violence movement in 1920.

Sangam, Allahabad Fort, Patalpuri Temple, Ashoka Pillar, Swaraj Bhawan, Anand Bhawan, Allahabad Museum, All Saints Cathedral, Muir College and Mayo Memorial Hall are major tourist attractions in Allahabad.

The sacred Sangam is the confluence of three holy rivers - Ganga, Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati. At the Sangam, the waters of the Ganga and the Yamuna can be distinctly seen to merge into one. The holy Sangam is the site for Maha Kumbh Mela, which attracts millions of people from all across the country.

Allahabad Fort built by Emperor Akbar in 1583 AD stands on the bank of the Yamuna, near the confluence site. In its prime, the fort was unrivalled for its design, construction and craftsmanship. This majestic fort has three magnificent galleries flanked by high towers.

Patalpuri Temple, an underground temple, is inside the fort. Akshaya Vat or the immortal banyan tree lies within this temple. Believed to have been visited by Lord Rama, the temple was also seen by the famous Chinese traveler and writer Hiuen Tsang in the 7th century AD.

Ashoka Pillar of polished sandstone stands 10.6 meters high, dating back to 232 B.C. The pillar has also latter inscriptions including a Persian inscription of Emperor Jahangir of 17th century AD.

Swaraj Bhawan was donated to the Nation by Moti Lal Nehru in 1930. Former Prime Minister of India Mrs. Indira Gandhi was born there. Anand Bhawan, the erstwhile ancestral home of the Nehru family, has been turned into a fine museum. Many momentous decisions and events related to the freedom struggle took place there. Allahabad Museum has a good collection of sculptures, especially of the Gupta era.

All Saints Cathedral, built in 1870, is the finest Anglican Cathedral in Asia. Its marble altar with intricate inlay and mosaic work is very impressive. Muir College, built in 1874, is an excellent mix of Gothic and Indian architectural elements. Mayo Memorial Hall, built in 1879 in commemoration of assassinated Viceroy Mayo, has a 180-foot high tower. It was meant for public meetings and receptions.

Shankar Viman Mandapam, Mankameswar Temple, Hanuman Mandir, Sai Dham Mandir, Chandra Shekar Azad Park, Khusro Bagh, Jawahar Planetarium and Public Library are other tourist attractions in Allahabad.

Jhusi (9 km away from Allahabad) is known for many ashrams and temples. Bhita (20 km from Allahabad) is an archaeological site where excavations have brought forth the remains of an ancient fortified city dating back to 300 B.C.

Kaushambi (62 km) is traditionally associated with the Mahabharata. The city was also a great Buddhist centre. Lord Buddha is believed to have visited Kaushambi twice to deliver discourses. The ruins of an ancient fort and monastery bear witness to the antiquity of the place. Karadham (69 km), provincial capital of the Mughals on the banks of Ganga, has many ruins.



Allahabad Fort



Maha Kumbh Mela



All Saints Cathedral



Anand Bhawan



Bhita

PHOTO FEATURE

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Ambassador Attends Briefing by Foreign Minister on New Visa Policy of Kazakhstan



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Kazakhstani Professionals Selected for ITEC Training



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