

सत्यमेव जयते

## Embassy of India Astana

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# Embassy of India ASTANA NEWSLETTER

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## Prime Minister of Bangladesh Visits India

Prime Minister of Bangladesh Ms. Sheikh Hasina paid a State Visit to India from April 7-10, 2017. In a special gesture, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi received her at the airport on her arrival in New Delhi. They held wide-ranging discussions on 8th April, 2017. They affirmed that the relationship between India and Bangladesh was anchored in history, culture, language and shared values of secularism, democracy and countless other commonalities between the two countries. They re-affirmed their common aspiration for peace, collective prosperity and development of the region and beyond.



Prime Minister Modi conveyed India's readiness to meet the needs of Bangladesh in various fields including education, health, skill development, energy, infrastructure, Science and Technology, IT, e-governance, emerging high technology areas and satellite programme. Prime Minister Hasina thanked Prime Minister Modi for supporting various public interest projects as fully funded grant-in-aid projects such as city improvement projects in Rajshahi, Sylhet and Khulna, and setting up of 36 community clinics. She also thanked him for financing construction of Indo-Bangla Friendship Pipeline from Siliguri to Parbatipur for supply of High Speed Diesel to Bangladesh as a grant-in-aid project.

The leaders emphasized the need to remove all trade barriers including removal of port restrictions to facilitate trade between the two countries. They acknowledged the advantages of sub-regional cooperation in the areas of power, water resources, trade, transit and connectivity for mutual benefit. Prime Minister Hasina requested Prime Minister Modi for facilitation of cross-border power sector cooperation with Nepal.

In the joint press conference, Prime Minister Modi announced a new concessional Line of Credit (LOC) of US\$ 4.5 billion for implementing projects in priority sectors. He also announced a LOC of US\$ 500 million to support Bangladesh's defence related procurement. He expressed admiration at Prime Minister Hasina's firm resolve in dealing with terrorism saying that her Government's 'zero-tolerance' policy towards terrorism is an inspiration for all.

The leaders jointly released the Hindi translation of the book "Unfinished Memoirs" by Father of Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and renamed a prominent road in New Delhi in his memory. They jointly inaugurated two rail and a road connectivity projects between India and Bangladesh through video conference.

The leaders presided over the Sommanona Ceremony in honour of Indian Martyrs who fought alongside the Bangladeshi Muktiyoddha in the Great Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971. Prime Minister Hasina handed over a citation and a crest to the next of kin of 7 Indian officers and soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the Liberation War. Prime Minister Modi announced a scheme for medical treatment of 100 Muktiyoddhas in Indian hospitals every year. He also extended the Scholarship Scheme for 10,000 heirs of Muktiyoddhas for another 5 years.

Prime Minister Hasina called on President Shri Pranab Mukherjee on 9th April, 2017. President Mukherjee said that India deeply appreciates her role in giving a new direction to the India-Bangladesh relationship and making it a strong, vibrant and exemplary partnership between two neighbours. Prime Minister Hasina addressed a business event organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on 10th April, 2017. She enumerated Bangladesh's advantages such as steady economic growth, high demographic dividend, competitive cost structure and a large consumer base. 13 Agreements/MOUs were signed between Indian and Bangladeshi industries during the event.

22 Agreements/MOUs were signed during the visit on cooperation on defence, peaceful uses of outer space, peaceful uses of nuclear energy, IT and electronics, cyber security, establishing border haats, judiciary, aids to navigation, R&D in Earth Sciences, mass media, audio-visual co-production, defence LOC of US\$ 500 million, regulation of motor vehicle passenger traffic (Khulna-Kolkata route), 3rd LOC of US\$ 4.5 billion, construction of 36 community clinics in Bangladesh, etc.

## Prime Minister of Malaysia Visits India

Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak paid a State Visit to India from 30<sup>th</sup> March to 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2017. The visit coincided with the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Malaysia. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi received him in New Delhi on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2017. The two leaders hailed the strong bonds of friendship forged through shared historical, cultural and social ties between the two countries. They agreed on several measures to provide a further fillip to the strong bilateral relations and further enhance the strategic partnership between the two countries.



The leaders agreed to enhance cooperation in various fields such as defence, counter terrorism, cyber security, health, education, S & T, digital initiatives, e-commerce, finance and labour. They appreciated the efforts made in both countries to enhance the ease of doing business and provide a conducive environment for investors. They noted the significant strides made in cooperation on Indian traditional medicine, especially Ayurveda and Siddha, and the continued deputation of medical professionals in these fields under ITEC Programme. They welcomed the initiative by the Government of Malaysia to extend visa-free programme to Indian nationals visiting Malaysia from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018.

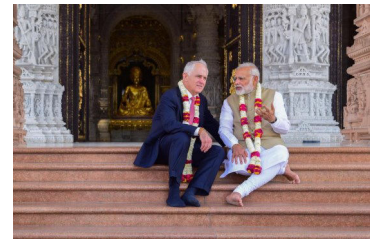
In the joint press briefing, Prime Minister Modi said that India and Malaysia have built a thriving economic partnership. He noted that infrastructure is an area of fruitful partnerships between the two countries. He added that India's infrastructure needs and ambitious vision of developing smart cities match well with Malaysian capacities.

Prime Minister Najib called on President Shri Pranab Mukherjee on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2017. President Mukherjee said that there is considerable potential for collaboration in defence production. Prime Minister Najib said that India always supported Malaysia in difficult times. He stated that bilateral relations between the two countries are multi-dimensional and Malaysia wants to raise the relations to new heights. He visited Chennai on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017 and Jaipur on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2017. In Jaipur, he addressed a business delegation on business opportunities and investment by Malaysian companies in Rajasthan. He addressed the India-Malaysia Business Forum in New Delhi on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2017.

Seven Agreements/MOUs were signed during the visit on cooperation on air services; development of a urea and ammonia manufacturing plant in Malaysia for dedicated consumption by India; mutual recognition of educational qualifications; sports; training and other capacity building programmes at EDII, Ahmedabad; technology development in palm oil; and implementation of 4<sup>th</sup> Generation Technology Park in Andhra Pradesh.

## Prime Minister of Australia Visits India

Prime Minister of Australia Mr. Malcolm Turnbull paid a State Visit to India from April 9-12, 2017. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi received him on 10<sup>th</sup> April. The leaders noted that the two countries share a commitment to democratic values, rule of law, international peace and security, and shared prosperity. They reaffirmed their commitment to a peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific, based on mutual respect and cooperation. They agreed that Australia's resources and experience could support India's ambitious economic reform path and India's strong growth offered opportunities for Australian investment looking for long term stable returns.



They noted that Australia is now ready to export uranium to India with the passage of the relevant legislation in the Australian Parliament. They committed to strengthen cooperation in various fields such as education, skills development, sports, science, technology, innovation, health, defence, security, maritime safety and security, and water management. Prime Minister Turnbull appreciated the significant contribution of the Indian diaspora in Australia, both in economic and cultural terms. At the joint press briefing, Prime Minister Modi said that the Australia-India Research Fund of US\$ 100 million was focused on collaborative research projects in areas such as nano-technology, smart cities, infrastructure, agriculture and disease control. He stated that joint development of bananas fortified with Vitamin A, and more nutritious and hardy varieties of pulses are examples of outstanding scientific cooperation between the two countries.

The leaders inaugurated the expanded TERI-DEAKIN Research Centre on Nano and Bio Technology located at Gual Pahari near New Delhi via video conference. Prime Minister Modi called it a classic example of cooperation between the two countries on cutting-edge science and technology. Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Turnbull travelled to iconic Akshardham temple in New Delhi by Delhi Metro. Prime Minister Turnbull called on President Shri Pranab Mukherjee on 10<sup>th</sup> April.

He visited the headquarters of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) in Mumbai on 11<sup>th</sup> April. He addressed the business leaders at a meeting organized by the chambers of Indian industries. He visited the National Defence College (NDC) and addressed the 57<sup>th</sup> NDC Course, which includes participants from Indian Armed forces, Civil Services and friendly foreign countries including one officer from Australian Navy.

Six Agreements/MOUs were signed during the visit on cooperation on combating international terrorism and transnational organized crime; health and medicine; sports; environment, climate and wildlife; civil aviation security; and space technology.

## Prime Minister Modi Inaugurates Chenani-Nashri Tunnel in J&K

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Chenani-Nashri tunnel in Jammu & Kashmir on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2017. The 9 km long, twin-tube, all-weather tunnel, built at the cost of over US\$ 385 million is the Asia's longest bi-directional highway tunnel. The tunnel has been built at an elevation of 1200 metres on one of the most difficult Himalayan terrains. It will reduce the travel time between Jammu and Srinagar by two hours and the distance by 31 kms, bypassing snow-bound upper reaches. The resultant fuel savings are estimated at Rs. 27 lakhs (US\$ 41,500) per day.

The tunnel is a part of the 286-km-long four-laning of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. The structure consists of a two-laned main tunnel with a parallel escape tunnel. The two tunnels are connected by 29 cross passages at regular intervals along the entire length of the tunnel. These cross passages can be used for evacuation of vehicles and commuters in case of breakdown or any other emergency.

The tunnel has a fully-integrated control system with ventilation, communication, power supply, incident detection, SOS call box and fire fighting. It has fully automatic traffic control and is equipped with advanced scanners to ward off any security threat.



## India Moves 12 Places Up in Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index: WEF

India moved up 12 places to 40<sup>th</sup> position from 52<sup>nd</sup> position last year in the Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI) of World Economic Forum released on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017. India has cumulatively improved its ranking by 25 places in last three years. India's jump in the TTCI are attributed to the development of tourism infrastructure and easing of entry formalities for international tourists.

According to the TTCI report, India continues to charm international tourists with its vast cultural and natural resources with rankings of 9<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> respectively. It places India at 10<sup>th</sup> position in terms of price competitiveness advantage. It says that India continues to enrich its cultural resources, protecting more cultural sites and intangible expressions through UNESCO World Heritage Lists and greater digital presence.

The Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index measures the set of factors and policies that enable the sustainable development of the travel and tourism sector, which in turn, contributes to the development and competitiveness of a country.



## Ambassador's Spouse Organizes Demonstration of Art of Wearing Sari

Mrs. Vandana Jain, Spouse of Ambassador, organized demonstration of art of wearing sari along with exhibition of saris from different States of India showing the weave, fabrics, prints, embroidery, colour and their significance in Indian culture and tradition on April 12, 2017. The event was greeted with a lot of interest and enthusiasm. Several guests wore saris. It was followed by taste of Indian cuisine. The event was attended by over 30 prominent Kazakh women and Ambassadors' spouses.



## Ms. Avika Gor Launches Ayurvedic Products of Vasu Health Care in Almaty

Ms. Avika Gor, Television Artist (popular for her role as young Anandi in the famous Indian serial "Balika Vadhu") and Brand Ambassador of Vasu Health Care Limited, India launched the company's range of Ayurvedic products in Almaty on April 9, 2017. The products launched included ayurvedic formulations and special healthcare products such as hair oil, hair creams and facials. About 200 people including Mr. D.K. Mehta, Vice President of the company and Shri R. Gururaj, First Secretary at the Embassy attended the event.





## Incredible India Destination: Mount Abu

Mount Abu, a popular hill resort, is a pleasant green oasis of lush forested hills set in the barren desert scape of Rajasthan. It is also a place of pilgrimage with famous Dilwara Jain temples located there. At 1,722 metres above sea level, it is situated on the highest point of the Aravalli mountain range. A striking feature about Mount Abu is posh houses, which are a blend of British style bungalows and holiday lodges of the royals, sharing space with the rustic abodes of various tribal communities residing in the forests. Possessing great scenic beauty, this quaint hill station is home to lakes and waterfalls. One can also enjoy blossoming flowers and trees that are indigenous to this region.

Dilwara Jain Temples, Gaumukh Temple, Adhar Devi Temple, Nakki lake, Sunset Point and Honeymoon Point are major tourist attractions in Mout Abu.

Dilwara Jain Temples built between 11th and 13th century AD are in the midst of a range of forested hills. There are five beautifully carved temples, which are known for their stunning use of marble. Two are dedicated to Lord Rishabha and the remaining three are dedicated to Lord Neminath, Lord Parshvanath and Lord Mahavira.

Gaumukh Temple has a natural spring flowing through a sculpted cow's head, which gives the shrine its name. There is a magnificent marble image of Nandi near the temple. Adhar Devi Temple, chiseled out of a huge rock, is dedicated to Goddess Durga. The sight from the temple gives breathtaking views of surrounding mountains and forests. Nakki lake is picturesquely set amid hills. From Sunset Point, one can view the spectacular sight of the setting sun when the hills are covered in the golden glow. Honeymoon Point offers an enchanting view of the verdant plains and valleys.

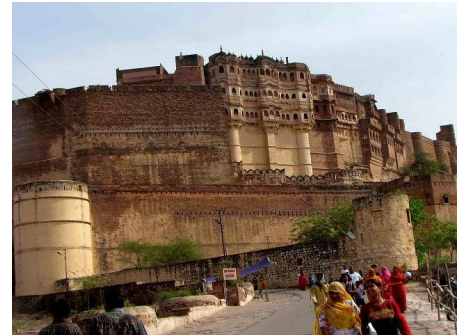
Achalgarh, located at a distance of 10 km from Mount Abu, is a fort built by King Rana Kumbha in the 14th century. Kartinath Jain Temple and Achaliswar Mahadev Temple are located there. Ambaji (50 km from Mount Abu) has a popular temple dedicated to Amba-Mata. Kumbalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary (198 km) is home to a variety of wildlife, some of which are endangered species. It adjoins the historical Kumbalgarh Fort built in the 15th century. The fort is a UNESCO World Heritage Site along with five other forts of Rajasthan under the group "Hill Forts of Rajasthan".



*Mount Abu*



*Dilwara Jain Temple*



*Achalgarh Fort*



*Ambaji Temple*



*Kumbalgarh Fort*



*Nakki lake*



## PHOTO FEATURE

### *Ambassador's Spouse Organizes Demonstration of Art of Wearing Sari*

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### *Ms. Avika Gor Launches Ayurvedic Products of Vasu Health Care in Almaty*



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