

सत्यमेव जयते

## Embassy of India ASTANA

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# Embassy of India ASTANA NEWSLETTER

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## Prime Minister Modi Visits USA

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid an official visit to the United States of America on June 24-26, 2017. He met President Mr. Donald J. Trump in Washington on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2017.

The leaders resolved to expand and deepen the strategic partnership between the two countries and advance common objectives, which include combating terrorist threats, promoting stability across the Indo-Pacific region, increasing free and fair trade and strengthening energy linkages.

Noting that extensive economic and tax reforms launched in their respective countries would unlock immense economic opportunities for both countries, the leaders committed to further expanding and balancing the trade relationship and removing obstacles to growth and job creation.

The leaders resolved to further strengthen collaboration in health, space, oceans, cyberspace and other areas of science and technology. They pledged to deepen defense and security cooperation. They agreed to build on the implementation of the "White Shipping" data sharing arrangement, which enhances collaboration on maritime domain awareness. The United States offered for India's consideration the sale of Sea Guardian Unmanned Aerial Systems, which would enhance India's capabilities and promote shared security interests.

The leaders emphasized the continued importance of their Strategic Energy Partnership and leveraging of new opportunities to enhance global energy security. President Trump affirmed that the United States continues to remove barriers to energy development and investment in the United States and to energy exports from the United States so that more natural gas, clean coal, and renewable resources and technologies are available to support India's economic growth and inclusive development.

President Trump applauded the entrepreneurship and innovation of Indians and Indian-Americans and welcomed India's formal entry into the International Expedited Traveler Initiative (Global Entry program) in order to facilitate closer business and educational ties between the citizens of the two countries. He reaffirmed the support of the United States for India's permanent membership in a reformed UN Security Council. The leaders stressed that terrorism is a global scourge that must be fought and terrorist safe havens rooted out in every part of the world. President Trump welcomed India's contributions to promote Afghanistan's democracy, stability, prosperity and security.

Prime Minister Modi interacted with 20 top American CEOs at a roundtable meeting in Washington on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2017. He said that a young population and a rising middle class are among factors which generate global interest in the Indian economy, especially in areas such as manufacturing, trade and commerce, and people to people contacts. The CEOs appreciated Prime Minister Modi for his policy initiatives and the work done in recent times towards ease of doing business. Several CEOs showed their willingness to be partners in skill development and education initiatives. They mentioned the social initiatives being undertaken by their companies in India in spheres such as women empowerment, digital technology, education and food processing. They also discussed development of cooperation in the fields of infrastructure, defence manufacturing and energy security. Prime Minister Modi sought enhanced attention from the CEOs in areas such as renewable energy, startups and innovation.

Prime Minister Modi interacted with Indian community. He appreciated the contribution of the diaspora to the American economy. He highlighted that Indian diaspora rejoiced whenever there was good news from India, and wanted India to scale newer heights. He said that a modern India is being created through technology-driven governance. He spoke of the role of technology in reducing corruption. He informed that introduction of Direct Benefit Transfer scheme has helped in better targeting of subsidy and eliminated leakage to a large degree in India.



## Prime Minister Modi Visits Portugal

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid a working visit to Portugal on 24th June, 2017. He met Prime Minister Mr. Antonio Costa in Lisbon. They held wide-ranging discussions and reviewed the progress achieved since Prime Minister Costa's landmark visit to India in January, 2017. They acknowledged that India and Portugal have deep historical connections and strong economic and people to people ties. They noted that economic ties between the two countries continue to follow an upward trajectory, but reaffirmed that there is potential to increase the flow of goods, services, capital and human resources between the two economies.



The leaders launched a unique startup Portal "the India-Portugal International Start-Up Hub (IPISH)" to create a mutually supportive entrepreneurial partnership. The two countries agreed to create India-Portugal Space Alliance and advance collaborative research to promote partnership towards establishment of a unique Centre on the Azores Archipelago "the Atlantic International Research Centre". The project would enable India to study the atmospheric and ocean behaviour of the Atlantic and its linkages with weather patterns including monsoon. The cooperation in space is expected to include development and cooperation of next generation nano and micro satellites and on marine sciences.

At the joint press conference, Prime Minister Modi announced setting up of a Joint Science and Technology Fund of 4 million Euros to support collaboration in cutting edge technology and a Chair of Indian Studies at the University of Lisbon, and developing a Hindi-Portuguese dictionary for mutual benefit. He thanked Portugal for sharing with India a digital version of 12,000 documents comprising exchange of letters between Goa and Portugal in the 17th century.

The leaders jointly visited the Champalimaud Foundation, a well-known private biomedical research foundation. The foundation, designed by eminent Indian architect Mr. Charles Correa, provides cutting-edge cancer treatment and supports "ahead of the curve" cancer research. They visited the Comunidade Hindu de Portugal, a Hindu Temple in Lisbon. They offered floral tributes to Kasturba and Mahatma Gandhi statues. Prime Minister Modi interacted with the members of Indian community and presented OCI Card to Prime Minister Costa.

A total of 11 Agreements/MOUs were signed during the visit on cooperation in the fields of space, higher education, scientific research, biotechnology, nano technology, public administration and governance reforms, culture, youth and sports, avoidance of double taxation, commerce, and trade.

## Prime Minister Modi Visits the Netherlands

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid a working visit to the Netherlands on 27th June, 2017. He met Prime Minister Mr. Mark Rutte in The Hague. They acknowledged that India and the Netherlands share common values of democracy, pluralism, respect for human rights and rule of law. They confirmed their shared interests and responsibilities in addressing a broad range of global issues, including climate change, peace and security, free and fair trade, sustainable development, a free open and secure cyberspace and an open, just, inclusive and rule-based international order.



The leaders agreed to strengthen cooperation in key sectors such as shipping and inland waterways, infrastructure development, port and airport upgradation, smart cities, smart transportation, high-tech materials and systems, renewable energy, skill development, telecommunications, agro-processing, dairy farming, horticulture, floriculture, biotechnology, sports, insurance, and banking.

They acknowledged that a key ingredient in the Indo-Dutch cooperation is the use of innovation and technology to improve water and waste management, thus contributing to the Clean India campaign. They appreciated joint collaborations in the fields of big data, crop sciences, public health and medical technology. They noted new collaborations between the two countries in space technology and the use of geo information for climate modelling and air quality prediction. They appreciated substantive investments made by Indian companies in the Dutch economy, in particular in the fields of information technology, pharmaceuticals, vaccine, iron and steel, machinery and automotive sectors. Prime Minister Rutte called for more Indian companies and financial institutions to strengthen their presence in the Netherlands. Prime Minister Modi called for concerted efforts to mobilize Dutch and European private capital for investing in infrastructure opportunities in India.

Prime Minister Modi met His Majesty King Willem Alexander and Her Majesty Queen Maxima. He interacted with the representatives of Dutch companies operating in the Indian market and those who are keen to invest there. Addressing them, he lauded the members of Indian community for preserving Indian languages, culture and traditions even for several generations after leaving India. He called upon all members of diaspora to get OCI Cards as link of their centuries old relationship with India.

Three Agreements/MOUs were signed during the visit on water management, culture and social security.

## Celebration of the 3rd International Day of Yoga in Kazakhstan

The 3rd International Day of Yoga (IDY) was celebrated in Astana in collaboration with the Yoga Family, Astana and with the support of Ministry of Culture and Sports, Akimat of Astana City, Shapoorji Pallonji, Yoga Room, Californication Beauty Yoga & Spa, Bychove, VIMA, Appetit Supermarket, Inter Tour, Avitcenna Personal Development Centre, Parvathi Yoga Studio, Soho Saloon, Radisson Hotel, Tatti & Co, Veggi Café, India Gate Restaurant, Cinque and Yoga Sala on 18th June, 2017 at the square in front of the iconic Astana Opera with another iconic building, Khan Shatyr in the background. Ambassador welcomed the guests. He spoke about the declaration of 21st June as the International Day of Yoga by UN General Assembly in December, 2014 and its celebration all around the world with great fanfare and enthusiasm since then. He informed that yoga was inscribed as the intangible cultural heritage of humanity by UNESCO in December, 2016. He stated that yoga's inherent philosophy symbolizes the aspirations of the people for peace and harmony in the world. He emphasized that yoga teaches discipline and equanimity, promotes well-being through a healthier life and helps in realizing the awareness and joy within.

A message from Mr. Tolegan Mukhamedzhanov, President of the International Association "Peace through Culture" and Celebrated Poet, Composer and Musician, was read out. Dr. Brijesh Gupta, Yoga Instructor at the Indian Cultural Centre (ICC) conducted the Common Yoga Protocol followed by singing of "Yoga Song" by three students of the ICC and two songs by famous Kazakh singer Mr. Marat Omarov, including his new composition on India-Kazakhstan Friendship. Ambassador gave away yoga mats as prizes to 25 winners of the quiz contest conducted on the spot and on facebook and twitter on 17th June. Around five hundred people, including several Ambassadors and celebrities, participated in the celebration. Over 250 yoga instructors and students joined the "Sun Salutations (Surya Namaskar) Marathon" following the formal function.

The 3rd IDY was celebrated in Almaty in collaboration with Incham, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (KAZNU), Yoga Sanskar, Tengri Bank, Brahma Kumaris, Reliable Services, Leela Internationals, Avitcenna, Dr. Reddy's Lab, Trichup(Ayur Health), KES, Caspian Energy Corporation, Dook Internationals, RITM Oil, Sun Pharma, Babun Ghosh, APC Pharma, ISM Edutech, Alkem, Assam Tea, Imperial Tailoring, R6 Brands, Dara Foundation, Lancaster Group and Sun Pharma at the Main Stadium of KAZNU on 18th June 2017. Mr. Martin Clemense, Second Secretary, Representative Office of India, Almaty welcomed the participants. Mr. Vlastmil Samik, Head, UNDP, Ms. Bayan Zubatova, Dean, Faculty of Oriental Studies, KAZNU, Mr. Dinesh Kumar, Deputy Chairman, Tengri Bank and Mr. Tara Chand Nehra, President of Incham, addressed the gathering. Mr. Sandeep Jhadav, Yoga Instructor led the common yoga protocol. A Quiz Contest on Yoga was organized during the celebration in which more than 300 people participated and yoga mats were given away as prizes to the 25 winners. About 800 people attended the celebration, which continued throughout the day with yoga sessions conducted by various yoga organizations and schools based in Almaty.

The 3rd IDY was celebrated in Karaganda at the Central Park on 25th June in collaboration with Karaganda Yoga Academy and Arcelor Mittal Co. Swamy Khileshvarananda Saraswati, Head of Karaganda Yoga Academy welcomed the participants. Dr. Brijesh Gupta, Yoga Instructor led the common yoga protocol which was followed by demonstration of yogasanas by the students of Karaganda Yoga Academy. 250 people participated in the quiz contest on yoga. Yoga mats were given away as prizes to 15 winners of the quiz contest. 400 people attended the celebration.

The Embassy in collaboration with Atyrau State University, ONGC Videsh Limited, Satpayev Operating LLP, Cosmos Fitness Club and RITM Oil organized the 3rd IDY at the Indoor Stadium of the Atyrau State University on 21st June, 2017. Defence Attache L.S. Lidder and Rector of the University Mr. Abzal Taltenov addressed the gathering. Ms. Akmaral Kainazarova, Director, Centre for Indian Classical Dances, Almaty conducted the common yoga protocol together with 10 students of the Centre. Around 120 people attended the celebration. A Quiz Contest on yoga was organized during the celebration and yoga mats were given away as prizes to 10 winners. 50 yoga mats were also presented to the University for its use to conduct yoga sessions for the students and faculty. A concert of Indian Classical Dance by Ms. Akmaral Kainazarova and her students was held in the evening.

## Indian Dance Group "Surmnath Kalbeliya" Performs Rajasthani Folk Dances in Astana

The Embassy with the support of Department of Culture, Archives and Documentation of Akimat of Astana City organized a cultural performance of Rajasthani Folk Dances by a 10-member Indian Dance Group "Surmnath Kalbeliya" at the square near iconic Baiterek Tower in Astana on 30th June, 2017 as part of celebrations dedicated to Astana EXPO 2017. About 200 people attended the cultural performance. The Dance Group also performed at the India Pavilion at the Astana EXPO from June 24-30, 2017.





## Election Observers from India Witness Elections to the Senate of Kazakhstan

Elections for 16 seats of the Senate, the Upper House of the Parliament of Kazakhstan were held on 28th June, 2017. 38 candidates contested in the elections. The electorate consisted of 3293 deputies of local Maslikhats and the voter turn-out was 98.3%. Electronic registration of electors was applied for the first time. The Central Election Commission of Kazakhstan announced the results on 29th June, 2017.



In total, there are 47 deputies in the Senate, 15 of them are appointed by the President and 32 are elected by Maslikhats (2 each from 14 regions and the cities of Astana and Almaty).

The deputies of the Senate are elected for a term of 6 years and elections are held to elect half of them (16 senators) every 3 years. 518 observers including 172 international observers and 244 representatives of domestic and foreign media witnessed the elections. The election observers commented that the elections were held in accordance with the legislation of Kazakhstan and termed it transparent, credible and democratic.

Shri Ashwani Kumar, Chief Electoral Officer, Maharashtra and Shri Aariz Aftab, Chief Electoral Officer, West Bengal visited Kazakhstan from 26th June to 1st July, 2017 as representatives of the Election Commission of India to participate as International Election Observers.

## The 10th Annual Astana Economic Forum

The 10th annual Astana Economic Forum was held in Astana on June 15-16, 2017 on the theme "New Energy - New Economy". Among the main events of the forum, 20 panel sessions were held where discussions focused on sustainable economic growth, international trade and infrastructure, innovations and green economy.



President Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev addressed the participants at the plenary session on 16th June, 2017. He said that the global economy is facing major economic challenges including slow recovery, emerging protectionism in several countries and unresolved problems emerging from 2008 economic crisis. He noted that unprecedented pace of changes in the modern world, new discoveries and scientific and technological advancements have transformed the nature of economic growth and people's way of life, but the global economic policy does not fully meet the modern challenges, including environmental pollution and growing imbalances in global energy consumption.

He emphasized that economic growth should contribute to solving challenges, rather than multiplying them. He added that the world needs gradual transition to a new economic model, based on clean energy, joint efforts and collective responsibility, taking into account the interests of the whole world. In order to curb monetary wars, black marketeering and market volatility, he suggested launch of international payment unit in the form of crypto currency taking advantage of digitalization and development of technologies such as blockchain. He stated that the current GDP indicator does not reflect the wealth of countries and welfare of their citizens and hence, suggested to adopt a revised GDP calculation procedure based on green GDP, Human Development Index and the OECD Better Life Index.



He spoke about the activities undertaken in the country as part of Kazakhstan's Third Modernization and the measures taken to modernize the energy sector. More than 4,000 people including representatives from the world's economic community, nobel laureates, outstanding figures from the scientific world and businessmen from 100 countries attended the Forum.

Shri Jayant Prasad, Director General, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses from India participated in the Forum.

## Introduction of Direct Flight Between New Delhi and Astana

Air Astana announced introduction of direct flight services between New Delhi and Astana with effect from 2nd July, 2017 at a press conference in Astana on 30th June, 2017. The Air Astana will operate the flight services between the two Capitals three times a week on Mondays, Thursdays and Sundays. This will be in addition to the direct flight between New Delhi and Almaty, which has been operating since September, 2004. Mr. Peter Foster, President and CEO, Air Astana; Mr. Talgat Lastayev, Chairman of Civil Aviation Committee of Kazakhstan; Mr. Bulat Sarsenbayev, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to India and Mr. R. Gururaj, First Secretary at the Embassy attended the event.



## Prime Minister Modi Inaugurates "Textiles India 2017"

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated a three-day textiles trade fair, "Textiles India 2017", at Gandhinagar, Gujarat on 30th June, 2017. In his address, Prime Minister Modi said that based on the "Make-in-India" initiative, the organized textile industry is being infused with the mantras of "skill, scale, speed" and "zero-defect, zero-effect" for scaling up employment, production and exports.



He informed that India has one of the most liberal investment policies for foreign investment in the textile and apparel sector with 100% FDI being allowed through automatic route in the sector. He underscored that India has an abundant supply of raw material such as cotton, wool, silk, jute and man-made fibre as well as strong spinning, weaving, knitting and apparel manufacturing capacities. He highlighted the high global demand for textiles and apparel manufactured in India, which is the world's second largest exporter of textiles, commanding a global share of 5%.

He also inaugurated the Textiles India Exhibition. The exhibition showcased India's strength in the entire gamut of textile and apparel value chain, from fibre to fashion. It offered a platform to strengthen textile value chain and provided an environment for B2B engagements to explore new partnerships, business relationships, investment opportunities and technological tie-ups across various segments. 15,000 Indian buyers and sellers, 2,500 international buyers, international delegates and representatives, artisans and weavers from 106 countries attended the "Textiles India 2017".

Mr. Yermek Sakishev, Chairman of the Board, Investment Fund of Kazakhstan attended the event.

## India Top Supplier to UN System in Health Sector in 2016

The 2016 Annual Statistical Report on United Nations Procurement released on 29th June, 2017 states that India continues to be the top supplier to the UN system in health sector with total sale of US\$ 803.79 million in 2016 and within the health sector, pharmaceuticals continue to be the main procurement category.

The report also points out that India maintains its position as the second largest supplier of goods and services for operational activities of the UN system in 2016, as has been the case since 2012. The supply of goods and services by India amounts to 6% of procurements by UN Organisations in 2016, the second highest after the United States of America. In the category of goods alone, India is the top supplier with total sales of US\$ 902 million in 2016.

Table 1 – Top ten countries supplying the UN system in 2016 (in millions of US dollars and percentage of overall procurement volume)

Countries	Goods	Services	Total	% of total
United States of America	700.63	885.36	1,585.99	8.95%
India	902.59	161.97	1,064.55	6.01%
Belgium	833.20	72.77	905.97	5.11%
United Arab Emirates	725.00	143.83	868.83	4.91%
Denmark	247.92	490.70	738.62	4.17%
Turkey	574.49	74.55	649.04	3.66%
France	407.84	201.63	609.48	3.44%
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	185.29	420.20	605.49	3.42%
Switzerland	98.25	342.37	440.61	2.49%
Netherlands	338.22	90.03	428.25	2.42%
Top 10 total	5,013.42	2,883.41	7,896.83	44.58%
Grand total	8,704.82	9,001.61	17,712.53	100%

## ISRO Launches 31 Satellites by a Single Rocket

Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)'s Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV-C38, successfully launched 31 satellites (712-kg Cartosat-2 Series Satellite for earth observation and 30 co-passenger satellites) from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2017.

Of the 30 co-passenger satellites carried by PSLV-C38, one was a 15 kg satellite (NIUSAT) produced by Nurul Islam University, India and the remaining 29 were from the following international customers: United States of America (10), United Kingdom (3), Belgium (3), Italy (3), Austria (1), Chile (1), Czech Republic (1), Finland (1), France (1), Germany (1), Japan (1), Latvia (1), Lithuania (1) and Slovakia (1).

With this successful launch, the total number of overseas customer satellites placed in orbit by India's launch vehicle PSLV has reached 209.



## Kazakhstani Professionals Attend ITEC Programme

Ms. Albina Muratbekova, Head of Partnership Development Unit of Narxoz University, Almaty, was selected for "Certificate Course in Strategic Management for Emerging Markets" conducted by the International Management Institute, New Delhi from 7th August to 2nd September, 2017 under ITEC programme funded by the Government of India. Mr. Galymzhan Kambarbekov, 1st Category Engineer at RSE Kazhydromet, Almaty, was selected for "46th International Course of Post Graduate Diploma in Hydrology" conducted by the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee (Department of Hydrology) from 24th July, 2017 to 20th July, 2018 under ITEC programme.





## Incredible India Destination: Orchha

The historic town of Orchha, nestled on the banks of river Betwa in the State of Madhya Pradesh, was founded in the 16th century by Bundela Rajput Chief, Rudra Pratap. The ancient town seems frozen in time, with its many monuments continuing to retain their original grandeur even to this day. Strwn around the area are the little shrines and memorials, each with its own poignant history.

Jehangir Mahal, Laxminarayan Temple, Raj Mahal, Rai Parveen Mahal and Phool Bagh are major tourist attractions in Orchha.

Jehangir Mahal was built by Raja Bir Singh Judeo to commemorate the visit of Emperor Jehangir to Orchha. It is one of the finest and most vivid examples of classical Mughal Architecture. From there, the view of soaring temple spires and cenotaphs is spectacular.

Laxminarayan Temple exhibits a unique architectural style, which is a mix of a fort and a temple. The interiors contain the most exquisite of Orchha's wall paintings. The murals covering the walls and ceiling of the halls are vibrant compositions and cover a variety of spiritual and secular subjects. They are in excellent state of preservation, with the colours retaining their vivid quality.

Raj Mahal has plain exteriors crowned by chhatris and complemented by interiors with exquisite murals, which are boldly colourful on a variety of religious themes. Rai Parveen Mahal was built for Poetess and Musician, Rai Parveen. The palace is a low, two-storeyed brick structure designed to match the height of the trees in the surrounding, beautifully landscaped gardens of Anand Mahal.

Phool Bagh, laid out as a formal garden, testifies to the refined aesthetic qualities of the Bundelas. A central row of fountains culminates in an eight pillared palace-pavilion. A subterranean structure below was the cool summer retreat of the Orchha kings. An ingenious system of water ventilation connects the underground palace with Chandan Katora, a bowl-like structure, from whose fountains, droplets of water filtered through to the roof, simulating rainfall.

Chaturbhuj Temple, Sunder Mahal, Chhatris (Cenotaphs), Ram Raja Temple, Shahid Smarak, and Sound and Light Shows are other tourist attractions in Orchha.



*Laxminarayan Temple*



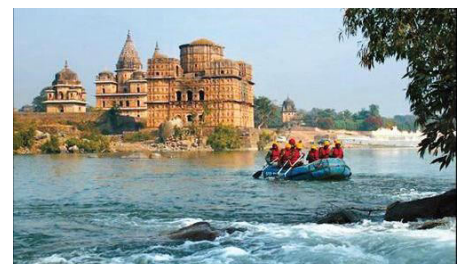
*Raj Mahal*



*Chaturbhuj Temple*



*Chhatris (Cenotaphs)*



*River Rafting in Orchha*



*Jehangir Mahal*



## PHOTO FEATURE

### *Celebration of the 3rd International Day of Yoga in Astana*



### *Celebration of the 3rd International Day of Yoga in Almaty*



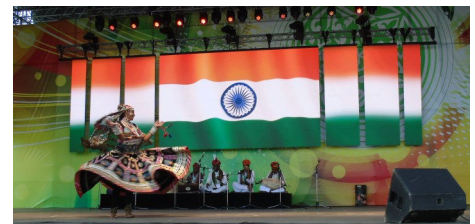
### *Celebration of the 3rd International Day of Yoga in Karaganda*



### *Celebration of the 3rd International Day of Yoga in Atyrau*



### *Indian Dance Group "Surmnath Kalbeliya" Performs Rajasthani Folk Dances in Astana*



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