

सत्यमेव जयते

Embassy of India ASTANA

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Embassy of India ASTANA NEWSLETTER

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Prime Minister Modi Visits Israel

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Israel from July 4-6, 2017. Prime Minister Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu welcomed Prime Minister Modi at the Tel Aviv airport on his arrival on 4th July, 2017. He described Prime Minister Modi as a world leader and said that even the sky is not the limit for cooperation between the two countries. Prime Minister Modi said that India counts Israel among its important partners in its path of sustained high growth and all round development.



During their bilateral meeting on 5th July, 2017, the leaders affirmed their intention to build a broad-based relationship between the two countries that would realise the full potential of their association. They agreed on initiatives and policies that would reflect the goals and aspirations of both nations and widen their collaborative endeavours in a broad range of areas.



The leaders agreed to establish a "Strategic Partnership in Water and Agriculture", which would focus on water conservation, waste-water treatment and its reuse for agriculture, desalination, water utility reforms, cleaning of rivers using advanced water technologies, reinforcement and expansion of existing Centres of Excellence, and transfer of post-harvest technical know-how. They welcomed conclusion of an MOU for establishing the India-Israel Industrial R&D and Innovation Fund with a contribution of US\$ 20 million from each side saying that it would play a seminal role in enabling Indian and Israeli enterprises to undertake joint R&D projects leading to development of innovative technologies and products that have potential for commercial application.

The leaders agreed to strengthen cooperation in the fields of entrepreneurship, higher education, research, science and technology, space, cyber security and tourism. They agreed that future developments in defence cooperation should focus on joint development of defence products, including transfer of technology from Israel, with a special emphasis on 'Make in India' initiative.

At the joint press statement on 5th July, 2017, Prime Minister Modi said that India admires the success of the people of Israel in overcoming adversity to advance, innovate and flourish against all odds. He underscored that people of the two countries hold natural affinity and warmth for each other. He spoke about increasing number of Israeli tourists visiting India and Indian students pursuing higher education in Israel in recent years. The leaders attended the first India-Israel CEOs Forum. They launched Innovation Bridge to link start ups and innovators of India and Israel.

Prime Minister Modi addressed the Indian Community. He said that the partnership with Israel is a key to ushering the second green revolution in India. He assured that OCI cards would be given to the members of Indian community even if they had done compulsory military service in Israel. He announced that Indian Cultural Centre would be set up in Israel. He informed that direct air connectivity would soon be established between New Delhi and Tel Aviv via Mumbai.

Prime Minister Modi visited Danziger Flower Farm, a leading facility for R&D in plant varieties. A new fast growing variety of chrysanthemum flower was named after him. He witnessed demonstration of desalination of sea water at the Olga beach by Gal-Mobile, a water purification mobile unit. He also visited Yad Vashem Memorial, the Grave of Theodor Herzl - Chozeh Ha Medinah and Israel museum. He laid wreaths at Indian cemetery at Haifa, honouring Indian soldiers who laid down their lives in 1918 to liberate Haifa during World War I.

Prime Minister Modi called on President Mr. Reuven Ruvivlin on 5th July, 2017.

Seven Agreements/MOUs were signed during the visit on cooperation in the fields of Research & Development and Technological Innovation, Space, Agriculture, Water Conservation and Water Utility Reform.

Prime Minister Modi Visits Germany to Attend G-20 Summit

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Germany from July 6-8, 2017 to attend the 12th G-20 Summit in Hamburg on the theme "Shaping an Inter-connected World".

He spoke at the Leaders Retreat on "Terrorism". He welcomed the action plan of the summit against terror. He presented a ten-point agenda to counter terrorism emphasizing that deterrent action against nations supporting terrorism must be taken; G-20 nations must exchange lists of suspected terrorists and their supporters; Legal processes such as extradition should be simplified; Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism should be adopted soon; UNSC resolutions and other international processes should be effectively implemented; G-20 nations should give emphasis to de-radicalisation programmes and exchange best practices; Terror financing should be curtailed; Weapons and Explosive Action Task Force should be constituted so that source of weapons to the terrorists is stopped; G-20 nations should cooperate in cyber security; and a mechanism of National Security Advisors on Counter Terrorism should be constituted in G-20.

In his remarks at the session on "Global Growth and Trade", Prime Minister Modi said that growth and development of all the people in India are central to its pursuit of economic prosperity.

He said that to achieve this goal, India aims to lift 100 million households out of poverty by 2019, double income of farmers by 2022 and equip 500 million youth with productive skill sets. At the session on "Sustainable Development, Climate and Energy", he highlighted that Skill India, Digital India and financial inclusion measures are India's own initiatives in consonance with sustainable development goals. He proposed international coalition of countries that can identify technology, develop systems and build capacities for sustainable development goals.

In his remarks on the session "Partnership with Africa, Migration and Health", Prime Minister Modi said that G20 must implement its promises to facilitate technical and financial infusion in Africa. He highlighted India's multi-layered development partnership with Africa including building of capacity and improvement of social, physical and IT infrastructure. In his intervention at the session on "Digitalisation, Women's Empowerment & Employment", he expressed strong conviction for gender empowerment saying that there is no real growth without empowering women.

The leaders of BRICS countries held an informal meeting on the sidelines of the G20 Summit on 7th July, 2017. They discussed preparations and priorities for the forthcoming 9th BRICS Summit in September in Xiamen. Prime Minister Modi mentioned that BRICS has been a strong voice and needs to show leadership on terrorism and global economy. He advocated collective voice against the practices of protectionism, especially in the spheres of trade, and movement of knowledge and professionals. He reiterated India's commitment to implementing Paris Agreement and stated that its global implementation is essential to fight climate change.

On the sidelines of the Summit, Prime Minister Modi held bilateral meetings with President of Argentina Mr. Mauricio Macri, Prime Minister of Canada Mr. Justin Trudeau, President of Guinea Mr. Alpha Conde, Prime Minister of Italy Mr. Paolo Gentolini, Prime Minister of Japan Mr. Shinzo Abe, President of Republic of Korea Mr. Moon Jae-in, President of Mexico Mr. Enrique Peña Nieto, Prime Minister of Norway Ms. Erna Solberg, President of Senegal Mr. Macky Sall, Prime Minister of UK Ms. Theresa May and Prime Minister of Vietnam Mr. Nguyễn Xuân Phúc.



India Hosts 9th Delhi Dialogue

The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India organized the 9th edition of Delhi Dialogue in New Delhi on July 4-5, 2017 on the theme "ASEAN-India Relations: Charting the Course for the Next 25 Years". The Delhi Dialogue is a pre-eminent annual Track 1.5 dialogue process for brainstorming on all aspects of ASEAN-India relationship with the participation of political leaders, policy makers, senior officials, diplomats, business leaders, think tanks and academicians.



External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj hosted the Ministerial Session of the Dialogue on 4th July. In her keynote address, she said that ASEAN and India are natural partners, which share geographical, historical and civilisational ties. She stated that the cultural highway that linked the rivers Ganga, Brahmaputra, Meghna, Irrawady and Mekong and those who dwelt on their banks, enriched the shared civilisational ethos in two way process. She noted that the inter-mingling happened without any conquest or colonization.

Business and Academic Sessions were held on 5th July. A Concluding Plenary "Looking Ahead" focused on key takeaways from the Dialogue to chart the course for India-ASEAN relations for the next 25 years. Over 200 delegates from ASEAN countries and India participated in the Dialogue including Mr. Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam; Mr. U Kyaw Tint Swe, Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor of Myanmar; and Dr. Maliki Osman, Senior Minister of State for Defence and Foreign Affairs of Singapore.

Celebration of 19th Astana Day

The 19th Astana Day was celebrated on 6th July, 2017 with concerts, sports and festive fireworks. The Astana Day is celebrated on 6th July to commemorate the passage of a resolution by the Supreme Council of Kazakhstan on this day in 1994 to transfer the country's capital from Almaty to Astana.



President Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev participated in the traditional flag hoisting ceremony at Atameken Ethno-Memorial Complex Area on 4th July, 2017 on the eve of Astana Day. He emphasized the importance of National Flag to every citizen of Kazakhstan and noted the worthy path of the country's development since its independence. He said that Astana is a symbol of opportunities, greatness and cohesive living of the people. He called Astana the pearl of Central Asia.

He drew attention to Kazakhstan's active participation in international events and reaffirmed its commitment to continue the activities in promotion of global peace. He stated that Kazakhstan has become a country that brings conflicting parties to the path of peace and thereby earns respect. He noted that people of Kazakhstan live in a tolerant society and hence, the Congresses of World and Traditional Religions are held in the country. Addressing the graduates of the national higher military educational institutions, he emphasized their duty to serve Fatherland and protect national interests. He congratulated the people of Kazakhstan on the Capital's Day, wishing them good health, happiness and prosperity.

He attended a ceremonial reception dedicated to the Capital's Day at Astana EXPO 2017 on 5th July, 2017. He recollected his visit to various locations in Astana the previous day and appreciated the safety and security prevalent in the city. He informed that Astana generates a revenue of KZT 1 trillion (US\$ 3.1 billion) per annum, 65 % of which comes from small and medium enterprises. He spoke about the importance of holding the international exhibition "Astana EXPO" and its contribution to further development of the city and the country as a whole.

He underscored that the government is carrying out large-scale modernization of the economy, politics and culture, aimed at development of the country. He emphasized that Astana would always be at the vanguard of growth. He said that Kazakhstan's policy of promoting peace, good-neighbourliness and attraction of investments is aimed at creating favourable living conditions for every citizen of Kazakhstan. Deputies of Parliament, diplomatic corps, government officials, intellectuals, businesspersons, etc attended the reception.

Minister of Urban Local Bodies of Haryana Visits Kazakhstan

Mrs. Kavita Jain, Minister of Urban Local Bodies, Government of Haryana visited EKOLOG Blue and Green Technologies, Shymkent on July 7-8, 2017. She witnessed the process of generating electricity by collecting methane gas from the sediment and liquid collected in the sewage.



After visiting the Waste to Energy Plant, she said that disposal of liquid waste, especially sewerage silt, is a major problem world-wide. She stated that the Government of Haryana would consider implementing the technique of generating energy from liquid waste in urban areas, which will help in tackling the problem caused by silt collected in sewerage.

OVL-KMG Spuds Second Exploratory Well in Satpayev Block

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Videsh Limited (OVL)-KazMunayGas (KMG) joint venture successfully spudded the second exploratory well in Satpayev Block in the Caspian Sea on 8th July, 2017.

The commencement of first exploratory drilling at the Satpayev Block was launched during the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Kazakhstan in July, 2015.



Kazakhstani Professionals Attend ITEC Programme

Mr. Zhomart Ualiyev, Senior Lecturer, Department of Chemical Physics and Material Science, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty was selected for the course "Introductory Training Programme on Nanofabrication Technologies" conducted by the Centre for Nano Science and Engineering, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru from 17th August to 1st September, 2017 under ITEC programme funded by the Government of India. Ms. Saltanat Mukash, Financial Manager, Mega Nur Co., Astana was selected for the course "3 Tier Programme: Emerging Leaders' Programme" conducted by the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad from 23rd July to 19th August, 2017.



India Introduces a Historic Tax Reform “Goods and Services Tax”

President Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the Goods and Services Tax (GST), a historic tax reform, at the midnight of June 30-July 1, 2017. The GST would pave the way for realization of the goal of One Nation - One Tax - One Market. It will improve the ease of doing business, lower the cost of goods and services and make the products and services globally competitive, giving a major boost to 'Make in India' initiative. Under the GST regime, exports will be zero-rated in entirety unlike the present system where refund of some of the taxes does not take place due to fragmented nature of indirect taxes between the Centre and the States.



In majority of supplies of goods, the tax incidence under GST is much lower than the existing combined indirect tax rates levied by the Centre and State(s). The structure of GST would be: (i) the threshold limit for exemption from levy of GST is Rs. 20 lakh for the States except for the Special Category States, where it is Rs. 10 lakh; (ii) a four slab GST tax rate of 5%, 12%, 18% and 28% has been adopted; (iii) a cess would be levied on certain goods such as luxury cars, aerated drinks, pan masala and tobacco products, over and above the GST rate of 28%; and (iv) the threshold for availing the Composition Scheme is Rs. 75 lakh except for special category States where it is Rs. 50 lakh.

At the launch of GST, Prime Minister Modi said that the process of GST is not restricted to the scope of economy alone, but stands as a testimony to the concept of Co-operative Federalism in Indian Democracy. He described GST as a landmark achievement which is bound to take the nation towards exponential growth. He noted that the GST regime is simpler and more transparent, and it would help curb black money and corruption, reward honesty, generate interest and enthusiasm to do business honestly, boost exports and bring in a new culture of governance.

“Ahmedabad” Declared a UNESCO World Heritage City

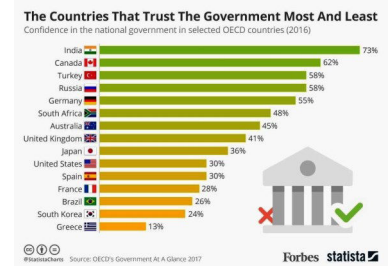
The 41st Session of World Heritage Committee has declared the historic city of “Ahmedabad” a world heritage city on 8th July, 2017. This makes Ahmedabad the first city in India and the third in Asia to be inscribed to the UNESCO's World Heritage List. Now, India has overall 36 World Heritage Inscriptions with 28 Cultural, 7 Natural and 1 Mixed sites and ranks seventh in the world in terms of number of world heritage properties.



Founded in 15th century, the walled city of Ahmedabad, on the bank of the Sabarmati river, presents a rich architectural heritage. Within this complex are 28 Archaeological Survey of India's protected monuments. The urban structures of the city are distinctive due to their puras (neighbourhoods), pols (residential streets) and khadki (inner entrances to pols) largely made of timber. The historic architecture reflects symbols and myths connected with its inhabitants.

India Tops Global Index of Countries with the Most Confidence in their Government

The latest edition of OECD's "Government at a Glance Report" states that India tops the list of countries which trust their Governments the most. The report published by the major economic cooperation organization on 13th July, 2017 states that 73 per cent of Indians have expressed confidence in their government, which is the highest in the world. The Government trust levels are generally determined by factors such as its stability, ability to protect its citizens from risk and effective delivery of public services. Trust of people ensures smooth economic development of a nation and makes the decision making process simpler. The "Government at a Glance" provides the latest available data on the functioning and performance of public administrations in OECD member countries and other major economies of the world.



Kazakhstan Participates in the 22nd Asian Athletics Championship in Bhubaneswar

Kazakhstan secured third position with 4 Gold, 2 Silver and 2 Bronze medals in the 22nd Asian Athletics Championship held in Bhubaneswar (India) from 6th to 9th July, 2017. Ms. Viktoriya Zybkinova won Gold Medal in 100 m and 200 m Run; Ms. Mariya Ovchinnikova won Gold in Triple Jump; Ms. Rima Kashafutdinova, Ms. Viktoriya Zybkinova, Ms. G. Ishangulyyeva and Ms. Olga Safronova won Gold in 4x100 m Relay; Ms. Irina Ektova won Silver in Triple Jump; Ms. Olga Safronova won Silver in 100 m Run and Bronze in 200 m Run; and Mr. Ivan Ivanov won Bronze in Shot Put. India secured first position with 12 Gold, 5 Silver and 12 Bronze medals. China stood second with 8 Gold, 7 Silver and 5 Bronze medals. More than 650 athletes from across the Asian continent contested in 42 track and field events in the Championship. The champions from the meet would have an automatic entry into the World Athletics Championship to be held in London in August, 2017.



Incredible India Destination: Arunachal Pradesh

Arunachal Pradesh in the North-Eastern part of India is a serene land offering an enchanting experience with its picturesque hills and valleys, wholesome climate, and simple and hospitable people. The widely scattered archaeological remains at different places in the State of Arunachal Pradesh bear testimony to its rich cultural heritage. The state's glorious heritage of arts and crafts and colourful festivals reflect the people's ancient faith in the inexorable power of nature. The state provides abundant scope for angling, boating, rafting, trekking and hiking.

Itanagar, the capital of Arunachal Pradesh, is situated at the foothills. Ganga Lake and Itafort, built mainly with bricks in the 14th-15th century, are major tourist attractions in Itanagar. Bomdila, Tipi, Tawang, Ziro, Pasighat, Along, Tezu and Miao are some of the other major tourist attractions in Arunachal Pradesh.

Bomdila, situated at an altitude of 2700 m, has Buddhist monasteries, apple orchards and craft centres. It offers magnificent view of kameng valley and scenic views of Himalayan landscape and snow clad mountain peaks. Tipi is home to about 500 species of orchids, some of which are rare and endangered.

Tawang, at an altitude of 3500 m, is the oldest seat of Mahayana Buddhism. Tawang Monastery is the second largest in Asia. The most imposing part of the monastery is the three-storied assembly hall, which houses the temple and a 28 ft high golden statue of Buddha. Ziro, at an altitude of 1500 m, is a beautiful plateau bounded on all sides by picturesque hills and is famous for paddy cum fish culture.

Pasighat lies on the bank of river Siang, bounded by snow-clad peaks, rocky mountains and lush green river valleys. Along is one of the ideal places for trekking and angling in the river Siang.

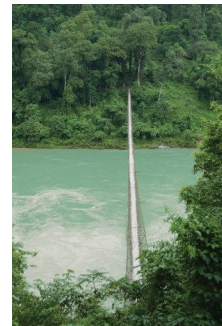
Tezu, situated within the Kamlang Reserve Forest, boasts of beautiful rivers and valleys, picturesque lakes and wildlife sanctuary. Parasuram Kund near Tezu carries a strong mythological link with the legend of Parsurama, a Hindu sage, and thousands of pilgrims congregate there on Makar Sankranti day. Miao is situated near India-Myanmar border with splendid natural beauty of Noa-Dihing river and green surroundings. Namdapha National Park near Miao is the only park in the world to have the four feline species, namely tiger, leopard, snow leopard and clouded leopard.



Bomdila



Bomdila Monastery



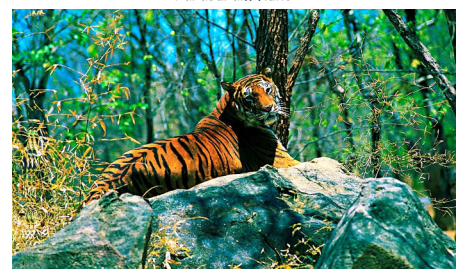
Siang River, Pasighat



Hanging Bridge



Parasuram Kund



Namdapha National Park

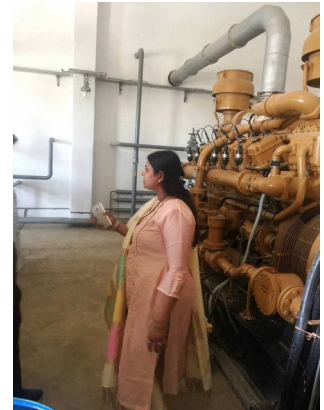


Tawang Monastery

TRAVELER

PHOTO FEATURE

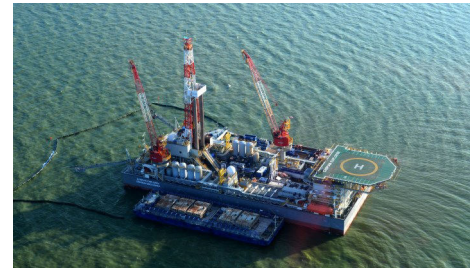
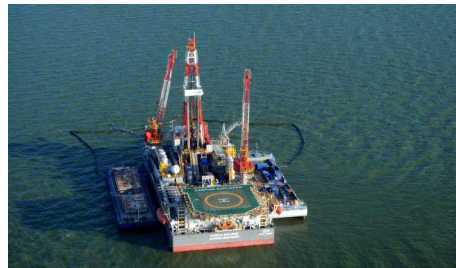
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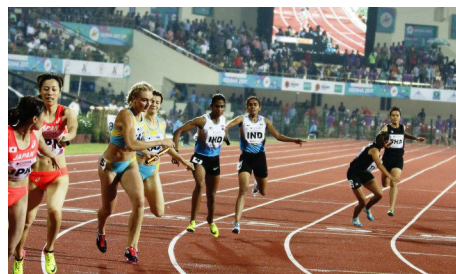
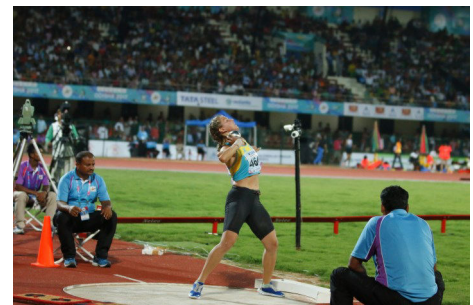
OVL-KMG Spuds Second Exploratory Well in Satpayev Block



Water Cannon Salute to Air Astana at New Delhi on Commencement of Direct Flight between Astana and New Delhi on 3rd July, 2017



Kazakhstan Participates in the 22nd Asian Athletics Championship in Bhubaneswar




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