



सत्यमेव जयते

## Embassy of India ASTANA

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# Embassy of India ASTANA NEWSLETTER

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## Shri Ram Nath Kovind Assumes the Office of President of India

Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Governor of the State of Bihar, was elected as the 14th President of India in the elections held on 20th July, 2017. A lawyer, veteran politician and long-time advocate of egalitarianism and integrity in Indian public life and society, he assumed the office of the President on 25th July, 2017.



In his address after assumption of office, President Ram Nath Kovind recalled his humble background and said that his journey from his childhood in a mud house in a small village to the highest office in the country shows the striking feature of the country and society. He assured that he would always follow the basic mantra given in the Preamble to the Constitution - of ensuring Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.



He recalled the efforts of Mahatma Gandhi in achieving India's independence, Sardar Patel in integrating the nation and B.R. Ambedkar in instilling the value of human dignity and republican ethic in the people. He highlighted these leaders' belief that besides political freedom, it was also crucial to achieve economic and social freedom for millions of people. He emphasized the need to build an India that is an economic leader as well as a moral exemplar.

He underscored that key to India's success is its diversity of states and regions, religions, languages, cultures, lifestyles, etc. He pointed out that the people are so different, yet so united. He stated that India of the twenty first century would be one that is in conformity with its ancient values as well as compliant with the Fourth Industrial Revolution. He added that tradition and technology, and the wisdom of an age-old Bharat and the science of a contemporary India must be combined. He said that while the Gram Panchayat must determine the consultative and community based problem solving, the Digital Republic must help the country leapfrog developmental milestones.

He stated that the nations are not built by governments alone, and the government can at best be a facilitator and a trigger for society's innate entrepreneurial and creative instincts. He said that the nation building requires national pride. He underscored that the people of India take pride in soil and water; culture, heritage and spirituality; fellow citizens; work; and even little things done every day. He stated that each citizen of India is a nation builder and a custodian of India's well-being and of the legacy that would be passed on to coming generations.

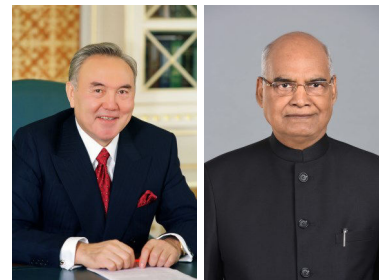
He recalled India's age old belief in the philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - the World is a Family. He said that it would be appropriate for the land of Lord Buddha to lead the world in its search for peace, tranquility and ecological balance. He noted that the entire planet is drawn to Indian culture and soft power. He said that India's voice counts in today's globalised world and India's responsibilities are global. He cited the examples of India's initiative of International Solar Alliance and response to natural disasters in other countries.

He said that the nation must focus on enhancing access and opportunity to the under privileged including a quick and affordable justice delivery system. He emphasized the need to sculpt a robust, high growth economy; an educated, ethical and shared community; and an egalitarian society with equality of opportunities.

Outgoing President Shri Pranab Mukherjee addressed the nation on 24th July, 2017 on the eve of demitting office. He congratulated and extended a warm welcome to President-elect Shri Ram Nath Kovind and wished him success and happiness in the years to come.

## President Nazarbayev Congratulates President-elect Shri Ram Nath Kovind

President of Kazakhstan Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev congratulated President-elect Shri Ram Nath Kovind on his election as the President of India on behalf of the people of Kazakhstan and on his own behalf on 21st July, 2017. In his letter addressed to President-elect Shri Ram Nath Kovind, President Nazarbayev said that his professional knowledge and experience would provide an opportunity for development and prosperity of India and enhance India's image at international arena. He expressed belief that together they would make every possible effort to strengthen the friendly relations and close cooperation between India and Kazakhstan for the prosperity of the people of the two countries. He extended congratulations and best wishes for the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Independence of India. He wished him good health and success in his new position as well as peace and well-being to the friendly people of India.



## Ambassador Addresses Conference Organized by TERI at EXPO 2017

Ambassador Shri Harsh Jain attended, as Special Guest, the inaugural session of the Conference "the Role of Green Accounting and Carbon Finance: Transitioning to a Post-Carbon Future" jointly organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi and Future Energy Forum of Astana EXPO 2017 on 21st July, 2017 at the Astana EXPO. The conference discussed opportunities and challenges provided by new emerging mechanisms to promote green growth, value ecosystem services and ensure sustainable development whilst also mitigating climate change under the sessions on "Natural Capital Accounting for Profitability and Sustainability" and "Carbon Accounting and Markets".



In his address, Ambassador informed that TERI is a leading think tank and research institute based in New Delhi and conducts research work in the fields of energy, environment and sustainable development. He said that its efforts to develop clean lighting and cooking solutions have impacted the lives of nearly 4.5 million people who lived without electricity in rural India and parts of Africa. He stated that TERI developed new technical and business models on large scale installation of rooftop solar PV systems in urban India. He underscored that about 600 small and medium enterprises across the country adopted a range of energy efficient technologies and practices promoted by TERI and these technologies, applied in energy intensive industries such as foundry, glass, forging, engineering and brick making, have altogether reduced energy consumption by 200,000 tonnes of oil equivalent (toe).

He informed that TERI has deployed nearly 600 biomass gasifiers in small industries in India reducing their energy bills and providing a cleaner work environment for their employees and pointed out that a model of such gasifier is on display at the India Pavilion at Astana EXPO. He spoke about TERI's flagship event, World Sustainable Development Summit, which was conceptualised as a platform to accelerate international coordinated action against climate change and towards sustainable development.

He highlighted the importance given to renewable energy by India for its rapid and sustainable economic development. He noted the ambitious target set by India for increasing renewable energy capacity to 175 GW by the year 2022. He underscored India's plans to increase its current nuclear capacity of 5.8 GW to 14.6 GW by 2020 and 27.5 GW by 2032 and partnership with Kazakhstan in this endeavour as a reliable source of supply of natural uranium to nuclear plants in India. He spoke about the International Solar Alliance (ISA) jointly launched by India and France during the COP-21 summit in Paris in November, 2015 reflecting India's concern and commitment to address climate change.

Dr. Sharad Singh Negi, Former Director General, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India and Advisor to World Bank-South Asia Region; Dr. A.K. Bhattacharya, Managing Director, National Green Highways Mission; Mr. Anirban Ghosh, Chief Sustainability Officer, Mahindra Group; Ms. Annapurna Vancheswaran, Senior Director; Dr. J.V. Sharma, Director; Ms. Divya Datt, Senior Fellow and Associate Director; and Dr. Pia Sethi, Fellow and Area Convenor from TERI participated in the conference.

## Kazakhstan Participates in FIBA Women's Asia Cup 2017 Division B in Bengaluru

Kazakhstan secured second position at the FIBA Women's Asia Cup 2017 Division B held in Bengaluru from July 23-29, 2017. The Indian women's basketball team defeated Kazakhstan's team 75-73 in the final match. With this win, India has been promoted to Division A for next edition (2019) of the FIBA Women's Asia Cup.

Fiji, India, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan participated in the Division B of the FIBA Women's Asia Cup 2017.



## The 2nd UN Peacekeeping Course for African Partners Held in New Delhi

India and the USA jointly conducted the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of United Nations Peacekeeping Course for African Partners (UNPCAP-02) at the Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK) in New Delhi from 17<sup>th</sup> July to 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2017. The course was aimed to build and enhance the capacity of African Troop Contributing Countries to the UN and train the trainers from these countries. The course is one of the many steps that India has initiated towards active contribution to peace support activities.



Smt. Ruchi Ghanashyam, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs chaired the inaugural session on 17<sup>th</sup> July. In her address, she highlighted the steps proposed by India, a Troop Contributing Country with over 50 years of experience in UN peacekeeping, to better equip the peacekeepers to confront the modern challenges of peacekeeping. She said that there is a greater need for consultations between the Security Council and, Troop and Police Contributing Countries because these countries can provide invaluable inputs to the Security Council when it draws up mandates or translates mandates into implementable peacekeeping objectives.

She emphasized that the present focus on the core functions or core activities of peacekeeping such as de-escalation of conflict, risk reduction, security assurances to parties and protection of civilians must not detract, or substitute for, the important task of finding a lasting political settlement to the conflict. She stated that the UN Security Council mandates should be more precise and cognizant of harsh ground realities. She emphasized that the critical component between "Mission success" and "Mission failure", is almost always the quality of men and women who serve under the UN flag and hence, the Missions with well trained and well skilled UN peacekeepers would always stand a much greater chance for success. Officers from 19 countries including India attended the course.

## Sohum, an Innovative Newborn Hearing Screening Device, Launched

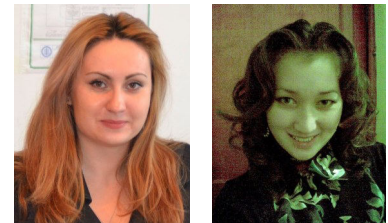
Minister of State for Science and Technology & Earth Sciences, Shri Y.S. Chowdary, launched "Sohum", an indigenously developed, innovative newborn hearing screening device, in New Delhi on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2017. The device was developed by School of International Biodesign (SIB)'s startup M/s Sohum Innovation Labs India Pvt. Ltd. The SIB is a flagship programme of Department of Biotechnology aimed to develop innovative and affordable medical devices.



The Sohum is a low cost and unique device, which uses brainstem auditory evoked response, a technology that is currently expensive. The start-up Sohum has made the technology appropriate for resource constrained settings and aims to cater to nearly 26 million babies born every year in India. The battery-operated device is non-invasive and hence, the babies do not need to be sedated, which is the current risky testing process. Globally, 800,000 hearing impaired babies are born annually and early screening can facilitate timely treatment and rehabilitation.

## Kazakhstani Professionals Attend ITEC Programme

Ms. Alina Zhaglovskaya, Senior Teacher, Department of Geography and Tourism of Pavlodar State University, Pavlodar was selected for the course "Progress to Proficiency-Advanced" conducted by the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad from 12<sup>th</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2017 and Ms. Bakytgul Imanbayeva, English Language Teacher, Alas Tour, Astana was selected for the course "Diploma in Advanced Networking" conducted by NIIT Ltd., Gurgaon from 28<sup>th</sup> August to 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 under the ITEC programme funded by Government of India.



## The Government of India Revises ICWF Guidelines

The Government of India approved revision of guidelines governing the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) on 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2017. The ICWF, set up in 2009, is aimed at assisting Indian nationals abroad in times of distress and emergency in the most deserving cases on a means tested basis. The revised guidelines seek to expand the scope of welfare measures that can be extended through the Fund. The guidelines would cover three key areas, namely, assisting Indian nationals in distress situations abroad, community welfare activities and improvement in consular services.



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Ministry of External Affairs  
Government of India

The revised guidelines are expected to provide Indian Missions and Posts abroad greater flexibility in swiftly addressing the requests for assistance by Indian nationals.

## Incredible India Destination: Lakshadweep

Lakshadweep, a Union Territory of India, lies about 220 to 440 kms off the South Western Coast of India. This archipelago consists of 36 islands, 12 atolls, 3 reefs and 5 submerged banks. The islands have a total area of 32 sq. km. and the lagoons enclosed by the atolls cover an area of 4200 sq. km. The natural landscapes, the sandy beaches, abundance of flora and fauna and the absence of a rushed lifestyle enhance the mystique of Lakshadweep, which means "a hundred thousand islands". Each island is fringed by snow white coral sands.

The multicoloured underwater life in the lagoons can be viewed through glass-bottomed boats. The vast expanses of the shallow lagoons offer excellent potential for water sports like swimming, wind-surfing, diving, snorkeling and kayaking. There are facilities for deep-sea fishing with Barracuda, Sail Fish, Yellow Fin Tuna, Triveli and sharks being abundant in the seas around Lakshadweep.

Kavaratti, Kadamat and Bangaram islands of Lakshadweep have facilities for scuba diving. Crystal clear water with 20-50 meter visibility, variety of fishes and different types of soft corals of attractive colours make them memorable destinations for scuba divers. Kavaratti is the most developed island and is the Headquarters of Lakshadweep administration. A marine aquarium located in the island has an excellent collection of aquatic specimens. Bangaram is a teardrop shaped island. At night, phosphorescent plankton washed ashore on the coral sands impart an enchanting, bluish glow to the beach.

Agatti island has the airport. When the aircraft approaches the island for landing, one can get a breathtaking view of the airstrip on the island. Kalpeni island has a huge storm bank of coral debris along its eastern and southeastern shorelines. It is believed that a violent storm in 1847 threw up huge coral boulders along these shores.

Minicoy is a crescent shaped island and an important center for tuna fishing and a tuna-canning factory on the island processes the catch. A 300-foot tall lighthouse built in 1885 is a majestic landmark. There are three large ship wrecks within 8 metres of depth on the island reef. These wrecks are virtual underwater museums.

The Lakshadweep is connected to mainland by flights and passenger ships operated from Kochi. The best time to visit Lakshadweep is from October to mid-May.



*Kavaratti Island*



*Kadamat Island*



*Agatti Island*



*Agatti Island*



*Bangaram Island*



*Scuba Diving*



*Scuba Diving in Lakshadweep*

## PHOTO FEATURE

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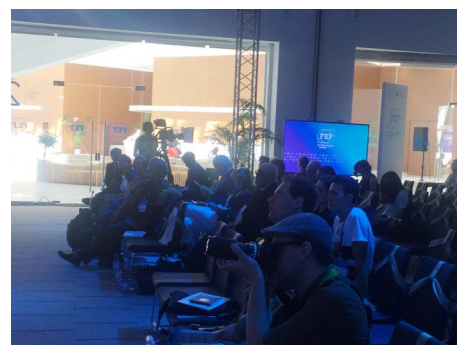
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