

सत्यमेव जयते

Embassy of India ASTANA

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Embassy of India ASTANA NEWSLETTER

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Celebration of 70th Anniversary of India's Independence

India celebrated the 70th Anniversary of Independence on 15th August, 2017 with a lot of fervor and enthusiasm. Indian community spread across the globe participated in the celebrations. In his address to the nation on the eve of Independence Day, President Shri Ram Nath Kovind said that independence was not merely a process of transfer of power from the British Crown to the people of India, but the culmination of a dream of a free India rooted in the well-being of the people and the all-round development of the country.

He said that people need to draw inspiration from brave freedom fighters, many of whom sacrificed their lives for the country, and invoke the same spirit today in the task of nation building. He called for participation of people in government's programmes saying that the partnership between citizens and the government is essential for the benefits of government policies to reach all sections of society. He emphasized the use of technology to empower people and achieve the goal of poverty elimination.

He said that today India is seen as a responsible global citizen, a growing economy and a solution provider to various international challenges such as climate change, disasters, conflicts, humanitarian crises, radicalisation and terrorism. He urged the Government agencies, sports bodies and business enterprises to identify and support the talented sportspersons in order to raise the country's standing in sports.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi unfurled the National Flag from the ramparts of the Red Fort on 15th August, 2017. In his address, Prime Minister Modi remembered the great women and men who worked hard for India's freedom. He called for collective determination and resolve to create a New India by 2022, when the country will complete 75 years of independence.

He termed the New India as a secure, prosperous and strong nation where there is equal opportunity for all, and modern science and technology play an important role in bringing glory to the nation in the global arena. He emphasized the need to have a strong economy, balanced development and next generation infrastructure in order to build a prosperous India. He said that in the New India, the biggest strength is democracy. He cautioned that the democracy cannot be confined only to ballot boxes and stressed the resolve to ensure that New India has a democracy where people are not driven by the system, rather the system is driven by the people.

He termed implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST) as a key illustration of the spirit of cooperative federalism. He said that the Government has taken the country on new tracks of development, without slackening pace. He highlighted that the poor are joining mainstream through the Government's initiatives of financial inclusion. He asserted that the youth is being nurtured to become job-creators and not job-seekers. He underscored several good governance and welfare measures implemented by the government. He said that India stands for peace, unity and harmony, and strongly condemned the use of violence in the name of faith.

He noted that digital transactions in the country have increased by 34% over last year in a shift towards less-cash economy and urged the people to lead from the front to make a move towards digital transactions in keeping with India's prowess in IT and digital world.



Celebration of 70th Anniversary of India's Independence in Kazakhstan

The Embassy of India in Astana and the Government of Kazakhstan jointly celebrated the 70th Anniversary of India's Independence at the National Day Stage in Astana EXPO 2017 on 15th August, 2017 from 1100 hrs to 1230 hrs. Kazakhstan side was represented by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Akylbek Kamaldinov. Commissioner of EXPO Mr. Rapol Zhoshybayev and Ambassador of Kazakhstan to India Mr. Bolat Sarsenbayev also attended the celebration.

The celebration began with the raising of flags of India and Kazakhstan along with the National Anthem of the two countries. It was followed by address by DFM Mr. Kamaldinov and Ambassador Shri Harsh Jain. In his address, DFM Mr. Kamaldinov congratulated the people of India on the 70th anniversary of India's independence and appreciated India's active participation in the Astana EXPO. He said that 115 countries were participating in the EXPO on the theme "Future Energy". He informed that 300 MW of renewable energy is currently produced by 50 enterprises in Kazakhstan. He noted that bilateral ties between India and Kazakhstan are strengthening particularly in the sectors of trade, economy, energy, IT, space and military-technical cooperation. He invited Indian companies to expand their presence in Kazakhstan.

In his address, Ambassador Shri Harsh Jain said that India faced many challenges at the dawn of its independence, but today, it is a proud nation of over 1.25 billion people. He underscored that India has registered steady economic growth and made many exemplary achievements in diverse fields. He, however, called the preservation of democracy, individual freedoms enshrined in the constitution, equality of opportunity to every Indian citizen, independence of judiciary and secular character of the nation as the most notable achievements of the country.

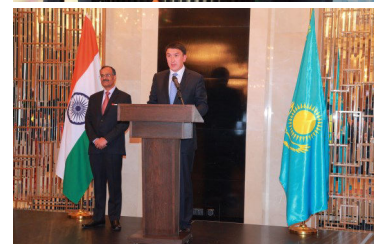
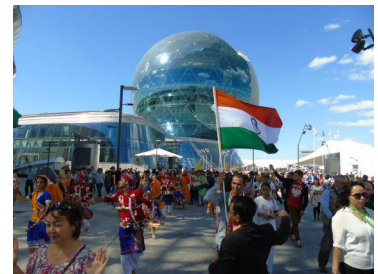
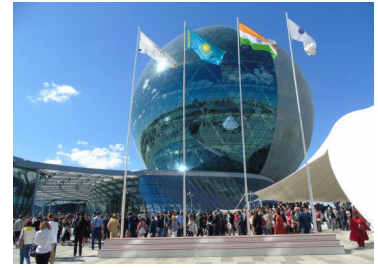
He stated that last three years have been especially remarkable with the launch of many flagship programs by the Government such as Make in India, Start up India, Digital India, Skill India, Smart Cities and Clean India. He noted that India has set an ambitious target to increase the renewable energy generation capacity to 175 GW by 2022 and has launched an International Solar Alliance, jointly with France, to usher in a solar revolution in the world. He informed that the India pavilion at the EXPO focuses on solar energy with the Sun as the pavilion theme, showcasing India's expertise and innovative uses of solar energy including a model of Cochin International Airport, which is the first 100% green airport in the world.

Following the speeches, a cultural group from Gujarat "Rang Bahar" performed at the stage for 20 minutes. The guests moved from the National Day Stage to the India Pavilion in form of a parade following India's flag amidst folk dances by the cultural group. DFM Kamaldinov and Ambassador Harsh Jain also visited Kazakhstan pavilion where Ambassador Jain signed the Guest Book. About 400 people including Ambassadors of various countries, Government Officials, Indian nationals, PIOs and other invited guests attended the celebration.

The Embassy hosted a reception in the evening of 15th August at Hotel Marriott in Astana to celebrate the 70th anniversary of India's Independence, 25th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Kazakhstan and participation of India in Astana EXPO 2017. Vice Minister of Energy of Kazakhstan Mr. Magzum Mirzagaliyev attended the reception as the Chief Guest. Ambassador Shri Harsh Jain welcomed the guests and spoke about India's progress since its independence and the growing relations between India and Kazakhstan.

In his address, Vice Minister Mr. Magzum Mirzagaliyev said that India is one of the world's fastest growing economies and strengthening of relations with it is a priority area of Kazakhstan's foreign policy. He stated that the two countries have become reliable partners and informed that 492 joint enterprises are currently registered in Kazakhstan. He said that the relations between the two countries are based on the principles of partnership, promotion of mutual interests and cooperation on regional and international issues.

The address was followed by a cultural performance by Rang Bahar. About 225 people attended the reception including Ambassadors of other countries, officials, representatives of cultural and academic institutions and members of Indian community. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Roman Vassilenko also attended the reception.



Flag hoisting ceremony was held at the Representative Office of India in Almaty. Mr. Martin C. Clemense, Second Secretary unfurled the National Flag followed by National Anthem and reading out of President of India's Address to the Nation on the eve of Independence Day. It was followed by speeches by some of the guests and recitation of patriotic songs by members of Indian community. About 120 people attended the ceremony. The members of Indian community in Atyrau also celebrated the 70th anniversary of India's independence on 15th August, 2017.

One of the iconic towers in Astana "the Northern Lights" displayed a half a minute video of tricolours of Indian flag from August 12-16, 2017 every 30 minutes between 2100 hrs and midnight. The Representative Office of India in Almaty was lit up in tricolours in the evenings of 14th and 15th August, 2017.

President Nazarbayev Congratulates PM on 70th Anniversary of India's Independence

President Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev congratulated Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on behalf of the people of Kazakhstan and on his own behalf on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of India's independence.

In his letter addressed to Prime Minister Modi, President Nazarbayev said that India is a true friend and important partner of Kazakhstan. He expressed belief that the strategic relations developed between India and Kazakhstan would continue in the spirit of mutual understanding and the welfare of the people of the two countries. He wished him good health and success in his responsibilities as well as peace and well being to the people of India.



Chief of the Army Staff of India Visits Kazakhstan

Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) of India General Bipin Rawat visited Kazakhstan from August 1-4, 2017. He called on Minister of Defence Colonel General Saken Zhasuzakov and discussed strengthening of bilateral defence, military education and military technical cooperation.

He met Chairman of National Security Committee Mr. Karim Massimov, First Deputy Minister of Defence and Chief of General Staff Lieutenant General M. Maikeev, Vice Minister of Defence and Aerospace Industry Mr. Arman Ramazanov and Commander-in-Chief of the Land Forces Major General Murat Bektanov. He inaugurated the Indian Military Art Room at National Defence University, Astana on 3rd August, 2017 in presence of Deputy Minister of Defence Lieutenant General T. Mukhtarov, Ambassador of India to Kazakhstan Mr. Harsh Jain and Ambassador of Kazakhstan to India Mr. Bulat Sarsenbayev. He also visited Aselsan Engineering Defence Industrial Base, 36 Air Assault Brigade and National Military Patriotic Museum.



India Participates in International Army Games 2017 in Kazakhstan

An 11-member team led by Major Vivek Chatterjee from India participated in the International Army Games 2017 (IAG-2017) in Kazakhstan at 40th military base "Otar" from August 1-9, 2017. Two other members from India participated as observers.

The IAG-2017 was held in Azerbaijan, Belarus, China, Kazakhstan and Russia from July 29 to August 12, 2017. The games featured competitions in 28 disciplines. Three disciplines of the games viz., Sniper frontier, Masters of Artillery Fire and UAV were held in Kazakhstan, in which 18 countries participated.



Kazakhstani Professionals Attend ITEC Programme

Ms. Dana Utebayeva, Teacher, Kazakh National Research Technical University, Almaty was selected for the "Certificate Course in Advanced Telecom Transmission Technologies (FTTH and GPON)" conducted by UTL Technologies Limited, Bengaluru from 11th September to 4th November, 2017, and Ms. Bibigul Izbair, Senior Project Assistant, Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe Programme Office in Astana, was selected for the course "Climate Change and Sustainability" conducted by the Energy and Resources Institute, New Delhi from 25th September to 13th October, 2017 under ITEC programme funded by the Government of India.



India Participates in 7th Asian Shotgun Championship in Astana

India participated in the 7th Asian Shotgun Championship held at Eldorado Shooting Club in Astana from August 3-14, 2017.

The Indian team won 3 gold, 1 silver and 4 bronze medals in the following events: Mr. Ankur Mittal - Double Trap Men (Gold); Ms. Maheshwari Chauhan - Skeet Women (Bronze); Mr. Kynan Chenai - Trap Men (Bronze); Double Trap Men Team (Gold); Skeet Mixed Team (Gold); Skeet Women Team (Silver); Skeet Men Team (Bronze); and Trap Mixed Team (Bronze).



Joint Training of Indian and Kazakhstani Woman Boxers in Shymkent

A 25-member Indian Junior Women Boxing Team participated in the joint training of Indian and Kazakhstani junior woman boxers at Biik Sports Complex in Shymkent from 24th July to 7th August, 2017.



IIT Delhi Develops a New Antibacterial Drug Delivery System

A new antibiotic drug delivery system that improves the efficacy of drugs used for treating bacterial infections has been tested at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi.

Dr. Neetu Singh from the Centre for Biomedical Engineering, IIT, Delhi says that reduced dosage is sufficient to kill the bacteria when the drug is conjugated (bound) to gold nanoparticles. Reduction of dosage of antibiotics is one of the strategies to reduce the possibility of drug resistance setting in.



The new drug delivery system will be particularly useful for cancer patients because after chemotherapy, the immunological response gets damaged as cells responsible for protecting against bacteria are reduced in number and the person becomes vulnerable to bacterial infection.

Three Indian Firms Among Forbes' 100 Most Innovative Companies

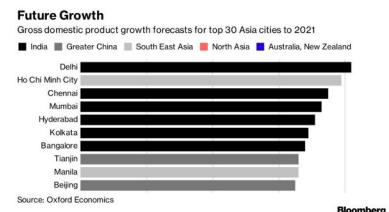
Three Indian firms viz., Hindustan Unilever, Asian Paints and Bharti Airtel feature in the Forbes' list of 100 most innovative companies in the world released on 8th August, 2017 at 7th, 8th and 78th positions respectively.

The companies are ranked by their innovation premium, which is the difference between their market capitalisation and the net present value of cash flows from existing businesses. The innovation premium is a measure of how much the investors have bid up the stock price of a company above the value of its existing businesses, based on expectations of future innovative results, products, services and markets. To qualify, the companies should have at least seven years of public financial data, a market value greater than US\$ 10 billion and measurable investment in research and development.



Economy of Indian Cities to Grow the Fastest in Asia

A study by Oxford Economics released on 9th August, 2017 concludes that New Delhi will be the fastest growing city in Asia over the next five years, with the city's economy projected to be almost 50% larger in 2021 than at the end of 2016. It says that financial and business services will be the fastest growing sector in India due to gradual reduction or elimination of limits on foreign ownership of Indian companies prompting overseas investors to seek advice on possible deals, which will lead to higher growth and income to New Delhi because of its dominance in the sector.



The study, which ranked Asia's 30 largest cities, finds that New Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai and Hyderabad would be among the five cities of highest GDP growth (6% to 8%) in Asia. The report predicts a slight slowdown across the region, with average growth expected to be 4.2 per cent per year over the period 2017-2021, down from 4.5 percent during 2012-2016.

Incredible India Destination: Sawai Madhopur

The quaint city of Sawai Madhopur in the state of Rajasthan was built in the 18th century by Maharaja Sawai Madho Singh-I. Sawai Madhopur is gateway to the famous Ranthambore National Park. Although known for the tigers, Sawai Madhopur also features a magnificent fort and temples. Surrounded by Vindhya and Aravali ranges, this place is an attraction for adventure enthusiasts and those with a fascination for history.

Ranthambore National Park spreads over an area of 393 sq. km. of thick forest punctuated with pleasant waterfalls. Many lakes in the park enhance its beauty. The national park is one of the best tiger reserves of India and is also home to many other animals and 300 species of birds.

At the centre of the park is located the Ranthambore Fort built by Chauhan rulers in the 10th century. This formidable fort is known for the glory and valour of Chauhan ruler Hammir Dev. Ranthambore Fort, along with 5 other forts of Rajasthan, was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site under the group 'Hill Forts of Rajasthan' in 2013.

Shilpgram (9 km away from Sawai Madhopur) is a craft village that showcases diversity in arts, crafts and cultures of various Indian states. Mansarovar Lake (25 km from Sawai Madhopur) attracts thousands of migrating birds during winter. Boating facility is available in the lake. Siwad (40 km) is famous for a Shiva temple where an annual fair is held on Shiv Ratri attracting thousands of devotees.

Khandar Fort (45 km) is one of the most impregnable forts of Rajasthan. The spacious interiors of the Fort house seven temples and two huge water tanks - Ramkunda and Laxmankunda. Bhoori Pahadi (45 km) is known for Sand dunes. The rambling area of white sand dunes provides for a day's adventure with camel and horse safaris. Trekking through mountainous area will enable one to capture breath-taking images of the sunset.

Sunheri Kothi (Mansion of Gold) in the city of Tonk (80 km) is a magnificent hall within the palace complex built in the 19th century for cultural activities. Its walls and ceilings are one sumptuous expanse of enamel mirror-work, gilt and painted glass illuminated through stained-glass windows. The entire effect is that of an exquisite piece of enamel jewellery blown up to the size of a hall.

Palace on Wheels, a luxury tourist train, runs from New Delhi to several tourist places in Rajasthan including Sawai Madhopur.



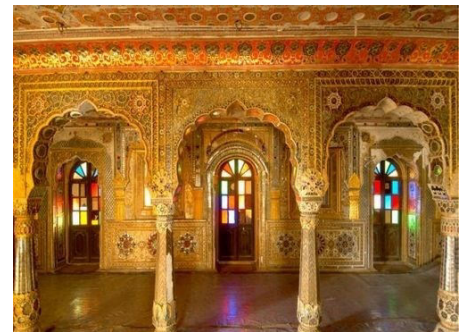
Ranthambore National Park



Ranthambore Fort



Shilpgram



Sunheri Kothi



Khandar Fort



Palace on Wheels

PHOTO FEATURE

Celebration of 70th Anniversary of India's Independence in Astana



Celebration of 70th Anniversary of India's Independence in Almaty



Celebration of 70th Anniversary of India's Independence in Atyrau



Chief of the Army Staff of India Visits Kazakhstan



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