

सत्यमेव जयते

## Embassy of India ASTANA

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# Embassy of India ASTANA NEWSLETTER

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## Prime Minister of Nepal Visits India

Prime Minister of Nepal Rt. Hon'ble Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba paid a State Visit to India from August 23-27, 2017. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi warmly welcomed him. It was his first visit abroad after assuming office in June, 2017.



The leaders expressed satisfaction over the excellent state of India-Nepal relations that are deep, comprehensive and multi-faceted and pledged to pursue new opportunities to further deepen bilateral relations for the benefit of the people of two countries, while committing to further reinvigorate the existing mechanisms. They reaffirmed their commitment to work towards strengthening of bilateral relations on the basis of mutual trust, goodwill and mutual benefit with due regard to each other's aspirations, sensitivities and interests.

Prime Minister Modi appreciated the efforts being made by the Government of Nepal to take all sections of society on board in constitution implementation process and in establishing Nepal as a federal democratic republic. Prime Minister Deuba thanked the government of India for the assistance provided for the conduct of local elections, support to relief efforts of Nepal in the wake of floods and continued assistance in training and capacity building of the security forces of Nepal.

The leaders jointly inaugurated the Kataiya (India)-Kusaha (Nepal) and Raxaul (India)-Parwanipur (Nepal) cross-border transmission lines, which would enable additional 100 MWs of power supply from India to Nepal. Prime Minister Modi reiterated India's commitment to work with the Government of Nepal to expedite post-earthquake reconstruction projects in a time-bound manner. The leaders recognized the need for early completion of ongoing rail, road and power projects, and construction of Integrated Check Posts at Biratnagar, Bhairahawa and Nepalgunj. They directed the officials to finalize the detailed project report (DPR) on 5000 MW Pancheshwar Project within a month. The two sides reached in principle agreement for Indian grant assistance to support establishment of a Technical Institute in Far West of Nepal and the G.P. Koirala National Centre for Respiratory Diseases in Tanahun.

The leaders welcomed the decision to set up a Joint Working Group on cooperation in oil and gas sectors, which would consider advancing cooperation in areas such as (i) construction of LPG pipeline from Motihari to Amlekhgunj; (ii) construction of a natural gas pipeline from Gorakhpur to Sunwal; (iii) assistance of IOCL for preparing DPR for extension of petroleum products pipeline from Amlekhgunj to Chitwan. They highlighted the importance of realizing the full potential of bilateral trade and investment. Prime Minister Deuba shared information on the recent steps taken by Government of Nepal with the aim of enhancing investor confidence. The leaders agreed to strengthen cooperation in the fields of defence, tourism and ayurvedic system of healthcare.

Prime Minister Deuba called on President Shri Ram Nath Kovind on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2017. President Kovind congratulated the Government and people of Nepal for successfully conducting the two phases of local elections. He conveyed his best wishes for the conduct of the upcoming provincial and federal elections in Nepal. He said that India-Nepal relations derive their strength from a shared history, common culture, trade links and an open border, which is symbolised by the "national" treatment given by both countries to each other's citizens.

Prime Minister Deuba interacted with Indian business community at a function jointly hosted by ASSOCHAM, CII and FICCI on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2017. He went to Hyderabad on 25<sup>th</sup> August and visited Infosys campus and T-Hub, the start-up incubator facility. He visited Tirupati and offered prayers at the famous hill temple of Lord Venkateswara on 26<sup>th</sup> August. He visited Bodh Gaya in the State of Bihar on 27<sup>th</sup> August.

8 Agreements/MOUs were signed during the visit on cooperation in the sectors of housing; education; cultural heritage; health; drug demand reduction and prevention of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemical and related matters; construction of Mechi bridge; standardization and conformity assessment; and cooperation between Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nepal.

## President Nazarbayev Inaugurates LEU Bank

President Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev inaugurated a Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) Bank in Kazakhstan on 29th August, 2017. The bank, owned and controlled by IAEA, is located at the Ulba Metallurgical Plant in Ust-Kamenogorsk, East Kazakhstan Region. President handed over symbolic key of the Bank to Director General of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Mr. Yukiya Amano at the inaugural ceremony in Astana. The Bank can store up to 90 MT of low enriched uranium and will act as a supplier of last resort for Member States of IAEA in case the supply of LEU is disrupted.



In his address, President Nazarbayev said that during the years of independence, the country has transformed from holder of the world's fourth largest nuclear arsenal to the leader of global non-proliferation. He stated that 29<sup>th</sup> August is celebrated as the International Day against Nuclear Tests throughout the world to commemorate the closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site by Kazakhstan on this day in 1991.

He said that by providing the IAEA with the facility to set up the LEU Bank, Kazakhstan has made its contribution to strengthening of non-proliferation regime and creation of a unique mechanism for the safe supply of nuclear fuel. He noted that Kazakhstan is the largest producer of uranium and is ready to play an important role in global energy supply. He underscored that Kazakhstan is a consistent supporter of nuclear disarmament and global nuclear security and believes that nuclear safety can be achieved only by universal and non-discriminatory approach. He stated that the G-GLOBAL initiative, which unites about 190 countries, is aimed at this objective.

He opined that the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) does not fully justify the hopes placed on it as the nuclear club countries do not disclose information on nuclear program on voluntary basis while other countries are expected to provide full information. He proposed to legalize the status of all de-facto nuclear states and convene a summit of the countries possessing nuclear weapons. He reiterated the initiative put forward by him at the 70th session of the UN General Assembly to achieve a world without nuclear weapons by the 100th anniversary of UN. He suggested consolidating all global initiatives on anti-nuclear movement issues and expressed Kazakhstan's readiness to host Global Nuclear Security Summit in Astana to discuss nuclear security issues.

Director General of IAEA Mr. Yukiya Amano thanked Kazakhstan for volunteering to host the IAEA LEU Bank and added that Kazakhstan has for many years been a steadfast partner of the IAEA in working to prevent nuclear proliferation and advancing peaceful uses of nuclear energy. He informed that 447 nuclear power reactors are in operation in 30 countries and 58 reactors are under construction and another 30 countries are interested in introducing nuclear power. He stated that a last-resort mechanism such as the IAEA LEU Bank is essential to give countries the confidence that they will be able to meet their future needs of nuclear fuel.

Ambassador Shri Harsh Jain attended the inauguration ceremony.

## India Participates in 62nd Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs in Astana

The 62<sup>nd</sup> Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs titled "Confronting New Nuclear Dangers" was held in Astana from August 25-29, 2017. Chairman of the Senate of the Parliament of Kazakhstan Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of Pugwash Mr. Jayantha Dhanapala and Secretary General of Pugwash Mr. Paolo Cotta Ramusino opened the Conference.



The conference called for greater global commitment to multilateral treaties across the spectrum of weapons of mass destruction and greater effort to encourage the states which are not party to such agreements to adhere to them. It urged the scientists with relevant expertise to communicate reliable information to leaders, policy-makers and diplomats in the context of crises, emerging technologies and existing risks. It emphasized that promotion of research and exchange of different views remains vitally important. It applauded the Nuclear Threat Initiative, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and their partners for establishment of a Low Enriched Uranium Bank in Kazakhstan.

The conference issued Astana Declaration of the Pugwash Council titled "From Prohibition of Nuclear Testing toward Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons". The Astana Declaration called upon all Governments and the people of the world to reflect on the grave and irreversible ecological and humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and spare no efforts towards achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world.

More than 250 participants from 34 countries including 50 students from 20 countries attended the conference. 14 delegates from India including Ambassadors Shri Rakesh Sood, Shri Anil Wadhwa and Smt. Deepa Wadhwa; Lt. Gen. Harcharanjit Panag; and Prof. Amitabh Mattoo participated in the conference.

## Ambassador Attended the Inaugural Ceremony of SCO & CICA International Marathon

Ambassador Shri Harsh Jain participated in the inaugural ceremony of Astana International Marathon organized by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) in Astana on 27th August, 2017. The marathon organized on the occasion of SCO Day as part of Astana EXPO 2017 was held for distances of 42 km 195 m, 10 km and 2017 m. About 5,600 professional and amateur athletes from 32 countries participated in the marathon. Inaugural video of the marathon featured children from all member countries of SCO including India.



## India Participates in Eurasian Week Forum in Astana

Prime Minister Mr. Bakytzhan Sagintayev inaugurated the Eurasian Week Forum in Astana on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2017. In his address, he said that the Eurasian Week Forum has become an important tool to develop cooperative relationships for business, investment and export potential of Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and integration processes within the Union.



He said that the forum would promote establishment of contacts and further development of existing ties between the public sector and the business community. He informed that more than 8,000 joint ventures with the EAEU member countries stably operate in Kazakhstan, which is a good indicator of the support of entrepreneurs for integration.

Chairman of the Board of Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) Mr. Tigran Sargsyan said that advances in Science and Technology accelerate the pace of changes, but the management systems are late with decision-making, adaptation, promotion of new rules, etc. He stated that the EAEU gives a chance to solve this challenge saying that supranational bodies would manage the trends rather than forming any man-made unachievable systems. He emphasized the need to develop a road map on how to remove barriers, exemptions and restrictions together to ensure that the common markets function properly.

Officials and representatives of business community from 42 countries participated in the Forum, which comprised panel discussions, seminars, roundtables, B2G and B2B Meetings. Experts spoke about strategic challenges and shared their views on the future of Eurasian integration.

Mr. Devender Kumar Singh, Chairman, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority and Mr. Sunil Ranjan, Deputy Secretary, Department of Commerce participated in the Forum. As part of the Forum, a workshop on "EAEU-India: Towards an FTA" was held with the objective to identify the demand of business of the EAEU and India for the most relevant directions in bilateral trade.

## Indian Armed Forces Impart Training to Kazakhstani Armed Forces on Peacekeeping

A three member delegation led by Col. R.S. Cheema from the Armed Forces of India conducted training on UN Peacekeeping to the peacekeeping unit of the Armed Forces of Kazakhstan "Kazbrig" in Almaty from August 14-18, 2017.



The training programme conducted within the framework of bilateral military cooperation between India and Kazakhstan covered man-management, concept of operations, combat orders, etc.

## Delegation from National Defence College, New Delhi Visits Kazakhstan

A 15-member delegation from National Defence College, New Delhi led by Air Vice Marshal T.D. Joseph visited Kazakhstan on strategic neighbourhood study tour from August 27-31, 2017. The delegation called on Deputy Minister of Defence Lt. Gen. Okas Saparaov. They visited Indian Military Art Room at National Defence University and Paramount Engineering in Astana, and Military Institute of Land Forces in Almaty.





## "Rang Bahar" Performs at National Day Stage in Astana EXPO 2017

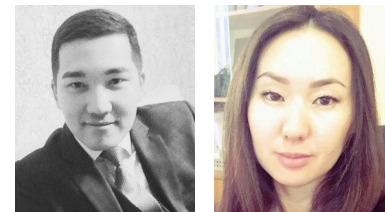
A cultural group from the state of Gujarat "Rang Bahar" performed Indian folk dances at the National Day Stage in Astana EXPO 2017 on 21st August, 2017 from 1900 to 2000 hrs. About 250 people attended the cultural programme.

The cultural group also performed at the Astana Central Park on 19th August and the India Pavilion in Astana EXPO from August 14-22, 2017.



## Kazakhstani Professionals Attend ITEC Programme

Mr. Dauren Dosbayev, Senior Manager at Susamir Company, Almaty was selected for the course "High Impact Leadership/Managerial Skill Development Programme-I" conducted by the Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad from 4th September to 29th September, 2017 and Ms. Aigul Dyussebayeva, Regional Manager at Astana-Plat LLP, Astana was selected for "Certificate Course in Advanced Mobile Communication Technologies(3G, 4G)" conducted by UTL Technologies Ltd, Bengaluru from 30th October, 2017 to 6th January, 2018 under the ITEC programme funded by Government of India.



## The India-ASEAN Youth Summit held in Bhopal

The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat and India Foundation organized the 1<sup>st</sup> India-ASEAN Youth Summit in Bhopal from August 14-19, 2017 on the theme "Shared Values, Common Destiny". The summit coincided with the 25th anniversary of India-ASEAN dialogue partnership. About 100 youth delegates from India and 10 ASEAN countries attended the summit. They engaged in debate and discussions on a wide range of topics including Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Digital and IT Connectivity, UN Sustainable Development Goals and on ways and means to enhance India-ASEAN ties.



External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj delivered valedictory address at the summit. She urged the youth to debate, discuss and actively participate in shaping the discourse on polity, governance and sustainable development agendas. She noted that youth has immense transformative powers and youthful energies harnessed and leveraged in the right direction can put the world on course to a more sustainable future. She said that youth are agents of change and critical actors in preventing conflict and building peace.

The delegates adopted the "Bhopal Declaration". EAM Sushma Swaraj said that the Declaration would allow voices of the leaders of tomorrow to be factored in the agenda of the leaderships today.

## Sports Talent Search Portal Launched

Vice President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu launched the Sports Talent Search Portal in New Delhi on 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2017 to spot the best talent from among the young population of India. In his address, he said that one of the most important factors that enable a nation to become a sporting power is the identification and development of right talent. He stated that the portal would go a long way in attracting the best available sporting talent in the country and would provide a level playing field to all applicants and create a competitive environment. The portal can be accessed at: [www.nationalsportstalenthunt.com](http://www.nationalsportstalenthunt.com) or [www.nationalsportstalenthunt.in](http://www.nationalsportstalenthunt.in) for registration and uploading the achievements of sportspersons.



## India to Host the FIFA Under-17 World Cup 2017

India will host the FIFA Under-17 World Cup 2017 in New Delhi, Goa, Guwahati, Kochi, Kolkata and New Mumbai from October 6-28, 2017. The opening ceremony will be held in New Delhi on 6th October. The final match will be held in Kolkata on 28th October.

The teams from Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, England, France, Germany, Ghana, Guinea, Honduras, India, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Korea DPR, Mali, Mexico, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niger, Paraguay, Spain, Turkey and USA will participate in the event. The details of matches, venue, date, time, etc are available at: <http://www.fifa.com/u17worldcup/>



## Incredible India Destination: Mandu

The fortress town of Mandu in the state of Madhya Pradesh is perched on the southwestern edge of the Malwa Plateau at an altitude of 2000 feet and commands panoramic views of the Nimar Plains below. Mandu is home to an impressive array of ancient Afghan architectural marvels surrounded by baobab trees, native to Africa. The grand gateways of the town speak of a history of imperial conquests.

Jahaz Mahal, Hindola Mahal, Hoshang Shah's Tomb, Jama Masjid, Baz Bahadur Palace, Roopmati's Pavilion and Rewa Kund are some of the major tourist attractions in Mandu.

Jahaz Mahal, a 120-metre long elegant palace commonly known as the "Ship Palace", was built between two lakes, Munj Talao and Kapur Talao, by Sultan Ghiyas-ud-din-Khilji in the 15th century. With its open pavilions, open terrace and balconies overhanging the water, Jahaz Mahal is an imaginative recreation in stone of a royal pleasure craft. Hindola Mahal, derives its name of "swinging palace" from its sloping sidewalls. Superb and innovative techniques are evident in its ornamental facade, delicate trellis work in sandstone and beautifully moulded columns.

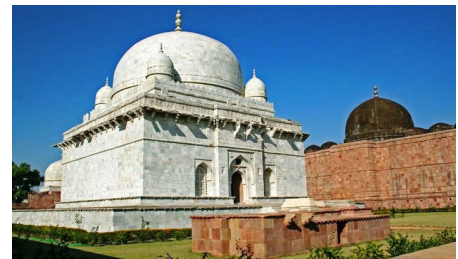
Hoshang Shah's Tomb, India's first marble edifice, is one of the most refined examples of Afghan architecture. It served as a template for the construction of Taj Mahal. Jama Masjid, inspired by the great mosque of Damascus, is striking in both its simplicity and architectural style with large courtyards and grand entrances.

Baz Bahadur Palace built in the early 16th century, has spacious courtyards surrounded by halls and high terraces which afford a superb view of the surrounding countryside. Roopmati's Pavilion is located atop a hillock. From there, Queen can see Baz Bahadur's Palace and the Narmada river flowing through the Nimar plains far below. Rewa Kund, a reservoir, was built by Sultan Baz Bahadur with an aqueduct to provide Roopmati's pavilion with water.

Dhar (35 Km away from Mandu) is picturesquely located among lakes and trees ringed by barren hills. The place is famous for its relics of the past including old ramparts and many beautiful buildings. Maheshwar (55 Km), a temple town on the banks of the river Narmada, is a centre of handloom weaving since the 5th century. Maheshwar is producing the exquisite Maheshwari saris and fabric.



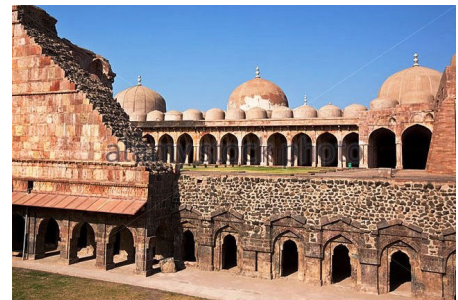
*Hindola Mahal*



*Hoshang Shah's Tomb*



*Roopmati's Pavilion*



*Jama Masjid*



*Ahilya Fort, Maheshwar*



*Jahaz Mahal*



## PHOTO FEATURE

### *Ambassador Attends the Inaugural Ceremony of SCO & CICA International Marathon*



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### *Delegation from National Defence College, New Delhi Visits Kazakhstan*



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### *"Rang Bahar" Performs at National Day Stage in Astana EXPO 2017*



### *"Rang Bahar" Performs at Astana Central Park*



  
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