



Embassy of India Astana

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President of Germany Visits India

President of Germany Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier paid a state visit to India from March 22-25, 2018. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met him on 24th March, 2018 at Sunder Nursery, a 16th century heritage park complex in New Delhi. They held extensive discussions on a wide range of issues.



President Shri Ram Nath Kovind received President Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier and hosted a banquet in his honour on 24th March. In his address, President Kovind said that India-Germany friendship is unique and special as it has the strength of a digital-age partnership as well as the depth of an age-old cultural engagement.

He highlighted the long tradition of intellectual exchanges between the two countries with German scholars having played a key role in promoting Indology in the West. He stated that India-Germany contemporary partnership is built on the shared values of democracy, respect for freedom and the rule of law. He underscored that economic and technology partnership between the two countries has been a story of many accomplishments. He said that India-Germany partnership is for the future in defining the contours of cyber space, climate change action, digital transformation and harnessing renewable energy.

President Frank-Walter Steinmeier made a trip to Varanasi on 22nd March, 2018. He visited Sarnath Museum, Archaeological Site and Mulagandhakuti Vihara Temple. He addressed the students at Banaras Hindu University. He took a boat ride to Dashshwamedh Ghat in the Ganges river and witnessed Ganga Aarti.

He visited Jama Masjid and the Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology in New Delhi on 23rd March, 2018. He delivered an address on "India and Germany - Ideas and Perspectives" at the University of Delhi.

During his trip to Chennai, he visited the manufacturing plant of Daimler India Commercial Vehicles (DICV) in Oragadam on 25th March, 2018. He witnessed demonstration of products developed by the start ups at the Research Park of the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M), a premier technical institute established in German cooperation in 1959. He also visited the shore temple at Mahabalipuram.

Kazakhstan Celebrates Nauryz

Kazakhstan celebrated Nauryz on 21st March, 2018 with fervor and enthusiasm. President Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev congratulated the people of Kazakhstan and wished them happiness, success and prosperity on the occasion. He attended a concert "Zhanargan zher, bak kongan nurly el" (Renewed land, blessed country) at the EXPO site on 21st March, 2018. He visited an ethnic village created at the EXPO complex, where exhibitions of arts and crafts, music and theatre performances and competitions in national sports were organized.



He said that Nauryz is a vivid example of the country's unity, where everyone makes his own contribution to the development and prosperity of the country. He stated that from ancient times, the Nauryz united the people, and warmed their souls with love and joy. He emphasized the importance of strengthening the values of mutual respect and accord, and creating a solid foundation for the global competitiveness of the country. He drew attention to the fact that during the years of independence, Kazakhstan has achieved impressive results in all key areas and at present it has set itself an even more ambitious goal of joining the world's 30 most developed countries. He said that given the technological advancement in the world, the main wealth of a country is human capital - knowledge, ability and patriotism of citizens - and only smart, successful and self-reliant people can build a strong and prosperous Kazakhstan.

External Affairs Minister Greets Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan on Nauryz

External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj extended her warm greetings and felicitations to Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Mr. Kairat Abdrakhmanov and the people of Kazakhstan on the occasion of Nauryz on behalf of the people and the government of India and on her own behalf. In her letter dated 20th March, 2018 addressed to Minister Abdrakhmanov, she extended her best wishes for the continued progress and prosperity of Kazakhstan. She stated that Nauryz is celebrated with utmost joy and enthusiasm in Kazakhstan symbolizing rebirth and arrival of spring. She conveyed her good wishes for his personal health and well-being, and peace and prosperity for the friendly people of Kazakhstan.



Kazakhstan Participates in the Meeting of Ministers of WTO in New Delhi

The Government of India organized the informal meeting of Ministers of WTO in New Delhi on March 19-20, 2018. The meeting was structured in an informal interactive format to provide an opportunity for the Ministers to discuss the current challenges facing the WTO and the way forward.



The participants of the meeting called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 20th March, 2018. Prime Minister Modi expressed confidence that the deliberations at the meeting would have been constructive. He reiterated India's commitment to a rule-based multilateral trading system, based on the principles of inclusiveness and consensus. He said that a robust conflict resolution mechanism is one of the key benefits of the WTO and it is important to counter the challenges being posed to the multilateral trading system.

Delegates from 53 countries including Vice Minister of National Economy of Kazakhstan Mr. Baurzhan Bekeshev participated in the meeting.

Armed Forces Personnel of Kazakhstan Participate in a Joint Training with Indian Army

30 Armed Forces personnel of Kazakhstan participated in a joint training with Indian Army contingent on UN peacekeeping operations at the Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK), New Delhi from 19th March to 15th April, 2018. The training programme was organised as part of Indo-Kazakh Defence Cooperation under the framework of an agreement on "Defence and Military Technical Cooperation".



Embassy Organizes a Workshop on "Doing Business With India"

The Embassy organized a workshop on "Doing Business with India" in Almaty on 20th March, 2018 as part of Market Expansion Activities Programme of the Ministry of External Affairs. Ambassador Shri Prabhat Kumar welcomed the guests and stressed the importance of holding such events to create a platform for the business community of both countries to come together and build contacts thereby increasing the trade between India and Kazakhstan.

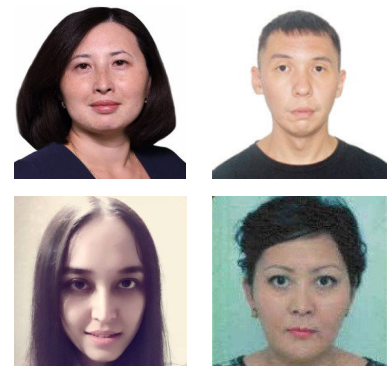


Mr. Nurlan Igembayev, Vice President for Development, JSC Kazakh Temir Zholy outlined Kazakhstan's plans for improving the connectivity between India and Kazakhstan, which was a welcome information to the businessmen as one of the main hurdles in trade between the two countries is poor connectivity. Ms. Antonina Romanteyeva, General Manager of WIPRO, Kazakhstan gave a presentation on WIPRO's goals and aims in Kazakhstan and spoke about the capability of WIPRO to play an important role in the Digitalisation programme of Kazakhstan. Mr. Azhmat Ali-mov, Co-Chairman of the Kazakh-Indian Business Council presented a report on the second meeting of India-Kazakhstan Joint Business Council held in New Delhi in February, 2018. A presentation on "Transforming India" by Invest India was made on the occasion. This was followed by a Q&A session.

Kazakhstani Professionals Participate in ITEC Programmes in India

Ms. Kamar Kozhakhmetova, Senior Lecturer, KAZGUU University, Astana was selected for the course "Entrepreneurship Education to Strengthen Emerging Economies" conducted by the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Gandhinagar from 5th February to 16th March, 2018; and Mr. Madi Abilev, Senior Lecturer, East Kazakhstan State University, Ust-Kamenogorsk was selected for the course "International Training Programme on Laboratory Quality Management Systems" conducted by the National Institute of Training for Standardisation (BIS), Noida from 5th February to 23rd February, 2018 under ITEC programme sponsored by the Government of India.

Ms. Ainura Buralkinova, Technical Support Manager, T.S. Development Shymkent LLP, Shymkent and Ms. Akmaral Adilbekova, Project Designer, Information Sports Hub, Almaty were selected for the course "Certificate of Proficiency in English Communication & Web Designing" conducted by Aptech, New Delhi from 5th February to 13th May, 2018 under ITEC programme.



Embassy Celebrates ITEC Day in Almaty

The Embassy of India celebrated the ITEC Day in Almaty at Hotel Ramada on 19th March, 2018. Ambassador Shri Prabhat Kumar welcomed and addressed the guests.

In his address, Ambassador spoke about the nature and scope of the ITEC programme in promoting South-South cooperation. He informed that about 1170 people from Kazakhstan—about 950 civilian participants and about 220 defence personnel—have availed of the short term specialized capacity building training programmes offered under ITEC since 1992. He noted that the most number of professionals from Kazakhstan have attended the civilian ITEC courses this year in the last 10 years.



He underscored the dynamic bilateral relations between India and Kazakhstan with regular high level visits as well as frequent exchange of visits by official, academic, cultural and business delegations. He highlighted the recent introduction of e-Visa facility to the nationals of Kazakhstan by India, which will enable the visa applicants to obtain visa online without having to visit the Embassy. He urged the ITEC alumni to update their particulars in the ITEC portal.

Ms. Albina Muratbekova, Head of Partnership Development Unit, Narxoz University, Almaty; Ms. Fariza Rakhimova, Chief Specialist, Partnership Development Unit, Narxoz University, Almaty; Ms. Dana Utebayeva, Teacher, Kazakh National Research Technical University, Almaty; Ms. Nassiba Baimatova, Senior Researcher, Centre of Physico Chemical Methods of Research and Analysis, Almaty; Ms. Moldir Kulshigashova, Lead Inspector, Kazakh National Agrarian University, Almaty; Ms. Meruyert Kitmanova, Teacher, Municipal Public Institutional Secondary School, Almaty; Ms. Alina Zhaglovskaya, Senior Teacher, Pavlodar State University, Pavlodar; and Ms. Aigul Kenesbayeva, Teacher, Geodesy and Cartography Department, International Education Corporation, Almaty shared their experiences in their ITEC training programmes in India. They highly appreciated the course content, the faculty members, study tours, accommodation, India's culture and tradition, usefulness of the training programme in their profession, etc.

India-Kazakhstan Flag Pins and Cups embossed with ITEC logo were presented to the ITEC alumni. About 50 people attended the celebration.

"Astana Arlans" Participates in WSB Season-VIII in Rohtak

Indian team "Indian Tigers" and Kazakhstani team "Astana Arlans" participated in the World Series of Boxing (WSB) - Season-VIII held in the National Boxing Academy, Rohtak on 24th March, 2018. The three-time WSB Champion, Astana Arlans, won the competition against the Indian Tigers in the first-ever WSB bout in India. In the WSB, the teams representing franchises across the globe compete in a league format in regular seasons that leads to play-offs and



Students of School No.37 Visit ICC

22 students of School No. 37, Astana, accompanied by two teachers, visited Indian Cultural Centre (ICC), Astana on 16th March, 2018. Shri D.S. Rawat, Director, ICC, briefed them about Indian culture and tradition. Shri Bhaskar Ojah, Music Teacher demonstrated Indian musical instruments. Ms. Shruti Ghosh, Kathak Dance Teacher, presented a lecture-cum-demonstration on Indian classical dance "Kathak". Shri Trilok Tarak, Teacher of Indian Culture, conducted a master class on yoga. A documentary "India Unravalled" was screened.



ICC Participates in Festive Classes in Schools

Indian Cultural Centre (ICC), Astana participated in a festive class "Armysyn, Az-Nauryz!" at School No. 37, Astana on 19th March, 2018 on the eve of Nauryz. Ms. Shruti Ghosh, Kathak Dance Teacher and Shri Bhaskar Ojah, Music Teacher at the ICC performed Kathak dance and flute recital respectively. About 100 students and teachers participated in the event.

The ICC participated in the celebration "Armysyn, Az-Nauryz!" at School No. 54, Astana on 20th March, 2018 on the eve of Nauryz. Ms. Shruti Ghosh and Shri Bhaskar Ojah performed Kathak dance and flute recital respectively. About 300 students and teachers attended the celebration.



Incredible India Destination: Pachmarhi

Pachmarhi in the state of Madhya Pradesh is a place where nature has found exquisite expression in myriad enchanting ways. Situated at a height of 1067 metres, Pachmarhi, popularly known as Satpura ki Rani (Queen of Satpura), is girdled by the Satpura mountain range and loaded with bridle paths. Pachmarhi offers year round sylvan beauty and bracing climate to the visitors. The forest of Pachmarhi is full of fruit trees and is known for its richness in medicinal plants and herbs. Pachmarhi is listed in the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve for its flora and fauna. Pachmarhi is also an archaeological treasure trove with cave shelters containing an astonishing wealth of rock paintings, some of which are estimated to be 10,000 years old.

Rajat Prapat, Dhoopgarh, Pandava caves, Christ Church, Mahadeo Hill, Jata Shankar and Satpura National Park are some of the major tourist attractions in Pachmarhi.

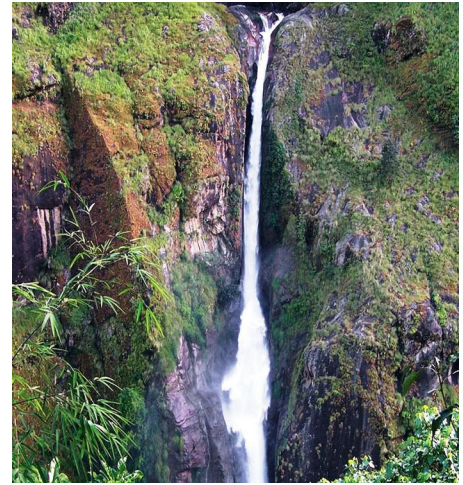
Rajat Prapat (Silver Fall) with a single drop of 351 feet shines as silver when sunlight falls on it. Dhoopgarh is the highest point in the Satpura range with a magnificent view of the surrounding ranges. It is a very popular spot for viewing sunsets.

Pandava caves are five ancient caves which provided shelter to five pandav brothers during their exile as per legends and also gave Pachmarhi its name. The Christ Church was built in 1875 and its stained glass windows are a beautiful sight when the sun shines through them.

The Mahadeo Hill is considered sacred for many centuries and has a shrine with an impressive idol of Lord Shiva and the Shivalinga. Jata Shankar, a sacred cave-shrine, derives its name from the peculiar rock formation that looks like the matted dreadlocks of Lord Shiva.

Satpura National Park, spread over 1427 sq. km. amidst the green altitudes of Satpura, shelters several endangered animals. It is a delight for bird watchers. One can also spot the majestic tiger in the park.

Chauragarh temple, Priyadarshini point, Apsara vihar (Fairy pool), Jamuna Prapat (Bee fall), Handi Khoh (Deep valley) and Chhota Mahadeo cave are some of the other tourist attractions in Pachmarhi.



Rajat Prapat



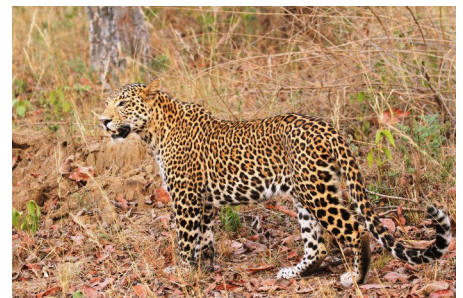
Christ Church



Pachmarhi Valley



Pandava Caves



Leopard in Satpura National Park

PHOTO FEATURE

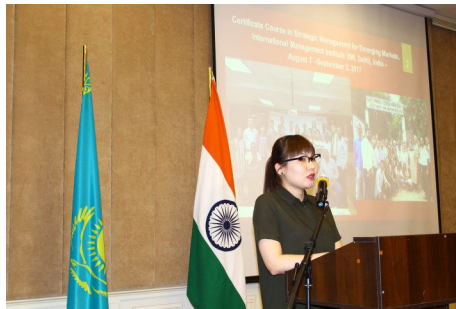
Armed Forces Personnel of Kazakhstan Participate in a Joint Training with Indian Army



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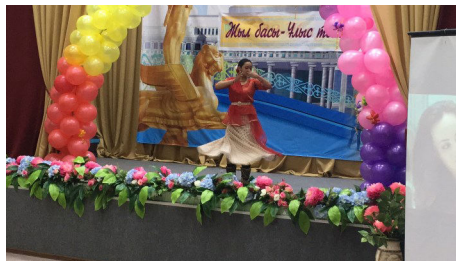
Embassy Celebrates ITEC Day in Almaty



Students of School No.37 Visit ICC



ICC Participates in a festive class "Armysyn, Az-Nauryz!" at School No.37



ICC Participates in the Celebration "Armysyn, Az-Nauryz!" at School No.54



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