



# Embassy of India Astana

## NEWSLETTER

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## Visit of Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi to Argentina for G20 Summit - November 29 - December 01, 2018

Prime Minister Modi, President Vladimir V Putin of Russian Federation and President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China, held a Trilateral Meeting in Buenos Aires on 30.11.2018.

The three leaders exchanged views on expanding mutual cooperation in international forums, and to encourage greater interaction among the three countries. They agreed on the importance of reform and strengthening of multilateral institutions which have benefitted the world, including the United Nations, WTO and well-established as well as new global financial institutions. They underscored the benefits of a multilateral trading system and an open world economy for global growth and prosperity.



The three leaders also agreed to have regular consultations at all levels to jointly promote international and regional peace and stability, to strengthen cooperation through BRICS, SCO and EAS mechanisms, to address global challenges such as terrorism and climate change, and to encourage peaceful resolution of all differences.

The three leaders acknowledged the importance of cooperation in RIC format and have agreed to hold further such trilateral meetings on multilateral occasions.

## Visit of Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi to Maldives - November 17, 2018

Mr. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, President of the Republic of Maldives, welcomed and thanked Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, for visiting the Maldives to participate in the presidential inauguration ceremony.

The two leaders, while noting the resilience of the relations between India and the Maldives, expressed confidence in the renewal of the close bonds of cooperation and friendship with the election of Mr Solih as the President of the Maldives. During their meeting, both leaders agreed on the importance of maintaining peace and security in the Indian Ocean and being mindful of each other's concerns and aspirations for the stability of the region. The two leaders expressed their unwavering commitment and support for increased cooperation in combating terrorism both within the region and elsewhere.



Prime Minister Modi assured President Solih of India's firm commitment in assisting the Maldives to achieve sustainable social and economic development. He also conveyed India's readiness to extend help in every possible way and suggested that both sides should meet at the earliest to work out details as per requirements of the Maldives.

## ISRO's GSLV-F11 successfully launches GSAT-7A

Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F11) successfully launched the communication satellite GSAT-7A from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota on December 19, 2018.

GSLV is ISRO's fourth generation launch vehicle with three stages. The four liquid strap-ons and a solid rocket motor at the core form the first stage. The second stage is equipped with a high thrust engine using liquid fuel. The cryogenic upper stage forms the third and final stage of the vehicle. GSLV-F11 was the seventh flight carrying indigenously developed cryogenic upper stage.

GSAT-7A is the 39th Indian communication satellite of ISRO to provide services to the users in Ku-band over the Indian region. Most of the functional requirements of the communication payloads and the other systems have been derived from ISRO's earlier geostationary INSAT/GSAT satellites.

This was the 7th mission of ISRO from SDSC in the year 2018. This was the 13th flight of GSLV-MkII.

**GSLV-F11 successfully launches GSAT-7A into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)**

- Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle - F11 (GSLV-F11) is the 13th flight of India's GSLV and the 7th flight of GSLV with indigenous Core stage
- The GSLV-F11 was launched from the Second Launch Pad (SLP) at Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota

**GSAT-7A**

- GSAT-7A is a geostationary satellite built to provide communication services in Ku-band over the Indian region
- GSAT-7A is configured using ISRO's 2000 kg satellite bus

**SALIENT FEATURES**

Lift-off Mass	: 2250 Kg
Spacecraft Power	: 3.3 kW
Payload	: Ku-band transponders
Mission Life	: 8 Years

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## Mary Kom created history by winning a record 6th World Championship title

M C Mary Kom Saturday became the most successful boxer in the history of Women's World Championships by winning her sixth gold medal with an unanimous 5-0 result over Ukraine's Hanna Okhota in Women's World Championship in Delhi in November 2018. The 35-year-old Mary Kom beat her opponent in the 48kg category without breaking a sweat. She now has an incredible six gold and one silver in the tournament. With this gold, 'Magnificent Mary' also matched Cuban men's legend Felix Savon as the joint most successful pugilist (men and women) in the World Championships history.



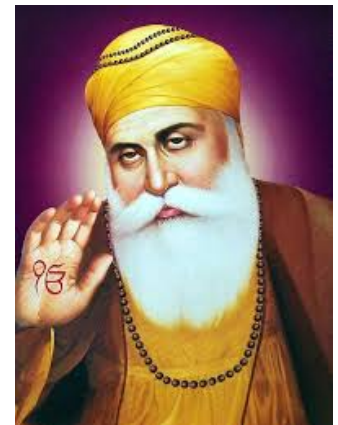
The last time she won the top prize in the showpiece was in 2010, in Bridgetown, Barbados. Before this World Championships, Mary Kom was tied with Ireland's Katie Taylor (five gold and a bronze) on the number of medals won by a woman. Taylor now plies her trade in the professional circuit. The feisty Manipuri, a mother of three, won a silver in the inaugural edition in 2001 and then went on to win a gold each in the next five consecutive editions -- 2002, 2005, 2006, 2008 and 2010.

## Cabinet approves Commemoration of the 550th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Devji

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has passed a Resolution to celebrate the 550th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Devji, which falls next year, throughout the country and across the globe, in a grand and befitting manner along with State Governments and the Indian Missions abroad. Guru Nanak Devji's teachings of love, peace, equality and brotherhood have eternal value. The following are the highlights of the decisions taken in the Cabinet meeting:

### Development of Kartarpur Sahib corridor:

In a significant decision, the Union Cabinet approved the building and development of the Kartarpur corridor from Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur district to the international border, in order to facilitate pilgrims from India to visit Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur on the banks of the Ravi river, in Pakistan, where Shri Guru Nanak Devji spent eighteen years. Pilgrims would then be able to visit the holy shrine throughout the year.



The Kartarpur corridor will be implemented as an integrated development project with Government of India funding, to provide smooth and easy passage, with all the modern amenities. Government of India will put in place suitable facilities for smooth passage of pilgrims. Government of Pakistan will be urged to recognize the sentiments of the Sikh community and to develop a corridor with suitable facilities in their territory as well.

### Development of Sultanpur Lodhi:

The Union Cabinet also decided that the historic town of Sultanpur Lodhi, associated with the life of Shri Guru Nanak Devji, shall be developed as a heritage town and on the Smart City principles, including energy efficiency, to highlight Shri Guru Nanak Devji's emphasis on sustainability and reverence for nature. As a major attraction for pilgrims and tourists, a heritage complex at Sultanpur Lodhi, "Pind Babe Nanak da" will be established to depict life in the times of Shri Guru Nanak Devji. Sultanpur Lodhi railway station will be upgraded and developed with all the modern amenities.

### Centre for inter faith studies and Chairs in foreign Universities:

A centre for inter faith studies will be set up at Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar. Chairs on Shri Guru Nanak Devji will be set up in one University each in UK and Canada. An International seminar on the life and teachings of Shri Guru Nanak Devji will be organised in New Delhi.

### Celebrations throughout the country and globally:

States/Union Territories will also be requested to celebrate 550th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Devji in a befitting manner. Indian missions overseas will organize special events on the occasion.

**Commemorative coin and stamps:**

Commemorative coin and postage stamps will be released by the Government of India to mark this momentous occasion.

**Religious activities and publications:**

Religious activities will be organised throughout the country. Doordarshan will telecast programmes on Shri Guru Nanak Devji and the Gurubani. National Book Trust will publish Gurbani in different Indian languages. UNESCO will be requested to publish Shri Guru Nanak Devji's writings in world languages.

**Special train for pilgrims:**

Ministry of Railways will run a train passing through the various holy places associated with Shri Guru Nanak Devji, for pilgrims and tourists.

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## Forum on India-Kazakhstan Pharma Sector

A Forum on India-Kazakhstan Pharma Sector: Trends and Challenges was organised by the Embassy in Astana on 27th November 2018. The main purpose of organising the event was to provide a common platform for the Indian Pharma Companies in Kazakhstan and officials of Ministry of Healthcare and other Departments connected to this sector in Kazakhstan to meet and discuss various issues. Ambassador Prabhat Kumar gave the inaugural address. Keynote address was delivered by Mr Nurlybek Assylbekov, Deputy Chairman of the Committee of Pharmacy of the Republic of Kazakhstan. A presentation of the Analysis done by the Embassy on the Pharma Sector in Kazakhstan was presented by Mr R.Balakrishnan, Second Secretary. This was followed by presentations by Mr Nitul Kumar, General Director, Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Almaty and Dr Praveen Reddy, Business Advisor, CIS Countries, Rogers Group. Ambassador Prabhat Kumar, Mr Nurlybek Assylbekov and Mr Nitul Kumar were panelists for the lively Q&A Session which followed. The two hour event started at 1800hrs and ended at 2000 hrs and was well received by all.




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## Kazakh TV broadcasts interview of Ambassador of India to Kazakhstan, Mr. Prabhat Kumar

Kazakh TV broadcasted an interview of the Ambassador in a programme known as "Diplomats Live" on 11.12.2018. In his interview Ambassador said that India and Kazakhstan cooperate in many areas and are strategic partners since 2009. There is a good deal of political exchange between the two countries at the highest level. Ambassador recollected President Nazarbayev visit to India in 2009 where he attended the Republic Day Parade as Chief Guest. Ambassador added that Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi visited Kazakhstan in 2015 on a bilateral visit and in 2017 to attend SCO Summit which shows that a lot of political cooperation is going on between the two countries. Ambassador further said that the cooperation has also been extended in trade between the countries which has grown upto 1 billion dollars now. Kazakhstan is the biggest partner of India in Central Asia. Around 3200 students from India are studying in Kazakhstan in various Universities.



60 Kazakh nationals have gone to India this year for professional training under ITEC Training programme and other scholarship schemes. Under "Study in India" programme more students are anticipated to go to India for studies. Ambassador told about his previous assignments as an Indian diplomat. In his interview Ambassador told that he finds a lot of similarity between Kazakh and Hindi languages. He defined a few common words of both the languages bearing the same meaning like Dosti which means friendship in both the languages. Similarly Mohabbat (Love), Jaanwar (animal), Zeera (a kind of spices), Pyaaz (onion) and Anaar (pomegranate) are some of the words which sound same in both the languages and have the same meaning. Talking about the cultures of the two nations, Ambassador said that cultures of both the countries are mutually respected and a lot of cooperation can be extended in this area. He found that both the countries have some similar traditions and customs also. India and Kazakhstan share strong historical relationship as in the past many people travelled from Central Asia to India and many kingdoms were established in India during this period having a component of Central Asia. Ambassador said that he emphasises more on the economic and cultural relations between the two countries. He briefed about the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre in Astana which provides free classes for Indian classical dances, yoga, singing, hindi language and musical instruments. He told that Yoga, which is a heritage of India, does not need introduction or promotion as it is already very popular in the world. There are many yoga Centres in Kazakhstan and people are more attracted towards yoga for a healthy life. Ambassador showed his happiness towards Kazakhs' love for Indian tea. He said, though he had been to Almaty many times, he had also explored Shymkent, Atyrau, Karaganda, Temirtau during his stay in Kazakhstan so far. To keep himself fit, Ambassador told that he plays Badminton, Table Tennis and also do jogging.

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## ITEC participants meet Ambassador before proceeding to India

Kazakhstan has been India's ITEC partner since 1992. Since then, about 1240 people from Kazakhstan comprising about 1000 civilian participants and about 240 defence personnel have availed of the short term specialized capacity building training programmes offered under ITEC. 54 Kazakh nationals went to India for ITEC Training programme till December 2018 in year 2018-19. As a customary tradition Ambassador meets the ITEC participants before they leave for India to attend the ITEC course.

The ITEC training programme covers a wide range of subjects in different sectors including Information Technology, English Proficiency, Financial Management, Parliamentary Studies, Agricultural Practices, Remote Sensing, Environmental Technology, Web Designing and so on. As part of the programme, India provides not only technical know-how and capacity building in civilian and defence spheres, but also project-related activities such as consultancy services, feasibility studies, deputation of Indian experts abroad, and study tours.



## Evening of Indian poetry in Almaty

On November 23rd, 2018 "Centre for Indian Classical Dances, Almaty-Kazakhstan" with support of Embassy of the Republic of India in Kazakhstan, and with Department of the Middle East and the Southern Asia of faculty of Oriental studies of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University and School No 92 named after Mahatma Gandhi conducted the Evening of Indian poetry. In the program verses in languages of different states of India were recited.

Students of the 1st year of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University and students of "Centre for Indian Classical Dances, Almaty-Kazakhstan" read verses in Hindi of such famous poets as: Mirza Ghalib, Muhammad Iqbal, Kabir Das, Purki Hassan, Tavnit Singh, Nagarjuna, Sandip Kumar Singh and others. Aphorisms of Mahatma Gandhi, verses of Rabindranath Tagore, Gopal Niraj and others were recited. The Indian classical dances which are closely connected with ancient literature of India in Bharatanatyam and Kathak were performed.



## Incredible India Destination: Manali

Located at a height of 1,926 meters on the northern end of the Kullu Valley in the state of Himachal Pradesh, Manali has been holding a magical allure for tourists with its incredible landscape abundant greenery and exquisite scenery. Travel to Manali can evoke many images like fairy-tale snow-capped mountain vistas, flower-covered meadows, and glaciers, winding rivers, temples and Buddhist monasteries. Enjoying the snowfall on the mighty Rohtang Pass will be an unforgettable affair. The vast expanse of varied and awe-inspiring landscapes offer some of the most exciting sporting pursuits. They range from skiing and snowboarding to hiking, paragliding, rock climbing, canoeing, and mountain biking and white water rafting. Sedentary or strenuous, for the expert or beginner, Himachal has a niche of sport and adventure for everyone.

Rohtang Pass is 51 km from Manali on the highway to Keylong/Leh. It offers a spectacular view of the mountains. The pass is open from June to October each year but trekking enthusiasts can cross it earlier. It is a gateway to Lahaul Spiti, Pangi and Leh valley just as Zojila pass is a gateway to Ladakh. There are beautiful sights of glaciers, peaks and Chandra River flowing down in the Lahaul valley and slightly to the left is the majestic twin peaks of the Geypan. During summer (mid- June to October) regular buses ply between Manali-Keylong / Darcha, Udaipur, Spiti, and Leh. The best time to visit Rohtang Pass is between May-June to October-November. For the latest information about the opening of Rohtang Pass, contact tourist information center at Manali.

Manali has many attractions but the center of interest, historically and archeologically, is undoubtedly the Dhoongri Temple dedicated to Goddess Hadimba, wife of Bhim, a figure in epic Mahabharata. The temple has four-tiered Pagoda shaped roof and the doorway is carved with legendary figures and symbols. It is located amidst a wooden forest of deodar. It is a pleasant experience to stroll in the temple complex which was built in 1533 A.D. A large festival is held here in May.

Nako is a small Buddhist village on a remote hill at the edge of Spiti valley. Technically it falls in Kinnaur district, but in character, it is far closer to the culture of Spiti valley. While driving towards Nako, all anyone knows about is that it has an old monastery and a lovely lake. But Nako has many surprises for everyone.

Located in the scenic Parvati Valley, the small town of Manikaran is known to be an important pilgrimage centre for both Hindus and Sikhs. As per popular Hindu mythology it is believed that the first form of human life was created in Manikaran, after intense floods. Manikaran is also an important religious destination for Sikhs due to the presence of the iconic Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji Gurudwara. Mentioned in the 12th Guru Khalsa, the Gurudwara has three legendary hot springs. It is believed that the water in these hot springs has the ability to cure the most complex of diseases. A perfect blend of religious landmarks, hot springs and the stunning landscape make Manikaran one of the most visited places in Himachal Pradesh!

Located in the lush green mountains with perennial water falls and gushing streams, Kullu's beauty is dear to people visiting this wonderful town in Himachal Pradesh. The Valley of Gods, as the Kullu Valley has come to be known, is located at an altitude of 1,279 metres above sea level, allures a large number of tourists. Situated on the banks of River Beas, the place is also a famous destination for newly wedded couples who visit this place in great numbers. Dotted with several shrines and an excellent base for a number of treks, Kullu is also known for the Dussehra festival that attracts visitors from across the world. Kullu apples are famous world over for their crisp and tangy taste.



Rohtang Pass



Hadimba Temple



Nako Gompa



Manikaran



Kullu



River Rafting



Trekking



Paragliding



Still Water Sports

## PHOTO FEATURE

### "Centre for Indian Classical Dances" conducted a workshop on Bharatanatyam for Almaty Teachers Seminar



### Embassy's participation in Diplomatic Charity Bazaar



### Year End Celebrations in the Embassy



### Mahatma Gandhi Interschool Chess Tournament in Almaty



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