



Embassy of India Astana

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 5 , ISSUE 2

February , 2019

CONTENTS

Sl.No.	Title	Page No.
I.	India News	
1.	Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi Inaugurated India's Longest Rail-Cum-Road Bridge	2
2.	First "India-Central Asia" Dialogue with participation of Afghanistan in Samarkand	2
3.	15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention 2019	3
4.	ISRO successfully launches PSLV-C44 with Microsat-R, Kalamsat onboard	3
5.	Embassy pays tribute to the Martyrs of Pulwama Attack	4
II.	India-Kazakhstan News	
6.	Embassy celebrated 70th Republic Day of India	6
7.	Vishwa Hindi Diwas (VHD) and Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Celebrations	6
8.	"Days of India in Almaty" Celebrations from 27 to 31 January 2019	7
9.	ITEC Day Celebration in Almaty	7
III.	Incredible India: Destination - OOTY	8
IV.	Photo Feature	9

Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi inaugurated India's longest Rail-cum-Road Bridge

Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi inaugurated the 4.94-km-long Bogibeel Bridge in Assam, India's longest rail-cum-road bridge, on the mighty Brahmaputra on 25.12.2018. PM Modi flagged off the first train from Tinsukia in south bank to Naharlagun in Arunachal Pradesh in north bank. Here is all you need to know:



- The bridge has been thrown open on the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee under whose government the work had started in 2002.
- The Bogibeel Bridge is likely to play a crucial role in defence movement along the India-China border in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 5,900 crore, the bridge has a "serviceable period of around 120 years". It is situated 17 km downstream of Dibrugarh city in Assam, and it has been constructed for double-line broad gauge track along with three-lane roads.
- The road distance from Dibrugarh to Itanagar will be reduced by 150 km and the railway travel distance between these two points will shorten by 705 km, while this bridge will provide an alternate and shorter route from Dibrugarh through north bank of Brahmaputra to Delhi and Kolkata via Rangiya.
- The biggest advantage of the bridge will be easy movement of troops from southern to northern bank. This means travelling to the farthest most point of India's border with China will be shortened by several hundred kilometres.
- This bridge will be the lifeline of the north eastern part of the country and will facilitate connectivity between north and south banks of river Brahmaputra in the eastern region of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.
- Students and patients had to cross the river on boat to come to Dibrugarh, which houses the famed Dibrugarh University and Assam Medical College, besides a dozen other such centres.
- The bridge will enhance the national security of the eastern region by facilitating swift movement of defence forces and their equipment. It was constructed in such a way that even a fighter jet can land on it in case of emergency.
- Bogibeel is India's first and only fully welded bridge construction. It is also for the first time European codes and welding standards were adhered to in the construction of a bridge in India.
- Bogibeel Bridge falls in Seismic Zone-V, which is most vulnerable to earthquakes with magnitudes more than 7.0.
- To offer good stability, the heavy spans (1,700MT) are provided with seismic restrainers

First "India-Central Asia" Dialogue with participation of Afghanistan in Samarkand

The First meeting of "India - Central Asia" Dialogue with participation of Afghanistan at the Ministerial level took place on 13 January 2019 in Samarkand, Republic of Uzbekistan. Foreign Ministers of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of India, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan participated in the meeting. The Sides noted ancient civilisational, cultural, trade, people to people links between India and Central Asia and expressed commitment to dynamic and fruitful friendly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation between India and the Central Asian countries at bilateral and multilateral formats. The Parties reaffirmed the willingness for cooperation, mutual support, joint solution on relevant issues in order to ensure security, stability and



sustainable development. In this context, the participants of the meeting welcomed the successful holding of the First Working (Consultative) Meeting of the Heads of States of Central Asia, held on March 15, 2018 in Astana. All Sides condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and agreed to cooperate in countering terrorism which posed a threat to the people and economies of the world. Heads of Foreign Ministries discussed promising opportunities and areas of cooperation in promoting mutual trade, attracting investments, innovations and technologies in key spheres of industry,

energy, information technologies, pharmaceuticals and agriculture, education and training. Ministers noted interest in further deepening cooperation in development of transit and transport-communication potential of the countries of Central Asia, improving the transport and logistics system of the region, promoting joint initiatives to create regional and international transport corridors. In particular, the participants welcomed the accession of India into the Ashgabat agreement on creating an International transport and transit corridor. Ministers stressed the commitment of the countries of Central Asia and India to create favorable conditions for increasing mutual tourism flows, the development of tourism infrastructure. The Head of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs confirmed their readiness for further cooperation in multilateral forums and organizations, including coordination of positions, information exchange, mutual support of candidates. The Ministers welcomed the participation of Afghanistan in the first meeting of the "India- Central Asia" Dialogue as an important land link in the regional cooperation, transit of goods and energy and expressed support and commitment of Central Asian countries and India to peace, security and stability of Afghanistan; to promote inclusive Afghan-led, Afghan owned peace process and reconciliation; and to assist in economic reconstruction of Afghanistan through the implementation of joint infrastructure, transit and transport, energy projects including regional cooperation and investment projects. The Participants agreed to continue holding the "India - Central Asia" Dialogue with participation of Afghanistan at the level of Foreign Ministers on a regular basis and agreed to meet in this format in New Delhi in 2020.

15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention 2019

Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi along with the Chief Guest Mr. Pravind Jugnauth, Prime Minister of Mauritius inaugurated the 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention- 2019 on 22.01.2019. The theme of PBD 2019 was "Role of Indian Diaspora in building a New India." More than 5000 Pravasi Bharatiya participated in the Convention. "Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz" Awards were also given to the winners of the quiz during the Convention. After the conclusion of the Convention, the participants visited Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj and had a holy dip at Sangam. Thereafter, the participants went to Delhi where special arrangements were made for them to witness the Republic Day Parade on 26.01.2019. On 23rd January 2019, thirty Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards were conferred by Hon'ble President of India on the Indian Diaspora from diverse fields, including Administration, Arts and Academics, Business and Entrepreneurship, Community and Social Service, Engineering, Medical Science, etc.



ISRO successfully launches PSLV-C44 with Microsat-R, Kalamsat onboard

ISRO successfully launched the 46th mission of its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) from the Sriharikota spaceport, near Chennai, on 24.01.2019, carrying Microsat-R and Kalamsat to Sun Synchronous Polar Orbit. PSLV-C44 is the first mission of PSLV-DL and is a new variant of the PSLV. The rocket took off from the first launch pad (FLP) of Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota. The PSLV is a four-stage launch vehicle with alternating solid and liquid stages. The two-strap-on configuration is designated PSLV-DL. PSLV-C44's fourth stage (PS4), which is an experimental orbital platform for carrying out technology demonstration, was moved to a higher circular orbit so as to establish an orbital platform for carrying out experiments.

Kalamsat, a student payload, will be the first to use PS4 as an orbital platform. The payload was developed by students and SpaceKidz India. PSLV-C44 also carried Microsat-R, an imaging satellite.

Milestones

- It was the 70th launch vehicle mission from SDSC SHAR
- It was the 46th flight of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle
- It was the 35th launch from the first launch pad
- It was the first flight of the PSLV-DL (with 2 strap-ons)
- It was the first launch of 2019



PSLV-C44 Successfully Launched from First Launch Pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota

- PSLV-C44 is the 46th flight of PSLV and 1st flight of PSLV-DL (with two strap-ons) variant
- PSLV-C44 was launched from the First Launch Pad (FLP) at Satish Dhawan Space Centre SDSC SHAR, Sriharikota
- Kalamsat, an student satellite, is the first to use fourth stage of PSLV as orbital platform
- Microsat-R is an imaging satellite

Stage	Height (m)	Diameter (m)	Propellant (kg)	Propellant mass (kg)
PS4	2.5m	2.5m	SR16 (solid)	1.8.1
PS3	12.8m	2.8m	PS2 + PS2M + NLO	4.1.1
PS2	12.8m	2.8m	PS1 + PS2M + NLO	4.1.1
PS1	12.8m	2.8m	PS1 + PS2M + NLO	4.1.1
PS0	12.8m	2.8m	PS1 + PS2M + NLO	4.1.1

EMBASSY PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE MARTYRS OF PULWAMA ATTACK WE SALUTE THE BRAVEHEARTS OF INDIA



Ajit Kumar Azad



Ajit Kumar Azad



Ashvni Kumar
Kaochi



Awdesh Kumar
Yadav



Bablu Santra



Bhagirath Singh



C. Shivachandran



Guru H



Hemraj Meena



Jaimal Singh



Jeet Ram



Koushal Kumar
Rawat

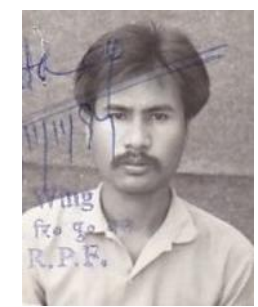


F/NO-145235853 CT/GD
KULWINDER SINGH

Kulwinder Singh



Mahesh Kumar



Manesar
Basumatary



Maninder Singh Attri



Manoj Kumar Behra



Mohan Lal



Narayan Lal Gurjar



Naseer Ahmed



Pankaj Kumar Tripathi



Pradeep Kumar



Pradeep Singh



Prasanna Kumar Sahoo



Ram Vakeel



Ramesh Yadav



Rathod Nitin Shivaji



115204167
Rattan Kumar
Thakur



Rausan Kumar



Rohitash Lamba



Sanjay Kumar Sinha



Sanjay Rajput



Shyam Babu



Subramanian G



Sudip Biswas



Sukhjinder Singh



Tilak Raj



Vasantha Kumar VV



Vijay Kumar Maurya



Vijay Soreng



Virendera Singh

Those who wish to extend support to the families of the martyrs can contribute through the website <https://bharatkeveer.gov.in> or alternatively contribute through cheque drawn in favour of "Bharat Ke Veer" and send directly to the following address:

Deputy Inspector General, CRPF,
CRPF Headquarters,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi -110003
INDIA

Embassy celebrated 70th Republic Day of India

The flag hoisting ceremony on the occasion of the 70th Republic Day of India was held on January 26, 2019 at the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Center, Astana. Ambassador Mr. Prabhat Kumar, unfurled the National Flag at 10:00 hrs and read out the President of India's address to the Nation on the eve of the Republic Day. A similar ceremony was held at the Representative Office of India in Almaty. Members of the Indian community, officials of the Mission and friends of India attended the event.



Earlier on the eve of the 70th Republic Day of India on January 25, 2019, Ambassador Mr. Prabhat Kumar hosted a reception on the occasion in the evening at Hotel Radisson, Astana. Over 300 people including Heads of Diplomatic Missions and International Organizations accredited to Kazakhstan, senior Government officials, journalists, representatives of academic and cultural institutions and members of Indian community attended the reception. H.E. Mr. Magzum Mirzagaliyev, Vice Minister of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Ambassador and the Chief Guest delivered their speeches on various aspects of growing India-Kazakhstan bilateral relations. A documentary titled «Ek Bharat, Shreshth Bharat» was screened, which was followed by cultural programme. Participants were served with delicious Indian dinner on the occasion.

In Almaty, Ambassador Prabhat Kumar held another reception to mark the 70th Republic Day on 27 Jan 2019 at the Ritz Carlton Hotel. Mr. Ruslan Bultrikov, Head, Representative Office of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan in Almaty was the Chief Guest. On this occasion Ambassador Prabhat Kumar also inaugurated ROOP: Faces of India - an exhibition of paintings by the noted Kazakh painter, Ms. Botagoz Nurpeisova marking the week-long celebrations of the 'Days of India in Almaty' celebrations. A large number of diplomats, government officials, media personalities and members of the Indian community in Almaty attended the function.



Vishwa Hindi Diwas (VHD) and Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Celebrations

The Embassy of India in Kazakhstan celebrated Vishwa Hindi Diwas (VHD) and Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) at SVCC, Astana on 11 January 2019. The celebration commenced with lighting of lamp by Ambassador Shri Prabhat Kumar. Ambassador addressed the guests and read out a message by Prime Minister on the occasion of VHD. He spoke on the efforts made by the Embassy to enhance interaction with the members of Indian community and popularize and promote Hindi language in Kazakhstan.

On this occasion the SVCC had organized Hindi Poetry and Hindi Song competition in which 22 presentations were made. The winners of the competition were awarded with certificates and cash prizes by the Chief Guest. A documentary entitled "Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat" enlightened all participants and present number of Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) attended the function with enthusiasm.



The highlight of the event was the award of appreciation letter signed by the EAM, to the Kazakh singers, Mr. Azamat Aitekenov Altayevich and Ms. Tomiris Ermolina Vladimirovna, who sang the Gujarati Bhajan 'Vaishnav Jan To' in the video prepared by the Embassy of India. The video clip was also screened on this occasion. The Ambassador Shri Prabhat Kumar read out the text of the appreciation letters and handed over framed letters of the EAM.

Two winners of continuing fortnight monthly online quiz competition on the life and deeds of Mahatma Gandhi, commenced on 2 October 2018 to 2019, awarded by Ambassador with mementos.

“Days of India in Almaty” Celebrations from 27 to 31 January 2019

On the occasion of 70th Republic Day of India and 150th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi, the Embassy organized ‘Days of India in Almaty’ from 27 to 31 January 2019. The Celebrations started with Ambassador inaugurating ROOP: Faces of India – an exhibition of paintings by the noted Kazakh painter, Ms. Botagoz Nurpeisova. The week-long celebrations of the ‘Days of India in Almaty’ included “Indian Film Festival” in which Indian movies, dubbed in Russian language, were screened in collaboration with and at the National Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Hindi Poetry and Bollywood Songs Competition was organized, under “Indian Literary and Cultural Festival” in collaboration with Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty at Mahatma Gandhi Centre. Chief Guest, Ambassador Prabhat Kumar addressed the gathering and distributed awards and certificates to the winners. “Indian Food Festival- Tastes of India” was organized in collaboration with and at Ritz Carlton Hotel on 28-31 January 2019. The Food Festival included cuisines of the different states of India, such as Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala etc. A Photo Exhibition ‘Mahatma Gandhi@150: Life and legacy’ was organised in collaboration with and at National Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan. A Henna / Mehndi Design Competition was organized as a part of “Indian Literary and Cultural Festival” in collaboration with and at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University. A Master Class on Indian Dance was performed by Ms. Shruti Ghosh, Dance Teacher in SVCC, Astana. Indian classical/ Bollywood dance performances by the artists of Centre for Indian Classical Dances, Almaty, Shakhrizat and her group and Divya Nari group were enjoyed by the people during the “Days of India in Almaty” celebration. On 30th January 2019, Ambassador alongwith the Indian community and friends of India met at Zhambul Park in Almaty to pay floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi. A two minute silence was observed to mark the Martyrs' day. The Event concluded on 31st January 2019 with Ambassador’s speech and presentation of mementoes and prizes to the performers and participants.



ITEC Day Celebration in Almaty

The Embassy celebrated ITEC day in Almaty on 29th January 2019 in Ritz Carlton Hotel. About 50 persons including ITEC alumni, and representatives of local educational institutions attended the event. The celebrations commenced with Ambassador’s address followed by sharing of experiences by ITEC alumni with their power point presentations. The ITEC alumni expressed their gratitude towards Government of India for providing them with this opportunity to do ITEC Course in India. The guests enjoyed buffet dinner of Indian cuisine arranged by the Embassy. A cultural show of Indian dance was presented by Ms. Shakhrizat and her group, on the occasion. The ITEC alumni and other guests were presented mementoes as a memory of the event.



Incredible India Destination: Ooty

Reputed as a modern urban hill town built in a traditional colonial style, the town of Ootacamund, also known as Ooty is located at an altitude of 2,240 meters in the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu.. It is not hard to exaggerate on its stunning natural beauty, revealing radiant blue skies and green Nilgiri hills. It's the highest mountain peak in the southern India region. This queen of hills has the most breathtaking landscape you would ever lay your eyes on! Lively walking trails, tea plantations and sultry dark chocolates, Ootacamund offers two of the world's most spectacular wonders: best Manali tea gardens and oil extractions. That said, there's plenty to surprise the first time visitors, and plenty more for you to want to visit again. The nearest airport is in Coimbatore, that's about 105 km from Ooty and is well connected by flights from various cities in India.

William Graham McIvor was the architect of Government Botanical Garden. This garden on the lower slopes Doddabetta was laid out in 1848, in an area spreading to 22 hectares ascending the slopes on the hill at an elevation of 2400 - 2500 meter above sea level. The gardens were established by European residents for the purpose of supplying vegetables at a reasonable cost too. Well maintained lush green lawns, exotic and rare species of flora are special features of the park: The Cork tree which is probably the only one of its kind in India; the paper bark tree, monkey puzzle tree, and a 20 million year old fossilized tree are prime attractions of this garden. A Flower Show along with an exhibition of rare plant species is being held every year in the month of May at this Garden. This garden is maintained by Tamil Nadu Horticulture Department.

A majestic lake, with boats casting their lines through water and tourists filling the air with their joyous chit-chat. This artificial lake was created by John Sullivan, the first District Collector of Ooty in 1824. Tracing an area of nearly 65 acres, it's one of the scenic spots to shake a paddle. Ride a boat into the dazzling blue water, within the proximity of observation points. It is a popular recreational spot. You can even hire a boatman who'll row and show you around. A mini-garden and a toy train ride are other nearby attractions.

DODDABETTA PEAK means a Big Mountain, is the highest peak located at 2634 meters in the Nilgiris. It is 10 Kms drive from Udhagamandalam Bus Terminus. It is at the meeting point of Western and Eastern Ghats and offer beautiful Vistas of the Nilgiri Hill ranges. It is surrounded by dense Sholas. The Telescope house set up by the Tourism Department helps the visitors to view the entire district from this point.

About 28 km east of Ooty lays the quiet village of Kotagiri, the oldest of the three Nilgiri hill stations. Kotagiri is about 30 km. east of Udhagamandalam, 23 km. from Coonoor and 33 km. from Mettupalayam. It is situated at a height of 6511' above the sea level. It is protected by the Doddabetta range from the violent southwest monsoon and is not affected by mists which are so common at Coonoor. The lower elevation of the place makes it warmer than Udhagamandalam.

Coonoor is 17 km from Udhagamandalam, Coonoor is a fabulous hill station in the Nilgiri hills about 19 km from Ooty. Coonoor, located at an altitude of 1,856 meters, is the second largest hill station in the Nilgiri hills. . It is a popular tourist stop because of its impressive views of the lush green Nilgiri hills. It is also known for its tea plantations as the environment there is very conducive to growing exceptionally aromatic tea.

A trip from Ooty to Mukurthi Peak and National Park is one of the most beautiful excursions from Ooty. The peak is just 40 km from Ooty and the park spreads on the South Eastern side of the Nilgiri mountain range. It continues to blend in the verdant greens of the silent valley. The surrounding Mukurthi National Park is home to a significant population of Nilgiri Thar (*Hamitragus hilocrius*). The park also features a wide variety of flora and fauna.



Government Botanic Garden



Ooty Lake



Doddabetta Peak



Kotagiri



Mukurthi Peak



Coonoor

PHOTO FEATURE

FEATURE

Vishwa Hindi Diwas (VHD) and Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Celebrations



6/1, Kabanbay Batyr Avenue,
5th floor,
Kaskad Business Centre,
Astana.

Tel. Phone: + 7 7172-925700/925701
Fax: + 7 7172-925716
E-mail: info.astana@mea.gov.in

70th Republic Day Celebrations in Astana



Visit us: indembastana.in
www.facebook.com/IndiaInKazakhstan
Twitter @indembastana

Embassy celebrates "Days of India in Almaty"



Disclaimer: Embassy of India Astana Newsletter gathers its contents from diverse sources and the views expressed in interviews and articles published do not necessarily represent views of the Embassy of India or the Government of India.

ITEC Day celebrations in Almaty



Embassy of India
Astana

To subscribe to Embassy Newsletter by e-mail, please send your name and e-mail address to info.astana@mea.gov.in