



Embassy of India Nur-Sultan

NEWSLETTER

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State Visit of President to Bolivia

Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind visited Bolivia on 28.03.2019. This is the first ever high-level visit between India-Bolivia since the establishment of diplomatic relations.

On March 29, 2019, the President commenced his engagements with meeting his counterpart, Mr Evo Morales Ayma. During the one-to-one discussions with President Morales, the President said that he was honoured to pay the first ever State Visit from India to Bolivia. He thanked President Morales for special welcome and affection.

Subsequently, the President led delegation-level talks between the two sides. Speaking on the occasion, he said that it is encouraging to see that India-Bolivia bilateral trade has picked up in the last two years and it stood at US\$ 875 million in 2018. 60% of Bolivian gold is exported to India. Bolivia is the 8th leading trading partner of India in Latin America region. He emphasised that there is a need to diversify our trade basket to further strengthen the bilateral trade.



The President said that we are keen to enhance our exports in the pharma sector. India is recognized globally for its high quality medicines at affordable prices. Indian pharma companies can help Bolivia in its noble vision of health for all.

Both sides also agreed to work together for exploration and extraction of the vast Lithium deposits of Bolivia. Lithium is a key resource used in making of batteries that India needs for its clean technology initiatives such as increased use of electric cars.

The President said that India takes pride in its development cooperation partnership with Bolivia under the framework of South-South Cooperation. He announced a US\$ 100 million Line of Credit to Bolivia for financing development projects in sectors that Bolivia may choose. He also offered doubling of training slots to 10 under Indian Technical Economic Cooperation programme to Bolivia.

To mark the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, India offered two busts of Gandhiji to Bolivia. The Bolivian side accepted the offer and is likely to place the busts in its capital La Paz and its largest city Santa Cruz.

Subsequently, President Morales conferred the highest State Honour of Bolivia - Condor de los Andes en el Grado de Gran Collar - on President Kovind. The President dedicated the award to the friendship between India and Bolivia.

The President addressed the India-Bolivia Business Forum. Addressing the gathering, the President said that both countries have their economic strengths, and the two can complement each other for growth and prosperity. India manufactures everything from satellites, light aircraft, cars to major high technology industrial products and has the third largest scientific human resource pool in the world. All these aspects, coupled with our large middle-class market of over 400 million, a vibrant business ecosystem fostered under stable democratic governance systems, position India as a unique destination for international trade and business.

The President said that India has a focused business approach to the Latin American region. The India-Latin America and Caribbean Conclaves are held annually to deepen business collaborations. These Conclaves have served well. Several Indian global majors have made entry into Bolivia through them, bringing cutting-edge technology, products and services to the people. He noted that there are immense opportunities for collaboration between India and Bolivia in various fields such as automobiles, healthcare, IT, renewable energy, Lithium, agriculture, space, developing modern infrastructure- from railways, highways, waterways, airways to energy pathways.

Visit of the Vice President of India to the Republic of Paraguay and Republic of Costa Rica (March 05-09, 2019)

Hon'ble Vice President of India Mr. M. Venkaiah Naidu paid a visit to Paraguay from 5-7 March 2019 and to the Republic of Costa Rica from 7-9 March 2019. This is the first high-level visit from India to both countries.

Hon'ble Vice President arrived at Asuncion, capital of Paraguay on 05.03.2019. He had a meeting with the President Mario Abdo Benitez, thereafter he had a meeting with the Vice President Hugo Velazquez. He was also called on by the President of the National Congress, the Senate His Excellency Sylvio Ovelar.

The visit was marked with warm hospitality, the Vice President was warmly welcomed. The talks were productive covering areas of mutual interest and during the talks the commitment was evident from both sides to strengthen and deepen the relationship. The meeting with the President Abdo Benitez, in that meeting President recalled his visit to India 25 years ago as a student of which he had very-very fond memories. He was deeply impressed and is remains deeply impressed with the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi and he mentioned that once a year he does read a book on Mahatma Gandhi. He also said that Indian cuisine has become one of his favorite cuisines. So that is the background of personal linkages that were evident during the talk with the President.



Hon'ble Vice President apprised the Paraguay leadership of the terrorist attack that took place in Pulwama on 14th of February. The Paraguay leadership on its part mentioned that they condemn strongly the terror attack on India. They conveyed their condolences to the families of those whose lives were lost in that attack. They conveyed that on terrorism India and Paraguay are on the same page and that India could count on the support of Paraguay in fighting threats of international terrorism including at the international fora.

Significantly the Paraguay leadership welcomed India's willingness to share its expertise and experience in these fields. We are already working with Paraguay through capacity building programs, in particular ITEC program. Vice President indicated that India was willing to step up its collaboration and capacity building efforts with Paraguay through its ITEC program as well as scholarships to Paraguayan students who come there and he also encouraged people to people contacts which would help strengthen the relationship.



Another area on which there was discussion was the International Solar Alliance. It was mentioned by the President of Paraguay that the Paraguay has the highest per capita of renewable energy in the world and he appreciated the noble initiative taken by India and France, the International Solar Alliance, and conveyed that they are working on the internal processes with the end result to join the ISA.

Hon'ble Vice President addressed India-Paraguay Business Forum.

Visit to Costa-Rica

Hon'ble Vice President reached Republic of Costa Rica on 07.03.2019. He met President Quesada and had fruitful and cordial exchanges covering a range of areas of mutual interest spanning bilateral, regional and multilateral fields.

Hon'ble Vice President mentioned that there are many new areas of collaboration that hold potential to propel bilateral relations to new heights between the two countries. Costa Rican strengths that India desire to take advantage of include eco tourism, clean transport including support to bicycling, higher investment in education, ambition to have a zero carbon emission economy by 2021.

Indian strengths that Costa Rica could be benefitted from include space and biotechnology, renewable including solar, pharmaceuticals, ICT particularly eGovernance, hydroelectric generators and power plant equipments, farm machinery and skill upgradation, railway construction and rolling stock. He further added that both countries can collaborate effectively and to mutual benefit through academic exchange, university to university collaboration including high speed virtual connectivity.

Visit of External Affairs Minister to Maldives (March 17-18, 2019)

Hon'ble External Affairs Minister of India Smt. Sushma Swaraj paid an official visit to the Maldives from 17-18 March 2019. Foreign Minister of Maldives Hon'ble Mr. Shahid and EAM met on 17 March 2019 in a warm and friendly atmosphere, reflective of the renewed dynamism in the traditionally close relationship. They discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and also noted the number of high level exchanges, between the two countries over the past three months.

The bilateral talks between the Foreign Ministers was followed by a joint ministerial meeting, in which EAM held discussions with FM Shahid, Minister of Defence Mariya Ahmed Didi, Minister of Finance Ibrahim Ameer, Minister of National Planning and Infrastructure Mohamed Aslam, Minister of Health Abdulla Ameen, Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation Aishath Nahula, Minister of Arts, Culture and Heritage Yumna Maumoon, Minister of Environment Dr. Hussain Rasheed Hassan, and Minister of Economic Development Fayyaz Ismail. EAM also met with the Minister of Home Affairs Sheikh Imran Abdulla.



Mr. Shahid reiterated his Government's "India-First Policy" and said that his Government looks forward to working closely with the Government of India on all issues. He also reiterated that the Government of Maldives would remain sensitive towards India's security and strategic concerns.

EAM reiterated that India attaches the highest importance to its relationship with Maldives, which is marked by trust, transparency, mutual understanding, and sensitivity. She said that in line with Government of India's neighbourhood First policy, India stands ready to fully support the Government of Maldives in its socio-economic development.

Both Foreign Ministers agreed on the importance of maintaining peace and security in the Indian Ocean Region, and to strengthen coordination in enhancing regional maritime security. EAM thanked the Maldives for its steadfast support against terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations. FM Shahid expressed the commitment of the Maldives to support efforts to combat terrorism, particularly cross-border terrorism, and crimes such as piracy, organized crime, narcotic drugs and human trafficking.

The Foreign Ministers reiterated the importance of an effective multilateral system as a key factor in tackling global challenges and agreed on the need to pursue reform of the main UN bodies, including the General Assembly, and the UN Security Council. The Maldivian side expressed its support for India's candidature for permanent membership of an expanded and reformed UN Security Council. The Maldivian side also reiterated support for India's candidature for non-permanent seat for the year 2020-21.

Highlighting the importance of combating the impacts of climate change, especially detrimental to developing countries, including Small Island Developing States, the Foreign Ministers agreed on the need to strengthen the global response to climate change, through multilateral forums including the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. EAM appreciates the Maldives for its intention to submit the instrument of ratification for the Framework Agreement for Establishing the International Solar Alliance.

During the visit EAM called on the President of the Republic of Maldives His Excellency Ibrahim Mohamed Solih. EAM called on Speaker of the Parliament His Excellency Qasim Ibrahim, as well.

India Joins Select Group of Nations, Destroys Live Satellite in Low Earth Orbit

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted an Anti-Satellite (A-SAT) missile test 'Mission Shakti' from the Dr AP J Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha on 27.03.2019. A DRDO-developed Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) Interceptor Missile successfully engaged an Indian orbiting target satellite in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) in a 'Hit to Kill' mode. The interceptor missile was a three-stage missile with two solid rocket boosters. Tracking data from range sensors has confirmed that the mission met all its objectives.

The test has demonstrated the Nation's capability to defend its assets in outer space. It is a vindication of the strength and robust nature of DRDO's programmes.

With this India becomes the fourth nation, which has such capability. The test has once again proven the capability of indigenous weapon systems.

Brief description:

Mission Shakti: India shot down one of its satellites 300 km away in space with an anti-satellite missile, the country's first test of such technology.

Duration: The test, carried out by DRDO scientists, lasted three minutes and was done in the lower atmosphere to ensure there was no debris in space.

Significance: Anti-satellite weapon allows for attacks on enemy satellites — blinding them or disrupting communications — as well as providing a technology base for intercepting ballistic missiles.

Select club: India is the only fourth country after the US, Russia and China to successfully develop and test anti-satellite weapon capabilities.



Women's Day celebration in the Embassy

The Embassy of India in Kazakhstan celebrated International Women's Day on 8 March 2019 at its premises. Mrs. Tamara Asar, a popular and famous Kazakh singer, holder of the Order of Honor, and Mrs. Aliya Zholboldina, Chairman of the Committee "Expo Women", organizer of the International Women's Forum "Zhaina", attended the event as the special invitees. The celebration commenced with lighting of lamp by Ambassador Prabhat Kumar, Mrs. Tilottama Kumar and special invitees. Mrs. Tilottama Kumar, spouse of Ambassador, welcomed and addressed the guests with inspiring speech on the occasion. While talking about the strength of Women she quoted a famous proverb "the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world".

Mrs. Shruti Ghosh, Dance Teacher at SVCC, Astana, presented a dance performance called «Still I rise». Mrs. Tamara Asar and Mrs. Aliya Zholboldina were honored by Ambassador Prabhat Kumar and Mrs. Tilottama Kumar by awarding them certificates of appreciation and gifts in recognition of their contribution and achievements. The ceremony was followed by speech of special invitees and delicious lunch of Indian cuisine.



Performances by "Pioneers of Quepem"- a Music and Dance Troupe from Goa in Kazakhstan

On the occasion of HOLI and NAURYZ Embassy of India and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre in Astana organized a series of Music and Dance performances by "Pioneers of Quepem"- a Music and Dance Troupe from Goa, in three cities of Kazakhstan. The Troupe performed in Almaty, Astana and Temirtau. After their first performance in Almaty on 12.03.2019, the Troupe performed at Astana Music Hall in Nur-sultan on 14th March 2019. An informative journal about Goa "Goa Beckons" was also released by the Ambassador on the occasion. The Spectators, which included local dignitaries, members of diplomatic corps and journalists, enjoyed the show. The last Concert of the visiting Goan Music and Dance Group, 'Pioneers of Quepem' was in Temirtau on 15 March 2019. Short documentaries celebrating 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi were screened before the commencement of the performance. Mr. Ramesh Iyer, Technical Director, Arcelor-Mittal, Temirtau welcomed the Chief Guest, HE Ambassador Prabhat Kumar, and thanked him for organising the performance at Temirtau. The Concert was attended by more than 600 people including members of Indian community and workers of ArcelorMittal, Temirtau, JSC. A group of children from Kazakh Cultural Centre, Temirtau performed Kazakh Folk dance and another group from kids and youths from the Center of Arcelor Mittal Temirtau also presented Indian dances during the concert. The Goan group enthralled the audiences with their delightful and captivating dance performances which included group dance numbers - the Dekhni Nach, the Kharvi Nach, the Marcha De Fontainhas, the Corridinho and the Mando Dance, accompanied by songs and live music on instruments. The group received standing ovation from the audience.



ITEC Day Celebration in Nur-Sultan

The Embassy of India celebrated Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme Day in Nur-sultan on 13th March 2019 at Marriot Hotel. About 90 persons including ITEC alumni, representatives of local educational institutions and journalists attended the event. The celebrations commenced with Indian traditional way of lighting lamp by Ambassador followed by ITEC alumni sharing their experience and memories, with power point presentations and videos, of ITEC Training courses undertaken by them in India. The event was graced with Ambassador's informative and inspirational speech. "Pioneers of Quepem", Music & Dance Troupe from Goa performed a Music and Dance show on the occasion. The guests enjoyed buffet dinner of Indian cuisine arranged by the Embassy. Mementos were presented to the ITEC alumni and other guests as a token of memory of the event.



Kazakhstan has been India's ITEC partner since 1992. About 1260 people from Kazakhstan comprising about 1020 civilian participants and about 240 defence personnel have availed of the short term specialized capacity building training programmes offered under ITEC.

The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme, was launched in 1964. It is the flagship programme of India's development cooperation under which about 10,800 training slots are offered for capacity building to 161 partner countries and 13 multilateral agencies for training in 54 institutions in India every year. The 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, study tours, humanitarian aid and disaster relief.

Hindi Diwas Celebration in Almaty

The Hindi Diwas was celebrated on 31st March 2019 with the support of INCHAM and the Indian Embassy at Hotel Ramada in Almaty as a part of celebration of commemorating 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The program was graced by the presence of Mrs. & Mr. Prabhat Kumar - Indian Ambassador to Kazakhstan. Ambassador addressed the gathering. The event included various programs by sponsored Hindi classes of Hindi department of Al-Frabi University, KNMU Students and the Children of the Indian Families. The participants took part with great zeal and enthusiasm. The program was concluded with the vote of thanks by Dr. Suhel - President INCHAM followed by lite refreshments.



Incredible India

Destination: JIM CORBETT NATIONAL PARK

One of India's best known and oldest wildlife sanctuaries, the Jim Corbett National Park, a part of the larger Corbett Tiger Reserve, a Project Tiger Reserve lies along the Ramganga River at the foot of the Kumaon Hills. It is named after Jim Corbett, the famous naturalist and the legendary hunter of the man-eaters of Kumaon. The main areas for tourists are the Dhikala Tourism Zone (entry through Dhangarhi Gate) and the Bijrani Tourism Zone (entry through the Amdanda Gate).

The magical landscape of Corbett is well known and fabled for its tiger richness. Corbett has the glory of being India's oldest and most prestigious National Park. It is also being honoured as the place where Project Tiger was first launched in 1973. The magical landscape, the sighting of tigers, elephants, and the most varied wildlife makes it fascinating to visit.

Corbett National Park is one of the best natural destinations in India with the richest concentrations of flora & fauna. Game drives in an open safari vehicles are the best way to discover the beauty and wilderness of the Corbett. The best thing for the visitors of Corbett National Park is that the park is open 365 days a year. But the best time to enjoy jeep safari is from mid of November to end of June. Bijrani and Dhikala zone is closed during monsoon season as most of the roads get washed away due to rain. One of India's best known and oldest wildlife sanctuaries, the Jim Corbett National Park, a part of the larger Corbett Tiger Reserve, a Project Tiger Reserve lies along the Ramganga River at the foot of the Kumaon Hills. It is named after Jim Corbett, the famous naturalist and the legendary hunter of the man-eaters of Kumaon.

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CORBETT MUSEUM

Located at Kaladhungi, Corbett Museum is a bungalow that earlier belonged to Jim Corbett, the well known tiger conservationist and contains his memoirs, his personal belongings, letters written by him as well as his friends and well wishers, antiques and rare photographs.

CORBETT WATERFALLS

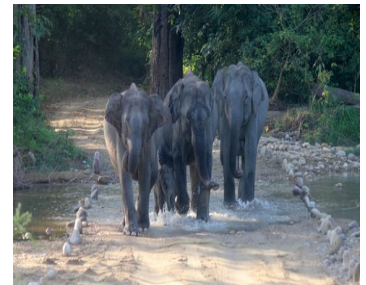
Dropping down from a height of 66 ft. this high waterfall is wonderful to experience after a day of safari, especially on full-moon nights. Nature lovers often camp or come on a picnic at these falls. This place is surrounded by dense forests and amazing flora.

GARJIA TEMPLE

Dedicated to Goddess Parvati, Garjia Devi temple perched atop a huge rock in the midst of the Kosi River is also believed to be home to the deities of Baba Bhairon, Lord Shiva, Lord Ganesha and Goddess Saraswati. A large fair is conducted at the temple on Karthik Purnima.

RIVER RAFTING

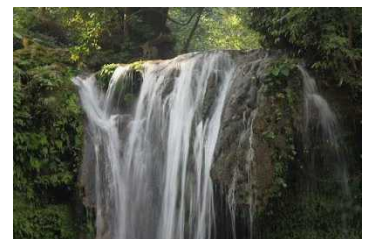
River rafting in the Kosi is one of the most beautiful ways to enjoy the speedy waters. Some adventure water sports are also organized on the river.



JUNGLE SAFARI



CORBETT MUSEUM



CORBETT WATERFALLS



GARJIA TEMPLE



RIVER RAFTING

PHOTO FEATURE

FEATURE

Jazz Group from Shymkent participated in the 8th Delhi International Jazz Festival in India



Nauruz celebrations in the Embassy



Holi Milan Celebrations in Almaty on 30.03.2019



Hindi Diwas Celebration in Almaty on 31.03.2019



6/1, Kabanbay Batyr Avenue,
5th floor,
Kaskad Business Centre,
Nur-Sultan.

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

Visit us: indembastana.in
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