



सत्यमेव जयते

Embassy of India  
ASTANA  
Republic of Kazakhstan

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# Embassy of India ASTANA NEWSLETTER

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## Foreign Office Consultations in Astana (March 16, 2015)

H.E. Mr. Navtej Singh Sarna, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs led a delegation to Kazakhstan from March 15-18, 2015. During the visit, he called on Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan, H.E. Mr. Erlan Idrissov, held 6th round of India-Kazakhstan Foreign Office Consultations with his counterpart Deputy Minister, H.E. Mr. Askar Mussinov and met Deputy Minister of Energy, H.E. Mr. Magzum Mirzagaliyev and Rector of the Eurasian National University, Mr. Yerlan Sydykov.

India and Kazakhstan enjoy close and friendly bilateral relations, which were upgraded to the level of strategic partnership in January 2009. India was one of the first countries to recognize Kazakhstan as a free, sovereign State after the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991. Since then the bilateral relations have grown steadily and encompass political, economic, technical cooperation, defence, security and cultural spheres. Kazakhstan is India's largest trade partner in Central Asia.

During the visit, the two sides reviewed wide range of bilateral relations, exchanged views on regional and international issues of topical interest, and discussed cooperation within international organizations, specifically United Nations, Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, Shanghai Cooperation Organization. They also discussed forthcoming bilateral and multi-lateral engagements. Mr. Sarna noted that 2015 has special historical significance for Kazakhstan. He congratulated Kazakhstan on the 550th anniversary of Kazakh Khanat and the 20th anniversary of the Kazakhstan People's Assembly and Kazakhstan's constitution.

During his visit to Eurasian National University, Mr. Sarna reviewed the progress of the India-Kazakhstan Centre of Excellence in ICT being set up with the Indian assistance at the University.

Mr. Sarna also visited the Embassy in Astana and Representative Office in Almaty and met the officers and staff of the Mission.



H.E. Mr. Navtej Singh Sarna, Secretary (West), MEA (left) with Mr. Yerlan Sydykov, Rector of Eurasian National University



H.E. Mr. Navtej Singh Sarna, Secretary (West), MEA meeting H.E. Mr. Erlan Idrissov, Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan



H.E. Mr. Navtej Singh Sarna, Secretary (West), MEA and H.E. Mr. Askar Mussinov, Deputy Minister of Kazakhstan holding Foreign Office Consultations.



H.E. Shri Navtej Singh Sarna, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs (right) with H.E. Mr. Askar Mussinov, Deputy Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan

## India's President confers Bharat Ratna on Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was conferred with India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna by the President of India Pranab Mukherjee on March 27, 2015. Vice President Hamid Ansari and Prime Minister Narendra Modi and several senior Cabinet Ministers attended the ceremony. Vajpayee is the seventh prime minister to receive the award. He served India as Prime Minister for a full five year term from 1999 to 2004.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee visited Almaty, Kazakhstan in June 2002 on a bilateral visit as well as to attend the first Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Summit.



## State visit of His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar to India (March 24-25, 2015)

His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, paid a two-day visit to India from March 24-25, 2015. He was accorded a ceremonial reception at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj called on him, after which he held talks with Prime Minister Modi at Hyderabad House. The Emir was accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising ministers, senior officials and captains of industry.

Besides bilateral ties, the two sides also discussed latest developments in the Middle East region. Six agreements on bilateral cooperation including the one on transfer of sentenced prisoners were signed during the visit. The other agreements included MoU for Cooperation in the field of Information and Communication Technology; MoU between the ministry of earth sciences and Qatar Meteorological Department for Scientific and Technical cooperation; MoU between Diplomatic Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Qatar and Foreign Service Institute of the Ministry of External Affairs; MoU for cooperation in the field of Radio and Television; and agreement for Mutual Cooperation and Exchange of News.

Qatar also expressed keen interest in Prime Minister Modi's 'Make in India' initiative. India is equally keen to invest in some major infrastructure projects in the Gulf country, which is scheduled to host the FIFA World Cup in 2022.



## IMF: India poised as world's fastest growing economy

During her two-day visit to India, Christine Lagarde, Managing Director, International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on March 16 that India was on its path to becoming the world's fastest growing economy. She said that while most countries were battling slow growth, India was marching in the opposite direction. "The recent policy of reforms, improved business confidence has provided a booster shot to economic activity. Keeping in view India's new GDP series, the IMF expects growth in India this year in the range of 7.2% and expected to reach 7.5% next year, making India one of the fastest growing economies in the world".

During her visit, Lagarde met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan. She also said that India was bigger than what it was being perceived earlier and it must seize its moment. She also lauded the capabilities of Reserve Bank Governor Raghuram Rajan.

"India is the bright spot in the global economy at the moment," she said, echoing Finance Minister Arun Jaitley's budget speech last month when he had said that at a time when other economies were facing serious challenges, India was about to take off on a faster growth trajectory.

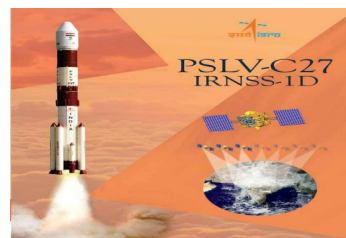


## Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) launches India's fourth navigation satellite IRNSS-1D

Indian Space Research Organization successfully put its fourth navigation satellite IRNSS-1D, into orbit on March 28, 2015, bringing the country a step closer to having its own satellite navigation system. The satellite was carried by the rocket the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C27). The rocket blasted off from the second launch-pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, around 80 km from Chennai.

IRNSS 1-D is the fourth in the series of seven satellites which would form Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System. The satellite will provide navigation, tracking and mapping services and augment the satellite based navigation system of India which is currently under development. The system is similar to global positioning system of the US, Glonass of Russia and Galileo of Europe, with the difference that it has regional coverage.

With this success, India has moved closer towards a select group of nations possessing their own satellite navigation systems. Named the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), the system consists of a constellation of seven satellites of which four—IRNSS-1A, IRNSS-1B, IRNSS-1C and IRNSS-1D have been put into orbit till now.



## 3rd Chief Negotiators' Meeting (CNM) on establishing Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), Almaty (March 30-31, 2015)

Mr. Dinesh Sharma, Additional Secretary (EA), Ministry of Finance led an Indian delegation to participate in the third meeting of the Chief Negotiators of the prospective founding members of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in Almaty on March 30-31, 2015. The delegation comprised Mr. Soumen Bagchi, Joint Secretary (ES & ITP), Ministry of External Affairs and Mr. Navin Agarwal, Director(MR), Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance. The meeting primarily reviewed the revised draft Articles of Agreement (AOA) on establishing the AIIB, which had earlier been circulated by the Multi-lateral Interim Secretariat.



## Visit of delegation from Powerloom Development & Export Promotion Council

A 9-member delegation led by Mr. N. Mukundan, Deputy consultant from the Powerloom Development & Export Promotion Council (PDEXCIL) participated in the "HomeDeco Kazakhstan—9th International Home Textile, Houseware and Interior Design Trade Fair" in Almaty on March 30-31, 2015.



## Pharmexcil Buyer-Seller Meet in Almaty (March 16, 2015)

Pharmexcil, India and Almaty Chamber of Entrepreneurs jointly organized a Buyer-Seller Meet on March 16, 2015 in Almaty. More than 100 pharma companies participated in the event. The BSM was preceded by an inaugural function, in which Mr Abhay Kumar Sinha, Deputy Director, Pharmexcil gave an overview of the Indian Pharma industry. The Director of the Almaty Chamber of Entrepreneurs addressed the gathering and informed them about the current status of pharma industry in Kazakhstan.



## Participation of Kazakh Candidate in ITEC Course on Operation Management

Mr. Chingiz Abishev, Lead Engineer in the National Company Kazakhstan Temir Zholy was selected for participation in a Certificate course in Operation Management at the International Management Institute, New Delhi from March 30 to June 13, 2015 under the ITEC programme. Under the programme, the entire expenditure on training is met by the Government of India. Mr. Ram Kumar, Second Secretary (PPS/ITEC) handed over the air ticket to Mr. Abishev for his visit to India to attend the course.



## Saina Nehwal of India becomes World No. 1 badminton player

Saina Nehwal created history on March 28, 2015 by becoming the first Indian woman player to become World No. 1 in badminton. Saina Nehwal reached the summit when Carolina Marin of Spain lost her India Open semifinal in New Delhi. Badminton's world ranking takes into account a player's 10 best performances over the past 52 weeks.



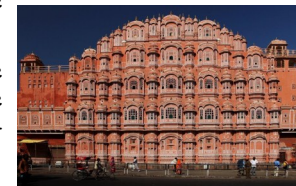
## Incredible India Destination: Jaipur

The Pink City founded by Maharaja Jai Singh II, is the capital of the western State of Rajasthan. It a bustling capital city and a business centre with all the trappings of a modern metropolis yet flavoured strongly with an age-old charm that never fails to surprise a traveller. The old Jaipur painted in pink can grip any visitor with admiration. The city is dotted with many royal palaces and forts. The famous ones include the Amber Palace, the City Palace, the Hawa Mahal and Jaigarh fort. The Jaigarh fort, built on a peak, overlooks the palace and city of Amber below.

Sanganer town has a group of Jain temples with fine carvings. The city also offers an endless variety of crafts. Jaipur's lacquer bangles are famous all over the world. A major gem and jewellery centre, Jaipur is famous for Kundan work (enamel work on gold).

From the graphic Jantar Mantar forms to the intricate Hawa Mahal, the majestic fort of Amber, colorful fountains, magnificent Birla temple, tranquil Jal Mahal and the architectural pleasure of City Palace, etc. Jaipur is a perfect delight for the tourists.

The Birla Planetarium offers unique audio-visual educational and entertainment content with its modern computerised projections system. Chokhi Dhani, an ethnic village resort with a blend of rustic environment and modern amenities makes it an important destination in Pink City. Chokhi Dhani gives the impression of a typical Rajasthani village and is perfect for both the business person or leisure traveller visiting the area.



## PHOTO FEATURE

### Visit of H.E. Mr. Navtej Singh Sarna, Secretary (West) to Kazakhstan

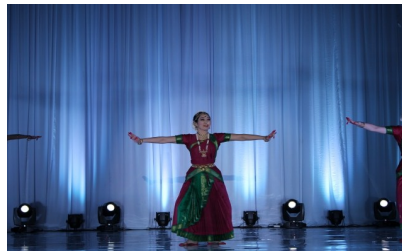


6/1 Kabanbay Batyr Avenue,  
5th floor, Kaskad Business  
Centre  
Astana

Tel: (Code: + 7 7172) 925 700 /  
701 / 702 / 703  
Fax: (Code: + 7 7172) 925 715 / 925  
717  
E-mail: hoc.astana@mea.gov.in

Visit us: [indembastana.in](http://indembastana.in)

### Bharatanatyam performance by Centre for Indian Classical Dances, Almaty at Aktobe



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### Lecture- Demonstration on Yoga at Haileybury School, Astana



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