



सत्यमेव जयते

Embassy of India ASTANA

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President Mukherjee and Prime Minister Modi congratulate President Nazarbayev

President Pranab Mukherjee and Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated President Nursultan Nazarbayev on his re-election as the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. In his congratulatory message, President Mukherjee said that the victory of President Nazarbayev in the elections underlines the continued faith and trust of the people of Kazakhstan in his leadership. He



added that India and Kazakhstan enjoy warm and mutually beneficial relations in several areas of shared interest and that India is committed to working with Kazakhstan for further strengthening of bilateral strategic partnership. In his message, Prime Minister Modi said that the re-election of President Nazarbayev is a testament to the abiding faith among the people of Kazakhstan in his visionary leadership. He expressed confidence that under the able stewardship of President Nazarbayev, Kazakhstan will enter a new phase of progress and development. He added that India is deeply committed to further strengthening the strategic partnership with Kazakhstan, which has not only benefitted the two countries but also contributed to peace and stability in the wider region.

External Affairs Minister attends 60th commemoration of Asian-African Conference and 10th anniversary of the New Asian-African Conference

External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj visited Indonesia from April 21-25, 2015 for attending the 60th commemoration of the Asian-African Conference and the 10th anniversary of the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership. Addressing the conference, she said that Asia and Africa were faced with five common issues of development, security, capacity building, maritime issues and a new global order, which needed to be tackled on priority basis by the countries of the two regions. She added that it was imperative to adapt new technologies, increase efficiencies and share common experiences for the development of the two regions. She said that East Asia has emerged as a major trading and investment partner for India and hoped that India's greater integration with its dynamic neighbours in the east through its "Act East Policy" would help realize the dream of an Asian century. She said that India was pro-actively engaged with Africa through India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) of which the next Summit will be held in New Delhi in October this year.



President of Afghanistan visits India, April 27-29, 2015

Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan paid a State visit to India from April 27-29, 2015. He was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the forecourt of Presidential Palace on April 28. He held separate meetings with President and Prime Minister, which was followed by delegation level talks. Vice-President, Ministers of External Affairs, Defence, Health and Family Welfare and Minister of State (IC) Commerce and Industry called on him.



The visiting dignitary held comprehensive bilateral talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi covering the entire gamut of bilateral relations as well as key regional and international issues. After the talks, the two leaders addressed a joint press conference where President Ghani said that Afghanistan would become a platform for regional and global cooperation and not a battlefield for proxy wars. In his remarks, Prime Minister Modi said that he supported President Ghani's vision of peace and stability for Afghanistan. He added that India would expand its development partnership with Afghanistan including in infrastructure development, agriculture, connectivity, human resource development, community projects and humanitarian assistance. Prime Minister also affirmed India's commitment to take forward the Chahbahar port project in Iran. He expressed India's willingness to join the successor agreement to Afghan-Pakistan Trade and Transit Agreement and said that India was ready to welcome Afghan trucks at the Indian Check Post at Attari.

India launches 'Operation Maitri' for Rescue and Relief Operations in quake hit Nepal

India launched a massive rescue and relief mission - 'Operation Maitri' - in Nepal after a devastating earthquake struck the country on April 25. India was the first country to respond to the crisis. It pressed into service 12 heavy-duty military aircrafts and 18 helicopters for rescue and relief operations. Ten teams from National Disaster Response Force totaling 450 personnel and including several search and rescue dogs arrived in Nepal on the very first day of the disaster. Relief operations were scaled up thereafter with the deployment of more NDRF teams, medical and para-medical teams and dispatch of tons of relief material and medicines. India also helped in opening of four land routes to connect to Kathmandu and Pokhara valley to reach out to the affected people with men and material. At least 100 buses with relief material, including food packets, water, medicines and equipment were dispatched through land routes. Government of India also sent one RO plant for restoring drinking water supply. It also sent a team of Power Grid official for restoring the power supply in Kathmandu and other parts of the country. Another team from Indian Oil was sent to ensure continuous fuel supply. Indian Air Force planes were used for evacuation of hundreds of stranded people of India and other nationalities. Several tons of dry rations and food packets, water, medicines, baby food, tents and blankets were dispatched to provide assistance to the affected people in Nepal.



India opens dedicated Diplomatic Mission for ASEAN

India has formally inaugurated a dedicated mission for the 10-member ASEAN. The Mission was inaugurated by Smt. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister (EAM) in a function which was attended by ASEAN Secretary-General Le Luong Minh and Director General I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja. Speaking on the occasion, EAM said that the dedicated Mission reflected India's sincere commitment to intensify its engagement with ASEAN and its resolve to match the expectation of the friends in the region to play a more active role.



Logo for International Day of Yoga launched

On April 29, 2015, External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj and Minister of State for AYUSH Shri Shripad Yesso Naik launched the logo for International Day of Yoga to be observed on June 21. The logo has been selected by a committee of yoga experts. The logo contains two folded hands which reflects the union of individual consciousness with that of universal consciousness, a perfect harmony between mind and body, man and nature and a holistic approach to health and well being. The brown leaves in the logo symbolize the earth element, the green leaves the nature, blue the water element, brightness the fire element while the sun symbolizes the source of energy and inspiration. The logo reflects harmony and peace, which is the essence of yoga.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and three Persons of Indian Origin figure in Time magazine's list of 100 most influential people of the world

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and three persons of Indian origin namely Satya Nadela, CEO, Microsoft, Chanda Kochar, CEO, ICICI Bank and Professor Vikram Patel, India's foremost mental health expert figured in Time magazine's list of 100 most influential people of the world released on April 16, 2015.



Introductory Yoga Session for Diplomatic Missions in Kazakhstan

The Embassy of India, the Embassy of the Republic of South Africa and the KAZGUU Academic Diplomatic club organized a special introductory yoga session for diplomats at Radisson Hotel, Astana on April 25, 2015. The yoga session was led by Dr. Brijesh Gupta, Yoga Instructor, Indian Culture Centre, Astana. About 30 diplomats/spouses attended the session.

Ambassador Harsh Jain welcomed the participants. This was followed by a short introduction to yoga by H.E. Mr. Shirish Soni, Ambassador of South Africa to Kazakhstan and a 45-minute session on simple yoga Asanas and breathing techniques by Dr. Brijesh Gupta.

Following an encouraging response to the introductory yoga session, Embassy of India has commenced special yoga classes for diplomats with effect from April 29 at the Indian Cultural Centre, Astana. These classes are in addition to the usual yoga classes being held at the Centre.



4th Meeting of India-Kazakhstan Joint Working Group (JWG) on Military Technical Cooperation

The fourth meeting of the India-Kazakhstan Joint Working Group (JWG) on Military Technical Cooperation was held in New Delhi on April 30, 2015. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Navin Kumar Choudhary, Joint Secretary (PIC), Ministry of Defence and the Kazakh delegation by Colonel Kurmanbaev Bakyt Zhanzakovich, Head of Department of Military Technical Policy of Ministry of Defence of Republic of Kazakhstan. A number of bilateral issues relating to Military Cooperation were discussed during the meeting.

Lecture-demonstration on yoga at Kunayev College, Astana

Dr. Brijesh Gupta, Yoga Teacher, Indian Cultural Centre, Astana conducted a lecture-demonstration on yoga at Kunayev College, Astana on April 16, 2015. The demonstration was held at the invitation of the college.

Dr. Gupta outlined the holistic benefits of yoga for physical, mental and emotional well-being. He added that yoga was particularly useful for students for developing physical and mental endurance. He gave a demonstration of several yoga postures (Asanas) and breathing techniques. The students joined him in practicing these postures and techniques. At the end of the demonstration, Dr. Gupta interacted with the students and responded to their queries.



Indian Travel companies participate in Kazakhstan International Tourism Fair

India Tourism Office, Frankfurt, Tea Board of India and several prominent Indian tourist and travel companies including M/s Concord Exotic Voyages, Goa, M/s Caper Travel Co. Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, M/s Tamarind Tours, Gurgaon, M/s Citra Holidays, M/s Sharp Travels (India) Pvt. Ltd., M/s Minar Travels (India) Pvt. Ltd., M/s Indian Holidays Pvt. Ltd. and M/s The Leela, Goa participated in Kazakhstan International Tourism Fair in Almaty from April 22-24, 2015. An impressive Incredible India stall exhibited Indian tourism products and publicity material, both in English and Russian languages. The stall attracted a large number of visitors. India Tourism Office, Frankfurt also made arrangement for henna painting which attracted many young girls and women. On behalf of the Embassy, Shri Naveen Kapoor, Second Secretary in Representative Office of India, Almaty inaugurated the Indian stall.

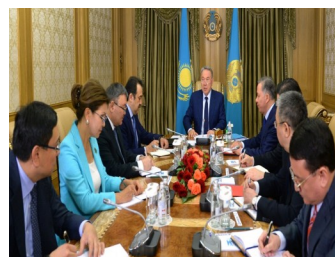


President Nazarbayev wins a landslide victory

Kazakhstan's President H.E. Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev secured a fifth term of presidency after winning a landslide victory in April 26 election. He secured 97.7 percent of the total votes polled. The other two candidates in the fray Mr. Kusainov Abalgazi Kaliakparovich and Syzdykov Turgun Iskakovich could secure only 0.7 percent and 1.6 percent of the votes respectively. The voter turnout at the elections was 95.22 percent.

The inauguration ceremony of the re-elected President was held on April 29. In his inauguration speech, President Nazarbayev said that the crisis of world order, global economic turbulence, climate change, new global fault lines affecting Central Asia and inadequate international coordination to combat these challenges were the five external challenges that could threaten further development of Kazakhstan. He added that Kazakhstan has launched a new economic policy "Nurly Zhol" to face these challenges and hoped that this will help in creation of new jobs and strengthening of the foundations for new economic growth. He said that the country needed to strengthen internally to cope with these external challenges by increasing the proportion of middle class, creating a single internal market, fighting corruption, carrying out an industrialization programme and strengthening the unity of the nation. He committed to implement the five institutional reforms unveiled by him during the election campaign through the formation of a National Commission on Modernization of the nation.

President Nazarbayev re-appointed Mr. Karim Massimov as the Prime Minister on April 29 and retained all the members of his previous cabinet in their posts. He also appointed a National Commission on Modernization under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Karim Massimov for implementing the five institutional reforms for development of professional state apparatus, rule of law, economy, identity and unity aspects and formation of an accountable government.



A new law limiting State participation in business

President Nazarbayev signed a new law on April 22 which limits government's participation in business activities. The law mandatorily terminates full government ownership of enterprises and corporate bodies and bans the State from establishing and having share in small businesses. As per the new law, the anti-monopoly agencies are required to conduct an analysis of state of competition in commodity markets every year to check for any inappropriate State involvement in entrepreneurship. The new law requires the joint-stock companies to post information about the major shareholders and managers on their official websites. It also lays down rules for protection of the rights of minority shareholders. The law, however, permits the establishment of state-run companies and their subsidiaries for providing national security and defence capability, protecting the public interest, using and maintaining the strategic state-owned facilities, carrying out activities in areas classified as state monopoly or in areas where private enterprise is absent.

\$ 5.5 bln to be attracted from IFIs for road construction under Nurly Zhol program

According to the Ministry of Investment and Development, an amount of US\$ 5.5 billion will be raised from international financial institutions for the construction and reconstruction of roads within the framework of Nurly Zhol Programme. 11 new highway construction projects connecting to Western Europe-Western China Road Corridor and other internal routes will be undertaken under the programme at a total cost of KZT 2.4 trillion. The National Stabilization Fund has allocated KZT 301 billion for implementing these projects during 2015-2016. When complete, these new routes will result in reduction of transportation costs by 30% besides decrease in delivery time of goods.



Incredible India Destination "Delhi"

Delhi is one of the most historic capitals in the world. Qutub Minar, Red Fort and Humayun's Tomb are listed as UNESCO World Heritage sites. The city is endowed with several Mughal monuments and some majestic places of worship such as Akshardham temple, Laxminarayan temple, Lal Mandir, Cathedral Church of Redemption, Gurdwara Bangla Sahib, Jama Masjid and Lotus temple.

Among other tourist attractions, there is Jantar Mantar, an astronomical observatory of 18th century, Raj Ghat, a serene and final resting place of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation, and National Zoological Park, home to about 1350 animals representing 130 species of animals and birds from around the world.

The green lawns at India Gate are a popular evening and holiday rendezvous for young and old alike. Connaught Place, a hot-spot both for businessmen as well as tourists is known for its vibrant atmosphere and planned layout. Delhi's Lodhi Gardens contain 15th and 16th century monuments that are scattered among its well-kept lawns, shady trees and ponds. Pragati Maidan, a large area of land covered with pavilions and a permanent construction for International Trade Fairs is yet another tourist destination.

Delhi has been continuously inhabited since the sixth century BC. The city is believed to be the site of Indraprastha, the legendary capital of the Pandavas in the Indian epic Mahabharata. It has been the capital of several kingdoms that rose to power in India.

Delhi is connected to the rest of the world by Indira Gandhi International Airport, which was recently adjudged the world's best airport for 2014.

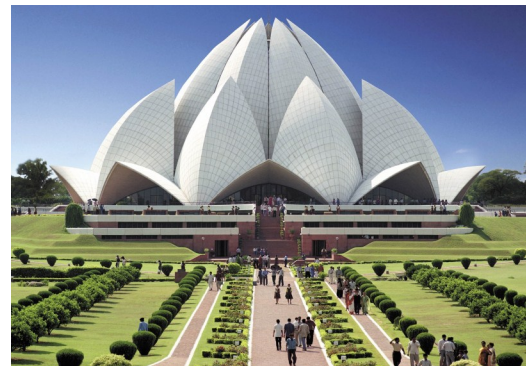


PHOTO FEATURE

Introductory yoga session in Radisson Hotel, Astana



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Indian travel companies attend Kazakhstan International Tourism



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Students of Kunayev college attend a yoga demonstration



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