



सत्यमेव जयते

Embassy of India  
ASTANA

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# Embassy of India ASTANA NEWSLETTER

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## President Pranab Mukherjee visits Sweden (May 31-June 2) and Belarus (June 3-4)

President Pranab Mukherjee paid a state visit to Sweden from May 31 to June 2, 2015 at the invitation of His Majesty the King of Sweden. This was the first ever visit by Head of State from India to Sweden. He was accompanied by Shri Hansraj Gangaram Ahir, Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, MP Rajya Sabha, Shri Ashwani Kumar, MP Lok Sabha and seven Vice Chancellors and Directors of leading Indian universities. A high level business delegation also accompanied the President.

President Mukherjee was accorded a ceremonial welcome by Majesties King Carl XVI Gustaf and the Queen Silvia, who also hosted a state banquet in his honour. He interacted with them on several occasions during the visit and held separate meetings with Prime Minister Stefan Lofven, Speaker of Swedish Parliament Uban Ahlin, and Leader of the Opposition Mrs. Anna Kinberg Batra.

He attended a round table discussion with business leaders and entrepreneurs from India and Sweden. He addressed a Business Seminar on the topic 'India-Sweden Partnership — Co-creating a Brighter Future' and announced the e-Tourist visa scheme for Swedish nationals.

He delivered a public lecture at Uppsala University, the oldest university in Europe on June 2 and visited Karolinska Institute, a world renowned medical research centre. He visited Stockholm's "Smart City" Hammarby Sjostad and interacted with Swedish companies, which have technologies and products relevant for building smart cities. He attended an Indian community reception and interacted with the members of the community.

Six agreements/MoUs were signed on June 1, 2015 between India and Sweden, including in the area of sustainable urban development and cooperation in the field of Micro, small & medium enterprises.

President Mukherjee reached Minsk, Belarus on June 3 on the second leg of his two-nation tour. This was again the first ever Presidential visit from India to Belarus. He was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Palace of Independence.

He held talks with President Lukashenko in both restricted and delegation level formats. He conveyed India's decision to extend a new line of credit of USD 100 million to Belarus for joint ventures. The two Presidents addressed a joint business conference on June 4. Prime Minister Andrei Kobyakov and Chairmen of the two Houses of the National Assembly of Belarus called on President Mukherjee on June 3.

President Mukherjee planted a tree in the Ally of the Guests of Honour at the Palace of Independence and placed a wreath at the Victory Monument. He also unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi at the Belarus State University, where he was conferred with a Professor Honoris Causa degree. He also inaugurated a refurbished power project for which the work had been done by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL).

Six MoUs/agreements were signed between India and Belarus during the visit, which included a roadmap to further strengthen bilateral political, defence, trade, economic and cultural ties and people-to-people contacts. The two countries also decided to enhance cooperation in international forums.



## Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits Bangladesh (June 6-7)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid a two-day visit to Bangladesh on June 6-7, 2015. In a special gesture, he was received by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina near the VVIP Tarmac of the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, following which a ceremonial guard of honour and state salute was given to him at the 'Saluting Dias'.

He began the visit by paying homage at National Martyrs' Memorial and Bangabandhu Memorial Museum. Later in the day, Ms. Mamta Banerjee, Chief Minister of West Bengal, who had travelled to Dhaka one day in advance, joined the two Prime Ministers in flagging off bus services between Agartala-Dhaka-Kolkata and Dhaka-Shillong-Guwahati.

The main highlight of the visit was the exchange of the Instrument of Ratification of India Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement, 1974, which paves the way for exchange of enclaves to settle the 41-year-old border dispute between the two countries.

The two Prime Ministers held a one-on-one meeting followed by delegation level talks, which covered the entire gamut of bilateral relations. Prime Minister met President Abdul Hamid, who hosted a lunch in his honour on June 6. He also met prominent leaders across the political spectrum and held a meeting with Presidents of leading Chambers of Commerce and Industry during the visit.

A total of 22 agreements, including on cooperation in maritime safety, prevention of human trafficking and prevention of smuggling and circulation of fake currency notes, were signed between the two sides during the visit. Prime Minister Modi announced a fresh line of credit of USD 2 billion for Bangladesh.

A Joint Statement issued at the end of the visit seeks to herald a new era in bilateral relations aimed to harness the full potential of the relationship across all sectors of cooperation.

Prime Minister Modi received Bangladesh Liberation War Honour on behalf of former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who has been conferred with the honour for his contribution to Bangladesh liberation war.



## Prime Minister of Netherlands visits India (June 5-6)

Prime Minister of Netherlands Mark Rutte visited India on June 5-6, 2015. He was accompanied by two ministers and a large trade delegation. He met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 5 and the two leaders held wide-ranging discussions on bilateral and global issues of mutual interest, followed by a luncheon discussion hosted by Prime Minister Modi with 35 CEOs of leading industries of both countries.

Seven bilateral agreements, which included cooperation in counter terrorism, skill development, manufacturing of dredgers and rubella vaccines and setting up of centres of excellence in horticulture and animal husbandry were signed during the visit.

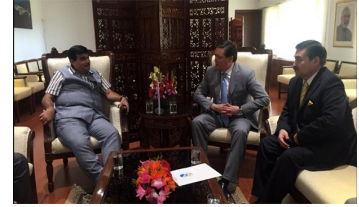
Prime Minister Rutte and his delegation also visited Mumbai and met Chief Minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis and attended a seminar on cooperation between Dutch and Indian SMEs.

23 MoUs/ agreements for cooperation in various sectors were signed between Indian and Dutch companies during the visit.



### President of Temir Zholy visits India (June 9-11)

A Kazakh delegation led by Mr. Askar Mamin, President of Temir Zholy (Kazakh Railways) visited India on June 9-11, 2015 and met H.E. Shri Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Railways and H.E. Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport, Highways & Shipping. The two sides discussed prospects of cooperation in transport sector and the possibility of formation of an effective supply chain for trade flows between India and the markets of Central Asia by using the potential of Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran railway line. The delegation accompanying Mr. Mamin held a meeting with Federation of Chambers of Commerce of India and made a presentation on opportunities for logistic operations in the region. They also visited the seaport of Mundra and held talks with Adani Group.



### Ambassador meets Minister of Investments and Development

Ambassador Harsh K. Jain met H.E. Mr. Asset Issekeshov, Minister of Investments and Development of Republic of Kazakhstan on June 8. They discussed the programme of Mr. Issekeshov's forthcoming visit to India and ways to further strengthen bilateral economic cooperation between two countries. Mr. Issekeshov informed that a business delegation will accompany him to India to explore opportunities for business ties with Indian companies. They discussed emerging business and investment opportunities in India and Kazakhstan under "Make in India" and "Nurly Zhol" programmes respectively. Ambassador informed the visiting Minister that the Indian side was keenly looking forward to his visit and expressed confidence that his interaction with Indian leaders and business will be fruitful and further strengthen bilateral economic cooperation.



### Visit of National Cadet Corps delegation to Kazakhstan (June 9-11)

A two-member delegation of National Cadet Corps (NCC) led by Lieutenant General A. Chakravarty, Director General NCC visited Kazakhstan on June 9-11, 2015 to further Youth Exchange Programme between NCC and Voenni Kafedras of Kazakh universities. NCC had signed Youth Exchange Programme in 2010 with three Kazakh universities, which expired in 2015.

The delegation met Professor Tulembayeva Aigul Nuraliyevna, Head of Department of Education and Science, MoD, Republic of Kazakhstan. The two sides decided to sign YEP for next five years with six Kazakh universities. In Almaty, they visited Abay Kazakh National Pedagogical University and Al-Farabi Kazakh National University and interacted with concerned officials. They also visited prominent places of cultural and historical importance such as National Museum of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Bayterek, Central State Museum of Kazakhstan, Museum of Kazakh National Musical Instrument, Park of 28 Panfilov and Zenkov Cathedral.



### Ambassador meets Mrs. Dinara Satzhan, a well-know TV Presenter, Blogger and Journalist

Ambassador Harsh K. Jain met Mrs. Dinara Satzhan, winner of Mrs. Kazakhstan 2009 contest and a famous TV presenter, blogger and journalist on June 10, 2015 and invited her to participate in the celebration of first International Day of Yoga in Astana on June 21, 2015. She expressed her full support to the event and agreed to participate in the celebrations.



### Participation of Kazakh candidate in ITEC course "Progress to Proficiency-Intermediate"

Mr. Yermek Koishubayev, Senior Expert (Internal Control) in the National Company "Kazagro", Republic of Kazakhstan was selected for participation in English language course "Progress to Proficiency-Intermediate" at English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad from June 6 to September 7, 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. Yermek Koishubayev for his visit to India to attend the course.



## Fifth Congress of Leaders of World & Traditional Religions

The fifth Congress of Leaders of World & Traditional Religions was held in Astana on June 10-11, 2015. The Congress was attended by UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, President of Finland Sauli Niinisto, King of Jordan Abdullah II bin al-Hussein, Secretary General of Organization of Islamic Cooperation Iyad Ameen Madani and representatives and religious leaders from various countries representing Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Shintoism, Judaism, Taoism, Hinduism, Zoroastrians etc.

The Congress was addressed by President Nazarbayev on June 10. In his remarks at the opening session, he referred to Mahatma Gandhi's quotation "God has no religion" and stressed that all religions of the world preached restraint, patience, non-violence and harmony.

The Congress adopted a declaration which called on political leaders of world powers to stop the growing abyss of distrust in the world, end mutual sanctions and use the mechanisms of the United Nations and other international organizations to overcome the divisions and restore peace and security in accordance with international law.

The Congress was preceded by the 14th session of the Secretariat of the Congress chaired by Senate Speaker Mr. K.J. Tokayev.

Indian delegations led by Mr. S.S. Somaiya, Somaiya Vidyavihar, J. M Dave, Akshardham Centre, Sheikh Salman al-Hussein-al Nadawi, Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama, Lucknow, Mr. H.B. Dhalla, World Zaruthastra Council, Swami Brahmatej, Art of Living Foundation and Dr. Swami Vishveshwaranand, Hindu Dharma Acharya Sabha attended the Congress on June 10-11, 2015. Some of the members of the Indian delegation called on Ambassador Harsh K. Jain on June 12.



## President Nazarbayev chairs Plenary Session of Foreign Investor's Council

President Nazarbayev chaired the 28th Plenary session of the Foreign Investor's Council in Astana on June 4-5, 2015 on the theme of development of agri-business in the country. Representatives of European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Eurasian Development Bank, Chevron, Lukoil, Cameco, ArcelorMittal, ERG, Metro Cash & Carry and others participated in the forum. President Nazarbayev met Mr. Tim Gitzel, Chief Executive Officer of Cameco and discussed cooperation between Kazatomprom and Cameco.

President Nazarbayev called on foreign investors to involve themselves in Kazakh agribusinesses as the country continues to be an attractive investment destination. He announced a government plan to create a unified agricultural research and education centre by merging three large agrarian universities for developing applied science, training of specialists and application of modern technologies in cooperation with best international partners.

Kazakhstan's Foreign Investors' Council is an advisory body established in 1998 to promote direct dialogue between the government of Kazakhstan and foreign investors to address key investment issues and improve the investment climate of Kazakhstan. The council currently consists of more than 30 presidents and chief executive officers of foreign companies and international organizations and meets twice a year.



## Incredible India Destination "Srinagar"

Kashmir is one of the most amazing holiday destinations in India. Located on the banks of river Jhelum, Srinagar, the winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir is the first stop for most travellers to Kashmir. The vast Dal lake and its deep waters carry the most popular of Srinagar's attractions: houseboats and shikaras. Several visitors spend a great part of their holiday aboard these waterborne hotels, watching the lake's traffic float by from the cushioned balconies.

On the shores of the Dal lake are the great Mughal Gardens, a heaven of many-hued flowers and playful fountains. On the two great hills that overlook the city and the lake are Hari Parbat and Shankracharaya, two ancient temples, which attract a large number of visitors. The medieval mosques, imposing fortress walls and simple shrines adore the city. In the old city areas, there are wooden Islamic shrines with pagoda-like roofs, the spires of old temples, centuries old bridges and bustling markets.

The markets of Srinagar offer a vast variety of the most refined crafts from the light and soft pashmina shawls and intricately handwoven carpets to delicately carved woodwork and glittering copperware.

While in Kashmir, one can also enjoy horse-riding through the meadows of Gulmarg and Pahalgam, the spellbinding beauty of Sonamarg and the architectural treasures of Pandrethan and Parihaspura.

In the rich Kashmir cuisine, one can taste the mouth watering gushtabas and irresistible walnut tarts or even a handful of warm, roasted chestnuts cracked open in the sun.

With its vast Dal lake, exquisite pleasure gardens, romantic shikara and houseboat rides and the ageless grace of its architecture, Srinagar city is a fitting introduction to the many enchantments of the valley.

Srinagar is well connected with Delhi both by road and air. Several domestic flights operate daily from Delhi to Srinagar and vice-versa.

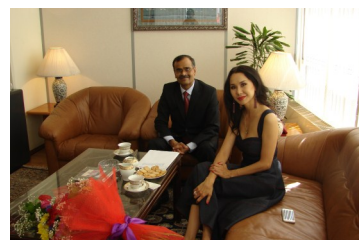


## PHOTO FEATURE

### Ambassador meets Mrs. Dinara Satzhan, a celebrated TV Present- er, Blogger and Jour- nalist

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### Visit of National Cadet Corps. Delegation to Kazakhstan (June 9-11)



### Yoga classes in full swing at ICC, Astana in prepa- ration of celebration of first International Day of Yoga on June 21, 2015



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