



सत्यमेव जयते

Embassy of India ASTANA

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Embassy of India ASTANA NEWSLETTER

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President of Myanmar Visits India

President of Myanmar Mr. U Htin Kyaw paid a State Visit to India from August 27-30, 2016. He met Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in New Delhi on 29th August. Prime Minister Modi congratulated President Htin Kyaw on the victory of the National League for Democracy in the general elections held in November 2015. He expressed support to the new Government in all its endeavours including development of democratic institutions.



The two leaders held wide-ranging discussions on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. They reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening the bilateral security and defence cooperation, which is crucial for maintaining peace and stability along the India-Myanmar border. They agreed to promote trade and expand cooperation especially in agriculture, banking, power and energy sectors.

The two leaders noted with appreciation the substantial progress made in upgrading the Yangon Children's Hospital and the Sittwe General Hospital with technical and financial assistance from India. President Htin Kyaw thanked India for this initiative. The leaders reviewed progress in establishing the Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research and Education in Nay Pyi Taw. They expressed satisfaction at the functioning of the Myanmar Institute of Information Technology, establishment of the Rice Bio-Park at Yezin University in Nay Pyi Taw, Language Laboratories at Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw, e-Resource Centre at Nay Pyi Taw, upgradation of the India-Myanmar Centre for the Enhancement of IT Skills in Yangon and computerisation of the Central Land Records Development Training Centre at Taikkyi.

The leaders agreed to work towards a long-term and a mutually beneficial arrangement for trade in pulses. Prime Minister Modi offered assistance to enhance agricultural productivity by undertaking initiatives such as programme on germplasm enhancement, development of seed models, training private seed entrepreneurs, training and demonstration of improvised agro-techniques and other capacity building projects. President Htin Kyaw thanked India for providing power supply across the Moreh-Tamu border from April, 2016.

The leaders expressed satisfaction at the ongoing pace of work on the project for conservation and restoration of the Ananda Temple in Bagan by the Archaeological Survey of India. Prime Minister Modi offered to restore other historic monuments and pagodas, which had been damaged in the earthquake the previous week.

In the joint press conference, Prime Minister Modi said that India-Myanmar partnership is defined not just by good words and pure intent, but its extent and depth is shaped by a robust development cooperation partnership. He underscored that India's nearly US\$ 2 billion development assistance is touching the lives of the common man of Myanmar. He reaffirmed that India stands ready to enhance the development partnership with Myanmar as per the priorities of the Government of Myanmar.

President Shri Pranab Mukherjee hosted banquet in honour of President Htin Kyaw on 29th August. President Mukherjee thanked him for choosing India for the first bilateral overseas visit as the Head of State of Myanmar. He said that India sees Myanmar as a key partner in its 'Neighbourhood First' and 'Act East' policy. On the joint efforts in the area of border management, he noted that the two countries have agreed to accord special attention to the economic progress of the border areas, which would transform them into zones of peace and prosperity. He stated that India would like to see Myanmar as its gateway to ASEAN and India as Myanmar's bridge to South Asia.

President Htin Kyaw visited Bodh Gaya and the famed Taj Mahal in Agra before visiting New Delhi.

Four MOUs were signed on cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine, Renewable Energy, Construction of 69 Bridges and Approach Road in Tamu-Kyigone-Kalewa section of the Trilateral Highway in Myanmar and Construction/Upgradation of Kalewa-Yagyi road section of the Trilateral Highway.

Renovated Stor Palace in Kabul Inaugurated

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President of Afghanistan Mr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani inaugurated the restored Stor Palace in Kabul through video-conferencing on 22nd August, 2016. In his address, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said that Afghanistan is India's immediate neighbour and Indians and Afghans have always been closest of friends. He stated that fewer things give greater joy than getting together with good friends to celebrate successful completion of joint initiatives. He recalled the inauguration of the Afghan Parliament in December last year, signing of the India-Afghanistan-Iran Transit Corridor Agreement in May and inauguration of the Afghanistan-India Friendship Dam in June this year.



He emphasized that the inauguration of Stor palace is entirely different, because it brings back to life a valuable landmark of Afghanistan's cultural heritage. He noted that the Stor palace has been the setting for many momentous historical events and a reminder of the glory of Afghanistan's rich traditions. He expressed sadness at the proud nation being challenged by externally sponsored instruments and entities of violence and terror. He assured the people of Afghanistan that in their quest to build a prosperous Afghanistan and bring peace, security and stability to their society, the 1.25 billion people of India would always be on their side.

President Ashraf Ghani expressed gratitude to India. He said that he was sparing no effort in protecting peace, and overcoming terror and extremism. He stated that Afghanistan and India would use the good historical relations for the advancement of the two countries.

Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal Visits India

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs of Nepal Shri Bimalendra Nidhi visited India from August 18-21, 2016. He called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on August 20, 2016. Prime Minister Modi congratulated Shri Bimalendra Nidhi on assuming office as the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs of Nepal and conveyed his greetings and best wishes to the new Government led by Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'.



Stating that the relations between India and Nepal were not merely between the two Governments, but between the people of both countries, Prime Minister Modi reiterated that India is committed to strengthening these traditional bonds of friendship and kinship with the people of Nepal. He said that India is fully committed to support Nepal in the post-earthquake reconstruction efforts.

Deputy Prime Minister Bimalendra Nidhi called on President Shri Pranab Mukherjee on 19th August. President Mukherjee said that India attaches highest priority to its relations with Nepal and remains strongly committed to further strengthening this age old relationship. He said that long-term peace and stability of a united Nepal is India's interest and India would work with Nepal towards this common goal. Deputy Prime Minister Bimalendra Nidhi reciprocated the President's sentiments. He visited the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) office where a presentation was made highlighting India's experience in managing floods, avalanches, earthquakes and landslides, with special emphasis on reconstruction efforts after earthquakes.

Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore Participates in "Transforming India" Lecture

Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore Shri Tharman Shanmugaratnam visited India and called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 26th August, 2016. They discussed various bilateral cooperation initiatives, especially in the areas of Skill Development and Smart Cities.

Both leaders attended the inaugural lecture of the "Transforming India" lecture series organized by NITI Ayog (National Institution for Transforming India). In his address, Prime Minister Modi said that the Government of India and the State Governments have a long administrative tradition, which has served India well; but, this is an age where change is constant. He emphasized that if India is to meet the challenge of change, mere incremental progress is not enough, a metamorphosis is needed. He stated that he participated in brainstorming sessions with bankers, police officers, secretaries to Government, etc and the ideas coming from those sessions are being incorporated into policy. He said that the next step is to bring in ideas from outside, which is the purpose of the Transforming India Lecture Series.



Deputy Prime Minister Shanmugaratnam, a prolific scholar and public policy maker, spoke on the subject "India in the Global Economy". He, later, attended the launch of an IT park in Gurgaon, the eighth being developed by Singaporean company, Ascendas-Singbridge, in India. He called the US\$400 million project "a very significant investment" in India.

Astana Hosts International Conference “Building a Nuclear Weapon Free World”

The Senate and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan and Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) co-organized an international conference “Building a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World,” dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the closure of the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site in Kazakhstan and in commemoration of the UN International Day against Nuclear Tests in Astana on August 29, 2016. A wide array of issues including nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament and the physical protection of nuclear weapons were discussed in the conference.



In his address, President Nazarbayev said that Kazakhstan has formed an effective model for nuclear disarmament and suggested that all countries may follow it. The model is based on the following provisions: Kazakhstan made a decision to close the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site, and managed to become independent and achieve economic growth; the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone was created in 2006; Kazakhstan is a member of all fundamental international nuclear security treaties; the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Programme played a major role in the country's nuclear disarmament path; though the country abandoned the nuclear weapons, it retained the ability to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes; Kazakhstan has become the host of the international bank of low-enriched uranium; Kazakhstan holds the leading position in the global anti-nuclear movement; and Kazakhstan's initiative “the ATOM Project” (Abolish Testing - Our Mission) is being implemented, which unites all people in the struggle for a universal ban on nuclear weapons.

He highlighted that after Kazakhstan decided to close the nuclear test site a quarter of a century ago, test sites of all leading nuclear powers became silent, though they are not closed. Saying that the path to release the planet from the threat of nuclear suicide is not easy, President Nazarbayev put forward a number of proposals aimed at reducing the threat of nuclear self-destruction and gradual demilitarization of the world. He emphasized that the process of reducing nuclear arsenals should be multilateral, with the participation of all states, which de facto have such kinds of military power. He urged the international community to create new mechanisms to regulate relations among major powers and new international organizations to prevent conflicts. He also called for strengthening the control over the spread of conventional arms and new military technologies. He urged all governments to commit to further strengthening of international treaties and institutions that form the basis of nuclear safety. He reaffirmed that Kazakhstan's efforts as a member of the UN Security Council would be devoted to these and other measures to strengthen international peace and security.

Representatives from more than 50 countries, including renowned policy makers, religious leaders, government officials, disarmament experts, civil society campaigners and heads of international and regional organizations participated in the conference. The conference adopted a document called “The Astana Vision Declaration: From a Radioactive Haze to a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World.”

India Participates in the Conference “Building a Nuclear Weapon Free World”

Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudde, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Co-President, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) and Chair of the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan for a Nuclear Weapon Free and Non-violent World Order, visited Kazakhstan to participate in the international conference “Building a Nuclear Weapon-Free World” in Astana.

Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudde made following statement at the Conference:



“I wish to thank the Government of Kazakhstan for taking the initiative to organise this meeting on a topic, which remains contemporary and on top of the international agenda. I come from land of Mahatma Gandhi and Gautam Buddha and hence for India commitment to peace is integral to its world view. Kazakhstan is, of course, not new to taking initiatives on global issues. Kazakhstan is a voice of responsibility and maturity in international forums. It is President Nazarbayev's leadership that has helped advance peace and cooperation in the Eurasian region and beyond. It is his vision that has given us the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building in Asia (CICA).

Since the dawn of the nuclear age, India has been unwavering in its commitment to universal, non-discriminatory, verifiable nuclear disarmament. In fact, the objective of global nuclear disarmament is enshrined in our domestic legislation on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Support for nuclear disarmament cuts across party lines in the Indian Parliament. In India, we believe that nuclear disarmament can be achieved through a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed global and non-discriminatory multi-lateral framework. India has called for a meaningful dialogue among all states possessing nuclear weapons to build trust and confidence and for reducing the salience of nuclear weapons in international affairs and security doctrines.

Increasing restraints on use of nuclear weapons would reduce the probability of their use - whether deliberate, unintentional or accidental - and this process could contribute to the progressive de-legitimization of nuclear weapons. Just as was the case for chemical and biological weapons, this would be an essential step for their eventual elimination through a universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable Comprehensive Convention on Nuclear Weapons.

We have representatives in our midst of international organisations and His Excellency, Mr. Tokayev, the Chairman of the Senate, has had a close association with multilateral forums. In my view, multilateralism would be key to achieving a world without nuclear weapons. Addressing the UN General Assembly on September 27, 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi underlined India's belief in multilateralism and urged the redoubling of efforts to pursue global disarmament and non-proliferation. India's working paper submitted to the UN General Assembly in 2006 which recalls India's important initiatives for nuclear disarmament including the Action Plan of 1988, and which suggests a number of measures for achieving the goal of nuclear disarmament in a time bound manner, remains on the table.

Likewise, India has regularly presented a set of resolutions in the UN General Assembly's First Committee to reduce nuclear dangers and push nuclear disarmament. These are a resolution on a Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons; on Measures to Reduce Nuclear Dangers arising from accidental or unauthorized use of nuclear weapons; and on Measures to Prevent Terrorists from Acquiring Weapons of Mass Destruction. As part of the Non-Aligned Movement, India has also supported the commencement of negotiations on a Comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention in the Conference on Disarmament. Without prejudice to the priority it attaches to nuclear disarmament, India has been consistent in its support for the commencement of negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament of a Fissile Materials Cut-off Treaty (FMCT).

As a responsible nuclear power, India has a policy of credible minimum deterrence based on a No First Use posture and non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon States. India has also reiterated its unilateral and voluntary moratorium on nuclear explosive testing. We have further underlined our commitment to non-proliferation by joining the Missile Technology Control Regime and the Hague Code of Conduct against ballistic missile proliferation. India has participated actively in the four Nuclear Security Summits, which have strengthened international efforts against nuclear and radiological terrorism. The recent instances of use of chemical weapons in Syria underlines the need for continued vigilance against WMD terrorism.

I will conclude by underlining the excellent bilateral relations that India and Kazakhstan enjoy. Prime Minister Modi paid a visit to Astana in July 2015 during which the India-Kazakhstan Strategic Partnership was further consolidated. India and Kazakhstan cooperate closely at multilateral fora, including at the UN General Assembly. In the spirit of our Strategic Partnership, India was the only nuclear weapon State that voted in favour of the Resolution presented by Kazakhstan at the UNGA First Committee in 2015 on "Universal Declaration on the Achievement of a Nuclear Weapons Free World". India appreciated the initiative of Kazakhstan to table this resolution, which seeks to build common ground at a time when the international nuclear disarmament agenda has become deeply divisive. I hope that the Universal Declaration will re-energize international efforts for nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear weapons. I also hope that this meeting would further raise awareness of the pressing priority of nuclear disarmament and stimulate dialogue, including with civil society, on measures leading to the global elimination of nuclear weapons."

Besides attending the International Conference, Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudhe visited the Nazarbayev University, where he delivered a talk on "Efficiency and Effectiveness in Good Governance". He said that transparency, responsibility, accountability, participation and responsiveness to the need of the people are the main attributes of good governance. He emphasized the need of reforms if the country wants to go for good governance. He stressed that fountainhead of process of reforms lies in the voter education, and educated and enlightened citizens are the sole guarantee of good governance. He explained that populism prevents all kinds of reforms and therefore, called for raising war against populism to bring about desired reforms in the governance.

In his speech at the Conference, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar recalled the Action Plan for a Nuclear-Weapons-Free and Non-violent World Order presented by Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi at the UN General Assembly on June 9, 1988. He noted that the Action Plan remains the only detailed roadmap ever prepared by a Head of Government to show how the world could move towards a universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable international regime of eliminating weapons of mass destruction in phases spread over 22 years.

Ms. Ela Gandhi, Granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi, also attended the Conference. In her speech, she congratulated Kazakhstan for the bold stand it took in banning nuclear testing as well as nuclear weapons in its territory. She stressed that a country's stature would certainly be enhanced worldwide if it has the courage and the conviction to respect humankind and dismantle nuclear weapons. Speaking on Mahatma Gandhi's response to nuclear catastrophe in Japan, she said that he regarded the use of atom bomb for the wholesale destruction of men, women and children as the most diabolical use of Science. She added that Mahatma Gandhi firmly believed in Truth and Non-Violence, which constitute the mightiest force in the world and the atom bomb is of no effect before them. She quoted Albert Einstein as saying that brutal force cannot be met with similar force and all people of the world must accept Gandhi's gospel as their basic policy.

Kazakhstani Grandmaster Wins World Chess Championship in India

Ms. Dinara Saduakasova, a 19-year old grandmaster from Kazakhstan, won the World Junior Chess Championship held in Bhubaneswar in the State of Odisha from August 7-22, 2016. She secured 9.5 points out of 13 to win the gold medal. Ms. Nandhidhaa (India) and Ms. DinaraDordzhieva (Russia) won the silver and bronze medals respectively. Mr. Jeffery Xiong from America won the championship in the boys' section. Mr. Vladislav Artemiev (Russia) and Mr. S.L. Narayanan (India) won silver and bronze medals respectively. The championship was sponsored by KIIT University, Bhubaneswar and organized by All Orissa Chess Association under the aegis of All India Chess Federation (AICF) and World Chess Federation (FIDE). About 200 players from 55 countries participated in the championships for boys and girls under 20 years of age.



Members of Indian Community Celebrate Janmashtami in Astana

Members of Indian community celebrated Janmashtami, the birthday of Lord Krishna, at the Indian Cultural Centre in Astana with traditional fervour and enthusiasm on 25th August, 2016. The celebration commenced with the lighting of lamp. It was followed by a cultural programme, Bhajans and Kirtan. A Quiz on Krishna's life was conducted and prizes were given to those who gave correct answers. At midnight, the time of Lord Krishna's birth, abhishek and aarti were offered to Lord Krishna, followed by distribution of prasad.



Ambassador Hosts Luncheon Meeting

Ambassador Shri Harsh K. Jain hosted luncheon meeting for Asian, African and Latin American Ambassadors in Kazakhstan on August 25, 2016. The luncheon meeting is held every month, hosted by one of the Ambassadors on rotation. Mr. Ato Brown, Country Manager, World Bank made a presentation on Kazakhstan's economy during the lunch followed by a lively discussion.



Registration for Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, 2017 Commences

The 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention will be held in Bengaluru in the State of Karnataka from January 7 to 9, 2017 on the theme "Redefining the engagement with the Indian Diaspora". The Convention will feature Plenary Sessions, Exhibition and Cultural Programme. 7th January will be devoted to Youth PBD, which will provide a platform to connect with Young Overseas Indians and discuss subjects of relevance to them.



प्रवासी भारतीय दिवस
PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS
7-9 जनवरी 2017 - बेंगलुरु, कर्नाटक
7-9 January 2017- Bengaluru, Karnataka
प्रवासी भारतीय - संबंधों के नए आयाम
Redefining Engagement with the Indian Diaspora

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated on 9th January every year to mark the contribution of Overseas Indian community in the development of India. 9th January was chosen as the day to celebrate this occasion since it was on this day in 1915 that Mahatma Gandhi, the greatest Pravasi, returned to India from South Africa, led India's freedom struggle and changed the lives of Indians forever. The PBD conventions provide a platform to the overseas Indian community to engage with the government and people of the land of their ancestors for mutually beneficial activities. The conventions are very useful in networking among the overseas Indian community residing in various parts of the world and enable them to share their experiences in various fields. The event also provides a forum for discussing key issues concerning the Indian Diaspora.

The details of the programme are available at the PBD Portal: <https://pbdindia.gov.in/>. Members of the Indian community in Kazakhstan may visit the portal and register online for their participation. The last date for registration is December 7, 2016.

Ambassador Inaugurates a New Indian Restaurant in Astana

Ambassador Shri Harsh Jain and his spouse Smt. Vandana Jain inaugurated a new Indian Restaurant "Fusion Guru" in Astana on 31st August, 2016. The restaurant is owned by Shri Jay Ram Kanno and is located at 1, Nursaya, 14, Kunayeva Street. The new restaurant would supplement the two Indian restaurants already operating in Astana. The other two Indian restaurants are: "Mayura" and "India Gate".



India Grants Permanent Residency Status to Foreign Investors

The Government of India announced a scheme for grant of Permanent Residency Status (PRS) to foreign investors to encourage foreign investment in India and facilitate Make in India Programme on 31st August, 2016. To become eligible under this scheme, the foreign investors should invest a minimum of Rs. 100 million within 18 months or Rs. 250 million within 36 months and their investment should result in generating employment to at least 20 resident Indians every financial year. The spouse and dependents of the eligible foreign investors will also be covered by this scheme.



The PRS will serve as multiple entry visa without any stipulation of stay. It will be granted for a period of 10 years initially, which can be renewed for another 10 years. PRS holders will be exempted from registration requirements. They will be allowed to purchase one residential property for dwelling purpose. The spouse and dependents of the PRS holder will be allowed to take up employment in private sector (in relaxation to salary stipulations for Employment Visa) and undertake studies in India.

ISRO Conducts Flight Testing of Scramjet Engine Technology Demonstrator

Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) successfully conducted the first experimental mission of Scramjet (Supersonic Combusting Ramjet) engines towards realisation of an Air Breathing Propulsion System from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota on 28th August, 2016. Critical technologies such as ignition of air breathing engines at supersonic speed, holding the flame at supersonic speed, air intake mechanism and fuel injection systems were successfully demonstrated.

The test of Scramjet engines at supersonic conditions used ISRO's Advanced Technology Vehicle (ATV), which is an advanced sounding rocket, as the solid rocket booster. The Scramjet engine uses Hydrogen as fuel and Oxygen from atmospheric air as the oxidiser. As the Scramjet engine uses atmospheric oxygen for combustion purposes unlike traditional engines which need liquid oxygen to create the thrust needed for the take-off and flight, the spacecraft will be much lighter and the size of the payload can be increased correspondingly. The technology would eventually bring down the cost of rockets by nearly half. As ISRO seeks to develop reusable spacecraft, Scramjet engines will be of immense use. It will make a manned mission easier and less expensive. India is the fourth country to demonstrate the flight testing of Scramjet Engine.



India Jumps 19 Places in World Bank's Logistics Performance Index

India has improved its ranking from 54 in 2014 to 35 amongst 160 countries in the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI) 2016 report titled "Connecting to Complete 2016". Improvement in India's rank in LPI adequately establishes steady performance in India's competitiveness in manufacturing and trade, which also acts as one of the growth drivers of Make in India Programme.

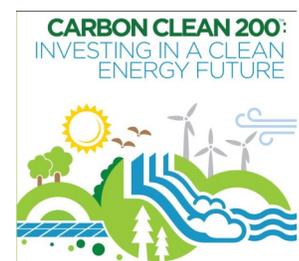
The LPI is based on a worldwide survey of stakeholders on the ground providing feedback on the logistics "friendliness" of the countries in which they operate and those with which they trade. They combine in-depth knowledge of the countries in which they operate with informed qualitative assessments of other countries where they trade and have experience of global logistics environment. Feedback from such stakeholders is supplemented with quantitative data on the performance of key components of the logistics chain in the country of work.



Seven Indian Companies Among Top 200 Carbon Clean Firms

The following seven Indian companies have made it to a carbon-clean list of 200 largest companies worldwide: Suzlon Energy at 68th rank for its wind farm; Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd at 106 for its wind electric generators and solar cells; Tata Chemicals at 114 for chemicals for biodiesel, solar energy and fuel cells; Thermax Ltd at 139 and Exide Indus at 153 for electric storage batteries; IDFC Ltd at 155 for its green infrastructure financing and Havells India at 166 for energy meters. The ranking of the companies has been done on the basis of their clean energy revenues by 'As You Sow' and 'Corporate Knights' in their report titled "the Carbon Clean 200: Investing in a Clean Energy Future".

The report released on 17th August, 2016 says that in order to be eligible to be considered for the Carbon-Clean 200, a company must have a market capitalization greater than US\$1 billion and earn more than 10 per cent of total revenues from new energy sources.



Incredible India Destination: Bengaluru

Bengaluru, the capital city of the State of Karnataka, is one of the most attractive cities in India with beautiful parks, avenues and impressive buildings. With its booming economy and racy lifestyle, Bengaluru has metamorphosed from a Garden City into one of India's fastest growing cosmopolitan cities. Now, Bengaluru is known for its thriving industry and as an IT hotbed. Surrounded by weekend getaways, Bengaluru makes an ideal hub for visitors who like to travel to hill stations and coastal towns of South India.

Tipu Sultan's Palace, Lalbagh Botanical Gardens, Bull Temple, Visveswaraya Industrial & Technological Museum, Venkatappa Art Gallery and Nrityagra Gurukul are some of the major tourist attractions in Bengaluru.

Tipu Sultan's Palace is located inside a historic fort, which was originally built by Kempe Gowda, a local chieftain, in 1537. The palace is a two-storeyed ornate structure in wood, with a museum on the ground floor tracing the life and times of Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan, the rulers of the Kingdom of Mysore in 18th century.

Lalbagh Botanical Gardens were laid out by Haider Ali and further developed by his son, Tipu Sultan. It is one of the best botanical gardens in the country and is spread over 240 acres with over a thousand varieties of trees and plants. There is an exhibition house known as Glass House, which is the venue for various public exhibitions especially fruit, flower and vegetable shows organized in January and August every year.

Visveswaraya Industrial & Technological Museum is dedicated to the memory of M. Visveswaraya, the architect of modern Karnataka. The exhibits highlight the various applications of science and technology in industry and human welfare.

Venkatappa Art Gallery has on display the works of K. Venkatappa, the noted artist at the court of the Mysore rulers. Nrityagra has a modern Gurukul (residential school) for Indian classical dances set up by Odissi dancer Ms. Protima Gauri.

Bull Temple, built in the Dravidian style, enshrines a huge bull carved out of a single grey granite stone, polished black with a mixture of peanut oil and charcoal powder.

Sankey Tank, located at a distance of 9 km from Bengaluru, is an ideal place for boat rides and leisurely walks. Bannerghata Biological Park, 21 km from Bangalore, has a Lion Safari Park, and a crocodile and snake farm.

Innovative Film City, 30 km from Bengaluru, offers world-class entertainment with attractions such as Louis Tussads Wax Museum, Fossil Museum, Man-made beach, water park, roller coaster rides, mini-golf and Go-karting. Lush green surroundings against a beautiful natural lake present ideal shooting locations.

Kaivara (79 km) is a religious centre, known for its temples dedicated to the Pandavas, heroes of the Hindu epic 'Mahabharata'. Vidurawatha (88 km) has both religious and historical associations. The large peepal tree there is said to have been planted by Vidura of the epic Mahabharata. Kolar Gold Fields (98 km) has the deepest working Gold mine in the world.

Bangalore Palace, HAL Heritage Center and Aerospace Museum, Government Museum, Vidhana Soudha, Attara Kacheri, Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Water Features Aquarium, Musical Fountain, Ulsoor Lake, Cubbon Park, the Art of Living International Ashram (21 km), Hessaraghatta lake (29 km), Nandi Hills (60 km), Kanva Reservoir (69 km) and Devarayanadurga hill station (70 km) are some of the other major tourist attractions in and around Bengaluru.



Tipu Sultan's Palace



Lalbagh Botanical Gardens



Visveswaraya Industrial & Technological Museum



Venkatappa Art Gallery



Hessaraghatta Lake

PHOTO FEATURE

Visit of Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudde, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar to Kazakhstan



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Members of Indian Community Celebrate Janmashtami in Astana



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Ambassador Hosts Luncheon Meeting



Ambassador Inaugurates a New Indian Restaurant in Astana




Embassy of India

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