

सत्यमेव जयते

Embassy of India ASTANA

Inside this issue:

Prime Minister Modi Visits Sri Lanka	1
President of Turkey Visits India	2
India Launches South Asia Satellite	2
Kazakhstan Celebrates the Defenders of the Fatherland Day and Victory Day	3
4th Meeting of India-Kazakhstan JWG on Counter Terrorism in New Delhi	3
Kazakhstan Participates in Asian Wrestling Championship 2017 in New Delhi	3
Prime Minister Modi Addresses HOMs Conference	4
Indian CEOs Most Confident on Business Climate: YPO's Global Pulse Survey	4
Factory Output Grows—Signals Industrial Turnaround	4
Yoga Trainer from Kazakhstan Attends Special Training Programme in Bengaluru	4
All-Women Team on Expedition from Coimbatore to London Transits Kazakhstan	4
Incredible India: Destination—Jabalpur	5
Photo Feature	6

Embassy of India ASTANA NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Issue 9

May 16, 2017

Prime Minister Modi Visits Sri Lanka

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Sri Lanka on May 11-12, 2017. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe received him in Colombo on 11th May, 2017. The leaders visited the Seema Malaka Temple and attended the lamp-lighting ceremony.



Prime Minister Modi met President of Sri Lanka Mr. Maithripala Sirisena on 12th May, 2017. They attended the opening

ceremony of the International Vesak Day Celebrations in Colombo. In his address, President Sirisena spoke about the ancient ties between the two nations and remarked that Prime Minister Modi's presence in the celebration was a matter of good fortune that symbolised a message of friendship and peace.

In his address, Prime Minister Modi said that Bodh Gaya in India, where Prince Siddhartha became Buddha, is the sacred nucleus of the Buddhist universe. He highlighted that India's key national symbols have taken inspiration from Buddhism. He underscored that Buddhism and its various strands are deep seated in governance, culture and philosophy in India. He noted that the divine fragrance of Buddhism spread from India to all corners of the globe. He asserted that the world owes a debt of gratitude to Sri Lanka for preserving some of the most important elements of the Buddhist heritage. He underscored that Buddhism imparts an ever present radiance to the relationship between the two countries.

He announced direct Air India flights between Colombo and Varanasi from August this year in order to honour and deepen the links of Buddhist heritage. He informed that the two countries are poised to scale up cooperation in infrastructure, connectivity, transport and energy. He noted that the development partnership between the two countries stretches across nearly every sector of human activity such as agriculture, education, health, resettlement, culture, water, shelter, sports and human resources. He highlighted that India's development cooperation with Sri Lanka amounts to US\$ 2.6 billion and its aim is to support Sri Lanka in realizing a peaceful, prosperous and secure future for its people.

He expressed belief that Buddhism's message of peace is the answer to growing arc of violence in the world. He expressed hope that India and Sri Lanka would work together to uphold the ideals of Lord Buddha and promote values of peace, accommodation, inclusiveness and compassion in the policies and conduct of the governments.

Prime Minister Modi inaugurated a 150-bed multi-speciality hospital in Dickoya in Central Province of Sri Lanka, built with Indian assistance. He addressed a large gathering of Indian Origin Tamils in Dickoya in presence of President Sirisena and Prime Minister Wickramasinghe. In his address, Prime Minister Modi spoke about the contributions of the Indian Origin Tamil community to Sri Lanka and the long shared heritage between India and Sri Lanka. He lauded the members of the community for their hard work that made Sri Lanka the third largest exporter of Ceylon tea earning more than US\$1.5 billion annually in foreign exchange.

He spoke about some of the projects undertaken by India for the welfare of the community in the fields of education, health and community development. He announced extension of the Emergency Ambulance Service, currently in operation in Western and Southern Provinces, to all other Provinces in Sri Lanka. He announced construction of an additional 10,000 houses under the innovative Indian Housing Project in Sri Lanka in addition to the 4,000 houses being constructed in upcountry areas. He also announced gifting of 16,000 candles as a special present by people of India to people of Sri Lanka.

He unveiled a plaque commemorating the foundation laying of the Faculty of Kandyan Dance to be constructed at the Sri Lankan International Buddhist Academy, Kandy with Government of India's assistance. He visited the revered Sri Dalada Maligawa in Kandy, also known as the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic.

President of Turkey Visits India

President of Turkey Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan paid a State Visit to India from 30th April to 1st May, 2017. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi received him in New Delhi on 1st May, 2017. The leaders affirmed that the relationship between India and Turkey was anchored in historical exchanges between the leaders and the people of the two nations. They agreed that richly diverse and secular democracies of both nations provide a valuable base to further cement the ties between the two nations.



Prime Minister Modi said that Turkish investments in India's manufacturing sector, especially in India's flagship programmes such as "Make in India" would be mutually beneficial to both sides. President Erdogan agreed that India's infrastructure requirements and the ambitious vision of developing Smart Cities match well with Turkish capacities in construction industry. The leaders agreed to strengthen cooperation in the fields of IT, pharmaceuticals, health, tourism, hydrocarbons, renewable energy and energy efficiency.

In the joint press conference, Prime Minister Modi said that the economies of the two countries present an enormous opportunity to expand and deepen commercial linkages between the two countries. He expressed hope that Turkish businesses would be quick to tap the diverse and unique opportunities inherent in rapidly growing India.

Both leaders attended the India-Turkey Business Summit. In his address, Prime Minister Modi said that India and Turkey are among the twenty largest economies in the world and more importantly, both economies have shown remarkable stability even in volatile global economic conditions. He cited the following programmes in which Turkish companies can easily participate: construction of 50 million houses by 2022, metro rail projects in fifty cities, high speed trains in various national corridors, modernization of railways, upgradation of highways, construction of new ports, modernization of old ports, upgradation of existing airports and construction of regional airports to enhance connectivity to the places of economic and tourist importance.

President Shri Pranab Mukherjee hosted a banquet in honour of President Erdogan. President Mukherjee said that the relationship between India and Turkey pre-dates the establishment of diplomatic ties as two modern and independent nations. He highlighted that Turkish contribution to Indian art, architecture, language, political and military organizational structure, costumes, customs and cuisine is substantial. He said that India's unambiguous support for Turkey during the Balkan War and Turkey's independence struggle demonstrate the depth of friendship and sympathy shared by the people of the two countries at defining moments in the history.

Jamia Millia Islamia University conferred a Honorary Degree on President Erdoğan for his contribution to strengthening international cooperation, peace and diplomacy.

Five Agreements/MOUs were signed during the visit on Cultural Exchange Programme, gainful occupation for family members of the members of Diplomatic Mission, cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute of India and Diplomacy Academy of Turkey, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India and Information and Communication Technologies Authority of Turkey, and Press Trust of India and Anadolu Agency of Turkey.

India Launches South Asia Satellite

Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) launched the South Asia Satellite (GSAT-9) into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota on 5th May, 2017 in order to meet the developmental needs of the countries of South Asia.

The 2230-kg satellite, fabricated at the cost of over Rs. 230 crore (US\$ 35 million), has 12 Ku band transponders. Each country in South Asia will get access to at least one transponder through which they could beam their own programming. The satellite will facilitate DTH television, VSAT links, tele-education, telemedicine, e-governance, banking/ATM services, cellular back-haul, meteorological data transmission, and networking of academic and research institutions. It will provide critical communication links in times of disasters such as earthquakes, cyclones, floods and tsunamis.



After the launch, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was joined in a video conference by leaders from South Asian countries participating in the project viz., President of Afghanistan Mr. Ashraf Ghani, Prime Minister of Bangladesh Ms. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bhutan Mr. Tshering Tobgay, President of Maldives Mr. Abdulla Yameen, Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal and President of Sri Lanka Mr. Maithripala Sirisena. Prime Minister Modi said that the launch of South Asia Satellite marks the fulfillment of a promise made by India two years ago to extend the advanced space technology for the cause of growth and prosperity of the people in South Asia and the beginning of the journey to build the most advanced frontier of the partnership.

Kazakhstan Celebrates the Defenders of the Fatherland Day and Victory Day

President Nazarbayev attended a military parade on the Defenders of the Fatherland Day and the 25th Anniversary of the Armed Forces of Kazakhstan on 7th May, 2017. He congratulated the people of Kazakhstan on the occasion. He underscored that the Kazakh Armed Forces have won accolades in the country as well as abroad. He appreciated them for accomplishing their tasks commendably during the critical period of formation of the country.



He informed that the Kazakh Armed Forces are being modernized. He stated that the fundamental shift in the direction of the Forces is combating terrorism. He stressed that the Army must cope with the time and be prepared to deal firmly with any threat. He emphasized the importance of capacity enhancement of the personnel. He advised that people in military uniform should be the symbol of honor and justice and set an example to future generations.



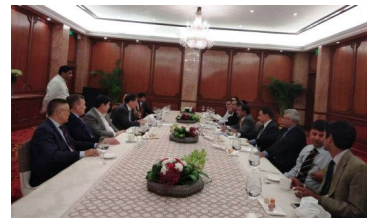
He stressed the importance of preserving peace and stability in Kazakhstan and emphasized that not only the Army, but also the common public are obliged to be concerned with the security of the nation. He highlighted that Kazakhstan maintains friendly relations with all the neighbours and quoted the wise saying, "a single peace agreement is worth more than hundred victories". He called upon the members of the Armed Forces to fulfill with dignity the noble mission of defending Kazakhstan's sovereignty and peace. The parade featured a record number of participants including 5,000 troops, 300 units of military equipment and 70 fighter planes and helicopters.

He paid floral tribute at the Monument "Otan Korgaushylar" (Defenders of the Fatherland) in honour of the heroes of Great Patriotic War on the occasion of Victory Day on 9th May, 2017. In his address after the conclusion of the ceremony, he attributed the independence of the country and happiness of the people to the courage and bravery of war veterans. He recalled the sacrifice made by the people of Kazakhstan in World War II saying that 20% of the population went to the warfronts and half of them could not return.

Defence Attache Col. L.S. Lidder at the Mission attended the military parade.

4th Meeting of India-Kazakhstan JWG on Counter Terrorism in New Delhi

The 4th Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism led by Shri Mahaveer Singhvi, Joint Secretary (CT), Government of India and Mr. A.D. Smagulov, Ambassador on Special Missions, Government of Kazakhstan, was held in New Delhi on 3rd May, 2017.



Both sides assessed and exchanged views on prevailing terrorist threats in their respective regions including state-sponsored, cross-border terrorism in the Af-Pak region. The delegations held discussions on the current challenges posed by various terrorist entities, radicalisation, foreign terrorist fighters, drug trafficking and misuse of cyber space for terrorist purposes.

The two sides also emphasized the importance of strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation through exchange of information, capacity building, mutual legal assistance, sharing of best practices on countering violent extremism and cooperating in multilateral fora such as the United Nations and the SCO.

Kazakhstan Participates in Asian Wrestling Championship 2017 in New Delhi

Kazakhstan participated in the Asian Wrestling Championship 2017 that was held at the Indira Gandhi Sports Complex in New Delhi from May 10-14, 2017. The wrestlers from 19 countries participated in the championship in freestyle, Greco-Roman and women's wrestling categories. Kazakhstan secured third position in the overall medal tally with 2 gold, 5 silver and 6 bronze medals.

Mr. Akzhurek Tanatarov (gold), Mr. Azamat Dauletbekov (silver), Mr. Daulet Niyazbekov (bronze) and Mr. Nurislam Sanayev (bronze) won the medals in freestyle category. Mr. Maxat Yerezhopov (gold), Mr. Almat Kebispayev (silver), Mr. Damir Kuzembayev (silver), Mr. Mirambek Ainagulov (silver) and Mr. Yerulan Iskakov (bronze) won the medals in Greco-Roman category. Ms. Zhuldyz Eshimov (silver), Ms. Irina Borisova (bronze), Ms. Ayaulym Kassymova (bronze) and Ms. Gulmaral Yerkebayeva (bronze) won the medals in women's wrestling category.



Prime Minister Modi Addresses HOMs Conference

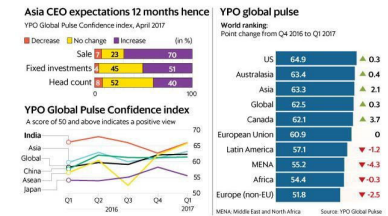
Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the 8th Heads of Mission (HOMs) Conference at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra in New Delhi on 6th May, 2017.

The Ministry of External Affairs organized the HOMs Conference from May 4-7, 2017 on the theme "Effective Diplomacy, Excellent Delivery". External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj inaugurated the Conference on 5th May. She also chaired the meeting of Heads of Missions in the Gulf and Malaysia, and NRI Ministers and senior officials of 26 States to discuss the matters relating to welfare of NRIs. Ambassador Shri Harsh Jain attended the Conference.



Indian CEOs Most Confident on Business Climate: YPO's Global Pulse Survey

According to the YPO's Global Pulse Survey, Indian business leaders are the most confident among the world's 10 largest economies. The survey published on 9th May, 2017 notes that the confidence of Indian business leaders rose by 3.2 points to 66 in the first quarter of 2017, reversing the decline seen in the fourth quarter of 2016, when confidence dipped in the immediate aftermath of the government's decision to invalidate old high-value currency notes. The survey considered responses from 1,216 YPO global CEOs, including 153 in Asia.



The YPO publishes the quarterly confidence index based on a survey of its members. The survey polls CEOs on projections for sales, employee count, fixed investment and business conditions. A score of 50 and below indicates a negative view of the future and 51 and above, a positive view.

Factory Output Grows—Signals Industrial Turnaround

According to data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) on 12th May, 2017, the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) rose by 5% in 2016-17 under a new, more recent base year 2011-12.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), an association of Indian businesses, commented that the new series of IIP data demonstrate a rebound of industrial output in 2016-17. It noted that the signs of an upturn in IIP are encouraging, as it is indicative of stronger manufacturing activity based on consumption demand, which was not reflected in the data captured in the earlier base of 2004-05. The CSO and the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) shifted to the more recent base year for IIP and wholesale price index-based inflation to derive a more accurate and realistic picture of the key indicators. This will align with Gross Domestic Product (GDP) data, which is already being measured on the 2011-12 base year.



Yoga Trainer from Kazakhstan Attends Special Training Programme in Bengaluru

Ms. Aigul Doskenova, Yoga Trainer at Californication Beauty Yoga Spa, Astana, was selected for the course "Special Training Programme for the Yoga Trainers" conducted by Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (S-VYASA) University, Bengaluru from 15th May, 2017 to 11th June, 2017 under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme fully funded by the Government of India. The special training programme for yoga trainers was organized in the run up to the celebration of the 3rd International Day of Yoga on 21st June, 2017.



All-Women Team on Expedition from Coimbatore to London Transits Kazakhstan

Ms. Meenakshi Arvind, Ms. Priya Laxmi Rajpal and Ms. Moogambika Rathinam on a car expedition from Coimbatore to London entered Kazakhstan from Uzbekistan on 7th May, 2017. They travelled to Kyzylorda, Aralsk and Aktobe. They exited Kazakhstan into Russia through Aktobe-Samara border crossing on 11th May, 2017.

The expedition called as XPD 2470 was flagged off at Coimbatore on 26th March and would traverse through 24 countries covering 24,000 kms in 70 days. The all-women team undertook the intercontinental expedition to commemorate the 70th anniversary of India's independence and promote literacy and women's empowerment.



Incredible India Destination: Jabalpur

Jabalpur in the State of Madhya Pradesh gets its name from History being the native land of the great 'Jabali Rishi'. Its scenic beauty made it the pleasure resort of the Gonda Kings. At present, Jabalpur is a city of growing commercial importance, though it is more renowned for its scenic charms, in particular the magnificent Marble Rocks.

Madan Mahal Fort, Balancing Rock, Tilwara Ghat and Rani Durgavati Museum are major tourist attractions in Jabalpur. Madan Mahal Fort was built by Gond ruler, Raja Madan Shah, in 12th century atop a rocky hill. The fort provides a panoramic view of the town and the country-side around it. The balancing rock is located near the base of the fort. Mahatma Gandhi's ashes were immersed in the river Narmada from Tilwara Ghat.

Bhedaghat, Mandla, Nohta, Bandhavgarh National Park and Kanha National Park are major tourist attractions near Jabalpur.

At Bhedaghat (23 km away from Jabalpur) are marble rocks rising on either side of a mile-long gorge, through which the river Narmada flows. The river has carved the white marble into different forms. Boating facilities are available. One can also enjoy the top-view of the beautiful gorge through a cable-car. The Narmada descends 98 feet to create the spectacular Dhuandhar falls. There is a 10th century Chausath Yogini Temple, dedicated to Goddess Durga at the far end of the marble gorge.

Mandla (77 km) is known for its 17th century fort situated in a loop of the Narmada river, which protects it on three sides. Nohta (81 km) lies at the confluence of a small stream Guriaya and the river Berma. It is believed to have been the capital of the Chandela Kings in the early 12th century.

Bandhavgarh (135 km) is a place of mythological and legendary significance as an ancient fort located there is believed to have been gifted by Lord Rama to his younger brother Lakshma.

Bandhavgarh National Park (135 km) has the highest density of royal Bengal tigers in the world. Kanha National Park (172 Km) is home to royal Bengal tigers, leopards, wild dogs and barasingha. The park is known for saving barasingha from near extinction.

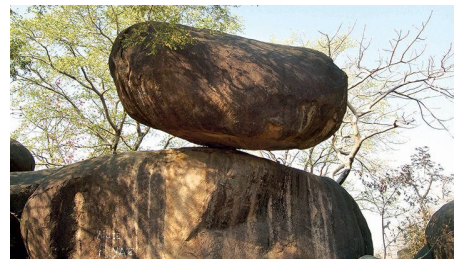
Dumna Nature Reserve Park (10 km), ancient sculptures at Bilhari (64 km), National Plant Fossils Park (87 km), Sharda Devi Temple at Maihar (162 km) and Rookhad Wildlife Sanctuary (163 km) are other major tourist attractions near Jabalpur.



Dhuandhar Falls



Madan Mahal Fort



Balancing Rock



National Plant Fossils Park



Bhedaghat



Bandhavgarh National Park

PHOTO FEATURE

4th Meeting of India-Kazakhstan JWG on Counter Terrorism in New Delhi



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

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

Visit us: indembastana.in

www.facebook.com/IndiaInKazakhstan

Twitter @indembastana

All-Women Team on Expedition from Coimbatore to London Transits Kazakhstan



*Disclaimer: Embassy of India
Astana Newsletter gathers its
contents from diverse sources and
the views expressed in interviews
and articles published do not nec-
essarily represent views of the
Embassy of India or the Govern-
ment of India.*



Embassy of India

To subscribe to Embassy Newsletter by e-mail, please send your name and e-mail address to info.astana@mea.gov.in