



सत्यमेव जयते

## Embassy of India ASTANA

Inside this issue:

Prime Minister Modi Visits 1 Kazakhstan	
President Nazarbayev Inaugu- 2 rates Astana EXPO 2017	
Indian Pavilion at Astana EXPO 2 2017 Inaugurated	
Prime Minister Modi Visits 3 Russia	
Prime Minister Modi Visits 3 France	
Ambassador's Interview to All 4 India Radio	
India Participates in the Meet- 5 ing of Ministers of Culture of SCO in Astana	
India Participates in the Meet- 5 ings of SCO Business and Youth Councils in Astana	
Kazakh Professionals Attend 5 ITEC Programme	
Cooperation Agreement Be- 6 tween ITER and National Nu- clear Centre of Kazakhstan	
India Becomes Number 1 Retail 6 Investment Destination	
IIT, Kharagpur Develops Tech- 6 nology for Doctors to Monitor Hospital-Bound Patients	
ISRO Launches Indigenously- 6 Developed GSLV Mark III	
Incredible India: Destination— 7 Rameswaram	
Photo Feature 8	

# Embassy of India ASTANA NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Issue 11

June 16, 2017

## Prime Minister Modi Visits Kazakhstan

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Kazakhstan on June 8-9, 2017 to attend the meeting of the Heads of State Council of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the opening ceremony of the Specialized International Exhibition "Astana EXPO 2017".

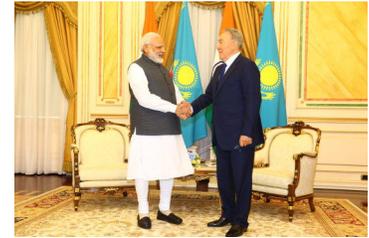
He attended the SCO Summit on 9th June, 2017. India was admitted as a full member of SCO at the Summit. In his statement at the Summit, Prime Minister Modi said that on expansion of the SCO, it would represent over 40% of humanity and 20% of global GDP. He stated that India has historic relationship with SCO countries and its membership in the SCO would enhance cooperation in the sectors of education, agriculture, security, minerals, capacity building, development partnership, trade and investment.

He said that connectivity with SCO countries is India's priority and added that India's involvement with International North-South Transport Corridor, development of Chabahar Port and decision to join the Ashgabat Agreement are the initiatives to enhance connectivity with the region. He emphasized that respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity is essential for the success and acceptance of connectivity initiatives or projects. He commended the efforts of SCO to combat terrorism and extremism and emphasized that coordinated efforts of all countries are essential to curb this menace. He expressed confidence that India-SCO cooperation would provide a new direction and strength to the fight against terrorism.

He met President Nazarbayev on 8th June. Prime Minister Modi congratulated President Nazarbayev for Kazakhstan's non-permanent membership of United Nations Security Council for 2017-18 and thanked him for continuous support for India's membership of SCO. The two leaders reviewed progress made on the decisions and agreements reached during previous visit of Prime Minister Modi to Kazakhstan in July, 2015 and discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral relations including cooperation in the fields of energy, defence and security, space, IT, trade and mutual investments, culture, civil aviation and multilateral affairs. Prime Minister Modi invited Kazakhstan to become a member of International Solar Alliance.

The two sides agreed to enhance direct flight connectivity between the two countries. Later, at a media briefing, Ambassador Shri Harsh Jain informed that three weekly flights between New Delhi and Astana would be launched in the first week of July, 2017.

Prime Minister Modi met President of China Mr. Xi Jinping on 9th June, 2017 on the sidelines of the Summit. They noted that at a time of global uncertainty, India-China relations are a factor of stability and it is important for both countries to work together. They discussed cooperation in the sectors of trade, investment, connectivity, youth and cultural exchanges. Prime Minister Modi also met President of Uzbekistan Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev and President of Afghanistan Dr. Ashraf Ghani.



Prime Minister Modi, together with other leaders, attended a cultural performance by SCO Member States and India at Astana Opera on 8th June, 2017. An 8-member cultural group from NADAM, Bengaluru presented Kathak performance. Prime Minister Modi attended the inauguration of "Astana EXPO 2017" in the evening of 9th June, 2017.

## President Nazarbayev Inaugurates Astana EXPO 2017

President Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev inaugurated the Specialized International Exhibition "Astana EXPO 2017" on the theme "Future Energy" on 9th June, 2017. 17 Heads of State/ Government attended the opening ceremony, which coincided with the SCO Summit.

President Nazarbayev termed the Astana EXPO as a new peak in promotion of the country and its national brand "Kazakhstan" in the global arena. He stated that for a century and a half since the first world exhibition in London, humanity has experienced tremendous technological changes and today, it is on the threshold of new discoveries in the field of effective and safe energy and expressed confidence that Astana EXPO would make its unique contribution to this global process.

He informed that about 6,000 various events including the Astana Economic Forum, the Council of Foreign Investors and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Summit on Science and Technology would be held within the framework of the EXPO.

He said that the theme "future energy" underscores the importance of environmentally balanced and sustainable development of the world. He reaffirmed that Kazakhstan would actively switch to renewable energy sources in spite of its huge hydrocarbon reserves in line with the goal set in Kazakhstan 2050 Strategy. He informed that after the EXPO, the infrastructure would be utilized to establish the Astana International Financial Centre, the International Centre for Development of Green Technologies and Investments, and the International Technology Park of IT Start-ups.

The architectural centrepiece of the EXPO is "Nur Alem", the world's largest spherical building of 80 metres in diameter and 100 metres in height. Integration of photovoltaic elements into the façade design allows conversion of sunlight into electric energy in the building. Kazakhstan's pavilion is at the base of the sphere. The international pavilions are located along the outer perimeter of the exhibition complex. The circular arrangement allows even distribution of the flow of visitors and equal access to the participant countries' pavilions situated in 14 U-shaped buildings combined into 4 large clusters. There are two thematic pavilions, where the evolution of energy, its problems in the 21st century and technological breakthroughs in the field are shown.

The Astana EXPO-2017, which is taking place for the first time in the CIS and Eastern European countries, will continue till 10th September, 2017. 115 countries and 22 international organizations are participating in the EXPO.



## Indian Pavilion at Astana EXPO 2017 Inaugurated

Ambassador Shri Harsh Jain and Shri L.C. Goyal, Chairman and Managing Director of India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) and Commissioner of Indian Pavilion jointly inaugurated the Indian Pavilion at the Astana EXPO 2017 on 10th June, 2017. The Sun is the theme concept of Indian Pavilion's focus on future energy.

Ambassador welcomed the guests. He informed that the celebration of 71st Independence Day of India would be organized at the Indian Pavilion on 15th August, 2017. He also informed about the cultural performances by Rajasthani Dance Group "Suram Nath Kalbeliya" and Gujarati Folk Dance Group "Rang Bahar" at the India pavilion.

Shri Goyal highlighted the salient features of the Indian pavilion, which displays models of Cochin Airport (the first green airport in the world generating more energy than its own requirement), re-development of Pragati Maidan Exhibition Complex in New Delhi into a world class Integrated Exhibition-Cum-Convention Center, two-stage gasifier, crystalline silicon solar cell module, concentrating solar technologies, solar and biomass hybrid power generation, solar thermal desalination system, micro solar dome, etc. Several Indian companies selling Indian handicrafts and jewellery and an Indian takeaway restaurant have set up their stalls at the pavilion.



## Prime Minister Modi Visits Russia

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Russia from May 31 - June 2, 2017. He met President Mr. Vladimir Putin at St. Petersburg on 1st June, 2017. They attended the 18th Annual India-Russia Summit. They agreed to deepen cooperation in the sectors of nuclear, hydrocarbon and renewable energy. They discussed production of Kamov 226 helicopters and frigates through Joint Ventures.



At the joint press statement, Prime Minister Modi said that 70 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries have been marked by a high degree of convergence on various bilateral and global matters. He described energy cooperation as one of the cornerstones of the relationship between the two countries. He announced renaming of a road in New Delhi after former Ambassador of Russia to India Mr. Alexander Kadakin who passed away recently.

Saint Petersburg Declaration on "a vision for the 21st century" was issued by India and Russia on 1st June, 2017. The leaders attended the India-Russia CEOs Forum on 1st June, 2017.

Prime Minister Modi addressed the Plenary Session of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) on the theme "Achieving a New Balance on the Global Stage" on 2nd June, 2017. India was the "Guest Country" and Prime Minister Modi was the "Guest of Honour" at the SPIEF this year. In his address, Prime Minister Modi said that "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance" and "Red Carpet instead of Red Tape" are the basis of governance reforms in India. He informed that Goods and Services Tax would be implemented from 1st July, which would herald a uniform tax system across the country. He highlighted that India's vibrant democracy and use of English go a long way in ensuring a sense of security for investors. He underscored that there are great opportunities for investment in India in various areas such as metro networks, waste management systems, expansion and modernisation of railway network, clean Ganga programme, organic farming, food processing, manufacturing of medical device and defence equipment, tourism, and hospitality.

Prime Minister Modi interacted with 16 Governors of various provinces of Russia on 2nd June. He warmly recalled his visit to Astrakhan province of Russia in 2001 as Chief Minister of Gujarat. The Governors explained opportunities for increasing people to people and business links between their provinces and India. Prime Minister Modi visited the world famous State Hermitage Museum and the Institute of Oriental manuscripts on 2nd June, 2017.

He met Federal Chancellor of Austria Mr. Christian Kern, Prime Minister of Mongolia Mr. Jargaltulgyn Erdenebat, Chairman of Eurasian Economic Commission and former Prime Minister of Armenia Mr. Tigran Sargasyan and UN Secretary General Mr. António Guterres on the sidelines of SPIEF.

Five Agreements/MOUs were signed between India and Russia during the visit on cooperation on nuclear energy, railways, gems and jewellery, traditional knowledge and cultural exchanges.

## Prime Minister Modi Visits France

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited France on June 2-3, 2017. He met President Mr. Emmanuel Macron in Paris on 3rd June, 2017. He congratulated President Macron for the victory in the recent election. The leaders discussed issues of mutual interest including cooperation on countering terrorism and radicalization. They expressed confidence that multi-faceted partnership between the two countries would be strengthened further.



They acknowledged the service to humanity and human values rendered by India-France relations successfully over the years and noted the joint effort of the two countries to the cause of International Solar Alliance and Paris Climate Agreement. They exchanged views on important global issues including UN Security Council reforms.

In the joint press conference, Prime Minister Modi described the Paris Climate Agreement as a shared heritage of the whole world and this generation's contribution to the hope of future generations of mankind. He emphasized that it is a collective responsibility to save Mother Earth. He described protection of environment as an article of faith and a centuries old tradition for Indians. He reaffirmed that India is committed to the accord, and even beyond it, India would work and walk together with others to leave a gift for the future generations.

The leaders jointly laid wreath at Arc de Triomphe. President Macron thanked Indian soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of France during World Wars and appreciated India's support.

## Ambassador's Interview to All India Radio

Ambassador gave an interview to All India Radio on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2017, which was broadcast in its news bulletin in the morning of 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 on the eve of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit to Kazakhstan. The text of the interview is given below:



### 1. What is the significance of Prime Minister's visit to Astana?

The Prime Minister is visiting Kazakhstan to attend the 17<sup>th</sup> SCO Summit in Astana and participate in the opening ceremony of the Astana EXPO. India had applied for the membership of SCO as a full-fledged member. The process for an aspirant country to become a member was indicated by SCO last year and formalized in the form of Memorandum of Obligations. From our side, we have completed all the necessary steps specified in the Memorandum. It is expected that the SCO Summit in Astana on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 would confirm the completion of the process and admit India as a member.

In addition to the SCO related programme, Prime Minister would be attending the opening ceremony of the Specialized International Exhibition Astana EXPO, which is being held in Kazakhstan this year. India is one of the 115 countries participating in the EXPO. He would also attend a concert at Astana Opera in the evening of 8<sup>th</sup> June. An Indian cultural troupe is participating in the concert.

In addition to these events, there will also be bilateral meetings, given the opportunity and the presence of several world leaders participating in the SCO Summit and Astana EXPO.

### 2. How is bilateral cooperation between India and Kazakhstan getting strengthened after Prime Minister's last visit in 2015?

There has been a significant deepening and widening of bilateral relations since the last visit of our Prime Minister to Astana two years ago. There were several important decisions taken and agreements signed during the visit. We have successfully implemented most of these decisions and agreements and the rest are under implementation.

As an example, India has already received two shipments of Uranium from Kazakhstan. The Centre of Excellence in Information and Communication Technology inaugurated by our Prime Minister at Eurasian National University in Astana two years ago has benefited more than 1500 students, scholars and scientists. The exploration work at the Satpayev offshore block in the Caspian Sea by OVL Joint Venture in Kazakhstan is progressing well.

Our Defence and Security cooperation has intensified and widened during the last two years. We had the first joint military exercise last year. Our National Security Council Secretariats had the first security dialogue in February this year.

There is also intensification in trade and economic relations. Both Indian and Kazakh companies are taking a more active interest in each other's country. Several Indian business delegations have visited Kazakhstan in the last two years and vice versa.

In the last two years, Indian companies have made investments worth US\$ 40 million in Kazakhstan and Kazakh companies have invested US\$ 18 million in India. The number of Indian companies working in Kazakhstan has also gone up from about 190 two years ago to about 260 now.

Four Indian companies are currently looking at investment opportunities in Kazakhstan and two Kazakh companies are looking at investments in India. There are some Indian companies looking at the possibility of tie-ups with Kazakh companies in defence manufacturing, which will promote "Make in India" in the defence sector.

In the cultural sphere too, our relations have greatly intensified and the utilisation of ITEC programme for capacity building in Kazakhstan has greatly improved.

### 3. Are any bilateral agreements set to be signed between India and Kazakhstan during Prime Minister's visit?

Since the visit is in a multilateral context, there are no bilateral agreements envisaged to be signed during the visit.

### 4. What is the trade volume between India and Kazakhstan at present?

According to the Kazakhstan trade statistics, our bilateral trade amounted to US\$ 618 million in 2016, which is an increase of 34% over our bilateral trade in 2015. The main products exported to Kazakhstan are pharmaceuticals (35%), tea (26%), raw tobacco (4%) and machinery & equipment (3%) and the main products imported from Kazakhstan are Uranium, petroleum and asbestos.

## India Participates in the Meeting of Ministers of Culture of SCO in Astana

The 14th Meeting of Ministers of Culture of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was held in Astana on 2nd June, 2017. The Ministers discussed the current state of cooperation in culture and art and their prospects, and exchanged opinions on the progress in the implementation of Agreements reached at the previous meetings.



The member states expressed their mutual commitment to further developing multilateral and bilateral cultural relations within the framework of SCO, enhancing mutual understanding and respect, promoting harmonious co-existence of different ethnicities, preserving the diversity of cultures, and promoting knowledge about the centuries-old traditions and customs of the peoples living in the SCO member states.

They reaffirmed their readiness to boost cooperation in a number of areas such as preservation of historical and cultural heritage in the SCO region, prevention of looting and illegal export and import of cultural artefacts, cooperation and exchange of experience between theatres and museums, in cinematography, information and library services, and training of specialists in areas of mutual interest. The ministers acknowledged that holding a whole range of cultural events would assist in expansion of mutual understanding, and further development of friendly, neighbourly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation among the SCO member states.

Ms. Shefali Shah, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture of India, participated in the Meeting.

## India Participates in the Meetings of SCO Business and Youth Councils in Astana

The meeting of SCO Business Council was held in Astana on 7th June, 2017. The participants discussed issues linked with the Business Council's current activities and charted high-priority trade and economic and investment cooperation projects, with due consideration for the Organisation's expansion.



The first Joint Forum of the SCO Interbank Consortium and the SCO Business Council took place on 8th June 2017. The SCO banking, finance and business representatives discussed the prospects for expanding and activating cooperation on developing trade and export financing by banks in the SCO countries.

The representatives of Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Mr. Shiv Khemka, Vice Chairman, Sun Group and Ms. Sushma Nair, Joint Director, FICCI participated in the meetings of SCO Business Council. The FICCI has been mandated to take over the responsibility of the SCO Business Council India Chapter.

A 3-member delegation led by Mr. Gaurav Agarwal, Director, Department of Youth Affairs, Government of India participated in the 10th Meeting of SCO Youth Council in Astana from June 7-11, 2017.

## Kazakh Professionals Attend ITEC Programme

Ms. Zhuldyz Tashenova, Senior Teacher at Eurasian National University, Astana was selected for "Diploma Course for Proficiency in Spoken English and Business Communication" conducted by the Shriram Institute of Business and Information Technology, New Delhi from 12th July to 17th September, 2017 under ITEC Programme funded by the Government of India. Ms. Aliya Dossova, International Office Specialist at Financial Academy, Astana was selected for the course "Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship Development" conducted by the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Gandhi Nagar from 17th July to 25th August, 2017.



Mr. Yerbol Zeidullayev, Head of Department at the National Centre for Neurosurgery Hospital, Astana was selected for the course "Communication Skills in English and Tourism and Hospitality Management" conducted by the National Institute for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Hyderabad from 7th August to 27th October, 2017. Mr. Olzhas Mustafin, Leading Engineer at Transtelecom, Astana, was selected for the course "Specialized Training Programme in Information and Network Security" conducted by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Mohali from 10th July to 1st September, 2017.



## Cooperation Agreement Between ITER And National Nuclear Centre of Kazakhstan

Ambassador Shri Harsh Jain attended the signing ceremony of Cooperation Agreement between ITER Organisation and National Nuclear Centre of Kazakhstan at Astana EXPO on 11th June, 2017.



India is one of the seven partners of ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor), which is an experimental fusion reactor facility under construction in Cadarache, France to prove the feasibility of nuclear fusion for future source of energy. The thermonuclear fusion power is a very attractive future resource of energy as it will be clean and safe and will be generated from abundantly available fuel. Most of the contributions to ITER by the partners are through "in-kind" supply of ITER components. The ITER has set up a stand within the French pavilion at the Astana EXPO.

## India Becomes Number 1 Retail Investment Destination

The 16<sup>th</sup> edition of A.T. Kearney's Global Retail Development Index (GRDI) released on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 names India as the top developing country for retail investment. The 2017 GRDI, titled "The Age of Focus", comments that India's strong GDP growth and growing middle class coupled with a more favorable regulatory environment over the past few years have played significant roles in attaining this ranking. The annual study says that the conditions for retailers in India are favourable and will continue to provide strong fundamentals. The study expects these trends to help organised retail double in size by 2020 in India. It notes that India has relaxed FDI norms in several factors such as 100% foreign ownership in B2B e-commerce businesses and retails that sell food products manufactured in India.

Figure 1  
2017 Global Retail Development Index™

Rank	Country	Market attractiveness (2017)	Country risk (2017)	Market saturation (2017)	Time pressure (2017)	GSDI score	Population (millions)	GDP per capita, PPP	National retail sales (\$ billion)
1	India	63.4	56.1	75.7	88.5	71.7	1,329	6,658	1,071
2	China	100.0	64.5	24.4	92.5	70.4	1,378	15,424	3,258
3	Malaysia	77.1	87.1	23.3	96.2	60.9	31	27,234	92
4	Turkey	75.8	66.4	31.7	71.4	59.8	80	21,147	241
5	United Arab Emirates	92.3	100.0	6.9	44.4	58.4	9	69,996	73
6	Vietnam	36.7	35.4	75.4	100.0	56.1	93	6,422	90
7	Morocco	34.6	55.4	64.5	69.8	56.1	35	8,360	40
8	Indonesia	49.3	45.5	53.1	76.7	55.9	259	11,699	350
9	Peru	45.5	62.2	50.8	57.6	54.0	32	13,019	61
10	Colombia	49.7	71.1	48.7	44.8	53.6	49	14,162	90
11	Saudi Arabia	88.2	62.5	22.0	41.6	53.6	32	54,078	114
12	Sri Lanka	27.6	42.0	77.2	60.3	51.8	21	11,189	30

The GRDI ranks the top 30 developing countries for retail investment worldwide. The Index analyzes 25 macroeconomic and retail-specific variables to help retailers devise successful global strategies to identify emerging market investment opportunities.

## IIT, Kharagpur Develops Technology for Doctors to Monitor Hospital-Bound Patients

Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, on 2nd June, 2017 announced that it has developed a wireless technology for remote monitoring of patients' condition ferried in ambulances. Christened "AmbuSens", the technology is capable of wireless monitoring of various physiological parameters such as ECG, heart-rate, temperature and blood-pressure before the patients reach hospitals. The web interface of the AmbuSens system provides an easy-to-use graphical interface for doctors and paramedics with data visualisation tools and can be accessed from internet-enabled laptops, tablets and smartphones.



Mr. Sudip Misra, Professor at the Institute and Principal Investigator for developing the system, said that the technology would be a boon for referral patients who are transported from a hospital in remote area to a city hospital and a life saving for accident victims or cardiac patients who need to be transported to the hospital immediately. The patients will be fitted with wireless body sensors, which will help doctors of both the referred and referee hospitals to continuously monitor the health condition of the patients in real-time.

## ISRO Launches Indigenously-Developed GSLV Mark III

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched the indigenous Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV-Mk III-D1), the heaviest rocket ever made by India, from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota and placed the GSAT-19 Satellite into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) on 5th June, 2017. The GSLV Mk III-D1 with a lift off mass of 640 tonnes is a three-stage heavy lift launch vehicle designed to carry 4 ton class of satellites into the GTO or about 10 ton class of satellites into Low Earth Orbit (LEO). The GSAT-19, the heaviest satellite launched from India, is a 3,136-kg communication satellite expected to enhance India's communication infrastructure.



This was the first orbital mission of GSLV Mk III and was mainly intended to evaluate the performance of the vehicle including its fully indigenous cryogenic upper stage during the flight. The cryogenic stage used liquid Hydrogen and liquid Oxygen as propellants with a total loading of 28 tons. The successful launch demonstrates India's ability to launch large payloads and opens up the possibility of increased space exploration and its utilization for the benefit of humanity.

## Incredible India Destination: Rameswaram

Rameswaram in the state of Tamil Nadu is hallowed by the epic Ramayana and a major pilgrim centre for Hindus. It is believed that Lord Rama sanctified this place by worshipping Lord Shiva here after the war against Ravana of Sri Lanka. It is one of the 12 Jyothirlinga Shrines [where Lord Shiva is worshipped as a 'Lingam (Pillar) of Light'] of India.

Rameswaram is located on Pamban Island separated from mainland India by the Pamban Channel and is about 40 kilometres from Mannar Island of Sri Lanka. The Pamban Island is connected to mainland India by the Pamban Rail Bridge, which was opened in 1914. The rail bridge is, for the most part, a conventional bridge resting on concrete piers, but has a double-leaf bascule section midway, which can be raised to let ships and barges pass through. A parallel road bridge, called Annai Indira Gandhi Bridge, was opened in 1988. Fish and coral reef abound in the waters around Rameswaram.

Ramanathaswamy Temple, Gandamathana Parvatham, Jadayu Theertham, Satchi Hanuman Temple, Five-Faced Hanuman Temple and Dhanushkodi are major tourist attractions in Rameswaram.

Ramanathaswamy Temple, built in 12th century, is known for its magnificent structure, long corridors and aesthetically carved pillars lining it. The entrance of the temple is adorned with a 38.4 metre high Tower. Legend has it that Hanuman was sent by Lord Rama to bring a Lingam to worship at an appointed auspicious hour. As Hanuman's arrival was delayed, Sita moulded a Lingam out of sand for Rama to worship at the correct time. This Lingam is the main deity worshipped as Ramanathaswamy.

Gandamathana Parvatham is on a hillock. An imprint of Lord Rama's feet is worshipped there. Jadayu Theertham is dedicated to Jadayu, the king of birds, who fought in vain with Ravana to save Sita. Jadayu is said to have fallen down there when his wings were severed. The water of the pond located there is as sweet as tender coconut water.

Satchi Hanuman Temple is the place where Hanuman is said to have delivered the good news of Sita's well-being to Lord Rama with an evidence of Choodamani (Jewel) of Sita. Five-Faced Hanuman Temple has a stone said to have been used during Sethu Bandanam (building a bridge between India and Sri Lanka).

Dhanushkodi is the southern most tip of the island. It was completely washed away by a cyclone in 1964. Dhanushkodi has a fine beach, where sea surfing is possible. Sea World Aquarium, Badrakaliamman Temple, Agnitheertham (holy spring) and Villoondi Theertham are other tourist attractions in Rameswaram.

Kothandaramaswamy temple is located 12 km away from Rameswaram. A popular belief is that Vibhishana, brother of Ravana, surrendered before Rama there. Kurusadai Island (20 km from Rameswaram) is a Marine Biosphere. Marine wealth attracts scholars and researchers to the Island. One could see plenty of coral reef, dolphins and sea-cows (Dugong) off Kurusadai Island.

Devipattinam (70 km) is a coastal village where there is a temple dedicated to Devi, who is said to have killed the demon Mahishasura at that spot. It is believed that Lord Rama worshipped Navagraha there. Uthirakosamangai (72 km) has an ancient Shiva Temple, where the presiding deity is carved in emerald.

A Water Birds' Sanctuary is located at Kanchirankulam (80 km). Upoor (85 km) has a Vinayagar Temple where Lord Rama is believed to have worshipped on his way to Sri Lanka.



*Ramanathaswamy Temple*



*Pamban Rail Bridge*



*Pamban Rail Bridge*



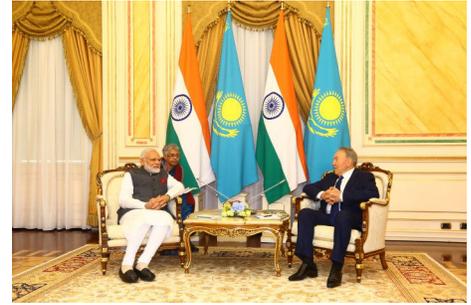
*Agnitheertham*



*Kurusadai Island*

## PHOTO FEATURE

### Prime Minister Modi Visits Kazakhstan



### Indian Pavilion at Astana EXPO 2017 Inaugurated



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](mailto:info.astana@mea.gov.in)

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

[www.facebook.com/IndiaInKazakhstan](https://www.facebook.com/IndiaInKazakhstan)

Twitter @indembastana

*Disclaimer: Embassy of India Astana Newsletter gathers its contents from diverse sources and the views expressed in interviews and articles published do not necessarily represent views of the Embassy of India or the Government 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](mailto:info.astana@mea.gov.in)