

सत्यमेव जयते

## Embassy of India ASTANA

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# Embassy of India ASTANA NEWSLETTER

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## India Celebrates the 69th Republic Day

India celebrated the 69th Republic Day on 26th January, 2018. The celebration this year was very special with the following Heads of State/Government of all the 10 ASEAN countries gracing the occasion as the Chief Guests: Prime Minister of Lao PDR Dr. Thongloun Sisoulith, Prime Minister of Vietnam Mr. Nguyễn Xuân Phúc, State Counsellor of Myanmar Ms. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Prime Minister of Thailand General Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Singapore Mr. Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of Cambodia Mr. Hun Sen, President of the Philippines Mr. Rodrigo Roa Duterte, President of Indonesia Mr. Joko Widodo and Prime Minister of Brunei Darussalam Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah. The participation of ASEAN leaders in the Republic Day celebration signified the strengthening of relations with ASEAN in sync with India's Act East Policy.



The Republic Day Parade showcased India's military might and traditions coupled with the latest initiatives and achievements along with its rich diverse social and cultural heritage. Tableaux from 14 States and Union Territories, 9 Central Ministries, Departments and Central Paramilitary Force presented the varied historical, art and cultural heritage of the country and showcased country's progress in different fields. Another feather in the pageant were two tableaux showcasing India's historical, civilizational, educational, religious and cultural linkages with the ASEAN nations. In a symbolic gesture of India-ASEAN bonding, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi announced Padma Shri Award for one individual from each ASEAN country.



President Shri Ram Nath Kovind addressed the nation on the eve of the Republic Day on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2018. In his address, he said that the lessons learnt from the period of framing the constitution after gaining independence gave shape to the Republic and continue to spur the nation-building project. He added that the nation building is about building a family, neighbourhood, a community, an enterprise, an institution and society.

He said that a confident and forward-looking nation is built by confident and forward-looking young people and the country must aspire to reform, upgrade and enlarge its education system and make it relevant to the 21<sup>st</sup> century realities of the digital economy, genomics, robotics and automation. He underscored that many programmes and initiatives have been launched to equip the youth with the education and skills to compete in a globalised world and urged the talented young people to make the most of these opportunities.

He affirmed that a culturally vibrant nation is built by a collective will that cherishes and preserves cultural traditions, art forms and handicrafts. He stated that a disciplined and morally upright nation is built by disciplined and morally upright institutions which respect their fraternal relationship with other institutions and maintain integrity, discipline and limits of their functioning, without compromising on excellence. He emphasized that the highest stage of India's nation building project is to contribute to building a better world - a composite and cohesive world, a world at peace with itself and at peace with nature.

He termed the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Republic in 2020 and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Independence in 2022 as special occasions and called upon the citizens to strive, in the manner of the leaders of the national movement and the framers of the Constitution, to build the edifice of a better India, which would reach its deserved pedestal in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. He said that promise of a developed India is the new stage of the nation building project. He called upon the young people to take the Republic forward and enhance it in keeping with their vision, ambition and ideals drawing inspiration from the Republican values and ancient Indian ethos.

## India Hosts ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit

India hosted the ASEAN-India Summit to commemorate the 25th anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations under the theme "Shared Values, Common Destiny" in New Delhi on 25th January, 2018. All Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) attended the Summit.

In his opening remarks at the Plenary Session, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said that collective presence of all ASEAN leaders highlights the importance of the Strategic Partnership, placing ASEAN at the centre of India's "Act East Policy". He stated that the India-ASEAN friendship has been nurtured by shared cultural and civilizational linkages and Ramayana, the ancient Indian epic, continues to be a valuable shared legacy in India and ASEAN countries.

He offered to undertake a pilot project on rural connectivity creating digital villages in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam. He announced 1000 fellowships to students from ASEAN for studying integrated PhD programmes in Indian Institutes of Technology. He offered a training programme on Telecom and Networking Technologies for ICT professionals and dedicated training courses at Indian Academy of Highway Engineers for highway professionals from ASEAN.

He proposed that 2019 may be declared as the ASEAN-India Year of Tourism, and tangible and intangible cultural heritage circuits may be set up to further promote tourism. He noted the role played by India in undertaking conservation works of temples in Cambodia, Myanmar, Lao PDR and Vietnam and suggested to create a virtual knowledge portal of ASEAN-India network of museums to curate this shared heritage. He reaffirmed that India would continue to work with ASEAN to further enhance trade ties and facilitate interactions among business community.

The leaders adopted "Delhi Declaration", in which they agreed to further strengthen the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership for mutual benefit across the whole spectrum of political, security, economic, socio-cultural and development cooperation. They agreed for early completion of India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway Project and extending it to Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam. The leaders jointly released eleven stamps with a common theme of Ramayana. At the Retreat Session, they discussed cooperation in maritime domain. The Summit was the grand finale of year-long joint commemorative activities such as visit of students from ASEAN countries to various cities in India, organization of Ramayana Festival in India with participation of ASEAN countries, grant of ASEAN-India Youth Award, etc.

President Shri Ram Nath Kovind received the ASEAN leaders on 25th January, 2018. He said that India greatly values ASEAN's role as a proponent of peace, stability and prosperity in the region. He reiterated India's support to ASEAN's unity and centrality. He reaffirmed that India stands shoulder-to-shoulder with ASEAN in pursuit of a rules-based regional architecture that is open, inclusive, balanced and equitable.

Prime Minister Modi held separate bilateral meetings with all the leaders. Two agreements were signed with Vietnam on cooperation in the fields of space, and information and broadcasting during the bilateral meeting with Prime Minister of Vietnam Mr. Nguyễn Xuân Phúc.

## Prime Minister of Cambodia Visits India

Prime Minister of Cambodia Mr. Hun Sen paid a state visit to India from January 24-27, 2018. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Hun Sen held wide-ranging discussions on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues on 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2018. The leaders agreed to encourage closer people-to-people contact by promoting education, tourism and cultural cooperation, and strengthen cooperation in defence and maritime sectors.

Prime Minister Modi announced setting up of a Centre of Excellence in Information Technology and increasing the number of Quick Impact Projects from five to ten annually in Cambodia. The leaders agreed on a US\$ 20 million concessional line of credit by India for construction of transmission line in Cambodia. India also offered additional lines of credit for infrastructure projects in the sectors of health and connectivity.

Prime Minister Hun Sen attended a Business Meeting organized by FICCI. He visited the Centre of e-Governance of the Ministry of Electronics and IT and expressed appreciation of India's IT applications in the field of agriculture. Prime Minister Modi expressed India's willingness to assist Cambodia in agriculture-related IT applications including Soil Health Cards for farmers and establishment of electronic National Agriculture Market. Four agreements were signed during the visit on Cultural Exchange Programme, Line of Credit for US\$ 36.92 million to finance Stung Sva Hab Water Resource Development Project, Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and Prevention of Human Trafficking.



*Plenary Session of ASEAN-India Summit*



*Leaders Release Commemorative Stamps*



*President of India Meets ASEAN Leaders*



## Prime Minister of Israel Visits India

Prime Minister of Israel Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu visited India from January 14-19, 2018. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi received Prime Minister Netanyahu in New Delhi on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 and they reviewed progress in the bilateral relations. They agreed to deepen cooperation in innovation, business, trade, space, defence, homeland security, cyber, higher education and research, science and technology, maritime, tourism and culture. They also agreed to explore ways to develop joint programmes of assistance for third countries in the areas of training, capacity building, and development of small projects in agriculture, water, healthcare and education.



At the joint press conference, Prime Minister Modi announced that an Indian Cultural Center would soon open in Israel to promote greater cultural understanding. He informed about the decision taken by the two leaders to start an annual exchange of bilateral visits by 100 young people from science-related educational streams. The leaders attended the 2nd meeting of India-Israel CEOs Forum and the India-Israel Business Summit organized by FICCI on 15th January, 2018. They launched the maiden call for joint R&D projects under the India-Israel Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund (i4F) to encourage enterprises from both countries to undertake joint R&D projects in innovative and futuristic technologies and products.

The leaders visited the Teen Murti Haifa Chowk on 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 to pay homage to the memory of brave Indian soldiers who laid down their lives to liberate Haifa in Israel in 1918. They inaugurated the "Raisina Dialogue" organized by the Ministry of External Affairs and Observer Research Foundation on the theme "Managing Disruptive Transitions: Ideas, Institutions & Idioms" on 16th January, 2018. Prime Minister Netanyahu called on President Shri Ram Nath Kovind and visited Taj Mahal in Agra.

Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Netanyahu visited Ahmedabad on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2018. They inaugurated the iCreate Center at Deo Dholera Village in Ahmedabad, which aims to develop an ecosystem to generate quality entrepreneurs in India. They dedicated a mobile water desalination van, gifted by Prime Minister Netanyahu, to Suigam Taluka of Banaskantha District through video link. They visited the Centre of Excellence for Vegetables in Vadrad in Sabarkantha District of Gujarat. They inaugurated the Centre of Excellence for Date Palms at Kukama in Kutch District through video link under the India-Israel Agriculture Plan. They visited a Startup Exhibition and felicitated winners of India-Israel Innovation Challenge 2017 for their innovative solutions in the areas of agriculture, healthcare and water.

Prime Minister Netanyahu visited Mumbai on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 and met business leaders and participated in "Shalom Bollywood" event attended by film personalities. Nine Agreements/MOUs were signed during the visit on cooperation in cyber security, oil and gas, air transport, co-production of films, research in homeopathic medicines, space science, investment, metal-air batteries and solar thermal technology.

## Prime Minister Modi Attends the Annual Meeting of World Economic Forum at Davos

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Switzerland on January 22-23, 2018 to attend the Annual Meeting 2018 of World Economic Forum (WEF) at Davos with the theme of "Creating a Shared Future in a Fractured World".



In his keynote speech at the plenary session of the WEF on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2018, Prime Minister Modi said that as the theme suggests, the global situation is frightening and the challenges facing the humanity are multi-faceted. He explained that India is the land which has solution for all pervasive problems of fracture. He emphasized that unity in diversity is India's old order and "sabka saath sabka vikas" (collective efforts, inclusive growth) is the present practice.

He said that the most important reason for India to be known globally is that it is an attractive business destination along with its vast market and strong and stable fundamentals. He stated that India's development agenda is based on five pillars viz., implementation of reforms; using technology to transform governance and deliver public entitlements and services; significant upgradation of physical infrastructure including roads, railways, air and sea ports; improvement of the rules governing economic activity; and inclusive economic development. He asserted that the needs of India's fast track development process are lifetime opportunities for companies in various fields. He reaffirmed that the Government agencies are finding innovative ways to create a business friendly environment.

He attended a roundtable meeting with CEOs of top global companies. He addressed the International Business Council which consists of 120 top chief executives of major transnational corporations across sectors. He met President of Sweden Mr. Alain Berset. He also met Prime Minister of Canada Mr. Justin Trudeau and Queen Maxima of the Netherlands on the sidelines of the WEF. Several Ministers represented India in around 25 sessions organized in the Annual Meeting of the WEF. Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion hosted a Welcome Reception for the participants, which showcased business opportunities in India as well as Indian heritage and cuisine. 11 roundtables were organized by Invest India and CII with existing and potential investors.

## Flag Hoisting Ceremonies on the 69th Republic Day of India in Kazakhstan

Ambassador Shri Prabhat Kumar unfurled the National Flag on the occasion of the 69th Republic Day of India at Indian Cultural Centre, Astana on 26th January at 1000 hrs. It was followed by National Anthem. Ambassador read out the Address by the President of India to the Nation on the eve of the Republic Day. About 60 Indian nationals, Persons of Indian Origin and the Embassy staff attended the ceremony.



The flag hoisting was also held at the Representative Office of India in Almaty on 26th January. Shri Martin Cyriac Clemense J. B., Second Secretary unfurled the National Flag, which was followed by National Anthem and reading out of the Address by the President of India to the Nation on the eve of the Republic Day.

## The Embassy Celebrates the 69th Republic Day of India in Astana

The Embassy hosted a reception in the evening of 26th January to celebrate the 69th Republic Day of India at Hotel Radisson in Astana. Vice Minister of Energy Mr. Magzum Mirzagaliyev represented the Government of Kazakhstan as the Chief Guest at the reception.



Ambassador Shri Prabhat Kumar welcomed and addressed the guests. He said that 2017 had been an extremely successful year in the context of bilateral relations between India and Kazakhstan with several high level visits, business events and cultural group exchanges. He noted that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Kazakhstan in June, 2017 to attend the SCO Summit, where India was admitted as a full member of SCO, India participated in the Astana EXPO 2017, Chief of the Army Staff of India visited Kazakhstan in August, 2017, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan visited Kazakhstan to attend the meeting of Inter-Governmental Commission in September, 2017, and Minister of State for External Affairs Shri M.J. Akbar visited Kazakhstan in November, 2017. He spoke about the impressive strides made by India in becoming a fast growing major economy in the world and immense untapped trade potential existing between India and Kazakhstan. He emphasized that the two countries should work closely to make good use of International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC) for faster movement of goods between the two countries.

In his address, Vice Minister of Energy Mr. Magzum Mirzagaliyev said that India is one of the influential political centres and fast growing economies and strengthening of ties with it is one of the foreign policy priorities of Kazakhstan. He stated that regular meetings between the two countries at different levels and their increased intensity not only show the dynamic development of bilateral cooperation, but also demonstrate the sincerity of intentions of the two countries to expand the partnership. He emphasized the need to figure out the potential for future bilateral cooperation and reaffirmed the readiness of Kazakhstan to develop and realize joint projects.

The speeches were preceded by recital of national anthems of the two countries and followed by a short cultural performance by Indian Cultural Centre, Astana. About 225 people including Heads of Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations accredited to Kazakhstan, Government officials, journalists, representatives of academic and cultural institutions and members of Indian community attended the reception.

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## The Embassy Celebrates the 69th Republic Day of India in Almaty

The Embassy hosted a reception in Almaty at Hotel Intercontinental in the evening of 29th January, 2018 to celebrate the 69th Republic Day of India. Mr. Ruslan Bultirikov, Head, Representative Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Almaty represented the Government of Kazakhstan as the Chief Guest at the reception.



Ambassador Shri Prabhat Kumar welcomed and addressed the guests. He spoke about the growing bilateral relations between India and Kazakhstan. He highlighted the major bilateral events that took place during the last one year. He mentioned the immense potential for further growth of bilateral ties between the two countries in various fields.

In his address, Mr. Ruslan Bultirikov, Head, Representative Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Almaty congratulated the people of India on the Republic Day. He said that bilateral relations between India and Kazakhstan are strengthened with high level visits, trade and cultural exchanges. He underscored the cooperation between the two countries at various international forums.

The speeches were preceded by recital of national anthems of the two countries and followed by a short cultural performance by the Centre of Indian Classical Dances, Almaty led by its Director Ms. Akmaral Kainazarova. About 170 people attended the reception.

## Mahatma Gandhi Centre Inaugurated at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty

Ambassador Shri Prabhat Kumar and Mr. Galimkair Mutanov, Rector, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (KazNU), Almaty jointly inaugurated the Mahatma Gandhi Centre at the Department of Indology of the Faculty of Oriental Studies of the University on 30th January, 2018. The Centre was established with the technical assistance of the Embassy of India.



In his address, Ambassador Prabhat Kumar said that the Centre is appropriately named after Mahatma Gandhi who is highly respected in Kazakhstan. He expressed hope that the Centre would help further strengthen close cooperation between India and Kazakhstan. He said that the successful launch of a Nano Satellite built by KazNU by the Indian Space Research Organization in February last year was a moment of pride for the two countries. In his address, Rector Mr. Galimkair Mutanov said that since establishment of Department of Indology at the Faculty of Oriental Studies in 1992, about two hundred students have mastered the languages of Hindi and Urdu. He spoke about the ongoing cooperation between KazNU and the leading Universities in India. Mr. Ruslan Bultrikov, Head, Representative Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Almaty also spoke on the occasion.

The Ambassador and the Rector released the first Hindi-Kazakh-Hindi Dictionary published by the Department of Indology of the University with the support of the Embassy. The Centre of Indian Classical Dances, Almaty performed Indian classical dance "Bharatanatyam".

## Celebration of Vishwa Hindi Divas in Almaty

The Embassy celebrated the Vishwa Hindi Diwas in Almaty at Hotel Ramada on 28th January, 2018. Ambassador Shri Prabhat Kumar welcomed and addressed the guests. He spoke about the efforts made by the Embassy to popularise and promote Hindi in Kazakhstan. He mentioned that Hindi is taught at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (KazNU) and Hindi classes are organized at InCham and the Centre for Indian Classical Dances in Almaty. He read out a message by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on the occasion of the Vishwa Hindi Divas. President of InCham Shri Tarachand Nehra also addressed the guests.



The members of Indian community and other guests presented a cultural programme including recitation of Hindi poems. About 150 people including the faculty and students of the Department of Oriental Studies of KazNU attended the celebration.

## Folk Ensemble "Dostyk Sazy" and Dance Ensemble "Akku" from Aktobe Visit India

A 12-member Folk Ensemble "Dostyk Sazy" and Dance Ensemble "Akku" from Regional Philharmonic, Aktobe visited India from January 12-20, 2018 at the invitation of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). The cultural group performed at the 8th International Dance and Music Festival at Kamani Auditorium in New Delhi on 13th January, 2018. President of ICCR Shri Vinay Sahasrabudde inaugurated the event. The musicians and singers used Kazakhstani folk music instruments to present Kazakhstan's popular dances. The cultural group also presented scintillating performance in Lucknow on 15th January, 2018 and Patna on 17th January, 2018.



## Kazakhstani Professionals Attend ITEC Programmes in India

Ms. Nassiba Baimatova, Senior Researcher, Centre of Physico Chemical Methods of Research and Analysis, Almaty, was selected for the course "Management Development Programme on Operation and Maintenance of Analytical Equipment" conducted by the Central Scientific Instruments Organisation, New Delhi from 4.12.2017 to 26.1.2018; Ms. Fariza Rakhimova, Chief Specialist of Partnership Development Unit, Narxoz University, Almaty, was selected for the course "Certificate Programme on Cross Cultural Understanding and Strategies for Business Growth in Emerging Economies" conducted by the International Management Institute, New Delhi from 4.12.2017 to 15.12.2017; Ms. Liliya Valiullina, HR Manager, China Railway Asia Europe Construction Investment Co. Ltd., Astana, was selected for the "Certificate Course in Human Resource Planning & Development" conducted by the National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development, Narela from 5.12.2017 to 21.5.2018; and Ms. Gulfairus Kairedenova, Senior Engineer, KMG Global Solutions B.V., Astana, was selected for the course "Specialised Programme on Big Data Analytics" conducted by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Noida from 11.12.2017 to 2.3.2018 under ITEC Programme funded by the Government of India.



## Incredible India Destination: Pattadakal

Pattadakal in the State of Karnataka is the ancient capital of the Eastern Chalukyas. The temples of Eastern Chalukyas built in the 7th and 8th centuries AD at Pattadakal on the west bank of Malaprabha river present awe-inspiring spectacles with their architectural splendour. The friezes in the temples display various Vedic and Puranic concepts, and depict stories from the Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagavata Purana, etc. Part of the site is still in use as an active centre of worship. The monuments in Pattadakal were included in the list of World Heritage Sites in 1987. The UNESCO has described Pattadakal as a harmonious blend of architectural forms from Northern and Southern India and an illustration of eclectic art at its height.

Virupaksha Temple, Sangamesvara Temple and Mallikarjuna Temple are major attractions in Pattadakal.

Virupaksha Temple was built by Queen Lokamahadevi in 745 AD to commemorate her husband, Vikramaditya-II's victory over the Pallavas. The temple is influenced by the architecture of the Kailasanatha temple at Kanchipuram. Later, it served as a model to carve out the great Kailasa at Ellora. The Virupaksha is a large complex consisting of a tall vimana with axial mandapas and peripheral sub-shrines round the court, enclosed by a wall with gopura-entrances in front and behind, all designed and completed at one time.

Sangamesvara temple is the oldest temple in Pattadakal. The temple built by Chalukya King Vijayaditya Satyashraya (697-733 AD) exhibits to a large degree the southern elements in their vimanas, as crystallized in the contemporary Pallava temples. Mallikarjuna Temple, built immediately after the Virupaksha temple with a similar plan, is a smaller temple with a four-storeyed vimana with a circular griva and sikhara.

Kashivisvanatha temple, Kadasiddhesvara and Jambulingeswara temples, Galganatha temple, Jaina Narayana, Naganatha temple, Chandrashekara temple and Mahakuteshwara temple are other famous shrines in Pattadakal.

Aihole (10 km from Pattadakal) is a historic site of ancient and medieval era Buddhist, Hindu and Jain monuments dated from the fourth century through the twelfth century AD. The Buddhist monument is a monastery. Both Hindu and Jain monuments include monasteries as well as social utilities such as stepwall water tanks with artistic carvings near major temples.

Badami (22 km from Pattadakal), known as Vatapi in ancient India, was once the capital of the Chalukyas who rose to power in much of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh in the middle of the 6th century AD. Its claim to world fame lies in the magnificent rock-cut cave temples built by the Early Chalukyas. The Badami temples are dedicated to Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu and the Jain Tirthankaras, displaying the secular nature of the Chalukyas of Vatapi. These temples are known for profusion of symbolic and mystical carvings of the highest order.



*Virupaksha Temple*



*Mallikarjuna Temple*



*Aihole Durga Temple*



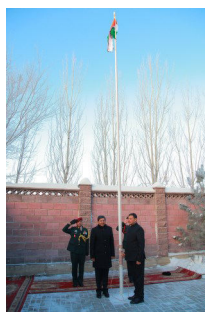
*Badami Cave Temples*



*Pattadakal Monuments*

## PHOTO FEATURE

### Flag Hoisting Ceremonies in Astana and Almaty on 69th Republic Day of India



*Celebration of the 69th Republic Day of India in Astana*



*Celebration of the 69th Republic Day of India in Almaty*



### Mahatma Gandhi Centre Inaugurated at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty



*Celebration of Vishwa Hindi Divas in Almaty*



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