



Embassy of India Astana

NEWSLETTER

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President of South Korea Visits India

President of the Republic of Korea Mr. Moon Jae-in paid a State Visit to India from July 8-11, 2018. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi received him in New Delhi on 10th July, 2018. They resolved to work together to add new substance and impetus to bilateral cooperation in all areas of engagement.



Noting the complementarities between India's rapid economic growth and highly-skilled workforce, and ROK's technological prowess, manufacturing excellence and developmental experience, the leaders agreed that the two countries partner with each other to secure mutual economic growth and contribute to global economic development. They urged the scientific institutions, academic community and young professionals to work together through joint collaborations in research and development and experience-sharing, develop technologies for symbiotic development including in areas such as renewable energy, material science, robotics, engineering and health sciences.

At the joint press conference, Prime Minister Modi informed that India and Korea relations are a kind of family ties saying that a princess of the Ayodhya, Princess Suri-Ratna, was married to the king of Korea centuries ago and even today, millions of people in Korea consider themselves as their descendants. He informed that a vision statement is being released as a result of the dialogue with a focus on strengthening the Special Strategic Partnership.

President Shri Ram Nath Kovind received President Moon on 10th July, 2018. He congratulated President Moon for his efforts and determination in turning the security situation prevailing in the Korean Peninsula into a stable and peaceful one.

The India-Korea Technology Exchange Centre was inaugurated in New Delhi on 10th July, 2018. The Centre would assist micro, small and medium enterprises of India and Korea to identify and exchange latest technologies, share management expertise, product development and technology applications for product development.

President Moon visited the Akshardham Temple on 8th July. Prime Minister Modi and President Moon addressed the India-Korea Business Forum on 9th July, 2018. They visited Gandhi Smriti. They jointly inaugurated a large mobile manufacturing facility of Samsung India Electronics Pvt. Ltd. at Noida. They interacted with Indian and South Korean business leaders at the CEOs Forum on 10th July, 2018.

11 Agreements/MOUs were signed during the visit on upgradation of Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA); trade remedies; future strategy group; cultural exchange programme; scientific and technological research; railway research; biotechnology and bio-economics; ICT and Telecommunications; development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; industrial and investment relations between South Korean companies and the State of Gujarat; and expansion of the existing monument commemorating Princess Suriratna.

Prime Minister of Bhutan Visits India

Prime Minister of Bhutan Mr. Dasho Tshering Tobgay paid an official visit to India from July 5-7, 2018. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi received him in New Delhi on 6th July, 2018.

The leaders discussed a range of bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest. Recalling the unique bonds of friendship and historical ties, they expressed satisfaction at the excellent state of bilateral relations. Prime Minister Modi complimented the people and the Government of Bhutan on Bhutan's imminent graduation to a middle income country, and for achieving economic progress while preserving its traditions and values, and combining sustainable development with enhanced happiness quotient of its people.



Prime Minister Tobgay thanked the Government of India for its invaluable support and partnership for Bhutan's socio-economic development. The leaders reviewed the bilateral economic and hydro-power co-operation, including the progress in implementation of the on-going Government of India-assisted hydro-electric projects in Bhutan. They expressed happiness that the Golden Jubilee of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between the two countries is being commemorated with the full involvement and participation of the people of the two countries.

Prime Minister Tobgay called on President Shri Ram Nath Kovind on 6th July, 2018. President Kovind said that India and Bhutan share an exemplary bilateral partnership and the relations between the two countries are unique and special. He stated that the historical and cultural linkages make the two countries natural friends. He emphasized that India is firmly committed to partner Bhutan in its socio-economic development and support its 12th Five Year Plan based on Bhutan's priorities.

Ambassador Attends the 9th HOMs Conference

Ambassador Shri Prabhat Kumar attended the 9th Heads of Mission (HOMs) Conference on the theme "Unprecedented Outreach: Unparalleled Outcomes" in New Delhi from 30th June to 2nd July, 2018. External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj inaugurated the HOMs Conference on 30th June, 2018. The HOMs met President Shri Ram Nath Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 30th June. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the Conference on 2nd July, 2018.



Ambassador spoke in the Conference in the session "Central Asia: Building Strategic Partnerships". The Conference was preceded by a state visit during which he called on Chief Minister of Bihar Shri Nitish Kumar in Patna on 27th June. Post Conference, he called on Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan on 3rd July, 2018 and Defence Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi on 4th July, 2018.

He addressed an interactive session on "Central Asia" organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on 3rd July, 2018, where he expressed views and suggestions to intensify India's engagement with Kazakhstan in several sectors including oil, gas, agriculture, railways, tourism, hospitality, engineering services, pharmaceuticals and IT. He attended a reception hosted by the Embassy of Kazakhstan in New Delhi to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Astana as Guest of Honour on 3rd July, 2018 where he shared his impression of Astana's impressive pace of development.

India Participates in the Kazakhstan Global Investment Roundtable

The 2nd International Kazakhstan Global Investment Roundtable was held in Astana on 3rd July, 2018. Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Mr. Bakyrtzhan Sagintayev opened the plenary session of the roundtable. In his address, Prime Minister Sagintayev said that improvement of investment legislation would help foreign investors take a fresh look at the economy of Kazakhstan. He emphasized that the Government of Kazakhstan creates favourable conditions for investors and their success in the country. He highlighted that protection of investments is guaranteed in Kazakhstan. He emphasized that the country's strategic goal is to join the Top-30 countries by 2050 and to reach this goal, the government must move forward together with the investors.



Over 550 entrepreneurs and investors from 40 countries participated in the Roundtable. The participants discussed further development of investment cooperation in eight thematic sessions. They shared their opinions on business management in Kazakhstan highlighting the attractiveness of projects in Kazakhstan for investment. Their discussions focused on investment policy, privatization, development of agro-industrial sector, digitalization, energy, machine-building, infrastructure and logistics. 32 commercial documents worth US\$ 4.7 billion were signed during the Forum.

Vice Chairman of SUN Group Mr. Shiv Khemka and Mr. K.V.V. Rao, Group Director/Director of Critical Projects & GCMO of GMR Infrastructure Ltd from India participated in the roundtable.

India Participates in the Radio Asia and Media 200 Conferences in Astana

Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) organized the Radio Asia 2018 Conference, the Europe-Asia Media 2020 Dialogue and the Radio Song Festival in Astana from July 10-12, 2018.

Pre-conference workshops "Zero to Hero - Building your Station from the Ground Up" and "Making Great Radio for Children and Young People, Across Multi-platforms" were held on 10th July. The Radio Asia Conference "Radio - Unity and Diversity" held on 11th July brought together radio, technology and new media industry professionals to help chart paths through an increasingly complex media landscape, using examples that actually work in everyday broadcasting. The conference was followed by 5th ABU Song Festival 2018 - a musical showcase from across Asia and the Pacific, embracing and recognising the diverse musical talents of young artists in the region.



The Media 2020 Dialogue, held on 12th July, 2018, was a series of gatherings dedicated to discussing topical issues, current and long-term trends in the development of the media industry. Mr. Fayyaz Sheheryar, Director General, All India Radio participated in the Media 2020 Dialogue. In his speech, he encouraged Eastern and Western media to understand each other better, rather than taking adversarial positions on media issues. More than 100 representatives of 37 member countries of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union participated in the event.

6th Meeting of India-Kazakhstan JWG on Trade and Economic Cooperation

The 6th meeting of India-Kazakhstan Joint Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation was held in Astana on 12th July, 2018. Shri Bidyut Behari Swain, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India, led the Indian side and Mr. Kairat Torebaev, Director of the Department for International Cooperation of the Ministry of National Economy of Kazakhstan, led the Kazakhstani side. Ambassador Shri Prabhat Kumar also attended the meeting.

The two sides discussed the current state and future prospects of the development of India-Kazakhstan trade and economic cooperation, in particular, in the fields of chemical industry, energy, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, information technology, investment and export potential. A protocol was signed at the conclusion of the meeting.



Kazakhstan Lifts the Requirement for Foreign Nationals to Register with the Police

The Government of Kazakhstan has done away with the requirement for foreign nationals to get themselves registered with the Migration Police of Ministry of Internal Affairs after their arrival in Kazakhstan with effect from 1st July, 2018. The form of invitation has been modified and the inviting party is required to mention the residential address in Kazakhstan of the visiting foreign national in the revised form of invitation. The processing time for approving the invitation by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan for entry of foreign nationals has also been reduced from two weeks to five working days.



As a result, Indian nationals are not required to get themselves registered with the migration police irrespective of the period of their stay in Kazakhstan. This is a welcome news for Indian nationals as they were required to get themselves registered with the migration police within 5 days of their arrival if they intended to stay in Kazakhstan for more than 5 days before the amended regulation came into force.

Embassy Organizes Yoga Fest at Burabay

As part of the celebration of the 4th International Day of Yoga, the Embassy of India and the Tourism Department of Akmola Region jointly organised a Yoga Fest at Burabay on 1st July, 2018. In his address, Director of Tourism Department of Akmola Region Mr. Idiyatov Daniyar thanked the Embassy of India for organizing the event and said that it would give a fillip to tourism in the region.

Shri Trilok Tarak, Teacher of Indian Culture at Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Astana conducted Yoga Master Class "Yoga for Everyone"; Shri Bhaskar Ojha, Music Teacher at SVCC performed Flute and Sazsyrnai recital; and Ms. Shruti Ghosh, Dance Teacher at SVCC performed Kathak-cum-Bollywood dance. Dr. Sanjay Garg, Director, SVCC emphasized the importance of yoga in daily life and enumerated various initiatives taken by the Embassy for promoting yoga throughout Kazakhstan. About 150 people attended the event.



Embassy Organizes "Chai pe Charcha" at SVCC

The Embassy organized an event titled "Chai pe Charcha" at the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Astana on 15th July, 2018 to give wide publicity to the "15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention 2019" and the "Bharat ko Janiye Quiz 2018-19".

In his address, Ambassador Shri Prabhat Kumar urged the members of Indian community to participate in the 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention 2019, which is scheduled to be held at Varanasi from January 21-23, 2019, and the Bharat ko Janiye Quiz 2018-19, which is scheduled to commence in September, 2018.

Dr. Sanjay Garg, Director, SVCC, made a presentation on the forthcoming PBD Convention and the BKJ Quiz. This was followed by a cultural performance by Shri Bhaskar Ojha, Music Teacher and Ms. Shruti Ghosh, Dance Teacher at SVCC. The event concluded with high tea cum informal interaction among those present.



Kazakhstani Professionals Participate in ITEC Programme

Mr. Baglan Baimbetov and Mr. Darkhan Amangeldin, both Senior Specialists at RSE Engineering and Technical Centre of Central Election Commission of Kazakhstan, Astana were selected for the course "Capacity Development for Electoral Technology" conducted by the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management, New Delhi from September 2-9, 2018 under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme funded by the Government of India.



Mayor of Pune Participates in the Cities Mayors Forum "Global Silk Road" in Astana

The Cities Mayors Forum of the Silk Road Countries "Global Silk Road" was held at the Palace of Peace and Reconciliation in Astana on July 2-3, 2018. The Forum was organized by the Akimat of Astana city and the International Secretariat G-Global.

More than 2000 delegates from over 60 countries participated in the Forum. The participants discussed the regional economic association, strengthening of cultural relations and promotion of peace and sustainable development. The discussions also covered introduction of green technologies in cities. Sophia, a social humanoid robot, was also a speaker at the plenary session of the Forum. The participants agreed to set up a club of mayors and associations of businessmen, universities, journalists and poets from silk road countries, as well as a platform for women and youth organizations. Mayor of Pune Ms. Tilak Mukta Shailesh from India participated in the Forum.



World's Largest Mobile Phone Manufacturing Facility Inaugurated in Noida

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President of Republic of Korea Mr. Moon Jae-in jointly inaugurated a mobile phone manufacturing facility of Samsung India Electronics Pvt. Ltd. at Noida on 9th July, 2018. The new plant built at a cost of Rs.5000 crore (US\$ 728 million) is the largest mobile phone manufacturing facility in the world and will have a capacity to produce 120 million phones a year. 30% of handsets made in this factory will be exported to other countries.

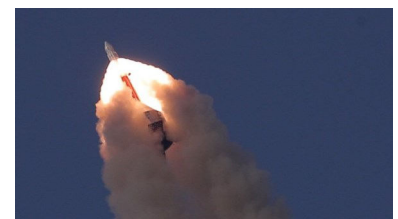
In his address, Prime Minister Modi asserted that through this new mobile manufacturing facility, the combination of Korean technology and Indian manufacturing and software support would provide excellent products for the world.



ISRO Conducts Successful Flight Testing of Crew Escape System

ISRO carried out the first major technology demonstration in a series of tests to qualify a Crew Escape System on 5th July, 2018. The Crew Escape System is an emergency escape measure designed to quickly pull the crew module along with the astronauts to a safe distance from the launch vehicle in the event of a launch abort.

The Crew Escape System along with the simulated crew module with a mass of 12.6 tonnes lifted off from its pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. It soared skyward, arced out over the Bay of Bengal and floated back to Earth under its parachutes about 2.9 km from Sriharikota. The crew module reached an altitude of nearly 2.7 km under the power of its seven specifically designed quick acting solid motors to take away the crew module to a safe distance without exceeding the safe g-levels.



ASI Permits Photography Within the Premises of Centrally Protected Monuments/Sites

The Archaeological Survey of India, an organisation under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, allowed photography within the premises of all centrally protected monuments/sites except three on 12th July, 2018. The three monuments/sites in which photography would not be allowed are Ajanta Caves and Leh Palace having paintings, and Mausoleum of Taj Mahal, Agra.

The move will allow tourists/visitors to take photographs of their experience at heritage monuments and sites in India.



Incredible India Destination: Tiruchirapalli

Situated on the banks of the river Cauvery, Tiruchirapalli in the state of Tamil Nadu, has an antiquity of centuries. Tiruchirapalli, also called as Trichy, was the citadel of the early Chola Rulers, and then the Pallavas conquered and ruled it. The struggle of power between the Pallavas and Pandiyas continued and finally, the Cholas retained control and ruled the city for a long time. The city is a fine blend of tradition, heritage and modern environment.

Rock Fort, Srirangam, Thiruvanaikaval, Upper Anaicut, Grand Anaicut, Narthamalai and Pachamalai are some of the tourist attractions in and around Tiruchirapalli.

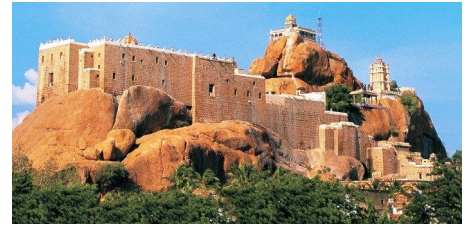
Rock Fort, located in the heart of the city, is a 275 feet tall rock structure, which is about a million years old. The cave temple cut out at the pinnacle is believed to have been built in 580 AD. There are two Hindu temples which feature inscriptions that date back to 3rd Century BC.

Srirangam (7 km from Tiruchirapalli) is a river island town. It is bounded by the river Cauvery on one side and its distributary, Kollidam, on the other. Sri Ranganatha Swamy Temple in Srirangam is the foremost of the eight self-manifested shrines of Lord Vishnu. The temple has seven prakaras or enclosures. There are 21 magnificent towers in the prakaras providing a unique sight to the visitors. Thiruvanaikaval (7 km) is located in Srirangam island. Jambukeswarar-Akilandeswari temple located there is dedicated to Lord Siva. The temple was built around 1800 years ago. The Siva Lingam in the Sanctum Sanctorum is reported to be submerged in the water that flows from a subterranean spring into the Sanctum Sanctorum.

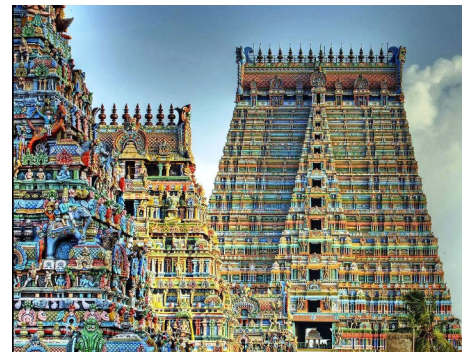
Upper Anaicut or Mukkomu Dam (18 km) is 685 meters long and is in three sections. It was constructed in the 19th century at a point where River Kollidam branches out from the main river, Cauvery, drawing inspiration from the 2nd century Kallanai. Grand Anaicut, called as Kallanai (19 km), is a 330 meters long and 30 meters wide dam. Built by the Great Chola King Karikala Cholan in the 2nd Century, it is a great engineering marvel of the yesteryears for its strength and excellence.

Narthamalai (25 km), a cluster of small hills, has some of the oldest rock cut cave temples as well as the longest rock-cut edicts. The town houses Vijayalaya Choleswaram temple built during the 9th century. Pachamalai (80 km), a green hill range, is popular among the visitors for trekking.

Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Nadirshah Dargha, Vayalur Murugan Temple (8 km) Samayapuram Mariamman Temple (20 km) and Thiruvellarai Temple (25 km) are some of the other major tourist attractions in and around Tiruchirapalli.



Rock Fort



Sri Ranganatha Swamy Temple in Srirangam



Grand Anaicut



Vijayalaya Choleswaram Temple in Narthamalai



Tiruchirapalli as seen from the top of Rock Fort

PHOTO FEATURE

Ambassador Attends the HOMs Conference



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