

November 2021 | Vol 11

THE CONSULAR CHRONICLES



NEWSLETTER

Festivals of

INDIA

Happy Diwali



EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

Greetings

As we move along still under a shadow of uncertainty and doubt of the invisible virus still around, there are some heartening indicators that the pandemic in India may be receding. However, it may be premature to let our guard down.

We are entering a phase of festivities; we are glad to bring you images of a few events around the Nation and we hope that going forward we will soon be able to return to normal activity.

News from FICAC , an Interview with H.E High Commissioner of Tanzania, The Royal Heritage of the Mirazi Khel Clan of Bhopal and much more are packed in this edition of the Consular Chronicles.

Our editorial team has compiled a short feature on India's most popular festival 'Diwali' and hope you find the information informative.

Everyone at the Consular Chronicles wishes you good health and a very Happy Diwali.

As always, we look forward to your suggestions and comments

Stay Safe – Stay Well

Surbhi Sharma

Editor

Consular Chronicles

Honorary Consul of Spain



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Diplomatique-India

HCCD - INDIA MEMBERSHIP



Welcome New Members

BANGALORE



Mr. Anuj Nautiyal
Honorary Consul of Serbia



Mr. N. S. Srinivasa Murthy
Honorary Consul of Vietnam



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HCCD - INDIA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



K L Ganju, o.c.v.c. (cdr.)
Consul General (Hy.)
Advisor to the Foreign Minister
Union of the Comoros
President – HCCD – India

Before I convey my message I am very pleased to inform all Hon'ble colleagues that Hon'ble Mr Purrshottam Bhaggeria, Hony. Consul of Moldova, Secretary-General, HCCD – India, Director, World Federation of Consuls (FICAC) has been selected to receive the “Gusi Peace Prize” which will be conferred on him on 25th November 2021. He is the 10th Indian some of them been Mr Dr Sundaram Natarajan in 2005 (Medicine-Ophthalmology), Late Shri Ram B. Jethmalani in 2006(Humanitarian Law), Mr Achyuta Samanta in 2011 (Poverty Alleviation thru Education and Humanitarianism), Hon. Mr. K L Ganju in 2016 (Humanitarianism) and Dr. Dinesh Sharma in 2019 (Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh) to become Gusi Peace Laureate, the citation of which is signed by the Hon'ble President of the Republic of Philippines.

The Covid – 19 situation in the country has improved and the normal activities, diplomatic or otherwise are slowly being restored. The HCCD – India after celebrating the Consular Day on 31st March, 2021 conducted only one Board of Directors meeting which was held on 30th June, 2021 virtually. The meeting was attended by most of the Directors. Some of the Directors had requested for leave of absence which was accepted. The Secretary General informed the Board about the success of the Consular Day Celebrations in which the Vivek Burman (Dabur) Peace prize was conferred on Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation, headed by Mr. Kailash Satyarthi, Nobel Peace Laureate and Sun Foundation, headed by Hon'ble Mr. Vikramjit Singh Sahney, Padma Shri, Honorary Consul General of South Africa. Apart from this Hon'ble Mr. Ashish Saraf, Hony. Consul of Bahamas and Treasurer HCCD – India was decorated with Bhai Mohan Singh Trophy and Hon'ble Ms. Surbhi Sharma, Hony. Consul of Kingdom of Spain in Bangaluru and Director of HCCD – India, Editor: The Consular Chronicles was decorated with Consul of the Year Trophy. This year we also awarded Medal of Honour to H.E. Mr. Upendra Tripathi, IAS (Retd.) for his excellent role as Director General of International Solar Alliance. The event was covered by media for which we are thankful to the efforts made by our Secretary General.

Since the Covid-19 situation has improved considerably I am proposing to have a physical Board meeting soon. In the meantime, I will be visiting Chennai, Bangaluru and Hyderabad to meet our Hon'ble colleagues. This will be done soon.

In the end, I am pained to inform you that Hon'ble Mr. Kartar Singh Bhalla, former Hony. Consul General of Nauru unfortunately passed away on 5th October, 2021. Hon'ble Mr. Bhalla was the founder Secretary General and also Vice President of HCCD – India. He was instrumental in taking our organisation to the world map and we became member of the FICAC (World Federation of Consuls). It was a great achievement for which Hon'ble Mr. Bhalla will be remembered. Mr. Bhalla apart from being an excellent diplomat was also an author. He has written 6-7 books which are very popular.

I am also pained to inform you about the untimely death of Hon'ble Dr. Ankur Bhatia, Hony. Consul General of Republic of Liberia on 4th June, 2021. Hon'ble Dr. Ankur Bhatia was a young man with a great vision. He was a dynamic personality for which he will be remembered by one an all.

I on behalf of HCCD – India pray to the Almighty to rest their souls in peace.

God bless you all!!



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SECRETARY GENERAL'S MESSAGE



Purrshottam Bhaggeria
Hony. Consul of Maldives
Secretary General, HCCD- India
Director, World Federation of
Consuls (FICA)

The programmes of our Hon'ble President which he conceived during the time of taking over have been achieved. The who's who was completed in time. The Board meetings were held in Chennai and Mumbai. Further Board meetings at different chapters could not be held because of the Covid – 19 situation. The Vivek Burman (Dabur) Peace Prize which was initiated by Hon'ble President was awarded this year. The other awards such as Bhai Mohan Singh Trophy, Consul of the Year Trophy and Medal of Honour are being regularly awarded to Hon'ble colleagues for their excellent work as Hony. Consuls. Since the Covid-19 situation is improving, we will plan to have a physical Board meetings at one of the Chapters soon.

In the meantime, it is to inform you that the next World Congress of the World Federation of Consuls may be held in the end of 2022. The venue of the World Congress at the moment is South Korea. If there is any change the Hon'ble members will be informed accordingly.

About HCCD India

Honorary Consular Corps Diplomatique-India (HCCD-India) was formed in 1995 with the following aims and objectives:-

To promote and strengthen mutual understanding between Honorary Consular officers in India and Abroad
To develop a framework and basis for exchange of information, ideas and suggestions, regarding matters related to the offices of Honorary Consuls General & Honorary Consuls.

To promote at the National and International level better understanding of the duties, rights, functions, obligations and privileges of the consular office and its incumbents, entrusted to fulfil and enhance their important role in International relations.



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AROUND THE NATION

MUMBAI



Greeting Dilahod Akhaov - Consul General of Uzbekistan



H.E Abdulla Husein Salman Mohamed Al-Marzooqi, Consul General United Arab Emirates greeting Mr. Kobbi Shoshani, Consul General, Consulate General of Israel



Mr. Charu Sharma, Commentator, Anchor and Sports Promoter and Mr. Will Obeney, First Secretary (Financial Services), British Deputy High Commission Mumbai.



Mr. Nayan Patel appointed as the Honorary Consul of the United Republic of Tanzania Mumbai By H E Mr. Baraka H Luvanda



Mr. Rajiv Dubey Hon. Consul of Morocco with Mr. Vijay Kalantri Hon Consul of Uzbekistan



Mr. Vijay Kalantri with H.E Mr. Ralph Hays, US Consul General of USA , H.E Mr Abdulla Husein Salman Mohamed Al Mazooqi Consul General of UAE and H.E Mr. Kobi Shoshani Consul



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AROUND THE NATION

CHENNAI



Paraguay ambassador in New Delhi H.E. Mr. Fleming Raul Duarte Ramos visited the consulate of M. Balasubramanian honorary consul of Paraguay in Chennai. Honorary consul of El Salvador Dr. Yashwanth was also present in the consulate office.



Mr K. L. Ganju, President, HCCD (India) greeting Ms. Daniela Sezonov Tane, The incoming Ambassador of Romania.



Secretary General HS. Sukumar -Zambia presented a copy of Who's Who to MEA, Chennai



Dr. M. Venkatachalam IFS head branch Secretariat a H.E Mr. Gabriel Sinimbo, High Commissioner of Republic of Nabia to India, Antony Lobo-Honorary Consul Spain, Mr. Sessa Sai - Honorary Consul Seychelles.



Prof Ranganathan- Honorary Consul of Myanmar was conferred the Buddha Peace Prize



Dinner to welcome the new incoming Ambassador of Romania Ms. Daniela. The guests included The Ambassador of Poland, Director General of ICCR, Additional Secy. & Jt. Secy, MEA, Editor, Indian Express, Sr. Editor-India Today, Ms. Shazia Ilmi.



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AROUND THE NATION

HYDERABAD

The Honorary Consulate General of the Republic of Korea also celebrated the Independence Day of both the Nations in presence of Mr. Cha, MD of Hyundai Mobis in Hyderabad, Mr. Jang Eoung Bin, Head of the Posco Plant in Hyderabad, Mr. Koo Dongreem, Korean Association President in Hyderabad. It is a testament to our Brotherhood that the two Nations are fated together in Liberty on 15th August.

On this occasion, the Honorary Consulate also joined in celebrating Ms. P V Sindhu's achievements at the Tokyo Olympics, the Honorary Consulate General by felicitating Coach Park Tae Sang for all his hard work and contribution on 13th August.



The Honorary Consulate General office conducted the Korean Foundation Day Celebrations on 13th Oct 2021 and announced the opening of our Library. The event was graced by Mr. Yi Kuen Han, Managing Director of Hyundai Motor India Engineering, Mr. Cha, Managing Director of Hyundai Mobis, Coach Park Tae Sang, Mr. Dongreem Koo, President of Korean Association in Hyderabad, members of the Korean community and the US Consulate. It featured special Korean games such as Tuho & Ddakji, Melodious singing and dance performances by K-fans from Hyderabad.

The Library at our office houses a collection of over 1000 books on various subjects in Korean & English and an assortment of audio-visual materials. It is open to the general public from 10 to 5 o'clock on Monday to Friday and is situated on the building's first floor. It provides numerous Korean grammar, art, culture, history, and TOPIK materials, including a subscription of Viki for students to watch Kdramas and Movies for free, which are a real boon for students learning Korean.





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KPOP Contest India is an all India Vocal and Dance contest held every year. The Honorary Consulate General Office supported KFaznzz Entertainment for the Hyderabad Regional Round of KPOP India Contest, 2021. Participants from all over Telangana participated in this contest. The Hyderabad Regional Round was held on 19th October, 2021 which premiered live on YouTube at 5:00 PM-IST. Other activities such as mini games(Online Fan Art Contest, Online Quiz Contest, Click & Proof Contest) were also conducted as a part of the contest.





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AROUND THE NATION

BANGALORE



Welcoming Hon'ble Mr. Suresh Chukkappalli and Mrs. Chukkappalli during thier visit to Bangalore



Event hosted by Consulate of Korea



Hon'ble Ms. Surbhi Sharma being felicitated by Dr. Kiran Mazxumdar Shaw for winning ' HCCD-India Consular of the Year award'



Meeting of Bangalore Chapter



Consular Day event hosted by FKCCI



Inuguration of Consualte of Socialist Republic of Vietnam at Bangalore



Hon'ble Mr.Suresh Mohan wishing H.E Consul General of Japan



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ROYAL HERITAGE OF INDIA - BHOPAL

Bhopal – Impact of erstwhile royalty on India.

By Saad bin Jung

The five-thousand-year-old tradition of monarchy in India was sacrificed by over five hundred and fifty-five princely states, to help create the Dominion of India. From Kashmir to Kanyakumari, confused rulers signed Merger Agreements with the dominion giving birth to the biggest democracy in the world yet the same world chooses to forget their selfless devotion to Bharat; chooses not to acknowledge that all the Rulers who sacrificed for this greater cause, were 'Supreme Kings' in their own right. For them to give it all up was a major move towards the future development of India.

The story of Bhopal's State, like most states that did not have a flair for business or politics, started when His Highness Hamidullah Khan The Ruler of Bhopal, headed the Chamber of Princes and guided his fellow Rulers to lay the very base and foundation of our Democracy. There are rumours, many whisperings, that were started to malign him yet, we his progeny, believe that a man, or in Bhopal's case our women rulers, must be judged by their actions and not what malicious rumour mongers chose to spread. My



grandmother Her Highness Sajida Sultan the Late Begum of Bhopal would often tell me in despair, "India lost a million and a half innocents slaughtered during partition and not a single war crime was initiated against anyone, setting in motion a horrendous precedent. Now you could kill in the name of religion and be rewarded". I was young and I didn't know what she meant. Hamidullah Khan led his people through these torturous and trying times with grace and ensured that not a single Bhopali died in this mayhem. He would often tell his daughter, "Had the Indians come to us instead of going to Pakistan, we would have saved a hundred thousand lives". That never happened and he along with his fellow rulers spent years trying to consolidate their holdings and find a way of paying out the monthly overheads that still rested on their shoulders, for the privy purse was never able to cover all these expenses. And then a few years after his death, came the shocker. All constitutional assurances were rescinded, the privy purse was abolished. The very promise that was given to the Rulers by India was overturned, leaving Bhopal's number one family desperately trying to crawl out of a hopeless abyss with no access to revenue, the private state of the first family started to crumble. Within the blink of an eye, the glorious days of the Begums of Bhopal had ended. History has always been distorted by those in power and soon all the good that had once been done by the Begum's was all but forgotten.





How does one decide if a royal family has had an endearing impact on their people through generations, well after the abolishment of the privy-purse? It's in this context that I write this piece, in the hope that maybe there is learning herein.

The history of Bhopal State is quite unlike any other. Dost Mohammed Khan the ferocious warrior from Afghanistan arrived in Delhi to be introduced to Aurangzeb the Mughal Emperor. He rose to great heights in a short period and was stationed in Central India when the emperor died. He became the protector of a Gond Queen who ruled the region where Bhopal stands today. Dost stood loyally by her through her many trials and tribulations. On her death he took over the crown and became the founding father of Bhopal State. One of the first things he did when he became King was to invite his Mirzai Khel clan from Afghanistan to take over the critical mantle of protecting the inner circle of the palace. The Mirzai Khel clan arrived too much fanfare and took to Bhopal like a fish to water. The Nawab allowed them to introduce their customs but insisted that local Gond traditions should be retained. Nawabs, two-hundred years back, married Gonds to ensure an even keel in the state. Over time a culture unique to Bhopal evolved and remains till date. Most religious functions, weddings etc. are a beautiful marriage of these cultures.



Bhopal is one of two royal lineages in the world that have embraced a chain of women rulers. The first is the Crown of England and the second is Bhopal. At the death of her father, an eighteen-year-old daughter, along with the dowager queen, walked into the crowded and confused Durbar Hall of Bhopal to announce that she, as the sole child of the late ruler, is taking over the Crown. She was accepted unanimously, and the rest is history. The line of Begum rulers started with her and ended with my mother, though the Rulers, post 1947, were titular but had the backing of the constitution till 1971.

The Begums did a lot for their people and stood out in their skill and prowess of administering the state. They were always just and fair with their subjects. Being followers of Islam, they had to rule by the law of Sharia but even in this, they found a path that delivered equity to all. The late Her Highness Sajida Sultan Nawab Begum of Bhopal, my grandmother, would often tell us that their education started at the crack of dawn. They were taught the art of warfare. Riding was compulsory. Then would come religious teachings followed in the end by lessons on how to govern a State, their State. All the aspects of state administration were taught to them from the time they could read and write. One of the fundamental aspects of Sharia law that was ingrained in them was the ability to find an equitable and just path for all their subjects, a majority of whom were non-Muslims. Where a mosque was constructed so were temples and churches. There was no compulsion on religion and conversion to Islam was never forced. All religions were freely practiced. In their quest to prove that Islam is a practical and inclusionary religion, in the 1880's both the Begum Ruler and her mother dropped the veil and ensured that a place for fellow women was reserved in all the mosques of Bhopal. Religious discord was dealt with harshly. 95% of the Bhopal army was non-Muslims and any shift in policy that portrayed a non-secular stance would have led to rebellion within the ranks.



(1847-68) Nawab Sikandar Jehan Begum



The Begum's being progressive and enlightened ladies knew the dangers of allowing personal beliefs and religious ideologies to be combined with power and blind faith. They stayed well away from this potent and lethal combination, administrating their state through fair practices and much love. They were made to study their forefathers' conquests and learn from history. They recognised that ideology, coupled with power to create a new world order was used to conquer other kingdoms, religion was a convenient way to enforce

loyalty but in the case of Bhopal, the majority were non-Muslims and such ideologies had to be dispensed with by the Begums to consolidate their power. The first thing they accomplished was to isolate religion by going to its core philosophy and positioning it as simple, inclusive and harmonious. Parallely, they worked hard to strengthen their armies as the Marathas were forever threatening. They did so by using their acumen. They created loyalty and paid their army well. They painted a vision of inclusivity. Their subjects gave their lives for them on demand, such was their love for the Begum's.



(1868-1901) Shahjehan Begum

My grandmother would often tell me that religion is just a thief's ruse to steal another man's wealth. She said this way back in the 1980's that religion was used in 1947 and will continue to be used time and time again for vote bank politics. "The Begum's detested religion as a tool of governance." She would often tell us.

Taxes were common to all. The nomenclature was different, but the quantum of tax levied on their subject, overall, was the same. People felt safe. Crime through their kingdom was minimal, punishments just. People could move freely around the state to trade. All round education with special emphasis on math and the sciences was introduced in institutions. Both girls and boys were given the opportunity to study. Business thrived and people were content and happy with their rule. Bhopal State was known for safety and security for people travelling through. Trade flourished and local artisans and cottage industry boomed. The 'batwa' a small multi layered pouch made of cloth, to keep the condiments used with betel nut was promoted by Qudsia Jehan Begum (she borrowed the design from the Gond queen) and a cottage industry flourished where beautiful Batwas for both the upper echelons of society and the working class were made to order.

The Begums of Bhopal went out of their way to do good for their people. They even paid from their personal purse to bring in the railways to their beloved city. They built dams that form the many lakes of Bhopal. They bought in drainage, sanitary and plumbing lines and fresh water was piped to their subjects. Midwives were requested from the Crown of England to reduce child mortality. Health and hygiene were given great importance. Hospitals and roads were built throughout their state. The army was strengthened. An intelligence wing was established that ensured the safety of the crown from dissidents and threats from neighboring states.



(1901-26) Sultan Jahan Begum



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The Begum's loved their forests passionately. State administration was based out of Bhopal but was run from Chiklod on most occasions, our private lodge in the bush overlooking a lake. Forest and conservation were an integral part of their administration. Issuing of weapons to the public was restricted through licensing and hunting licenses given based on carrying capacity of different regions. Only the first family and their personal guests were allowed to hunt in the 'shikar gahs'. This proved extremely beneficial for the wildlife as few animals were killed on a yearly basis.



1962-96 HH Begum Sajida Sultan
Bhopal

As alcohol was banned the royals of Bhopal spent time on food, creating their own cuisine. Food was simple but delicious, a blend of spices unique to that region. I still remember the table that would be laid by our grandmother for us. It consisted of phulkas, rice, muttar keema, mutton and potato curry, a chicken dish, yellow dal, and a vegetable dish. Pickled onions, and fresh vegetables like carrots and radish were served with every meal. I was told by the servants that this format has been coming down from generations. North Indian, Afghani, Kashmir food has delicate flavors, with the south being a volatile ingredient of spice and chilly. Bhopal united the two cuisines and like Hyderabad, came up with its own cuisine. Dal Gankras cooked on cowdung being a favourite of the palace. Only at parties did the food become richer.

A retinue of servants manned the palaces. Grandmother had three ADC's (Aide de Camps) and



L-R Ma (Princess Saleha Sultan),
Bhai (Prince Aamer bin Jung,
Nannand (HH Sajida Sultan Begum of Bhopal,
the author, Abba (nawab Bashir Yar Jung)

two servants for every member

of the family. The Asleh Khana staff (armoury), drivers and cooks would complete the rest of the inner coterie of staff. Advance scouts and follow cars had to go with us. Life in the palace, when we were young and growing up, meant little to us but after 1971 with the abolishment of the privy purse, we realized exactly how fortunate we had been to see a life that few in the world would ever get a glimpse of.



Circa 1948 Mt Batten, Lady Mt Batten HH Princess,
Nawab IAK Pataudi



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L-R Princess Saleha Sultan,
HH Sajida Sultan Begum of Bhopal,
Prince Aamer bin Jung,
Princess Sabiha Sultan with the
mah-i-maratib and other honors
of Bhopal State

The selfless devotion of the Begum's to their people resonates in the architecture of Bhopal. The Begum's were intimately involved in making Bhopal one of the most beautiful cities to live in. Their work can be seen till date through the magnificent buildings that adorn Bhopal like little jewels, each offering a stately presence and each signifying secularism, peace and harmony for the people living within the walls of the city.

If you ever visit Bhopal, take a rickshaw or walk the streets; look for old WWII jeeps, batwas, eat traditional Bhopali food and study the old architecture. The work of the Begum's is seeped deep in every fiber of the proud Bhopali. You can then decide for yourself on the impact the Begum's have had on their people. As for me, I endeavor to return to Bhopal to revel in their selfless devotion to Bhopal and in my own way promise to try and make a difference, albeit a small one.



HH Sajida Sultan Begum of Bhopal
receiving nazrana



S Jehan Begum Darbar Hal Sadar Manzil



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NEWS FROM FICAC

October : BREAST CANCER AWARENESS Month !

It is an annual international health campaign organized by major breast cancer charities every October to increase awareness of the disease and to raise funds for research into its cause, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure.

FICAC fully supports Pink October with Doctor-Professor Rajaa AGHZADI, Honorary Consul of Gambia for Morocco and Member of the FICAC Women In Diplomacy Committee (French speaking video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FH9HfPiXV4>

On the 29th of September, 2021, in Sofia, traditional Annual General Assembly of the Association of Honorary Consuls in Bulgaria.

This year reported very intensive activities and drafted the program for the next year... It was a great report by the Board and our President H.E. Borislav Boyanov and even greater and better projects to be developed in the next year as proud members of World Federation of Consuls FICAC...



On the 23rd of September, 2021, FICAC Cup Race in Izmir, Turkey

The "FICAC Cup Race" was organized at İzmir Şirinyer Racecourse: the horse named "Princess Di", registered #2, won this prestigious race.

Hon. Ms. Zeliha Toprak, Honorary Consul of France in İzmir, presented the trophy to Mr. Murat Akça, representing the owner of the winning horse, Mr Ramazan Kayalık, and she presented the FICAC Plate to Mr. Cenk İşkara, İzmir Hippodrome Manager, representing Mr. Serdar Adalı, Chairman of the Board of the Jockey Club of Turkey.

The ceremony was held in the Tribune of Honor of İzmir Hippodrome, in presence of Hon. Mr. Muharrem Toprak, honorary consul of Kosovo in İzmir, Hon. Mr. Ali Tamer Bozoklar, Honorary Consul of Brazil in İzmir and Mr. Aslan Savaşan, Member of the Board of the Jockey Club of Turkey.





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Visit of the Ambassador of Bangladesh in Turkey to FICAC President

On the 18th of August, 2021, H.E. Mr. Mosud Mannan, ndc, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Republic of Turkey, accompanied by his wife, visited our President in his residence in Istanbul.

H.E. Mr. Mosud Mannan is a very good friend of our Board of Director's Member Hon. Asif Chowdhury.

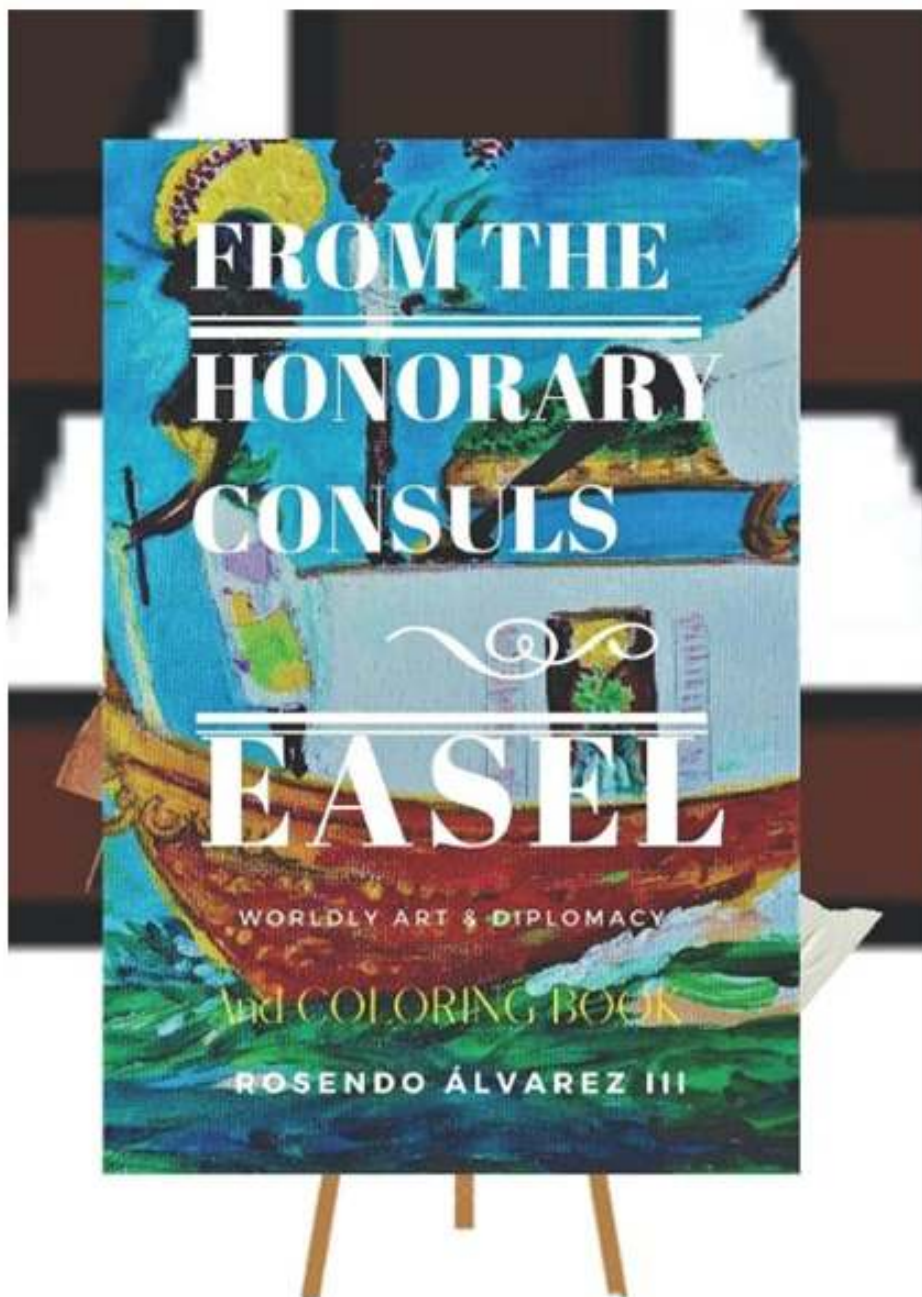




Edition of 2 very interesting books by Hon. Rosendo Alvarez III, honorary consul of Estonia in the Dominican Republic:

1) The Honorary Consuls Worldly Handbook: Fun Guide to a Successful Consular Practice (available on Amazon) [The Honorary Consuls Worldly Handbook: Fun Guide to a Successful Consular Practice: Alvarez III, Rosendo: 9798735747345: Amazon.com: Books](https://www.amazon.com/Books/dp/9798735747345)

2) From The Honorary Consuls Easel: Worldly Art and Diplomacy and coloring book [FROM THE HONORARY CONSULS EASEL: WORLDLY ART & DIPLOMACY - Kindle edition by ÁLVAREZ III, ROSENDO. Self-Help Kindle eBooks @ Amazon.com.](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08K1K1K1K)





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SPECIAL FOCUS

Investment opportunities in Namibia

GOOD DAY!

My name is Gabriel Sinimbo, the High Commissioner of the Republic of Namibia to the Republic of India.

We want to invite you to invest and do business in Namibia, a country with excellent logistical systems, conducive legal systems and appropriate infrastructure in place.

WHY TRADE AND INVEST WITH NAMIBIA?

1. NAMIBIA OFFERS STRATEGIC BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

The Namibian Government and private sector throughout the country are seeking partners in realising identified viable projects and business opportunities on a mutually beneficial basis. Such partnership include: Direct private investment; Financing; Joint venture; Public-private partnership

2. ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STABILITY

Namibia is often described as Africa's optimist –and with good reason. Not only does it enjoy one of the continent's most pleasant, peaceful and politically stable environments, but also an infrastructure to rival many countries around the world. There are many reasons why one would invest in Namibia, amongst them are:

- Our country enjoys preferential trade links to the 190 million inhabitants of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) as one of the 14 member states.
- Namibia belongs to the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) affording duty and quota free access to the South African market and others.
- Namibia is signatory to the Cotonou Agreement, giving duty free access to the European Union for a wide range of manufactured and agricultural products.
- Namibia has duty and quota free access to the lucrative US market under the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).
- Namibia offers among the attractive fiscal incentives in Africa via its Export Processing Zone (EPZ) regime.
- Namibia has a wealth of attractions and advantages for foreign-owned companies looking for business opportunities.
- Namibia has an advantageous legislative and fiscal environment and a government keen to foster the engines of economic growth and prosperity.



3. NAMIBIA OFFERS VARIOUS INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN MOST SECTORS

3.1. Agriculture and Agro-Industry

Namibia's agricultural sector is also imperative to the country's economy with a thriving red meat industry and the cultivation of crops such as maize, wheat, pearl millet, groundnuts, beans and cotton.

- Investment opportunities exist in value-added local processing of livestock, ostrich farming, crop production and food processing.
- Good prospects exist for extensive horticulture, such as grapes, olive oil, jojoba and cut flowers.
- Cotton production and establishment of a cotton ginnery

3.2. Fisheries

Namibia has rich fishing grounds, with their stock of both demersal and pelagic species, which place the country among top 10 nations in the international fishing sector.

- Namibia has rich marine resources and fishing grounds.
- Mari-culture and aquaculture potentials exist.
- Opportunities exist for fish processing and canning.





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3.3. Mining and Energy Sector

Namibia has an abundance of natural resources, among them, a wide range of mineral deposits including world class diamonds and uranium, copper, lead, zinc, gold, semi-precious stones, industrial minerals, salt and fluorspar.

- Extensive mineral deposits
- Diamonds, uranium, gold, copper, lead, zinc and other base metals
- Semi-precious stones and many types of dimension stones.
- Value-addition encouraged
- Manufacturing (jewelry)
- Good prospects for oil and gas prospecting, exploration and processing

3.4. Tourism

Namibia's Tourism sector continues to be a booming industry for reasons such as:

- Spectacular scenery and wildlife
- Excellent infrastructure, warm climate and friendly atmosphere
- Opportunities in the development of up-market hotels, International conference centres, lodges, game parks, traveling and general hospitality industry

3.5. Other Investment Opportunities

- Cutting and polishing of precious and semi-precious stones, marbles and granites
- Leather products
- Glass products
- Manufacturing of pharmaceutical products
- Down-stream processing of gas
- Cement manufacturing
- Steel manufacturing
- Textiles and garments manufacturing
- Household appliances
- Electric and electronic components assembly
- Manufacturing of automotive components
- IT (hard and software assembly/manufacturing)
- Poultry and piggery
- Hotel and restaurants
- Upmarket tourism development
- Manufacturing of plastic products
- Manufacturing of building materials
- Furniture assembly



Consider Namibia as your location so that it can offer you the gateway to Namibia and the SADC market in general. I invite you to get information and to get in touch with High Commission of the Republic of Namibia in New Delhi to guide you further.

Thank you!



High Commissioner
Republic of Namibia



DIWALI - The Festival of Lights

Deepawali, Deepavali, or Diwali is the biggest and the brightest of all Hindu festivals. It is the festival of lights: Diwali is marked by days of celebration, which literally illuminates the country with its brilliance and dazzles people with its joy. Diwali is one of the most beautiful and joyous times in the Indian Calendar, filled with love and rejoicing. It is a time of new beginnings, a festival of light, abundance, and fulfilment as well as a celebration of good over evil and wisdom over ignorance, which can be enjoyed by everyone, everywhere.



The Diwali festival occurs in late October or early November. It falls on the 15th day of the Hindu month of Kartik, so it varies every year. Historically, Diwali can be traced back to ancient India. It most likely began as an important harvest festival. However, there are various legends pointing to the origin of Diwali.

Some believe it to be the celebration of the marriage of Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, with Lord Vishnu. Others use it as a celebration of her birthday, as Lakshmi is said to have been born on the new-moon day of Kartik.

In Bengal, the festival is dedicated to the worship of Mother Kali, the dark goddess of strength. Lord Ganesha—the elephant-headed god and symbol of auspiciousness and wisdom—is also worshiped in most Hindu homes on this day. In Jainism, Deepawali has the added significance of marking the great event of Lord Mahavira attaining the eternal bliss of nirvana.

Diwali also commemorates the return of Lord Rama (along with Ma Sita and Lakshman) from his 14-year-long exile and vanquishing the demon-king Ravana. In joyous celebration of the return of their king, the people of Ayodhya, the capital of Rama, illuminated the kingdom with earthen *diyas* (oil lamps) and set off firecrackers.



Each day of Diwali has its own tale to tell. The first day of the festival, *Naraka Chaturdasi* marks the vanquishing of the demon Naraka by Lord Krishna and his wife Satyabhama.

Amavasya, the second day of Deepawali, marks the worship of Lakshmi when she is in her most benevolent mood, fulfilling the wishes of her devotees. *Amavasya* also tells the story of Lord Vishnu, who, in his dwarf incarnation, vanquished the tyrant Bali and banished him to hell. Bali is allowed to return to earth once a year to light millions of lamps and dispel darkness and ignorance while spreading the radiance of love and wisdom. It is on the third day of Deepawali, *Kartika Shudda Padyami*, that Bali steps out of hell and rules the earth according to the boon given by Lord Vishnu. The fourth day is referred to as *Yama Dvitiya* (also called Bhai Dooj) and on this day sisters invite their brothers to their homes.

Some people refer to Diwali as a five-day festival because they include the festival of Dhanteras (*dhan* meaning "wealth" and *teras* meaning "13th"). This celebration of wealth and prosperity occurs two days before the festival of lights.

The tradition of gambling on Diwali also has a legend behind it. It is believed that on this day, Goddess Parvati played dice with her husband Lord Shiva. She decreed that whosoever gambled on Diwali night would prosper throughout the ensuing year.



Homes are illuminated with lights, and firecrackers fill the skies as an expression of respect to the heavens for the attainment of health, wealth, knowledge, peace, and prosperity.

Beyond the lights, gambling, and fun, Diwali is also a time to reflect on life and make changes for the upcoming year. With that, there are a number of customs that revellers hold dear each year.



Prosper and progress. On this day, Hindu merchants in North India open their new account books and pray for success and prosperity during the coming year. People buy new clothes for the family. Employers, too, purchase new clothes for their employees.

Homes are cleaned and decorated by day and illuminated by night with earthen oil lamps. The best and finest illuminations can be seen in Bombay and Amritsar. The famous Golden Temple at Amritsar is lit in the evening with thousands of lamps.

In each legend, myth, and story of Deepawali lies the significance of the victory of good over evil. It is with each Deepawali and the lights that illuminate our homes and hearts that this simple truth finds new reason and hope.

From darkness unto light—the light empowers us to commit ourselves to good deeds and brings us closer to divinity. During Diwali, lights illuminate every corner of India, and the scent of incense sticks hangs in the air, mingled with the sounds of firecrackers, joy, togetherness, and hope.

Diwali is celebrated around the globe. Outside of India, it is more than a Indian festival; it's a celebration of South-Asian identities. If you are away from the sights and sounds of Diwali, light a *diya*, sit quietly, shut your eyes, withdraw the senses, concentrate on this supreme light, and illuminate the soul.





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SPECIAL GUEST - Interview with H E Mr. Baraka Haran Luvanda, High Commissioner of the United Republic of Tanzania by Mr. Alban Rodricks



H E Mr. Baraka Haran Luvanda
High Commissioner of the
United Republic of Tanzania

Q 1. What do you like most about India and why?

With the similarities between India and Tanzania it is none other than the connectivity. It is much easier for us to decide to go anywhere in India, outside India, anytime and at any budget, unlike in some other duty post. My four and half year experience in India has been an exciting one.

I should mention to you that since July 2019 Air Tanzania operates the best dreamliner between Mumbai and Dar es Salaam, which makes it possible for you to have breakfast in Mumbai, lunch in Dar es Salaam and dinner in Zanzibar!

I equally liked the practical living of the Sanskrit philosophy of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", which means "the world is one family". I have enjoyed mingling freely with Indian families.



Q2. Tanzania is known as the wildlife capital of the world, what would be your advise to one visiting it for the first time?

I will give you some striking figures to substantiate this:

There are seven (7) World Heritage Sites in Tanzania; 22 National Parks; 31 Game Reserves; 44 Game Controlled Areas; 33 Wildlife Management Areas; Four Ramsar Sites; Three Marine Parks; natural beaches in Zanzibar and Mount Kilimanjaro!

Tanzania has an array of iconic tourist attractions, which are also included among UNESCO list of world heritage sites. These places include: **The Kilimanjaro National Park**

The Kilimanjaro National Park protects the largest free-standing volcanic mass in the world and the highest mountain in Africa, rising over 5895m at its peak. With its snow-capped peak, the Kilimanjaro is a superlative natural phenomenon, standing in isolation above the surrounding plains overlooking the savannah. The mountain is encircled by mountain forests. Numerous mammals, many of them endangered species, live in the park.

The Ngorongoro Conservation Area

The Ngorongoro Conservation Area spans vast expanses of highland plains, savanna, savanna woodlands and forests. It is a sanctuary where wildlife coexists with semi-nomadic Maasai pastoralists, practising traditional livestock grazing. The area includes the spectacular Ngorongoro Crater, the world's largest caldera. The area has global importance for bio diversity conservation due to the density of wildlife inhabiting the area, and the annual migration of wildebeest, zebra, gazelles and other animals into the northern plains. The Ngorongoro Conservation Area has yielded an exceptionally long sequence of crucial evidence related to human evolution and human-environment dynamics, collectively extending from four million years ago to the beginning of this era, including physical evidence of the most important benchmarks in human evolutionary development.



The Serengeti National Park

The Serengeti National Park is best known for the famous annual migration in search of pasture and water. It is the most impressive nature spectacle in the world where over two million wildebeests plus hundreds of thousands of gazelles and zebras-followed by their predators, go on an annual trek.

The Stone Town of Zanzibar

The Stone Town of Zanzibar is a fine example of the Swahili coast trading towns of East Africa. It retains its urban and town scape virtually intact and contains many fine buildings that reflect its particular culture, which has brought together and homogenized disparate elements of the cultures of Africa, the Arab region, India and Europe for more than a millennium.

Q3. Can you please share about the gastronomic delights of Tanzania. Is Indian cuisine available?

A Tanzanian meal that could be considered the country's national dish is "ugali", a stiff porridge made of cassava flour, cornmeal (maize), millet, or sorghum, and usually served with a sauce containing either meat, fish, beans, or cooked vegetables. Again, depending on the regions, the most popular foods are green bananas cooked with meat and beans mostly for the people living in the highlands. Rice and fish is popular for people living along coastal areas.

Traditional Tanzanian food can be on almost any street. From grilled meats, "mishikaki" or rather "nyama choma" to BBQ corn on the cob, and chips and eggs "chips mayai". But, if you are looking for something a little more in the specialties category, like vegies, there are quite a number of hotels and restaurants that serve buffet-style meals at lunch time which also offer a variety of Tanzanian stews, deep fried fish and chicken, and vegetables.

The local "hotels" or restaurants can be found on just about every major street and you can get all kind of delicious meals. With a large native South Asian population, Indian restaurants can be found in all major cities and towns.

Q4. Which is your personal favourite place in Tanzania and why?

My favourite place to have visited so far remains the Ngorongoro Crater. For reasons given herein above, I still have a nostalgic feel since 2004, when I visited the park. While in the Crater, the scenery was so awesome. I recall pretty much having had lunch while in the company of some wildebeests! It was also more interesting to see the Maasai roaming about in the Crater with their herds of cattle, with lions admiring them! One needs to see this instead of being told such stories.



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HISTORY OF STAMPS

The story of stamps will take us the early times of the Roman empire through the medieval times in Europe, and all the way to the beginning of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Even through the Middle Ages in Europe, the government-mandated courier systems were still locked for the public. They were used only for sending governmental messaging and transporting packages between government officials.

During this time, universities, monasteries, and even townspeople had to send their own private messengers and couriers to send messages and documents.

These private couriers held all the messages and documents in a chain-linked metal bags to secure the documents along the way. The public called them "chain mail", which is where we got the word "mail" from.

By the early years of the 18th century, the British Royal mail had a mailing service called "The English Postal System".

However, the new mailing system wasn't only exclusive for royal mailing services and government communication.

For the first time in history, the postal system was available to use by both the government and individuals.

When the English Postal System first started, there was no specific way to pay for the letters sent. That meant that while the sender can always pay for the letter in advance, most of the letters at this time were paid for when they're delivered to the receiver's end.

However, due to the higher price for everything including delivering these letters, many people refused to accept the letter when they receive it in order to avoid paying for it.

In fact, some people developed a smart way to cheat the English postal system, in which they would use a secret language or signs written on the outer part of the letter that conveyed the meaning of the message.

With this cheat, all the receivers had to do was to read these signs or secret language, and then refuse to accept the letter, and thus he wouldn't need to pay for it.

This created a problem for the English postal service since these cheating techniques started growing more with time. As a result, the English postal service had to turn all letters into prepaid mail only.

From that moment after, all mail had to be paid for prior to being sent, this required a method to ensure the payment on the letter. It wasn't until the year 1840 in England when Sir Rowland Hill Invented the first-ever post stamp in history.

Lovrenc Kosir

Also known as Laurenz Koschier, was an Austrian Slovene civil servant who worked at Ljubljana, the capital of modern-day Slovenia.

In 1835, Lovrenc Koschier sent a suggestion to the Department of Commerce in Austria, which had the responsibility of Austrian postal service under its belt.

The suggestion was to use a signature postmark on prepaid letters that he called "aufklebbare brieftax stempel" which translates to "adhesive tax stamps".





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HISTORY OF STAMPS

Sir Rowland Hill

In 1837, Sir Rowland Hill issued a classified message holding the title "Post Office Reform" to Thomas Spring-Rice, the Chancellor of Treasury. A schoolmaster from England, Sir Rowland Hill invented the adhesive postage stamp in 1837, an act for which he was knighted. Through his efforts, the first stamp in the world was issued in England in 1840



Penny Black: The First-Ever Post Stamp

By the first of May in 1840, the United Kingdom of England and Ireland produced the first-ever documented stamp and it became available for the general public, which was known as the Penny Black. About 70 million stamps were released in the first year of its production.



Two days later, The Two Penny Blue was issued where it was stamped on any letter that weighs less than 1 ounce (30gms) to be sent anywhere inside the kingdom, while the penny black was for anything weight half an ounce.

The first official central royal mail office was opened in England 1516. Nearly 300 years later Sir Rowland Hill suggested 1835 that letters until the weight of a half English ounce (14.5 g) should be carried for a uniform fee of 1 Penny. The receiver had no longer to pay the postage fee, but the sender.

The second country which issued stamps was Brazil 1843. It issued the so-called Ox Eyes. The Swiss Cantonese Zurich and Geneve issued stamps in the same year.

Some postmasters in the USA issued stamps starting 1845. The first official issue followed 1847. The famous first stamps of Mauritius were printed 1847.



The first German stamp was issued 11/1/1849 in Bavaria, the black Bavarian Kreuzer.

Since the introduction of stamps, they've gone through many modifications. They've changed in shapes, colours, perforations, and sizes



The introduction of this densely decorated small pieces of paper not only changed the world by connecting it much easier, but it also made for a very interesting and educational hobby that we all love and enjoy.



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HISTORY OF STAMPS



Details - Wikipedia
History of Stamps - Stamps from the Private collection of Vaswani Family