September 2018 | Vol 5

THE CONSULAR CHRONICLES

NEWSLETTER

Hon. Consular Corps
Diplomatique-India

Premiere

Franz Schubert's Unfinished Opera

shakuntala

A Project of the Cultural Forum of the Austrian Embassy, New Delhi

Presented in Mumbai by Honorary Consulate General of Austria & Jasubhai Group

"Shakuntala" is an unfinished opera in three acts, written c. 1820 by Franz Schubert to a libretto by Johann Philipp Neumann. The opera is based on the Sanskrit story of Shakuntala's love for King Duschmanta and her rejection. The famous Indian love story has impressed various authors and artistes throughtout the years.

The history of Schubert's "Shakuntala" is interesting. Western poets and artistes were being introduced to Indian literature and philosophy around the 18th Century. In 1789, Kalidas's "Shakuntala" was translated by Sir William Jones, reportedly the first Indian play to be translated into a Western language. The famous love story caught the attention of artistes & stirred the Austrian composer, Franz Schubert to write an opera on this tale. He composed it around 1820, but it remained incomplete as he died at the young age of 31.

This concert version of the musical masterpiece was arranged and completed by the composer, conductor and president of the Vienna Boys' Choir, Professor Gerald Wirth, and will be performed by the Austrian Chamber Orchestra together with the renowned Indian Shillong Choir.

Schubert's musical text will be interpreted by the Indian Classical dancer Shovna Narayan. In addition, the story will be presented to the audience by an Indian narrator in English.

Opera Tickets available at the box office at the NCPA, Nariman Point

Rs. 750/-

Rs. 500/-

Mumbai

Date: Saturday, 6th October 2018

Time: 7.00 P.M.

Venue: Jamshed Bhabha Theatre, NCPA, Mumbai.

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Hon. Consular Corps
Diplomatique-India

EDITOR'S NOTE

Greetings

The Consular Chronicles is happy to bring to you a few snapshots of the various activities of HCCD during the last few months.

As most of India witnessed unprecedented rains, Kerala was the worst affected and our prayers go out to them and wish them a speedy recovery. We are indeed proud to say that many of our Honorable Members extended a hand of support in all forms including rebuilding of homes.

The Nation in Focus for this issue is Mongolia and our Special Feature is on "The Hope Express" Our Special Guest for this issue is
H.E Mr. Francious Gauter
Consul General of France – "Bienvenue "

We welcome New Members to HCCD-India and do hope that many Members have registered for the World Congress at Brussels.

Warm Regards

Suresh Vaswani
Vice President HCCD-India
Hon. Consul of Benin

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Honorary Consul for Colombia
Bangalore

Mr. Vivek Siddarth Partheeban
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Mumbai

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

4th-7th October 2018 — FICAC – WORLD CONGRESS AT BRUSSELS

DELHI

National day of the Union of Comoros was celebrated in New Delhi on 27th July, 2018 by Hon'ble Mr. K.L. Ganju, o.c.v.c. (cdr.), Consul General (Hy.) and Advisor to the Foreign Minister, Union of Comoros. The Chief Guest for the Function was Ms. Ruchi Ghanashayam, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India. The function was attended by Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Consul Generals from different countries. There were more than 400 guests from different walks of life which included Doctors, Senior Government Officials, Politicians and friends. The celebration ended with excellent dinner. This was the 13th National Day of the Union of the Comoros celebrated by the Consul General (Hy.) of the Union of the Comoros.

WORLD FEDERATION OF CONSULS

The 12th World Congress of World Federation of Consuls (FICAC) is scheduled to the held from 4th to 6th October, 2018 in Brussels (Belgium). The last World Congress which was held in Istanbul (Turkey) in the year 2015 and a large number of Hony. Consuls from Bangalore participated. It is a great opportunity for all of us to participate in Brussels (Belgium) and interact with the Hony. Consuls from around the world. Hon'ble Mr. K.L. Ganju, Consul General (Hy.) of the Republic of the Union of the Comoros has been nominated by HCCD-India to fight the elections for the post of Director at FICAC. . It is therefore required that as many Hony. Consuls from India may join the World Congress to support Hon'ble Mr. Ganju and also the bid to host the 13th World Congress at India.

The HCCD – India is growing and is planning to have different programmes in Mumbai, Bangalore and Chennai in the coming year. HCCD – India continues in its efforts to facilitate all the immunities, facilities and privileges, as allowed in the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, 1963, be granted to the Hony. Consuls. While HCCD – India has succeeded in so many ways there are more efforts to be made

MUMBAI

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) is a very vital part of HCCD Mumbai's DNA and is our sustainability strategy The Melting Pot – Consular Corps Charity Carnival. (MP-CCCC) was held on 5th August 2018 at the Regal Room, Trident Hotel.

This unique initiative is organized by The Consular Corps in Mumbai and The Rotary Club of Bombay. The event was graced by a lot of Diplomatic Community members and sponsored by Mrs Rajashree Birla, Mrs Piloo Tata, Mr Madhusudan Agrawal and Mr Kamal Khetan who supported the cause and contributed to the charities along with the Diplomatic community.

This year, we saw participation from twenty-three Consulates namely - Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Estonia, Iran, Kenya, Ethiopia, Sweden, Canada, Gabon, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Malaysia, Poland, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, Uganda and United Kingdom. They showcased their traditions, customs and culture through their cuisine, drinks and dance. The funds raised from this event will be donated to four charities:

- **Habitat for Humanity**,
- **Coro,**
- **EmancipAction**
- **Dayanand Hospital**

Guests of Honour :Mrs. Rajashree Birla - Hon. Consul General of Phillipines, Mrs. Piloo Tata - Chairman MK Tata Trust, Mr. Madhusudan Agrawal, Hon Consul of Uganda Mr. Vijay Jatia, President of Rotary Club of Bombay and Mr. Gul Kripalani, Convenor MP-CCCC

Around 400 people witnessed and experienced the wide choice of cuisines and entertainment.

In all these years, the Melting Pot – Consular Corps Charity Carnival has supported over 50 NGOS.

Some of the participating Consulates

South African consulate surprised the crowd with their Flash Mob on the popular track Mafikizolo Ndihamba

Mr. Gul Kripalani, Convenor of the Melting Pot – Consular Corps Charity Carnival says, "The success of the Melting Pot – Consular Corps Charity Carnival makes me proud. In a country like India where fusion food is gaining great importance, this is one event where the consulates in Mumbai have joined together to weave an evening with food and to push for the upliftment of the poor and the less privileged. Events like this give us a better understanding of each other's culture. I would like to thank all my partners for supporting us since the inception."

NATION IN FOCUS - ICELAND

Mr. Gul Kripalani
Consul of Iceland in Mumbai

Iceland and India, despite the distance and contrast in population size have built a strong friendly relation based on shared democratic values and mutual interest. The opening of the Icelandic Embassy in February 2006 in New Delhi and of the Indian Embassy in Reykjavík in August 2008 have further strengthened diplomatic and business ties between the two countries.

India is one of Iceland's priority countries when it comes to foreign economic relations. The Governments of Iceland and India have taken measures to facilitate stronger business relations, including through the conclusion of bilateral agreements on the Promotion and Protection of Investments and on the Avoidance of Double Taxation, as well as an Air Service Agreement and MoUs in such areas as renewable energy and sustainable fisheries. Furthermore, a broad-based Free Trade Agreement is being negotiated between India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) of which Iceland is a member. The trade agreement, when concluded, will serve as a catalyst for increased bilateral trade and investment between Iceland and India.

Trade relationship between Iceland and India is growing, and there are ample business and investment opportunities in targeted areas in both the countries. To mention a few, they include renewable energy (geothermal energy and hydro power), food processing technologies, medical equipment (prosthetics and braces), biotechnology (food supplements, nutritional, biomedical and cosmetic products), and IoT/Gaming. The Icelandic start-up industry is also fast growing and provides an attractive market, especially in cutting-edge sectors like digital technology and biotechnology. Tourism is a fast-growing area where the number of Indian tourists visiting Iceland has increased annually by 50% for the last few years. Another area is Filming in Iceland by Indian film production companies is becoming well-established, the most known production being the music video “Gerua” from the film Dilwale, which has received over 200 million views on YouTube. The commencement of WOW Air's (low cost pvt. Airline from Iceland) direct flights between Reykjavik and New Delhi in December 2018 will further boost tourism and trade between the two countries.

The Nordic Sustainable Cities Project in India which is collaboration between the five Nordic countries (Finland, Iceland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden) with selected Indian cities under India's mega smart cities project will enhance cooperation in areas of sustainable cities solutions. This project will use the momentum of the recent India-Nordic summit in Stockholm where the Prime Ministers pledge to deepen cooperation.

I welcome and look forward to work closely with our new Ambassador for Iceland in India, H.E. Guðmundur Árni Stefánsson. He has a lot of valuable experience; having been Ambassador in the United States and as such also accredit to Mexico, Brazil and Argentina, and before that serving in Sweden with countries like Albania, Cyprus, Kuwait on his portfolio. In addition, Ambassador Stefánsson was active in politics for decades, being the Mayor of his hometown, Hafnarfjörður (3rd largest in Iceland) and a member of parliament for 13 years and Minister for Health and Social issues for two years. And as a young man he worked as a journalist for ten years. His background and experience is something which will for sure be an asset for strengthening the ties between Iceland and India.

CHENNAI

The Chennai Chapter of HCCD-India celebrated its Annual Meet on 27th July and Rear Admiral Alok Bhatnagar N.M , Flag Officer Commanding – Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Naval Area was the Guest of Honor and Mr. Jay Jethawa, Vice Chairman – World Federation of United Nations Associations, Geneva was the Guest Speaker.

SPECIAL FEATURE

THE HOPE EXPRESS

Always ready to extend a helping hand: -
The Agrawal Brothers – Shri Purushottam Agrawal and Shri Madhusudan Agrawal throughSamta foundation have brought real transformational changes in the most underprivileged people living in the tribal belt of India and now to Africa- Uganda.

Samta Foundation was instituted by the illustrious Agrawal brothers that own Ajanta Pharma Ltd, one of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies, wanting to create ample opportunities for men and women to be able to afford basic healthcare and secure livelihoods. Working with the tribal communities of Palghar in Maharashtra, and adopting several upliftment programs across Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Samta Foundation today supports over thousands of people in their daily work and healthcare.

H.E Mr. Madhusudan Agrawal, Honorary Consul of The Republic of Uganda in Mumbai – India for western zone and ever since his appointment as HonoraryConsul, he has been instrumental in contributing in the major events organized by the Mumbai Chapter of HCCD-India

Be it event of 2017- Melting pot and thereafter 26/11, wherein he has contributed generously Rs. 21 lakhs to Maharashtra Chief Minister Fund and Rs 1.02 crores to Bharat keVeer project on 26/11 Memorial Day for supporting these martyrs' families who sacrificed their life on this day. Post Agrawal's appeal and this event, Govt of India, has got the collection of Rs 12.93 crores for Bharat keVeer project.

The gift of good health and cancer awareness Brest Cancer – "Early Detection Saves Life"- the Hope Express, a mobile mammography unit to detect the early presence of breast and cervical cancer in women has been presented to Uganda by the Samta Foundation. This van, complete with state-of-the-art technology, was presented by the Chairman of Samta Foundation, Purushottam Agrawal and Hon. Consul of the Republic of Uganda, H.E Madhusudan Agrawal.

Hope Express, the mobile mammography unit, will travel the length and breadth of the country particularly in the lesser accessible interiors and tribal areas of Uganda and could save several thousands of lives, This noble effort by Samta Foundation is the first solid step towards, cancer care, after holding several camps for cataract screening and surgery across India and Uganda.

The mobile unit was inaugurated and toured by the Ambassadors of four African countries - H.E Mossi Rosette - DRC Congo, H.E Maxwell Ranga - Zimbabwe, H.E Ernest Rwamucyo - Rwanda and H.E Baraka Luvanda - Tanzania, the Chairman of Samta Foundation, Purushottam Agrawal, Actor -Mr. Suniel Shetty and Dr. Kailash Sharma from Tata Memorial.

The Hope Express provides Hope the Societies of the World and we wish that this Philanthropic and Noble work encourages other to extend a Helping Hand.The Foundation us inviolved in various activities such as Cataract Surgeries , Education support especially for Computer & Robotics , promoting Family Planning education and Skill Development. This reflects his big heart and pay back to society and community.

BANGALORE

The Bangalore Chapter of HCCD-India welcomed the Consul General of Switzerland – Mr. Sabastien Hug and a cocktail dinner was hosted by Mrs. Geetanjali Kirloskar – Honorary Consul of Finland.

Members of the Bangalore Chapter called upon the Chief Secretary

Mr. Vikram Vishwanath and Mr. Suresh Mohan with Mr. H. D Kumarswamy Chief Minister of Karnataka

Hon. Consular Corps Diplomatique-India

DOWN MEMORY LANE

11th FICAC World Congress at Istanbul November 2015

BRIDGING THE WORLD
FICAC

BRIDGING THE WORLD
AHCT

11th WORLD CONGRESS OF CONSULS
NOVEMBER 18-22, 2015 ISTANBUL-TURKEY
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NOVEMBER 18-22, 2015 ISTANBUL-TURKEY

A SPECIAL GUEST

Mr. Francois Gauiter
Consul General of France

Bienvenueen France

Bienvenue, welcome: this is the main message we want to tell to India as the relation between our two countries is first and foremost a relation between our two people. Welcome to France, for holidays, for business, for investments or for studies.

France is proud to be the first touristic destination in the world, with more than 80 million of foreign visitors every year; and amongst them, more and more Indians. And it is now much easier to travel to France when you are vegetarian than it was before. You can even find some very good Indian restaurants when you have had too much of the French food!

France is also an important destination for Indian business people. More than 400 French companies are established in India, many of them in Bangalore, with plants, engineering teams and R&D centers: French companies make in India, French companies innovate in India. And for those who are not yet in India, you are most welcome to goto France and meet them there.

France is also a destination that attracts many foreign investors: it is the second largest economy in the EU, the 7th in the world, with a vibrant and innovative ecosystem. More and more Indian companies decide to invest in France and make France their gateway to Europe.

And last but not least, France ranks third in terms of receiving the highest number of international students, right after the US and the UK. There is no language barrier anymore: many curriculums in many institutions (business schools, engineering colleges, universities) are fully taught in English. If speaking French is not mandatory to study, learning the language will still be an add-on for communication and for making the most of the stay in the Hexagon.

Indian students have been increasingly opting for France for their higher studies and France has been making active efforts to welcome them in its world class institutions. During his milestone visit to India in March, the President of France, H. E. Mr. Emmanuel Macron encouraged Indian students to #Choose France as a study destination. In 2017, 5300 Indian students opted for higher education in France. By the year 2020, France aims to welcome 10000 Indian students to Europe's most innovative country. Out of these young talented people, one third of them come from Bangalore and Karnataka; they are the ones who will nurture and deepen our partnership for the decades to come.

Last year, the Embassy offered 500 scholarships, including under its flagship 'Charpak' programme for Master's degrees, exchange semesters and research internships. French companies, such as MBDA, also offer scholarships to Indian students, including tuition fee waivers and a monthly stipend. The newly established Franco Indian Education Trust has started offering scholarships in the artistic field and will expand the range of its fields in the coming months.

We tell to Indians: You are welcome in France! Welcome to pursue your higher studies, to create, innovate and invest! Welcome to build together the future of the Indo-French relation.

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