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THE CONSULAR CHRONICLES





EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Colleagues and Friends

All of us have had to face this terrible Pandemic - COVID 19 and our heartfelt thoughts are with all of you and your beloved families.

Apart from staying safe, we have also had to remain available to assist the nationals of our sending countries who are far away from their homes and unable to travel back in these harsh times.

The Covid pandemic continues to sweep across the Globe and the world eagerly awaits a vaccine and a cure.

Just as every unexpected crisis produces its own set of Heroes, the war against the Corona virus too has brought to the forefront extraordinary new saviors.

These are men and women thrust into the front lines to try and protect people. They have put their lives on the line, not just to save lives but also to keep the essential services operational. These are the New Warriors. True heroism is ordinary people doing extraordinary things. On behalf of every member of HCCD-India we extend a Big Thank you to these magnificent men and women.

This issue of Consular Chronicles is a tribute to these brave hearts.

While there has been very limited activity, we have put together news and views from across the World and do hope that you enjoy reading this issue.

As always we look forward to your comments and suggestions.

Stay well - Stay safe

Surbhi Sharma

Editor

Consular Chronicles

Honorary Consul of Spain



SALUTING THE CORONA VIRUS HEROS



Dr. Kiran Mazumdar Shaw
Honorary Consul of Ireland

Every crisis throws up its heroes, and the COVID-19 crisis has made the world realise that real heroes wear scrubs.

Globally, an army of healthcare workers are showing up at hospitals and clinics to battle a disease they have never encountered before. They are fighting a disease that does not yet have proven treatments or a vaccine. Many are working in challenging conditions and without enough personal protective equipment (PPE). Most are going beyond the call of duty to care for their patients. Recently, a video of a doctor dancing in a protective suit went viral on the Internet. The one-minute-long video showed Dr Arup Senapati dancing to a popular Bollywood song in full PPE kit to cheer up the COVID-19 patients he was treating at a hospital in Assam, India.

Elsewhere, there have been numerous stories of how doctors and nurses have comforted dying COVID-19 patients in their last moments, setting up iPads so that they could talk to their loved ones, because in-person visits were cancelled. The bravery and compassion of these health workers have been a beacon of hope throughout this protracted and dismal fight against the corona virus.

Even though treating COVID-19 patients means exposing themselves and their families to unprecedented levels of risk, these unsung warriors have not shied away from their duties.

Data from many countries indicate that COVID-19 infections among health care workers are far greater than those in the general population. While health care workers represent less than 3% of the population in the



large majority of countries and less than 2% in almost all low- and middle-income countries, around 14% of COVID-19 cases reported to WHO are among health care workers. In some countries, the proportion can be as high as 35%.

Even in countries with advanced health systems such as the UK and US health care workers are nearly 12 times more likely to test positive for the virus than the general population, studies have shown.

In addition to pathogen exposure that put them at risk of infection, health care workers are exposed to long working hours, psychological distress, fatigue, occupational burnout, social stigma, and physical and psychological violence. According to one recent estimate, 7,000 health workers have died around the world after contracting the SARS-CoV-2 virus while on the line of duty.

Even as we honour the health care workers who have made this ultimate sacrifice and rightfully hail their bravery, the death of many of them because of a lack of basic protection equipment is unconscionable.

All governments must take urgent measures to protect the lives of health care professionals. Governments must ensure an adequate supply of high quality PPEs and ensure those reach hospitals, COVID-19 centers and clinics. Besides increasing the supply of PPE, urgent steps should be taken to improve their working conditions. The government must do all it can to protect health workers who are at the front lines of this war, caring for patients, ensuring their treatment and containing the spread of the virus.



Hon. Consular Corps
Diplomatique-India

HCCD-INDIA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am very pleased to learn that the next issue of Consular Chronicles is being released in the first week of November, 2020. During the unfortunate Covid – 19 pandemic, this is a great effort by Hon'ble Ms. Surbhi Sharma, Hony. Consul of Spain in Bengaluru. I on behalf of the Hony. Consular Corps Diplomatique – India (HCCD – India) appreciate her dedication.

As regards, the activities of the HCCD – India, may I inform all the members that a virtual Board meeting was held on 7th July, 2020 in which 21 Hon'ble Board members attended. It is informed to the Board members that the next issue of 'who's who' will be released in 2021 hopefully in the month of February.

It is also informed that the website of HCCD – India has been updated and all the issues of Consular Chronicles have been uploaded.

May I request all the Hon'ble members to send in information about their activities with regard to their countries to Hon'ble Ms. Surbhi Sharma, Hony. Consul of Spain in Bengaluru so that they may be included in the Consular Chronicles.

I wish Hon'ble Ms. Surbhi Sharma, all the best.

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

SECRETARY GENERAL'S MESSAGE

It gives me great pleasure to inform all my colleagues that in the last 6 months, I have attended 2 virtual Board meetings of World Federation of Consuls (FICAC). May I inform all my colleagues that the World Congress which was supposed to be held in South Korea in 2021 has been postponed to 2022. I am also pleased to inform that the World Federation of Consuls is establishing a Foundation which will do philanthropic activities around the world. The concept of a Foundation was proposed by me, as Director and Chairman Fund Raising Committee of the World Federation of Consuls.

Purrshottam Bhaggeria

Hony. Consul of Maldova
Secretary General, HCCD – India
Director, World Federation of Consuls (FICAC)

Hon'ble Mr. Purshottam

Bhaggeria, Hony. Consul of Moldova, Secretary General, HCCD – India and Director, World Federation of Consuls has been awarded a Medal “Diplomatic Merit” by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

& European Integration, Republic of Moldova. The medal has been awarded for his excellent services rendered to the Nation.



Mr. Sunil Kunj, Protocol Officer has been awarded “Diploma of Honor” by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & European Integration, Republic of Moldova.



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NATION IN FOCUS

INDIA - LUXEMBOURG RELATIONS

A STRONG PARTNERSHIP



Interview with His Excellency
Mr. Jean Claude Kugener
Ambassador of the Grand Duchy
of Luxembourg in India
by **Mrs. Surbhi Sharma**,
Editor Consular Chronicles

How would you describe the relationship between India and Luxembourg?

In 2018, we celebrated the 70th anniversary of the establishment of our diplomatic relations. On this occasion, the late Minister of External Affairs, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, visited Luxembourg on 19 and 20 June and we welcomed our Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Mr. Jean Asselborn, in Delhi on his fourth official visit to India on 27-28 January 2020.

Historically speaking, Luxembourg and India always had very strong economic and trade relations, which led to the opening of the first Vice-Consulate of the Grand Duchy in Bombay on 5 November 1929. And in two years, we will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the opening of our Embassy in New Delhi.

In our outreach, we rely on a very strong network of Honorary Consuls in Kolkata, Mumbai and in Chennai and we are currently in the process of opening a new Consulate in Bengaluru. I am delighted to say that our Honorary Consuls efficiently contribute to the deepening of our relations in the various States under their jurisdictions.

Over the decades, this relationship has developed into a strong friendship and the bilateral relations have increased ever since. In 2020, as per the Indian Official Statistics, Luxembourg is the 15th Foreign Direct Investor in India compared to the 16th ranking in 2018 and 28th in 2005. Last year, our consulate became the number one Luxembourg consulate in the world in terms of Schengen visa applications. As the Indian community in Luxembourg increased by 20,5% in comparison to 2019, the daily consular enquiries are quite considerable. The largest number of applications originates from Bengaluru followed by New Delhi, Hyderabad, Chennai and Mumbai. The latest official statistics in Luxembourg rank the Indian community 14th among the foreign nationals living and working in the Grand Duchy which is a considerable increase compared to 27th in 2015. All in all, very positive developments, which also contribute to the strengthening of our strong ties.



You mention the strong relations, where do they stand today?

Our relations started in steel and developed over the decades. In mid-19th century, Luxembourg ranked among the world's six largest steel producers. Today, ArcelorMittal, the world's leading steel and mining company headquartered in Luxembourg since its merger in 2006, has further developed its presence in India with the takeover of Essar Steel and the ensuing creation of AMNS India. Then there is the Paul Wurth Group, a leading player in the design and supply of technological solutions in the primary stage of integrated steelmaking, that has been active in India for 27 years and has worked with many Indian steel producers over the last decades.

Allow me to highlight other Luxembourg companies that also contribute to the "Make in India": Ceratizit, producing hard cutting materials for different industries out of Karnataka and West Bengal, the Luxembourg-Indian Joint Venture Amer-Sil Ketex in West Bengal, producing highly sophisticated gauntlets among others for the automotive industry for South Asia, Rotarex in Mumbai producing high performance valves, regulators and fittings for all gas applications serving its customers across various sectors including fire



safety, automotive, oil and gas, energy and fertilizers in India, IEE in Pune, a leader in innovative sensing solutions producing car seatbelt reminders, among others, or Tractel Secalt, based in Mumbai, providing lifting facilities for building projects and the maintenance services for skyscrapers.

Our relations are also very strong in the Finance and ICT sectors. Our Stock Exchanges have been cooperating for more than 2 decades and the Luxembourg Stock Exchange, a global leader in international securities listings which launched its first “Masala bond” in 2008, created the first Green Exchange in the world in 2016. Luxembourg is the top 3 leading financial center of the Eurozone, the first Investment Fund center in the European Union and the 2nd globally, which needs a lot of IT support and banking software. Luxembourg has developed into a Fintech and Payment Hub for Europe and some large groups, like Amazon, Rakuten or Paypal, to name but a few, have chosen Luxembourg to establish their European HQ. Many Indian companies have set up their offices in the Grand Duchy from where they often also manage their European operations. To name but a few, Tata Consultancy Services, Wipro, Tech Mahindra, Syncordis, Damco Solutions and Quantum Business Advisory thus have their offices in Luxembourg and have been expanding over the last years and decades. We see this as well in the large number of Schengen visas that our Consulate issues every day to Indians working in the IT sector, many of whom visit the EU for the first time while travelling to Luxembourg. At the recent annual ICT Spring Europe, three Indian companies Astrome Technologies, Dhruva Space and VeCrear Technologies participated at the virtual exhibition during the Summit

With a growing ecosystem for start-ups and particularly for Fintech companies, Luxembourg also has a great potential for young Indian techies. We have a range of incubators like the Luxembourg House of Fintech ([LHoFT](#)), which brings together financial institutions, Fintech innovators, research, academia and public authorities. Another incubator, the Technoport, established in 1998, has already participated twice in the EU-India Innovation Partnership Programme, which has brought together incubators from the EU and India in Bengaluru, Bhubaneshwar and Delhi.





What are the ways to further deepen these relations?

In all the sectors that mark our bilateral cooperation, we notice a steady increase in the cooperation. We have over the last months assisted Bejimag, a specialist in textile finishing machines with over 100 years of experience, and we were very happy to have been informed about their first contract with the Indian textile industry. Then SolarCleanso has exported its first solar cleaning robot to Mumbai and B Medical Systems, one of the leaders in the medical refrigeration and equipment industry, has recently partnered with the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation and donated medical refrigerators to the BYL Nair Hospital in Mumbai. The traditional Luxembourgish wine producer in its 5th generation, Bernard Massard, is also exporting its sparkling wines in cooperation with Hema Connoisseurs to India.

Another noteworthy sector in our cooperation is Space. The Luxembourg company SES, a satellite-based telecommunications and media service provider and global leader in the sector, has for many years been partnering with ISRO and is currently operating 5 satellites over India. After my government's decision in 2016 to launch the SpaceResources.lu initiative, which in 2018 was followed by the creation of the Luxembourg Space Agency, Luxembourg's space sector continues to grow and today counts over 60 players, from both the public and private sector. Shortly, the Luxembourg based, Kleos Space SA, will be participating with 4 satellites in the upcoming launch of the ISRO PSLV C49 mission.

At present we are, jointly with various interlocutors in the Indian government and the Business community, working on a number of new projects in the areas of Steel, Finance, Manufacturing, Green Bonds and Education. I am personally very much looking forward to these extremely positive developments in our longstanding relations.



Hon. Consular Corps
Diplomatique-India

NEWS FROM FICAC WORLD FEDERATION OF HONORARY CONSULS



Mr. Aykut Eken

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT

Dear Honourable Colleagues,

We are living with COVID-19 since several months, and we are facing unforeseen restrictive sanitary measures.

We are now beginning a new period: we are returning back to a more normal life and we are learning to live together with this virus which has stolen at so many months of our own life and which, unfortunately, did a lot of victims worldwide.

I do hope the coming days will be more shining for everyone and that the actual restrictive sanitary measures will be lowered, hoping to be allowed to enjoy again to meet with our beloved ones and with our friends and colleagues, looking forward to travel again for leisure and business.

For FICAC, since the beginning of this pandemic, my closed collaborators and Chairpersons of FICAC several Committees have and are continuously working, making researches, exchanging ideas and organizing meetings through video-conferences thanks new technologies opportunities. I do wish to express my gratitude to the Secretary General Hon. Nikos Margaropoulos, with whom I remain closely in contact, as well as my Chief of Cabinet Mr. Patrick Debus, with whom I'm in touch several times per day/week, and my Istanbul Staff, Sacit, Tunc and Leyla.

Following a long working period, we have launched our FICAC TEAMS Platform for each of you to put your messages, to share photos, to raise issues you are concerned with, to exchange with your colleagues, to propose video meetings: this Platform is Yours and is allowing all of you to express your ideas, to highlight what you are doing, to make suggestions, to introduce yourself,... Invitations to join have been forwarded to your consular association, but if you can also ask to join directly:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/join/hjflmy7pqh0c>



Regretfully, we cannot yet meet face to face: we have to change our habits and to learn to use the new technologies to keep the contact and to share our views: it is the reason why I consider that, more than ever, FICAC TEAMS Platform is a useful tool for all of us. As I already mentioned, several Committees have been very active and Hon. Erol Makzume, Chairman of the International Exchange Culture, Art and Hobbies Committee has pointed out the benefits to use the Platform to remain in touch, when identifying the specific interests for his own Committee as follows:

- a) By members sharing photos of the works of art they have personally created or own in their collection.
- b) Sharing information about their countries traditional artifacts, be it in contemporary art works, antiques, clothes etc..
- c) Develop multicultural events / exhibitions virtually or real...
- d) Arrange cultural trips/excursion by members who are involved in travel and tourism.
- e) Talk about hobbies, private collections and discuss opportunities of selling / trading / bartering same...
- f) Exchange information concerning art events, concerts respectively at each members country of residence...

Another very active Committee is the Women in Diplomacy Committee chaired by Hon. Gönül Eken, who is closely working with the Members of the Committee to get video messages from the Diplomatic World.

Today, following this unexpected situation, we are looking all FICAC Committees and every FICAC Member to use the FICAC TEAMS Platform to work all together, to raise new ideas, to adapt FICAC road map to build up a new a better World for everyone.

Thanks to all FICAC Committees and all FICAC Members, FICAC has reached an international level of recognition: thanks to your support and your involvement, I'm convinced we can to raise FICAC to an even higher level. I'm awaiting ideas and proposals from your side to make FICAC stronger for the benefit of everyone.

Looking forward to seeing you soon and in good health,

Take care of Yourself and all your beloved ones,

Aykut Eken, President



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SPECIAL FEATURE - Seychelles - The heaven for beach lovers



KASU RAJAGOPAL REDDY
Honorary Consul,
The Consulate of
The Republic of
Seychelles

With 115 islands and hundreds of beaches in Indian Ocean off 1500 km of East Africa—most of which looks like they've come straight out of a holiday brochure – the Seychelles is pretty much heaven for beach-lovers. If the Seychelles elicits images of swaying palm trees, sugar sand white beaches and turquoise water, you're absolutely right. There are two UNESCO world heritage sites on the islands: Vallee de Mai on Praslin island and the Aldabra atoll.

Victoria - The World's smallest Capital City

Victoria is the Seychelles main economic hub, the capital and one of the world's smallest capital cities. It's also home to about a third of the country's total population, so as you might imagine, it's always bustling with activity.



Not to be missed is the Clock Tower, nicknamed Little Ben because it is a replica of the Elizabeth Tower that houses Big Ben in London. It was built in 1903 to commemorate the Seychelles independence from Mauritius.

The Languages Spoken are Seychellois Creole, French and English. The tourism sector gives employment to 30% of its people with exports of Frozen and canned fish, Copra, Sweet Potatoes, Vanilla, Cinnamon and Coconuts as the main revenue earners for the country.

Seychelles has become a hub for international Real Estate, Offshore financial business and catering to the service industry of the world.





Mr. Wavel Ramkalawan
President
Republic of Seychelles

Eden Island: this is a man-made island off the Mahé coast. Here entertainment meets leisure at the new luxury island off the Victoria coastline where there are little boutiques, restaurants, hotel, residences, marina and a shopping mall.

Seychelles got its independence from the United Kingdom in 1976 and is run by its National Assembly consisting of 34 members and a President to govern the Republic. The Newly elected President, Mr. Wavel Ramkalawan of The Republic of Seychelles in 2020 is of Indian Origin.



Tourist Attractions in Seychelles

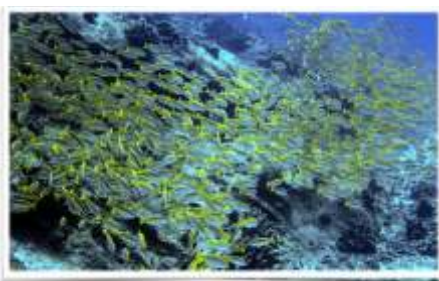
Among the unique plants are the "jellyfish trees", of which are only eight trees left and there are the unique palm trees with the huge coco-de-mer seeds. The seeds of the Coco-de-mer palm tree are the largest and heaviest seeds in the world.



The coco-de-mer is also known as 'double coconut'. The seed grows to half a meter in diameter (20 inches) A coco-de-mer seed can weigh up to 30 kg/ 4.5 stone! The Seychelles is the least populated country of the African continent with just 100,000 people.

The inner islands of the Seychelles are considered to be the world's oldest granite islands in the middle of the ocean. The Aldabra atoll is the world's largest raised coral atoll. Here four large coral islands enclose a turquoise lagoon. Mahé is the largest island of the Seychelles. The capital city Victoria is located on Mahé. The island's highest mountain is the Morne Seychellois, with a height of 905 m/ 2,969 ft is located on Mahé island.

There are giant Aldabra tortoises and colourful bird life on Bird Island, the northernmost island of the archipelago, which you can visit on a boat trip from Praslin island and further explore the small La Digue island with the unique rock formations.



The many islands of the Seychelles archipelago are a sanctuary for many rare and unique animals and plants. There are also the beautiful Seychelles bird called 'Paradise Flycatcher', the Black Parrots and Blue Pigeons are just some of the many colourful birds living on the islands.



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A SPECIAL GUEST

An Ambassador and a Gandhian



Mr. Pascal Alan Nazareth
Former Ambassador of India

“ A RINGSIDE SEAT TO HISTORY”- Pascal Alan Nazareth

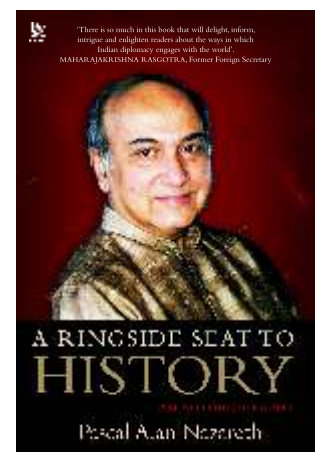
It's a rare autobiography that assumes the quality of a fast paced novel. Pascal Alan Nazareth's " A Ringside Seat to History" is one such. His career in the Indian Foreign Service was productive of anecdotal riches that have found their way to this engrossing memoir. The very title tantalizes with a promise of having been amidst the significant and momentous.

He had a glimpse of the excitement his career would afford when as an IFS probationer meeting Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, he and his batchmates were privy to the stunning news of the Dalai Lama having fled Tibet for sanctuary in India. As India's High Commissioner to Ghana, he narrates being a horrified observer to a series of coups in the country and gruesome public executions that followed. As Ambassador to Mexico, he was personally pained with the assassination of the ruling PRI party's Presidential candidate Luis Colosio who happened to be a good friend. His observations convey the point that political instability and changed regimes can halt the momentum of closer ties between nations.

"Ringside" is a fascinating intersection of the historical and the personal. For example, the breakdown in medical facilities and essential services that followed a coup by the generals in Burma would gravely bear on the health status of his spouse and newborn daughter.

What appears to have made his career as a diplomat more memorable than usual was a friendly nature conducive of spontaneous rapport with individuals of different nationalities. He deeply connected with the various lands he passed through, which he conveys in descriptions of landscapes and monuments.

Representing India in countries of Asia, Africa, North America, South America and Europe surely constituted a comprehensive trans-continental experience in diplomacy and the conduct of foreign affairs. His sociable persona was evident when he recounts success in conducting a charity ball in aid of Jimmy Carter's Habitat for Humanity as president of the Society of Foreign Consuls of New York.





His tenure as Director General of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations saw cultural diplomacy at its zenith. Among the renowned cultural groups he brought to India were the Bolshoi Ballet, The Paris Opera and the New York Philharmonic. Concurrently, he spearheaded Festivals of India in multiple world capitals.

What makes the memoir so eminently readable is the gentle humor that runs through the first person narrative, from his birth to the present. Rather than coming across as a solemn plenipotentiary of his country abroad, he is a raconteur of the riveting and frequently amusing. There are glimpses of many famous figures from a point of pleasant proximity.

What enlivens the written content are very interesting photographs with some legendary and renowned names. A stand-out is a rare post-dinner photograph of three former British Prime Ministers and Lord Mountbatten with Prime Minister Morarji Desai when the author was posted to London as Deputy High Commissioner.

His generally happy and happening tale nevertheless has its share of the somber and poignant. The sudden demise of his young and talented daughter Seema Nazareth was an event that propelled him towards activities recognizing youthful journalistic talent and empowering girl children.

Ambassador Nazareth's book in its concluding chapter is inspirational, because retirement has merely been a redefinition that continues to animate a public spirited individual. As the author of two books on "Gandhi's Outstanding Leadership" that have run into multiple editions and numerous translations, he assumes the informal persona of an Envoy for Peace. The Sarvodaya International Trust that he founded has many eminent names from across the world on board to revive Gandhian principles in public life. He enjoys being active on the lecture circuit, counting in a recent audience former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and former Australian Prime Minister John Howard.

"Ringside" is a page turner, but equally a book to revisit for its wealth of description and detail, ideas and insights. It is a delightful instance of real life being more compelling than fiction.

- **Giselle Mehta**



Banquet in honour of Prime Minister Morarji Desai hosted by High Commissioner B.K. Nehru in June 1977 at which three former British Prime Ministers Harold Macmillan, Alec Douglas-Home and Edward Heath and Lord Mountbatten were present.



Hon. Consular Corps
Diplomatique-India

AROUND THE NATION Down Memory Lane



CHENNAI 2018 - Mrs. Krongkanit Rakcharoen, Consul General of Thailand was the special invite.



NEW DELHI -Mr. K L Ganju – Secretary General of HCCD-India receiving a Memento from General V K Singh – Minister of State for External Affairs at the Ambassadors Charity Dinner 2018



BANGALORE 2018 - The Consul General of Japan H.E Mr. Takayuki Kitagawa and H.E Consul General of Israel Ms. Dana Kursh being welcomed by Ms. Surbhi Sharma - Honorary Consul of Spain



New Delhi – 2019 Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri – Minister of State for Housing & Urban Affairs – Independent Charge was the Chief Guest.



MUMBAI 2019 - A farewell aparty was held for Mr. Ajit Singh, the Consul General of Singapore and his wife, Balveer, at the Bombay Gymkhana



Bangalore 2018 - British Deputy High Commissioner and Consul General of France at Latvia National Day Celebrations



Hon. Consular Corps
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Down Memory Lane



CHENNAI 2019 - Formal Reception to welcome HE Paramasivam Pillay Vyapoory, GOSK acting President of the Republic of Mauritius in Chennai



BANGALORE - 2019 The Bangalore Chapter celebrated its 5th Anniversary at the Taj Westend and His Highness Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar and Srimati Trishika Kumari Devi attended the event



NEW DELHI - HCCD-INDIA Consular Day



MUMBAI 2018 - Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra, Ch. Vidyasagar Rao as our Chief Guest. Our Guests of Honour were the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Mr. Devendra Fadnavis and his wife, Mrs. Amruta Fadnavis, at Mumbai Tujhe Salaam (Mumbai, we salute you)



MUMBAI - HCCD-INDIA DINNER 2017



BANGALORE 2016 - 3rd Anniversary Celebrations



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Down Memory Lane



ISTANBUL 2015 – FICAC WORLD CONGRESS



NEW DELHI 2019 - National Day of Rwanda Celebrations



BANGALORE 2019 – EVENTS OF PERU & TUNISIA



MUMBAI 2018 – The Melting Pot



BRUSSELS 2018 – FICAC WORLD CONGRESS



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Down Memory Lane



CHENNAI 2017 – Inauguration of the Honorary Consulate of Kazakhstan



MUMBAI 2017 - Union Minister Piyush Goyal, addressing the gathering, along with Mr. Gul Kripalani, at the Gateway of India at our 26/11 event which is held every year to pay tribute to all those who lost their lives in 2008, when Mumbai was attacked by terrorists.



NEW DELHI 2014



BANGALORE 2017 – Welcome Dinner for Consul General of Canada & Germany



COLOMBO 2013 – FICAC Regional Conference –



CHENNAI 2019– Reception hosted in honour of visit of the High Commissioner of Malta to India H.E. Ambassador Mr. Stephen D. Borg's



Hon. Consular Corps
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Down Memory Lane



NEW DELHI 2019 -Hon'ble Mr. Nikolaos Margaropoulos,
Hony. Consul of Philippines and Secretary General of
FICAC (World Federation of Consuls)
awarded Medal of Honour by HCCD-India



FICAC Regional Conference at Khatmandu 2019



BANGALORE 2019 – Inauguration of Honorary Consulate of Brazil and Seychelles



Mumbai 2016 – Reception Dinner



BANGALORE – Farewell Dinner hosted for
Consul General of France and Switzerland and
British Deputy High Commissioner



Hon. Consular Corps
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Royal Heritage of India - Mysore

The Wadiyars have been the Custodians of the rich traditions and culture of the Deccan, inherited from their predecessors, the Rashtrakutas, the Gangas, the Chalukyas, the Hoysalas, and lastly the Vijayanagara Empire. The Wadiyar Dynasty, over its 600 year reign has been witness to the rise and fall of India's greatest empires, has overcome the tyranny of usurpation, and withstood many a change in political landscape. Despite these upheavals the Dynasty produced the greatest times of prosperity the Deccan has seen. Throughout these 600 years the Wadiyars of Mysore have strived to preserve, nurture, and further cultivate the rich culture of the Deccan that was passed on to them via their predecessors. The narrative of the Deccan and that of the Wadiyars of Mysore are interwoven and the richness of the Deccan culture finds efflorescence in their age-old tradition.



The Wadiyar Dynasty was founded in 1399 C.E., by Yaduraya. They remained vassals and later Viceroys to the Vijayanagara Empire, that had dominion over most of Peninsular India. With the decline of the Vijayanagara Empire, the Wadiyars under Raja Wadiyar I wrested control of Srirangapatna, and then further



proceeded to expand under his successors. It was also in 1610 A.D, under Raja Wadiyar that the famed Dasara tradition was inherited from the Vijayanagara emperors and taken forward. The Wadiyars reached even greater heights of prosperity under rulers such as Kanteerva Narasihmaraja Wadiyar I, and Chikka-Devaraja Wadiyar in the 1600's and early 1700's. The influence of the kingdom of Mysore was greatest under Chikka-Devaraja Wadiyar who also revolutionised the administration via the new Attara-Kutcheri System, which sorted the administrative system into 16 departments. He also famously bought Bangalore from Aurangzeb and added immense territory down south as well.

In the years following, during the mid to late 1700's, Hyder Ali, the Commander-in-Chief or Delavoy of Mysore usurped power from the Wadiyars, later his son Tipu Sultan, would declare himself ruler of the state and look to completely overthrow the Wadiyars. He was however thwarted, in no small part due to the efforts of Maharani Lakshmammani Avaru, wife of Krishnaraja Wadiyar II, and defeated in the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War.



Maharani Lakshammanni Avaru would successfully see the Kingdom return to her Grandson Mummadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar (Krishnaraj Wadiyar III), thereby ushering in the Princely Era of Mysore, which would take Mysore to newer heights of Prosperity during the Golden Age of Mysore with visionary leaders such as H.H. Chamaraja Wadiyar X, H.H. (Nalvadi) Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV, and H.H. Dr. Jayachamarajendra Wadiyar Bahadur. It was during the time of H.H (Mummadi) Krishnaraja Wadiyar III, that the culture was revived after the tyranny and subjugation during Tipu and Hyder. Temples were rebuilt, restored and expanded. Huge grants were given to expand their activities. Cultural aspects such as Mysore Painting, Carnatic Music and many more Deccan art forms were given immense patronage. His son H.H. Chamaraja Wadiyar X would put into place India's first democratic setup with the Representative Assembly of Mysore. Sadly he would succumb to

Diphtheria at the young age of 33, and his son, H.H. (Nalvadi) Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV, at the very young age of just 10 years came to take up the responsibility. However, due to his youth, his mother, Maharani Vani Vilasa Sannidhana served as Regent. The regency of H.H The Maharani with the Diwan, Sri Sheshadri Iyer, sowed the seeds for the Golden age of Mysore under H.H. (Nalvadi) Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV. The Indian institute of science was setup during her regency as well the Shivanasamudra Hydrel Project which allowed for Bangalore to become the first city to be electrified in all of South Asia. This and many more great strides ensured that when H.H. (Nalvadi) Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV took up the reigns formally, he was able to make Mysore the model state it became. Under H.H. (Nalvadi) Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV the University of Mysore, and a great many educational institutions were setup and strengthened. He also, via the Leslie Miller Report, was the first to introduce reservation for backward classes in administration and government jobs. Many irrigation and Hydrel projects were undertaken strengthening the farming economy greatly. Women empowerment was given the utmost importance with several schools and reforms initiated and put into place to improve the social standing of women. The brand 'Mysore' was cultivated across a broad spectrum of products so much so that Diwan Mirza Ismail remarked, " 'People of Mysore would wake up and wash themselves with Mysore Sandal Soap, wipe themselves with Mysore towels, perform Mysore's own Ashtanga Yoga, do puja with Mysore jasmine and Mysore agarbathi lit with Mysore match stick, drink Mysore coffee with Mysore sugar, wear Mysore silk and cotton, perfume with Mysore perfumes, eat Mysore masala dosa with Mysore Pak,





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ride on Mysore-bred horses, write on Mysore paper, build houses with Mysore cement using Mysore steel, Mysore bricks, Mysore tiles, Mysore timber, granite and pipes, paint with Mysore paints and varnishes, furnish their house with Mysore furniture, decorate their home with Mysore inlay art work and Mysore paintings, have all the Mysore lamps lit with electricity generated in Mysore, using Mysore manufactured transformers and insulators wheeled on Mysore manufactured poles..." it was indeed the Golden era for the KINGDOM OF MYSORE. H.H Jaya Chamaraja Wadiyar, nephew of H.H. (Nalvadi) Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV would take up the responsibility of ruling the state after his passing and would usher in a smooth transition during our Independence. H.H Jaya Chamaraja Wadiyar was himself a noted philosopher, musicologist, political thinker, and philanthropist.



The traditions and heritage of the royal house of Mysore are continued to this day with commitment and great fervour and hopes to endure as a testaments to the great Maharajas that ushered in such great times of prosperity for our state.

Y K C WADIYAR

ROYAL HOUSE OF MYSORE



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ANNOUNCEMENT

The Honorary Consular Corps Diplomatique – India is proud to announce **Vivek Burman (Dabur) Peace Prize**. This Peace Prize will carry an award of Rs. 7 Lakhs and a citation. This Peace Prize will be awarded to any NGO or any Individual who may have done extraordinary work in the field of social service. The Peace prize will be presented in the month of March, 2021 at New Delhi. All deserving NGO or individual may apply with full details of their work to the following name and address:

Secretary General
Honorary Consular Corps Diplomatique – India
“*Bhageria House*”
43, Community Centre,
New Friends Colony,
New Delhi - 110025

The last date for submitting the application is 31st December, 2020.