

Modi offers to start University for NRIs in Gujarat

Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi has offered to start the first university for non-resident Indians, suggested by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during his opening speech on Pravasi Bhartiya Divas, in his home state. "We have the infrastructure and we offer to start the first such university," he said.

Speaking on the concluding day of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, Modi told the audience that in the last Five-Year Plan, Gujarat had been set a target of 10.2 per cent growth. "I am

glad to tell you that we achieved 10.6 per cent and we will achieve 11.2 per cent going forward, as has been fixed by the Planning Commission," he told a captive audience.

Modi and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh met before the session and exchanged views on developments in Gujarat. He suggested to Dr Singh that at least two functions be held abroad every year to pay homage to non-resident Indians who laid only chief ministers to have attended all the PBD conferences. (www.rediff.com)

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The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh has released the first edition of Journal, "India & Global Affairs" edited by Shri Dileep Padgaonkar. Following is the text of the Prime Minister's speech on the occasion:- "I compliment Abhijit Pawar and Dileep Padgaonkar for taking this important initiative to launch a new journal on "India and Global Affairs". I do hope this journal becomes an important and informed window to the outside world for thinking citizens of our country. I also hope it will help students and scholars in international affairs, diplomats and policymakers to get a better appreciation of the world around us. (www.pib.nic.in)

આંતરરાષ્ટ્રીય પતંગ મહોત્સવની ધામધૂમથી થયેલી ઉજવણી



મકરસંક્રાંતિના પ્રસંગે અમદાવાદ ખાતે પોલિસ સ્ટેડિયમમાં આંતરરાષ્ટ્રીય પતંગ મહોત્સવનું આયોજન કરવામાં આવ્યું હતું. જેના ભાગરૂપે દેશવિદેશમાંથી અનેક પતંગ રસીકોએ ભાગ લીધો હતો. જેમાં વિશ્વના ૨૪ દેશો જેવા કે ફ્રાંસ, નેધરલેન્ડ, ડેનમાર્ક, સિંગાપોર, મલેશિયા જાપાન, દક્ષિણ આફ્રિકા અને તુર્કિના ૬૭ જેટલા પતંગ રસીકોએ ભાગ લીધો હતો. ઉપરાંત, ભારતભરમાંથી ૧૪૫ જેટલા પતંગરસીકોએ ભાગ લીધો હતો. આ પતંગ મહોત્સવ વેળાએ વિશ્વ ગુજરાતી પરિવાર સંમેલનનું આયોજન કરવામાં આવ્યું હતું, જેને મુખ્યમંત્રી શ્રી નરેન્દ્રમોદીએ સંબોધ્યું હતું. તેમજ આરોગ્ય અને પ્રવાસન મંત્રી શ્રી જયનારાયણ વ્યાસ અને શ્રી રામદેવજી મહારાજ ઉપસ્થિત રહ્યા હતા.



Expressing desire to benefit from the skill reservoir of overseas Indians, Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, called upon them to be active partners in India's progress and prosperity.

He was delivering the Inaugural Address of the 6th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, jointly organized by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, the Government of the NCT of Delhi, and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) being held in New Delhi from 7 to 9 January 2008. Dr. the Hon. Navinchandra Ramgoolam,

Prime Minister of Mauritius, was the Chief Guest for the Inaugural Session. Several new initiatives were announced by the PM, among them the Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council of People of Indian Origin as a platform to draw upon the knowledge and experience of PIOs.

The PIO University announced last year is in the final stages, while the Overseas Indian Facilitation Center has been set up with the partnership of CII. An India Development Foundation to channelise PIO funds into human development is on

the anvil. Lauding the role of overseas Indian workers, numbering 5 million and remitting half of all transfers in 2006, Dr. Singh launched the Overseas Workers Resource Center helpline, a toll-free number that will provide assistance and grievance redressal to workers abroad.

A nationwide skill upgradation program will skill 2 lakh workers for overseas jobs. The Council for the Promotion of Overseas Employment has also been approved, he announced.

Dr. Manmohan Singh said that 'Indian-ness' is the invisible thread that binds all Indians. India's common cultural values such as pluralism, tolerance, and truth and non-violence can be of

(contd...Page 2)



વતનગઠી વાટે
એનઆરઆઈ દ્વારા વતન સેવાના કામ માટે મળેલ ઘવની સિંગલ
 અમેરિકા નિવાસી મૂળ વતન સિંગલડાના શ્રી સંજયકુમાર કાન્તિભાઈ કુલાભાઈ પટેલની તરફથી તેમના વતનમાં સ્વામિનારાયણ મંદિર માટે રૂ. ૨૪ લાખનું દાન કરેલ છે.

તાજેતરમાં આરોગ્ય અને પ્રવાસન મંત્રી શ્રી જયનારાયણ વ્યાસે એનઆરઆઈ-વિભાગનો મંત્રી તરીકેનો સ્વતંત્ર હવાલો સંભાળ્યો છે.

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“I compliment Abhijit Pawar and Dileep Padgaonkar for taking this important initiative to launch a new journal on “India and Global Affairs”. I do hope this journal becomes an important and informed window to the outside world for thinking citizens of our country. I also hope it will help students and scholars in international affairs, diplomats and policymakers to get a better appreciation of the world around us.

We live in interesting times,

indeed in challenging times, in this fast-changing world.

There are great opportunities awaiting us but also profound challenges facing us. As India re-engages the world, as a more self-confident nation, we must be better informed about the world to be able to deal with it. Understanding the processes of change is the first step in trying to change these processes.

An honest, factually informed and analytically rigorous discussion is, therefore, necessary for us to be able to deal with reality, as it exists, and shape it in a manner that serves our national interest and global peace and stability.

(www.pib.nic.in)

Tourist Place : Bahucharaji Temple

Bahucharaji is the famous temple of Goddess Bahucharaji located in Mehsana district of Gujarat. Bahucharaji is one of three holy shakti piths in Gujarat. Millions of hindu devotees visits the temple every year. There are three temples of Bahucharaji, out of Adyasthan is the original temple and Madhyasthan is the middle temple. There is a Varkhadi tree in town where it is believed the Goddess had appeared.

The Bahucharaji temple was built in 1839 AD by Gaikwad Sarkar, Maharaja of Baroda.

The temple is beautifully decorated with ancient carvings and paintings on the wall. South and North gate are structured with carved and



decorated zharukha. There is also havan mandap for yagna. Big meeting hall is also build by temple trust to organize meetings and other functions. Temple is structured using vastu shastra.

Fairs are held hear at every chaitra and ashadhi purnima, full moon day. On this day numbers of devotees visits the temple.

Bahucharaji temple is open from 5:00 am to 9:00 pm. Puja of Bahucharaji Mataji is from 7:00 am to 11 am.

Bahucharaji is 100 km away from Gandhinagar and 110 km from Ahmedabad.

for building a new India,” he concluded.

Mrs. Sheila Dikshit, Chief Minister of NCT of Delhi urged overseas Indians to assist in Delhi’s development, especially in the transport sector. Terming Delhi as the greenest and the most livable city in India, she said that the Commonwealth Games of 2010 provide a huge challenge as well as opportunity to invest in Delhi’s development and infrastructure. The guidance of overseas Indians is needed to make Delhi an education hub.

Mr Nirmal Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, delivered the welcome address. Presenting the vote of thanks, Mr Sunil Bharti Mittal, President, CII and Chairman and Group CEO, Bharti Enterprises, said that overseas Indians have laid out a solid foundation for Indian companies to engage with the world, and that their leadership and innovation are making a deep impression on world affairs. (www.pbdindia.org)

Lifting The Mists - A Guide To Elderly Us Iummigrants

Texas resident Malti Patel has published a useful book, “Lifting the Mists - A simple guide to a complex welfare system for elderly immigrants and their families” to help Immigrants and senior citizens with Medicare/Medicaid/Social Security and welfare issues.

The book is written in very simple question answer format for seniors to understand complex rules easily. Purpose of the book is to make difference in the life of elderly immigrants, who struggle to get medical and social security benefits for their survival in this country because of lack of right information.

The book can be ordered from: Malti Patel, 1607 Wood Creek Lane, Allen, TX 75002, USA, Tel: 469-675-0972, e-mail: malti13@tx.rr.com (www.gopio.net)

Pravasi Bharatiya...

global relevance in a troubled world. India has been inspired by the diaspora in focusing on education as an instrument of empowerment in the 11th Five Year Plan. “It is by investing in your capabilities that you have empowered yourselves. This is how I wish to see India empower itself,” he added.

”I would like this gathering to inspire our people, inspire people of Indian origin, inspire our region and our neighbours, inspire the world to learn to live together in peace and harmony despite our many diversities,” concluded the Prime Minister.

Dr. the Hon. Navichandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius, in his address paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi who personified the theme of

the current PBD. He pointed out that Mauritius had been deeply influenced by India in its emancipation struggle, in which his father had been involved, and Mauritian Indians are proud of their heritage. Many institutions have been set up in the country named after Indian leaders, and the World Hindi Center is headquartered in Mauritius. “It is a matter of pride for us that the India of our hopes is finally emerging,” he stressed, saying that the heartstrings and purse-strings of PIOs resonate in harmony. The Prime Minister suggested that an active desk be set up by India to channel the solidarity of overseas Indians and give concrete expression to their engagement.

Mr Vayalar Ravi, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs,

extended a warm welcome to 1500 delegates from over 50 countries, saying that the Ministry had taken several initiatives to promote and sustain a mutually beneficial relationship of India and its diaspora. A wider range of benefits would be extended to Overseas Citizen of India cardholders, numbering about 2 lakhs. Bilateral security agreements for short-term workers have been negotiated with several EU countries and Memorandum of Understanding is being inked with Gulf countries for workers’ protection and welfare.

Social development is the focus of the current PBD, aligning with the priorities of the 11th Five Year Plan. “Pravasi Bharatiya Divas will mark a new beginning of people to people partnership