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Consulate General of India - Jeddah Newsletter

Vol XI

August 1, 2005

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Consul General visits Madinah

Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, Consul General of India called on HRH Prince Muqrin Bin Abdul Aziz, Governor of Madinah region in his office on June 26, 2005.

Consul General expressed his sincere thanks and gratitude to the Governor and the concerned authorities in Madinah for extending excellent and untiring services to the visitors of Prophet's Mosque (PBUH) in general and the pilgrims coming from India in particular.

He further briefed the Governor of the advancement made by India in the fields of Higher Education, Information Technology, Pharmaceutical Industry, Trade and Economy and aspired for closer interaction between India & Saudi Arabia in the said fields.

HRH Prince Muqrin praised the Indian Mission for extending excellent services to the Indian Community working in the western region as well as the Indian

pilgrims. He felt that the Indian Mission is far ahead of other Missions in providing necessary assistance to the pilgrims in more advanced and sophisticated

manner. He also stressed upon the need for closer and stronger interaction between the Indian Mission and the concerned Haj Authorities in Madinah.

The Governor appreciated India's achievement in Trade & Industry, Modern Science & Technology and Higher

Education. He further briefed the Consul General of his future plans to transform the Madinah region into an international hub for commerce, education, hospitality and transportation, which could serve as a historic development model for the Islamic World for the next 20 years. HRH Prince Muqrin also expressed his desire to be benefited from India's expertise in his envisioned future plan.



[Consul General with Governor of Madinah]

Consul General visits Aseer Region



Consul General with Governor of Aseer region

Consul General of India, Dr. Ausaf Sayeed and Consul (Press & Information), Mr. Hifzur Rahman paid an official visit to Abha and Khamis Mushayat from July 15-18, 2005 and called on HRH Prince Khalid Al-Faisal, Governor of Aseer region in Abha Governorate.

In the meeting, Dr. Ausaf Sayeed briefed the governor of India's multi-faceted advancements and growing investment opportunities. He mentioned India as the safest and most congenial and promising education destination for the Saudi students in the present circumstances. Dr. Sayeed also apprised the Governor of the concerns of Indians residing in Aseer region emanating from the lack of an educational institution of Indian curriculum.

HRH Prince Khalid Al-Faisal referred to the deep-rooted historic and friendly relations between India & Saudi Arabia and was optimistic that the forthcoming visit of HRH Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz to India would further strengthen the bond of cordial relations between the two countries and widen the scope of cooperation in the fields of economy, science & technology and bilateral trade. He also praised the positive contribution of Indians in the growth and development of Aseer region. The Governor assured the Consul General of all possible help in the opening of an Indian School in the region.

Abha Chamber of Commerce & Industry

During his three day official visit to Abha and Khamis Mushayat, the Consul General also met Dr. Mohammad Bin Yahya Al-Muzhir, Secretary General of ACCI. Dr. Al-Muzhir welcomed Dr. Ausaf Sayeed and briefed him of the

enhanced commercial activities and growing investment opportunities in the Aseer region under sincere guidance of the Governor of the region. He also emphasized on the memorable contribution of Indians working there in the growth and upliftment of the region.

Dr. Ausaf Sayeed thanked the members of ACCI for their warm welcome and informed them about India's advancement in the fields of Information Technology, Bio-Technology, Pharmaceutical and Higher Education. He briefed them that India is one of the fastest growing economies of the world having strong economic fundamentals, independent judiciary and a vibrant private sector. He mentioned that India offers massive investment opportunities in sectors like infrastructure, Pharmaceutical, textiles, telecom, automobiles etc.

Dr. Al-Muzhir expressed his keen interest in having regular interaction between the Consulate General of India and ACCI in the fields of Information Technology, e-Governance, Health Care and Higher Education. He also mentioned that there is wide scope for cooperation between the private universities of the two countries in the fields of Engineering, Medicine, Information Technology, Applied Administration etc. Dr. Al-Muzhir expressed his interest in inviting Indian Businessmen to Abha to have greater interaction with businessmen of the Aseer region. On his request, the Consul General agreed to arrange a presentation by the Tata Consultancy Services at ACCI. Dr. Ausaf Sayeed also asked Dr. Al-Muzhir to arrange a visit of businessmen from the Aseer region to India to apprise them of the growing business and investment opportunities, which he agreed upon. Dr. Al-Muzhir also offered to arrange an exhibition of catalogue of Indian products as well as Indian Industries and Business Houses, in the premises of ACCI.



Dr. Ausaf Sayeed presenting a gift to Dr. Al-Muzhir

Agreement signed for Haj-2006

An Indian delegation led by Shri E. Ahamed, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs visited Jeddah on 16/17th May 2005 for signing the Agreement for Haj-2006. The Agreement was signed on 17th May 2005 at Jeddah by Hon'ble Minister E. Ahamed on behalf of the Government of India and by His Excellency Dr. Fouad bin Abdul Salam Al Farsi, Minister of Haj, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on behalf of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Indian Minister was accompanied by Shri M.O.H. Farooq, Ambassador of India, Shri Tanvir Ahmed, Chairman of Haj Committee of India, Shri Sanjay Singh, Joint Secretary (Gulf/Haj), Ministry of External Affairs, Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, Consul General, Shri Afzal Ansari, Member of Parliament and Member of Haj Committee of India, Shri C.P. Kunhi Mohammed, Member of Haj Committee of India, Shri Abdul Majid Padar, Consul(Haj) and Shri Hifzur Rahman, Consul(Press & Information).

The salient features of the Agreement are as follows:

Total number of Indian pilgrims performing Haj this year would be 1,37,000. Of these, 82,000 pilgrims would be from the Haj Committee of India and the remaining through the Private Tour Operators.

During the second successive year, around 37,000 pilgrims would be using the Prince Mohammad bin Abdul Aziz Airport, Madinah Munawwarah in the arrival phase and 40,000 pilgrims in the departure phase.

It is well known that the Indian pilgrims constitute one of the largest segments of the annual pilgrimage and the Haj Agreement covers all aspects related with the Hajis. This includes the arrangements for their air travel, accommodation, health care and welfare measures including transportation to Makkah, Mina, Muzdalifa, Arafat and Madinah.

Apart from this, four other subsidiary Agreements were signed between the Haj Committee of India and South Asian Moassasah, National Adilla Establishment, the United Agents Office and the General Cars Syndicate.

Accommodation for Haj-2006 Pilgrims at Makkah

Procedures for Selection

As the Indian pilgrims spend most of their time for stay in Makkah, the acquisition of proper accommodation for them is of paramount importance. Due care is taken while renting the accommodation for the pilgrims. This task is performed with

great care, absolute transparency, dedication and due diligence.

The process of hiring accommodation has already started after advertising in the local Arabic daily Okaz on 21st and 22nd May, 2005. (The advertisement can also be viewed at Consulate's website: www.cgijeddah.com) From Haj-2006, the buildings are being rented in the following four categories:

| Category | Meters | Rates |
|----------|-----------|-------|
| I | 0-600 | 2400 |
| II | 601-850 | 2000 |
| III A | 850-1000 | 1650 |
| III B | 1000-1200 | 1050 |

The above rates are all inclusive and cover service charges as well as the cost of provision of beds.

The categorization of buildings is based on the distance from outer periphery of the Haram Sharief. For purpose of measurement, the actual distance covered by pilgrims on foot by shortest route from the Haram Sharief to the doorstep of the building, is taken into account.

Buildings are hired from Mutawwifeen, landlords, lessors and their Power of Attorney holders.

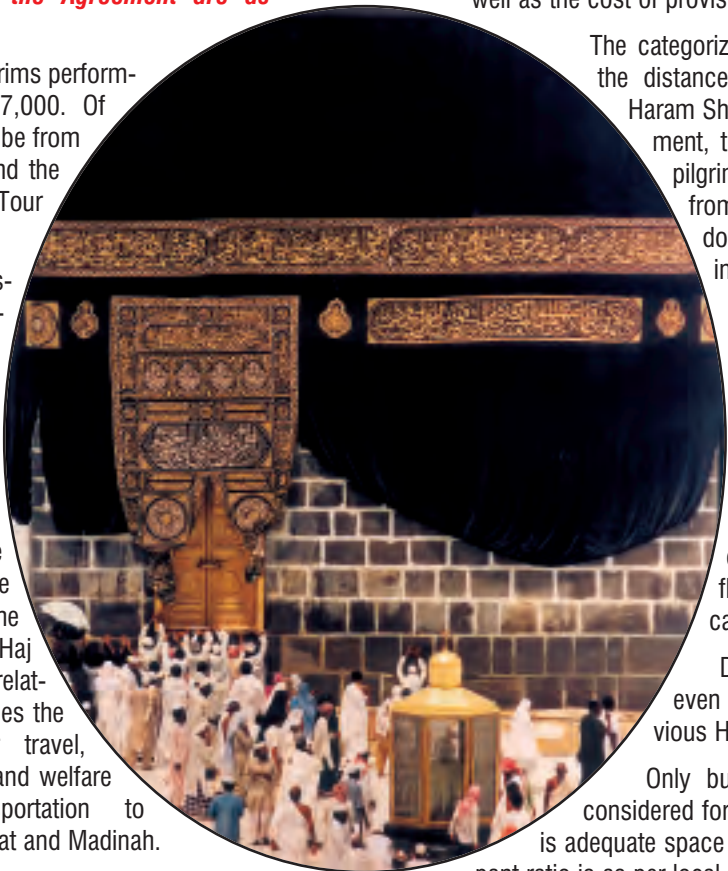
All rooms in each and every building which are offered for selection are measured one by one even if all the rooms and floors of the building are identical.

Due procedures are followed even if a building is hired in the previous Haj.

Only buildings having lift facility are considered for hiring. It is ensured that there is adequate space for kitchen and the toilet-occupant ratio is as per local norms..

All buildings are hired through a three tier selection process. Rejection of any particular building at any stage is considered as rejection of building at all stages. The building once rejected will not be considered at a later stage.

All the rightful legal title holders of residential buildings in Makkah including Muttawwifeen, Landlords, Lessors etc. who are willing to rent their buildings to Indian Haj Mission for accommodating the pilgrims may contact Indian Haj Mission Officer, Makkah-Al-Mukarramah on Tel. Nos. 5421408, 5480228 and 5421097.



President of SIBN Sheikh A. K. Saeed visits India

Commercial ties between Saudi Arabia and India are poised for a “giant leap,” with India newly identifying areas for Saudi investors. Some of the “most promising” areas for investment are biotechnology, information technology, bulk drugs and Pharmaceuticals, tourism, mines and minerals, agro food processing and leather & textiles.

Sheikh Abdul Khaliq Saeed, Chairman, AK Saeed Group & President, Saudi-Indian Business Network (SIBN), paid a business visit to India from 19 to 30 June 2005. This was the first important visit of a prominent Saudi businessman under the banner of the Saudi-Indian Business Network (SIBN). Sheikh A.K. Saeed visited Mumbai and held meetings with the representatives of M/S Wockhardt Hospital, Asian Heart Hospital, Nicholas Piramal Limited, Ajanta Pharmaceuticals, IPCA Lab., Times Response Group, Tata Chemicals, Gracim Cements, Institute of Entrepreneurship, Solsons Exim, Ajmal Perfumes and Shangvi Diamonds. The business/investment opportunities in the fields of Hospital Management, Pharmaceuticals, Health care

products, Soda ash, Cement, Training programmes for the Ladies Wing of Jeddah Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Perfumes and Jewellery were discussed at length.

In Hyderabad, Sheikh Saeed paid a courtesy call on Hon’ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy. He held an interactive session with Andhra Pradesh CII Chairman Shri A.K. Patodia and reportedly expressed interest in constructing a 5-star hotel at Hyderabad by investing US \$ 150 million with the cooperation of Andhra Pradesh Government.

In New Delhi, Sheikh Saeed paid a courtesy call on Hon’ble Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram. He also met Chairman of Uttar Pradesh Development Council, Shri Amar Singh and explored investment opportunities in NOIDA. He also held meeting with business representative of M/s Satnam Overseas Company. Sheikh Saeed also met Saudi Ambassador to India, His Excellency Mr. Saleh Al-Ghamdi. Dr. Asar Khan, Public Relations Officer, SIBN also accompanied Sheikh Saeed in his visit to India.

Forthcoming Trade Fairs in India

1. CABLE & BROADCAST INDIA – 2005

Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, 4-6 August, 2005

The exhibition would display the latest and complete range of equipment related to Cable TV, hardware, broadband equipment, broadcasters, broadcasting software & equipment etc.

Contact Details: Cable Quest, 13/97, Near Rajouri Apartments, Subash Nagar, New Delhi-110027.

Tel: +91-11-25131843 Fax: +91-11-25139967. E-mail: cablequest@rediffmail.com Web: www.cable-quest.com

2. DELHI BOOK & STATIONERY FAIR

Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, 27 Aug.-4 Sep., 2005

The fair will display all stationery and related goods like writing instruments/materials, pens, erasers, geometry boxes, drawing/painting materials, brushes, computer-related stationery items; office supplies, covers, boards, photocopy paper, staplers, highlighters, diaries, adhesives, labels, writing pads, material for seminars/stationery packing machines and materials.

Organizer: India Trade Promotion Organization, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi-110001 Tel: +91-11-23371540

(EPABX) Fax: +91-11-23371492

E-mail: info@itpo-online.com,

Website: www.indiatradepromotion.org

3. 11th INTERNATIONAL LEATHER GOODS FAIR

Kolkata, West Bengal September 3-5, 2005

The 11th International Leather Goods Fair will display a complete range of leather goods viz., handbags, purses, wallets, brief-cases, rucksacks, belts, sports goods, leather upholstery, industrial leather goods, hand gloves, industrial gloves, finished leather lining; components and accessories of leather goods and goods machinery. Council for Leather Exports will organize seminars/conferences relating to the industry for its overall development.

Contact Details: General Manager, ITPO, Pragati Bhavan, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. Tel: +91-11-23371390/1822, Fax: +91-11-23371874,

E-mail: sraghavan@itpo-online.com.

Website: www.indiatradepromotion.org.

4. NATIONAL FURNITURE, INTERIORS & SAJAVAT FAIR

Pragati Maidan, New Delhi 9-18 September, 2005

The fair will display a complete range of Home and Office furnitures, Interior and home furnishings, household décor products, sanitary-ware, household appliances, kitchenware, entertainment electronics, handicrafts and artifacts.

Organizer: India Trade Promotion Organization, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi-110001.

Tel: +91-11-23371540 (EPABX)

Fax: +91-11-23371492/23371493

E-mail: info@itpo-online.com,

Website: www.indiatradepromotion.org



Consul General & Consul (P&I) with the President of KAAU

Consul General Discusses Cooperation in Education Field with President of KAAU

The Consul General of India H.E. Dr. Ausaf Sayeed called on H.E. Dr. Osamah Tayeb, President of King Abdul Aziz University (KAAU), Jeddah on June 28, 2005 at his office in the KAAU and discussed the possibilities of cooperation between KAAU and the Indian universities in the field of higher education, particularly in Information Technology, Biotechnology and Engineering sectors. The Consul General suggested that KAAU could consider entering into MOUs with Indian universities for joint research and exchange of faculty, students, publications and books. The Consul General also briefed Dr. Tayeb about the facilities available for foreign students in India to pursue higher studies in the fields of management, engineering and medicine. Dr. Tayeb welcomed the idea of tie-ups with India's leading institutions of higher learning and agreed in principle to initiate discussions with Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi and Osmania University, Hyderabad. It was proposed that the Vice-Chancellors of these two universities would be invited to lead high-level delegations to Jeddah in November, 2005.

The Consulate General of India, Jeddah is also proposing to organize a 'Road Show' on Education in Jeddah in November 2005 during which efforts would be made to invite several Indian universities and other institutions of higher learning to participate and display their capabilities in the field of education.

A seminar on 'Opportunities for Higher Studies in India' is also proposed to be organised on the sidelines of the Road Show.

Education is an important area earmarked for bilateral cooperation under the Saudi-Indian Joint Commission on Economic and Technical Cooperation established between the two countries in 1981. During the 6th Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) held between the two countries in Riyadh in April, 2005 it was decided to give focused attention to bilateral cooperation in the field of education, particularly higher education, technical education and vocational training.

Several Saudi entrepreneurs consider setting up of an institution of higher learning in Saudi Arabia with Indian assistance as a good proposition, both from social and business points of view. The successful operation of the Birla Institute of Technology International Centre (BITIC) in Bahrain run by Birla Institute of Technology, Ranchi and BITS, Pilani and the Mahatma Gandhi University in the 'Knowledge Village' in Dubai serve as very good role models for initiating such cooperation in Saudi Arabia under the private sector.

Besides, several reputed Indian universities have expressed their interest to establish their 'chairs' or 'international campuses' in Saudi Arabia after obtaining necessary permissions from the Saudi Ministry of Education.

Distance Education Facilities in Jeddah

Correspondence education has brought about a tremendous change in the education system of our country. It is predicted that in the next two decades, teachers shifting from conventional methods of teaching would 'perform live' to learners across the country with the help of satellite communication, low power transmitters and through the information super-highways. The beginning has already been made.

The emergence of the distance learning mode is providing benefits to many categories of learners, in particular to (a) late entrants, (b) people on the job, (c) people who do not have access to higher education in their place of stay, (d) to those who wish to supplement their educational qualifications and (e) for the house-women. A large number of NRIs wish to pursue their studies while working. Though at present we are conducting examinations for the Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi and the University of Delhi, due to high demand of the

Non-Resident Indians and in order to redress the concern of Indian parents to some extent, the Consulate General of India, Jeddah has initiated steps to explore the possibility of extending the higher-education facilities through distance education to the NRIs in the Western region of Saudi Arabia. In this context Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, Consul General of India, who visited India in the recent past, held talks with the Vice-Chancellors of several universities namely, University of Hyderabad, Osmania University, Maulana Azad National Urdu University in Andhra Pradesh, Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi and University of Calicut. As a result, the Vice Chancellor of Osmania University, Prof. Mohammed Suleman Siddiqi announced in the first week of June that Osmania University has decided to start a study center in Jeddah offering distance education degree courses. The Bachelor and Post Graduate Degree examinations will be held in Arts and Commerce.

The University of Hyderabad, Centre for Distance Education has already offered a newly started course "Post-graduate Diploma in Mass Communications and Translation Studies in Urdu" this year. So far 8 students have enrolled for the course from Jeddah. Consulate General of India, Jeddah will be conducting examination for the academic session 2005-2006. The University of Hyderabad is also keen to offer its other graduate and post-graduate courses to NRI students through the distance mode.

The Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad is also considering to establish a programme centre at Jeddah which will initially be operated through Consulate General of India. The Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad will be offering only B.A, B.Com and Diploma courses this year. Interested students can apply for admission to their desired

courses directly latest by Sep.30,2005.

Another central university, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi is also thinking of opening its Study Centres in Saudi Arabia. "The Centre for Distance and Open Learning" has been established recently by Jamia Millia Islamia, to cater to the educational needs of students in various parts of India. The Centre has already launched two courses: B.Ed and Diploma in Power Generation Engineering. This academic year, the Centre will be offering General B.A courses, MA in Hindi, English, Political Sciences, Sociology, Islamic Studies as well as Diploma in Management, Hardware, Software & Network Technologies etc. The logistics and modalities of operating their Study Centre in Jeddah will be finalized soon.

Positive response from University of Calicut is also expected in near future.

Top Ten Colleges of India

Every academic year, over five million Indian students enter colleges for higher education. Of 12,600 colleges and over 200 universities across the country, the choice is wide open. Students looking for excellence and quality in their desired academic fields remain confused. To help students make better choices, "India Today", with the help of an expert group of distinguished academicians conducted a comprehensive survey of colleges imparting education in the fields of Arts, Science, Commerce, Medicine, Engineering and Law and ranked top ten colleges from each fields for 2005 in the following order:

Arts

| Rank in 2004 | Rank in 2005 | Name of the College |
|--------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| 6 | 1 | Lady Shri Ram College, Delhi |
| 7 | 2 | Presidency College, Chennai |
| 1 | 3 | Loyola College, Chennai |
| 3 | 4 | St Xavier's College, Mumbai |
| - | 5 | Fergusson College, Pune |
| 4 | 6 | ST. Stephen's College, Delhi |
| 2 | 7 | St Xavier's College, Kolkata |
| 8 | 8 | Hindu College, Delhi |
| 9 | 9 | Miranda House, Delhi |
| 5 | 10 | Presidency College, Kolkata |

Science

| Rank in 2004 | Rank in 2005 | Name of the College |
|--------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| 3 | 1 | Loyola College, Chennai |
| 5 | 2 | St.Stephen's College, Delhi |
| 7 | 3 | Presidency College, Kolkata |
| 6 | 4 | St.Xavier's College, Mumbai |
| 1 | 5 | Presidency College, Chennai |
| - | 6 | Fergusson College, Pune |
| - | 7 | Elphinstone College, Mumbai |
| 4 | 8 | Hindu College, Delhi |
| 2 | 9 | St Xavier's College, Kolkata |
| - | 10 | Christ College, Bangalore |

Commerce

| Rank in 2004 | Rank in 2005 | Name of the College |
|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | 1 | Shri Ram College of Commerce, Delhi |
| 5 | 2 | St. Xavier's College, Mumbai |
| - | 3 | BM College of Commerce, Pune |
| 3 | 4 | St. Xavier's College, Kolkata |
| 6 | 5 | Lady Shri Ram College, Delhi |
| 7 | 6 | Hindu College, Delhi |
| - | 7 | Hans Raj College, Delhi |
| 4 | 8 | Loyola College, Chennai |
| - | 9 | Bhavan's College, Mumbai |
| - | 10 | Dr. Ambedkar College, Pune |

Medicine

| Rank in 2004 | Rank in 2005 | Name of the College |
|--------------|--------------|--|
| 1 | 1 | All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi |
| 6 | 2 | Armed Forces Medical College, Pune |
| 7 | 3 | St John's Medical College, Bangalore |
| 2 | 4 | Bangalore Medical College, Bangalore |
| 9 | 5 | JIPMER, Pondicherry |
| 5 | 6 | Christian Medical College, Vellore |
| - | 7 | Grant Medical College, Mumbai |
| 10 | 8 | Maulana Azad Medical College, Delhi |
| 3 | 9 | Kasturba Medical College, Manipal |
| - | 10 | BJ Medical College, Pune |

Engineering

| Rank in 2004 | Rank in 2005 | Name of the College |
|--------------|--------------|---|
| 2 | 1 | Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi |
| 3 | 2 | Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai |
| 4 | 3 | Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai |
| 1 | 4 | Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur |
| 5 | 5 | Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati |
| 7 | 6 | Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur |
| 6 | 7 | Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee |
| 9 | 8 | CE, Guindy, Anna University, Chennai |
| - | 9 | BIT, Mesra, Ranchi |
| - | 10 | Bengal Engineering College, Kolkata |

Law

| Rank in 2004 | Rank in 2005 | Name of the College |
|--------------|--------------|--|
| 3 | 1 | ILS Law College, Pune |
| 1 | 2 | National Law School of India University, Bangalore |
| 5 | 3 | Symbiosis Society's Law College, Pune |
| - | 4 | National Law Institute University, Bhopal |
| 9 | 5 | Faculty of Law, Delhi University, Delhi |
| 4 | 6 | NALSAR, Hyderabad |
| 7 | 7 | Institute of Legal Studies, Bangalore |
| - | 8 | Faculty of Law, BHU, Varanasi |
| 2 | 9 | University College of Law, Bangalore |
| 6 | 10 | Government College of Law, Mumbai |

India's Best Business Schools -Every academic year, about 90,000 students take admission into 1,700 institutes awarding Master of Business Administration (MBA) degrees across the country. To help students make better choices, Business Today – a pioneer in B-School rankings conducted a comprehensive survey of business schools spread across Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow and Mumbai. The following are top 30 business schools / institutes for 2005.

| Rank in 2005 | Rank in 2004 | Name of the institutes |
|--------------|--------------|--|
| 1 | 1 | Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad |
| 2 | 2 | Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore |
| 3 | 6 | Faculty of Management Studies, Delhi |
| 4 | 3 | Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta |
| 5 | 4 | XLRI, Jamshedpur |
| 6 | 7 | Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow |
| 7 | 14 | Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Delhi |
| 8 | 5 | Symbiosis, Pune |
| 9 | 8 | Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies, Mumbai |
| 10 | 17 | Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies, Mumbai |
| 11 | 13 | SP Jain Institute, Mumbai |
| 12 | 25 | Birla Institute, Noida |
| 13 | 12 | TISS, Mumbai |
| 14 | 10 | ICAI Business School, Hyderabad |
| 15 | 16 | IMT, Ghaziabad |
| 16 | 21 | Nirma Institute, Ahmedabad |
| 17 | 9 | IIM, Indore |
| 18 | 28 | Amity Business School, Noida |
| 19 | 15 | IIM, Kozhikode |
| 20 | 20 | Xavier Institute, Bhubaneswar |
| 21 | - | Alliance Business Academy, Bangalore |
| 22 | 19 | KJ Somaiya, Mumbai |
| 23 | 11 | LIBA, Chennai |
| 24 | 18 | MDI, Gurgaon |
| 25 | - | ITM, Mumbai |
| 26 | 29 | Prin LN Welingkar, Mumbai |
| 27 | 23 | IIPM, Mumbai |
| 28 | - | ICFAI Business School, Mumbai |
| 29 | 26 | SIMSREE, Mumbai |
| 30 | 30 | IIPM, Delhi |

Further details of any of the above institutions can be obtained through the Consulate.

INDIA FESTIVAL–JEDDAH 2005 The Consulate General of India is organizing 23-day long "India Festival" in Jeddah from September 8 - 30, 2005, showcasing Indian Cultural Heritage, Education, Business, Trade, Art & Craft, Photo Exhibition, Indo-Saudi Historic relations and a variety of other programmes. The "India Festival-Jeddah" activities will be spread over different venues in the city but the main venue will be the spacious auditorium of International Indian School which can accommodate an audience of over 2200. This is the first time that the Consulate is organizing "India Festival" in Jeddah. Details of the day to day programmes will be available on our website: www.cgijeddah.com

Andhra Pradesh's Minister of Information visits Jeddah



[Sheikh A.K. Saeed receives a replica of Charminar from the Minister]

Shri Mohammed Ali Shabbir, Hon'ble Minister of Information & Public Relations, Government of Andhra Pradesh and Chairman of the AP Non-Resident Indians Cell (Study Group) visited Jeddah from 6-15 July 2005. A convention was held on July 7, 2005 at the Consulate premises by the APNRI Cell, Jeddah unit to welcome the hon'ble Minister. Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, Consul General of India was the Guest of Honour. Around 400 Indians attended the Convention.

Dr. Ausaf Sayeed welcomed the Hon'ble Minister and appreciated his concerns for APNRIs. He stated that Osmania University's distant learning program has been possible with tremendous support of the Minister.

During his address, the honorable Minister appreciated the

hardwork and dedication of the Consulate General of India in rendering fast & valuable services to the Indian Community residing in the Western region of Saudi Arabia.

The Minister indicated that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has agreed to visit the Kingdom in September to interact with prospective Saudi businessmen for taking advantage of the prevailing "excellent" investment environment. He also briefed that the Saudi government is proposing to set up a diplomatic mission with an Honorary Consul in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

The Minister revealed that the Agha Khan Foundation has plans to set up an International University in Hyderabad and the government of Andhra Pradesh has offered 100 acres of land with water supply free of cost. The Agha Khan Foundation is expected to bring in an investment of Rs. 1,000 crores.

The Minister also briefed the audience about confirmation of 5% reservation for Muslims in educational institutions as well as government employment in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

The hon'ble Minister also addressed a group of leading Saudi Businessmen, members of Saudi Indian Business Network (SIBN) and media persons at Hotel Trident on July 8, 2005 where he highlighted the improving business and trade opportunities in India for foreign investors. Speaking about the "most congenial investment" climate prevailing in the State, he presented two books published by the State. One is titled "small State on a long march" and the other on the "New industrial policy". Sheikh A.K. Saeed, President of Saudi India Business Network (SIBN) and a prominent Saudi Businessman, who recently visited India, also shared his experiences with the Indian Businessmen. Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, Consul General welcomed the hon'ble Minister and introduced him to the Saudi businessmen.

New Consul (Haj) joins



Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan joined the Consulate General of India, Jeddah on July 23, 2005 as Consul. Dr. Khan hails from Indore, Madhya Pradesh. He is married to Rifat Jabeen from Jammu and Kashmir and has two daughters, Malak and Sania.

Dr. Khan studied Medical Science and completed his M.B.B.S. with 3 Gold Medals from Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Medical College, Indore, Madhya Pradesh. He did his internship from Central Railway Hospital, Northern Railways. Dr Khan has also done Advanced Diploma in Arabic Language from

the School of Foreign Languages, New Delhi and High Intermediate Level course in Arabic Language from the American University Cairo, Egypt.

Before joining the Indian Foreign Service Dr. Khan worked for sometime in Apollo Hospital, Chennai.

Dr. Khan joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1997 and has done postings at Cairo and Damascus before joining Jeddah. In his previous assignments he has handled Political, Cultural, Information, Commercial and Administration works.

Dr. Khan has taken over as Consul (Haj) and Director, India Forum. In addition, he is presently holding the charge of Head of Chancery.

India Forum has New Management Committee

A new 14-member Managing Committee of India Forum has taken over w.e.f. July 01, 2005. Out of them, seven members were elected unopposed while the rest seven members including two female members were nominated by the Consul General of India Dr. Ausaf Sayeed who also officiates as Vice Patron of India Forum.

Full transparency was ensured in the electoral process. Notification for the annual election of the Managing Committee, India Forum as well as election by-laws and guidelines were circulated among all members well in advance. A three member election commission comprising two Consuls of this Consulate and one senior member of India Forum was constituted to supervise the whole exercise. A total of ten members

had submitted their nomination papers for election to six seats of Managing Committee, but only seven nominations were found eligible. As there were only seven candidates in foray, the Vice Patron utilizing his discretionary power declared all the contestants as elected unopposed.

The 14 members of the Managing Committee are: Shri Abdul Kader Khan (President), Shri Murtuza Hussain Siddiqui (General Secretary), Shri Danish Abdul Ghafoor (Program Coordinator), Shri V.V. Varghese (Treasurer), Shri Mohammed Feroz Khan, Shri Mohammad Salabat Lodhi, Shri Mohammed Mateen Ahmed, Shri Shabbir Patel, Shri Amir Dawood Patel, Shri Jagannath Shetty, Shri Syed Sharique Ali, Dr. Imamuddin Ghouse Mohideen (all members), Smt. Roopali Dey and Smt. Sheeba Aslam Ebad Khan (Women's coordinators)

Published by Press and Information Wing, Consulate General of India, Jeddah, Tel: 6520104, Fax: 6533964

Designed & Printed by

ATEICO Communication

N.B.: Views expressed in this newsletter have been compiled from various sources. The editorial board has tried to ensure to the extent possible that there are no errors. However, if there are any errors, these may be brought to our notice.

EDITED BY: M.S. SHAIK SULAIMAN