



INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

- Inspire
- Empower
- Connect

NEWS AND ACTIVITIES FROM THE ALUMNI COMMUNITY IN INDIA AND BHUTAN



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Photo by A.Prathap

President Obama and Prime Minister Modi's vision for the U.S.-India partnership is one that not only benefits our two nations, but one that benefits the world. Indian alumni of U.S. Government-sponsored exchange programs are making that vision a reality every-day. You are incubating the next big innovative technology solutions. You are fighting climate change and protecting our environment. You are standing up for the equality and protection of girls and women. And you are reminding us of our shared hu-

manity through music, comedy, film and other arts. There aren't enough pages in this newsletter to highlight all the amazing work that you do; but I hope this edition sparks new ideas and continues to connect you to each other as resources. We at the U.S. Consulate General in Chennai and across the larger U.S. Mission to India look forward to another season of great fun and inspiring work with all of you.

Best,
Ariel H. Pollock
Public Affairs Officer,
U.S. Consulate General, Chennai

Kerala Comes Alive through Alumni Voices

Consul General Phillip Min had an off-the-record meeting with key alumni PAS contacts – media, community leaders and influencers in their sphere of work. With longstanding ties to the U.S. Consulate General, these well placed alumni contacts provided candid in-

sights into the perception of the United States in Kerala, issues of importance to the people of Kerala, and how the U.S. Consulate General can have a more strategic and positive impact in the state.



L to R: U.S. Consul General Phillip Min, Mr. Satish Murti, Lawyer (IVLP alumnus), PAO Ariel Pollock, Mr. Sijo Kuvrila, Founding CEO and techpreneur, Startup Village, Kochi (IVLP Alumnus), and Ms. Parveen Hafiz, Managing Director, Sunrise Group (Fortune Alumna)

Alumni Train Teachers to Focus on Student Health: Mind, Body, and Spirit

On April 7, UN World Health Day, PAS Chennai organized a health seminar for 35 secondary school teachers aligning the collective strengths of several alumni groups - the Chennai chapter of East-West Center Alumni Association (EWCA), Exchange Visitor Alumni Association (South India) (EVAA), and the Rotary Exchange Alumni Association. Health professionals from these alumni groups engaged

with teachers and empowered them with knowledge about less-discussed topics related to students' health and holistic development - such as adolescent sexual health, domestic violence, and even dental health issues. The event was covered by local English and vernacular media and was also featured in the United National World Health Organization (WHO) website.



Participants with the alumni trainers and CAO Andie De Arment

REWIND
CHENNAI



Party Time: Reconnecting with Young Alumni

CAO Andie De Arment hosted an informal representational reunion dinner party in her residence for 17 young USG alumni (YES, SU-SI, NESA, and CCI programs). Alumni networked with each other, discussed their goals and aspirations, and bonded with the U.S. government official and Consulate team. Par-

ticipants enjoyed the decor featuring posters of U.S. President Barack Obama and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's during President Obama's recent trip to Delhi. Alumni also clicked photographs with a life-size cutout of U.S. President Barack Obama.



REWIND
CHENNAI



Selfie time with young alumni & CAO Andie

Alum hosts Int'l Conference in Kochi

Dr. D. Dhanuraj is the chairman of Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR) in Kochi, Kerala, India, a think tank he founded in 2004. He participated in the 2014 IVLP SCP on American Think Tanks.

CPPR conceptualized and organized a two-day International Conference on "U.S. Rebalance and Asia Pacific Region" in Kochi with the support of the US Consulate-General Chennai which helped in generating ideas and thoughts for U.S. and Indian governments. The conference deliberated upon the U.S "Rebalancing" its strategy in the Asia-Pacific region and its potential implications. This conference focused on how the U.S would play a pivotal role in a region that is growing more important in the 21st Century. The Conference had key speakers drawn from the fields of security, strategic studies, trade & commerce, and academics, including Phillip Min, Consul General, U.S. Consulate General in Chennai and several alumni: Mr. M.K. Narayanan, Former Governor of West Bengal and Former National Security Advisor (and an IVLP alum),

Dr. G. Gopa Kumar, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Kerala, Kasargod (IVLP alumnus), Prof. V. Suryanarayan, Nelson Mandela Professor – for Afro-Asian Studies, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala (Volvis grantee), Dr. Lawrence Prabhakar Williams, International Relations and Strategic Studies, Dept of Political Science, Madras Christian College, Chennai (Volvis and SUSI grantee). The Final Report of the Conference can be accessed here: [Report on Conference on US](#)

CG Min inaugurates the International Conference on U.S. Rebalance and Asia Pacific in Kochi. Dr. Dhanuraj and Mr. M.K. Narayan seen to his left.



U.S. Speaker on GBV & Trafficking Learns from Alumni Stakeholders

Tiffany Williams is the coordinator for the Beyond Survival campaign of the National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA), and the Senior Human Trafficking and Labor Rights Specialist for the Global Economy project of the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS). During her visit to South India, Post engaged several alumni in the fields of trafficking, human rights, and gender specialists to interact with her.

She inaugurated the shop run by rehabilitated trafficked victims rescued by Madras Christian Council of Social Services (MCCSS) in a program that helps survivors of human trafficking by providing them with the skills necessary to earn a livelihood. Ms. Isabel Richardson, Secretary of MCCSS is an IVLP alumna and this initiative is a direct result of her IVLP

program. Isabel came up with the idea last year after she visited a cafe in Washington DC, which is run by trafficked survivors.

Tiffany Williams was also interviewed by another Chennai-based IVLP alumna Felix Gerald who featured it in his online channel RedPix.

“Smart Talk” program, a popular breakfast show, on Radio One 94.3 FM (Chennai) featured a joint interview with U.S. Speaker Tiffany Williams and U.S. Consulate General Chennai IVLP alumna Isabel Richardson focusing on trafficking-in-persons issues.

The speaker engaged with several USG alumni in a roundtable with NGO representatives working on trafficking, attorneys, judge, activists, social media influencers, and media experts on combating trafficking.



REWIND
CHENNAI



US Speaker Tiffany Williams during the inauguration of the sales counter initiated by IVLP alumna Isabel Richardson

Alumni present at the roundtable were: Priya Menon, Journalist at Times of India, Padma, Mangai – Fulbright Alumna and Professor, Stella Maris College, Writer and GBV activist, and Justice Chandru, former Judge, High court of Madras (4th, 5th and 6th from R respectively)



Promoting Alumni Programming in American Spaces

Alumni programs form one of the five core program areas (pillars) of American Spaces alongside information about the United States, English language learning, EducationUSA advising, and cultural programs.

As a way of introducing robust alumni participation in promoting the recently renovated and reopened American Center in Chennai, several alumni volunteered to organize exciting and educational programs that lend themselves to the conference space available at the American Library in Chennai.

As a cheerful finale to the opening week celebrations, ECA Culture Connect alumnus and theater director Sunil Vishnu facilitated a stand-up comedy performance "Evam Standup Tamasha" bringing four stand-up comedians to entertain library visitors with an hour of non-stop laughter.

On April 22nd, Earth Day, Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral Alumna and IIT Research Scientist Dr. Suneethi Sundar gave a presentation on "How big is your footprint" at the American Library which led to vibrant interaction with the participants on environmental issues.



Team 'Evam Standup Tamasha' at the American Center



Fulbright alumna Dr. Suneethi Sundar explains the carbon footprint

REWIND CHENNAI



IIP Coordinator Talks Social Media for Social Good with Alumni in Bangalore

During the recent visit of Macon Phillips, Co-ordinator, Bureau of Information Programs, Washington, DC to Bengaluru, Post facilitated meetings with different groups of alumni including a meeting of young alumni on "Social

Media for Social Good" at the American Corner. Topics ranged from recent debates about net neutrality to climate change and how alumni see the changing digital landscape in India and the world.



SUSI alumna Sezel Lalwani during the visit of Macon Phillips, Coordinator, IIP in Bangalore

A Journey of a Thousand Miles...

In a mission-initiated alumni program, a leadership and mentoring workshop for 18 alumni (aged 18 to 25 years) and seven experienced alumni mentors was facilitated by alumni-led NGO *Pravah* in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala from April 27 to

30, 2015. The "learning journey" that began there will continue for three months with mentoring and guidance on the various social and personal growth projects identified by the mentor-mentee groups. This batch of the workshop will close in August 2015.



Young alumni recreate the "Mud and Sculptor" exercise where they negotiate concepts of control and freedom

REWIND
CHENNAI



"All it takes is one step to change the future; 'I Have a Dream' workshop helped us to take that one step towards bringing the change!"

– Mohd. Himayatullah,
YES Alumnus.

Alumna-led discussion on women security in India

The Consulate facilitated a panel discussion on Women Security in India: Understanding Legal and Civil Rights on March 16. The panel was led by an IVLP alumna Aarefa Johari. The other panelists included U.S. Speaker Tiffany Williams, Audrey D'Mello, a lawyer working on gender issues (who is currently on an IVLP in the U.S.), and Insia Dariwala, a documentary filmmaker who works to combat child sexual abuse. The panel discussion pro-

vided resources and skills to professional women so that they can protect themselves by understanding their legal and civil rights. The audience of 60 civil society representatives, business professionals, and academics was interested in learning about U.S. approaches to countering sexual violence, harassment in public and the workplace, and laws facilitating protection and redress.



Women alumni leaders meet DPO

To celebrate Women's History Month, the Public Affairs section hosted an alumni lunch with Deputy Principal Officer (DPO) Deanna Abdeen on Wednesday, March 11. The six women alumni were from a variety of backgrounds and are prominent in their respective fields namely, business, journalism, academia, civil

society, and environment. The alumni briefed the DPO, CAO, and ACAO on their exchange experience and their field of expertise. Discussions also took place on the role of women in Indian society and challenges faced by Indian women in the workforce.



From left to right— ACAO Brittney Stewart, IVLP alumna Shriya Bhatia, DPO Deanna Abdeen, Fortune/U.S. State Department Global Women's Mentoring Program alumna Simrita Dhillon, IVLP alumna Marie Fernandes, FPC alumna Preeti Sompura, SUSI for scholars alumna Rashmi Bhure, CAO Anamika Chakravorty, IVLP alumna Ashwini Gandhi, AC Behrooz Avari

REWIND
MUMBAI



“It was a great group of women, and a terrific conversation. I hope the participants thought their time was well spent. I certainly did :)”

—DPO Abdeen

Alumni-led sessions at Access camp

The Consulate hosted over 80 English Access Microscholarship students at the Consulate for a day-long series of workshops as part of the weeklong Access Summer Intensive Camp. On March 26, the session on Citizen Journalism was conducted by an IVLP alumnus and journalist Sameer Karve and the session on Peace Building and Conflict Resolution was conducted by eight alumni of the Seeds of Peace Program. The Citizen Journalism workshop taught the Access students

how to use online tools such as mobile phones, blogs, and Twitter to share their voices and make positive changes in their communities. The Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Workshop offered the students solutions on how to prevent conflict and facilitate peace. The Seeds also spoke about their experience in the Seeds of Peace program, and their interactions with Seeds from Pakistan and Afghanistan.



Self-defense workshop for ♀ alumni

A self-defense session for women alumni and some Consulate staff was held on Thursday, March 26 at the U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai. The purpose of the event was to equip female alumni with the skills necessary to protect themselves in situations that vio-

late their health and security and to encourage alumni and consular staff to network and develop stronger relationships for future programming. The training session was led by Mr. Mehul Vora, Director and Chief Instructor of the Women's Self-Defense Center.

I learned a great deal last night about posture and body language, messages many of us don't realize we are sending out.
— Claire Berger



Alumni in action at the self-defense workshop

REWIND
MUMBAI



Alumni interact with U.S. experts

The U.S. Consulate invites experts from the United States in Mission priority areas to address a wide range of audiences in India. In March and April, some of the alumni met with these U.S. speakers and engaged with them on specific topics of their expertise.

IVLP alumni Shriya Bhatia, Rishi Aggarwal, and Roshni Udyavar Yehuda participated in a roundtable discussion with U.S. Speaker David Cash on Monday, April 27, on 'Building a Clean Energy Cluster'. David Cash was previously the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and

a senior fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

Macon Phillips spearheads the State Department's digital diplomacy work, as the Coordinator of the Bureau of International Information Programs at the State Department. IVLP alumni Trupti Chengalath Sreedharan, Jayesh Shinde, and others with experience in using technology discussed the usage of online tools for social good in India, online expression, and social media trends in India with Macon Phillips and Consul General Tom Vajda at the end of April.



YouTube and social media is a great platform for sharing music and streaming videos can be a valuable marketing strategy. These platforms also allow one to share their music to all classes of society but this should be done without endangering profitability.

— Mirande Shah

Roundtable discussion on 'Tracking World-wide Terrorism Trends'

On April 24, alumni and other invitees participated in a roundtable discussion on "Tracking Worldwide Terrorism Trends" with U.S. Speaker Dr. Gary Lafree, Director of the National Consortium for the Study of Terror-

ism and Responses to Terrorism and a Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Maryland. SUSI and IVLP alumni Rashmi Bhure, Liyakat Khan, Sachin Pardhe, and Sudha Mohan participated.



Dosti alumna radio interview on IPR

The Consulate celebrated Intellectual Property Rights Day on April 26. The theme for this year's IPR Day was "Get up, Stand Up" to highlight the importance of IPR in encouraging innovation and creativity in the music field. OneBeat and Dosti Alumna Sanaya Ardeshir and Dosti Alumna Mirande Shah were interviewed on Mumbai University's community radio "MUST FM" to discuss IPR issues in the Indian music Industry. They also shared

their recent experience in the Dosti project that brought together ten innovative musicians from Pakistan, India, and the United States to take part in a collaboration centered around an immersive U.S.-based residency and tour program. In this program, the Dosti Fellows created, recorded, and performed original music that emphasized both ancient and contemporary musical connections, both within the subcontinent and the United States.



REWIND
MUMBAI



Alumni participate in Virtual Model SAARC Conference

Alumnus Neeraj Kumar of Patna, headed the Indian delegation that participated in the Model South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Conference organized by U.S. Embassy -Dhaka. Embassy - Dhaka held the conference virtually due to domestic political protests in the country on the eve of the program.

The virtual program saw active participation from participant countries which included Nepal, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh and all members of the Indian delegation. Neeraj Kumar from the think tank, Asian Development Research Institute (ADRI) of Patna, recounted an enriching conference experience, as the members were able to flesh out ideas and build enthusiasm for the in-person conference to be held in Dhaka in July this year.



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REWIND KOLKATA



The virtual conference between Model SAARC alumni delegates

APAO Greg Pardo meets young alumni for an 'adda'

APAO Greg Pardo and Alumni Coordinator, Angelina Nair, met with a group of young alumni from the Community College Initiative Program (CCI), Near East and South Asia Undergraduate Exchange Program, Benjamin Franklin Summer Institute and Space Camp Champ Programs. The APAO hosted Sagar Thapa, Aashna Doshi, Akash Prasad, Sumon Karmokar and Prachi Agarwal for an 'adda' in

his office over coffee and cookies. The meeting was a good opportunity to connect with our vibrant young alumni group who will be our partners and leaders in programs going forward, such as student focus groups, college outreach and speaker programs. It was also an opportunity to sound some ideas and hear from them about what kind of events would work best at the high school and college levels.



APAO Greg Pardo with the alumni group

APAO Greg Pardo meets Guwahati alumni

APAO Greg Pardo met with alumni in Guwahati as part of his first outreach visit to the state of Assam. Alumni participants included Sujata Dutta Hazarika, Ramheube Zeliang and Jahna-bi Phookan who represent business, education, and environmental fields. The meeting allowed the APAO to connect with our alumni

and deepen our relationship with them by learning about the economic and educational opportunities in the region. It was also a good opportunity to hear from them about the good work they have been doing since their exchange, and their perspective on the challenges and opportunities in the state.



APAO Greg Pardo with the alumni in Guwahati

Fulbrighter inaugurates social media program at the American Library

Fulbright Alumnus, Dr. P. Ishwara Bhat, delivered the inaugural speech at a seminar on 'How to Protect Your Social Media Presence' organized by the American Library. The program, attended by varied social media users, professors, and corporate IT experts, had expert speakers talking on the negative impact of social media on legal, education, IT

and other fields. Dr. Bhat is currently the Vice Chancellor of the West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata. He was Fulbright Nehru Visiting Professor in 2010 and involved in co-teaching NPO Law at Columbus Law School of Catholic University of America in Washington D.C.



Dr. P. Ishwara Bhat delivers the opening remarks at the Seminar

REWIND KOLKATA



'Fefu and Friends' – play directed by alumnus performed at the American Center

Students from Jadavpur University performed the play 'Fefu and friends' directed by Fulbright alumnus Professor Ananda Lal, at the American Center - Kolkata. The play, a landmark feminist drama by Maria Irene, presented the interactions of eight female friends over a day. Professor Ananda Lal is a renowned Indian academic and theatre critic.

Mr. Lal is Professor of English and Coordinator of the Rabindranath Tagore Studies Centre (UGC), at Jadavpur University, Calcutta. He also heads 'Writers Workshop', one of India's oldest creative writing publishers, translates literature from Bengali to English, is a theatre critic for The Telegraph (Calcutta) and directs university theatre.



Alumnus Prof. Ananda Lal with the cast of the play at the American Center

APAO Greg Pardo meets with key Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) Guwahati Chapter members

APAO Greg Pardo met with key CII members of the Guwahati State Chapter during his recent visit to Assam. The meeting, organized by Guwahati chapter co-chairperson and exchange alumnus Jahnabi Phookan, provided insight into the challenges and opportunities in the economic and development sectors in Assam. It also provided an overview of CII-Assam activities and plans, and helped explore areas of possible collaboration.

APAO Greg Pardo interacts with CII members



Leadership and Mentoring Workshop for Alumni

U.S. Consulate – Kolkata, in association with Delhi-based NGO Pravah, organized a four-day leadership and mentoring workshop for alumni from all over the Consular district. Twelve young alumni mentees from Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Assam went through a series of activity sessions designed to enhance their leadership and community service skills. Toward the end of the workshop they were paired with senior alumni mentors from West

Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand who will guide them in their projects and help them in realizing their leadership potential. The exposure gained through the exchange program coupled with capacity building on leadership, networking and mentoring, helped equip the young alumni to engage more with developmental issues, thereby contributing to the society meaningfully and creating inspiring change agents.



**REWIND
KOLKATA**



Alumnus Amit Patro mentors Sagar Thapa, Sudipto Paul and Zenith Lairikyengbam



Alumni mentees, with mentor Syed Saud Akhtar, display their dream catchers on the final day of the workshop



Alumnus Shubham Kumar does the 'trust-fall'

Leadership and Mentoring Foundation Workshop Kolkata, April 9 –12, 2015

Alumni invited for tea at the Consul General's Residence

Consul General Helen LaFave met with prominent poets and authors of Bengal for a tea discussion at her residence, which also included former Fulbright Fellows and International Writing Program alumni. The evening saw an engaging interaction touching on various themes from the prevalence and popularity of American

Literature in Kolkata to the idea of publishing the SPAN magazine in Bengali to reach a greater audience. There was also a sharing of information on our resources, and copies of the American Literature series were requested for students by Fulbright alumna Sanjukta Dasgupta to supplement their graduate program syllabi.



Consul General Helen LaFave with the guests at her residence

Poemscapes – poetry reading session by U.S. and Indian Fulbrighters

United States-India Educational Foundation-Kolkata organized a poetry reading session by U.S. Fulbrighter Mr. Jake Adler and Indian Fulbright alumna Dr. Srabanti Basu. The evening saw a poetry recitation session comprising Indian and American authors, as well as translations of some famous Bengali po-

ems. 'Poemscapes from Bengal and the U.S.' included such poems as *Shudhu Kabitar Janya* (Sunil Gangopadhyay), *Constantly Risking Absurdity* (Lawrence Ferlinghetti), *The Colonel* (Carolyn Forche), *Baho re Alor Mala* (Sankha Ghosh) and *The Laughing Heart* (Charles Bukowski) among others.



Who Wears the Pants in the House?

To mark Women's History Month, IVLP alumna, Ms. Gunjan Sharma, led a 2-hour interactive workshop, *'Who Wears the Pants in the House? Busting Gender Myths'*, on challenging gender stereotypes with American Center Library patrons and young alumni. The major activities included discussion around myths such as "Girls are gentle, boys are tough," and "having sex with her husband is a woman's duty," breaking them down to ask the audi-

ence whether they thought such stereotypes stem from biological or societal gender differences. This highly-engaging debate dealt with discussion around 10 such myths. This was followed by a screening of a short film called *"Soch Sahi, Mard Wohi"* (or, *"[With] Correct Thinking, That's a True Man"*). The heated discussion focused on the roots and impacts of patriarchy, and how gender roles are changing in India.



IVLP alumna Gunjan Sharma busts gender myths in the AmCenter Library with young alumni and Library patrons

"English is a Funny Language!"

"Desi Angrezi" (or, *"English in India"*), a documentary by ACCESS & YES alumnus, Shadab Nazmi, and his team was screened at the American Center Library on April 9. The 16-minute documentary focused on the often-hilarious consequences of learning English in India, and was attended by about 150 people, including library patrons, exchange alumni, and members of the general public. The screening was followed by a discussion on language and documentary film-making with the filmmakers and three guest speakers. They focused on the

challenges of learning a new language, the broader politics of language, cultural hegemony, and capitalism, as well the necessity of finding a common global language in today's increasingly interconnected world. The film-makers are all final year Masters' students at the Jamia Milia Islamia University in Delhi. The three guest speakers included author, academic, film-maker and IVLP alumna, Ms. Anubha Yadav, and the film-makers' mentors, Mr. Simon Chambers (documentary film-maker) and Ms. Richa Pant (journalist and film-maker).



YES alumnus, Shadab Nazmi (far left) with fellow film-makers and guest speakers during screening and panel discussion of *Desi Angrezi*. The guest speakers were IVLP alumna Anubha Yadav (centre, with mic), and the team's mentors, Simon Chambers and Richa Pant

Amb. Verma Meets Alumni in Bhutan

During Ambassador Richard Verma's visit to Bhutan in April, about 25 exchange alumni from the International Visitor Leadership Program, Hubert Humphrey Fellowship and the

Legislative Fellows Program attended a small reception the Ambassador hosted for civil society leaders and government officials in Thimphu.

REWIND
NEW DELHI



Desi Angrezi, documentary film by ACCESS and YES alumnus & team, touches upon challenges of learning English, broader politics of language, cultural hegemony, and globalization

Creating Space for Public Voice

The American Center New Delhi celebrated Earth Day 2015 by hosting a policy dialogue on environment protection and the importance of public participation to create awareness and increase accountability of government and industry. The speakers included International Leadership Visitor Program alumni, Ms. Shibani Ghosh, Advocate; Mr. Muhammad Ali Khan, Advocate and Ms. Priti Mahesh, Chief Programming Coordinator,

Toxics Link. They shared their insight on the challenges faced in drafting and implementing policies relating to public consultations. The discussion, attended by Fulbright and Humphrey Fellows and IVLP alumni, touched upon the importance of the Environmental Impact Assessment, identification of all stakeholders, and communication of environmental policies in a simple manner to the wider public.



On Earth Day 2015, IVLP alumni., Shibani Ghosh, Muhammad Khan, and Priti Mahesh, leading a policy dialogue on the significance of public participation in environment policy implementation

Celebrating 75 Years of International Exchanges

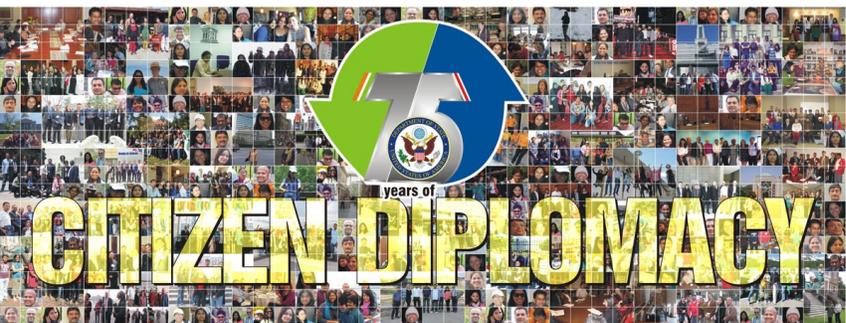
The year 2015 marks the 75th anniversary of USG-sponsored exchange programs around the world, which began with what is today known as the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). The IVLP Alumni Reception was held to kick off the Post's celebrations to mark 75 years of citizen diplomacy between the United States and India. Post had reached out to several senior alumni across North India who had participated in the program but

had lost touch with the Embassy/Center. The reception and initiative to bring back to the fold such senior alumni was well-received by the alumni community, who were able to reconnect with Embassy staff as well as fellow exchange participants. A new logo to commemorate the anniversary was also created and placed on souvenirs and decorations. A huge thank you to all who came out for the celebrations!



IVLP alumni at the 75th Anniversary celebrations hosted by Minister Counselor for Public Affairs, Mr. Walter Douglas

Local alumni-led folk band, Manzil Mystics, added to the festive mood



REWIND
NEW DELHI



IVLP alum and transgender activist listed as one of Facebook's 12 amazing women on International Women's Day, 2015

Kalki Subramaniam is an important and well-known transgender rights activist. She broke new ground in 2011 by starring in a major motion picture in India — the first

transgender woman to ever do so. She attended the IVLP RP on "Human Rights Advocacy and Awareness" in October 2010. Read her interview to **MTV**.



Facebook snapshot of KalkiSubramaniam on Facebook's 12 amazing women on IWD, 2015

IVLP participant interacts with HRH Prince Charles

"Magna Carta 2015: Global Empowerment Through Rule of Law," forum brought together young leaders from twenty countries to meet with the Prince of Wales and various policy experts to discuss law, the economy, gender equality, climate change and conflict. The idea behind the forum was to have an event that aligned with the 800-year anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta. Participants were encouraged to think about the document and generate ideas that would be useful in their home countries. Mumbai-based IVLP participant Ashraf Ahmed Shaikh was one of the twenty participants who was able to interact with HRH Prince Charles on March 19.



THROUGH the
GRAPEVINE
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Alumnus speaks at UN Women's Inter-generational Meeting

With participants ranging in age from 10 to 79, UN Women hosted a full-day intergenerational dialogue on March 13 aimed at creating a space to connect up-and-coming gender equality activists with veterans to develop new strategies to achieve gender equality by 2030. One of UN Women's flagship events at the 59th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the dialogue brought together women and men, girls, and boys of all ages, indigenous groups, private sector and media representatives, LGBTIQ groups, and civil society organizations from countries across the globe.

IVLP alumnus Harish Sadani founder of MAVA (Men Against Violence and Abuse) was invited to speak at this meeting in New York where he made comments on overcoming challenges faced while engaging young boys and men in achieving a gender-just society. A link to the webcast of the meeting is available here: <http://goo.gl/G0IJGt>

UN WEB TV
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YES Alumni celebrate Global Youth Service Day (GYSD)

GYSD celebrates and mobilizes the millions of young people who improve their communities through service.

YES alumni all over India celebrated GYSD. On April 11th in Ahmedabad, YES alumni spent quality time with residents at an old age home regaling them with music. On April 18th in Mumbai, YES alumni celebrated GYSD

with children from less privileged backgrounds at the Navodaya Centre in Kalyan. The Centre works towards rehabilitation of rag-picking children. The alumni played games with them, and sang children's songs. After all the fun and games, YES alumna Manshi Gala ended with a session on personal hygiene.



YES alumna Pooja Shah having fun interacting with children at the Navodaya Centre for GYSD

Virtual SAARC Summit

The U.S Embassy in Bangladesh organized a Model South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Summit that was meant to take place in Dhaka in the beginning of March. Due to certain security reasons, selected alumni could not attend the summit in Bangladesh, but participated in a Virtual SAARC Summit with the intention of providing a platform for young professionals to revitalize regional cooperation.

Seeds of Peace alumna Ruth Hannah Verma shares her experience participating in the virtual summit:

"We began with the Peace and Security Council's questions about Security within the region. Delegates spoke of the internal and external conflicts affecting South Asian countries, that hinder the development of peace within the region as well as issues to be worked on to foster long-lasting peace. I spoke of the importance of regional cooperation in dealing with militancy, using the basis of commonalities within our cultures. We discussed problems of implementation, and how this affects future development in these fields.

I stayed on for the Social and Economic, as well as the Educational and Cultural committee discussions, participating whenever I felt I had something to contribute to the discussion. The social and economic committee spoke of problems that affected the educational and cultural life of the people, and so discussion tended to include topic areas of both committees. Economics was given most importance, for its power to limit action and control policy due to the allocation of funds. I spoke of my experiences of education in purporting biases through history textbooks, and a project I was a part of that worked to highlight the differed coverage of the same historical events. I also stated the importance of all policy being oriented towards practical implementation that can adapt to changing times, which would help change mindsets that resist progress. We concluded our discussion by talking about the importance of planning for success, and the initiatives that we can take up to uphold these ideas.



THROUGH the
GRAPEVINE
MUMBAI

Alumna participates in the PUAN Women's Conference

The U.S. Embassy Islamabad and the Pakistan-US Alumni Network (PUAN) held a conference on women's empowerment from March 6-8 in Islamabad with participants from South Asian countries.

One of the participants was IVLP alumna Aarefa Johari, who also served as a panelist for a regional discussion on women's empowerment issues. Aarefa Johari passionately raises awareness against female genital mutilation (FGM), a common, ancient, and religious practice among her Dawoodi Bohra community in her country and elsewhere.

The story in her words:

"When I got selected for the PUAN Women's Empowerment Conference in Pakistan, I was excited about meeting so many like-minded professionals from across Asia who all believe in women's rights and work towards it, I was looking forward to stimulating discussions and, of course, travelling to Pakistan itself, which holds so much meaning for an Indian.

In Islamabad, I got to experience all of that and so much more. The conference, for one, was a tremendous success. It was smoothly organized, well-balanced between intense discussions and lighter, cultural interactions. And more than anything, it was the people who made it work - the panelists who shared their stories and their views were inspiring to say the least, and we were able to approach questions of women's rights and challenges from so many different perspectives:

the portrayal of women in the media, the glass ceiling at the workplace, women in conflict zones, women breaking stereotypes to make it in male-dominated fields, women in social work...the list is definitely long!

But besides the panelists, I found it so enriching just to be amidst so many alumni from across Pakistan - literally every corner - from regions I wasn't aware of, speaking languages I hadn't even heard of before. The diversity was so wonderful, and went a long way in giving me a wider glimpse of the whole nation even though I was just in one city.

A session that really stayed with me was the one on people with disabilities, held outside the Pakistan Monument. As so many women and men shared their stories of the obstacles that our societies throw at them, it reaffirmed my belief that the fight for women's rights can never be for women alone - if equality is the goal of feminism, then by definition it must be a larger fight for the equality of ALL, including people discriminated against on the bases of abilities, class, caste, sexual orientation or anything else.

And finally, I cannot conclude without emphasizing how completely overwhelmed I was by Pakistani *dildaari* - everyone I met, both at the conference and outside, went out of their way to express their love for India and their warm hospitality for me as an Indian. That was the icing on the cake which made the Islamabad visit truly special".



THROUGH the
GRAP EVITNE
MUMBAI



IVLP alumnus Dr. Syed Ahmed invited to speak at the UN

The UN invited International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) alumnus, Dr. Syed Ahmed of Assam, to participate in the 'Lions Day' event held in the first week of March 2015, at the UN Headquarters in New York. Dr. Ahmed is the Chairman of the AIDS Prevention Society of Assam, a premier civil society organization of North East India. This year's theme at the UN was "Children in Need". Dr. Ahmed discussed the current situation in India's north east region regard-

ing drugs, HIV & Hepatitis C co-infection, and the experiences of intervention projects implemented by the AIDS Prevention Society. The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) panel discussion provided insight into the Lions Quest Program for youth, which was very informative for the participants. "The event gave me the immense opportunity to learn how, together with the UN, we can continue to help those in need on a global level", said Dr. Ahmed.



Dr. Syed Ahmed presents his paper at the UN

Alumna Sarah Veipune writes for the Northwest Community College Initiative Program student blog

Following her exchange program as a Community College student at the Northwest Community College, alumna Ms. Veipune now works towards making education more accessible for women in her community as a volunteer Ambassador for the Half the Sky organization and is collaborating with the Naotoumai Rural Development Association (NRDA). Ms. Veipune says that, "the confidence I gained from my exchange experience - meeting with so many people from diverse backgrounds and the spirit of community service in particular, inspired

me to pursue community development goals in my hometown, Kathiko Karong, Manipur, when I returned." Ms. Veipune's student blog chronicles her experience at Northwest and her current community development initiative. Check out Sarah's blog in link below: <http://northwestcci.com/2015/03/04/veipune-sarah-turning-oppression-into-opportunity/> .com/2015/03/04/veipune-sarah-turning-oppression-into-opportunity/ <http://northwestcci.com/2015/03/04/veipune-sarah-turning-oppression-into-opportunity/>

THROUGH *the* GRAPPEVITINE KOLKATA



Lascar Monument Commemoration Program

The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), commemorated the centenary of the 1st World War and the 90th Anniversary of the Lascar War Memorial, a monument in memory of 896 Indian Merchant Seamen who died in the First World War on March 8 in Napier, Kolkata. The day

also marked the 30th anniversary of INTACH. The Indian Navy, who maintains the monument, the Indian Museum and the Kolkata Police who have done commendable work in connection with heritage conservation of the city were felicitated by INTACH. The event was also attended by the Consul General.



IVLP alumna Nayantara Palchoudhuri, head of the West Bengal chapter of INTACH, felicitates Mr. Soumen Mitra, I.P.S., Jt. Commissioner, Kolkata Police

Alumnus participates in International English Language Convention in Canada

International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) alumnus, Arindam Sengupta, participated in the 49th Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) International Convention and English Language Expo, held during March 25-28 in Toronto, Canada. Mr. Sengupta had a very productive trip where he met and networked with other English Language Teachers from all around the world. He delivered a poster presentation on English as a Second Language (ESL) Project entitled 'Education to Employability'. Mr. Sengupta has been involved in this project, a central government initiative in association with Vikramshila Education Resource Society, since its inception in 2012 and is a master trainer for this project running 200 schools in the state. Arindam was also awarded the Professional Development Travel Grant for Practicing ESL/EFL Teachers.



Alumnus Arindam Sengupta with Diane Millar, RELO - India



THROUGH the
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KOLKATA



THROUGH *the* GRAP THE HYDERABAD EVENTINE

Sunitha Krishnan Addresses the Annual Women in the World Summit in New York

Sunitha Krishnan is a leading Indian social activist and the Co-Founder of Prajwala, a non-governmental organization that rescues, rehabilitates and reintegrates sex-trafficked victims into society. She was invited to address the sixth annual Women in the World Summit that took place in New York from April 22-24, 2015. Sunitha spoke about "Shame the Rapist," a nationwide social media campaign that she led which exposed rapists through videos uploaded to social media sites with the hashtag #ShameTheRapist. Under Sunitha's lead-

ership, Prajwala is seeking to establish a national sex offenders registry as well as a task force in the Union Home Ministry to address technology-driven sexual crimes. To view her talk, click here: <https://youtu.be/eLbw1gieFqc>. In New York, Sunitha also participated in the IVLP On Demand, a day long program of professional meetings with key individuals and organizations who work in the area of countering trafficking and sex crimes. Sunitha is an alumna of the International Visitor Leadership Program on Women and Child Trafficking in 1998.



Clockwise - Photo 1&2: Sunitha addressing the Women in the World Annual Summit; Photo 3: with Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton; Photo 4: with actor and activist Meryl Streep; Photo 5: with actor and activist Angelina Jolie



Tirupati-based Social Activist Organizes a Workshop on Sexuality and Human Rights



Meera Raghavendra, founder of the Tirupati-based NGO Women's Initiatives (WINS), organized a workshop on Sexuality and Human Rights in partnership with the Centre for Women's Studies at Sri Venkateswara (S.V.) University on April 30, 2015. More than twenty five people, including NGO activists working on sexuality, health, rural development, the rights of children, women, and indigenous peoples as well as citizen journalists and academics participated in this workshop. Meera

will present the findings of this workshop to important members of the Chittoor District administration, in order to educate and sensitize them on the issues of sexuality and human rights. She has also proposed a national seminar on this topic with support from the Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Centre for Women's Studies at S.V. University, Tirupati. Meera is an alumna of the International Visitor Leadership Program on Trafficking of Women and Children in 2002.

Hyderabad Health Economist Participates in U.S.-India Think Tank Summit

Subodh Kandamuthan, Director of the Centre for Health Care Management at Administrative Staff College of India, participated in the U.S.-India Think Tank Summit which took place in New Delhi from 27-29 April, 2015. The first annual U.S.-India Think Tank Summit was jointly organized by Brookings India Center, Observer Research Foundation and the Think Tanks and Civil Society Program at the University of Pennsylvania. The summit was funded by a grant from the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi. Representatives of more than sixty institutions, including senior Indian government officials, participated in the summit and the keynote address was delivered by Ambassador Richard Verma. The summit explored the ways in which India's think tanks are currently making a difference in the country's economic and social development, and how they can become increasingly relevant and important contributors to India's future. Subodh is an alumnus of the International Visitor Leadership Program on American Think Tanks in 2014.



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Dosti Without Borders! Indian Alumna in Pakistan

Fulbright-Nehru 2012-13 alumna, Ms. Ashwaq Masoodi, participated in the Women's Empowerment Conference (WEC) organized by the Pakistan-U.S. Alumni Network (PUAN) in Islamabad on March 6-8. The Indian delegation comprised of Ashwaq and IVLP alumna, Ms. Aarefa Johari from Mumbai, and they were among 300 exchange alumni from six countries who had gathered for the 'Make it Happen' WEC. Ashwaq, a journalist of Kashmiri-origin, relates her experience as follows:

"When I told a friend I was going to Pakistan, he laughed & said "Why Pakistan?" I told him I was going to attend a conference on women's empowerment & that happens to be my field of interest. He laughed again and said, "So now Pakistan wants women's empowerment? That sounds a little odd." He also asked me to be careful and not get killed or kidnapped somewhere. All these statements reminded me of how most of my friends in Delhi talk about Kashmir. Is it safe to go there? Does every Kashmiri hate Indians? Do Kashmiris identify themselves as Indians? Somehow because of the media, we create an image of a place in a way which is not necessarily what it is or even close to what it is.

[...] I was very excited to go to Pakistan - because of the conference, because I wanted to buy pretty lawn suits and because it was Pakistan after all. Even though I kept waiting for the day I'd land there, inside my head I had a pile of worries stacking more and more as the day of departure got closer. Everyone I spoke with had a piece of advice (mostly things that scared me).

Finally, on March 6, I landed in Islamabad around 10:00 am. At the immigration, a fellow journalist and I went through the normal drill - signing one form after the other and answering a few questions. A woman at the immigration counter (in a lighter tone) said, "You know Indians are a little suspicious...so it takes time." But we realized it was just a friendly banter. By 11:30 we stepped into the real Islamabad. It looked no different from India, (was definitely cleaner) - the people didn't look any different (women were definitely prettier), hardly any stray dogs roamed around and there were no traffic snarls. It looked very peaceful and reminded me of Washington, D.C. somehow - broad, straight roads, clean streets, tall trees on either side of the roads.

[...] It was my first visit to Pakistan. I was a part of a group of 300 people from six countries who had come together for the International Women's Empowerment Conference

'Make It Happen', organized by Pakistan US Alumni Network and the US Embassy in Islamabad. The hall was full of people from different fields of life, from different countries and with extremely different lived experiences. But there was one thing I couldn't not notice, everyone had a story waiting to be heard and written. Be it the photojournalist from Quetta who at 25 has already received threat calls from Taliban, or the first Pakistani woman and the youngest Muslim woman in the world to climb Mount Everest, or the man leading the Pakistan Disability Movement. Or the women drama writers who make it a point to at least empower women on screen and try and break stereotypical roles women are expected to play in the male dominated societies. Everyone I spoke with, not just the six main speakers had a story.

Just the fact that we were all patiently listening to each other (without pulling each other's hair as we in media news hour make it seem like) made me realize the importance of these informal conversations between common people. The conflict resolution workshop that I attended as part of the conference stressed on the need to understand and empathize with "the other" and more importantly the need to have a dialogue. Not just India and Pakistan, I think it is extremely important for us to make our perceptions based on our lived experiences, and not heresy. The conference was a means to bring people to share their stories of struggle towards empowerment, but what it really achieved was not just making us think of every story we heard as OUR own story, but breaking the myths, built-in stereotypes and predispositions about places and people we all had."

THROUGH the
GRAP
NEW DELHI
EVENTS



Indian alumna Ashwaq Masoodi (second from left) and with fellow South Asian exchange alumnae in Islamabad. #ExchangesAreCitizen Diplomacy



YES Alumna Hones Social Entrepreneurship Skills in USA

Ms. Madhuri N.P., alumna of the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange & Study (YES) program, participated in a Social Entrepreneurship Workshop conducted in Alexandria, VA, on March 9-12. The workshop was funded by the U.S. Department of State and was based on Ashoka's Youth Venture curriculum, designed to turn participants into change-

makers by creating a small difference in their community. The workshop provided the alumni from all over the world with the skills, tools and support to develop awareness-raising campaigns and social entrepreneur initiatives related to an issue in their community. The sessions included storytelling, budgeting, and fun with fundraisers.



Madhuri presenting during a workshop session

YES alumni at social entrepreneurship workshop in Virginia



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YES Alumni Gather in Delhi for Leadership & Development Workshop

A group of 44 alumni of the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange & Study (YES) and American Field Services (AFS) exchange programs came together to attend the Alumni Leadership & Development Workshop 2015 in New Delhi from April 2-5. The workshop provided each alumna/alumnus a chance to speak up and engage in a healthy discussion on various topics related to leadership and youth engagement. The workshop achieved its objective of

developing and delivering leadership qualities through various leadership training sessions, creation of ventures/projects for services to the society and formation of AFS India Alumni Association. The session started with "Tell Your Story," where each participant shared their experiences followed by the introduction to Youth Engagement. Introduction and formation of an Alumni Association in India was also an important element of workshop discussions.

YES alumni discussing youth engagement, community leadership, and role of alumni associations



Indian YES Alumni in Tunisia!

The YES Alumni Association Leadership Training was conducted from April 23-26, 2015 in Tunis, Tunisia, which was attended by two participations from India. The workshop was conducted by American Field Services (AFS) in collaboration with iEARN, American Councils for International Education, Iowa Resource for International Service (IRIS) and AMIDEAST. The training began with the inaugural alumni speaker series, YESTalks: A Global Citizen's Journey, for which alumnus Aadil Fahim (2007-08) was selected to share his life experiences. Inspired by the popular online TED and TEDx videos, YESTalks was designed for individuals from the YES alumni network to initiate conversations and connec-

tions through community engagement and storytelling. The speaker series was followed by a workshop to learn leadership skills, project management, alumni association development, and alumni retention strategies on behalf of the greater YES Alumni Association in order to expand the impact of the YES program worldwide. Alumnus Yashodhan Shende (2012-13) participated in this workshop.

YES alumni Yashodhan Shende (left) and Aadil Fahim representing India at Tunis, Tunisia



Aadil had this to say about his trip: *"YES Talks was an invigorating experience. It gave an opportunity to YES alumni speakers from various countries to come together to initiate conversations and connections through community engagement and storytelling. Each speaker shared his/her personal stories from the heart, [speaking on] topics such as Beyond Gender, The Love Awakening, [and] My Message of Peace. My topic was Cultural Exposure: A Key to Change with the tagline, "We Are Our Choice". YES Talks challenged everyone to get out of their shell and share their personal stories and engage with the bigger audience. I can't agree more with what Rubaiyat from Bangladesh said, "We bonded with people with joy, tears, passion filled silence and love-filled hugs." With whatever time I had with all the speakers and*

trainers, I felt like I was part of a family. It was a learning experience. The way Deb, one of the trainers, gave feedback, prepared us and engaged us for the speech can't be described in words. Annie, another trainer, took us on a journey of storytelling where we reflected on our stories and experiences of our exchange year and our life which helped us mold our story. Being in [the] beautiful country of Tunisia, listening to the encouraging words from various people, believing in the stories of each other which they shared with much passion, strength and love was an experience of lifetime. I feel privileged to be part of this event. It made me realize the value of YES, how lucky I am to be part of YES family and how YES alumni have been working as agents of change and creating positive difference around the world.



THROUGH the GREAT GRAPES THROUGH THE NEW DELHI EVENT

YES alumni from around the world gathered in Tunisia for the YES Alumni Association Leadership Training



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Alumnae & students attend Opening of “Kindred Nations Exhibit”

IVLP alumna, Dr. Sumati Varma and, SUSI Scholar, Dr. Bulbul Dhar-James, attended the inauguration of the exhibit, “Kindred Nations: The United States and India: 1783-1947,” on March 12, in New Delhi. Both alumnae are professors at local universities and, along with their students, they engaged with a number of officers and shared their thoughts on the unique historical images in the exhibit and what the U.S-India relationship means to the youth in India. Composed of

photographs, documents, and ephemera, the exhibit celebrates the long-standing cooperation and friendship between India and the U.S. that dates back to more than 150 years before Indian independence. As one of Sumati’s students shared, “It was a wonderful platform for [them] to know more about the Indo-US relationship before as well as after independence.” Dr. Varma and Dr. Dhar-James are with the University of Delhi and Jamia Milia Islamia, respectively.

Bhutanese Alumni Meet Fulbright Board Member in Thimphu

Fulbright Board Member Laura Trombley met with three Hubert Humphrey Fellows while on her visit to Thimphu, Bhutan in March. Ms. Latha Chhetri (2014), Chief Urban Planner, Ministry of Works and Human Settlement; Mr. Dasho Chhewant Rinzin (1981), Managing Director, Druk Green Power Corporation Limited; and Mr. Karma Yonten, Chief Executive Officer, Druk Holding and Investments. They were joined by American Fulbright Fellow currently in Bhutan, Dr. Kurt Kraus, who is in residence at the Royal Thimphu College and is working with the Ministries of Health and Education. Ms. Trombley described the interaction as, “[a] wonderful afternoon spent with four extraordinary individuals. Their stories are inspiring and instructive.”



Laura Trombley with Bhutanese Alumni and U.S. Fulbright Fellow in Thimphu

IVLP Alum invited by University of California at Berkeley to teach

Dr. Sandeep Shastri, IVLP alumnus and Salzburg grantee has been invited by University of California at Berkeley to an Adjunct Professor of Political Science in summer 2015.

Dr Shastri is the Pro Vice Chancellor, Jain University and Director of its Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CERSSE). Dr. Shastri is the National Convenor of the Lokniti Network. He was earlier on the Faculty of the Department of Post Graduate and Research Studies in Political Science, Bangalore University where he taught from 1984 to 2002 and Dean – Research and Social Science at the International Academy for Creative Teaching from 2002 to 2004. He has to his credit 9 Books, and several articles and professional and mainstream publications.



Two women alumni receive recognition for their work

Fulbright-Nehru CII alumna Delna Avari is on the IMPACT's 50 most influential women 2015 list. Delna is the Head of Marketing Communication and Services at Tata Motors. The list recognizes the efforts of women in the media domain whose work on an individual level, not only impacts their organization, but also

achieves exceptional results.

IVLP alumna Ritika Sahni received the "Women Achiever's Award on March 7th for her work on Disability Awareness through her organization, Trinayani. The award was given by the Young Environmentalist Programme Trust, who recognize women heroes every year.



KUDOS!

CHENNAI

MUMBAI



Alumna Jahnabi Phookan featured in special women's day article in national daily

Jahnabi Phookan, alumna of the South Asian Women's Entrepreneurship Symposium 2012, was featured in the *The Financial Express* in a special International Women's Day article on women in the travel industry (<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/travel/cover-story-travel/women-at-work-2/54111/>). In this feature, eighteen women from the travel industry shared their journey and mantras in the roadmap to success. Ms. Phookan was featured as a successful businesswoman from eastern India. Ms. Phookan has been an entrepreneur in the travel and tourism, river cruising and hospitality business for over two decades. She is director of two National Tourism Awards winning companies, Jungle Travels India and Assam Bengal Navigation Company.



SAWES alumna Jahnabi Phookan

U.S. Fulbright Alumna Awarded for Contribution Carnatic Music Entrepreneurship Efforts

U.S. Fulbright-Nehru Student Researcher to India, received the 2015 Times Thyagaraja Award for her work in Carnatic Music.

She says, "I came to Chennai on a Fulbright Scholarship to study Carnatic music and un-

dergo intense face-to-face training under my music teacher. It was through my Fulbright scholarship that I was able to learn in-depth about the theoretical aspects of Carnatic music and refine my performance technique.



Manasa Suresh (second from right) receives the award from jury members

KUDOS! KOLKATA

CHENNAI



Documentary Filmmaker Discusses Professional Journey



Dulam Satyanarayana, an alumnus of the Community College Initiative Program, is a prolific filmmaker from Hyderabad. He has made documentary films on many topics of social relevance, including the use of solar power in the Sunderbans and the cultural arts and heritage of Hyderabad. His short film *Dreadful Fate*, on water challenges in Nalgonda District of Telangana, won him a Special Jury Award at the International Film Festival

in Nasik. Dulam is currently studying advanced filmmaking at the Scottsdale Community College in Arizona. The *New Indian Express* recently interviewed him to find more about how he began making films. Read this fascinating account of Dulam's journey as a filmmaker, including the challenges he encountered and how he overcame them as well as legendary filmmakers who have influenced his craft. <http://goo.gl/y07LuP>

KUDOS!
HYDERABAD



SUSI Alumna Wins Several College Awards



Athulya Vanchinathan, alumna of the SUSI for Student Leaders Program in New Media and Journalism, recently won several awards at St. Francis College for Women in Hyderabad. Athulya published academic papers and represented St. Francis at many international conferences. She participated in the SUSI program in 2013. "The SUSI exchange program was a truly life-altering experience!" The training I obtained in leadership and teamwork prepared me to effectively engage with thought leaders from my field of study. I returned to India enriched and empowered, and directed different initiatives during my next two years at St.

Francis," said Athulya. She played an instrumental role in helping establish a campus radio station at St. Francis and directed the college magazine as its Editor-in-Chief. Athulya was elected to lead the student body as the President of the Mass Communication Department and also served as Class Representative. She won many other awards, including the Proficiency Prize (three time winner), Best Outgoing All-Rounder, and special awards and gold medals for her contribution to the college in different areas. Athulya works as a Digital Marketer at Deep Red Ink, a web development and social media consulting agency.

IVLP Alumni's Organization Win Global Award for Water Conservation

In April, Ms. Kanupriya Harish (IVLP 2012) and Mr. Prithvi Raj Singh (IVLP 2004), had participated in the 7th World Water Forum in Korea, which is deemed the largest water event in the world. The water conservation work of their Rajasthan-based NGO, Jal Bhag

irathi Foundation, was felicitated at the Forum, where they were awarded the Global Show Case Water Prize given by the Government of Korea. Their achievement was widely covered by local and national media, including Zee News and The Times of India.



IVLP alumni Ms. Kanupriya Harish and Mr. Prithvi Raj Singh of Jal Bhagirathi Foundation accepting the award at the World Water Forum, South Korea

Fulbright Alumnus Awarded Fellowship in Australia

Fulbright-Nehru alumnus, Ranjay Singh, has been awarded the 2015 Endeavor Fellowship by the Australian Government. He will conduct his research on "Farmers' Knowledge-led Ad-

aptation to Climate Variability: Mainstreaming into Co-Production of Knowledge and Climate Change Adaptation Policy in India," at the Charles Darwin University, Darwin, Australia.



Ranjay Singh (left) working with a migratory farmer in Rajasthan on climate change adaptation

KUDOS!
NEW DELHI



Fulbright Alumna's Wins Award for Entrepreneurship Efforts

Abha Rishi, 2009 Indian Fulbright-Nehru alumna was conferred the 'Entrepreneurship Education Champions' Award for her contribution in the field of entrepreneurship. This award from the Ministry of Skill Develop-

ment and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has been jointly instituted by the British Council, Intel, the National Entrepreneurship Network (NEN) and Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII).



Abha Rishi receives the award from Fulbright alum and Joint Secretary, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Pawan Agarwal

U.S. Fulbright Fellow Releases New Novel Set in India

The Tusk That Did the Damage is a new novel by **Tania James** that was launched in the U.S. on March 10, and in India on March 11, 2015.

With lyricism and suspense, Tania James animates the rural landscapes where Western idealism clashes with local reality; where a farmer's livelihood can be destroyed by a rampaging elephant; where men are driven to poach-

ing. The book blends the mythical and the political to tell a wholly original, utterly contemporary story about the majestic animal, both god and menace, that has mesmerized us for centuries. (Source: www.randomhouse.com)

Tania James was a 2011 U.S. Fulbright-Nehru student researcher at Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, India.

KUDOS!
NEW DELHI



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