



# INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

- Inspire
- Empower
- Connect

NEWS AND ACTIVITIES FROM THE ALUMNI COMMUNITY IN INDIA AND BHUTAN

**REWIND**  
Embassy/  
Consulate News

2

**THROUGH *the*  
GRAPEVINE**  
Alumni News

44

**KUDOS!**  
Alumni Awards  
and Accolades

62

**LOOK OUT FOR**  
Events &  
Opportunities

77



Greetings! My name is [Matthew Asada](#) and I am the new First Secretary for Exchanges, Alumni, and Education at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi succeeding Katie Caro, who has returned to the United States. It's great to be back in India, where I served as the Consul for Political and Economic Affairs in Kolkata from 2008-2010. Most recently, from 2013-2015 I led the professional association and union ([the American Foreign Service Association](#)) for American diplomats at the Department of State, negotiating and advocating on behalf of the more than 15,000 members of the U.S. Foreign Service. I look forward to working with my colleagues at our consulates and you, our USG-exchange alumni, to help grow the alumni community in India. Specifically, I am interested in strengthening engagement through the development of a pan-India governance structure, creation of an annual alumni event, and improved communications (including

this newsletter!).

Please send us your ideas and let us know if our engagement, communications, events, and grants are working for you. If not, let us know how we might be able to improve them. I look forward to working with you over the next three years and meeting as many of you here, throughout India, and virtually, as I can.

Click to view the [farewell](#) and [arrival](#) messages from Katie and Matthew!



# Alumni take center stage at the American Library

"It was as if talking to someone whom you have known for ever," was the observation of one of the first-time American Library visitors about the storytelling/experience sharing session of IVLP alumna Dr. V.R. Devika. In her inimitable style, Devika spoke of Martin Luther King, Jr. and her exchange visits to the United States in 1993 and 2010.

Fulbright Arts Alumna and well known dancer Dr. Lakshmi Ramaswamy gave a lec-

ture-demonstration on 'mudhras' or 'hand gestures' used in Indian dance to about 40 young visitors (students, young adults and Rotary members). The program proved to be very informative and aesthetically stimulating to the audience, and introduced them to art appreciation. This program was conceived to project the newly renovated library not only a center of information and knowledge, but also as a fulcrum of artistic expression.



*Dr. V.R. Devika regales the audiences*



*Dr. Lakshmi Ramaswamy explains hand gestures*

## IVLP alumna and Human Rights Activist on Freedom of Expression

On May 29 in recognition of World Press Freedom Day, the American Library and Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Consulate, Chennai hosted a conversation on Freedom of Expression and Human Rights in the Digital Age with panelists Sam Daniel, Tamil Nadu Bureau Chief, NDTV, Dr. Suresh, National General Secretary, People's Union for Civil Liberties (an IVLP alumnus), and Kirithi Jayakumar, Digital Media Activist and Story Teller.

Moderated by Information Officer Emily Fertik, the lively conversation touched on cultural dogmas, state infringement on freedom of expression, non-state-actors and political groups, sensitivities of privacy, differences between traditional media and social media, social media's role in highlighting and informing the world on rights violations.

The panelists also fielded questions from more than 50 invitees on future challenges, democracy, the role of civil society groups, the direction of social media in engaging citizens, and rule of law.

*IVLP alumnus Dr. V. Suresh (seated 2nd) in the panel on "Freedom of Expression"*



REWIND  
CHENNAI



# WED '15: Alumni string poems for the planet

PAS Chennai in association with Poetry Couture marked World Environment Day with five celebrated poets (including two alumni) at the Consulate. The poets discussed environmental issues through original poetry.

An open-mic session invited audience members to share their own creative eco-

verses. The program facilitated a discussion on environmental issues and the role poetry and art in general plays in promoting social good to an audience of poetry lovers, environment enthusiasts, writers, and students. Excerpts from the poetry session can be heard [HERE](#)



IVLP alumna Salma aka Rajathi Shamsudeen (2nd from left) and Fulbright alumna Dr. K. Srilata, at the poetry session

# Interfaith Iftar' 15 by IVLP alumnus

In a continuing tradition, IVLP alumnus Dr. Syed Ameen hosted an interfaith vegetarian Iftar on June 27th inviting 300 underprivileged children of the Home for Poor Boys, an orphanage that he runs. Consul General Phillip Min and his wife, Mrs. Eun Young Lee, attended the Iftaar.

Dr. Ameen, who attended 2009 IVLP on religious diversity, recalled his experiences

during the program and shared examples of his visits to temples, churches, synagogues and mosques in the U.S. Since his return he has been calling people of other faiths to participate in the Iftar fast breaking during Ramadan. CG Min also met some of the English Access Alumni from the orphanage who are either pursuing higher education or entered the workforce.



*"Ramadan is a time when we are reminded of our oneness, and not of our differences."*

*- Consul General Phillip Min*

IVLP Alumnus Dr. Syed Ameen with Mrs. Eun Young Lee

REWIND  
CHENNAI





Amb. Richard Verma looks at Hand-in-Hand, an NGO led by Dr. Kalpanaa Sankar, an East-West Center Alumna. Hand-in-Hand trains rural women living below poverty line to form self-help groups and customizes microfinance programs to empower women with sustainable income-generation options.

## Welcome to Chennai!

U.S. Ambassador Richard Verma was in Chennai on July 13-14, for his first multi-day trip to the city. Many of his stops in the region were marked by meeting exchange alumni who extended a warm welcome to him.



# REWIND CHENNAI



Top: IVLP alumnus Saleem interviews Amb. Verma for Thanthi TV

Bottom: Cultural activist and IVLP alumna Dr. V.R. Devika explains the history and significance of the famous Kapaleeswarar Temple in Chennai

## Querying the e-100

IVLP alumnus and Rolex awardee Arun Krishnamurthy believes in 'catching them young' in order to create a sustainable planet.

Every month during an hour-long quizzing session, school students are quizzed on those little known facts about nature, thus arousing

their curiosity, and creating an awareness of the world around us. Contemporary stories that are of ecological concern are interwoven into the quiz thus sensitizing them to the grave ecological and climate change threats and challenges that loom ahead of us.



Young participants check their e-quotient in the eKatha e100 Quiz series at the American Library

### Do you know?

- The organ which is missing in the camel?
- Which country does the gold fish originally belong to?
- Where is death valley located?

Answers : a. Gall bladder; b. China; c. Nevada Desert

# Kindred Nations exhibit provokes women's voices of change

"Voices of Chance: Women, Art & Understanding" a panel discussion led by seven women trailblazers included a recent IVLP alumna Dr. S. Revathi aka Kutti Revathi (lyricist, poet, activist and a doctor). The panel discussion was part of the special programs organized by PAS Chennai around the Kindred Nations exhibit at the Lalit Kala Akademi in Chennai. With an audience of over 100 young men and women, the panel discussed the prejudices that women artists have faced over centuries and still continue to face. Each panelist spoke about their personal and professional journey and the challenges and successes they faced along the way.



*IVLP alumna and Poet Kutty Revathi a powerful voice of women in a discussion organized in conjunction with Kindred Nations*

# I have a dream launched in Chennai

"I have a Dream" a 3-month long leadership and mentoring workshop for alumni was launched in Chennai in July, bringing 16 young mentees and 7 experienced mentors from Chennai and Hyderabad consular districts who self-selected to guide, lead and mentor the alumni.

Deputy Chief of Mission Michael P. Pelletier who was an invited guest of honor shared anecdotes from his life and career and set the tone for the experiential inside-out journey that the group embarked for the next three months.



*Mentors do the 'mud and sculptor' process in the foundation workshop of "I have a dream" in Chennai.*



*Deputy Chief of Mission Michael Pelletier meets and greets (and tweets) on Day 1 of the workshop*

REWIND  
CHENNAI



Twitter:

@PelletierMP:

*"Inspired and energized by these youth leaders"*

@Smrithiii:

*"the excitement in your words were there till the last day of workshop.*

*Thanks a lot*

*@PelletierMP"*

# CG Min meets IVLP NGO leader in Bengaluru

Chennai Consul General Phillip A. Min visited "Dream-a-Dream" an award winning NGO founded by IVLP alumnus Vishal Talreja. Dream-a-Dream empowers young people from vulnerable backgrounds to overcome adversity and flourish in a fast changing world, using a creative life skills approach. Vishal Talreja comes with deep grassroots level experience of working with

children and young people for over 15 years. A passionate dreamer and believer in the inherent potential of each child, Vishal is also an Ashoka Fellow and Eisenhower Fellow. He sits on boards of such organizations as Unltd India, Bangalore Cares and CSIM Bangalore. He participated in the special IVLP on "Ngo Management of Youth Programs" in August 2004.

# AEIF 2015 awardee team launches bilingual mobile app

"Ippodhu: Act Now" is a free bilingual (English & Tamil) mobile application that empowers vulnerable citizens to share information and call authorities to action. This app was developed as a part of the winning 2015 Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund project "Community Empowerment using Technology". The app was launched formally by Chennai PAO Ariel Pollock at a public function on August 14th, the eve of India's independence day. During the inauguration, PAO quoted Mahatma Gandhi and mentioned that the app which is available for download on Google play store will empower communities across the state of Tamil Nadu to be the "change that they wish to see in the world". The alumni team got Federal funding of USD 21704 to develop the project. Three select app ambassadors (an auto rickshaw driver, a transgender person and a student alumna) received free mobile phones preloaded with the app and will receive training on popularizing the app among their communities.



REWIND  
CHENNAI



*App ambassador and ECA-funded University of Rhode Island STEM program grantee Sangeetha posts on Ippodhu about civic improvements to her locality*

*Winning alumni team of the AEIF project "Community Empowerment Using Technology" with PAO Ariel Pollock at the launch of Ippodhu mobile app*

# U.S. Speaker on FDI meets several alumni entrepreneurs in Bangalore

U.S. Speaker Raymond Vickery, Jr. Global Fellow, Woodrow Wilson Center, and expert on foreign direct investment met with several alumni entrepreneurs during his recent visit to Bengaluru. In a roundtable organized by the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce, he took questions from the audience that ranged from building strong technology transfer ecosystems. Ray Vickery is a leading advisor concerning U.S.-India relations. He took a primary role in the passage of the U.S.-India civil nuclear legislation and has been instrumental in U.S.-India initiatives on higher education, green energy, high technology, health security, intellectual property, and chemistry. Ray has forty-five years of experience with India, having first lived in India as a Fulbright Scholar.



*IVLP alumna Leena Pish Thomas, CEO, Global Business Inroads with U.S. Speaker Ray Vickery*

# Dreams turn realities at "I have a dream" closure workshop in Trivandrum



*Alumni pose for a selfie at the end of the 2-day closure workshop*

REWIND  
CHENNAI



# Alumni create safe public spaces for women

The International Foundation for Crime Prevention and Victim Care (PCVC) led by VolVis and Vital Voices alumna Dr. Prasanna Gettu partnered with Loyola College and M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women (a leading women's college in city) headed by Dr. Lalitha Balakrishnan, another IVLP alumna (who is also the President of the Exchange Visitors Alumni Association), to launch the "Community-Led Action Program with Police" (CLAPP) involving volunteers and the State Police. This program is supported by a small grant by the U.S. Consulates Chennai and Hyderabad. CPAO Dr. Craig L. Dicker formally launched the program on October 6 in Chennai.

Through this project, the alumni organizers seek to challenge entrenched attitudes regard-

ing gender violence and arrive at creative and enduring solutions by actively engaging with law enforcement agencies and the student community as well as members of civil society in an effort to tackle the issue of street sexual harassment, its causes and consequences, and arrive at effective interventions.



*CPAO Craig Dicker gives away T-shirts to CLAPP volunteers*



*IVLP alumna Dr. Balakrishnan (4th from left) and Dr. Prasanna Gettu (7th from left) along with CPAO Craig Dicker and PAO Ariel Pollock at the launch of CLAPP.*

# CG Min meets alumni in Madurai

Chennai Consul General Phillip Min met with recently returned alumni in Madurai.



*L to R: SUSI student alumna Bala Chidambara, Aniruthiya P., Legislative Fellow alumna and entrepreneur Ms. Sridevi Kannan, CG Min, Eun Young and IVLP alumna Ms. Selvagamathy.*

REWIND  
CHENNAI



# Access Workshop launched in Pondy

CAO Andie DeArment inaugurated the English Access program in Poothirai village (near Pondicherry on September 28.

Prior to the inauguration of the program, a group of 25 English Access alumni along with Chennai CAO Andie De Arment learned the basic techniques of Soccer game from

25 Soccer Champions of Cuddalore (Near Pondicherry). These Soccer champions were orphaned by the tsunami but empowered as national champions by a trained coach in Cuddalore. This program was widely covered by print, electronic and social media.



*Dr. Padma Ravindra, Senior English Language Trainer (and an alumna of the Summer Institute for Access Teachers at Oregon State University) launch the workshop in Pondicherry along with CAO Andie DeArment and her daughter Eva*



*CAO Andie DeArment and the Access alumni kick around a football with the national champs*

# IVLP alumnus and techpreneur talks at TEDx Secunderabad

On October 3, Sijo Kuruvilla George, Kochi-based techpreneur and founding CEO and board member of Startup Village (the first ever public-private partnered business incubator) presented a speech on "In pursuit of a new work culture" proposing a solution to the re-

gional challenge of job deficits. His speech tangentially addressed how organizations should pursue a new work culture and think out of the box in order to sustain employee retention and curb attrition and in turn lead to national growth.



REWIND  
CHENNAI



*...Sijo Kuruvilla George:*

*"32 hours work style can produce great benefits to families and 20% time can transform lot of volunteering work to help India grow faster"*

*"entrepreneurship is the art of problem solving"*

*Kochi Startup Villag Founding Member Sijo Kuruvilla George talks "in pursuit of a new work culture" at TEDx Secunderabad*

# Future of girls through alumni voices

Mr. Sriram Ayer (CONTACT program alum) and Ashoka Fellow, with poet, activist and lyricist Kutty Revathy (a 2015 IVLP alum on Gender Based Violence) were among panelists at the roundtable on "The Power of the Adolescent Girl: Vision for 2030" at the

"International Day of the Girl" discussion. Experts highlighted, the problems facing girls today – social taboos, gender stereotyping, issues of public sanitation, and safety in public spaces as something every society should work on every day.



L to R: IVLP alumna Kutty Revathy, Mr. Sriram Ayer (3rd from L) at the panel discussion



CAO Andie DeArment discuss the problems facing girls today at the panel discussion

# All-alumni panel discuss the changing role of media with students

The Exchange Visitors Alumni Association (EVAA) joined the Consulate at the American Center to discuss the challenges and opportunities for media in the digital age.

The expert panel included IVLP alumnus R.K. Radhakrishnan, Senior Deputy Editor, The Hindu Frontline, Chennai, (also Secretary of EVAA), Mr. Peer Mohamed, CEO, Ippodhu Digital Media Private Limited (AEIF winner)

and Mr. K.A. Johny, Chennai Bureau Chief of Mathrubhumi (IVLP alumnus).

The discussion was initiated by Mr. Sergei Antony, Chairperson of Kerala Media Academy and was moderated by IO Emily Fertik.

100 students from Chennai in person and Kochi (via a google hangout) participated in the discussion.



Panelists L to R: Mr. Peer Mohamed, CEO, Ippodhu Digital Media Private Limited, Mr. K.A. Johny, Chennai Bureau Chief, Mathrubhumi, Mr. Sergei Antony, Chair, Kerala Media Academy, Mr. R.K. Radhakrishnan, Senior Deputy Editor, The Hindu Frontline, IO Emily Fertik

REWIND  
CHENNAI



*"...the challenge of the print media now is to find ways to elicit interest from the new generation, which turns to only new-age media for information."*

*- R.K. Radhakrishnan, Senior Deputy Editor, The Hindu Frontline*

*"...most news first break on Facebook or Twitter and then other media follow the lead.. such a situation has increased the participation of the people in news collection and dissemination."*

*- Peer Mohamed, CEO, Ippodhu Digital Media*

# Screening of Film on Trafficking By Renowned TIP Activist

To commemorate World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, the U.S. Consulate General, Hyderabad screened the award-winning film Naa Bangaaru Talli. The film screening was followed by an interaction with film producer, anti-trafficking activist, and IVLP alumna Dr. Sunitha Krishnan. Social Activist Ms. Amala Akkineni was the guest of honor. Naa Bangaaru Talli, directed by well-known director

Rajesh Touchriver, tells the story of a father and daughter and how they deal with the upheaval in their life when the daughter becomes a victim of trafficking. Siddique and Anjali Patil play lead roles in the film. The film won three awards including Best Feature Film in Telugu at the 61st National Film Awards, and Best Film at the Trinity International Film Festival in the U.S.

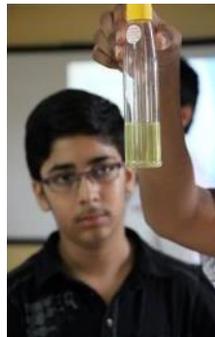


*From left to right: Social Activist Amala Akkineni, Consul General Michael Mullins, TIP Activist Sunitha Krishnan, and Film Director Rajesh Touchriver*

# City Alumni Lead Regional Water Testing Activity in Hyderabad

U.S. Consulate General Hyderabad was a part of the "Regional Water Testing Initiative: Engaging Citizen Scientists" that was initiated by the U.S. Embassy Kathmandu, Nepal. Through this project we engaged with secondary school students from cities in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, and empowered them as "citizen scientists". The students recorded scientific measurements of "water health" that they analyzed with easy-to-use testing kits that look at a variety of indicators. This information was entered into a newly developed digital outreach Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data platform through a mobile phone, so that students and others can better understand the health of their water, compare it to the health of drinking water in other countries, and gain a better appreciation of the trans boundary nature of South

Asia's water resources. The project was implemented in partnership with the Rural Development Foundation and Hyderabad based exchange alumni Chirantana Kar, Vishudeep Tiwari, and Ashwini Guduru volunteered in leading various activities.



REWIND  
HYDERABAD



## Ambassador Verma Meets with Community Leaders in Hyderabad over Breakfast

Ambassador Richard R. Verma met with a select group of community leaders representing business, academia, media and civil society, over breakfast at the legendary Paradise Restaurant, celebrated for its biryani and other Hyderabadian culinary delights. Alumni who participated in this breakfast meeting included Mr. Zaheeruddin Ali Khan, the Managing Editor of Siasat Urdu Daily, Ms. Ayesha Rubina, an educator and social entrepreneur who founded the Genesis Group of Right Schools to provide edu-

cation to economically disadvantaged communities, and Dr. Mazher Hussain, the Founder of Confederation of Voluntary Associations, a network of different non-governmental and community organizations working to promote communal and interfaith harmony in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and other parts of India. The group shared with Ambassador Verma their insights into the most pressing political, economic, and social issues facing their communities in Hyderabad.



REWIND  
HYDERABAD



## Consul General Mullins Opens Summer Camp for HIV Positive Children Organized By Alumnus

Consul General Michael Mullins opened Summer Camp 2015 for the children of Desire Society, an organization that addresses the needs of disadvantaged children, with an emphasis on HIV positive victims. The summer camp, an annual event held every year since 2009, offers the children an opportunity to participate in fun recreational activities. A medical camp was also set up during this four day event and all the children that participated were gifted educational stationery, a school bag, and supplementary nutrition. Ravi Babu Gogulamudi founded DESIRE (Dedicated to Eradication of Social Illness and Relief Effort) Society in 2004. Since its inception, DESIRE Society has been an emotional and medical safe-house for children affected by HIV/AIDS in India. It offers multiple facilities for housing and medical clinics and exists as a self-sustainable community for many orphaned children. It also provides them with education and a supportive community. Ravi participated in the International Visitor Leadership Program on HIV/AIDS Education and Prevention in the U.S. in 2010.



## Assistant Public Affairs Officer Engages With Tirupati Alumni

Assistant Public Affairs Officer Gurdit Singh recently visited Tirupati for educational outreach. In Tirupati, he met with local alumni, many of whom hold senior positions in academia at regional colleges and universities. Professor B. V. Muralidhar of the Department of Political Science at Sri Venkateswara University (SVU), and a SUSI Scholar, served as a key contact in guiding our visit to SVU and facilitating useful meetings with faculty from the social sciences and the humanities. Similarly, Professor P. Vijaya Lakshmi, Registrar at Sri Padmavati Mahila Viswavidyalam (Women's University) and also a SUSI Scholar, was instrumental in facilitating meetings with faculty from different departments at her university and highlighting exchange programs and opportunities. Tirupati-based alumni, who serve as university faculty

and administrators, have played a vital role in highlighting the importance of Department exchange programs in their own professional careers and in helping publicize exchange programs at their respective campuses. APAO Singh also met with Professor D. M. Mamata, a sericulturist at Padmavati Women's University and a Fulbright Scholar who studied at University of California, Davis. An important highlight of the visit to Tirupati was meeting and interacting with Ms. Meera Raghavendra, Founder and Chief Functionary of Women's Initiatives, and attending the consultation on Sexuality and Human Rights she organized. This event brought together over 25 practitioners of rural development, activists working on the rights of children and indigenous peoples, Dalits, women's rights groups, academicians and journalists.



*APAAO Gurdit Singh interacting with alumni from Tirupati belonging to diverse exchange programs*

## Woodrow Wilson Scholar And Environmental Expert Engages With Alumni Agricultural Scientists And Entrepreneurs

Dr. Jennifer Turner, Director of the China Environment Forum at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington D.C., met with a select group of alumni agricultural scientists and entrepreneurs, including Dr. Mohammed Mohibbe Azam, Principal Scientist at the Directorate of Rice Research, Dr. Pratibha Moturi Gudapaty, Senior Scientist at the Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture, and Mr. Ramana Babu Killi, Director, Green Basics, a social enterprise that aims to introduce technology into Indian agriculture and organize farmers into cooperatives for greater efficiency and collective bargaining power. Alumni engaged with Dr. Turner over lunch and shared their research on the nexus of water, energy and food security issues affecting Hyderabad and other parts of the Deccan. Dr. Turner shared her research on the conflicting de-

mands for water, food, and energy across the U.S., China, and India. Her findings, including how energy is impacting water and other resources in China, had important lessons for Indian researchers.



REWIND  
HYDERABAD



# Consul General Mullins Hosts Iftar At His Residence

Consul General Mullins hosted an iftar at his residence during the Ramzan. Alumni who attended the iftar included Ayesha Rubina, an educator and social entrepreneur who recently founded the Center for Social Sciences, an educational institution that offers short-term diploma courses for skill and capacity-building in the area of social work; Nabeel Adeni, a consultant and social media practitioner who is working on an alumni led TEDx project with PAS Hyderabad; Zainab Samad, a recent commerce graduate and SUSI alumna; Firoze Zia Hussain, the CEO of Totem International, a company that offers innovative technological safe city solutions for government, businesses and citizens; Mohammed Abdul Nayeem, a doctoral scholar at the Faculty of Organizational Behavior and Human Resources in ICFAI Business School; Salma Farooqui, a professor of history and Director of the H.K. Sherwani

Centre for Deccan Studies at Maulana Azad National Urdu University; and Syed Mohammed an upcoming IVLP participant who writes a special column for The Times of India titled "The Fourth Forum," that comments on topics such as Islam and its changing perceptions and practices across South Asia and the world, women's rights, and other social issues with local and global dimensions.



# REWIND HYDERABAD



# South Asian Alumni Unlock South Asia's Potential at TEDxSecunderabad

TEDxSecunderabad: Unlocking South Asia's Potential, supported by PAS Hyderabad and led by exchange alumni, witnessed inspiring talks by ten outstanding speakers from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and India who belonged to different fields ranging from business, and government, to education, and activ-

ism. The participants at the daylong event also witnessed arresting performances by artists from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan. The TEDxSecunderabad organizing team, the speakers, and the performing artistes were all alumni of Department of State exchange programs. 100 motivated people attended the event.



REWIND  
HYDERABAD



Public Affairs Officer Gabriel Hans-Olivier opening TEDxSecunderabad underscoring the need to engage youth in tackling issues and challenges that are common in South Asia.



Abhinav Madan, Managing Director of Gram Tarang Employability Training Services, gives a talk on the dire need for skill development in the South Asia region.



Binalakshmi Nepram, civil rights activist, stressed on the need for women to join the disarmament movement and to contribute towards conflict resolution in the region.



Ritu Dangwal, Project Coordinator of The School In The Cloud, showed how demonstrating that anyone, anywhere, with access to the internet, could learn almost anything by themselves.



Speakers and artistes who travelled from all over the South Asian region to participate in TEDxSecunderabad and share their inspiring ideas with everyone.



Attendees at TEDxSecunderabad

## Alumni from Odisha and Andhra Pradesh Participate In a Round Table On Water Conservation

In an effort to act on climate, the U.S. Consulate General, Hyderabad in association with WWF-India, organized a roundtable on climate change in Hyderabad. Experts working in the areas of water security & water management, government officials and academicians participated in the roundtable and discussed ways to

combat climate change, and practical methods to rebuild depleting water resources. Mr. Ranjan Panda – water activist and Convener at Water Initiatives Odisha- and Mr. Srinivas Genjivarapu – journalist and environmental activist, who are both alumni of the International Visitor Leadership Program - were a part of this round table.



Public Affairs Officer Gabriel Hans-Olivier listening to the round table panel.



Ranjan Panda sharing his thoughts at the round table



Srinivas Genjivarapu giving his input and putting forth his observations at the round table.

# IVLP alum hosts Environment Speaker Jennifer Turner at the Indian Chamber of Commerce

Director General of the Indian Chamber of Commerce and IVLP alumnus Mr. Rajeev Singh organized an event for Environment expert and Director of China Environment Forum, Jennifer Turner, early in May. Ms. Turner interacted with members of the busi-

ness community, CSR experts and environmentalists. She made presentations on "Global Choke Point: Energy, Water and Food Confrontations in China, India and the U.S." and discussed opportunities and options for renewal energy productions in India.



*Jennifer Turner presents at the Indian Chamber of Commerce*

# IVLP alum hosts Environment Speaker Jennifer Turner at the Indian Chamber of Commerce

The alumni from the 2013-14 Community College Program (CCIP) briefed the ingoing batch of the students for CCIP 2015-16 during their pre-departure orientation. The program was very informative and engaging for the new batch, as the alumni were able to give them pointers and advice from their own recent experience. The students had a number of ques-

tions about lifestyle, cultural and educational challenges and expectations in the U.S., which the alumni were able to answer and guide them on. The meeting was the best way of ensuring the new batch of students gets all the information they need about the CCIP in the U.S., and they left the meeting more informed and ready to start their CCIP experience.



REWIND  
KOLKATA



# Students from Don Bosco University Guwahati interact with media alumni at the American Center

Students from Don Bosco University – Guwahati interacted with media alumni as part of an orientation organized by the American Center Kolkata. The students, all from the Mass Communication Department, met with alumni Chandreyee Chatterjee from The Telegraph and Bipin Newar of Taaza T.V., to get a first-hand experi-

ence of the evolving nature of news reporting and media coverage. They discussed the realities and expectations of having a job in the media sector, and the students addressed their queries to our alumni experts, getting from them direction and encouragement in their chosen field.



# REWIND KOLKATA



*Students from Don Bosco University with IVLP alumni Chandreyee Chatterjee and Bipin Newar*

## Public Affairs Officer Andrew Posner meets alumni in Bihar

The Public Affairs Officer for U.S. Consulate General-Kolkata, Andrew Posner, met alumni in Patna as part of his first outreach visit to the state. He met with alumni from the civil and political fields, and received an overview and

expected growth trajectory of the state of Bihar as well as their own chosen fields. Ideas for collaboration at the American Corner in Patna were also discussed.

## IVLP alumnus spearheads rehabilitation project in Nepal

In an effort to aid the people in the aftermath of the Nepal earthquake, the Sikkim Express Newspaper has undertaken a rehabilitation project for the earthquake victims of Nepal. Headed by the editor, IVLP alumnus Amit Patro, the Newspaper teamed up with the Darjeeling-based NGO MARG and Team Design Workshop to execute the shelter project in Nepal. A team of carpenters and NGO workers headed to Nepal to work on building temporary shelters at Sigrigang village, Malpi, Kavre district in Nepal. Best of luck Amit!



REWIND  
KOLKATA



# U.S. Consulate General Kolkata launches the Alumni Speaker Program!

The U.S. Consulate General Kolkata kick-started the alumni speaker program this July with Community College alumnus Zeeshan Ali. The event was very well-received by young Kolkata, with over 250 students in attendance as Zeeshan shared his experience in the United States. Through slides and pictures, Zeeshan took the crowd through his adventure-packed year in the U.S. studying at the Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale. Friends, studies, extracurricular activities, travel, rugby and a whole lot more provided the audience with a glimpse into U.S. student life. Zeeshan did a great job sharing the U.S. experience with everyone, and getting us started on our now monthly series of programs. Great job Zeeshan!



*PAO Andrew Posner addresses the audience at Consulate Kolkata's first Alumni Speaker Program*



*CCI alumnus Zeeshan Ali shares his exchange experience at the American Center*

# REWIND KOLKATA



# Fulbrighter talks 'Kolkata' with English Teaching Assistants!

Fulbright alumnus Niladri Chatterjee initiated the new batch of Fulbright English Teaching Assistants into Kolkata life, introducing them to the city they will be calling home for a year. Over a visual presentation Mr. Chatterjee gave the American students a detailed insight into Bengal - various historic moments in the city's development, Kolkata

hotspots, Kolkata culture and cuisine and various other things to keep in mind while living in the City of Joy. The orientation, organized by USIEF Kolkata, was held to give the students a thorough background to ease their stay in the city. Also coming up is a photo tour of the city in the run-up to the festive puja season!



*Fulbrighter Niladri in discussion with the English Teaching Assistants at the American Center*

# U.S. Speaker Ray Vickery engages with students and alumni at the Indian Institute of Management

U.S. Expert on FDI and U.S India Economic Engagement, Ray Vickery, interacted with students and alumni faculty members at the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta in an interactive lecture session. IIM Kolkata is a premier Management School and our alumni

professors are among the best in the entire country. The speaker engaged in an invigorating discussion on the need for extensive entrepreneurship and innovation support for development in India, and the strategic aspects of U.S India economic engagement.



*Speaker Ray Vickery at IIM Kolkata*

REWIND  
KOLKATA



# Community College Initiative Alumni in the news!

All of Kolkata got to hear about our amazing Community College alumni through a press conference organized exclusively for them. The program saw Community College alumni Zeeshan Ali, Pratap Kundu, Ashok Pal and An-

gela Ryle speaking to the press about their Community College Experience, education in the U.S., friends, culture, fun times and their takeaway from the entire exchange experience. Good job sharing the wealth young alumni!



L-R: Community College Initiative Alumni Angela Ryle, Ashok Pal, Pratap Kundu and Zeeshan Ali at the press conference at the American Center Kolkata

Alumnus Ashok Pal speaks to a reporter at the Press Conference

REWIND  
KOLKATA



# Gender Based Violence Speaker Vivian Huelgo talks 'GBV' with alumni

U.S. Consulate General Kolkata hosted Vivian Huelgo, the GBV speaker and over a series of events she met and interacted with various alumni during her programs. During her visit, Ms. Huelgo spoke on various areas of GBV concern and engaged with contacts including alumni from the judiciary, law enforcement, government officials, policy makers, academicians and non-government organizations (NGO) in Ranchi and Kolkata to learn about the situation regarding gender based violence (GBV) and trafficking in persons (TIP). As part of various discussions, alumni from various areas of expertise were able to provide a bet-

ter understanding of the present scenarios in the cities and how the various stakeholders are working together to combat Gender Based Violence.



APAO Greg Pardo with the alumni in Ranchi

Alumna Durga Khaitan in conversation with the speaker at a working lunch at the American Center, Kolkata



# Consul General Craig Hall hosts Fulbright alumni for tea

Fulbright alumni from various recent exchange programs met Consul General Craig Hall for tea at his residence. The meeting was organized to introduce CG Hall to the Fulbright alumni community and hear from them about the experience and impact of the exchange.

The alumni, from across various sectors including education, NGO and government, welcomed CG to Kolkata and discussed with him various themes- their experience at a US University to the upcoming Kolkata puja celebrations.



*CG Hall and PAO Andrew Posner with the Fulbright alumni*

# Ambassador meets with key contacts and alumni in Guwahati

The Indian Chamber of Commerce in Guwahati, which is also FCS's American Business Corner (ABC) partner in Guwahati, hosted the Ambassador for an event, where he also met with alumni. At the program, the Ambassador spoke to over 50 business leaders, including senior alumni, on the importance of promot-

ing bilateral trade and investment and regional connectivity. He spent the evening meeting with senior members of the group, including the Director General of the ICC, State Department alumnus Rajeev Singh and SAWES alumna and regional chairperson, Guwahati chapter, Jahnabi Phookan.

*Ambassador Verma seen seated with alumni Jahnabi Phookan and Rajeev Singh while CG Hall addresses the audience*



REWIND  
KOLKATA



# Public Affairs Officer talks alumni roles and American spaces program with group

Public Affairs Officer Andrew Posner and alumni coordinator met with an alumni group over breakfast to discuss the role of the alumni community and various ways in which we can get together to achieve targeted and sustained programming with our alumni community. The conversation included discus-

sions of an alumni association, and the role of such a community in keeping our alumni together and connected. With upcoming renovations, the alumni were encouraged to participate in effective American Spaces Programming in the Lincoln Room.



*PAO Andrew Posner with alumni Sabir Ghaffar, Szarita Laitphlang, Nayantara Palchoudhuri, Niladri Chatterjee and Debdutta Nandwani*

# Manipur alumna discusses armed conflict at TEDx

Alumna Binalakshmi Neparam participated in Consulate Hyderabad's TedX event earlier this month. Binalakshmi, from the state of Manipur, is a civil rights activist spearheading work on making women-led disarmament a movement and an issue that is meaningful to people's lives. A recipient of the CNN IBN Real Heroes Award, 2011, Binalakshmi delivered a very well-received TedxTalk on Responding to Rising Armed Conflict in South Asia.



REWIND  
KOLKATA



# Alumni Speaker Program with Nayanika Biswas and Trisha Agarwal

Episode 4 of Consulate Kolkata's Alumni Speaker Program (ASP) saw high school students Nayanika Biswas and Trisha Agarwal in conversation with APAO Greg Pardo. The young "women in science" attended the University of Rhodes Island Building Bridges Summer Engineering Program for a month, and returned with some great stories from

making friends from different countries to attending robotics classes. APAO Greg Pardo conducted the talk show, asking the students questions about their experience, their best moments from the trip, the U.S. educational system, their learnings etc. A fun day's event with prizes, Q n A, the U.S. exchange experience, robotics and popcorn!



# REWIND KOLKATA



*APAO Greg Pardo in conversation with Nayanika Biswas and Trisha AGarwal*

# "I Have A Dream" workshop for young alumni

The Leadership and Mentoring "I Have A Dream" Workshop held in Mumbai between May 1- 4, aimed at developing the capacity of young USG exchange alumni (aged 20-25) to become change makers in India and beyond through their work on social action projects with the help of senior, professional alumni.

Over a four- day residential workshop, 19 young alumni built bonds, networked, developed their leadership skills, and created social projects that will help their communities. These young alumni have spent the last three months implementing their projects and will share their results in a closing workshop on August 1-2.



Mentors and mentees with the Pravah team that conducted the workshop.

## Experts discuss book "Capital in the Twenty-First Century"

On May 7, the American Library in association with the Department of Economics, University of Mumbai, organized a discussion on Thomas Piketty's book "Capital in the Twenty-First Century" attended by an eclectic audience of over 60 academics, students, corporates and researchers. The panel was led by Dr. Ajit Ranade, Chief Economist, Aditya Birla Group who moderated the discussion supported by other panelists Mr. Niranjan Rajadhyaksha, Executive Editor, Mint; Dr. Romar Correa, Professor, Department of Economics, University of

Mumbai; and IVLP alumna Dr. Rupa Rege Nitsure, Group Chief Economist, L&T Financial Holdings, who provided their comments and critical analysis on the book. Through deliberations and analysis, the panel commented on how extreme inequalities undermine democratic values. The discussion ended with a Q & A and networking session. The library brought together influential stakeholders to deliberate on sustainable economic growth. The panel also debated how economic policies lay at the heart of a successful political economy.

REWIND  
MUMBAI



*The most interesting sessions were the learning style inventory and the role play exercise to understand the listening and responding styles.*

— Charu Mathur

# Film screening and discussion on environmental activism

To celebrate Earth month in April, the U.S. Consulate in Mumbai partnered with S.P. Jain Institute of Management and Research and screened the award-winning AFS documentary "Come Hell Or High Water: The Battle For Turkey Creek" followed by a discussion on environmental activism led by Fulbright alumna Ms. Swati Hingorani who works at the Wildlife Conservation Trust. The event was

held on May 8 and provided NGO practitioners in the environment field the opportunity to engage with a social communication expert and also aid the public in gaining a better understanding of environmental activism in India and the United States. The discussion facilitated knowledge sharing among environment NGOs leading to future collaborative opportunities.



*Fulbright alumna Ms. Swati Hingorani addressing NGOs at the discussion*

# Water monitoring across South Asia

The U.S. Embassy in Kathmandu partnered with the U.S. Consulate in Mumbai to implement a regional project titled "Citizen Scientists: Digital Water Monitoring across South Asia". The project aims at engaging young people to be citizen scientists who make scientific measurements of water quality indicators which can then be analyzed with easy-to-use testing kits. This information is entered into a regional digi-

tal Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data platform, allowing students and others to better appreciate the trans-boundary nature of South Asia's water resources. The first test was conducted by the Access Microscholarship students, and was led by Fulbright and Humphrey alumna Dr. Shubhalaxmi with the aid of KL-YES alumni Ms. Pooja Shah, Ms. Manshi Gala and Ms. Nafisa Raniwala.



*Access Microscholarship students testing water for toxins.*

# Alumni share insights on studying in the United States

The Public Affairs Section and the Consular Section teamed up to hold the Consulate's second Student Visa Day initiative for Indian students on May 28. Promoting the United States as a study destination is a top priority for the Consulate as it develops person-to-person ties, and creates new avenues for cooperation. On Student Visa Day, students who were admitted to U.S. Universities visit-

ed the Consulate for their visa appointment. The prospective students, met with alumni Mr. Devendra Pai, Mr Huzefa Chikani, and Ms. Munira Kachwala who reflected on their study experiences, and answered questions about adjusting to life in the U.S. The alumni served as a positive example for aspiring university students and exchange program participants.



# Celebrating 1<sup>st</sup> International Yoga Day

The U.S Consulate General, Mumbai celebrated the first International Yoga Day with an event held on June 18 at the Consulate. Two expert yoga gurus, a mother-daughter duo –Shameem Akhtar and Jahnvi Sheriff –, from Yoga Kuteer, led an hour-long yoga class with Consulate staff, alumni, library

patrons and boys from a local shelter in attendance. The one hour session was well appreciated, especially by some who were exercising or doing yoga for the first time. The session ended with a special Dancehall performance by Jahnvi Sheriff, who not only teaches yoga, but hip-hop and dancehall too.



*Participants practicing Yoga on June 18 at the U.S. Consulate*

# REWIND MUMBAI



# Seeds of Peace Parents Pre-Departure Orientation

Parents and campers of the Indian delegation of the Seeds of Peace 2015 International Camp came together for an orientation session on June 29 at the American Consulate in Mumbai. The parents were briefed on the Seeds of Peace

program with Seeds of Peace alumni, Mr. Phiroze Parasnis and Ms. Trisha, providing details about the camp itself. Many campers and parents took this opportunity to learn more about the program and ask questions.



*Group of current Seeds of Peace Delegation with parents and alumni*

# Community College Initiative Program's Pre-Departure Orientation

The Community College Initiative Program (CCIP) provides a quality academic program at U.S. community colleges. The program also provides opportunities for professional internships, service learning, and community engagement activities. This year eight students from Mumbai and Aurangabad were selected for the

program. The students' pre-departure orientation was held on June 30 at the U.S. Consulate General in Mumbai. Two CCIP 2014 alumni, Ms. Revathi Batola and Ms. Adele Creado shared their experiences with the selected candidates and answered questions on student life in the United States.



REWIND  
MUMBAI



# Volunteer Fair For Mumbai Youth

To mark International Youth Day, The U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai organized a Volunteer Fair on August 12 in which socially-conscious students were able to connect with NGOs working in various fields for volunteer and internship opportunities. Alumni assisted in connecting the Consulate with NGOs they work for or are associated with.

The fair also included sessions on studying in the United States and the American Library Information services. The program was organized in collaboration with St. Andrew's College and was open to students from all colleges in Mumbai who were interested in availing volunteer opportunities with the NGOs present.



Youth discussing volunteer opportunities with NGOs



REWIND  
MUMBAI

# Water monitoring Across South Asia

The regional project "Citizen Scientists: Digital Water Monitoring across South Asia" aims at engaging young people to be citizen scientists who make scientific measurements of water quality indicators which can then be analyzed with easy-to-use testing kits. The project was implemented by Mr. Samir Mehta from International Rivers in association with the Institute of Environment Education and Research, Bharati Vidyapeeth University (BVIEER). Fulbright alumna Prof. Shamita

Kumar from BVIEER and her colleagues conducted modules of water monitoring in schools in June-July 2015. The monitoring was done by 12 schools at 13 different sites; these schools were from diverse geographical locations – Pune, Shirwal and some schools in Mulshi taluka on the western ghats. Instead of monitoring drinking water the schools were asked to use the kit to monitor the water quality of the river, stream or well in their village.



Students testing water for toxins

# E-LibraryUSA Workshop For Academics in Mumbai

To enhance the use of the American Library resources, specifically eLibraryUSA databases, the Mumbai library organized a half day hands-on workshop for a select group of academics from 10 different colleges in suburban Mumbai on July 22. An inaugural address by Dr. Baliram Gaikwad, a Fulbright alumnus, on "Role of continuing education"

set the scene for the workshop. The session focused on 'Accessing English Language Resources' including the ESL collection. Subsequently Reference Librarians led the workshop working individually with the participants to sharpen their information literacy skills to maximize use of the eLibraryUSA databases and the Internet in general.



REWIND  
MUMBAI



## Panel Discussion On 'Girl Rising'

Around 135 students and NGO professionals participated in the panel discussion and screening of the documentary 'Girl Rising' organized by the American Library in collaboration with Nirjala Niketan College of Social Work. The library invited SUSI alumna Nandita Dutta, a documentary film maker and a writer to introduce the film. The panel also included Rochelle Potkar, a poet and a fiction writer, selected for IOWA writer's program 2015, along with a senior academician Dr. Vaijayanta Anand. The wide ranging discussion included different aspects of documentary film making, the narrative styles and the social message conveyed. Issues related girl education was discussed in detail in the Q&A session. This program reached out to a group of enthusiastic students and dedicated social workers, with an important social message, through the medium of film.



*Panelists at the "Girl Rising" discussion*

# Alumna-facilitated Workshop For Legal Activists by U.S. Speaker

U.S. Speaker Vivian Huelgo, Chief Counsel to the Task Force on Human Trafficking and Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence of the American Bar Association, conducted a workshop for about 35 legal activists from Majlis Legal Centre, a Mumbai based NGO for women's rights discourse and legal initiatives. Majlis offers

legal services, conducts legal awareness trainings, and engages in policy level interventions, public campaigns and public interest litigation in order to help women access justice. Audrey D'Mello who is the Programme Director of Majlis Legal Centre is a recent IVLP returnee, who helped facilitate this workshop.



REWIND  
MUMBAI



# "I Have A Dream" Closure workshop

The Leadership and Mentoring "I Have A Dream" closure workshop was held in Mumbai between August 1-2, 2015. After the alumni attended a four-day residential workshop in May, they were encouraged to become change makers in India and be-

yond through their work on social action projects with the help of senior, professional alumni. Most of these young alumni then spent three months implementing their projects and shared their results in the closing workshop.



*Mentors and mentees with the Pravah team that conducted the workshop.*

## ACAO meets alumni in Nasik

ACAO (Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer), Brittney Stewart was in Nasik August 3-4, and met with IVLP alumni Prof. Medha Saykhedkar, and Mr. Nitin Paranjape. Prof. Saykhedkar assisted in facilitating study in the U.S. sessions at who is a Lecturer in Political Science at NBT Law College, and Gokhale School of

Journalism. Mr. Paranjape, the Executive Director at Abhivyakti Media for Development provided insights about his work at Abhivyakti in strengthening citizenship, local governance and social justice by enhancing the media and communication resources of NGOs and grass-roots communities.



*ACAO Brittney Stewart at the Abhivyakti NGO in Nasik*

REWIND  
MUMBAI



# Making Dreams Come True

The American Center New Delhi in collaboration with youth organization Pravah conducted the "I Have a Dream" leadership and mentoring program for exchange alumni in Delhi and Dharamsala during the month of May. On May 2-3, 12 alumni from the pilot group who began their journeys in December 2014 met for the closure workshop at Zorba the Buddha in Delhi. Over the weekend, they reflected on their learning journeys and presented their projects formally to their mentors. Their projects included finding a job; actively strengthening professional graphic designing skills; active community service in the neighbor-

hood; and balancing work/college and personal interests such as writing and music. Similarly, new batches saw 19 Tibetan Scholarship Program participants and 29 Exchange Alumni from Delhi and Lucknow come together on May 9-10 and May 28-31 in Dharamasala, Himachal Pradesh, and Delhi, respectively. The Dharamsala group concluded the program with a two-day closure workshop on July 18-19. Their projects included active community service in their communities; active pursuit of a new career; and improving personal relationships. The 2015-17 cohort especially appreciated the prolonged interaction with TSP alumni during this period.



# REWIND NEW DELHI



Mentors and mentees sharing their experiences during the closure workshop in New Delhi, May 2-3, 2015. (Photos courtesy: Pravah)



16 young alumni from Delhi and Lucknow participated in the foundation workshop in New Delhi. The 13 mentors are from IVLP/Fulbright/Humphrey programs, and will be supporting their mentees on a range of different projects, from tutoring neighborhood children to launching their own e-commerce web site.

19 Tibetan Scholarship Program (TSP) alumni and members of the 2015-17 cohort during the foundation workshop in Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh, May 9-10, 2015. The TSP batch is unique in that the focus is much more on peer mentoring and the workshop helped the 2015-17 cohort be better-prepared for their programs that will begin in Fall 2015 in the U.S.



# Delhi Pays Tribute to Peshawar Terror Attack Victims

On May 16, exchange alumni came together at the American Center New Delhi for a musical tribute to the victims of the December 2014 Peshawar terrorist attack. SUSI for Student Leaders alumnae, Rashee Mehra and Naveed Iqbal, facilitated a Skype conversation between the gathered audience and Ahmad Qazi, fellow SUSI alumnus from Peshawar. Ahmad's mother, the late Ms. Tahira Qazi, was the Principal of the Army Public

School, who was unfortunately killed during the attacks. As Ahmad shared his memories of his courageous mother, he also touched upon his efforts to serve the Pakistani community since her death. CCIP-alumni led folk band, Manzil Mystics, led the musical tribute. The gathering also signed a book of condolences that was presented to Ahmad by PAS Islamabad colleagues later that month.



CCIP alumni-led folk band Manzil Mystics offering a musical tribute for the victims of the Peshawar terrorist attack; Rashee Mehra and Naveed Iqbal facilitating a conversation with fellow SUSI alumnus from Peshawar, Ahmad Qazi.

# SUSI Scholar Speaks on Media & Gender

To mark May 2015's theme of freedom of the press, SUSI for Scholars alumna Shashwati Goswami, Associate Professor at Indian Institute of Mass Communication, spoke at the American Library with students on gender and media in India. Dr. Goswami drew on her own experiences as a print and radio journalist in the North-East of India, highlighting the discrimination she had faced and the struggle to cover important women-centric news, such as on prostitution rings. She touched upon the difficulties young journalists, especially women, face upon joining media houses and limited opportunities for women to rise through the ranks. The discussion also touched upon the role of corporate houses and the freedom of the press in India.



SUSI for Scholars alumna, Shashwati Goswami, shares her experience as a journalist in the North-East and as an academic in India.

REWIND  
NEW DELHI



# Social Change through the Arts

PAS New Delhi in association with Manzil Mystics and The RolePlay Productions, showcased a cultural evening of music, dance, and drama at the American Center. The theme for the event entitled "Inclusion Mela" or fair centered around identity, stereotypes, and gender bias among the youth. The event included an original dance-drama entitled "Paheliyan" (or Riddles) based on the experiences of the actors and a music performance, "Darpan" (or Mirror). The performers were all aged between 9 and 25 years of age, hailing from disadvan-

tagged neighborhoods of Delhi, and included children associated with alumni-led organization, Prithak.

The no-more-standing-room event was attended by about 175 people from all walks of life, including exchange alumni, and reported widely in the media. It was a part of a larger theatre- and arts-based program, MyRole, that the partner organizations are implementing. One of the partners, Manzil Mystics, is led by young alumni of the Community College Initiative Program (CCIP).



*Young performers associated with CCIP alumni-led groups, Manzil Mystics and Prithak, performing at the American Center New Delhi*

## Welcome Home, Tibetan alumni!

On June 5, two India-based alumni of the Tibetan Scholarship Program (TSP) participated in a DVC with the eight students of the 2013-15 TSP cohort before their return to India. During this session, the alumni shared their experience in the US, the challenges they faced in India upon their return, and the kinds of opportunities available to them, in order to support the returning cohort as they transition back to life in India. The two alumni who joined the DVC in Delhi were: Ms. Trinley Palmo who works in the Department of Health of the Central Tibetan Administration in Dharamsala, and Mr. Tenzin Lekshay, Deputy Secretary and Media Coordinator at the Bureau of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Upon their return to India, some of the alumni stopped by the American Center before continuing on their way to Dharamsala and Bangalore. They shared highlights of their time in the U.S. and aspirations for the future. All of the alumni are working with various departments and schools of the Tibetan Government-in-Exile.



*Back Row (L-R): J.P. Das (Country Exchanges Advisor), Mark Nachtrieb (First Secretary, U.S. Embassy), Tenzin Kalden, Kunsang Dorjee, Front Row (L-R): Tenzin Jamyang, Norzin Dickyi, Tenzin Yangchen, Geetha Rajagopal (Cultural Affairs Assistant), Shailey Tucker (Alumni Affairs Coordinator)*

REWIND  
NEW DELHI



# Alumni Participate in July 4 Celebrations

PAS New Delhi held Independence Day celebration on July 1, which was attended by several YES, CCIP, and NES-UGRAD alumni. The alumni thoroughly enjoyed the festivities with the

Indian Navy and U.S. Military band at the American Center New Delhi and also had the chance to interact with Ambassador Richard Verma about their exchange experiences.



*YES, CCIP, and NES-UGRAD alumni Independence Day celebrations at the American Center New Delhi*

# CCIP Alumni Share Experience with 2015-16 Participants during PDO

On July 8, PAS New Delhi conducted a Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO) for the North India participants of the 2015-16 Community College Initiative Program.

Four of the 2014-15 alumni who had just returned over the summer from their exchange attended the PDO and gave a first-hand view of life and culture in the U.S. to the out-bound participants! The discussion with ACAO Katie

Caro and the Exchanges Team ranged from practical aspects such as what to pack to nuanced points on being a cultural ambassador to the U.S. and the importance of upholding visa requirements and returning home to the U.S.

Bon voyage, Ashish, Ebenezer, Noor, and Reeta, and welcome back home Iqbal, Kailash, Rishali, and Shama!



REWIND  
NEW DELHI



*Four CCIP 2014-15 alumni interact with the out-bound group during Pre-Departure Orientation at the American Center*

# IVLP Alumni Meet with Embassy

On July 7, the recently-returned participants of the first Single Country Program on "Anti-Trust and Competition Laws" came to the American Center to have a debriefing with ACAO Katie Caro and Senior Economic Advisor, ICT & Trade, Jacob Gullish.



IVLP alumni Neha Raj, K.D. Singh, Avinash Dadhich, and Harpreet Kaur met with ACAO Katie Caro and Senior Trade Advisor Jacob Gullish at the American Center. Alumnus Udai Mehta joined the debriefing virtually from Jaipur.

# Giving Hope Against Trafficking

To mark World Day Against Trafficking-in-Persons (TIP) on July 30 and the release of the 2015 TIP Report by the U.S. Department of State, PAS New Delhi held a panel discussion in partnership with IVLP alumni-led NGO, Shakti Vahini, at the American Library. Entitled "Dignity for All: Human Trafficking and the Fight for Justice in India." U.S. Embassy Political Officer Ms. Michelle E. Janzen welcomed the panelists and guests. Amongst the distinguished speakers were Citizen Exchange alumnus Amod Kanth, Former Director-General of Police (DGP) and Chairperson-Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights, and Founder/General Secretary of Prayas, an NGO that deals with the delivery of welfare, education and protection of children, youth, women and the weaker sections of society. He shared his real-life experience of how to tackle TIP issues. Dharmendra Singh, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Ghaziabad, shared his experience of investi-

gating various illegal trafficking cases, especially through Operation Smile and Operation Muskan. Legislative Fellow Gitanjali Babbar, Founder/Director of Kat-Katha, an NGO that works with women and children living in Delhi's red-light district, shared her emotional experience of how she initiated Kat-Katha with trafficked sex workers and their children to empower them with various life skills. Journalist Ambika Pandit presented the media's perspective and emphasized the importance of ordinary citizens being vigilant and proactive to report instance of discussed what else can be done to improve awareness and combat trafficking. The discussion was moderated by IVLP alumnus Rishi Kant, Director, Advocacy & Communication at Shakti Vahini. The experienced panelists engaged with a gathering of 130 AmCenter patrons. Following the discussion, Kat-Katha was featured in the media by *The Times of India*; read the article [here](#).

REWIND  
NEW DELHI



Left: IVLP alumnus Rishi Kant, Director (Media & Advocacy), Shakti Vahini moderating the discussion; Center: LFP alumna Gitanjali Babbar, Founder/Director, Kat-Katha.; Right: Citizen Exchange alumnus Amod Kanth sharing his experience as former DGP of Delhi with the audience at American Library



# Talk on Media and Violence Against Women

Fulbright-Nehru alumna Namita Kohli, a journalist, delivered a talk entitled, "Against their Will: Media Narratives of Violence against Women" at the American Library on August

13. She led a discussion on mainstream news media's portrayal of violence against women and the ways it reinforces dominant notions of gender, class and violence.



*Fulbright-Nehru alumna Namita Kohli during her discussion at the American Library*

# Addressing Gender Stereotypes

PAS New Delhi partnered with Community College Initiative Program alumni-run NGO, Prithak, to feature a play centered on the theme of gender equality at the American Center on August 19. The play, entitled "Hum Tum" (Me and You), was performed by 30 youth from a disadvantaged community of New Delhi and its plot incorporated personal stories of gender-based discrimination. Using humor and wit, the play high-

lighted invisible lines drawn between the genders in the lives of the disadvantaged community. The no-more standing-room included exchange alumni, youth, and civil society in the auditorium roaring with laughter. It received positive media coverage as part of an ongoing theatre- and arts-based youth engagement project called "MyRole" by The Roleplay Productions and Prithak.



*Young performers associated with CCIP alumni-led NGO, Prithak, performing at the American Center New Delhi*



REWIND  
NEW DELHI



# Fortune alumna organizes U.S. Speaker Discussions on GBV in Jaipur

Ms. Vivian Huelgo, Chief Counsel to the Task Force on Human Trafficking and Commission on Domestic & Sexual Violence of the American Bar Association (ABA) visited Arch Academy of Design, Jaipur, as the Key Note Speaker for the *Chrch* August 2015 on August 17. *Chrch* is a monthly public discussion forum conducted by the institution and August's topic was "Best practices and lessons learned in combating gender violence – U.S. perspective." Ms. Emily White, Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer & Director, American Center New Delhi, and Ms. Mandep Kaur, the All-India Principal Program Advisor, Public Affairs Section, were present during the discussions. Ms. Huelgo gave a twenty-minute presentation on various aspects of the gender discrimination and created awareness about the legal and the non-legal practices adopted in the U.S.A.

Fifty eminent and powerful women from government bodies, educational institutions, NGOs, medical sector, and local authorities participated in the event and contributed their perceptions and suggestions towards the sensitive topic. Ms. Archana Surana, Founder and Director of Arch Academy of Design, alumna of *Fortune*/U.S. State Department Global Women's

Mentoring Partnership and Vital Voices Lead Fellow, hosted and moderated the discussion forum with the women leaders of the city.

Another important event was coordinated by Ms. Surana at the Rajasthan High Court, Mediation Center, under the leadership of Senior Advocate Mr. Sajjan Raj Surana with High Court judges, senior advocates, lady lawyers and advocates. Five senior High Court judges graced the occasion with their insights and legal know how. Thirty participants from the legal fraternity were present during the presentation on gender discrimination by Ms. Huelgo. Mr. Rajeev Surana moderated the session. Ms Emily White gave the vote of thanks to the gathering.



Left: U.S. Speaker Ms. Vivian Huelgo speaking at Arch Academy of Design, Jaipur, Rajasthan; Center: With Fortune alumna Ms. Archana Surana and ACAO Emily White; Right: PAS New Delhi Staff and Ms. Surana with Rajasthan High Court Judges.

## ACAO Inaugurates Film Festival and Meets Alumni in Jaipur

On August 20-21, ACAO Emily White returned to Jaipur to inaugurate a Sci-Fi Film Festival at Amity University, being conducted in partnership with IVLP alumna Supriya Suri, Artistic Director, Cine Darbaar. At Amity, Ms. White also met with Fulbright alumnus, Prof. S.L Kothari, Director, Amity Institute of Biotechnology.

During the visit, Ms. White learned about the exchange experiences of Fortune alumnae Ms. Archana Surana and Ms. Apra Kuchhal; and

IVLP alumni Dr. Hema Yadav and Mr. Rohit Parihar during a lunch meeting. She also visited IVLP alumna Dr. Kanchan Mathur at the Institute of Development Studies, and two alumni-led organizations, Jal Bhagirathi Foundation, an NGO spearheading work on water resources management and sanitation in the state, and CUTS International, a leading consumer protection and policy advocacy organization based in Jaipur.

REWIND  
NEW DELHI



ACAO Ms. Emily White meets Jaipur alumni over lunch



# Alumni Entrepreneurs Facilitate MOOC at AmCenter

As part of PAS New Delhi's efforts to use the American Centre as a hub to promote public diplomacy through education, a meet-up was organized on August 31 around a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) entitled "Beyond Silicon Valley: Growing Entrepreneurship in Transitioning Economies." Focused on entrepreneurship, this MOOC was developed by Prof. Michael Goldberg of Case Western Reserve University, Ohio. The meet-up, the first in series, featured videos supporting the course and presentations by eminent panelists drawn from the corporate sector, social sector and start-ups. Providing a local context the discussions were structured across a wide range of

topics, from innovations to access to capital, and angel investors to the state of e-commerce. The panelists included Mr. Rajeev Lunkad, IVLP 2014 alumnus and Director, Human Project, who shared his insights as an entrepreneur with the gathering. The MOOC was facilitated by Ms. Stuti Jalan, Founder and Managing Director, Crosshairs Communication, who also spoke about her journey as a young woman entrepreneur in India. The camp was well-attended by over 150 enthusiastic students and young entrepreneurs keen to build their own start-ups and was aimed at helping young Indians develop a grasp of entrepreneurship in India.

REWIND  
NEW DELHI



Left: Fortune/U.S. State Department Global Women's Mentoring Partnership alumna Stuti Jalan facilitates the MOOC session; Right: IVLP alumnus Mr. Rajeev Lunkad presents his entrepreneurship journey to the young audience



# IVLP Alumna Talks on Civil Society and Public Policy at AmCenter

To mark the theme of democracy and the International Day of Democracy which falls on September 15, IVLP alumna Dr. Kaushiki Sanyal, Senior Analyst, Bharti Institute of Public Policy, Indian School of Business, and Vice Consul Uzma Khan participated in a talk on "Civil Society and its Impact on Public Policy: Perspectives from the U.S. and India" at the American Library on September 24. Through an informal conversation and presentation style, they discussed how different mechanisms and tools of activism have been used in both countries and what has been the response of policymakers. Dr. Sanyal presented on how civil society engagement has varied across issues, referring to campaigns such as "India Against

Corruption," the "Right to Food" and the anti-rap movement that began in 2012. She highlighted the diversity of strategies that have made social movements successful in influencing policy and touched upon the importance of media management in framing issues and making policymakers meet the demands put forth. Ms. Khan complemented this Indian perspective through the use of engaging videos on environment, Black Lives Matter, and same-sex marriage, that shed light on the use of social and mass media, as well as the role of academia, corporations and lobbyists in influencing policymakers. The event was attended by over 80 students and members of civil society.

IVLP alumna Dr. Kaushiki Sanyal in conversation with Vice Consul, Ms. Uzma Khan



# Entrepreneurship Roundtable in Chandigarh

As PM Modi visited Silicon Valley, North India Office Director Jonathan Kessler and Commercial Officer Paul Frost met with 15 budding entrepreneurs and leading angel investors in Chandigarh at a roundtable at the Indian School of Business (ISB), Mohali campus. The discussion centered upon possible knowledge and expertise exchange between the U.S. and India, to create an ecosystem that supports innovation and entrepreneurship in the Chandigarh Tri-City area, outside of the established hubs of Bangalore or Gur-

gaon. In particular, the need to institutionalize programs and create an environment that encourages young start-up founders to stay in the region was discussed. The roundtable was facilitated by IVLP alumnus Mr. D. N. V. Kumara Guru, Director – External Relations and Human Resources at ISB, and IVLP alumna, Ms Medhavi Gandhi, Founder of Happy Hands Foundation, was also in attendance. Congratulations to the group who're working hard to make Chandigarh a vibrant innovation hub!



Commercial Officer Mr. Paul Frost, Director North India Office, Mr Jonathan Kessler, and Director-External Relations & Human Resources, Mr. D.N.V. Kumara Guru with local entrepreneurs and angel investors at ISB in Mohali.

REWIND  
NEW DELHI



## Chandigarh Alumni Meet-up!

30 alumni of various U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs from the Chandigarh, Patiala, Ludhiana, and Jalandhar region met for the first time in Chandigarh at a high tea hosted by Director, North India Office of the U.S. Embassy, Jonathan Kessler. Most of the alumni had participated in the IVLP, Fulbright Fellowship, Hubert Humphrey Fellowship, or English Language Professional Development

programs. Many of the alumni had not met before and left feeling as part of a larger community and reconnected with the Embassy. The event was held at the Indian School of Business, Mohali, and was also covered by the local media; read [here](#) for more. Write in to us if you'd like to join the alumni Whatsapp group to connect with the community!

IVLP, Humphrey and Fulbright Fellowship, and English Language Professional Development Program alumni meeting at the Chandigarh Meet-up at ISB.



# Bhutanese and Delhi Alumni Participate in TEDxSecunderabad

On October 3, IVLP alumni from Delhi, Dr. Ritu Dangwal and Mr. Ameet Kumar, along with IVLP alumnus from Bhutan, Mr. Novin Darlami, participated in TEDx Secunderabad held in Hyderabad with regional alumni. Dr. Dangwal, Research and Project Coordinator, TED Prize 2013 project, 'The School in the Cloud,' shared her ideas on how digital technology and the Internet is transforming teaching and learning practices, not just in India, but around the world. Mr. Kumar, Deputy Director, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), discussed how the SAARC countries could increase trade

for greater regional economic integration. Mr. Darlami, Member of Parliament from Bhutan, touched upon the importance of supporting youth to lead productive and meaningful lives, and engaging them in national decision-making processes. As Ameet shared, "It was my privilege meeting and knowing fellow speakers from diverse background. Really inspiring to hear them speaking from their heart. Has given me some new perspective to work on." Many of the alumni are in touch with their new friends from region following the event and continue to build on the connections made.



(Left-Right): IVLP alumni, Dr. Ritu Dangwal and Mr. Ameet Kumar from Delhi, and Mr. Novin Darlami from Bhutan speaking at the TEDxSecunderabad

## Dosti Without Borders Continues

What happens when you put 30 young people from Indian and Pakistan in the "same" room? Much laughter, *shayari* (poetry), and a strong resolve to promote peace in the region through citizen diplomacy!

On October 7, PAS New Delhi and Islamabad co-organised the "Indo-Pak Peace Session." 18 young Delhi-based alumni of YES, CCIP, NESA-UGRAD, SUSI for Student Leaders, and Access programs spent a charged evening at the American Center, interacting with fellow alumni in Islamabad via Google Hangout. The group busted stereotypes about each country through various activities, reminisced about cross-border friendships they had made while

on their exchange in the U.S., and discussed what they could do as individuals and as a group to promote peace in the region. The interaction was highly positive, with alumni who had traveled across the border sharing their experiences and resolving to create greater awareness among their peers and to strengthen people-to-people ties between the two countries. Here's to more *dosti* (friendship) without borders!



International exchange alumni in New Delhi and Islamabad interact via Google Hangout, discussing stereotypes and ways in which people-to-people contact can be strengthened to promote cross-cultural understanding and peace in the region.

REWIND  
NEW DELHI



# Bhutanese Alumni & Key Contacts Meet ACAO in Thimphu

ACAO Katie Caro hosted a high tea for about 25 alumni and key contacts during her visit to Bhutan, August 18-21. The discussion, held at Hotel Migmar, Thimphu, centered around future programs. They were joined by American Fulbright Scholar, Dr. Karen Beardsley, who is now placed with the Royal Thimphu College. Ms.

Ishrat Jahan, Regional Educational Advising Coordinator (REAC), from USIEF, and J.P. Das, Country Exchanges Advisor, were also present. The delegation also met officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Royal Civil Service Commission, and conducted interviews for the Hubert Humphrey Fellowship during their visit.

# Ambassador Meets Alumni in Chandigarh

On October 15, United States Ambassador to India Richard R. Verma concluded a productive two day visit to Chandigarh, Ludhiana, and Apra where he experienced first-hand the full range of innovative U.S.-India partnerships and policy programs at work.

During the visit, PAS facilitated an interactive session with over twenty business management students at the Indian School of Business (ISB), Mohali, where the Ambassador engaged with a wide cross-section of students. The Ambassador emphasized the strategic U.S.-India partnership that pans across sectors from climate change to defense cooperation and business linkages to health partnerships. In particular, he talked about the importance of people-to-people engagement. ISB is a great example of the highest quality of professional education that can be provided through partnerships between Indian and American educational institutions. D. N.V. Kumara Guru, Director - External Relations and Human Resources at ISB and an IVLP alumnus, facilitated the interactive session.

The Ambassador also visited the prestigious Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education

and research (PGIMER) on October 14, where he was welcomed by Fulbright alumnus, Dr. Mahesh Devnani, Assistant Professor of Hospital Administration. At PGIMER, the Ambassador learned more about the important work of the Institute and its collaboration with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The Ambassador recognized the "great strides that the U.S.-India partnership has made in the areas of public health research and program development," and lauded the "expansion of efforts into this area of the country."



Ambassador Verma at ISB with students (left), and planting a tree with IVLP alumnus Mr. D.N.V. Kumara Guru (right.)

Ambassador Verma at Chandigarh's premier medical research institution, PGIMER; being greeted by Fulbright alumnus, Dr. Mahesh Devnani (right).

REWIND  
NEW DELHI



# Congratulations & Bon Voyage!

To....SUSI alumnus Dr. Josukutty Abraham, Assistant Professor and Director, Survey Research Centre, Department of Political Science, University of Kerala, who have been awarded a Fulbright-Nehru Academic and

Professional Excellence Fellowship. Dr. M.J. Vinod, Salzburg grantee/IVLP alumnus, Department of Political Science, Bangalore University has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Program.



# THROUGH the GRAPENAI CHENNAI

News article featuring Dr. M..J. Vinod and Dr. Josukutty Abraham in Malayala Manorama (Career Guru), July 13, 2015

## Exchange alum interviews Amb Verma

IVLP alumnus Lawyer/Journalist Sanjay Pinto's column 'Corridors Of Power' in the June, 2015 issue of Ritz Magazine featuring US Ambassador Richard R.Verma. Full article can be found [here](#)



## Fiat From An Ambassador!



BY SANJAY PINTO

"My mother was born in what is today Pakistan. A product of the partition, her family would relocate in Northern India shortly after 1947. My father was the only literate person in his family. My mother would go on to get her father's degree. And my dad would get his PhD and become the first person in his family who could read and write."

And then this idealistic young man would relocate to a land of opportunity - the United States of America with 24 dollars in his pocket in the early sixties. Convinced that in this world, it's not your position but your disposition that matters, the Verma's plighted on. Today one of their children is the US Ambassador to India, overseeing arguably the largest U.S. Missions in the world, four consulates across India and nearly every agency of the U.S. government. Meet Richard R.Verma, a man named Obama and the first Indian American to be posted to New Delhi as Washington's envoy.

When the Obama administration announced Verma's appointment after a six month hiatus owing to former Powell's truncated tenure in the aftermath of the Devyani Khobragade flap, a Huffington Post headline screamed: "The resident 'His A Home Run'." Just as well as President Obama once quipped that in foreign policy, sometimes "you hit singles, you hit doubles, every once in a while we may be able to hit a home run." The eight year stint for a Senate confirmation for nominees observed by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in 237 days. Quite remarkably, Verma made it in a week: "It is a great honor to return to the country where my parents born from some 50 years after they first left here."

The appointment may have been smooth sailing but his early years were rough. "As a brother, three sisters and parents - a makeshift family - I grew, having fun, getting through the tough times, but settling into our new home and making new friends in Pennsylvania. It really does take a village to make it and we had so many good

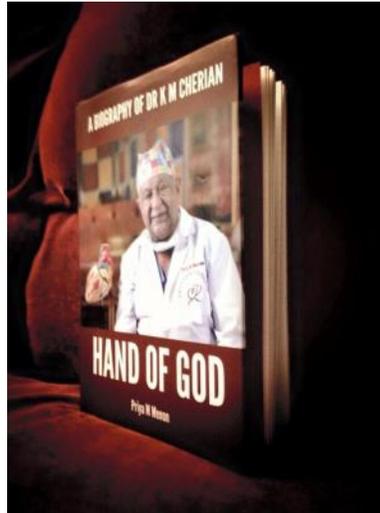
# Alumna turns writer with maiden book release

Priya M Menon of The Times of India, whose first book – a biography of eminent cardiologist Dr. K.M. Cherian was released on World Heart Day, Sept. 29, 2015.

Priya went on a U.S. government sponsored Foreign Press Centers Reporting Tour in 2012.



Priya Menon and Dr. K.M. Cherian at the book release function



Cover of "Hand of God"

# Ability Foundation empowers disabled through films

AbilityFest 2015 is the 6th edition of Ability Foundation's bi-annual event, a unique and inspiring showcase of extraordinary films from around the world, with and about people with disabilities.

AbilityFest is an international, high profile event bringing to the fore the philosophy of an inclusive society. The need for universal access is underlined in every aspect of the festival: from captioned as well as audio described films to accessible venues. Ability

Foundation's founder and managing trustee Jayashree Raveendran is a VolVis alumna.

Jayshree's visit to the U.S. changed her perception towards disabled people forever. Armed with knowledge about the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, she founded Ability Foundation ten years ago to embrace the spirit of inclusion and started a relentless campaign for changes such as ramps, audio and video announcements in bus / train stations, Braille in lifts, sign language interpreters in hospitals, police stations and courts



Far Left: IO Emily Fertik at the 6th Ability Fest introducing the U.S. film "The Dolphin Tale"



Jayshree Raveendran at the studios of BigFM radio station talking to listeners



THROUGH the GRAP EVITINE CHENNAI



# THROUGH the GRAPPEVITINE CHENNAI

## IVLP alumnus on a e-mission...

Solving the water crisis of 4.8 million strong city can be too ambitious – not if IVLP alumnus Arun Krishnamurthy’s Environmental Foundation of India (EFI) is at it.

Starting August every weekend for the next three months, his plan is to mobilize volunteers from corporate houses, schools and colleges to pick trash and remove man-made and natural debris for a massive 12 lake cleanup. His model is to draw volunteers from the corporate houses and schools during the weekends.

What happens during the cleanup? The water body or beach with its periphery are cleaned, strengthened & restored to its original capacity & beauty. The cleaning process involves a massive removal of physical garbage from the premises. This is followed by scientific lab testing of the water samples repeatedly to check the contaminants and pollutant levels. Post scientific study, the lake

bed is de-silted and the silt is deposited on the bunds and a major bund strengthening program follows soon. The leveled bund is now planted with native species saplings which offer extra support to the bund. A small wetland is created towards one corner of the lake to filter out the incoming waste. These wetlands act as the substrate filters, plants like water hyacinths are grown under supervision in this part of the lake alone to ensure filtration. For the beaches repeated nature walks and awareness drives are organized to ensure cleaner environments.

Every Wednesday, Arun makes a call to those citizens who are worried about a beach, lake, pond or river in their neighborhood to join EFI during the weekend in restoring the lake to its true natural beauty. <http://m.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/restoring-twelve-lakes-in-ninety-days/article7517618.ece>

## Exchange grantee analyses work-life balance for employees

Hema Hattangady is the CEO of Consull Energy Private Limited, a design, engineering and systems integration firm in the field of heating and cooling optimization for segments like hotels and hospitals, automotive, pharmaceutical, chemical and FMCG industry.

Hema was selected by Powerline, a premier Indian magazine for the power sector as one of the 10 women who have

contributed meaningfully to the Power Sector. She has been mentoring young entrepreneurs and students in rural Karnataka. Hema participated in the International Visitor Leadership Program on “Energy Management” in 2006.

A role model and a powerful voice for fledgling women entrepreneurs in Karnataka [here’s](#) her business case analysis on stress management for employees.



The telefilm “Meher” featuring IVLP alumna, Writer and Poet Rajathi Samsudeen (aka Salma) was aired on Vijay TV on August 8. The film deals with women’s empowerment, and changing percepts on religious minorities and vulnerable sections of society.

# EVAA's idea resonates with city local administration

Introducing classical Carnatic music lessons by involving well known musicians to under-privileged students was one of the Exchange Visitors Alumni Association's (EVAA) South India's initial projects.

In August 2014, the project was pilot launched at Chennai High School, Kottur (EVAA's protégé school) when musician T.M. Krishna did a 2-hour session with the children

who immensely enjoyed it. It was the school's principal Maheswari Kalpana Kannan (a SUSI alumna) who enthusiastically implemented the project in her school.

Today the project has garnered wider traction and is being adopted by the local body (Chennai Corporation) to include a few other schools.



THROUGH the  
**GRAP** EVINNE  
CHENNAI

## TRANSCENDING BOUNDARIES

CLASSICAL MUSIC CLASSES FOR OVER 100 STUDENTS IN FOUR CITY SCHOOLS

# Ragas to resonate in Corporation schools

Aloysius Xavier Lopez

**A**cheerful group of students took a brief break from their routine on Tuesday morning for an interaction with noted Carnatic musician T.M. Krishna. Following the session with the maestro, students of Chennai Corporation schools said they too wanted to pursue the art form as a career.

"I want to be a singer, I want to learn our culture," said R. Balaji. His father is an auto driver. The Corporation, on Tuesday, started free Carnatic music classes for its school students. Nearly 100 students from four of its schools in Kottur, Taramani, Vanniya Teynampet and Pudupet have been selected for the music classes. Mr. Krishna has helped prepared the curriculum for the students. "Music should reach all people. We will take it to all the students," said Mr. Krishna.

Kottur school headmistress K. Maheswari Kalpana said the programme was a "dream come true." Students were selected by each of the schools for the programme. They will learn music for two hours every week after school hours.

Volunteers from Aanmajothi, in association with the Rotary Club of Madras East, will conduct classes in classical music and Bharatanatyam. The initiative is also part of the preservation and propagation of Indian culture to teach music and dance to students.

With support from Kalakshetra, Chennai Corporation School students will learn dance in Kotturpuram, Pulla Avenue, Tiruvanmiyur, Triplicane, Vanniya Teynampet and Rangarajapuram.



Carnatic vocalist T.M. Krishna and wife Sangeetha Sivakumar interacting with students at Kotturpuram Chennai Middle School on Tuesday — PHOTO: R. RAGU

## 'A project long in the making'

Rasmi Binoy

**CHENNAI:** "Carnatic music should go to more people and they should be able to understand, sing and enjoy it," T.M. Krishna told *The Hindu* on the sidelines of the inauguration of 'T.M. Krishna-Aanmajothi Music to Schools Project,' at Chennai High School, Kotturpuram.

The singer said the project had been in the making for a long time. "We felt Chennai Schools could be the places to start because these are communities with no connection with Carnatic music," he added.

The musician stressed on the need to democratise Carnatic music and bring in diverse listeners, singers and teachers to its fold. On the curriculum he has helped devise, he said slight modifications were effected to the way it had been taught for many hundreds of years.

When asked if he felt film music was a threat to such efforts, he replied that no form of music was a threat to any other form. "There are certain forms of music in the world which are mass. And, there are others which are not. That does not make one higher and the other lower. Film music is part of cinema and cinema is more accessible. I feel if you are able to give it in a form where more people can absorb it, everything will exist in parallel. Vilupattu, Paryattaom, Therukkoothu...there is a space for every art form," he said.

He had made a strong appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to protect "the future of our pluralism" in an open letter. "I am happy to see so many writers coming out against what is happening in our country," he said, regarding the returning of Sahitya Akademi awards

by eminent writers'.

"This is not about one religion being opposed to another. If we don't stand up as a society of different people, of different ideas, of different notions, it is going to be tough," he said.

A certain political force was undermining diverse living and social and political institutions. Artists and individuals had to seriously think about it. "Because the effects of this are going to be felt a decade or 20 years later," he said.

The artiste added that the issue was not being exaggerated as was being portrayed by some. "It is not only about cities or the English-speaking populace. When you talk about banning food, you are talking about everybody. When you say that certain cultural practices are not right, it is something that affects everybody," he said.

**STUDENTS FROM SCHOOLS IN KOTTUR, TARAMANI, VANNIYA TEYNAMPET AND PUDUPET WILL LEARN MUSIC FOR TWO HOURS EVERY WEEK**

# Eco-Tourism Innovator Launches The "Monday Is My Cycle Day" Campaign in Puri, Odisha

Yugabrat Kar, the Founder of Barefoot, has partnered with the district administration and the police in Puri, Odisha to launch "Monday Is My Cycle Day," a campaign to encourage the residents of Puri to choose bicycles as a viable mode of transport for at least one day every week. This campaign is meant to encourage residents to use eco-friendly modes of transportation that also help reduce air pollution. The Tourism Department of Puri has committed itself to promoting bicycles

among tourists who visit Puri, a famous Hindu pilgrimage site with pristine beaches. Yugabrata is a pioneer in the development of eco-tourism in Odisha and other parts of India. He started Barefoot with the objective of inculcating a spirit of volunteerism among youth in Odisha and empowering indigenous local communities through sustainable eco-tourism ventures. Yugabrat participated in the International Visitor Leadership Program on Tourism Development in 2012.



THROUGH *the* GRAPDEVINNE HYDERABAD



# Social Entrepreneur Participates in TEDxHyderabadWomen



# THROUGH *the* GRAP THE HYDERABAD EVENTINE



Hema Balakrishnan is the Founder of Color D Earth, an eco-social enterprise that economically empowers traditional terracotta artisans by marketing their jewelry, art, and murals. Hema was invited to participate in TEDxHyderabadWomen, which focused on the theme of momentum. In addition to participating in the International Visitor Leadership

Program on Women and Entrepreneurship in 2012, Hema was a participant in the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women Entrepreneurs Program, a global initiative launched in 2008 to foster economic growth by providing 10,000 women from around the world with business and management education.

# Fulbright Scholars “Telling Tales” in Bhubaneswar

Fulbright scholars Neeta Omprakash and Kathryn Myers came together to organize a four-day workshop entitled “Telling Tales” in Bhubaneswar in collaboration with UTSHA Foundation. The workshop was organized for participants to discuss, review, and experiment on constructing various types of interviews for regional, national, and international audiences. Students, journalists, artists, and historians from the city attended the workshop.



## Alumni Take First Step Towards Creating An Active Alumni Community In Bhubaneswar

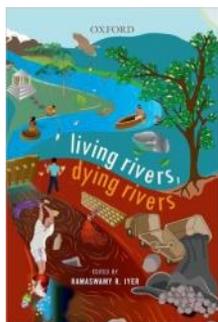
IVLP alumni Dr. Biswajit Mohanty and Dr. P.K. Sahoo took the initiative of organizing an alumni meet-up in Bhubaneswar. The meet-up took place on August 11, 2015, at the Centre for Youth and Social Development and was attended by 17 exchange alumni from diverse back-

grounds including media, environment, journalism, disability, women's issues, governance, and education. The Odiya alumni community intends to meet once every two months and organize programs, invite experts to give talks, and arrange film screenings.



## Odiya Water Expert Writes On Mahanadi River In Book By Oxford University Press

Water activist and IVLP alumna, Mr. Ranjan Panda, has authored a chapter in the book *Living Rivers, Dying Rivers*, edited by Ramaswamy Iyer and published by Oxford University Press. The book was released by the Honorable Vice President of India, Hamid Ansari. The chapter titled "Mahanadi: A Great River in Distress" shares details about the



present condition of Mahanadi, the factors that have had an effect on its well-being, and also explores the attitudes and approaches towards rivers and towards the environment in today's world. The chapter makes a plea for a proper understanding of our rivers in all their complexity, for a healthy relationship with them, and for a radical re-examination of what constitutes true development.

## Women and Child Rights Activist Launches Network Legal Activists



Dr. Mamatha Achanta recently announced the launch of Network of International Legal Activists (NILA) for Women & Child Rights. This network aspires to bring together legal activists to ensure that the human rights of vulnerable groups that are subjected to marginalization, such as women and children are addressed in the context of crime prevention and criminal justice reform. The network is international in scope to make justice accessible to all despite migration of women and children from one part of the world to another. NILA aims to increase the access to judicial and other legal mechanisms, extend assistance to victims by ensuring legal counselling and aid, offering physical and psychological support and therapy, and create an environment for their rehabilitation. Dr. Achanta participated in the International Visitor Leadership Program on Trafficking in Persons in 2009.



GRAP  
THROUGH the  
HYDERABAD  
EVENTS



# Alumnus Sensitizes Young Men Against Gender-Based Violence

In August 2015, at a four-day residential camp by Men Against Violence and Abuse (MAVA), on Gender Sensitization, over 30 potential student leaders from eight colleges of Mumbai participated. Apart from enthusiastically participating in all interactive sessions on understanding male dominance, patriarchy, masculinity, male gaze, sexuality

and violence, the boys enjoyed being engaged in other activities like tree-plantation, trekking, and playing football amidst nature. Led by IVLP alumnus Harish Sadani, and held at the picturesque Sane Guruji Memorial Campus at Raigad district, the camp was an enriching experience for all the participating students.



THROUGH *the* GRAP EVITNE MUMBAI



# Bringing Human Rights To Life Through Theatre

On August 16, the IREX (International Research & Exchanges Board) funded project "Bringing Human Rights to Life through Theatre: Studying the struggle by Gandhi, Mandela and King against Social Discrimination" came to a conclusion with plays on human rights performed by 60 students from five schools in Pune.

ILEP alumna Charu Mathur's organization, the Socrates Foundation in association with theatre experts held theatre workshops on Human Rights in Pune in July to sensitize the participating youth to the problems of social justice on a global level, as well as help them appreciate how individual efforts can drive a paradigm shift in society.

Plus 4 City

City

Sakal Times  
www.sakaltimes.com  
MONDAY AUGUST 17, 2015

3

## IN CITY TODAY

- **Revival Day:** Annual meeting of Deccan College Past Students' Association; at Main Lecture Hall, Dept of Archaeology of Deccan College; 11 am
- **Rakhis for soldiers:** 5,000 Rakhis for soldiers at the border, organised by Sainik Mitra Parishad and Lions Club 325 D 2 in presence of senior writer Aruna Dheere; at Sarasbaug Ganapati Mandir; 4:30 pm

## CITY BRIEFS

### Tiles, sanitaryware dealers association office bearers elected

Sanjay Gandhi has been elected President and Rajendra Shah Secretary of Pune Tiles and Sanitaryware Dealers Association for the year 2015-2016. Outgoing President Sanjay Patel handed over charge to Gandhi at a meeting held at MCCIA office. Kirti Mehta, advisor of the association, installed the new team of board of directors. The

# Children highlight human rights violations

**Pune:** Raj Nahar, District Chairman, Inner Wheel Club, District 313 has stressed the need to teach the concept of human rights at an early stage to children, so that they can be sensitised towards such issues and help in eliminating discrimination. She was speaking during the play of 'Bringing Human Rights to Life through Theatre: Studying the struggle by Gandhi, Mandela and King against Social Discrimination', organised by the Socrates Foundation here on Sunday. Around 60 students from five city schools participated in the play and highlighted human rights violations faced by people in day-to-day life.

"I believe that the theatre is an amazing medium to express and highlight this issue and the children can actively participate in such plays and educate others," said Nahar.

Charu Mathur, founder of NGO Socrates Foundation, hoped that these plays can bring an effective change. "There is a need for the youth to understand the growing problems in the world. The goal is to eliminate discrimination and reinforce the belief in the youth that even individuals can have power to change the world," she added. 57



Pic: Parag Jadhav

**DISCRIMINATION:** School children perform in a play on human rights organised by the Socrates Foundation called 'Bringing Human Rights to Life through Theatre: Studying the struggle by Gandhi, Mandela and King against Social Discrimination', on Sunday.

## PARTICIPANTS SPEAK



■ "We will be focusing on a woman who lives in a slum. She gets a job in an MNC, and is mocked by the people for belonging to a lower strata of the society. We like to highlight the class discrimination faced by such people in the society."

—Rohit Kulkarni



■ "I am participating in the play because we have recently initiated civic classes, where human rights is a major topic and inspires us to highlight some of the pressing issues concerning this topic."

—Sharwari Kulkarni

# IVLP alumnus Rimp Dorjee Lepcha takes his exchange experience

Rimp Dorjee Lepcha, alumnus from the IVLP program on Disaster Management, has been taking his learnings out to the community after his return from the program. Rimp's program on Disaster Management was an extensive exchange experience on managing and preparing for a variety of disasters. Since his return he has been speaking for organizations such as the State Disaster Management Agency, Government of Sikkim, Rotary Club of Gangtok South etc. Speaking to audiences such as the newly inducted batch of Under Secretary's to the Government of Sikkim and the Project Officer and staff of the State Disaster Management Authority, Rimp has been sharing the new ideas on local disaster preparedness and the role of various stakeholders, which he picked up from the program in the U.S. Next in line is a request from the State Disaster Management Agency to start sessions on a more regular basis with schools and other organizations like the Fire Brigade, Civil Defence, NGOs, Panchayats, Municipal Corporations etc.



THROUGH *the* **GRAP** **EVENTINE** **KOLKATA**

*IVLP alumnus Rimp Dorjee presents on his Disaster Management exchange experience at the State Disaster Management Agency, Sikkim*

# Fulbright alumna participates in Global Links Cross-Cultural Exchange

Fulbright alumna Dr. Sharmistha Banerjee, Professor of Business at University of Kolkata, was the first Indian scholar to participate in the Global Links cross-cultural exchange program that trains female scholars in social entrepreneurship. The innovative program was spearheaded by Tupperware Brands, Rollins College, and the U.S. Office of Global Women's Issues. Read Dr. Banerjee's account of her experience in *The Guardian* [here](#) and watch the Global Link Program video [here](#).



*Dr. Sharmistha Banerjee, first Indian woman at the Global Links program. (Source: www.theguardian.com)*



THROUGH *the* GRAP EVITNE KOLKATA

# Award ceremony: AEIF 2014 Mobile Apps 4 Climate Change

The Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF) 2014 competition winner, Dr. Shubhalaxmi (a Fulbright and Hubert Humphrey alumna), launched three mobile apps in December 2014 that were used by youth in India to identify trees, butterflies, and birds that are indicator species on climate change. The iNaturewatch apps include iBirds, iButterflies, and iTrees, and allow users to easily identify local flora and fauna, get details about them, and report their

presence online to scientists gathering data on climate change. On June 25, over 150 students from nine schools across Mumbai and Navi Mumbai attended the closure and prize-distribution ceremony of the student Citizen Scientist phase of the AEIF Mobile Apps 4 Climate Change project at the Don Bosco International School. The guest of honor was Ms. Nandini Deshmukh of AI Gore's Climate Reality Project in Mumbai.



Guests with the prize winners !

## Alumna shares her IVLP experience at National Civil Defense College

Recent IVLP alumna, Ms. Rajeshwari Kori who is the Senior Staff Officer (Industries / Training) at the Directorate of Civil Defense and Homeguards, was invited as a visiting faculty at the prestigious National Civil Defense College, Nagpur to deliver a full day lecture workshop for students at the Institute

of Management Studies who are doing their summer training module to build resilience against disaster impact. During her lecture on June 5 Kori also shared her exchange experience and spoke about disaster management in the United States.



THROUGH *the*  
GRAP  
EVITNE  
MUMBAI



# IV alum speaks at India's first TEDxGatewayWomen event

On May 29, Mumbai hosted India's first TEDxGatewayWomen Conference. The event "Ideas Worth Spreading" had eleven empowered women sharing their movements and ideas that initiated action towards change. One of the eleven was recent IVLP alumna Ms. Aditi Gupta co-founder of Menstrupedia who works towards spreading awareness about menstruation. As a Ford Foundation research scholar she has con-

ducted extensive research in understanding the scenario of menstrual unawareness in India and its impact on a girl's life. Aditi along with her husband Tuhin Paul then designed effective educational tools for girls and schools using storytelling and sequential art for educating young girls about menstruation in a society where the subject is a major taboo. Menstrupedia's website - [www.menstrupedia.com](http://www.menstrupedia.com)

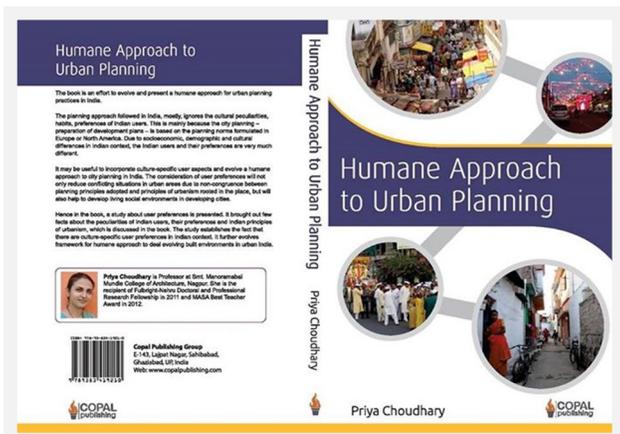


# Fulbright alumna publishes book on urban planning

Fulbright alumna Professor Priya Choudhary recently published a book titled "Humane Approach to Urban Planning". The book is an effort to evolve and present a humane approach for planning practices in India. The planning approach followed in India mostly ignores the cultural peculiarities, habits, and preferences of Indian users. Due to socio-economic, demographic, and cultural differences

in India, Indian users and their preferences are different than other countries. Therefore, the book includes a study concerning Indian-built environments and its users. It brings out the peculiarities of Indian users and Indian principles of urbanism.

It further evolves a framework for humane approaches to deal with continuously evolving built environments in urban India.



THROUGH the  
GRAP  
EVITNE  
MUMBAI



*One of the most rewarding aspect of working at Menstrupedia is that I get to meet some of the most kick-ass women who bend and break stuff, women who challenge norms and shake the world in their humble unique ways.*

— Aditi Gupta

# IVLP alum takes his irrigation technology to farmers in Ghana

IVLP alumnus Mr. Biplab Ketan Paul's non-profit company, Naireeta Services Pvt. Ltd. partnered with the NGO Conservation Alliance International in Accra, Ghana to promote the adoption of Biplab's World Bank award-winning Bhungroo Irrigation Technology (BIT) among smallholder farmers in Africa. Biplab's visit to Ghana in June helped the local community understand and implement the Bhungroo technology. The U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai connected him with the U.S. Embassy in Ghana, in which he was able to share his technology with even more local partners than originally anticipated.



THROUGH *the*  
**GRAPDEVITNE**  
**MUMBAI**

# Alumna Participates In Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES)

Dr. V. Shubhalaxmi, a Fulbright and Hubert Humphrey alumna, attended the 6th Global Entrepreneurship Summit which was held 24-26 July 2015 at the United Nations Office in Nairobi. She was the only woman entrepreneur representing India along with three other male participants. The summit was inaugurated by the U.S. President Barack Obama. Around 3,000 delegates from over 100 countries had attended the session. The sessions were focused on the tools and topics related

to entrepreneurship such as finance, marketing, social media, developing teams and so on. Dr. Shubhalaxmi found this a wonderful opportunity to interact with diverse nationals of African countries as well as Asian countries such as Pakistan and Bangladesh. The summit essentially helped her network with like-minded individuals. Dr. Shubhalaxmi was able to discuss the possibilities of launching her online courses in Kenya with help of a local NGO.

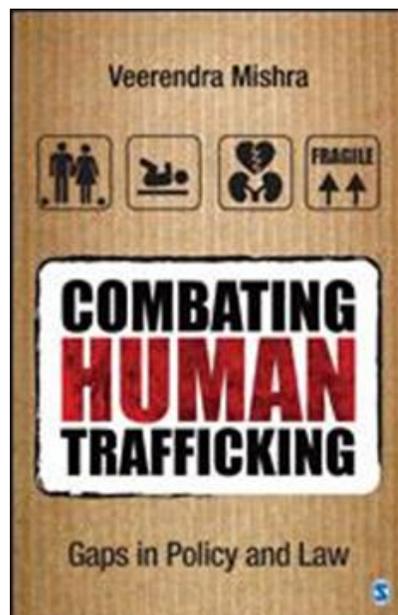


# Alumnus Launches Book On Combating Human Trafficking

Hubert Humphrey alumnus Veerendra Mishra's new book "Combating Human Trafficking" aims to initiate fresh discussion on human trafficking, and offers recommendations to curb organized international crime.

It explores varied dimensions of the crime and offers further classification to help effectively address the problem. It presents a new perspective of identifying assimilative interaction between social and criminal justice systems, the progressive growth in socio-criminal legislations, and the universal demand of multi-agency approach to combat trafficking. Through the Brute Mute theory, it gives an illustrative description of micro- and macro-governance, and offers a global perspective to the problem with examples and case studies.

Formerly an IPS officer in Madhya Pradesh, he is now Secretary at the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), Ministry of Women and Child Development, GoI.



THROUGH *the* GRAP EVITINE MUMBAI



# IVLP alumna takes participatory theatre across 5 U.S. cities

What happens when thirteen young girls dream of travelling together to far off places like the USA to share their stories, knit into a play? Jaya Iyer, IVLP (2004) alumna joined them as the theatre mentor and shaped this up collaboratively, with a team of other experts. Their stories were sad and difficult at times, but there were also stories which were hilarious, uplifting and full of hope .

"Lal Batti Express" (or, "Red Light Express") was borne of all these elements – an interactive play with music, images, humor and questions, touching upon themes such as the politician-NGO nexus, police brutality, and abuse.

The play travelled across five cities and performed 25 shows in all, supported primarily by civil society-citizen groups, NGOs, and corporates; the range was immense and the experi-

ence was a big learning for everybody .

Besides the play, the girls went rafting, hiking , volunteered and participated in the Pride parade in Los Angeles just before the momentous legislation about same-sex marriage.

Jaya travelled with them and the learning has been as immense for her as it was for the team and the audience.



THROUGH *the* NEW DELHI  
GRAP EVI TIME



IVLP alumna, Jaya Iyer, traveled with a group of 13 young girls across the United States this summer, performing their play "Lal Batti Express" across at venues such as the Chicago Field Museum and participating in the Pride Parade in Los Angeles.

## YES Alumni Celebrate Ramzan

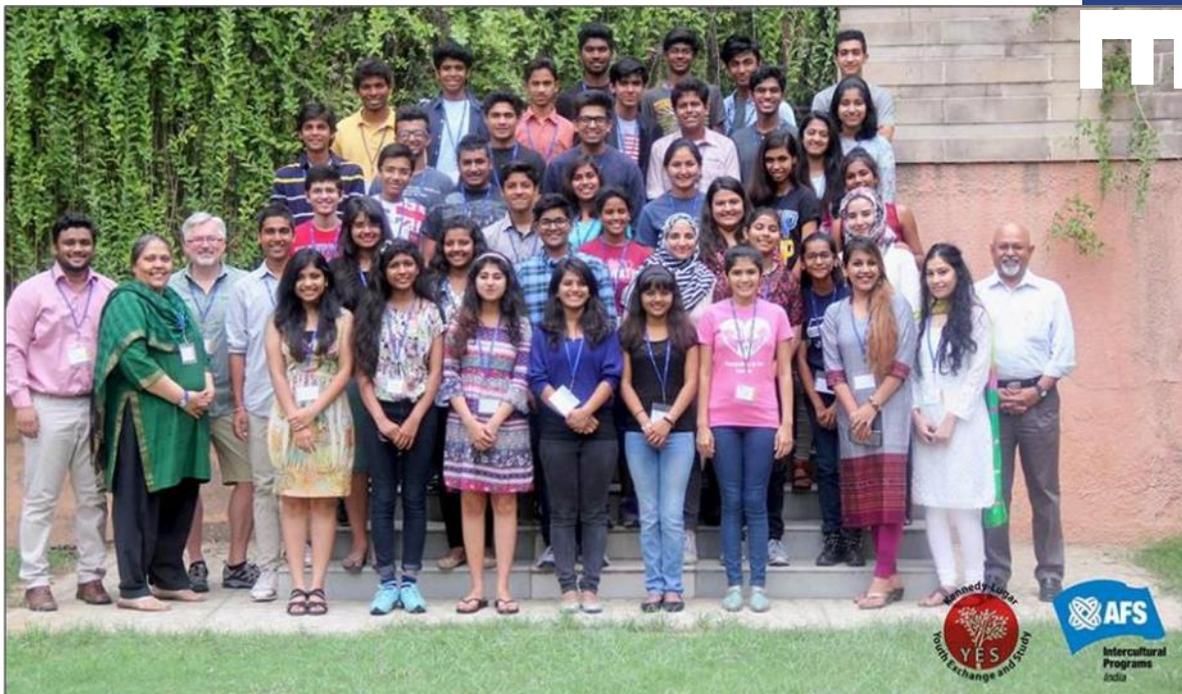
With the ending of Ramzan, a group of YES alumni came together at Nizamuddin Dargah in New Delhi on July 16 and volunteered to serve *Iftaar* to the gathered congregation. All the volunteers, along with staff members of American Field Services' National Office, distributed food to the gathering to break fast. We are proud of AFS Volunteers for doing a commendable job and volunteering in the community. Three cheers to Syed Maaz (YES 2013), for leading the event!



## Welcome Home, 2014-15 YES Alumni!

A group of 40 YES alumni of the 2014-15 cohort, along with four American Field Services (AFS) India staff members came under one roof from June 19-21 in New Delhi to attend the Re-Entry Orientation. The students were welcomed at the Delhi airport on June 18. Through various activities, the orientation sessions focused on reverse cultural shock and re-adjustment in school and community in

India. On June 19, the students also had the chance to meet and interact with Country Exchanges Advisor, U.S. Embassy, Mr. J.P. Das, and share their experiences with him. Mr. Das shared tips on readjustment after coming back. The alumni also performed a cultural show a day prior to their departure home. Overall, the exchange participants had a wonderful experience in the U.S.



*YES 2014-15 alumni upon their return to New Delhi after spending a year in the U.S. on high-school exchange.*

## YES Alumna Launches Yoga Web Site

Neha Sharma (YES 2009) from New Delhi launched her own yoga web site on International Yoga Day, June 2015. She has been practicing yoga for some time and has also pursued her Master's degree in yoga. Now she

is a full-time yoga trainer. Please log on to the following links for more information: [www.ertalife.com](http://www.ertalife.com) or [www.facebook.com/erthayoga](https://www.facebook.com/erthayoga)



GRAP  
THROUGH the  
EVENTS  
NEW DELHI

# YES alumni community service in Rajasthan

Yale Alumni Service Corps (YASC) conducted a community service project that took place from July 29 to August 9 in Kakelao, Jodhpur, Rajasthan. Abhilasha Khodlan (YES 2007), Janak Gajjar (YES 2008), Pooja Shah (YES 2009), Vyom Raisinghani (YES 2010), Arun Sharma (YES 2010), Umang Jasani (YES 2011), Madhuri N.P. (YES 2011), and Mukta Soman (YES 2011) were amongst 120+ volunteers who were involved.

After the Kakelao Project conducted in 2014, more than 75 YASC volunteers of came together with the 20 volunteers of AFS Intercultural Programs India and 22 female volunteers from a local girls' school to do another service in the same village of Kakelao. This year service included various projects, ranging from public health education; school education program covering subjects such as World Geography, English, Math, Music, Geology, As-

tronomy, Computers, and Art. The school education program served almost 400 students in the local primary and secondary schools; a pre-school team also led early childhood education programs for young children attending the *Anganwadis* (local health and day-care centers) and painted murals on the walls of the centers; an arts program also introduced students to collages and mosaics, digital photography and theater. In addition, professional film-makers taught students their craft and a construction team designed benches and desks for the primary school as well as secondary school. Overall, it was a wonderful service as the energy and efforts put by the volunteers brought constructive and productive changes in the village and continue making a difference in their lives. For more details, please visit [www.yalealumniservicecorps.org/kakelao-2015](http://www.yalealumniservicecorps.org/kakelao-2015) or see the [Facebook page](#).

# IVLP Alumnus Showcases Photography Exhibit in Chandigarh

IVLP 2002 alumnus, Sarabjit Pandher recently organized an exhibition of his photographs, entitled "My Camera Chronicles – 2015" in Chandigarh. The three-day event beginning August 28, 2015, at the Sobha Singh Art gallery in the premises of the Punjab Arts' Council in Chandigarh, showcased Sarabjit's passion for photography. The show was widely reported by the media.

The 54 frames displayed had pictures of the fall colours of North America, sunset at

the Grand Canyon, Spain, along with the various hues of the rugged Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir, facets of the Hornbill festival of Nagaland, and the pristine beauty of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Sarabjit Pandher's journalistic career has spanned just short of three decades while working for India's top news organizations. He has also had four tenures as president of the Chandigarh Press Club, the largest apolitical organization of journalists based north of New Delhi.



THROUGH *the* NEW DELHI  
GRAP EVITINE

Two of IVLP alumnus Sarabjit Pandher's photographs on display at the exhibit: "Fall" (left) and "Tsomoriri" (right).



# IVLP Alumnus' Org. Releases Report on Water-Energy-Agriculture Nexus

CUTS International recently released 'Mainstreaming Sustainable Development' - a report on its regional program, Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio (SDIP), developed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Government of Australia, in the presence of Central and State Power Ministers and a house full of dignitaries at the BCC&I Energy Conclave. This report captures the challenges in three sectors - water, agriculture and energy—across three river basins, namely, In-

du, Brahmaputra and Ganges. The mounting pressure on resource base and limited availability of basic amenities make the marginalized sections of the society most vulnerable to impacts of climate change, urbanization, cultural and technological changes. The report explores how a better economic wellbeing can be achieved in South East Asia through regional cooperation. IVLP alumnus Mr. Udai Mehta is the Director of CUTS International, headquartered in Jaipur.



*CUTS International team with Mr. Piyush Goyal, Minister of State with Independent Charge for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy (fourth from left) and other government officials at the report launch in Kolkata*

## First India Youth Forum Sees Strong Participation from Young Alumni

On September 6-9, IVLP-alumni led NGO, Society for the Promotion of Youth and Masses (SPYM), in partnership with Colombo Plan, organized the first Indian Youth Forum on Drug-Use Prevention at The Ashoka Hotel in New Delhi. The four-day Forum was attended by over 120 Indian youth from various universities and schools, including several Delhi-

based YES, NESAs-UGRAD, CCIP, and SUSI alumni. The Forum began with interactive sessions led by experts from the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and witnessed enthusiastic participation in the thematic sessions, which focused on assertion skills, effective communication, enhancing self-esteem, decision-making, and refusal skills.



THROUGH THE  
GRAPEVINE  
NEW DELHI  
EVENTS



*Several young International Exchange Alumni participated in the first Indian Youth Forum organized by IVLP alumni-led youth organization, SPYM, in New Delhi.*

# Salzburg Seminar alum speaks of “the illusion of success”

Vasanthi is a Journalist, TV Anchor, Radio Host, and a Media Trainer, all rolled in one. A successful RJ that made her a household name, a career in NDTV as special correspondent, Vasanthi did several innovative programs such as cohosting through satellite, an event with Sunita Williams for an Infosys event, or listening to Sonu Nigam while anchoring his musical concert, blended business with ample pleasure.

She is currently a mentor to three young U.S. state department alumni in the “I have a dream” program on leadership, a fact she has mentioned as a recipe for her success. Want to hear Vasanthi’s speech—Click [HERE!](#)

*Salzburg grantee Vasanthi Hariprakash talks Success at TEDxMSRIT in Bangalore*



KUDOS!  
CHENNAI



# NATO Tour of '15 includes '03 IVLP alumnus



IVLP alumnus Mr. A.W. Rabi Bernard, Anchor, JAYA Television (7th from left) was one of the participants from India at the NATO tour for policymakers and politicians in Brussels, in coordination with USNATO. Formerly a journalist, Rabi Bernard participated in the MRP on investigative journalism in 2003. He is now an

Indian politician and incumbent member of the Parliament of India from Tamil Nadu, represents the ruling All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) party. The tour is important as India’s role in the region and as a possible NATO partner in confronting security challenges is crucial.

## IVLP alum gets prestigious GOK post

IVLP alumna Ms. Hafsath Vattathodika, Advocate & Panchayath Member and Standing Committee Chairperson, Mampad Grama Panchayath, Kerala was appointed as the Legal Assistant in the Kerala State Wakf Board in Ernakulam for a period of 1 year starting July 3, 2015.



**KUDOS!**  
**CHENNAI**



## For the cause of the domestic workers and child laborers...



*Human chain in Chennai by slum children and volunteers at the Marina, Chennai*

*Children holding a placard against child labor at the rally*



IVLP alumni Sr. Valarmathi (Coordinator, National Domestic Worker's Movement) was at the helm of several innovative campaigns to mark Anti Child Labor Day (June 12th) and International Domestic Workers Day (June 15th).

She organized a press meet with children, a postcard campaign to eliminate child labor, a human chain of about 500 slum children and volunteers, and a cultural program by about 750 domestic workers on International Do-

mestic Workers Day. The programs were covered by both national and regional media. Click here to see the press coverage:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/the-young-rally-against-child-labour/article7314751.ece>

<http://www.nyoooz.com/chennai/127667/kids-continue-to-be-domestic-helpers>

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/Domestic-Workers-are-the-Pillars-of-Society/2015/06/17/article2870100.ece>

# Fulbright Alumna Receives Prestigious Chevening Scholarship

Fulbright alumna **Mini Ulanat** received the UK Government sponsored Chevening Scholarship for a training program in Cyber Security Policies and Information Assur-

ance. Mini works as Systems Manager at Cochin University of Science & Technology. For more information, see [here](#).



# YES Alumnus Receives Award for Community Service

Rahul Jayanth (YES 2011) has been volunteering with an NGO, Sri Mangala Sikshana Samiti, Spoorthi, Bangalore, which seeks to provide quality education to students in government schools in rural India. Apart from teaching Physics and Science to these rural students, he has been using his unique skills in Astronomy to give the students new experiences using his hand-built Newtonian Reflector Telescope. He has conducted numerous sky shows at these schools and has ca-

tered to about 500 students (middle and high school students) through this organization so far, thereby contributing to a more holistic education for them.

In recognition of his effort and contribution, Rahul has been awarded by this organization. The felicitation for his social activism was by the Justice Rama Jois, the former Governor of Jharkhand and Bihar, and Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court.

KUDOS!  
CHENNAI



# Alumni expert trains political leaders on Federalism and Decentralization

Congratulations to Salzburg and IVLP alumnus Dr. Sandeep Shastri, Pro Vice Chancellor, Jain University, Bengaluru who recently conducted eight days of training at Yangon, Myanmar. Organized jointly by the Forum of Federations, EBO and Bayda Institute, the program involved a three day workshop and

five day Training of Trainers for political leaders. The participants at both included leaders of the National League of Democracy (NLD) and other political activists. The focus was on Capacity Building for Federalism, Diversity and Democracy.



*Dr. Sandeep Shastri with the Chief Minister and Speaker of the State Assembly of the state of Hpa An at the start of the Workshop*

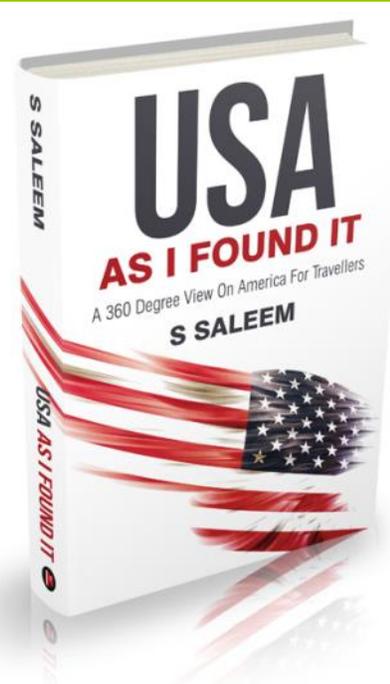
# IVLP journo writes a travelogue on the United States

"Wait for my book!" said IVLP alumnus and Thanthi TV's Delhi bureau chief Saleem when we quizzed him after his return from the U.S. last year. Our wait is over! His newly released

"USA as I found it" is not just a travelogue, but is an insightful collection of his personal experiences during the exchange program and his reflections.



**KUDOS!**  
**CHENNAI**



# Fulbright Alumnus Nominated to India's Commission for UNESCO

Dr. Sachidananda Mohanty has been nominated by the President of India to the Indian National Commission for Co-Operation with UNESCO as an individual member in his personal capacity. The tenure of this membership is for four years. Dr. Mohanty, also the Vice Chancellor of the Central University of Orissa, is a Fulbright alumnus. He was a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the



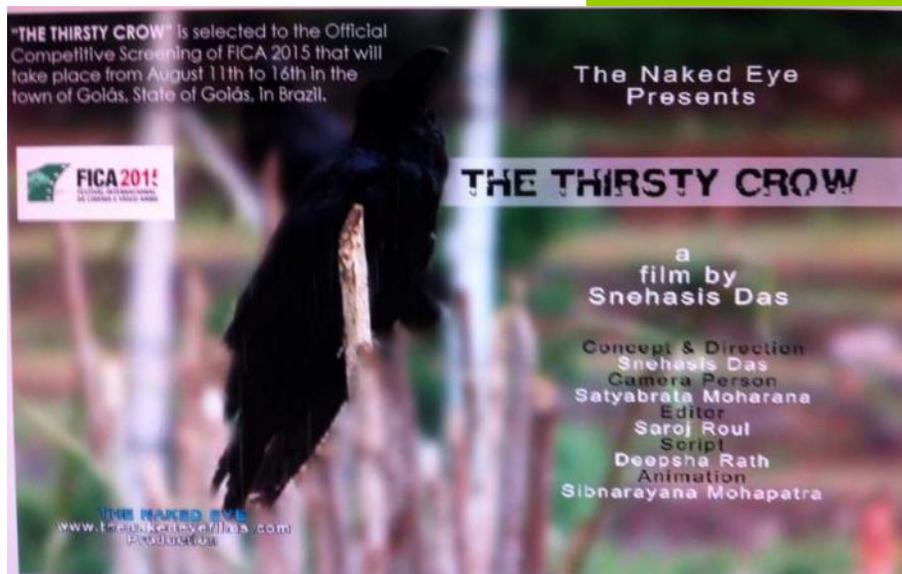
Rhode Island College in 2005 and a Fulbright Visiting Fellow at the universities of Texas, Austin and Yale in 1990-91. Professor Mohanty delivered lectures at a number of leading universities in India and the U.S. including Cornell University, Pittsburgh University, the City University of New York and California State University. He has authored 26 books in English and Odiya.

**KUDOS!**  
**HYDERABAD**



# Film by Odiya Filmmaker Screened At Brazil Film Festival

The Thirsty Crow, an animated film by Odiya filmmaker Snehasis Das, was screened at the FICA Film Festival (Festival Internacional de Cinema e Video Ambiental) in Goiás, Brazil. 21 films selected from among 327 entries from across the world were screened at the festival. The film has also been screened previously at several film festivals, including the Woodpecker Film Festival. The film brings to fore the problem of water scarcity through the crow-and-water folk tale. Some of his other short films include Gaugunbadi Ahangna, an animated film on increasing vernacular tribal language in early child education among tribal children in Odisha, and If We Can Walk Together, a film on disability. Snehasis participated in the International Visitor Leadership Program on Promoting Social Change through the Arts, in 2013.



# Start Up Co-Founder Features in Vogue Magazine's Tribes of Cool list

Vaishali Neotia, Co-founder & CEO of Merxius - a technology company that builds products using augmented reality, virtual reality, and interactive and web technologies, was included in the Tribes of Cool list that celebrated makers of India 2.0. Merxius is also the first Indian company that was invited to exhibit at the Augmented World Expo (AWE) in Silicon Valley. Augmented World Expo (AWE) is the world's largest conference and

expo for professionals that make interactive products featuring technologies such as augmented reality, wearable computing, smart glasses, and gesture, and sensors devices. Vaishali was a participant of the FORTUNE/ U.S. State Department Women's Mentoring Partnership Program in 2015. Vaishali was mentored by Ms. Dina Powell, president of the Goldman Sachs Foundation and global head of the Office of Corporate Engagement.



# Renowned Social Activist Honored With Yudhvira Award

Dr. Sunitha Krishnan, the Co-Founder of Prajwala, a non-governmental organization that rescues, rehabilitates, and reintegrates trafficking victims into society, was honored with the 24th Yudhvira Foundation Memorial Award, for her extraordinary achievement in the rescue, restoration and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking and for providing exemplary care and support for persons with HIV. The Yudhvira Foundation, established in 1991, aims to honor individuals, who contribute to national integration, social service and those whose endeavours, in any field have triumphed in the face of adversity.



*Narendra Luther and Zahid Ali Khan of Yudhvira Foundation presenting the award to Dr. Sunitha Krishnan at FAPCCI in Hyderabad on Thursday. (Photo credit: Nagara Gopal)*

# Fulbright Alumnus Nominated as Member of UNESCO Commission

Fulbright alumnus, Prof. Sachidananda Mohanty has been nominated as a member for Commission on Education for UNESCO by the President of India. The tenure of the

membership is for four years. Prof. Mohanty is currently the Vice Chancellor of Central University of Orissa, Koraput. Read more details in coverage by [The Hindu](#).

# SUSI Alumni Win the Young India Fellowship

Medha Kohli and Simran Bhui, SUSI alumni leaders in New Media and Journalism, recently won the competitive Young India Fellowship Program.

The Young India Fellowship, offered by Ashoka University, seeks to prepare young women and men who will lead India through the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The program brings 225 emerging leaders from different parts of India to New Delhi to participate in a one-year residential, multidisciplinary postgraduate program in liberal studies and leadership. Congratulations, Medha and Simran!



*Simran Bhui (left) and Medha (right)*

KUDOS!  
HYDERABAD



## UN Water Award 2015 for 'SAFE'

South Asian Forum for Environment (SAFE), an environmental organization led by IVLP alumnus Dr. Dipayan De, received the UN Water for Life Award 2015 this year. The award was given to SAFE for "Best Management Practices" (Category 1: Rank 2) based on the UN-DESA assessment of our projects "WASH-US" (Water Sanitation and Hygiene for Urban Slums) & "NEWS-UP" (Nonconventional Energy in Water & Sanitation for Urban Poor) implemented in Kolkata & Northeast States. SAFE designed a program wherein renewable energy is the key to water and sanitation solution for the urban poor. Under this are two projects for providing safe

drinking water and hygienic sanitation to marginal poor in urban slums named WASH-US (Water Sanitation and Hygiene for Urban Slums) in Kolkata and NEWS-UP (Nonconventional Energy in Water and Sanitation for Urban Poor) in north eastern India. Both the WASH-US (Water Sanitation and Hygiene for Urban Slums) and NEWS-UP (Nonconventional Energy in Water and Sanitation for Urban Poor) projects provide solar powered water treatment plants which deliver 10,000 liters of drinking water complying with WHO standards on a 24X7 basis to the community through automated dispensing units. Congratulations team SAFE!



**KUDOS!**  
**KOLKATA**



*Irfan Alam., Fulbright alumnus and Founder of Samman Foundation*

## Alumna felicitated in poetry

Nigerian poet Tanure Ojaide felicitated alumna Mahua Mukherjee through a poem, "Pride of Bengal". The poet wrote his work following a performance by the artist. Professor Mahua mukherjee is a professor of Dance at Rabindra Bharati University. Read the poem here-  
<https://books.google.co.in/books?id=vbPWUNyy4FQC&pg=PA88&lpq=PA88&dq=pride+of+Bengal+by+Tanure+Ojaide&source=bl&ots=FL84e4DsgM&sig=EeR3vCdY3N0wWtk1vI0IIspdOE&hl=en&sa=X&ei=roNqVYiMKJOMuASN8oKoCQ&ved=0CB4Q6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=pride%20of%20Bengal%20by%20Tanure%20Ojaide&f=false>



## Media recognition for Bihar alumnus

State Department alumnus Irfan Alam was featured in The Telegraph Patna edition for his appointment as the media adviser and campaign manager of one of the political parties in Bihar. Irfan, a gold medalist from Harvard University in the field of campaign management, was sought out by the party for his experience in the field of successful media management. Irfan is a Fulbrighter, and the Founder of the NGO Samman Foundation. Read the full article here - [Cong Harvard grad in battle of whizkids](#)

## Digital India Initiative in Bihar, headed by IVLP alum

Shri Jai Kumar Singh  
Hon'ble Minister  
Department of Information Technology

Govt. of Bihar

Department of Information Technology  
Government of Bihar

Shri Nitish Kumar  
Hon'ble Chief Minister

in association with **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)**  
A Scientific Society of Ministry of Communication and Information Technology  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Launch the **"Free Coaching Scheme"** in Information Technology courses such as **Advanced Web Technologies and Global Support Services** for Science Graduates belonging to **Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Other Backward Classes (OBC)** for the State of Bihar

Applications can be submitted on the website [www.cdac.in/biharITskilldev](http://www.cdac.in/biharITskilldev)  
Last date of registration is April 26th, 2015  
Course Commencement May 18th, 2015 to Sept. 18th, 2015

IVLP alum Prabhat Sinha has tied up with the Department of Information Technology, Bihar for "Free Coaching Scheme" for Sc. and Engineering graduates belonging to SC, ST and OBC for the state of Bihar. Inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister, Bihar., the Depart-

ment of IT, Government of Bihar in association with C-DAC, will run these high end IT Certificate courses in the area of Global Support Services (GSS) and Advanced Web Technology (AWT). They will also set up a Centre of Excellence at Gaya college.

## Alumnus Arman Ali featured on Exchange Alumni website

Arman Ali, alumnus of the IVLP on Disability Rights, was featured on the International Exchange Alumni website in recognition of his contributions in the area of promoting the rights of disabled persons. Arman has made great strides in empowering persons with disabilities through education, rehabili-

tation, and training services. He has advocates relentlessly for sustained change in the laws governing disability rights in India to promote equality and fair treatment for all. Read Arman's story here - <https://alumni.state.gov/highlight/ivlp-alumnus-champions-disabilities-rights-india>



*Arman Ali, Executive Director of Sishu Sarothi and IVLP alumnus*

# KUDOS! KOLKATA



## Tinni Dutta invited to speak at the Nehru Center in London

Alumnus Tinni Dutta was invited to speak at the Nehru Center in London, following her research meetings at the Scottish Center of Tagore Studies at the Napier Edinburgh University. She was also featured in the Bengali newspaper Anandabazar Patrika for this achievement. Good job Tinni!

# ILEP alumna Charu Mathur is 25th President of IWC Khadki

KUDOS!  
MUMBAI



## Mathur is new Prez of Inner Wheel Club

ST CORRESPONDENT  
reporters@sakaaltimes.com

**Pune:** Inner Wheel Club of Khadki installed its 25th president Charu Mathur and the Executive Team in a function held recently in the presence of Raj Nahar, Chairperson, Inner Wheel District 313.

Addressing the guests, Charu said that the 25 Past Presidents of IWC Khadki have resolved to support Project Asha Kiran and bring back 25 girls to school.

Some of the other major initiatives that she announced on the occasion were literacy and education programmes comprising Teacher Training workshops and 'Happy School' project, a workshop on Human Rights through theatre for students, vocational training for women, gender sensitisation programme for men and boys, life skills and career guidance for

### MAJOR INITIATIVES

- Some of the major initiatives announced on the occasion were literacy and education programmes comprising of Teacher Training workshops and 'Happy School' project, a workshop on Human Rights, vocational training for women.

youth, cyber literacy for club members and senior citizens.

District Chairperson Raj Nahar commended the service that the members of the club have done for the society since 1991. She emphasised the need to take up projects which inculcate good moral values in the heart of the younger ones and teach them to respect everyone.



**NEW LEADERS:** The new team of Inner Wheel Club of Khadki with Charu Mathur as president was installed recently.

# YES Alumnus Receives Prestigious Scholarship from Duke

Yash Ranade (YES 2007) has received a scholarship of \$138,600 from Duke University School of Law, Durham (North Carolina) for Juris Doctor/LLM in International and Comparative Law Program starting Fall 2015. The program duration is for three years. Congratulations, Yash!



**KUDOS!**  
**MUMBAI**



# YES Alumnus Receives TOI award

Yash Jain (YES 2011) participated in TOI Photo Day, an online contest organized by leading national daily, *The Times of India* to mark World Photography Day on August 19. In this contest, photographers from all over India were submitted their photographs online that represent life in their cities. Out of thousands of submissions, Yash's photograph was published in the TOI on August 28 under the "Best Pictures from West Zone Category." For more details, please see [here](#).

TOI

Yash Jain, Vadodara

Shagun Chauhan, Ahmedabad

Rohan Patil, Navi Mumbai

Akshay Aghera, Surat

Mayank Daga, Ahmedabad

Niraj Jadav, Rajkot

Nimal Unadkat, Surat

**PICTURES THAT DESCRIBE A CITY BETTER THAN A THOUSAND WORDS!**

We were overwhelmed by the response to our World Photography Day initiative on Aug 19th. Presenting a showcase of some of the best pictures that we received. The pictures have been selected basis the best representation of life in our cities.

**Times WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY DAY 2015**

Watch out for more tomorrow!  
To see the full set of pictures, visit [www.toi.in/photoday](http://www.toi.in/photoday)

# Fulbright-Nehru Alumnus Environmental Fellowship

Fulbright-Nehru Master's (2014) fellow Mohammad Aatish Khan received the 'Andrew Sabin International Environmental Fellowship Award 2015.' The Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies has selected eight graduate students for the Fellowship, and each Fellow will receive up to \$40,000 of funding for their education and post-graduate service in the environmental sector. Khan's specific interest is to identify effective pathways of climate finance for adaptation and clean energy projects in developing countries. For more information, see [here](#).



*Mohammad Aatish Khan is a 2014 Fulbright-Nehru Master's Fellow at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies*

# KUDOS! NEW DELHI



# Fulbright-Nehru Fellow Receives Emerging Global Leader Award

Fulbright-Nehru (2011-12) alumnus **Tarun Cherukuri** has been selected as the recipient of the 2015 Harvard Kennedy School's Emerging Global Leader Award. *The Hindu* [reports](#) that, "[t]he award, formerly known as the 'Rising Star Award', recognizes an alumnus [of the Kennedy School] who has stood out as a leader or catalyst for change or as a person making a meaningful difference to individuals, organizations, or governments." Tarun is the City Director at Teach for India (TFI), New Delhi, and currently leads the TFI campaign, ['INDUS ACTION'](#) as its Founder and CEO.

Updated: May 9, 2015 08:47 IST

## A 'Rising Star' who loves to keep it simple

"New Crisis is Coming" - 22-year Congressman speaks out and reveals #1 step to prepare.  
[www.ronpaulupdate.com](http://www.ronpaulupdate.com)

Ads by Google

 P. SUJATHA VARMA

COMMENT (1) · PRINT · T T

 Like  Share 872  Tweet 4  +1 2  in Share 123  Pin It  Share 17



Tarun gave up a lucrative job to dedicate himself to the education of under-privileged children.

Tarun Cherukuri has been selected for Harvard Kennedy School's Emerging Global Leader Award 2015.

Tarun Cherukuri from the city has been selected for Harvard Kennedy School's Emerging Global Leader Award 2015. Tarun was informed of his selection through an e-mail from Liz Nunez, Senior Director of Alumni Relations, Alumni Relations and Resource Development, Harvard Kennedy School.

The award, formerly known as the 'Rising Star Award', recognises an alumnus who has stood out as a leader or catalyst for change or as a person making a meaningful difference to individuals, organisations, or governments. The award will be presented on May 16 as part of Reunion Weekend in the US.

"Tarun was here when the news came. He was very happy. He likes to stay away from publicity and even asked me not to inform our relatives about the award," says his father Cherukuri Ajay Kumar.

# Hubert Humphrey Fellow Organizes Regional Workshop on Silicosis through USIEF Alumni Award

Hubert Humphrey (2005) alumnus Dr. Prakash Tyagi received the 2014-15 USIEF Alumni Award to organize a workshop on "Future Strategies for Prevention and Control of Silicosis" in Jodhpur, Rajasthan. Over 60 participants from local government, acad-

emicians, physicians, scientists, NGOs, mine workers and mine owners attended the workshop. A series of expert speakers discussed the nuances of the disease and its effects while specifically focusing on prevention and intervention strategies.



**KUDOS!**  
**NEW DELHI**



*Workshop on the prevention and control of silicosis organized in Jodhpur by Hubert Humphrey Fellow, Dr. Prakash Tyagi.*

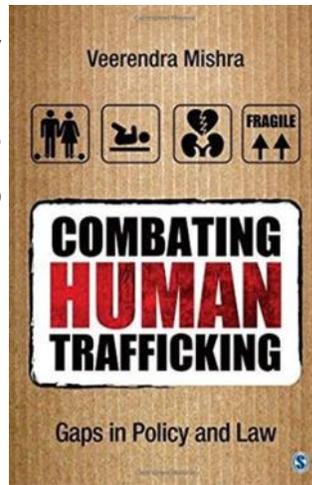
# Fulbright-Nehru Fellow Receives International Media Award

Fulbright-Nehra alumna, Ashwaq Masoodi, received The Society of Publishers of Asia 2015 award for reporting on women's issues in the daily, *Mint*. Her series on human trafficking examined the social, economic, legal, and human aspects of the problem. Read the award-winning stories [here](#). Congratulations, Ashwaq!



# Hubert Humphrey Fellow Publishes Book on TIP

Hubert Humphrey Fellowship alumnus Veerendra Mishra's new book "Combating Human Trafficking" demystifies the term 'trafficking' and helps the reader understand the trends, dimensions, and the loopholes in enforcement.



# KUDOS! NEW DELHI

## Fulbright-Nehra Alumna Discusses Gender & Space in Madhya Pradesh

Delhi-based Fulbright-Nehru alumna Vani Subramanian received the 2014-15 USIEF Alumni Award to organize a workshop titled 'Mera Sheher: Dekha/Undekha' ("My Town: Seen/Unseen") in Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh, to discuss and explore various aspects and intersections of gender and space in cities and small towns. School teachers, principals, students and theatre activists attended the workshop.



Fulbright-Nehru alumna Vani Subramaniam takes conversations on gender and space outside of the city to small town in central India

# ILEP Alumna Receives Delhi Govt Award

On the occasion of Teachers' Day, September 5, Ms. Mamta Saluja received the State Teachers Award by the Government of Delhi for her contribution to the field of education. Mamta was a 2012 International Leaders

in Education Program (ILEP) Fellow at James Madison University, Virginia. She teaches English at Rajkiya Pratibha Vikas Vidyalaya, New Delhi. Congratulations, Mamta!



ILEP alumna Mamta Saluja (center) receiving the award from the Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal (third from left)

# Fulbright-Nehru Alumna Organizes Workshop on Films and Pedagogy

Fulbright-Nehru alumna Smriti Sharma received the USIEF Alumni Award to organize a seminar on 'Pedagogical Discourse in Teacher Education: Using Films as a Pedagogic Tool' with teacher educators in New Delhi. The seminar was an attempt to document the

reflective practices in teacher education by providing a platform to teacher educators to share their experiences of using films in their classrooms. More than 60 teacher educators from Delhi attended the seminar.



KUDOS!  
NEW DELHI



Google Recognizes Fulbrighter's Efforts to Digitize Classrooms



Google India recognized Fulbright alumna Sangeta Gulati on Teachers' Day for championing the use of technology in the classroom. Sangeta is currently the Head of Mathematics at Sanskriti School, New Delhi. She is also a Google-certified Math teacher and specializes in teaching and learning mathematics through the use of technology. Sangeta is a recipient of the Fulbright Distinguished Award in Teaching (2011). Read more [here](#) on Google India's official blog.

# Legislative Fellow Gitanjali Babbar Wins Apartment through Radio Contest

On September 30, Radio Mirchi, one of Delhi's most popular radio stations, declared Legislative Fellow (2015), Ms. Gitanjali Babbar, as the proud winner of its 'FLAT 983' on-air contest.

Awarding Gitanjali with an apartment, the contest recognized her tireless efforts and those of the NGO she has founded, Kat-Katha, in Delhi's red-light district area, to empower the children of sex-workers. Kat-Katha focuses on transforming the area's brothels into class-

rooms, community centers, and safe spaces for the women.

Gitanjali was one of the top five finalists from Delhi who were nominated by city residents for the contest. This was the third year that Radio Mirchi conducted the contest to acknowledge and reward "Delhi Ke Heroes" (or "Heroes of Delhi") who are giving back to the city in innovative ways. For more, see [here](#). Congratulations, Gitanjali!



*Legislative Fellow Gitanjali Babbar (second from right) wins a flat in recognition of her organization's efforts to work with the children of sex-workers in Delhi's red-light district*

# Fulbright alumnus elected to National Medical Body

Fulbright alumnus Dr. Mahesh Devnani, Assistant Professor of Hospital Administration at PGIMER, Chandigarh, was recently elected as Member of National Academy of Medical Sciences (NAMS), India. He was inducted to the Academy during its annual convocation held on October 17 at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Patna. NAMS is a prestigious organization with prominent personalities as its Fellows and Members, including a former Prime Minister and a former President of India. Congratulations, Dr. Devnani!



**KUDOS!**  
**NEW DELHI**



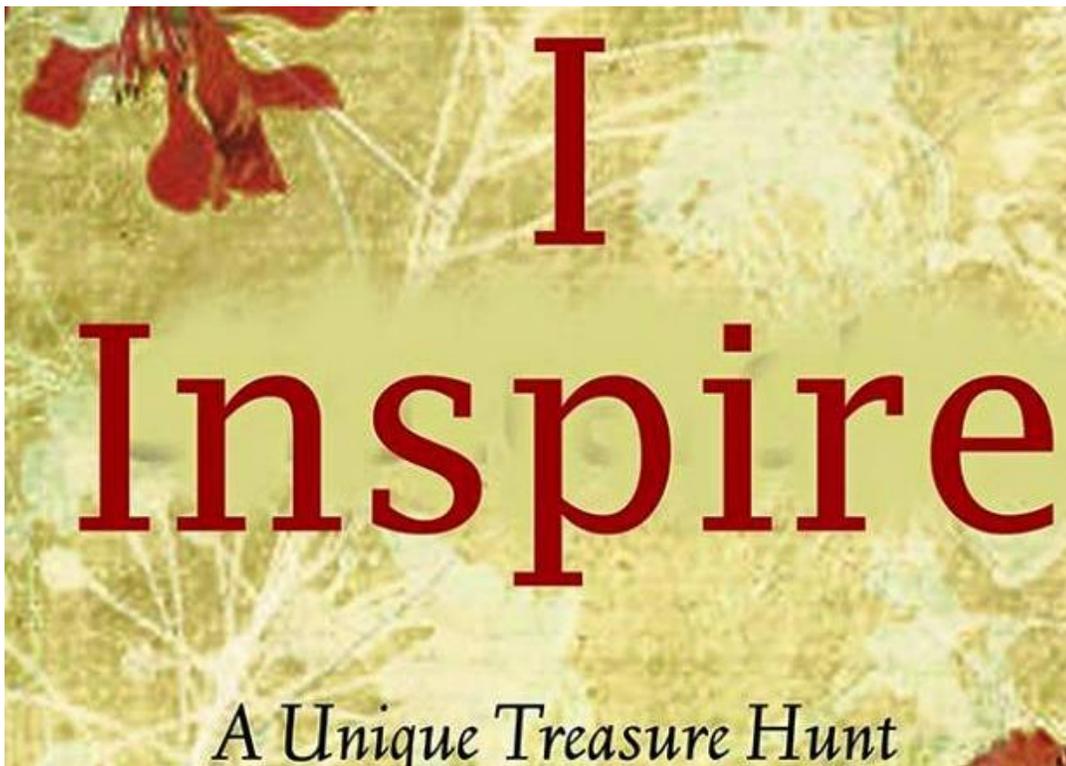
# The biography of a fighter

Neerja Malik, a double cancer survivor (conqueror) herself, works to spread awareness about breast cancer. She is presently the Consultant Counsellor, Apollo Cancer Support Group at the Apollo Specialty Hospital (and was instrumental in setting it up). She is also the trustee of the NGO 'Sankalp' that works at providing free education to girls. She participated in the 2008 International Visitor Leadership Program on Breast Cancer Awareness. While in the United States, Neerja made lasting connections with her fellow participants, links that have gone far beyond the exchange trip.

Neerja is an Ambassador and Mascot for the "Pinkathon" the annual running marathon in the city started by celebrity model Milind Soman to spread awareness on breast cancer screening and prevention.

She was featured in a story "Then and Now: Continuing Connections" and a news item "IVLP Alumna spearheads cancer awareness" in the Jan-Feb issue of the All India Alumni Highlights on Pages 9 and 17.

Now its time to know her entire story and what makes her tick in a biography "I Inspire" by Megha Bajaj (soon to be published by Jaico) where she also talks about her exchange program.... which is on its way!



Cover page of "I Inspire" a biography of IVLP alumna Neerja Malik

LOOK OUT FOR  
CHENNAI



# Alumni Speaker Program Series

The American Center Kolkata will be beginning the 'Alumni Speaker Program' this July. Recently returned Exchange Alumni from across different programs will speak with varied audience at the American Center or the American Corner premises to discuss their U.S. experience. This will be a fun, new interactive series and to kickstart the Alumni Speaker Program we will have Community College

alumnus Zeeshan Ali speak with students and faculty from different city schools, colleges and NGO's about his educational and cultural experience in the U.S. while he was a student of Northern Virginia Community College, Anandale. Zeeshan will take stage on July 23 at the American Center Kolkata. Stay tuned for more alumni speakers!



LOOK OUT FOR  
KOLKATA



# Atlas Corps Seeks Emerging Global Leaders

The U.S. Department of State is pleased to announce a special opportunity for emerging civil society leaders to participate in a 6- to 18-month professional fellowship in the United States. All Fellows will be placed at a leading social change organization in the United States. Individuals in the nonprofit/NGO sectors with 2 to 10 years of experience, a col-

lege degree, and English proficiency are encouraged to apply. Atlas Corps has supported over 350 emerging leaders from over 72 different countries and seeks candidates to apply as soon as possible for their next class of Fellows. Applications are accepted year-round. To apply and to find out more information, please visit <http://bit.ly/AtlasCorps21>.

LOOK OUT FOR  
NEW DELHI



# Have you registered on the International Exchange Alumni web site yet?

Join the official web site for more than **100,000 global alumni** of  
USG exchange programs.

- ◆ Network with other alumni from around the globe
- ◆ Share information about exchange programs and alumni activities
- ◆ Participate in Live Q&A discussions with experts
- ◆ Access resources such as grants, jobs, and research databases



We welcome your feedback!

If you have questions, comments, suggestions about what you see here,  
or if you would like to unsubscribe,  
please e-mail your regional Alumni Affairs Coordinator:

## Chennai

Ms. Brindha Jayakanth  
[JayakanthB@state.gov](mailto:JayakanthB@state.gov)

## Kolkata

Ms. Angelina Nair  
[NairAP@state.gov](mailto:NairAP@state.gov)

## New Delhi

Ms. Shailey Tucker  
[TuckerS2@state.gov](mailto:TuckerS2@state.gov)

## Hyderabad

Ms. Neha Kanitkar  
[KanitkarN@state.gov](mailto:KanitkarN@state.gov)

## Mumbai

Ms. Behrooz Avari,  
[AvariBK@state.gov](mailto:AvariBK@state.gov)

We are on the web.

[alumni.state.gov](http://alumni.state.gov)

facebook  
twitter

**InternationalExchangeAlumni**  
**@ExchangeAlumni**

STAY CONNECTED!