



A baseball camp organized by Consulate Kolkata in progress at Imphal, Manipur.



# BULLETIN - MARCH 2013

## Events at a Glance

**March 8**  
**Creative Writing Workshop**  
(Kolkata)

**March 20**  
**Voices of Women**  
(Kolkata)

**March 22**  
**Book Reading**  
(Kolkata)

## Holidays

**March 27**  
Doljatra

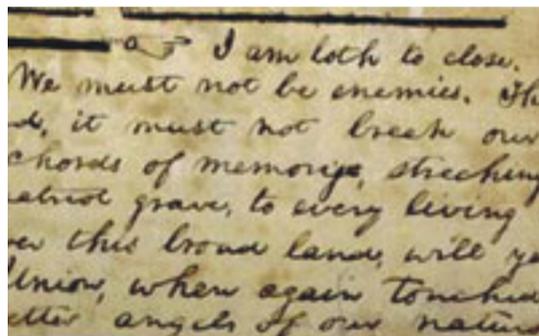
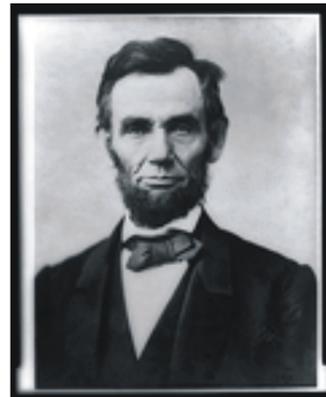
**March 29**  
Good Friday

## Your Date With U.S. History

### ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S FIRST INAUGURATION

On Monday, March 4, 1861, President James Buchanan and President-elect Abraham Lincoln left the Willard Hotel in Washington, D.C., in a horse-drawn carriage bound for the Capitol and Lincoln's first inauguration. There, before hundreds of citizens, Chief Justice Roger B. Taney administered the presidential oath of office, swearing in Abraham Lincoln as the sixteenth president of the United States.

In a stirring inaugural address, delivered under the watchful guard of riflemen, Lincoln appealed for the preservation of the Union, threatened by the recent secession of seven Southern states opposed to the new leader's policy against the expansion of slavery. Until the final draft, Lincoln's address had ended with a question for the South: "Shall it be peace or sword?" In the famous



concluding

paragraph, Lincoln moderated his tone dramatically and ended on a memorable note of conciliation. He said, "I am loth (sic) to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battle-field, and patriot grave, to every living heart and hearthstone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

Source: [memory.loc.gov](http://memory.loc.gov)

### SUSAN B. ANTHONY AND THE U.S. CONGRESS



On March 8, 1884, women's rights activist Susan B. Anthony addressed the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives arguing for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution granting women the right to vote. Anthony's argument came sixteen years after legislators had first introduced a federal woman's suffrage amendment. Susan B. Anthony was born February 15, 1820, in Adams, Massachusetts. She was brought up in a Quaker family with long activist traditions. Early in her life she developed a sense of justice and moral zeal. After teaching for fifteen years, she became active in temperance. Because she was a woman, she was not allowed to speak at temperance rallies. This experience, and her acquaintance with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, led her to join the women's rights movement in

1852. Soon after, she dedicated her life to the cause of women's rights.



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## YOUR TURN

The Bulletin wants to hear from you ... your thoughts, your opinions, your feedback. Write in with

--a report of an American Center event you attended

--your experiences in cross-cultural encounters

--a photo that brings out the joys and sorrows of human life

--a human interest anecdote.



Only email submissions will be considered for publication. The Bulletin reserves the right of submission selection, editing and publication.

Send your submissions by email to [kolkatapas@state.gov](mailto:kolkatapas@state.gov) by the 10th of each month.

## NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Parul Mandal, a National Executive member of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, traveled to the U.S. on an exchange program on "Young Leaders: U.S. Political Process." About her experience, she says: "There were enriching interaction sessions with Senators, City Council members, and social entrepreneurs. It was a life-changing experience which provided me key skills for maximum utilization of my resources, and taught me the importance of planning my goals in an organized way."



This picture shows Parul and her group with Alabama State Senator Arthur Orr.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Creative Writing Workshop: "A Whole New World"

March 8, 9.30-11 a.m.: American Center



The American Center presents a creative writing workshop by Mitali Perkins for middle school students. Mitali was born in Kolkata, lived internationally as a child, and settled in the U.S. as a young teenager. She is a gifted author, teacher, and speaker. *Entry by registration only.*

Contact: 3984-6392 or [dassx@state.gov](mailto:dassx@state.gov)

## "Our Voice, Our Journey"

March 20, 3-5 p.m.: Goethe-Institut, Max Mueller Bhavan

The American Center, in association with the Aspen Institute India, and Goethe-Institut, Max Mueller Bhavan, presents the third edition of "Our Voice, Our Journey," a program that brings together the voices of women across different generations and walks of life. The program celebrates the energy and diversity of women who are leaders in their own right, who have striven to change the world around them through their work, who have traveled that extra mile, and who have stood up and fought for their beliefs. The session will also explore some of the challenges they faced, their successes, failures, and values that shaped their lives.



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## Book Reading by Fatima Shaikh

March 22, 3-5 p.m.: American Center



A contemporary voice of the American South, Fatima Shaikh draws upon her Louisiana roots, in fictional work such as *The Mayor of New Orleans*, *Just Talking Jazz*, *Melitte*, and *On Mardi Gras Day*. A first-person account of life through the eyes of a slave girl, *Melitte* was nominated as Best Book for Young Adults by the American Library Association. Publishers Weekly described *The Mayor of New Orleans* as "three lush and evocative novellas," and Kirkus called *On Mardi Gras Day*, "a compact cultural history." *Open to all.*

Contact: 3984-6392 or [dassx@state.gov](mailto:dassx@state.gov)



**Exchange Programs Corner**

**Hasina Kharbih, founder and CEO of Impulse Social Enterprises**, a company that is driven by a social mission to promote brands, products, and services that uplift communities for equitable human rights, traveled to the U.S. to participate in an International Visitor Leadership Program "IVLP Gold Stars," February 11 - March 1. She was joined in the program by former IVLP alumni who have made outstanding contributions to their home countries.



**FOCUS:  
STACEY HIRSH, FULBRIGHT-NEHRU STUDENT RESEARCHER**

Stacey Hirsh is researching organizations across India that enable renewable energy lighting solutions for bottom-of-the-pyramid consumers. About her experiences in India, she says: "Deep in the Himalayan foothills, I waited for my taxi-jeep to arrive. This was the only jeep that could take me towards Digholi, a remote village around 10 km from the closest road. After being squeezed in the jeep with 20+ passengers inside, on the roof, and dangling off the back, I trekked a narrow path, scattered with returning laborers and women carrying firewood. The sky went dark upon reaching, but solar-powered light flooded local homes.



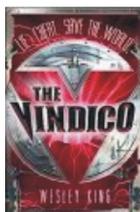
The widespread usage of solar-powered lights was facilitated by AVANI, a local non-profit. Subsidized rates and convenient monthly payments comparable to existing kerosene expenditure enabled these households to afford the lights, many of whom survive on less than \$1 a day. Awareness generation and effective product distribution to remote households typically poses the greatest challenge for organizations. AVANI cleverly empowered women's self-help groups as a cost-free method for distributing and marketing the products. Lights are typically used to aid cooking and children's homework. Interviewing households about energy consumption and expenditure, I was told proudly by the women how they were happy to spend their life-savings on the solar lights because it was an investment in their children's future.

The picture shows Stacey (left) and two of Mr. Govind's children holding a solar lantern at his home in the remote mountain village of Digholi, Uttarakhand.

**COMPELLING ADDITIONS TO THE AMERICAN LIBRARY'S YOUNG ADULT COLLECTION**



**SHADOW AND BONE** by Leigh Bardugo. Henry Holt & Company, 2012. 356 pp. In this lavishly imagined world, light doesn't always conquer dark, and deception runs deep. And yet, against all expectations, the bonds of sacrifice and friendship remain too strong to be severed in this thrilling debut.



**THE VINDICO** by Wesley King. Penguin, 2012. 298 pp. Five teenage superheroes and super-villains follow their motivations as they struggle to make the impossible decision of how to use their newfound powers.



**UNSPOKEN** by Sarah Rees Brennan. Random House, 2012. 373 pp. This Gothic romance kicks and screams into the twenty-first century with a heroine who can take care of herself, a boy who needs to be saved, and the magical forces that bring them together and tear them apart.

**UNITED STATES - INDIA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**



USIEF announces the Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) program that provides international teachers unique opportunities to develop expertise in their subject areas, enhance their teaching skills, and increase their knowledge about the United States. The program consists of a six-week, non-degree, non-credit customized academic course including seminars on new teaching methodologies, curriculum development, lesson planning, and instructional technology. For details on the program, visit [www.usief.org.in/Fellowships/FIC-teaching-Excellence-and-Achievement-Program.aspx](http://www.usief.org.in/Fellowships/FIC-teaching-Excellence-and-Achievement-Program.aspx).

Contact: 3984-6309 or [shevanti@usief.org.in](mailto:shevanti@usief.org.in)

**All programs are subject to change. Please confirm closer to the date of the event.**

## American Center Facebook Page

[www.facebook.com/kolkata.usconsulate](http://www.facebook.com/kolkata.usconsulate)

In an age of social media, the American Center is delighted to draw your attention to its Facebook Page. This page is designed not only to promote upcoming events, programs, interactive sessions, and releases of new books and articles at the American Center, but also to get feedback from our audiences through their active participation in online conversations and opinion polls.

To avail yourself of information about upcoming events or to interact with us, please join our over 20,000 fans by following the above-mentioned link and "Like" us!

### Surf On Our Turf

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<http://blogs.usembassy.gov/kolkata/>

Join our online discussion forum to share your thoughts on what you have read, recommend books to read, and get information on the library's recent additions and events.

### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

"To achieve the economic expansion we all seek, we need to unlock a vital source of growth that can power our economies in the decades to come. And that vital source of growth is women." This is what Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton declared in September 2011. Women's History Month 2013 celebrates Secretary Clinton's commitment to promoting opportunities for women as entrepreneurs and business leaders. Women need to break through barriers to grow their business, and enable the growth of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which is one of the best ways to simultaneously achieve economic, financial, and social impact. Around the world, women entrepreneurs are increasingly visible as they start and grow their ventures into successful small businesses or global enterprises. Yet women's business potential is far from being fully realized. In both developed and developing countries, would-be women entrepreneurs need better access to training, capital, and technical resources, as well as more exposure to business opportunities in the greater global supply chain.



The U.S. Department of State's Global Entrepreneurship Program, consists of several initiatives designed to help women realize their entrepreneurial potential. Some of these are the African Women's Entrepreneurship Program, and the Pathways Access Initiative.

Source: [www.infocentral.state.gov](http://www.infocentral.state.gov)

### FEBRUARY IN PICTURES



Kathak maestro Chitresh Das performs to live music at IIT Guwahati.



Members of Jungle Crows, an NGO founded by an alumnus of the USG-sponsored Community College Initiative Program, demonstrate rugby moves at the Kolkata Book Fair.

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