



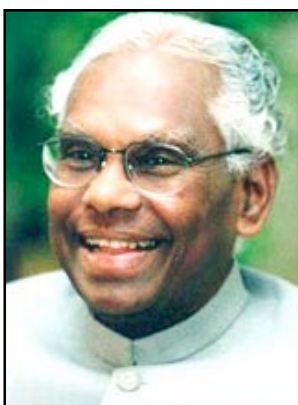
INDIA NEWS

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January/February 2000

President K.R. Narayanan's address on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Republic of India Central Hall of Parliament, January 27, 2000



It gives me great pleasure to be here amidst you at this solemn function to mark the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the birth of the Indian Republic and the commencement of our Constitution. The establishment of the democratic Republic of India was obviously, a significant and glorious event for India, for the freedom and welfare of the hundreds and millions of its people. But it was also a world

event of far-reaching significance. People talk about the triumph of democracy in the world against other forms of Government. For that triumphal outcome, democracy in India has had a meaningful part to play not in the way of taking part in the ideological cold war, but in the sense of setting an over powering example to the world.

What Sir Anthony Eden, the Prime Minister of Britain, said at the time of the emergence of Indian Republic is relevant in this context. "Of all the experiments in government, which have been attempted since the beginning of time, I believe that the Indian venture into parliamentary government is the most exciting. A vast sub-continent is attempting to apply to its tens and thousands of millions a system of free democracy... It is a brave thing to try to do so. The Indian venture is not a pale imitation of our practice at home, but a magnified and multiplied reproduction on a scale we have never dreamt of. If it succeeds, its influence on Asia is incalculable for good. Whatever the outcome we must honour those who attempt it."

Even more meaningful was the opinion expressed by an American Constitutional authority, Prof. Granville Austin who wrote that, what the Indian Constituent Assembly began was "perhaps the greatest political venture since that originated in Philadelphia in 1787."

Mahatma Gandhi had visualized the new Constitution of India in terms of universal values applied to the specific and special conditions of India. As early as 1931 he had written "I shall strive for a Constitution which will release India from thralldom and patronage. I shall work for an

India in which the poorest shall feel that it is their country in whose making they have an effective voice: an India in which there is no high class or low class of people, an India in which all communities shall live in perfect harmony. There can be no room in such an India for the curse of untouchability. We shall be at peace with the rest of the world neither exploiting nor exploited. All interests not in conflict with the interests of the dumb millions will be scrupulously respected whether foreign or indigenous. Personally, I hate the distinction between foreign and indigenous. This is the India of my dreams for which I shall struggle".

At the core of the Constitution lies the essence of this Gandhian dream in the form of social justice and social democracy. Prof. Granville Austin has described the Indian Constitution as "first and foremost a social document". He further explained that "the majority of India's constitutional provisions are either directly arrived at furthering the aim of social revolution or attempt to foster this revolution by establishing conditions necessary for its achievement". The very same point was elaborated in eloquent terms by Dr. Ambedkar and Pandit Nehru. What makes our Constitution relevant to the conditions and the problems of India and the developing world as a whole, is, in fact, the socio-economic soul of it. Its uniqueness is that it has combined this harmoniously with the liberal rights and freedoms as conceived by the Western democracies.

It is after deep thought and considerable debate that the founding fathers adopted the philosophy and the form of Government for India. Speaking on the draft of the Constitution Dr. Ambedkar claimed that "It is workable, it is flexible and it is strong enough to hold the country together both in peace time and in war time. Indeed, if I may say so, if things go wrong under the new Constitution, the reason will not be that we had a bad Constitution. What we will have to say is that Man is vile". Today when there is so much talk about revising the Constitution or even writing a new Constitution, we have to consider whether it is the Constitution that has failed us or whether it is we who have failed the Constitution. Dr. Rajendra Prasad, as President of the Constituent Assembly, had pointed out: "If the people who are elected are

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

(Continued from page 1)

capable of character and integrity, they should be able to make the best of a defective constitution. If they are lacking in these, the Constitution cannot help the country". I believe these are wise words which we should pay heed to.

The form of Government, the parliamentary democratic form, was chosen by the founding fathers after deep thought and debate. In the Constituent Assembly Dr. Ambedkar explained that the Drafting Committee in choosing the Parliamentary system for India, preferred more responsibility to more stability, a system under which the Government will be on the anvil every day. He said accountability was still difficult to obtain from day-to-day. Thus the Parliamentary system was a deliberate and well thought out choice by the Constituent Assembly. It was not chosen in imitation of the British system or because of the familiarity with it that India had acquired during the colonial period. Gandhiji while acknowledging our debt to Britain with regard to parliamentary Government had observed that the roots of it were present in India in the age-old system of the village panchayats. Dr. Ambedkar explained in the Constituent Assembly that the Buddhist Sanghas were parliamentary type of institutions and that in their functioning modern parliamentary devices like resolutions, divisions, whips, etc. were used. These elements in our heritage made it possible and easy for India to adopt the parliamentary system of democracy. Besides, as Dr. Ambedkar told the Constituent Assembly the system was chosen because they preferred more responsibility to stability which could slip into authoritarian exercise of power. Another factor to be borne in mind is the immensity of India, the perplexing variety and diversity of the country, the very size of its population and the complexity of the social and

developmental problems. In such a predicament described by one writer, as one of "a million mutinies" there must in the body-politic a vent for discontents and frustrations to express themselves in order to forestall and prevent major explosions in society. The parliamentary system provides this vent more than a system which prefers stability to responsibility and accountability. Our recent experience of instability in Government is perhaps no sufficient reason to discard the parliamentary system in favour of the presidential or any other form. In my opinion we should avoid too much rigidity in our system of government as in a very rigid system there is the danger of major explosions in society taking place. The possibility and the facility of a change in government is in itself a factor in the stability of the political system in the long-run because then the people will be more inclined to tolerate a political situation they do not approve of or find difficult to cope with for long. At any rate as Dr. Rajendra Prasad said the shortcomings in the people entrusted with running the system cannot be obviated by constitutional changes or provisions. Amendments to the Constitution are a different matter. The founding fathers deliberately made the amendment process of the Constitution easy so that shortcomings or lacunae in the Constitution can be rectified by the Parliament without too much difficulty. There are other changes that can be brought about like changes in the electoral law or the functioning of the political parties. Whatever we may do, and we have a right to bring about necessary changes in the political and economic system, we should ensure that the basic philosophy behind the Constitution and the fundamental socio-economic soul of the Constitution remain sacrosanct. We should not throw out the baby with the bath water and like the tragic character Othello in Shakespeare has to lament later "Like the base Indian, threw a pearl away - Richer than all his tribe."

Republic Day Celebration at the Embassy



Ambassador Naresh Chandra and Congressman Sam Gejdenson



Karl Inderfurth, Assistant Secretary, South Asian Affairs, U.S. State Department; Ambassador Naresh Chandra, and Deputy Chief of Mission, T.P. Sreenivasan.

India.com goes Global

*Excerpts from an article written by
Dewang Mehta, Director,
National Association of Software and Service Companies*

The Indian software industry has zoomed from a mere \$20 million ten years ago to a whopping US \$3.9 billion in 1998-99. No industry has done as much for the competitiveness of global corporations and, certainly, no industry has created as many millionaires in India in such a short span of time. In 1998-99, 203 out of the Fortune 500 outsourced their software requirements from India. And US customers bought 61 percent of the software that Indian companies exported to 91 countries around the world.

Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates, by picking the Indian city of Hyderabad to house his company's first-ever development center outside the US, has already paid the ultimate tribute to the skill-base of the industry.

Internet and E-Commerce

Industry experts believe that once the Internet — although there are just about 1.4 million users today, has the potential to explode to 37 million once Net connections are available on cable-spreads across India, and will position India as a global hub for content development and e-commerce. Currently, more than 437 of Indian software houses provide web based applications and services. That the Internet is becoming an integral part of the Indian software business is also evident from its use alongside that of high-speed satellite connectivity for software development and delivery. The delivery through high-speed connectivity has been a successful factor for globalization of the Indian software industry.

Already, in the year 1999-2000, Internet and E-Commerce related software solutions exports from India are expected to bring US \$340 million out of estimated US \$3.9 billion of Indian software exports. This is expected to increase to US

\$2 billion of e-commerce solutions exports by 2002, when total Indian software exports are projected to be US \$8.7 billion, during that year.

Global Presence

Already, 212 Indian software companies have either subsidiaries or branches overseas, mostly in the US. Proximity to markets is helping them to anticipate market conditions and client requirements, besides strengthening relationships further and helping build-enduring partnerships.

High Quality

According to NASSCOM's survey, out of the top 300 companies, about 140 software companies have acquired ISO 9000 certification, and about 70 more companies are in the pipeline to be certified. In fact, the Indian software industry will soon have more ISO 9000-certified companies than any other country in the world. Many of its members are now focusing on acquiring SEI-CMM (Software Engineering Institute - Capability Maturity Model) certificates of quality.

The State

In India, the success of software industry can be attributed in no small measure to the excellent teamwork between Government and Industry. The Government of India, impressed by the excellent performance of the Indian software industry has provided all support, including fiscal benefits, the availability of high-speed data communications and infrastructure, besides ensuring an almost red tape-free system. The government, in fact, has given the red-carpet treatment to this industry. The fiscal benefits include trade free zones, Software Technology Park schemes, zero import duty on software, and 100% exemption on profits from software exports.

ECONOMIC NEWS UPDATES

India and US sign pact for lifting Quantitative Restrictions

After months of negotiations India and US inked an agreement for a 15-month phase-out of import curbs between the two countries. Announcing this U.S. Trade Representatives Charlene Barshefsky said that tariff restrictions on half of the 1400 odd India still maintained on imports from U.S. would be lifted by April 1, 2000.

On the remaining 714 items India would lift the import curbs by April 1, 2001, She said adding items on which India maintained import restrictions included agriculture and textile items. India had originally maintained what has come to be known as quantitative restrictions on imports from United States in as many as 2,700 items.

As per the WTO agreement India had to phase out these import curbs and it had so far dismantled it on over 1,300 items. The curbs were maintained for balance of payments purposes. On the phase-out of the remaining 1429 tariff lines, there was a dispute between India and US over the phase out time schedule. With the rejection of New Delhi's plea by the WTO appellate panel in September last, the two countries concluded the bilateral agreement here recently.

India and Singapore to Work for Asian Free Trade (AFT) Zone

The Union Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha has said that there is a great merit in the concept of Asian Free Trade Zone and the issue must be approached proactively by all Asian countries. Welcoming the suggestion of the Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr. Goh Chok Tong in this regard, Shri Sinha has suggested that Singapore should take the initiative

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ECONOMIC NEWS UPDATES

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in this regard and a task force consisting of the Finance Ministers of India and Singapore can be formed to work out the modalities. Shri Sinha also said that such an exercise should be carried out by the private sector with both the Governments playing the role of facilitators.

While appreciating the ongoing economic reform process in India, Mr. Tong suggested that the pace of reforms should be increased so that India is not submerged by the strong Western economies. The Prime Minister has also felt that Asian countries should not be overwhelmed by the West and use technology and competition effectively to enhance its trade and commerce in the world market. He has also observed that India is a big country with lot of potential to become a major economic power.

Shri Sinha in turn reiterated his Government's commitment to go ahead with the economic liberalization programme. Though, Information Technology, Bio-technology and Pharmaceuticals are emerging areas of India's strength, traditional sectors like Textiles, Steel and Cement also continue to be important for the economy, he assured. Shri Sinha also called for more foreign direct investment in view of the investor friendly climate created by the Indian Government.

Indian Cabinet clears Rs. Six billion Cotton Technology Mission

Indian Cabinet has cleared the Rs. Six billion (US \$1 = Rs. 43) Cotton Technology Mission (CTM) for enhancing the overall performance of domestic cotton sector. The mission, first announced by Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha in his budget speech in 1998-99, is aimed at improving the income of cotton growers, enhancing per hectare yield, reducing cultivation cost and upgrading and modernizing ginning and pressing factories, according to the official sources.

The mission to be implemented over

a period of five years through 2003-04 will have four mini-missions to be undertaken by Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR), Ministries of Agriculture and Textiles. While ICAR and the Agriculture Ministry will administer the first two missions respectively, the remaining ones would be implemented by Textiles Ministry.

Indian Government hints at a new auto policy

The Indian Government has hinted at formulating a new auto policy to provide the right framework for the domestic industry to grow and operate in the increasingly competitive global market.

"A policy that will provide the Rs 360 billion automotive industry the right framework of growth to operate in the increasingly competitive market is the need of the hour," according to the Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Manohar Joshi.

With Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) are being removed in 15 months time, Joshi said the growth engine of the economy should take on the daunting challenge of technology driven market equation. The need of the hour is to keep pace with technological advancement to capture the minds of consumers, he said. The automotive industry needs to make more investments in research and development to ensure they conform to safety and pollution standards, he said.

Underlining the importance of foreign direct investment (FCI) in the automotive sector, Joshi said nearly Rs 45 billion FDI has been committed to the sector, which accounted for about four per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 1998-99 as compared to 2.7 per cent of GDP in 1992-93.

FEMA & Insurance Bill

Both the Houses of Parliament passed the Foreign Exchange Management (FEMA) on 2nd and 8th December respectively. The FEMA introduced in the House on November 29 proposed to replace the FERA and en-

visages stringent penalties for violation of foreign exchange norms. FEMA is also aimed at consolidating and amending the law relating to foreign exchange with the objective of facilitating external trade and payment and for promoting orderly development and maintenance of foreign exchange market in the country.

The Parliament passed the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) Bill by both the Houses of Parliament on 2.12.99 and 7.12.99 respectively, opening the insurance sector to private and foreign companies after the government incorporated all the amendments proposed by the Congress party; i) insurance firms should invest 50 per cent of their funds for infrastructure and social sector development, ii) grant of licence to health insurance on a priority basis, iii) continuation of social welfare schemes like crop insurance and iv) insurance for the unorganised sectors and heavy penalties for errant companies. With the passage of the measure, the insurance sector will now be open to private Indian companies who can tie up with foreign partners with an equity cap of 26 per cent.

Special Groups to push reforms

In a move to give boost to second generation reforms, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee set up eight special groups consisting of top industrialists who would submit the reports within four months on major economic issues to enable the government to formulate policies in these areas. Leading industrialists N.R. Narayanamurthy and Kumarmangalam Birla constitute the special group on good governance; Mukesh Ambani and A.C. Muthiah on education and health; N. Srinivasan and Rahul Bajaj for WTO strategies and G.P. Goenka and Rajiv Chandrasekharan head the group on disinvestment. The fifth group on unshackling Indian industry from regulations will comprise industrialists Ratan Tata and Nusli Wadia and the sixth on globalisation pitfalls would comprise Rahul Bajaj and Sanjeev Goenka.

Information on the hijacked Indian Airline Flight IC-814

Following is a chronology of events

- Indian Airlines Flight 814 takes off from Kathmandu at 1615 (IST) hours on December 24, 1999.
- The five armed hijackers make the pilot divert the plane over Lucknow and head for Lahore in Pakistan.
- The Lahore airport authorities refuse to permit the aircraft to land, forcing it to head back to Amritsar, India.
- The plane lands at Amritsar where the hijackers demand that the aircraft be refueled. The airport is sealed off.
- The airport authorities make preparations for refueling but the aircraft needs to be brought closer to the tank.
- The hijackers make the aircraft take off for Lahore despite short runway available and very low fuel levels. They fatally stab one passenger, Mr. Katyal and threaten to kill more people.
- India persuades the Pakistani authorities to permit the aircraft to land at Lahore.
- Lahore airport is sealed off.
- The aircraft nearly crash lands and is surrounded by Pakistani commandos.
- It is refueled at hijacker's request and headed for Kabul. Pakistani authorities refuse permission for the bleeding Mr. Katyal to come off the plane, despite willingness of the hijackers.
- Because of the lack of night-landing facilities in Kabul, and later, at Kandahar, the plane is diverted towards Dubai.
- It finally lands at the Al-Minhat air force base, UAE. The hijackers demand food, medicines and a stepladder since none is available.
- The hijackers release 25 passengers, and allow the body of Mr. Katyal to be released to the UAE authorities.
- Early on December 25, 1999 morning, the flight takes off from Dubai for Afghanistan. At 0855 hours, it lands at Kandahar.
- Senior Indian officials open talks with the hijackers to secure the release of hostages.
- Hijackers demand release of 35 other jailed terrorists besides Mohammad Masood Azhar and US \$200 million for the release of 154 hostages.
- Later hijackers drop their demands for a \$200 million ransom and the exhumed remains of Afghan terrorist Sajjad Afghani.
- Passengers released on December 31, 1999 after Government of India releases 3 terrorists with known links to Harkat ul-Ansar. Hijackers head towards Pakistan.
- On the basis of radio intercepts and collected evidence, the Government of India identifies the hijackers as Pakistani nationals with links to ISI, an intelligence organization of the Pakistan Government.

Please visit the Embassy of India web site (<http://www.indianembassy.org>) for more information on the hijacking of Indian Airlines flight IC-814.

Cultural Calendar

Odissi dance

FREMONT — Jyoti Rout performs Odissi classical dance, Ganda Devi Bandhan. The evening also features a solo sitar recital by David Gray, student of Ustad Habib Khan.

The event is being held on February 13 at 5 pm at Ohlone College, 43600 Mission Blvd. Tickets cost \$15.

For information, call Shoba at (510) 223-0786.

IACA banquet

ATLANTA — The India American Cultural Association is organizing its annual banquet on February 20 at 6:30 pm at the Hilton Atlanta Northwest, 2055 South Park Place.

For information, call (770)-953-9300.

Celebrate the millennium's first Valentine Day. Featured are casino games and prizes, silent auction and Valentine photo/portraits (separate charges).

For more information, call (770) 993-4356/971-5971.

CPuja: Expressions of Hindu Devotion

As part of its "Image-in Asia" series for kids, Smithsonian Institution presents special sessions on "Birds and Gods". Children will explore the exhibition "Puja: Expressions of Hindu Devotion" (125 works in bronze, brass, copper, wood, silver, granite, crystal, stone, terra cotta and shell, ranging in date from the 9th to the 20th centuries, on view at the Sackler Gallery) to find relationships between birds and gods in Hindu mythology. In the Image-in-Asia classroom, the young participants can then construct mobiles of folded paper birds and deities who ride upon them. The sessions will be held on Saturdays (February - 12, 19, 26) and Sundays (February - 13, 20, 27). Venue is the classroom on the second level of the Sackler Gallery: 1050 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC. For more information, please call (202) 357-4880.

Asian Music by Lalgudi Krishnan

Smithsonian Institution features 'Asian Music' by Lalgudi Krishnan. The acclaimed violist, who has received numerous awards in India and appeared

in concert worldwide, will perform in the south Indian classical style, accompanied by 'mridangam' (drum), 'ghatam' (clay jar) and 'kanjira' (tambourine). FEBRUARY 18 at 7:30 p.m. Venue is the Freer Gallery's Meyer Auditorium: Jefferson Drive at 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC. Up to two free tickets per person will be distributed one hour before the event. For more information: (202) 357-2700.

Cultural Portraits of India

An online gallery of Lindsay Hebbard's 'Cultural Portraits of India' exhibition and book. Lindsay Hebbard, internationally acclaimed photographer, publisher and producer of educational photographic exhibitions, spends the majority of each year documenting distinctive cultures, traditions and environments around the world.

<http://www.culturalportraits.com/CPIndia/cpindia1.htm>

15th Annual South Asia Conference at Berkeley

Center for South Asia Studies
University of California, Berkeley
February 19 & 20, 2000

For Information: Phone: (510) 642-3608/Fax: (510) 643-5793

Email:
csasasst@uclink4.berkeley.edu
<http://www.ias.berkeley.edu/southasia/conference.html>

Maharajas, Women & Medicine: Medical Pluralism in the Indian Princely States

An exhibition from the Private collection of Kenneth Robbins. Presented as part of Chatham College global focus year of South Asia

March 5-10, 2000 (noon to 5 pm)
Chatham College Woodland Gallery, Pittsburgh

A Force More Powerful: A Century of Nonviolent Conflict

A premier screening of the documentary film "A Force More Powerful, a Century of Nonviolent Conflict" was held on December 9, 1999 at a function organized by the US Institute of Peace, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International in Washington D.C. The Mayor of Washington D.C., Anthony Williams, and Ambassador of India to US, Mr. Naresh Chandra joined the Washington-based Filmmaker, Steve York and the Chairman of the Santa Monica Pictures L.L.C., Peter Ackerman.

The feature length documentary presents one of the 20th century's most important and inspiring stories — the victory of nonviolent power over oppression and authoritarian rule. It explores three situations in which freedom was achieved through the philosophy and methods developed by Mahatma Gandhi of India. The first segment documents Gandhi's fight for India's independence from British rule and includes powerful episodes from history where nonviolence overcame injustice, discrimination and authoritarianism. The film then focuses on 1959 Nashville protests led by Rev. James Lawson who had studied Gandhi's philosophy and method in India. The final segment of the film concerns Mkhuseleli Jack, one of the most prominent leaders in South Africa whose inspired boycotts hastened the end of apartheid in that country.

The film brings to the fore the originality, courage and moral superiority of the ideas of Mahatma Gandhi, the leading personality of the 20th century. In his own words, nonviolence became "a priceless and matchless weapon. Those who wield it are strangers to disappointment and defeat." The greatness of these ideas was clearly a powerful force behind the making of the film. In the words of Producer-Director-Writer Steve York, "when I was in India, I walked along the dusty road leading to the beach where Gandhi broke the salt law. It looks about the same as it did in 1930. The place is nothing special, it's what Gandhi did there that's remarkable...". Several speakers paid tributes to Gandhi identifying him as the Man of the Century.

Indian American Forum for Political Education - IAFPE

The Indian American Forum for Political Education was established in 1982 to serve as a non-partisan, non-profit, political educational forum in Washington, DC. The Mission of IAFPE to empower Indian Americans politically by raising civic consciousness and increasing participation in community affairs and the mainstream political process. Members from all over the United States discuss political issues of their concern, participate in their communities, and find ways to strengthen ties between the United States and India. Annual conventions are held around the country.

The major purposes of the forum are to function as a catalyst in promoting political awareness and developing civic consciousness, promote voter registration and encourage Indian Americans to exercise their rights to vote and to run for public office, identify issues of concern to Indian Americans and pursue solutions within the political system and to provide opportunities for learning various aspects of issues affecting the lives of individual of Indian origin residing in the United States. This learning process takes place through discussions on contemporary civic, economic, and political developments.

More information on IAFPE can be obtained by visiting their web site at: <http://www.iafpe.com>

South Asian Journalists Association

South Asian Journalists Association (SAJA) was established in March 1994 with 18 members. Currently, SAJA membership is risen to more than 600 journalists of South Asian origin in New York and other cities in the US and Canada. SAJA has 70+ students among its members.

SAJA's activities include:

- Monthly meetings with distinguished speakers (open to the public)
- The SAJA Journalism Awards
- The SAJA Stylebook, Job Bank and South Asian Events Calendar
- SAJA Directory lists our members
- Free career counseling and feed-

NetSAP - DC

The Network of South Asian Professionals of the greater Washington area (NetSAP-DC) is an organization committed to providing networking, professional development, political education, and community service opportunities to those interested in South Asian-American related affairs. The Network of Indian Professionals (NetIP-USA) was founded in 1990 in Chicago. Over the last six years, the establishment of 21 chapters nationwide has contributed to NetIP's increasingly significant role in the South Asian professional community in the United States. The national membership today boasts over 2,500 members and is growing everyday.

The Washington DC chapter is called the Network of South Asian Professionals (NetSAP-DC) and was formed in May 1995. Our membership has grown dramatically over the past couple of years and now numbers over 550. NetSAP-DC continues to attract more South Asian professionals in the Washington area through its diverse, widely acclaimed programming and members' enthusiasm. NetSAP-DC relies on its internal resources for its growth and potential. The organization attributes its success to the creativity, diligence, and commitment of its members. Committees continually seek people with new ideas and a little time. NetSAP-DC can be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.netsap.org>

Indian American woman is among top 50 U.S. pharmacists

Nishaminy Kasbekar, 29, is selected to be among the top 50 pharmacists in the United States. The clinical specialist, who specializes in infectious diseases, has been acknowledged by the American Druggist magazine as among the top 50 Influential Pharmacists in the U.S. for her work and implementation of the Anti-microbial Management Program at the Presbyterian Medical Center (PMC), a division of the University of Pennsylvania Health System, in Philadelphia.

This year, she won both the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists' Best Practice Award and the Pennsylvania Society of Health System Pharmacists Innovative Practice award, for a program in which pharmacist's monitored antibiotic therapy in a community hospital. As a result there is a higher cure rate with infection and a lower failure rate—these were statistically significant differences—and a significant trend toward appropriate therapy when involved with patient care according to Ms. Kasbekar. The hospital viewed it as a huge success because in the initial cost evaluation, it had expected to save \$150,000, but ended up saving \$500,000.

Her plans for the immediate future include making those awards work overtime for the community. "The award brought us a lot of attention, and we can use it to bring the issues of global resistance out in the community," she says. "We need to get out to the HMOs and give them strict formularies so we can decrease antibiotic associative resistance."

back for our student members.

- An occasional e-mail newsletter, SAJA-online
- SAJA e-mail discussion list of 200+ journalists in 13 countries.
- A daily compendium of US articles about South Asia and the diaspora.

SAJA is helping to foster ties among South Asian journalists in North

America and improve standards of journalistic coverage of South Asia and South Asian America. As an organization, SAJA's focus has been on journalism in South Asia and South Asian America, and not the individual nations of South Asia.

More information on SAJA can be obtained by visiting their web site at: <http://www.saja.org>

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