

April 2018 | Vol 4

# THE CONSULAR CHRONICLES



Hon. Consular Corps  
Diplomatique-India  
**NEWSLETTER**

The season of new  
*beginnings*





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## EDITOR'S NOTE

Greetings,

Longer Days - Melting Snows - Flowers Blooming  
Spring is Here - A Season of New Beginnings

As our Members celebrate National Days, Welcome and Farewell parties, we are happy to bring you snapshots of a few of them. HCCD-India also celebrated the Consular Day at New Delhi.

The Nation in Focus for this issue is Mongolia.

We have included a new feature - A Special Guest, and in this issue we feature an article contributed by H.E Mr. Kitagawa - Consul General of Japan at Bangalore. We welcome New Members to HCCD-India and request all our Members to block the date for the World Congress at Brussels in October.

Warm Regards,  
Suresh Vaswani

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Honorary Consul for Republic of Korea,  
Chandigarh

### Mr. Suresh Chukkapalli

Honorary Consul for Republic of Korea,  
Hyderabad

### Mr. Avinash Chander Batra

Honorary Consul for Latvia,  
Mumbai

### Mr. Shaker Vayuvegula

Honorary Consul for Suriname,  
Mumbai

### Capt. Somesh Batra

Honorary Consul for Portugal,  
Mumbai

### Dr. Hisamuddin Papa

Honorary Consul for Maldives,  
Chennai

### Ms. Nina Kothari

Honorary Consul for Austria,  
Chennai

### Mr. Suraj Shantakumar

Honorary Consul for Kazakhstan,  
Chennai

### Mr. Roy C J

Honorary Consul for Slovakia,  
Bangalore

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>  
October  
2018

FICAC – WORLD CONGRESS  
AT BRUSSELS



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## DELHI

On 1st February, 2018 in New Delhi, the “New Year and Consular Day” was celebrated. Ambassadors / High Commissioners / Govt. officials and other dignitaries were invited.

The Chief Guest for the day was Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Member of Parliament and former Minister of State for External Affairs. On this occasion, H.E. Mr. Frank Hans Dannenberg Castellanos, the Ambassador of Dominican Republic and Dean of the Diplomatic corp of India was decorated with Dr. Bhai Mohan Singh Memorial Trophy for his excellent role as a diplomat and also as Dean of the diplomatic corp. His relationship with the Hon. Consular Corps Diplomatique – India has been very cordial and helpful.



H.E. Mr. Frank Hans Dannenberg Castellanos, the Ambassador of Dominican Republic and Dean of the Diplomatic Core receiving the Dr. Bhai Mohan Singh Memorial Trophy from Dr. Shashi Tharoor



Members from Bangalore and Hyderabad with the President of HCCD-India and Mrs. Vivek Burman



Mr. Desh Sahae, Hon. Consul of Tonga and Director HCCD- India with Dr. Shashi Tharoor





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Mr. Suraj Shantakumar - Honorary Consul for Kazakhstan, Mr. Shantakumar - Honorary Consul of Malta and Mr. Suresh Vaswani - Honorary Consul of Benin

## DELHI

Hon'ble Mr. Desh Sahae, Hon. Consul of Tonga and Director HCCD - India was decorated with "Consular Trophy" for the excellent role being played by him in promoting the Consular Movement. The occasion was followed by a dinner hosted by Hon'ble Mr. Vivek Burman, Hony. Consul General of Nicaragua and President of the HCCD - India.

Mr. K.L. Ganju, Hon. Consul of the Philippines army and he also laid wreath at the Martyr's monument at Rizal Park, Manila, Philippines. This was a historical moment for Hon'ble Mr. K.L. Ganju.

The Ambassadors Charity Gala Dinner held at New Delhi on 23rd February was hosted at the residence of H.E Mr. Jose Ramon Baranano Fernandez and Ana Grazia de Barnano and was a very well attended by the Diplomatic community and other guests. It was a grand event and the Chief Guest was General V.K. Singh - Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India.



H.E Mr. Demetrios A. Theophylactou, High Commissioner for Cyprus, Mr. K L Ganju, Dr. Grace and Mr. Ashish Saraf- Honorary Consul for Bahamas



Mr. K L Ganju - Secretary General of HCCD-India receiving a Memento from General V K Singh - Minister of State for External Affairs at the Ambassadors Charity Dinner



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## MUMBAI

**Mumbai Tujhe Salaam** (Mumbai, we salute you) was held at the Bombay Gymkhana. This event was held as a tribute to those who lost their lives in the attack on Mumbai nine years ago.

We were privileged to have Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra, Ch. Vidyasagar Rao as our Chief Guest. Our Guests of Honour were the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Mr. Devendra Fadnavis and his wife, Mrs. Amruta Fadnavis, who sang a patriotic song on this occasion, and Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju

The Diplomatic Corps – both Career and Hon. Consuls General were present at this event and the Ambassador of Israel, Mr. Daniel Carmon, also gave a short speech at this event.

A number of Government and Police officials also graced this occasion.

There was a special performance by the world famous Shillong Choir, which was appreciated by everyone present.

A sum of Rs. 1.02 crores was presented to the families of all those who lost their lives on that fateful day through "Brave Hearts" an initiative of Ministry of Home Affairs. This was through the Union Minister Rijiju. A cheque of Rs. 21 lakhs was presented to Mr. Devendra Fadnavis, for the families of those who were killed on 26/11, nine years ago.



HCCD-India Board Meeting at Mumbai



The entire Diplomatic Corps along with some of the families of those who lost their lives on 26.11.08 release white balloons into the air, as a sign of peace



Mr. Gul Kripalani, Senior Vice President HCCD-India addressing the gathering



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## CHENNAI

The first annual meeting of the HCCD-Chennai Chapter was held on 13th December 2017 at Ramada Plaza Hotel, Chennai.

Honorary Consuls from Chennai who are members of HCCD Chennai were present to make the action plan for the year 2018.

Accountant General of Tamil Nadu Mr. Arun Goyal IA & AS was invited as the guest of honour and H. E. Mrs. Krongkanit Rakcharoen, Consul General of Thailand was the special invite.

Ms. Kousalya Devi, Former Honorary Consul of France, was honoured by the HCCD Chennai chapter for the years of selfless service that she has rendered as Honorary Consul of France in Chennai

Dr. Hissamuddin Papa, Newly appointed Honorary Consul of Maldives, was introduced to the gathering.



### Association of Honorary Consuls launched

Chennai, Dec 20: The official formation of the "Association of Persons" of the HCCD / "Honorary Consular Corps Diplomatique - Chennai Chapter" has been completed and in honour of the same a greet and meet get together was held at the Ramada Plaza Guindy. HCCD is the one and

only official association of Honorary Consuls in Tamil Nadu. Arun Goyal, I.A. & A.S., the Accountant General of Tamil Nadu was the Guest of Honor for this meeting and the Krongkanit Rakcharoen, Royal Thai Consulate General was the special invitee. The President of the

HCCD T. Shantakumar, Hon Consul of Malta welcomed the gathering and Dr Yashwanth K. Venkataraman Secretary General & Hon Consul of El Salvador proposed the vote of thanks. As the evening unfolded, the event saw the entire diplomat ensemble in attendance with prominent members of the diplomatic

community and Honorary Consuls from Finland, Malta, Iceland, Zambia, El Salvador, Paraguay, Spain, Senegal, Maldives, Mexico, Mauritius, Slovenia, France, Angola, Seychelles were amongst the several others who attended this event to celebrate the formation of HCCD and bring in the festive season.





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## BANGALORE

A busy Diplomatic calendar of Welcomes, Farewell and National Days kept Bangalore busy. The Bangalore Chapter welcomed the Consul Generals of Japan and Israel with a large event at The Hilton Suites. The National Days of Latvia, Peru and Ireland were well attended events.



The Consul General of Japan H.E Mr. Takayuki Kitagawa and H.E Consul General of Israel Ms. Dana Kursh being welcomed by Ms. Surbhi Sharma - Honorary Consul of Spain



H.E Ms. Dana Kursh - Consul General of Israel with Mr. Mike Holland - CEO of Embassy Group



Members of the Bangalore Chapter of HCCD-India with Mr. K J George - Minister for Bangalore Development & Town Planning- Government of Karnataka, Consul Generals of Japan and Israel and Mr. Jitu Virwani - Chairman Embassy Group.



National Day Celebrations of Latvia - H.E. Ambassador Mr. Aivars Groza, Mrs. Gorza, Mr. K P Balasubramaniam - Honorary Consul for Latvia and Mrs. Raji Balan





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British Deputy High Commissioner and Consul General of France  
at Latvia National Day Celebrations



St Patrick's Day - Cake Cutting Ceremony



St Patrick's Day Celebrations –  
Dr. Kiran Mazumdar Shaw -  
Honorary Consul of Ireland



Peru National Day – Mr. Vikram Vishwanath ,  
Honorary Consul of Peru addressing the gathering



Dr. Kiran Mazumdar Shaw with H.E. Mr. Brian McElduff –  
Ambassador of Ireland



H.E. Mr. Jorge Juan Castaneda Mendz – Ambassador of Peru,  
Mrs. Diana Angeles Santander, Mr. Arvind Jadhav, Mr. J J Alexander,  
Mr. Kaushik Mukerji and Mr. Vikram Vishwanath



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## NATION IN FOCUS – MONGOLIA



**Mr. Dilip Dandekar**

Consul of Mongolia in Mumbai

Mongolia, ranked as one of the world's fastest growing economies, holds significant mineral resources and prospects of Oil and Natural Gas which are yet to be explored. Due to its professional and progressive business community, democratic federal government, and rapidly improving living conditions, Mongolia attracts international investors and multi-nationals to shape the industrial revolution especially in the Mining & Mineral, and the Oil & Natural Gas sectors.

The Mongolian economy has been growing steadily since 2004. In 2011 it had the fastest growing GDP in the world at 17.3%.

Mongolia is subjected to extreme continental weather conditions consisting of short sweltering summers and long, frigid winters. Mongolia enjoys four distinct seasons and different geographic zones including the eternally snow-capped Altai-Khanghai ranges. It hosts nearly 4.7 lakh tourists annually.

With the completion of a new airport and state-of-the-art hotels by July 2018, it is expected that the number will more than double within the next 5 years.



Landlocked between China and Russia, Mongolia is half the size of India with an area of 1.6 million km<sup>2</sup> (603,000 mi<sup>2</sup>), four times the size of Japan, and almost double that of Eastern Europe. India and Mongolia are two of the oldest nations in Asia who enjoy age long bonds and a great deal of similarities. Hence, the two countries have a special relationship and Mongolia considers India as its 'third neighbor' and spiritual partner.

Mongolia is the sixth-largest country in Asia and 19th in the world, but the population is only 35 lakhs which makes it one of the least densely populated areas in Asia.

40% of the population lives in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar, and almost another 40% are scattered all over Mongolia with their 65 lakh head of sheep, goats, cattle, horses and camels. 70% of Mongolia is under the age of 35 and the genders are pretty well balanced. 84% are Khalkha Mongols, 6% Kazakhs, and 10% other groups.

The majority of the Mongolian population, i.e. 90% follow a mixture of Tibetan Buddhism and shamanism, while the remaining 10% follow a diverse range of different faiths, mainly Islam and Christianity.

When visiting Mongolia, tourists can enjoy prominent destinations such as the ancient Mongolian capital, Chinggis Khaan's fabled city, Karkorum. It was founded in 1220 in the Orkhon Valley, at the crossroads of the Silk Route, and it is from there that the great Mongol Empire began.



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Terelj is a wonderful valley near Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia. It has spectacular green meadows carpeted with a dazzling variety of edelweiss and other wild flowers, amazing rock formations, pine-clad mountains, and wooded streams.

Khuvsgul, known as the Dark Blue Pearl, is Mongolia's largest and deepest fresh water lake in the northern part of the country dotted with deluxe tourist camps.

The ideal Mongolia travel season starts in May and hits its highest peak in July, during its national holiday, Naadam, which is celebrated for three days during mid-July.

It is believed that Naadam celebrations started with the rise of the Great Mongolian Empire as Chinggis (also known as Genghis) Khan's strategy to keep his warriors strictly fit. After the fall of the empire, the contests were held during religious festivals, and since the communist revolution it is celebrated on its anniversary.

India and Mongolia enjoy cultural connectivity covering over 2700 years. The foundation of these historical relations is based on ancient literature, language, medicine, folklore, Buddhism, as well as social and cultural traditions. Our Nalanda University was one of the favourite learning places for Mongolian monks in India during the 5th to the 8th centuries.

Chinggis Khan, the great Mongol ruler, did not conquer India because India was the sacred land of Buddhism.

Popular and holy books and Indian epics like the Ramayana and Mahabharata are a part of Mongolian literature along with other famous Indian stories of Raja Bhoja, Vikramaditya etc.

The Indo-Mongolia connection can also be seen in their costumes. Very Indo- Chinese type, the robe-like garment is called a deel and has no pockets. It is worn with a thin long silk sash tightly wound around the waist. Attached to the sash are essential objects such as the eating set (sharp knife, chop sticks, ear scratcher, tweezer and toothpick), tinder pouch, snuff bottle, and tobacco and pipe pouches. They are made of precious metals and decorated with semi-precious stones.



Mongolian food is basically meat and dairy based and has Chinese and Russian influence. You see soup, noodles, rice, momos, barbecue, stir fries and also stuffed parathas called Khuushoor in the menu. Ulaanbaatar boasts of more than 5 Indian restaurants.

Details are available either from a local travel agent or from Nomadic Expeditions, a very trusted tour operator based in Mongolia. They understand the Indian traveler's needs and deliver professionally.

Mongolia has a flexible visa regime for Indians and the Embassy promptly grants tourist visas for up to a month. All you have to do is to fill up the online visa application form, get a printout, attach necessary documents and payment cheque, and send it along with your passport to the Mongolian Embassy in New Delhi.

We wish the two countries a great future of partnership and growth.





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## A SPECIAL GUEST



**KITAGAWA TAKAYUKI**  
Consul General of Japan

## JAPAN INVITES YOU TO HANAMI!!

The Sakura flower, or Japanese Cherry Blossom, is considered Japan's unofficial national flower and has been admired by people all across the globe for its beauty. Sandwiched between the long, bitter winter months and sweltering humidity of summer, spring is by far the most popular time for tourism in Japan. Thousands of tourists travel to Japan every year during the spring season to get a glimpse of the spectacle of the trees blooming with these pink or white flowers.

During this time, many Japanese get together with their families and friends to enjoy Hanami, the tradition of admiring the beauty of the cherry blossoms, which they usually do by making picnics under the blooming trees. Hanami can be conducted in the daytime sun or in the evening. Both are lovely, but we particularly enjoy the blossoms at dusk when lanterns hang in the trees, turning the canopy a glowing pink. It is during this period that the Japanese are at their most relaxed, and all public places take on a party-like atmosphere.

This atmosphere is contagious, with supermarket shelves stacked with the latest blossom-flavoured snacks and drinks.

This custom is said to have started during the Nara period (710-794). It was originally limited to the elite of the Imperial Court, but soon spread to samurai society and, by the Edo period, to the common people as well.





## SPECIAL FOCUS- BENIN BRONZES



Bronze casting is a sophisticated means by which Africans have historically expressed themselves. Bronzes of very refined Ife sculptures dating back to the 12th C have been found in Yoruba shrines. The village of Igbo-Ukwu in the Niger Delta supported a bronze casting tradition that dates back to the 9th Century AD

Life-size heads and sometimes smaller full-length figures were cast in precious materials, including bronze, various copper alloys and occasionally pure copper between the 12th and 15th C.

This skill which was perfected by the Yoruba is continued in Benin from the 15th C where they are known as 'Benin bronzes'. These 'bronzes' are in fact made of brass, melted down from ornaments arriving from Portugal. Along with new raw material, arrived novel subject matter and a new style of sculpture developed which was a plaque worked in relief and depicting scenes in which the Portuguese often feature in full military garb. These relief panels decorated the wooden pillars of the royal palace.

These panels and the brass tableaux made by the Fon continue to be produced in Benin today in new forms and interpretations by modern day artists.

Creative brain  
is on the right.

Calculative brain  
on the left.



We add Fun to both.

Camlin



let's have fun!





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