



LORD MAYOR CELEBRATES DIWALI AT THE CITY'S ICONIC MANSION HOUSE

Lord Mayor of the City of London Alan Yarrow last night welcomed around 100 guests from the British Hindu and Indian community working in the City to the inaugural Mansion House celebration of the Diwali festival. The Lord Mayor gave a speech highlighting how the Hindu community add to the make-up of the City and then took part in the traditional lighting of a diya.

The Lord Mayor praised the contribution of Hindu, Sikh and Jain employees in the Square Mile, adding that while Hindus made up one per cent of the UK population, they accounted for nine per cent of the City's workforce. He also highlighted that in a report by international recruitment firm Astbury Marsden in



2012, it showed that from an ethnic diversity perspective, the City is more diverse than the UK as a whole.

As part of his programme of overseas visits representing the City, the Lord Mayor went to India in December 2014, taking with him a wide selection of financial and professional services firms from the Square Mile. The Lord Mayor was looking to build on the strong commercial links between the

UK and India that already exists, particularly when considering that India invests more into the UK than the rest of Europe, and the UK is the third biggest investor in India globally.

Lord Mayor Alan Yarrow said:

"It is a fantastic occasion to hold the inaugural Diwali celebration in the heart of the Square Mile at the Mansion House. The Hindu community brings so much to the fabric, energy and



competitiveness of the Square Mile so it is great to be able to mark their contribution with this celebration."

Common Councilman and Chairman of Community and Children's Services for the City of London Corporation, Dhruv Patel said:

"The impact of the Hindu community to the UK professional and financial services industry is clear. The role that

can be played in developing Britain's business relationship with India is already being demonstrated. I am delighted that the Lord Mayor has held this very special celebration of Diwali at the Mansion House for the first time ever. It is a wonderful recognition of the important contribution that the British Hindu community, of which I am a proud member, makes to the City."

HOUSE OF COMMONS WELCOMES INDIAN TV ARTIST & SPIRITUAL LEADER FROM GOA WITH AWARD.

The House of Commons welcomed Indian TV artist Deepika Chikhaliya, who is known for her role as Hindu Goddess Sita from the Hindu scripture Ramayana. The Actress also known for her contribution to victory as a Member of Parliament in the Indian Lok Sabha from Baroda constituency in 1991 as a Bharatiya Janata Party candidate was awarded by MP Bob Blackman & His Holiness Shri RajRajeshwar Gururji founder and spiritual leader of International Siddhashram Shakti Centre, the 'Princess of Ramayana' certificate for her role as a religious politician.

Also achieving the honouree award was Spiritual Leader, Ambassador of Peace

Swami Brahmeshanand Maharaj Ji

Goa - India. for his widespread knowledge internationally, with the teachings of vedas & prayer chanting in Sanskrit.

MP Bob Blackman welcomed the two guests from India and stressed the importance of bringing the relationship between Britain and India much stronger upon arrival of India's Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi who will be welcomed on Friday 13th November. photography by Devarshi Photo Studio, Harrow.



With the swearing in of Narendra Modi on 26th May 2014, as Prime Minister, the hopes of 1.2 billion Indians surged for bright and prosperous India. The immense faith of Indian voters in Modi had translated into formation of NDA Govt. in the centre. And Modi has proved himself in every aspect. He has not only spearheaded the growth and economy to be pushed in right direction but also has compelled foreign leaders and investors to take good notice of India. These were purely social, political, intellectual and marketing skills of Modi which won the hearts of the nation and which aroused hopes in him and his government.

In the year of Modi government the economy of the nation has improved considerably. The government has taken many important steps to bring economy to the right track. 'Make in India' campaign has attracted foreign investors to India. International monetary fund has speculated growth rate to be 7.5% in 2015 which was mere 5% in 2013. Some of the achievements of Modi govt. in which he linked nation to growth and prosperity include-Jan Dhan Scheme in which more than 14 crore bank accounts were opened for financial inclusion, LPG SUBSIDY reached targeted person directly, MUDRA BANK for financing 6 crores small vendors, PRADHAN MANTRI KRISHI SINCHAI YOJANA, SOIL HEALTH CARD SCHEME to enhance farm productivity SWACHH BHARAT MISSION to ensure hygiene card health of everybody.

When Modi stormed into power,

IDEA OF AN EDUCATED INDIA

with a massive mandate, he delivered a strong message 'We are not here for positions but for a responsibility'. From bureaucrats to MP's, everyone started falling in line and are working hard to fulfill people's expectations.

By 2030, India will be one of the youngest nations of the world with 140 million college going age group. In every 4 graduates, a product of Indian higher education system

Given the expected socio-economic scenario in 2030, India would need a robust education system that can deliver on multiple imperatives. To achieve this, Modi government has already started working and planning in the right direction and has touted India as 'Asia education hub'. The government has professed long term changes to the extant system of learning under the Modinomics of 'Make in India'. Formal learning has been linked to skill development. New institutions of excellence have been announced and marketing development more regionally balanced with states like Jammu & Kashmir, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh and Assam getting AIIMS, IIT's and IIMS. Allocation of budget too point at improving higher education standards.

Education empowers people so that they can make right decisions in the areas of economic growth, social development and environment integration. To achieve its target of 'education to all' the govt. has

launched 'SAAKSHAR BHARAT PROGRAMME' (by HRD Ministry) which aims to provide opportunities for learning, basic literacy, equivalency with formal education system and continuing education. This programme runs in 385 districts covering 1.54 lakh Gram Panchayats. Primers have been developed and printed in 13 languages and 26 dialects to impart literacy in local languages. HRD introduced system of assessment and certification of literacy skills of learning with the help of National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). More than 2.86 crore adults have been certified as literates, of which more than 70% are women.

With well planned expansion and student centric learning driven model of education, India has not only improved its total enrolment but also has enhanced learning outcomes. Mahatma Gandhi while addressing the fourth FICCI AGM in 1931 had entrusted industry with the duty of being trustees of society and help create a vibrant nation that is socially, economically and politically stable and prosperous. The present government abide by his thoughts and understands that this can be achieved only by educating and empowering our youth through a sound education system with a clear vision and a time bound roadmap. There are plans to internalize education system to earn more foreign exchange and create an 'educated in

India' brand. Some of the steps in this direction include: passage of 'foreign educational institutional bill' Improving digital infrastructure to offer online courses, offering distance education through e-education or online courses and getting these courses recognized in other countries & creating special education zones primarily for foreign students. With the materialization of foreign educational institutional bill, there will be huge opportunity for foreign universities to setup campuses in India. These foreign universities along with good quality Indian institution will attract students and promote India as a hub in Asia for quality education & thus increase India's export of education services.

To improve digital infrastructure for higher education and promote digital literacy & e-governance, the govt. has launched a multilingual app to aid smart phone users in understanding technology in quick easy steps.

Making one person in every family digitally literate is one of the integral components of the prime Minister's vision of 'Digital India'.

The DIGITAL SAKSHARTA ABHIYAN or national digital literacy mission scheme has been formulated to impart IT training to 52.5 lakh persons including Anganwadi and ASHA workers and authorised ration dealers in all states and union territories across the country so that the non-IT literate citizens are trained to

become IT literate so as to enable them to actively participate in the democratic and developmental process for the overall prosperity of nation and also for enhancing their livelihood. With this digital literacy various communities will be able to understand digital technologies for meaningful actions within life situations.

Modi government envisions India as a largest provider of Global talent, a global magnet for aspiring learners and a role model for high quality affordable educational system. It aspires to govern Indian education sector with highest standard of ethics and accountability with every single institution being peer reviewed and accredited. To achieve this, the govt. plans to have a differentiated academic system with a three tiered structure comprising highly selective elite research universities and specialized institutions and an array of highly accessible and high quality college.

The pet project launched by PM 'BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO' Yojana to save and empower the girl child is making waves all over the nation. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme has been introduced in October 2014, to address the issue declining Child sex ratio. This is being implemented through a national campaign and focused multisectoral action in 100 selected districts low in child sex ratio covering all

states and union territories. This is a joint initiative of Ministry of women and child development Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development. The objectives of this scheme is to prevent gender biased sex selective elimination, ensure protection and survival of girl child and ensure education of girl child.

In 2030, India is expected to be the fastest growing economy touching a GDP of \$ 10 billion and one of the youngest nation with a median age of 32. The developed nation with its median age of around 50 is expected to face a skilled talent shortage of approximately 56 million by 2030 and they look up to India for skilled talent. With various schemes in the field of education as launched by Modi government, the vision of a strong educated and technology savvy India is not far off.

The government has planned to setup a national digital library of e-book and e-contents. It will be set up by IIT Kharagpur and a sum of Rs 10 crore has already been sanctioned to the institute for the purpose. Another project is to set up a platform through which highly qualified faculty of institutions like IIT's, IIM's and central universities would offer online courses free to cost. In addition Technology is being used to identify geographical pockets which fared poorly in terms of education among girls, particularly of those belonging to marginalized sections of society so that corrective measures can be taken.