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## Indian Govt. Relents Simplifies Passport Surrender Rules

Atlanta, GA: The Government of India has relented to an overwhelming opposition to the retroactive enforcement of the new rules for surrender of the Indian passport. The latest notice posted on the website of Consul General of India in New York and San Francisco, says, "In supersession of previous rules, Government of India has decided that Persons of Indian origin who have already acquired foreign citizenship up until 31 May 2010 will not be required to pay renunciation fees of USD 175.00, he/she will be required to pay miscellaneous fees of USD 20.00 when getting the old Indian passport cancelled/surrendered.

In future those Indian citizens who acquire foreign citizenship on or after 01 June 2010 will have to submit declaration of renunciation of their Indian citizenship forms as given on website and fees of USD 175.00."

Those who have lost their old Indian passports have to hand in an affidavit and a copy of their US naturalization certificate.

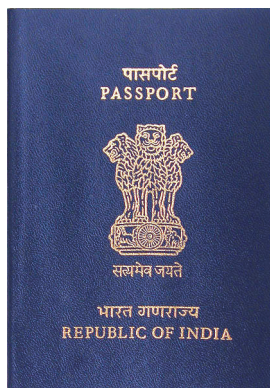
The Indian government introduced bureaucratic hell by asking that NRIs who had taken up

American citizenship — even those who had done it decades back — to renounce their old Indian passports and get "surrender certificates" before receiving a new visa to travel to India.

Many Indians who had become American citizens in the 1960s and 1970s couldn't remember where to look for their passports. Besides, it slowed down the visa system by burdening it with bureaucracy, and affected those wishing to travel to India.

Several community activists, organization heads, individuals and the Indian American media banded together and unanimously condemned the retroactive enforcement rules. Their individual and collective efforts created quick and informative awareness against the retro-

active enforcement of the new rules. On May 23, 2010, the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO International) initiated an on-line petition addressed to the Prime Minister of India, titled "Opposition to Retroactive Enforcement of New Rules for Surrender of Indian Passport". The petition was signed by several thousand people.



## Nikki Haley Faces Runoff In SC Race

Washington: (IANS) Overcoming accusations of marital infidelity, Indian American lawmaker Nikki Haley just missed the 50-percent threshold in a four-way primary race for the Republican nomination for South Carolina governor's job.

Forced into a runoff, she will now compete with Republican Representative Gresham Barrett on June 22 for the chance to face Democrat Vincent Sheheen in November. If she wins then, she would become the state's first female chief executive and second Indian American governor of a US state after Republican Bobby Jindal, who holds the top job in Louisiana.

Haley secured 49 percent of the vote with 95 percent of precincts reporting. Barrett, who represents South Carolina's 3rd Congressional District, won 22 percent of the vote in a race that was peppered with scandal.

Republican opponent Lt. Gov Andre Bauer had 17 percent of the vote while Attorney General Henry McMaster received 12 percent.

Haley had been polling at the back of the pack until she picked up an endorsement by former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin last month. But she was forced to face accusations of not one, but two, trysts with men heavily involved in state Republican politics. First, blogger and former Haley communications consultant Will Folks claimed he had a relationship with the 38-year-old mother of two.

Then, consultant Larry Marchant, who was working for Bauer until last week, claimed he had a one-night stand with Haley. Neither offered evidence of an affair. Current SC Governor Mark Sanford, who cannot run for re-election because of term limits, admitted last year to having an extramarital affair with a woman in Argentina. The scandal led to his divorce, but he kept his job.



## NRI Pulse Editor Enters 2010 Limca Book of Records



Atlanta, GA: Veena Rao, the editor and publisher of the Atlanta, Georgia based *NRI Pulse*, was recognized by the 2010 edition of the Limca Book of Records as the first non-resident Indian woman to edit and publish a newspaper outside India.

*Veena Rao is the first non-resident Indian woman to edit and publish a newspaper outside India.*

Veena Rao launched *NRI Pulse* in 2006, after she saw the need for a news-based publication in the region.

"The market was choc-a-bloc with magazines of all kinds, but no publication with a focus on news," she said. "It is important that people know what's happening in their community, and the country they live in. It is important that they stay abreast of happenings in India. This is vital for the socio-economic and cultural growth of the community as a whole."

*NRI Pulse* has today become the primary source of news for Indian-Americans in the region. In the four years of its existence in print format, *NRI Pulse* has grown to become a household name in Georgia.

Veena Rao has a background in print journalism, and has worked for premier news publications in India.

"Running a publication, especially through the recession, has been challenging," she said. "The recognition has motivated me to take *NRI Pulse* to the next level."