

US Congress Extends Welcome To Manmohan Singh

Washington: (IANS) To welcome Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on his upcoming state visit to the US, the first of the Obama administration, a resolution has been introduced in the US Congress commending the maturing of relationship between the two nations.

The maturing of relationship between the two countries that would be exemplified by Manmohan Singh's official visit had deepened bilateral ties on matters of international security, world trade, technology, science and health, the resolution introduced by four senior lawmakers noted.

"Relationship between the US and India has great potential to promote stability, democracy, prosperity, and peace throughout the world and enhance the ability of both countries to work together to provide global leadership in areas of mutual concern and interest," said the resolution.

Welcoming the visit, it said Manmohan Singh who arrives here Nov 24 has helped shape India's economic policies to permit the expansion of a market economy, which has led to greater economic prosperity for India.

The resolution noted the world's largest democratic election held in India early this year had returned Manmohan Singh to power. Introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman Jim McDermott and co-sponsored by three other eminent-Ed Royce, Gary Ackerman and Dan Burton, the resolution also welcomes Manmohan Singh to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.



Burglars Target Indian Homes Looking For Gold

Washington: (IANS) Indian and South Asian homes have been targeted in a months-long series of daytime break-ins in Northern Virginia by burglars looking for gold that mirror a disturbing trend seen in other parts of the US as well.

"The burglars are discerning. They have taken 22-karat pieces but left behind sterling silver and well-crafted costume jewelry," the Washington Post reported Saturday.

"They have sifted through floor-length gowns lovingly stored in closets and plucked every custom-made sari threaded with gold and worth thousands, disdain-ing saris worth only hundreds," it said.



Officers in Fairfax and Loudoun counties on the outskirts of the national capital of Washington, and the homeowners themselves, have yet to figure out how the burglars so successfully identify houses with large gold caches.

Before they became victims, many of the families were strangers, and they and police have eliminated many of the obvious links: churches, temples, schools or even grocery stores where they could have been tracked, the Post said.

The unsolved crimes mirror a pattern of 93 burglaries in Houston, 37 in central Illinois and a handful outside St. Paul, Minnesota.

"Most of us didn't even know each other," Raman Kumar, whose home in Centreville, another Washington suburb, was

among the earliest break-in sites was quoted as saying. "But here is the thing: If you know our customs, you know we carry a lot of gold."

Indian and South Asian communities traditionally pass collections of 22-karat gold from generation to generation. Gold has been selling at more than \$1,000 an ounce, and some of the break-ins have netted more than \$100,000 worth of jewelry, victims reported.

A break-in Thursday was the most recent of three cases in South Riding in Loudoun.

The spate also includes six Fair Oaks homes hit in two days last week in Fairfax and 16 burglaries between January and August in Reston, Centreville and Fair Oaks, all Washington suburbs.

The Loudoun Sheriff's Office identified its cluster Friday, realizing that a June burglary had the same traits as others Oct 6 and Thursday.

Police spokesmen in Prince George's and Montgomery counties said they have not seen the same targeting of Indians and South Asians. But it has surfaced elsewhere in the country.

From A Trickle To A Flood: 2.5 Million Indians Make US Their Home

Washington, Oct 16 (IANS) Starting with no more than 700 persons moving from India to the US between 1820 and 1900, the ethnic Indian community in America has grown to 2.5 million in 2007, according to a new report.

The report, Emigration, Immigration, and Diaspora Relations in India, released Friday by the Migration Policy Institute, a nonpartisan think tank in Washington, DC also shows that at 2.5 million, the community's size in the US is nearly double of that in the UK and more than 2.5 times as large as the one in Canada.

Of almost 400,000 Overseas Citizenship of India cards issued by the Indian government as of March 2009, 43 percent came through Indian con-

According to the US Department of Homeland Security, from 1986 to 2005, the annual total influx of Indian immigrants more than tripled from 27,000 to 85,000, while the share in total immigration flows rose from 4.4 to 7.4 percent.

Indian citizens accounted for 5.7 percent of all persons obtaining lawful permanent resident status in 2008.

Overall, the Indian foreign born are highly skilled: The US Census Bureau's 2008 American Community Survey found that 74.1 percent held at least a bachelor's degree, and 68.9 percent reported working in management, professional, and related occupations.

The total size of the Indian community, meaning those born in India, the foreign born of Indian ethnicity, and the US-born children of Indian immigrants, surpassed 2.5 million in 2007.

India's domination of computer-trained temporary workers is mainly attributed to the large supply pool in India and to the fact that prior waves of Indian IT workers had successfully established a significant presence in that industry, the report says.

The success of Indian IT professionals in the US has created trust in the country's intellectual abilities abroad, says the report.

It has been a major factor in branding India as a source of well-educated and hard-working professionals, rather than a poverty-ridden country of snake charmers.

This new "India brand" explains several countries' increased interest in recruiting Indian graduates and professionals. It also contributes to the willingness of US and other companies to collaborate with and outsource to Indian companies.



sulates in the US and 13 percent in the UK, says the report by author Daniel Naujoks, a scholar based in New Delhi.

The report comprehensively details the country's history of emigration and immigration and discusses current trends such as remittances, how the Indian IT industry may be wooing home highly skilled Indian expatriates, and the main destinations for the Indian diaspora.

It shows 74.1 percent of the Indian foreign born in the US in 2008 held at least a bachelor's degree, and 68.9 percent reported working in management, professional, and related occupations, according to the US Census Bureau.

According to the report, substantial Indian migration to Northern America started only in the late 1960s. Both in the US and Canada, major changes in immigration policy affected immigration flows generally, and Indian immigration specifically.

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