

Roots and Routes

Monthly Newsletter of the Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism

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GRFDT

Global Research Forum on
Diaspora and Transnationalism



**Roots and Routes disseminates the latest information
on research and policy developments in Diaspora
and transnationalism**

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CONTENTS

03 GRFDT Activities

GRFDT Seminar
African Diaspora in India

04 Interview

The future of diaspora and transnationalism as an academic discipline is very bright: Prof. P.C. Jain

06 Interview

Our objectives are to promote, facilitate and share ideas/info in various development sectors in Odisha: Dr. Annapurna Pandey

08 Book Review

I shall Never Ask for Pardon

09 Global Updates, CFP, New Arrivals

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Editor's Message



The Indian subcontinent is a wonderful location for the scholars interested in diaspora studies as it is an interesting place of both homeland and hostland for diasporas in sizable number. The diasporas from the subcontinent spread out approximately in 150 countries across the globe. Evidently the diasporas from Indian subcontinent demonstrate exceptional diversity as compared to many other diasporas. Similar is also the case of diasporas settled in India which have to negotiate with the diversities within the country. The diasporas settled in Indian soil are quite many; prominent among them are African, Chinese, Tibetans, Dutch, Parsis, Jews etc. Though they have been here for several centuries and contributed to the socio-economic and cultural fabric of the country, there is dearth of literature on them. Given the growing interest on diaspora studies today, we hope that there will be more studies and research on them in the future.

GRFDT is trying to bring the attention of the scholars to one such diaspora which has not been studied much till date. The GRFDT monthly seminar series talk "African Diaspora in India" is one such initiative, where scholars working on diasporas in India share their views. GRFDT welcomes any suggestion to strengthen the research in this area.

This issue of newsletter covers two interviews. The first interview with Prof. P.C. Jain discusses the importance of diaspora studies in academics and policy-making. Prof. Jain emphasizes that as the migration become intensified and diaspora communities grow across the globe, the academic response to such phenomenon will grow too. The second interview with Dr. Annapurna Pandey highlights how the diasporas are engaged in the home state development through mobilization of skills and advocacy.

The Newsletter also covers its regular feature i.e. book review, news, call for papers etc. We wish to inform our readers that GRFDT has recently compiled a very comprehensive bibliography in a 150 pages handbook covering more than 30 key words to help academicians/researchers/policy-makers immensely to have a broad map of diaspora studies. The book is available free on our website at www.grfdt.com

African Diaspora in India: A Socio-Political Journey

As a part of monthly seminar series, GRFDT organized a talk on "African Diaspora in India: A Socio-Political Journey" on 27 July 2013 at CSSS, JNU. Speaker Dr. Manish Karmwar, Faculty in the Department of History, Shyam Lal College(Eve.), University of Delhi gave an overview about the history of African migration to the Indian sub-continent since 6th century. India had first trade relation with the Arabs followed by Portuguese, through whom Africans came into contact with India and they came to India along with Arab traders. He mentioned that Africans who are now profoundly assimilated in India, constitute a very diverse community of traders, soldiers and workers at various levels.

Dr. Karmwar elaborated that there were two African kingdoms, namely Janjira and Sachin. In the Janjira and Sachin kingdoms, Africans rose from king-makers to Emperors. Historically African diaspora has been associated with various roles. There are traces of African's role in socio-political and military life during the period of Delhi Sultanate, Nizamshahi, Adilshahi, Qutbshahi, Imadshahi, Mughal India and also in Hyderabad till India's independence. The Africans, who arrived in Hyderabad, Deccan, apart from playing their traditional role as bonded guards and servants, were also recruited as the Nizam's private bodyguard. The Siddi Risala (African Regiment) was retained until 1948. Other Siddis were elevated to the status of Khanazahs (protoges) and became trusted advisers of the Nizams.

Geographical Spread: African diaspora are widely spread out in India, especially in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Daman and Diu, Goa and Andhra Pradesh. Numerically, they are in large number in Gujarat, hence, one can find them as socially cohesive and preserving the African culture in Gujarat, as compared to other states, where they have become very much assimilated.

Role in Dynasty: Africans have played an important role in India's different dynasties. The first Habshi, of whom there is a historical record, was probably Jamal al-Din Yaqut, royal courtier in the kingdom of Delhi, in the north of the sub-continent. Some of the Africans who rose to the positions of considerable importance were: Malik



Dr. Manish Karmwar

Kafur, Malik Amber, Malik Sarwar, Mubarak Shah, etc. Their role in the history of India is significant. The Afro-Indian dynasties of Sachin and Janjira are a reminder of the influence that Afro-Indians wielded in parts of India. While this glory was not to remain forever, the cultural contributions made by Africans are still alive, particularly in music and dance.

Issue of Marginalisation: Unlike many other diasporas or the African diaspora elsewhere, African diasporas in India are still marginalized. Why are they not economically uplifted? Dr. Karmwar explained that there are only few thousands rich among Siddis, most of whom came to India as traders. Those who came as slave and low skilled workers, remain marginalized. Dr. Karmwar also mentioned that there are affirmative policies to include them under Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes, and to provide safeguards to them. However, these measures are less effective for their upliftment as the social and cultural distinctions kept them outside the larger social benefits. Unlike the Indian diaspora, who became economically upward, in the second and the third generations, the African diaspora in India remain marginalized/unempowered. Dr. Karmwar concluded that there is a need for collective effort by them as well as by state to uplift themselves.

The talk was followed by interactive session, where questions relating to marginality, social mobility and policy issues to empower the African diaspora were raised. Suggestions were made to conduct more research on this issue as there are dearth of literature.

The future of diaspora and transnationalism as an academic discipline is very bright: Prof. P.C. Jain



As the processes of globalisation and migration accelerate, more and more diasporic and trans-national communities would come into existence and grow in size and move towards institutional completeness requiring increasing number of related academic studies, says Prof. P.C. Jain in an interview with Vinod Choudhury.

VC: Sir, you have been working on the Indian diaspora for last several decades. Your work on diaspora and race relations, Gulf migration, Jains in India and abroad are pioneering in academics. How do you find the diaspora research today?

PCJ: Thanks for your compliments. I would not say that my work in academic areas you mentioned is pioneering; definitely not. But, yes I would like to think that I tried to identify and fill in some knowledge gaps in these areas. As far as the diaspora research

is concerned, it is increasingly becoming more sophisticated and analytical the world over, though, in India, we do have our limitations in regard to empirical studies, availability of funds and perhaps theoretical rigour.

VC: The human mobility has been increasing within and outside the national boundaries. Three percent of Global population is living outside their countries. The phenomenon is increasing despite all legal restrictions in many countries. How do you assess the impact of these massive scale of migration on the political-economic and social domain of the in the national as well as transnational spheres?

PCJ: Yes it is a fact that national and international migration is on the increase. Well over 200 million people annually migrate from one country to another in search of economic employment. Internal migration obviously is far greater in volume. Although in most democratic countries internal migration is not much of a problem as it is a matter of individual rights, international migration thus pose quite a number of problems, namely situations of ethnic and/or racial discrimination in employment, promotion and housing. However, most migrant-receiving countries are also keen to address issues emerging from these problems. In spite of this however, expatriate and migrant communities would continue to face these problems to some extent. Perhaps, that's what life is all about.

VC: You have written articles and books on racial discrimination and political economy of race relation in the context of Indian diaspora. How far these term "race" explaining the diaspora and host country situation in relation to overseas Indians today? Do you find there are any changes since you worked on the issue a decade back?

PCJ: Except in South Asia and perhaps in the Persian Gulf countries, overseas Indians in different parts of the world are often conceptualised as a racial group. I found this kind of conceptualisation useful in my studies. I think for the diasporic Indians, the situation continues to remain the same in most parts of the world, be it Africa, Europe or North America. Retaining their cultural identity and integrating with the host society are the twin problems of overseas Indians around the world.

VC: Many Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) are well established in Gulf Countries and engaged in variety of entrepreneurial activities. As you know the Gulf countries does not give citizenship. How do you think the citizenship issue will affect the life of the Indian community in Gulf in long run? How do you compare them with the Indian entrepreneurs in USA or European countries?

PCJ: In spite of the Gulf countries not giving citizenship to non-resident Indian entrepreneurs, the latter are doing very well business-wise simply due to the fact that most old-time traders and entrepreneurs are allowed to continue to live there until their death. Even professional and business enterprises are allowed to be passed on to the next generation. Citizenship issue in the Gulf countries affects only employees, not owners of businesses. The Indian partners and/or employees of the Arab-sponsored businesses are subject to revocation of business licenses, if the sponsors wish to do so.

VC: In recent years we find diaspora become a huge pressure group that is often influencing the issue of citizenship, foreign policy etc. For example the case of nuclear policy with USA, Sri Lankan Tamils etc. shows the evidence of growing diaspora influence in many areas of state policies. Do you think that diaspora often challenge the autonomy of the state functioning?

PCJ: State autonomy especially in the third world context is obviously being challenged and even compromised by the functioning of diasporas as lobbyists and interest groups. The major agencies of Structural Adjustment Programme such as International Monetary Fund and World Bank as well as multi-national corporations also tend to have the similar effects of weakening the autonomy of the third world states. No wonder, social scientists have taken note of the "soft states", and so also the major theories of development whether Marxist or non-Marxist.

VC: You have worked on Jains in India and Abroad and also trade diasporas. These ethnic entrepreneurs have been working since centuries. How do you think the modern day technology, new media (social network etc.) influencing the ethnic network in business?

PCJ: Indian ethnic diasporas have been working in Indian Ocean countries of South, South-East and West Asia for centuries. Khojas in East Africa, Parsis in Yemen and Hong Kong, Marakkyars in South East Asia, Gujarati Kallol Baniyas, Kutchi and Thattai Bhatias in the Arabian peninsular countries and Hyderabad and Shikarpuri Sindhis in Central Asia and other parts of the world are well-known examples of Indian ethnic trade/entrepreneurial diasporas. Jains, mainly a trading community in India are mainly a diaspora of professionals, except perhaps in East Africa. In any case, all these Indian trading communities have developed extensive trading networks globally. Modern technologies have obviously helped them in consolidating their respective businesses and professions through networking. Apart from this, ethnic employment, resource mobilisation, extensive educational, cultural, matrimonial, tourism and pilgrimage networks have also been effected by modern information technologies. A sense of shared identity, "we-feeling", *gemeinschaft*—the characteristic features of ethnic communities make the task of trade and social networking far more easy and lasting.

VC: In recent years there has been phenomenal work on diaspora and transnationalism. How do you visualize the future of diaspora and transnationalism as an academic subject?

PCJ: In my opinion, the future of diaspora and trans-nationalism as an academic discipline is very bright. As the processes of globalisation and migration accelerate, more and more diasporic and trans-national communities would come into existence and grow in size and move towards institutional completeness requiring increasing number of related academic studies. These studies would obviously focus on migration and settlement of immigrants, their economic, political, socio-cultural and ethnic/race relations situations, problems of identity formation and maintenance and socio-cultural integration, their achievements and contributions to the host societies and their multi-faceted linkages with the home lands.

Thank you very much for your time and sharing wonderful ideas.

Prof. Prakash C. Jain is a Professor at the Centre for West Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Prof. received his Ph.D. in Sociology from Carleton University, Ottawa. He was a recipient of the Canadian Commonwealth Scholarship for his doctoral work. He is the author of *Racial Discrimination against Overseas Indians: A Class Analysis* (1990), *Indians in South Africa: Political Economy of Race Relations* (1999), *Population and Society in West Asia: A Demographic Analysis* (2001), *Non-Resident Indian Entrepreneurs in the United Arab Emirates* (2010), he has edited a volume on *Indian Diaspora and Transnational Communities* (2006), and an anthology entitled *Indian Diaspora in West Asia: A Reader* (2007). He has also edited/co-edited books on Iran and Saudi Arabia. He has contributed a number of articles in reputed journals in India and abroad. Dr. Jain has done fieldwork on Overseas Indians in Canada, Guyana, South Africa and some of the Persian Gulf countries. His forthcoming publications include *Jains in India and Abroad*, and an edited volume on *Indian Trade Diaspora in the Gulf Countries*.

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Our objectives are to promote, facilitate and share ideas/info in various development sectors in Odisha: Dr. Annapurna



The Orissa Society of the Americas (OSA) in Chicago has recently conducted one of its biggest convention from 5th -7th July 2013 bringing together about 1300 participants from different parts of North America as well as Odisha. People who have contributed to the development of Odisha in different fields such as culture and development were also invited and honoured. **Dr. Annapurna Pandey**, President of The Orissa Society of the Americas (OSA) in an interview with **Dr. Sadananda Sahoo**, Editor of GRFDT shared her views about the OSA.

Q: Congratulation Dr. Pandey for organising a huge convention and bringing together many prominent people from different area of expertise. As per the report there were about 1300-1400 people participated. How do you think the convention will help in engaging the diaspora with Odisha?

Thank you! Those of you who are regular readers of OSAnet/Utkarsa, must be familiar with the different programs OSA has been sponsoring in odisha, Starting with flood relief in 2011, Higher Education opportunity symposia, Buddhist Heritage and Culture initiatives, Invest Odisha initiatives among others. This has been very fruitful because our initiatives made several Odia students join various American Universities.

We are promoting the Heritage and culture of our state, specifically trying to revive its dormant Buddhist history, art, and architecture. Scholars and researchers in archaeology and art history have compared Ratnagiri and Puspagiri in Odisha with the well known Nalanda, which is considered one of the first proto university of the world. However, not many know about this. We organized the buddhist symposium at this convention.

We are also promoting Odisha development and specifically Higher Education Opportunity for students in Odisha. Since 2011, OSA has created a committee on Development in Odisha. The Committee has explored, initiated, developed and executed some of the new ideas related to Odisha Development that may be realistically feasible through continuity by OSA, a socio-cultural and voluntary organization in North America.

Our objective is to create a strategic framework on how to effectively use OSA voluntary systems and resources in support of Odisha Development through virtual networks.

The long term objectives are to promote, facilitate & share ideas/info in various development sectors in Odisha such as: virtual development, Invest Odisha, Higher Education, Social Entrepreneurship, and other developmental information exchanges between North America (USA/Canada) and Odisha (India). Please check OSA Website (<http://www.orissasociety.org/>) for details.

Q. Do you think OSA can play a pivotal role in mobilising diaspora for large scale development engagement with Odisha? Is there any team in OSA or it is effort of few individuals?

As I have already said earlier, since 2011, when we took office, OSA has been very active in spearheading two very important projects which has yielded tangible results. As mentioned above, the Buddhist Heritage project in Odisha and our initiative to improve Higher Education in the state has been very fruitful because our initiatives made several Odia students join various American Universities. Last February the Culture and Tourism department of Odisha organized an international symposium on the Buddhist Heritage of Odisha. Many scholars presented their reports in the Odisha Development symposium at the 44th OSA convention in Chicago.

We will continue to remain active in these initiatives we have started in Odisha. The state government of Odisha has been very welcoming of our efforts.

Q. Most of the time, conventions and seminars generate lots of ideas but somehow that does not translate in to action mainly due to the lack of institutional structure at both ends. In last one decade of much hyped diasporic engagement, we find not many ideas translated into action. What is your opinion?

A. What you have said is completely true. But our experience of working with the state government has been very positive. There has been a great deal of synergy between OSA and the Odisha state government departments dealing with various development issues. As you are aware, the state government of Odisha has already announced a VISWA ODIA SAMMELANI in Dec, 2013.

The Odias in the UK are already in the process of building an Odisha Bhawan in London. Similarly, we are also planning to have an Odisha Bhawan in the United States of America. We are thinking of developing a museum for the Odia artefacts and promoting Odia culture and heritage in the USA. Our number is growing – Odias are in getting into very prominent positions in the United States. After being well established in the host society, OSA in its 44th year in USA is meaningfully contributing to its homeland. I see a very bright future for OSA - Odisha development.

Q. What are the areas where you find diaspora can contribute effectively to Odisha and vice versa? Areas where both diaspora and homeland will mutually benefit?

As approved by the general Body meeting in July, 2012, OSA annual convention will be a 3-day event, and the first day (July 4) to be devoted to symposia (Odisha Development, Invest Odisha, Higher Education, Culture Heritage, and other items). July 4 day symposia will be coordinated by OSA Convention Team (convener, co-convener), OSA National EC and Odisha – Odisha Development Committee.

OSA- Odisha Development Committee has already been approved to be a permanent/continuing feature of OSA and renewed every 2 years.

December Symposium in Odisha, (rotate places). OSA in partnership with Government of Odisha /Team Odisha/ Higher Education Dept/Tourism Dept and other organizations may co-organize a one-day symposia in Odisha covering July 4 symposium's Odisha Development themes, proceedings and minutes.

Q. What are the major challenges you perceive in Diaspora's participation in Odisha? How can it be addressed?

As you know OSA is a voluntary organization. We are seriously in need of more committed volunteers to continue this task. Also, OSA needs a well-defined and documented Information System, Policy and Guidelines in order to continue this project. As one of the committee members explain, "Formalization for continuity irrespective of the OSA Executive Committee's two year voluntary tenure in tandem with the prospective committee, volunteers & collaborating partners" is of paramount importance.

Q. What is next after this convention?

It is just the beginning! We would like to continue the OSA- Odisha Development program as a part of OSA's Constitutional Preamble, Vision and Mission.

As OSA members, we are working on creating a future legacy through new generations, Odisha Development, OSA Development, the creation of an OSA Trust/Foundation/Endowment Fund in North America, and by formalizing a Master-MOU with the Government of Odisha and by partnering with Odisha and its people.

Secondly, we continue to remain active in some of the initiatives we have started in Odisha. The state government of Odisha has been very welcoming of our efforts.

The third thing is that we should continue to be inclusive; representatives of our state and our people who are here those of us who have a privileged lifestyle, should really share our good fortune with those brothers and sisters who feel left out and marginalized. "Isn't everything we do in life a way to be loved a little more?" with that ethos, let us personally connect with one another to build a stronger and more enriched community.

Dr Annapurna Pandey, President OSA, can be contacted at Email: adpandey101@gmail.com

BOOK REVIEW

Sawhney, Savitri. I shall Never Ask for Pardon: A Memoir of Pandurang Khankhoje, New Delhi: Penguin, September 2008, ISBN-13: 978-0143063766, 341 p

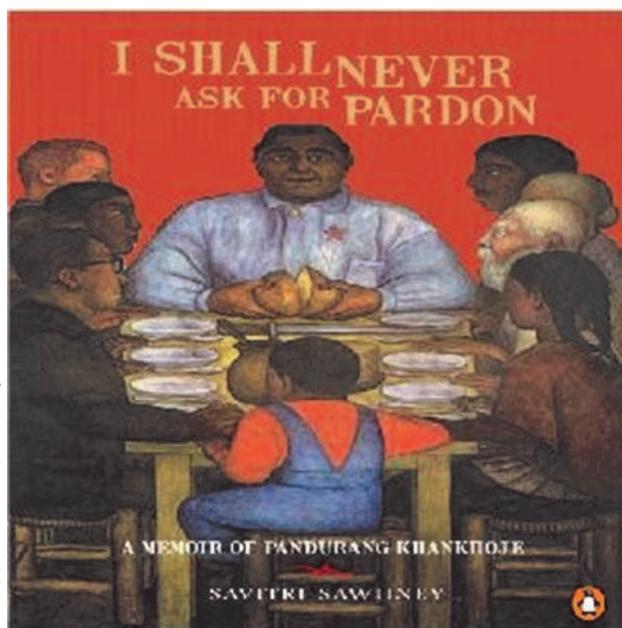
The National Movement in India comprised individuals of various hues. The attempt by the imperialist historiography to portray them as self seekers in the institutional openings created by British indeed needs to be critiqued. The biography under review depicts a man who exemplified commitment to the nation and its downtrodden. However this was no sectarian, narrow or chauvinist commitment. Khankhoje made a link between the downtrodden in India and the downtrodden across national boundaries. It was thus a transition from an armed revolutionary to an agricultural scientist of repute in far away Mexico was made.

Khankhoje was what E.H. Carr has called a 'romantic exile'. He left the country to explore avenues for training in arms and possibilities of a revolutionary overthrow of the British rule in India. This was at a very young age of 19 and after travelling through Japan, China and several other countries he reached the United States. Working as a labourer and restaurant waiter he studied at the Oregon University to earn a degree in agriculture. It is here that the foundations of the revolutionary Ghadr movement were laid. He depicted himself as a man of action and thus headed the 'praharak' (action) wing of the Ghadr movement. The casual way in which Khushwant Singh dismisses his association with Ghadr is not borne out by facts. Harish K. Puri in an article in *Social Scientist* in 1980 described Khankhoje as the head of the armed militant wing in the revolutionary organization of Ghadr. Similarly, his name comes up in the various accounts of the time. That he had to be low profile was a price he had to pay for organizing armed training and mobilization. Savitri Sawhney in her account tells us that he often disguised himself as a muslim and assumed names such as Pir Khan. She has done a signal service to the scholars of the national movement by bringing out an account

based on Khankhoje's personal papers. We get to know of Khankhoje's trials and travails as he makes contact with democratic movements in China (where he meets Sun-Yat-Sen), Japan, Persia and Russia. The attempts at armed mobilization were not without danger as Savitri Sawhney tells us of the time when he was shot and wounded and was taken care of by a nomadic Persian tribe.

Khankhoje turned towards the left revolutionary politics in the 1920s. Along with Virendernath Chattopadhyay, he met Lenin in Moscow in 1921 and submitted a thesis on the Indian question.

A revolutionary cannot be permanently plotting and carrying out armed revolution. Khankhoje in US had acquired degrees in agriculture at a US university. As Sawhney points out the inspiration to work on agriculture had initially come from his meeting with Sun-Yat-Sen. In his meeting with Lenin she tells us that Lenin had asked in detail about caloric and nutritional requirement of the Indian worker. It is these inspirations which fuelled Khankhoje's research in agriculture when he took asylum in Mexico. His contribution in developing a new variety of corn is well documented in various histories of agriculture.



Savitri Sawhney's account is indeed a tribute of a daughter to her father. There is nothing to be apologetic about that. Indeed her sparkling narrative tells us of the happy memories of her childhood and her father. In spite of the stresses and strains of the revolutionary commitment he managed to give that to his family is indeed an achievement. ■

Ajay Mahurkar, Faculty of History, Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi, Email: <ajaymahurkar@ignou.ac.in>. The review was first published in Author's blog *itihastak* in 2008. <http://itihastak.blogspot.in/>

The world gets smarter when people move

24 years ago the whole world celebrated the falling of walls. Today, unfortunately, walls are coming back up. We see the criminalization of migrants and militarization at borders, this is what one speaker mentioned in the recently concluded United Nations General Assembly. The UN General Assembly brought together civil society leaders and networks from around the world to New York on 15 July to present their experience and recommendations



to governments in Interactive Hearings regarding international migration and development.

More than 300 representatives of grassroots, regional and international civil society organizations met with 100 governments, UN agencies and other international organizations in the Hearings ahead of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD) that UN Member States will be holding at the UN on 3-4 October, seven years after the first HLD in September 2006.

The meeting strongly emphasised on the need for collaboration and new partnerships, between civil society, businesses and governments, at local, national and regional levels *to build capacity and awareness on strengthening the implementation of migrant's rights*. All the UN Member States were urged to recognize migration in a positive phenomenon and beneficial for the countries rather than a threat as it accelerate development and provide scope for individual as well as community to move upward.

Public Private Partnership required leveraging the Development impact of remittance flows to Asia, World Bank Report

Remittances are becoming crucial part of the Economy in many Asian countries. The recent World Bank report released in May 2013 titled "Sending Money Home to Asia: Trends and opportunities in the world's largest remittance marketplace", reveals that remittances to Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are the highest in Asia at 32.2 per cent and 51.6 per cent of their respective GDPs. Three countries receive more than 10 per cent of GDP, ranging from Bangladesh (11.6 per cent) to Afghanistan (16.3 per cent) and Nepal (28.5 per cent). (World Bank, 2013: 10). The reports are intended to provide policymakers, market players and regulators with an overview of the basic information regarding the most important topics facing the region's remittance marketplace. The report reveals that given the opportunity, and with access to the appropriate tools and mechanisms, remittance receiving families have shown enthusiasm for saving and investing. Public-private partnerships to reach these goals are an important part of any programme designed to leverage the development impact of remittance flows. The report observed some positive examples in Bangladesh and the Philippines where programmes and mechanisms have been developed to turn remittances into assets.

There is need for more long term plans as observed by the report. One of the most important is to have efficient and cost effective infrastructure such as microfinance institutions, mobile operators and post offices. The report also mentioned how networks such as post offices can be used for creating better infrastructure for cost effective delivery. It observed "Asia alone accounts for more than half of the world's post offices, having over 350,000 branches, of which more than 200,000 are located in rural areas". There should be serious effort to promote financial inclusion by promoting entrepreneurship and investment. The South Asia alone has about 28 million migrant workers living abroad, making this subregion the largest source of migrants of the continent, the report mentioned. Thus there is an urgent need to address the issue of financial inclusion and also leverage the opportunity.

Tajikistan's remittance at 51.6 per cent of their GDP is highest in the Asia

In a recent world bank report released in May 2013 titled "Sending Money Home to Asia: Trends and opportunities in the world's largest remittance marketplace", reveals that remittances Tajikistan is the highest in Asia at 51.6 per cent of their GDP. This is followed by Kyrgyzstan at 32.2 per cent. The other Asian countries with highest remittances in proportion to GDP are Nepal at 28.5 per cent, Afghanistan at 16.3 per cent and Bangladesh at 11.6 per cent.

Tajikistan has migrant outflow of about 791,618 and inflow of 284,291, next only to Uzbekistan 1,954,460 outflow and 1,175,935 inflow in Central Asia. This high rate of labour inflow and outflow is also attributed to the political instability in and around the region since 1992 where it witnessed large scale civil war. The country is also having one of the lowest per capita GDPs among the all former Soviet republics. With less than 7% of the land area is arable and other economic disadvantages, the country has very high unemployment rate leading to migration to other countries and hence remittances are the backbone of their economy.

For sometimes, remittances will play very crucial role in Tajikistan till the other economic activities get momentum. Thanks to the role of Micro Finance Institutions as well as Post Offices that have contributed a lot in supporting the remittance flow to the country, especially in the rural areas.

Odia Diaspora Convention focus on Development back home

The Orissa Society of the Americas (OSA) in Chicago has recently conducted one of its biggest convention from 5th -7th July 2013 bringing together about 1300 participants from different parts of North America as well as Odisha. People who have contributed to the development of Odisha in different fields such as culture and development were also invited and honoured.

The first day of the convention was devoted to The Odisha Development. It began with a very thoughtful overview of what is going on in the name of development in India and Odisha, presented by Mr. Sam Pitroda, a cabinet rank minister of the Government of India. It was followed by a session on

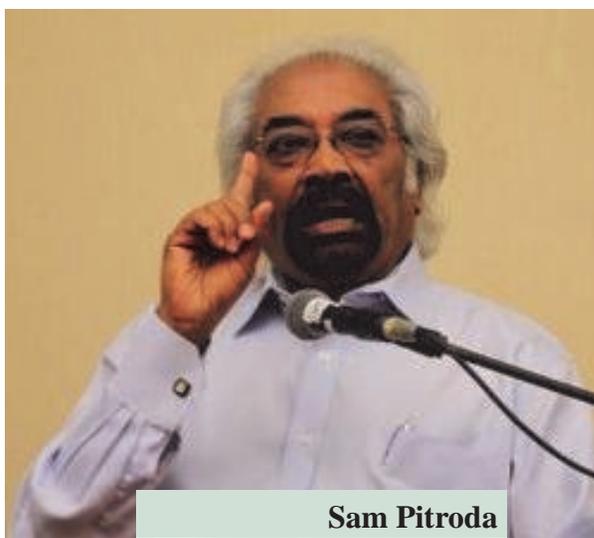
Invest Odisha in which entrepreneurs from Odisha such as Ayaskanta Mohanty, Satyabrat Ratha and Debasish Patnaik among others presented their projects followed by a lively discussion. The second panel was devoted to Higher Education opportunities for Odia students. Prof. Abani Patra of the State University of New York at Buffalo moderated it. The presenters were Prof. Richard Taub of University of Chicago, Prof. Usha Menon of the Drexel University, Philadelphia, Prof. Triloki Pandey of the University of California, Santa Cruz, Dr. Sukanta Mahapatra of New Jersey, Prof. Asit Pattnaik of University of Nebraska and Mrutunjay Suar of the KIT university, Odisha. It covered various subjects dealing with Higher Education and various opportunities available in the United States. The first day sessions ended with a report on the Buddhist Heritage of Odisha, an international symposium organized by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Odisha in last February. Prof. James Freeman of San Jose State University, California, was the keynote speaker in this session and it concluded with a viewing of a documentary film titled The Myth of the Birthplace of Buddha, made by prof. Freeman.

Sj. Dinanath Pathy, a versatile artist from Odisha as the Chief Guest and Padmashri Dr. Pratibha Ray as the Keynote Speaker, inaugurated this years OSA convention. They spoke well about the culture and heritage of Odisha and how the diasporic Odias can maintain it.

Various symposiums on issues such as Legal rights of NRIs and PIOs; Women's empowerment; youth entrepreneurship; Health, Body, Mind and Spirit; Champu, Chanda and Odissi vocal competition; poetry; entrepreneurship; Jagannath culture and tradition among others were organized.

People in large numbers enthusiastically participated in these forums.

The important features of this years convention include: Vigorous participation by the young generation Odias and a very congenial atmosphere created by the positive synergy between the local chapter and the OSA national. Both young and old appreciated the cultural performances.



Sam Pitroda

Input from Dr. Annapurna Pandey, President, Orissa Society of the Americas (OSA)

Global civil society invites governments to collaborate on international migration and development

The UN General Assembly which had its meeting on 16th July brought together more than 300 representatives of grassroots, regional and international civil society organizations, 100 representatives of governments, UN

tion, [3] human development and diaspora action and [4] migration governance and partnerships.

The civil society has been emphasising on greater collaboration among all stake holders to facilitate the eight point agendas, namely:

- (1) Regulating the Recruitment Industry,
- (2) Migrants Stranded in Distress,
- (3) Migration and the Post-2015



Photography by Texty.nl

agencies and other international organizations to discuss the action plan for the long term collaboration on International Migration and Development (HLD)

The day long Hearings focused explicitly on four key issues put forward in civil society's 5-year agenda: [1] migrant labour and mobility, [2] migrant rights and protec-

Development Agenda, (4) Rights and Contributions of Diaspora Communities, (5) Labour Rights for Migrant Workers, (6) Rights for Migrant Women, (7) Exchange of Promising Practices in National Legislation, (8) Institutional Mechanisms of Migration

CALL FOR PAPERS

Diaspora in India's Foreign Policy and National Security: A Comparative Perspective 6–7 November 2013, New Delhi

The Organisation for Diaspora Initiatives (ODI), New Delhi, in cooperation with the Jawaharlal Nehru University and the India International Centre (IIC) are inviting paper proposals for the international academic conference on "*Diaspora in India's Foreign Policy and National Security: A Comparative Perspective*", to be held on 6–7 November 2013 in New Delhi.

Proposals (up to 250 words) should be submitted by 5 August 2013. Selected conference papers will be published in a special issue of the academic journal *Diaspora Studies*.

Abstracts for papers (up to 250 words) should be submitted by 5 August 2013.

There is no registration fee and free boarding will be provided to all presenters. In addition, free accommodation during the conference is available at the Jawaharlal Nehru University guest house. Please indicate your need for such services when submitting your paper proposal. At this time, there is no travel support available for participants.

For paper submissions and any further information regarding the seminar please contact the academic convenors *Prof. Ajay Dubey* and *Daniel Naujoks* at office@diasporastudies.in or odiseminar@gmail.com.

Call for Papers



Call for Papers

African and Black Diaspora: An International Journal

The Editors of African and Black Diaspora: An International Journal in partnership with the Center for Black Diaspora, DePaul University, announce a Call for Papers on "Sounds of Freedom: Music and Performance Across the Black Atlantic World" for a special issue of journal.

Throughout the Black Atlantic world, African diaspora populations have used music and performative practices as critical discursive spaces for the making of a "new" African subject and created a dynamic and transnational space of "traversal, cultural exchange, production and belonging" (Gilroy 1993). Indeed, music and performance have been used as a form of language artfully interweaving theatrical, musical, and ritual performance as a rich continuum of cultural exchange that imaginatively reinvents, re-creates, and restores the centrality of African diaspora in the making of the modern Atlantic world.

The Editors are seeking papers that explore the nexus between music and performance over place and time, showing through myriad examples how music and performance of diverse sites of the African diaspora is critical in the making of the modern Black Atlantic living tradition. Papers that explore the specificities of music and performance of the African diaspora against the background of larger diasporic movements, networks, shared and discrepant meanings, improvisational character, percussive performance style, tangential histories, musical and choreographic modalities that connect the circumatlantic are encouraged.

Abstracts should be 400-500 words in length. Authors should send their material with the abstract attached as a Word document. Please be sure to include the following: full name, university affiliation, contact information and the title of your abstract to:

Dr. Fassil Demissie, Department of Public Policy
DePaul University, 990 West Fullerton Ave., Suite 105,
Chicago, IL 60614
Email: fdemissi@depaul.edu

Deadlines: Submission of Abstracts, September 20, 2013.
Authors of accepted proposals will be notified by October 30, 2013. Final paper due May 30, 2014.

Editors

Fassil Demissie
DePaul University

Sandra Jackson
DePaul University

Policies on Diasporas: Comparative Global Perspectives

Editors:

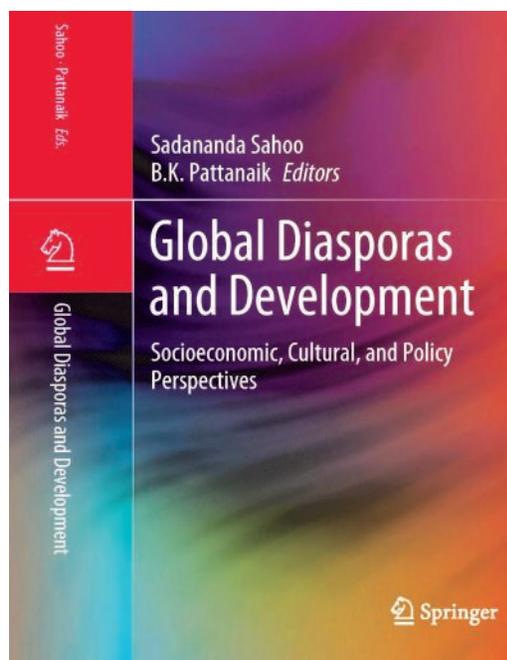
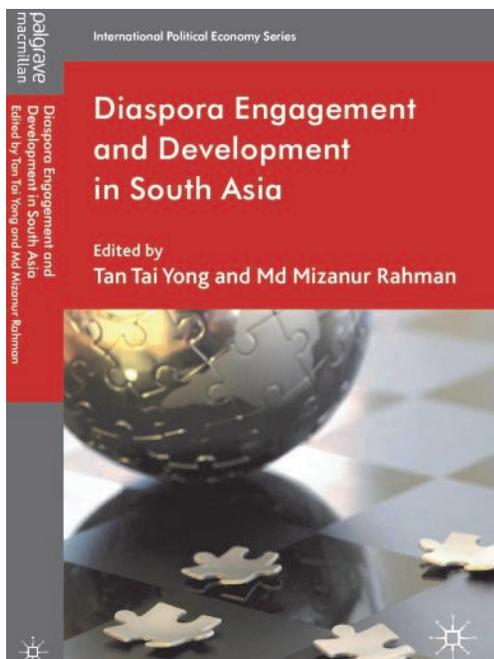
Ambassador J.C. Sharma and Sadananda Sahoo

Once a neglected domain of development discourse, migration and diaspora have become focal points of discussion today. The actual process of engaging diaspora in the development process is an important policy challenge for the home countries. As policies are outcomes of complex interplay of local and global conditions, including the lobby groups, socio-economic and political conditions of the country, level of development, technological progress and other institutional development such as financial, educational, social etc., diaspora policies differs from countries to countries and time to time.

This edited book will try address the diversities of the policy experiences and represent as many as diasporas possible so as to have better comparative perspectives. The book will be published by an Internationally reputed publisher.

Last date for receiving the full paper: 15 December 2013.
Email:ssahoo@ignou.ac.in

New Arrivals



We invite Scholars to submit articles, news, interviews, book reviews to the editor. Information related to seminar/conferences/events can be sent to the Editor at: editor@grfddt.com