



Consul General Beth A. Payne attends an Iftar in Kolkata.



AMERICAN CENTER
Kolkata
BULLETIN - October 2009

U.S. AMBASSADOR TO INDIA TIMOTHY J. ROEMER



Timothy J. Roemer was nominated by U.S. President Barack Obama as the 21st U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of India on May 27, 2009. His nomination was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on July 10, 2009, he was sworn-in on July 23, 2009 in the State Department's ceremonial Benjamin Franklin Treaty Room, and he presented his credentials to Indian President Pratibha Patil on August 11, 2009.

Ambassador Roemer is charged with leading one of America's largest diplomatic missions. Under the leadership of President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Ambassador Roemer has principal responsibility for broadening and deepening the multi-faceted U.S.-India partnership, as the world's oldest and the world's largest democracies address the challenges of the 21st century.

Before coming to India as the new Ambassador, Mr. Roemer had served as a Representative in the U. S. Congress from the state of Indiana. He has long had an interest to visit Kolkata because he respects Mother Teresa very much. When he does come to visit our city, he definitely will want to stop by and visit the Missionaries of Charity at the Mother House in Kolkata. Just as a coincidence the current Mother Superior at the Missionaries of Charity is also from the state of Indiana. So Mr. Roemer coming from the state of Indiana to the country of India - how appropriate!



Events at a Glance

October 8:

Program: Environment program featuring films on coal (Kolkata)

October 13-17:

Program: Eric Roston, U.S. speaker on the environment (Bhubaneswar/Kolkata)

October 23:

Film Show: *The Band Wagon* (Kolkata)

Holidays:

October 2

Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday

October 12

Columbus Day



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Offices are open from 8 am - 5 pm;

The American Library is open from 10 am - 6 pm, Monday - Saturday

WORKSHOP ON “CLIMATE CHANGE”: ERIC ROSTON

October 14-16 : Kolkata / Bhubaneswar

The American Center will host a workshop on “Climate Change” in different institutions in Bhubaneswar and in the American Center in Kolkata, conducted by Eric Roston, a science writer in Washington, DC, and author of the critically acclaimed book *The Carbon Age: How Life's Core Element Has Become Civilization's Greatest Threat*. The book traces the dynamic, fundamental science that unifies seemingly disparate parts of our experience: climate, energy, health, and industry.



Roston is Senior Associate in the Washington office of the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions at Duke University and also a member of Monitor Talent, the speaker's bureau and advisory based in Cambridge, Mass. Previously, Roston wrote for TIME, in its Washington bureau, where he covered economics, politics, and technology. Roston joined the magazine in 2000 as a business reporter in the New York bureau, covering stories such as the collapse of Enron, China's emergence as a force in global trade, and how advanced computing technologies are reshaping the economy. **Contact: 3984-6327 or singhcx@state.gov**

CLIMATE CHANGE : Screening of Films***Why New Coal?* (66 mins, Switch ON)**

Perplexed by the interrelated problems India faces as it develops, two young advocates from Switch ON - Vinay and Huub - rode their cycles across India to question India's growth based on fossil fuels, and to seek and highlight alternatives for a sustainable and equitable development.

The film highlight the misconception held about extractable coal availability, unravels the social and economic costs of coal, and puts forward key questions about who this coal is benefiting, thus highlighting the true cost

of mining and using this coal. This film gives a new perspective to coal in India. The film addresses India's growing energy needs, problems of energy security and Climate Change Vulnerabilities and asks perhaps the most important question our generation will confront.

For more details visit WhyNewCoal.com and SwitchON.org.in

***IN GOOD COMPANY* (54 mins, CSM)**

In Good Company is a film by the Centre for Social Markets (CSM) on corporate India and the climate challenge. Launched in May 2009 at the World Business Summit on Climate Change in Copenhagen, the film tells the little-known story of how Indian companies and entrepreneurs are beginning to respond to the climate challenge.

Packed with interviews with India's leading CEOs and entrepreneurs, it reveals the potential there is in India to lead a paradigm shift to a low-carbon economy. With India set to become one of the world's top three emitters of greenhouse gases by 2015, the film is a timely reminder of the need to focus attention on how emerging markets will respond to a carbon-constrained global economy.

Full details on the film can be found at: www.ingoodcompany.csmworld.org and www.csmworld.org

All programs are subject to change. Please confirm closer to the date of the event.

DEMOCRACY VIDEO CHALLENGE

The U.S. Department of State announced the launch of the Second Annual Democracy Video Challenge at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on the International Day of Democracy, September 15, 2009. The Democracy Video Challenge is a worldwide competition aimed at enhancing dialogue on democracy. It asks filmmakers, democracy advocates, and the general public to create video shorts that complete the phrase, "Democracy is..."

This year's contest will build on the momentum of the first annual challenge, which saw over 900 video submissions from 95 countries. Six regional winners will be selected by the online voting public in the spring of 2010. They will receive an all-expense paid trip to the United States that includes screenings of their videos in New York, Hollywood and Washington, meetings with film directors, public officials and democracy advocates from nongovernmental organizations, and time on film and TV sets. Contestants who wish to compete anonymously may also submit videos. One anonymous video will be selected as a winner, however, that contestant will not be eligible to claim the travel prize.

The Democracy Video Challenge is made possible by a broad public-private partnership. Partners include: the Center for International Private Enterprise, the International Republican Institute, the International Youth Foundation, the Motion Picture Association of America, NBC Universal, the Recording Industry Association of America, the National Democratic Institute, New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, USC's Annenberg School of Communication, TakingITGlobal, the U.S. Department of State, and YouTube. For additional details, please visit www.youtube.com/democracychallenge.

Library Services Recently Introduced at the American Library, Kolkata



◆ Personal reading materials are allowed: You can now bring your personal books and papers along with your laptop for use in the library reading room.



◆ Reader's Club: It is a reading group for library patrons to participate in a regular discussion of books. Book Club members meet periodically to discuss specific works of American writers.



◆ Wi-fi and broadband internet access: Patrons can now use our Wireless network (Wi-Fi) facilities with their personal laptops in the reading room. They can also use their personal virus-free CD-ROMs and pen drives in public PCs.



◆ New SMS service! You can now receive the latest information about library programs and promotions on your mobile phone. Please let us know if you want to receive our SMS alerts. Call us at: 033-3984-6394 / 033-3984-6397 / 033-3984-6398 / 033-3984-6399 or contact us by email to subscribe: KolkataAmlibrary@state.gov

Did You Know?

- You can renew your loaned items over telephone. Call 3984-6394/6397
- You may avail interlibrary loan facility of books from the other American Libraries in India.
Call 3984-6394/6397
- You can get any information on the U.S. Call 3984-6398/6399
- You can organize collaborative programs with the American Library. Call 3984-6336/6337
- You may surf the internet and access online databases during library hours.
- You can be member of the American Library even if you reside outside Kolkata. Call 3984-6336/6337

Film Show

THE BAND WAGON

(111 mins)

October 23 : Kolkata



The Band Wagon, directed by Vincente Minnelli, is a musical comedy released in 1953. Tony Hunter, a famous singer/dancer movie star, is feeling washed up and old hat (old top hat, tie and tails, to be exact). The reporters are out for Ava Gardner, not him. But his old friends Lily and Les Martin have an idea for a funny little Broadway show and he agrees to do it. But things begin to get out of hand, when bigshot "artistic" director/producer/star Jeffrey Cordova joins the production, proclaims it is a modernistic Faust and insists on hiring a prima ballerina, Gabrielle Gerard, to star opposite Tony, and it is hate at first sight. And her jealous choreographer isn't helping to ease the tension. The show is doomed by pretentiousness. But romance, a "let's put on a show" epiphany, and a triumphant opening are waiting in the wings.

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THE AMERICAN CORNER IN PATNA : TELLING THE STORY OF AMERICA

The American Corner in Patna is a partnership between the U.S. Consulate General's American Center in Kolkata and the Bihar Industries Association, Patna. Located in the heart of the city at the first floor of the Bihar Industries Association, it is easily accessible. The corner is created to help increase mutual understanding between India and the United States by making a wealth of information about America available to the people of Patna. It features a diverse collection of English language books, reference materials about the United States, CD-ROMS, videos, DVDs, computers with Internet access, and much more. In addition, the American Corner also hosts programs including lectures and workshops, a video series, debates, quiz contests, and other activities focused on telling the story of the United States.



On August 4 and 5, 2009, the American corner in Patna observed its second anniversary through a series of programs. The inauguration at the Bihar Industries Association premises was marked by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp and address by the Principal Secretary, Revenue and Land Reform, Patna. More than 300 students and professionals attended various programs including extempore, debate, educational counseling sessions, and book mark design contest. The special highlight for children was a "Go as You Like It" competition in which more than 50 students participated. The festivities concluded with a musical performance by an eminent artist of Kolkata Mr. Pulak Das. On the occasion of its second anniversary, the American Corner expanded its collection with the addition of new holdings including books, DVDs, and CDs. Visitors may visit the American Corner in Patna from Monday to Saturday between 11.00 a.m. and 7.00 p.m. at Bihar Industries Association, Industry House, Sinha Library Road, Patna 800001 or contact the librarian at : 0612-2230742 or by email americancornerpat@yahoo.com. COME, JOIN THE AMERICAN CORNER!