

Successful seminar on Global Meltdown held in London

Tuesday 26th May 2009 was a red letter day in the annals of Vidya Prasarak Mandal Thane. Dr. Vijay V. Bedekar, Chairman, VPM (Thane) and also the Director of VPM's London Academy of Education and Research launched the said academy at the Brunei Hall in the SOAS, London.

Immediately after this announcement the workshop on 'Global Meltdown-Lessons to be Learnt' organised in association with Lall-Ondhia, a firm of accountants based in London started its proceedings.

Dr. Guruprasad Murthy, Director-General of Dr. V. N. Bedekar Institute of Management Studies Thane, explained the rationale of the newly

launched London Academy. He also identified the different courses which the academy would offer in addition to studying the local needs of students of Indian and Foreign origin.

In the inaugural address, Dr. Vijay V. Bedekar said that this was a historic movement for VPM. It was followed by the Workshop, which included a Keynote Address by Dr. Guruprasad Murthy followed by three presentations viz. Dr. Vishnu Kanhere on Banking and Financial Dimensions, Dr. S. Siddhan on Manufacturing Dimensions and Dr. P. M. Kelkar on the Marketing Dimensions. The second presentation by Dr. Vishnu V. Kanhere was

incisive and highlighted how banking system particularly in the US and UK had thrown financial prudence and due diligence to the winds. He suggested several ways and means of overcoming the problems faced by the World which included proper planning, savings habit, and charitable approach to managing business and life.

Dr. Siddhan stressed on the manufacturing dimensions and the need to be lean. He attached great importance to cash 'Cash is King'.

Dr. P. M. Kelkar's presentation on the Marketing Dimensions had many lessons to offer. He started by enunciating the role of 4 Ps of Marketing viz. products, prices, promotion and position. In the context of global melt-

down, Dr. Kelkar recommended new games and new rules during and for the post meltdown period. He emphasised on the alliteration- Ideate, Innovate and Improve.

The workshop was followed by the interactive session. The 95 plus audience which included a cross-section of citizens of London city (UK) raised very pertinent questions.

Krishan Ralleigh, Chief Editor of India Link International Magazine (London) proposed the vote of thanks. He appreciated and welcomed the efforts of VPM to start an educational academy in London and also thanked Lall-Ondhia, London based firm of accountants for hosting this workshop in London.

Gujarati Councillor elected as a Mayor

Cllr Ranjula Takodra, 51, the former Deputy Mayor, has been elected Aylesbury's new Mayor at the town council's annual meeting last week. She said, 'I am honoured to represent my home town'.

"What I plan to do is really listen to the people of Aylesbury and what they think. I want to meet all the communities and listen to what they have got to say and try to make a difference for them," she added.

Mrs Takodra was born in Kenya and is of Indian descent and has lived in Aylesbury since 1977. She first came to the town when she was 10. The Liberal Democrat councillor was diagnosed with breast cancer last year. She works at the Equality and Human



Cllr Ranjula Takodra

Rights Council in Aylesbury. Taking over from Penni Thorne, Mrs Takodra has a positive outlook on her new post and says the interests of the town will be at the forefront of everything she does.

Cllr Graham Webster has been elected as the new Deputy Mayor.

Lord Mayor's special Olympics charity appeal fund



Cllr. Abdul Osman, Ms Sukhi Samrai, Vasant Bhakta (MRB) Promoter, Daksha Gohil, Lord Mayor Cllr. Manjula Sood, Cllr. Veejay Patel, and Bankim Pathak

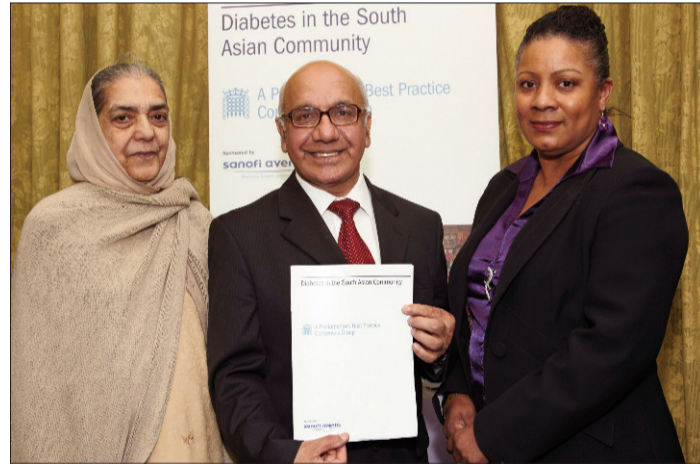
Mr Vasant Bhakta in partnership with Leicester Council organised a charity show on 17th April 2009 at De Montford Hall. Mr Bankim Patak and Daksha Gohil specially came from India to perform this stage show called 'Ek Yadd Rafi Ke

Baad'. 1370 people attend the event. The total collection of tickets sales was £13,145 which was given to Lord Mayor's Special Olympics Charity Appeal Fund at the end of the show. Media partner of the event was Sabras Radio.

Report on Diabetes launched at the Houses of Parliament

On 11th May a new report was launched at the Houses of Parliament showcasing pioneering schemes that have improved management of diabetes in certain South Asian communities. It is hoped that the report findings and suggestions will be adopted by healthcare providers nationwide, to help tackle the growing burden of diabetes in this hard-to-reach population. The report was sponsored by sanofi-aventis.

In October 2008 a Parliamentary Consensus Group was established co-chaired by Virendra Sharma, MP and Lord King of West Bromwich and consisting of clinicians and representatives from professional and patient groups. The group sought to understand



(l-r): Dr Ajaib Sandhu (GP in Belmont Centre), Virendra Sharma (MP in Ealing) and Grace Vanterpool (Diabetes Nurse Consultant)

what barriers prevent South Asian people to engage in local diabetes services, and what can be done to overcome them. The report found language and cultural issues to be the biggest barrier to

the prevention in the South Asian population. However, prevention measures include:

- Reach out directly via temples, mosques and other community based locations

- Encouragement of people with ethnic language skills to take up nursing and dietician training
- Education on health benefits and benefits and pitfalls of South Asian food
- Prescription of exercise
- Education of GPs on how Quality and outcomes Framework fits the South Asian community.
- Raised awareness of the Desmond.

The report also offers many specific examples of best practice that have been undertaken up and down the country.

Highly Skilled Migrants win right to settlement in 4 years

The UK Border Agency finally implemented HSMP Forum's Judicial Review judgement on 19th May 2009 after facing criticism consecutively from two senior high court judges. The home office since April 2006 forced skilled migrants to extend their visas to five years when they were originally promised permanent settlement in Britain after four years. After the HSMP Forum's successful Judicial Review of 6th April 2009, migrants who made an application to join the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme scheme

before 3rd April 2006 and subsequently received an approval letter can now obtain their settlement (indefinite leave to remain) after 4 years of stay in Britain. Also, migrants and their dependants who paid application fee for their second visa extension due to the April 2006 settlement criteria changes can now apply to UK Border Agency for reimbursement of the same.

HSMP Forum, a not for profit campaigning organisation which supports and assists skilled migrants in the United Kingdom has been work-

ing with the UK Border Agency to ensure that the Home Office implements it's recent Judgment in letter and spirit.

Amit Kapadia, Executive Director of the HSMP Forum said, "We will continue to strive to ensure that hard working skilled migrants are treated fairly and equally in Britain. We will ensure that migrants' rights are not undermined by the government's recent anti immigrant policies and from the effects of the ill-conceived upcoming Immigration and Citizenship bill."

Healthy living comes to Harrow

Elders in Harrow will be rejoicing the open day on 9th June by Oshwal Elderly Welfare Association (OEWA) for first Healthy Living Day Care Centre in Harrow.

Harrow has a sizeable BME population and there has been growing concern that the health and well being of many of the elders is not being met and often neglected.

Satish Shah the coordinator of the project commented, 'The quality of life for many elders is of serious concern to us. Our aim is to promote healthy living through a dedicated Social and Health Awareness Programme that will focus on the target group and provide services of relevance to them.'

The new day care centre will operate five days a week from premises in Harrow that has parking for some 80 cars and can also accommodate in excess of 150 people.

The ambitious programme outlined includes:

- Diabetes Workshops
- Cardiac Rehab workshops
- Arthritis awareness and educational workshops
- Luncheon Club 3 days a week
- Art and craft classes
- Well being and fitness classes
- Asian Cancer Support Group
- Welfare rights and social workshop

The Day Care Centre will be supported by many partners including Harrow Age Concern,

Harrow Elderly Club, Sangeet Centre, Harrow Association of Voluntary Service, Harrow Refugee & Minorities Forum, Diabetes UK, Arthritis UK, British Heart Foundation, Macmillan Cancer Support and Gujarat Samachar.

The programme for the opening will be compered by Rose Thompson, Director of BME Cancer with several keynote speakers including: Douglas Smallwood Chief Executive of Diabetes UK and C B Patel, Editor of Gujarat Samachar & Asian Voice.

In attendance will be the Mayor, local MPs and a number of leaders representing local public partnerships and community groups.