Exciting Times for Young British Indians

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These are exciting times to be a young British Indian. We are at the forefront of so many fields; from the sciences to the arts, academia, tech, media, industry and sports, generations of aspiring British Indians have, over time, fashioned an enviable culture of excellence. We owe so much to our parents and our country for the opportunities created, and today in 2012, the British Indian brand has never been more valued.

A new generation of Young British Indians are striving to make their mark on the world. These children of the 80s and 90s, often without ties to and knowledge of India, have chances their parents could only dream of. My generation stands at the cusp of a 'British Indian Moment'; the question is how they respond to it. For my organisation, Conservative Friends of India, the answer could not be more clear: service.

To serve is to give back to our communities, to take responsibility and help to build a better society as well as a more prosperous country. So often our community is admired for its abilities in business and education, yet we are equally as successful in building and maintaining communities, caring for those less fortunate in our society and being charitable.

Young British Indians inherit a rich tradition of service. Take the Hindu example, the ideas of Dharma and Seva – of helping the disadvantaged and vulnerable – is tied spiritually and doctrinally to the identity of Hindus worldwide. Service is central to our concept of what it means to be British: remember the rightful praise given to the volunteers at the 2012 London olympics. Service also is central to the idea of what it means to be Conservative; the party of the Big Society, of social action and the philosopher **Edmund Burke**.

It is at the intersection of community and party that Conservative Friends of India sits. We want to build a bridge that connects those who serve with organisations and institutions that might benefit from their experience and leadership. We want to see a new generation of young British Indian school governors, trustees, volunteers, councillors, and parliamentarians, enriching political life as they already enrich our nation's social cultural and business life. We

community activists, as they mature into a new generation of political leaders that our country needs. That is our mission.

We were launched in April of this year. Our rapid progress to date suggests the esteem in which the potential of this new generation of young British Indian is already held by so many in public life. The excitement flows right from the top. At the launch of Conservative Friends of India in April, the Prime Minister **David Cameron** told a crowd of 1,300 people that he was sure that there would be a British Indian Conservative Prime Minister in our lifetimes, drawn from the British Indian Community's ranks.

Whatever your political views, whatever generation you consider you come from, that's something we can all get excited about.

(Taken from a speech to launch Hindu Journey, a new organisation, alongside CB Patel on Friday 21st September).

The Journey Begins.......

Photo courtesy: Raj Bakrania

Asheem Singh, Vijay Poddar, Bob Blackman MP, Kishan Devani, CB Patel during the lamp lighting ceremony

HinduJourney held its official launch fundraising event on 21st September 2012 at the Hotel Mercure in Watford, in the presence of distinguished guests which included Publisher/Editor of Asian Voice and Gujarat Samachar **CB Patel**, **Bob Blackman** MP for Harrow East, **Vijay Poddar**, Trustee, Sarvam Trust of Aurobindo Society; and **Asheem Singh**, the Director of Conservative Friends of India joined over 200 guests. The event consisted of dances. speeches, a three course meal and the opportunity to mingle with distinguished members of the community.

The founder of HinduJourney, Shri **Kishan Devani** brought together a group of Hindu youth over one year ago to establish his visionary idea; a voluntary social project to build a stronger, more connected and more learned 21st century community. The HinduJourney team aim to continue their work for generations to come, to reshape, remould and strengthen the Hindu community forever.

The night began in traditional Hindu Fashion with a dance to a Ganesh Stuti. This was followed by various speeches by the distinguished guests who welcomed and supported the work of

extremely pleased to see a group of youths from the community taking on a mammoth task for the benefit of the community at large. The HinduJourney team then gave a enlightening presentation explaining their activities and their aims for the future. The evening was in aid of pupils at the Sheth Anandilal Podar Vidhyalaya in Mumbai, India; which is a 1600 pupil Hindi Medium school. The HinduJourney team aim to sponsor some pupils' school fees, uniform and books for one year, and also develop the IT facilities within the school. The support that was received from the guests was truly humbling. CB Patel the Chief Guest, commended the initiative and extended his full hand of support to the project. The entire community was present on the evening; the youth and elders alike; everyone came together to network and enjoy one another's company; in the true spirit of Hinduism. Other leaders of the community extended their hand of support for the project and vowed to support it. It was a night full of vibrant dances, exhilarating speeches and serving others.

For *more details visit* "http://www.hindujourney.com"