



Women workers leading a demonstration organised by the Congress on Ashram Road in Ahmedabad on Tuesday to protest against imposition of the 10 pm deadline on garbas.

Amul chairman

Times News Network

Anand, Congress leader and former MLA Ram-sinh Parmar and Govdhanbhai Patel (Shekhd-wala) were unanimously elected chairman and vice-chairman, respectively, of Anand Milk Union Limited (Amul) on Tuesday.

Of the 114 nominations filed for various posts, 26, including that of former chairman Ramesh Patel, were rejected, while 29 candidates withdrew from the fray. The elections, held on September 28, saw over 99 per cent polling.

Although the counting took place on September 30, district collector and returning officer R G Dave announced the results only on Tuesday.

stones at the train. He further stated that he signalled at the leaders, including Godhra municipality president Kalota, to tell the

by in the meantime. Similarly, Suneshgiri Mohangiri Gosai, a fireman also testified before the Commission that his fire-fighter was

cabin. He claimed that fire was put off by 11 am.

for

Navratri offers

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Young NRIs come to pay back their motherland

By Priya Adhyaru
Times News Network

Ahmedabad: Notwithstanding the travel warnings on Gujarat, a group of 15 second-generation non-resident Indians recently came to Ahmedabad with an idea to know their motherland and offer their voluntary services for small social work projects. This group of young professionals have come through Indicoops, a US-based non-profit organisation that offers one-year competitive public services fellowships for India-Americans.

Anand Shah, a Harvard graduate teaching at Charter High School in Boston and founder of Indicoops, says that first generation NRIs in the US always felt a need to offer their services to India, and the 10 projects that Indicoops and Manav-seva, a local NGO, have come for-

ward with have translated that urge of immigrants into action. Indicoops and Manavseva, both have designed 10 public service projects in which young NRI professionals participate and offer their services.

Ami Kanani, a graduate from Berkeley working as a business consultant in California, who is in Ahmedabad for six months working on a handicraft project, says, "Manavseva provides work opportunity to poor children and women to make handicrafts like earthen lamps, cards and small gift articles. To make this activity economically viable, I am working on broadening the market for these hand-made handicraft items."

These articles can enter the Indian stores in the US and many NRIs would choose to spend money on the items through which, they can in a small way help India develop.

she feels.

Rish Sanghavi, working as a market consultant in California says that they are working towards building a brand identity for handicraft products made by slum children residing in Rampir Tekro, the biggest slum area in the city. "It is necessary to build up international market for this local product so as to sustain this social activity whereby children can work, earn and study and do not waste their productive years begging and boot-polishing," he says.

Fifteen working professionals like Sanghavi and Kanani from various fields like biology engineering, marketing, sociology and economics have joined different projects like educating slum children on personal hygiene, cleaning of the slum area, teaching new ways of communication without using language

and water management projects. Due to their intense urge to learn about their motherland, these NRI professionals have left their jobs in the US and have returned for short-term projects in Gujarat investing their time in social service, says Shah. "NRIs in the US have always shown their readiness to work for India. In the first year, Indicoops received over 50 application for participation in these social service projects from NRIs in the US. These projects have received grants from private social work foundations in the US. Many NRIs have also expressed their willingness to contribute monetarily to these projects and some have joined to volunteer their skills," he adds.

With an urge to contributing in development of the homeland, these NRI professionals are also interested in reconnecting with India.

their land of origin. "We have joined these projects not only to educate slum children, but this is the best way to experience the complexities of India and to learn about our motherland," says Radhika Singh a graduate from Boston. Bindi Gandhi, who holds a master's degree in child development from Atlanta Georgia University and is working on improvement of slums as also touching upon issues like disease control and prevention of asthma, says, "I decided to join this social service project because I always wanted to contribute in improving some aspects of life in a slum area."

For Shezeen Suleman, graduate in environmental science from University of Toronto, working on water management and agriculture development project is a way to explore her own Indian roots.

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