

The Asia Pacific Region



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Introduction

In this chapter the Committee will discuss issues relating to the widely dispersed Indian Diaspora in a vast expanse which will be referred to under the rubric of the 'Asia Pacific Region'.

- 21.2. The ASEAN countries, many of which are on the shores of the Pacific Ocean, have already been covered in the chapter on Southeast Asia. They will not, therefore, figure here.
- 21.3. This chapter will deal only with the Diaspora in Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand and Taiwan – in all of which there are sizeable numbers of NRIs and PIOs. The following table presents a comparative picture of the Indian community in these countries.

Table 21.1: The Indian Diaspora in the countries covered in this Chapter

Country	Population	NRIs	PIOs	Stateless	% of Population
Australia	18,700,000	30,000	160,000***	NIL	1.02
Hong Kong**	6,800,000	22,000	28,500	NIL	0.74
Japan	126,600,000	9,000	1,000	NIL	Negligible
R.O.Korea	44,000,000	2,500	200	NIL	Negligible
New Zealand	3,800,000	5,000	50,000*	NIL	1.45
Taiwan	22,000,000 (approximate)	NA	1,800	NIL	Negligible

*** These include about 50,000 PIOs who had arrived in Australia on secondary and tertiary migration from other countries like Fiji (about 40,000); and from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, the UK, Malaysia, etc. (about 10,000).

** Hong Kong is a Special Administrative Region under Chinese rule. Sovereignty passed from Britain to China on 1 July 1999.

* This figure includes approximately 12,000 persons of Indo-Fijian origin.

- 21.4. Among the countries of this region, the situation of Australia is unique in the sense that while the waters of the Indian Ocean wash its eastern and southern shores, the northern and western coasts of this vast landmass border on the Pacific Ocean.
- 21.5. There are, of course, countless other islands in the Pacific. But it is only the Fiji archipelago that hosts, however reluctantly, a significantly large Indian Diaspora which has unfortunately been mired in controversy for several decades. The next chapter describes this community's origin and subsequent evolution in Fiji. It also analyses the complex and difficult situation confronted by the Diaspora in that country today.

AUSTRALIA

- 21.6. The history of migration from India to Australia dates back to the 19th century. It was in the 1850s when Australia was a British colony that it was decided to import camels and their handlers or "drivers" from North-West India (which then included Baluchistan and parts of North-Western Pakistan). The first instance of Indian camels and their handlers arriving in Australia was in June 1860 when three 'Ghans' (as in 'Afghans') arrived in Melbourne with 124 camels. The British rulers employed another 3000 camel handlers between 1860 and 1930s. These immigrants were usually employed on three-year contract and mostly returned to India after completion of the contract. Those who stayed back worked as labourers. The contribution of these Afghans in establishing the rail-road network has been recognised with the naming of a major Australian train route as 'Ghan Express'.
- 21.7. In the last four decades of the 19th century, Indians particularly Punjabi Sikhs and Punjabi Muslims went to Australia mainly as agricultural labourers, hawkers and traders. The greatest Indian immigrant concentration was on the North coast of New South Wales. Following the enactment of the Immigration Restriction Act in 1901, the number of Indians declined and remained at around 6,500 to 7,000 until after the end of World War II.
- 21.8. The single largest inflow of Indian immigrants to Australia was in the 1930s from Jalandhar district of the Punjab. They went to work as labourers in the sugar plantations in Woolgoolga (New South Wales). Around 400 families, mostly Sikhs are presently settled there and engaged in banana cultivation. The next wave of immigrants from India to Australia began when many Anglo-Indians decided to migrate to Australia some years after India's independence in 1947 and their migration was accepted even before the "White Australia Policy" came to an end. As late as the mid-60s, their migration to Australia continued. One of the most prominent members of that community was Lt. Gen. Anderson Brooks. The relaxation of the restrictive immigration policy by the Australian authorities in 1966 led to a marked rise in migration to Australia. According to some estimates, the Indian population there rose from 7500 in 1947 to 14167 in 1961 and to 29212 in 1971. This period saw a change in the nature of the Indian immigrants. Earlier a majority of them were railway and dock workers from the Anglo-Indian community, while from the 1970s onward, they were largely professionals.

- 21.9. A noteworthy feature of the composition of the Indian community in Australia is that a significant component is made up of Indians who migrated from Fiji to Australia owing to the climate of political uncertainty arising in the wake of the first coup in Fiji in 1987 and thereafter in 2000. It is estimated that between 35000-40000 people migrated to Australia as a result of the exodus from Fiji. There was also a migration of about 10,000 Persons of Indian Origin to Australia from countries, such as Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, the UK and Malaysia.
- 21.10. The 1990s again saw a sharp rise in immigration when a number of professionals, like computer and software experts, engineers, doctors, accountants, etc. opting to settle in Australia doubled in comparison to the earlier decade. The growing recognition of India as a power in the IT field is likely to attract more IT professionals from India to Australia in future.
- 21.11. Of 30,000 Indian citizens, about 10,000 are students from India studying in Australian Universities mainly in the IT and Management Courses. The number of students has increased six-fold during the last five years. Many of them, who took degrees from Australia, have gone back to Australia and hold positions in the Universities. The community in general has a high profile in so far as its level of education is concerned.
- 21.12. Western Australia has the highest proportion of the Indian population followed by Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Northern Territory, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania.
- 21.13. Since only professionals and qualified persons are allowed as immigrants under the rules, the majority of Indians happen to be professionals. There is a sizeable number of doctors among them especially in the Indo-Fijian component of the community. A number of Indian immigrants are engaged in the restaurant business and Indian restaurants can be seen in all the major cities of Australia. Indian food is widely appreciated by the Australians and the Indian restaurants are doing good business. A small number of Indians is engaged in small and medium scale business, mostly of import of commodities, textile garments, etc. There is a taxi stand called “The Punjab Agricultural University Taxi Stand” in Sydney named after the graduates from the Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana a large number among whom, on migration to Australia did not get employment commensurate with their qualifications and took to taxi-driving.
- 21.14. There are associations/organisations of Indians in almost all the major cities of Australia. Most of the PIOs celebrate national days of India and Australia as well as actively participate in social and religious functions organised by some of the Indian Associations present there. The Indo-Fijians are steeped in culture and traditions and celebrate Indian festivals with great enthusiasm and gusto. Local party leaders/officials and often Australian MPs, Senators and Ministers attend important functions organised by major Indian associations. The members of the Indian community are doing very good work to project India by associating themselves with a number of main stream Australians in their cultural activities. The community has adapted to the local environment very well and has considerable interaction with the other communities. There are many Indo-Australian marriages.

21.15. There are several ethnic newspapers, prominent among them being, The Indian Down Under, The Indian Post, India Voice, The Indian Link, Bharat Times, Bharatiya Samachar, The Indian Observer etc. Similarly there are several Radio and TV channels, which broadcast popular programmes including Bollywood music for the Indian community. For example, SBS Radio has Hindi and Punjabi programmes, while Radio 2000 runs Punjabi programmes. Radio Preetlari, Radio Satrang and Radio Darpan also have popular programmes for the community. Some channels have Hindi programmes particularly for the Indo-Fijian community. There is SBS TV channel in New South Wales catering to the Indian community.

Demands and Expectations of the Diaspora

21.16. The main demands and expectations of the Indian community as expressed by its representatives during the Committee's visit to Australia (July, 2001), are as follows:-

- (a) removal of difficulties faced by them at Immigration and Customs counters of the Indian airports and with the banks for encashment of travellers' cheques, etc.;
- (b) abolition of the current dual tariff structure, under which PIOs are asked to pay more for hotel accommodation, air fare, visits to monuments and registration fees for conferences, etc. and are required to make payments in US dollars only;
- (c) removal of difficulties in remitting funds to charities in India;
- (d) assistance in the obtaining of visa for the spouse of the PIOs or a tourist visa for the immediate family members.

21.17. Since Australia has a large number of Indo-Fijians, the Committee was able to meet a number of them during its tour to Australia. Demands made by their representatives include:

- (a) Provision of scholarships to more Indo-Fijians in the technical training institutions so that they are able to assist their brothers and sisters in Fiji and also possibly by migrating to other countries.
- (b) Assistance in establishing a university in Fiji, which would go a long way to provide good quality education to Indo-Fijians.
- (c) Establishment of a Cultural Centre for Asia-Pacific region to meet the cultural needs of the Indian Diaspora.
- (d) Supply of religious books, like Ramayana and some musical instruments to some societies in Fiji, which would go a long way to create further good will towards India.
- (e) Provision of resources by the Government of India to the local Indian associations/societies to spread an image of modern India by means of seminars, supply of kits to school teachers, etc.
- (f) Facilities for the teaching of Hindi.

HONG KONG

- 21.18. India's links with Hong Kong are over 150 years old. Four Indian traders and 2700 defence personnel were with the British when they raised the Union Jack over Hong Kong in 1841. Members of the Indian community have participated actively in creating some of Hong Kong's most well-known institutions and commercial entities. Among these are: Hong Kong University, Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Ruttonjee Hospital, the Star Ferry etc.
- 21.19. There was some confusion about the status of Indians in the pre-1997 days. This has, however, been sorted out as most Indians have stayed on in Hong Kong. The controversy about acquisition of British Nationals (Overseas) (BNO) passports and fears about statelessness have also been put to rest.
- 21.20. The Indian community in Hong Kong is basically a trading community with cultural and social links with India. They have professionally been trade-intermediaries between China and the Middle East/ African countries. The main areas of trading include textiles, chemicals and dyes, pharmaceuticals and diamonds. Some Indians from Hong Kong have also set up manufacturing units in Shenzhen in China and they deal with watches, textiles etc. Sindhis and Gujaratis, with smaller numbers of Rajasthanis, Punjabis and Tamils dominate the community. Tall, burly and handsome Sikhs working as doorkeepers in several commercial establishments are a common sight in Hong Kong. Increasingly, a large number of professionals are going to Hong Kong, giving rise to a new generation of Hong Kong Indians. The majority of Indians are based on the Kowloon Peninsula and have their business also in the same area. Among the professionals, a large number are located on the Hong Kong Island.
- 21.21. The strength of the Indian community in Hong Kong has been its control over substantial trading volumes. A large number of Indians have been in Hong Kong for a very long time and at one time their share in Hong Kong's exports was quite disproportionate to their number – being to the tune of almost 10%. Recently, though, the role of Indians in Hong Kong's economy has gone down with an influx of Chinese capital from the mainland and Taiwan. After the handover of Hong Kong to China, highly-educated Indians in the banking/finance sectors as well as in Information Technology have been going to Hong Kong in ever increasing numbers often in replacement of British expatriates. They constitute an important component of the Indian community. There is an MOU on IT cooperation between Hong Kong's Special Administrative Region and the Government of India signed in February, 2000.
- 21.22. The links of the Indian community in Hong Kong with India are basically cultural and not adequately commercial. As a result, the investment capabilities of Hong Kong Indians have not been fully exploited by India, as they have not been able (or willing, because of past experiences) to cash in on the business and investment opportunities available after the liberalization of the Indian economy. Another problem is that the Indian community in Hong Kong is mainly focused on trading, with very little inclination to go in for manufacturing.

- 21.23. The social profile of Indians covers the entire spectrum ranging from the highly active leaders of the Indian community who interact with the top levels of Hong Kong government and society, to the lowest where the Indians are involved in menial jobs. Between these two extremes, the Indians are an active part of the Hong Kong society.
- 21.24. Of the Indian community in Hong Kong, the richest are the businessmen and traders who have been in Hong Kong for a long time. At the top level, Indians own hotels, restaurants and other businesses, deal in jewellery and precious stones like diamonds and carry on trading activities within Asia as also with Europe, Africa, the Middle-East, South America and the United States. Below them are the professionals and middle level businessmen. These people are quite well-to-do. The next level comprises people involved in various occupations (semi-skilled and unskilled).
- 21.25. The Indians have contributed greatly to the social, financial and cultural development of Hong Kong. In recognition of this, Dr. Hari N. Harilela was bestowed the Golden Bauhinia at the handover day anniversary on July 1, 2000. Down to the present day, the Indians continue to make notable contributions to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in the Government and consultative bodies. For example, Mr. Haider Barma, former Transport Secretary, is currently Chairman of the Civil Services Commission. Mr. Hari Harilela is one of the few non-ethnic Chinese to be appointed Hong Kong Adviser to China. He is also Member of the Court of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Mr. Gary Ahuja is an elected Member of one of Hong Kong's district boards. The Indian Chamber of Commerce, which has been functioning since 1952 is one of the four organisations in Hong Kong authorized to issue Certificates of Origin for exports of locally manufactured goods. The contributions of Indians are widely recognized at all levels by the Hong Kong Government, which calls them the model citizens. Some Indians have been nominated as Justices of Peace, mainly a social honour. The Indian community in Hong Kong has adapted itself quite well. Of the long time residents, a large number are fluent in culture, customs and language of the locals and this has helped provide them get better business opportunities as well as high degree of acceptability.
- 21.26. The wide variety of Indian culture is quite evident in Hong Kong, especially with a large number of regional and cultural associations. The premier among these are the Indian Association, the India Club and the Council of Hong Kong Indian Associations. Besides, there are other associations like the Gujarat Samaj, Sindhi Sabha, Rajasthani Samaj, Nav Bharat Club, Tamil Cultural Association, Jain Centre, Raja Yoga Centre, Sathya Sai Baba, Indian Muslim Association etc. L.S. Kadoori School run by the Hong Kong Government caters to the students from the Indian subcontinent and Urdu and Punjabi languages are taught there. On a religious level, there are two Hindu temples, one Gurudwara (Khalsa Diwan) and four mosques. The various associations hold religious functions throughout the year and also celebrate the secular national days like Independence Day and Republic Day. Some of the associations also organize cultural shows inviting artists from India.

21.27. Among the prominent magazines published by the Indian community are 'B.R. International', a socio-cultural monthly publication started about 37 years ago and 'The Indian', another monthly magazine being published for over 31 years. The latter has a section 'The Indians Abroad' which contains information about the social and cultural happenings among the Indian community around the globe.

Demands and Expectations of the Diaspora

21.28. Expectations of the Indian community include:

- (a) help from the Government of India in interceding with the Hong Kong authorities for restoration of the three-month visa-free period (reduced to 14 days, since January 1999);
- (b) more transparent investment opportunities;
- (c) grant of dual citizenship;
- (d) adequate number of flights from India to Hong Kong. It has been suggested that there should be daily nonstop flights between Mumbai and Hong Kong and between Delhi and Hong Kong;
- (e) a formal institutionalised arrangement in the form of a Cultural Exchange Programme, which would go a long way in further strengthening of cultural ties between India and Hong Kong
- (f) an early resolution by the concerned Indian banks of cases, where refunds of fixed deposits could not be obtained on their maturity by some NRIs/PIOs.

JAPAN

21.29. A few families of Indian businessmen, mainly Sindhis and Parsis migrated to Japan and settled in Yokohama areas in around 1872-73 to carry on their textile business. At around the same time, about 16 families, mostly Sindhis, also landed in Okinawa. The number of Indians gradually grew to 1,000 by the beginning of the First World War. During the War, about 60% of them left for India but returned soon after the War was over. Most of the Indians at present are concentrated in Tokyo-Yokohama and in Osaka Kobe regions, which now includes Rajasthanis and Gujaratis. Others are spread out in Nagoya, Okinawa, Sapporo, Sendai and Niigata.

21.30. Indian community in Japan is financially stable and mostly engaged in the export of electronic goods, textiles, auto parts and jewellery, and imports of handicrafts, garments, precious stones and marine products from India. The non-trading community consists of students, engineers, scholars going under the exchange programme and Yoga practitioners besides officials of the Government of India and Public Sector Undertakings. Over the years, the number of Indian engineers (particularly computer software engineers) in Japan has substantially increased from

120 in 1993 to over 800 in 2000. There are about 60 academics and translators working in various universities. About 870 Indian cooks work in Indian restaurants, which are extremely popular. Over 120 of such restaurants are in Tokyo areas alone. Most of these restaurants are owned and managed by the Japanese. There is a small Sindhi community in Okinawa providing services particularly tailoring to the American base.

- 21.31. Indians in Tokyo areas have formed an Association of their own called the Indian Community Activities Tokyo (ICAT), which organises cultural functions. The three main functions organised by it are Holi Musical Evening, Deepawali Get Together and Sakura Ladies Charity Bazaar. The Deepawali function is attended by over 2500 persons of Indian origin, settled in and around Tokyo. The three active associations of the Indian community in Osaka-Kobe areas in Western Japan are the Indian Social Society, the Indian Club and the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Ramakrishna Mission has a Branch there. There is a Sathya Sai Centre in Tokyo. There is also a Gurudwara in the premises of Namaskar Indian Restaurant in Tokyo where the Sikh devotees meet twice a month. Bengali and Marathi community have also set up their own cultural bodies. The Indian community has a reservoir of in-house talent for classical, folk and film music and dance, which finds exhibition at community functions and get-togethers. Shri APS Mani, Hon. Convenor, Indian Community Activities in Tokyo (ICAT) was commended by the Government of Japan for his distinguished services. Similarly, the Indian community's selfless and voluntary services at the time of the Kobe earthquake in 1994 were also widely appreciated.
- 21.32. Prominent commercial organisations in Japan include Indian Merchants Association of Yokohama, Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee and Standing Committee of the Japan-India Business Cooperation. A number of Indian Public Sector Undertakings have their offices in Tokyo. They include Air India, New India Assurance Co., Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation, Bank of India, State Bank of India, Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation, Marine Products Export and Development Agency, Shipping Corporation of India, India Trade Promotion Organisation and Government of India Tourist Office.
- 21.33. Indians have adapted themselves fairly well and inter-community marriages are on the increase. Japanese rules and regulations for acquisition of citizenship are very tight but these are in no way discriminatory against Indians.
- 21.34. The emergence of India as a power in the Information Technology sector capable of supplying quality human resource in this field has resulted in a change in the profile of the Indian community in Japan. The increase in demand of the IT professionals from India and consequent relaxation in the immigration policies of Japan for these professionals will see a greater presence and contribution of the Indian community in Japan in the years to come.

Demands and Expectations of the Diaspora

- 21.35. The education in the Japanese educational institutes being very expensive, the Indian community tries to avail of the education facilities in Indian schools and colleges. Another problem it faces is

the restrictive visa regime of Japan. The Japanese authorities give only a 3-month single entry visa as against multiple-entry visa for a longer duration given by the Indian authorities in genuine cases.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

- 21.36. The Koreans claim linkages with India going back to 2,000 years when a Princess from Ayodhya is believed to have arrived in Korea and married to a Korean King in the Southern Kimhae city. Many prominent Koreans including President Kim Dae Jung and former Prime Minister Kim Jong-Pil claim to be descendants of the Indian Princess.
- 21.37. The Indian business community, mostly Sindhis went to Seoul about 20 years ago and have been staying there with their families. Most of the Indians are concentrated in Seoul. Their business relations with India are minimal. They have, however, strong family and cultural ties with India. There is an Indian Merchants' Association, which has a membership of around 50, mostly Sindhis, and which holds gatherings on occasions like Holi and Diwali. Most of the members are engaged in textile trade and are generally affluent. The exports are largely destined to Dubai and other parts of the Middle East. Some members also operate in the neighbouring ASEAN region. There are also some Indian professionals in Korean companies and with MNCs. Besides the Indian Merchants' Association, there is a Satya Sai Baba Centre.
- 21.38. Among the organisations which organize cultural events are, Tagore Society of Korea, Korea-India Society, Korea-India Club, Indo-Korean Association, Indian Merchants' Association and Indian Women's Association.
- 21.39. The Indian Embassy organizes a Hindi speech contest every year to promote Hindi and Indian culture/history/traditions among the students of Hankuk University of Foreign Studies and Pusan University of Foreign Studies. These two universities have Hindi departments. Indian Council of Cultural Relations has been deputing a Hindi Professor to teach Hindi at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. Kendriya Hindi Sansthan has been granting scholarships every year to the students from the Republic of Korea under the scheme of 'Propagation of Hindi abroad'. ICCR has also been granting scholarships every year to Korean students under the Cultural Exchange Programme.
- 21.40. While the community sends its children to the International schools, college education is not available locally.

NEW ZEALAND

- 21.41. The first Indian, whose arrival in 1853 finds a place in New Zealand's official records, was Mr. Edward Peter of Goa, who worked in the Otago gold mines. Other early arrivals were mainly seamen who settled ashore and set up various small businesses. The records of New Zealand Government indicate that six Indian were listed in the 1881 census. During the early years until World War I, the number of Indian migrants was very small. After World War I, a more educated

group of migrants was attracted to New Zealand. The changes made in New Zealand's Immigration Act in 1958 made it possible for more migrants to go there from India.

- 21.42. A large number of Indo-Fijians also migrated there consequent on the climate of political uncertainty in Fiji in the wake of the coup in 1987 and, thereafter, in 2000. About 10,000 Indians are estimated to have thus migrated to New Zealand on exodus from Fiji. The main areas of settlement of the Indian community at present are Auckland, Hamilton and Wellington.
- 21.43. The Indian migrants to New Zealand are mostly engaged in domestic retail trade. The community has also a fair number of professionals, particularly in medical, engineering and Information Technology. Some members of the community are running motels. The traders run grocery shops and restaurants. Some Indians originally from Punjab are also engaged in agriculture and dairying.
- 21.44. The members of Indian community continue to have strong links with India through family ties and frequent visits to their "motherland", though they do not necessarily undertake investments or business activities with India. The degree of their integration with the local communities is minimal. The PIOs have not yet participated in the political life of the country in any significant way. We may mention among the prominent Indians, the names of Mr. Judge Anand Satyanand, one of New Zealand's two Parliamentary Ombudsmen appointed in February, 2001 for a second five year term, Dr. Rajen Prasad, who recently retired as Race Relations Conciliator and is currently a Professor in Auckland University and Mrs. Sukhi Turner, Mayor of Dunedin, Mr. Ramesh Patel, currently CEO of New Zealand Hockey Federation and Mr. Dipak Patel have played in the New Zealand's national teams for hockey and cricket respectively. A majority of the migrants and their children are well educated and are professionals – in the IT or medical sectors.
- 21.45. The community has made efforts to maintain its cultural links with India. There are several Indian Associations including New Zealand's Sikh society, Muslim Associations, Brahm Kumari Raj Yoga Centre, Satya Sai Organisation and two Ramayan Mandalies. . Most of these are in Auckland. There are four temples, two mosques and three gurudwaras. Prominent ethnic Indian publications include Bharat Darshan, Newsletter and Indian News Link. Access Radio broadcasts programmes which cater to the Indian community.

Demands and Expectations of the Diaspora

- 21.46. The main demands and expectations of the Indian community are as follows:
- (a) removal of difficulties faced by them at the Immigration and Customs counters of the Indian airports and with the banks for encashment of travellers' cheques, etc.;
 - (b) abolition of the current dual tariff structure, under which PIOs are asked to pay more for hotel accommodation, air fare, visits to monuments and registration fees for conferences, etc. and are required to make payments in US dollars only;

- (c) removal of difficulties in remitting funds to charities in India;
- (d) assistance in providing religious books, like Ramayana and musical instruments to cultural societies;
- (e) scholarships in the Technical Training Institutes in India; and
- (f) facilities for the teaching of Hindi.

TAIWAN

21.47. Despite their relatively small number, the Indian community is perhaps the 8th largest expatriate community in Taiwan – after Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, USA, Japan and Malaysia in that order. The community can be categorised as follows on the basis of the profession of its members:-

- (i) Businessmen of Sindhi origin – At their peak in 1982-83, there were about 250 families comprising of about 1,200 individuals. It is estimated that there are about 80 such families now. They have been here for 20-25 years. The average net worth of each family would be about US \$ 1 million; there would be about 4-5 families with net worth exceeding US \$ 5 million. Almost all of them are engaged in export/import trade, though not with India. With Taiwan's economy showing signs of a slow-down and mainland China offering increasingly attractive prospects, their population has been declining with people moving to China. About 25 families are understood to have thus moved out during the past one year.
- (ii) Diamond merchants of Gujarati origin – It is estimated that there are about 50 families of this category of the Indian community, who have come in the last 4-5 years. They are believed to be well off. Their numbers are increasing as small diamonds have in the recent years become an increasingly important component of Indian exports to Taiwan.
- (iii) Scientists – There are believed to be about 150 families. They have been recruited on an individual basis on generally two-year extendable contracts and work at scientific research institutions/universities, etc. They have been going to Taiwan for the past 4-5 years. Though they maintain a low profile, they are highly regarded.
- (iv) Software engineers and professionals – There are believed to be about 80-100 software professionals, mostly single (with their families in India). Their number is expected to increase further. TCS and WIPRO have small offices in Taiwan. There are 10-15 other professionals working with MNCs, banks, etc. There may be another 200 members or so in a variety of professions – self-owned business, restaurants, real estate agencies, travel agencies, students, etc.

21.48. The Indian community keeps a very low profile and has very little organised or meaningful interaction with other communities or even within its own various components. The community is law-abiding. India-Taipei Association has an office in Taipei which is a very small outfit and maintains a very low profile.

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