



## Old Indian Currency Notes Withdrawn

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the withdrawal of currency notes issued prior to 2005, including Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000 denominations, starting March 31. The step was aimed at curbing black money and fake currencies in the country.

"From April 1, 2014, the public will be required to approach banks for exchanging these notes. Banks will provide exchange facility for these notes until further communication," an advisory issued by the central bank on Wednesday said.

The size of India's black economy is estimated to be about a third of its GDP. If hidden income of \$500 billion (about 30 lakh crore) were to be disclosed and taxed at 33%, it would generate Rs. 10 lakh crore, enough to fund the food programme in the country for a few years.

The RBI asked the public to exchange currency notes that do not display year of printing on the reverse side. "...public can easily identify the notes to be withdrawn as the notes issued before 2005 do not have on them the year of printing on the reverse side." The year of printing in a small font is visible at the middle of the bottom row in notes issued after 2005.

BANKNOTES ISSUED PRIOR TO 2005 TO BE WITHDRAWN: RBI ADVISORY



Asking people not to panic and cooperate in the withdrawal process, the central bank said old notes would continue to be legal and could be exchanged at any bank after April 1.

"...banks are required to exchange the notes for their customers as well as for non-customers. From July 01, 2014, however, to exchange more than 10 pieces of Rs. 500 and Rs. 1000 notes, non-customers will have to furnish proof of identity and residence to the bank branch in which they want to exchange the notes," the advisory read.

Although the RBI did not give any reason for the withdrawal of pre-2005 currency notes, the move is expected to unearth black money held in cash. As the new currency notes have additional security features, they would help in curbing the menace of fake currency.

## Obituaries

Since the last publication of Darji Voice in October 2013, the DMM of UK was informed of the passing away of the following community members in the UK. The DMM of UK sends their condolences and sympathies to their families

Names	Date Passed Away
Mrs Shardaben Ishwarlal Billimoria of Wembley	10 <sup>th</sup> September 2013
Mrs Indiraben Chhabildas Tailor of Harrow	14 <sup>th</sup> September 2013
Mr Naginbhai Kalidas of Edgware	5 <sup>th</sup> October 2013
Mr Ratilal (Kantilal) Nathu of Leicester	11 <sup>th</sup> October 2013
Mrs Ratnamaniben Ramanlal Tailor of Luton	4 <sup>th</sup> November 2013
Mrs Rukhmaniben Govindbhai Lallu of Bolton	6 <sup>th</sup> December 2013
Mr Mansukhbhai Govindji Tailor of Wembley	15 <sup>th</sup> December 2013
Mrs Induben Gokulbhai Parshotam of Edmonton	24 <sup>th</sup> December 2013
Mr Vinodbhai Karsan of Luton	30 <sup>th</sup> January 2014
Ms Leena Mangubhai Tailor of Greenford	5 <sup>th</sup> February 2014
Mr Thakorbbhai Chhotubhai Gulabiwala of Bounds Green, London	7 <sup>th</sup> February 2014
Dr Ishwarlal Dahyabhai Munsadia of Todmorden, Lancashire	10 <sup>th</sup> February 2014
Mrs Jasodaben Nagindas Bulsara of Alperton	11 <sup>th</sup> February 2014

If you would like the name of your beloved family member to be included in the Darji Voice, please forward all the details to **Thakorbbhai Bhagat (info@darjimandal.org.uk)**. This is open to all the members of the Darji community in the UK. If you wish to place memorials in the future issues, please contact **Thakorbbhai Bhagat** for details.

## 18th Edition

### Message from President

*Jai Shri Krishna*

I hope you all have had a pleasant beginning to 2014 and I wish that the rest of the year brings happiness, hope and prosperity to all.

### Achievement of resolutions for 2013: relief of poverty

DMMUK are proud to say that we achieved our 2013 aim to help relief of poverty. Our sky-dive team raised £7,625 which has now been donated for many worthy causes making a difference to the lives of thousands who are poor and needy. Last September, in association with Lions Club (Southgate), your generous donations at our annual Havan & Bhajan raised £2,600 for Uttarakhand flood victims relief fund. All funds raised has now been donated to Chintan International Trust, a charity providing help to those who faced hardship in the flooded areas of Northern India.

### Resolutions for 2014 - Benefits of Membership

The question "What is the benefit of DMMUK membership?" has been raised on numerous occasions. This year we aim to provide answers to this vital question, to promote and provide special benefits and discounts exclusive to our Annual and Life members. In order to provide these concessions to our members, it is mandatory that every member (Life and Annual) has a membership card. This is a major task and hope we can rely on your help to achieve success in this project. Further details of this project are shown on page 2 of this issue.

### Building Project

As our community hall is now over 10 years old, our toilet facilities are a constant source of complaints from our community members and the hall hirers. Our building project team are looking to upgrade the facilities and expect the work to commence in the near future.

### New Committee at Annual General Meeting (AGM)

As a new President will be elected at the next AGM in April 2014, I would like to personally thank you all for your encouragement and support. During the past two years, holding the reins of a 59 year old organisation, I have met many people, made great friends and sky-dived from 12,500 feet. It has been an extremely challenging and enjoyable experience. I wish to extend a special thank you to the hard-working team of committee members and volunteers for their support and guidance.

Please join us at the next AGM, which is to be held on 6th April 2014, for an opportunity to elect the new President and be part of a great team of committee members. Your Mandal needs your expertise and skills. This is your chance to lead, to bring new ideas, plans and suggestions into action. Join us to develop and shape the future of your Mandal and to make a difference to our community.

**Shila Tailor**

**President**

To help raise awareness of the Mandal we want to hear your news - **Matrimonial, Births, Achievements.**

To give us your feedback and receive new issues regularly, please send your details by email to

**darjivoice@darjimandal.org.uk**

The Darji Voice is published about three times a year and is distributed to the community throughout UK.



### Membership Cards

We are currently updating our membership records and want to make sure all members benefit from having a photo membership card. With this card, all members will be eligible for discounts. In the past we issued limited membership cards however we want to extend this to the whole of the DMM community so every one can benefit.

Are you either a DMM life member or a DMM senior citizen member (men over 65yrs or women over 60yrs) but don't have a photo membership card? If so please follow these three easy steps..

1. Take a "passport style" **DIGITAL** photo (head & shoulder shot, just of you – not as part of a group).
2. Send it to [membership@darjimandal.org.uk](mailto:membership@darjimandal.org.uk), with your full name, postal address and contact details
3. Once we receive your photo with details, we will print the card and then contact you to arrange collection.

### Business Support

We also want to build benefits for our DMM members AND support businesses within the Darji community. Therefore, we are looking for Darji businesses to offer discounts or special offers for DMM members (on presentation of a valid membership card). In order to achieve this we will need to inform everyone of all the different businesses within the community.

Are you a business owner or manage a business?

If so, would you like to participate in the programme?

To join please send your business details to [businesses@darjimandal.org.uk](mailto:businesses@darjimandal.org.uk) and we will contact you to discuss the types of offers or discounts you can offer. We will then list your business in the Darji Voice and our website. We will list the businesses on the website for

FREE until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014, after which we will review the terms.

### Change of Address

We currently have 1,130 postal addresses, and are sure, we are missing a number of families from our database. Therefore we request you check with your close family members to confirm they are receiving the DMM mailers, especially as children move to their own homes or get married. Please send any changes or new addresses to [directory@darjimandal.org.uk](mailto:directory@darjimandal.org.uk); or contact us on the same email to check your details.

Our last Darji Directory was printed in 2006 and we need to ensure our records are correct before we start looking at producing a new edition.

### Email List

We have just under 600 email addresses in main emailing list and we would like to extend this list to cover as many community members as we can, as this method of communication has proven to be successful over the last year or so.

We regularly email details of our own events as well as any general news to keep the community updated, particularly to inform every one of any deaths in the community. With advent of smart phones and tablets, most people are able to receive the community news on the go and at most times. To subscribe to our email list please visit the events page on our website or email us, at

[events@darjimandal.org.uk](mailto:events@darjimandal.org.uk)

Thank you for your support.

Data Management Team



## The Crash Test Dummies



The *Wacky Rally* is an annual event, wherein contestants can spend no more than £300 on a car, decorate it in a desired theme, and drive it from Lille to Barcelona in 4 days. The route covers the Swiss Alps, the Italian countryside, the French Riviera, and ends in the Catalan capital.

I will be taking part in this rally, with **Andy Page** (work colleague & friend), in July 2014 covering over 1,000 miles in 4 days.

Under the name of '*The Crash Test Dummies*', we intend to decorate our car with stickers and toxic warning colours (the car has been donated by a Ford dealer and we hope to get the car in the next few weeks).

We are aiming to raise £1,000 for the British Heart Foundation, so please support us and donate using this link -

<http://www.justgiving.com/crashtestdummies2014>. If you would like to donate but not use the on-line just giving page, please contact me on [mahesh@chikhliia.co.uk](mailto:mahesh@chikhliia.co.uk). Throughout the course of the rally, we will update our progress on a **Facebook** and **Twitter**.

Please visit our **Facebook** page and click 'Like' to follow our preparations and as we travel throughout Europe between July 4th-7th:

<http://www.facebook.com/crashtestdummies2014>

1,000 miles, 9 countries, 4 days, and 2 men in a car worth no more than £300.

We would like to thank you all in advance for your support, I am confident that with your support we will exceed our £1,000 target.

Mahesh Chikhliia



DMMUK is now on the social network media! Like our **FB** page on <http://www.facebook.com/darjimandaluk> to raise your opinions, stay in touch with the community and know who is attending the events! Or follow us **@DMMUK** on **Twitter**



Join us on a  
Worldwide Journey  
of *Discovery*



### Africa

Kenya and Tanzania  
Safaris, South Africa with  
Mauritius, Egypt, Morocco  
and much more



### Europe by coach and flight

Western Europe, Eastern  
Europe, Scandinavian  
Country, Baltics, Russia  
Turkey and much more



### Australasia & Middle East

Australia, New Zealand  
Fiji, Jordan and much more



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Peru, Bolivia, Chile,  
Argentina, Brazil with  
Amazon and much more



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## In Loving Memory of Mrs Induben Gokulbhai Parshotam

Age 74

Died on 24th Dec 2013

Husband: Gokulbhai Parshotam  
Son

Bharat Parshotam and Dharti Parshotam  
Daughter

Manisha Sudhra and Rakesh Sudhra

Grandsons

Mitesh Parshotam

Vikhil Parshotam



### Forthcoming Events - Dates for your Diary

We've organised a variety of events this year and the success of these events depends on your support, participation and attendance. Please check our calendar of forthcoming events, and regular updates on our website [www.darjimandal.org.uk](http://www.darjimandal.org.uk) or Facebook.

- Sat 15th March 2014 ..... Ladies Pampering Event
- Fri 28th March 2014 ..... "Fiji Night" Friday Club
- Sun 6th April 2014..... Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- Sun 6th July 2014.....Over 60's lunch
- Sun 7th Sep 2014..... BBQ
- Sun 21st Sep 2014..... Havan & Bhajan
- Thu 25th Sep to Sat 4th Oct 2014 - Navratri
- Wed 8th Oct 2014.....Sharad Purnima

### Marathon Man Round 2

It's Marathon time! I am running in the London 2014 Marathon on Sunday 13th April 2014. Your support and donations helped me to raise £7,000 in 2010. This time the funds raised will be donated to the following charities: Akshaya Patra, WaterAid and the DMMUK for building fund.

I am asking for your support once more for this mammoth task ahead of me. The training has begun for the 26.2 miles and urge you all to support me once more by digging deep into your pockets for these important charities who will benefit greatly. For details of my run and how to sponsor me log on to

[www.darjimandal.org.uk/events](http://www.darjimandal.org.uk/events).  
Bharat Tailor



### Bhartiben Tailor taking Hinduism Forward

Born in Nairobi, Kenya, to Hargovind Vithal Tailor of Astagam, and Kikiben (Kalavati) daughter of Ambaram Govind of Desra, Bhartiben failed all her exams at 18. She was a late bloomer, going to University at the age of 34 and graduating at 37, with a BA Honours degree in Community Management. This was appropriate course for her as she was already heavily involved in working with the community. This helped with an extra award at University, the Tony Rhodes Memorial prize for the student who contributed the most to the Ethos of the course.

At the age of 16, Bhartiben regularly used to visit and help an English elderly lady in her eighties with household chores. At 18 she was reading stories to mothers on a play bus. In her twenties, Bhartiben was helping in the Darji Community group in Luton, organising activities for children. By her thirties, Bhartiben was chair of Education at her local Mandir, Shree Sanatan Seva Samaj of Luton.

Her degree, as well as her involvement in community work has brought her to a national and international platform. Today, Bhartiben serves as President of the Hindu Forum of Europe and is a member of the European Council of Religious Leaders. Bhartiben gained these achievements in small steps that led her to her current position. She joined her local Interfaith groups, Bedford Council of Faiths. They used to send her to attend the East of England Faiths Council, and the Interfaith Network of the UK, which enabled her to learn a lot about working at different levels.

As part of her paid work, Bhartiben joined the Chief Executives of Luton and Dunstable Hospital as well as Bedford Hospital to give a presentation to the Health Minister for a project called Partnerships for Change. By the age of 40 she was speaking at Hospital AGMs and sharing an office with the Chairman of Bedford Hospital. All this helped build her capacity to take up work at national level. She then started volunteering for the Hindu Forum of Britain, where Bhartiben eventually served as Secretary General for three and a half years. Her success here led her to be elected as President of the Hindu Forum of Europe, a position she has held for almost two years now.

*"This is not just about glam! It gives me the opportunity to make a difference to the lives of Hindus in Britain, Europe and other parts of the world and I am thankful. I have met religious and political leaders, and Royalty. I have done things I never dreamed I would get the chance to do. I know my parents were proud of me. Although they both died in 2010 before I reached International status, I was already serving at national level. Even through her dementia I remember Mum asking, 'Tu to Rani ne malva javani hati te?', and Dad saying proudly "People recognise me as your father."(as opposed to calling me his daughter). This meant a lot to him."*



One of her proudest achievements was when the Archbishop of Canterbury asked her to lead Hindus on the first official engagement of the Jubilee event. Bhartiben had to compile a list of people to invite. They showed her an Om made of flowers.

Leading the Hindu Chaplaincy (Spiritual Support) Team at the Olympics was yet another achievement. Together they set up and managed a Sanatan Temple inside the Olympic Village where players and team staff came to pray. She was asked to attend the opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympics as well as the Paralympics, however, turned both opportunities down, as there were issues of connections with Bhopal.



### Events in Pictures

From the last festive season the joy of festivities is evident on every face. A big thank you to those who attended and made our events a success.

It is a joy for all the committee members and volunteers to see you all in numbers, enjoying with family and friends. This season there were events for the whole family:

Xmas party for the kids, Navratri for the youth, Diwali get-together for the family, Havan and Bhajans and the Sunday Meat party.

All events would not have been possible without the help from volunteers who gave up their valuable time to make these events a success.

