



## Kakelao 2015

Newsletter No. 3, June 2015

Yale Alumni Service Corps, Association of Yale Alumni, P.O. Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010

Dear YASC Participants:

It is hard to believe that in just two months, we will all be together in India. We assure you that these next two months will fly by! In this newsletter, we are providing you with your to-do list (in the box below), a link to our participant directory, links to photos of Kakelao, information about the educational system in India, insights from our AFS-India partners -- including their primer on cultural issues to consider -- and a lot of practical guidance about what to bring (and what not to bring) on the trip, including clothing and shoes for yourselves, gifts for the people of Kakelao, and voltage converters and plug adapters. We are also including a list of reminders about considerations for your arrival in, travel around, and departure from India. Finally -- and for fun -- we are including more facts about India.



As always, please feel free to contact us with questions, idea, or concerns.

-Melissa, [melissa.kakelao2015@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.kakelao2015@gmail.com) and Najib, [kakelao2015@gmail.com](mailto:kakelao2015@gmail.com)

### Important action items

- **Read** this newsletter in its entirety!
- **Make** your international plane reservations and enter your flight information on this link: <http://goo.gl/forms/Cct6SqvomB>
- If you have not done so already, **apply** for your visa to India! If you are going on the Sri Lanka pre-trip extension, you also need to apply for a visa to Sri Lanka.
- Even if you missed the May 29<sup>th</sup> cut-off for submitting your photo for inclusion in our hard-copy participant directory (which will be mailed to you soon), you can still **submit** your photo for our on-line participant directory, which we will continually update, by sending a copy via email to Najib at [kakelao2015@gmail.com](mailto:kakelao2015@gmail.com). You can find the on-line directory at <http://goo.gl/5cy2p2>.
- **Begin thinking** about what you will bring on the trip; guidelines and suggestions are included in this newsletter.
- **Talk** with your doctor about immunizations and other medications -- including anti-malarials -- you might need for the trip.
- **Connect** with your project leaders if you haven't done so yet.

### **Lots of Kakelao Photos!**

As we indicated in the last newsletter, we have created a site where we have placed all the documents from the April Orientation in New Haven. We recently added one more document, which is the PowerPoint presentation by last summer's interns. Check these out! You will see **summaries of last year's projects** (what worked, what didn't work), plus **lots and lots of photos of the Kakelao community**. You can access these documents on the following link: <http://goo.gl/5cy2p2>. For best viewing, use PowerPoint when opening the Orientation\_Projects document.

Note: Orientation\_Overview is a video introduction by Puneet Batra, producer of the 2014 YASC trip to Kakelao.

Orientation\_Kakelao, the PowerPoint presentation last summer's interns prepared, includes many photos of Kakelao and Jodhpur.

Orientation\_Projects, the PowerPoint presentation Melissa and Najib prepared, includes photos and detailed descriptions and analyses of each of the 2014 projects.

### **Are you working with children in Kakelao?**

If your projects involve working with the children of Kakelao – teaching athletics or extended arts in the morning, teaching in the primary or secondary schools in the afternoon, or working with the school public health education team -- then you should read the recent, very sobering article in the Financial Times, entitled India: Learning a Hard Lesson. This article discusses the state of education in India in general and in Rajasthan in particular. You will note that our partner Pratham is referenced in this article. The article is posted on the YASC Kakelao Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/825558054121822/>. You can also find it at <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/96c189a4-ef58-11e4-a6d2-00144feab7de.html#axzz3ZpYvO1DW>

Primary school children in Kakelao



Kakelao's secondary school



## **Partner Feature – AFS-India**

AFS-India is our primary service partner. AFS is an international, voluntary, non-governmental, non-profit organization that provides intercultural learning opportunities through international student exchange programs. AFS-India started to conduct operations in the country in 2005 and has an established volunteer structure throughout five main cities in the country. The volunteers include adults, former host parents from other programs, returnees, and parents. In addition to managing various programs related to hosting foreign students, AFS-India also hosts a number of national meetings for the volunteers each year for training and coordination. The National Office, located in New Delhi, has the responsibility of coordinating all AFS activities in India. At least four AFS-India staff from the New Delhi office and 20 AFS volunteers will join our group in Jodhpur. The AFS staff and volunteers will stay with us at the hotel in Jodhpur and will serve as translators for YASC in Kakelao.



AFS staff include:

**Divya Arora, National Director**



**Sandeep Gautam,  
Project Development Coordinator**



**Aadil Fahim, Branding Manager**



**Parul Lihla,  
Organizational Development Coordinator**



Please read the attached **India Fact Sheet**, provided to us by AFS. This sheet contains quite a bit of useful **cultural information** about schools, the role of family, food, societal customs, and the like.

## **Practical information about what to bring to India!**

### **FAQs about what clothes/shoes/gifts to bring to India**

We will soon be providing you with a suggested packing list for the trip. In the meantime, please take note of the following FAQs.

#### **How much stuff should we bring?**

As little as possible! Please know that our theme will be “pack lightly”! As described in previous newsletters, we have strict luggage weight restrictions on our internal flights between New Delhi and Jodhpur. Respect those restrictions!



#### **What should women and girls wear when we are in Kakelao?**

The Kakelao community is very traditional in terms of dress. Women should bring clothes that cover their arms and legs. Shorts (even long shorts), short skirts, tank tops, low necklines, and the like are not appropriate to wear in the village. If women/girls wear leggings, they should wear a shirt that reaches to at least mid-thigh. Long skirts are fine, as are loose, baggy pants.



**No Mini Skirts**

#### **Do the same rules apply to men and boys?**

Frustratingly, no. There is a definite double standard when it comes to dress. Men and boys can wear shorts and short-sleeved shirts when in the village. Please do not wear extremely short shorts – they should reach your knees, at least.

#### **Do we need to wear traditional Indian clothes?**



There is no need to dress in traditional clothes, but feel free to bring some if you would like. Some of us have had success finding reasonably priced “kurta tunics” (sometimes called “kurtis”), “kurta dresses”, and similar Indian clothes on Amazon or other on-line retailers. Please also know that our hotel in New Delhi is adjacent to a very small shopping mall, which has a clothing store with an excellent variety of very low-priced, traditional clothing for men, women, and children.



### Won't it be really hot when we're in India? How should we take this into account when we pick clothes to bring?

Since it will be hot when we are in India, we recommend that you bring clothes made out of quick-drying material.



#### What about shoes?

Please bring only closed-toed shoes to wear in the village – no sandals, please.



### What clothes should we bring to wear when we're in Jodhpur?

You can wear open-toed shoes and your usual clothes when we are on the hotel property in Jodhpur, but please bear in mind that the Indian culture – even in the cities -- is more modest than what we are used to in the United States.

### I know we are visiting the home of a host family in Kakelao. Should we bring the family a gift?

**Yes!** You will have a chance to meet with a host family on our first day in the village, and we suggest that you bring a small (under \$15) gift for them. Suggested items include utilitarian items such as:

- Tupperware containers
- a set of small tea cups
- plates and spoons (no forks/knives)
  - cloth shopping bags
  - a set of serving bowls
  - bed sheets (not fitted)
  - cooking utensils
  - a set of towels.

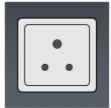
### Can we bring other gifts for people in the community?

Your project leaders will likely ask you to bring project-related supplies for our time in Kakelao. We will be leaving most of these supplies with the community to be distributed in an equitable manner. Aside from the gift for your host family and these project supplies, we ask that you **please do not bring additional items, including food or candy, for distribution in the community**. Please respect this guidance, as hard feelings can develop among members of the community if some people receive gifts and tangible goods and others do not. We appreciate your generosity and desire to give. However, we ask that you focus on giving your time, energy, and talents rather than tangible goods.

### **Power/Voltage/Outlets**

India uses 230 Volts, 50 Hz alternating current as the power source. Most electronic devices nowadays have a power adapter that can handle an input range of 100-240 Volts, but you might need a step-down converter to use some of your US electric devices. Check your devices for specifics.

Plugs and sockets have either grounded/earthed 3 Pin connections (Type D) or ungrounded 2 pin connections (Type C).



The three pin plug (Type D) is rated at 5A / 250V and is the most commonly used. It has three round pins in a triangular pattern. The earth terminal is slightly larger than the live and neutral terminals.

The two pin plug (Type C) is also called the Europlug. It has two round 4 mm (0.157 in) pins. It can be inserted in either way into the socket. There is no fixed live (hot) or neutral (cold) terminal.



You will need a plug adapter, such as this:



### **Information about your arrival into India/Sri Lanka**

Please review newsletters 1 and 2, which you can find at <http://goo.gl/5cy2p2>, for important logistical details about:

- arrival into New Delhi on July 30th (or Colombo on July 25<sup>th</sup>, if going on the Sri Lanka trip), including what you need to do in order to secure transportation from the airport to the hotel
- luggage restrictions on the July 31<sup>st</sup> flight from New Delhi to Jodhpur...as well as on the August 9<sup>th</sup> flight from Jodhpur to New Delhi, for participants NOT going on the Golden Triangle extension
- departure from New Delhi on:
  - August 9<sup>th</sup> for participants NOT going on the Golden Triangle trip
  - August 13<sup>th</sup> for participants who are going on the Golden Triangle trip
- Visa requirements for India and Sri Lanka
- Far Horizon's contact information, if you desire additional logistical services (transportation, hotel, excursions not included in the service trip or pre- or post-extensions)

## More fun facts about India (you were waiting for these, we know)

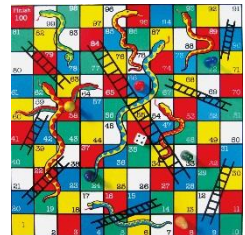
Chess was invented in India.



The 'Place Value System' and the 'Decimal System' were developed in India in 100 B.C.

	-tenths	-hundredths	-thousandths	ten -thousandths	hundred -thousandths	-millionths
0.	1	2	3	4	5	6

The game of Snakes & Ladders was created by the 13th century poet saint Gyandev. It was originally called 'Mokshapat'. The ladders in the game represented virtues and the snakes indicated vices. The game was played with cowrie shells and dice. In time, the game underwent several modifications, but its meaning remained the same, i.e. good deeds take people to heaven and evil to a cycle of re-births.



The value of "pi" was first calculated by the Indian Mathematician Budhayana, and he explained the concept of what is known as the Pythagorean Theorem. He discovered this in the 6th century, long before the European mathematicians.

Long before Pascal, early Indian mathematicians described this array of numbers as useful for representing the number of combinations of short and long sounds in poetic meter.

				1						
				1	1					
				1	2	1				
				1	3	3	1			
				1	4	6	4	1		
				1	5	10	10	5	1	
				1	6	15	20	15	6	1



Until 1896, India was the only source of diamonds in the world.

The Indian flag has three horizontal bands of color: orange for courage and sacrifice, white for truth and peace, and green for faith, fertility, and chivalry. An emblem of a wheel spinning used to be in the center of the white band, but when India gained independence, a Buddhist *dharma chakra*, or wheel of life, replaced the spinning wheel.



Sources: [http://knowindia.gov.in/myindia/myindia\\_frame.php?id=10](http://knowindia.gov.in/myindia/myindia_frame.php?id=10)  
[http://facts.randomhistory.com/2009/07/21\\_india.html](http://facts.randomhistory.com/2009/07/21_india.html)

Attachments: India Fact Sheet (from AFS-India)