Upakar helps needy Indian students

Continued from page 17 for outside vendors and services, events or publically.

Nirmala Sitharaman said that Upakar initiated this year a new award called "Community Ambassador Award" to recognize an Indo-American who inspired community service programs to benefit the greater society. The Community Ambassador Award honors an individual who plays a leadership role in service to their community outside of their own career. She said that Dr. Kumar calls the prospective recipient a "Social Entrepreneur" who does community service through a non-profit organization. The recipient would be recognized and the organization in which he or she works would be given $5,000. Besides, the recipient will be invited all expenses-paid to the annual banquet where he or she would be the keynote speaker. The recipient will also have an opportunity to speak to the press about his or her work and about his or her non-profit organization.

Fares kept intact in intercity budget

Continued from page 1 there is no proposal to increase the intercity sur-fares. Projecting a 3 percent growth in passenger traffic and 20-million-tonne increase in freight traffic, the budget estimates put the gross traffic receipt at Rs. 44,492 crore for 2004-05, an increase of Rs. 1,877 crore over the revised estimates of 2003-04. It budgets ordinary working expenses at Rs. 32,960 crore for the next financial year and proposes to give current divi-dend of Rs. 3,305 crore to government along with Rs. 300 crore of deferred divi-dend. The 17 new series of fast trains linking state capitals with Delhi will be named as Sampark Kranti Express. The first train will be from Delhi (Nizamuddin) to Bangalore (Yashwantpur) and would be flagged off on February 8. The trains will have value-added features – non-stop run beyond the state, dedicated staff throughout the run and public address systems. The Rs. 20,000-crore outlay for connecting remote and backward areas in the next five years would be called "Remote Area Rail Sampark Yojana."

Nirmala Sitharaman said that the Rail Protection Force (RPF) was gearing up to take over the responsibility for providing security in passenger areas from July 1 this year.

India shines at FIA's R-Day banquet

Continued from page 8 Dorothy Brown, partner of Cook, Gourley, and Locher, was the chief guest, paid tributes to the contributions of Indians for the progress of this country. "I am committed to diversify my office. Many Indians work in my office. We respect our cultures," she added.

A great supporter of technology, she said that her office received a "tech rapid" recognition as one which was technologically very advanced. She said: "We aim at efficient customer service; we provide efficient training for employees; we believe in accountability; and we meticulously manage our $120-million budget."

Dorothy Brown, who is seeking re-election, appealed to all Indians to vote for her in the elections and help her win the race. Introducing Dorothy Brown to the audience, Harish Bhatt, chairman of the event, said that her office employed about 2,500 people among whom many were Indians. She also managed the biggest budget and received several awards for her achievements. Frank Avila, a Democratic candidate for Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, and Melissa Beans, who is running for 8th Congressional District, also addressed the audience seeking their support in their elections.

Neelima Mishra, who is the top SAT scorer among all Indian students, was recognized and awarded a check of $1,000. Ruth Varghese also presented a plaque for her contribution to the Indian culture.

Advani - Hurriyat talks set agenda for LS poll in Kashmir

Continued from page 2 nation with the Jammu region a major issue in the Parliamentary elections. Many constituents that he will contest, come what way. In that event, one would be witness to an interesting spectacle of partners in the coalition government openly clashing with each other. Small wonder that he has already protested against the exclusion of Jammu from the talks. He is determined to drive home the point. As for the Abbis faction of the Hurriyat Conference, it may be too early to even think of contesting the elections. All its constituents are skating on thin ice. One thing is, however, very clear that, sooner or later, if they, or the other faction, led by veteran Abbis Shah Geelani, or any outfit, be it the Jamaat-e-Islami or the dominant Yasin Malik faction of the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front, want to speak on behalf of the people of the state, they would have to pass the electoral test.

There is no other way they can prove that they are the "true representatives" of the state. That underlines the importance of the coming Lok Sabha polls and any such battle that may follow.

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