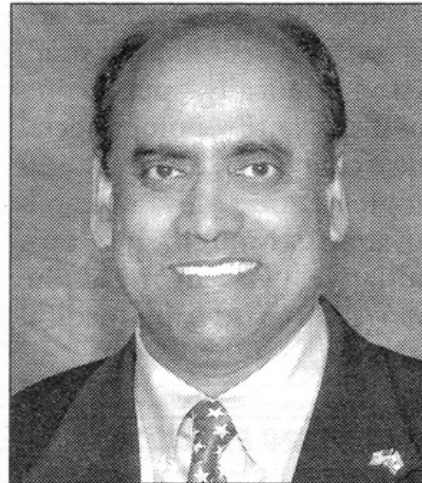


Prasad Thotakura on National Advisory Board of Dallas Bureau

Dallas, TX: The Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau has appointed well-known Indian American community leader Prasad Thotakura as a director of its National Advisory Board of Directors. Prasad is the first person of Asian Indian origin to be selected for this coveted position and he will serve for three years in this capacity.

Prasad Thotakura is a versatile community leader par excellence and has been serving the Indian American community for more than 20 years. He is an outstanding community activist, a visionary, and a good Samaritan. He is one of the most politically active and influential community leaders and helped build better Indo-US relations,

helped people in every capacity, assisting in matters ranging from immigration issues, racial profiling issues



*Indian American community leader
Prasad Thotakura.*

to health related issues.

His concern for the community welfare is unsurpassed and as a person whom the community always seeks in the

“hour-of-need” has earned an outstanding appreciation and respect among all cross sections of the society. He has many exemplary civic leadership and community service achievements.

“It is a great honor and privilege for me to serve on the National Board along with 25 other broad-based group of leaders selected from across US — representing the Chambers of Commerce, the state government, meeting professionals, executives, community organizations, hospitality and entertainment industry, hotels and sports organizations to share their wisdom and experience to promote Dallas as the destination for visitors and convention planners,” said Prasad Thotakura.

IN BRIEF

Thotakura appointed to National Advisory Board of directors

■ **DALLAS, TX:** The Dallas Convention & Visitors Bureau has appointed well-known Indian American community leader Prasad Thotakura as one of its National Advisory Board of directors. Prasad is the first person of Asian Indian origin to be selected for this

Chinese government’s decision to withhold visas for Hindus attempting to make the traditional summer pilgrimage to Tibet. Beginning in June, about five to six thousand Hindus from Nepal and India travel to the 22,000-foot Mount Kailash in the Himalayas and nearby Lake Mansarovar annually.

Beijing retracted permission for travel visas to Tibetan sites from Nepal.

coveted position and he will serve three years in this capacity.

Thotakura is a versatile community leader par excellence and has been serving the Indian American community for more than 20 years. He is an outstanding community activist and a visionary. He is one of the most politically active and influential community leaders and has helped build better Indo-US relations, helped people in every capacity, assisting in matters ranging from immigration issues, racial profiling issues to health related issues.

HAF condemns China for canceling Kailash Yatra visas

■ WASHINGTON, D.C.: The Hindu American Foundation (HAF) condemned the

India's foreign ministry stated that the Chinese government provided unspecified "domestic reasons" as justification.

Tour operators and pilgrims believe the visas were cancelled due to demonstrations in Tibet that began in March. The annual visits are a critical source of revenue for many Tibetans. HAF described the Chinese decision as a punishment meted out to Tibetans on the backs of Hindu pilgrims.

"China's policies in Tibet and rejection of His Holiness the Dalai Lama are clear violations of fundamental human rights, and Hindu pilgrims have never fomented instability in Tibet during their visits," stated Ishanaa Rambachan, executive council member. "The restriction is unfortunate because it affects the ability of Hindus to exercise a religious choice."