

# First Lady

## Visits India's Sesame Street

Chamki, Boombah, Aanchoo, Goggli and gang had a special visitor to their neighborhood on March 2. First Lady Laura Bush visited the set of *Galli Galli Sim Sim*, the Indian version of the hit children's educational series *Sesame Street*, in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. She taped a short segment about counting and numbers along with Nafisa Ali Sodhi, chairwoman of the Children's Film Society of India.

On the set, Mrs. Bush and Sodhi greeted Boombah, a giant lion puppet who loves to dance. Mrs. Bush shot a scene with a tomboyish female puppet character, Chamki. The First Lady said "namaste" and taught the Muppet—a trademarked type of puppet—to count to five. The episode is expected to reach 40 million households.

*Sesame Street* debuted in 1969 and is carried on the Public Broadcasting Service, a nonprofit U.S. television channel. Created by Jim Henson and Joan Ganz Cooney, each of the Muppet



The First Lady meets Satyam and Shivam Khanna, 8-year-old twins who play the role of Kabir, on the set of *Galli Galli Sim Sim*.  
Below: Mrs. Bush and Nafisa Ali Sodhi meet the Muppets

characters were designed to represent a stage of early childhood.

*Galli Galli Sim Sim* is the product of a partnership of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID); Sesame Workshop, a New York-based nonprofit educational organization; and Turner Broadcasting. Produced by Miditech, a New Delhi production company, the series will be in Hindi, with a smattering of English.

To be aired this summer on Cartoon Network and POGO, the series aims to prepare 3- to 6-year-old children for school by teaching them numbers and words; giving information on nutrition and hygiene; encouraging their imaginations; and instilling a love of learning. *Galli Galli Sim Sim* features Muppets designed to reflect Indian cultural and educational needs. The cast includes human characters representing different regions.

The programs will also be adapted for radio and additional content will be made available through books, pamphlets, posters and educational games.

—D.K.

