



To celebrate Earth Day in April, hundreds of schoolchildren in eastern and southern India created paintings on the theme, "What is important to you about our environment?" Many were displayed in the U.S. Consulates in Kolkata and Chennai and three were chosen to represent India in an international competition sponsored by the State Department. This one was painted by Lahari Kundu and submitted by the Kolkata Consulate for exhibition in Washington, D.C.

On May 1, the United States began to accept shipments of irradiated mangoes from India, the first U.S. imports of irradiated fruit. "We have followed through on President Bush's pledge to open U.S. markets to Indian mangoes, an important national symbol in India. Bringing Indian mangoes to the United States is just one step in increasing agricultural trade between the U.S. and India," said Ambassador David C. Mulford, enjoying an Indian mango at his residence in New Delhi.

VIKAS NARJULA



# NEWS SCAP

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Courtesy, John Tharakan



Dr. John Tharakan of Howard University in Washington, D.C. has just completed a year as a senior Fulbright research scholar working to compile, evaluate and assess the diverse technologies being used in South India to mitigate pollution and other forms of environmental damage caused by new materials and industries. Tharakan made a survey of institutions focused on biological waste treatment and participated in a symposium on this in February. "There is increasing awareness in the less-developed world to not repeat the environmental disasters and problems that the rapidly industrializing western nations and Japan subjected themselves to in the early and mid-20th century," says Tharakan. "This project was aimed at providing the informational database that would be important to ensuring problems are not repeated" or are confronted with old techniques that did not work.

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Consul General Henry V. Jardine leads a nature walk for disadvantaged children in Kolkata's Botanical Gardens. The attention of the students was drawn to the beauty and bounty of nature, and the importance of protecting it. "No action is too small," Jardine told the children.

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