

UPenn Gets \$2 Million Grant from Indian Gov't

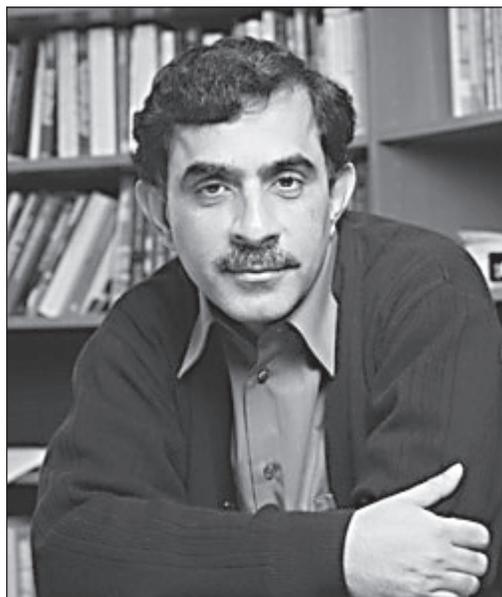
By a Staff Reporter

The University of Pennsylvania announced Feb. 17 a \$2 million grant from the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs of the Government of India to support Penn's Center for the Advanced Study of India, which will conduct research on international migration from India.

This is the first time that MOIA has ever awarded an empirical research grant of this magnitude to an academic institution outside India.

"Penn was chosen because it is home to CASI, which has become known around the world as the first and only academic research unit in a U.S. university focused on contemporary India," MOIA Joint Secretary G. Gurucharan said in a press release to India-West. "We see this as a small beginning."

He signed the agreement on behalf of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs during a Feb. 16 ceremony at Penn's College Hall, joined by Rajeev Ranjan, commu-



Prof. Devesh Kapur will be the principal investigator of the research project on international migration from India.

nity affairs counselor of the India Embassy in Washington; Shiv Ratan, MOIA director, financial services and budget; and Rebecca Bushnell, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Penn.

Also attending the signing

ceremony were Devesh Kapur, associate professor of political science and Madan Lal Sobti director of CASI; Penn Provost Vincent Price; Jack H. Nagel, associate dean for the social sciences; and Ramin Sedehi, vice dean for finance and administration at Penn.

As principal investigator of the research project, Kapur will be supported by a group of scholars recruited specifically for the purpose of conducting the research, as

needed during the next four years. Kapur's forthcoming book, "Diaspora, Democracy and Development: The Impact of International Migration from India on India," will be published this summer.

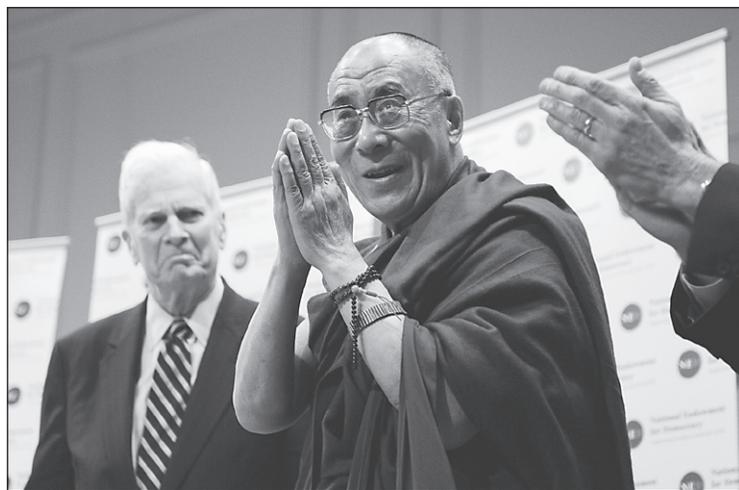
CASI, which was founded in

1992, has been awarded numerous research grants from major philanthropic foundations such as The GE Fund, The Ford Foundation, The Bill & Melinda Gates

Foundation and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Additional information about the Penn's Center for the Ad-

Obama Offers Low-key Welcome to Dalai Lama



The Dalai Lama arrives on stage to receive the Democracy Service Medal from the National Endowment for Democracy during a presentation at the Library of Congress Feb. 19 in Washington, D.C. President Barack Obama welcomed the Dalai Lama to the White House in a low-key event to avoid inflaming tensions with China. (Getty Images)

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama personally welcomed the Dalai Lama to the White House and lauded his goals for the Tibetan people, but he kept their get-together off-camera and low-key in an attempt to avoid inflaming tensions with China.

At the risk of angering Beijing, Obama did tell the exiled spiritual leader Feb. 18 that he backs the preservation of Tibet's culture and supports human rights for its people. He also gave encouragement to the Dalai Lama's request for talks with the Chinese government

Meetings between the Dalai Lama and U.S. presidents became standard fare under former President George H.W. Bush nearly 20 years ago. But the choreography is always delicate and closely watched because of China's sensitivity.

Revered in much of the world, the Dalai Lama is seen by Beijing as a separatist seeking to overthrow Chinese rule of Tibet. Though he says that is untrue, China regards any official foreign leader's contact with the Buddhist monk as an infringement on its sovereignty over the mountainous region and as a particularly unwelcome snub. China had urged Obama not to meet with the Dalai Lama.

In Beijing, Vice Foreign Minister Cui Tiankai summoned U.S. Ambassador Jon Huntsman to lodge a protest.

There was no welcome fanfare Feb. 18, nor a public appearance with the president. The White House released only a single official picture, rather than allow independent photographers and reporters to see the two men together.

The Dalai Lama did meet with reporters outside the White House, declaring himself "very happy" with the visit. He chided China for what he called its "childish" and "limited" approach to Tibetan efforts for greater rights.

Speaking to reporters on the White House driveway, the Dalai Lama said he spoke to the president about the promotion of human values, religious harmony, a greater leadership role for women around the world and the concerns of the Tibetan people, and that Obama was "very much supportive."



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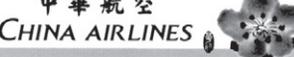
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