



National Indian Students and Alumni Union (UK)

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **The National Indian Students and Alumni Union UK bestows Honorary Fellowship former Chief Election Commissioner of India Dr. S Y Quraishi.**

The National Indian Students and Alumni Union UK (NISAU) has awarded its Honorary Fellowship to former Chief Election Commissioner of India, Dr. S Y Quraishi, to celebrate and acknowledge his contributions in shaping the present and future of India. Dr. Virander Paul, Deputy High Commissioner of India bestowed the Honorary Fellowship upon Dr. S Y Quraishi at an event organised by the 100-Foot Journey Club\* and the NISAU to discuss elections and electoral reforms in India, on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

Born on June 11, 1947, in Delhi, Dr. S.Y. Quraishi joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1971 and after holding several strategic and key positions, rose to become the 17th Chief Election Commissioner of India, the world's largest democracy. He was appointed as the CEC as the successor to Navin Chawla on 30 July 2010.

An alumnus of St. Stephen's College, Delhi University (M.A. History, 1969), Dr. Quraishi received a Ph.D in Communications and Social Marketing from the Dept. of Social Work, Jamia Milia Islamia University in Delhi, 1992.

He figured in The Indian Express's list of 50 Most Powerful Indians of 2011 and 2012 and India Today's High and Mighty Power List in 2012.

Dr. Quraishi is well known in India and abroad as a development thinker and for his inclusive style of leadership and for bringing harmoniously together wide varieties of groups and institutions for achieving the common objectives of development. He has travelled widely to represent India at international conferences and dialogues.

Honorary Fellowship of the National Indian Students and Alumni Union is the highest honour that can be bestowed onto a non-member by the Union. The individual will have made significant and long lasting contributions to India, Indian Culture and/or the welfare of Indian students in the UK, or elsewhere. It is awarded in recognition of, but is not limited to:

- a. distinction in the arts, literature, science, business or public life; or
- b. exceptional service to NISAU

With NISAU striving for the betterment of the society and working towards development and change, the organisation is proud to honour Dr. S Y Quraishi for his immense contribution to the welfare of

people and extensive work in the fields of gender, women and child development, youth and adolescent issues.

Miss Sanam Arora, President of NISAU commented “*NISAU is delighted to confer our Honorary Fellowship on Dr. S Y Quraishi for his contributions to the betterment of Indian society. Dr Quraishi is such an inspiration and this occasion has been made even more special by the Deputy High Commissioner of India Dr Paul bestowing our Fellowship upon him. We are humbled to associate NISAU with Dr Quraishi.*”

Miss Priyanka Mohan, Executive Officer of NISAU added “*We are privileged to bestow the NISAU Honorary Fellowship on Dr. S Y Quraishi for his exceptional contributions towards the advancement of the Indian society. Dr Quraishi is a fellow alumnus as well, given his association with Kings College London. We are so humbled and delighted.*”

The National Indian Students and Alumni Union UK would like to thank the High Commission of India, London and LSE South Asia Centre for their invaluable support.

Notes to editors

The Hundred Foot Journey Club is a new initiative of the High Commission of India and the London School of Economics South Asia Centre launched on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2016. The club has been launched in view of the proximity of the HCI and LSE. It will host academic events and other activities of mutual interest. It will organise at least 6 events annually, including panel discussions, film screenings etc. either at LSE or India House/Nehru Centre.

The event ‘*Elections in the World’s Largest Democracy*’ was the second event organised by the 100-foot Journey Club, in association with the National Indian Students and Alumni Union UK.

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