

INDEX

Mexico Condemns Mumbai Terrorist Attacks	2
India Buys More Mexican Oil	2
Indian Ayurvedic Tenets For Better Living	2
Contemporary India Photo Exhibition In Hidalgo	2
Sitarist, Mexican Artists Enthral at Indian Musical Evening	3
Guru Pournima Observed At Indian Cultural Centre	3
India-Pakistan Peace Process	3
Pak Refusing To Shut Down Terrorist Camps: US	4
ISI Millions To Influence US Policy On Kashmir	6
Second India-USA Strategic Dialogue Held	6
India Condemns Acts Of Violence In Norway	7
Major Indian Rebel Group Declares Ceasefire	7
Indian Credits Worth \$6.43 Bn To 54 Countries	7
BRICS Countries To Help Health In Poor Nations	7
Bangladesh Honours Indira Gandhi	8
India Greet South Sudan On Independence	8
India On "Impact of Climate Change"	9
India Looking East To Build Cultural Bridges	9
Sharp Drop In New HIV Cases In India	10
India Tests Quick-Reaction Missile	10
India To See Huge Drop In Poverty: UN	11
India's Exports Surge In June	11
FDI Inflow Sees New High In May	11
Indian Diaspora Tops Remittances, Again	12
India To Be Largest Financing Market	12
Tata Motors Start Vehicle Assembly In S.Africa	12
India's New Guard of Start-ups	13
India May Soon Export Nuke Reactors	14
Cloud Computing Lands India Inc On Cloud Nine	15
Rapid Growth In Mobile Banking Business	15
Unprecedented Solar Power Expansion	16
India's Suzlon Eyes Europe's Wind Power Boom	16
India Puts Communication Satellite Into Space	17
IOC India's First Fortune-100 Company List	17
India's Commercial Planes Market \$150 Bn By 2030	17
India Third Largest Investor In UK	17
Indian Advances Injectable Vasectomy For Men	18
India Now 1.21 Billion Strong	18
New Arrival Cheers A Vulnerable Community	18
India's Top 10 Tourist Destinations	19
They said It...	20
Trade Enquiries from India	20

Mexico Condemns Mumbai Terrorist Attacks

In keeping with its abhorrence of terrorism, the hallmark of any civilized State, Mexico strongly condemned the Mumbai bomb blasts of July 13 that killed 25 persons and injured over 130. In a statement issued by the Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores (SRE), the Mexican government "most strongly condemned the terrorist attacks in Mumbai, a major commercial and financial centre of India, and deeply regretted the loss of life and many injuries caused by these completely unjustified acts of terrorism", and conveyed its "sincere condolences and sympathy to the people and government of India, and reiterated its repudiation of all forms of terrorism".

India Buys More Mexican Oil

India's Essar Shipping Ltd., plans to add as many as a dozen second-hand supertankers to benefit from Indian refiners' rising need to haul crude oil from Mexico and Venezuela. "We're looking at the emergence of long-term contracts between Indian oil companies and suppliers from Latin America," Managing Director A.R.Ramakrishnan said in an interview at the company's headquarters in Mumbai. "We see a great scope for import of crude oil to feed all the refining expansion taking place in India." Essar may purchase six very large crude carriers, or VLCCs, as part of its tanker-fleet expansion, Ramakrishnan said. Indian refiners including Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) are stepping up imports from Latin America as they add capacity to process the heavier and cheaper grades of crude from the continent. Essar Shipping has 26 vessels, including two VLCCs and five capsizes, according to its website. Essar will also start taking delivery of 12 new bulk carriers valued at about \$450 m in September, Ramakrishnan said. India, which imports almost 80% of its oil, spent a record \$99 b buying crude from overseas in the year ended March 31, as refiners expanded capacity to meet rising energy demand in the world's second-fastest growing major economy. Indian refiners including Indian Oil Corp. and Essar Oil Ltd. are also adding capacity to process heavy grades of crude oil, which are cheaper than light varieties. Essar's expanded refinery will process 90% of heavy grades, Managing Director Naresh Nayyar said. Reliance, owner of the world's largest refining complex, increased crude imports from Latin America 78% last year.

Indian Ayurvedic Tenets For Better Living

The Gurudev Tagore Indian Cultural Centre in Mexico City hosted a talk on *Ayurveda* on July 13. Ayurveda (or *Āyurveda*), which literally means 'the complete knowledge for long life' in Hindi, is the ancient Indian system of medicine. Michele Torres, a Mexican Ayurvedic therapist, who had graduated last year from the Australian Institute of Ayurvedic Studies in Brisbane, delivered a talk on the subject, describing the salient features of this ancient science of maintaining a long and healthy life and explaining how Ayurveda seeks to achieve a harmonious balance of body, mind and spirit. Torres outlined the doctrine of *tridosha* (synergy between *vaata*, *pitta* and *kapha*, the three elemental energies or humours that control the activities of the body) and its relation to the *panchamahabhoota*, the five great, i.e. basic, elements that make up the universe, viz., ether, air, fire, water and earth in the Ayurvedic weltanschauung. She spelt out some basic ayurvedic tenets focusing on healing from within. The talk was followed by an enthusiastic question-answer session with the audience of about 100 persons.

Contemporary India Photo Exhibition In Hidalgo

The people of Nopala, a picturesque town in the state of Hidalgo, got a welcome glimpse of present-day India, with the vibrancy of her people, the lifestyle of her young and dynamic workforce, the richness and diversity of India's cultural heritage, including its monuments, temples, mosques, etc., on display, at a week-long photographic exhibition. The exhibition was organized by the Embassy of India, in collaboration with the Municipality of Nopala and was inaugurated on July 21 evening, jointly by Mr.Juan Raúl Basurto Dorantes, Mayor of the town, and Mr.N.Balasubramaniam, the Director of the Gurudev Tagore Indian Cultural Centre. The exhibition with its 30 photographic panels had especially been put together for Mexico. The photographs were by two renowned Indian photographers, Mr.Sandeep Sankar

and Mr. Amit Mehra. The Mayor thanked India for partaking in their annual fair and expressed the hope that India will continue to collaborate in their future fairs also.

Sitarist, Mexican Artists Enthral at Indian Musical Evening

Paul Livingstone, an American disciple of the legendary Sitarist Pandit Ravi Shankar enthralled a packed audience in the Embassy auditorium on July 25 evening, with a captivating Sitar recital. He was accompanied on the *Tabla* by Pandit Shashanka Bakshi, a disciple of Pandit Samta Prasad and a renowned and accomplished artist himself, having performed with some of the leading exponents of Hindustani classical music. A unique and distinguishing feature of the evening's performance was the discovery by many lovers of Indian music in Mexico of the so-called *Mexicana Gharana*, an impromptu coinage by Livingstone for his accompanying retinue of many a young and enthusiastic Mexican artist. *Gharana* refers to a distinctive style of music or dance representative of a region or place. Perhaps the most impressive part of their performance was their ability to blend the Western musical instruments like cello and violin into a fusion music.

Mexican aficionados of Indian art and culture organised a two-day Indian dance and music festival at *Teatro de la Libertad* in Xalapa, the capital of the State of Veracruz. The festival opened on July 9 with a *bansuri* (Indian flute) recital by Natalie Ramírez Tovar, who is studying Hindustani classical vocal music at *Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra* in New Delhi on a Government of India scholarship. Natalie, who started learning to play the *bansuri* on her own initiative, enthralled the audience with a melodious rendering of *raga Bhopali* and *raga Yaman*. This was followed by an equally melodious Sitar recital in *raga Bhagyashri* and then *raga Bahar* by Paul Livingstone. The following day Ms. Garima Bhargava, who teaches the Indian classical dance form *Kathak* at the Gurudev Tagore Indian Cultural Centre, gave a captivating performance comprising three items—*Rudrashtakam*, *Taal Dhamar* and *Sargam*. Paul Livingstone concluded the festival by another melodious rendition in *raga Bhairavi* and *raga Sarang*. A *raga* (or *rāga*) is a melodic mode used in Indian classical music. It is a series of five or more musical notes upon which a melody is made. In the Indian musical tradition, ragas are associated with different times of the day, or with seasons. Indian classical music is always set in a raga. The festival was attended by over 300 people over two days and evoked much interest in the local media.

Guru Poornima Observed At Indian Cultural Centre

The Gurudev Tagore Indian Cultural Centre celebrated the '*Guru Poornima*' on July 15 with traditional fervour. Many students of the Centre paid tributes to their teachers in the age-old '*Guru-Shishya Parampara*', a seminal feature of the well-established custom, by reverently tying the sacred thread smeared with vermilion, around their wrists, after putting a *tilak* on their forehead. This was preceded by a session in which Ms. Garima Bharagava, the Kathak Teacher at the Cultural Centre, explained for the benefit of the Mexican students the significance of the ritual.

A government that is evil has no room for good men and women except in its prisons.
- Mahatma Gandhi

India-Pakistan Peace Process

On July 27, Foreign Ministers of India and Pakistan met in New Delhi for a pre-scheduled meeting, as part of the ongoing bilateral dialogue, towards normalisation of the relations. Mr. S.M. Krishna and Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, after the meeting, issued a Joint Statement, saying that the talks were held in a candid, cordial and constructive atmosphere. They reviewed the bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction on the holding of meetings on a number of issues particularly counter-terrorism (including progress on Mumbai trial), peace & security including Confidence Building Measures (CBM), and promotion of friendly exchanges. The Ministers affirmed the importance of carrying forward the dialogue process with a view to resolving peacefully all outstanding issues, and to establish friendly, cooperative and good neighbourly relations. They underlined the need for sustained effort by both countries to build a

relationship of trust and mutually beneficial cooperation...to see an end to terrorism and violence and to realise their aspirations for peace and development. They agreed that terrorism poses a continuing threat to peace and security and reiterated the firm and undiluted commitment to fight and eliminate this scourge in all its forms and manifestations, and to bring those responsible for terror crimes to justice. On cross-LoC (Line of Control) trade and travel facilitation for Jammu & Kashmir, they decided on a number of specific measures to facilitate trade and movement. They also agreed that increase in trade and economic engagement between the two countries would be mutually beneficial, and emphasized the importance of early establishment of a non-discriminatory trade regime between the two countries, including reduction/removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers. It was decided that the Foreign Ministers will meet again in Islamabad in the first half of 2012 to review progress in the dialogue process.

Later, addressing the media, Krishna described the talks as "very useful discussions...held in a cordial and positive atmosphere...detailed and fruitful exchange of views on all issues of mutual interest and concern...deliberated on the way forward." He also expressed his "satisfaction at the progress achieved", adding that "While being fully cognisant of the challenges that lie ahead...our relations are on the right track. We have some distance to travel, but with an open mind and a constructive approach...can reach our desired destination of having a friendly and cooperative relationship between the two countries." Earlier in his welcome remarks, he looked "forward to working closely with (Rabbanî Khar), in forging a peaceful and cooperative relationship between India and Pakistan, which is in the interest of peace and development of both our countries, the region and beyond...let me categorically state that we would like to see a stable, peaceful and prosperous Pakistan and wish the people of Pakistan well. The challenges and aspirations of all us South Asians are similar. I visualize a resurgent South Asia, proudly marching forth on a path of development, in a terror free and harmonious atmosphere."

Pak Refusing To Shut Down Terrorist Camps: US

The United States has compiled a wide body of intelligence on the locations of militant training camps in Pakistan, but has been unable to persuade Islamabad to shut them down, according to current and former officials. A former senior administration official said the biggest concern is a North Waziristan-based network of camps, from which the Taliban and al Qaeda-linked groups train and recruit fighters, as well as build improvised explosive devices (IEDs), The Washington Times has reported. "We have had broad conversations with Pakistan about North Waziristan and the reasons for intervention," the former administration official said. "There have been wide-ranging discussions about extremist groups in Pakistan and what should be done about them. Training capabilities of these groups have been part of the conversation," the official added. Representative Duncan Hunter, California Republican, said that the situation may come to a point where the Obama administration has no choice other than to launch attacks into Pakistan, the report said, adding that he, however, declined to specify the types of attacks. "These are established, vetted safe havens that operate in Pakistan," Hunter said. "They rest up, then they come back across with materiel and supplies and new guys to attack our troops. We know where these guys are down to a small area on a map." The administration has stepped up drone attacks in Pakistan's northern tribal areas and did approve the Osama bin Laden raid in Abbottabad without Islamabad's prior knowledge. Representative Mike Rogers, chairman of the House Permanent Select Intelligence Committee, said that Pakistan's army and its powerful Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency continue to play both sides in the U.S. war on terrorism. "We're going to have to continue to work with them," the Michigan Republican said on CBS' "Face the Nation." "They do help us in some ways. But this is incredibly concerning when they continue to have these problems with helping bad guys." Hunter, who just returned from a fact-finding trip to Afghanistan, said: "I think what has to be done, we have to deny the terrorists safe haven. We have to let Pakistan know we have to go after targets that are so embarrassing to them and so obvious to the world community that when Pakistan cries

'foul,' everybody just kind of laughs at it and shrugs it off and says, 'Good job, America.' And those targets are available. The super downside to that is, you widen the war."

India has been continuously urging South Asian countries to fight the scourge of terrorism. South Asian nations must make greater efforts to fight terrorism without relying on outside help, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told a regional conference in New Delhi. Stressing that South Asia could prosper as a whole, Singh said there was a need to develop a "culture" in which the countries involved would be able to tackle the region's deep frictions. "The scourge of terrorism has taken a huge toll on all our societies. It is a cancer, that if not checked, will consume us all," Singh told a gathering of the SAARC. "I would like to believe that we have the will and foresight to prevent such an outcome," Singh said. "Others cannot solve our problems for us...Disaffection and alienation provide a fertile breeding ground for intolerance, violence and terrorism which then threaten our societies," he said. SAARC, founded in 1985, groups Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Also, India has said that **States are responsible for non-State terrorists as well.** No country can escape its responsibility by blaming non-state actors for terrorist activities emanating from its soil. As long as the territory of a country is used by non-state actors to prepare for terror attacks, that country owes a legal and moral responsibility to its neighbours and to the world to suppress those non-state actors and bring them to justice, Home Minister P Chidambaram said. "Sometimes, I think that the distinction between state actors and non-state actors is misplaced and intended to misdirect our efforts to deal with terrorist groups at the very source - the recruitment centres, the training camps and their safe havens and sanctuaries," he said while addressing the fourth meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) interior/home ministers in Thimphu. Describing terrorism as the biggest existentialist challenge in South Asia, Chidambaram said the menace in the region can be best tackled through effective cooperation among the SAARC nations. "We have no alternative but to deploy the best instruments and resources at our disposal in our fight against terrorism," he said.

India has also welcomed the United States' decision to suspend \$800 m military aid to Pakistan, saying a heavy presence of arms would have disturbed the equilibrium in the region. "With reference to the special circumstances between India and Pakistan and how India has consistently taken the view that it is not desirable that this region had to be heavily armed by the US, which will upset the equilibrium in the region itself. To that extent India welcomes this step," Indian External Affairs Minister S M Krishna told reporters in New Delhi. Krishna was reacting to the US' decision to cut military aid to Pakistan. The suspended aid, which is about one-third of the \$2 b in annual American security assistance to Pakistan, includes about \$300 m to reimburse Pakistan for some of the costs of deploying more than 100,000 soldiers along the Afghan border to combat terrorism. It also comprises millions of dollars in training assistance and military hardware. Krishna said, "Simultaneously the US must take note of the fact that we are working in a very committed manner to normalise our relations with Pakistan to reduce trust deficit, and efforts are on."

A senior official of the Obama administration has said that India's economic rise presents a huge opportunity for Pakistan. Addressing an event organized by the East-West Centre, US Under Secretary for Economic, Energy and Agricultural Affairs, Robert D Hormats said a bilateral breakthrough could provide a catalyst for wider regional economic integration in South and Central Asia. "The pace of economic integration in the Asia-Pacific region as a whole over the last two decades has been unprecedented and should serve as an example for other regions. It should, and I believe it can, be replicated in South Asia as well. Hundreds of millions of people would benefit from such increased collaboration," Hormats said. Emphasizing recognition of India's important regional and global leadership, Hormats said that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's recent visit to Kabul underscored India's strong initiative to support international efforts to rebuild a secure, stable Afghanistan. Praising India's assistance pledge of \$500 m to a total of \$2 b, he said that India has assisted with

critical infrastructure such as power stations and the parliament building and small development projects like health care facilities and water wells. He said that Prime Minister Singh has shown leadership and courage in advancing the current thaw in India-Pakistan relations.

ISI Millions To Influence US Policy On Kashmir

Pakistan's spy agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), funnelled millions of dollars for more than two decades to influence US policy on Kashmir, the FBI said after arresting a prominent Kashmiri separatist leader in Washington for illegally lobbying for Pakistan. FBI filed an affidavit in a US Court in Alexandria, wherein separatist Kashmiri leader Ghulam Nabi Fai was produced hours after being arrested by the federal agency in July on charges of illegally lobbying for the spy agency ISI and Pakistan on the issue of Kashmir. The 43-page affidavit was filed in connection with indictment of two US citizens, who did not register with Justice Department, as agents of Pakistan. Fai is the director of the Kashmiri American Council, a Washington-based group that lobbies for self-determination for Kashmir. Its activities, the affidavit said, is funded by ISI. The money includes \$100,000 given to political campaigns every year. Foreign governments are prohibited from making donations to American political candidates. "The investigation has led me to conclude that Fai has acted at the direction and with financial support of the Government of Pakistan for more than 20 years...although Fai has some latitude to decide his day-to-day activities, the Government of Pakistan long has directed and funded his lobbying and public relations in the US," said Sarah Webb Linden, Special Agent, FBI. India has said Fai's arrest was long overdue as there had been suspicion for a long time that he was getting funds from Pakistani agencies. "Yes, his arrest was long overdue...Because we had fair degree of suspicion that the money he used to get was given by the agencies in Pakistan," India's Home Secretary R K Singh observed.

Second India-USA Strategic Dialogue Held

On July 19, India and USA held their second annual meeting of the India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue, led by India's Minister of External Affairs Mr.S.M.Krishna and the visiting U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, in New Delhi. Addressing a Joint Press Conference, Krishna recalled that two years before, almost to that very day, in Delhi, the two had announced the Strategic Dialogue, as the bedrock on which they are building their global strategic partnership - one of the defining relationships of the 21st century. He and Secretary Clinton met for 2½ hours and then continued their discussions over lunch, reviewing the bilateral relations, discussing their vision and ambitions for the relationship, and a broad range of regional and global developments. They expressed satisfaction at the momentum in the relationship and all round progress in their cooperation, welcoming the maturity and mutual confidence in the relationship. They reiterated their commitment to taking forward civil nuclear energy cooperation on the basis of full implementation of mutual commitments. India expressed appreciation for their ongoing engagement and full support of the US for India's full membership of the four export control regimes and India's expectation of progress in tandem on the four regimes. They discussed UNSC reforms and India's permanent membership of a reformed UN Security Council. They stressed the importance of defence cooperation in their strategic partnership and expressed satisfaction at the progress they are making in defence cooperation, including in defence trade and collaborations, through their various bilateral defence mechanisms. While they lauded the growth in trade and investment flows in both directions, they also acknowledged that there was enormous potential for further expansion. Krishna expressed India's sincere appreciation for the solidarity and support extended by President Obama, Secretary Clinton and the people of the United States after the recent Mumbai terrorist attack. They had good discussions on terrorism in the region, both during the dialogue and in other meetings on the margin, and resolved to intensify their cooperation to fight terrorism. They underscored the importance of elimination of terrorist sanctuaries in Pakistan for regional stability and security and for Pakistan's future. In concluding, Krishna observed that this was a truly productive and comprehensive meeting, consistent with their strategic partnership and the extraordinary breadth of their engagement. Secretary Clinton and he reaffirmed and renewed their

commitment to build a strong global strategic partnership and invigorate their cooperation with new momentum. On her part, Clinton said counterterrorism cooperation is on top of their mind after the previous week's bombings in Mumbai. "We pledge full support to India in fight against terror. We cannot tolerate safe haven to terrorists anywhere, it is in the interest of Pakistan itself to act against terrorism". She said that the United States was "encouraged" by the revived peace talks between nuclear-armed rivals India and Pakistan, calling talks "the most promising approach" to build more confidence between the countries.

The Dialogue concluded with the two leaders adopting an India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue Joint Statement. As part of Clinton's visit, she met with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, Chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance Sonia Gandhi, Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Sushma Swaraj, and National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon. She offered her prayers and sympathies to the victims of the despicable attacks in Mumbai on July 13.

India Condemns Acts Of Violence In Norway

In an official statement, India has said, "We are shocked and saddened by the attacks in Oslo and Utoya on 22 July 2011, which have led to loss of so many innocent lives and injuries to scores other. We condemn these senseless acts of violence. The government and people of India stand with the people and the Government of Norway at this tragic juncture".

Major Indian Rebel Group Declares Ceasefire

One of India's oldest rebel groups has announced a unilateral ceasefire to push forward formal peace talks aimed at ending three decades of insurgency in the northeast state of Assam. The United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), the largest separatist outfit in the region, has been fighting for an independent homeland for ethnic Assamese since 1979. The insurgency has claimed an estimated 10,000 lives. "The ULFA, with a view to exploring a lasting peaceful resolution of the ongoing conflict, resolves to cease all forms of armed campaign for an indefinite period," ULFA chairman Arabinda Rajkhowa said in a statement. Rajkhowa and several other top ULFA leaders had been released from prison on bail in December 2010, after which they held several rounds of informal peace talks with New Delhi's chief negotiator P.C. Haldar. They also held a courtesy meeting with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Home Minister P.C. Chidambaram earlier this year. Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi welcomed the ceasefire declaration.

Indian Credits Worth \$6.43 Bn To 54 Countries

India has extended 121 operational Line of Credits (LOCs) worth \$6.43 b to 54 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and ASEAN, External Affairs Minister S M Krishna has said. He was addressing a gathering of trade officials of embassies and high commissions in India. LOCs are accorded to poor countries by India to stem economic and infrastructure development there. "These LOCs have also helped in showcasing Indian technology and opening up of new markets overseas," Krishna said while stressing on the importance of trade diplomacy. "We accord high priority to economic diplomacy. We take a number of initiatives including bilateral and multilateral ones to strengthen cooperation with our trading partners," he said. Commenting on the global economic slowdown, the minister said there was a need to guard against "protectionist measures" which may be taken by countries to safeguard their interests. He said India has been fortunate to have not experienced the impact of the economic slowdown as its economy has been "resilient and vibrant", for which he credited Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's policies during his days as Finance Minister in the early 90s.

BRICS Countries To Help Health In Poor Nations

The world's top emerging countries have banded together to help fight diseases in the poorest countries, pledging to explore the transfer of technologies to the developing world to enable poor nations to produce cheap and effective lifesaving medicines. Health ministers from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - BRICS - meeting in Beijing said their collaboration would help strengthen health systems and increase access to affordable medicines for diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, hepatitis. Such cooperation could pressure multinational

pharmaceutical companies. Brazil and India have been at the forefront of promoting generic drugs as an affordable alternative to expensive brand-name medicines for people in developing nations. South African Health Minister Dr. Aaron Motsoaledi said the BRICS countries could influence global attitudes on access to cheap medicine in the developing world. BRICS countries account for 40% of the world's population. "It is within BRICS countries that most of the affordable drugs are found to supply the developing world. So we think the partnership is strong enough to be able to influence events around the world," he said. It was the first ministerial-level meeting of BRICS health officials, who said they would collaborate with international health organizations such as the World Health Organization and the UN agency, UNAIDS, to increase access to affordable, safe and effective medicines and vaccines. Michel Sidibé, UNAIDS executive director, welcomed these efforts to push for the needs of the poorest countries, noting that Brazil and India have long aided efforts to provide drugs to people living with HIV/AIDS. "BRICS is a new voice," Sidibé said at a news conference. "It will help us to change the course of debate on public health by bringing to the centre the voice of the poorest segment of society by making sure that social justice and the redistribution of opportunities will become a major aspect of the way we deliver public goods to the people." BRICS are willing to play a larger role in financing global health efforts, but not as a replacement for the support of richer nations, said Brazilian Health Minister Alexandre Padilha at a news conference. Russia's Health Minister Tatyana Golikova said the group should work on establishing a database for pricing and patents of medical devices and equipment and also cooperate in fighting counterfeit medical products. BRICS countries should increase production of affordable generic drugs, because if such countries could compete with other manufacturers, drug prices would fall, said WHO Director-General Margaret Chan.

Bangladesh Honours Indira Gandhi

Sonia Gandhi, Indira Gandhi's daughter-in-law and the head of India's ruling Congress party, accepted the Bangladesh Freedom Honour from Bangladesh President Zillur Rahman at a reception in Dhaka. "If Indira Gandhi could have been with us now, I know she would have been overwhelmed by the high honour you have bestowed on her," Sonia Gandhi said in her acceptance speech. Indira Gandhi was a friend of founding Bangladesh leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and her Congress government helped the country achieve independence. The award recognises Indira Gandhi's 'direct support, cooperation, her strong role and unique contribution' to Bangladesh's independence, said Dhaka's cabinet secretary M. Abdul Aziz. Under Indira Gandhi's leadership India sheltered 10 million Bangladeshi war refugees, lobbied for Bangladesh internationally, secured the release of Sheikh Mujib from a Pakistani jail and finally "risked a war to hasten Bangladesh's freedom," he added. Bangladesh was honouring her as among those who helped the country during its struggle for independence and mark the 40th anniversary of its achievement, with Indira Gandhi being the first to be presented. Indira Gandhi was receiving "the highest state award for her outstanding contribution to our liberation."

India Greets South Sudan On Independence

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has greeted the people and government of South Sudan on the occasion of the declaration of the country's independence. Oil-rich South Sudan became on July 9 the world's newest country, splitting away from Khartoum-ruled north after decades of brutal war that claimed some two million lives. In a letter to President General Salva Kiir Mayardit of South Sudan, the Prime Minister applauded the new nation's commitment to addressing all outstanding issues with North Sudan in an amicable and peaceful manner. He conveyed, "I take this opportunity to convey India's best wishes to Your Excellency and the people of Southern Sudan as you embark on a new journey of nation building and development and greater peace and prosperity in the region...I have been apprised of the comprehensive discussions held in April this year between Her Excellency Dr. Priscilla Kuch and my colleague Mr. S.M. Krishna, Minister of External Affairs, on important issues of mutual interest. The Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. E. Ahmed led a multi-disciplinary delegation to Juba on June 15 to reiterate India's support and solidarity with the people of Southern

Sudan. India stands ready to share its development experience and extend whatever assistance possible to Southern Sudan. I am confident that our cooperation will grow from strength to strength in the coming days for the mutual benefit of our two peoples."

India On "Impact of Climate Change"

Addressing the UN Security Council, on July 20, in its first-time deliberations on the captioned subject, Permanent Representative of India, Amb.H.S.Puri noted that climate change is a challenge that lies at the forefront of the global development agenda. Climate Change, in an overarching sense, is beginning to impact the security of the global community; in the same way as poverty, food security, and under-development continue to undermine international wellbeing. Sea-level rise is happening. There is verifiable evidence to suggest sea-level increase of a metre or more by 2100 which could lead to disappearance of several Small Island States and submergence of low lying coastal areas in many littoral States. We are particularly aware of its gravity given the vulnerability of our own people living on island chains and in coastal areas. There are also issues of "Statelessness", and displacement of people which are deeply worrisome. Faced with these challenges, the answer quite clearly, first and foremost, lies in taking remedial action today rather than focussing on implications of such climate induced disasters in the distant future. In this context, while the Security Council can debate the issue and may recognise vulnerabilities and threats induced by climate change, it does not have the wherewithal to address the situation. The existential threat to Island States or food insecurity on account of climate change, and such issues need a broader approach anchored in development, adaptive capacity, risk assessment and institution build-up. In a more serious approach addressing these vulnerabilities, our deliberations on climate change must focus on reducing GHG emissions and strengthening adaptive capacity of vulnerable countries. Preserving the structure of the Kyoto Protocol and its second commitment period, early disbursement of the Fast Start Finance agreed at Cancun and operationalization of the Green Climate Fund, Technology Mechanism and Adaptation Committee are vital to imparting a renewed momentum to the UNFCCC process. Those who are historically responsible for climate change must come forward with firm GHG commitments and ensure that there is adequate resource and technology flow to developing countries, in particular the Small Island States to allow them to adapt to climate change. If we are successful in undertaking necessary mitigation and adaptation measures, our preoccupations about security implications of climate change, which in any case are yet to be fully established, to a large extent would be put to rest. What constitutes a bigger concern for international peace and security today is the threat that developing countries face from possible conflicts arising out of inadequate resources for development and poverty eradication. Sustained economic growth and development must, therefore, be pursued to allow developing countries alleviate poverty and meet basic standards of living for all. This in itself will make them more resilient to climate change vulnerabilities. In concluding, Puri recalled the words of Mahatma Gandhi: "All compromise is based on give and take, but there can be no give and take on fundamentals."

India Looking East To Build Cultural Bridges

India is looking East to ramp up cultural contacts and strike new friendships in Asia on the strength of shared history, said Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) President Dr.Karan Singh. Singh was in South Korea to set up a new overseas cultural cell in Seoul and establish a chair of Sanskrit at the Preah Sihanouk Raja Buddhist University in Cambodia for the study of the ancient mother language, the origin of several Asian dialects. The Seoul cell opened with a festival of Indian culture. "This is part of my 'Look East' policy that I adopted when I took over ICCR six years ago. In the last four years, ICCR has set up overseas cultural centres in Dhaka, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Kathmandu, Thimphu, Beijing, Tokyo and Seoul," Karan Singh said. Karan Singh, an MP, writer, politician and scholar of Indian culture, said he had adopted a Look East policy "because for 2,000 years Indian culture has had a profound impact on South and Southeast Asia". "All the great monuments in Southeast Asia like Angkor Vat and Borobudur are grounded in Indian religions (Hinduism and Buddhism)," he said, stressing the South and Southeast Asian countries share linguistic and Sanskrit roots

with India. "The themes of the traditional dances are drawn from the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. Bharatanatyam is the most popular dance genre in Southeast Asia. The cuisine is also similar. We have so much in common with these nations - but centuries of colonial invasion had attenuated these links. I am trying to rediscover and revive these cultural links," he said. ICCR overseas cells facilitate cultural exchange by hosting Festivals of India and festivals of the respective host nations in India, teaching of yoga as well as conducting Hindi classes, the ICCR president said. "We offer 3,000 scholarships to students from developing countries - with 1,000 in Afghanistan alone. We are trying to set new Indian studies chairs in foreign universities. We have 20 such chairs currently. Indian Studies has become an important area - especially in Asia," he said.

Sharp Drop In New HIV Cases In India

India's HIV services have earned praise from the UN. UNAIDS has lauded India's efforts to provide prevention and treatment services for men who have sex with men and transgender people, while stressing the need for scaling up services and eliminating homophobia. According to its press release, India's AIDS response has resulted in a drop in new HIV infections by more than 50% in the past decade. UNAIDS says that 67% of more than 400,000 men who have sex with men in India are accessing prevention services. "India's rich tradition of inclusivity and social justice must include men who have sex with men and transgender people," said Mr. Michel Sidibé, UNAIDS executive director. "India's successful AIDS response has been possible owing to the strong participation of communities of men who have sex with men, sex workers, people who inject drugs and transgender people backed by a strong and progressive national AIDS policy," he added. According to estimates provided by India's National AIDS Control Organisation (Naco), HIV prevalence among men who have sex with men in India is 7.3% compared to a prevalence rate of 0.31% among the general adult population. UNAIDS lauded the Prime Minister of India for iterating his government's strategy to provide HIV services to groups at higher risk of infection and welcomed his call to have an "HIV-sensitive" policy and programmes so that marginalised groups affected by the virus were not denied the benefits of health and development programmes. UNAIDS also lauded a Delhi High Court order overturning a 150-year-old law and decriminalising homosexuality. The agency has pledged to work with the Indian government, civil society and community groups in realising the vision of zero new-HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths in India. The head of UNAIDS also welcomed the announcement that India would continue to manufacture generic drugs to combat the disease and said the decision would save millions of lives. In the statement issued in New York, UNAIDS said that India's pharmaceutical industry produced more than 85% of first-line anti-retroviral drugs used to treat people living with HIV. The agency stressed that the cost of the least expensive first-generation treatment regimen had dropped from several hundred dollars to less than \$86 per patient per year with generic drugs.

India Tests Quick-Reaction Missile

India successfully tested a new quick-reaction tactical missile on July 21 and will use it in battlefield support for the army, the Defence Ministry said. The surface-to-surface "Prahaar" missile—which means "strike" in Hindi—can carry a variety of warheads weighing up to 200 kg and hit targets 150 km away. The Defence Ministry said the missile was tested successfully off the coast of India's eastern Orissa state. Within 205 seconds the missile "achieved terminal accuracy of less than 10 meters". Equipped with high-tech navigation and guidance equipment, the missile is meant to provide the Indian Army with a "cost-effective, quick-reaction, all-weather, all-terrain, high-accurate battlefield support tactical system," the ministry said in a statement. The Defence and Research and Development Organization developed the missile in less than two years to fill the gap between multi-barrel rockets and medium-range ballistic missiles, which can fly distances of up to 350 km.

Fatalism has its limits. We leave things to fate after exhausting all the remedies.
- Mahatma Gandhi

India To See Huge Drop In Poverty: UN

India has contributed to a large reduction in global poverty, according to the UN annual report on the Millennium Development Goals, which also pointed out that despite progress, the most vulnerable sections of society were being left out. The report, just recently released, said that poverty continues to decline in many countries and regions. It said that the fastest and sharpest reductions in poverty were in Eastern Asia particularly in China where the poverty rate is expected to fall under 5% by 2015. "India has also contributed to the large reduction in global poverty," the report said. "In that country, poverty rates are projected to fall from 51% in 1990 to about 22% in 2015." The report said that in China and India combined, the number of people living in extreme poverty between 1990 and 2005 declined by about 455 m, and an additional 320 m people are expected to join their ranks by 2015. The report examines where the world stands in terms of achieving the eight social and economic targets by 2015. The goals include eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary, promoting gender equality, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, and ensuring environmental sustainability. The report also said that despite significant setbacks after the 2008-2009 economic crisis, the world is still on track to reach the poverty-reduction target. By 2015, it is now expected that the global poverty rate will fall below 15%, well under the 23% target.

India's Exports Surge In June

India's exports surged 46% to \$29.2 b in June, helped by mounting demand in US and European markets. The year-on-year rise came as the key economic regions improved and India's strategy of diversifying its export markets to embrace Latin America and Africa also paid off. "Virtually all sectors grew well," Commerce Secretary said, describing the figure as "very high". The export sectors that posted strong growth included engineering, petroleum products, gems and jewellery and electronics. Asia's third-largest economy is aiming to more than double its merchandise exports in three years. Imports in June grew 42.4% to \$36.9 b, leaving a trade deficit of \$7.7 b for the month. During the first quarter of the financial year from April to June, exports surged 45.7% to \$79 b while imports jumped 36.2% to \$110.6 b. India hopes to attain \$500 b in export revenue in the year through March 2014, which will require annual export growth of 26.7%. India's exports in the last fiscal year to March 2011 grew 37.6% to a record \$245.9 b as demand for made-in-India goods picked up following the global financial crisis. With this, India is regaining its status as a global trading powerhouse, having broken into the club of top 20 exporters of goods and reclaiming its position among top 10 services exporters in 2010. India moved up two notches in both categories from 2009 in a display of resilience to the economic downturn. Experts attribute the robust growth to a change in the composition of exports and addition of new markets. India's export basket has also shifted from raw materials to manufactured goods, such as processed agricultural commodities and engineering items, with exports having become relatively wide based in manufacturing. Engineering and petroleum exports now account for 42% of exports as compared to 14% in 2000. Greater interaction with business communities in unexplored markets has also opened up various opportunities. Various free trade agreements (FTA) and consolidation of special economic zones (SEZ) have also contributed to the rise in exports. "This high export growth clearly indicates that diversification to other destinations has taken place apart from changes in the composition of goods," said Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee.

FDI Inflow Sees New High In May

Foreign direct investment (FDI) inflow rose by more than 100% to \$ 4.66 b in May, up from \$2.21 b a year ago, according to the India's Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, the highest monthly inflow in 39 months. In April and May, FDI inflow rose 77% to \$7.79 b from \$4.39 b during the same period last year. The rise is attributed to a series of steps India has initiated over the last few months such as consolidation of the guidelines and liberalization of norms in certain sectors like seeds and limited liability partnerships, and partly to improved sentiments overseas. There is, indeed, unanimity on 2011 being a good year as far as FDI is concerned and recent investments are an indicator of this positive trend.

Indian Diaspora Tops Remittances, Again

The 27 million global Indians, scattered across 190 countries around the world, contributed \$55 billion in 2010 to the Indian economy, according to the World Bank figures, showing a dramatic increase of almost 162% over the last eight years. India received nearly \$21 b from overseas Indians in 2003. "India received the highest remittance in 2010 compared with any other country in the world," said Dr Alwyn Didar Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, during a discussion on the Indian diaspora organized by the global think tank Gateway House. World Bank data also points to the fact that India receives the highest remittance, followed by China (\$51 b) and Mexico (\$22.6 b), Philippines (\$21.3 b) and France (\$15.9 b). Though there was a slight dip in remittance from 2008 to 2009, it bounced back in 2010 to a level higher than in 2008. Kerala and Punjab are currently among the highest remittance states. Singh believes the increase in remittances has much to do with a great degree of faith in the Indian banking system. According to S Parasuraman, Director of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, money is increasingly being remitted to India from educated Indians who have temporarily moved out of the country for work. "Those who earlier left the country for the US often settled down there for good and did not send money back home...Earlier, the money coming back to India was largely from poor people who migrated to Gulf countries, and sent a large portion of their income back home," he added.

India To Be Largest Financing Market

The US regards likely to become the largest market for financing for the US Export-Import Bank (Eximbank) in the next 12 to 18 months, the bank's Chairman & President Fred Hochberg said, as the Obama administration taps opportunities in the world's second-fastest growing economy to create more US jobs. Eximbank is close to disbursing a \$625 m loan to Reliance Power Limited's mega power projects and is in talks about financing Air India's new purchase of Boeing 787s, Hochberg said in a media interview. "I think we may see India's plans for power and infrastructure of \$1 trillion in the next five years...and a real appetite and desire to buy American products. That's what makes me confident that in the next 12 to 18 months, India could well be the largest country we finance," Hochberg said. In the first nine months of its fiscal year through June, the bank approved \$1.4 billion in transactions on behalf of American exporters and their Indian buyers. That financing has increased its overall exposure in India to \$5.5 b, just behind its exposure to Mexico, and has supported more than 10,000 American jobs, according to data provided by Eximbank. Last year, Eximbank signed a \$5 billion deal with Reliance, which is owned by billionaire Anil Ambani, for the purchase of US-manufactured equipment for power projects. Hochberg said that the bank was also in talks with state-run carrier Air India for the funding of 27 Boeing aircraft, of which seven are scheduled for delivery by March. "The first delivery is in November, so we have to do it by then," he said. Hochberg was part of a delegation accompanying US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to India in July.

Tata Motors Start Vehicle Assembly In S.Africa

To support its growing volumes in the African market, India's Tata Motors, which launched the world's cheapest car "Nano", has invested \$16.5 m to put up a new plant in Rosslyn in South Africa for the assembly of commercial vehicles. In its current format, it can assemble light, medium and heavy commercial vehicles in the 4-50 tonne range, from semi-knocked down kits. The plant's initial capacity of 3,650 vehicles a year can be further expanded as required. To begin with, it is assembling two models, the Tata LPT 813 and Tata LPT 1518, both already popular in South Africa. "With a comprehensive product portfolio, Tata Motors is now at a stage where it can consolidate its international business in its chosen markets. The assembly plant in South Africa is an expression of that resolve. Step by step, we shall expand the footprint of our international business matching markets and products," said Mr Carl-Peter Forster. "Training, skill transfer and development of local workforce is one of the top priorities of the Tata Group in South Africa. Tata has an already established state-of-the-art technical training centre in Germiston, Johannesburg, operating since 2006, for skill development of dealer mechanics in South Africa and various other countries in the continent," the company said. Tata Motors, a \$27-billion company, started exports to South

Africa in 1998, with commercial vehicles, followed by passenger vehicles in 2004. Currently there are over 20 commercial vehicle models and five passenger vehicle models that are sold in that market. With a total 85 dealerships in the country, the company has thus far exported over 32,000 commercial vehicles and 31,000 passenger vehicles.

The Tata Group has also unveiled their latest product—a **\$700 flat-pack house**—that can be built in a week. The Group said that the 20-sq m (215-sq ft) home comes from a pre-fabricated kit that includes doors, windows and a roof. "We have already prepared two-three different designs based on discussions with users and are gathering more feedback," said Sumitesh Das, the head of the project at Tata. "Hopefully, in the next six-eight months we should be able to roll it out in the market nationally." The basic model of a so-called "Nano" house will cost \$720 and use coconut fibre or jute for wall cladding and interiors. It has a life expectancy of 20 years. The house, which is being tested in the state of West Bengal, will also be available in a larger 30-sq m version and with additional features such as a solar panel for the roof and a veranda. Tata hopes to sell the house to private buyers who have a plot of land available and also to state governments planning mass residential schemes for India's millions of destitute and homeless. Das said Tata was using advice from panchayats (village councils) to fine-tune the design.

India's New Guard of Start-ups

When Sachin Bansal and his roommate Binny Bansal decided to quit Amazon India in 2007 to start their own "humble online bookstore", many thought they had lost their wits. "A lot of people tried to talk us out of what we were doing," says Binny. "They used to say: why give up a proper job?" Sachin also recalls friends warning him about the risks of setting up his own business. "We had a job, a good one, but we also had a dream and many people couldn't get this feeling, this ambition," he says. Few believed that the two university friends—who happen to share the same surname—could turn a \$10,000 investment into a business generating multimillion-dollar revenues in less than five years. Today, some analysts value their company, Flipkart.com, at about \$400 m. The story of Sachin and Binny might be a fairly common one in Silicon Valley, where dropping out of university to set up a company has become the norm. But in India things are different. One reason people were so sceptical was that the two were first-generation entrepreneurs who did not come from a business family background—Sachin's father was a farmer and Binny's was a government employee. "Junior analysts at investment funds found our business interesting but when they pitched our company to their senior partners they would turn us down as they thought that two guys like us couldn't scale up the business," says Binny. Historically, leading entrepreneurs and business executives are children from "business families". Apart from a few rare rags-to-riches stories—such as that of the late Dhirubhai Ambani who built Reliance Industries, India's largest listed company, despite being the son of a low-paid teacher in rural India—not many individuals have broken the mould. Now, a new group of first-generation entrepreneurs such as the Bansals are overcoming social obstacles and taking advantage of the opportunities in the "new India". "Initially, we were running the company with just two computers from our room," says Sachin. "The first order came 10 days after we launched the site. A guy in Andhra Pradesh bought *Leaving Microsoft to Change the World* by John Wood, who quit his job to set up the charity Room to Read. To us, it all seemed quite ironic as we had quit Amazon to change our lives," he says, as the two burst into laughter. "It took us two days to find it," recalls Binny. "We sold it at a loss to make up for the delay in delivery." Setting up the operation from scratch was the hardest task. "At the beginning, it took some time to get book distributors and vendors to believe that what we were doing was serious and had potential," says Sachin. Flipkart broke even after only six months, allowing the two emerging entrepreneurs to start reinvesting profits into a new office space and employees. "We didn't take a salary for 18 months and lived off our savings and a little pocket money from our parents, who were very supportive," says Sachin. During the first year, the company grew at a phenomenal pace. Sales doubled on

a quarterly basis as Flipkart's innovative cash-on-delivery payment system and growing titles catalogue became the favourite destination for the country's literati in search of their preferred book. However, in spite of the stellar early performance, few serious investors approached the Bansals to back their project. "We knew it would have been hard to attract venture capitalists," says Binny. "We were just two years out of college with a short working experience. We had to build a customer base to prove that we had something real to offer to potential investors." By mid-2009, investors started coming after them and they soon received their first \$1 m from a VC fund. This was shortly followed by another \$10 m investment from another US fund. "From then onwards, the operation skyrocketed," says Sachin. "We opened multiple offices, hired new engineers and boosted our catalogue."

This new class of entrepreneurs has emerged over the past decade on the back of India's unbridled economic ascent, as old barriers and constraining traditions have been overcome by a more risk-prone and self-confident generation. They have a distinct profile: they have a middle-class background; their parents were wage earners; they went to India's top universities; some also have an MBA or PhD from the US; and they worked for a big company for a few years, before going on to set up their own venture. Like the Bansals, Samir Patil, a former partner at McKinsey, and Susmita Mohanty, who worked at NASA and Boeing, are two entrepreneurs who fit this profile. Inspired by Walt Disney and Sesame Workshop, the non-profit organisation behind Sesame Street, Patil launched India's first child-focused media group in 2007 after he returned from New York, where he lived for several years. Meanwhile, Mohanty returned to India in 2008 to launch Earth2Orbit, the country's first private sector space company, which consults the government's space agency and private sector groups to develop space-related business opportunities. The rise of these new entrepreneurs became possible only after 1991, when India started to open its economy. The success of India's IT outsourcing sector also played a big role in instilling a new entrepreneurial culture. Companies such as Infosys, which was set up in the late 1980s by a group of middle-class IT whiz-kids, proved that it was possible for anyone to turn a dream into reality. Parminder Gill, a 42-year-old entrepreneur and co-founder of EduSports, which provides physical education programmes to nearly 200 private schools in India, says that the entrepreneurial ecosystem has hugely improved since he set up his first business more than 15 years ago. "The government isn't in your way all the time, there are more sectors we can invest in, people have money to buy our services thanks to the economic growth we have experienced ... it is a whole different story." However, seed funding continues to remain a pressing problem, according to Vinarma Shastri, a partner at the consultancy Grant Thornton. He says that most funds prefer investing in companies with at least a year or two in the business, which means that many start-ups depend on personal or family savings to get things going.

The rise of India's new generation of entrepreneurs is still under way but what most observers seem to agree on is that the country's next generation of billionaires will be the likes of Sachin and Binny.

India May Soon Export Nuke Reactors

India could soon join a select group of countries like US, China and France which export nuclear reactors, a US Congressional report has said. "Only Canada, China, France, Japan, Russia, South Korea, and the United States export nuclear reactors. India may join this group in the near term," the Congressional Research Service (CRS) said in its latest report 'Nuclear Energy Cooperation with Foreign Countries Issue for Congress.' CRS is the independent and bipartisan research wing of the US Congress, which prepares periodic report on issues of interest to the lawmakers. According to World Nuclear Association, India is offering its indigenous 220 and 540 MW heavy water reactor designs for export. The CRS report said only a limited number of countries conduct commercial enrichment and reprocessing of fissile materials and can supply this technology. At present, supplier states are not planning any transfers of

enrichment or reprocessing technology. The Nuclear Suppliers Group recently added criteria to its guidelines for the supply of fuel cycle technologies. "Commercial reprocessing is now being done in France, the United Kingdom, Russia, Japan, and India." India has announced plans for up to 12 US nuclear reactors at two sites, although no contract has been signed.

Meanwhile, India is moving forward with nuclear power generation despite worldwide concerns about the safety of civilian nuclear power electricity generation after the March disaster in Japan's Fukushima complex and has begun **constructing its 25th nuclear power plant**, the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS). Ground has been broken for the 700 MW indigenous pressurized heavy water reactor 40 miles from Kota in the north western part of India. RAPS operates six pressurized heavy water reactors (PHWR) at the facility, five of which are producing more than 1,180 MW, India's largest nuclear power electrical generation from a single facility. The new complex will be RAPS' seventh nuclear power plant built at the Rajasthan site. The RAPS inauguration ceremony was attended by India's Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Srikumar Banerjee and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) Chairman and Managing Director Shreyans Kumar Jain. The 700 MW PHWR was designed by NPCIL by scaling up the design of its 540 MW PHWRs operating at Tarapur since 2005. The new RAPS facility is expected to be completed by 2016. "The 540 MW PHWR at Tarapur was built by NPCIL in a record time of 4 years and 10 months," Banerjee said. "We will try to beat that record." Besides working to bring its new facility online, RAPS has begun initial excavation work for an eighth 700 MW PHWR onsite. The RAPS construction highlights India's determination to embrace nuclear power generation as a cost-effective solution. "We were to launch this a few months ago but the regulator has taken time to see that post-Fukushima all the possible safety measures are satisfactory," NPCIL Finance Director J.K.Ghai said.

Massive uranium deposits have also been discovered **in India**. A new mine in south India could contain the largest reserves of uranium in the world, a government official said, signalling a major boost for the energy-hunting nation. The Tumalapalli mine in Andhra Pradesh state could provide up to 150,000 tonnes of uranium, Srikumar Banerjee told reporters after a four-year survey of the site was completed. 'It is confirmed that the mine has 49,000 tonne of ore, and there are indications that the total quantity could be three times that amount...If that be the case, it will become the largest uranium mine in the world,' he said. The mine is due to start operating by the end of the year.

Cloud Computing Lands India Inc On Cloud Nine Corporate India takes to cutting-edge technological advances like a fish to water for boosting its competitive edge. An example is 'cloud computing'. A study by the Fortune 500 EMC Corporation and Zinnov Management Consulting on the private cloud landscape in India estimates that the total cloud market in India, currently \$400 m, would reach \$4.5 b by 2015. Of this, private cloud adoption would dominate and account for \$3.5 b in revenues, growing at over 60%, and lead to the creation of 100,000 jobs by 2015. The findings are based on a comprehensive survey of over 100 Chief Information Officers (CIO) and IT decision makers in India in various sectors conducted from January to May 2011. Private cloud deployments could result in potential savings of up to 50% on an average on investments, with cost optimization in segments like telecom and networking, facilities and fabric, hardware, software, internal labour and external IT services. IT, IT enabled services (ITeS), telecom, banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI), and manufacturing and government sectors would be the biggest contributors to the cloud market in India. Pari Natarajan, chief executive officer at Zinnov Management Consulting says, "Cloud computing will generate new opportunities for IT vendors and driving changes in traditional IT offerings. There is a high chance that companies that are not adopting IT today and don't have major investments in datacentres and server farms will directly move into the cloud model."

Rapid Growth In Mobile Banking Business Indian businesses are making more and more use of mobile banking. Payments and banking transactions through mobile phones in India are expected to touch \$350 b by 2015, according to The Boston Consulting

Group (BCG), a global management consulting firm, which will provide banks, telecom operators, device makers and service providers an opportunity to earn fee income of \$4.5 b. "It is far less costly to offer banking and payment services using mobile technology than to build new [bank] branches..." says the BCG study "Digital India – The rush to mobile money: madness or masterstroke?". Banks and mobile phone companies have already started preparing themselves to seize a share of this business. For example, India's largest lender, the State Bank of India, has teamed up with Bharti Airtel for mobile banking ventures.

Unprecedented Solar Power Expansion

Indian authorities are inviting bids for solar power projects worth almost \$700 m with a capacity of 300 MW under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM). "...[India's] Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is looking to tweak some guidelines for the second round of bidding likely to take place in the first week of August," said Anil Agrawal, Chief Executive Officer, NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam, India's nodal agency for conducting the selection process for the first stage of the JNNSM. The projects would be awarded by the end of this year and the power purchase agreements signed in January 2012. In the first round of bidding, 30 solar photovoltaic (PV) projects of 5 MW each and seven solar thermal projects with a total capacity of 470 MW had been awarded. This time, the authorities are looking to increase the size of the photovoltaic projects from 5 MW and may allot higher capacity to the project developers. Solar thermal power developers implementing projects under JNNSM have also been exempted from environment clearance requirement provided they can demonstrate that they are not using protected land and have applied for water permits, so that they can now proceed with their projects without fearing environmental delays.

India's Suzlon Eyes Europe's Wind Power Boom

Indian wind-turbine maker Suzlon Energy Ltd. plans to bid in a 10-billion euro French wind farm tender and expects its German unit REpower Systems AG to benefit from a shift by developed economies towards renewable energy following Japan's nuclear disaster, the company's top executive said. Europe's offshore wind-turbine market is expected to grow at more than 40% a year for the next five years, fuelling growth for REpower, which is among a handful of established companies with the expertise and experience in the offshore sector, Suzlon CMD Tulsi Tanti said in an interview. France, Germany and the U.K. will make up for the bulk of this growth in offshore generation, he added. Suzlon board member Girish Tanti commented that: "There are only a few players - two or three - in the European offshore market. REpower is one of the market leaders in that segment." The world's fifth-largest wind-turbine manufacturer by installed capacity is confident of holding on to its 50% market share in India. India's market will continue to grow at 30-40% a year for the next few years, he said. India installed 2,400 MW of wind power capacity in 2010 and this is likely to grow by 40% this year. Japan's devastating earthquake and tsunami in March has brought about a fundamental shift in the thinking of policy makers and energy planners, which bodes well for wind-turbine makers. While most developed countries will look to cut dependence on nuclear energy, Tanti said he doesn't expect many to take the 'extreme' measures adopted by Germany in closing all 17 of its nuclear plants. Monday, France called for bids to build five huge wind farms off its western coast between 2015 and 2020, comprising some 1,200 wind turbines able to generate enough electricity to meet 3.5% of its energy needs. With an eye on expected demand for more powerful turbines, REpower is expanding its facilities in Bremerhaven, Germany, to make 6 MW offshore turbines, the world's largest. While REpower caters to the offshore wind power segment and industrialized countries, Suzlon has a wider approach, covering also emerging markets in Asia, Africa and South America. Suzlon turbines now operate 17,000 MW of wind power capacity across 32 countries. "Now we're going full fledged in South Africa and some South American markets like Mexico. The need of energy is high in emerging markets," Tanti said. Suzlon is also looking for growth in low to medium windy areas by offering equipment with longer blades and taller-than-usual towers of more than 100 m height, he said. It owns 95% of REpower and is currently in the process of acquiring the remaining stake, but Tanti said the company doesn't need to raise

more cash for the acquisition or for capacity expansion. The company is also considering setting up a research and development centre in Singapore, he said.

India Puts Communication Satellite Into Space

Indian Space Research Organization's (ISRO) Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-C17 (PSLV) carrying a new communication satellite was successfully launched on July 15 from Sriharikota, South India, said ISRO officials. An extra large PSLV rocket, known as PSLV-XL, was used to launch the GSAT-12 communication satellite into space. GSAT-12 will link doctors and teachers from the cities with rural India and can help in a medical diagnosis over a satellite link. These communication satellites are used to provide telecom and television services across the country. GSAT-12 was launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota following a 53-hour countdown. GSAT-12, weighing 1,410 kg and equipped with 12 Extended-C band transponders, will augment communication capabilities in telemedicine, tele-education and telephone and other services. In PSLV-XL version, six extended solid strap-on motors carrying 12 tonne of solid propellant in total are being used as against nine tonne in a standard PSLV variant. This is the second time such a powerful configuration had been deployed, after it was used to put Chandrayaan-I into orbit in 2008. For the PSLV, this will be the 19th mission with the last 17 flights proving successful. This is the second PSLV launch in 2011 after the PSLV-C16 in April when the rocket lofted Resourcesat-2 and two other micro satellites into orbit.

IOC India's First Fortune-100 Company List

Eight Indian companies have made the cut in the list of world's 500 largest companies compiled by Fortune magazine, with Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) finding a place in the top 100 and Reliance Industries in 134th spot. Out of the eight, five are state-run entities. Indian Oil has cornered the 98th spot, up from 125th place last year. Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries has also improved its ranking from previous year's 175. Other Indian companies in the list are Bharat Petroleum (271), State Bank of India (291), Hindustan Petroleum (335), Tata Motors (358), ONGC (360) and Tata Steel (369). Fortune's global list of world's 500 largest companies for 2011, compiled on the basis of latest annual revenue figures, is topped by retail giant Wal-Mart Stores. The 2010 list also featured the same eight Indian companies. In the latest ranking, except State Bank of India, all other entities have improved their positions. According to the latest rankings, Indian Oil raked in annual revenues of \$68,837 m while that of Reliance Industries stood at \$58,900 m.

India's Commercial Planes Market \$150 Bn By 2030

Boeing has said passenger traffic in India is expected to grow at 8.1% annually over the long-term, while globally it is expected to grow at 5.1%. It expects India's commercial airplane market to reach \$150 b over the next 20 years driven by double digit growth and economic prosperity amongst a massive Indian population. In its outlook for India's commercial airplane market through 2030, Boeing said India will need 1,320 new passenger airplanes over the next 20 years. "Robust growth with new economic prosperity amongst a massive Indian population, discretionary incomes, business progress and access to airports will increase airplane demand," Boeing India president Dinesh Keskar said. India had 53.6 m domestic passengers and 13.1 m international passengers during the fiscal year ended March 31, 2011. "In 2011, the economy continues to do well. Indian air carriers are becoming profitable and we expect the GDP to maintain its upward trend in the long-term. As a result, both the air travel and air cargo markets will grow," Mr. Keskar added. Boeing predicts that India-based airlines will also grow by responding to passenger preference for more flight choices, lower fares and direct access to a wider range of destinations. "The demand for new aircraft is driven by growth in developing and emerging cities, demand from low-cost carriers, and the need to replace an aging fleet," the statement said. High inflation and volatile fuel prices will however, play a pivotal role in determining the future trend of the industry, Boeing said.

India Third Largest Investor In UK

India was the third largest investor in Britain during 2010-11 with 97 new projects, generating several jobs in a country facing

recession and major job losses, according to official figures. "Among the high growth markets, India and China are still the two principal sources of inward investment by project numbers," an official report titled by 'UK Inward Investment Report 2010-2011' released by the UK Trade and Investment said. An example of India's growing investment in Britain is Tata Steel and Australia's Dyesol's recently announced expansion of their £11 m collaborative R&D project in Flintshire to develop the world's first continuously manufactured dye-sensitised photovoltaic product on steel, for building applications.

Indian Advances Injectable Vasectomy For Men

An Indian engineer named Sujoy K.Guha is devising what could be the most revolutionary contraceptive technology - some 30 years in the making - since the birth control pill. Reported on July 12 in news site Globalpost, the new technology is called RISUG, reversible inhibition of sperm under guidance, which is a surgery-free, injectable and reversible vasectomy. According to the report, stage three clinical trials are already underway in India, and the treatment could be available as early as next year. San Francisco activist Elaine Lissner is also backing the new contraception and aims to help push RISUG in the US under the trade name Vasalgel.

Mass production takes no note of the real requirement of the consumer.

- Mahatma Gandhi

India Now 1.21 Billion Strong

The total population of India is 1.21 b, with 833 m living in rural areas and 377 m in urban areas, according to the Census of India's 2011 provisional population totals of rural-urban distribution in the country. However, for the first time since independence, the absolute increase in population is more in urban areas than in rural areas. The report says that the child sex ratio in the country in Census 2011 has recorded as the lowest since 1961 Census. Further, there has been an increase of 217.8 m literates since last Census in 2001. Out of this, 131.1 m were in rural areas and 86.6 m in urban areas. Significantly, the level of urbanization increased from 27.81% in the 2001 Census to 31.16% in the 2011 Census, while the proportion of rural population declined from 72.19% to 68.84%. Uttar Pradesh has the highest rural population on 155 m (18.62% of the country's rural population) followed by Bihar and West Bengal, while Maharashtra has the highest urban population. Mumbai tops the list having the maximum number of people in urban areas at 50 m. The growth of the country's rural population is steadily declining since 1991, the report said. The four states that recorded a decline in the rural population during 2001-11 include Kerala (by 26%), Goa (19%). "The slowing down of the overall growth rate of population is due to the sharp decline in the growth rate in rural areas, while the growth rate in urban areas remains almost the same," Registrar General of India and Census Commissioner C Chandramouli said.

New Arrival Cheers A Vulnerable Community

The birth of a Greater One-horned Rhinoceros calf about ten days ago in Dudhwa National Park, Uttar Pradesh, is being seen as proof of continuing success of the programme to reintroduce the species in the habitat that began in 1984. Starting with a population of 7 under the plan, the 27 sq km area now hosts 31 rhinos including the new addition. As with several other parts of northern India, this area recorded the presence of Rhinoceros Unicornis even in the 19th century, but habitat loss and excessive hunting decimated its numbers. The reintroduction programme, which was actively supported by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, began in a region of the park with an ideal mix of grassland, woodland and wetland. Then Minister for Environment and Forests Jairam Ramesh said, "The significance of this is that rhinos were translocated from Kaziranga to Dudhwa. The fact that now calves are being born shows that there has been great adaptability as far as the translocated rhinos are concerned. The birth of calves and (tiger) cubs shows protection to be secure." Reintroduction and rehabilitation of the Greater One-horned Rhino in Dudhwa is special because it has been undertaken inside a "Project Tiger" area, where the main focus is on the tiger and swamp deer, the Field Director of the Dudhwa National Park, Shailesh Prasad and Assistant Inspector General of Forests, National

Tiger Conservation Authority, Sanjay Kumar, said in a note on the ongoing conservation project. Dudhwa's rhino revival story began with the decision to translocate six individuals from Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam. The demarcated area for the rhinos is protected with a solar fence. Regular patrolling of the 9x3 sq km rhino zone is done using elephants and vehicles. Presence of the species is recorded and the compilation of sightings updated on a fortnightly basis. The integrity of the fence is also ensured through manual checks, and grasses cut to prevent a short circuit. The area has developed into a favourite site for tourists who visit on elephant back. The International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species classifies the Greater One-horned Rhinoceros, also known as the Indian Rhinoceros and Great Indian Rhinoceros, as 'vulnerable'.

India's Top 10 Tourist Destinations

Tourism in India is booming. The number of foreign tourist to visit India during 2010 was 17.9 m as compared to 14.4 m in the previous year, registering a growth of 24.2%, whereas the footfall at domestic tourist destinations across the country witnessed a surge touching 740 m in 2010, an increase of 10.7% from the previous year. The number was 669 m in 2009 and 563 m in 2008. With Tirupati temple attracting hordes of visitors, Andhra Pradesh has become the top tourist destination in the country recording 155.8 m domestic tourists in 2010. "Tirupati temple in Andhra attracts maximum tourists. In fact, the number of domestic tourists visiting the state is more than Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra which have Taj Mahal and Ajanta & Ellora caves respectively," a senior tourism ministry official said. Uttar Pradesh attracted 144.8 m domestic tourists last year, and Tamil Nadu 111.6 m. The tagline adopted for promoting tourism is Enchanting Tamil Nadu. It is home to beautiful hill stations, thick forests and wildlife. Kanyakumari, the southern most tip of peninsular India, is famous for its beautiful sunrise, Vivekananda Rock Memorial and Thiruvalluvar's statue built off the coastline. Marina Beach in Chennai is one of the longest beaches in the world. Maharashtra, with 48.5 m tourists, has from hill stations, to beaches to forts and caves. It is not just India's financial capital but the fourth most attractive tourist destination in India, and was the top state in attracting 5.1 m foreigners in 2010. The other states and union territories which attracted foreign tourists in significant number are Delhi (1.9 m), Uttar Pradesh (1.7 m), Rajasthan (1.3 m), and West Bengal (1.2 m). Karnataka, with 38.2 m tourists, hosts numerous spots of interest for tourists. There is an array of ancient sculptured temples, modern cities, scenic hill ranges, unexplored forests and endless beaches. The districts of the Western ghats (mountain range along the western edge of the Deccan Plateau) and the southern districts of the state have popular ecotourism locations including Kudremukh, Madikeri and Agumbe. Karnataka has 25 wildlife sanctuaries and five national parks. Several popular beaches dot the coastline. Recently Karnataka emerged as a hot spot for health care tourism. Madhya Pradesh (38.1 m), besides the famous Khajuraho Temple and the Sanchi Stupa, Pradesh is endowed with rich and diverse forest resources. It represents great river basins and the watershed of a number of rivers. In Uttarakhand (30.2 m), leisure, adventure, and religious tourism play a prominent role, with the Corbett National Park and Tiger Reserve and the nearby hill-stations of Nainital, Mussoorie, Almora, Kausani, Bhimtal and Ranikhet being amongst the most frequented destinations of India. The state has always been a destination for mountaineering, hiking and rock climbing in India. A recent development in adventure tourism in the region has been white water rafting and other adventures sports. Eco tourism, agritourism and rural tourism have also found new grounds in many villages of the state. Rajasthan (25.5 m) is endowed with natural beauty and a great history. Tourism is a flourishing industry in Rajasthan. The palaces of Jaipur, lakes of Udaipur, and desert forts of Jodhpur, Bikaner & Jaisalmer rank among the most preferred destinations in India. Often called a shopper's paradise, Rajasthan is famous for textiles, semi-precious stones and handicrafts. Bikaner is famous for its namkeens (savory snacks), Jaipur for its jewellery, Jodhpur for sweets and Jaisalmer for yellow stone. West Bengal (21.1 m) stretches from the Himalayas in the north to the Bay of Bengal in the south. It houses the world famous tidal mangrove

forests – the Sunderbans. Real estate, financial consultancies, travel and tourism and hotel industry also contribute to the state economy. For Gujarat (18.9 m) ancient cave paintings to historic murals, natural and man made caves - art, history, music, culture, all dovetail within each other to form a wondrous matrix. Gujarat is also unique in its geological and topographical landscape.

They said It...

"India has been a priority for us since the beginning; in fact, one of our largest investments globally was when we put in \$100 million with the acquisition of Kelvinator of India in 1995...[W]e are very bullish about India. India...is one of the fastest growing markets with sales of \$550 million...Whirlpool does not design Indian products in Benton Harbour, Michigan, but it's done in Pune or Faridabad... Everything from engineering, design to consumer research, it's all done in India...In India we are very happy with the Whirlpool brand in terms of its equity and the value we get from it."

- Jeff Fettig, chairman and CEO, Whirlpool Corp.

I believe that if untouchability is really rooted out, it will not only purge Hinduism of a terrible blot but its repercussions will be worldwide. My fight against untouchability is a fight against the impure in humanity.

- Mahatma Gandhi

TRADE ENQUIRIES FROM INDIA

Company	Interest Areas
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ABRON EXPORT 105 Industrial Estate, Ambala Cantonment, Ambala-133001 Tel: (91 171) 2699478, Fax: 2698459, Mob: 9416020018 Contact: Mr.Ishrat Ahmad, Email: cool.ishratahmad@gmail.com Web: www.sunbrightco.com	Scientific, Lab & Educational equipment, Surgical Medical & Hospital Equipment
SHRI LAL MAHAL LTD B-16 Bhagwan Dass Nagar, New Delhi-110026 Mob: (91) 9899653536 Contact: Mr.J.P. Bindal, General Manager (Import-Export) Email: bindal@lalmahal.in, Web: www.lalmahal.in	Basmati rice and Other Agricultural commodities
JAY STEEL CORPORATION Office No.1, 1st Parsiwada, Hira Building, Khetwadi Main Road, Near Alankar Cinema, Mumbai-400004 Tel: (22) 23805075, 23887283, Fax: 23889563, Mob: 9820087854 Contact: Mr.Vasant Khiraiya, International Division Email: import@jaysteelcorporation.co.in Web: www.jaysteelcorporation.co.in	Monel and Titanium welded & seamless pipes & tubes, and structures and fittings of all types
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