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Mexico, India Unite To Combat Racial Discrimination

In yet another instance of the excellent friendship and cooperation that exists between the two countries especially for just causes, Mexico supported the re-election of India's candidate to the UN's Committee on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD). Veteran Indian diplomat, Dilip Lahiri, who has been India's Ambassador to Spain and France, was re-elected to the CERD with a very high number of votes, ahead of candidates from both Russia and the US.

Earlier, Mexico had likewise supported India's nominee, Ambassador A Gopinathan, for the key UN external oversight body, the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). In a direct two-way contest with China for the lone seat from the Asia-Pacific region, Gopinathan, who is India's Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva, convincingly defeated the Chinese candidate to assume a place on the JIU for a five-year term starting 2013. This key election was the first time ever that India was locked in a direct contest with China in the UN General Assembly. Gopinathan won with a clear majority of 106 votes out of the 183 cast, while China got 77 votes.

Innovative Mix of Indian Culture with Mexican Riding, Etc

In a first ever event of its kind in Mexico, Lic.Luis Fernando Villegas, an accomplished and reputed horse trainer and rider in Mexico, and his team from Escuadra Marengo, organised, on November 20, at Hipódromo de las Américas, in Mexico City, an innovative show with a mix of Bollywood-inspired dances by 3 Mexican boys and girls each and six skilled riders performing to Indian pop music. Earlier, one of the scheduled horse races was dedicated to India, with Ambassador Dinesh K Jain giving away prizes to the winners. The special events were witnessed and much appreciated by the enthusiastic audience.

Earlier, on November 17, Amb.Jain had inaugurated a photographic exhibition, titled 'Mira India', by Ms.Lourdes Pozo Pietra Santa, a Mexican amateur photographer. Her photographs were taken during her short visit to India in November 2010, bringing out facets of life of the ordinary people of India, as contrasted to the much photographed popular monuments and sites. In his address to a well-attended and colourful ceremony, the Ambassador said that such exhibitions bring India to Mexico, in a display of our natural mutual affinities, and serve to create a greater mutual awareness and knowledge about each other.

India At Guadalajara International Book Fair

11 leading Indian publishing houses participated under the banner of the Book Division of the Chemical and Allied Export Promotion Council of India (CAPEXIL) in the Guadalajara International Book Fair held from November 26-30. CAPEXIL's Book Division is tasked with facilitating and strengthening India's publishing and printing industry's external trade through effective and efficient networking with the global community. A world leader in the publishing industry, India publishes around 90,000 new titles by over 19,000 publishers in 24 Indian languages annually. India also exports books, publications and make printing services accessible to more than 120 countries around the world. Indian publishing exports in financial year 2010-11 exceeded \$200 m.

Peruvian Honour for Indian Academic

Peru will confer one of its highest civilian honours - La Orden Al Merito por Servicios Distinguidos en el Grado de Comendador - on noted Indian scholar, S.P. Ganguly, in recognition of 'his valuable contribution, for more than 30 years, in the diffusion and promotion of knowledge on history, society, culture and literature of Peru and Latin America through his writings and guidance of research in India and abroad and for his mark as teacher in Spanish and Latin American Studies at JNU...Ganguly has played a very important role in developing links between Peru and India, as guide for doctoral works and research studies on eminent literary figures such as Cesar Vallejo and Javier Sologuren.' It is to be presented at a ceremony in New Delhi this December. 'It paves the way for promoting studies and interest in an area that has historically been neglected because of the dominance of English,' said

Ganguly, 65, a professor and scholar of Spanish and Latin American studies at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).

In the midst of humiliation and so-called defeat and a tempestuous life, I am able to retain my peace, because of an underlying faith in God, translated as Truth. We can describe God as millions of things, but I have for myself adopted the formula - Truth is God.
- Mahatma Gandhi

Eurozone Crisis Grave Threat to Stability: PM

While departing New Delhi on November 2 for the Cannes G20 Summit, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh noted in a statement that it was being held against the backdrop of the sovereign debt crisis in the Eurozone, which had emerged as the principal source of concern for the global economy. It was imperative that the difficult decisions needed to address the economic challenges in Europe and elsewhere were taken swiftly. India would like the Eurozone to prosper, because in Europe's prosperity lies India's own prosperity. The issue of global governance is of importance to India, and India would work with others to develop effective and representative global governance mechanisms and carry forward the process of reform of the international monetary and financial system. Also ahead of the summit, PM kicked off his engagements with a meeting with the other leaders of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, China and S. Africa), to firm up their joint position for the summit. During the 2-day summit, he held meetings with his host and French President Nicolas Sarkozy, British Prime Minister David Cameron, and Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard.

Addressing the Summit, on the November 3, PM said, "Our Summit will be judged by our ability to deal with financial instability emanating from the Euro zone periphery...I hope ways can be found to manage the situation so that a package can be put in place as quickly as possible. We welcome the initiatives taken in the Euro zone to evolve innovative mechanisms to raise resources for the European Financial Stability Facility and to strengthen fiscal discipline through intensive surveillance...However, the effectiveness of these arrangements to cope with the crisis is yet to be tested. Although the Eurozone countries have the principal responsibility for dealing with these problems, the dangers from spillovers from the Eurozone to the rest of the world are a matter of concern for all of us. In an increasingly integrated world, all of us have a stake in the orderly functioning and prosperity of Europe, including the Eurozone countries...The IMF must keep the situation under close watch as part of regional surveillance. It should also be willing to help in an appropriate manner if asked to do so. We strongly support the IMF playing its part in restoring stability in Europe. At the same time, the IMF must also keep in mind the liquidity requirements of developing countries who are not at the centre of the crisis, but may nevertheless be adversely affected as innocent bystanders...We must also face the challenge of orchestrating a broad based recovery and sustainable growth in industrialized countries and in developing countries. This is what the Mutual Assessment Process (MAP) exercise is meant to do. We face the difficult task of balancing the requirement for giving a push to growth in the short term and the task of restoring fiscal sustainability over the medium term. These call for very different policy prescriptions...We in India are taking steps to ensure a return to high growth. Our economy has slowed down in the current year and GDP growth is likely to be between 7.6 and 8%. Like many other emerging market countries, we too are experiencing high levels of inflation. We hope to go back to higher growth in 2012-13, together with a moderation in inflation. Our medium term strategy focuses on a revival of investment especially in infrastructure, and continuing efforts to reduce our fiscal deficit through improved revenue collection which is expected to come from tax reforms...G20 must not lose sight of the developmental needs of developing economies. After a long period, these economies experienced broad based acceleration of growth, making them potentially significant contributors to global growth. This is now threatened by slowing trend growth in

developed countries and uncertainties in financial markets. We need to find credible ways of strengthening these growth impulses...it is difficult to see why a financial sector tax, which would only raise the cost of capital even further, would be appropriate.

Following the Summit, PM Singh said in a press conference that India has a "vested interest" in smooth functioning of the Eurozone, which must have a centralised institution that can act as a "lender of last resort" in times of crisis, adding, "The crisis in the Eurozone is a potentially grave threat to the stability. There was obviously too little time in the Summit to resolve all the issues. However, I hope that unresolved issues can be quickly resolved. The outcome of the Summit on this issue should be seen as a work in progress."

India-Pak: A New Chapter But Risks Lurk

After meeting his Pakistani counterpart on the sidelines of the 17th South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Summit in Addu, Maldives, on November 10, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, said that "it was a very extensive discussion of relations...following the start of a new process in Thimphu last year. That dialogue process has yielded some positive results. But more needs to be done. And, therefore, the two have decided that they will resume this dialogue with the expectation that all issues which have bedevilled their bilateral relations will be discussed with all the sincerity. I have always believed that the destinies of people of India and Pakistan are very closely interlinked, and the time has come to write a new chapter in the history of the relationship". PM said he is very happy that Pakistan PM Gilani fully endorses this view, and, therefore, the next round of talks should be far more productive, far more result-oriented in bringing the two countries closer to each other than ever before. On his part, Gilani said that the two are moving in a positive direction, and that they had discussed all issues. He echoed that the next round of the talks would open a new chapter in the history of both the countries. Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai, briefing the media, added that PM Singh mentioned that terrorism is a perennial concern and it now affects Pakistan also, and we have an obligation to work together to ensure that it does not spoil the atmosphere of our bilateral relations. PM reiterated that it is imperative to bring the Mumbai terrorist attack perpetrators to justice. Gilani assured Singh that all possible steps were being taken in the context of the joint fight against terror. They agreed that terrorism poses the most serious threat to peace and stability in the region and needs to be countered effectively. They also agreed that there is a need for the countries to have an environment which is free of hostility and violence.

PM Singh in fact mentioned that the era of accusations and counter-accusations should be behind us. In the context of Pakistan denying India the 'Most favoured Nation' treatment mandatory under its WTO obligations, they notably agreed that the process of bilateral trade normalisation would be pursued to its logical conclusion by conducting trade on an MFN basis at the earliest, and that the two would also move towards a preferential trade agreement. With a view to promoting people-to-people contacts and cultural exchanges, they also decided to put in place a liberalised visa regime. Ahead of the Singh-Gilani parleys, the two Foreign Ministers, Mr. Krishna and Ms. Khar had at least three meetings the previous day. Krishna said there was "shrinking" trust deficit between the two countries though he asked Pakistan not to allow terrorism from its soil. Khar reciprocated by saying that her country's soil would not be allowed to carry out terror attacks. She later added that the talks had contributed to impel a seriousness of purpose to the process of engagement with both sides reaffirming their commitment to the pursuit of peace, and that Pakistan had positively evaluated the talks.

Speaking to the media on the flight back, PM clarified and elaborated that from his discussions with PM Gilani, the sense he has got is that after a long time, Pakistan's armed forces are fully on board. Gilani has repeatedly agreed with him that there is no way but to find a peaceful resolution of all outstanding issues. "In Gilani, we have a prime minister who we can work with", and therefore he believes India should like to strengthen the hands of Pakistan's democratic government. He warned, and he believes that Pakistan knows, and

Gilani had 'clearly understood' that 'if there is one more barbarous Mumbai-like attack, that would be a 'big setback' to the peace process. "I told him (Gilani) that terror as an instrument of state policy has no takers in the world and it has given rise to Pakistani terrorism. Terror has to be dealt with firmly," he said. Singh said that his decision to resume the peace process with Pakistan was not individual-centric, and he would take public opinion in India concerning the attack into account before going ahead with dialogue. "Our approach to Pakistan is trust but verify. We are not putting blind faith in one individual. I do hope it will genuinely lead to the normalisation of relations." Pointing out that Pakistan-India relations are 'subject to accidents,' Singh took positive note of the decision of Pakistan to grant the Most Favoured Nation status to India, and stressed on encouraging development in areas like trade and the willingness of Islamabad to discuss all issues, including that of terror. "In these areas (trade and terror), it is possible to find the way forward...Trade and economic relationship is one area where progress is possible," he added. "The thinking people in Pakistan realise that trade is a win-win situation." Singh, while accepting Gilani's invitation, however, said that no progress could be made until Pakistan took sufficient steps against the perpetrators of the November 2008 attacks in Mumbai, and that he would visit Pakistan only when the two countries can do something solid together.

Earlier, addressing the Summit, PM Singh said India recognises that it has "a special responsibility" towards its neighbours given its geography and the size of its economy and market. He said, "I believe the process (of regional integration) should move faster, though at a pace we are all comfortable with. I recognise that India has a special responsibility that flows from the geography of our region and the size of our economy and market...We should work to create a climate whereby the wealth generated by us is invested back into our own region. This will be the most ringing endorsement of our vision of a regional economy without boundaries".

Homage To Mumbai Carnage Victims, Action demanded

External Affairs

Minister, Mr S M Krishna, in a statement issued on November 26, three years from the terrorist carnage in Mumbai perpetrated by a bunch of 10 Pakistani gunmen killing 166 people, said that, "I join my countrymen in paying respectful homage to the innocent men, women and children whose lives were most tragically snuffed out by the inhuman act of terrorism, inspired and carried out from across our borders, three year ago, on this day, in Mumbai. We also salute the courage and fortitude of the families who lost their loved ones in that senseless act of violence. I once again call on our neighbour to bring the perpetrators of the crime to speedy justice. No cause can justify the use of terrorism for attainment of goals, whatsoever they may be. There also cannot be a selective fight against terror. The scourge of terrorism has to be comprehensively fought and eradicated in all its forms and manifestations. It must be realized that use of terrorism as an instrument of state policy, has no place in today's world and is self destructive. Issues have to be resolved through a peaceful dialogue in an atmosphere free from terror and violence. India is committed to having a peaceful, friendly and cooperative relationship with all its neighbours for progress and prosperity in our region. We call upon all our neighbours to join us in this endeavour of building a better future for our peoples." Nine of the 10 terrorists were killed in the attack, blamed on Lashkar-e-Taiba, a Pakistan-based militant organisation. The sole survivor, Kasab, is in jail in Mumbai awaiting his execution.

The Government of India has said Pakistan's spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) continues to support various terrorist outfits to spread violence in India. "...As per available intelligence inputs, Pakistan-based terrorist outfits, particularly Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e- Mohammed, Hizbul Mujahideen, etc., continue to receive support from ISI," Minister of State for Home Jitendra Singh informed Lok Sabha (House of the People in Parliament) in a written reply. He said government was committed to combating terrorism, extremism and separatism in all its forms and manifestation as no cases, genuine or imaginary, could justify terrorism. Government, he said, has taken various measures in this regard. He also

said that investigations into terrorism-related cases have revealed names of a few terrorist elements in Bihar having links with LeT.

Pakistan's policy towards India is to prevent India's rise as a global power no longer simply centred around Kashmir, a noted US expert has told lawmakers. "Pakistan's interests vis-à-vis India no longer simply centres around Kashmir; it centres around resisting India's rise," Christina Fair from the Georgetown University said. Testifying before the Middle East and South Asia Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Fair said Pakistanis took advantage of US assistance to massively build up their armed forces. "So, in some sense, what the Pakistanis got from us was the ability to amplify the policies in the region that they had already wanted to pursue," she said. Fair told lawmakers that the United States through all these years have supported the Pak military and not democracy. "Let's be very clear about the F-16 canard. We didn't give them the F-16s because we thought it would enhance their counter-terrorism or their counterinsurgency capabilities. We did it to placate Musharraf. We did it to placate Kayani. And it hasn't gotten us anywhere," she noted. "So far, what they've wanted are weapons systems that can deal more effectively with India and have very little utility for their domestic threat," she said. Fair said such things completely undermine US' regional interests "be it democratisation of Pakistan, be it regional stability vis-à-vis India and Pakistan...Let me give you a really good example of their cold-hearted calculation that they can get away with this impunity. Lashkar-e-Taiba, the group we've already heard about that did the 2008 massacre; they've been attacking our troops in Afghanistan since at least 2006 and probably, according to my interlocutors, maybe as early as 2004. And we've done very well, if anything, about it, not even raising this publicly."

"NAMES NOT NUMBERS"

COMMEMORATIVE CONFERENCE, MUMBAI 26 NOVEMBER 2011

Opening Remarks by Mr. Shashi Tharoor, Member of Parliament; Former Minister of State of External Affairs; Former Under Secretary General, United Nations

Today we bow our heads to commemorate a time of terror and death in a city that throbs with life and hope.

There is a savage irony to the fact that the horror in Mumbai began with terrorists docking near the Gateway of India. The magnificent arch, built in 1911 to welcome the King-Emperor, has ever since stood as a symbol of the openness of the city. Crowds flock around it, made up of foreign tourists and local yokels; touts hawk their wares; boats bob in the waters, offering cruises out to the open sea. The teeming throngs around it daily reflect India's diversity, with Parsi gentlemen out for their evening constitutionals, Muslim women in burqas taking the sea air, Goan Catholic waiters enjoying a break from their duties at the stately Taj Mahal Hotel, Hindus from every corner of the country chatting in a multitude of tongues. Three years ago today, ringed by police barricades, the Gateway of India – the gateway not just of India but *to* India, and to India's soul – was barred, mute testimony to that criminal assault on this country's pluralist democracy.

The terrorists who heaved their bags laden with weapons up the steps of the wharf to begin their assault on the Taj, like their cohorts at a dozen other locations around the city, knew exactly what they were doing. Theirs was an attack on India's financial nerve-centre and commercial capital, a city emblematic of the country's energetic thrust into the 21st century. They struck at symbols of the prosperity that was making the Indian model so attractive to the globalizing world – luxury hotels, a swish café, an apartment house favoured by foreigners. The terrorists also sought to polarize Indian society by claiming to be acting to redress the grievances, real and imagined, of India's Muslims. And by singling out Britons, Americans and Israelis for special attention, they demonstrated that their brand of Islamist fanaticism is anchored less in the absolutism of pure faith than in the geopolitics of hate.

Terrorists' are not respecters of faith: dozens of Muslims were amongst the 166 people who perished on 26/11 three years ago.

The attack on Nariman House and the killing of its residents was particularly sad, since India is justifiably proud of the fact that it is the only country in the world with a Jewish diaspora going back 2500 years where there has never been a single instance of anti-Semitism. This is the first time that it has been unsafe to be Jewish in India – just as it is the first time it has been unsafe to be dining in a 5-star hotel, to be buying a train ticket, or to be chatting at a café: the banality of evil destroying the tranquillity of ordinary life.

The terrorists hit multiple targets in Mumbai, both literally and figuratively. They caused death and destruction to Indians with near-impunity, searing India's psyche, showing up the limitations of its security apparatus and humiliating its authorities. They dented the worldwide image of India as an emerging economic giant, a success story of the era of globalization and an increasing magnet for investors and tourists. Instead the world was made to see an insecure and vulnerable India, a "soft state" bedevilled by enemies who could strike it at will.

Today, as happened three years ago, the platitudes will flow like blood. Terrorism is unacceptable; the terrorists are cowards; the world stands united in unreserved condemnation of this atrocity. Commentators in America tripped over themselves to pronounce this night and day of carnage India's 9/11. But India has endured many attempted 9/11s, notably a ferocious assault on its national Parliament in December 2001 that nearly led to all-out war against the assailants' presumed sponsors, Pakistan. The year of 26/11 alone, 2008, was one in which terrorist bombs had already taken lives in Jaipur, in Ahmedabad, in Delhi and (in an eerie dress-rehearsal for the effectiveness of synchronicity) several different places on one searing day in the state of Assam. Mumbai combined all the elements of its precursors: by attacking it, the terrorists hit India's economy, its tourism, and its internationalism, and they took advantage of the city's openness to the world. A grand slam.

Indians have learned to endure the unspeakable horrors of terrorist violence ever since malign men in Pakistan concluded it was cheaper and more effective to bleed India to death than to attempt to defeat it in conventional war. Attack after attack has been proven to have been financed, equipped and guided from across the border, the most recent before 26/11 being the suicide-bombing of the Indian Embassy in Kabul, an action publicly traced by American intelligence to elements in Islamabad's dreaded military special-ops agency, the ISI. In its meticulous planning, sophisticated co-ordination and military precision, as well as its choice of targets, the assault on Mumbai bore no trace of what its promoters tried to suggest it was - a spontaneous eruption by angry young Indian Muslims. This horror was not homegrown.

The Islamist extremism nurtured by a succession of military rulers of Pakistan has now come to haunt its well-intentioned but lamentably weak elected civilian government. The bombing of Islamabad's Marriott Hotel and various military installations in Pakistan since have proved that Frankenstein's monster is now well and truly out of that government's control. The militancy once sponsored by its predecessors now threatens to abort Pakistan's sputtering democracy and seeks to engulf India in its flames. There has never been a stronger case for firm and united action by the governments of both India and Pakistan to cauterize the cancer in their midst. This is why Prime Minister Manmohan Singh persists in his determined pursuit of peace.

Today we live in hope that the latest peace initiative between India and Pakistan will take wings and end the narrative of death and despair that has bedevilled our relationship. Three years ago it became conclusively clear that India had become the theatre of action for a global battle, one which threatens Indian lives, it is true, but one whose world-wide objectives also mean that we are not alone in this fight. Indeed, Pakistan should be on

the same side as us in what for them is an existential struggle. That is also part of the solidarity we are all expressing this morning.

Holding this event in Mumbai today is a fitting reminder that India has recovered from the physical assaults against it. It is a land of great resilience that has learned, over arduous millennia, to cope with tragedy. Bombs and bullets alone cannot destroy India, because Indians will pick their way through the rubble and carry on as they have done throughout history.

But what *can* destroy India is a change in the spirit of its people, away from the pluralism and co-existence that has been our greatest strength. The Prime Minister's call for calm and restraint in the face of this murderous rampage was vital. His efforts to build peace on the ashes of this horror are courageous. If these tragic events lead to the demonization of any group in India, if they permanently end our hopes of peaceful co-existence on the subcontinent, the terrorists will have won. For India to be India, its gateway – to the multiple Indias within, and the heaving seas without – must always remain open. That is the spirit of Mumbai. May it always endure.

We bowed our heads in mourning. Today, let us raise them again in hope.

UNSC Reform Challenge to Global Peace

Arguing that the UN Security Council is no longer reflective of contemporary reality, India has said this poses the 'most important challenge' to global peace and security as well as conflict prevention. The essential function of the Council is to address matters of imminent threats to international peace and security, India's Ambassador to the world body Hardeep Singh Puri said, addressing a UNSC briefing on 'new challenges to international peace and security'. "In our view, the most important challenge to international peace and security and conflict prevention is that our platform for global governance in this area, namely the Security Council, is no longer reflective of contemporary reality," he said. "A composition rooted in 1945 detracts from its abilities to fully harness the capabilities of UN Member-States as of today," Puri said, adding that instead of the continuation of applying methods of coercion from an era gone by, newer approaches involving collaborative action are required.

In a related, significant development, **Singapore has joined those supporting India's bid for permanent membership of the UN Security Council.** Responding to Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh's address at the banquet hosted for him on November 20, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said his country would certainly support New Delhi's bid for membership of the Security Council. "As India continues to grow, so will its influence and stature. Singapore looks forward to India playing a more active role in global affairs," Lee said, adding, "We support India's permanent membership in an expanded UNSC and we believe India has much to contribute to the stability and progress of Asia. India is an integral part of the regional architecture in Asia and is an important Asean dialogue partner."

Security Dimensions of India's Foreign Policy

Speaking at National Defence College in New Delhi on the captioned theme on November 14, Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai said (excerpts), "India's external environment remains complex and challenging. We are living in a world in transition. Globalization comes with its concurrent global threats both traditional and non-traditional security, and emanating from within, immediate neighbourhood, and from regions beyond. The internal and external policies must factor in the deterioration in the international strategic and political environment. The ability of the international community to respond to global security challenges has been limited by the preoccupation of major powers with domestic problems. 2012 will be a year of political transitions. Our foreign and security policy guidelines flow out from the national priority of sustained and inclusive economic growth, thus seeking an enabling environment: a peaceful periphery, and access to material resources, energy, technologies and markets.

We need to define strategic autonomy in a dynamic context, meaning self-reliance in critical sectors, and active participation in global networks. Giving our neighbours a stake in our own economic growth is an investment in our shared vision of security through shared prosperity. At the bilateral level, we desire peaceful and cooperative relations with Pakistan. We are committed to resolving all outstanding issues with Pakistan through bilateral dialogue in an atmosphere free from terror and violence. However, Pakistan must fulfil, in letter and spirit, its stated commitment of not allowing territory under its control to be used for fomenting terrorism against India in any manner. Our vision of a peaceful, cooperative and progressive South Asia cannot be realized unless the dark shadow of terrorism emanating from Pakistan is eliminated.”

“India and China as two large, growing economies with overlapping areas of interests are bound to cooperate and compete simultaneously. On the global issues there are a number of areas where we find common ground. The nature and content of the bilateral relationship has evolved considerably since the signing of our Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity and the Shared Vision Document in January 2008. We have a wide-ranging bilateral dialogue. We also have outstanding issues and discussions by the Special Representatives appointed to deal with the boundary question are set to continue. The rapid strides in economic and military capabilities of China and the manner in which China exercises its power is being followed carefully not only by us but by other neighbours in East Asia, ASEAN and beyond. Managing our relations with China, will be probably the most critical element among the security dimensions of India’s foreign policy.”

“Our extended neighbourhood in South East Asia, Central Asia and the Gulf region are an important priority in our foreign policy. These are regions that are witnessing domestic transformations which could impact on vital interests, including the presence of a large Indian Diaspora and as a source for our growing energy needs. Our strong economic and trade relations with these regions will need to grow in the coming decades. Hence their peace and stability is of vital interest to us. The entire Indian Ocean region stretching from East African coast to the South China Sea remains crucial to our foreign trade, energy and national security interests. As part of our ‘Look East’ policy, the engagement with South East Asian states has been intensified. An open, balanced and inclusive regional architecture is in the long-term interest of the region as a whole. Our strategic partnerships with Japan, ROK and other Asia Pacific countries also serve our long-term economic, developmental and security interests.”

“As part of our expanding interests, our relations with major powers are becoming increasingly important and extend beyond purely bilateral cooperation to areas such as regional security, economic issues, climate change, and disarmament and non-proliferation. We have established over the last decade a close relationship with the US and the US President last year described our relationship as one of the defining partnerships of the 21st century. Our ties with Russia also remain of vital importance to us—and this is underlined by the leadership level summits held annually with Russia. With Japan, France, and UK too we have very close ties founded on a commonality of interests encompassing the political, defence, energy, and economic areas. This engagement is also important for securing a place for India in the world that is commensurate with our position and our expectations. Our current two-year membership in the UN Security Council and constructive contribution in international forums also reinforces our global credentials.”

“In an increasingly integrated global economic order, the economic crisis in some EU states affects the rest of the world...The G20 had demonstrated its value in jointly addressing the challenges of the financial and economic crises and initiating reforms in international financial institutions. It remains a key forum for us to ensure that the agenda of the international economic cooperation takes account of our concerns and those of other developing countries. Through new formations like BRICS, and IBSA, we are expanding our economic partnerships with what are called the emerging countries.”

"We share the long-term vision for global, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament. We also support global non-proliferation objectives. However, as a nuclear weapon state, nuclear weapons are an integral part of our national security and will remain so pending global elimination of nuclear weapons. The Government is committed to putting in place all the necessary capabilities in pursuit of our policy of credible minimum deterrent. The developments in Pakistan's nuclear and missile programmes have been reported widely. The close military and strategic ties between China and Pakistan impact on our security environment. Our policies and engagements need to factor in this strategic reality and provide us options and additionalities to safeguard our national interest."

"India's position in the Indian Ocean gives our nation a maritime destiny. Our foreign policy has to address growing maritime challenges which call for comprehensive naval capabilities. 90% of India's international trade by volume by value is carried by sea. The maritime dimension is also vital for our energy security, as economic growth is critically dependent upon unhindered flow of oil. The sea-borne terrorist attacks on Mumbai-26/11, focussed the need for strengthening maritime and coastal security against threats from sea. The growing threat of piracy emanating from Somalia has assumed ever expanding dimensions even coming relatively close to our Lakshadweep island territories. A flexible but proactive maritime doctrine is essential to safeguard and project our national interests overseas as a net security provider to several island and littoral states in the Indian Ocean region and beyond. Obviously, this doctrine has to mesh with our overall foreign policy outreach."

"Let me say in conclusion that we live in a world in transition to a new order which will not be just multi-polar but one with kaleidoscopic arrangements based on varying security, economic, technological and societal interests. The distinctions between internal and external security will become more blurred calling for a constant review of our capabilities, preparedness and strategies."

US Government Corrects Maps on India

The US State Department has taken off incorrect maps of India from its website. Earlier, in response to a question, India's Official Spokesperson had said, "The Government is aware of the gross inaccuracies, in the map of India, on the US State Department website. The Government has consistently rejected incorrect depiction of India's borders on maps used by the US Government. It has used every opportunity to convey to the US side its concern in this regard, and has asked that these maps be corrected. This position was reiterated by a senior MEA official to the US Deputy Chief of Mission, who assured us that the US Embassy would convey our concerns to the US State Department. The Government takes this opportunity to reaffirm that the entire State of Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of India and has consistently conveyed to the international community that maps of India should depict the boundaries of our country correctly." Subsequently, the US State Department took off "inaccurate" maps of India and Pakistan from its website which did not reflect the correct boundary and geographical locations, its spokesperson said, adding, "We will put up the new map when we acquire one that we are confident is accurate." The State Department is also pulling out such maps from other sections of its website, she said adding that this was unintentional.

India-China Border Talks Delayed Over Dalai Lama

The reported Chinese demand for cancellation of the His Holiness Dalai Lama's speech at a Buddhist congregation in Delhi was understood to have led to the postponement of the scheduled India-China border talks recently. The Chinese side was said to have called off the 15th round of the talks between Special Representatives (SR) of the two sides after India refused to accept their demand that the four-day Global Buddhist Congregation, in New Delhi, co-organised by the Public Diplomacy division of India's External Affairs Ministry, which was to be addressed by the Tibetan spiritual leader, be called off. The Indian side is believed to have conveyed to China that the congregation was of a religious nature and not a political event and it could not cancel it. There was, however, no official word on the reasons for the cancellation of the SR talks from both sides. Chinese Special Representative Dai Bingguo

was to travel to Delhi for talks with his Indian counterpart Shivshankar Menon, National Security Adviser of India, to follow up on their talks in the 14th round in Beijing last November, and were expected to discuss putting in place a mechanism for border management mooted by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao during his visit to India last year. The External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi issued a brief statement that "We are looking forward to the 15th round of SRs talks in the near future and the two sides remain in touch to find convenient dates for the meeting."

Meanwhile, the Congregation, which concluded November 30, decided to **set up an international Buddhist organization based in India**. The body will be headquartered in India and attempt to bring together the main schools of Buddhism, said the Delhi-based Asoka Mission, which organized the meeting. Unlike Catholicism, Buddhism has no organizing centre. Most Chinese and North Asians practice the Mahayana school of the faith, while Theravada Buddhism thrives in Southeast Asia. Tibetan Buddhism, of which the Dalai Lama is the spiritual leader, is a third major school.

Australia Reviews Uranium Sale Ban

Australia's Prime Minister called for the country's ban on selling uranium to India to be overturned. Julia Gillard wrote in a newspaper column that it made no sense to sell nuclear material to China, Japan and the US, but not to India. Ms Gillard's Labor Party introduced the ban in 2008 because India had not signed the non-proliferation treaty (NPT). Australia holds about 40% of the world's proven reserves of uranium and supplies about 20% of the world market. The country has no nuclear power facilities itself but allows the export of uranium for peaceful purposes. India has a long-standing nuclear power programme, but also has nuclear weapons. Delhi has refused to sign the NPT, arguing that it is discriminatory because only countries that had tested nuclear weapons before 1967 are allowed to legally possess them. Despite this, the US recently signed a deal with New Delhi to co-operate on its civil nuclear programme. Gillard persuaded her colleagues to drop their support for the ban, describing India as a close partner. "It is time for Labor to modernise our platform and enable us to strengthen our connection with dynamic, democratic India," she wrote. "We must, of course, expect of India the same standards we do of all countries for uranium export - strict adherence to International Atomic Energy Agency arrangements and strong bilateral undertakings and transparency measures that will provide assurances our uranium will be used only for peaceful purposes." She said lifting the ban would bring jobs and growth to Australia. India is planning to build some 30 reactors in the next 30 years and is aiming to get a quarter of its electricity from nuclear energy by 2050. In response to a question India's External Affairs Minister Mr. S M Krishna said, "We attach importance to our relations with Australia which are growing across the board. Energy is one of the key areas of bilateral cooperation. We understand that Prime Minister Gillard proposes to seek a change in Australian Labour Party's policy on sale of Uranium to India, in recognition of our growing energy needs, our impeccable non-proliferation record and the strategic partnership between our two countries. We welcome this initiative."

Meanwhile, thorium-rich **India** is also **developing an alternative nuclear reactor**. It has announced plans for a prototype nuclear power plant that uses an innovative "safer" fuel. Officials are selecting a site for the reactor, the first of its kind, using thorium for the bulk of its fuel instead of uranium, the fuel for conventional reactors. They want the plant to be operating by the end of the decade. The development of workable and large-scale thorium reactors has been a dream for nuclear engineers for decades, while for environmentalists it has become a major hope as an alternative to fossil fuels. The fuel has considerable advantages over uranium; it is more abundant, and exploiting it does not involve release of large quantities of carbon dioxide, making it less dangerous for the climate than fossil fuels like coal. Ratan Kumar Sinha, Director of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in Mumbai, said his team was finalising the site and conducting "confirmatory tests" on the plant's design. "The basic physics and engineering of the thorium-fuelled advanced heavy

water reactor are in place, and the design is ready," he said. 'It would take another six years for the reactor's construction and for it to become operational, designed to generate 300 MW of electricity. India is also in talks with other countries over the export of conventional nuclear plants, Sinha said, and is looking for buyers for its 220-MW and 54-MW pressurised heavy water reactors. Kazakhstan and some Persian Gulf states have expressed interest. Unlike uranium, thorium-fuelled reactors do not result in a proliferation of weapons-grade plutonium. Also, under certain conditions, the waste from thorium reactors is less dangerous and remains radioactive for hundreds rather than thousands of years. With the world's supply of uranium rapidly depleting, attention has refocused on thorium, which is 3-4 times more abundant and 200 times more energy-dense. India has substantial thorium deposits.

BRICS' Rapid Growth Tips the Global Balance

In a signed media article, economist Jim O'Neill, who first coined the term and concept of BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, and China), later expanded to BRICS also including South Africa, has said, "My only regret on the first BRICS analysis of 2001 is that we weren't bolder. Between 2001 and 2010, the BRIC economies' GDP rose much more sharply than I had thought possible even in the most optimistic scenario. Moreover, their citizens' wealth showed equally remarkable increases, bringing hundreds of millions of people out of poverty. Their GDP per capita, the best indication of individual wealth, collectively trebled. (For example) I never imagined Brazil could grow so big so fast. India and Russia also surpassed my forecasts for nominal and real GDP growth. If the numbers are viewed from a demand perspective, rather than GDP, and omitting exports, then an even stronger picture of BRIC growth emerges. The BRICS' role in world trade is also expanding faster than we first thought and certainly much faster than world trade overall. Trade within the BRICs has accelerated sharply, largely because Brazil and Russia supply so many of the commodities needed by China and India. This pattern looks set to continue in the next decade and beyond, forcing adjustments to these countries' foreign exchange policies. BRIC leaders are already discussing alternatives to using the US dollar as their main trading currency. The BRICS have become powerful magnets for foreign direct investment. Moreover, they have also been piling up foreign exchange reserves. It is striking how much has changed in just a decade, but also how little the original BRIC's framework has altered. Even I had not fully appreciated the simple but critical importance of demographics and productivity. Simply applying the most credible estimates of long-term demographic trends, especially for the working population, is the intellectual cornerstone of the argument for the BRICS' potential. Between them, the four BRIC countries are home to close on 3 billion people, not far off half the world's population. In some ways, it shouldn't be that much of a surprise that anyone should think they would be the potentially largest economies. The world's largest populated nations probably should have the biggest economies. Certainly, for their people to enjoy the wealth that many throughout the rest of the world enjoy, they would need to have big successful economies...the two most populous countries, China and India, in the past constituted a much bigger share of global GDP. For centuries, India was the dominant economy and at times, the two countries' (India and China) combined share of global GDP was above 50%. Why couldn't it happen again? I believe it will. Given the BRICS' success, it should be no surprise that many other countries are now vying to be dubbed the next BRIC. In 2005, my team at Goldman Sachs tried to determine which would be the next group of developing countries to follow in the BRIC's wake. We came up with a group that we called the 'Next Eleven,' or N-11 for short. They are Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, S.Korea, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Turkey and Vietnam. Although we thought no N-11 country was likely to grow to the size of any of the BRIC, we predicted that Mexico and Korea had the capacity to become almost as important as the BRICS. The BRICS and the N-11 have proved useful and enduring models to help our understanding of what is happening in the world's economy and markets. In early 2011, I decided that the term emerging markets could no longer be applied to the BRIC and four of the N-11: Indonesia, Korea,

Mexico and Turkey. These are now countries with largely sound government debt and deficit positions, robust trading networks and huge numbers of people all moving steadily up the economic ladder. For investors to understand the scale of the opportunity here, and for policymakers to grasp what is changing in the world, they must see these countries apart from the traditional emerging markets. A more accurate term would be Growth Markets. (Extracted from "The Growth Map Economic Opportunity in the BRICs and Beyond")

Himalayan Nations In Climate Change Pact

Four Himalayan nations facing the threat of weather changes have agreed to collaborate on ways to adapt to climate change after a two-day summit in Bhutan. India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan were part of the Climate Summit for a Living Himalayas held in Bhutan's capital Thimphu on November 19. They agreed to cooperate on energy, water, food and biodiversity issues. "The success of our initiative will not only have direct and immediate benefits for our own people, but we could be setting a worthy precedent for other countries that share similar conditions," Bhutan's Prime Minister Lyonchhoen Jigmi Y. Thinley said. The summit was focused on securing ecosystems, endangered species, and food and water sources for the Himalayas' eastern part. The summit called for action amid the international community's inability to agree on limiting greenhouse gas emissions blamed for global climate change. As part of the declaration the four nations agreed to work together to increase access to "affordable and reliable" clean energy resources and technology through a regional knowledge sharing mechanism. The four nations did agree to work together on ecosystem and disaster management, sharing their knowledge in water use efficiency. There was also consensus on food security and securing livelihoods and the deal covers way to adapt and improve food production and help vulnerable communities get better access to nutritious food. "These kinds of regional initiatives are really needed," said Liisa Rohweder, CEO of WWF Finland, adding the summit was a good lead to follow for the Durban meeting.

US for India's Larger Role on World Stage

The United States sees India, an emerging global and regional power, taking a larger role upon the world stage, a top Pentagon official has said. "In terms of the role of India in the world, we're very pleased. We really see India taking a larger role upon the world stage and understanding that they have a role as an emerging power and as a realised power and that they have a responsibility to be a part of the global community," said Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence for South and Southeast Asia, Robert Scher. "I think you see it in the UN. You see it in the G-20. And this is a lot of the strategic partnership that (US) President (Barack) Obama and Prime Minister (Manmohan) Singh have talked about is working together to address regional and global issues," Scher said. "Certainly out of the field of defence, but if you look at cooperation in Africa, where we are cooperating to deal with some development issues, if you look at peacekeeping operations and the tremendous commitment that India has made to international peacekeeping operations, you can't but be impressed and see that this is a constructive role that they're playing...I think the potential for this is also quite great. And this is where we look forward to doing some of our best work together in solving problems that confront the region and the globe."

India, Japan to Step up Defence Cooperation

India and Japan will increase bilateral military engagement, deciding to step up defence cooperation. Defence Minister A.K. Antony described the move as one geared towards peace and prosperity of the region. Maritime security, anti-piracy measures, freedom of navigation and maintaining the security of sea lanes of communication for facilitating unhindered trade by the sea routes were some of the issues that dominated the India-Japan Defence Ministers' Meeting in Tokyo on November 2. Antony and his Japanese counterpart Yasuo Ichikawa decided to 'actively pursue consultations and cooperation in the field of maritime security both bilaterally and in association with all other countries in the region'. Stating that maritime security challenges were becoming increasingly complex and varied, Antony said that since November 2010 India had increased its anti-piracy deployment in the East Arabian sea,

noting that both India and Japan are exchanging escort schedules of their naval vessels deployed in the Gulf of Aden region signalling coordination in anti-piracy efforts. Early 2012 will see both sides implement the Japan-India Defence Policy Dialogue in Tokyo, staff talks between Ground Self Defence Force and Indian Army, staff exchanges between Air Self Defence Force and Indian Air Force, mutual visits of vessels and aircrafts, and conduct bilateral exercise between Maritime Self Defence Force (MSDF) and Indian Navy. Japan's association with Indian Navy formed part of the trilateral Malabar series of exercise with the United States, in 2007. The two sides will also implement exchanges on peacekeeping operations, and cadets between the National Defence Academy of Japan (NDA) and the National Defence Academy of India (NDA) as well as exchange of ideas aimed at concrete collaboration, such as joint training for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. The two countries resolved to continue to make active contributions to the peace, stability and prosperity of Asia as a whole.

Pakistan Liver Transplant Boy's Mother Thanks India

India's advanced medical services have been contributing to Pakistani health in a major way for quite some time. Indraprastha Apollo Hospital has recently achieved the distinction of being the only one in the country to successfully complete 200 liver transplant surgeries on patients from Pakistan. Syed Sheharyar Ali, 12, from Karachi is the 200th Pakistani patient to benefit from India's long-time commitment by providing affordable treatment to South Asian countries. Sheharyar was brought to the hospital on October 2 in a critical condition from Pakistan. His mother Zainab Shujaat said, "Suffering from chronic liver disease for the past three years, my son's condition deteriorated...Indian doctors have given him a new lease of life for which we shall always be grateful to them and the country. People here are so loving that I have decided to visit India again after six months." Sheharyar was treated by a multi-disciplinary team of doctors. The liver transplant was carried out on October 6 by Prof Subash Gupta, chief liver transplant surgeon. He said, "We feel a sense of accomplishment by the faith and courage shown by patients, who travel long-distance for the treatment." The part of liver was donated by Sheharyar's mother and his recovery has been remarkable. Why India? "Whatever best is handled in the West, is handled equally well in India. Plus, India is attractive for economic reasons. The cost of liver transplant surgery in the United States is Rs.10.5 m, whereas in India it costs only Rs.200,000." Indraprastha Apollo Hospital first performed the successful liver transplant in India in 1998. Ever since it has performed 776 liver transplants from across the globe.

***Ahimsa means infinite love, which again means infinite capacity for suffering.
Who but woman, the mother of man, shows this capacity in the largest
measure?
- Mahatma Gandhi***

India to Achieve Higher Growth in 2012-13

India hopes to achieve higher growth in 2012-13 after its economy witnessed a slowdown in the current year, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has said. "Our economy has slowed down in the current year and GDP growth is likely to be between 7.6-8%," Singh said in his intervention at the Summit of the world's 20 leading economies at Cannes (G20), France. He acknowledged that like many other emerging market countries, India is also experiencing high levels of inflation. "We in India are taking steps to ensure a return to high growth...We hope to go back to higher growth in 2012-13, together with a moderation in inflation," he said. "Our medium term strategy focuses on a revival of investment especially in infrastructure, and continuing efforts to reduce our fiscal deficit through improved revenue collection which is expected to come from tax reforms," he said. Singh also warned that "prolonged" uncertainty and instability in Europe will hurt other countries too and suggested that the IMF can help rescue the situation. Against the backdrop of the battle against the sovereign debt crisis in the Eurozone, PM said there will be no change in India's financial sector

priorities to sustain high rates of economic growth. "Financial inclusion, provision of long-term funding instruments for infrastructure, the development of liquid bond markets to improve monetary policy transmission, among others, were financial sector priorities in India before the crisis," he said in his intervention at the Summit. "Nothing has happened in Indian financial markets or globally that warrants changing these priorities. We need to be sure that the regulatory reforms being introduced globally will not hamper this process," he added. India's concerns were different, he said, adding, "the banking capital needs to be strengthened in India, this is not on account of higher risks but because credit is projected to expand at a very fast pace to feed the high real growth that we expect". Pointing out that tax payers and equity holders in case of the Indian PSU banking sector are the same, he said, "In this environment it is difficult to see why a financial sector tax, which would only raise the cost of capital even further, would be appropriate." PM said, "Our medium term strategy focuses on a revival of investment especially in infrastructure, and continuing efforts to reduce our fiscal deficit through improved revenue collection which is expected to come from tax reforms".

Indians have emerged as the **world's second most confident people about their economy** on account of higher consumption and increased foreign investment, according to a report by research firm, Ipsos. It said that India's economic confidence grew by 6 points to 75% in the month of October compared to the previous month, becoming the second most economically confident country after Saudi Arabia. "The Indian economy has been well insulated from global economic conditions as it has been fuelled by domestic consumption and the increased FDI into the country. Our economy has remained steady at a robust 8.1% and this positive consumer sentiment is seen reflected in our survey," Ipsos India Managing Director Mick Gordon said. The report, which examined citizens' assessment of the current state of their country's economy, said that the overall global average economic confidence was down by one point to 38% last month. In terms of gains, two countries - India and South Africa - gained maximum economic confidence by 5 and 6 points respectively. Individually, Saudi Arabia experienced a six-point drop to 83% but continued to hold its pole position, followed by India, Sweden (69%), Canada (66%), and China (65%). The global aggregate national assessment was dragged by Europe, which was down 2 points to 24%, and North America (40%). In fact, all the regions reported declining national economic assessments. The survey was conducted in October among 18,682 people in 24 countries such as Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the US.

The upbeat mood of the economy may be gauged from the fact that **India has overtaken the US to become the third-largest men's luxury jewellery market** in the world this year, according to the market research firm Euromonitor International, which estimated the country's men's jewellery market at \$194.4 million and projected the niche market to grow 36.4% over the year.

Exports too continued to perform impressively despite a slowdown in US and Europe, coming in at \$24.8 b in September, a **year-on-year increase of 36.3%**. Engineering goods and petroleum products, growing by 103% and 53% respectively, led the growth in exports. Commerce Secretary Rahul Khullar said that exports in the current financial year may reach \$290-300 b.

Also, according to a Morgan Stanley research report, **India could attract \$80 b in foreign direct investment (FDI) over the next 12-24 months**, as against \$48 b in the last two years. "The findings [based on a survey covering 1,766 global companies] show that global companies see real opportunity in India and that their investment appetite is increasing, notwithstanding continuing negative perceptions around infrastructure bottlenecks," observed Ridham Desai, head of India Research at Morgan Stanley.

Meanwhile, India's Minister for Overseas Indians Affairs, Mr Vayalar Ravi, disclosed that **remittances from the Indian diaspora had reached \$55.9 b in 2010-11**, an increase of \$2 b over the previous year. India had received \$53.9 b in remittances in 2009-10, while in 2008-09 the amount was \$46.9 b. The World Bank had said in a report earlier this year that Indian expatriates were expected to remit about \$55 billion into the country in 2010-11 and it would be the top receiver of remittances worldwide. The top remitting countries in 2009 were the US (\$48.3 b), Saudi Arabia (\$26 b), and Switzerland (\$19.6 b).

Innovation Tsunami Sweeps Across India

Increasingly inspired and self-confident citizens of a resurgent India are coming up with all kinds of innovative products and devices with immediate applications. Shantanu Gangwar, a class 12 student, was pained to see his blind friends bump into walls, furniture and other objects. So he invented a smart walking stick that gives early warning of an obstacle. The cheap and easy-to-use stick, which will cost less than \$20, has bagged him the Council for Scientific and Industrial research (CSIR) Diamond Jubilee Invention Award for School Children 2010. A student of Delhi Public School, Shantanu, 17, has shared the award with Ankit Kumar Mittal, another class 12 student, from Barnala in Punjab. Ankit has invented a modified zip. "I used to feel bad seeing visually-impaired students in my school bump into walls and furniture. I thought of developing something that warns them about obstacles," said Shantanu. He proposed the idea to his electronics teacher who was all for it. "It took me six months to develop the stick. It has infrared sensors. The sensors are connected to a motor. When infrared rays are reflected, the stick starts vibrating, giving warning about obstacles ahead," said the lean and tall boy who wants to be an engineer. The equipment can be fitted on a conventional stick. "It can detect an obstacle within one foot. Now I plan to increase the range to 2-3 metre. I have been approached by some companies to market the invention," he says, with a tinge of pride. Ankit's invention is equally interesting. He modified zip locks which used in travel bags, kit bags and jackets. "Normally it is difficult to change a defective zip lock. The traditional ones are in one piece. After seeing my father struggle to fix the zip lock of his jacket, I thought of developing a two-piece lock," said Ankit, who want to be a scientist. According to CSIR Director General Sameer Brahmchari, the two inventions were chosen out of 353 proposals received for various categories of prizes to be given away.

A team of seasoned healthcare professionals has also come together to **develop a medical device leveraging robotics and application software for the early detection of tumours in the lungs, abdomen, etc.**, which was previously not possible through conventional devices. Perfint, founded in 2005 by Dr S Nandakumar, focuses on developing intelligent, connected and reliable devices that address the key emerging needs of society and are relevant to global markets as well. Perfint launched its first product called PIGA-CT in 2009 – essentially a high-tech medical positioning device that assists in clinical applications. PIGA-CT has been installed in over 50 Indian hospitals, including leading ones like the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, and would soon be marketed across the Asian and East European markets. It has been adopted in about 800 successful procedures up until now and the technique is seen to have a wide scope and bright prospects both in radiology and nuclear medicine.

Doctors at a hospital near Delhi have also performed **a successful robotic liver transplant** to save the life of a four-year-old child in the first such surgery in India. It was only the third operation of its kind in the world. "Robotic surgery is usually performed for kidney, heart and gynaecological operations. But its use in liver transplant not only increased the precision but also reduced surgery-related troubles," said Medanta Liver Institute chairman Dr.A.S.Soin, who led the team of surgeons.

Indian cytotron inventor Scalene Cybernetics plans to enter the US market. The Bangalore-based company has joined hands with two partners from Maryland to get approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to conduct clinical trials, develop the device and market it in the US, Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean. The firm has partnered with

Amarex Corporation, a clinical research organisation, and Sheris Scalene Sciences (SSS), a venture fund of Amarex Corporation. The joint venture was announced earlier this week during Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley's visit to Hyderabad undertaken as part of his 6-day India trip to boost trade and investment. Centre for Advanced Research and Development (CARD) of Scalene Cybernetics will act as manufacturer and scientific advisor while another life science company ABV and SSS will contribute to the clinical trials and regulatory approval costs. The state-of-the-art therapeutic, non-invasive device uses a patented technology **to treat regenerative and degenerative diseases such as cancers, musculoskeletal diseases, particularly osteoarthritis and multiple sclerosis**. It is already available to patients in 15 specialised clinics in six countries - India, the Netherlands, Malaysia, Singapore, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. Rajah Vijay Kumar, who led the team that developed cytotron after 24 years of research, said that the partners from Maryland would invest in making the device for the American market. Kumar, who is Scalene Cybernetics chairman and chief scientific officer of CARD, said the clinical trials of the device in India had excellent results. "During the last one year, about 1,000 patients in India were treated through this device." The firm has so far sold 23 machines, each costing about \$400,000.

Indian researchers are also close to developing an **"electronic nose" to sniff out tuberculosis (TB) on the breath** - offering rapid diagnosis that could save hundreds of thousands of lives. The "E-Nose" is a battery-operated, hand-held unit, similar to a police breathalyser used to catch drunk drivers. A patient blows into the device and sensors pick up TB biomarkers in the breath droplets, resulting in an almost instantaneous and highly accurate diagnosis. The "E-Nose" is a collaboration between the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology in New Delhi and Next Dimension Technologies in California. "We hope to have a prototype ready for clinical testing by October 2013," said lead researcher Ranjan Nanda. TB kills close to 1.7 million people globally every year, and researchers estimate the "E-Nose" could save 400,000 lives a year in developing countries through early diagnosis, treatment and reduced transmission. TB is currently detected through sputum tests that are costly and take several days. The project was awarded a \$950,000 grant by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Grand Challenges Canada. "Our research shows it might also be possible to use this technology for the early detection of other diseases like lung cancer and pneumonia," said Nanda. Each "E-Nose" would cost roughly \$20-30 and its size and battery operation would make it accessible to rural communities in countries such as India with poor or non-existent power supplies. "Our goal is to make the Electronic Nose widely available in poor, remote areas where tuberculosis often breeds and spreads, devastating so many lives," Nanda said.

In a major shift, **corporates are conducting more and more of their research in India**. Early this year, Samsung's software research base in India emerged as the company's largest in terms of manpower outside its home in Korea. It was a testament that the electronics giant was much more interested in India than just growing sales. Today, Samsung's two research centres in Bangalore and New Delhi are working on global projects. The company employs 5,500 for research and plans to hire another 1,100 techies next year. And, it wants to grow its headcount at a similar pace year on year. "The immense intellectual power that India possesses makes it a perfect destination for carrying out research activities from the standpoint of technology and innovation," says Samsung's president and CEO (SW Asia) JS Shin. The Samsung story is another example of India's growing prowess in the global R&D field. With India becoming a destination of choice due to its cost competitiveness, hiring by multinational companies is at an all-time high. At a time when companies across sectors are cautious on hiring and salary hikes, R&D centres are hiring talent at a premium and going in for salary hikes to retain them. Hiring has touched its peak in the financial year 2010-11, when recruitment went up by 28% over last year. It is expected to grow by 15% this fiscal, according to a recent study by management consultancy Zinnov. The study shows more than 200,000 engineers are currently employed

in Indian R&D centres, with the manpower base growing at an average of 9% annually. However operating cost of R&D centres in India is still 25% lower than in China. Multinational corporation (MNC) research centres in India saved a cumulative of \$44 b for their parent organisation over the past three years.

The Indian Inventor

Invention is something of a cultural habit in India. In India, though, this all goes beyond making life a little easier or being fashionable. The inventiveness of its grassroots engineers and scientists is believed to be a powerful economic tool, says

Angela Saini

The pleasure of speaking multiple tongues is that you will occasionally come across a word that would otherwise be lost in translation. Every language has these hidden expressions, which give away something unique or quirky about a culture. And like German's *schadenfreude*, or the Yiddish *kvetch*, India has a particularly interesting one of its own: *jugaad*. A crude translation might be "making do," but then that wouldn't really do justice to all the shades of meaning, spanning the nefarious to the ingenious. For those in power, *jugaad* could be the practice of giving bribes to help oil the slow machinery of government. For the cash-strapped householder, it may be doing a botch-job to temporarily fix a problem. But in the context of science and technology, it often means coming up with quick, improvised solutions to fill an urgent need.

The latter definition is the most fascinating for science journalists like myself. In carrying out interviews for my book, *Geek Nation*, scientists often mentioned that they resorted to building or fixing their own laboratory equipment rather than calling in professionals because this was faster, or that they shared facilities with other labs because of a lack of resources and funding. Researchers in India constantly struggle against poor infrastructure, forcing them to be inventive. But further down the scientific ladder, at the grassroots level, *jugaad* also manifests itself in a vibrant culture of grassroots technologists. There are thousands – possibly hundreds of thousands – of amateur inventors all over India, many with only a rudimentary education, building devices to help their local communities or working alone on even grander projects.

I recently spoke to a businessman from Mumbai who happens to also be a lay engineer, devoting his spare time to designing a solar-powered air conditioning unit for his local hospital (it operates on the same principle as a fridge; collecting the heat energy that drives the system from large reflective panels facing the sun). And in the northern Indian state of Punjab, you'll find a breed of rickety homemade truck that has adopted the same name as the process by which it was created: a *Jugaad*.

Around two decades ago, Indian Institute of Management professor Anil Gupta collated hundreds of such examples into a knowledge-sharing platform called the Honey Bee Network. Now feeding into the work of the government's National Innovation Foundation, which helps commercialize ideas like these, its list of innovations includes a pedal-powered washing machine, an automated onion planter, and a crutch that doubles as a foldable seat, headlight, alarm, and umbrella stand.

The breadth and ambition of the creations amassed by the National Innovation Foundation is proof that invention is something of a cultural habit in India. It has become so pervasive over the decades that even my parents, who moved to London from India in the 1970s, still tend to make or fix objects themselves rather than buying them new or replacing them. My father – a do-it-yourself fanatic – built the wooden deck in his garden from scratch, and my mother has insisted on sewing my dresses since I was a baby.

Prevalent though it is, it's also a phenomenon you'll find in every society that suffers resource shortages. African countries are similarly scattered with tales of village-level

innovations, from clay pot fridges to rainwater harvesters. In wartime Britain in the 1940s, it was common for housewives to come up with clever ways to make the most of their measly food and clothing rations. Today, such is the attraction of grassroots gadgets, that hacker and maker communities in the U.S. have formed a countercultural movement that reworks vintage electronics as an alternative to expensive, disposable ones.

In India, though, this all goes beyond making life a little easier or being fashionable. The inventiveness of its grassroots engineers and scientists is believed to be a powerful economic tool. The same cost-efficient spirit of *jugaad* that led to the pedal-powered washing machine has also helped inspire the extra-low-cost and hugely popular Tata Nano car, the growth of bargain-basement IT outsourcing, and even the success of the low-cost space program. N.Narayana Moorthy, a project director at the Indian Space Organization, for instance, said that a visiting NASA official was left open-mouthed when he saw how much Indians were able to achieve on such low budgets.

This isn't to say that *jugaad* is always a good thing. For truly world-class research to thrive in India, the infrastructure must improve and funding needs to be ramped up, as is already happening in China. There are moves to do this; the Indian government has committed to doubling the proportion of GDP spent on research and development. Pharmaceutical giants and IT multinationals are also opening up large new centers in cities like Bangalore, Chennai, and Hyderabad. And Indian software companies are finally achieving the kind of profit margins that may allow them to invest more heavily in original research, as done by Microsoft and IBM. The Indian government's hope is that the country may one day enter the same scientific league as the US.

– Angela Saini is an award-winning London based science journalist. Her book, Geek Nation: How Indian Science is Taking Over the World, was published in 2011 by Hodder. This article first appeared in India in Transition (IIT), a publication of the Center for the Advanced Study of India (CASI) of the University of Pennsylvania

Aakash: World's Cheapest Tablet at \$35

The launch of the world's cheapest tablet computer is probably one of the best signature statements of the Indian style of frugal innovation. It was about a year ago that India's Minister for Human Resource Development, ICT, and S&T, Mr.Kapil Sibal had proudly showcased the \$35 tablet, Sakshat. And now an upgrade of the same has been made available to the public, christened as Aakash, and it is the cheapest high-level computing device ever launched in the world. The tablet has been manufactured by Datawind of Hyderabad and runs on Android 2.2 Froyo. The revolutionary tablet uses a processor of 366MHz, has a 7-inch resistive display screen, with connectivity specifications WiFi, 2 USB 2.0 ports, memory 256MB RAM, storage 2GB - expandable with 32GB Micro SD, and is priced at ₹2,276, or less than \$50, but for students only ₹1,500. If the spec sheet of the tablet is not top notch, it is not targeted at the middle and higher echelons, but rather to those who otherwise cannot afford one. For them, this tablet would be a boon. Aakash has already received about 300,000 pre-launch bookings for its commercial version that soon goes on sale. A subsidised model of this tablet is already being distributed free in schools and colleges. Aakash's retail bookings exceed India's estimated 250,000 tablet PC market, dominated by Apple, Samsung and Reliance. Datawind CEO Suneet Singh Tuli also claimed, "We hope to make internet free on our devices with their technology." They are reportedly experimenting with a technology that can stream a 700-MB file compressed into 25MB on a tablet. Datawind has supplied about 10,000 tablets to the government's National Mission for Education at a price of ₹2,250. The devices are being used by students from colleges and universities. Aakash, in its next version, will be upgraded with a capacitive touch screen and a processor with double the speed. Datawind plans to supply an attachable ₹400 keyboard, turning the device into PC-lookalike at ₹3,400. The government is also considering a proposal to procure the next lot, called Aakash 2, with a faster 700-MHz processor, at the same price. Tuli said there have been invitations from

other nations for their digital inclusion programs, seeing India's success. "The governments of Mexico, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Thailand, Brazil and Bangladesh have requested us to participate in programs similar to India." With the Indian government all set to initiate the process for acquiring 1 million more Aakash tablets priced at `2,276 each (about \$45), there has been an international interest in the low-cost machine. Panama has approached the Indian Embassy there to buy 100,000 units of Aakash. Even Philadelphia—the sixth largest US state in terms of GDP—has shown interest in the product. "We are waiting for a formal request from Philadelphia. Panama's demand has reached us. One more Latin American country has also approached us," media reports quoted a government source as saying. Malaysia had approached India's Human Resource Development Ministry even before Aakash was formally unveiled, but it wanted to produce tablets locally. "We had to decline the request," source said. Thailand has directly approached Datawind. Government sources do not rule out helping countries, but made it clear that domestic needs were paramount. Sources said production of 100,000 tablets is going on as per schedule, but after receiving the initial feedback, the manufacturer has been asked to make minor changes, like improving the processor. "Many users said the tablet is slow when it is started," a source said, adding that the next lot might have better features like improved screen. The ministry has written to vice-chancellors of state, private and central universities and state chief secretaries explaining the scheme, especially the fact that with 50% subsidy provided by the Central Government, a student has to pay only `1,138 for a tablet. It has also asked all states to spell out their requirements. States have been told to give their suggestions on technical specifications, subsidy and distribution of tablets. The Unique Identification Development (UID) Authority of India has also approached the ministry to collaborate with Aakash. "We are still working out the details. Aadhar numbers [the unique identification numbers allotted to individual citizens by the UID Authority] and tablet can be put to creative use for establishing identity of students and their attendance," an official said. Hand in hand, the government is taking steps to give a fillip to e-learning. To enable e-learning in 25,000 colleges and 2,000 polytechnics, it has merged existing e-learning schemes to rationalize and administer them better and, besides, is effecting a shift from copper wire based to optical fibre cable based connectivity in respect of already connected universities and university-level institutions.

India's innovation stimulus

by Thomas L. Friedman, International Herald Tribune, November 7, 2011

Native sons have gone from working for Western companies to running Indian companies

The world hit seven billion people last week, and I think I met half of them on the road from New Delhi to Agra here in India. They were on foot, on bicycle, on motor scooters. They were in pickups, dented cars and crammed into motorized rickshaws. They were dodging monkeys and camels and cows. Somehow, though, without benefit of police or stoplights, this flow of humanity that is modern India impossibly went about its business. But just when your mind tells you that this crush of people will surely overwhelm all efforts to lift the mass of India out of poverty, you start to notice a pattern: Every few miles there's a cellphone tower and a fresh-looking building poking out of the controlled chaos. And the sign out front invariably says "school" — engineering school, biotechnology school, English-language school, business school, computer school or private elementary school. India is still the only country I know where you can find a billboard advertising "physics degrees."

All these schools, plus 600 million cellphones, plus 1.2 billion people, half of whom are under 25, are India's hope — because only by leveraging technology and brains can India deliver a truly better life for its masses. There are a million reasons why it won't happen, but there is one big reason it might. The predicted really is happening: India's young

techies are moving from running the back rooms of Western companies, who outsourced work here, to inventing the front rooms of Indian companies, which are offering creative, low-cost solutions for India's problems. The late C.K. Prahalad called it "Gandhian innovation," and I encountered many examples around New Delhi.

Meet Vijay Pratap Singh Aditya, the C.E.O. of Ekgaon. His focus is Indian farmers, who make up half the population and constitute what he calls "an emerging market within an emerging market." Ekgaon built a software program that runs on the cheapest cellphones and offers illiterate farmers a voice or text advisory program that tells them when is the best time to plant their crops, how to mix their fertilizers and pesticides, when to dispense them and how much water to add each day.

"India has to increase farm productivity," explains Aditya, "but our farms are small, and advisers from the Agriculture Department can't reach many of them. So they go for hearsay methods of planting, which leads to low productivity and soil desertification." Using cloud computing, Ekgaon tailors its advice to each farmer's specific soil, crop and weather conditions. Some 12,000 farmers are already subscribing (\$5 for one year), and the plan is set to grow to 15 million in five years.

Meet K. Chandrasekhar, the C.E.O. of Forus Health, whose focus is "avoidable blindness" among India's rural poor. A quarter of the world's blind people, some 12 million, are in India, Chandrasekhar explains, and more than 80 percent of those are blind as a result of a lack of screening and a lack of ophthalmologists in rural areas. In the past, comprehensive screening required multiple expensive diagnostic devices to check for diabetic retinas, cataracts, glaucoma, cornea and refraction problems, all of which cause 90 percent of the avoidable blindness in India. So Forus invented "a single, portable, intelligent, noninvasive, eye prescreening device" that can identify all five of these major ailments and also provide an automated "Normal or Needs to See a Doctor" report; it can be run by a trained technician, who through telemedicine connects patients to a doctor.

"We work with a Dutch company on optics, and the University of Texas supports us in business development," Chandrasekhar adds. "We are talking to a Brazilian company that is interested in manufacturing our technology and selling in Latin America." Outsourcers are becoming outsourcers.

Meet Alope Bajpai, who, like others on his young team, cut his teeth working for Western technology companies but returned to India on a bet that he could start something — he just didn't know what. The result is iXiGO.com, a travel search service that can run on the cheapest cellphones and helps Indians book the lowest-cost fares, whether it is a farmer who wants to go by bus or train for a few rupees from Chennai to Bangalore or a millionaire who wants to go by plane to Paris. iXiGO now has one million unique users a month and is growing. Bajpai used free open-source software, Skype and cloud-based office tools like Google Apps and social media marketing on Facebook to build his software platform and grow his company. They "enabled us to grow so much faster with no money," he said.

Finally, there's Nandan Nilekani, the former C.E.O. of Infosys Technologies, India's outsourcing giant, who is now leading a government effort to give every Indian citizen an ID number — a crucial initiative in a country where most people have no driver's license, passport or even birth certificate.

In the last two years, 100 million people have signed up for an official ID. Once everyone has one, the government can deliver them services or subsidies — some \$60 billion each year — directly through cellphones or bank accounts, without inept or corrupt bureaucrats siphoning some off. "We're bringing the most sophisticated technology to the most deprived," said Nilekani. "The hyperconnected world is giving us a chance to change India faster, at a larger scale, than ever before."

India Tops G20 for Entrepreneurial Culture

The renowned international consultants Ernst & Young have said in a report prepared on the basis of a survey of 1,000 entrepreneurs across the G20 nations, that it substantiates India's premier position as an emerging hub for entrepreneurial activity and innovation. It said 98% of entrepreneurs surveyed believed that Indian culture encourages entrepreneurship, as compared to 80% for the rapid growth markets and 72% for the mature economies. The report, released ahead of the G20 Cannes Summit, at the G20 Young Entrepreneurs Summit in France, noted that efforts were still needed to lower the business costs, for further simplification of procedures and to make India even more favourable business destination, though it also however found that the costs of starting a business in India had already declined by 5.5% since 2005, and time to start a business in India fallen from 56.5 days to 29 days. In the survey, 80% of Indian entrepreneurs reported improved access to funding, including bank loans. The report also said that an active role of media and direct involvement of families have also had a strong impact in improving the perception of entrepreneurship in India in the last five years.

Online Business In India To See Explosive Growth

India's e-commerce market will grow by nearly 50% to touch \$10 b this year, says a recent industry report released by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI). This growth is mainly driven by the online travel industry, which contributes more than three-fourths to the online commerce industry in India. India's online commerce industry grew 60% from 2009 to touch nearly \$7 b in 2010. The online travel market segment alone is expected touch \$9 b by end-2011. The financial services market has also shown significant progress and would grow at a clip of 34% to touch \$580 m by year end. Digital downloads and e-retailing are also growing rapidly, says the report.

In a move widely cheered and should further stimulate growth of e-commerce, Google has launched an initiative to introduce small and medium businesses (SMBs) in India to the online space by offering them free website, domain and hosting services. The initiative, dubbed 'India, Get Your Business Online', would provide SMBs tools and resources to establish a website, find new customers, and grow their businesses. Google plans to introduce 500,000 SMBs to the online world in the next three years. Thus spoke Nikesh Arora, Google India's senior vice-president and chief business officer: "We recognise India as a high-growth and high-potential internet market and we are committed to play the role of a catalyst to bring the benefits of the internet economy to SMBs in India." SMBs would be allowed to use the tool to get a free, easy-to-build website and web hosting for one year, and this would be powered by web host firm HostGator, which is partnering Google in the initiative. After the first year, SMBs would have to pay a nominal charge if they wish to renew their domain name.

The IAMAI report has also notified **a significant hike in the number of internet users**, which is believed to have a strong correlation with the increased affordability of PCs as well as internet. It has notified a 13% increase in the number as compared to last year's figure that lifted the number of internet subscribers beyond the 100-million mark in September, with the figure poised to touch 121 million in December. The report also identified a huge group of internet users that tends to access internet through their mobile devices rather than laptops and desktops. Further, it has notified that this particular group is continued to increase with a rapid rate, although it marked mobiles as supplementary devices for accessing the internet. Commenting on the figures, the MD of Google India, Rajan Anandan said, "India crossing the 100 million Internet users mark represents an incredible market opportunity for us. It will particularly foster the growth of e-commerce in India". In addition, Google, eBay, Yahoo and Facebook have also contributed enough to raise the number. On the other hand, IAMAI President Subho Ray marked the figure as a strong evidence to symbolize growth in the respective industry and tagged it as a critical landmark for the country. Ray insisted that the internet users in the country are likely to observe a critical

period of growth and anticipated that India will become the largest internet user of the world, most probably in this decade.

Indian Pharma Company to Launch Generic Lipitor

India's largest maker of generic drugs has won approval to sell a generic version of cholesterol blockbuster Lipitor, once the world's top-selling drug lost its US patent protection. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said it granted Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd. approval to sell a generic version of Pfizer Inc.'s Lipitor, called atorvastatin calcium. Ranbaxy confirmed the approval in a statement issued, noting Lipitor generated \$7.9 b in US sales in the 12 months through September. Ranbaxy spokesman said shipments would begin immediately. Analysts, pharmacists and others had been watching closely to see whether Ranbaxy would be able to get its generic on the market by the time the patent expired for Lipitor. According to FDA spokeswoman, Ranbaxy will be manufacturing the pills under a partnership with Ohm Laboratories in Ohm's New Brunswick, N.J., facility. With billions of dollars in annual US sales of Lipitor at stake, the largest-ever switch from a brand name to generic drug has been arguably the biggest event this year in the pharmaceutical industry. Lipitor had peak annual sales of \$13 b and still brings in nearly \$11 b for New York-based Pfizer. Under the complex US patent law, as Ranbaxy was the first company to successfully challenge Pfizer's Lipitor patent, it has the sole right to compete with brand-name Lipitor and Watson's authorized generic for the first 180 days after the patent ends. "This medication is widely used by people who must manage their high cholesterol over time, so it is important to have affordable treatment options," Dr. Janet Woodcock, director of the FDA's Centre for Drug Evaluation and Research, said in a statement. Atorvastatin is a statin, a type of drug that lowers bad cholesterol and blood fats called triglycerides by blocking an enzyme in the liver. Along with a low-fat diet, the drug lowers the risk for heart attack, stroke, chest pain and some types of heart surgery. It can also raise levels of good cholesterol.

Meanwhile, in what would be its **second buy in Japan, Indian drugmaker Lupin is buying I'rom Pharmaceutical** Co to enter the generic injectables segment. The Mumbai-based Lupin had earlier bought Kyowa Pharmaceutical Industry Company in 2007. I'rom is a Tokyo-based speciality injectables drugmaker and has a significant presence in the fixed-rate treatment hospitals segment in Japan, where the government mandates clinics to offer low-cost healthcare services. The combined sales of Kyowa and I'rom Pharma would reach \$230-\$240 m in FY12. Other than U.S., Indian drugmakers have been exploring markets like Japan, Russia, South Africa and Latin America to expand presence in generic drugs segment. The semi-regulated and emerging markets other than India contribute about 20-25% of overall sales for Indian drugmakers. "We continue to look for acquisitions in Latin America region...especially in Brazil and **Mexico**," Lupin said.

India to Commission 3rd Antarctica Research Station

India is all set to commission a third research station in Antarctica by March next year. "The construction of the new station is going on at a hectic speed. The current Indian Antarctic Expedition that sailed off from Cape Town on October 26 under the leadership of Rajesh Asthana will complete the project in this Antarctic summer, hopefully by March 2012," the Director of the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research, Rasik Ravindra told the media. India set up its first permanent research station, "Maitri", in the South Polar region 28 years back. It was initiated in 1981 with the first Indian expedition to the white continent. The new station, named "Bharti", is a self-contained double-storey structure on stilts and is designed to have a life span of 25 years. It will accommodate 25 people during summer and 15 people during winter.

India Energy Company World's Fastest Growing

Cairn India has been ranked the fastest growing oil and gas exploration firm in the world, even as other Indian heavyweights like ONGC and Reliance Industries slipped in a list of top-performing energy firms globally. With a three-year compounded growth rate (CGR) of 116.5%, Cairn was ranked by energy information provider Platts as the fastest growing E&P company in

2010. It was also named the fastest growing Asian company ahead of Reliance (ranked 18th in Asia) and state-owned GAIL India Ltd (ranked 20th) in the Platts Top 250 Global Energy Company Rankings. Cairn made its maiden entry at 120th rank in the overall global energy company list, which was topped by US giant Exxon Mobil Corp. For the 2011 rankings, Platts ranked listed energy firms on the basis of their financial performance in 2010. State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), ranked 18th in the list of the 250 top global energy firms in 2010, slipped to 21st position in the 2011 rankings. Reliance settled at 24th position in the 2011 list, down from 13th rank in the 2010 Platts Ranking. Refiner Indian Oil gained 36 positions to 42nd place in this year's list. Coal India entered the list at 51st position, while power producer NTPC slipped to 58th rank from 52nd position in 2010.

Major Shale Gas investments are also **planned in India**. India's State-run utility, Gas Authority of India (GAIL) has drawn up a war chest of \$1 b for acquiring shale gas assets abroad and will pump \$400 m into importing gas in ships (liquefied natural gas) and petrochemicals through its Singapore trading desk. "We see a large potential in shale gas...It is the future of natural gas. We could be investing up to \$1 b in shale gas assets in the US and Canada in the next one year," company Chairman B C Tripathi said after opening the Singapore trading office. He said the trading office will start operations from next month and would begin supply to India from 2012. "A trading desk in Singapore brings us closer to (LNG) sellers...We will also get tax benefits (India has double tax avoidance treaty with Singapore). India has a huge demand for both natural gas and faces squeeze on supply." GAIL is poised to expand its pipeline network to 10,000 km by March 2012 and 15,000 km by 2014 from 8,800 km at present.

Solar Power Emerging in Sunshine

The sun is shining on India's solar energy sector. More and more indigenous and foreign companies are pitching to set up solar power ventures, lured by opportunities in the fast-evolving solar photovoltaic (PV) industry in the country. The government has realised that climate change and surge in oil prices have lent urgency to reducing India's dependence on imported fossil fuels and is promoting solar power as a priority. India's National Solar Mission launched last year targets capacity addition of 20,000 MW by 2022. Technological progress and economies of scale hold out the hope that solar power may become economically viable. The global economic crisis has reduced demand and brought down cost of deployment. Sensing the opportunity, foreign capital, as also some foreign companies, has started flowing into the sector. International Finance Corporation and Asian Development Bank have started lending for solar projects in India. Over 150 companies have evinced interest in developing large solar photovoltaic power projects of up to 20 MW. Companies such as Tata Power, Reliance Power and Lanco Infratech have already started developing solar power projects in a significant way. Some other power producers with ambitious plans include Orient Green Power, Astonfield, JSW Energy and Azure Power. Even solar panel manufacturers such as Moser Baer and Solar Semiconductor have integrated forward into power generation. The National Solar System seeks to encourage manufacture of solar PV cells in India by mandating the use of indigenous components (especially for PV cells and modules) for the solar power projects. Many infrastructure companies have also entered the sector as EPC players. Larsen & Toubro is a giant in this area and today its solar PV project pipeline is close to 200 MW. Other infrastructure companies such as Lanco and PV manufacturers such as XL Energy, Moser Baer and state-owned BHEL and EIL have also become EPC service providers.

We are not ashamed to sacrifice a multitude of other lives in decorating the perishable body and trying to prolong its existence for a few fleeting moments, with the result that we kill ourselves, both body and soul. - Mahatma Gandhi

Human Development Report 2011 Lauds India

The 2011 Global Human Development Index (HDI), which ranks countries on their progress on the three key

dimensions of human development – education, health and income, has praised India for having increased its reforestation rate from 0.2% a year between 1990 and 2000 to 0.5% a year between 2000 and 2010. India has made significant progress on human development and the country's HDI value has increased 59% from 0.344 to 0.547, an annual increase of 1.5%, between 1980 and 2011, notes the report, observing that the country has demonstrated increasing commitment to sustainable development, has appropriate policies and judicial interventions in place and, besides, has an active civil society with effective community participation.

Innovation to Aid the Disadvantaged

Indians have obtained recognition for their innovativeness in social work as well. Ms. Arundhuti Gupta, 25, from Bangalore, was one of the 20 youth recognized by the International Youth Foundation (IYF) for her outstanding and innovative contribution to improving the lot of the disadvantaged sections of the society in Bangalore and Mysore. She founded 'Mentor Together' a NGO, which seeks to break the stronghold of the age-old 'guru-shishya parampara' a long established Indian tradition, in which a revered 'guru' (the teacher) imparts education and knowledge to a younger student ('shishya') in a top-down, one-way relationship. She successfully motivated a team of young professionals, drawn from top corporate leaders like IBM and Infosys, to volunteer their time and resources, to impart life skills and essential knowledge to youth from the disadvantaged sections of the society. At a ceremony organized in association with the **Universidad del Valle de Mexico**, she, along with 19 other youth, was made a fellow of the Global Youth Action Network by IYF.

Two Indian Leaders Among Top 20 in World

President Obama has displaced Chinese President Hu Jintao from the No.1 spot on the Forbes magazine's annual rankings to the third place, with Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin taking the second position. Sonia Gandhi, 64, described as "India's most powerful politician (who) has twice refused to serve as prime minister, delegating that job to Manmohan Singh" dropped two notches from her 9th position last year to be ranked the 11th most powerful person and 7th powerful woman. Dr. Manmohan Singh, 79, "the incorruptible Cambridge and Oxford-educated economist (is) widely respected as the man behind India's economic reforms, which have led to the subcontinent's blistering growth over the last decade," too dropped a notch to be rated the 19th most powerful. Other Indians on the list included Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani ranked 35th, India's top billionaire ArcelorMittal Chairman Lakshmi Mittal in the 47th spot, and Wipro chairman Azim Premji at the 61st spot. Tibetan spiritual leader, Dalai Lama, 76, living in exile in India was ranked 51st.

Six Indian women also figure on 'The International Power 50' list of the world's most powerful women corporate honchos

of 2011 published in the **Time magazine**. The India challenge is led by Chanda Kochar, Managing Director and CEO, ICICI Bank, at No.6, followed by Shikha Sharma, Managing Director and CEO, Axis Bank (33); Neelam Dhawan, Managing Director, HP India (35); Naina Lal Kidwai, Country Head, India, and Director, HSBC Asia-Pacific (41); Preetha Reddy, Managing Director, Apollo Hospitals Group (48); and Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Chairman and Managing Director, Biocon (49).

Indian Army Team Wins Gold in World Patrol

The Indian Army has emerged the best patrolling force in the world with a team from the Gorkha Rifles regiment winning an international competition also called the Olympics of Patrolling. The gold medal is the first won by an Indian contingent. The 4th Battalion of the 9 Gorkha Rifles regiment from the Bhopal-based 21 'Sudharshan Chakra' Corps participated in the annual Cambrian Patrol Competition at Wales in England. It emerged the gold medal winner beating 100 teams, including 14 teams from national armies of foreign countries. The Cambrian Patrol Competition is a widely-renowned military event conducted by the British Army, for the last 40 years, and is held under adverse battle conditions in arduous jungle and mountain terrain. "The aim of the Cambrian Patrol is to provide a challenging patrol exercise in order to develop operational capability as a mission oriented tactical team." The

performance of the team hinges around leadership, team work, physical fitness, mental robustness and above all, tactical skills involving reconnaissance techniques, navigation, first aid and casualty evacuation.

India Wins 'World's Leading Destination' Award

India has won recognition as the "World's Leading Destination" at the World Travel Market 2011. It also bagged the "World's Leading Tourist Board" award. India's Tourism Minister Subodh Kant Sahai, who received the awards, said 5 m tourists had already visited India this year so far and the target was to accelerate the process. This would help generate 25 m additional jobs. He said though India started late in developing tourism it was determined to make it a success. Efforts to boost tourism included a move to remove visa restrictions. The aim is to increase India's share in the international tourist arrivals from the present 0.6% to 1% by the end of 2016. "Tourism sector is going to be recognised as the infrastructure sector. The infrastructure will be developed by the central and state Governments on the private-public participation model," he said.

They said It...

"We continue to see strong growth in India and across Asia...India is a critically important market for us and we are looking for opportunities to grow in India, to develop our brands here and indeed to introduce new brands to the country...Our pipeline in India is approximately three times our existing portfolio, which shows great growth. We are committed to India and our expansion plans and the success of our existing hotels are testament to that commitment...We set ourselves an ambitious target of 100 hotels in India, and so far we are on track with this. We have some 40 hotels signed today across the country...[W]e remain committed to reaching this goal."

- Simon Cooper, President, Asia Pacific, Marriott International

My experience has shown me that we win justice quickest by rendering justice to the other party.
- Mahatma Gandhi

TRADE ENQUIRIES FROM INDIA

Company	Interest Areas
<p>AQR EXPORTS 36/4, Meenakshi Nagar, Kavundampalayam, Coimbatore-641030 Tel: (91) (422) 2455740 Contact: Mrs. Zareena, Exports Email: aqrexports@gmail.com, info@aqrexports.com Web: www.aqrexports.com</p>	<p>Apparel, Agro products, including fresh fruits & vegetables, Animal food and Spices</p>
<p>VRG ARIHANT PLAST 11/1 Samrat Mills Compound, L.B.S.Marg, Vikhroli West, Mumbai-400079 Tel: (91 22) 65771514, Fax: 25771943, Mob: (91) 9987549309 Contact: Mr.Hiren Sanghvi, Email: hiren@arihantplast.net, sales@arihantplast.net, Web: www.arihantplast.net</p>	<p>Plastic consumables for Microbiology, Healthcare, Diagnostic industries, InVitro diagnostic kits</p>
<p>JJ INTERNATIONAL A-2, Badshah Bagh Colony, Maldahiya, Varanasi-221002 Tel: (91 542) 2391915, Mob: (91) 9598028100 Contact: Mr. Abhishek Pandey Email: marketing@jjpppl.co.in, Web: www.jjpppl.in</p>	<p>Masterbatches & Polymers for Auto, Packaging, Electrical appliances</p>

<p>CRYSTAL CROP PROTECTION GI-17, GT Karnal Road, Industrial Area, Azadpur, New Delhi-110033 Tel: (91 11) 27006800, 27118881 Fax: 27118885, Mob: 9818584795 Contact: Mr.Y.S.Rajian, Senior Manager (International Business) Email: yogender.rajian@crystalcrop.com Web: www.crystalcropprotection.com</p>	<p>Agrochemicals, Seeds and Fertilizers</p>
<p>SANSKAR AGRO PROCESSORS Singhania House, Shiv Nagar, Wardha-442001 Tel: (91 7152) 280009, 325911, Fax: (91 7152) 280059 Mob: (91) 9372234445, Contact: Mr. Ayush Singhania Email: sanskar_agrowda@yahoo.co.in, Web: www.sanskaragro.com</p>	<p>Cotton yarn, Knitted fabrics, Raw cotton Ginned & Pressed, Variety Shankar-6</p>
<p>ECO-HOUSE COATINGS 25/1 Saidham Commercial Arcade, 1st Floor, P.K.Road, Mulund (W) Mumbai-400080 Mob: (91) 9820110456, (91) 9769210747 Contact: Mr.Khushal Dharamsey, Director Email: ecohouse7@gmail.com, khushal_dharamsey@yahoo.co.in Web: www.eco-house.in</p>	<p>Silicate dispersion paints for construction industry (interior and exterior walls)</p>
<p>E SAFE ENTERPRISES H-446, 2nd Phase, Sangariya, Jodhpur-342012 Tel: (91 291) 2002591, Fax: 2764321, Mob: 9413324321 Contact: Mr.Manish Maheshwari, Chief Executive Officer Email: info@esafe.co.in, Web: http://esafe.tradeindia.com</p>	<p>Fibre glass ladders, Electrical operating rods and industrial plastic moulded products</p>
<p>ARCHANA INDIA A-69, First Floor, Gulmohar Park, New Delhi-110049 Tel: (91 11) 26512049, Fax: 26512049, Mob: 9943986118 Contact: Mr.Archana Sujanti, Chairperson: Mr.Jai Sujanti, President Email: abbu104@gmail.com, forblankets@gmail.com Web: www.bharattextile.com/listings/archana-india-export-house.html</p>	<p>Woollen, Acrylic, Fleece, Tweed & Cotton blankets, Jacketing Cloth, Felt, Velour, Dobby fabrics</p>
<p>RAINBOW INTERNATIONAL No.1,Thulasi Complex, Radha Nagar, Padappai-601301 Kanchipuram Mob: (91) 9659516941 Contact: Mr.P.Muthiah, Email: rainbowmuthiah@gmail.com Web: www.indiamart.com/rainbow-international-kanchipuram/</p>	<p>Metal scrap, Nuts & Bolts, Nails, Screws, Finished and Unfinished leather</p>
<p>BAR INTERNATIONAL 457-458, Sector 53, EPIP HSIDC, Kundli, Sonapat-131028 Tel: (91 130) 2370042, Mob: (91) 9810130974 Contact: Ms.Tina Khandelwal, Director Marketing Email: tina@barinternational.com, sales@barinternational.com Web: www.barinternational.com</p>	<p>Engine parts such as piston rings (Compression, 2 & 3-wheeler and Oil rings) and Casting for rings</p>
<p>HMCL 995, Sector-15, Sonapat-131001 Mob: (91) 9212139121 Contact: Mr. Varun Grover, CEO Email: varun.grover@hmcl.org, Web: www.hmcl.org</p>	<p>Auto parts like Oil seals, Engine mountings, Control Arms and gaskets</p>
<p>UNITED WORLDWIDE 9, Annapurna Sadan, M.V. Road, Mumbai-400069 Tel: (91 22) 26835245, Fax: (91 22) 26840116 Contact: Mr.Rakesh Shah Email: unitedworldwide@hotmail.com, info@unitedworldwide.in, Web: www.unitedworld.in</p>	<p>Stainless steel utensils, Kitchenware, Bathroom Ware and Hotel & Bar Ware</p>

<p>PARAMOUNT OVERSEAS New Delhi-110076 Mob: (91) 9650744460, (91) 9313052060, Blackberry: 26C405E2 Contact: Mr. Ashish Sharma, President Email: asharma@paramountoverseas.com Web: www.paramountoverseas.com</p>	<p>Precious & Semiprecious stones, Jewellery, Fashion accessories and Giftware</p>
<p>BLUENECK INTERNATIONAL LRG Layout, 2nd Street, Rayapuram-Tiripur-638402 Mob: (91) 9442028129 Contact: Mr. T.Raguram, Email: blueneck.itnl@gmail.com Web: www.eindiabusiness.com/directory/257965/contactus.html</p>	<p>Cotton Yarn and Garments</p>
<p>ATHARVA LIFESCIENCES Bengaluru-560046, Aurangabad-431003 Tel: (91 80) 42140016 Ext.22, 24; Fax: (91 80) 42140016 Contact: Ms.Puja Miglani, Industry Analyst Email: alcplm@atharvalife.com, Web: www.atharvalife.com</p>	<p>Pharma industry Reference Books, Market research reports</p>
<p>ASIAN TRADE LINK A/19, Sidhpura Industrial Estate, L.B.S.Marg, Mumbai-400086 Tel: (91 22) 25007236, 25000659, Fax: (91 22) 25000851 Contact: Mr. Pavan Kundan Email: sales@asiantradelinkindia.com, info@asiantradelinkindia.com Web: www.asiantradelinkindia.com</p>	<p>Baby care, Cosmetic & Personal care products, Sunscreen lotion and Hair oil</p>

Trade Fairs & Business Exhibitions in India in January-March 2012

Event	Organizer	Product Profile
Fifth Edition of Signature IIJS 2012*, Mumbai (Jan 6-9)	Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) of India Web: www.iijs-signature.org	India's top-of-the-line jewellery show showcasing the best jewellery collections by the country's leading manufacturers
Auto Expo 2012, New Delhi (Jan 5-11)	Confederation of Indian Industry Web: www.cii.in	Auto and automobile products
Reverse Buyer-Seller Meet at ELECTRAMA 2012*, Mumbai (Jan 18-22)	Indian Electrical & Electronics Manufacturers' Association (IEEMA) Web: www.elecrama.com	ELECRAMA – premier event of Indian electrical sector, esp. power transmission and distribution systems; showcases products and technologies.
Tex Trends India 2012*, New Delhi (Jan 19-21)	Ministry of Textiles, Apparel Export Promotion Council, Web: www.textrendsindiafair.com	Readymade garments & accessories
Two-Day Reverse Buyer-Seller Meet*, Chennai (Jan 30-31)	Council for Leather Exports, India Web: www.leatherindia.org	Leather and leather products
India International Leather Fair, Chennai (Jan 31-Feb 3)	ITPO	Leather, leather products, footwear & components, fashion accessories, machinery and equipment, chemicals

Plast India 2012, New Delhi (Feb 1-6)	Plast India Foundation Web: www.plastindia.org	Machinery, Moulds, Ancillary & Testing equipments, Raw material, Processors, Consultancy services
Energy-Tech & Enviro-Tech, New Delhi (Feb 10-12)	India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) Web: www.indiatradefair.com	All environment technologies, products, equipments, pollution control, Water recycling & harvesting, waste management & recycling, Eco-friendly buildings & materials
Electronics for You 2012, New Delhi (Feb 16-18)	EFY ENTERPRISES Private Limited, New Delhi Email: rahul@efyindia.com Website www.efyindia.com	Electronic machines, Tools, Equipments
Khoobsurat International Show 2012, New Delhi (Feb 16-20)	ITPO	Designer outfits, jewellery, giftware, Bridal cosmetics, wedding gifts, Boutiques Fashion designers, Furniture & Home furnishings etc.
International Leather Goods Fair, Kolkata (Feb 18-20)	ITPO	All kinds of leather and leather goods, components & accessories, footwear & components, and leather garments
World Book Fair, New Delhi (Feb 25-Mar 4)	National Book Trust, India, Web: www.nbtindia.org.in	Books, stationary, publishing, etc.
Aahar International Food Fair, New Delhi (March 10-14)	ITPO	Food, processed food, hotel & restaurant equipment & supplies
Automobile Expo, Bangalore (March 16-18)	ITPO	Automobile & Automobile components
INDIASOFT 2012* (Mar 21-23)	Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) Web: www.indiasoft.org	Solutions with value additions, technology & expertise, including KPO, BPO, LPO, security, finance, telecom, tourism, entertainment, media, bioinformatics, logistics, engineering design, transportation, education, pharma, e-governance
India International Handwoven Fair*, Chennai (Mar 27-29)	Handloom Export Promotion Council Web: www.iihfchennai.com	An exclusive fair for Indian Handwoven textile products
Convergence India 2012, New Delhi (Mar 21-23)	Exhibitions India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, Email: exhibitionindia@vsnl.com Web: www.exhibitionindia.com	Software audio video broadcasting system, IT & computing

* With sponsorship.

For more information, contact the Embassy at trade_eoimex@prodigy.net.mx



Skilled riders in colourful traditional Indian costumes, Hipódromo de las Américas, November 20



Dancers in traditional Indian costumes, Hipódromo de las Américas

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2012

The 10th annual Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) convention will be held in Jaipur from January 7-9, 2012, with the overarching theme of 'Global India – Inclusive Growth'. The convention will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India on January 8, and the President of India will deliver the valedictory address on January 9. She will also confer the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman awards on distinguished overseas Indians, selected by a jury presided over by the Vice President.

The Government of Rajasthan will be the State Partner, and CII the institutional partner. A highlight of the event will be two pre-convention seminars, to be held on January 7, focusing on 'Social Entrepreneurship – Water' and 'Solar Energy: Investment and R & D'. As always, there will be an OIFC Market Place, and a concurrent Trade and Industry Exhibition. Registrations could be done on line: www.pbdindia.org at the early-bird concessional rate of \$250 till December 15, 2011.