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Mahatma Gandhi Comes Alive in Mexico

With the support of the Embassy of India, and in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico and UNAM, *OraWorldMandala*, a Indo-Mexican NGO which strives to promote the Gandhian value of *ahimsa* through art, organized a five-day Gandhi Katha from December 2-6. 'Katha' is an age-old Indian tradition of narrating events, incidents and anecdotes from the great epics of *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*, as also other revered texts like the *Upanishads*, in which a learned and accomplished speaker brings out the relevance of the ancient Indian wisdom to an audience. The talks in the Gandhi Katha were delivered by Mr. Narayan Desai, Life-Chancellor of Gujarat Vidyapith, a university founded by Mahatma Gandhi in 1920. Introducing him, Ambassador Dinesh K Jain said that Narayanbhai, as he is fondly referred to by many, has had the most singular privilege of personally knowing Mahatma Gandhi for the first 23 years of his life, as his personal associate and an assistant, as well as the head of Mahatma Gandhi's office during the last years of his life. He said that Narayanbhai had dedicated himself to the training of young activists in the matters of non-violent protest, mainly through the unique school that he founded and took the message of Mahatma Gandhi to the general public, through the medium of books, songs, plays and street theatres, as well as most effectively through his Gandhi Kathas. Over the five days, Narayanbhai narrated the life-story of Mahatma Gandhi, extolling the virtues of *ahimsa*, *satyagraha*, non-violence and truth, to a spellbound audience, who had jam-packed the auditorium in UNAM's Museum of Contemporary Art (MUAC). This was followed by a 2-day Round Table (December 13-14), hosted by El Colegio de Mexico, in which besides Narayanbhai, other eminent speakers like Prof. Sudarshan Iyengar, Vice Chancellor of the Gujarat Vidyapith, Ms. Radha Bhatt, Chairperson of the Gandhi Peace Foundation, Dr. Sanghamitra Gadekar Desai, Social Activist from India, Ambassador Rogelio Granguillhome, Mexican Poet and Activist Javier Sicilia, Indologist Yolotl González, and the *OraWorldMandala* founder-President Sonia Deotto, spoke on the 18-point 'Constructive Programme' launched by Mahatma Gandhi 70 years ago and its relevance today. The Round Table heard Mexican perspectives on the relevance of Gandhian values in the present-day context of Mexico which is confronted with violence from mafia, drug cartels and criminal gangs. Prof. Benjamin Preciado, Head of the Centre for Asian and African Studies in El Colegio de Mexico, moderated the Round Table.

India Cultural & Academic

At the invitation of Facultad de Estudios Superiores of UNAM, Mr. N Balasubramanian, Director of the Gurudev Tagore Indian Cultural Centre (GTICC), spoke on 'Culture as an Instrument of Peace', on December 6, in the campus auditorium at Iztacala. This was followed by an enthusiastic question-answer session. Ms. Garima Bhargava, Kathak teacher at the GTICC gave a 30-minute performance, which was well appreciated by the audience.

GTICC participated with an **exhibition of photographic** panels captioned '**Churches and Christian Culture of Goa**' in San Miguel Cantador Festival, held from December 1 -9, in the historic city of San Miguel de Allende. The photographs of the historic churches in Goa by Benoy Behl, an eminent Indian photographer, on display at the Museo del Juguete, drew an enthusiastic and appreciative audience, who had a rare glimpse of the 16th century churches, build during the Portuguese regime in Goa and now declared by UN as a world heritage site.

A **dance recital**, 'Pushpanjali', meaning floral tribute, was presented by the students of the Indian classical dance form, **Bharatanatyam**, at the GTICC, and their teacher Ms. Patricia Torres, in the Embassy auditorium on December 10. The hour-long performance by 20 students, in which they demonstrated their talent and dancing skills acquired over the year, was much appreciated by the Mexican enthusiasts in attendance.

This was followed by another scintillating show on December 16 by 25 students of Bollywood dance, who enthralled the audience by dancing to the tune of the latest Bollywood beats. The show, organized by Ms. Kate Asmara, teacher at the GTICC, with the

theme of 'finding myself in movement', was well-received by the audience, who were fascinated by the dancers who made an innovative effort to involve the participation of the audience in attendance at the show.

India Sports 'Mexican' Look This Season

To bring out the fashion urge in one and flaunt the glamorous best, and with occasions like Christmas and New year, the need for right fashion wear is high. Coming to rescue is one of India's largest retail store Fabindia with their exclusive new collection - AZTEC. Named after the well-known ethnic group that ruled Mexico prior to the advent of the Spaniards, this dramatic collection claims to hold something for everyone with an eye for the best in fashion. The unusual styles in striking bold hues are worth a glance. Heavy influences of the indigenous Mexican culture are obvious in the pretty motifs and textures created through skilled layering and stitching patterns. The contemporary collection is an alluring mix of Indian and Western wear. For those who like it simple, there are kurtas, tunics and tops. Ones raring to make a fashion statement can explore their wild side with well-tailored skirts and harem pants. An ethnic look never fails to impress. So one can take a pick from the eclectic range of saris, dupattas and stoles that are inspired from across the country. The designers and artisans have put forward their creative best using skin friendly fabrics such as cotton, silk, and *maheshwari* with exquisite embroidery, mirror work, *zari* borders, appliqué work, *chikankari*, *kalamkari*, engineered stripes and colour blocks, which makes this collection a must have in the wardrobe this season. And to accessorise, Fabindia's range of vibrant hand crafted jewellery includes ear rings and bangle sets, textile based necklaces and metal bangles is sure to lure you. With 145 stores across 62 cities in India and six international stores, Fabindia Overseas Private Limited believes in the natural, bringing to you a perfect blend indigenous craft techniques with contemporary using natural materials and fibres. Furnishing, floor covering, furniture, gift-ware, jewellery, organic food and personal care products are some of the other specialities. The store also provides online B2C shopping facilities to support customers across 33 countries, including India.

My non-cooperation has its root not in hatred, but in love. My personal religion peremptorily forbids me to hate anybody.
- Mahatma Gandhi

India For Building Bridges Of Understanding

Addressing the 4th Annual Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilizations, in Doha, Qatar, on December 15, Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr.E.Ahamed said that the significant participation of world leaders, Ministers, Parliamentarians, civil society and NGOs representatives in this Forum was testimony to the desire and abiding interest of the international community towards a genuine civilizational dialogue to enhance mutual understanding and to make the world a better place to live. "When we look around for successful models of inclusiveness, tolerance and peaceful existence, India stands out as a living example of Unity in Diversity. India is a land of variety with a mosaic of geography, climate, lifestyles, religions, habits, thought processes and cultures. With a population of over 1.2 billion, it has more than 30 languages, more than 1,600 dialects and hundreds of ethnic groups. India is the birth place of the great religions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism and Jainism. We also have one of the largest populations of Muslims in the world and our land has provided the ground for other religions like Christianity and Zoroastrianism to flourish. And in spite of all these differences, all these diversity, the Indian civilization, from time immemorial, has been characterized by inclusiveness and by unity in diversity. India has been a living example of Confluence of Civilizations and not Clash of Civilizations. It is a place where we celebrate diversity and are enriched by differences. Each and every section of society in India has found equal opportunities for expression and for accomplishments. India is the largest democracy in the world and it has ensured for its citizens equality and dignity. Even the weaker sections of the society are provided equal status and equal opportunities.

"The interaction between India and rest of world go back to centuries starting from the trade links between Indus Valley Civilization and the other Civilizations of that time...India always benefitted from these thoughts, these cultures but maintained its identity, the Indian-ness. As father of our nation, Mahatma Gandhi had said, "I do not want my house to be walled in on all sides and my windows to be stuffed. I want the cultures of all the lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible. But I refuse to be blown off my feet by any." I think this is the need of the hour. The world is becoming a global village and it is almost impossible for any country or any nation to remain untouched by the outside influences. But what is needed is to absorb these trends, these diversities, these differences so as to produce a beautiful civilizational mosaic where all different cultures, thoughts can co- exit peacefully. This has become even more important in the present day context where at a number of places in the world, people are becoming impatient and are yearning for change. The differences are trying to dominate the commonalities. However here I would like to say that the societies cannot be reordered from outside and any process of change should be driven by the desires of the people in the spirit of inclusiveness. It is the responsibility of the countries to create conditions that enable their people to freely determine their pathways to development... India fully supports the initiatives of the Alliance and welcomes and supports all efforts to build bridges of understanding between nations, peoples, religions, and cultures across the many fault-lines that exist.

On Global Power Shifts And The Role Of Rising Powers India's National Security Advisor, Mr. Shivshankar Menon, addressed the prestigious Institute of Diplomatic Studies and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at Riyadh on December 5, on the captioned subject. He said, "We live in a time of unprecedented change. No one knows this better than the sub-region where we are today. It is hard to think of another area which has been as transformed in the last fifty years as the Gulf. Often the scope and pace of change is beyond explanation or comprehension and our thinking still has to catch up with reality. This is true of the economic shift that has accelerated after the financial crisis of 2008. It is also true of the rapid shifts in regional and global balances of power. Some of the change is positive. For the first time in history, 60% of mankind has been exposed to sustained growth rates of over 6% for an extended period. Balance of power shifts and technological change are creating a world where power is more widely held. We seem to be moving to a situation of multiple major powers in the international system with the ability to produce or influence outcomes. Unprecedented change also brings with it unprecedented uncertainty and insecurity. This is evident around us. Globalisation has created interdependence, knitting the world together. If the centre of gravity of world politics, and soon the economy, has shifted to Asia, including the Gulf, Asia is now also the cockpit of rivalries and the stage on which international competition is played out. Uncertainty and insecurity lead powers to follow hedging strategies, each acting on their own worst fears, and thereby risking making them come true. But the same change that creates new challenges also opens up space for creative diplomacy. There is space opening up in the international system for medium powers and others to play a more active role in this world of multiple powers, economically interlinked and embedded in a new balance of power. What are the drivers of this change? They range from technology (such as nuclear fission, ICT and uses of outer space), to economics, to politics, and to new issues like climate change and the uses of soft power in an interdependent world. Technologies like information and communications technology (ICT) have empowered small groups and individuals and the state itself, opening up new domains with new rules and practices, and new forms of contention. We see the effects of these power shifts all around us...The epicentre of global growth shifting to Asia is another...

"The flip side of common prosperity is common security. Asia's security is also interlinked across this great continent. India has therefore argued for an open, inclusive Asian security architecture to be evolved by the powers of the region itself. We face common challenges of proliferation, terrorism, and maritime security and need to find a way to ensure the peace

and stability that is essential to our futures. What is the role of emerging powers in this situation? I can only speak for India, and give you one Indian's view on the role of so-called emerging powers. We in India still have a long way to go in realising our domestic goal of transforming India to the point where each Indian has the opportunity to fully realise his potential. The scale of our domestic task is enormous, and for a long time to come our primary responsibility will be to sustain the pace of inclusive growth at home...Over the last two decades years India has averaged over 6% growth, which has accelerated to between 8-9% in the last five years. With a domestic savings rate of 35% and investment rate slightly higher than that, the economy can sustain high growth rates. India's economic prospects are good and the fundamentals are strong...India's own success is increasingly bound to the fate of the rest of the world. When we began economic reforms twenty years ago only about 14% of our GDP was related to the external economy. Today that proportion is closer to 40%...We will therefore work with our international partners, contributing within our capacity to creating an enabling external environment for the domestic transformation of India...This requires an external environment of peace...India will not be like the traditional big powers. Mrs Indira Gandhi used to say India will be a different power, a power that works for development, peace and international understanding, in its own interest and in that of its friends and partners abroad."

Prime Minister's New Year Message to Nation

Prime Minister

Dr.Manmohan Singh, in his New Year message to nation, on December 31, wished the people a peaceful, productive and secure New Year, and said, "New Year's Day is a day of resolutions. Each of us makes our own resolutions...I sincerely hope in the New Year we can all work together with a new resolve: to make our homes and neighbourhood, our village or town, and our nation a better place to live in. If each of us works towards that end, we can be sure that we are also making the world a better and a safer place. The year that has just ended was a very difficult year for the world. Economic crises, socio economic tensions, political upheavals in many developing countries and political deadlock in some of the developed countries, all cast their shadow on 2011. A 'revolution of rising expectations', fostered by the extraordinary reach of the electronic media and the connectivity provided by new social networking platforms, has kept Governments around the world on their toes. We in India have had our share of problems. The Indian economy slowed down and inflation edged up. Concern about corruption moved to the centre stage. We must not be too downcast at these events. All countries and economies go through cycles. We must remember that downturns are followed by upturns. Indeed, they are often a test of our ability to respond to new challenges...I want to assure you all on this New Year's day that I personally will work to provide an honest and more efficient government, a more productive, competitive and robust economy and a more equitable and just social and political order. I believe we have made more progress than is commonly realised...

"As I look ahead I see Five Key Challenges facing the nation. First, there is the urgent challenge of eradicating poverty, hunger and illiteracy and providing gainful employment to all...the most important is to empower every citizen with the light of education...I was born into a family of modest means, in a village without a doctor or a teacher, no hospital, no school, no electricity. I had to walk miles every day to go to school, but I persevered and was fortunate to be able to secure a high school education, and then go on to higher education. It is this access to education that transformed my life and gave me new opportunities which others with my background could not dream of...There is no better investment we can make in the future – the future of our children, of our families, of our communities, and of our nation...The second challenge that demands our attention is Economic Security. Economic security comes from having an economy that can produce the material output required to achieve desired consumption levels for the people and one that can generate the productive jobs needed to satisfy the aspirations of the workforce. To reach this level we will have to ensure rapid growth accompanied by adequate job creation. Rapid growth is also necessary to generate the revenues we need to finance our livelihood

security programmes...To achieve sustained rapid growth we need to do more than halt the current slowdown though that is certainly the first step. We need to usher in a second agricultural revolution to ensure sufficient growth in rural incomes. We also need to usher in the many reforms needed to trigger rapid industrialisation and to build the infrastructure which such industrialisation needs...Elimination of corruption is critical to support genuine entrepreneurship...This is a serious problem that calls for a multi-dimensional response...The third challenge we face, is the challenge of Energy Security. Energy is an essential for development because higher levels of production inevitably involve larger energy use...The energy security challenge is particularly great for India because we are trying to develop in an environment in which our domestic energy resources are limited and the world is transiting to a period when energy is likely to be scarce and energy prices are expected to be high...A fourth important challenge we face in the years ahead is the challenge of ecological security. Economic growth is essential for the well being of our people, but we cannot allow growth to be pursued in a manner which damages our environment. We owe it to future generations to ensure that the environment they inherit from us is at least as capable of providing economic security for them as the one we inherited from our parents...Looking beyond the immediate ecological issues, there is the larger challenge of climate change. As responsible citizens of the world we must pursue a pattern of development which reduces greenhouse gas emissions per unit of our GDP by about 20-25% by 2020 as our contribution to global ecological security...Finally, and most importantly, our vibrant democracy faces threats to internal and external security which together can be viewed as the challenge of National Security. Despite grave provocations from extremists and terrorists, the people of India have remained united. They have not lost faith in our plural, secular and inclusive democracy. Across the world people look to India for inspiration. Our model of Inclusive Growth in an Open Society inspires those who seek freedom from tyranny. A new wave of democracy demanding the empowerment of ordinary people is sweeping the world and India stands tall as a functioning democracy. We are a nation of over a billion people, plural, secular, democratic – with all the great religions of the world freely practiced here, with so many languages and cuisines, so many castes and communities – living together in an open society. This is an achievement for which every Indian can be proud. The world acknowledges this achievement. I do believe that the world wants India to succeed because India offers hope...I have identified Five key challenges facing us. These will be on top of our policy agenda this year...In addressing each of these five challenges we must work together as a nation, while working with like-minded nations around the world...Let us stand united as a people in overcoming these challenges."

Australia Supports India For UNSC Permanent Seat

Australia too has supported India's claim for a permanent seat in an expanded UN Security Council, and said the decision of its ruling party on supplying Uranium to New Delhi has removed any "potential irritant" in their growing bilateral relationship. On a 3-day visit to India, Australian Defence Minister Stephen Smith said the two countries have also agreed to look into prospects of enhancing practical military cooperation by holding bilateral naval exercises in future. "We are of the view that under the reforms, India should be a permanent member of the UN Security Council. Our Uranium decision also reflects that not just that India voluntarily has brought itself under the international regulators of civil nuclear energy the IAEA and NSG," he said.

India 'Won't Sign Binding Emissions Pact'

India has said it would reject any global pact legally binding it to cut greenhouse gas emissions as such a move could stifle economic growth needed to eradicate poverty. Environment Minister Jayanthi Natarajan's statement came after a UN conference in Durban earlier in December agreed for the first time to seek to negotiate a legally enforceable agreement to control all nations' emissions. "There is no question of signing a legally binding agreement at this point of our development. We need to make sure that our development does not suffer," Natarajan told the Upper House of Parliament. "Our emissions are bound to grow as we have to ensure our

social and economic development and fulfil the imperative of poverty eradication," the Minister added. Some 42% of Indians, or 455 m people, live on less than \$1.25 a day, according to the World Bank. The marathon UN climate conference in Durban approved a roadmap towards an accord that for the first time would bring all major greenhouse-gas emitters blamed for climate change under a single legal roof. If approved as scheduled in 2015, the pact will be operational from 2020 and become the prime weapon in the fight against climate change. But the fast-growing economies, China and India, argue that the burden of cuts should be on developed countries and that they cannot commit to binding targets which might hurt their ability to improve living standards. India and China do not fall under the existing 1997 Kyoto Protocol constraints aimed at fighting global warming as they are developing countries.

BRICS Source Of Stability In Time Of Recession

Ahead of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) summit that New Delhi will host in 2012, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has said emerging economies can play a significant role in global financial stability against the backdrop of the eurozone recession. "At a time of economic uncertainty, especially in the Eurozone, growth and prosperity in the BRICS economies can play a significant role in ensuring economic and financial stability at a global level." He stressed that the relevance of the BRICS to the international order had increased over time. These countries share similar positions on issues such as the reforms of the Bretton Woods Institutions, trade protectionism and the Doha Development Round, achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and support for a multi-polar, equitable and democratic world order, he said. India will host the next BRICS summit in March next year, the first time New Delhi will do so after Russia hosted the maiden BRIC summit in Yekaterinburg in 2009. "The agenda of BRICS has gone beyond the purely economic to include issues such as international terrorism, climate change and food and energy security. The world is also witnessing political and security challenges, especially in West Asia," said PM Singh. He stressed that against the backdrop of these global challenges, it was "all the more essential for BRICS countries to closely consult with each other at this time".

Dalai Lama And India-China Talks

India on December 14, for the first time, made it public that it had rejected the Chinese demand for preventing Tibetan spiritual leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama to attend the Global Buddhist Congregation in New Delhi in the last week of November. External Affairs Minister Mr. S M Krishna informed the Lok Sabha (House of the People in India's Parliament) in a written response to a question, the first time officially announcing the circumstances that led to cancellation of the India-China boundary talks, which the two countries' Special Representatives were expected to hold from November 28-29. During the talks, the two Special Representatives – India's National Security Advisor Shiv Shankar Menon and China's State Councilor Dai Bingguo – were expected to firm up the proposed "Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs" – an additional arrangement involving senior diplomats of the two countries to urgently deal with any evolving situation along the Line of Actual Control. Krishna said that the Chinese side was concerned about the spiritual leader being in Delhi at the same time as their Special Representatives. "They (the Chinese) suggested that Government either prevent Dalai Lama from attending the Global Buddhist Congregation (GBC) or cancel it," he stated. His Holiness addressed the valedictory session of the GBC 2011 on November 30 last. "The Government assured the Chinese side that a private religious event such as the GBC would not have any impact on Government-to-Government interaction and exchanges. However, the Chinese side expressed inability of the Chinese Special Representatives to be present in New Delhi at the same time as His Holiness the Dalai Lama," the Minister said. It was decided that the two sides would continue exploring an early, mutually convenient date for holding the 15th round of the Special Representative level talks, he added.

New Delhi has called for enhanced exchanges between India and China to build mutual trust and understanding, observing the two Asian giants need to forge stronger relationship "going beyond national politics" to accommodate each other's interests. In a rare interview carried by the People's Liberation Army Daily, the official newspaper of China's military, Indian Ambassador to China, S Jaishankar said the two countries should step-up contacts to ensure that issues like boundary dispute do not obstruct the relationship. "I feel that the only solution is to increase contacts and exchanges. There is distrust when people don't understand each other," he said. "Lack of mutual trust and understanding is the real challenge faced by our two countries. It has blurred our vision...If you have to give a very direct solution, then my solution is: enhance exchanges in every field," he underlined. The two countries have held 14 rounds of talks to find a mutually acceptable solution to the long-standing boundary disputes. Jaishankar said the two countries should remember that "the decline of India and China in the 18th-19th century was connected." "So too was their re-emergence as modern states after the Second World War. So for the common development of the two countries, we need a stronger relationship, going beyond national politics, one where we understand each others' interests much better. Both of us need a stronger Asia," he said. Replying to a question, he said the analogy of describing China and India as "dragon" and "elephant" was "exaggerated", adding that the bilateral relationship in the last 10 to 15 years has "always been good".

India, US, Japan Hold First Trilateral Dialogue

India, United States and Japan have held their first trilateral dialogue on December 19 over a "wide range" of regional and global issues of common interest. "These discussions mark the beginning of a series of consultations among our three governments, who share common values and interests across the Asia-Pacific and the globe," the US State Department said in a statement. Responding to the prevailing assumption that the meeting was aimed at containing China, Assistant Secretary Kurt Campbell dismissed the idea as "preposterous." Campbell said they would discuss at the event a number of issues, including "larger and strategic development in Asia," related to economy and military. The assistant-secretary level meeting was co-chaired by US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Robert Blake, and Kurt Campbell. Japanese Foreign Minister Koichiro Gamba, who was on a 3-day visit in the USA, said his meeting with his US counterpart Hillary Clinton affirmed that "Japan and the USA are deepening a strategic relationship with India." He called the trilateral dialogue "a specific example of collaboration." The three nations agreed to meet again in Tokyo in 2012 to continue their deliberations.

India-Russia Meet Challenges Of Changing World

Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh paid an official visit to Russia from December 15-17 at the invitation of the Russian President Mr Dmitry Medvedev, and also held talks with Prime Minister Mr Vladimir Putin. In the Joint Statement issued on December 16, the two sides appreciated the advancement and further enhancement of the special and privileged strategic partnership between them. They expressed satisfaction at several joint projects, such as in the energy including nuclear energy and hydrocarbons, space research, military-technical, S&T, education, cultural and human exchanges, steel, mining, automobile, fertilizer and pharmaceutical sectors, currently being pursued. As an important element of their Strategic Partnership, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to work together to strengthen the central coordinating role of the United Nations in international affairs as well as the crucial role of its Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security. Russia expressed strong support to India for a permanent seat in an expanded UN Security Council. They expressed concern over negative trends in the global economy, especially over the financial and economic situation in the Euro zone, emphasizing that all countries needed to implement the agreed G20 Plan in an active and coordinated manner. As regards security and cooperation in the region of Asia and the Indian and Pacific Oceans, they reiterated their support to the creation of a transparent, open, comprehensive, and balanced architecture of security and cooperation in the region based on the recognized

principles of international law as well as respect for the legitimate interests of all states, and acknowledged the necessity of addressing both traditional and new security threats - terrorism, extremism, weapons of mass destruction (WMD) proliferation, illicit drug trafficking, organized crime and maritime piracy. They attached importance to strengthening cooperation among BRICS countries, and welcomed the growing role of BRICS in international political and economic life. India and Russia, as responsible states, possessing advanced nuclear technologies, share the objective of preventive proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, including preventing their possible acquisition by terrorist groups, and agreed on the need for all states possessing nuclear weapons to accelerate concrete progress on the steps leading to global nuclear disarmament in a way that promotes international stability, peace and undiminished and increased security for all. They strongly condemned the existence of safe havens and sanctuaries for terrorism, and reiterated that States that aid, abet or shelter terrorists were as guilty of acts of terrorism as their actual perpetrators. They also emphasized the importance of joint bilateral and multilateral efforts in the fight against illicit drug trafficking which poses a growing threat to international peace and stability.

Separately, in his Banquet Speech at the official lunch hosted by President Medvedev, PM Singh said that Russia is regarded as a tried and trusted friend of India, which has stood with India at every juncture of our nation-building process. At this time of transition when the world is witnessing profound transformation and a shift in the global balance of power, India-Russia relationship serves as an anchor of peace and stability. As two large and diverse democracies, with rapidly transforming societies and economies, they must work together to ensure that the emerging international order is multipolar, based on respect for international law and equality amongst nations, and promoting a world order in which dialogue and cooperation and not conflict and confrontation are the basis for inter-state relations. India-Russia relations are poised to achieve even greater heights in the years to come. Earlier, in his statement to media during joint press interaction with the Russian President, PM Singh observed that India-Russia relations are among the most substantive India has with any country. The India-Russia relationship stands out a factor of peace and stability in the world. Their special and privileged strategic partnership has helped shape a balanced and inclusive world order, and it has contributed to the rapid growth of both their economies. Their relations have global significance. They share similar views on threats to international security from terrorism, piracy and drug trafficking. They both agree on the need for the European Union to take urgent steps to address the Eurozone debt crisis, and restore market confidence. India deeply values its close friendship and cooperation with Russia, and both are committed to further deepening and strengthening it.

Indo-US Ties Key To World Order

Hailing India as one of the most important nations in current global scenario, the US has said the strategic engagement between the two nations was key to ensure a peaceful and prosperous international order, apart from benefits to each other. "The story of how we work together to ensure a peaceful and prosperous international order is as ambitious as it is profound. It is a deeply strategic endeavour that we can and must pursue together. It is work that will define a generation," Deputy Secretary of State, William J Burns said addressing a gathering at Pune University in India. Calling for further enhancing cooperation between the two countries, he said both India and the US can contribute in building a more secure, stable, democratic and just global system. "Across the world, I believe that India and America with so many converging interests, shared values and common concerns are natural partners in building a more secure, stable, democratic and just global system. India can make a decisive contribution to what Secretary Clinton has called 'the global architecture of cooperation' to solve problems that no one country can solve on its own," he said. Noting that world economy was going through a turbulent phase, he complimented the reform process in India and said it encourages the Indian government to continue its domestic reform agenda and facilitate greater foreign investment. Calling India as an essential part of US's vision for an

economically integrated Asia-Pacific region, he said, "Indeed, we are counting on India's rise as a global power, as one that engages from the Middle East and East Asia to Africa and beyond...The Obama Administration has high hopes for the US-India relationship, and we are working hard to ensure that our ambitions are matched by results...We both have much to learn from each other, and dialogue offers an opportunity to identify new areas of cooperation and to address areas of disagreement. We are also launching a new US-India-Japan trilateral consultation on regional issues". Acknowledging India's growing maritime capabilities, he said the US is interested in working with India to combat various challenges in the Indian Ocean Region. Complimenting India's maritime role in recent years, Burns said New Delhi is demonstrating its growing maritime capabilities with a robust counter-piracy approach that serves common regional interests. Rejecting observations that US's interest in Asia is linked to containing China, he said Washington strongly believes that a "thriving China is good for China, good for the United States, and good for India...The 21st century Asia-Pacific we seek is one in which India, the United States, China and all the states of this region and beyond enjoy good relations," he said. Showering praise on India, Burns said the country's synthesis of high economic growth and multi-party democracy could not be more relevant in a "region where debates rage about the value of democracy to development...Americans look at India and see a pluralistic, multi-party democracy, a place of innovation and openness, a success story that offers hope to societies wracked by political turmoil and sectarian or ethnic divides," he said.

A new study by US National Foundation for American Policy (USNFAP) says that **Indians are becoming increasingly important in driving America's economic growth**. The study found that 46% - 23 of the country's top 50 venture-funded companies had immigrant founders, most of them having India as their common place of origin, and that the Indians had created an average of 150 jobs per company in the US, which thus hence needed them to boost its economy when it was facing challenging times. "Start-up businesses are the lifeblood of the US economy...Nearly half of America's top 50 ventured backed companies and 75% of the US leading cutting-edge companies have been led by immigrants and the leading country of origin is India," notes the research.

Indian-Americans Most Inspiring Diaspora

More than three million in numbers, Indian-Americans are not only the most inspiring diaspora in the USA but their unmatched activism has made sure their political influence, too, has grown tremendously, a senior Obama administration has said. US assistant secretary of state for South and Central Asia, Robert Blake, said in his keynote address to the Washington DC annual gala of the American India Foundation (AIF) that Indians were today seen at every public platform, be it politics, academics or business. "There is no diaspora community that is more successful and inspiring than the Indian-American community," he said. Founded in 2001 at the initiative of the then US President, Bill Clinton, he serves as its honorary chair. Indian Americans have among the highest if not the highest per capita incomes of all groups in the United States, he said. "Indian Americans are increasingly seeing their influence grow, whether by election of political stars such as Governor Bobby Jindal of Louisiana or Governor Nikki Haley of South Carolina, you see people at every single level of government, at the highest level - business, academia and everywhere else," Blake said in his address at the event. "So their influence is extremely widespread. More importantly now, if you look at the growth of India caucus, it is the most influential caucus on the Capitol Hill. The reason for that is the activism and the energy of the Indian American community," he said. Blake, who had earlier served in India and Sri Lanka, and now is the US government's point man for South and Central Asia, said his experiences in India and elsewhere in South Asia taught him that there are tremendous opportunities for the US to work more closely with the diaspora to try to leverage its talent and resources.

India Gives \$1 m to Indian Ocean Fund

The money would be provided as a special fund to finance various "high-visibility" projects which would be

identified later, External Affairs Minister Mr.S.M.Krishna said at the open session of the 11th meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) of IOR-ARC (Indian Ocean Rim – Association for Regional Cooperation). The meeting saw India assuming the group's chair and Australia the vice-chair for the next two years. Yemen held the chair and India the vice-chair in the previous term. The group, established in 1997 to promote sustainable growth in the countries along the Indian Ocean, will be renamed following a suggestion by Australian Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd to this effect. Krishna said the new name would be worked out later by the officials in his Ministry of External Affairs. The changed name would have to be ratified at the next meeting of the group's. Seychelles, which had withdrawn from IOR-ARC in 2003, has rejoined the group, becoming its 19th member. Amb.K V Bhagirath, India's High Commissioner to Tanzania, assumed charge as the new Secretary General of the group from January 1, 2012.

India To Help Boost Ethiopia Agriculture

A premier Indian agricultural research institute has tied up with an Ethiopian institute to help it increase the country's agricultural output. The Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) and the Indian Agricultural Research Institutes (IARI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to carry out agricultural research that would help upgrade capacity of agricultural outputs in Ethiopia. The agreement is expected to boost the production capacity and quality of agricultural output in the East African nation. IARI is India's premier national Institute for agricultural research and education. It was responsible for research leading to India's 'Green revolution' in the 1970s. Ethiopia's Agriculture State Minister Wondyerad Mandefro said the MoU will help enhance the bilateral relation between the two countries. He added that the two institutes will get a chance to undertake joint agricultural research that would help in increasing production. Indian Ambassador to Ethiopia said the MoU would further consolidate the relation of the two countries. He said India is interested to share its agricultural experience to Ethiopia. The agreement would also enable India to undertake research on meat and dairy development in Ethiopia. In addition to conducting research, EIAR is charged with the responsibility for providing the overall coordination of agricultural research countrywide, and advising the government on agricultural research policy formulation. Currently, the EIAR has 55 research centres.

Death, which is an eternal verity, is revolution, as birth and after is slow and steady evolution. Death is as necessary for a man's growth as life itself.

- Mahatma Gandhi

No Surrender on Continuing Economic Reforms

India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has pledged to overcome opposition to opening the country's retail industry to companies like Wal-Mart Stores Inc., saying his two-decade reform agenda is the best way of reviving the slowest economic growth in two years. In an interview in his office at Parliament House in New Delhi, Singh said he would succeed in letting foreign companies buy majority stakes in Indian retailers after contesting regional elections early next year and as slower inflation bolsters support for his administration. He said he underestimated the opposition that derailed the plan a week ago. "There was inadequate preparation and some partners in the coalition developed cold feet," Singh said in the interview. "But I can assure you, India remains committed to a system of regulation that is supportive of enterprise and we will do everything to encourage foreign investment." The policy setback is a symptom of a functioning democracy, PM said. Still, a democratic system of government remains "the most credible," he said, adding, "There may be zigzags along the way, but the path is the one I set." PM Singh, the only Indian to have served as governor of the Reserve Bank of India, finance minister and prime minister and the nation's first head of government to come from a religious minority said, "It is the only path to reduce the chronic poverty millions still live under." He predicted that GDP will increase

7.5% in the fiscal year that ends March 31, while inflation will cool to between 6-7%. Once the global economy stabilizes, India will return to 8.5-9% trend growth.

Bankers Confident of India's Growth

The Indian economy will continue to grow despite the rupee's current fall, was the optimistic note on which renowned Indian bankers forming the Indian Business and Professional Council based a debate on the recent volatility of the Indian rupee and its aftermath. "The worst is over," said K Venkata Rama Moorthy, CEO, Bank of Baroda, adding that India is heading to better days. "The rupee will be reaching a reasonable level soon," he said. Ajay Kumar of Corporation Bank said: "India has a great growth story and it will continue its growth. These (rupee depreciations) are minor obstacles." Advocating a calm approach, Kumar said that while the 20% fall in the Indian currency is a big one, the worst is over. G.Raj Kumar Nair, CEO of Punjab National Bank, said: "The depreciation of the rupee has taken place many times before. Don't be jittery about the present situation. India will grow." As to what steps India's central bank and the government could take to prevent a rupee fall, according to Indian Business and Professional Council (IBPC) President, Dr Bharat Bhutaney, the Reserve Bank of India – India's central bank – is devising ways to improve the flow of dollars into the country instead of making concrete fiscal or monetary changes. "We need strong structural changes in the monetary and fiscal policies which the Government of India and the RBI have to sit together and sort out," he said. K.V.Shamsudeen of Barjeel Geojit Securities said: "The RBI has to take some action to control the rupee's fall, and it has to act quickly." He added that in the last six months of the current financial year, India received \$59 b in remittances from the Indian diaspora from across the world "and if things continue this way, this financial year ending on March 31, 2012, India may get \$100 b".

When it comes to festival gifting, Indians do not practice what they preach. **India is the most fiscally responsible country** surveyed with 75% of Indians budgeting for last festival season. However, budgeting aside, 72% spent more than they had budgeted, according to an independent global gifting survey conducted by Wakefield Research and commissioned by Western Union. Indians are resilient, even though they haven't adhered to budgets in the last festival season, 87% still plan to make a budget for future festival gifting. The pressure to find the perfect gift for loved ones gets to Indians and their budgeting, as it does for people from Brazil, Germany, **Mexico**, South Africa, UAE, UK and US. Indians don't gift in the same spirit as they prefer. More than half of Indians (51%) would rather receive a cash gift of `1,000 over a physical gift of the same value. However, when Indians eventually gift to family and loved ones, a majority (65%) opt for a physical gift at the risk of over-spending. Indians like most to make the lives of their children (36%), mother (26%) and father (13%) better, over spoiling their significant other (4%). This is in contrast to all the other countries surveyed which gave greater priority to making their significant others' lives better (13-31%). "Indians may not have to empty their pockets to find the perfect gift after all," said Kiran Shetty, regional Vice President, Western Union India. "Giving cash is an easy way for gift givers to make their loved one's day better allowing them to purchase what they really want and need. Gifting cash also helps better manage festival-related expenses including the unforeseen costs associated with physical purchases—gift choice, transportation, wrapping and overall time constraints," he said. The survey polled nationally representative adults aged 18 years and older between September 21 and October 21 in several countries worldwide.

In an anecdotal indication of India's economic dynamism, **the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) Ltd, a Mumbai-based independent commodity exchange, has emerged as the world's fifth largest commodity futures exchange and the first Indian entity to join the top-five league in terms of the number of contracts.** In a statement, MCX Ltd has said that it has become the world's fifth largest in terms of the number of futures contracts traded during the period January to June, based on Futures Industry Association (FIA) volume survey and market data. MCX has replaced China-based Dalian Commodity

Futures Exchange at the fifth position, after occupying the 6th slot among global commodity futures exchanges for two consecutive years since 2009. At that time, it had replaced UK-based London Metal Exchange on the sixth position. MCX's MD, Lamon Rutten said, "We owe this success to our members, shareholders and the commodity market ecosystem participants. We are committed to make MCX the best commodity exchange in the world." The data for January-June 2011 showed that the global commodity derivatives market grew by 10.2%, based on the number of contracts, with precious metals and energy contributing 49.8% and 16% respectively. Mumbai-based MCX is a demutualised nationwide electronic futures exchange and the various commodities traded on its platform include bullion, energy, metals and agricultural commodities.

The future of equity capital markets too is shifting towards the East. **In 15 years India is likely to be among the most favourable listing destinations for foreign companies.**

According to PricewaterhouseCoopers' Capital Markets in 2025 report, which covered 400 senior managers at companies from across the globe, developing Asia is emerging as the most popular region for future listings. India came second in terms of issuers (voted for by 59% of respondents) and third in terms of capital (39%). In terms of electronic-order-book value, the National Stock Exchange of India is now the fourth-largest exchange by number of trades in equity shares globally. India's primary markets are growing rapidly; in 2010 a total of 63 IPOs raised \$8.3 b for domestic companies, up from \$4.5 b raised by 36 IPOs in 2008. Around 74% of respondents say, by 2025, emerging market companies will look to another emerging market instead of a developed market for a secondary listing.

Now You Too Can Buy Indian Shares

Government of India is also allowing overseas individual investors to directly buy local equities, in a major liberalization move designed to further boost overseas investment. The new rule from the central bank and stock market regulator will take effect from January 15. Hitherto, individual investors could only invest in Indian shares through so-called participatory notes. The move had been anticipated since October 2010, and R.Gopalan, Secretary of Economic Affairs at India's Finance Ministry, confirmed this on November 15. The new rule will 'widen the class of investors, attract more foreign funds, and reduce market volatility,' as well as deepen the Indian capital market, the government said in its statement. The Indian economy has grown strongly over the last 15 years and many foreign investors have been keen to enter the market in a fast-developing country of 1.2 b people.

Automobiles: India Vrooms Past Brazil

India has overtaken Brazil as the world's sixth largest automobile manufacturing country, according to the International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers. As many as 2.04 m vehicles were produced in India till June, 20% more than the 1.71 m units rolled out in Brazil, leaving no doubt India is steadily inching its way up on the global charts to make its mark as the third largest automobile market over the next five years. In 2009, India had raced past Spain to become the seventh largest vehicle-manufacturing country in the world and is now set to overtake Japan, Germany and Korea to sell seven million units by 2017, way before of the initial estimate of becoming the third largest market globally by 2020. PricewaterhouseCoopers says India is likely to produce seven million light vehicles of up to five tonnes by 2017. "Though vehicle sales have slowed down this year, the fundamentals remain strong," notes Abdul Majeed, partner and head of automotive practice in the global professional services firm. "By 2017, India is likely to emerge as the third-largest market in the world after China and the US." What is boosting business confidence is that despite the economic uncertainties prevailing in global and domestic markets, India has remained among the world's fastest-growing automobile markets. Also, at 10 cars per 1000 people, vehicle penetration in India is just 2% of that of markets like US and Germany and one of the lowest in the world; so, the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers predicts that the market would only grow over long term. Market research firm J D Power estimates that the automobile market in India is set to grow threefold to over 11 m vehicles by 2020. A

closer look at the sales data of the world's top six vehicle-manufacturing countries also reveals that the domestic automobile market in India has already overtaken that of Korea at 2.73 m units. On the export front, India is fast narrowing the gap with China, which till October China exported about 700,000 units, while Indian exports grew by 17.5% to almost 500,000 units.

The success story in manufacturing is however not limited to just automobiles. **India is fast emerging as a global manufacturing hub** with a large number of companies shifting their manufacturing bases the country. Growing foreign investments, establishment of greenfield projects, greater number of mergers & acquisitions and increasing strategic alliances between industry players are a clear indication of the growing attractiveness of the Indian market. Through focused efforts, the Indian manufacturing industry has been able to strengthen its competitiveness on the global map. Proactive steps by the Government, policies and economic reforms have made India one of the fastest growing economies of the world. Industry accounts for around 15% of India's GDP, and has been growing at an annual average rate of 9% since 2006.

Medical Devices: India Innovates For All

Let's begin with some good news for diabetics. A Kerala institute has developed a cheap automated insulin pump designed for the precise, personalised and continuous delivery of insulin in a subcutaneous manner with all the advanced functionalities. "We received the US patent last month for the innovation which we want to make available in the market at one-tenth the price of the existing ones which cost between \$6,000 and \$8,000," Dr Bipin Nair, head of the Amrita Institute of Biotechnology (AIB), who led the research, said. Insulin pumps and most of the devices used for managing blood sugar are currently imported in India but they are not popular with ordinary people because of the high prices. Dr Nair said the scene would change once the low-cost device, which matches its current counterparts in every aspect, hits the market. The AIB under the Kerala-based Amrita Vishwapeetham developed the device with the support of India's Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council, global bio-pharma major Biocon Limited and Media Lab Asia. "We are in talks with some companies in the field for its commercial production and marketing. We need to ensure that it should be in reach of ordinary people in India," said Dr Nair who has numerous publications to his credits in international scientific journals. The pager-like device, which is smaller than an average cell phone, is expected to hit the market in the next two years.

In another case, a postgraduate in – of all subjects – statistics, from Rajasthan University, led a team of scientists in a US company to develop an instrument to test blood sugar level in one's body! The state capital, Jaipur, popularly known as the Pink City, celebrated the success of one of its sons: Manoj Sharma, once he went to US's Baltimore University to pursue his doctoral research, got a job offer in the Johnson & Johnson's Diabetes Care Franchise and ultimately became head of the team that developed 'one-touch select-sample' diabetes testing metre. The metre is of the size of a mobile telephone gadget and is specially meant for the 'emerging markets' in Asia. It was launched in India in September as a time and cost saving device to let patients test their sugar-level any time and at home. Dr.Sharma was hosted by the Rajasthan Chamber of Commerce and Industry on his arrival to the city. While speaking on "Creating the world without limit for people with diabetes", he dedicated this success to the city of Jaipur where he was born and brought up. He also expressed the desire to establish a forum which could act as a bridge between India and US to further such causes. "The device is very simple. It does not require coding. It does not have buttons and has a system of giving out alarms at both low and high sugar levels," said Sharma. "We have kept the cost lower than such instruments introduced in the market earlier. The metre costs `1,000 only, while the cost of the strip used for testing comes to `18," he noted. At Milpitas based headquarters of Johnson & Johnson, Dr.Sharma has been

the principal scientist for R&D and holds six patents for diagnostic kit, calibration code, multiple coloured work pieces, and multiple membranes for assembly, methods and systems, and detecting hypoglycemic events. He has four awards in his chest for quality, technology, leadership and communication.

Indian scientists have also come up with fabric diagnostic 'chips' to detect deadly diseases. The 'chips' made of woven silk could provide a cheap alternative to plastic for rapidly diagnosing a wide range of diseases, including hepatitis, HIV and tuberculosis, as well as conducting some metabolic tests, scientists have found. After being treated with antibodies or other chemicals, the silk fibres change colour – in a similar way to home pregnancy kits when they come into contact with a specific disease. Eventually, scientists hope to develop a single fabric strip that will allow doctors to diagnose a wide range of illnesses at the patient's bedside in around five minutes. It is the adaptability of the material that makes silk so ideal for this use, as, by changing factors such as the pattern and weave, multiple chemicals can be placed on a tiny strip. Dhananjaya Dendukuri, a scientist at Achira Labs, Bangalore, told the Science and Development Network (SciDev.Net), a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing reliable and authoritative information about science and technology for the developing world. The technique also takes advantage of India's extensive silk-weaving industry – providing a cheap and abundant source of the fabric to allow the project to be scaled up, a process which Dendukuri hopes would begin in 2013. The added demand for silk that the product could create would also benefit the weaving industry, he claimed. The project aims to bring rapid diagnostic tools that can perform multiple analyses to rural communities in the developing world.

Kunal Shah, a Managing Director (MD) at Goldman Sachs, is one of the 10 Indians on the **Forbes list of under-30 achievers**, after he became the firm's youngest MD at 27 last year. An MD post before 30 is rare at Goldman Sachs, the most profitable securities firm in Wall Street history. A mathematics graduate, Shah is an emerging markets trader for Goldman Sachs in London, having joined Goldman in 2004, analysing interest rate products, before trading on the global macro desk. Forbes, which looked at people across 12 different categories, including law, social, mobile and technology, also included 25-year-old Vikas Mohindra, Financial Advisor at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, who garnered \$38 million in three years from scratch. Another Indian on the list is Manvir Nijhar, 28, who is co-head of European equity derivatives sales at Citigroup.

Indians also bagged two of the eight annual Innovation Awards of "The Economist", the prestigious British magazine. Devi Shetty, of Narayana Hrudayalaya Hospital in Bangalore, won the business-process award for reducing health-care costs using mass-production techniques. His hospital performs more heart operations at a lower cost and a lower mortality rate than leading American hospitals. In the energy and the environment category, Chetan Maini of India's Mahindra Reva Electric Vehicles for building affordable, mass-produced electric cars. The REVAi, known as the G-Wiz in some markets, is sold in more than 20 countries and has accumulated more passenger miles than any other model of electric car since its 2001 launch.

Nanotechnology, Nine Times Cheaper!

Welcome to the advanced world of Nanotechnology which makes it possible to deliver low-cost and instant solutions. At the recent annual conference of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) India council, 'Indicon 2011' in Hyderabad, professor V Ramgopal Rao of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay unveiled products developed by Nano Sniff Technologies Private Limited, an entrepreneurial venture at the institute. "Both the problems of explosives and cardiovascular diseases are addressed through the basic design of a nano-mechanical cantilever system. These cantilevers can be arrayed on a chip and coated with materials such as antigens in the case of a disease detection system. When blood sample from the patient is laid on the array, the antigen reacts with the specific antibodies present in the patient's sample and results can be visualized. In case of explosive

detection, a pump samples the explosives in vapour phase,” explains the professor who is the institute chair professor at the department of Electrical engineering in IIT Bombay. Of special interest is the diagnostic-kit for cardiac diseases being developed by his group, and which is scheduled to go for hospital trials soon. Designed as a point-of-care system, the kit can be used by even a trained nurse, instead of the time lost in carrying out a blood test at a pathological lab. The best part is that the prototype being developed will cost a nominal amount, probably just about \$1.89 and can be administered immediately by trained medical staff, added Ramgopal Rao. The use of polymer in crafting the array on a chip instead of silicon and the process of micro-fabrication makes the technology affordable. “Each square array measures around 0.1 square millimetres in area. Once the wafer is processed, it becomes cost-effective produce multiple copies,” adds the developer, giving an insight into the scale and technology involved in the process. The project has been shaped over a period of six years and will be marketed by the Nano Sniff Technologies, incubated by the Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE) at IIT Bombay.

New research led by an Indian origin professor in the US also heralds the day when one can apply a coat of paint on the outside walls of a house to generate electricity from sunlight that can be used to power the appliances and equipment on the inside – nanotechnology at work again! The team of researchers at the University of Notre Dame in the US has developed an inexpensive 'solar paint' that uses semiconducting nanoparticles to produce energy. The research led by chemistry professor Prashant Kamat in Notre Dame's Center for Nano Science and Technology is described in ACS Nano, a journal published by the American Chemical Society. The scientists have appropriately christened their product as 'Sun-Believable Solar Paint'. 'By making use of recent advances in semiconductor nanocrystal research, we have now developed a one-coat solar paint for designing quantum dot solar cells,' Kamat said. He said they wanted to do something transformative, to move beyond current silicon-based solar technology. 'By incorporating power-producing nanoparticles, called quantum dots, into a spreadable compound, we've made a one-coat solar paint that can be applied to any conductive surface without special equipment.' The paint is based on nano-sized particles of titanium dioxide coated with either cadmium sulfide or cadmium selenide. The particles were suspended in a water-alcohol mixture to create the binder-free paste which was then applied to conducting glass surface and annealed at 200 degrees C. 'When the paste was brushed onto a transparent conducting material and exposed to light, it created electricity.'

India Pharma Scaling New Heights

India's pharmaceutical sector continues to hurtle forward at a blistering pace. Among the world's largest and most developed, it accounts for about 8% of the global production. According to a recent Price-waterhouseCoopers report, it should touch \$74 b in sales by 2020 from the current \$11 b. Generics will continue to dominate the market while patent-protected products are likely to constitute 10% of the pie till 2015, according to a McKinsey report 'India Pharma 2015 - Unlocking the potential of Indian Pharmaceuticals market'. Exports of drugs, pharmaceutical & fine chemicals stood at \$9.3 b in April 2010–Feb 2011, up 16.2% year on year. India currently leads the world in exporting generic medicines. Leading market research and information analysis company RNCOS in its report titled 'Booming Generics Drug Market in India' projects the Indian generic drug market to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of around 17% between 2010-11 and 2012-13. Over the last couple of years, Indian companies have been increasingly pursued by multinationals for both collaborative agreements and acquisition, according to a report "The Pharmaceutical Market: India Opportunities and Challenges" released by Espicom Business Intelligence a global leader providing market information and analyses services focusing on the pharma sector. The sector attracted close to \$5 b in FDI during the ten years to August. Local players are also strengthening their position through domestic acquisitions. For example, Ahmedabad-based pharma major, Zydus Cadila, has acquired 100% stake in Biochem, a Mumbai-based mid-sized drug company. Biochem has strong presence in therapeutic areas of antibiotics,

cardiovascular, anti-diabetic and oncological segments with \$50 m reported in sales in 2010-2011. Besides, the focus of companies has shifted to smaller deals catering to niche segments and markets and partnerships seem to be the new norm in the game. The fight seems to be giving way to partnerships and experts consider this the new way forward. Companies such as Ranbaxy and Dr Reddy's were known for big acquisitions. Interestingly, the international drug-makers have introduced generic or low-priced version of popular medicines and have also decreased prices of their existing products - in order to increase their share in the globally important Indian market. The Indian-makers business model is built around selling large volume of cheap generic medicines at lower margins in the country, to add to twin purpose of affordability and popularity.

Hand in hand, **health tourism is also growing by leaps and bounds**. Besides the robust pharmaceutical industry, the growth is driven by price competitiveness, a growing insurance market, and development of highly advanced private and public sector healthcare delivery centres close to tourism destinations. The sector is currently valued at around \$600 m, and is projected to almost double in 2013. India received an estimated 150,000 medical tourists in 2010, excluding expatriates. International patients from over 50 countries including Australia, Canada, France, Pakistan, Spain, Sri Lanka, UK, USA and Vietnam flock to India to avail of quality healthcare services at very reasonable prices. Good reputation of Indian doctors in the US and UK has helped develop confidence in medical services in India.

India Set to Launch Infrastructure Push

Prime Minister Manmohan

Singh is set to launch a fresh push to restart many of India's most important infrastructure projects. The decision was taken at a recent meeting of about a dozen big industrialists including Ratan Tata of the Tata Group and Mukesh Ambani of Reliance. Deepak Parekh, chairman of HDFC, a leading housing finance organisation, who attended the meeting, said: "It was a very frank discussion. We agreed there was a need to identify key infrastructure projects, particularly in power, to see which are stuck." In recent analysis Rohini Malkani, chief economist at Citigroup in India, suggested that measures to resolve power, mining, and land disputes were the most important steps Mr Singh's government could take to maintain the present growth levels of about 7%. Projects to be examined will include road, rail, airports and ports, but will have a particular focus on power and mining. Particular attention is likely to focus on India's new generation of 4,000 MW "ultra mega" power stations. The first two such stations are operated by Tata Power and Reliance Power. "India's manufacturing sector would be a major beneficiary if things started working in the power sector."

India Living Up to Its Solar Power Ambitions

In an arid part of

north-west India, every five days or so, in a marriage of low and high tech, field hands with long-handled dust mops wipe down each of the 36,000 solar panels at a 63-acre installation operated by Azure Power. The site is one of the biggest examples of India's ambitious plan to use solar energy to help modernize its notoriously underpowered national electricity grid, and reduce its dependence on coal-fired power plants. Azure Power has a contract to provide solar-generated electricity to a state-government electric utility. Inderpreet Wadhwa, Azure's chief executive, predicted that within a few years solar power would be competitive in price with India's conventionally generated electricity. "The efficiency of solar technology will continue to increase, and with the increasing demand in solar energy, cost will continue to decrease," said Wadhwa. Two years ago, Indian policy makers said that by the year 2020 they would drastically increase the nation's use of solar power from virtually nothing to 20,000 MW—enough electricity to power the equivalent of up to 15 m modern American homes during daylight hours when the panels are at their most productive. Many analysts said it could not be done. But, now the doubters are taking back their words. Dozens of developers like Azure, because of aggressive government subsidies and a large drop in the global price of solar panels, are covering India's north western plains with gleaming solar panels. So far, India uses only about 140 MW, including 10 MW used by the

Azure installation, which can provide enough power to serve a town of 50,000 people, according to the company. But analysts say that the national 20,000 MW goal is achievable and that India could reach those numbers even a few years before 2020. "Prices came down and suddenly things were possible that didn't seem possible," said Tobias Engelmeier, managing director of Bridge to India, a research and consulting firm based in New Delhi. The firms increased production of the panels and cut costs this year by about 30-40%, to less than \$1 a watt. India does not have a large solar manufacturing industry, but is trying to develop one. Industry executives credit government policies with India's solar boom. The subsidies in India are lower and solar operators are forced into greater competition, helping push down costs. This month, the government held its second auction to determine the price at which its state-owned power trading company—NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam—would buy solar-generated electricity for the national grid. The average winning bid was 16.5 cents per kWh. That is about twice the price of coal-generated power, but it was about 27% lower than the winning bids at the auction held a year ago. In comparison, Germany, the world's biggest solar-power user, pays about 23 cents per kWh. India, getting more than 300 days of sunlight a year, is a suitable place to generate solar power. And as panel prices plummet, India spends far less to set up solar farms than countries that pioneered the technology.

India would emerge as **the world's third largest smart grid market**, after the US and China, predicts the standards development body of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Standards Association (IEEE-SA), which has assumed a lead role in the identification and development of standards for the smart grid. A smart grid is a digitally enabled electrical grid that gathers, distributes, and acts on information about the behaviour of all suppliers and consumers in order to improve the efficiency, importance, reliability, economics, and sustainability of electricity services. "We are collaborating with technical experts in India to ensure that specific and unique inputs necessary for the Indian market are incorporated into smart grid standards. We look forward to collaborating with industry leaders, academia and other standards bodies to create more awareness about smart grid and the role of standards through events and workshops," said Ms Jennie Steinhagen, Global Strategy Manager of IEEE-SA, Standards Interests Group.

India To Screen Entire Population for Cancer, Heart Ailment India will be the only country in the world to screen its entire 1.25 b population for prevention of cancer and some other non-communicable diseases in the next five years, India's Health Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad has told the Parliament. Azad said that the government has already launched a pilot project across 100 districts in 21 states for prevention and control of cancer, cardio-vascular diseases, stroke and diabetes. "India will be the first country that will screen its entire population for these diseases. The equipment for screening will be provided by the union health ministry besides chemotherapy of 100 patients per district at a cost of `100,000," he said. According to the Indian Council of Medical Research, India currently has 2.7 m cancer patients while 1.1 m new cancer cases are reported every year.

Indian Food Subsidy Plan For the Less Fortunate Government of India has decided to tackle widespread malnutrition with food subsidies for two-thirds of the country's population of 1.2 billion, a move that might however carry risks for the economy. The bill would now be sent to the Parliament for approval, and the multi-billion dollar project has a good chance of being passed into law. The Food Ministry is assuming grain purchases at around 30% of the output for the new food programme, relying on increased yields and lower wastage to cover extra requirements and keeping exports on the agenda.

Luxury Hotel Chains Checking Into India India is all tipped to be a top luxury destination of the world in the coming years, prompting foreign hospitality brands to flock to it with all seriousness. Over a score of the best luxury and ultra-luxury hotels from all over the world are readying plans to enter the India market and should be setting up chains over the next couple of years. You name it; they are there! Top-end brands like

Starwood, Jumeirah, Mandarin Oriental, Lebuva and MGM! Take for instance, Starwood, whose ultra-luxe brand "St Regis" will debut with a 200-room property in Delhi by 2015, with plans for two more – one in Mumbai and another in Goa. Deepak Ohri, CEO of Lebuva, a super luxury chain operating in Bangkok and New Zealand, who recently announced the group's first hotel in India, avers that the country is all set to become the topmost luxury destination in the world by 2020. Las Vegas-based hotel-casino MGM Grand has also firmed up its plans to check into the hospitality district near the International Airport in New Delhi. "The hospitality market in India is one of the most dynamic in the world," says a senior MGM executive. Hong Kong-headquartered Mandarin Oriental is in advanced stages of talks with developers for its India foray. Dubai-based super luxury Jumeirah is in negotiations too for bringing its property to India. One and Only Resorts, another high-end brand with presence in **Mexico**, Bahamas, Dubai, is also keen on the India market after having extensively researched it. London-based Langham and Bangkok-headquartered Anantara are among the other luxury chains looking for opportunities in India. In fact, out of the proposed 1,02,438 branded hotel rooms that are being planned in India by 2015-16, around 15.5% will account for those in luxury or super luxury chains, and another 29.5% in the upscale band, according to a study. "India is a market they cannot ignore...India is the place to be in," said Kaushik Vardharaj of HVS India.

India Riding Animated Film Boom

India is cashing in on a global boom in animated films, special effects and gaming as Hollywood outsources more film-related IT work to the home of Bollywood. Puss in Boots, the DreamWorks blockbuster starring Antonio Banderas and Salma Hayek was made largely in Bangalore, where a team of more than 150 animators, lighting artists and special effects experts worked on the film for nearly two years. "The quality of work coming out of India is very high...and the cost base is lower," said Mark Benson, the chief executive of MPC, a London-based post-production house that has also opened a branch in Bangalore specializing in visual special effects. This has worked on films including those in the Harry Potter and Pirates of the Caribbean series. "Over the next 24 months, I see rapid growth for this type of work." About \$455 m worth of animation and visual effects work was carried out in India last year, but this is expected to more than double by 2015, according to KPMG, with the fastest growth in animated films. While some of this growth is being generated by brisk, home-grown demand from India's own movie business, the country's rare combination of IT talent, film-making prowess and low labour costs is making it a global hub for this specialist work. The cost of labour for the work on Puss in Boots, for example, is believed to have been 40% lower than it would have been in the United States. For Puss in Boots, the storyboard and a rough pre-visualisation sketch was drawn up by a DreamWorks studio in Los Angeles. The team in India then developed a layout that allowed each character to be plotted into the film frame by frame.

Online Shopping Big Draw In India

2011 would probably go down as the year when online shopping came to life in India. Latest data in a report on visitation to the top retail and coupon sites in India by the 'Media Metrix service' of global digital market intelligence leader "comScore" shows that nearly 60% of online users in India visited a retail site in November 2011, the number of online shoppers increasing 18% in the past year. Coupon or daily deal sites are also a part of the e-commerce frenzy, adds the report. An estimated 16.5% of the Indian online population visited deal sites such as Snapdeal.com and Mydala.com in November. "The online channel is playing an increasingly important role in connecting retailers with potential customers in India...The rapid growth of online coupon sites suggests that consumers in India are looking for deals, highlighting the need for online retailers to adopt effective marketing and pricing strategies," noted Kedar Gavane, comScore director for India.

The bond of a slave is snapped the moment he considers himself to be a free

being

- Mahatma Gandhi

Orissa Is Now Odisha

The eastern coastal state of Orissa – as hitherto - is now officially known as Odisha, and its language as Odia, with President Pratibha Patil giving her assent to the relevant legislative Bills. The renamed state erupted in joy at the news with chief minister Naveen Patnaik, his ministers, members of the State Legislature and bureaucrats celebrating the historic moment by participating in a spectacular cracker show at the state secretariat premises November 5. The Bills had been moved in the Parliament following a resolution passed in the Orissa assembly in December 2009, seeking correction of the English spellings of the state's name and its language. The move was not really to change the name of the state or its language per se, but to correct the English spellings to match the way they are pronounced in the native tongue.

They said It...

"India [and Germany] had come out stronger from the 2008 crisis and they will do it again, due to the strong fundamentals...India's economy is vibrant. India has a huge market and the entrepreneurship of its people and companies and competitiveness will help the country to continue to grow"

- Michael Pfeiffer, Chief Executive of Germany Trade & Invest

As regards God it is difficult to define Him; but the definition of truth is deposited in every human heart. Truth is that which you believe to be true at this moment, and that is your God. If a man worships this relative truth, he is sure to attain the Absolute Truth, that is, God, in course of time.

- Mahatma Gandhi

TRADE ENQUIRIES FROM INDIA

Company	Interest Areas
<p>BIRLA TEXTILE MILLS Solaris Building No.1, D Wing, 4th Floor, Saki Vihar Road, Powai, Andheri (E), Mumbai-400072 Tel: (91 22) 42198820 Fax: 42198819 Contact: Mr.Keshav D. Kulkarni, Email: keshavkulk@india.com Web: www.birlayarn.com</p>	<p>Textile yarn, knitting fabric, weaving fabric</p>
<p>ALPHA CHEMIKA Mohid Heights, Unit No.5, 4th Floor, Andheri (W), Mumbai-400053 Tel: (91 22) 65218147, 40165752 Fax: 2631705, Mob: 9820385757 Contact: Mr.Tanmay Mahajan, Director (Exports) Email: tanmay12@airtelmail.in, Web: www.alphalabchem.com</p>	<p>Lab chemicals & glassware, scientific equipments, instruments</p>
<p>BABY LACE INDUSTRIES D.No.12-2-35, Old Bazar, Narsapur-534275 Tel: (91 8814) 277826, Fax: 274239, Mob: (91) 9440117209 Contact: Mr.M.J.R.L.V.Ramanamurthy, Managing Director Email: babylaceindustries@yahoo.co.in, Web: www.laceproducts.com</p>	<p>Handmade cotton crochet laces for tablecloths, bed spreads, cushion covers, etc.</p>
<p>PASHUPATI POLYTEX PVT. LTD. Village Hariyawala, Konda Road, Kashipur-244713 Tel: (91 5947) 272038, 272028, Fax: 272078, Mob: (91) 9634097009 Contact: Mr.Anand Sharma, Deputy General Manager (Exports) Email: polyfibre@yahoo.in</p>	<p>Recycled polyester staple fibre used for making fabric and yarn</p>

<p>GANPATHY ALLOY CASTINGS Industrial Area-B, Malerkotla-148023 Tel: (91 1675) 645892, 255273, Fax: 250251 Mob: (91) 9988090647 Contact: Mr.R.S.Gill, Export Manager Email: exportsganpathyrollsendia@gmail.com Web: www.ganpathyalloycastings.com</p>	<p>Hot rolling mill Rolls</p>
<p>DSA EXPORTS 304 Sapphire Heights, 12 AB Road, Indore-452010 Tel: (91 731) 4041212, Mob: (91) 9907711000 Contact: Mr.Annu Chopra Email: dsaexportsindia@gmail.com</p>	<p>Contact lenses, Intraocular lenses, disposable and other optical lenses</p>
<p>BASAR STAINLESS PVT. LTD. 201 Standard House, 83 Maharshi Karve Road, Marine Lines, Mumbai-400002 Tel: (91 22) 61409900, Fax: 61409999, Mob: (91) 9930800630 Contact: Mr.Tushar Jambhulkar Email: sales.stainless@basarworld.com, Web: www.basarstainless.com</p>	<p>Kitchenware, & cutlery, Cookware, Store wares, Pet products, Utility products</p>
<p>MOTHERSTAR OVERSEAS EL-35, Sector 2, Bawana Industrial Area, Delhi-110039 Tel: (91 11) 22530124, Mob: (91) 9899566820 Contact: Mr.Md.Sajid Saifi, Email: info@motherstar.net Web: www.motherstar.net</p>	<p>Automotive, Hardware and Handicraft products</p>
<p>LOTUS ENTERPRISE C-12, 1st Floor, Satyam Shopping Centre, M.G. Road, Ghatkopar-East, Mumbai-400077 Tel: (91 22) 21027266, Mob: (91) 9820188460 Contact: Mr.Siddharth Kothari, Email: lotuserprise@gmail.com</p>	<p>Readymade garments of various types</p>
<p>MEHER INTERNATIONAL 8003 World Trade Centre, Ring Road, Surat-395002 Tel: (91 261) 2328237, Fax: 3014237, Mob: (91) 9737277757 Contact: Mr.Ganesh Baraskar, Business Executive Email: ganesh.meher@hptmail.com, director@meherinternational.in Web: www.meherinternational.com</p>	<p>Nylon, polyester, cotton, viscose as well as blended and speciality yarn</p>
<p>LINCOLN PHARMACEUTICALS LTD. Lincoln House, Science City Road, Sola, Ahmedabad-380062 Tel: (91 79) 30018000, Fax: (91 79) 30018062, Mob: (91) 9824015344 Contact: Mr.Arvind Patel, Director Email: agpatel@lincolnpharma.com, latam.lincoln@gmail.com Web: www.lincolnpharma.com</p>	<p>Pharmaceutical formulations</p>
<p>SARINA EXPORTS 174/4871, Near Ram Narkar Road, Pant Nagar, Ghatkopar (East), Mumbai-400075 Mob: (91) 8108050495, 8976019191, Skype: sarinaexports Contact: Mr.Najim Pathan Email: sarinatextiles@gmail.com, sarinaexport@gmail.com</p>	<p>Knitted and Woven apparel, All types of men, women and children's apparel</p>
<p>GNA ENTERPRISES LTD. G.T.Road, Jamalpur, Phagwara-144632 Tel: (91 1824) 222611, 656016, 656017, Fax: 24220014 Mob: (91) 8968855922 Contact: Mr. Amninder Singh, Email: amninder@gnaent.com Web: www.gnaent.com</p>	<p>Auto components, including rear axle shafts</p>

<p>TIJARIA POLYPIPES LIMITED A-130(E), Road No.9-D, V.K.I.Area, Jaipur-302013 Tel: (91 141) 3218100, 4010800, Fax: 4021073 Contact: Mr. Pradeep Kumar Velayudhan, General Manager Email: gmexim@tijaria-pipes.com, Web: www.tijaria-pipes.com</p>	Eco-friendly PET Film and Sheets
<p>AMKAY PRODUCTS PVT. LTD. B/15 Labella Society, 2nd Floor, Azad Road, Mumbai-400069 Tel: (91 22) 61317600, Fax: 26845524, Mob: (91) 9769909449 Contact: Mr.Vijay Salunke, Senior Manager (Exports) Email: exports@amkayproducts.com, info@amkayproducts.com Web: www.amkayproducts.com</p>	Disposable medical products like Lancet needles, Syringes, Surgical gloves, Urine bags, etc.
<p>JAKHAR UDYOG H 196-203, Karni Industrial Area, Bikaner-334004 Mob: (91) 9460792626 Contact: Mr.Champalal Jakhar, Email: jakharudyogbkn@gmail.com</p>	Peanuts, Edible oil like Groundnut oil and Mustard oil
<p>ROLEX IMPEX CO. A-302, Groma House, Sector 19c, Vashi, Navi Mumbai-400705 Tel: (91 22) 27895431, 27895433, Fax: 27895439, Mob: 9820630444 Contact: Mr. Kashyap Thakkar, Email: roleximp@vsnl.com Web: www.roleximpex.com</p>	Motorcycles, Scooters and Three wheelers
<p>SUN INTERNATIONAL 32/66, Kana Patel, Khati Para Lohamandi, Agra-282002 Tel: (91 562) 2510650 Fax: 2512034, Mob: (91) 9997438300 Contact: Mr.Mohit Gupta Email: sun_international12@rediffmail.com, mohitga@hotmail.com Web: www.suninternational.net.in</p>	Handmade table covers, Cushion covers, Tablemats, Bed & Table linen, Carpets, Wall hangings, etc.

Trade Fairs & Business Exhibitions in India in February-April 2012

Event	Organizer	Product Profile
India International Leather Fair, Chennai (Jan 31-Feb 3)	ITPO	Leather, leather products, footwear & components, fashion accessories, machinery & 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
Global Bio-Pharma Buyer Seller Meet during Bio Asia* (Feb 9-11)	Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council Web: www.pharmexcil.org	Vaccines, bio services, biogenerics, diagnostics, oncologic, monoclonal antibodies, vet. biological, insulin, statins, medical devices, surgical.
Energy-Tech & Enviro-Tech, Delhi (Feb 10-12)	India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) www.indiatradefair.com	environment technologies, products, equipments, pollution control, Water & waste recycling & harvesting
Electronics for You 2012, New Delhi (Feb 16-18)	EFY ENTERPRISES Private Limited, New Delhi Email: rahul@efyindia.com Web: 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, Furniture & Home furnishings etc.
International Leather Goods Fair, Kolkata (Feb 18-20)	ITPO	Leather & leather goods, 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 (Mar 10-14)	ITPO	Food, processed food, hotel & restaurant equipment & supplies
Automobile Expo, Bangalore (Mar 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 in all areas
India International Handwoven Fair*, Chennai, (Mar 27-29)	Handloom Export Promotion Council 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 www.exhibitionindia.com	Software audio video broadcasting system, IT & computing
Power Gen India & Central Asia 2012 (Apr 19-21)	PennWell, Inter Ads Exhibitions www.power-genindia.com	Equipment, technology and services relating to the power generation, transmission and distribution

* With sponsorship.

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



**Bharatanatyam students of Indian Cultural Centre
during *Pushpanjali* on December 10**

