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Ambassador Chinoy visits Belize

Ambassador Sujan R. Chinoy visited Belize from 12 to 15 February. In his second visit, he had discussions on promotion of bilateral cooperation in various matters and other issues of mutual interest with the top leadership, including with the Minister of Health Hon. Pablo Marin and Minister of National Security Hon. John B. Saldivar. The latter also thanked Ambassador Chinoy for sending senior Delhi Police officer Mr. Ashok Chand as Advisor to the Commissioner of Police, Belize Police Department under the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme. On 14 February Ambassador inaugurated the India-Belize Friendship Computer Centre at the prestigious St. John's College in Belize City. The Computer Centre has been set up with 50 computers and related peripherals as a gift from India. The event was very well attended, with the College President Jorge L. Espat, the ministers of Energy, Science and Technology, and Public Utilities as well as some 400 students and members of the staff in attendance. Mr. Espat sincerely thanked Ambassador Chinoy for this assistance by the Government of India, which he said would go a long way to help the College realize its dream to become Belize's best institution for higher education. The ceremony was widely covered by the local media, receiving prime time in-depth coverage from leading TV channels such as Channel 5 and Channel 7, which is available on YouTube at <http://youtu.be/CkYRvKOjr1c>. Belize's Channel 5 TV invited Ambassador to an interview on its popular morning show "Open Your Eyes". Anchored by Marleni Cuellar and William Neal, it is the best known show in Belize. The Show, which was aired live on 13 February, may viewed on YouTube at <http://youtu.be/AVhHhQJR8PI>. Mr. Arun Hotchandani, India's Honorary Consul General in Belize, gave a dinner reception in Ambassador's honour on 14 February. It was attended by Belize's top leadership, with Governor General Sir Colville Young gracing it, besides the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, National Security, Tourism, Education and Public Service and the Auditor General, as well as local dignitaries and members of the resident diplomatic corps. In addition, he met with the President of the University of Belize to discuss prospects for deepening engagement between educational institutions in the two countries. He also visited the Belize Medical College, where he met with the over 60 Indian students pursuing their medical degree there and enquired about their welfare.

Ambassador Chinoy also took the opportunity to travel to Punta Gorda to meet the East Indian Community, where he was given an enthusiastic reception by an over 300-strong gathering, with children in Indian dress and colours of the Indian Flag performing Indian dances. Of Indian ancestry, the Community retains a deep sense of its past identity and looks to India with affection and pride, and remains keen to build linkages with India in different areas, in particular, language and culture. Media coverage of Ambassador's visit may be seen on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ijpmaAok08>.

India's Housing and Poverty Alleviation Minister in Mexico

The Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, H.E. Ajay Maken, led a delegation to Mexico City on February 10 and 11. He had fruitful discussions and exchanges of views and experiences with the Ministers of Social Development, H.E. Ms. Rosario Robles Berlanga, and Agricultural, Rural and Urban Development, H.E. Mr. Jorge Ramirez Marín, resulting in both countries gaining a good understanding and appreciation of and insight into each other's policies and initiatives in the crucial sectors of housing and poverty alleviation and, besides, invited them to visit India on mutually convenient dates. H.E. Mr. Maken also visited a housing project at Zumpango being developed by the leading Mexican company "Casas Geo". In addition, he had interactions with INFONAVIT; with the National Chamber of Industries for the Development and Promotion of Housing (CANADEVI); as well as with the leading Mexican cement company, CEMEX. This was the first ministerial-level visit from India since the administration of H.E. President Enrique Peña Nieto took over last December.

World Hindi Day Celebrated in Mexico

Every year, 10 January is observed as the World Hindi Day. It was on this day in 1975 that the first World Hindi Conference was held in Nagpur in India. The day has been observed by lovers of the language and friends of India all over the world as the 'World Hindi Day' ever since. In keeping with this well established tradition, the *Gurudev Tagore* Indian Cultural Centre in Mexico celebrated the World Hindi Day on 7 February by organizing a symbolic function in their premises. Over 20

students of Hindi language and other Hindi enthusiasts in Mexico attended. The function began with an address in Hindi by Ambassador Sujan R. Chinoy, in which he admired the students of the Centre for their dedication and read out a message from the Prime Minister of India. This was followed by a melodious rendition of a popular Hindi song, with patriotic fervour, '*Hum honge kaamyab*', by Mr. Luis and Ms. Stephanie Hernandez. Other students of Hindi of the Cultural Centre also demonstrated their skills of the language acquired by them over the last two years. Ms. Ana Laura Magis, who was sponsored by the Embassy to learn Hindi at the Central Hindi Institute at Agra in India under a scholarship scheme, read out excerpts from Shakespeare's '*Macbeth*' in Hindi. The rendition of Mahatma Gandhi's favourite *bhajan* (devotional song), '*Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram*', by Ms. Isabel Duque and her companions impressed the audience. The event concluded with *bhajans* and music by Ms. Leny Alvarez and Mr. Ivan Caballero.

Ambassador Chinoy delivers talk at UNAM

Ambassador Sujan

R. Chinoy spoke to a group of enthusiastic students at the Institute of Economic Research in the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), which, according to a study published by the reputed Times Higher Education Supplement (THES), ranks in the first 75 of the best universities in the world and is the only Latin American university in the first 100. Ambassador began by recapitulating the historical relations between India and Mexico, as two ancient civilizations with a rich and diverse cultural heritage. He went on to explain how the fulcrum of global economic growth has shifted in recent years to the Asia Pacific region. Talking of Mexico he said 'Mexico's excellent infrastructure and connectivity with the US, its large labour pool, low wages and high productivity, and its good supply chains, will make it an emerging manufacturing hub at the global level, especially with wages spiralling upwards in China and the latter's competitive advantage vis-a-vis Mexico nearly eroded' in a number of sectors'. He then dealt with the Indian economic scenario in sufficient details to explain to the student-audience how and why Goldman Sachs has predicted that India is the only country in the world which can maintain a growth rate of 5% up to the year 2050. He outlined a potential for growth in India-Mexico bilateral relations. In the question-answer session that followed, Ambassador responded to questions on the importance of culture in bilateral economic relations, India's engagement with the Pacific Alliance group of countries, India's strategies and investment in higher education and vocational studies, India's National Youth Policy and its policy towards minorities and migration issues etc. Before the talk, Ms. Angélica Castillo, Director for International Academic Cooperation, made a presentation on UNAM. This was followed by two proposals presented by UNAM, seeking tie-ups for student and faculty exchanges with counterpart institutions in India and the setting up of a Chair to be named after Mahatma Gandhi. The proposals included collaboration in a range of academic activities. UNAM, which already has tie-ups with some universities and institutions of higher learning in India for student and faculty exchange, as also for scientific and technical cooperation, evinced interest in further tie-ups with the St. Stephens' College in the University of Delhi, Banaras Hindu University and the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan a deemed university.

Ambassador Chinoy interacts with Business School students

In response to

an invitation by the prestigious Tecnológico de Monterrey, Ambassador Sujan R. Chinoy delivered a talk on 'India and Mexico in a Changing World' to the students of the Business School at its Santa Fe Campus on 26 February 2013. The Faculty of the school was represented by Dr. Orestes Gamez Díaz, Director of the Business School and Maestro Juan Carlos Rivera López, Director of the Department of Administration. Over 150 students were in attendance. Ambassador outlined the global context in which Indian and Mexico find themselves in today, with Europe and US, which had powered world economic growth for over a century now, grappling with a series of crisis, essentially low growth rates and new economic challenges. He said the fulcrum of global economic growth had shifted in recent years to the Asia-Pacific region. Consequently countries like China, India and Indonesia in the Asia were emerging as growth engines. Elsewhere too, emerging economies such as South Africa and Mexico were making their mark. He went on to say that 'Mexico's excellent infrastructure and connectivity with the US, its large labour pool, low wages and high productivity, and its good supply chains, will make it an emerging manufacturing hub at the global level, especially with wages spiralling upwards in China and the latter's competitive advantage vis-a-vis Mexico nearly eroded' in a number of sectors. He spoke of the

need for Mexico to diversify its trade in order to realize its full potential at the global level. Ambassador explained in detail the Indian economic scenario and pointed to India's rich demographic dividend of a youthful population at a time when many parts of the world, including the US and Europe, even China, Japan and Russia were facing shortage of human resources. He also cited the growing middle-class as positive vector that would continue to spur economic growth in India. The strong and stable fundamentals of the Indian economy had recently been strengthened by many far-reaching reforms carried out by the Government. The outlook remained very optimistic and India was expected to regain its trajectory of high growth rates of more than 7 per cent in the near future. Finally he outlined the promising potential for growth in India-Mexico bilateral economic relations and how important it was for us to jointly address constraints hampering bilateral trade like the regulatory regimes in place (especially in sectors like pharmaceutical products and agricultural produce), non-tariff barriers, visa and work permits, shipping links and air connectivity. The hour long talk was followed by an enthusiastic question-answer session, in which students wanted to know more about India's strategies for providing employment to its large and growing young population, how India was addressing the ecological and environmental concerns arising from rapid industrialization, India's child labour policy and Indian businessmen's perception of hurdles in the growth of bilateral trade and commercial relations between the two countries.

Ambassador Chinoy visits Queretaro

Ambassador Sujan R. Chinoy participated in the Sixth Festival of Foreign Communities in Queretaro on 28-29 February. He was warmly received by both H.E. Governor Jose Calzada Roviroso and the President of the Municipal Government of Queretaro Roberto Loyola Vera.

Mexicans get exposure to elements of Indian Naturopathy

Dr. Harbans Singh, renowned naturopathic doctor, delivered a talk to a curious and contemplative audience of over 100 Mexican enthusiasts on 22 February. The talk, organized by the Gurudev Tagore Indian Cultural Centre in the Embassy auditorium, was a sequel to an earlier talk by the eminent naturopath on 28 September. He began by recapitulating the basic tenets of the Hindu traditional medical systems, based on the premise that disease is a symptom of an imbalance in the five basic elements (which also make up the universe) in the human body. He went on to explain how a balanced and regulated diet, combined with yogic exercises, can help one keep hale and healthy. He then dealt with modern life-style related diseases, a subject the audience could directly relate to. The audience took keen note of his postulate of how these could be avoided by adopting certain corrective measures and right practices while working with computers, i-pads and mobile cell phones. The hour and a half long talk ended with an interactive session in which Dr. Singh responded to a plethora of questions relating to wide range of ailments, from diabetes to insomnia, through arthritis, kidney stones, etc.

Cleanliness is next to godliness. We can no more gain God's blessing with an unclean body than with an unclean mind. A clean body cannot reside in an unclean city.

- Mahatma Gandhi

French President Francois Hollande visits India

French President Francois Hollande concluded his first state visit to India on 15 February. President Hollande stated that the aim of his trip was to honour France's strong relationship with India, the world's largest democracy, as well as to increase trade between the two countries. "France wants to take full part in the economic development here and will also like the Indian business community to look at investment opportunities in France. India is already the 13th largest investor in France and it can create more investment and employment there. We would like both countries to cooperate." He said at a press conference in New Delhi. He met with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and discussed a wide range of issues, including regional and global issues. Both leaders agreed to promote an ambitious and balanced free trade agreement between India and the European Union based on reciprocity and mutual benefit to boost bilateral ties. They had also agreed to co-develop and co-produce short range surface-to-air missiles. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh

noted a welcome shift from defence trade to co-development and co-production of advanced defence items between India and France and stated that it would help expand our domestic production base and strengthen the India-France strategic partnership. The situation in Mali was also discussed and Dr. Manmohan Singh supported the France's efforts to bring peace in this country. Prime Minister recalled that as part of India's support to the Malian defence forces and the African-led International Support Mission, India had announced an assistance of \$1 million at the Donors Conference held in Addis Ababa. The two countries also agreed to encourage closer people-to-people contacts, promote educational, scientific and cultural cooperation and expand trade and investment linkages.

Visit of British PM David Cameron to India

Prime Minister David Cameron along with Britain's biggest ever delegation representing heads of 100 companies, four ministers and nine members of Parliament visited India from 18-20 February seeking to boost trade and forge a "special relationship". This was his second visit as Prime Minister. Arriving in Mumbai, the business capital of India, he held meetings with business heads of India, inviting them to boost bilateral economic and trade linkages. "I want Britain and India to have a very special relationship. India's rise is going to be one of the big phenomena of the century and it is incredibly impressive to see the vibrancy of your democracy, the great strength of the diversity of your country and the enormous power of your economy that is going to be one of the top three economies by 2030...Britain wants to be your partner of choice," he said. During his interaction with Indian business leaders, Mr. Cameron pressed for bilateral deeper economic ties. He also called for the doubling of annual bilateral trade from \$17.8 billion to \$35.6 billion by 2015. A wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest were discussed during his meeting with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. The leaders agreed that in keeping with their strategic relationship, it was important for both sides to consult closely and remain sensitive to each other's interests. Both agreed to rapidly expand trade and ties in the fields of infrastructure, energy, education, science and technology, insurance, banking, cyber security and cooperation in combating terrorism. The leaders stressed the need to do more to take the relationship to a new level and discussed ways to generate higher growth in bilateral trade. India invited increased British investments in India, including in infrastructure and energy. Also, Dr. Manmohan Singh sought Mr. Cameron's support in ensuring an early conclusion of a fair, balanced and forward looking broad-based India-EU Trade and Investment Agreement.

There are eternal principles which admit of no compromise and one must be prepared to lay down one's life in the practice of them.

- Mahatma Gandhi

Union Budget presented

The Union Budget for 2013-14 was presented by India's Finance Minister, Mr. P Chidambaram, in Parliament on 28 February. India's Union Budget, referred to as the Annual Financial Statement in India's Constitution, is the annual budget of the Government of India, presented each year on the last working day of February by the Finance Minister in Parliament. The budget has to be passed by Parliament before it can come into effect on April 1, the start of India's financial year. Presenting the Budget, he said that India should become a USD 5 trillion economy by 2025. Noting that current account deficit continued to be high due to excessive dependence on oil, coal and gold imports and slowdown in exports, he averred that India did not have the choice between welcoming and spurning foreign investment. He announced measures for reining in the high rate of fiscal deficit, promising to cut it down to 5.2 per cent in current financial year and 4.8 per cent in 2013-14. He hoped that the deficit would come down to 3% of GDP by 2016-17. Rural development, agriculture, infrastructure development, health, education and defence sector were given priority in allocating budgetary support. For the corporate sector, he announced an investment deduction allowance of 15% to companies on investments of more than 1 billion rupees (\$18.4 million) on plant and machinery. Besides, he proposed to launch Inflation Indexed Bonds or Inflation Indexed National Security Certificates to protect savings from inflation. In a major boost for infrastructure sector, four infrastructure debt funds were registered. India Infrastructure Finance Corporation, in partnership with Asian Development Bank will help

infrastructure companies to access bond market to tap long term funds. Policy measures were also announced to boost the intake of FDI. Foreign institutional investors now will be allowed to participate in the trading of exchange traded currency derivatives. Also, an investor with a stake of 10% or less will be treated as FII and any stake more than 10% will be treated as FDI, in line with the international practice. In a first of its kind, the government announced the setting up India's first women's bank as a public sector bank by October 2013.

Fast recovery of India's Economy predicted

The Economic Survey for 2012-13 presented by the Finance Minister P Chidambaram in Parliament on 27 February states that Indian economy is likely to grow between 6.1% and 6.7% in 2013-14. It predicts that the global economy is also likely to recover in 2013 and various government measures will help in improving the Indian economy's outlook for 2013-14. Following the slowdown induced by the global financial crisis in 2008-09, the Indian economy responded strongly to fiscal and monetary stimulus and achieved a growth rate of 8.6 per cent and 9.3 per cent respectively in 2009-10 and 2010-11, but due to a combination of both external and domestic factors, the economy decelerated, growing at 6.2% and an estimated 5% in 2011-12 and 2012-13 respectively. The slowdown in the rate of growth of services in 2011-12 at 8.2%, and particularly in 2012-13 to 6.6 percent from the double-digit growth of the previous six years, contributed significantly to slowdown in the overall growth of the economy, while some slowdown could also be attributed to the lower growth in agriculture and industrial activities. For improved agricultural growth, the survey underlines the need for stable and consistent policies where markets play an appropriate role, private investment in infrastructure is stepped up, food price, food stock management and food distribution improves, and a predictable trade policy is adopted for agriculture. However, the Survey states that FDI in retail allowed by the government can pave the way for investment in new technology and marketing of agricultural produce in India. Fast agricultural growth remains vital for jobs, incomes and food security. It notes that at US\$ 295.6 billion foreign exchange reserves are at a comfortable level. The survey points out that the priority for the Government will be to fight high inflation by reducing the fiscal impetus to demand as well as by focusing on incentivizing food production through measures other than price supports. Raghuram G. Rajan, Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India says that these are difficult times, but India has navigated such times before, and with good policies it will come through stronger.

India Inc's investment abroad jumps 179% in January

Overseas direct investment by India Inc soared by 179 per cent in the month of January to \$3.303 billion against \$1.184 billion in the year-ago period. This investment comes even as Indian companies are holding back investments in the country due to adverse demand conditions, both in the domestic and overseas markets. Overseas investment by Indian companies is in the form of equity, debt, and guarantees issued. Among the big overseas investments made by Indian companies in January 2013 are: Bharat Petroresources Ltd (\$439 million), Cox & Kings India (\$249 million), Essar Steel (\$155 million), Tata International (\$128 million), and Videocon Oil Ventures (\$127 million). Downturn in overseas markets may be prompting Indian companies to pick up overseas assets at a relatively cheaper valuation. The peak overseas investment in the current financial year was in June when Indian corporates made investments aggregating \$3.532 billion.

India second most economically confident country

Ipsos, a major global market research firm in its survey titled "Ipsos economic pulse of the world" has stated that declining inflation rate for the fourth consecutive month and positive investor confidence has boosted India's economic confidence. The survey observes that India's economic confidence shot up by 8 points to 68% in the month of January 2013 compared to the month of December 2012, making it the second most economically confident country in the world after Saudi Arabia. As per the study, 45% of Indian citizens believe their local economy which impacts their personal finance is good, a marginal rise of 1 point and an optimistic 53% people expect that the economy in their local area will be stronger in next six months. Ipsos India CEO Mick Gordon feels that "The year 2013 is likely to see revival in the industrial activity and modest recovery in the services sector which would support recovery in growth levels. The pace of economic reforms that has been initiated must continue uninhibited and it needs to be effectively implemented so that it translates into tangible investment decisions".

The Indian economy is poised for take off

Many people have tended to write down India's growth potential, following the slowdown in economic momentum in the last couple of years (some predicting that in 2012-13, Indonesia is likely to grow faster than India, among the world's large emerging markets). But this would be myopic. The Indian growth story remains robust, and the economic growth rate is likely to accelerate from 2012-13 onwards. Before the global financial crisis of 2008, the Indian economy had been growing at well over 9%. The growth rate slipped to 6.7% in 2007-08 but recovered swiftly to 8.4% in 2008-09 and stayed at that level the next year as well. Since then, growth has declined, to 6.5% in 2011-12 and likely 6% in the current fiscal year that will conclude in March 2013. You cannot blame an external observer for concluding that Indians have hobbled themselves in their rope trick gone wrong and it is better to wait and watch, if not keep off. But those who let appearance overwhelm their appreciation of the reality are likely to miss the strongest growth story of the next two decades. The government's announcement in September last year of a slew of reform measures, allowing foreign investment in multi-brand retail (single-brand retail had already been opened up, although with conditions that are gradually being diluted), allowing foreign airlines to invest up to 49% in Indian airlines, raising the foreign investment cap in insurance to 49%, opening up some forms of distributing telecast signals to foreign capital, etc. Hopefully, this could well be the turning point for the economy. Not so much because these decisions in themselves break dramatic new ground, but because it signalled political decisiveness, key for India to break her shackles of policymaking inertia. India has had minority or coalition governments continuously since 1989, except for a brief two and a half years early in the nineties. Therefore, making policy has been a function of not just reformist intent but of political management of coalitions as well. In this area, the present government had been seen as having a deficit bigger than the fiscal deficit. But the September reforms signalled boldness: a key ally with the second largest contingent of legislators in Parliament broke off in protest at opening up retail and left the ruling coalition but the political leadership was prepared for that exit and roped in external support. The government has been taking a number of measures that require considerable political courage. It has auctioned telecom spectrum, passed reforms to banking regulations that will allow the central bank, which also functions as the banking regulator, to issue new licences, initiated a system of direct cash transfer of subsidies and increased the prices of petroleum fuels, in order to reduce the subsidy burden on the fisc. The expectation is that more reforms would be announced when the annual budget is presented on the last day of February.

While this much is evident to anyone who follows the news on India, there are a few changes in the political economy that receive little attention but have enormous significance for accelerating growth. The most important change is that in elections to the states (India has 28 provinces with their own elected governments) the people have made it clear that they are no longer content with empty promises or mere offer of voice and identity, as they had been in the past. Leaders are expected to deliver governance and development. Those who rise to this expectation are rewarded with another term in office, and those who do not are voted out. Politics in India has traditionally been a matter of patronage. Leaders patronised their own communities and struck alliances with one another to drum up majorities. The new political economy is forcing the same leaders to think of building expressways, new towns, forging policies for releasing land for industry and make schools teach and staff hospitals. Every major state now holds annual investor meets to draw in foreign investment. The mass upheaval over corruption is forcing the system to adopt unprecedented transparency in the allocation of natural resources. A new mining bill in the works will adopt transparent auctions for mines. Pressures are mounting to dilute, if not scrap, public monopoly in coal mining, which has been a major factor in the shortage of fuel that has been keeping 50,000 MW of power generation capacity idle in the country. A new ruling by a central appellate tribunal now ensures that every state level electricity regulator would revise power tariffs at least once every year. Refusal by these regulators to pass on the higher cost of imported coal has been one reason behind the fuel shortage in the power sector. The good news is that India today has 50,000 MW of idle capacity. In the absence of enough power to supply rural areas in the daytime (power is despatched for a

few hours at night so that farmers can run their pumps for irrigation) has meant that very little rural industry has been possible till now. Once the fuel shortage has been sorted out, rural India would be ripe for structural diversification, new agro processing industry absorbing underemployed manpower and farmers gaining from new climate-controlled warehouses and better prices through local procurement by local industry for local processing. State-owned Bharat Broadband Corporation is busy rolling out fibre-optic cable to 250,000 large villages (India has a little over 600,000 villages in total). In a couple of years' time, most Indians would have access to high-speed data, thanks to the spread of telecom and the ongoing morphing of mobile phones into sophisticated data and computing devices, whose prices are falling at an amazing rate.

The government's scheme to issue citizens with unique identity numbers, whose database contains matching biometric data and software to guarantee de-duplication, open bank accounts linked to these numbers for those who have never had a bank account and transfer subsidy to these accounts can revolutionise both banking and the administration of subsidy. For example, kerosene is sold at a subsidised price through 'fair price shops' franchised by the government. It is estimated that 40% of the subsidised kerosene is diverted to adulterate higher priced diesel. If subsidy for kerosene can be transferred to intended beneficiaries as cash, using the new unique identity numbers and bank accounts, the government can end dual pricing of kerosene. The direct transfer of benefit scheme, once it stabilises after initial glitches, will both make subsidy more effective and reduce the subsidy burden. Public expenditure will become more effective, and contribute to growth. Inflation has been running high in India, thanks essentially to food inflation. And the food groups that see sustained inflation are protein -- milk, eggs, fish, meat and lentils - and vegetables and fruits. The output of these products has been growing but prices still rise thanks to growing rural prosperity, which has been driving the demand for superior foods. Poverty has been falling at close to 2% a year for the past five years. But inflation has taken a toll on the external value of the rupee. And in weakness, there is always opportunity. The rupee has depreciated against the Chinese renminbi by 50% over the last five years. Not surprisingly, India's manufacturing exports have been growing faster than China's manufacturing exports over this period. India's demographic dividend is slated to move swiftly from potential to reality. This is a growth story that offers plenty of elbowroom for foreign capital, without being dependent on it.

(T K Arun, the author of the article is a columnist of The Economic Times, New Delhi)

Even as Truth is eternal, so is bliss derived from it. Hence we know God as Sat-chit-ananda, one who combines in Himself Truth, Knowledge and Bliss. -Mahatma Gandhi

Surajkund International Crafts Mela

The 27th Surajkund International Craft Mela (fair), the largest handloom and handicrafts fair of Asia was held at Surajkund on the outskirts of Delhi from 1-15 February. The Mela is an annual event that showcases the finest handlooms, handicrafts, authentic fragrances & flavours of rich Indian cuisines. National and State awardees artisans from every corner of India make their way to Surajkund. It offers a lot of fun, frolic, entertainment and exclusive shopping. In the rural ambience, craftspersons display and demonstrate their finest craftwork. The authentic fragrances & flavours of rich Indian cuisines are also a major attraction. This year the Mela was inaugurated by Hon'ble President Mr. Pranab Mukherjee. Artistes and craftspersons from across the country and participants from neighbouring South Asian and Eurasian countries like Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgystan displayed their crafts and skills at the Mela. This year the focus Indian State was Karnataka. Over 300 craftspersons, weavers, artisans, folk musicians and dancers from Karnataka brought alive the Mela with a colourful and vibrant display of their unique talent.

They Said It...

"The greatest asset that India has is the young population. The government indicates it needs to create 20 million jobs. That's a lot of jobs. So the economy has to grow fast to create that kind of jobs... I am not an expert on India but clearly there have been a number of reforms that are more market-oriented. As soon as they are adopted, that will ensure that the economy will keep growing."
- Mr Fred Hochberg, Chairman and President, US EXIM Bank

**A reformer cannot afford to have close intimacy with him whom he seeks to reform.
 - Mahatma Gandhi**

Trade Enquiries from India

Company	Commercial interest
SHREE ROYAL POLYPLAST INDUSTRIES Block No. 131, Avenue Park, Ravapar Road, Morbi-363641 Mob: (91) 98257 97977 Tel: (91)2829 262506 Contact: Mr. Divyang Varmora Email: info@royalpolyplast.com www.royalpolyplast.com	Polyethylene Monofilament Ropes and Woven and Non-Woven Sack Bags
LEISURE & PLEASURE IMPEX PVT.LTD. 111, South City Arcade, South City-I, Gurgaon -122007 Mob: (91) 987 1916304 Tel: (91) 124 4089838 Contact: Mr.Santosh Mishra Email: lpimpex111@gmail.com	Spices & Cereals
FIELDMAN ENGINEERS PVT. LTD. Aji Industrial Area, 171, G.I.D.C. Phase II, 100 Main Road Rajkot-360 003, Gujarat (INDIA) Mob: (91) 281 2387074 Contact: Mr. Ajit Nathvani Email: export@doctorpumps.in www.doctorpumps.in	Centrifugal Pumps, Tractor Driven Pumps, Water Circulation Pumps
MANOHAR INTERNATIONAL PVT. LTD. 109, Aalap B, Limbda Chowk Rajkot- 360001 (INDIA) Mob: (91) 8238977195 Contact: Mr. Reshma Rathod Email: reshma.mipl@gmail.com www.manoharinternational.com	Marine Propellers, Propellers Shaft, Rooters, Life boats & Rafts
OVERSEAS SALES & MARKETING GROUP Kent RO Systems, Ltd. A-2, Sector- 59 Noida-201301 (U.P.) Tel: (91) 120 3075000 Contact: Ms. Munmi Borah Email: mborah@kent.co.in, Web: www.kent.co.in	Water Purifiers, Sanitary Products, Kitchen & Home Appliances
SARAF FAB TRADE PVT LTD. 3/285 Vidhyadhar Nagar, Jaipur Rajasthan-302023 (INDIA) Mob: (91) 9887056295 Contact: Mr. Dinesh Agarwal Email: pvchub@gmail.com	All kind of India spices
GANGAMANAI FASHION (ART & CRAFTS) B-4, Rela Chambers, Raghunath Colony, Jaipur - 302 003 (INDIA) Mob: (91) 93525 61341 Contact: Mr. Suresh Jain Email: gmfashions2009@gmail.com www.indianethnicgifts.com	High Quality Indian Gifts
SU-KAM Mob: (91) 9910035453 Contact: Mr. Vikas Dutt Vashisht Email: vikas.dutt@su-kam.com	Inverters, UPS Systems and Batteries
ASPIRATION EXPORTS Maqbara 1st, Opp. Old State Bank, Barwalan, Moradabad-244001 Mob: 00591 9837058786 Email: dhusain29@yahoo.net.mx	Cutlery Sets, Iron and Steel made Lanterns, Flower vases, etc.
KAUSHIK DISTILLERIES Contact: Mr. Amit Dhingra Email: amitdhingra100@gmail.com	Alcohol, rectified & ENA spirits, extra neutral alcohol, ethanol & distillery chemicals

<p>SURYA GROUP INDIA Renault Showroom Lane, G.T. Road, Jugiana, Ludhiana, Punjab Tel: (91 161) 6541009, Contact: Mr. Sunil Sharma Email: sunil.sharma@mail.org Web: www.suryagroupindia.com</p>	Spanners(for bicycle parts, scaffoldings, hardware & hand tools)
<p>KARACHI ENGG. & FOUNDRY WORKS Outside Three Gate, Railway Siding, Jamnagar- 361001 Tel: (91) 288-2553464 Contact: Mr. Deepen Ramani Email: sales@karachieng.com</p>	Lamp Parts, Plumbing Components & Auto Components
<p>MADDAR GANAPATI 16-A Raipur Ka Hatha Paota B Road Jodhpur, Rajasthan (INDIA) Mob: (91) 9829199501 Contact: Ms. Madaar Ganapati Email: myinboxankit@rediffmail.com</p>	Powder Products, Whole Seeds, Herbal Products
<p>WRITE NEEDS ENTERPRISE Kolkata, West Bengal Mob: (91) 9811467932 Contact: Mr. Virendra Singh, Email: writeneeds@gmail.com</p>	Ball point pens, direct fill pens, stick pens, gel ink pens & colouring markers
<p>SRI SARAVANA EXPORTS 16, Thiruvallur, Suriya Prakasham Street, Krishnapuram, Ambattur (OT), Chennai-600053, Mob: (91) 9941371949 Contact: Mr. Ravindra Mohan Email: srisaravanaexpo@gmail.com</p>	Safe agriculture goods, value plus goods, cardamom, soil products and spirulina products
<p>MAMMEN EXPORTS C-4/H-14, Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058 Tel: (91 11) 25548147 Contact: Mr. Varghese P. Mammen, Email: vpmammen@hennaexporter.net Web:www.hennamammen.co.in</p>	Natural henna & indigo leaf powder, hair care & skin care cosmetics products
<p>DOMOTEX INDIA 166, Civil Lines, Rly Station Road, Bareilly-43001 (UP) Mob: (91) 8909453490 Contact: Mr. Sanjay Kumar Email: info@domotexindia.com Web: www.ayurvedawellnesscentre.in, www.domotexindia.com</p>	Healthcare, personal care, cosmetic, OTC, FMCGs, ayurvedic, food supplements and nutraceuticals
<p>SHEKINA INTERNATIONAL No. 41, E.V.R. Road, Tiruchirappalli-620021, Tamilnadu Mob: (91) 9944143418 Contact: Gideon Jebaraj, Proprietor Email: shekinainternational@gmail.com Web: www.shekinainternational.tradeindia.com</p>	Shirts, T-shirts and other garment products
<p>SIDDH OVERSEAS MU 45 A DDA Flats, Pitampura, Delhi-110088 Mob: (91) 8447717275 Contact: Mr. Manmohan Batra Email: siddhoverseas@gmail.com Web: www.siddhoverseas.com</p>	Ready-made garments
<p>INDUSTRIAL MARKETING COMPANY B-319, Morya House, Veera Industrial Estate, Off Andheri-Link Road, Andheri (West), Mumbai-400053 Tel: (91 22) 26743934, Fax: 26743935 Contact: Mr. Pankaj Vora Email: info@indmkt.com Web: www.indmkt.com</p>	Pharmaceutical machinery, Q.C. instruments, spares & utilities for pharmaceutical industry
<p>SILK HOUSE 53B, Elliot Road, 3rd Floor, Kolkata -700 106, West Bengal Tel: (91 33) 36943691, Fax:40646517 Contact: Mr Sanjay Koteja, Email: silkhousekol@gmail.com Web: www.silkhousekol.com</p>	Silk fabrics, cotton fabrics, viscose and linen fabrics, scarves and stoles
<p>VENUS STONES PRIVATE LIMITED 7, Sethi Sadan, Park Street, M.I. Road, Jaipur (Rajasthan) Tel: (91 141) 3208133, Fax: 5108972 Contact: Mr. Ajay Gupta Email: mineral@dil.in Web: www.indiannaturalstonesexporter.com</p>	Granite, marble, slate stone, sand stone & artefacts

<p>ASIAN TRADE LINK A/19, Sidhpura Industrial Estate, L.B.S. Marg, Ghatkopar, Mumbai-400086 Tel: (91 22) 25007236, Contact: Ms. Sunaina Jadhav Email: sales@asiantradelinkindia.com Web: www.asiantradelinkindia.com</p>	<p>Petroleum Jelly (Vaseline), baby care products, bathing bar, toilet & beauty soaps, hair care products, skin care products</p>
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Trade Fairs & Business Exhibitions in India in April-June 2013

Event	Organizer	Product Profile
India Gem & Jewellery Fair (April 6-9, 2013)	India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) Web: www.indiatradefair.com	Gem and Jewellery products
Aquatech India (April 08-10, 2013)	India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida, INDIA www.aquatechtrade.com	Water technology and Management
Inter Airport India (April 11-12, 2013)	Inter ADS Brooks Exhibition India Pvt. Ltd. www.interairport.com	Airport equipment, technology and services
India Steel Expo (April 11-13, 2013)	FICCI & Ministry of Steel www.ficci.com	Steel related products and technology
Home India Expo (April 15-18, 2013)	Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts E-mail : homeexpo@epch.com	House wares, decorative, home textiles and furnitures
International Fashion Jewellery & Handicraft Expo (April 26-29, 2013)	Jewellery Market Tel: (91 11) 45032676	Fashion Jewellery, Handicraft and Accessories
Led Expo Mumbai (May 04-06, 2013)	Mex Exhibitions Pvt. Ltd. Tel: (91 11) 46464848	Electronic and Electric products
Education Expo (May 17-19, 2013)	Asian Business Exhibition & Conference Ltd. www.abec.asia	Business of education and training
Food & Beverage (June 06-08, 2013)	Mex Exhibitions Pvt. Ltd. Tel: (91 11) 46464848	Products and Services related to Food and Hospitality
JEWELLERY, PEARL & GEM FAIR, HYDERABAD (June 07-09, 2013)	UBM Pvt. India Ltd. www.ubmindia.com	Products related to Jewellery, Gem and Pearls
Wood Tech India (June 13-16, 2013)	Business Live Exhibition & Conferences www.woodtechindia.in	Wood & Woodworking Machinery

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

India in Mexico and Belize



H.E. Mr. Ajay Maken, Hon. Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation of India, H.E. Ms. Rosario Robles, Minister of Social Development of Mexico and H.E. Amb. Sujan R. Chinoy, Feb. 11



H.E. Mr. Ajay Maken, H.E. Mr. Jorge Carlos Ramirez Marin, Hon. Minister of Agrarian, Territorial and Urban Development of Mexico, and H.E. Ambassador Chinoy, Feb. 11



President of Queretaro Municipal Government, Roberto Loyola Vera, greets Ambassador Chinoy, Feb. 28



Amb. Chinoy and Mrs. Vidya Chinoy flank Governor Gen. Young, Foreign Minister Erlington and Mr. & Mrs. Hotchandani, Feb. 14