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### **India's Republic Day Celebrations in Mexico**

The 63rd Republic Day celebrations in Mexico started with Ambassador Dinesh K Jain hoisting the National Flag at the Embassy premises on January 26 morning, in the presence of Indians in Mexico, persons of Indian origin, and friends and well-wishers of India. The National Anthem—*Jana Gana Mana*—was sung by the Embassy children, with those present joining in. Conveying his own greetings to all present, Amb.Jain gave a brief overview of the steadily strengthening and deepening India-Mexico bilateral relationship. He mentioned that welfare of the local Indian community was most important for the Embassy and exhorted its members to be in regular touch and to engage with the Embassy. Ambassador proceeded to read out the President's Address to the Nation on the eve of Republic Day, after which the children sang patriotic songs.

In the afternoon, Ambassador hosted a Reception at India House to celebrate the occasion. It was attended by senior Government officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other federal and state level ministries/departments, some Mexican Congressmen, media personnel, members of the Indian community and members of the Diplomatic Corps. Addressing the gathering, Ambassador gave an account of various aspects of growing India-Mexico relations, including rapidly expanding bilateral trade surging year-on-year by about 50% to top \$4 billion in 2011. He mentioned the importance of Mexico's hosting the G20 summit under leadership of President Calderon this year. Ambassador highlighted the rapid growth of the recently opened Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore Indian Cultural Centre in Mexico City, which now offers programmes in yoga, Kathak, Bharatnatyam, Odissi, Sitar, Hindi, Indian cuisine and Bollywood dancing. Ms.Kate Asmara, who teaches Bollywood dance at the Centre, and her students presented brief glimpses of the dance genre to the invitees.

Leading Mexican newspapers carried articles on India to mark the Republic Day. The Reforma carried an article by Amb.Jain "Indian Republic at 62", and El Economista an interview with him on India-Mexico relations. El Financiero published an article on 'India's soft power' by Smita Prakash, News Editor at Asian News International, Excelsior published 'Service Sector Advantage India' by freelance writer Sameer Pushp and El Universal published 'Aakash: A billion dreams take wings' by Manish Chand, Assistant Editor at Indo-Asian News Service.

Foreign Minister Patricia Espinosa, in her Republic Day greetings message addressed to India's External Affairs Minister, Mr.S.M. Krishna, conveyed that, "The Republic Day of the Republic of India provides me the opportunity to express to Your Excellency, on my behalf and on behalf of the people of Mexico, sincere wishes of well being and progress for your country and the people of India, as well as my greetings and personal regards. I avail of this opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration."

In his greetings message to Amb.Jain, the Governor of Queretaro, Sr.José E.Calzada Roviroso, said that he wished for the welfare and prosperity of the Indian people. The Governor of Aguascalientes, Sr.Carlos Lozano de la Torre, also addressed a greetings message, "I am glad to express to the people and the government of India my most sincere congratulations on the date of the celebration of the national day for the Independence of a great country. I would like to reiterate my friendship to you and the appreciation of the citizens of Aguascalientes."

### **Republic Day Greetings from Belize**

On the occasion of India's 63rd Republic Day, Governor General of Belize Sir Colville Young sent messages of greetings to the President of India, Mrs.Pratibha Devisingh Patil, and to the Prime Minister of India, Dr.Manmohan Singh, "I send you most cordial greetings from the People of Belize and congratulate your great democracy on its National Day, 26th January. It is my fervent prayer that India will continue to lead the economic recovery of the world and be mindful,

as it had been in the past, of the demands of social justice so that all your citizens share in the fruits of prosperity”.

### **Mexico City Remembers Mahatma Gandhi**

At a solemn function organized by the Embassy at the Gandhi monument in Chapultepec, on the morning of January 30 in collaboration with *OraWorldMandala*, an Indo-Mexican NGO that strives to promote the Gandhian value of 'Ahimsa' or non-violence through art, floral tributes were paid to Mahatma Gandhi on his 64th death anniversary. Mr.Dinkar Asthana, Chargé d'affaires, a.i., placed a wreath at the statue. In his brief address, he called upon the people of the two countries to rededicate themselves to the values of truth and non-violence, which Mahatma Gandhi stood for, promoted and finally laid down his life for.

### **World Hindi Day Celebrated**

The World Hindi Day was celebrated at the Gurudev Tagore Indian Cultural Centre on January 10 with the participation of many of the students learning Hindi at the Centre. Mr.Dinkar Asthana, Minister in the Embassy, welcomed the students and read out the Prime Minister's message on the occasion. Prof.Yogendra Sharma of El Colegio de México, who coordinated the event, spoke briefly on the significance of the day. Sra.Adriana Rosas, a Mexican student, spoke in Hindi, on the ancient roots of the language and how it came to be accepted as the official language of the Government of India. This was followed by a recital of the famous Hindi poem *Pushp ki Abhilasha* (a flower's wish) by Sra.Julietter Butticker, another Mexican student. The highlight of the evening was a melodious rendition of a *bhajan* or devotional song by Sr.Iván Caballero Gamero and Sra.Lený Álvarez Falcón, joined by the others. All students also participated in a mock group discussion, in which they asked each other elementary questions in Hindi and responded to them also in Hindi. The event ended with a recital of the well known poem *Vir tum badhe chalo* (O brave youth, keep marching on) by Sr.Hollving Argæz. The students were cheered by a small group of Mexican enthusiasts in attendance. All the participants were presented a set of Hindi books by Amb.Jain on the Republic Day in recognition of their enthusiastic participation.

### **Mexico Reverberates With Indian Art, Culture**

India participated as a partner country in the First International Cultural Festival of the Centre for Research and Advanced Studies (CINVESTAV). The event was organized by CINVESTAV as part of its golden jubilee celebrations. Indian participation consisted of a two-week long (January 27 to February 10) exhibition of photographs, captioned 'Contemporary India'. The exhibition had 40 photographic panels, by Amit Mehra and Sondeep Shankar, two eminent Indian photographers, which brought out some of the many facets of modern India, including the vibrancy of her people, lifestyle of her young and dynamic workforce and the richness and diversity of her cultural heritage, monuments, temples, mosques, churches etc. Ms.Garima Bhargava, Kathak Teacher at the Gurudev Tagore Indian Cultural Centre (GTICC) gave a 30-minute performance, which was preceded by a yoga demonstration by Sra.Berenice Mendez and Sra.Lourdes, students at the Cultural Centre, who also gave a short performance of Bharatanatyam, a classical Indian dance form. The performances earned much appreciation from the audience.

GTICC also participated with an exhibition of photographic panels captioned 'Churches and Christian Culture of Goa' in the 'Forum of Cultures' organized by the Municipality of Benito Juárez, from January 27 to February 10. The exhibition of 30 photographs by the renowned photographer and cinematographer Benoy Behl was a big attraction, drawing large and enthusiastic crowds. People in the area were pleasantly surprised to see and much appreciated the photographs of some of the 16th Century Churches of Goa, built during the Portuguese regime in Goa, and now declared by UN as a World Heritage site. Besides the photographic exhibition, five Bollywood feature films, provided by the Embassy and subtitled in Spanish, were screened: *Kal Ho Na Ho*, *Monsoon Wedding*, *Guru*, *Veer Zaara* and *Dilwaale Dulhania Le Jayange*.

### **India Makes Big Splash At Intermoda**

In the just concluded 27th edition of Intermoda, held from January 17-20 in Guadalajara, 39 Indian companies participated under the auspices of Apparel Export Council of India, India Trade Promotion Organisation, and Wool & Woollens Export Promotion Council, the largest participation so far by Indian companies in Latin America's fashion industry's important event. With commercial relations between India and Mexico intensifying, Indian companies have been participating in ever increasing numbers in the last few years. On January 18, Intermoda President Sr. Mario Flores symbolically inaugurated the India Pavilion. The Indian exhibitors received good response from Mexican apparel firms, wholesalers, distributors for business deals and attracted interest from the public for the unique design and style of Indian apparels and accessories. India is today recognized as one of the best sourcing destinations for garments, textiles, accessories and finish. It provides a perfect blend of fashion, design, quality, patterns, textures, colours and finish. Labour is skilled and economical while processes are highly competitive without taking away from the quality of the final product. Amazing technological developments, superior design capabilities and companies that provide integrated logistics solutions are other highly prized support systems that the industry thrives on. Combined with these manmade assets are the country's natural assets, which play a large role in boosting the garment industry—by providing raw materials of world class quality. Some of India's natural leverages that the industry uses to its full advantage are: India is the largest producer of Jute, the second largest producer of cotton, silk and cellulosic fibre, the third largest producer of raw cotton and the fourth largest producer of synthetic fibre. As the world's second largest producer of textile and garments, India's garments exports totalled \$10.70 b in 2009-10, giving it a market share of 3.2%.

### **Indian Conglomerate's Peru Mining Foray**

Zuari Industries, a fertiliser manufacturing company of the K K Birla Group, one of India's foremost business houses, and its joint venture partner Mitsubishi Corporation, have acquired 30% stake in Fosfatos del Pacifico SA, Peru (Fospac) for \$46.12 m. The newly-formed Singapore-based joint venture company, MCA Phosphates Pte, in which Zuari own 30% stake, will execute the deal. Fospac is executing a project in Peru that has an estimated mineralised material of about 540 million tonnes of phosphate rock. The mine has enough reserves for 50 years and is expected to produce rock phosphate annually to produce two million tonne of DAP (diammonium phosphate), a key farm nutrient, and complex fertilisers.

***The world knows so little of how much my so-called greatness depends upon the incessant toil and drudgery of silent, devoted, able and pure workers, men as well as women.***  
**- Mahatma Gandhi**

### **President Greets the Nation on Republic Day**

Addressing the Nation on the eve of India's 63rd Republic Day (26 January 2012), the President of India, H.E. Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, extended her warmest greetings to all Indians across the country, from every walk of life, and in different parts of the world, and special greetings to the members of the Armed Forces and Para-Military Forces who guard the country's frontiers, as well as her best wishes to the internal security forces and the civil services. She also complimented all citizens for their contribution to the process of nation-building. She continued, "...All nations, developed and developing, are facing the impact of global economic instability...Indeed, the 21st Century has brought in its trail a host of issues at a breathtaking pace...We are observing an information explosion and ever-newer technological inventions...There are persistent questions about how growth and resources will be shared in a more equitable manner. For us in India, the discourse is about how an ancient civilization and a young nation, will move ahead to take India to its destiny...[E]conomic prosperity alone is not enough. We look towards an India, where there is equity and justice...democracy, rule of law and human values...a scientific and

technological outlook in our people...a country which will continue to bring moral force on to the global stage...How should we proceed to build our nation and its people? [T]he answer lies in our age old values; the ideals of our freedom movement; the principles of our Constitution, as also in our unity, a positive attitude and our aspiration to grow...[W]e are very fortunate to have a rich legacy of values, traditions and teachings...Our civilizational ethos contains the lessons of duty and truth...As the inheritors of thousands of years of history and culture, we should follow the high ideals of our age-old civilization...The past of India has been glorious and so must be its future. We can also draw inspiration from our independence movement. It was a unique struggle, as it involved nonviolent methods and required extraordinary mass discipline, steadfastness and patience...[D]uring various times of difficulties or when searching for an answer, the Constitution has provided us our moorings...There is tremendous work to be done to move forward on our social and economic agenda, if we are to achieve fast, inclusive and sustainable growth. Our foremost priority is the removal of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, disease and illiteracy...In today's era of ICT, technology can be very useful in our mission of health and education. In fact, science and technology is a critical input for the growth of the nation and for all sectors of the economy. Focus on research and development is an investment in our future. Our agriculture, industry and service sectors need to be working more efficiently, with greater scientific inputs and more interlinkages with each other...[I]t is [also] very important to build our physical infrastructure...to overcome constraints to rapid growth...[W]omen need to be drawn fully into the national mainstream...India can take pride in its democratic record, but as in any functional democracy, it faces pressures and challenges. An important feature of a democracy is the constant expression of opinions. This process of incessant dialogue should flow in such a manner, that we are willing to listen to each other...All issues, therefore, must be resolved through dialogue and there can be no place for violence...Our work, our values and our approach, must be based on the vast capability and capacity that India and its people have...

"India's foreign policy is aimed at the promotion of an environment that is conducive to its socioeconomic transformation. We seek to build bridges of cooperation and friendship with all countries of the world. We constructively engage with the international community to find responses to global challenges. The role and stature of India, has been growing and our nation has been scaling up in the ladder of the comity of nations. India seeks an architecture for global institutions that is more reflective of contemporary realities. We are also proud of the contributions of the Indian Diaspora, spread over many countries and across continents, to the economic, professional and political fields of the countries where they live. In conclusion, I would like to say that we must build a strong, prosperous nation, based upon a firm system of values."

Military and police formations, colourful tableaux and an array of cultural programmes marked Republic Day celebrations across India. In New Delhi, the nation's military prowess, cultural diversity, technological achievements and ecological challenges were all on display during the Republic Day Parade at the Rajpath during the Republic Day celebrations. The day began with Prime Minister Dr.Manmohan Singh leading the nation in paying tribute to martyrs at the Amar Jawan Jyoti (Flame of the Immortal Soldier) at India Gate. President Patil and Prime Minister of Thailand H.E.Ms Yingluck Shinawatra, who was the chief guest for the Day, arrived at the saluting dais escorted by the President's bodyguards. The booming 21-gun salute was followed by hoisting of the tricolour by President Patil and singing of the national anthem. The weaponry on display included T-72 tank, Carrier Mortar Tracked, SMERCH Multiple Launch Rocket System, Pinaka Multi Barrel Rocket System, Full Width Mine Plough, NBC Water Purification Systems, Jammer Station VHF/UHF and C-130J Super Hercules tactical aircraft. President Patil took the salute from smartly attired and perfectly synchronized marching contingents of various regiments of the Army followed by their respective bands, contingents of the Air Force, Navy and of different paramilitary and auxiliary civil forces, as also a contingent of ex-servicemen. The cultural segment

comprising tableaux from 23 States and Union Ministries and Departments presented the diverse historical, architectural and cultural heritage of India. The parade also had a spectacular flypast by the Indian Air Force, with C-130J Super Hercules aircraft flying in a Vic formation participating in the parade for the first time.

### **Foreign Minister on Historic Visit to Israel**

Israel is a "natural ally" of India, External Affairs Minister S M Krishna said as he sought a strategy with Israel to "checkmate" the scourge of international terrorism. Krishna, the first Indian foreign minister to visit Israel in over a decade, met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and said, international terrorism is a "problem" for both countries and emphasised on need for greater bilateral trade relations. "India is a natural ally of Israel in all these frontiers of science. I look forward to an increased economic content to our existing areas of cooperation," he said. Agreeing to set the agenda for the next decade, India and Israel have come together to raise a toast to each other with Israeli President Shimon Peres saying that India is the greatest democracy on earth and that Tel Aviv was following New Delhi with "great care and interest". In his welcome address to External Affairs Minister S.M.Krishna, who arrived in Israel on a two-day visit, he set the ball rolling by saying, "For us India is first of all a culture. Then it is for us the greatest democracy on earth and then the unbelievable achievement of overcoming poverty without becoming poor in freedom." Peres also said he wishes India would become permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. "India was fortunate that it had two great and unforgettable leaders - one was a prophet and the other one was a king. The combination of Gandhi and Nehru is the most unusual," he said. On his part, Krishna credited Israel for being an inspiration for India becoming self-sufficient in food production. He said he was very happy that relationship between India and Israel has spread to so many areas. "We look forward to continued bilateral relationship...politically there are no problems as such. Now I think the economic content has to become more assertive and the economic content has to keep growing". Overall, India is currently Israel's sixth-largest trading partner, and nearly 40,000 Israeli tourists visited India in 2010. Both the countries are in discussion on a Free Trade Agreement and Israeli Prime Minister said he believes that it will have a multiplier effect on the bilateral trade volume. The two sides also signed a bilateral Extradition Treaty, and reviewed the bilateral relationship and charted out areas of cooperation for the future including energy, trade, agriculture and human resource development. They also had the opportunity to review regional and international developments of mutual interest. Krishna visited the Indian Hospice in Jerusalem which dates back to the days of the revered Sufi saint Baba Farid, and announced a special grant of \$25,000 by the Government of India for setting up a Baba Farid Heritage Centre at the Indian Hospice. He visited the Cemetery for Indian Soldiers in Jerusalem which was used from July 1918 to June 1920 and contains graves of 79 Indian servicemen of the First World War. The Minister laid wreaths at the memorials for Indian Soldiers and signed the Visitors Book.

### **India Hosts Nuclear Security Meet**

India hosted a meeting of the Sherpas for the 2nd Nuclear Security Summit, held in New Delhi from January 16-17, attended by 49 participating countries, including **Mexico**, and four international organizations (the UN, the International Atomic Energy Agency-IAEA, the Interpol, and the European Union-EU). 46 countries had participated in the First Nuclear Security Summit that was held in Washington in April 2010. S.Korea is the host of the Second Summit which will be in held in Seoul from March 26-27 2012. The main business of the Sherpa meeting was the consideration of the draft communiqué to be adopted by the Summit in Seoul. The draft communiqué seeks to reaffirm the Washington communiqué and build on the momentum that has been generated since the last Summit. The discussions on the draft were productive, reaching a very advanced stage of consideration. Broadly, the draft touches on the main objectives of the Nuclear Summit process which have been to focus high-level global attention on the threat posed by nuclear terrorism and the measures required to address the global challenge of preventing terrorists and other non-state actors from

gaining access to sensitive nuclear materials, technology and information. Among the topics for consideration for inclusion in the Communiqué are measures to secure the management of highly enriched uranium, measures to ensure radiological security, promoting transport security and combating illicit trafficking, security of sensitive information, and increasing international cooperation and assistance. India is committed to the success of the Nuclear Security Summit process, and Prime Minister of India is scheduled to be attending the Seoul Summit.

Separately, India has once again reiterated the stance that its **nuclear weapons are meant only to give the nation a strategic capability**, even as Pakistan has gone ahead to develop its tactical nuclear missile programme with multiple tests being held last year. Army chief, Gen. V K Singh has said the nuclear weapons are not meant for war fighting. "Let us be quite clear that nuclear weapons are not for war fighting. They have got a strategic capability and that is where it should end," Singh said in response to queries on reports of China and Pakistan strengthening their nuclear weapons programme. "We are not bothered about who has nuclear weapons, we have our task set and will progress along that," he said. The comments come after concern around the globe that Pakistan is strengthening its tactical nuclear missile programme with multiple tests of the 60-km range NASR surface-to-surface missile that is capable of carrying nuclear weapons. India's nuclear policy, New Delhi has made clear on several occasions, is based on the 'no first use principle' but any nuclear attack—tactical or not—would be met with full-scale retaliation.

### **India-China Boundary Talks**

The 15th round of talks between the Special Representatives (SR) of India and China on the Boundary Question, Mr. Shivshankar Menon, National Security Advisor, and Mr. Dai Binggou, State Councillor, took place in New Delhi from January 16-17. The two sides continued their discussions on a framework for a resolution of Boundary Question. The SRs agreed that they would prepare a joint agreed record for their Governments on the progress made so far in the SR Talks on the Boundary Question. An Agreement on the Establishment of a Working Mechanism on Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs was signed in the presence of the two SRs, which reiterated their shared firm belief that respecting and abiding by the Line of Actual Control pending a resolution of the Boundary Question between the two countries as well as maintaining and strengthening peace and tranquillity in the India-China border areas is very significant for enhancing mutual trust and security between the two countries, for resolving the Boundary Question at an early date and for building the India-China Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity. The Working Mechanism will study ways and means to conduct and strengthen exchanges and cooperation between military personnel and establishments of the two sides in the border areas, and also will explore the possibility of cooperation in the border areas that are agreed upon by the two sides. They also discussed other bilateral, regional and global issues. The discussions were wide ranging, productive, forward-looking and marked by a commonality of views on many issues. Making a positive appraisal of the current state of bilateral relations, the SRs noted the importance of regular high-level exchanges and strengthened cooperation across different areas between the two countries. They further agreed that there was scope for greater coordination on regional and global issues.

In a related development, apropos of the **erroneous US depiction of the map of India**, the Official Spokesperson said in response to a question: "The Government is aware of the gross inaccuracies, in the map of India, on the US State Department website. The Government has consistently rejected incorrect depiction of India's borders on maps used by the US Government. It has used every opportunity to convey to the US side its concern in this regard, and has asked that these maps be corrected. We shall reiterate our position to the US. The Government takes this opportunity to reaffirm that the entire State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and has consistently conveyed to the

international community that maps of India should depict the boundaries of our country correctly."

### **China Apologizes for Indians' Torture**

China said it began criminal proceedings against five people accused of torturing two Indian traders near Shanghai and promised to safeguard Indian nationals. Chinese ambassador Zhang Yan provided the country's response to the alleged torture of the two Indians in Yiwu to Mr.S.M.Krishna, India's External Affairs Minister, and a senior official during separate meetings. Indian officials said they were satisfied with the response to the torture of the two traders. "I had detailed discussion with your foreign minister. The Chinese government attaches great importance to this matter. We are working very hard to find a solution to this issue and to resolve it as early as possible," said Zhang. Krishna said he and Zhang agreed safety of all Indians in China is of "utmost importance." He added, "I am immensely pleased and satisfied with the quick response I got from the Chinese ambassador and also pleased and satisfied with the local authorities in China, who have been cooperative."

### **India, EU to Take Cooperation Forward**

In his statement at the joint media interaction with EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Baroness Catherine Ashton, at Bengaluru on January 16, External Affairs Minister Mr.S.M.Krishna said that India and the European Union share common values of freedom, democracy and rule of law. It is in this spirit of cooperation and the convergence of interests that the two sides became strategic partners in 2004, discussing bilateral issues and provide a robust framework for reviewing global challenges. EU is India's largest trading partner and a significant source of investment and technology flows into India. The two cooperate on a wide range of issues ranging from security, energy movement of people, culture, education and human rights. In the present meeting, they concluded useful and substantive discussions covering the entire spectrum of their relations, exchanging views in a spirit of warmth and friendship, and taking stock of what has been achieved in the last one year and preparing on a substantive basis to take their cooperation forward during the upcoming India-EU Summit meeting. The relationship and engagements in different areas have expanded over the years and will expand further as EU evolves. Both India and the EU have important roles to play in the international arena. They reiterated their commitments to intensify cooperation in diverse fields including trade and investment, movement of peoples, energy, science and technology and counter-terrorism. In the context of the continuing debt crisis in Europe, India is happy to note that European leaders have decided to take the required steps to contain the crisis and are confident that lasting remedies would be found and implemented. India believes that a revival of European economies and Europe's continued growth is in the interest of the international community including India. India sincerely wishes EU success in the efforts for combating the crisis. India and the EU are two of the world's largest peace loving democracies that share common values. India is therefore, committed to working with the EU as a true and reliable partner to contribute to world peace, stability and prosperity.

### **India PM Among Friends Prez Obama Trusts**

Countering allegations that he is "aloof", US President Barack Obama counted Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and German Chancellor Angela Merkel among leaders with whom he has forged "friendships and bonds of trust". "I wasn't in other administrations, so I didn't see the interactions between US Presidents and various world leaders. But the friendships and the bonds of trust that I've been able to forge with a whole range of leaders is precisely, or is a big part of, what has allowed us to execute effective diplomacy," Obama said in an interview to Time magazine. Obama was responding to a remark that his style of diplomacy is criticized by some as being "very cool and aloof" and that he does not "pal around" with world leaders. He countered that saying he has close relations with leaders including Merkel, Singh, South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and British Premier David Cameron. "I think that if you ask them, Angela Merkel or Prime Minister

Singh or President Lee or Prime Minister Erdogan or David Cameron would say, we have a lot of trust and confidence in the President. We believe what he says. We believe that he'll follow through on his commitments. We think he's paying attention to our concerns and our interests. And that's part of the reason we've been able to forge these close working relationships and gotten a whole bunch of stuff done," Obama added. He further said the American leadership recognises the rise of countries like China and India and Brazil.

### **National Policy on Narcotic Drugs**

The Government of India has formally approved a new, modified National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS). The policy attempts to curb the menace of drug abuse and contains provisions for treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of victims of drug abuse. Its salient features are: production of Concentrate of Poppy Straw (CPS) in India by a company or body corporate, to enable India to retain its status of a traditional supplier of Opiate Raw Material (ORM) to the rest of world, while remaining competitive; the consumption of poppy straw by addicts to be gradually reduced and finally stopped within an agreed time frame; use of satellite imageries for detection of illicit poppy and cannabis cultivation and its subsequent eradication and development of alternate means of livelihood in respect of cultivators; the private sector may be allowed production of alkaloids from opium - at present this is allowed only in Government Opium and Alkaloid Factories (GOAFs); introduction of non-intrusive methods of regulating the manufacture, trade and use of such psychotropic substances; adequate access to morphine and other opioids necessary for palliative care; a strategy to address street peddlers of drugs; periodic surveys of drug abuse to gauge its extent, pattern and nature; recognition of de-addiction centers; and a time bound plan of action, detailing the steps to be taken by different official agencies. The policy would lead to reduction of crime, improvement in public health and uplifting of the social milieu, and it would serve as a guide to reassert India's commitment to combat the drug menace in a holistic manner.

### **India's Fight For Independence: Quit India Movement and Non-Violence**

*Adapted from article by K G Sreenivas, Pravasi Bharatiya, August 2011*

The 1942 Quit India Speeches made by Mahatma Gandhi at the All India Congress Committee (AICC) Session marked a seminal and decidedly determined departure from his historically considered position of a negotiated settlement from dominion to independence. Yet Gandhi continued to eschew hatred for the British even as he fiercely subordinated his struggle to the power of Satyagraha and non-violence.

Freedom was five years away. But it didn't come easy. And so in 1942 India witnessed a different Gandhi. Addressing the people of India at the historic AICC session, Mahatma Gandhi spoke thus: "Every one of you should from this moment onward consider yourself a free man or woman and act as if you are free ...I am not going to be satisfied with anything short of complete freedom. We shall do or die. We shall either free India or die in the attempt."

Mahatma Gandhi's assertion flowed from the July 14 the All India Congress Working Committee resolution that declared, "the immediate ending of the British rule in India is an urgent necessity both for the sake of India...free India will assure the success by throwing his great resources in the struggle for freedom and against the aggression of Nazism, Fascism and imperialism."

It was also the time Britain was about to go to war against Germany. In March 1942, Britain sent Sir Stafford Cripps to India with a proposal for a new constitution, which was found unsatisfactory and rejected by the Congress and Muslim League. Subsequently, in May 1942, Gandhi called on Britain to "leave India to God. If this is too much then leave her to anarchy." Gandhi was dramatically recasting his political worldview.

The historic AICC session that began on August 7, 1942 concluded after the midnight of August 8-9, 1942. The resolution, which came to be described as the 'Quit India Resolution', was passed unanimously and created an "electrifying atmosphere" galvanising millions around the country. There is an interesting story as to how the iconic slogan was born. Gandhi consulted with his colleagues for an appropriate slogan for the movement. One suggestion was 'Get Out' which Gandhi felt was rather "impolite". Rajagopalachari suggested 'Retreat' or 'Withdraw' which wasn't again politically catchy. It was then that Yusuf Meherally came forward and presented Gandhi a bow bearing an inscription 'Quit India'. The two words, which went on to become one of the most defining moments of modern Indian history, had Gandhi's approval.

In his stirring speech, Gandhi told his countrymen: "There is a mantra, short one, that I give you. You imprint it on your heart and let every breath of yours give an expression to it. The mantra is 'Do or Die'." In early hours of August 9, all the top leaders - Gandhi, Nehru, Patel, Azad were arrested and the Congress was declared an "unlawful organisation". With the incarceration of the top leadership, there was a vacuum leading to considerable repression, violence and disorder. The British Government issued ban orders. However, despite the order, a large crowd had gathered at Gowalia Tank Maidan where soon after Aruna Asaf Ali hoisted the Indian tricolour. Police retaliated and pulled down the flag and beat off Congress volunteers.

Gandhi was freed from prison in May 1944. By then the movement had managed to gather coherence and had turned largely peaceful. Quit India was Gandhi's final and decisive bid to secure Indian independence. Yet it marked a radical departure from Gandhi's considered approach of a gradualistic and negotiated settlement from dominion to independence. However, this departure did not mean Gandhi encouraged any breach of Satyagraha or non-violence. On the contrary, it reflected indeed a high degree of political impatience with the British though not of hate, impatience reflected in his words ...I will speak against it...even if the whole of India forsakes me, I will say, "You are wrong. India will wrench with non-violence her liberty from unwilling hands." In fact, referring to the British, he says: "Our quarrel is not with the British people, we fight their imperialism." About his political position, he has this to say in his opening speech: "There is no real contradiction between the present resolution and my previous writings and utterances."

The following are extracts from the seminal speeches Gandhi delivered at that historic AICC session. These speeches reflect the transformation Gandhi brought about in the discourse of the time, notwithstanding the significant differences he had had with several leading strands of political thought of the time.

Mahatma Gandhi's address at the AICC Session at Bombay on August 8-9, 1942 outlining his plan of action, and delivered in Hindustani:

"I am the same Gandhi as I was in 1920...I attach the same importance to non-violence that I did then. If at all, my emphasis on it has grown stronger. There is no real contradiction between the present resolution and my previous writings and utterances...I want you to know and feel that there is nothing but purest Ahimsa (non-violence) in all that I am saying and doing today. The draft resolution of the Working Committee is based on Ahimsa, the contemplated struggle similarly has its roots in Ahimsa...God has vouchsafed to me a priceless gift in the weapon of Ahimsa. I and my Ahimsa are on our trial today...Ours is not a drive for power, but purely a nonviolent fight for India's independence...Then, there is the question of your attitude towards the British. I have noticed that there is hatred towards the British among the people...Our quarrel is not with the British people, we fight their imperialism...I know the British Government will not be able to withhold freedom from us, when we have made enough self-sacrifice. We must, therefore, purge ourselves of hatred.

### **The Essence of Satyagraha (insistence on truth)**

"We have thus to deal with an empire whose ways are crooked. Ours is a straight path which we can tread even with our eyes closed. That is the beauty of Satyagraha. In Satyagraha, there is no place for fraud or falsehood, or any kind of untruth. Fraud and untruth today are stalking the world. I cannot be a helpless witness to such a situation...However gigantic the preparations that the empire has made, we must get out of its clutches...If today I sit quiet and inactive, God will take me to task for not using up the treasure He had given me, in the midst of the conflagration that is enveloping the whole world...But the situation now has become intolerable, and the Congress has no other course left for it...Every one of you should, from this moment onwards, consider yourself a free man or woman, and acts as if you are free and are no longer under the heel of this imperialism...It is the very essence of freedom. The bond of the slave is snapped the moment he consider himself to be a free being...You may take it from me that I am not going to strike a bargain with the Viceroy for ministries and the like. I am not going to be satisfied with anything short of complete freedom...I will say, "Nothing less than freedom". Here is a mantra, a short one, that I give you...The mantra is: 'Do or Die'. We shall either free India or die in the attempt; we shall not live to see the perpetuation of our slavery. Every true Congressman or woman will join the struggle with an inflexible determination not to remain alive to see the country in bondage and slavery...Take a pledge, with God and your own conscience as witness, that you will no longer rest till freedom is achieved and will be prepared to lay down your lives in the attempt to achieve it...Freedom is not for the coward or the faint-hearted...This is an open rebellion. In this struggle secrecy is a sin...we have to work openly and to receive bullets on our chest, without taking to heels...But if you can do this much, you can take it from me, the whole atmosphere will be electrified. Let the Government then shower bombs, if they like. But no power on earth will then be able to keep you in bondage any longer...

### **I will go Ahead**

"It is, however, with all these things as the background that I want Englishmen, Europeans and all the United Nations to examine in their hearts what crime had India committed in demanding Independence. I ask, is it right for you to distrust such an organisation with all its background, tradition and record of over half a century and misrepresent its endeavours before all the world by every means at your command?...I had great regard for British diplomacy which has enabled them to hold the Empire so long. Now it stinks in my nostrils...They may succeed in getting, through these methods, world opinion on their side for a time; but India will speak against that world opinion. She will raise her voice against all the organised propaganda...India will wrench with non-violence her liberty from unwilling hands.

### **Appeal to United Nations**

"I wish to say to the world that the United Powers who somehow or other say that they have need for India, have the opportunity now to declare India free and prove their bona fides. If they miss it, they will be missing the opportunity of their lifetime, and history will record that they did not discharge their obligations to India in time, and lost the battle...That freedom, if it is to come, must come today.

### **Do or Die**

"I have pledged the Congress and the Congress will do or die."

### **Hundreds of Ex-Militants Lay Down Weapons**

Hundreds of militants in jungle fatigues lined up to surrender weapons on January 24 as several insurgent groups formally joined a ceasefire with the government in a step toward ending a three-decade

insurgency in northeast India. The 676 fighters who handed over weapons to authorities at a sports stadium in the Assam state capital of Guwahati are members of nine of the more than 20 groups fighting the government in the remote northeastern state. More than 10,000 people have been killed since 1979 when the insurgents began fighting for greater autonomy for their ethnic communities in Assam. However, over the past two years, the groups have begun to reach ceasefire accords and enter peace talks with the government. The event brought the number of groups in talks to 15—leaving about a half-dozen still fighting. Senior army and police officers stood by as Home Minister P.Chidambaram assured the ex-fighters they would be embraced back into society. "We shall make sure each one of you are able to enjoy equal rights now that you have shunned violence," Chidambaram said. He also said that the government was close to signing comprehensive peace deals with some of the groups, but did not elaborate. Previously, the government has said it was open to discussing demands for more autonomy in areas including civic administration, finances and cultural rights.

### **Indian Humanitarian Assistance For Libya**

True to its tradition of rushing help where it is really and urgently needed, India's humanitarian assistance consisting of life saving medicines and medical equipment worth \$1 m was handed over to the National Transitional Council of Libya on January 30 in Tripoli. The latter had provided India a list of lifesaving drugs needed. Earlier, India had also provided assistance worth \$1 m in cash to the National Transitional Council through the UN's Office of Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid in New York. India has been supportive of the people of Libya and the interim Government of National Transitional Council has been considering sending injured Libyan nationals to India for medical treatment. India welcomes this and looks forward to receiving injured Libyan patients in India. A Libyan delegation has already visited India in December to tie up arrangements for treating injured Libyan patients in reputed hospitals. India is also arranging to send a team from *Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti*, one of the world's largest charities devoted to empowering amputees by giving them new prosthetic limbs, and which is referred to more commonly by its most famous product "Jaipur Foot" to Tripoli. The team would provide prostheses (artificial limbs) to injured Libyans and set up a centre in Libya to provide readymade artificial limbs to injured Libyans.

***Religions are different roads converging upon the same point. What does it matter that we take different roads so long as we reach the same goal?***

**- Mahatma Gandhi**

### **India Moves For Growth Fillip**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the country's central bank, cut on January 23 the amount of deposits lenders need to set aside as reserves for the first time since 2009 and signalled future interest-rate cuts, joining BRICS nations in shielding growth. Stocks rose instantly in response. RBI reduced the cash reserve ratio to 5.5% from 6%. The move added around \$6.4 b into lenders, it said. It however left the benchmark repurchase rate at 8.5% for a second month. Brazil, China and Russia have either cut borrowing costs or lenders' reserve requirements in recent weeks as the debt crisis in Europe saps global expansion. While India's inflation, stoked by rupee weakness, is the fastest in the group, it eased to a two-year low last month, giving RBI Governor D.Subbarao more room to inject cash into a slowing economy. Indian stocks rose to a more than two-month high as the BSE India Sensitive Index (SENSEX) closed up 1.5%. The yield on the 8.79% note due November 2021 rose 20 basis points, or 0.20 percentage point, to 8.37% on speculation the RBI may halt bond purchases following the reserve ratio cut. India's rupee, which has surged about 6.3% against the U.S. dollar this year, was little changed. It is Asia's best performer this year after sliding 16% in 2011. "The growth-inflation balance of the monetary policy stance has now shifted to growth, while at the same time ensuring that inflationary pressures remain contained...[The reduction in the reserve

ratio aims to] 'address structural pressures on liquidity in a way' consistent with the prevailing monetary stance," RBI said. The persistence of 'tight liquidity conditions' could disrupt the flow of credit and further exacerbate growth risks, it said. RBI also cut India's growth forecast to 7% in the year through March from the 7.6% predicted in October. It kept the inflation estimate at 7%. The United Nations in its annual economic report "World Economic Situation and Prospects 2012" expects India's economic growth to remain robust in 2012 and 2013, despite 'likely headwind of double-dip recessions in Europe and the US', and grow by up to 7.9% this year on the back of robust domestic demand. Among the major developing countries, growth in India and China is expected to remain robust. Brazil and Mexico are expected to suffer a more visible economic slowdown.

In yet another sign of confidence in India's economy, **Moody's upgraded India's credit rating** on short-term foreign currency deposits, i.e. with maturities up to one year, from speculative to investment grade. The upgrade is indicative of acceptable ability to repay short-term obligations and will help banks attract foreign currency deposits. It is in line with December's rating revision in three other instruments, which were all placed in a higher category by the rating agency. Moody's had upgraded the ratings on long-term government bonds denominated in domestic currency from 'Ba1' to 'Baa3', or from speculative to investment grade. Besides, the long-term country ceiling on the foreign currency bank deposits was also upgraded from 'Ba1' to 'Baa3'. Reacting to the developments, Mr Thomas Mathew, Joint Secretary in the Capital Market Division of the Finance Ministry, said: "...We should universally celebrate what the rating agency has done and aim to go further."

#### **"Indian Economy Doing a Good Job"**

Nobel Prize winner in economics in 2001, Joseph Stiglitz has praised Indian economy's performance, saying, "India is doing a good job and has been pursuing a balanced and cautious policy." Stiglitz, who was delivering a lecture in the Indian Statistical Institute, said that a government needed to play an important role 'in any economy correcting pervasive market failures'. "If India manages its policy well and also guards itself against the outblown financial sector, then the country will be able to manage growth on the face of a global slowdown." Referring to the recession of 2008, he said that it showed the fallacy of the proposition that markets were efficient and stable, and revealed the deficiencies of the US central bank and regulatory institutions. "Countries without independent central banks performed better in the crisis." Stiglitz, a professor at the Columbia University in the US, said in connection with the global recession which had originated in the US that there was a need for the government and the markets to play a balanced role in development.

#### **India Move Up On Industrial Ladder**

India's share of manufacturing value added in the world increased to 1.69% in 2009 from 1.38% in 2005, making it one of the top 10 contributors to global manufacturing. However, in a global industrial competitiveness index, India has ranked 42nd on UNIDO Competitiveness Industrial Performance Index 2009. Mexico stood 30th, according to the latest UNIDO report on industrial development 2011. While the figures reflect that the manufacturing sector in India still requires greater attention, it also signifies the country's success in not letting the global crisis adversely affect its competitiveness. "Global manufacturing production is shifting gradually from the developed to developing countries as firms move to benefit from cheaper labour, quality infrastructure, lower social costs and large markets in countries like China and India," said UNIDO. Among developing countries, India's contribution to electrical machinery and basic metals improved significantly between 2000 and 2009. The Government of India has already set ambitious targets for increasing the share of manufacturing in GDP to 25% by 2025 compared to the current 16% share. UNIDO also lauded developing countries, including India, for an improvement in energy efficiency of industrial production during 2000-2008 owing to technological advancements. Between 2000 and 2008, tonnes of oil required per \$1,000 manufacturing value added declined from 1.474 to 1.117, reflecting a reduction in energy intensity of production. "Over the past 20

years, developed economies have been reducing industrial energy intensity. In addition, large developing economies such as China, India and Mexico began adopting technologies and measures that produced unprecedented cutbacks in industrial energy intensity," according to UNIDO.

Meanwhile, manufacturing activity in India climbed to a six-month high in December as new orders rose, reinforcing signs of industrial revival. The HSBC Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index rose to 54.2 from 51.0 in November, the highest level since June and the sharpest monthly rise since April 2009. The rebound in manufacturing follows core sector data, which hint at a pick-up in industrial growth. The index for eight core sector industries, with a combined weight of 38% in the index of industrial production (IIP), expanded 6.5% in November. "Activity in the manufacturing sector rebounded in December, led by higher demand from both domestic and foreign clients, suggesting that the momentum in the sector is not quite as weak as official and more dated industrial production data would suggest...The solid demand from clients allowed manufacturing companies to increase output prices at an accelerated pace to pass on rising costs....," observed Leif Eskesen, economist at HSBC. The managers surveyed said higher purchases were primarily due to rise in new orders, both domestic and international. The new orders index rose to 57.9 from 52.8 in November in its biggest jump in two years. Many, if not all, products have to be packed and the vibrancy of the packaging industry is an indicator of the health of manufacturing sector. India's packaging industry, valued at about \$13 b, is expected to grow at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of over 15% to \$28 b by 2014, driven by factors such as rising incomes, changing lifestyle patterns, growth of consumerism and rising health consciousness. Flexible packaging, a major segment of this industry, is gaining importance - estimated at \$900 m, is growing at about 20% annually.

#### **Bajaj's Small Car, RE60@35km/litre**

Bajaj Auto has unveiled a mini four-wheeler for intra-city urban transportation targeting three-wheeler customers. The company, which had in 2008 showcased a concept small car but decided not to go ahead with the project, will launch the new product named RE60 later this year. "Certainly, this is a product, the core customer for which are those who use a three-wheeler," said Bajaj Auto Ltd (BAL) Managing Director Rajiv Bajaj. He said the RE60, powered by a 200 cc rear mounted petrol engine, could also be sold in overseas markets where BAL's three-wheelers are exported. Bajaj said the company had spent nearly four years in developing the product that has a top speed of 70 km/h with a highest mileage of 35 km/litre. "This vehicle has been designed for intra-city passenger transport keeping in mind intra-city duty cycles and safety requirements," he added, saying opportunities are not only in the domestic market but overseas as well. "We make about 520,000 three-wheelers a year of which only 200,000 are sold in India and rest exported. So we see markets like Sri Lanka, which could be the first export market has huge potential for RE60," he said.

India is unique in that it holds great promise for both ends of the market—the small car and the luxury sedans. Consequently, luxury car makers are gearing up to entice both kinds of consumers. Take, for instance, hybrid cars. Sales of fuel-efficient, hybrid cars may have got off to a sluggish start, but ownership is set to explode to account for more than half of all vehicles sold by 2030, as improving models, government incentives and rising petrol costs escalate demand, according to BP. In its latest "energy outlook" report, the oil giant said phenomenal demand in India - and China - would drive up the number of cars worldwide from 1 b to 1.6 b by 2030. Although this represents an increase of 60% in vehicle ownership, the total amount of energy consumed by the world's cars will only rise by 26% as hybrid ownership jumps from less than 1% of vehicles to represent a third. As for the top-end, some 21,000 luxury vehicles were sold in 2011 and sales are set to increase tenfold in the next 10 years. Mercedes-Benz, facing competitive heat in India from BMW and Volkswagen, is looking at investing more than \$200 million to enhance capacity and increase sales tenfold by the decade end. Debashis Mitra, director (sales & marketing) at

Mercedes-Benz India, observed, "We want to grow our sales over threefold to 25,000 units by 2016 and to 90,000 units by the end of the decade. To this effect, we are looking at introducing two volume-driving models in the Indian market every year."

And if the auto sector is booming, can tyres be far behind? Tyre exports were up 25% in the period from April to November. A total of 5.03 m tyres were shipped last year compared to 4.01 million in the corresponding period of 2011.

### **New Infobahn To Usher In Broadband Revolution**

India is investing \$20 b in projects related to the creation of an information highway, according to Mr Sam Pitroda, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Public Infrastructure, Information and Innovations. This includes \$3 b for setting up the knowledge network and another \$6 b for the National Optic Fibre Cable Network. "India is at cusp of the next big revolution in the telecom sector, that of broadband. The Government is creating the platform that will enable this revolution," says Pitroda. He avers that Indian telecom equipment manufacturers have the opportunity to go global by focussing on new technology areas: "Indian manufacturers should look at 5G now since the opportunity in 4G is gone." The Government of India's Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), which has the competencies and the technologies to give greater support to indigenous R&D and manufacturing in telecom sector, has entered into an agreement with seven manufacturing companies for transferring indigenously designed and developed high speed broadband technology, viz. the Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON) technology. The GPON technology is used for broadband connectivity over optical fibre. C-DOT has indigenously designed and developed GPON technology, which can be used to provide triple play (voice, video and data) through fibre-based networks. The present GPON standards specify 2.5 Gbps (gigabytes per second) downstream and 1.25 Gbps upstream data capability to customer premise.

### **Pharma Sector's Strong Growth**

The great Indian pharma juggernaut clearly requires no medication: Domestic pharma retail market clocked a robust 15% growth in 2011, mainly driven by therapies like anti-diabetic, vitamin, anti-infectives and dermatology, according to the market research firm AIOCD (All India Organization of Chemists and Druggists). The sector continued to show its resilience amid slowdown concerns in the economy, as it reached a new milestone by recording overall sales of \$12.3 b last year. The companies that reported a strong year-on-year growth significantly above the pharma market include Glenmark (35.3%), Sun Pharma (27.5%), Pfizer (27.9%) and IPCA Laboratories (21.6%). The top pecking order in terms of market share was led by multinational Abbott (6.11%), and followed by Cipla (5.14%) and GlaxoSmithKline (4.86%) at the second and third slots during the month. Sun Pharma was ranked fourth with a 4.79% share and Ranbaxy fifth, clocking a 4.34% market share.

### **India's Largest Solar Project On Stream**

Gujarat based conglomerate Adani Group, with interests in diverse fields, commissioned the country's largest solar power plant in Kutch district, Gujarat. The 40MW plant uses solar PV technology, with over 400,000 solar PV modules mounted on 21,600 structures erected on 130,000 foundations, and was commissioned in a record 150 days, starting from foundation stone laying to electricity generation. For Adani, India's largest private thermal power producer, the plant marks its first big foray in the renewable energy sector and it plans to expand its capacity to 100MW.

### **India World's 6th Most Innovative**

India has been ranked the sixth most 'innovative' country in the world in multinational conglomerate GE's Annual Global Innovation Barometer, driven by financial support from public authorities and long-term support from investors. The report, based on a survey of 2,800 senior business executives in 22 countries, including 200 respondents in India, identifies the top enablers for innovation in the country as talent ('creative' talent and people with technical expertise), financial support from public authorities and long-term support from investors. When asked

to identify the three countries they consider "innovation champions", 12% of the global respondents (and 23% from India) identified India, following only the US, Germany, Japan, China, and S.Korea. "Creating conditions for meaningful innovation requires the right blend of internal and external factors that can readily be adapted to meet individual market and customer needs," GE senior Vice-President and chief marketing officer Beth Comstock said. The report said that 36% of the Indian respondents in the survey expected 'large business' to drive most of the innovation over the next decade - compared to 27% in an earlier survey, while 35% believed small and medium enterprises would be the most innovative. In terms of sectors, energy, followed by healthcare, telecommunication and fast moving consumer goods, were the areas with the most innovation-driven growth potential, according to the survey.

India's engineering design and development industry is also witnessing rapid growth, with the country making deeper inroads into the global engineering space. Its market share in global engineering services space is set to rise from 20% in 2009 to 25-30% by 2020. Key sectors of Indian engineering services are hi-tech/telecom and automotives, accounting for more than 75% of the Indian engineering outsourcing market. India's continuous growth in engineering services attributed to ability to combine two distinct benefits for clients –a large base of superior talent and the cost advantage. Besides this, the policies of central and state Governments are geared towards the growth of this industry.

### **India's Human Resource Dividend**

*"Battles of this century will be fought and won on power of ideas, skilled human resource and young population".*

**-- Anonymous**

Come what may, India has distinct advantage on demographics and the dividends are bound to come over next forty years. And, this distinct advantage and dividends would continue to be powered by the ideas, skilled human resource and its young population raring to go.

Much has been written and talked about this advantage. As a US-based Boston Consulting Group study put it: this advantage has presented an opportunity for India worth \$ 200 billion in annual revenues, 40 million new jobs by 2020 and turn the country into an enviable power house of human resource to the world.

As per projections of Census of India, the official agency tracking population, the country will house an overwhelming 486.86 million young men and women by 2030.

This by far, will be the largest chunk of world's population if trained can power the global economic power engine spread across sectors like manufacturing, services, agriculture and trade.

India's distinct advantage becomes all the more amplified given the shortages of human resource likely to be faced by nations across the globe: be it USA, Europe, China, Japan etc.

Ed Potter, formerly President of the US Employment Foundation in the American Workforce report way back in 2001 predicted that USA would face workforce shortage of 36 million by 2031. Similarly, German Institute of Economic Research has estimated ten years back that the country may have to either import or outsource work for 1.2 million people to counter its ageing workforce.

It is not just US and Germany, Japan would need 600,000 immigrants a year to make up for workforce shortages that it is bound to face as per a report in UK-based newspaper, The Guardian. Same is the case with United Kingdom that may have to import trained young workforce to fill in the gaps in its industry, services and government.

Another large country that would face human resource shortages is China. As per a projection made by US Census Bureau, China will have 10 percent shortage in working population in age group of 15 – 59 years by 2030. The shortages may accentuate owing to 'one child policy' that the country has consciously adopted to keep the population explosion under check.

Now, there are arguments for and against the 'demographic advantages' and possible 'demographic dividends' that Indian can reap. And, the jury is out as to what would be its implications for Indian economy and its people.

In this context, quoting Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on India's demographic advantage is pertinent. Time and again Prime Minister Singh has identified that significant investments and infrastructure that will have to be made in education and skills development for millions of youth.

Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen has rightly pointed out that unless the Indian population is prepared for positively exploiting the demographic window available, the large unemployed population could become a 'drag on the nation'. As per a BCG study, there are 37 million unemployed youth in India, a substantial chunk that is educated.

While the education and health infrastructure continues to be expanded, Indian skilled youth have begun servicing the global industry especially in education, healthcare, financial services, tourism, hospitality and several other services industries. So much so, that the information technology based industry in India has evolved into \$ 50 billion venture. Undoubtedly, today India is already with a large workforce that works for the global industry albeit remote.

The new wave of economic liberalization and linkages with world economy provides an ample opportunity for the trained workforce in India itself as demand for goods and services increase; merchandise exports grow rapidly and also farm sector expansion with attendant development of food and dairy sector.

Aggressive acquisitions that are being made by Indian large corporates internationally and integrating them with manufacturing facilities back home have added a new dimension to the demographic issue. For instance, the Tatas acquiring the iconic Jaguar and Land Rover have led to integration of workforce from the two continents, Asia and Europe.

Hence, priority may be given to meeting the skilled workforce shortages back home in several sectors like information technology, textiles, handicrafts, garments and engineering goods before considering shortages elsewhere.

Even the global shortages would most effectively would be serviced 'remote' with evolution of cutting edge technologies like 4G telecom services and cloud computing apart from advancement in internet protocol based TV. Even if India were to meet some of the human resource shortages globally, it may not lead to large-scale movement of its people but over 80 percent services would be managed remotely.

However, there are services like healthcare where professionals are required to be present in 'person'. Engineers, doctors and teachers may have to be on the spot to provide these services though tele-medicine, online medical services and e-education are in the vogue. Alternatively, the manufacturing capabilities will have to be exported by India to meet the shortages for goods and services in both Western Europe, US, Russia, Japan etc.

"As Prime Minister Singh said, rapidly imparting skills and retooling our young workforce through large investments in related infrastructure and training continues to be a big challenge" said Roopen Roy, managing director of Deloitte and Touhe Consulting, an

independent consultancy.

Overhauling education system that is already on reform path seems to be the way that India can reap dividends from the demographic advantages that it has over next 30 years. For instance, the government's decision to set up 100 technical training institutes in collaboration with the industry through public private partnership is a pointer. Similarly, setting up super-specialty healthcare and related education institutes would lead to producing world class surgeons and specialists. Investing billions of dollars in universal education would also aid this campaign for tapping this 'window' of demographic advantage.

Indian National Knowledge Commission headed by Sam Pitroda had said, "Our youth can be an asset only if we invest in their capabilities. A knowledge-driven generation will be an asset. Denied this investment, it will become a social and economic liability." And, this seems to be very apt.

*K.A. Badarinath is Editor-Policy, Financial Chronicle, New Delhi Indian Food*

### **US Ex-Im Bank to Diversify India Investment Portfolio**

The US Export-Import Bank is looking to diversify its India portfolio, financing projects in education, healthcare and agriculture, its chairman and president Fed P. Hochberg has said, adding, "...at the rate India is growing this will be the single largest market in 12 to 18 months." With a \$7 b commitment, India is currently the second biggest investment destination for the bank after Mexico. Exim Bank focuses its efforts on nine countries that are building infrastructure and growing rapidly. It has already disbursed most of the \$7 b funds it committed for various projects in India. It is considering more projects worth \$2 b, in the full range of projects in the entire countryside from renewable energy to conventional energy to water treatment. 30% of the projects the Exim Bank is financing in India are power projects. "We are excited by power sector in India. India's growth has been extraordinary. It is possible to continue more investment in power," said Hochberg. Solar power would be another key area of interest for Exim Bank as India has set a target of 20,000 MW of solar power by 2020. "We were impressed with the progress made in 2011. With new five-year plan beginning this week, we are seeing more interest."

### **India in Forefront of Astronomy Research**

India is catapulting to the forefront of astronomy research with her decision to join as partners in a Hawaii telescope that will be the world's largest when it's built later this decade. India will pay a share - maybe 10%, 70% of which in kind, by way of equipment and parts - of the construction cost - expected to top \$1 b - for the 30-metre telescope at the summit of Mauna Kea volcano, and will have a share of the observation time. It is the first advanced telescope in which India will be a partner. The telescope's segmented primary mirror, which will be 30 m long, will give it nine times the light-collecting area of the largest optical telescopes in use today, and consequently its images will also be three times sharper. The telescope, known as TMT, will be able to observe planets that orbit stars other than the sun and enable astronomers to watch new planets and stars being formed. It should also help scientists see some 13 b light years away for a glimpse into the early years of the universe. It is expected to be finished in 2018. Prof.G.C.Anupama of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics said that being a partner would allow India to acquire critical technology that would help it build bigger telescopes at home. Indian scientists would be interested in using the TMT to study the Milky Way galaxy and some of the oldest stars in the universe, she said.

### **Class on the Web is Big Hit**

Thousands of students in Mumbai rush home after school-hours, have a quick bite and then head for their coaching classes, which could be located quite some distance. For many students in the IX to XII standards, it is a hectic schedule, catching buses and trains to reach their special classes on

time. But technology is quietly bringing about much-needed change. E-learning is emerging as a major tool worldwide in imparting virtual education to students, including those sitting for highly-competitive entrance tests. Internationally, Salman Khan, an ex-Boston banker, has transformed the e-learning experience through his hugely popular Khan Academy (Khanacademy.org) website. The US-based Khan, whose not-for-profit venture has won backing and even funding from Bill Gates and Google, is acknowledged to be the guru of e-learning. Every month, more than 3.5 million students around the globe watch his educational videos and access his tutorials on virtually every subject that a school teaches. He has degrees from MIT and Harvard, but chucked his hedge fund job to concentrate full-time on his venture. The growing popularity of tablets in India is expected to give a boost to e-learning. The Indian government recently launched a low-priced tablet, the Akaash, which is being sold at less than ₹3,000. Students can acquire the gadget for a little more than ₹1,000 thanks to a central government subsidy scheme. Of course, for students who can afford to pay modest amounts, there are several other opportunities to access e-learning portals. Chennai-headquartered Everonn, in which Dubai-based Varkey group last month acquired a 12% stake, is now offering its ClassontheWeb portal to students in the Gulf. The company has launched a 'live' class model, removing barriers on the road to the delivery of quality education. It is a teaching methodology where an instructor delivers the lecture from a hi-end studio of Everonn, and the student is able to view, listen and interact with the faculty and fellow students through a computer. The virtual class blends the benefits of instructor-led teaching and that of visually appealing and interactive content available in self-learning.

***Where Love is, there God is also.***

**- Mahatma Gandhi**

### **Overseas Indians to Vote in Indian Elections**

President Pratibha Patil

has said the country would continue supporting overseas Indians and encourage greater exchanges among the communities living abroad. In the present times of economic uncertainty and profound change in the world, the country would actively involve overseas Indians as partners in the development and progress of the nation, she said addressing the valedictory session of the 10th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Jaipur, in the presence of Trinidad & Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad Bissessar and Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs Vayalar Ravi. The President said the overseas Indians were becoming influential in the economic and political fields of the countries of their residence. They could play a key role in taking forward India's interests as well, she added. Bissessar, the chief guest, was the first one to be called out to receive the "Pravasi Bharatiya Samman" award, along with 14 others. Dressed in colourful Rajasthani attire to suit the occasion, she demurely touched the feet of Ms. Patil in true Indian style to make it the high point of the three-day function. Speaking on the occasion, Bissessar said the only passport out of poverty to a better life was education, which was a priority among Indians. She added that the Indian values helped the diaspora during the good and not so good times. "We believe in our potential. We have not allowed anything to put us down," she said about the undying spirit of the Overseas Indian. Referring to the theme, "Global Indians - Inclusive Growth", Minister Ravi said the diaspora could play a very constructive role in the inclusive growth agenda of the Government. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, addressing on the occasion - marking the tenth anniversary of the event, announced that the Government had issued notifications for registration of overseas Indians as the first major step to enable Indians resident abroad to participate in India's election processes, and that the government had decided to introduce and sponsor a new Pension and Life Insurance Fund for overseas Indian workers, to encourage, enable and assist overseas workers to voluntarily save for their return and resettlement and old age. He said, "The 'global Indian' is a symbol of this diversity of our ancient land", and welcomed each one of the overseas Indians to India so as to inspire the people with their creative example. India has one of the largest diasporas in the world, and

it has expatriates in most countries in the world. Post Independence, the Indian diaspora's role changed, they became a pillar supporting their new – but ancient – state from abroad.

### **India Charity Offers Amputees Escape From Poverty Trap**

Losing a limb is traumatic in any circumstances, but it can become a poverty trap for those without access to advanced medical care. The Indian state of Rajasthan is home to one of the world's largest charities devoted to empowering amputees by giving them new prosthetic limbs, and a new life. Two-year-old Vaishnavi's mother loves her very much. She takes good care of her daughter and handles her surprisingly well - considering she has no arms. Sangeeta explains that she lost her arms as a result of electrocution. She and her family have come to this Jaipur facility to receive a set of replacement arms. It is known locally as Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahitya Samiti, but more commonly referred to by its most famous product: "Jaipur Foot." More than one and a quarter million patients have received prosthetic legs, knees, arms, and hands produced by the facility since it was founded in 1975. "Nobody has to write to us," said D.R.Mehta. "They just walk in. Immediately they arrive, they are admitted. They are given food. They are given all facilities, given limbs in two or three days, for no charge at all, and they go back...Losing a limb also meant losing economic status. Seeing them going back and working in the field, working in the factory, it's not merely giving a limb - it's restoring their economic power," he said. "They [the victims] cease to be useful. They lose respect even in the house." Sangeeta understands very well the economic burden a lost limb can put on an entire family. Even patients who could afford other treatment options come to Jaipur Foot because of its reputation for quality. Jaipur Foot receives about a third of its funding directly from the Indian government. The rest comes from corporate and private donors. It operates limb replacement camps in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and many other countries where war and landmines have robbed people of limbs.

### **Four Indian Trains Among World's Best**

The 25 best trains in the world, according to The Society of International Railway Travellers, includes four trains from India. The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR), nicknamed the "Toy Train", is a 2-ft narrow-gauge railway from Siliguri to Darjeeling in West Bengal, run by the Indian Railways. DHR was declared a World Heritage Site by Unesco in 1999, becoming only the second railway in the world to have this honour bestowed upon it. The Palace on Wheels is a luxury tourist train. It was launched by the Indian Railways to promote tourism in Rajasthan, and has been highly popular since its launch. The train service was refurbished and re-launched in August 2009 with a new decor, itinerary and cuisine. The Deccan Odyssey is a special luxury train modelled on the Palace on Wheels to boost tourism on the Konkan route of the Indian Railways. The route starts in Mumbai and travels to Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Goa, Belgaum, Kolhapur, Pune, Nashik, Aurangabad, Ajanta-Ellora and then back to Mumbai. The Maharaja Express is a luxury train operated on the Indian Railways from early 2010. The Maharaja Express trains operate on four itineraries, all of which either begin or end in Delhi and include a visit to the Taj Mahal in Agra. Each morning, the train arrives at a different station for off-rail excursions, including visits to monuments, heritage sites, shopping, palaces, forts, and hotels.

### **Book Fair Celebrates 100 Years of Indian Cinema**

The Feb 25-Mar 4 fair, organised by the India's National Book Trust (NBT) every two years, aims to boost the publishing trade, promote reading and create a new segment of readers for both Indian and foreign books. "Books and Indian cinema have had a long relationship. We want to pay tribute to the legacy of Indian cinema and the close ties it has shared with literature for the last 100 years at the World Book Fair," NBT director M.A.Sikander said. Indian cinema traces its roots to an indigenous 'instruction movie', "The Birth of a Pea Plant", a capsule history of the growth of a pea into a pea laden plant by Dada Saheb Phalke. Eight first-time countries like France, Turkey, Iran, Mexico, Malaysia and Hong Kong are participating in the book fair. "We are expecting a record number of participants," Sikander said. The NBT

Friday unveiled a calendar, 'Literature and Indian Cinema', as a thematic prelude to the book fair with a discussion on the relationship between literature and cinema. The calendar features stills from cinematic milestones adapted from literature by well-known auteurs. All the 300 books published by NBT on cinema will be showcased at the fair. Established in 1957 to make good literature available at moderate prices, NBT is now on an expansion drive. "We have submitted a plan to the government to promote it as a brand like the Frankfurt Book Fair. We want to make the fair an annual event." NBT publishes 1,200 titles, including reprints, every year in 30 languages.

**They said It...**

"India has a very impressive GDP, huge population, fairly educated work force, and for these reasons there is an influx of international investments into the country."

- David T Kong, President & CEO, Best Western International Inc.

***One had better not speak truth if one cannot do so in a gentle way; meaning thereby that there is no truth in a man who cannot control his tongue.***  
 - Mahatma Gandhi

**TRADE ENQUIRIES FROM INDIA**

<b>Company</b>	<b>Interest Areas</b>
<b>VHB MEDISCIENCES LTD.</b> 50-AB, Govt. Industrial Estate, Charkop Naka, Kandivali (West), Mumbai-400067 Tel: (91 22) 41639000, Fax: 41639100, Mob: (91) 9967555161 Contact: Mr.Nilesh J.Doctor, Senior Manager (International) Email: nilesh.doctor@vhbgroup.com, Web: www.vhbgroup.com	Pharmaceuticals of different kinds, specialists in injectables for oncology and hormones
<b>DGM EXPORTS</b> Hariyawala, Kashipur, Udham Singh Nagar-244713 Tel: (91 5947) 270556, Mob: (91) 9634097009 Contact: Mr.Anand Sharma, Deputy General Manager (Exports) Email: pkashipur@yahoo.com, Web: www.pashupatilaminators.com	Recycled polyester staple fibre, PP/HDPE woven sacks and tarpaulins
<b>GPC MEDICAL LTD.</b> M-Block, DDA LSC, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018 Tel: (91 11) 43222600, Fax: 45545172 Contact: Ms.F.Victoria Pandit, Email: globalproducts@bol.net.in Web: www.gpcmedical.com, www.indianorthopaedic.com	Hospital, scientific and laboratory equipments, devices and instruments
<b>HUECHEM TEXTILES PVT. LTD.</b> K.K.Chambers, 3rd Floor, Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas Marg, Fort, Mumbai-400001 Tel: (91 22) 22074266 Fax: 22070159, Mob: (91) 9820711535, Contact: Mr.Vipan Mehra, Director Email: vipan@huechem.net, Web: www.chromozome.net	Cotton garments like briefs, vests, inner tees, knitted and woven boxer shorts, Sportswear and Thermal wear
<b>ALLTEX EXIM PVT. LTD.</b> C 426, International Trade Centre, Majura Gate, Surat-395002 Mob: (91) 9714006444, Skype: rakesh.textile Contact: Mr.Rakesh Dhameliya, Email: cotton@alltexexim.com	All types of yarns - cotton, nylon and polyester

<p><b>NEPTUNE INOX</b> 302, Diamond Trade Centre, 2-3 Diamond Colony, R.S.Bhandari Marg, Indore-452008 Mob: (91) 9926027760 Contact: Mr.Abhijeet Banthia, Email: Neptune.inox@gmail.com</p>	<p>All kinds of Packaging products</p>
<p><b>RADICO KHAITAN LTD.</b> B-1/J, Mohan Coop. Industrial Area, Mathura Road, Delhi-110044 Mob: (91) 9582809690 Contact: Mr.Sunil Agarwal, Senior General Manager Email: sunila@radico.co.in, Web: www.radicokhaitan.com</p>	<p>Alcoholic beverages like Whisky, Vodka, Brandy, Rum, Gin</p>
<p><b>SAGA LABORATORIES</b> Survey No.198/2-3, Chachrawadi, Near Claris Life Science, Changodar, Ahmedabad-382210 Tel: (91 2717) 294272, 294273, 294274, Mob: (91) 9825068830 Contact: Mr.Viranchi Shah Email: viranchi@sagalabs.com, Web: www.sagalabs.com</p>	<p>Pharmaceutical formulations like OSD (oral solid dosages - tablets, capsules and powders)</p>
<p><b>RICH ART AND CRAFT</b> 52/188, Mansarower, Jaipur-302020 Mob: (91) 7737917911, Contact: Ms.Richa Maheshwari Email: richartandcraft@gmail.com, Web: www.richartandcraft.com</p>	<p>Metal, wooden, marble, sandstone, textile handicrafts and leather footwear</p>
<p><b>QUALITY STONE EXPORT</b> Plot No.170, Keshavpura Sector-7, Kota-324009 Tel: (91 744) 2470097, Mob: (91) 9784248778 Contact: Mr.Sunil Bhardwaj, Email: sales@qualitystoneexport.com Web: www.qualitystoneexport.com</p>	<p>Natural Stones like sandstone, granite, marble, slate &amp; limestone, and stone artefacts</p>
<p><b>EVERGREEN EXPORTS</b> 1-B, Parekh Industrial Estate, Parekh Nagar, S.V.Road, Kandivali (West), Mumbai-400067 Tel: (91 22) 28662088, Fax: 28663032 Contact: Ms.Lorraine D'souza, Business Development Manager Email: Lorraine@evergreenspices.com Web: www.evergreenexports.net</p>	<p>Indian spices, pulses, oil seeds, dehydrated products, blended spices, pickles and pastes</p>
<p><b>DAWSON SALES</b> B-36, Industrial Estate, Ludhiana-141003 Tel: (91 161) 2538449, Fax: 2530349, Mob: (91) 9815416900 Contact: Ms.Amrita Email: info@dawsonindia.com, dawsonindia69@gmail.com Web: www.dawsonindia.com</p>	<p>Bicycles, bicycle parts, Scaffoldings &amp; couplers, Jacks, Frames &amp; Props and Automotive parts</p>
<p><b>ESSPEE CLOTHING COMPANY</b> Unit No.10, VTM-2, Mehra Industrial Compound, Andheri Kurla Road, Sakinaka, Mumbai-400072 Tel: (91 22) 28511027, 28562837, Mob: (91) 9820084997 Skype: Samar.Khanna, Contact: Mr.Samar Khanna Email: esspeeclothingco@gmail.com</p>	<p>Textile Fabrics</p>
<p><b>BHARAT INDUSTRIES</b> B-12, Foundry Nagar, Hathras Road, Agra-282006 Tel: (91 562) 2240053-58, Fax: 2240059, Mob: 9897001007 Contact: Mr.Abhishek Jain Email: sales@bharatengine.com, Web: www.bharatengine.com</p>	<p>Diesel engines, Water pumps, Pumping sets and Generating sets</p>

<p><b>MARUTI ENTERPRISE</b> Shed No.18 Part, Lane 4, Phase II, IDA Cherlapally, Hyderabad-500051 Tel: (91 40) 65143625, (91) 9000235059, 9246331177, 9849044869 Contact: Mr.D.Ramu, Managing Director Email: sales@marutienterprise.org, Web: www.marutienterprise.org</p>	<p>DTH Hammers, Bits and other Drilling accessories</p>
<p><b>CONTINENTAL INTERNATIONAL ENTERPRISES INC.</b> 28, World Trade Centre, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai-400005 Contact: Mr. Farhan Siddik, E-mail: apparelbd@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Ceramic tiles, Rice, Jute items, Garments</p>
<p><b>UNITED POLY ENGINEERING PVT. LTD.</b> D-13/3, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-II, New Delhi-110020 Tel: (91 11) 46438888, Fax: 26389947, Mob: (91) 9711555408 Contact: Mr.Lalit Mahendru, Senior Manager, International Marketing E-mail: lalit@unitedpoly.com, Web: www.unitedpoly.com</p>	<p>Stainless steel hollow wares, Hospital plastic ware and furniture</p>
<p><b>VIKNARA EXPORTS</b> No.5/154, Workers Estate, 5th Cross Street, Neelangarai, Chennai-600041 Tel: (91 44) 24492183, Mob: (91) 9841016556, 9176616557 Contact: Mr.Rajeshkumar V.N., Proprietor Email: viknaraexp4u@gmail.com, Web: www.viknara.com</p>	<p>Handicrafts, Honey, Coconut &amp; Coir products, Cashew nuts, Spices and Sportswear</p>

**Trade Fairs & Business Exhibitions in India in March-May 2012**

Event	Organizer	Product Profile
World Book Fair, New Delhi (Feb 25-Mar 4)	National Book Trust, 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
Times Education Boutique 2012 (May 11-13)	Asian Business Exhibitions & Conference Ltd Web:www.timeseducation. org	Education fair

\* With sponsorship.

For more information, contact the Embassy at trade\_eoimex@prodigy.net.mx



Ambassador Jain unfurling the National Tricolour on Republic Day



Ambassador and Mme.Jain with Diputado Porfirio Muñoz Ledo, Ambassador of Algeria, Excmo. Sr.Abdelhamid Abrous, and his wife, Republic Day Reception, India House



Amb.Jain reads out President's Address during Flag Hoisting Ceremony at the Embassy



Sra.Kate Asmara and her students present snippets of Bollywood dance at Republic Day Reception