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## Indian Flute Casts Its Spell in Mexico

Mexican scholar Nathalie Ramirez Tovar gave a captivating *Bansuri* (traditional Indian flute) recital in Mexico City in the evening of June 25. Nathalie, who is studying Hindustani classical vocal music at *Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra* in New Delhi on a scholarship awarded by the Government of India, learned to play the *Bansuri* on her own initiative. The artiste played *raga bhopali* and *raga yaman*, much to the delight of an audience of Mexican enthusiasts of Indian classical music. A *raga* (or *rāga*) is a melodic mode used in Indian classical music. It is a series of five or more musical notes upon which a melody is made. In the Indian musical tradition, ragas are associated with different times of the day, or with seasons. Indian classical music is always set in a raga.

This was followed by an equally captivating *Odissi* recital by Claudia Olivera. The Mexican artiste learnt this Indian classical dance form from the Indian State of Odisha under the tutelage of renowned Odissi exponent Ms. Madhavi Mudgal. Odissi is often described as the epitome of fluid grace, with a distinctively lyrical quality and sensuousness. Her performance was accompanied by a vivid description in Spanish of the verses of a composition from the famous *Gita Govinda* by the famed 11th century Sanskrit poet *Jaidev* and an explanation of *tribhanga* or the three-parts-break, which forms the essence of this dance form.

### **Indian Companies in Mexico: Wipro Technologies**

*by Vicente Salazar-Tilos, Country Head, Mexico*

#### **The Beginning**

Wipro Technologies S.A. de C.V., the Mexican subsidiary of leading Indian information technology (IT) company Wipro Technologies, with headquarters in Bangalore, India opened its doors in Mexico in 2007. It all started with a request from a US semiconductor manufacturer giant, to maintain and test its mobile embedded software in a laboratory based in Mexico in order to leverage Mexico's excellent competitive engineering skills as well as Wipro's proven Product Engineering Services capabilities. Wipro thus decided to establish a 'Tactical Centre' in Monterrey, Nuevo León with the support of Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM). Monterrey was chosen due to its ready talent pool of bilingual engineers, similar time zone, and great proximity to the US.

#### **From Tactical to Strategic**

Client proximity is crucial for a truly global company like Wipro. Monterrey's Tactical Centre soon became one of Wipro's seven 'Strategic Delivery Centres' across the globe, allowing the company to leverage Mexico's nearshore capabilities and be closer to our US clients as well as global and local clients with operations in Mexico. In the last couple of years, the Indian IT services giant also set up Strategic Delivery Centres in Atlanta, Georgia in the US and in Curitiba, Brazil to add more muscle to our client delivery expertise in the Americas.

#### **Spotlight on Latin America**

It is not just a delivery resource anymore. The fast and steady economic growth in Latin America (LATAM) and the tremendous untapped opportunities for IT services has meant that this emerging region has become an important focus market for Wipro. This is evidenced by the recent move by the company to manage LATAM as a separate region. Going forward, Wipro plans to invest heavily in local resources that understand the culture, language and business needs. Wipro in LATAM will target industries like manufacturing, retail, consumer goods, banking & financial Services, and energy & utilities. We are serving these industries through our Integrated Services Portfolio that includes consulting, business applications, product engineering, analytics and information management, business process outsourcing, and technology infrastructure services.

Wipro Mexico will also focus on local clients, leveraging its Strategic Delivery Centre in Monterrey with its talent, capabilities, processes and facilities. The company plans to now have its headquarters in Mexico City, where it will open its new offices soon. Wipro Mexico has also defined a clear strategy on what industries to target with its marquee services that differentiate Wipro globally and locally.

### **Our people connect with Mexico**

Wipro Mexico is here to stay. We have demonstrated our confidence by being part of the State of Nuevo León's dream of shifting from manufacturing to a knowledge-based state. People form an important part of our business. Thus in an endeavour to grow our business here, we will generate more jobs, develop local fresh talent and give opportunities to local seasoned IT professionals across sales and operations management. The company has developed significant relationships with the Mexican government and academic institutions to help facilitate our operational ramp up. Recognizing the need for nurturing talent, Wipro has worked diligently with Universities to promote technology among the student community.

### **The future looks bright!**

### **Sun Pharma to Grow Emerging Market Pie**

For Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, the US is no longer the only land with the Midas touch. The firm, which has had a strong focus on US since a long time, is now increasingly looking at markets including Brazil, Mexico, Russia and South Africa. According to a spokesperson, Sun's business in these markets has grown at a compounded annual rate of about 40% for close to a decade now. In an earlier interview, Sun CEO Kal Sundaram had said markets like Brazil, Russia, Mexico and South Africa will form the crucible of the firm's emerging markets strategy, while the company would also look at increasing focus in countries like Venezuela, Vietnam and Algeria. Presently, apart from India, the US is a key geography for Sun, with about 30% of the firm's \$1.3 b revenues coming from that country. Emerging markets currently contribute to 10% of the firm's topline. Industry experts also say no company planning to grow internationally can ignore emerging markets. According to an analyst, unlike the US and EU, which are growing in single digit ranging between 4-6%, emerging markets are growing at over 20% per year on account of factors including rising disposable income levels and focus on lifestyle disorders. Moreover, margins in emerging markets are mostly in excess of 20% due to the branded generics nature of the business there and the mostly out-of-pocket spending on healthcare. According to PricewaterhouseCoopers, by 2020 when global pharmaceutical sales would touch about \$1.3 trillion, a fifth would come from countries such as Brazil, Russia, India, China, Mexico, Indonesia and Turkey. In 2008, when global sales were around \$773 billion, about 12% was from the emerging countries. To grow rapidly in the emerging or 'pharmerging' markets, Sun would also look for acquisitions, said the spokesperson.

### **iBienvenidos, México! Says 'Incredible India'**

Ms. Annabella Arya, Regional Director, India Tourism, stationed in Los Angeles, accompanied by her Assistant Director Mr. Uttank Joshi, visited Mexico on June 23 and held discussions with representatives of companies engaged in travel and tourism, with a view to promoting tourism between India and Mexico. She also met and discussed with editors and representatives of travel magazines in Mexico further strategies for tourism promotion. India Tourism is widely known by its iconic brand 'Incredible India'.

### **Yoga Reaches Out To More Enthusiasts**

Mr. Syamalaprasad Chintapalli, the Indian yoga instructor at the Gurudev Tagore Indian Cultural Centre in Mexico City, gave a two-hour lecture-cum-demonstration at *Foro el Albergue del Arte*, for Tadeco, an independent theatre group in the borough of Coyoacán, on June 19. It was well received by a group of Mexican youth in the area keen on learning about the ancient Indian discipline of yoga and benefitting from its practice.

### **Mexican Children Initiated Into Kathak**

Ms. Garima Bhargava, who teaches the Indian classical dance form *Kathak* at the Gurudev Tagore Indian Cultural Centre, gave a performance for *Escuela Lomas Altas* under their programme for primary schoolchildren as part of the International Baccalaureate curriculum. Over 250 primary children had occasion to see and experience the intricacies of an oriental classical dance form from India in a programme which seeks to promote respect for other cultures and their values.

### **\$2.1 b Indian Investment For Bolivia**

Indian Steel magnate Naveen Jindal-led Jindal Group has pledged to invest US\$2.1 b over the next eight years in mining and setting up an integrated 1.7 mT (million tones) steel plant, a 6 mT sponge iron plant, a 10 mT iron ore pellet plant, and a 450-MW power plant in the South American nation. Of this, Jindal Steel and Power, a part of the \$15 billion diversified O.P. Jindal Group, plans to invest about \$600 million over the next two years. The steel and power plant will create thousands of jobs and transform the country's economy by accelerating industrialisation and boosting growth. This is the largest investment by an Indian firm in South America. For Bolivia, the \$2.1 billion investment is nearly 12% of its GDP. The sheer vision and size of the projects have made Jindal a household name in Bolivia. "We have already secured land and started work on the project. Ground work is ready and now construction is going on," a company official told the media. The company hopes to start steel production in Bolivia by 2014. In 2007, Naveen Jindal had signed an agreement with the Bolivian government for the development rights for 20 bT (billion tones) of iron ore reserves at Bolivia's El Mutun mine. Jindal steel has become the talk of the town all over Bolivia from El Mutun where the mine is located to Santa Cruz, the provincial capital, and to the national capital La Paz. Jindal's \$2.1 b investment will be the largest foreign infusion ever into Bolivia. In fact, it will be the first steel plant established in the country and will contribute to the industry, economy and export earnings of Bolivia, besides, to the exchequer by way of taxes and royalty. It will provide jobs and training to thousands of Bolivians. Jindal Bolivia, a wholly owned subsidiary of Jindal Steel and Power, plans to export one mT of iron ore concentrate from the El Mutun mine.

***What I have done will endure, and not what I have said and written.***

**- Mahatma Gandhi**

### **On India's Foreign Policy Priorities**

India's Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao articulated the 'Key Priorities for India's Foreign Policy' in an address at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London on June 27. She stressed that the country's foreign policy was an amalgam of its national interests, its conviction that inclusive structures of dialogue and cooperation to address the new dimensions of security threats were necessary, that the institutions of global governance including the United Nations should reflect current realities, and that the dynamism and energy of the Indian economic growth story must be shared with our region, and that to sustain our growth trajectory India needed an environment that is free from transnational threats like terrorism: "As open, pluralistic societies, we understand well that respect for freedom and human rights must inform the emerging world order...In global affairs, India holds as its lodestar the values and the ideals of multilateralism, peaceful coexistence, justice, freedom, equality and fraternity, which are required for an equitable and sustainable world order in the 21st century...[W]e seek to engage the international community in essential reforms of the international governance system so that it's much more tuned into the atmospheric space of the twenty first century...As the country has grown, so also our foreign policy has evolved, innovated and adjusted to changed global circumstances, in accordance with the national interest. A fundamental goal of India's foreign policy is to promote our economic growth targets and ambitions in a conducive and a peaceful, stable, external environment.

India is placed in an extremely complex neighbourhood which has seen rapid and often, turbulent, change in the last thirty years. A peaceful periphery is an irreducible requirement for the success of our efforts to accelerate domestic economic development...[With] China, we have consciously practised a policy of engagement that has yielded positive dividends. Although there is an unresolved boundary question between our two countries which should be settled on mutually acceptable terms, we have not held the rest of the relationship hostage to this complex issue. We have also collaborated usefully on a variety of multilateral issues. With Pakistan, we have consistently made efforts to go back to the negotiating table to solve difficult issues. We have striven to promote better relations with Pakistan. Naturally, such relations can only grow in an atmosphere free of terror and violence. The trajectory of our relationship over the last few decades has been distorted and adversely impacted by the factor of cross-border terrorism. A stable Pakistan which acts as a bulwark against terrorism and extremism is in its own interest and also in the interest of our region...We have articulated a policy in our neighbourhood that emphasises the advantages of building networks of inter-connectivity, trade and investment so that prosperity can be shared and so that the region can benefit from India's rapid economic growth and rising prosperity. We want to create an environment with our neighbours that enables us to work together to fulfill our common objectives of economic development...India's enhanced profile in SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] in recent years is based on an asymmetrical and non-reciprocal approach where we are willing to go the extra mile in order to strengthen regional cooperation. [For instance] We help Afghanistan in its reconstruction efforts with the aim of bringing peace and stability in that country. [In May] our Prime Minister announced an additional assistance of US\$500 million, over and above India's existing commitments of US\$1.5 billion. India's assistance programme is spread across Afghanistan and spans almost the entire gamut of economic and social developmental activities. It places particular emphasis on capacity building and human resource development. Our 'Look East' Policy...[represents] India's vision of the changing dynamics in international relations...[It was meant] to reconnect and reach out [to] our near neighbours in Southeast Asia, and catalyse...the economic well-being of our peoples. Our relationship with ASEAN was the natural pivot in this deepening collaboration... Two decades of India's Look East Policy have, therefore, seen India's quick integration with Southeast & East Asia at the strategic, political, economic, cultural and people-to-people levels."

Rao also stated that India had strongly supported the process of reform and restructuring of the UN to make it better equipped to effectively respond to an era of transformational change in global affairs: "India along with Brazil, Germany and Japan (the G-4 countries) have proposed expansion of the Security Council membership from the current fifteen to twenty-five members, with the addition of six permanent and four non-permanent members. The G-4 efforts have helped launch the text-based inter-governmental negotiations in the UN on the Security Council reform issue in July 2010. This was a significant development after many years of meandering discussion...[S]upport for reform and expansion from member countries is growing in a substantive manner. India joined the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member on 1 January 2011 for a two-year term after winning a record number of votes [and] our focus and effort has been concentrated on the need for resolution of conflict through reasoned negotiation and diplomatic means rather than the use of force. India is [also] one of the oldest, largest and consistent contributors to the UN peacekeeping operations. It is currently the third largest troop contributor."

Pointing out that as the chair of the Security Council's Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC), India remained committed to taking global counter-terrorism efforts forward, Rao observed, "We also consider the 1267 regime against Al Qaeda and Taliban as a core instrument...in our fight against terrorism. The challenge before the 1267 regime is to ensure complete commitment to eliminating the scourge of terrorism, and to resist the dilution of such efforts for reasons that may seem compelling today but may not withstand the test of ground realities. Adoption of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism...is a key

objective for us. We feel that with some modifications, the text currently being discussed in the [relevant UN] Working Group could find acceptability with the majority of Member States. India has [also] committed its full support to international anti-piracy efforts. An Indian naval ship deployed in the Gulf of Aden has successfully thwarted several piracy attempts and provided security escort to several merchant ships in these waters...The Indian Navy also coordinates and shares operational information with other Navies...India has welcomed efforts for countering piracy by the enhancement of regional cooperation and capacity building of littoral states..."

On nuclear disarmament and related issues, the Foreign Secretary observed, "India remains steadfast in its commitment to the goal of global, universal and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament, as outlined in the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan. We believe that nuclear disarmament can be achieved by a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework for achieving global, non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament in a verifiable manner. India is willing to engage in a meaningful dialogue among all states possessing nuclear weapons to build trust and confidence and reduce the salience of nuclear weapons in international affairs and security doctrines. India supports negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament towards a universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable FMCT that bans the future production of fissile materials for weapons purposes...Over the recent years, our Civil Nuclear Initiative has resulted in international civil nuclear energy cooperation with various international partners, including the US, France, UK, Russia, Canada, etc. This has reflected recognition of India's impeccable non-proliferation record and its contributions to global non-proliferation objectives. We have in place strict and effective controls over the export of sensitive items in line with the best international standards."

Climate change was, as Rao explained, an extraordinary global challenge facing humanity today and required an urgent, collective and coordinated global response. She said, "For the developing countries, the issue of climate change goes beyond environmental sustainability and directly impacts on their developmental aspirations. The global effort to address climate change must be anchored to the basic principles of 'equity' and 'common but differentiated responsibility (CBDR) and respective capabilities.' Equitable burden sharing that provides for an equal sharing of the resource of the atmosphere for all human beings is a natural expectation we have from the on-going negotiations. Talks in Bangkok and Bonn this year have shown that for a successful outcome at COP-17 in Durban, it would be important to maintain a balance between the operationalization of Cancun decisions and working on the unresolved issues under the Bali Action Plan. This, and urgent implementation of commitments by Annex-I parties for a 2nd Commitment Period under the Kyoto Protocol would be the key to a comprehensive, ambitious and balanced outcome in Durban. For a country like India, with one of the smallest carbon foot-prints in the world, the first and overriding priority is to pursue economic development, to alleviate poverty and to address our severe energy deficit. Half a billion people in India still need to be given access to commercial energy. Any international agreement will, therefore, have to be sensitive to the enormous challenges we face in bringing the benefits of growth to the poorer sections of our population."

### **India Gives: Source Rather Than Recipient of Foreign Aid**

Writing for the media, Mr. Shashi Tharoor, Member of Parliament, former UN Under Secretary General, and former Minister of State for External Affairs, has observed that the recent India-Africa Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at which India's government pledged \$5 b in aid to African countries, drew attention to a largely overlooked phenomenon - India's emergence as a source, rather than a recipient, of foreign aid. For decades after independence - when Britain left the subcontinent one of the poorest and most ravaged regions on earth, with an effective growth rate of 0% over the preceding two centuries - India was seen as an impoverished land of destitute people, desperately in need of international handouts. Many developed countries showcased their aid to India; Norway, for example, established in 1959 its first-ever aid program there. But, with the liberalisation of

the Indian economy in 1991, the country embarked upon a period of rapid growth, averaging nearly 8% each year since then. During this time, India weaned itself from dependence on aid, preferring to borrow from multilateral lenders and, increasingly, from commercial banks. Most foreign aid programs - with the sole exception of Britain's - have dwindled or been eliminated altogether. Today, the proverbial shoe is on the other foot. Long known for its rhetorical faith in South-South cooperation, India has begun putting its money where only its mouth used to be. It has now emerged as a significant donor to developing countries in Africa and Asia, second only to China in the range and quantity of development assistance given by countries of the global south.

The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Program (ITEC) was established in 1964, but now has real money to offer, in addition to training facilities and technological know-how. Nationals from 156 countries have benefited from ITEC grants, which have brought developing country students to Indian universities for courses in everything from software development to animal husbandry. In addition, India has built factories, hospitals, and parliaments in various countries, and sent doctors, teachers, and IT professionals to treat and train the nationals of recipient countries. Concessional loans at trifling interest rates (between 0.25-0.75%, well below the cost of servicing the loans) are also extended as lines of credit, tied mainly to the purchase of Indian goods and services, and countries in Africa have been clamouring for them. In Asia, India remains by far the largest single donor to its neighbor Bhutan, as well as a generous aid donor to Nepal, the Maldives, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka as it recovers from civil war.

Given Afghanistan's vital importance for the security of the subcontinent, India's assistance program there already amounts to more than \$1.2 b - modest from the standpoint of Afghan needs, but large for a non-traditional donor - and it is set to rise further. India's efforts in Afghanistan have focused on humanitarian infrastructure, social projects, and development of skills and capacity. Five Indian medical missions provide treatment and free medicines to more than 1,000 patients a day, most of them poor women and children. The Indian-built Indira Gandhi Centre for Child Health in Kabul is connected through a telemedicine link with two specialty medical centres in India. A million tonnes of Indian food assistance provides 100 grams of high-protein biscuits to two million of Afghanistan's six million schoolchildren, a third of whom are girls. Indian engineers, braving attacks that claimed several lives, built a 218-km highway from Zaranj to Delaram in southwest Afghanistan, opening a trade route to the Iranian border. Indians braved the 3,000-m heights to run a power-transmission line from Pul-e-Khumri to Kabul - giving round-the-clock electricity to the capital for the first time since 1982. India is currently engaged in building the Afghan Parliament building, a visible and evocative symbol of democracy. India has also commissioned 100 small development projects (mainly quick-gestation, small-scale social-sector projects), and pledged further funds for education, health, power, and telecommunications. Of course, some in Pakistan see nefarious designs behind this assistance, but the ultimate objective is straightforward: to build indigenous Afghan capabilities for effective governance, reflecting India's commitment to regional stability in the face of terror and violence.

In Africa, India's strength as an aid provider is that it is not an over-developed power, but rather one whose own experience of development challenges is both recent and familiar. African countries, for example, look at China and the United States with a certain awe, but do not, for a moment, believe that they can become like either of them. India, by contrast, comes across as a land that has faced, and is still surmounting, problems rather like those confronting its beneficiaries. If India can do it, many Africans reason, perhaps we can learn from them. Moreover, India does not descend on other countries with a heavy governmental footprint. India's private sector is a far more important player, and the government often confines itself to opening doors and letting African countries work with the most efficient Indian provider that they can find. Similarly, Indian employers do not come into a foreign country with an overwhelming labour force that lives in ghettos, or impose their ways of doing things on aid recipients. Instead, they recruit, hire, and train local workers and

foremen, and leave behind enhanced capacities. Indian businesses have consequently faced no negative reaction in the past two decades. Indeed, Uganda, where Idi Amin expelled Indian settlers in 1972, has been actively wooing them back under President Yoweri Museveni. Finally, India accommodates itself to aid recipients' desires, advancing funds to African regional banks or the New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). Its focus on capacity development, its accessibility, and its long record of support for developing countries have made India an increasingly welcome donor. This could not have been imagined even 20 years ago, and it is one of the best consequences of India's emergence as a global economic power.

### **India to be a Success Story of Our Time: US**

India, fuelled by a young, dynamic and educated population, is all set to be a success story of "our time", a top Obama Administration official has said. Noting that the country was on track to have the largest economy by 2050, US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Robert Blake said, "India is a rising giant whose influence is being felt not only in the Indian Ocean, but in the Americas, in Africa, the Middle East, and in Central Asia...Its rise – fuelled by a young, optimistic, dynamic, educated population – will be one of the great stories of our time," Blake said in his remarks at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington-based think tank. "Our strategic relationship can make the world more secure and democratic, while our commercial partnerships can produce novel products that meet the needs of the 21st century consumer and create millions of new jobs in each of our countries," he said. "Our people, our businesses, our diverse, intertwined knowledge-based societies will support the next chapter of the US-India partnership." Blake said the global strategic partnership between the United States and India is founded on shared values and exceptional people-to-people ties. "But we must remember that this is a long-term project. Neither country can take the relationship for granted. We need to work together to ensure that the spirit of President Obama and Prime Minister Singh's November 2009 summit is carried forward through concrete steps...Such achievements will build the political support in Washington and Delhi, as well as Mumbai and Manhattan, to think more ambitiously about what we can achieve, and where our partnership will go in the rest of the 21st century". Blake said the ties between the two countries are poised to expand more in coming months. Recognizing India's regional and global leadership, Blake said Prime Minister Singh's recent visit to Kabul underscored India's strong initiative to support international efforts to rebuild a secure, stable Afghanistan. "The Prime Minister likewise has also shown leadership and courage in advancing the current thaw in India-Pakistan relations. Following the cricket diplomacy launched by Prime Ministers from both sides, the Commerce Secretaries of the two countries met last month in Islamabad and announced ambitious commitments to enhance trade and commercial ties," he said. "India's economic rise presents a huge opportunity for Pakistan. A bilateral breakthrough could provide a catalyst for wider regional economic integration in the South and Central Asian region...But India's efforts to make the world more safe and secure do not end at its regional borders. Prime Minister Singh undertook a momentous trip to Africa, where he pledged over \$5 b in development deals and encouraged counterterrorism cooperation...The India model for encouraging growth in Africa is very impressive," he added.

### **US-India-Japan to Promote Trilateral Dialogue**

Describing India as "a strong and enduring" Asia-Pacific partner, the US and Japan have said they would promote a trilateral dialogue with it to improve regional cooperation, while building trust with China. "(We) welcome India as a strong and enduring Asia-Pacific partner and encourage India's growing engagement with the region and participation in regional architectures," said a joint statement issued at the conclusion of the US-Japan Security Consultative Committee meeting in Washington. It said they would "promote trilateral dialogue among the United States, Japan, and India." US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told reporters at the end of the meeting, "We talked about our efforts to improve regional cooperation in a variety of multilateral forums and through a trilateral dialogue with India". The proposed trilateral dialogue involving India, Japan and the US would begin at the



Assistant Secretary level and it would help align policies of the three countries in the Asia-Pacific region, a senior American official said later. "We welcome India's role as a vibrant, strong player in all aspects of Asian Pacific life - economic, commercial, strategic, and the like," he said.

### **Call for Dialogue for Nuclear-Free World**

Prime Minister

Dr. Manmohan Singh has stressed the need for a meaningful dialogue among all nations possessing nuclear weapons to build trust and confidence. Measures to reduce nuclear dangers arising from accidental or unauthorized use of nuclear weapons, increasing restraints on the use of nuclear weapons and de-alerting of nuclear weapons are essential steps, he added, in his message to the participants of the Global Zero Summit and extended his support for the endeavours for a world free of nuclear weapons. The goal of nuclear disarmament can be achieved by a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework that is global and non-discriminatory. Progressive steps are needed for the de-legitimization of nuclear weapons," PM Singh said in his message. Referring to the initiative taken by former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi for a world free of nuclear weapons, Prime Minister Singh said, India has been steadfast in its support for global, non-discriminatory, verifiable nuclear disarmament. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi presented a visionary Action Plan for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free and Non-Violent World Order. This Action Plan sets out a roadmap for achieving nuclear disarmament in a time-bound, universal, non-discriminatory, phased and verifiable manner, the message noted, and that the Global Zero Action Plan is based on similar principle and like India, it has supported the global elimination of nuclear weapons in a time-bound framework. PM Singh said that the campaign for a nuclear weapon free world could be taken forward by forging a renewed consensus on non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. Public awareness and support is vital to generate and sustain an irreversible momentum until we reach our cherished goal of a world without nuclear weapons, he said, adding that transforming this vision into reality is a task worthy of the distinguished participants of the Global Zero Campaign.

### **India-Pak Talks—The Shadow Of The Gun Must End**

Under the resumed dialogue process, the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan, Mrs. Nirupama Rao and Mr. Salman Bashir, met in Islamabad, from June 23-24, for bilateral talks on peace and security including mutual confidence building measures, Jammu & Kashmir, promotion of friendly exchanges, and on a wide range of issues. Addressing a joint press conference, Rao said that "...in the discussions we were guided by the vision of our two Prime Ministers to build trust and confidence by discussing various issues in an open and constructive spirit and in a forward looking manner. We have been fully conscious of the complexities of our relationship and the consequent need to take incremental steps to promote mutual confidence and understanding. In doing this, we are inspired by our goal of the eventual normalization of the India-Pakistan relationship and the resolution of outstanding issues through peaceful, serious and sustained, bilateral dialogue. The shadow of the gun and the violence it has unleashed has caused untold sufferings on our people in these years past. This needs to end. The ideology of military conflict should have no place in the paradigm of our relationship of the 21st century. Instead, this relationship should be characterized by the vocabulary of peace, all round co-operation in the interest of our people, growing trade and economic interaction, as well as, people to people contacts – and all this, let me emphasize, in an atmosphere free of terror and violence. According to media reports, Rao raised with the Bashir the issue of the alleged links of Pakistan's spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) with the Mumbai terror attack, and pressed Pakistan for a "satisfactory closure" of the 26/11 trial. Describing justice for the Mumbai terror attack victims, which were masterminded and executed by Pakistani terrorists, as a "critical issue", Rao said that India wanted "a satisfactory closure" of the 26/11 trial and stressed that it was imperative for the "normalisation of relations". She also took up the issue of the alleged links of ISI to the Mumbai terror attacks and pointed to the disclosures made by David

Coleman Headley, Pakistani-American Lashkar e-Taiba (LeT) operative, linking the ISI to 26/11.

"The talks we have held this time were not an event in isolation, but part of a dialogue process, which aims at building greater trust between us. We also took this opportunity to exchange views on preparations for the meeting of our Ministers of External/Foreign Affairs in New Delhi next month. This has been a positive meeting, and I thank Foreign Secretary Bashir and his colleagues for what has been a constructive and substantive discussion." In the Joint Statement issued at the conclusion of the talks, the two sides said, "The talks were held in a frank and cordial atmosphere. Both sides reiterated their intention to carry forward the dialogue process in a constructive and purposeful manner. The issues of Peace and Security, including CBMs [confidence building measure], were discussed in a comprehensive manner. Both sides emphasized the importance of constructive dialogue to promote mutual understanding. They noted the ongoing implementation of various Nuclear and Conventional CBMs...noted that both countries recognize that terrorism poses a continuing threat to peace and security and they reiterated the firm and undiluted commitment of the two countries to fight and eliminate this scourge in all its forms and manifestations. They agreed on the need to strengthen cooperation on counter-terrorism...exchanged views on the issue of Jammu & Kashmir and agreed to continue discussions in a purposeful and forward looking manner with the view to finding a peaceful solution by narrowing divergences and building convergences. Both sides agreed to convene a meeting of the Working Group on Cross-LoC [Line of Control] CBMs to recommend measures for strengthening and streamlining the existing trade and travel arrangements across the LoC and propose modalities for introducing additional Cross-LoC CBMs...agreed to the need for promoting friendly exchanges between the two countries...discussed measures for promoting cooperation in various fields including, facilitating visits to religious shrines, media exchanges, holding of sports tournaments and cessation of hostile propaganda against each other..." Earlier, on her arrival in Islamabad, Rao said that she brought with her the best wishes of the people and Government of India for the people and Government of Pakistan, and India wishes to see a stable, peaceful and prosperous Pakistan. "I have come to Pakistan with an open mind and a constructive spirit in order to work towards building trust and confidence in our relationship and thereby leading to an eventual normalization of relations for the well being and prosperity of our two peoples."

### **Pak Views Indo-US Ties as Zero-Sum Game**

Every time the US tries to improve its ties with India, it creates a lot of "cognitive dissonance" in Pakistan where the Indo-American relations have become a zero-sum game, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has said. Whenever, "we make a move towards improving our relationship with India, which we started...in the '90s, and it's been bipartisan, with all Presidents Clinton, Obama and (George W) Bush, the Pakistanis find that creates a lot of cognitive dissonance," she said. "So are you our friend or their friend? It's all a zero-sum game to them," she said during a hearing on Pakistan at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Clinton also said she was encouraged by the resumption of talks between India and Pakistan. At the same time, she expressed support to India's stand that Pakistan needs to prevent the use of its territory against India, conceding this is one of the greatest impediments to peace talks between the two countries. "With respect to India, we are working very hard on our strategic partnership," Clinton said in response to a question. "I think it's fair to say that, you know, India looks at Pakistan and, believes that their continuing support for elements of insurgency against India in Kashmir and across the border into India proper makes it very difficult for them to know what path to choose," Clinton said. In a blunt message to Pakistan, she also said that the US will never tolerate a safe haven for those who kill Americans and it wants Islamabad to take concrete actions in the war against terrorism. "The United States has clear expectations for this relationship. And as President Obama said, US will never tolerate a safe haven for those who kill Americans...We are looking to Pakistan to take concrete actions on the goals we share: defeating violent extremism, which has also taken so many innocent Pakistani lives; ending

the conflict in Afghanistan and securing a stable, democratic, prosperous future," Clinton said, adding the US believes that no senior Pakistani officials knew of Osama bin Laden's presence, but it is possible that bin Laden was protected with a "wink and a nod" by lower-level officials.

### **India at Asia-Europe Forum**

Addressing the ASEM Foreign Ministers' meeting, at Godollo in Hungary, on June 6, External Affairs Minister, Mr.S.M.Krishna noted that ASEM has emerged as an important partnership forum for Asian and European countries, to consult and coordinate positions, on a vast array of subjects of common interest and concern. On UN reforms, he said that "the United Nations is the central pillar of global governance. It is critical that its organs constantly ensure its principal importance, relevance and legitimacy in the international community. The General Assembly today requires serious revitalization so that it actually plays its role as the chief deliberative and policy making body of the United Nations. It must also reclaim its place in taking the most important of administrative decisions in the United Nations. This is critical so that all 192 member-states have a full sense of participation in the United Nations and believe that their voice has impact. The structure of the Security Council continues to reflect post Second World War and not contemporary realities. This detracts severely from its legitimacy. It also does not allow it to harness the benefits from the shifts in the global power balance in the last sixty-five years. Security Council reform has been on the UN's agenda for nearly two decades. Much of this time was spent in an endless open ended working group. However, the text based inter-governmental negotiations, that started last year, have now brought us to a turning point where we can move things forward with real negotiations on Council reform. An overwhelming majority of UN member-states have repeatedly expressed themselves in favour of expansion of the Security Council in both its permanent and non-permanent categories and an improvement in its working methods. It is imperative that all the countries of Asia and Europe solidly support an expansion in both categories and collectively push for real reform of the Security Council. The time for this reform has not only come, it is imperative that we brook no delay as that will only be at the expense of the United Nations, which is not in the interest of any of us, individually or collectively." On non-traditional security threats, he said that "Non-traditional security threats such as terrorism, piracy, illegal drug and arms trafficking, threat of terrorists gaining access to WMDs pose serious challenges to peace and security not only in Asia and Europe but also globally. These challenges can only be addressed through collective effort by the international community. We believe that different multilateral processes...should consolidate international efforts to address these threats. Terrorism is a truly trans-national menace. Recruiting, planning, financing and training for terror operations can all be done outside the borders of the country which is attacked. Sanctuaries for terror infrastructure outside of our national borders are a continuing concern. Political expediency, short-term gains, geo-political considerations, faulty analyses, etc. blur clarity on how to address the menace of international terrorism. All terror is unacceptable and has to be tackled comprehensively. A selective approach will not work. Over the past couple of years, we have seen greater understanding amongst the members of the international community that segmented approaches to the problem of terrorism have not worked; nor has the approach of differentiating between lesser and greater evils in this context. There has to be an international collaboration in the sharing of information, countering the financing of terrorism, building capacity in our anti-terror mechanisms, exchange of best practices and strengthening our mutual legal assistance and extradition regimes. We piloted the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism at the UN because we were convinced that existing sectoral conventions left wide gaps in the global anti-terror legal framework. We urge early adoption of this overdue Convention. India is party to all the existing international Conventions on Terrorism. In 2010, we became members of the Financial Action Task Force, the world's premier inter-governmental organisation to monitor standards in anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism...We are fully committed to implementing the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy of 2006...India has deep concerns about the nexus between fundamentalism, terrorism and weapons of mass

destruction...The maritime security environment in the Indian Ocean region continues to be fragile. Non-state threats to maritime security are also on the rise from piracy, smuggling, international terrorism, transnational crimes, drug-trafficking, maritime security and proliferation of sensitive items...Maritime security can be enhanced by transparency, dialogue and cooperation to augment confidence for coordinated response to non-traditional maritime security threats...India is committed to international efforts against piracy. As a founder member of the Contact Group on Piracy, we have contributed to its efforts to counter piracy. Our naval ships deployed in the Gulf of Aden since October 2008 have successfully thwarted several piracy attempts and provided security escort to Indian and foreign merchant ships. Indian naval forces have also stepped up their vigil against pirates near our coast. They have apprehended several pirates and rescued hostages being held by them..."

And, lastly on Afghanistan, "The situation in Afghanistan has a particular impact on the countries of the region such as ours. Past experience has shown, however, that no country, however distant, can stay immune from the challenge posed by terrorist groups and the safe havens that they enjoy. It is imperative for the international community to underline its long-term commitment to Afghanistan, as well as the importance of safeguarding the gains made in areas such as democracy and human rights. The Kabul Conference *Communiqué* rightly notes the importance of ensuring that terrorists are denied sanctuaries. Continued existence of such sanctuaries beyond Afghanistan's borders is a major impediment to restoration of peace and stability in Afghanistan. India has attempted to help Afghanistan in its reconstruction efforts as a means to bringing about stability in that country...India announced additional assistance of US\$500 million, over and above our existing commitments which are almost 1.5 billion US Dollars. India's assistance projects are spread across Afghanistan and span almost the entire gamut of economic and social developmental activities. India's assistance programme - which is Afghan owned and led - places particular emphasis on capacity building and human resource development, areas which are particularly important as the process of transition unfolds in Afghanistan. Our vision is for Afghanistan to be a stable and peaceful economic hub linking Central and South Asia through a network of trade, transit and pipelines, for the ultimate benefit of all the countries and peoples in the region. We do not see assistance to Afghanistan's development and reconstruction as a zero sum game..." At the end of the meeting, in his remarks, EAM said that there is need for stronger economic cooperation amongst Asian and European countries. There is also the question of making the global framework for economic governance more effective. The participation of emerging market economies as equal partners alongside developed countries remains critical to this.

And India has agreed to the suggestion of the ASEM Members to host the 11th Meeting of the ASEM Foreign Ministers in 2013.

### **Bangladesh Expresses Deep Gratitude for India's Role**

Bangladesh

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has expressed deep gratitude to India for its key role in the country's 1971 'Liberation War' during a meeting with visiting Indian Army Chief General V K Singh. Singh, who was on a 5-day official visit to Bangladesh in June, called on Hasina at her official residence. The Awami League leader recalled with deep gratitude the active cooperation of the Indian government, people and military during the 1971 Liberation War. Hasina, who mentioned the special sacrifice made by the Indian army, said such visits would help strengthen bilateral ties. Singh, who took part in the 1971 Indo-Pak war that led to the creation of Bangladesh, presented the prime minister some rare photographs from the historic visit of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to India and events related to the country's independence war. Singh, who was in Dhaka at the invitation of his Bangladeshi counterpart, was also the chief guest at the passing-out parade at Bangladesh Military Academy on June 22 in southeastern port city of Chittagong. "This is an honour the Bangladesh army is offering to the visiting Indian army chief and 1971 war veteran, General Vijay Kumar Singh, who also fought for our independence, while India showed the same gesture when our then army chief General Mohammad Mustafizur Rahman visited India 13

years ago," an army spokesman said. In 1998, the Indian army had invited Rahman, a 1971 war veteran and a gallantry award winner, to review the passing-out parade at the Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun.

***Sacrifice without renunciation cannot endure. You should only give up things for which you no longer feel attachment.***  
- Mahatma Gandhi

### **India on Path for Next Round of Growth**

As defence minister, he inked a game-changing defence pact with the US; as foreign minister, he signed the historic India-US civil nuclear deal; and now as finance minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee is all set to put India and the US on the path of a "strategic economic" relationship. This strategic economic relationship would not be of competition, unlike that with other countries, but is expected to be complementing the growth and development of each other. Mukherjee, who was in Washington, D.C. to attend the second annual meeting of the India-US economic and financial partnership, is all set to lay the groundwork for a new era of trade and economic partnership with the US. Though no formal agreements or MOUs were signed during the day-long talks, the talks succeeded in giving an impetus to the rapidly expanding financial and economic engagement between the two countries. This was the first time that an Indian finance minister was travelling to the US with half a dozen top officials—governor of the Reserve Bank of India D. Subbarao, secretary of economic affairs R. Gopalan, secretary of financial services Shashikant Sharma, chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India U.K. Sinha, chairman of the Forward Market Commission B.C. Khatua, and chief economic advisor Kaushik Basu. The Obama administration too lined up its top financial and economic officials. Led by treasury secretary Timothy Geithner, who spent most part of the first 20 years of his life in India, the other top US officials to attend the second annual US-India economic and financial partnership include federal reserve chairman Ben Bernanke, Securities and Exchange Commission chairman Mary Schapiro, US Commodity and Futures Trading Commission chairman Gary Gensler, Federal Deposit Insurance Commission vice-chairman Gruenberg, and National Economic Council director Gene Sperling. "The comprehensive inter-agency representation on both sides makes this the highest-level economic meeting ever between our two nations, demonstrating the vision and commitment in both countries for ever-deepening economic partnership," a senior treasury official said. Ahead of the talks, Geithner and Mukherjee made a joint appearance at a panel discussion organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Brookings Institute. Geithner said the growth of India was not posing any danger to the United States. In fact it complements the growth and economic development of the US. Geithner later hosted a dinner for Mukherjee, which was attended by officials from both sides. "One of the fundamentals principles of our relationship is that we share many common values," Mukherjee said at the CII-Brookings panel discussion.

### **India's Exports at All-time High**

India's exports surged to all-time monthly high of \$25.9 b in May, registering a growth of 56.9% year-on-year on the back of a sharp jump in the exports of engineering, electronics and petroleum products, Commerce Secretary Rahul Khullar said. Exports in the first two months of the current fiscal grew 45.3% to \$49.8 b, while imports during the April-May period jumped 33.3% to \$73.7 b, and in May alone \$40.9 b. The trade deficit has widened due to the increase in global crude oil prices. 'The good news is that our export is at an all time high. At the same time, we are concerned about the surge in imports. In the last couple of months, imports have surged suddenly,' Khullar said. In the first two months of the current fiscal, exports of engineering products jumped 115% to \$14.7 b. Exports of gems and jewellery rose 23% to \$5.7 b; petroleum and oil products rose 64% to \$8.8 b; cotton yarn and made-ups 10.4 % to \$1.04 b; electronics, 80% to \$1.83 b and marine products 15.8% to \$0.4 b. Imports of petroleum products increased 12.9% to \$20.3 b in April-May period. Imports of pearls and precious stones increased 24.6% to \$5.2 b; gold and silver 222% to \$13.5 b, and machinery 46.7% to \$5.9 b.

### **Indians Most Upbeat on Economy, Personal Finances**

India has emerged as the most optimistic housing market in the world, as Indian homebuyers are upbeat about the country's economy as well as their personal finances, says a study by a global mortgage insurer. According to a survey by Genworth Financial Inc, 64% of surveyed respondents in India felt positive about the outlook for their national economy over the next 12 months compared to just 30% across all surveyed countries. Respondents in India, Mexico, Canada and Australia were the most positive about their countries' economies, while the US, Ireland, the UK were least confident. Explaining the factors behind the high optimism of Indian and Mexican home-buyers the study said cultural factors have a large affect on home-buyers. Potential home-buyers in India and Mexico save by living with their parents and extended family. Over 80% of potential home-buyers in these countries were living with at least one other generation, and over 30% were living with at least two other generations, the study said. By living at home, potential home-buyers are able to reduce their living expenses, unlike in countries like Canada, the US and UK, where half of all respondents were living away from the family home, paying rent and incurring living costs. Meanwhile, the study, which covered over 9,000 potential homeowners in the US, UK, Canada, India, Ireland, Italy, Mexico and Australia, further said that "over the last 40 years, the average age of homebuyers has been rising in all countries except for India, as housing has become increasingly unaffordable".

### **India Plans Record Road Network Expansion**

India will award a record 7,300 km of road building contracts this year worth about \$12 billion, as a huge privatisation drive makes developers more willing to take on projects and foreign funds eager to invest, a top official at the National Highways Authority of India has said. The new contracts will help India meet its target of building 20 km of roads per day as part of a massive overhaul of its infrastructure sector, boosting the country's economic growth, said J.N.Singh, Member (Finance), National Highway Authority of India (NHAI). "Compared to the last 4-5 years, the sector has substantially matured," he added. "Whichever side of India you go, you will see road building at a very hectic pace going on right now." Overseas private funds such as the UK-based 3i and Morgan Stanley are showing a greater appetite for investing in projects while domestic constructors are getting more and more capable of taking on big projects, he said. Investments in India's road-building with the NHAI will rise about 40% to \$10 b in this fiscal year compared to the last, Singh said, of which about 60% will come from private funds. Government of India has a target to invest \$1.5 trillion into infrastructure in the 10 years to 2017 to help unclog its congested roads and ports, and build world class airports and underground metros. "The development community has reached a good amount of maturity," Singh said. "The smaller players are becoming middle sized players, and the middle sized players are willing to take a big role. We are seeing a good number of players having gotten an equity contribution from private equity players as well as venture funds...Investor friendly reforms also helped attract cash...For example, the government recently tweaked building contract rules to give more flexibility to companies wishing to sell their project to another developer". India built about 1,800 km of roads of roads in the fiscal year 2010/11, about five km a day, a knock-on effect of the global financial crisis, Singh said, but now India will build at 20 km a day by 2014. India's road network is the world's second largest.

### **India to be 3rd Largest Auto Market**

India, the world's sixth largest auto market, is poised to become the third-largest for auto sales by 2020, after China and USA, said JD Power and Associates who track the auto industry. Auto sales are expected to reach about 11 million in India in about a decade. China is expected to see 35 m light vehicle sales then and USA 17.4 m. Nearly 80% of all passenger vehicles sold in India were mini-cars or subcompact passenger cars last year.

### **Investors Keen to Be Part of India's Green Growth**

India has made it into the A-list of global investors in renewable energy, a recognition of the country's proactive government energy program, natural resources and mushrooming swathe of entrepreneurs. India ranked as the third favoured destination with 35% of the

respondents saying they would invest in India, behind the US, which was targeted by 53% of the respondents, and China (38%), according to a report, called Green Power 2011: The KPMG Renewable Energy M&A Report," released by KPMG that is based on a survey of 500 executives active in the renewable energy arena globally. For instance, India's wind-energy companies, which are in the midst of a hectic pace of development, have attracted more than US\$586 m of project financing this quarter. This already is 63% of the \$934 m raised in all of 2010. "The Indian market has become increasingly dynamic in recent years as a result of strong natural resources, greater accommodation to international investment compared with China and a variety of government incentives," the report said. While Indian banks continue to be the main source of funding, international lenders are taking note. HSBC and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. provided \$110 m debt project financing in March for a wind farm in the western state of Gujarat. The pace of growth and investments in India is part of a worldwide trend. Deal activity among renewable energy companies globally surged 70% in 2010, and continues to maintain this hectic clip in the first quarter, according to the report. The survey data also revealed that investors preferred to invest locally rather than across borders. But nearly 60% of Asia-Pacific acquirers said they are targeting India or China. India also features as one of the top three destinations for solar energy companies along with the US and Italy. "With India it is a combination of factors," said Siobhan Smyth, head of renewables at HSBC, who was interviewed as part of the survey.

German engineering giant Siemens counts among those gung-ho about India's green growth prospects. In the words of Peter Loescher, Global CEO of Siemens, "With an annual growth of 6%, India will be one of the biggest markets for wind energy by 2020. We will be investing €70 million [\$102 m] until 2012 to build a wind turbine factory for the Indian market, in Gujarat. Clean energy protects the climate and improves the people's quality of life. Already today, environmental pollution is responsible for a fourth of all illnesses worldwide. Another solution is a hybrid bus...It reduces energy costs and carbon dioxide emissions by up to 30% and contributes to clean air. That is good for Siemens but also good for the customer, the environment and the people."

For instance, Birla Surya Ltd, a part of the Yash Birla Group, is set to invest \$1.2 b over five years to set up an integrated manufacturing facility in Satara District in Maharashtra for 60 MWp (Megawatt Peak) of multi-crystalline solar photovoltaic cells and fabrication of 125 MWp multi-crystalline silicon wafers using solar grade silicon. Giving an overview of the solar industry, Mr.Yashovardhan Birla, Chairman, said, "India is among the top five countries globally in terms of renewable energy capacity with an installed base of over 19,000 MW of grid interactive renewable power – around 11 per cent of our total installed capacity. Also, it adds about 2,500 MW of renewable power annually. It recently launched the ambitious National Solar Mission with a target capacity of 20 GW by 2022." In another development, Kolkata headquartered Techno Electric and Engineering Company Ltd, which provides engineering, procurement and construction services, announced financial closure of a \$133.33 m 100 MW wind power project in Tamil Nadu, taken up through its subsidiary Simran Wind Project Pvt. Ltd., and which is set to be fully commissioned in mid-July.

### **India Electronics Industry To Exceed \$150b**

A study by the Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has estimated the size of the electronics industry in India would exceed \$150 billion by 2015. Exports of electronic goods are expected to touch \$15 billion by 2013-14, said a news release from Exim Bank, quoting an estimate by India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The share of electronics production in India's GDP has increased from 1.6% in 2001-02 to 1.95% in 2009-2010. This has been due to the high rate of growth of the Indian economy, increasing disposable income and demand from the youth market. In order to grow, this industry needs to design and manufacture "global" products to suit both domestic and global markets. Companies too need to invent mass products and price them in such a way that they reach the rural areas of the country.

### **India IT Sector On High Growth Trajectory**

India's domestic IT and IT enabled services (ITeS) and technology products' markets are expected to swell to

US\$38.7 b in 2012, up 17.4% from 2011. According to latest projections by in a survey by research and advisory firm CyberMedia Research, the aggregate market size of domestic IT services and products sector is likely to touch \$52.7 b by 2014, growing 17.3% between 2010 and 2014. "A large chunk of IT hardware and software products will witness good traction on account of the healthy growth in IT services, as enterprises try to gain the best leverage out of their deployment," says Mr Anirban Banerjee, Associate Vice-President of CyberMedia Research. Meanwhile, the combined telecom services and products markets is projected to cross \$65 b by 2012 – a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of almost 16% between 2010 and 2014, leading up to a total domestic telecom market opportunity exceeding \$85 b by 2014. Domestic IT and ITeS services would be pegged at over \$22 b in 2014. IT services and domestic ITeS spending would grow at CAGRs of 16.7% and 30.2% over 2010-2014. Managed services would emerge as a strong growth driver with demand for increasingly sophisticated services engagements from the India enterprise segment. Amongst others highlights, the survey also forecast an increased penetration of cloud services in the India enterprise segment (from 4% in 2010 to 6.8% in 2012); an above average growth in the IT products segments such as software, PCs, servers and networking equipment between 2010 and 2014; and uptick in enterprise solutions spending after 2011.

**Huawei Investing \$150 Million In India R&D Unit** Chinese telecom equipment maker Huawei Technologies is investing about US\$150 m to set up its own R&D campus in Bangalore in what would be the first company-owned research facility outside China. "Even though, we have R&D centres in countries like Sweden, UK, Italy, Turkey and US, but we operate out of leased or rented premises. India will be the first country outside China, where we will be having our own campus accommodating the largest number of R&D engineers outside China," media reports quoted a company official. The campus is expected to be ready by early 2013 and its one million square feet of built-up area would accommodate 3,500-4,000 people. Huawei India has around 6,000 employees, of which 2,200 are engaged in R&D in developing platforms and middleware that cover applications and functionalities of most of its products and in the development of software for networking and enterprise solutions for its other businesses, like set-top boxes and mobile handsets. India is also a huge market for Huawei and the company continues to be the number one player in the telecom network equipment space, reporting revenues of \$1.6 b in 2010.

**India to Double Mango Exports** India, the home of mangoes, and largest producer of mangoes in the world, plans measures to double its fresh mango exports, a top government official has said. In this regard the country is working on infrastructure development and also establishing linkage of production hub with markets that will help improve its export competitiveness. "The linkage of production hub with markets will help to get better prices for its produce to producer and it will also encourage the producer to produce more quality products," said A.S.Rawat, General Manager, Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) of India, in an interview. India produces around 15 million tonne mangoes that accounts for over 50% cent of the world production. Other major producers of mangoes in the world are Pakistan, Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, Australia and Philippines etc. India exports less than ½% of its total production, as compared to the Mexican exports of 13-15% of its total production, Rawat said. "All the measures are being taken to increase the export of mangoes and logistic support is one of the sectors where the government needs to focus," he said. "India's production period is around 8-9 months, but we export only up to 3-months' production". The idea is to take this period to 5-6 months that will help double India's fresh mango exports, he said, adding: "It will bring early varieties and late varieties to export markets." India produces over 1,000 mango varieties, but only 20 are popular commercial varieties. The main mango varieties produced in India are *Alphonso*, *Kesar*, *Baganpalli*, *Dasheri*, *Langda*, *Chausa*, etc. Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh contribute almost 50% of the production while other mango producing states are Maharashtra and Gujarat, etc. Value of India's total export of fresh mangoes reached \$50 m in 2009-10; the major international



destinations are Middle East, Europe and South East Asian countries. The UAE is the largest importer of fresh mango from India. Alphonso is the premium mango variety grown in Maharashtra dominating the major export share of the country. However, late varieties of mangoes like Chausa, Langra and Dasherri, which are available in UP and Bihar, have also tremendous potential for export from India.

### **India has 153,000 Dollar Millionaires**

The number of millionaires in India surged to a record high of 153,000 in 2010, making the country's high networth individual (HNI) population 12th largest across the globe, as per a global study. The increase in India's HNI population has also helped Asia-Pacific overtake Europe as the region with the second-highest number of millionaires, as per the annual World Wealth Report of Merrill Lynch Wealth Management and Capgemini. "India's HNI population became the world's 12th largest in 2010, entering the top 12 for the first time," the report said. The figure is up more than 20% from 126,700 in 2009, when India was ranked 14th. At the same time, Indian millionaires also showed growing interest in investments like luxury collectibles (luxury cars, boats and jets), as also in sports, the annual survey found. The HNIs have been identified as those with investible assets of US\$1 million or more, excluding their primary residence, collectibles, consumables and consumer durables. The report named the US as the country with the largest HNI population (3,104,000), followed by Japan, Germany, China, UK, France, Canada, Switzerland, Australia, Italy, Brazil and India. However, among these top 12, India's growth in HNI population was highest at 20.8%. The report said that Asia-Pacific surpassed Europe for the first time in both HNI population and wealth with the strongest regional rate of HNI population growth in 2010 among the top three markets. Asia-Pacific is now the second-largest region for both HNI wealth and population, second only to North America.

***My hesitancy in speech, which was once an annoyance, is now a pleasure. Its great benefit has been that it has taught me the economy of words.***

**- Mahatma Gandhi**

### **Census 2011 Reveals an Ascendant India**

The provisional figures of the 2011 census reveal a number of far reaching socio-economic changes underway in India. While the total population rose to 1.21 billion, the percentage decadal growth during 2001-2011 registered the sharpest decline since Independence – a decrease of 3.90% from 21.5% in 1991-2001 to 17.6% percent in 2001-2011. 2001-2011 is the first decade after 1911-1921 that actually added lesser population compared to the previous decade. There has also been a decline in the number of children under the age of six since 2001 to 158.8 million. The country's overall sex ratio also improved to 940 females per 1000 males, and the country's literacy rate showed a remarkable improvement of almost 10% from 64.83% to 74.04%.

### **Innovations Galore in India**

Indian inventors seem to be an inspired lot these days! Satish Deb of Bhilai in Chhattisgarh, an inspired innovator, has revived the dying treadle presses with a cheap and easy **conversion kit** that **transforms the slow and foot-operated treadle press into a smart screen printing press** by combining the technologies of screen printing with letter press machines. Satish's kit increases the efficiency of the treadle press at least five times, and makes the press versatile. He has a US patent for his innovation and, in all, has five patents for various versions of his machine. Satish's Motek India Treadle press kit costs about US\$550, less than a fifth of a new offset press.

Godrej has developed a **low-cost refrigeration solution, ChotuKool**, to cater to rural households in India. To popularise this 7.8 kg eco-friendly refrigerator in rural India, Godrej is partnering with non-governmental organisations and micro-finance institutions and collaborating with self-help groups.

Mumbai's Rajesh Jain, 41, founded Novatium, a Chennai-based company that makes **NetPC**. The machine is based on cheap cell-phone chips and without the hard-disk drive, extensive memory and pre-packaged software that add hundreds of dollars to the cost of regular PCs. Instead, NetPCs are little more than a keyboard, a screen and a couple of USB ports, and use a central network server to run software applications and store data. Novatium sells the NetPC for only \$155.

**Studsat** (for **student satellite**) has been designed and built by 45 engineering students across 10 colleges in Hyderabad and Bengaluru. The tiny satellite, carries a complementary metal oxide semiconductor (CMOS) camera and four small solar panels mounted for power supply.

### **Vaiśālī in India: The World's First Republic**

The world's first republic was in India in the *Mahājanapada* (lit. 'great realm', from mahā, [great], and janapada [foothold of a tribe or country]) of *Vajji*, (700–300 BCE) – the powerful '*Licchavi Republic*', organized as a vast confederation known as the *Vajjian Confederation*. The Licchavis were among its most important clans. Rome and Greece had republics much later, and therefore the common perception that the first republic or democracy came from Europe is not exactly accurate.

Vaiśālī or Vesali (Pali), the modern district with the same name in North Indian State of Bihar was the capital of the Licchavi Republic around the 6th century BCE. It was here, in 599 BCE, that the 24th Jain *Tirthankara* (or propagator), Lord Vardhamān Mahāvīr, was born. Gautama Buddha preached his last sermon in this sacred land before his demise (termed *parinirvāna* in Buddhist texts) in 483 BCE. Vaiśālī is also noted in the history of Buddhism as the place where Lord Buddha first permitted the order of nuns. In 383 BCE the Second Buddhist council was convened here by King Kalasoka. The city finds mention in the travel accounts of the Chinese explorers, Fa Hian (4th century CE) and Hiuen Tsang (7th century CE). In 1861 the British archaeologist Alexander Cunningham first identified Vaiśālī with the present village of Basrah in Vaishali District, as Vaiśālī is usually written in Roman script, in Bihar.

So, Vaiśālī has both religious and political importance, even though not many are aware that India gave the world its first republic. Thus, it is interesting to note that the Republic of India, the world's largest democracy, is also the oldest. Today more than 120 countries follow democratic form of governments, and the trend is likely to spread further. What better validation could this gift from India receive!

This great political and administrative innovation worked because there was a balance of power between all the branches of government that acted as the 'checks and balances' that kept the Licchavi constitution going; all the three branches of government functioned in concord. The Licchavi Republic (often identified with its capital Vaiśālī) was structured and run as the *sangha* or union of eight states. But they functioned as an 'organic whole' in which all the clans had willingly merged their identities. The political scenario integrated the functioning of the rural and urban areas of the republic.

Vaiśālī was known for its successful grassroots democracy that helped it reach the zenith of its greatness. The Village Councils or *Panchayats* kept doing a lot for the welfare and development of the rural regions. The 'Executive Council' functioned in accordance with the wishes of the 'gana' (assembly) that had always been responsible for rendering justice to all the people, regardless of their religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth. The government was fully authorized by the constitution to act freely and independently, provided it remained accountable to the Assembly - the repository of sovereign power.

### **Indian Head of UN Peace-Keeping**

Ban Ki-moon has appointed Indian diplomat Atul Khare as Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. Khare was earlier appointed by the previous Secretary-General,

UN Secretary-General

Kofi Annan, as his Special Representative for Timor-Leste and Head of the UN Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste. A senior Indian Foreign Service official, Khare has served as Deputy High Commissioner in Mauritius, Counsellor at the UN Permanent Mission, and Chargé d'affaires of the Indian Embassy in Senegal. At the UN he has served as Chief of Staff and later as Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General with the UN Mission of Support in East Timor.

**Indian-American Girl Wins Spelling Bee Crown**

An Indian-American

has won the 2011 Scripps National Spelling Bee crown for the fourth year in a row. The 14-year Sukanya Roy is an eighth-grader in Pennsylvania. The final word to be spelt was "cymotrichous" and Sukanya later said that she knew, as soon as she heard the word, she would get the word right and win the championship. "My heart started pounding, I guess," she said. "I couldn't believe it. It's just amazing. It's hard to put into words." The award carried inter alia a US\$ 30,000 cash prize, a trophy, a complete reference library and a \$ 5,000 scholarship. Sukanya speaks Bengali and every summer travels to India to visit family. She wants to pursue a career in International Relations. Sukanya Roy was one of the six Indian Americans who made it to the last 13 in the finals.

**Indian At Helm Of Top MIT Lab**

Indian Academician

Anant Agarwal has been appointed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) as Director of its Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL), the institute's largest interdisciplinary lab. Agarwal, who would assume his new position from July 1, 2011, succeeds Victor Zue, who served four years as CSAIL's director. Agarwal, an alumnus of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Chennai, is currently the leader of the Carbon Research Group at CSAIL. He is leading Project Angstrom, a multidisciplinary research that aims to develop a new multicore system through an endeavour bringing together scientists from and top universities and industry collaborators. Agarwal's appointment came days after MIT appointed another Indian-origin professor Anantha Chandrakasan as head of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

**They said It...**

"India is a major driver for our global growth. And, we expect the country to play a larger role in our global operations in the future...We have invested around €1 billion [in our Indian operations] and successfully raised our stake to 75 per cent just recently. This enables us to further develop our business in India...Siemens has been in India for more than 100 years. From the very beginning up to today, we identified India as an important location for investment. This means Siemens looks at a long-term co-operation...We are here to stay!"

**- Peter Loescher, Global CEO, Siemens**

***We shall have to expand the work so that it covers every village. This cannot be done by imposition from without. The workers will have to be allowed to carry on the work themselves, more or less free of regulation by a central authority.***  
**- Mahatma Gandhi**

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