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### **Ambassador Bidding Farewell**

Ambassador of India to Mexico, and also High Commissioner to Belize, since February 2009, H.E.Mr.Dinesh Kumer Jain is now packing his bags to return to his country, and he and his wife, Mrs.Alka Jain, hosted a farewell reception for his numerous friends and well-wishers in Mexico, at India House on May 30. It was attended by Diputado Francisco Alberto Jiménez Merino, Presidente, Grupo de Amistad México-India, Cámara de Diputados, leading officials in the Mexican government, including from the Ministry of External Affairs (SRE), several Ambassadors, as well as other friends from Mexico's media, academic, business circles. Amb.Jain reminisced fondly about his stay in Mexico, which he said had easily been the best overseas assignment for him and his wife, during the 37 years of his diplomatic career. Paying tribute to the people of Mexico for their warmth, friendship, and hospitality, he highlighted the deep roots that democracy, freedom of expression and secularism have taken in Mexico, akin to India, and that its national policy objectives: eradication of poverty, universal education and healthcare, and inclusiveness, and on the foreign policy front: proactive promotion of global peace and harmony, friendly relations with all countries, and objectives like nuclear disarmament, green growth, and multilateralism, are also similar to India. He also expressed the view that Mexicans have been fortunate in having President Calderon at the helm, "I have come to have the greatest regard and respect for him - for his vision, erudition, maturity, balance, priorities, initiatives, commitment, fortitude, and selflessness, among others. In his policies, he always placed the country and the people of Mexico before all else." Ambassador also spoke about the close and cordial India-Mexico relations and of the historical linkages between them, and also recounted the initiatives taken during his tenure to further strengthen the bilateral relations, including the Indian Cultural Centre, two visits by Foreign Minister Patricia Espinosa to India, visit from India by India's Parliament Speaker, the meetings of high-level bilateral institutions - including the Joint Commission and the Foreign Office Consultations, and several other Ministerial visits and meetings. These he said had ensured sustain the momentum imparted by the exchange of the Presidential visits, and the upcoming visit of the Prime Minister of India for the G20 Summit. He also pointed out the high growth rates in almost all areas of bilateral interaction: number of business delegations, tourists, and other interactions, and perhaps most tellingly, the doubling of trade to \$4.15 b in two years.

Diputado Jiménez, and Ambassador Valery Morozov of Russia – in his capacity as the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, also addressed the gathering, bidding Amb.Jain farewell on behalf of all those gathered, besides the Cámara de Diputados and the Diplomatic Corps. Amb.Morozov handed over to Amb.Jain the traditional parting gift on behalf of the diplomatic community by way of a silver platter signed by the other Ambassadors. Amb.Jain plans to depart Mexico on August 1.

Amb.Jain was also given a fond farewell on May 31 by the Kindergarten, Mahatma Gandhi School, in Atizapán de Zaragoza. The event was marked by the school Directora, Patricia Florencia Herrera Morett, and a senior representative of the Mayor of Atizapán de Zaragoza, addressing the gathering to bid farewell to the Ambassador, and to convey best wishes to him. The children of the school presented colourful, scintillating performances of various popular Mexican folk dances, much acclaimed by all. Amb.Jain in his speech complimented the students of the school for belonging to a most remarkable and charming country, rich in civilization and culture, well endowed by the nature, with a robust and promising economy, and a people second to none in nature, industry and talent. He recalled the commonalities between India and Mexico, among which reverence for Mahatma Gandhi was a particular bond, especially with the school. He recalled his past visit to the school a couple of years ago, and noted that this was the most special and unique farewell given to him before his departure. He exhorted the children to try and follow Mahatma Gandhi's teachings of love, truth and non-violence, and grow up to be good persons, contributing to their society, to the whole world, to the humanity. The function ended with a toast in honour of the Ambassador.

### **Indian Minister, Ambassador Visit Belize**

A senior Indian Cabinet Minister, Mr. Kamal Nath, in charge of Urban Development, visited Belize from May 16-18. Leading an official delegation. Even though the visit was in a multilateral context, for a Commonwealth local government forum's board meeting, it was nonetheless with particular significance bilaterally too, as it was the first visit at such high political level from India in several years, and Minister Nath also called on Prime Minister of Belize. The latter highlighted all the warm friendly relations between the two countries, and paved ground for strengthening the ties further.

Amb. Jain and his wife also visited Belize from May 15-18 to **bid farewell there too**. He called on the Governor General, Sir Colville Young, Prime Minister, the Hon'ble Dean O. Barrow, Foreign Minister, Hon. Wilfred Peter Elrington, besides meeting the Speaker of the re-constituted National Assembly, several other Ministers, and the Leader of the Opposition. He congratulated Prime Minister on leading his party to again winning the elections thus securing another 5-year mandate, and conveyed best wishes on behalf of the Government and people of India. He also conveyed India's thanks and deep appreciation to Belize, in his meeting with Foreign Minister Elrington, for Belize's support for India as permanent member of the UN Security Council. His other discussions dwelt mainly on building up India-Belize cooperation in a variety of fields, including a US\$10 million line of credit for Belize, other smaller projects in Belize as grants-in-aid from India, security and police, health, education, public services, and human resource development and capacity building. India's Hony. Consul General, Mr. Arun Hotchandani hosted a well-attended farewell reception dinner for Amb. Jain.

### **At the Mexico City's Fair of Friendly Cultures**

At the invitation of the Mexico City Government, India participated, for the third successive time, in *Feria de las Culturas Amigas*, held along the City's prestigious *Reforma* Avenue. The fair was inaugurated by Mayor Marcelo Ebrard on May 12. The Indian contingent, which participated in the inaugural parade stood out for the bright and colourful costumes from different parts of India, worn by the participants. A short *Kathak* presentation by Ms. Garima Bhargava, the *Kathak* teacher, drew a resounding applause from Mayor Ebrard and other dignitaries, seated with the diplomatic corps at the saluting base. The India booth on the *Reforma* avenue offered a wide range of handicraft items, artificial jewellery, textiles and garments, etc., much sought after by the interested Mexican visitors. The India stalls also displayed tourism literature, brochures, pamphlets, flyers etc., to meet the growing demand from Mexican visitors to know more about India and its rich and diverse culture.

### **Indian Cultural Presentations in Mexico**

Mexican students of Indian dances staged an impressive performance, at the auditorium of Instituto Mexicano de la Juventud, in San Rafael, Cuauhtemoc, on May 26, with an innovative presentation of four Indian classical dance forms, perhaps for the first time in Mexico by an all-male troupe, made up of students learning the Indian classical dance forms in India and Mexico. The dancers included David Serna, learning *Kathak* in the Gurudev Tagore Indian Cultural Centre, Ernesto de la Teja, learning *Bharatanatyam* at Kalakshetra in Chennai on a scholarship offered under the India-Mexico bilateral Academic Exchange Programme, Emmanuel Ramos, who learned *Mohiniyattam* in Kerala Kalamandalam, and Josuedel Real, an upcoming *Odissi* exponent. The presentations began with the four student-artists giving the audience a glimpse of their individual art forms and ended with all four of them joining in a grand finale, which drew a standing ovation from the audience.

Later that evening, Ms. **Marcela Palomo** Maccheto, who is learning **Odissi** at an advanced level, again on a scholarship offered by the Government of India, at the Gandharva Mahavidyalaya under the tutelage of Ms. Madhavi Mudgal, among the greatest exponents of the dance form, gave a scintillating performance, which demonstrated her natural talents, reaffirming her reputation as a most promising exponent of *Odissi*.

And perhaps most scintillatingly, the Gurudev Tagore Indian Cultural Centre commemorated the **World Dance Day** (April 29), by organising a multicultural dance show in the Embassy

Auditorium on May 4. The innovative and fascinating one-and-a-half hour show was choreographed by Ms. Garima Bhargava, and featured traditional dance performances from Africa, Arabia, Argentina, France, Hungary, Japan, Mexico, Spain and Turkey, besides Indian classical and folk dances, all presented by some students of the Cultural Centre and many others, all Mexicans. The much appreciated highlight of the presentation was the performances by a group of enthusiastic physically challenged students. The seamless presentation kept the audience spell-bound and as the show ended, many in the audience demanded a repeat show.

### **Mexico in Latin American Festival in India**

A 29-member *Ballet Folklorico* from the University of Veracruz in Mexico participated in the recently held *Fiesta Latino Americano*, organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations in New Delhi. The three-day festival saw the participation by folkloric troupes from Colombia, Mexico and Argentina. The performance by the Mexican troupe, which had the largest, colourful, and vibrant contingent, included presentations of traditional folkloric forms of *Ranchero*, *Norteño* and *Jarocho*. The Mexican performances received resounding applause from the audience at the prestigious Siri Fort Auditorium.

### **Buenos Aires Sways to Sanskrit Melodies**

In Buenos Aires this trendy night club, Groove, has a huge surprise. Here, instead of usual salsa or reggaeton music, soulful Sanskrit melodies rent the air, vibrating with Sanskrit songs... 'Jai jai Radha Ramanahari Bol', 'Jai Krishna Hare', 'Gurudeva Guru Om', 'Govinda Govinda' and 'Jai Shiva Shambo'." As lead singer Rodrigo Bustos, 29, and his band mate Nicolas Pucci, 32, entertain the guests with their mesmerising voices, the club serves only soft drinks instead of alcohol. At Groove, one is not allowed to smoke and only vegetarian food is served, and a yoga guru instructs the guests about various yoga techniques, who asks the audience to smile and exchange greetings. Despite the loud music and wild dancing in the night club, both the singers and the audience maintain a sense of reverence to the Sanskrit mantras and the Indian gods. Asked how they attracted Argentine youth with Sanskrit songs, Bustos explained: "Yoga Rave is an alternative party. It is a new concept in fun-free from alcohol, smoking and drugs. The body and soul are connected by the mantras, yoga, meditation, music and dance in an unconventional way." They have already attracted thousands of people since they started yoga rave in 2008 in Buenos Aires. In 2010, they took the music beyond Argentina to Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay. In 2011, they performed at the Berlin World Cultural Festival. The duo has not been to India but 7,000 of their CDs have already been sold there. They released their first album 'Smile' in 2009 and the second 'Blossom' May 20, 2012. Bustos and Pucci drew their inspiration from an Indian spiritual guru. The two use the Sanskrit mantras in all forms of music such as pop, rock, hip-hop, reggaeton and electronic music.

### **India-Brazil Film Joint Venture**

Indian filmmakers have made a beginning in overcoming the geographical barrier between India and Latin America and tapping the cultural synergies between them. A start has been made by the Indian director Anurag Kashyap, who had challenged the Bollywood establishment by making provocative independent cinema. Kashyap, in his support of emerging filmmakers, has agreed to co-produce a film with Beatriz Seigner of Brazil, his first collaboration with a South American. Ms. Seigner, 27, who wrote the script and will also direct what will be her second feature film, said during a recent interview in Rio de Janeiro that the movie's fictional story is based on the real-life struggles of a Colombian friend and her family forced to live with a secret about their father's peculiar death. The shooting of "Five Lives and a Secret," the working title, is expected to start next year, with the dialogue in Spanish and the location somewhere on the Colombia-Brazil border. Seigner said she wants to pick an ambiguous location, "a place where you don't know where you are," which would give it more universal appeal. The two filmmakers first met last year after Seigner invited Kashyap to São Paulo for an Indian film festival showcasing his work, which she had organized. Seigner's first feature film was "O Sonho Bollywoodiano" ("Bollywood Dream"), in 2008. In the film, three young Brazilian actresses arrive in India with hopes of landing roles in

Bollywood to jump-start their fledgling careers. "O SonhoBollywoodiano" was a cult hit in Brazil and finished second in the audience favorite category at the 2009 São Paulo International Film Festival. "O Sonho Bollywoodiano" has run on the international film festival circuit over the past two years.

***We do not need to proselytize either by our speech or by our writing. We can only do so really with our lives. Let our lives be open books for all to study.***

**- Mahatma Gandhi**

### **'Anti-India Activities in Pakistan Should Stop'**

Prime Minister

Dr.Manmohan Singh conveyed to Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari that India's concerns on terrorism have to be addressed and anti-India activities have to be stopped there if the people of India were to support and sustain progress in bilateral relations with Islamabad. During the visit of Zardari to India on April 8, he and Zardari had discussed the issue of terrorism and the Prime Minister told the Pakistan President that there was a need for taking action to curb terrorism to enable New Delhi to make forward movement in the bilateral relationship, Minister of State for Home Jitendra Singh told the RajyaSabha. "He (PM) conveyed that it was imperative to bring the perpetrators of the Mumbai attack to justice and prevent activities aimed against India from Pakistani soil." In this context, PM also mentioned the activities of LeT founder Hafiz Saeed in public (in Pakistan) and said that "our concerns on terrorism had to be addressed if the people of India are to be support and sustain progress in bilateral relations."

India has said it would **explore all options to normalise relations with Pakistan** and its intentions are "very transparent" in this direction. "With Pakistan, speculation will never stop...All I can convey to you is that India's intention are very honest, India's intentions are very transparent," said External Affairs Minister S M Krishna." Dr.Manmohan Singh wants good relationship, the people of India want good relationship with Pakistan and we certainly will make every effort from our side to see that normalisation of relationship as good neighbours could be possible and we will explore all options to do that", he said. His remarks came a few days after India and Pakistan failed to sign a liberalised visa agreement, agreed on between Dr.Manmohan Singh and President Asif Ali Zardari in April. India expressed disappointment over it saying it had gone fully prepared to the Home Secretary-level meeting in Islamabad where the visa deal was to be signed.

Apropos of terrorism, India has **pressed Pakistan to nail the accused in the Mumbai terror attacks**. Countering Pakistan's stand that there is no "concrete" evidence against LeT founder Hafiz Saeed, India has insisted that it had provided additional evidence against him and his associates which should be presented in Pakistani court to prosecute the suspects in Mumbai attacks case. In the two-day Home Secretary-level talks, India also asked Pakistan to hand over underworld don Dawood Ibrahim besides several Indian Mujahideen leaders who are believed to be based in the country. Home Secretary R K Singh said that Indian authorities had provided their Pakistani counterparts additional proof against Saeed while the Pakistani judicial commission that visited Mumbai in March had gathered evidence against the perpetrators of the terrorist assault on India's financial hub in 2008. The additional evidence should be presented in the Pakistani court and used to prosecute the terror suspects, he told the media at the conclusion of the talks with his Pakistani counterpart, Interior Secretary Khwaja Siddique Akbar. Before the beginning of the talks, Singh had expressed concern at the tardy prosecution of the perpetrators of the Mumbai attacks. During the talks, the two sides discussed a wide range of issues, including terrorism, drug trafficking, a relaxed visa regime, networks involved in circulating fake currency and humanitarian matters, including the release of civilian prisoners and fishermen held in jails in both countries. Seven Pakistani nationals, including LeT operations commander Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi, have been indicted for planning, financing and facilitating the deadly attacks that killed 166 people in November 2008.

India has said there are still 42 terror training camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir (PoK), the territory of India illegally occupied by Pakistan, and majority of these were active, with officials pointing out that Pakistan's refusal to rein in terrorist outfits within its territory was a signal for India to fine-tune its preparedness. Sharing the status of terrorist training camps, Minister of State for Home Affairs, Mr. Jitendra Singh said that there was no specific input to indicate that terrorist camps were still functional in other neighbouring countries. Government continuously monitors all developments having a bearing on India's national security and takes all necessary steps to safeguard it." The Border Security Force (BSF) chief U K Bansal, "The recalcitrance of the Pakistani establishment to rein in Taliban and Lashkar-e-Taiba leaders such as Mullah Omar and Hafiz Saeed should be read as a straw in the wind in checking the nature of activity which we anticipate on the borders. The BSF is cognizant of these future challenges and is preparing itself in terms of doctrine, infrastructure, weaponry and training." As smuggling of fake Indian currency notes, drugs and weapons continues from across the Indo-Pakistan border, "the next few years seem to have the potential of upgradation of these hostile activities particularly in the context of the phased disengagement of US and NATO forces from Afghanistan".

The banned Khalistan Zindabad Force (KZF), the militant-terrorist **Khalistan secession movement** for Punjab again appears raising its ugly head. Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai said, in the context of the recent arrests of four members of the terror outfit in Nawanshahr, one of whom is learnt to have confessed to have received training in Lahore, that India had taken up with Pakistan the issue of continued support to Indian militants from across the border during the Home Secretary-level talks. The interrogation of two members of the banned Khalistan Zindabad Force, Sandip in Jalandhar and Sukhwinder Singh in Ludhiana, who were arrested a few days earlier and 2.7 kg of hidden RDX was recovered from them, had led to the arrest of two of their accomplices. The police also recovered from them two China-made pistols, three bombs, three detonators, two-timers and 11 cartridges. "During preliminary investigation it was found that Sandip had attended a training camp in Pakistan for a month last year. He, along with other members of the gang, have been trying to revive terrorism in Punjab by recruiting young boys for the organisation. The gang is reportedly active in Jalandhar, Ludhiana and Nawanshahr districts.

Separately, on May 7, USA Secretary of State, Ms. **Hillary Clinton** said, in reply to a question what was the next big target of the US after Laden, that **Pakistan has not done as much as the US and India wanted it to do to fight terrorism**. "Pakistan has lost far more people than India and the US. 30,000 lives have been lost in Pakistan in terrorist attacks. It is in their interest that Pakistan should deal with the problem of terrorism," Clinton told an interactive session in Kolkata. "We want to disable al-Qaeda. We have made lots of progress. Many of their leaders are on the run. Some are in Pakistan. We want to go after them," she said. In a reference to JuD chief Hafiz Saeed, Clinton said that the US has announced a \$10 m bounty on the man who masterminded the Mumbai attack. "And we're going to keep pushing that point. So it's a way of raising the visibility and pointing out to those who are associated with him that there is a cost for that." She also said that they believe that the Al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahiri is somewhere in Pakistan.

Meanwhile, the Obama administration was said to be slapping **sanctions on two senior lieutenants of India's most-wanted organized crime lord**. The Treasury Department on May 15 designated the two men—Chhota Shakeel and Ibrahim 'Tiger' Memon— as drug trafficking kingpins. The step freezes any assets they may have in US jurisdictions and bars Americans from doing business with them. The men are close associates of Dawood Ibrahim, who is alleged to control criminal gangs in India's business hub of Mumbai and is accused of smuggling heroin and hashish from Afghanistan and Thailand to the U.S, Europe, the Mideast, Latin America and Africa. Ibrahim is also the alleged mastermind of 1993 bombings in Mumbai that killed 257 people. Indian police say Ibrahim lives in Karachi, Pakistan, but Pakistani officials deny that he is there. Dawood was named as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist in October 2003, and in June 2006, he was named as a

Significant Foreign Narcotics Trafficker. Chhota Shakeel, 57, is Dawood's lieutenant who coordinates for D Company with other organized crime and terror groups. Memon, 52, is a trusted lieutenant who controls the group's businesses across South Asia and is wanted by Indian authorities for his involvement in the 1993 Mumbai bombings. Interpol has issued provisional arrest warrants or "red notices" for Shakeel and Memon, both Indian nationals.

### **India Concerned on Treatment of Minorities in Pakistan**

On May 9, Minister of External Affairs Mr.S.M.Krishna, said, in a statement in Lok Sabha (House of the People in the Parliament) on the issue of treatment of minorities in Pakistan, that "Government has from time to time come across reports on the problems faced by members of the minority communities in Pakistan. Incidents of persecution and intimidation of the minority communities have also been reported. Recently, in separate incidents, three Hindu girls in Sindh province have reportedly been abducted and married against their will to Muslim men, after being forcefully converted to Islam. This issue is a matter of concern to the Government and is being taken up appropriately with the Government of Pakistan. In the past, we have also seen of reports of kidnapping and killing of members of the minority communities and desecration/encroachment of their places of religious worship in Pakistan. It is the responsibility of the Government of Pakistan to discharge its constitutional obligations towards its citizens, including those from the minority community. While, the Simla Agreement of 1972 between India and Pakistan specifically provides for non-interference in each other's internal affairs, nevertheless, based on reports of persecution of minority groups in Pakistan, Government has taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan in the past. The Government of Pakistan stated that it was fully cognizant of the situation and looked after the welfare of all its citizens, particularly the minority community...While it is our hope that the Government of Pakistan will discharge its constitutional duties towards its minority communities, in view of the purely humanitarian nature of this issue, we appeal to the people and Government of Pakistan to take all possible steps to protect the constitutional rights of their minorities by ensuring their safety, security and wellbeing.

### **Chinese Military Transgressions**

The Chinese Army has transgressed the Sino-India border more than 500 times in the last two years, Rajya Sabha, the Council of States of the Parliament of India, was informed. Minister of State for Home, Mr.Mullappally Ramachandran said there were 228 cases of transgression of Indo-China border by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) in 2010, 213 cases in 2011 and 64 cases till April 2012. "There are cases of transgression due to the perception of Line of Actual Control," he said. The Minister, however, said no intrusion has been reported or taken place on Indo-China border during the last two years, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has been deployed along the Indo-China border as border guarding force, and China posed no threat to India despite border dispute but the country was equipping itself well and having a strong deterrence posture so that no adversary took it for granted. We have a very healthy economic partnership with China, which is our neighbour. Of course, we do have differences on the perception of the border, which again at a very high level meeting of National Security Advisors we are thrashing these things out, he said. "We are having a strong deterrence posture. And we are strengthening it further. So, I am sure there will not be any reason for any conflict to happen". However, he said, "...As a nation with such a large population and with economic interest worldwide and as a growing economy, I think we have to have those strong deterrence capabilities to make sure that none of our adversaries take us for granted".

Separately, on developments in **South China Sea**, on May 10, in response to a media query on recent developments in South China Sea, the Official Spokesperson said, "We have been following with concern recent developments involving China and the Philippines in the South China Sea. Maintenance of peace and security in the region is of vital interest to the international community. India urges both countries to exercise restraint and resolve the issue diplomatically according to principles of international law."

### **India's Parliament Turns 60**

On May 13, the Indian parliament celebrated 60 years of its existence. Both Houses of Parliament held day-long special sittings with party leaders recalling India's freedom struggle and the nation becoming the largest democracy in the world. There were words of self-criticism as well. Members of both Houses met together in the Central Hall in the evening when President Pratibha Patil presented mementos to 92-year-old Rishang Keshing, a Rajya Sabha (Council of States) member from Manipur, who was a member of the the first Lok Sabha. Vice President Hamid Ansari, Prime Minister Dr.Manmohan Singh and Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar were among those who attended the meeting. During the debates in the two houses, speakers from both sides of the political divide stressed that the supremacy of the Indian parliament must be preserved. Prime Minister Dr.Singh, addressing the Lok Sabha, urged that "as we look ahead, this occasion should also become the moment for some candid and serious introspection". He appealed to members to "write a new chapter and restore to it the sense of dignity and decorum that is expected of" parliament. Parliamentarians spoke of India's unflinching commitment to democracy.

### **India Confident of Assuring Full Human Rights**

At the UN Universal Periodic Review of India-2012, on May 24, the leader of the Indian delegation, Attorney General of India, Mr.Goolam E Vahanvati, observed that India is a huge country and by reason of its area and diversity alone there are bound to be problems. Problems can be dealt with if their existence is acknowledged. Moreover, India has the ability to self-correct and has redressal mechanisms available. However, we cannot lose sight of the larger picture which is very reassuring. As Mahatma Gandhi said "You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean. If a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty". India is a vast ocean. We have full faith in our resolve and resources. We are confident that we will be able to deliver to every person living in our country his full share of rights and entitlements. Pointing out that India's current National Report has been prepared after an extensive and inclusive consultation process involving various Ministries of the Government of India, experts and a range of civil society, he elaborated that the Right to Information Act has revolutionized the concept of good governance and made it transparent and accountable. Several seminal legislations have brought in a rights-based approach to those areas which are fundamental to human existence, inter alia, work and employment, education and food security, including the landmark Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, the Right to Education Act of 2009 and the National Food Security Bill. The right to approach the Supreme Court, the highest court of the land, for enforcement of Fundamental Rights, is elevated by the Constitution to the status a Fundamental Right. Advancement of social, economic and political rights has been achieved by the effective use of "public interest litigation" by the High Courts and the Supreme Court. India has been working closely with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime to strengthen response against trafficking in persons. The last four years have seen tremendous strides in focusing on groups needing special attention including children, women, the weaker sections, and disabled and elderly. Our efforts in the sphere of social and economic advancement have been significant. Poverty has declined by 9% in a decade. Our rights-based welfare schemes focus on taking people out of poverty and enhancing quality of their life. The declining trend in the unemployment rate in rural and urban areas between 2004-2005 to 2009-2010 is equally visible among the weaker sections. It is a matter of satisfaction that the rising tide has been lifting all boats. The Central Vision of our 12th Five-Year Plan is to trigger a development process which ensures broad based improvement in the quality of life encompassing in an inclusive manner, all sections of society. The figures of child labour have dropped sharply in the last decade.

He underlined India's age-old ethos of religious tolerance and understanding, and the strength of our secular Constitution. Over centuries, India has welcomed all religious denominations, minorities and refugees, including the Jewish community which has become part of our fabric and lived in India for thousands of years without discrimination, and the Zoroastrians/Parsis over hundreds of years, or, more recently, refugees from Tibet, Sri

Lanka, Myanmar and other countries. Our practices on refugees are far more developed, caring and humane than the current international regime can provide for. "In a spirit of openness", he said that Freedom of Religion is constitutionally guaranteed in India. Everybody has a right to choose and follow his own path. The problem arises when the act of propagating one's religion transgresses the limits and stops being voluntary, and becomes coercive or induced. Some States have taken exception to this. He assured the meeting that if any particular legislation exceeds Constitutional limits, this can be challenged and the person has every right to approach the Courts.

The challenges we face are by no means small. There are threats to the fabric of our country. Our country has been the target of terrorist activities over the last three decades. Terrorism and insurgency posed existential threats to us. Left-wing extremism and violence is an internal challenge which is being met with resolve coupled with compassion and people-oriented development. He concluded by thanking the "Troika" countries of **Mexico**, Kuwait and Mauritius for facilitating the entire process.

### **"UNSC Needs to Concentrate on Peace, Security"**

Highlighting the need for reform of the UN Security Council, India has said it is important that the top body concentrate its time and efforts in dealing with issues of global peace and security rather than encroach upon the mandate of the UN General Assembly. Participating in the 8th round of Inter-governmental Negotiations on UNSC reform, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Amb.H S Puri said the working methods of the Security Council need to be improved not only for those who are not on the Council but also for those who are on it. There are a number of examples "which show that the Security Council working style, its working methods leave much to be desired, sometimes even for the permanent members (P5)" He said if the UN would wait for the P5 to come on board on Security Council reform, "we will be here till the next century because the P5, by virtue of a decision taken more than six decades ago, are unlikely to easily reconcile to a reformed Council."

India has also pressed for an early adoption of the long-pending **Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism**, stressing that greater cooperation is required to tackle the scourge which poses the most serious challenge to peace and security. "Over the years, the visible landscape of international terrorism has changed vastly. In our globalised world, terrorists are also globalised in their reach and activities and are able to wage an asymmetric warfare against the international community," said Puri at a Security Council briefing on threats to peace and security by terrorist acts, adding that terrorists have established linkages with transnational organized crime and their veritable nexus with drug, human and arms trafficking are well established. Terrorist financing, illicit money laundering, drug trafficking and illicit arms trade remain intertwined in a complex web of toxic relationships. "India has long held the belief that the UN also needs to strengthen its counter-terrorism normative framework through the adoption of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT)". Echoing the call made by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, Puri said, "The time has come for the CCIT to be adopted."

### **\$500 M Indian Credit Line for Myanmar**

Embarking on a 'new journey' of bilateral cooperation, India has extended a \$500-million line of credit to Myanmar, which vowed that its territory will not be allowed to be used by terrorists to target India. Marking a historic visit to Myanmar, the first by an Indian Prime Minister in 25 years, Dr.Manmohan Singh held extensive talks with Myanmar President Thein Sein, drawing up a roadmap for future course of bilateral ties. The two sides signed a raft of agreements to boost energy supplies from resource-rich Myanmar to energy-hungry India, enhance trade and cross-border rail, shipping and road links that go beyond bilateralism to cover Thailand. The \$500-m LOC would be utilised in infrastructure development projects, including in agriculture, irrigation, rail transport and power in Myanmar. The Myanmar's pro-democracy champion, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, called on PM, following which, he said that "it has been a great honour and great privilege for me to have had this opportunity of interacting and meeting with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. We in India are very proud of our

long-standing association with her and members of her family including her parents. I sincerely hope that she will find it possible to visit India soon...I have handed over to her the invitation letter to deliver the next Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Lecture which is a very prestigious lecture...Our sincere belief is that in the Process of National Reconciliation which has been launched by President Thein Sein, Madam Suu Kyi will play a defining role". In her remarks, San Suu Kyi said, "It has been a great pleasure and a privilege to meet Prime Minister Dr.Manmohan Singh, and I very much appreciate the fact that he has made time to see me here in Rangoon in spite of a very heavy programme...India and Burma have been particularly close over the years not just because of our geographical positions but because we have shared deep ties of friendship for many many long years...My parents were great admirers of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and other Indian leaders...I am very happy at the prospect of closer ties with India because I think we have much to learn from one another and we have much to contribute to peace and stability in this region, because our goals, our democratic goals, work on the basis of peace and stability, and these are what we shall aim towards. I am very gratified by the invitation to deliver the Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Lecture, and I hope that I will be able to take up this invitation before too long."

**President Visits Seychelles, Extends Credits And Grants**

President of

India, Mrs.Pratibha Patil paid a State visit to Seychelles and South Africa. The President of Seychelles, Mr.James Alix Michel, warmly welcomed her on her arrival. A Special Communiqué of the newsletter of the ruling party in Seychelles said, 'A memorable moment for Seychelles!', which went on to talk in terms of the importance which Seychelles accords to the visit. The two Presidents had extensive discussions covering various aspects of the bilateral relations, as also touching upon certain aspects of regional and international issues. President Patil also addressed the National Assembly of Seychelles. President Alix reiterated that Seychelles was a true friend of India and Indo-Seychelles relations have a long and historical background to it, besides the fact that both countries are washed by the waters of the Indian Ocean. He saw the visit as a defining moment in the history of the bilateral relations, and said that they shared a vision based on understanding, mutual trust and confidence. Their cooperation was seen as multidimensional, bringing together cooperation and interaction in the areas of the political field; trade, economic and investment areas; the cultural sphere; education and human resource development; people-to-people contact; and the defence and security areas. President Patil announced the offer of a line of credit of US\$ 50 million to Seychelles, besides a grant of US\$ 25 million, in addition to the already extended lines of credit of US\$ 10 million announced in 2010.

**India-USA 'Close Bilateral Friendship'**

US Secretary of State

Ms.Hillary Clinton was in India in early May on an official visit. At the visit's conclusion, her host, External Affairs Minister, Mr.S.M.Krishna, in a press statement, said that her visit was a sign of the close bilateral friendship. "It also underscores the importance of regular consultations between our two governments at a time of enormous challenges and far-reaching changes taking place in the world. Secretary Clinton and I reviewed the entire gamut of our bilateral relations. We expressed satisfaction with the progress in our relationship and are optimistic about the future. The emerging global trends only reinforce our shared conviction in the importance of this relationship for the future of our two countries and the shape of the world in this century. We have an extraordinary frequency and depth in our dialogue and engagement. We continue to make tangible progress across virtually every area of bilateral cooperation...There are issues on both sides. I did convey our concerns about the continuing difficulties on mobility of professionals, especially for our IT companies, and protectionist sentiments in the US with regard to global supply chain in services industry...Secretary Clinton and I also had good discussion on the path to fostering commercial cooperation in civil nuclear energy. I assured her of India's commitment to provide a level playing field to all US companies, within the framework of national law and our international legal obligations. We were pleased that US companies are engaged in substantive discussions with the Indian operator, Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited. We hope that they will make early progress towards contractual steps. Our

strategic consultations have a global character, with convergence of views on a range of global and regional issues...We also discussed the importance of peaceful settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue through dialogue and negotiations, based on the position that Iran has rights as a member of NPT, but it must also abide by its obligations as a non-nuclear weapons state under the NPT. Secretary Clinton and I had a fruitful discussion on the Asia Pacific and Indian Ocean region, including relations with China, and developments in countries in India's immediate neighbourhood. In her statement, Clinton expressed happiness that "we are continuing to work together on such a broad range of important issues affecting our two countries...reaffirm what President Obama has called one of the defining partnerships of the 21st century. The United States and India are two great democracies with common values and increasingly convergent interests...we have to continue expanding trade and investment between our countries...We should be working toward having one of the world's largest trading relationships, and we need to continue to reduce barriers and open our markets to greater trade and investment...we need to deepen our security cooperation. Our militaries are conducting training exercises unprecedented in scale and scope. We have expanded our work on behalf of our joint fight against terrorism and violent extremism. And our Navies are cooperating to combat piracy, patrol the sea lanes and protect the freedom of navigation...we have to work to meet the challenges and seize the opportunities in South and Central Asia...I expressed our strong appreciation for India's support for the Afghan people's efforts to build a more peaceful and prosperous future and its intention to host a conference in late June to encourage greater private sector investment in Afghanistan...We also look to India as a partner in the broad international effort to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons, the best way to achieve this diplomatic solution that we all seek, is for the international community to stay united and to keep the pressure that has brought Iran back to the negotiating table on Iran until we reach a peaceful diplomatic resolution. I welcomed the progress India is making to reduce its purchases of oil from Iran...Finally, we need to work together to promote a shared vision for the Asia-Pacific, especially as we head toward the East Asia Summit in Cambodia this November...our strategic interests are indeed converging and so must our efforts. I am looking forward to welcoming the Minister when he comes to Washington in June for the next round of our strategic dialogue. On India-US economic ties, she said that both India and America were becoming increasingly interdependent in the economic sphere and their strategic interests were alike. "Our economies are increasingly interdependent. When I first visited India in 1995, trade between both the countries was \$9 b. Today it is more than \$100 b... India is a regional and an increasing global power recognized with its economic, diplomatic and military influence...It is good news that India is taking up more responsibilities because the international community cannot solve the problems unless all the countries work together," she said.

**'I walked 8,000 miles for peace – with no money'**

*Financial Times, Viv Groskop, May 5, 2012*

I was sitting in a café in Bangalore with a friend reading a newspaper, waiting for my coffee. It was 1961, and I saw a photo of the philosopher Bertrand Russell being arrested at an anti-nuclear protest outside Whitehall. I said, "Here is a man of 90 going to jail for peace. What am I, a young man, doing sitting here when he is putting his life on the line?"

I was 25, and living in a Gandhian ashram at the time. I had been raised in Jainism, an Indian religion of non-violence, but by this point I was a former monk. I had left monkhood because I was inspired by Mahatma Gandhi. He said spirituality is not only for the saints, it's for ordinary people too. This has been my life's work, and in 1973, I moved to England, where I run the eco magazine Resurgence.

But back then, Gandhi was already gone and I was living alongside one of his (most revered 'Gandhian') followers, Vinoba Bhave. We were already walking for land reform in India so my friend and I came up with an idea. Why don't we walk for peace? Let's go to England and support Bertrand Russell. But why stop there? Let's go to Moscow, Paris, London and

the fourth nuclear capital, Washington, DC. The idea became clear. We must walk from Gandhi's grave in New Delhi to protest against nuclear weapons.

We went to see Vinoba Bhave, who said, "What a wonderful idea. But I want to give you some advice. Go without any money." I said, "Without any money? But sometimes we may need a cup of tea or to make a telephone call." He said, "War begins when you have fear in your heart. Don't preach peace, practise it. Trust the world." That was a very big idea. So we set off in June 1962, 50 years ago next month.

We walked 8,000 miles in two years. We carried small maps but mostly we depended on the advice of local people. Often people would walk with us for a day or two. There were times when we did not get food and that was difficult.

In Georgia, a woman gave us four packets of tea. "These packets of tea are not for you. One is for our president in Moscow. The second for de Gaulle. The third for the prime minister of England. The fourth for the president of the United States. Please give them a message. 'If ever you get a mad thought and think of pressing the nuclear button, please stop for a moment and have a cup of tea.'"

In Moscow we were received by the leader of the Supreme Soviet, Tikhonov, on behalf of Khrushchev. He told us, "The real problem is not the Soviet Union, it is Washington." In Paris, de Gaulle would not meet us, so we demonstrated outside the Élysée Palace. We were arrested and threatened with deportation, so we gave the peace tea to the head of police.

In London, Harold Wilson, the PM, asked Lord Attlee to receive us on his behalf. He said, "We are for peace. It's the Soviets who are threatening." We also met Russell. He said, "You wrote to me and I thought I would never see you because by the time you walked here I would be dead and gone. But you walked fast!"

Russell helped raise money for two tickets on the Queen Mary to New York. From there we walked to Washington, DC, where we were met by representatives of President Lyndon B. Johnson. "We are negotiating," they said, "but the Soviets will not listen to us."

We also met Martin Luther King. He had an aura of energy and passion, a great soul. It all ended at the grave of John F. Kennedy. From grave to grave. To make the point that if you trust in the gun, the gun not only kills a bad person but it can also kill a Gandhi or a Kennedy.

On our journey, all the governments told us the same thing: they all blamed each other. But 50 years on, I have hope and optimism that things can change. When I met Martin Luther King black people had no vote. All these years later, there is a black man in the White House. If that can happen, other things can happen.

***To a true artist only that face is beautiful which, quite apart from its exterior, shines with the truth within the soul. There is no beauty apart from Truth.***

**- Mahatma Gandhi**

### **Indian Economy Resilient, Global Efforts Needed**

Amid persisting global uncertainties, Finance Minister Mr. Pranab Mukerjee has said, inaugurating a seminar on '21st century as the Asian Century - Role of India and China' in Singapore, that India's domestic demand, high savings rate and regulatory mechanisms make it a resilient economy. He, however, emphasised upon the need for increased coordination among countries to realise collective gains in the face of global economic woes. On global efforts, he said, "We must appreciate that to gain in unison, we must act in unison. Even in the existing international fora, including the G20 and the IMF, we should aim to coordinate more in areas where there is significant collective gain to be achieved...A crisis of the magnitude

that we are witnessing compels us to take notice of our deficiencies, suitably re-orient policies and re-define priorities. He said the domestic banking sector is robust and the exports are increasingly getting diversified with developing countries being country's largest market. "Our regulatory mechanisms have been successful in ensuring financial sector robustness in the economy...Global slowdown due to unfolding of eurozone sovereign debt crisis has, inter-alia, impacted the Indian economy through deceleration in exports, widening of trade and current account deficit, decline in capital flows, fall in the value of Indian Rupee, stock market decline and lower economic growth". Export oriented industries and the capital investment are the most affected sectors, he added. A number of steps have been taken to augment the supply of foreign exchange to stem rupee decline; measures have also been taken to increase direct foreign investment for infrastructural development. The RBI has also taken initiatives to curb speculation in the foreign exchange market, he said. This included raising of NRI deposit interest rates, easing availability of export credit and stipulation that 50% of balances in the Exchange Earner's Foreign Currency Account be converted into rupees balances."A number of legislative measures/amendments have also been taken for fiscal consolidation/reforms and financial sector reforms."

Separately, dismissing any comparison with the 1991 external debt crisis, Prime Minister Dr.Manmohan Singh said **the fall of rupee** was a matter of concern but was confident it would not last very long. He said the rupee depreciation was taking place against the backdrop of the global economic problems and the Euro zone debt crisis and expressed optimism that solutions would emerge at the G-20 Summit in Mexico. Since early March, the rupee has depreciated by over 10%. In 1991, India faced its worst external debt crisis. He said the prevailing economic situation was hurting emerging economies like India and S. Africa. Faced with roadblocks in pushing the reform agenda at home, PM said that the path of economic liberalisation is "contentious and rarely painless", adding that while pursuing the economic reforms, special measures should be taken to help disadvantaged people. He emphasised the need for economic development without threatening environment or the delicate ecological balance.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Mukherjee dismissed all talk of policy inertia and asserted that the government is focussed on recovering the growth momentum in the economy and **India will grow at a sustained 8-10% in coming years** on the back of strong fundamentals. The government's policy was focussed on recovering the growth momentum of pre-global economic crisis of 2008. "For the current fiscal year, we have set our objective to...create conditions for rapid revival of high growth in private investment and address supply bottlenecks in agriculture, energy and transport sectors."The economy had registered an over 9% growth before the 2008 global economic crisis. The government has set a target of 7.6 per cent growth for the current financial year. Minister said that India's development strategy was inclusive growth. "We have empowered the people by giving them access to entitlement backed by legal enactment," he said, referring to measures like Right to Education, Right to Information, Right to Employment and Right to Food.

Planning Commission Deputy Chairman Dr.Montek Singh Ahluwalia likewise **dismissed concerns about policy paralysis** in the Indian government, and said the country has grown in the past at over 9% with the same set of policies."...The economy grew by 9% for five years with the existing laws. It is not as if unless we change something that growth rate cannot happen. I am not saying we should not change. We should change", he said when asked whether policy paralysis at home was impacting investment and growth. Pointing out that reforms are important, Ahluwalia said, "To get a short run improvement in functioning of the economy and to reassure investors you do not necessarily have to focus on change in laws". He further said that in a coalition government very often the issues get delayed, but there was a lot that the government could do on the issues which did not require legal action. "We should concentrate on that...The government has a very active agenda of trying to get that done" he added. Ahluwalia said he has also informed investors that their perception that India was not interested in making the country an attractive destination for

investment was not valid. "One of the major positives", Ahluwalia added, "is clearly that India has a growth potential of 8-9%. We are not just whistling in the dark, we did it (achieved high growth rates). If we did it for five years why cannot we do it now."

### **GDP Growth Set to Accelerate**

India's gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated to have slowed down to 6.5% in 2011-12 because of falling investment in the industrial sector on tight monetary policy and recession in the western countries. The GDP grew by 8.4% each in 2009-10 and 2010-11, as per the data from the Advance Estimate released by Central Statistics Office (CSO). The reduction in the growth rate is attributable to both domestic and global factors. Among domestic factors, the tightening of monetary policy, in order to control inflation resulted in slowing down of investment and growth, particularly in the industrial sector. The Economic Survey 2011-12 has forecast the growth rate of real GDP for 2012-13 to be 7.6%. Globally, the euro zone crisis and near recessionary conditions in Europe, sluggish growth in the US, stagnation in Japan and hardening international prices of crude oil hampered the GDP growth. In order to improve growth, government has proposed a faster, more inclusive and sustainable target of 9% annual GDP growth in its Approach Paper to the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17). Agriculture growth of at least 4%, creation of jobs in manufacturing and development of infrastructure facilities are identified as key requirements to achieve the growth target.

According to **OECD, India's economic growth is likely to rise to more than 7.5%** in calendar year 2013. A cyclical upturn in investment, stronger external demand and the effects of recent monetary easing will boost growth, it said. The upbeat OECD forecast stood in stark contrast to the pessimistic view offered by Morgan Stanley which cut its growth forecasts for India citing a high budget deficit and slowing private investment. It said it now expected the economy to grow by 6.8% instead of 7.5% in 2013.

In fact, **steps to boost growth are imminent.** Terming decline in economic growth rate as 'disappointing', Finance Minister Mr. Pranab Mukherjee said, "The government would take all necessary steps to address imbalance on the fiscal front and on the current account. It would help in checking inflationary expectations and inspire confidence for improved capital inflows as well as recovery in domestic investment growth". Attributing the slowdown to tight monetary policy, rising interest rates, weak global sentiments and environmental issues in the mining sector, Mukherjee expressed the hope that the situation would improve as "most of the factors have bottomed out". He further said, "The (interest) rate cycle has been reversed; mining sector growth has turned around; progress has been made on fuel linkage of coal-based power projects; a turnaround in the investment growth rate in the fourth quarter, which had been negative..." He also talked about other factors, the forecast of normal South West monsoon for 2012-13 and no major adverse results on corporate performance in January-March, which would help bringing growth back on track. Meanwhile, Planning Commission Deputy Chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia said, "It is obvious that the last quarter (growth-5.3%) was disappointingly low. So, the slowdown is more than what we thought... We have to do something about it." The output of mining and quarrying sector declined by 0.9% last fiscal, as against the positive growth of 5% in 2010-11, according to the data released by the Central Statistical Organisation.

**Spiralling rural consumption is also fuelling economic growth.** As growing wealth fuels spending in thousands of villages across India, rural communities are emerging as new commercial frontiers, raising hopes that the nation's vast countryside will become an engine of future economic growth. The country's vast rural areas show no evidence of economic slowdown. In the last two years, rising prices of agricultural produce have put more money in the hands of many farmers, and even farm labourers are earning higher wages. New Delhi officials have cancelled many loans taken by farmers, and a wave of government subsidies for energy, fertilizers and food - all targeted at boosting rural incomes - has brought more prosperity to the hinterland. As a result, India's 660,000 villages, home to two thirds of the country's 1.2 billion inhabitants, are emerging on the radar of companies selling everything from cars and jeans to soaps and shampoos. From east to west dirt tracks

have been replaced by roads, bringing villages closer to bigger towns. Many people still remain poor, but change is happening, making some Indian leaders confident that villagers hold the key to the country's future. India's aggregate consumption market is slated to grow two-and-a-half times by 2025, to \$1.98 tn. from \$774 b in 2010, according to a report from India's leading institutional broker Kotak Securities. More Indians will have deep pockets and a long shopping list.

It is thus for good reason that **Indian investors remain optimistic on growth**, reposing a high degree of confidence in the local economy, and are in favour of keeping their investment money close to home, a Franklin Templeton global poll has found. In its annual global survey conducted earlier this year, the Franklin Templeton Global Investor Sentiment Survey polled more than 20,000 individuals in 19 countries including India that represent 70% of the world's GDP. The survey provides a unique snapshot of global sentiment and attitudes at a critical juncture in the market cycle. India's decision allowing non-resident Indians to transfer funds from non-resident ordinary (NRO) to non-resident external (NRE) accounts, subject to certain conditions, is also seen as a "positive development" by many of Indian expatriates overseas. In a circular issued on May 7, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) clarified that NRIs would be allowed to transfer funds from NRO to NRE accounts subject to a ceiling of \$1mn in one financial year and payment of tax.

**India can grow at between 8 or 9% for the next 20 years** with a supportive global environment, its Planning Commission's Deputy Chairman, Montek Singh Ahluwalia has said. "In the five years prior to the crisis, the Indian economy grew at an average rate of 9%. Following the crisis, it slowed down to an average of just over 7%," Ahluwalia said during a UN General Assembly debate on "State of the World Economy and Finance in 2012". "We believe India has the potential to grow at rates between 8 or 9% for the next twenty years and to do so in an inclusive manner." Noting that there are many challenges India has to face domestically to achieve this target, Ahluwalia said it "would be greatly helped if the global environment is supportive, and we are willing to work with others to make it so." Ahluwalia cited several things that the global community do to restore growth in the developing world. These included an early agreement on the resolution of the sovereign debt problem in the Eurozone and a well functioning international financial system channelling resources efficiently around the world. "Given the much higher growth potential in developing countries, a well functioning financial system should ensure a sufficient flow of long term capital towards them," he said. Calling for an early conclusion of the Doha Development Round to "send a major positive signal to the global community, Ahluwalia said: "The economic woes we face today cannot be overcome without the major developed countries taking the lead to stimulate economic growth. "Steps at the national level must be accompanied by a broader based advance in improving global governance, he said seeking more voice and participation for important developing countries in the decision making structures of the international financial system.

**Corporate India's confidence in its economic prospects** is reflected in a spate of acquisitions and expansions. IT leader Wipro also announced that it was acquiring Australian analytics company Promax Applications Group (PAG) for \$36 m. Promax derives its revenues by licensing software products and solutions in trade promotion planning, management and optimisation, for around \$36.5 million, in line with the company's strategy to develop strong capabilities in emerging technology areas. "Analytics is a key growth driver of Wipro's growth strategy. The acquisition of Promax Applications Group will strengthen Wipro's positioning and capability in management, analytics & optimisation of trade promotions, and further extends our leadership in analytics and information management services," said K R Sanjiv, senior V-P and global head, analytics and information management. In the pharma sector, Indian drug maker Piramal Healthcare has agreed to buy a US-based healthcare data provider for \$635 m to boost research and development, the company has said, a month after it acquired the new molecules division of Germany's Bayer's. Mumbai-based Piramal has been looking to expand its R&D portfolio after it sold its formulations business to US-based Abbott Laboratories for \$3.72 b in 2010.

The company aims to close the acquisition of Decision Resources Group (DRG), based in Burlington, Massachusetts, by the end of June 30. The unit, with a team of about 300 analysts, is expected to bring in revenues of \$160 m in 2012. Piramal is trying to focus on grass-root research and high-value patents and shift away from making copycat drugs. The global healthcare information industry is valued about \$5.7 b and tough regulatory challenges in R&D are expected to boost demand for researched data on existing as well as new molecules, Piramal said in a statement.

Cash-and-carry represents an opportunity worth around \$150 b in India. No wonder, then, that **international cash and carry chains want to expand through the year in India**. With no FDI restriction, these wholesale chains are allowed to sell products only to retailers, professional users, caterers, institutional buyers and other businesses, which need special licences to buy from these outlets. Walmart, the \$446-b American giant, which operates cash and carry outlets in India in a 50-50 joint venture with the Bharti group, expects to open 12 to 15 wholesale outlets in 2012, against 10 in 2011. A company spokesperson said, "The India story remains strong with the international business community...There is understanding and appreciation of the factors that impact policy making, particularly in India's vibrant democracy...Walmart is here in India for the long term." Metro, the top German cash and carry group, with an estimated annual revenue of \$85 b, is also planning to stay on the expansion path this year in India. A spokesperson said, "We are confident in the big potential of the India market. We are on a growth path and well positioned to expand our presence in other parts of the country". The story of the French retail major Carrefour with annual sales of \$142 b is similar. UK-based Booker, a \$6.5b cash and carry chain, has in the first five months of 2012 already surpassed last year's store launch.

### **Profiting Alongside India's Infrastructure Growth**

Infrastructure investment needs in India are in excess of \$1 trillion over the next five years, says Saud Siddique, Joint Managing Director, SREI Infrastructure Finance Limited. With the Indian government's commitment to growing the economy and the realisation that the country needs good infrastructure to achieve its targets, it translates into many opportunities for investors globally. From an Indian infrastructure fund attending the upcoming Marcusevans Elite Summit 2012 in Montreux, Switzerland, 30 May-1 June, Siddique highlights the investment opportunities in the Indian infrastructure market and what it offers to Western private wealth portfolios. He said that India is the second fastest growing country in the world today, after China. India's infrastructure investment needs in excess of \$1 tr over the next five years include the construction of roads, airports and power infrastructure. The government is trying to increase the percentage of GDP going into infrastructure projects from 6% to about 9% of GDP, to make sure that there will not be a gap that will act as a bottleneck and impact the country's growth. To increase India's productivity base, the current infrastructure has to improve and that investment needs cannot be met by its funds alone. It has therefore introduced reforms to encourage the private sector to come in, construct, own and operate projects in the form of public-private partnerships. There is a very secular trend towards improving the regulatory framework to allow the private sector to invest successfully. The government's target is for 50% of the \$1 tr to come from the private sector.

The state of the infrastructure has a direct bearing on the **efficacy of trade logistics** and countries like India, China and US, which pursued aggressive reforms, have improved their global trade logistics performance despite the slowdown in progress in the sector over the last two years amid the global recession, the World Bank has said. India now ranks 46th in global trade logistics performance in the list of 155 countries. Countries like India improved their previous performance, the World Bank said, citing a study based on a comprehensive global survey of international freight forwarders and express carriers, as it released the "Connecting to Compete 2012: Trade Logistics in the Global Economy" report. "Trade logistics is key to economic competitiveness, growth and poverty reduction," Otaviano Canuto, World Bank vice president said. Logistics performance is not simply determined by the level of per capita income, as many countries across different income groups have done

better than their peers, the Bank said. In the lower middle income category, India, Morocco and the Philippines have above average performance improvements. "Infrastructure stands out as the chief driver of progress in top performers, followed by improvements in logistics services and customs and border management," said Mona Haddad of the World Bank's International Trade Department.

### **Indian IT Companies Job Creators in Overseas Markets**

Far from, as accused, taking away jobs from countries such as the US, Indian information technology firms are now beginning to create jobs in these countries. Companies such as HCL Technologies have plans to create 10,000 jobs by 2015 in the US and European markets and others like WNS Holdings Ltd has announced to set up an office in Columbia, South Carolina from July. Others such as Tech Mahindra, NIIT Technologies and Cigniti also said would continue hiring that have centres in the US, Europe and Africa. While issues around visa for offsite employees are still a problem, the real driver for local hiring is access to cheaper workforce. Also, servicing clients on their time zone is assuming importance. "Our office in the US has 50% local staff. We would continue hiring more in such on-shore or near-shore locations globally. Establishing such facilities is to address the local clients and helps in providing lower cost services to these nations," said Arvind Thakur, Chief Executive Officer, NIIT Technologies. The company has 647 employees in the US and 739 in Europe, Middle East, Africa region. NIIT Technologies' 95% of employees in Continental Europe are locals. Looking at such benefits, WNS is setting up its first local office in North America and would start operation with at least 100 people. The company plans to ramp this up to around 800 in next few years. "The 'new normal' has brought in a new set of challenges that is changing the market dynamics in unprecedented ways," said Naveen Narayanan, Head Talent Acquisition, HCL Technologies, adding that the economic slowdown across the world, especially in developed economies such as US and Europe, is putting pressure on social and community systems. Infosys, which has 6.46% of its total workforce of international origin, said it intends to take it to 15%. "At any point 30% of the total workforce will be onsite," an Infosys spokesperson said. The company plans to hire 1,200 employees in the US. Similarly, Wipro Technologies has 675 employees in its Atlanta development centre and 80% of them are locals.

In the field of information technology, India's largest company Tata Consultancy Services **(TCS) has been named as the world's fourth most valuable information technology (IT) services brand** by leading global brand valuation company Brand Finance. Three other leading IT companies are also in the top-ten list: Infosys (5), Cognizant (9) and Wipro (10). "The value of the TCS brand has increased rapidly over the past three years. Our 2012 ranking marks the first time an emerging market-headquartered firm has entered the top league in IT services," says David Haigh, chief executive officer of Brand Finance. "We are extremely pleased with this ranking, as it confirms the rapid evolution and recognition of our brand at a global level...[T]his achievement on the brand front is a watershed moment in our company's evolution towards a top position in its industry globally," said N Chandrasekaran, chief executive officer and managing director of TCS.

In India as well, the **e-commerce** industry is expected to witness increase in hiring, with online retailers being bullish about their employment plans during 2012-13, according to various industry players. The online retail segment is expected to report strong growth in the coming years, on the back of growing Internet consumer base, increasing use of smartphones, computers and availability of Internet in the remotest part of the country. The segment is expected to grow from \$366.03 m during 2012 to \$1.28 b by 2015. It is growing at an annual rate of 35%, according to report by a leading industry body.

The boom in the tech sector will also see the **Indian IT infrastructure market** reach \$2.05 b in 2012, a 10.3% growth over the last year. This market, comprising servers, storage and networking equipment, will touch the \$3b mark by 2016, says research firm Gartner. In addition, Indian companies are focusing heavily on optimizing their infrastructure capacity by implementing virtualization and incorporating newer ways of data

centre design. They are also making a big shift from a distributed IT setup to a more manageable and efficient centralised model, leading to consolidation of branch and remote IT resources into fewer, but larger data centres, according to Mr Naresh Singh, principal research analyst with Gartner. Cloud service providers will also be a key contributor to the infrastructure consumption, especially for commodity type, scalable technologies, such as scale out systems and extreme low energy servers.

### **India is the Hotbed for Innovations**

Talking about innovation, can any Indian afford to overlook the time honoured '**jugaad**'! A new book co-authored by three Indian-origin authors suggests that western companies can adopt the time-tested Indian concept of 'jugaad' - a frugal and flexible approach to innovation - to succeed in a world that is hypercompetitive and faces resource constraints. Titled 'Jugaad Innovation: Think Frugal, Be Flexible, Generate Breakthrough Growth', the book is co-authored by the Cambridge-based Professor Jaideep Prabhu, the US-based innovation strategist Navi Radjou and Simone Ahuja, founder of a market consultancy based in the US and Mumbai. The book that has received enthusiastic reviews discusses six underlying principles of 'jugaad' innovation: seek opportunity in adversity, do more with less, think and act flexibly, keep it simple, include the margin, and finally follow your heart. Jaideep Prabhu is the Jawaharlal Nehru Professor of Indian Business & Enterprise at the Cambridge Judge Business School, while Radjou is a Fellow of the business school. The book cites several examples in India where low-cost innovation led to effective solutions and revenue streams. The book argues that a frugal and flexible approach to innovation can generate breakthrough growth not only in the developing world but also in the West. During research, the authors discovered that the entrepreneurial spirit of 'jugaad' is not limited to India. They define the Hindi word 'jugaad' as an improvised solution born from ingenuity and using scarce resources. They discovered that it is widely practiced in Argentina, Brazil, China, Costa Rica, India, Kenya, Mexico, the Philippines, and other emerging economies. Brazilians call it gambiarra; the Chinese zizhuchuangxin; and the Kenyans jua kali.

In 1998, when **technology giant Cisco** started its operations in India, it had on its hand a team of just 10 engineers, but today India is Cisco's test bed for emerging markets with over 10,000 employees spread across three centres of excellence. Over the years, the top bosses have come to see India as a worthy investment destination, considering its strength in innovation and its strong talent pool. The Globalisation Centre East (GCE) in Bangalore, its second-largest unit outside the US, has been instrumental behind 650 filed patents, of which 370 have been issued. Faiyaz Shahpurwala, India Site Leader, Cisco, says that the company's hiring plans are on track, and that it will focus on creating new business models for India and global markets.

And, in the **healthcare sector**, Edith Schippers, Dutch minister for health and welfare, recently visited India to intensify bilateral collaborations in the fields of life sciences and health. Heading the Dutch health industry which contributes 3% to the nation's GDP, Schippers has a keen eye on booming sectors in Indian healthcare and pharmaceutical companies. She explained the Dutch interest in the Indian medical market, and why she rejects unhealthy views about Indian medicine companies. He said, "We are especially interested in areas like diagnostics imaging, vaccines, infectious diseases and image-guided therapies as well as specialised nutrition, health and diseases. In all these areas, we've seen fascinating developments during our visit here...Dutch patients benefit from drugs made in India. And I have noticed India is very aware of the necessity for good quality, safe medicines. I am convinced India and Europe will intensify their collaboration on this. The Netherlands is an increasingly important knowledge partner for the Indian life sciences sector. Several Indian companies have partnered with Dutch research institutes, universities and private research and development (R&D) centres. The life sciences and health seminar organised with the department of biotechnology in Bangalore during May is a first step to strengthen collaborations in public-private partnerships...Anticipating that the Indian health sector will grow rapidly, I look forward to continued business together for our common goal of affordable healthcare. India has emerged as a major source of innovation in healthcare

delivery...At present, the Indian health sector represents a total value of about \$65 b. India is in the world's top three countries with the strongest growth of investments in this field. India also has a rapidly growing \$5 b market of medical and technological products”.

Indian scientists have also found a new use of the ubiquitous **silk as bone graft material** in medical science by developing bone-grafting material used in surgery from the lustrous fibre. Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati along with colleagues in the US and **Mexico** made high-strength bone scaffolds-supporting material to bridge gaps between fractured bones-from a concoction of silk protein, fibres and polymer. Scaffolds are required for a temporary period till the natural bone formation process is completed. Tested on rats, silk scaffold proved to provide a better grafting material to orthopaedic surgeons than the existing choices. One of its advantages is that it does away with the current practice of a second surgery to remove implants after fractured bones are healed. “This practice can be done away with silk scaffolds, which degrade naturally after healing,” said one of the team members, Biman Mandal from IIT Guwahati. With silk, scaffolds could be customised to have various ranges of degradation-from few months to two years-for catering to wide range of graft needs, he said. Strength of the scaffold can be changed depending on the amount of silk protein and fibre in the final concoction. More fibre gives higher strength. The rate of degradation too could be varied with the nature of the fracture. The scientists mixed a protein extracted from silkworm with silk fibres and other chemicals to create the scaffold whose strength is close to the strength of body’s own soft bones found. They may become useful in plastic surgeries involving facial or head bones. “By adding microfibers to silk scaffolds, we get stronger mechanical properties and better bone formation. Both structure and function are improved,” said David Kaplan, Professor of Biomedical Engineering at the Tufts University, who led the project. The researchers claimed that by bonding silk microfibers to a silk protein scaffold, they have developed a fully biodegradable composite with high-compressive strength.

### **India Can Make World’s Cheapest Nuclear Reactors**

India can build the cheapest nuclear reactors in the world. Dr.Srikumar Banerjee, Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), has said that India can now manufacture nuclear reactors at \$1,700 per unit (for a 700 MW reactor). “We are now the world’s most economical manufacturer of nuclear reactors. Our cost per unit is substantially less than our nearest competitors; the average international cost is now between \$2,500-3,000 (for a 1,000mw reactor). S.Korea demonstrated its ability to build nuclear reactors for less when it wrested a massive reactor deal for the UAE from French giant, Areva, a couple of years ago. The DAE chief said he was looking at the new Kudankulam nuclear power plant going “critical” by mid-June, and six months down the line the DAE hopes to commission the second Kudankulam plant as well. Indian companies manufacturing components and systems for nuclear reactors, Banerjee said, can now do the same work for much less cost. For instance, he said, L&T, which supplies many critical components for the Indian nuclear and defence sectors, can make the large reactor vessel in their new Hazira plant. This is something of an achievement because it has traditionally been the preserve of Japanese engineering expertise. Banerjee was clear that despite Fukushima, countries like India will have a high demand for nuclear energy. “In the months after Fukushima, we have received expressions of interest from Haryana, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh to set up nuclear power plants. We will do all of them,” asserted a confident DAE chief.

### **India Shines as New Star in Solar Power**

With the global solar power market saddled with oversupply from Chinese makers while demand shrinks in Europe amid the region's debt crisis, eyes have turned to India as one of the fastest growing new markets. For India, which is highly dependent on fossil fuel energy sources and plagued with constant power shortages, alternative energy is an attractive option. The government's goal is to achieve 20,000MW of installed solar capacity by 2022.At an investment conference in the west Indian state of Gujarat in April, electricity operators from Canada, Australia, Spain and elsewhere showered praise on India's scheme for its extensive administrative support and practical policies. Gujarat is ambitious in leading the energy-

hungry nation's solar drive, with one of its senior government officials declaring that the state will aim to achieve 10,000 MW of solar capacity by 2022. In April, the Gujarat Solar Park, one of Asia's largest solar power fields, was completed in Charanka village in northern Gujarat. The project, deemed by some in the industry as the largest of its kind that any country is currently engaged in, is seen as a symbol of the Indian market's promising prospects. With the sharp drop in the price of solar panels - down to one-third that of three years ago - and overstuffed inventories at many suppliers, competition to sell into the Indian market is intensifying.

### **Turkmen Gas to Flow to India**

In a step that is likely to give new shape to regional energy cooperation, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Turkmenistan, on May 23, inked the historic gas sale purchase agreement (GSPA) for the \$7.6-billion Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline, often touted as the peace pipeline, which upon completion would diversify its gas basket. Within five years, the country would have access to imported natural gas, in addition to imported liquefied natural gas (LNG) and domestic sources, including coal bed methane gas. Turkmenistan, which holds more than 4% of the world's natural gas reserves, signed agreements to sell gas to India and Pakistan through the 1,680-km pipeline at the Caspian Sea resort of Avaza in Turkmenistan. For India, the agreement was signed by GAIL (India) Chairman B.C.Tirpathi in the presence of Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Jaipal Reddy who described the signing of the GSPA as "no ordinary event" and a triumph of multilateralism, regional cooperation and economic integration. The TAPI pipeline will have a capacity to carry 90 m cu m a day (mmscmd) of gas for a 30-year period and is likely to become operational by 2018. India and Pakistan would get 38 mmscmd each, while the remaining 14 mmscmd will be supplied to Afghanistan. India will pay 50 cents per mBtu as the transit fee to Pakistan and Afghanistan for the gas. The contract price of TAPI gas is linked to a formula which contains indices based on fuel basket and other indices which are not as volatile as crude oil. The formula is similar to the ones used in international contracts. The pipeline will run from the Turkmenistan gas fields to Afghanistan. It will start from the Dauletabad gas fields and run into Afghanistan alongside the highway running from Herat to Kandahar and then via Quetta and Multan in Pakistan. The final destination of the pipeline will be Fazilka near the India-Pakistan border.

India has also taken other steps to shore up its energy security. The Government has decided through Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL) to **set up crude oil reserves** in three different locations spread across the country with total storage capacity of 5.33 million tonnes (mT). Minister of State for Petroleum & Natural Gas, Mr.R.P.N.Singh said in the Parliament that these strategic crude oil reserves would be set up one each at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh with a capacity of 1.33 mT, Mangalore in Karnataka with a capacity of 1.5 mT, and Padur also in Karnataka with a capacity of 2.5 mT to enhance the energy security of the country and to deal with any unforeseen circumstances. While the Visakhapatnam project is likely to be commissioned in 2013, Mangalore and Padur projects might be commissioned by 2014. A detailed feasibility study for construction of additional 12.5 mT of crude oil storage at Bikaner, Rajkot, Chandikol (Orissa) and Padur has also been entrusted by ISPRL to Engineers India Limited.

Besides, India should see **commercial shale gas production in four years**. Oil & Natural Gas Corp.(ONGC), India's biggest explorer, is studying data for shale-gas deposits and awaiting a government policy on commercial drilling for gas trapped in shale rock, said Sudhir Vasudeva, Chairman of the state-run company. India holds 6.1 trillion cubic feet of technically recoverable shale gas reserves in three basins, the US Geological Survey estimated in a report in January. That was less than 10% of the 63 trillion cubic feet estimate made the previous year, in April, by the US Energy Information Administration in a report. "The US estimates are just estimates, and we'll have to survey the geology and deposits and drill wells before we know how much shale gas we have," Vasudeva said. "What we do know is that India does have shale-gas reserves." ONGC found shale gas at a well in India's West Bengal state, according to a Jan 27, 2011 statement. The company

signed an agreement with ConocoPhillips (COP) on March 30 for developing shale resources in India and North America. India has started mapping its shale resources and will have exploration rules in place by 2013, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh said March 23. Blocks will be auctioned next year after the policy is published.

### **5 Indian Companies Lead in Global Race**

Indian companies, like their Western counterparts, are becoming more global with mergers and acquisitions. The Indian School of Business, Hyderabad, and Brazil's Fundacao Dom Cabral, have released the results of their joint survey on which Indian companies are truly international when it comes to global presence. The Transnational Index uses a combination of three measures to determine the degree of internationalisation of companies. Some of the Indian companies that have been rated high on the Index are: Core Education and Technologies Ltd, India's largest global education company that provides technology enabled education solutions for the entire education continuum of K-12, higher education and vocational education to government bodies, universities, schools and students. It has presence across 12 states in India, 46 states in the United States, 40 LEA and institutions in the United Kingdom, eight African and three Caribbean countries. Polyplex Corporation Ltd is the world's fourth-largest producers of thin polyester film. It has manufacturing facilities in India, Thailand and Turkey and exports its products to the United States, Europe, South-East Asia, South America, and Australia. With a mix of greenfield projects (Thailand and Turkey) and acquisitions (US), Polyplex has steadily grown to become a truly internationalised firm. Subex Ltd provides solutions in the areas of business support systems and operations support systems for telecom applications worldwide. Subex's customers include 16 of top 20 wireless operators worldwide and 26 of the world's 50 biggest telecommunications service providers. The company has more than 300 installations across 70 countries. Its acquisitions in the last five years include Azure Solutions (UK, 2006), Syndesis (2007, Canada). Strides Arcolab Ltd is a first generation, pharmaceutical company with business interests in specialty pharmaceuticals and generics. It has manufacturing operations in six countries (the US, Brazil, **Mexico**, Italy, Poland and Singapore), an innovative R&D hub in Bangalore and a marketing network in 70 countries. In the United States and Canadian markets, the company partners with generic companies to supply retail and hospital generics in injectable products and softgels. It has similar presence and partnerships in the European markets, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. Manaksia Ltd engages in the manufacture and sale of metal products, packaging products, and fast moving consumer goods. The company has now diversified into the production of rolled products, secondary specification alloys and galvanised steel. It has 15 manufacturing plants in India and three abroad; two in Nigeria and one in Ghana. The company's wholly owned subsidiary in Nigeria, MINL Limited, was set up in 1996. The company also has subsidiary companies in Ghana (Dynatech Industries Ghana Limited) and Dubai (Euroasian Ventures FZE).

### **E-Learning Gaining Rapid Popularity**

The innovative concept of e-learning is gaining wide popularity in India. The online training courses offered by the Centre for Environment, Planning and Technology (CEPT), University in Ahmadabad, India, are attracting students from all over the world. People who are more than 50 years old, architects, government employees, self-employed workers, private sector personnel and even learners from foreign countries are all enrolling on the e-learning programme. Course director at CEPT Professor Sejal Patel claimed around one-fifth of all participants come from nations such as Bhutan, Nepal, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Belgium and Sri Lanka. Furthermore, other people are in senior positions within the state, including members of the Ministry of Urban Development, the Ahmadabad Urban Development Authority and groups such as Poverty Alleviation, he revealed. Professor Saswat Bandopadhyay, chair of CEPT's Centre for Continuing Education, said that virtual learning environments used to be generally accessed by men. However, at present, 46% of the participants are female, he stated, pointing out "the enrolment is almost in an equal ratio". Some of the popular course titles the academic facility provides include Urban Infrastructure Planning, Urban Planning, Environment and

Sustainable Development and Environmental Impact Assessment. Around 25% of the people involved in these programmes are engineers, while a further 15% come from a scientific background, Bandopadhyay added. "The e-learning course has helped me to understand the nuances of recent demand and practices in the sector," said Harpreet Singh Brar, who took the Urban Infrastructure Planning course. He claimed online learning gave him a professional edge and helped him to stay knowledgeable in his industry. People taking a course through this method will not have to travel to the university to attend lectures or take exams. Everything is accessible over the internet, meaning students will never have to come to the campus, with registration even taking place on the web.

### **Indian Ayurveda to Fight Alzheimer**

Herbs have been used for thousands of years in Ayurveda, the traditional Indian system of medicine. The pharmacology department of the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, has now advanced a claim—after research—that *shankhpushpi* and *aparajita*, herbs found abundant in India can be used to fight Alzheimers. Although the research has only crossed first stage, researchers claim that the day is not far when people will have drugs made out of extracts of these plants to fight the disease. Shankhpushpi, also called 'aloe weed' or known by its botanical name as 'convolvulus pluricaulis', is mainly found in Bihar. It is traditionally known as a medicinal herb to deal with insomnia and fatigue. Aparajita is found all over the country. Its botanical name is 'clitoriatermatea'. Dr Y K Gupta, head of the department, said, "There are no two opinions that Ayurvedic plants have capacity to fight against diseases. They act like a tonic that is well-accepted in Ayurvedic literature of India. Now, AIIMS has identified these plants and is conducting research on them which has been successful. "In the first stage, trials were conducted on rats. First, the condition of Alzheimer's was created by giving chemicals to rats. This was followed by giving hydro-electrical extracts to the animals using the two herbs. "After spending two years in research, we reached the conclusion that both plants have anti-oxidants and enzymes that are helpful in maintaining memory of a person," Gupta said. Efforts are on to take the research to the next stage.

### **India Woos Global Film Makers**

Film tourism is the new catchword with the Indian ministry of information and broadcasting (I&B) to woo global film makers to come and shoot in the country across various locations. The move comes in the wake of a 42% rise in the number of Hollywood movies shot in India between 2010 and 2011, according to Ernst & Young. While 19 Hollywood films were shot in 2010, in 2011 it rose to 27. The ministry, currently working on Film Commission of India to provide for a one-stop window for clearances and permissions for global film makers to facilitate shooting their films in India, is wooing film makers at Cannes Film Festival in France to explore India for their location shoots in a big way. According to I&B Secretary Uday Kumar Varma, the India Pavilion at Cannes is showcasing India as preferred destination for global film makers, following the heightened interest in India as an attractive film locale. With 28 states, 850 million people under the age of 35, 2.9 billion cinema ticket sales, says Confederation of Indian Industry Director General Chandrajit Banerjee, India offers immense opportunity for film makers not only to shoot in India but also work on Indian version of the film that will give business access in India. Access to world class technicians and equipment, amazing choice of locations to shoot for any type of film, and skilled professionals available across the country, offers global film makers ready local infrastructure to take up film shoots in India, says Banerjee. The I&B ministry is promoting Mumbai, Kerala, Varanasi, Ladakh, Karnataka, Kashmir, Kolkata, Goa and Himachal Pradesh as some of the destinations.

### **Bollywood: The Dream Machine of a Billion People**

Bollywood. The word means a million different things. For some it's a world where nothing is impossible. For some it's the ever-hungry monster that won't stop at anything. This is a place where reality is escaped through dreams - this is a place where the rules are the same for everyone till they become someone.

Hindi cinema has indeed come a long way in its first century. It has become the world's

biggest film producing industry on its own terms and remains one of the few cinemas of the world that hasn't bowed to Hollywood. In fact, it lovingly embraces the tag of Bollywood, a derivative that could be seen as nothing more than a debased version of its more illustrious namesake. It has gone from strength to strength, its famous sons and daughters have more fans and followers than any most stars across the world, it evokes frenzy and passion which filmmakers can't even dream of and yet it remains cocooned in some sense of the word.

In other parts of the world, making movies may be a business or high art but in Bollywood, cinema is nothing less than a religion. Its custodians are gods and goddesses who don't age or do anything wrong. What is it about Hindi films that makes them so unique? Starting on similar grounds as it did across the world, the moving image got a life of its own in India. Our films were sacred and scary at the same. People took actors portraying gods for real. Legend has it that once during the filming of a reel snake, a real one ran amok in the darkened movie hall. The slithering creature was pacified by the mesmerising sound of the *been* from the soundtrack of the film while people paid obeisance. Even though everything about the trade has been turned on its head, not much has changed in the passion people have towards films in India. Cutouts of actors large enough to be viewed from outer space are bathed in milk before audiences make way into the theatre to see the first-day-first-show at 4 in the morning. Those who can't manage a ticket sometimes fly across cities to watch the new release.

In a nation like India where hope means more than anything, cinema plays a different role. People don't mind going hungry in order to see a film and escape into a world where everything is all right or at least would be by the time they come out. Many a times filmmakers like Manmohan Desai (*Amar Akbar Anthony*, *Naseeb*) made films that defied any logic only in the name of entertaining the nameless viewer who'd rather spend his last rupee on a ticket than a *roti*. This is what defines the men and women who make dreams come true every Friday. Sajid Khan (*Housefull*, *Housefull 2*) continues to be a happy custodian of this legacy and doesn't care about anything else.

Anywhere else in the world, cinema perpetually strives for some kind of a global acceptance. For the longest time Bollywood believed that the expats were its 'global' audiences and never cared a hoot for anyone else. In the mid-1980s when Hollywood discovered Hong Kong, other cinemas of the world too tried to enter the local business and were even welcomed to some extent. Not in Bollywood. Here no one cared for the *firangs* and their money. The only thing it craved was taking their stories and Indianising them, many a times not even bothering to credit the source. But it worked. It worked to such an extent that Hollywood studios came calling and set up shop here. They mocked the singing-songs-and-dancing-around-the-trees routine but ended up financing films like *Saawariya* that, well...celebrated the same. What could be a bigger testimony than one of the recent Hollywood success stories, *Slumdog Millionaire*, being nothing more than Bollywood talking in English. For once, no one seemed to mind the accent.

If the filmmaker's passion makes him/her stake everything for the entertainment of the everyman, the common man too displays uncommon zeal when it comes to films. The modes of transport might have changed but the fervor with which Bollywood continues to attract millions remains the same. For every success story like Shahrukh Khan, the proverbial outsider who became the *Baadshah* of Bollywood on his own terms, there are a million failures, yet the numbers keep increasing.

The audiences love watching films and some of them are willing to forsake everything to live a dream. Divided between the sad truth, fabled myths and the fine line called Friday that divides the two, Bollywood continues to turn the wheels and live the dream.

*(A cinophile and a close observer of society, the author Gautam Chintamani is an award-winning documentary filmmaker/writer. He is a regular contributor to leading Indian publications and is currently working on his first book.)*

### **Pakistan to Learn from India's Polio Success**

A 9-member Pakistani delegation led by Shahnaz Wazir Ali, social activist and special assistant to Pakistani prime Minister, is to shortly visit India to learn from the country's experience in eradicating polio. The delegation will hold talks with health ministry officials and witness a pulse polio camp in Ghaziabad. With not a single case of polio reported from India for more than a year now, the country was taken off the list of polio-endemic countries by the World Health Organisation (WHO) recently. However, neighbouring countries—Afghanistan and Pakistan—and Nigeria are still fighting the polio virus. As a preventive measure, India has set up polio booths at Attari and Wagah border touching Pakistan where small children are immunised before entering India. Pakistan's polio figures rose from 144 in 2010 to 198 in 2011, while already 16 cases have been reported thus far this year. Meanwhile, probably inspired by India's immunisation drives, particularly Pulse Polio, the United Nations World Health Assembly (WHA) has decided to hold World Immunisation Week each year in the last week of April. The WHA has also urged member states to eliminate the non-immunised areas and maintain very high population immunity against polio viruses through routine immunisation programmes and, where necessary, supplementary immunisation activities.

### **Karnataka NGO wins global green energy award**

The Karnataka-based NGO, Shri Kshetra Dharmasthala Rural Development Project (SKDRDP), has won the Ashden Gold Award for 2012. The Ashden awards were founded in 2001 to encourage greater use of local sustainable energy to address climate change and alleviate poverty. A press release by the London-based Ashden said that SKDRDP was awarded the overall Ashden Gold Award of £40,000 in prize money. Quoting the judges, the release said that the project is a fantastic example of how ethically managed microfinance can deliver sustainable energy to the poor, demonstrating that providing consumer loans for energy makes sound social, environmental and economic sense. The project provides affordable loans to families in the area, helping them buy renewable energy systems that improve their quality of life. Key to the success of this programme, which has provided nearly 20,000 energy loans, is self-help groups that help people make informed choices on what energy products they buy, it said. Presenting the award, Dr Kandeh Yumkella, Director-General of UNIDO and Chair of UN-Energy, said, "The Ashden 2012 winners are exposing the myth that poor countries cannot stimulate growth without degrading the environment. They are demonstrating that sustainable energy stimulates green growth and new jobs, lifts people out of poverty, improves health and opens up new educational opportunities".

### **Yoga And Sanskrit Inspire Software Development**

Yoga and Sanskrit from India's classical past are inspiring software development. Facebook founder Dustin Moskovitz, who was responsible for making sure the computers straining to run Facebook's expanding network never went down, has designed a new workplace management software, named *Asana*, after the Sanskrit word meaning "easeful posture". Yoga practitioners think of it in terms of complex poses done effortlessly. "You should read a lot into the name," Moskovitz said. Tasks can be named and assigned across the company, then shut down or subdivided as the work progresses. People can rank, or have others rank, which of their jobs need attention soonest.

### **India-Born Population in US Reaches 1.8 M**

The India-born population in the United States has increased from about 1.62 m in 2008 to about 1.8 m in 2010, according to a new US Census Bureau study based on the 2010 American Community Survey. The total US foreign-born population has risen to its highest level since 1920, with 13% of those living in the US born outside the US. 40 m of those residing in the U.S. in 2010 were born in other countries, up from 31 m, or 11% of the total, in 2000. Those in the US who were born in **Mexico** numbered about 11.7 m, the China-born totalled 2.2 m and the Philippines-born were tied with the India-born at about 1.8 m. US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has praised the "incredible contribution" of Indian-Americans in the US and said the people to people relationship was the core of the ties between the two countries. "So many links between us, we want to promote even more," said Clinton, addressing a

gathering a leading Kolkata school during her recent India visit, where she also recalled the first Indian Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore's quote: "Age considers, youth ventures".

### **Indian Tourist Visa on Arrival Extended**

India has decided to extend the tourist visa on arrival (VoA) policy to France, Germany and Russia, without looking for mutual reciprocity. The facility is likely to be extended to more countries soon. India currently issues VoA to 11 countries like Japan, Indonesia, the Philippines, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Singapore, Myanmar, Finland, Luxembourg and New Zealand. This step should also accelerate growth in tourism and related service sectors.

***Our civilization, our culture, our Swaraj, depend not upon multiplying our wants - self-indulgence, but upon restricting our wants - self denial.***

**- Mahatma Gandhi**

### **Indian Student Solves Newton's Conundrum**

An Indian student has solved a 350-year old conundrum that had long defied the world's foremost mathematical minds. About 350 years back Sir Isaac Newton had put forth two questions to the world, which had remained unsolved - until now. He had said that if a stone is thrown forward in parallel to the surface of the earth, it will come down after sometime due to force of gravity. The force of throwing the stone and the force of gravity combine to create a mixed force and the stone lands on the surface of the earth in a crooked direction. Questions asked were:(i) what should be the force of throwing the stone so that it will go round the earth and fall at the same place of its launch, and (ii) in which direction will the stone jump after landing. A 16 years old Indian student from Kolkata, now living in Germany with his father, has offered simple solution to the problems, surprising many. He had taken it as a challenge, when a professor at Dresden University claimed that no human being could answer these questions. The boy, who had moved from Calcutta to Germany 4 years ago, has now earned himself the title of "Young Scientist" after solving the problem. Shouryya developed an analytical solution for a particle dynamics problem that had until now been addressed through numerical solutions using computers that yielded results based on approximations. A media report suggests that this is a mathematical achievement—an analytical solution is a complete solution in contrast to an approximation.

### **Indian World Chess Champion, Again**

Reigning World Chess Champion Viswanathan Anand defeated challenger Boris Gelfand of Israel in the rapid tie-breaks 2.5-1.5 to win the World Chess Championship for the fifth time. This is also a hat-trick in classical matches for Anand, who won the tournament format in 2007 in Mexico. When FIDE switched to match format he defeated Vladimir Kramnik in 2008 in Bonn, Germany, and then won against Veselin Topalv in 2010 in Sofia, Bulgaria. "It was a tough match and I am too tense now to feel anything more than a sense of relief," said the 42-year-old after the match. The 12-game match had resulted in a 6-6 deadlock, and the tie-breaks were needed to decide the title. This was the first time that Anand was stretched to the tie-breakers in World Championship matches. Earlier, Anand had won the World Chess Championship for the first time in 2000 and held the crown till 2002, at a time when the world title was split. The nation paid rich tributes to Anand for his latest achievement, with Prime Minister Dr.Manmohan Singh and Congress president Sonia Gandhi congratulating the chess legend and calling him an "inspiration" to the youth.

### **'Most Powerful' Mothers Include 2 From India**

Two women from India are among world's 'most powerful' mothers. India's ruling United Progressive Alliance chairperson Sonia Gandhi, and Pepsico's India-born CEO Indra Nooyi, figure in Forbes' World's 20 Most Powerful Moms list, topped by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. While Sonia Gandhi, 65, mother of daughter Priyanka and son Rahul, is ranked No.6, just ahead of the US First Lady Michelle Obama, Nooyi, 56, a mother of two, takes the third spot in the list released by the U.S. business magazine on Mother's Day, on May 13. The chairperson of the soft drink giant said if her children call in the middle of a meeting, she takes the call. Clinton, 64, took the top spot ahead of Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff,

64. Myanmar's democracy icon Aung San SuuKyι was at the 20th spot in the list that also included Melinda Gates, and Christine Lagarde.

**Ten Indians, Women, Atop Mt.Everest**

Ten members of the Indian Army, including women, have scaled Mount Everest. The expedition comprising four women officers and six male soldiers conquered Mount Everest on May 25. "Sir, we have done it," were the first words of Captain Namrata Rathore to team leader Colonel Ajay Kothiyal the moment she stepped on the peak (8,848 m). Other women officers who followed Rathore to the peak were Maj (Dr) Linyu, Captain Deepika Rathore and Captain Smitha. The male members who conquered the highest peak included Subedar Rajender Jalal, Havaladar Sherab Palden, Havaladar Praveen Thapa, Havaladar C B Thapa, and L/H Sudhir Singh. "Our first attempt on the summit was hampered by bad weather that included strong winds which prompted us to make a strategic decision to retreat," said Col.Kothiyal. Bad weather prompted many expeditions to close camps and abandon their attempts earlier this month.

**Women on Top, Again!**

India's premier Civil Services 2011-12 examinations have again been topped by a woman, who is also a medical doctor. Like the last year, the number two successful candidate too is a woman, who has done Master of Arts (Social Entrepreneurship) from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. In the third position is an electrical engineer, who has done Masters from IIT-Delhi. The top 25 candidates include 19 male (including one visually challenged candidate) and 6 female candidates. In the top 100 candidates, there are 21 female candidates. A total of 472,290 candidates had applied for the examination, out of which 243,003 candidates actually appeared. For the Main written examination held in October-November, 2011, a total of 11,984 candidates were declared qualified, out of which 2417 candidates were selected for the Personality Test conducted in March-April, 2012. Finally, 910 candidates (715 male and 195 female) have been recommended for appointment to the nation's premier civil services, including the diplomatic, police, and revenue, etc. The result showcases the pan-Indian distribution of successful candidates. Amongst the top 25 candidates, there are candidates claiming domicile from as many as 16 States, and their family background shows diverse representation from all walks of the life which include farmers, teachers, businessmen, army personnel, government servants, doctors, advocate, professor and civil servants.

**They Said It...**

"What's fascinating about the Indian market is even if the market were growing at a rate of 10,000% year-on-year, that wouldn't even keep up with true market potential. That's how big the mobile market is in India."

**- Bill McDermott, CEO, SAP AG**

***God tries His votaries through and through, but never beyond endurance. He gives them strength enough to go through the ordeal He prescribes for them.***  
**- Mahatma Gandhi**

**TRADE ENQUIRIES FROM INDIA**

<b>Company</b>	<b>Interest Areas</b>
<b>NIDHI MEDITECH SYSTEMS</b> A/207, Tirthraj Complex, Opposite V.S.Hospital, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006 Tel: (91 79) 26578422, 26578322, Fax: 30028422, Mob: 9067833797 Contact: Mr.Alish Sinojiya, International Marketing Executive Email: exports@nidhimeditech.com, Web: www.nidhimeditech.com	Urology products,

<p><b>NEXGEN FLUOROPOLYMERS PVT. LTD.</b>                  2nd Floor, Pavitra House, 4 &amp; 5, Shahzada Bagh Extension, Delhi-110035                  Tel: 91 11 23652312-13, Fax: 23647117, Mob: (91) 9560544338                  Contact: Mr.Rajat Juneja, International Marketing                  Email: rajat.juneja@nexgenfluoro.com, Web: www.nexgenfluoro.com</p>	<p>PTFE (Teflon), FEP, PFA products</p>
<p><b>NEW ALLENBERRY WORKS</b>                  14/7, Mathura Road, Faridabad-121003                  Tel: (91 129) 6451260, Fax: 2275525                  Contact: Mr.G.Jayaraman                  Email: gj@nawgears.com, naw@del3.vsnl.net.in                  Web: www.allenberrygears.com</p>	<p>Automobile transmission gears &amp; shafts</p>
<p><b>G. BALAKRISHNAN &amp; BROS. LTD.</b>                  Krishnarayapuram Road, Ganapathy, Coimbatore-641006, Tamil Nadu                  Tel: (91 422) 3911119, Mob: (91) 9362863035                  Contact: Mr.S.G.Prabhavathi                  Email: exports.usa@lgb.co.in , sg.prabhavathy@lgb.co.in                  Web: www.lgb.co.in</p>	<p>Motorcycles, cars and two-wheeler chain and sprocket products</p>
<p><b>JAYAM INTERNATIONAL</b>                  D.No.4, Flat No.5, ThiruvalluvarKoil Street, RCC Flats, "A" Block, 1st Floor, Mylapore, Chennai-600004                  Mob: (91) 9677099529                  Contact: Ms.M.Suba, Proprietor, Email: jayam.inter@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Garments, textiles, candles, agarbathies and spices</p>
<p><b>SHREE SHANTINATH INDUSTRIES</b>                  Mob: (91) 8059777103                  Contact: Mr.S.K.Jain, International Sales Director                  Email: skj22678@gmail.com, shantinath7512@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Disposable, surgical devices and dressings products</p>
<p><b>NEXUS NEO AGRO-FOODS EXPORTS PVT. LTD.</b>                  95 "Neo-House" Sector 8-B, Gandhinagar, 382007                  Tel: (91 79) 23244557, 23244558, 23240120, Fax: 23246531                  Mob: (91) 9687603102, 9979774773                  Contact: Mr.Aashaka Shah, Sales &amp; Marketing                  Email: aashaka@neoagrofoodsexports.com, bhupesh@neoagrofoodsexports.com</p>	<p>Yarns and agricultural commodities like Pulses and Spices</p>
<p><b>MANSA PRINT &amp; PUBLISHERS LTD.</b>                  290, Industrial Area, Phase-2, Panchkula-134113                  Tel: (91 172) 5020904, 5004350, 5020900, Mob: (91) 9216870060                  Contact: Mr. Balwinder Singh, Manager Export (Commercial)                  Email: balwindersingh@mansaprints.in</p>	<p>Paper stationary products Drilling, Binding and Printing machines</p>
<p><b>SUNITA EXPORTS</b>                  B-1601, Vrindavan Tower, Padma Nagar, Chikuwadi, Borivali (W), Mumbai-400092                  Tel: (91 22) 28334943, Mob: (91) 9004757453, 8291192182                  Contact: Mr.Alok S.Dhanuka &amp; Mr.Ankit S.Dhanuka                  Email: sunitaexportsindia@gmail.com, contact@sunitaexport.in                  Web: www.sunitaexport.in</p>	<p>Basmati, non-Basmati rice and spices (chilly, turmeric, coriander, cumin, curry)</p>
<p><b>COMPLETECHEMIE CORPORATION</b>                  815, IJMIMA Cooperative Society Ltd, Behind Goregaon Sports Club, Off Link Road, Next to Infinity Mall, Malad West, Mumbai-400064                  Tel: (91 22) 40212021, 42648884-Ext13, Fax: 40212022                  Mob: (91) 9702963038                  Contact: Mr.Swapnil Masurkar                  Email: support@completechemie.com</p>	<p>Pharmaceutical products</p>

<p><b>BEST GEMS</b> 1299, Chankya Marg., Subhash Chowk, Jaipur-302002 Mob: (91) 9024246177, 8104207561 Contact: Mr.Kailash Chand Soni Email: bestgemsjaipur@gmail.com, Web: bestgems.wordpress.com</p>	<p>Colored gem stones both precious &amp; semi-precious, sterling silver jewellery</p>
<p><b>RS EXPORTS</b> A-34, Jai Ambey Nagar Tonk Road, Jaipur-302006 Mob: (91) 9982875844 Contact: Mr.Ashish Sharma Email: rsexport2@gmail.com, Web: www.indianagriproducts.in</p>	<p>Agro products</p>
<p><b>SONACHI INDUSTRIES (13)</b> Sector No: 9/C-54/203, Shantinagar, Mira Road (East), Thane 401107 Mob: (91) 9930205255 Contact: Mr. Vishnu G. Dev, Email: expimpsyndicate@gmail.com</p>	<p>Processing and freezing of marine (seafood) &amp; corn products</p>
<p><b>ORBIS HOME TRENDS PRIVATE LIMITED (1)</b> 581/3, First Floor, Chirag Delhi, Main Road, New Delhi-110017 Tel: (91 11) 47426866, 47426877, Fax: 29253871 Contact: Mr.D.P.Singh Email: info@orbishometrends.com, Web: www.orbishometrends.com</p>	<p>Home furnishing &amp; home decor</p>

**Trade Fairs & Business Exhibitions in India in July-September 2012**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Organizer</b>	<b>Product Profile</b>
The Biz International 2012, New Delhi (June 30-July 2)	The Toy Association of India Web: www.tai-india.org	All kinds of games, crafts & activities, sports and gift items
India International Leather Garments & Goods Fair 2012, New Delhi. (July 5-7)	India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) Web: www.indiatradefair.com	Leather, Leather products, Fashion accessories, Machinery, Equipment and Chemicals
*Tex Trends India 2012 (July 16-18)	Apparels Export Promotion Council (AEPC) Email: dsg@aepcindia.com, info@indiaapparelfair.com Web: www.texttrendsindiafair.com	Women's wear, Children's wear, Menswear, Accessories, Fashion apparels
AMTEX 2012 (July 27-30)	Triune Exhibitors Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore Web: www.amtex2012.com	Lathes & CHCs, Machines, Tools, Motors, Lubricants and Equipments etc.
Media Expo, Giftsworld Expo, Office Expo, New Delhi (Aug 4-6)	Media Exposition and Events, Delhi Web: www.themediaexpo.com/delhi	Machines, signage, displays, security, audiovisual & telecom equipments, gifts, art material, healthcare products, office/home items
Delhi Book Fair 2012, New Delhi (Sept 1 - 9)	ITPO Web: www.indiatradefair.com	Books, Publications, Journals
15th India International Security Expo, New Delhi (Sept 13-16)	ITPO Web: www.indiatradefair.com	Security and Safety equipment and systems including disaster management
4th International Hospitality Fair 2012 (Sept 20-22)	Confederation of Indian Industry Web: www.cii.in	Food & beverage equipment and services, dairy products, housekeeping, wines & spirits

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

Indian Performing Arts Captivate Mexico



Ambassador, Mrs. Jain, Dip.Francisco Jiménez Merino, Amb.Morozov, Farewell Reception India House



India Pavilion at Mexico City's Fair of Friendly Cultures, May 12-27



Kathak students of Gurudev Tagore Indian Cultural Centre performing on World Dance Day



Marcela Palomo, an advanced student of the Odissi dance form, performing at the Embassy, May 26