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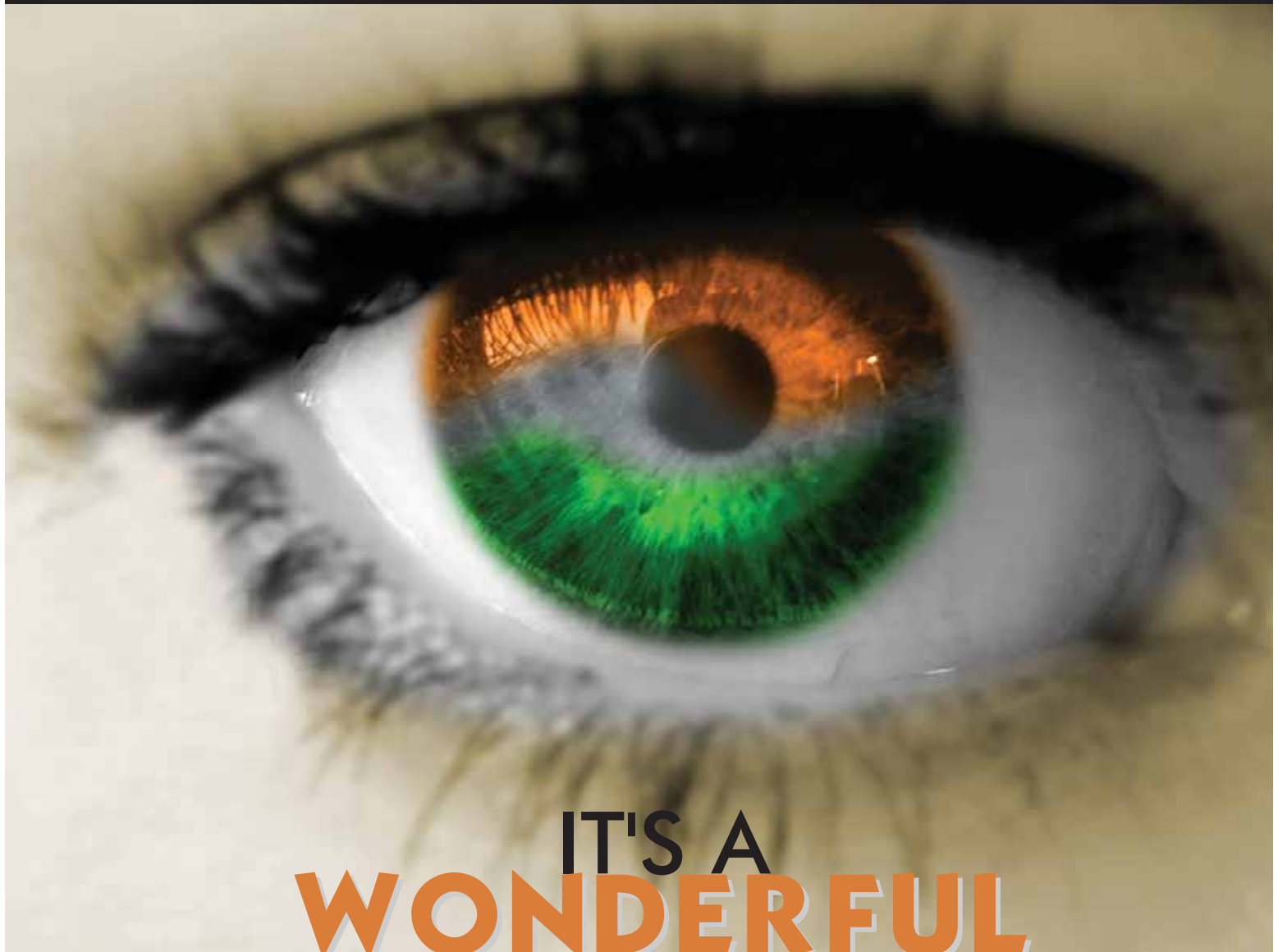
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Kanchan Banerjee

Editor in Chief

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Each person related to India has a responsibility to learn more about Tagore and Swami Vivekananda and disseminate their teachings among their children, friends and societies they live in.

Why Should We Remember Them?

Many people of Indian origin not only made huge impact in the respective societies they adopted, but also influenced thought processes of local nationalities. History is often remembered only on occasions and needs. However, if we go by what German historian Johann Gustav Droysen (1808-1884) had to say, then our civilization, society and education system need some re-thinking. He said: "History is the 'know thyself' of humanity the self-consciousness of mankind."

The context is how some great sons of India have influenced the world. It is said that sage Agastya's expedition to the South East Asia triggered the 'Indian influence' in countries such as Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia and even Vietnam. A Buddhist monk Acharya Ado is credited with the deeper spiritual and cultural link among India, Korea and Japan.

Emperor Ashoka sent medical teams to Europe to propagate Ayurveda; some say *Timaeus* of Plato is taken from the Ayurvedic concept of *Tridosha* and the snake symbol caduceus used in medical societies also came from India.

In recent times several Indians have made huge difference in the societies and lives where they went. The most well-known one is Mahatma Gandhi's work in South Africa. Also associated to India's freedom struggle is Subhas Chandra Bose and the INA which was established due to active support of Rash Behari Bose in Japan. There are many such stories in Europe and other countries – Vikhaji Kama and M.N.Roy belong to that list.

Nobel laureate and Indian literary doyen Rabindranath Tagore also visited many countries around the world. He met many best minds of the world during his trips to Europe, Japan and America. His meetings with scientists like Einstein were great occasions of meeting 'eastern mysticism with western sciences'. During his last visit to the USA, in the 67 days Tagore was in the USA, the New York Times ran 21 reports on him, including two interviews and a photograph of him with Einstein. At his talk at the Carnegie Hall in New York, thousands had to be turned away because it could fit only 4,000 people. The exhibitions of his paintings in New York and Boston became very popular. His talks at Harvard in women's freedom were historical. Though his constant criticism of Western materialism and

war hurt his popularity, his invisible impact certainly is being felt in a pluralistic society like the US. Be that as it may, the real relevance of his message is rarely felt.

Chicago was the first city that Tagore visited like Swami Vivekananda. On the occasion of America's Bicentennial Celebration in 1976, the National Portrait Gallery of Smithsonian Institute had compiled "Abroad in America: Visitors to the New Nation," which paid tribute to around 20 most impacting personalities who visited America from abroad. The commemorative volume included Swami Vivekananda and it said "He left indelible mark on American spiritual life." One may ask how? Well, this short space is not going to do any justice to that. But I just wanted to mention few things. Till the 1893, Columbian Fair in Chicago, and the World Parliament of Religions – science was still undermined by religion. Swamiji challenged the 'blind belief system'-based religion and associated the term science' with spirituality that should also be verifiable with any empirical truth. He in a way was instrumental to rescue science from religious domination. Scientist Tesla was his close friend, who apparently was challenged by the Swamiji to show how matter could be created from energy (which he could not), and later Einstein's ideas lead to generation of energy from matter. Unfortunately many notes and reports on Swamiji's talks were lost. It is difficult to tell now how many great minds of that era he influenced. That aside, Rockefeller's philanthropy started after his meeting with the Swamiji. Ditto for Jamshed Tata back home who was inspired by Swamiji to start the Tata industries.

Two contemporary and very influential philosophers - William James, Josiah Royce, who were close with Emerson, Bertrand Russell, Mark Twain and other world thinkers, were equally influenced by Swamiji.

India and Indians across the globe is celebrating the 150th anniversary of both Tagore and Swamiji. Each person related to India has a responsibility to learn more about these great souls, their contribution and disseminate their teachings among their children, friends and societies they live in. If Steve Jobs could re-discover Gandhiji, we all can re-discover the trails of our great ancestors. In fine, I cannot but quote Swamiji: 'The deeper and clearer and as far back as we can see the past the further we will see into the future'.

Inside...

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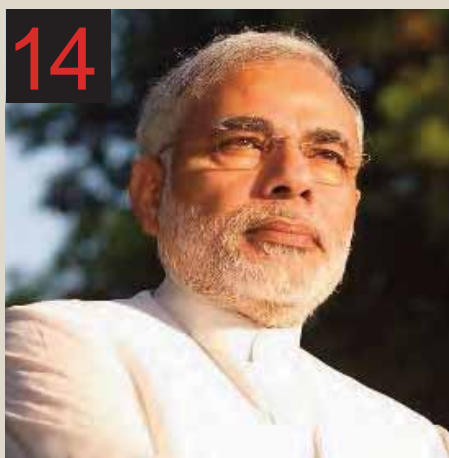
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The electorate craved for a change of political idiom, and it is happening in a few states, but was not allowed to bloom in Uttar Pradesh, where it needed most.

Will New Political Idiom Work?

The media has proclaimed the on-going elections for the five state assemblies of UP, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa and Manipur as the semi-finals of India's parliamentary polls in 2014. The polls, spread over close to two months, have assumed significance and the debate is on whether the political idiom this time around is a tad bit different than the past.

Manipur is the smallest of these five states and the single-phase polls ended on January 28. Amid violence and a fractured opposition, compounded by a Naga party being in fray, the ruling Congress is expecting to return to power, even if it has to win over a few independent or minor party legislators. Corruption, lack of governance and rule of law in a few hill districts notwithstanding, the Congress is reaping the benefit of a fractured opposition divided among local Manipuri and Naga parties, BJP and Trinamul Congress. No big change is expected here.

Uttarakhand with a sitting BJP government that changed its 'tainted' CM Ramesh Chandra Pokhriyal 'Nishank' just five months ahead of polls to project the no-nonsense and clean-image of ex-Army general B C Khanduri is under the pressure of anti-incumbency.

With only the image of Khanduri, a relatively strong anti-corruption Lokayukta law being passed in the dying months of the last assembly, BJP is smarting under rampant corruption of the Nishank government and lack of governance in the backward hill districts. However, since BJP enjoys strong organizational base in the state and the opposition is in a disarray without a clearly spelt CM candidate against Khanduri, the saffron party may again return to power, albeit needing some external independent support for a few seats in case of a hung assembly. Governance and corruption issues hold sway in one of India's youngest states.

The most interesting polls in the first phase were that of Punjab. Ruling Shiromani Akaali Dal (SAD), which almost got under vicious grip of half the Badal family, the father-son duo, is facing a rout, along with its partner BJP, some of whose MLAs and ministers face corruption charges. The Badal family is divided with Manpreet Badal coming out strongly with the People's Party of Punjab in its first electoral foray. The Sikh voters are no longer thinking on Panthic lines, but

on governance, debt, employment and corruption, where the Badals failed. It seems like Advantage Congress in Punjab for no credits of its own or of its CM candidate Captain Amarinder Singh.

Goa, which goes to polls on March 3, is battling governance and corruption issues taking centre-stage, and Maharashtra Gomantakwadi Party snapping ties with the ruling Congress alliance and teaming up with BJP to queer the poll pitch.

However, the real battle is in UP, where three rounds of seven-phase elections have been conducted. The quadrangular contest is among the ruling Bahujan Samaj Party plagued with one-woman dictatorship of Mayawati and corruption, Samajwadi Party going through a generational change in leadership, BJP desperately trying to resurrect the mandir-masjid issue and Uma Bharati for a decent fight, and Congress facing its most bitter fight to prove the leadership of its heir apparent Rahul Gandhi.

Political idiom needed the change most visibly in UP. While development is the currency of public discourse and all parties barring BJP are talking the same, there are disturbing trends of minority quota politics of Congress and SP, while BJP is raking the moribund Ram Mandir to fan jingoism, and BSP falling on the Dalit vote-bank to get a lease of life in government. SP's projection of a young Akhilesh Yadav to the forefront and changing its discourse from rigid conservatism to modern technology and development has marked a distinct change irrespective of its poor law and order records in governance earlier. SP seems a front-runner in a hung assembly..

The desperation of Gandhi family in bringing forth the entire family, including Priyanka Gandhi's husband Robert Vadra and children is to be seen to be believed, though the freshness is the development focus of the new-age angry young man, Rahul Gandhi. BJP is neither able to take advantage of NDA's success in Gujarat nor ward off the corruption in Karnataka. BSP, guarding its core Dalit vote-bank, faces flak for the corruption of around 26 sacked ministers and the buck stopping at Mayawati on most of the charges of graft, irrespective of good law and order situation.

The electorate craved for a change of political idiom, and it is happening in a few states, but was not allowed to bloom in Uttar Pradesh, where it needed most.



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Studies have shown that the bureaucrats on an average spend less than two years in a single position. By the time they begin to get the hang of their entrusted job, they are transferred elsewhere

Why this Babugiri, Babugiri Di?

When Shashi Tharoor, the Congress Member of Parliament called the NRI's as the National Reserve of India while coordinating the panel discussion on Partnering for Prosperity at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2012 held at Jaipur, he managed to have an emotional connect with the NRI audience who gave him an applause. "We consider NRIs as National Reserve of India and this is the reason we invite you to come and invest in India which holds tremendous investment opportunities in the sectors of education, healthcare and infrastructure. There could be some operational challenges, but these are the areas we look forward to for your vision, technology & innovation, and way of doing things that can help build better India", Tharoor said.

But interestingly one speaker who managed to hog the maximum spotlight and ovation was Prof G Mohan Gopal, Director Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies who minced no words in lashing out the Indian bureaucracy for its "colonial mindset" and said that civil service reforms are a must in India. He said "bureaucrats in India have a closed mindset and that they avoid consulting the NRI's on policy matters because they are afraid of the latter's expertise". Gopal who worked in the World Bank's legal departments from 1986 to 2004 in various senior positions including Chief Counsel went on to dub the bureaucrats as "generalists" who utterly lack domain knowledge because their field of work keeps changing frequently. He also held them responsible for the corruption in India.

Was Gopal right in dubbing the bureaucrats as generalists lacking in domain expertise? The answer is yes. Studies have shown that the bureaucrats on an average spend less than two years in a single position. By the time they begin to get the hang of their entrusted job, they are transferred elsewhere.

He was not the only NRI to criticize the babudom. Another woman NRI who was a practicing doctor stood up during one of the sessions and in

choked voice narrated in front of the whole audience how she was victimized by an IAS officer because she refused to grease his palms. This woman Rashmi Dickinson, a cardiologist from the UK said her trust that runs 20 schools in a district in Rajasthan was facing more than 60 inquiries only because she tried to save a heritage structure and in the process ruffled the feathers of a corrupt IAS officer. "I am absolutely devastated. I hope the Indian government would do something to stop this harassment", she said.

If you feel that Gopal exceeded his brief by criticizing the bureaucracy for its "colonial mindset", then think again. The founder of Infosys Technologies, N R Naryana Murthy uttered almost similar words to describe the bureaucracy two years ago saying that the politicians and the bureaucrats are trapped into colonial mindset. His panacea for this is to abolish the whole system of generalised administrators under the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and replace it with specialists under a new 'Indian Management Service'.

A report by Hong Kong-based Political and Economic Risk Consultancy ranks bureaucracies across Asia on a scale from one to 10, with 10 being the worst possible score. India scored 9.21. India fared worse than Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines and China.

The report said India's bureaucracy was responsible for many complaints businessmen had about India, like lack of infrastructure and corruption.

The Constituent Assembly of India intended that the bureaucracy should be able to speak out freely, without fear of persecution or financial insecurity as an essential element in unifying the nation. But what is happening is that bureaucracy is muddled with political interference. It is more interested in pleasing political bosses and feathering its own nest rather than serving the people. Organising events like PBD to attract NRI's towards India is a step in the right direction. But such events will have greater impact if the bureaucracy is sensitized towards their problems. A bit of Gandhigiri will work wonders than Babugiri.

“NRI's share deep bond with India”

Arjya Patnaik narrates the live experience of witnessing the Inaugural Ceremony, PBD 2012 where the atmosphere was electric, discussions were meaningful and the growth story of India found a new perspective.



The stars shone down at the Inaugural Ceremony of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. The stage was set and the huge two storey Birla Auditorium at Jaipur was over packed to witness the historical moment. The dais was adorned by Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh, who holds the credit of having attended eight out of ten PBDs since the inception of the event. The Chief Guest for the ceremony was the vivacious orator and dynamic woman leader Ms. Kamla Persad Bissessar, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago. Other dignitaries like Shri Vayalar Ravi (Minister for Overseas Indian affairs), Shri Ashok Gehlot (Chief Minister, Govt. of Rajasthan), Shri Parvez Dewan (Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs) and Shri B. Muthuraman (President CII) were also seen sharing the podium with both the Prime Ministers.

Shri Vayalar Ravi informed the gathering of the presence of 1900 delegates from 60 countries in PBD 2012. He threw light on the condition of Overseas Indian workers in the Gulf, Middle East and Africa as to how they are always employed as temporary or contractual labour informally. No labour laws of the host country are applicable to them. After an overview of the problem in hand, Shri Ravi spoke to the Government

interventions and key initiatives which could provide an apt solution.

Ashok Gehlot, Chief Minister of Rajasthan expresses his happiness on being the host of PBD. He noted that the Overseas Indian youth should connect with their roots and be a part of the development story of India.

H.E. Ms. Kamla Persad Bissessar, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, narrated the story of the struggle of her previous generations and herself as emigrants. She inspired the gathering by quoting Gandhi. She also threw light on the world having become a smaller place due to the boom in communication and technology. It has become much easier for India to know spread its arms and welcome the Diaspora for a symbiotic relationship.

With the address of Chief Guest Ms. Bissessar, the stage was set for the Prime Minister to deliver his address. The crowd cheered the leader of the nation as he proceeded towards the dais for his deliberation.

After promising a stable and dynamic economy in the midst of global turbulence in his speech, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, said “NRIs share a deep bond with India. We, as a nation, value the contribution of the Indian community living abroad” as an opening remark for the packed auditorium at the inaugural session. What followed was a brief summary of the steps taken by the Government in the last one year to facilitate, encourage and promote the engagement of the Indian Diaspora to contribute to the building of modern India.

It was a meaningful session which gave detailed knowledge of Government interventions and future plans with respect to the huge population of all Indians living abroad. The future looks bright as seen from the effort the Government is making to include Global Indians in their development plan. However, as in case of every issue, innovation or planning is only the first step. Excellence in execution and a bottom-up approach, if adopted, will only contribute towards giving a much needed global perspective to the growth story of India.

Manmohan Singh's eight point agenda:-

- Long distant Indians to vote in the national elections. This was our first step to welcome them into democracy by registering overseas Indians under the Representation of People Act 1950
- Introduction of bill for amendment in Citizenship Act to streamline the PIO and Overseas Citizen of India schemes. This will help get rid of the anomalies in the schemes
- Provision of Overseas Indian Card which will be given to foreign spouses of such card holders as well
- Established an office of the Protector of Emigrants in Jaipur due to large number of workers of Rajasthan emigrating abroad
- Building a Pravasi Bharatiya Bhawan in Jaipur which will also house a Migrant Research Centre to provide on-site help to overseas Indians and emigrating workers
- Implementation of e-migrate project that will provide end-to-end computerized solutions for all processes in the emigration system
- Expansion of Labour Mobility Partnership Agreements to cover not only skilled workers but also students, academics and professionals. Such Human Resource Mobility Partnership agreements are being negotiated with The Netherlands, France, Australia and the European Union
- Government to introduce and sponsor a new Pension and Life Insurance Fund for overseas Indian workers
- Government concerned about safety of Indians in unstable regions. It has been conveyed to the Gulf and the West that they should take care of NRIs, PIOs and Overseas Indians

Shri Vayalar Ravi enumerated the key initiatives for protecting the rights of overseas workers:-

- a) Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) for Overseas Indians in distress
- b) Indian Worker Resource Centre (IWCR) formed at Abu Dhabi for assistance of Overseas Indian workers
- c) Establishment of an office in Jaipur for attestation of Overseas Indians



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Land of Sand Dune is now Solar Hub

Rajasthan is exploring to provide long term viability and certainty to build up solar energy generation and manufacturing platforms, says C M Iyer.

Is there any commonality between the state of Rajasthan, California, Nevada, Colorado and Arizona? The answer is YES. It may not be in terms of culture or language, but it is similar in one respect--- the state is endowed with 300 to 330 clear sunny days. Studies have shown that solar radiation in the state is comparable to deserts of California, Nevada, Colorado and Arizona. The dry hot weather in summer may make people uncomfortable but the same factor augurs well for those industries which are keen to set up solar industries in this state. This is why the Government of Rajasthan is keen to make this state one of the best Solar Hubs in India.

In fact the state is exploring to provide long term viability and certainty to build up of solar energy generation and manufacturing platforms. To achieve this, solar park at Bhadala, Tehsil Phadoli in Jodhpur district is being developed.

The state government aims at developing Rajasthan as a global solar hub of 10,000-12,000 Megawatt capacity over the next 12 years to meet energy requirements. Also the pipeline commitments of generation projects ushers a significant business opportunity for solar component manufacturing.

“We are committed to making Rajasthan a power surplus state. Rajasthan’s progress in the renewable energy sector is noteworthy. Power

generation capacity in the state through non-conventional sources--- wind and biomass has reached 1891 megawatts. The state government is determined to developing the state as a big solar energy hub for making Rajasthan the leading state in solar energy” said the Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot at the Seminar on Solar Energy which was organized during the Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas in Jaipur in Rajasthan.

In fact taking advantage of the strategic location and favourable geographical conditions, the state government has taken many steps in this sector, one of which is announcement of a Solar Energy Policy 2011. The main objectives of this policy are promoting & setting up of private sector solar projects and achieving maximum production of solar energy under Jawahar Lal Nehru Solar Mission. The solar policy provides for allotment of government



Union Minister, MNRE and Chief Minister, Rajasthan Inaugurate Moser Baer's 5 MW Solar Farm at Village Tinwari, Tehsil – Osian, Distt-Jodhpur, Rajasthan

NATIONAL SOLAR MISSION

The National Solar Mission (NSM) was formally launched in January 2010 by the Government of India. Launching the mission the Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh emphasized the importance of solar energy by stating that in India's renewable strategy, the sun should occupy centre-stage. The objective of the solar mission is "to establish India as a global leader in solar energy by creating the policy conditions for its diffusion across the country as quickly as possible. The mission has set out phased targets for on-grid as well as grid connected solar power through to 2022.

land to investors setting up solar power projects in Rajasthan at concessional rate of 10 per cent of the DLC rates. Besides the policy also provides for exemption from payment on electricity duty for captive use, conversion of private land at 10 per cent of regular conversion charges and treatment of solar power plants as eligible industry under Industry Department's schemes for incentives to them.

Business Sense in investing in Rajasthan

One of the reasons why it makes business sense to invest in Rajasthan in Solar energy sector is because this state is experiencing a transition to low carbon, more resource efficient economy with increasing share of solar energy in its generation portfolio. In Rajasthan, the installed capacity for power generation was 8.5 GW. Thermal power plants form a major portion of the installed capacity of Rajasthan. More than 88 per cent of the power in the thermal segment is generated through coal fired power plants. The generation mix of the power sector in Rajasthan has changed significantly in the last ten years.

But what makes Rajasthan an attractive for solar component manufacturing are high solar insulations, upcoming solar parks and large land parcels, huge end market for solar generation, large supplier base, rich mineral wealth,

competitive manpower cost, supportive government and incentive packages for large investments.

Considering the strength and opportunities, the State Government has taken many steps in this sector, one of which is announcement of a Solar Energy Policy 2011. The main objectives of this policy are promoting & setting up of private sector solar projects and achieving maximum production of solar energy under Jawaharlal Nehru Mission.

The chief minister also outlined that under this policy solar parks of 1000 megawatts capacity will be set up in Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Bikaner and Barmer. To attract global investments, state government will provide necessary infrastructure and regulatory and other support. Solar parks shall consist of various zones for specific activities viz, manufacturing, R & D, training and other amenities. The department of Energy has identified 10,000 hectares of land for setting up solar park in Badala at Jodhpur of which 1000 hectares has been identified for solar manufacturing.

Rajasthan's competitive advantage lies in its large existing supplier base spread across sector such as glass and mirror, cement, steel, iron, salt etc which are critical raw materials for manufacturing solar components especially for Solar CSP technology.

Mr Deepak Puri, Co-Chairman, CII National Committee on Renewable Energy & Chairman, Moser Baer Ltd pointed out that India receives 70% more solar radiation than Germany, the world leader in solar power. However solar power currently accounts for only 0.5% of total power generated in the country. Pointing out that 60% of rural households in India do not have access to electricity he urged for innovative models such as Pay per use and community charging to make solar energy popular and available to all.



Ashok Gehlot



WARY WATERS

- Arjya Patnaik

Water, an easily available and free commodity which is imperative for survival, is soon going to become the most difficult to obtain. This fact alone was the centre-point of discussion at the WATER CONSERVATION session of PBD 2012. Not only was the problem discussed but plausible solutions were also suggested.

A word of caution: India will become water stressed soon!

Water is more costly than oil!

50% of spending under the NREGA scheme is for the purpose of Water Conservation! Satellites are searching for planets with water!

Australia is turning brown!

A single drop of water leaking from a tap amounts to 10,000 litres of water loss annually!

Nostradamus said that the third world war will due to WATER!

These striking statements and many other unknown facts about Water were presented by the esteemed members of the

Innovative and Exemplary case study GRAM VIKAS in Odisha has managed to fulfill requirements of thousands in the remote tribal areas of the state.

A three tap connection has been provided for every tribal house, that is, one tap each in the toilet, bathroom and kitchen.

This is done by utilizing gravity with no use of electricity whatsoever.

dais; Shri Subodh Kant Sahay (Honorable Minister of Tourism, Govt. of India), Shri Jitendra Singh (Cabinet Minister of Energy and PHE, Govt. of Rajasthan), Shri Atul Jain (Additional Chief Secretary of Water, Govt. of Rajasthan) and Shri Atul Jain (CEO of TIKO). A two hundred and fifty member audience was all ears.

India due to its diverse geography suffers from several varied water related problems. Rajasthan's problem is to fight the desert while Kerala's problem is sea erosion. There is water shortage at Cherrapunji too, which incidentally records the highest rainfall in the country, due to lack of water conservation and water storage mechanisms. Hence the only solution – SAVE WATER.

The problem was deeply discussed but the focus was majorly on the solutions that came out of the deliberation:-

- We need to inculcate renewed interest in the traditional methods of water conservation.

- Roof Water: Using the roofs of old houses to store rain water which can be utilized for drinking and cooking purposes, it being pure and clean.

- Extensive exploitation of ground water

- NGOs along with Government support need to work on Social Entrepreneurship

OVERSEAS INDIAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

Overseas Indians can associate with the same and get involved in Save Water campaigns. Contribute towards submitting a routine report to the Government of India about issues of major concern, water being one of the forerunners.

neur-ship in Water Conservation

- Developing water conservation methods by which Rain water can directly enter the earth. Natural recycling of water.
- Conversion of saline water into drinking water
- Discovery of other sources of water
- 20 – 30 % water saving on daily basis as a part of an individual agenda

There is a huge need for SOCIAL INNOVATIONS in conserving water as opposed to only TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS. Perhaps, only then, this giant of a catastrophe can be successfully countered.



Minister of Tourism, Subodh Kant Sahay

TOURISM TALKS

- Arjya Patnaik

“Let’s see India. None of us have!” appealed Union Minister of Tourism, Shri Subodhkant Sahai to his attentive audience at the session on TOURISM on the first day of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, 2012. The government representatives on the panel clarified in the beginning of the session that tourism industry is flourishing in India, quite so. If foreign tourism increases steadily every year and domestic tourism remains stable by 2016, then the short term goal of the Government for the growth of the tourism sector will have been met.

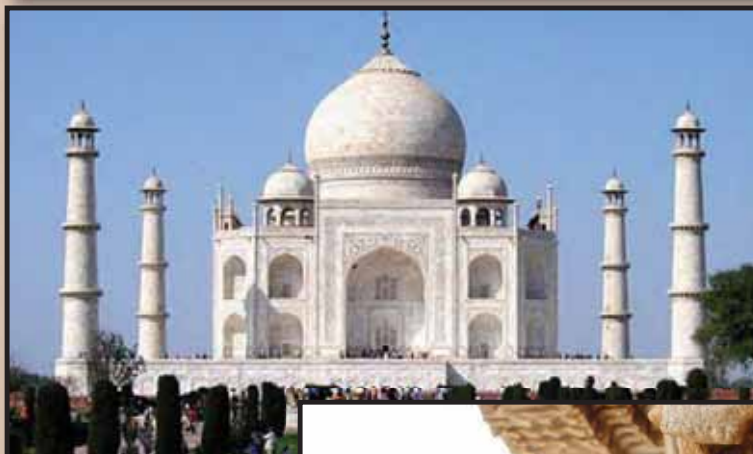
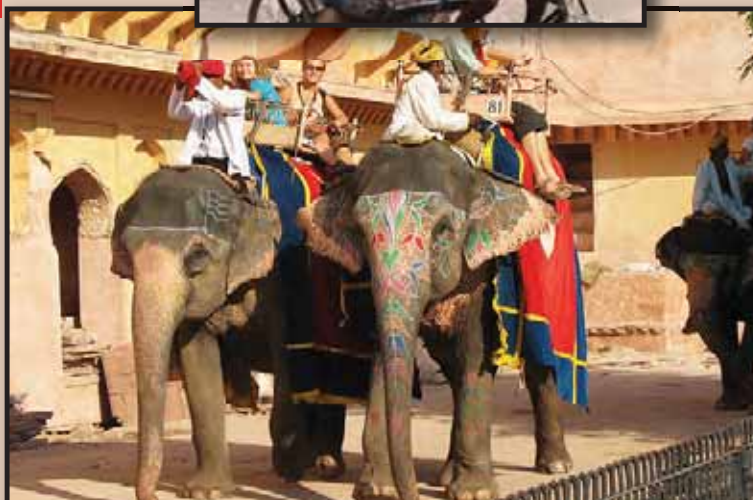
Apart from the general warm-up talk about India being a delectable holiday and touring destination, the focus was on discussing about niche tourism products like medical, wellness, gold, polo, shopping, et al. The discussion proceeded on to analyzing the evolving forms of tourism such as Sustainable Tourism, Eco Tourism, Adventure Tourism, Religious Tourism and Safe & Honorable Tourism among others.

“We wish to tap the NRI market separately with varied and differential promotional strategy” commented Sanjay Kothari, Additional Secretary, Tourism, Government of India as a response to one of the questions posed about attracting the Diaspora back to their own country. It was mentioned that representative officers have been appointed at every Embassy for any kind of information on Tourism as well as a forum has been formulated under the leadership of Ambassadors for exchange of ideas from anywhere across the globe.

The session ended with an interesting insight by one of the panelists who reiterated that “tourism is an excellent poverty reduction engine for India and we should make the best use of it”.

Government Strategy to develop Tourism in India

- a) To develop 35 tourist circuits
- b) To develop Public Private Partnership (PPP) to fill the infrastructural gaps
- c) To develop 20 tourism/theme parks (on the lines of Santos in Singapore) in the next five years
- d) To develop rural tourism clusters
- e) To develop customized package tours
- f) To develop the desert circuit
- g) To inculcate Responsible Tourism in India





Chief Minister, Shri Ashok Gehlot



Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan, Ram Lubhaya



Minister for Industries and NRI Affairs Rajendra Pareek

HOST STATE SPEAKS

- Arjya Patnaik

The delegates attending the parallel state session of Rajasthan missed the presence of their Chief Minister, Shri Ashok Gehlot. However, he was quite present in spirit at the state event. His message was aptly conveyed by his team mates who assured the overseas Indians that the state government does not expect huge investments from the Diaspora but would like to enhance interaction with them. The Government of Rajasthan, which was the host of the tenth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, expressed their interest to seek suggestions from NRIs and PIOs regarding growth and development. Their purpose of hosting the PBD was to enable the Diaspora from all walks of life to come and see what is happening in their native country and state.

Minister for Industries and NRI Affairs Rajendra Pareek assured NRIs that the state government is leaving no stone unturned to live up to their expectations.

A special appeal was made to the Non Residential Rajasthanis (NRRs) to draw their attention towards the state and be a part of its development story.

Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan, Ram Lubhaya said that the state government is looking forward to PPP

with both civil society and social entrepreneurs.

Plans were already being converted into action as the PBD drew to a close claimed the members of the dais. It was cited that Overseas Indian Affairs Minister Vayalar Ravi inaugurated the Protector of Emigrants (POE) office at Sitapura on the outskirts of Jaipur. This POE office would render assistance to the large number of people from the State who went abroad for jobs, particularly to the Middle East. The new office would do away with the need for prospective emigrants to travel to Delhi for emigration clearance, while the registered recruiting agents could file their applications online.

"Only when you have confidence that your investment would be safe here, will you come back. Trust is crucial to any relationship. Many policies like single window clearance facility for investors and the public services guarantee scheme were initiated for the purpose" reiterated Minister Pareek.

The interactive and well convened state session drew to a close with the sole mantra of calling out to overseas Indians to collaborate with the state in spirit and have a sense of pride in the endeavour.

QUOTE MARTIAL P B D

Arjya Patnaik quotes New Global Indians at Pravasi Bharatiya Divas who bared their hearts at the three day intellectual extravaganza at Jaipur, Rajasthan.

“The government heartily wants to include the Diaspora in India's growth story”.
Manmohan Singh,
Prime Minister, India



“Intellectual Investment and Experience Investment made by NRIs for their motherland will help India grow and prosper”.
Narendra Modi,
Chief Minister, Gujarat



“This year's PBD has registered 2100 delegates from 60 countries. It is like a huge reunion of sorts”.
Vayalar Ravi,
Cabinet Minister,
Overseas Indian Affairs



“Friends are the family we choose. I have chosen to come to my country and make friends here at this event which celebrates those like me who left his motherland long ago but whose heart still beats for her nevertheless”.
Prof. Tejinder S. Lamba,
Professor in English Literature, Canada



“NRIs are National Reserve Indians and an asset for this country. The country needs their support across all developmental sectors”.
Shashi Tharoor,
Member of Parliament



“I try to bring India's music, art and culture to the Diaspora in South Africa by organizing cultural shows and create a harmonious bond between US and YOU”.
Shamantha Reddy,
Lawyer and Event Organizer,
South Africa



“It is my belief that the use of evidence based knowledge of NRIs will help connect with the younger generation”.
Sam Pitroda,
Advisor on Public Info Infrastructure



“India is not mother for people of Trinidad and Tobago. Instead, it is grandmother for Caribbean nation”.
Kamla Persad Bissessar,
Prime Minister,
Trinidad and Tobago





NaMo Bowls Over Diaspora

Arjya Patnaik recounts the enigma of Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi whose presence, oration and interaction at this year's Pravasi Bharatiya Divas posed certain pertinent questions and provided several plausible answers, all contributing towards building a better tomorrow.

When the Pied Piper of Hamelin played his pipe, the crowd swayed to his tune. However, it is a tough feat in this day and age to capture the attention of a listener in the modern age of cell-phones, pagers, BlackBerries and notepads.

However, few leaders of neo-India possess the rare attributes of excellent oration; fearless attitude and a direct connect with every member of the audience. Such is the charisma of Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi, addressing a group of 1,900 overseas Indians having come from 60 countries at this year's Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. More importantly, it is necessary to touch upon issues of concern, provide plausible solutions and depict the state's development tale in a manner that both enchants the audience and propels them to participate in its growth and progress. Modi did all of this and more.

Seeking to play the next host

Modi proposed to host the 13th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in his home state Gujarat in 2015. And added his touch, by getting the audience to remember that it was on 9th January, 1915, when Gandhi returned to India from South Africa. It would be an opportune time to commemorate the centenary of the Mahatma's arrival by celebrating the annual diaspora festival at Gandhi's state. As Modi sought Vayalar Ravi's consent for selecting Gujarat as a host state, Ravi maintained studied silence. Modi then said, "You had awarded Pravasi Bharatiya Divas to Jaipur last year in New York in a minute, but why not now?" But Ravi chose to be quiet.

Gujarat, a self-reliant state:

Enthused by the applause from the audience, Modi dumped his prepared speech

"Whatever is good in the world should be in my raaj," signed off the BJP's leading light.

copy and extempore criticized the Manmohan Singh-led government in front of the overseas Indians and said there was no response from the PM on his suggestion to set up solar production units in desert areas of Rajasthan and Gujarat along the border with Pakistan. He affirmed that whatever Gujarat had achieved in terms of infrastructure development, affluence and living standards, was entirely from its own resources. "We are not fortunate enough to get [something] from the Centre or the Prime Minister. We have to do everything on our own."

The double-digit GDP growth in Gujarat

"The remarkable development in Gujarat and the double-digit GDP growth it has been enjoying for [so many] years was possible because of the 'think big' approach," said the proud chief minister. "Scale, speed and skills", he recounted, were the three pillars of the "think big" approach that had the potential to make the 21st century the century of India. We quite agree with his approach, if only it can be adapted across the nation.

Wooing investors

Modi insisted on tapping the rich human resources of India, where the youth constitute more than half of its total population. He suggested that India should focus on tapping the discipline, talent and experience of Indians around the world. "All issues of concern, for example alternative sources of energy or water conservation, can be discussed over internet video conferences since our technology has brought the world so much closer. A great idea can come from anyone anywhere. "Contributing one's idea is more important than investing dollars and pounds" he said, while urging all overseas Indians to participate in Gujarat's growth.

Creating an innovation hub

Modi announced about creating an innovation hub, to be christened I CREATE, which would have world class infrastructure and research technology. Narayan Murthy has agreed to be the chairman of I CREATE. "We cannot have consistent growth without innovation" reasoned Modi as the cause behind setting up this innovation centre.

Skilled services training

There are 900-odd skilled services for which formal training can be provided. Modi assured that he is working towards including the same as courses in recognized universities of Gujarat so that employment opportunities can increase and newer job options can be created.

Striving for nationwide transparency

When questioned about building a clean India, Modi said "Maintaining cleanliness is the apt *shraddhanjali* to the Gandhiji" He has made an effort closer home at Gujarat to begin the cleanliness campaign. He invited all to visit Kakaria in Ahmedabad which is a neat and clean public planned public park. Kakaria, Modi claimed, could be a cleanliness benchmark for the country to emulate. However, when questioned about legally enforcing cleanliness like in several foreign countries, Modi retorted that it wasn't really possible in India. "We can't make a law in democracy about not littering and keeping the surroundings clean due to a negative environment. The efforts have to be self-enforced".

Disaster management

Modi narrated his own experience of listening to "VOICE OF AMERICA" in the radio and hearing of innovative disaster management methods. Modi believes that India has community service in its genetics. He spoke of Bhuj earthquake. He had initiated an online campaign invoking the youth to engage in community service during the earthquake for at least an hour each. The results were amazing as they received proof of 500,000 hours of service from the youth in return. Ideas, innovation and self-execution could battle any disaster, natural or manmade.

Interaction with PM

"I met the Prime Minister informally several times. He is an experienced man. I like to take his experience and leave some of my suggestions there" chuckled Modi. However, he also expressed that some of his ideas which he proposed to the PM were caught up with the Planning Commission or some other procedural delays. "Nevertheless, I have adapted them for my state already" said an undeterred Modi.

Aspiring for the top job

Modi wished to maintain a jovial silence about discussing about his political career ahead. He requested the audience to keep the discussion apolitical since he did not wish his quotes to grab headlines and cause unnecessary clamour.

Modi is arguably the only politician who has led by example. Sky is the limit for Modi, who focusing on the way forward. "Whatever is good in the world should be in my *raaj*," said the BJP's leading light.



Seeking to play the next host

Modi proposed to host the 13th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in his home state Gujarat in 2015. And added his touch, by getting the audience to remember that it was on 9th January, 1915, when Gandhi returned to India from South Africa. It would be an opportune time to commemorate the centenary of the Mahatma's arrival by celebrating the annual diaspora festival at Gandhi's state. As Modi sought Vayalar Ravi's consent for selecting Gujarat as a host state, Ravi maintained studied silence. Modi then said, "You had awarded Pravasi Bharatiya Divas to Jaipur last year in New York in a minute, but why not now?" But Ravi chose to be quiet.

OIFC: The Connecting Platform

Mritunjay Kumar reports on the activities and ideas implemented by the OIFC (Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre) at the 6th Market Place at PBD 2012.



OIFC Market Place gateway



Shri Vayalar Ravi inaugurating the OIFC Pavilion at PBD 2012, along with: Shri Ashok Gehlot, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan; and, Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII & Co-Chairman, OIFC



Hon'ble Prime Minister of India releasing the OIFC-Deloitte publication, with (L-to-R) Mr B Muthuraman, President, CII; Shri Ashok Gehlot, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan; Ms Kamla Persad-Bissessar, Hon'ble Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago; Shri Vayalar Ravi, Hon'ble Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs; Shri Shivraj V Patil, Governor of Punjab and Rajasthan.

Like every year, OIFC proved their mettle this year as well by organizing B2B meetings on the 6th Market Place at Pravasi Bhartiya Divas.

The OIFC Market Place has been developed as a premier business networking forum for the PBD delegates to facilitate the expansion of their economic linkages with India, and encompasses the setting up of business meetings of PBD delegates with OIFC's state and knowledge partners, through a pre-event schedules. The Market Place was presented as an exclusive meeting place cum information centre for all the delegates to get answers to their queries.

"Returning Indian: All that you need to know"

The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Manmohan Singh released the Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre's publication "Returning Indian: All that you need to know". The book has been compiled by the OIFC with Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India Private Limited as its Knowledge Partner. The book is a reference point for Indians planning to return to India. This one point reference book addresses various questions of "Returning Indians".

OIFC activities at PBD 2012

The main highlight of the PBD 2012 was the 'Market Place' organised by the Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC), where the potential investor from the diaspora and the Indian businessmen could meet and discuss to establish joint ventures.

The OIFC Market Place was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs, Shri Vayalar Ravi. A special attraction was the pre-scheduled B2B meetings which offered the delegates the unique opportunity to build relationships with OIFC's stakeholders in a relaxed environment conducive for business discussions in a series of one-on-one meetings.

OIFC's focus was not only to conduct B2B meetings but most importantly enable the diaspora to connect to India personally, financially, emotionally and socially. Therefore, OIFC's state government partners, knowledge

"The platform (OIFC Market Place) offered us ample opportunity to interact and exchange ideas with fellow exhibitors and visitors...Though the flow of visitors especially NRIs to the OIFC Market Place was low still a few who visited were serious visitors and some concrete outcome is expected from these interactions."

- Assam Industrial Development Corporation Limited, Government of Assam

"The OIFC Market Place was a welcome innovation at the PBD this year. It gave the states a good opportunity to discuss trade and investment opportunities in various sectors, as also enhanced overall interaction between the delegates and the states in a business-like manner."

- NRI Division, Government of Gujarat

"Experience at OIFC market place pavilion at PBD-2012 was good. We realized that this is a platform to address the queries of Indian diaspora. OIFC is a single window to facilitate investment and projecting opportunities offered by member states and India as a whole."

- Haryana State Industrial & Infrastructure Development Corporation, Government of Haryana

"The OIFC pavilion was overall very good. Because of market place number of NRIs visited the market place and enquired about the activities of NRI Forum, Karnataka, future plans & the benefits they get from Government of Karnataka."

- NRI Forum, Government of Karnataka.



OIFC booth at OIFC Market Place pavilion

partners and media partners showcases their services at the OIFC Market Place pavilion and their authorities interacts with the delegates to discuss state level initiatives for the NRIs, various investment opportunities in India, procedures to set up a business in India, NRI banking, investment in capital markets and more at the 3 days of event.

During the event, with an impressive footfall of more than 1200 visitors, the Market Place witnessed 520 business interactions and meetings being held at the Market Place between: the PBD delegates; PBD delegates and the OIFC Partners; and, OIFC partners

A four member delegation from Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC) led by its President Mr. Satish Thakkar and accompanied by Mr. Frank Scarpitti, Mayor of Markham, visited the OIFC pavilion and conducted a business meeting with Government of Gujarat on Clean Energy and IT services.

OIFC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Reunion Island (Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de la Reunion). This agreement was to bring forth considerable mutual cooperation in re-

lation to information exchange and business opportunities.

The last day of the PBD 2012, had back to back sessions on various state NRI-centric initiatives and opportunities available in India scheduled over the day. The day started with the Chief Minister's plenary session on "Global Indian: State Initiatives and Opportunities" where Hon'ble Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs Shri Vayalar Ravi welcomed the Chief Ministers from State of Gujarat, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Each of them highlighted their state policies for investment and development explaining the state's institutional support provided for the Overseas Indians. Also they had seven parallel state sessions schedule at different halls at the venue.

OIFC activities for engaging the Indian diaspora with India at PBD 2012 were appreciated. OIFC will plan similar activities at PBD 2013 and at various State Investors Meets, to expand the economic linkages between the Global Indians and India. In addition, OIFC will continue its interaction with the delegates, who visited the OIFC Market Place Pavilion. This will help strengthen the interface and reach out of the diaspora with India.



B2B meeting at OIFC Market Place pavilion

Kotak Mahindra Bank, OIFC's first financial services knowledge partner have addressed financial needs to NRIs at Pravasi Bhartiya Divas 2012. President of Consumer Banking, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Mr. KVS Manian said, "We have recently seen increased interest in NRIs remitting money to India, given the current exchange rates and the liberalized regime on NRE interest rates. OIFC provided a powerful platform for Kotak Mahindra Bank to connect with NRIs and provide them suitable solutions addressing their financial needs in India."

Premium Knowledge Partner, Magnus and OIFC enabled Overseas Indians to identify promising avenues for investment at the 6th OIFC Market Place

Mr. Mayur Suchak, MD of Magus Consulting said, "In PBD we aimed to protect the interests of the investors from malpractices arising out of the dealing with local unprofessional unorganized intermediaries and offered value addition through transparent deals and professional services from qualified domain experts; this enabled them to contribute to their country's development."

Hon'ble Jharkhand CM, Shri Arjun Munda on a visit to 6th OIFC Market Place

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Shri Arjun Munda inaugurated Jharkhand's pavilion on the third day of the event. Industries department, Government of Jharkhand is one of the state partners for promoting economic engagement with Indian diaspora and offering assistance in identification of investment opportunities in the state. He said, "The state has ample of opportunities to invest and explore in various sectors and is working hard to become the knowledge hub of India. I would like to invite all the NRIs/PIOs to come and visit the land of Jharkhand."

RIICO

Rajasthan's Catalyst for Industrialisation

From simplifying procedures and making access to land easier, to facilitating industrial clusters and concessional credit to entrepreneurs, the Rajasthan State Industrial development and Investment Corporation (RIICO) has taken a number of innovative decisions in the past few years to attract investment into the state.

An apex corporation of the Government of Rajasthan, mandated to play a catalytic role in the industrial development in the state, RIICO also develops and manages industrial areas, constantly upgrading its facilities and services to keep in step with the requirements and expectations of the entrepreneurs.

Each large, medium or small-scale enterprise gets easy access to a ready-to-use support from the agency with well-developed infrastructure facilities in the industrial areas. This apart, another unique role played by RIICO is to provide financial services to assist entrepreneurs set up their units, contributing much to accelerating the state's industrialisation.

PREFERENTIAL ALLOTMENT

A case point is Rule 3 (W) of RIICO Disposal of Land Rules, 1979. Its provisions allow preferential allotment of land to focused categories of applicants on ongoing basis. Its provisions were earlier applicable to industrial land allotment in the National Capital Territory and state capital Jaipur alone. Now, these provisions have been made applicable to all industrial areas, irrespective of their location.

Applicants who are allowed preferential allotment are:

- Those with projects having investment of Rs.20 crore and above
- Projects by non-resident Indians (NRIs) or People of Indian Origin (PIOs)
- Projects that have minimum 33 percent foreign direct investment
- Projects in the information technology and software sector

As a result of the expanding the scope of Rule 29(W), in consultation with industry representatives, a wider choice of location is now available to these categories of enterprises.

Moreover, land allotment has also been made more transparent. Earlier, land in saturated industrial areas was allotted through open auctions. Now sealed bids are invited. This ensures that only serious and authentic bidders take part in the process as the bidders are required to affix their photograph with the bid document and furnish identity and address proof.

In industrial plots, the height of buildings can now be up to 15 meters, without restriction on the number of floors within this height. Earlier such buildings were allowed only up to two stories (ground plus one).

The state-run industrial catalyst has also made provisions to allot land at concessional rates to industrialists for providing low-cost housing facilities to labourers and other people working in their units. Norms for housing facilities on industrial plots have also been liberalised.

In addition, RIICO has introduced some flexible policies for providing supportive services to people living and working in industrial zones. Hotels, weigh bridges and petrol pumps can be constructed on the plots allotted for industrial purposes, without paying any extra charges.

Also, for hotels constructed without permission on the industrial areas, rules have been simplified and provisions made for their regularisation. Godowns for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) constructed in industrial areas without obtaining proper permission will also be regularised.

Owners are being given special concessions in lieu of the land acquired from them. These include sale of vacant plot and no limit of time for construction or production of work.

RIICO takes its commitment to entrepreneurs seriously. The administrative machinery at RIICO is such that it is easily available for redressal of

grievances. The institution also organises industrial camps at divisional levels. During these camps, unit officers are empowered to solve the problems on-the-spot. Such camps have already been organized in Jodhpur, Udaipur, Bhiwadi and Ajmer. Also, since its inception in 1969, RIICO has invested substantial powers to its regional managers for speedy decisions regarding land allotment, regularisation and transfer of plots.

FAVOURABLE MATTERS

In recent years, Rajasthan has emerged as a favoured destination for information technology industry, thanks to its good urban infrastructure with excellent lifestyle infrastructure like an international airport and good air and rail connectivity with major cities of the country. As a step towards fostering entrepreneurship in this industry, RIICO has set up an incubation centre at Sitapur, Jaipur, having state-of-the-art computing facility. The centre offers plug-and-pay facility for incubating business ideas for commercialising and also for research and development.

RIICO has recently decided to provide space to talented youth at discounted rates at this incubation centre. Facilities like furnished space, assistance in commercialisation of idea, networking opportunities etc are available at the center. Among other policy decisions taken for making Rajasthan hassle-free for entrepreneurs, it has been decided to undertake allotment of plots in the new industrial areas only after the development of basic infrastructure facilities, as also after completion of demarcation of plots.

Also, minimum construction requirement (20 percent of the plot area) has been relaxed for units like biomass-based power plants and manufacturing units of herbal medicines, by accounting for the storage area in built-up space. It has also been decided to allow captive warehousing activities in the industrial plots.



A prestigious ITes project at Mahindra World City SEZ in Jaipur



An auto component unit in Sitapura near Jaipur

The Rajasthan Edge

- Locational advantage: proximity to NCR.
- Excellent connectivity: roads, rail, air & Jaipur Metro.
- Robust infrastructure: power, renewable energy, etc.
- Skilled, and relatively cheap, labour pool: Centres of Excellence.
- Availability of raw material.
- Quality of life: excellent housing, low crime, etc.



A view of a unit in the Japanese zone at Neemrana that manufactures Air Conditioners and Chillers.

Industrial Infrastructure

- Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor.
- Japanese Park at Neemrana.
- Export Promotion Industrial Parks (EPIPs) at Jaipur, Alwar and Jodhpur.
- Special Economic Zone (SEZ) - Mahindra World City, Jaipur.
- 2 SEZs for Gems & Jewellery and Handicrafts at Jaipur & Jodhpur respectively.
- Dedicated Freight Corridor.



At the inauguration of Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India Pvt. Ltd. near Bhiwadi (from left to right): Union Minister of State (Home), Mr. Jitendra Singh; Sr. Managing Director, Honda Motor Co. Japan, Mr. Tatsuhiro Oyama; Health Minister, Mr. A.A. Khan; Industries Minister, Mr. Rajendra Pareek; President & CEO, Honda Motor Co. Japan, Mr. Takanobu Ito; Chief Minister, Mr. Ashok Gehlot and Japanese Ambassador to India, Mr. Atsushi Saiki.

In another investor friendly decision, a provision has been made that in the industrial areas, apex industry bodies like the PHD Chamber, FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM will be allotted land up to 500 sq mts to construct an office building on any one place in the state a Rs.1 token amount. The institutions will also be exempt from paying service charges. This will go a long way in building a relationship with industry through the chambers of commerce and their multifaceted activities.

CERAMIC HUB

Rajasthan will soon play host to two very unique clusters – a ceramic hub and an apparel park. These are two innovative decisions to boost investment in the state.

The 750-acre ceramic hub will be set up in Ghilot, near Neemrana, where land is in the process of being acquired. The proposed apparel park, which would be set up in Jaipur, has already attracted 133 applications.

In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding was recently signed by the Corporation for establishing Guargum Testing Lab in Boranada near Jodhpur. For the project APEDA will provide financial support of Rs. 3.83 crores. The lab will be known as Agro Test and Research Centre.

RIICO has also announced special concessions for the benefit of differently abled and women in unsaturated industrial areas. The concession in land allotment to differently abled people has been raised from 15 percent to 50 percent in the land allotments up to 2,000 sq mts. For women, the concession in land development rates (upto 2,000 sq mts) has been raised from 10 percent to 25 percent.

CREATING AWARENESS

A number of investment promotional programs have also been organized in recent years to create awareness about opportunities in specific sectors. Particularly noteworthy was a seminar on Technical Textile and a two-day 'Automotive Conclave'.

RIICO SIMPLIFIES NORMS FOR TERM LOAN ASSISTANCE

- Rebate in interest rate for timely payment has been increased from 1.5% to 2.0 %.
- Promoters contribution has been reduced from 35% to 30% and 30% to 25% for loans under Project Loan Scheme and Good Borrower Scheme respectively.
- Processing Charges, Service Charges and Up front fee have been reduced from 1% to 0.5% for loans up to Rs.100.00 lacs to establish new project. Further the amounts of service charges have been restricted to a max. of Rs.4.00 lacs on sanctioned amount of term loan.
- The amount of pre-payment charges has been rationalised to 1% of the outstanding loan amount pre-paid.
- The delegation of power for sanction of term loan has been revised as under:

Authority	Pre-revised	Revised
Managing Director	Rs. 500.00 lacs	Rs. 1000.00 lacs
Industrial Committee	Above Rs. 500.00 lacs and upto Rs. 1500.00 lacs	Above Rs. 1000.00 lacs and upto Rs. 2500.00 lacs
Board of Directors	Above Rs. 1500.00 lacs	Above Rs. 2500.00 lacs

- The Financial Advisor has been delegate to disburse term loan where relaxation in any terms & conditions is not involved.

RIICO
The Industrial Catalyst

Rajasthan State Industrial Development & Investment Corporation Ltd.

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Pink City Keeps Its Date with the Global Indians

Archana dissects the BIP s (Bureau of Investment Promotion) functions during Pravasi Bhartiya Divas, 2012, Jaipur and finds out some interesting facts and achievements of the organization.



Jaipur played host for entertaining the mega event for Indian Diaspora, the 10th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, which is organized every year by the Government of India. Rajasthan was the Partner State for the event this year which was held from 7-9th January at the city of Jaipur. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated to commemorate the return of Mahatma Gandhi to India from South Africa on January 9, 1915. The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2012 was organized jointly by the Union Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA), the Government of Rajasthan and CII.

The theme for Pravasi Bharatiya Divas - 2012 was "Global Indian-Inclusive Growth". The 10th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was a wonderful opportunity for the Diaspora not only to experience the vibrant culture and unparalleled hospitality of the State but also witness its emergence as an ideal place for business and investment. All the magic was witnessed in a span of three days in the heart of Pink City.

The 10th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas witnessed a record congregation surpassing its earlier editions over the years, wherein 1400 Pravasis from 60 countries and a total of 2014 dele-

gates, gathered at Jaipur for the event which is an annual platform for business deliberations, bonding and networking to connect India with its Diaspora.

The popularity of the event was evident not only from the numbers but the enthusiastic participation of the Diaspora where the delegates experienced the warmth in the reception by their motherland and brethren and renewed their ties with their roots and culture which they had been longing for. Blending serious deliberations, bonding and networking activities with the festivities, the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas



showcased India's attractive opportunities for business and investment as well as its vibrant art and culture.

The event was inaugurated by, Dr Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, who expressed his appreciation for the contributions made by the Indian Community living abroad, and highlighted some of the key initiatives by the Government for the Diaspora.

Dr Manmohan Singh said that the Government has issued notifications for registering NRIs under the Representation of People Act, 1950. A Bill to merge People of Indian Origin and Overseas Citizen of India schemes by amending the Citizenship Act had also been introduced, he said. In a measure to ensure the safety and well being of Indian workers abroad, Dr. Singh said that the Government has decided to introduce and sponsor a new Pension and Life Insurance Fund which will provide social security benefits and a low-cost life insurance cover against natural death. Such agreements are being negotiated with Netherlands, France, Australia and the EU as well, he added. Dr Singh appreciated the proposal of the Government of Rajasthan to build a Pravasi Bharatiya Bhawan at Jaipur, which will also house the offices of Protector of Emigrants and Migrant Resource Center.

The Prime Minister launched the website of India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians (IDFOI), a trust under the aegis of MOIA providing a credible window for Overseas Indian philanthropy for social development of India. He also released a OIFC-MOIA publication 'Returning Indians - All you need to know.'

The Chief Guest at the 10th Pravasi



Bharatiya Divas, Hon'ble Kamla Persad Bissessar, Prime Minister, Trinidad & Tobago, congratulated the Government of India for organizing the event, representing a spirit of unity and cooperation and providing a pragmatic and effective platform for Diaspora engagement.

The Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Mr Ashok Gehlot, said that the Diaspora from Rajasthan is recognized throughout the world for its entrepreneurship and hard work and has done the country proud in the past and continues to carry on the good work.

He announced the 'Apne Rajasthan ko

Janiye' scheme, under which 50 Diaspora Youth would be invited by the State Government every year to visit and experience Rajasthan.

Some of the noted speakers at the inaugural event were Mr Vayalar Ravi, Union Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs, Mr B Muthuraman, President, CII, and Vice Chairman, Tata Steel Ltd. and Chairman, Tata International Ltd, H.E. Mr Shivraj V Patil, Governor, Rajasthan, Mr Arjun Munda, Chief Minister of Jharkhand and Mr Parvez Dewan, Secretary, Union Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs.

President of India outlines Priorities of



Health, Education and Skill Development President of India H.E. Mrs. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, emphasized Health, Education and Skill Development as the key priorities in the strategy of development, she said the Government would spend adequate resources to ensure maximum efficiency in outcomes in these identified focus areas. The President of India gave away the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards to 15 Pravasi achievers from different fields. Hon'ble Kamla Persad Bissessar was awarded for her outstanding contribution in public service and fostering closer relations between India and Trinidad & Tobago.

The FORHEX Craft Bazaar

The Craft Bazaar put up at the venue by FORHEX provided a kaleidoscope of the breathtaking arts and crafts of Rajasthan. This exclusive display of the Gota Patti work, silver and thewa jewellery, wooden articles and furniture, marble and metal handicrafts, blue pottery, hand-block printed textiles & made ups and leather items was much appreciated by the NRIs who spent a lot of time admiring them and understanding their production process through the on-site live demonstrations arranged specially for them.

The Rajasthan Pavilion

The Rajasthan Pavilion at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was truly a show-stopper. The pavilion was designed as a Shekhawati Haveli (mansion). Shekhawati is a region in north-eastern Rajasthan comprising Jhunjhunu and Sikar districts. The towns of Shekhawati region are known for their beautifully painted mansions called havelis.

The exterior structure, walls and entrance of the 2500 square feet pavilion were true to the architecture and design of a Shekhawati Haveli and drew one and all to take a closer look. Throughout the three days, delegates were seen

taking pictures and getting their photographs taken with the beautiful structure as a backdrop.

The interiors of the pavilion were modern and stunning to match and communicate the progressive state that Rajasthan truly is.

One particular section in the pavilion presented the strengths of Rajasthan as an attractive investment destination, and also spoke of the key sectors for investment. These messages were put across using impressive images of roads, power plants, factories, mines, corporate offices, institutions and farmlands of Rajasthan. Another section, the 'Rajasthan Kaleidoscope' was a visual journey through the innumerable tourist attractions of the State. Another big draw was 'Made in Rajasthan', a collection of a variety of products — agricultural, mineral, and industrial and institutional — that are produced in the State.

A number of informative print and digital publications on Rajasthan were available at the pavilion.

Of the delightful memories that the delegates carried back with them from Jaipur, the pavilion would live long in their reminiscences, and picture albums.

An Interactive Session with the Youth

An educative and opinion based interactive session with the youth, "Global Indian – Inclusive Growth" was organized at the behest of Government of Rajasthan. It was a parallel session under the three day programme schedule of Pravasi Bhartiya Divas convention 2012 organized by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA), Government of India (GOI) in partnership with Government of Rajasthan (GOR) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in Jaipur.

Carrying the theme of PBD - "Global Indian-Inclusive Growth" the session was held at the Maharana Pratap Auditorium, Vidyashram School, Jaipur on 7th January, 2012. It was an interesting, motivational and encouraging session for young entrepreneurs, professionals and students. The key-note speakers at the session were the famous NRIs who have excelled themselves in various fields and made the nation proud through their achievements.

This Interactive Session hosted talk by Indian personalities who shared their "mantras of success" with the youth and inspired them. The session encouraged and motivated the young minds to not only help India emerge as an economic superpower and an engine of growth; but also addressed the vital need to ensure everyone's partnership in this development journey.

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BIHAR: Come and Make it Yours

Anurag Sahai brings a glimpse of Global Bihar Summit 2012 which is forging partnerships for development all around and takes you through the details of the summit happening on February 17 to 19 in Patna, under the aegis of Bihar Foundation.

About the Summit

In recent years the State of Bihar has been in the news for its success in accelerating growth and strengthening institutions to support economic development and public welfare. Yet many challenges remain if the continuing problems of poverty and backwardness are to be overcome. In order to contribute to debate and action in the State, the Institute for Human Development (IHD), The Bihar Foundation and Asian Development Research Institute (ADRI) are organizing a Global Summit for all those committed to the cause of development in Bihar.

The Summit will bring together leading development practitioners, policymakers, scholars, industrialists, investors, representatives from the world of art and culture, donors and members of civil society for forging partnerships to pursue and reinforce social and economic progress in Bihar. About 1000 people from around the world will be participating in the Summit.

The Summit is a follow-up to the "Global Meet for a Resurgent Bihar" organized by the IHD, in association with ADRI and other institutions during 19-21 January 2007 at Patna. Inaugurated by the then president of India Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, this Meet was attended by more than 700 people from across the world. The event was widely appreciated as a milestone for contributing to an environment for change and progress as well as for forging partnerships to boost development in the state.

Five years later, Bihar has made progress in many respects. There has been rapid economic growth, governance has improved and new and effective social programmes are being applied. But Bihar's economic structure remains narrowly based, its infrastructure weak and its people excessively dependent on employment outside the state. It is time to follow up the 2007 Meet with a new effort to consolidate the progress that has been made, and to advance beyond it. The 2012 Summit will take up this challenge, with the aim of contributing to and expanding the efforts of government – both State and Central – and of other stakeholders to deepen the process of development in the State.

Aims & Objectives

In bringing together eminent individuals and



agencies concerned with the process of change and development in Bihar, the Summit aims to achieve the following main objectives:

- To generate innovative ideas and thinking among all actors and stakeholders that can foster progress in the state;
- To define priorities and lay down a roadmap for development.
- To create strong networks among all the concerned stakeholders in order to facilitate their effective participation in the development of the state; and
- To forge lasting partnerships between the people of Bihar and the outside world, including distinguished diasporas from the state and friends of Bihar from elsewhere in India, the region and beyond.

Themes

- Overcoming the constraints on faster agricultural growth
- Devising an appropriate strategy for urban development
- Building industrial capabilities: infrastructure, finance, skills and entrepreneurship
- Developing Bihar as an attractive tourist destination
- Strengthening educational and training institutions
- Creating a more effective healthcare system
- Raising and managing resources for a stronger Bihar
- Extending socio-economic and political roles of women

- Strengthening institutions for inclusive and equitable development
- Ushering in a socio-cultural renaissance
- Expanding knowledge and research for development

Programme Overview

The Summit will be held over three days, 17, 18 and 19 of February, 2012.

Day 1 (17 February) in the forenoon will comprise pre-conference events such as film screenings, literary readings, and presentations by Local NGO's & entrepreneurs and presentations by researchers on Bihar development. The inaugural session will be addressed by the Chief Minister, the Deputy Chief Minister and other eminent speakers. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal Dr. Baburam Bhattarai will be the chief guest to grace the occasion. It will be followed by a plenary session on the vision of Bihar to be addressed by three well known scholars and public figures.

Day 2 (18 February) will commence with the presentation of the Summit's background paper on Bihar's development priorities, achievements and challenges. It will be followed by a series of thematic workshops wherein papers on themes like agriculture, urban development, infrastructure, education, health, women's development etc. will be presented. The following plenary session will examine strategic issues for follow up: the forging of partnerships for development in Bihar and an agenda for action.

Day 3 (19 February) will start with a parallel session on themes like socio-cultural renaissance, expanding knowledge and research for development and strengthening institutions for inclusive development. It will be followed by a plenary session wherein four to five top leaders and public personalities from Asian countries will present perspectives on the culture, philosophy and religion of ancient Bihar and their contemporary relevance. Main deliberations of the Summit and agenda for action will be presented in the last plenary session which will be followed by Valedictory Session. A series of interactive sessions with various stakeholders including NRBs/NRIs for future collaborations will be held after the formal closure of the Summit.

Bihar: Where Possibilities are Endless



Increase in state forest areas made Modi happy

Deputy CM and environment & forest minister Sushil Kumar Modi said that, according to report of the Forest Survey of India (FSI), 2011, there has been an increase of 41 square km of forest area in Bihar.

The deputy CM said that according to the FSI Report, 2011, the state had 6,804 square km of forest area in 2009 which increased to 6,845 square km in 2011 thus recording an increase of 41 square km in the past two years, a positive sign.

Modi said tree plantation would be given the shape of people's agitation and Bihar Hariyali Mission would be set up soon.

Bihar's Per Capita Income touches Rs.15628

On constant prices, the Per Capita Income of Bihar has touched Rs.15628 mark whereas the National Per capita income is Rs.38005. i.e. Bihar's PCI is now 40.17 % of the National PCI in comparison to last year's 37.07 %. The Growth Rate (yr 2011-2012) of the state has been recorded as 13.13 % on constant prices whereas National growth rate is 6.9%. On current prices the National growth rate has been recorded as 15.7% whereas Bihar's growth rate is 20.39%.

"The per capita income at current prices during 2011-12 is estimated to be Rs 60,972 compared to Rs 53,331 during 2010-11, showing a rise of 14.3 per cent," said the Advanced Estimates of National Income released by the Central Statistical Office (CSO).

From Feb 15 Cobra is ready to flow

The much-hyped investment proposal from global beer giant Cobra, a multinational company promoted by Lord Karan Bilimoria, is set to start flowing from February 15. Actual Production will start at the brewery owned by Molson Coors Cobra India, a joint venture of Molson Coors and Cobra Beer, at Bihta, some 40km from Patna Karan Bilimoria had in August last year met chief minister Nitish Kumar on setting up the brewery. The company would initially invest \$35 million in its India operations, a majority of which would be utilised for the future expansion plans of the brewery operations in Bihar.



HPS providing electricity all over in Bihar

A Patna based, five-year-old off-grid electricity company namely Husk Power Systems (HPS) uses discarded rice husks to generate power and currently provides services to more than 400 villages in rural Bihar. HPS is planning to cash in on the estimated \$100 billion rural electricity market, it has installed about 90 mini power plants that meet the electricity needs of around 38,000 households and businesses, and impacts the lives of more than 2,00,000 people. HPS plans on serving more than 6,000 villages, create 7,000 local jobs and save over Rs 250 crore for the local population through its renewable energy solutions by 2014.

Smaller universities for better education in Bihar



The Bihar government has come out to restructure existing universities in the state to follow the guidelines of the University Grants Commission. Bihar Human Resources Development minister P K Shahi said a proposal to activate all these was taken forward by director of higher education to have smaller universities for smooth functioning. The proposal has already being endorsed by Shahi and HRD principal secretary Anjani Kumar Singh. The state has 12 universities at present. All these are done for more universities to boost Gross Enrolment Ratio. In talks is to bifurcate Magadh University (MU) to create a new university comprising MU-colleges in Patna.

READ AND WRITE GUJARAT SHOWS THE WAY

Shashank Bhatt analyses the factors that led the gross enrolment rate of higher education in the Narendra Modi-ruled western Indian state going up to an impressive 13%.



Everyone knows of Gujarat as a very progressive and highly industrialized state. But very few know that Gujarat has got 15% of tribal population because of which it lags behind in some of the key social indicators such as education and health.

In terms of overall literacy as well as female literacy, Gujarat was only marginally better than the national average in the 2001 Census. Fortunately, the new government which came to power in 2001 realised this fact and started addressing the issue in a comprehensive way. We are delving into the strategies adopted in Gujarat to promote female literacy quality of education in primary schools over the last decade.

Two main instruments were used for this. One was a programme called “Kanya Kelavani Praveshotsav” and the second was “Gunotsav” – a programme of quality rating rate of schools and teachers.

Also the following initiatives were made:

1. About 1.8 lakh new class rooms were constructed in primary schools

2. Drinking water facility and separate sanitation facility for girls, construction of compound wall, electrification and computer were given to all the schools.

3. Vidya Lakshmi Bond was created to attract girl students to enroll and stay in the school.

4. More than 1 lakh teachers in primary schools were appointed over the last 10 years through transparent ‘on line’ procedure.

Let us examine the results achieved because of these interventions.

a. Between 1991 to 2001, the female literacy rate in Gujarat had increased by only 9.16% (48.64% in 1991 and 57.80% in 2001), but between 2001 to 2011, the female literacy rate increased by 12.93% (57.80% in 2001 and 70.73% in 2011) despite the fact that available population to be made literate was relatively less in the last decade as compared to the previous decade.

b. The over-all literacy also increased by 10.17% in the last decade as compared to 7.85% in the previous decade inspite of a higher base.





The strategies adopted:

The Kanya Kelavani Praveshotsav came out of the vision of Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi. All the Standard II and above officers, about 3,000 plus across all ministers, MLAs and MPs, office-bearers of district and taluka panchayat, cover atleast 15 villages within a period of three days every year at the time of admission in June. Routes are chalked out for visit of each officer to a set of 15 villages that are contiguous. A common briefing-cum - training session is held every year before this programme by use of satellite media, in which officials visiting schools are briefed thoroughly about what they are expected to do when they go to a village. This briefing meeting is the main important element of this programme. From 2003 to 2011, each of these briefing meetings is also addressed by the CM himself to motivate officers to do their job as a pious duty rather than ritual. All IAS, IFS and IPS officers are involved in the drive. For some of

c. The net enrolment of students in Standard 1 in primary schools increased to 100% and the drop-out rate in Standard 1 to 5 decreased from 17.83% in 2002-03 to 2.09% in 2010-11. Similarly the drop out rate in standard 1 to 7 decreased from 33.73% in 2002-03 to 7.95% in 2010-11.

d. Some of the tribal districts such as the Dangs showed unusual increase in their literacy rate. The female literacy in the Dangs increased from 48.51% in 2001 to 68.75% in 2011.

Kanya Kelavani Praveshotsav:

This programme came out of the realization that social factors are responsible for rural population not sending their children to school. Praveshotsav is a massive annual awareness drive in which during the admission season in June every year, the entire bureaucracy that includes officers of all departments of the government go to each and every primary school and village to solicit the parents to send their children to school. This programme was started in 2003, and is successfully on. We can list objectives of this programme as follows:

- To make the people aware of importance of girl child education
- To have 100% enrolment of children in Standard 1
- To reduce the drop-out rate particularly of female child by creating awareness about importance of their continuation in school
- To give bureaucracy a first-hand exposure of problems of education at the primary level in villages and in cities/ rural and urban areas
- To get first-hand feedback from the people of the village about quality of education, quality of mid-day meal, teachers' absenteeism, infrastructure in education, etc
- To make teachers conscious of the fact that some high-level official visits them every year and giving them an opportunity to show case whatever good work they may have done





those officers, who have never worked in education, this kind of exposure coming year after year, is found to be personally enriching for them.

Analysis of the impact of Kanya Kelavani Praveshotsav:

The strategy of social awareness which was created because of Kanya Kelavani Praveshotsav worked very well, which is obvious from the results achieved. Also infrastructure in primary school was never lacking. However, social awareness about importance of girl child education among certain casts and tribes was lacking. This issue could easily be addressed by focusing attention of the entire bureaucracy by sending them to each and every school every year in the meeting with the villagers. This programme was one of the most favourable programmes of none other than the CM. Then, the emphasis of some aspect of social change comes from the top, and the whole machinery is galvanized as this programme illustrates.

One can ask for a report of an independent impact analysis of this programme. But the fact that spectacular results are achieved in the Census figures itself stand as an independent testimony of the fruits of this programme.

The change in literacy rate, particularly in female literacy rate -- being more than 40% more as compared to the previous decade --- shows that this effort of promoting girl literacy has paid off in a big way.

DROP-OUT RATE IN PRIMARY EDUCATION

Year	Standard 1 to 5			Standard 1 to 7		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
2002-03	17.79	17.84	17.83	36.59	31.49	33.73
2007-08	02.77	03.25	02.98	08.81	11.08	09.87
2008-09	02.28	02.31	02.29	08.58	09.17	08.87
2009-10	02.18	02.23	02.20	08.33	08.97	08.65
2010-11	02.08	02.11	02.09	07.87	08.12	07.95



Gunotsav:

The greatest challenge in primary education is to improve the learning level of primary children. Very often there are allegations made by various sections of the society, including media that the students studying in Standard 3 or 4 also do not read and write or do not know do basic calculations. This may be true of those students who are very irregular in school because of their poor socio-economic background. It is also true that the teachers of primary schools need to be made accountable for the learning outcomes.

Gunotsav is a programme of annual rating of each and every primary school as well as each and every teacher. It uses a unique methodology of self appraisal by the school based on the test of the student taken by the teacher himself as well as independent appraisal by officers of all departments of the government.

Objectives of Gunotsav:

1. To bring into focus the quality of education in government primary schools.

2. To create greater awareness among teachers, educational administrators and the community about the need for quality education.

3. To measure the learning levels of students every year and check where any improvement is taking place.

4. To create accountability of teachers by giving a specific rating to the school in which they are teaching as well as to individual teachers.

5. To link reward and punishment of teachers with the grades obtained in Gunotsav.

Methodology of Gunotsav:

1. Every year, a self-appraisal format is prepared for every school to be filled up in August. This format is to be filled up after taking internal test of all the students of the school in all the subjects. The format has also got questions of maintenance of facilities in the school.

2. Then, a group of 3000 government officers of all departments in the rank of Class II and above are given intensive training on assessment of each school in a training programme which is conducted through satellite communication in which CM himself remains present.

3. Each of these officers is then expected to visit one primary school per day in span of three days, which are pre decided as Gunotsav Days for the entire state. This way, within three days, 9000

primary schools, out of total of 32000 schools, are randomly assessed by external observation.

4. The officer visiting a school spends whole day right from morning till late evening in the school. They observe the way in which prayer meeting is conducted in the school and then start assessment of learning level of each class by giving all students a test of reading and writing as well as mathematics and science. Individual marks obtained by the students are then recorded in the appraisal sheet given for each primary school.

5. The independent officer also observes other amenities of the school with reference to its maintenance and records his observations in the format.

6. In the evening, a meeting of the parents of the primary school students as well as citizens of the village is organized in which the students of the school are asked to present an in-house cultural programme. Also PTA, MTA, SMC Meetings take place in the presence of the external observer.

7. After returning from Gunotsav the officers are supposed to make online data entries of the format filled up by them.

8. Based on the self assessment as well as independent appraisal every school is assigned over all grade as well as grade for performance in various parameters. Similarly every teacher is given his/ her performance card.

9. Based on the results of Gunotsav remedial classes are organized for those individual students whose performance is weak/ below the expected level. After remedial classes, re-test of these students is taken to find out whether they have improved or not.

Outcome of Gunotsav:

This programme was organized for the first time in 2009 and it was repeated in 2010 and 2011. In a period of two years, the change in learning level is noticeable. In 2010, the percentage of school getting more than 6 out of 10 points increased from 26.22 to 43.91%. The performance of school as well as teachers is illustrated in Figure 1 and Figure 2 below:

	Grade Obtained	2009	2010
Schools	0 to 2	1342 (04.15%)	756 (02.23%)
	2 to 4	4788 (14.81%)	3299 (09.52%)
	4 to 6	17721 (54.81%)	15041 (44.34%)
	6 to 8	8149 (25.20%)	14105 (41.58%)
	8 to 10	331 (1.02%)	791 (2.33%)

(Fig. 1)

	Grade Obtained	2009	2010
Teachers	0 to 2	3005 (2.77%)	2507 (1.45%)
	2 to 4	26154 (24.14%)	9514 (5.50%)
	4 to 6.5	65097 (60.08%)	101992 (58.98%)
	6.5 to 8.5	13596 (12.55%)	56597 (32.73%)
	8.5 & above	494 (0.46%)	

(Fig. 2)

Strategies adopted for secondary education:

In secondary school also, the GoG improved access to secondary schools by opening new schools in rural areas. The GoG also created Gujarat State Open School. A wide range of examination reforms were introduced to improve the quality of education. The secondary teachers were given extensive training.

Two separate societies viz. SCOPE and GKS were created to take care of extra coaching of English and other skill respectively.

Strategies adopted for Higher and Technical Education:

Over the last 10 years, 31 new private and public Universities were created, many of them catering to specialized field such as defence, forensic, teachers, education, animal husbandry, sports, Sanskrit and law management, bio technology, etc.

The number of seats available for degree



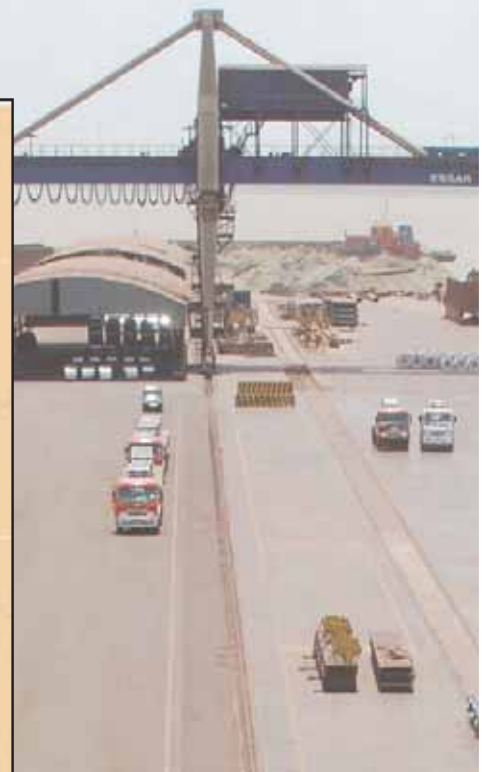
engineering increased from 9,041 to 47,296 in the last decade. Ditto, for the number of diploma seats: rose from 10,490 to 51,327. The number of MBA seats also went up from 1,241 to 13,340.

From 2011-12, choice-based credit system is being implemented at under graduate as well as post-graduate level in all the universities of Gujarat. This offers a wide range of choice to students for studying subjects other than core ones.

As a part of industry-academic tie up, a programme of internship for final year students of engineering in municipalities called "Techno Seva" is being implemented. Similarly, the science college students were given the work of preparing soil health card in their laboratory that helped them earn extra.

No wonder, the gross enrolment rate of higher education in Gujarat has gone up to 13%.





GUJARAT PORTS Leading the Way

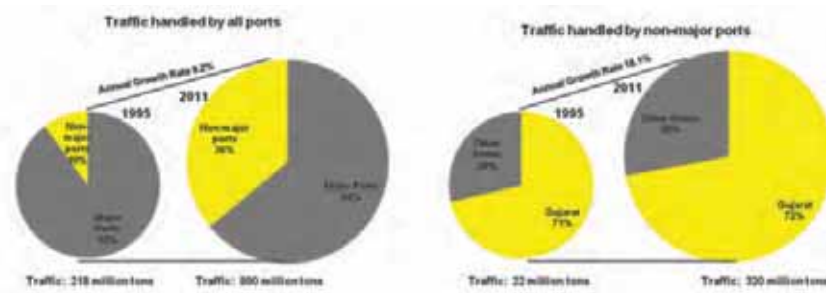
Shashank Bhatt finds out the way how Gujarat Government via its visionary policies and proactive measures has ensured that the natural advantages of the state are not wasted; and have led Gujarat to become the number one maritime state in the country.

Nature has blessed Gujarat with India's longest coastline of 1600 km; almost a fourth of the total coastline of the country. Washed by the waters of the Arabian Sea, the ports of Gujarat are gateways to the oceanic world, for the landlocked states of central and northern India. They offer an unmatched logistical advantage to the vast, fertile expanses of the hinterland – an area accounting for 40% of the total trade of the nation. Moreover, the coast of Gujarat provides the nearest maritime route to the countries of the Middle East, Africa and Europe. Little wonder then, that mercantile activity has been the mainstay of the Gujarati community since the days of yore; in fact the ancient Harappan city of Lothal, located near Ahmedabad, is believed to house the world's oldest dockyard!

The Gujarat Government via its visionary policies and proactive measures has ensured that these natural advantages are not wasted; and

have led Gujarat to become the number one maritime state in the country. Freedom from restrictive tariff regulations, and rewarding long term commercial contracts have been offered to prospective investors. There have been other inducements too: bankable project documents, reasonable port charges and services at extremely competitive rates.

Under the dynamic and futurist leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Narendrabhai Modi, Gujarat's maritime sector today is one of the most pioneering and well developed in India. He has quoted, "Our progress and development is not just limited to ports. Our vision is for port led development with port based Special Economic Zones, warehouses, cold storage networks, rail-road connectivity and related infrastructure facilities being established". Indeed, it is universally recognized that the entrepreneurial spirit of the people of Gujarat has propelled the state's prosperity.



Leading the way in Port traffic and capacity

Cargo handled at GMB ports has risen from a mere 3.18 million tons in 1982-83, to 231 million tons in 2010-11. GMB ports now handle approx. 26% of total national cargo and 72% of cargo handled by ports under State Governments of India. If we include Kandla port as well, Gujarat handles 35% of the national cargo.

In 2010-11, traffic at ports under control of State government showed an impressive growth rate of 12.34%, especially when compared to the growth rate of 1.6% achieved by the major ports during the same period.

It is mainly due to progress by GMB ports that the share of ports under the control of other State Governments in total maritime cargo of the country increased from 10% in 1995 to 36% in 2011.

To keep pace with the rising traffic, careful planning and execution has ensured corresponding increase in capacity at Gujarat ports. In the last decade alone, capacity of GMB ports has more than doubled from 135 million tons to 284 million tons at the end of 2010-11. It is envisaged that by 2015-16, ports in Gujarat will have traffic handling capacity of more than 500 million tons, and of more than 1000 million tons by 2020.

Thinking ahead of the times- Visionary policies of the Gujarat Government

The secret of the success has been the futuristic thinking of the Gujarat Government policy makers over the years. The first step in this direction was the formation of the Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB), the first maritime board in the country. The State Government created the Board in 1982 for the purpose of managing, controlling and administering the ports of Gujarat. Over the next two and half decades of operation, GMB has planned the integrated development of new ports, along with the required road and rail links.

A large part of the investments in creating this infrastructure have come through private investments. The State's Port Policy statement of 1995, was a landmark document, and it spelt out an explicit strategy of port-led development, including the creation of new, world-class ports, in which private-sector participation played a dominant role. Gujarat is the pioneer in inviting private sector investments into the port sector. Several models of privatization to cater to the myriad needs of the developers were developed, such as privatizing port services, facilitating private jetties, shifting from the model of joint venture ports to completely private ports etc. Under this strategy the state developed Pipavav as the first private port in the country in 1996, followed by Mundra in 1998 on a Build, Own, Operate and Transfer basis, as outlined under the BOOT Policy (1997). The private entre-

preneurs were given long-term leases, with the option to expand and sub-lease, complete operational and tariff freedom along with Model Concession Agreement (MCA) which made their projects bankable allowing private entrepreneurs to raise loans against the project. GMB even took the lead in privatizing rail linkages by creating SPVs with state government, private port players and railways, all participating.

Gujarat has share of 60% in Indian shipbuilding order book with its 10 operational shipyards and Gujarat intends to grow this share. For this purpose, the GoG came out with the first Shipbuilding Policy of the country in 2010. Under the policy, Gujarat is under process of developing integrated clusters of shipyards (MSPs). The MSPs will provide common seaside as well as shore-side infrastructure and facilities. Government has identified clusters at Dahej and Bhavnagar in the initial phase and other new Greenfield locations subsequently for development of MSPs.

Gujarat also operates one of the largest ship-recycling yards in the world, at Alang. With the efforts of GMB bent towards being environment friendly also reflecting our concern for global warming and climate change, GMB has initiated efforts to ensure "green recycling" at the shipyard by incorporating the latest scientific ship-recycling techniques and building state-of-the-art waste treatment, storage and disposal facilities (TSDF). With Environment management being one of the key priorities for GMB, an assortment of efforts to ensure that ship breaking takes place in conditions that are not harmful to the surrounding environment as well as the labour have been undertaken by GMB. Ensuring these initiatives at Alang yard, have paved way for India becoming a pioneering maritime country worldwide following globally applicable ship recycling regulations formulated by International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Owing to these futuristic initiatives, private sector investments worth \$ 5.2 billion (Rs. 26,000 crores) have been realized in the port sector so far. A testimony to this was signing of the MoUs worth nearly \$ 20 billion (Rs. 103,000 crores) for the port sector during the 2011 edition of bi-annual investment affair called Vibrant Gujarat organized by the Gujarat Government since 2003 under the adept leadership of the visionary Chief Minister Shri Narendrabhai Modi.

Era of achievements

The period since 1995 has seen Gujarat achieving many milestones, such as building:

- ▶ India's first private port at Pipavav in 1996
- ▶ India's deepest draft port at Mundra in 1998
- ▶ Largest SPMs (Single Point Moorings) for POL export in the country at Sikka in 1999
- ▶ The country's first dedicated chemical terminal at Dahej in 2001



- The first private rail link in the country at Mundra in 2003
- Country's first LNG Terminal at Dahej in 2004; followed by another LNG terminal at Hazira
- India's first double-stack container train at Pipavav in 2006
- India's largest coal terminal, established for Ultra Mega Power Plant (UMPP) in 2010 at Mundra
- Country's most advanced Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS) in 2010
- Nation's first 'Shipbuilding Policy' rolled out in 2010

New Initiatives for Multifaceted Development of Gujarat Ports Sector

Following the vision, the State Government has taken up various initiatives which will ensure integrated development of ports and port related industry:

- Ro-Ro ferry between Ghogha and Dahej: To reduce the travel distance between South Gujarat and Saurashtra region, Govt. is developing Ro-Ro ferry service between Ghogha and Dahej. These ferry vessels shall have significant accommodation for passengers and would also carry vehicles to their destination together

with the drivers and passengers enabling reduction in travelling distance resulting as substantial saving in time and fuel, reducing emission of polluting gases thereby aiding reduction in air pollution. Implementation of Ro-Ro services can thus be called as yet another step of GMB towards environment consciousness.

- Port Security: After being operational the VTMS in Gulf of Khambhat, GoG is also implementing the same in the Gulf of Kutch. In addition, the Government is working on implementing ISPS code at all its ports to make them safe and secure.

- Integrated planning and development of Port cities: Government has decided to develop Mundra and Pipavav as model cities to showcase port-led development. A detailed conceptual plan for development of Mundra Port City (MPC) has been carried out by GMB. The key objective of the project is to cater the critical infrastructure to the proposed development around the port area. The Mundra Port City development has been framed with a view to facilitate the port based industries, not being limited to the industrial development, but also focusing on facilitation to people working in the port and port based industries, by creating the residential, commercial and recreational zones improving living standard of the region.

Today, Gujarat ports sector is a promising sector churning immense opportunities for investors. GMB has undertaken dedicated efforts to develop various port sub-sectors on a priority basis creating a plethora of opportunities for investment such as development of new specialised Greenfield ports, Port mechanization, Port services, Shipbuilding and Repairing, Coastal shipping Rail-road connectivity, Port based Special Economic Zones, logistic parks and industrial parks, Ferry services, Bunkering Maritime Institutes etc.

The Winning Streak

Gujarat Maritime Board has been getting noticed and recognized for its stupendous efforts in the maritime sector of the country. The significant role of the Gujarat Maritime Board in developing the maritime sector of the State has been recognized, and it has been honored with many awards in its rich history, such as:

- "Excellence Award" in the International Maritime Expo - INMEX 2007 held in October 2007

- ▶ "Indian Maritime News Maker of the year 2008-09" by Maritime Gateway of India
- ▶ "Special Jury Award" in function held by Maritime Gateway of India on 12th November, 2010 at Mumbai
- ▶ "Best Initiative taken by a state in Maritime Industry" award at "Shipping, Marine & Ports - World Expo 2010" in March, 2010.
- ▶ "Port Authority/ Maritime Board of the Year" in the Maritime and Logistics Awards (MALA) 2011

Emerging Areas: Beaconsing Investments in Gujarat

Today, Gujarat ports sector is a promising sector churning immense opportunities for investors. GMB has undertaken dedicated efforts to develop various port sub-sectors on a priority basis creating a plethora of opportunities for investment such as development of new specialised Greenfield ports, Port mechanization, Port services, Shipbuilding and Repairing, Coastal shipping Rail-road connectivity, Port based Special Economic Zones, logistic parks and industrial parks, Ferry services, Bunkering Maritime Institutes etc.

Way Ahead...

The Gujarat Government and the Gujarat Maritime Board aim to continue initiating efforts for environment-friendly, safe and secured cargo handling operations at its ports. Going forward, the focus of GMB will also be on coastal shipping and integrated logistics system, which are expected to result in major efficiency improvements and cost savings for the country thereby serving as a catalyst to India's development.





Pipavav Port



Mundra Port



Reliance Sikka



Terminal Dahej

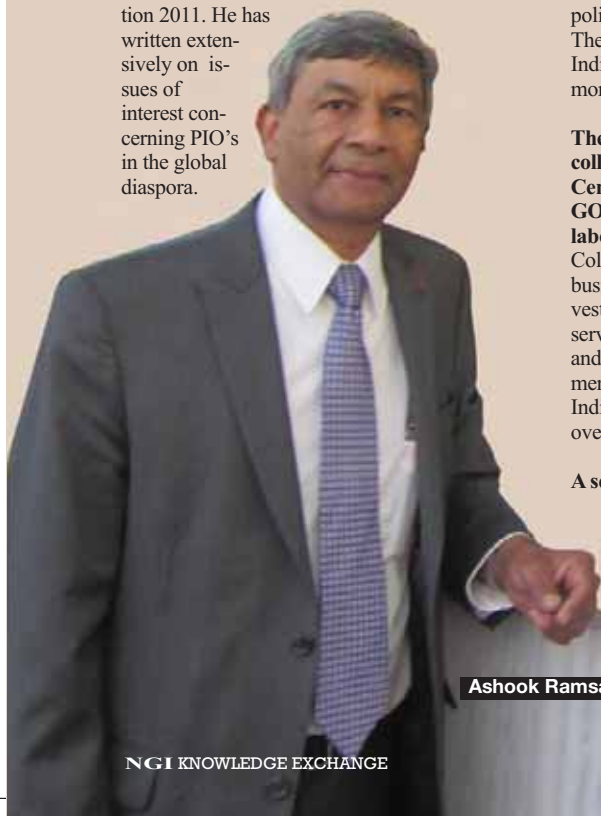
PBD is turning Indo-Centric

In a free-wheeling chat with Chandran Iyer on the sidelines of GOPIO meet in Jaipur, its International President Ashook Ramsaran says, PBD should focus more on global issues.

International President of Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) Ashook Ramsaran is a well-known name among the Indian diaspora. He was honoured last year at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) for his remarkable work towards the benefit of the Indian community in the US. Guyanese-born Ashook is also the President and CEO of Ramex Inc, an electronics manufacturing enterprise in College Point, New York. His company remained listed among the Top 100 Indian Owned Businesses in the USA for 10 consecutive years.

An ardent advocate of universal human rights, he was given special recognition by St. John's University and a scholarship has also been set up in his name for Caribbean and Latin America studies.

Ramsaran has worked hard and long to bring about recognition by the Government of India for those who left India from 1834 – 1920 as indentured laborers. He spearheaded the Kolkata Memorial project which was inaugurated soon after the Pravasi convention ended. He was also honoured as an "Outstanding Immigrant" by New York City Council. He was previously GOPIO's Executive Vice President and Secretary General. He was unanimously elected President of GOPIO International on Nov 19, 2011 at GOPIO's Convention 2011. He has written extensively on issues of interest concerning PIO's in the global diaspora.



Ashook Ramsaran

Excerpts from the Interview:

There are nearly six million NRIs and PIOs all over the world. How sensitive do you think is the Indian government to their problems?

That is a very loaded question that you have asked. The issue is very big and there are many problems. I can say the government has become more sensitive because of the Diaspora's effect on India and its economy.

How effective are the events like Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in sensitizing the government and creating awareness about the problems of the diaspora?

It is a good start. It started in 2003 and started taking up the issues of NRIs and PIOs. But slowly it is going off the track. It has diverged and become more and more Indo-centric. This needs to be shifted and brought back and align it to the issue of diaspora.

What do you mean by Indo-centric. When issues are discussed in PBD, isn't the diaspora mainly interested in Indo-Centric issues?

No. When I say Indo-centric I mean most of the issues are India-based. The diaspora has interest outside of India, that sometimes are not related to India such as Human Rights issue, social issues, political issues, regional issue and racial issues. They may not be related to what is happening in India and hence such issues should be given more prominence in the events like the PBD.

There was a news that GOPIO has decided to collaborate with the Overseas Felicitation Centre. Could you elaborate what exactly is GOPIO planning to achieve through this collaboration?

Collaboration is very simple. OIFC facilitates business enterprises. It has been providing investment know-how and business facilitation services to the NRIs. But it is a two way street and not one way. They facilitate business investment in India and we are using them to make the Indians aware of what business opportunities lies overseas.

A section of NRIs and PIOs want dual citizenship. What is the stand of GOPIO?

Dual citizenship is only useful for those countries which have reciprocal treaty with India. But in other countries which have

smaller diaspora of Indian population we could have the issue of split loyalty or misconstrued loyalty. So we have to be careful.

When you say "other countries" are you referring to ones like Pakistan, Bangladesh etc?
No I wouldn't like to name any country specifically.

What is GOPIO's stand on voting rights for NRI's and PIOs?

GOPIO is only pressing for voting rights for the NRI's. If I am a citizen of India who is living outside India and I have property and family in India. Then I have a right to know and participate in what is happening here.

What is the government's stand on that matter. Is it receptive for the suggestions?

That is being debated right now.

But I believe even here there are some resistance from some quarters in India on account of security issues?

I don't see any reasons why there should be any resistance on this matter.

Banking frauds is a big problem for the NRI and PIOs. Several instances have come to light where frauds have been committed by middlemen who with the help of forged power of attorney on behalf of the NRIs and PIOs lure the banks with deposits and take loans. Is something being done to curb such frauds?

That is an internal problem of India. We are pushing the government all the time to have more strict enforcements to protect NRI's, their assets and their investments. We want that to happen. We hope the Government of India takes care of that issue.

What is being done to safeguard the interest of women who marry NRIs? There has been several cases of NRIs and PIOs cheating Indian women

This is definitely a problem. We are concerned about this and we hope such frauds do not take place. But we do not have any clear idea as to how to prevent such problems.

Many pensioners including retired defence personnel who are settled abroad are facing problems in getting their pension. Has GOPIO taken up the matter?

We have not addressed that yet. It is something that we are hearing about. But it is not on a big scale.

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“Mauritius is a Spoilt Child of Mother India”, says Utchanah

Craze for Bollywood films along with love for India is making the youth of Mauritius to dance and connect with the youth of India, says Mahen Utchanah, the GOPIO President, in a chat with **Chandran Iyer**



Mahen Utchanah

People of Indian Origin who are living in the picturesque Mauritius have a reason to thank the Bollywood. It is this industry which is making them dance to their tunes and has played an important role in providing a cultural link between Mauritius and India. Not only this, the young PIOs are learning a smattering of Hindi from the Bollywood films.

Take the case of Mahen Utchanah, the President of Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin who loves to break into Hindi from time to time. His ascent may be totally different, but his pride in India and its Hindi language is infectious.

“Humko Hindi likne padne nahi aata hai. Hamara Hindi filmi hai. Jo bhi sikha hai Bollywood film se sikha hai” (I don’t know to read and write Hindi. My Hindi is filmy learnt mainly from Bollywood films) says Utchanah with a smile adding that for this the Hindi film industry should be given the credit.

This 60-year-old man who started his career as a school teacher turned to politics and was elected four times to serve as Member of Parliament in Mauritius and served as Minister of Energy, Water Resources, Telecommunications & Postal service for 13 years. Presently he is the CEO of a Paris based company engaged in tourism sector and also the Chairman of a BPO engaged in call centre activities in Mauritius.

So deep is their love for the Hindi films that the people of his country that they have a craze for the Bollywood actors says Utchanah. “People are very fond of actors like Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan and Amir Khan and love to watch their films. If you go to Mauritius you will find the youth playing Hindi film songs and dancing to their tunes.

Mr Utchanah who has met many Indian prime ministers, Ministers, including Indira

Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi and Narasimha Rao feels very happy with the way the Indian diaspora are trying to get connected to their roots.

He particularly mentioned Guadeloupe which celebrated for the first time in their history India’s Independence day on 15th August and also the Diwali festival where artists and cultural troupe from France and India performed.

“Hamarato Jamana ho gaya hai. Hamara chautha pidhi hai. Hum to thoda Hindi bolta hai. Par hamari nai pidhi ko Hindi sikhana hai. Hamara sanskriti unhe dena hoga” (Ours is the fourth generation. We know some Hindi. But we have to teach the language to the new generation. We have to give them our culture)

When asked how does he feel about the Indo-Mauritius relations, Utchanah says jokingly “We are the spoilt child of Mother India. So far as investment is concerned 70 per cent of the investment in India comes from Mauritius. Even the steel magnate Laxmi Mittal’s investment comes to India from Mauritius. We are in fact investing in every state. We are proud of mother India and we want to come back to our roots in whatever way possible. We want India to emerge and progress and Mauritius is always with India”.

Interestingly Mauritius is the only country where a PIO is the President and so is the Prime Minister. When asked about the secrets of the PIO community to reach such heights Utchanah says “it is due to the sheer hard work and business acumen of Indian who has grown from rags to riches. The Indians once were coolies and labourers who have worked very hard. Our ancestors have worked as slaves and labourers. These people who have risen from the scratch have never forgotten their roots. Secondly the Indian community in Mauritius is a strongly united community which is working for the welfare of their people”.

“We are the spoilt child of Mother India. So far as investment is concerned 70 per cent of the investment in India comes from Mauritius. Even the steel magnate Laxmi Mittal’s investment comes to India from Mauritius. We are in fact investing in every state. We are proud of mother India and we want to come back to our roots in whatever way possible. We want India to emerge and progress and Mauritius is always with India”.

NGI NEWSMAKERS

SATYENDRA SINGH HUJA

Indian-origin Sikh elected Mayor of historic American city

Satyendra Singh Huja, a Sikh American, has been unanimously elected as the mayor of Charlottesville, a historic city in Virginia. Huja, who originally comes from Nainital in Uttarakhand, was elected Mayor of Charlottesville early this month. Incidentally, Huja is the only Sikh resident of Charlottesville, nearly 120 miles south west of Washington, having a population of 43,000. The other Sikhs in this city are students of the Virginia University. Notably, Charlottesville is home to three American Presidents - Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and James Monroe.

BOBBY JINDAL

Bobby Jindal takes oath as Louisiana Governor

Indian-origin Louisiana governor Bobby Jindal took the oath of office for his second term before hundreds of people, with a focus on education and a pledge not to rest on the accomplishments of his first four years.

"I Bobby Jindal do solemnly swear that I will support the constitution and laws of the United States and the constitution and laws of this state," Jindal said as State Supreme Court justice Catherine "Kitty" Kimball administered the oath.

Jindal who won re-election with no formidable challenge from democrats walks into his second term with a huge mandate. The first Indian-American governor in the US, Jindal is considered by some a possible presidential contender in the future.

DR SUDHANSHU PRASAD

Indian-American Dr Sudhanshu Prasad takes oath of office on Gita for NJ council

Indian-American physician Dr Sudhanshu Prasad, who was re-elected on a New Jersey township council, took oath of office on Gita for his second-term.

An internal medicine physician and a resident of the Iselin-Edison - which is dominated by Indian Americans - area in New Jersey for over 25 years, Prasad was re-elected for his second term in the November 2011 elections.

57-year-old Prasad, with his roots from Patna in Bihar, said he chose the Gita because he grew up believing in it, and it is "where my conscience is."

KRISHNU PALEPU

Krishnu Palepu named global advisor to Harvard president

Krishna G. Palepu, Ross Graham Walker Professor of Business Administration and senior associate dean for international development at the Harvard Business School, has been named senior advisor for global strategy to Harvard University president Drew Faust. He assumes the new position immediately.

Professor Palepu brings a global background and perspective to his research and teaching at the business school and he played a key role in the work of the university-wide International Strategy Working Group convened last year to consider how to strengthen Harvard's international approach at the institutional level.

Mritunjay Kumar profiles achievers from the NRI and PIO Community.

RABITA SARKER

Indian-origin woman gives birth to 'Jhatpat' on US train

An Indian-origin woman gave birth to her first child during the train ride from New Jersey to New York, in what would be her most unforgettable journey. At first, Rabita Sarker, 31, of New Jersey said she thought she was experiencing false labour pains as she boarded the train run by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey in Jersey City. But as the Manhattan-bound entered New York, Sarker knew her baby could not wait any longer. As she went into labour, few passengers helped her panicked husband deliver the baby boy they nicknamed "Jhatpat" - the Hindi word for "fast", a report in the New York Daily News said.



Trinidad and Tobago PM Kamla Persad-Bissessar's visit to her ancestral village



Kamla Persad-Bissessar visit to her ancestral village Bhelupur was like an emotional 'pilgrimage'. She tried to fight back her tears but failed. As tears rolled down her cheeks, the 'granddaughter of the soil' entered her ancestral home and hugged women relatives of the village. She was looking beautiful in a red sari with floral borders and a matching colour flower tucked in hairs, Kamla, 60, seemed to face no language bar as she made a forceful speech in English, starting with 'Bhaiyon aur bahno, Pranam' and told the people how she traced her roots to this village. "Your granddaughter has come here. I can see one hundred thousand people here to greet me. I say 'dhanyavad' for this love and hospitality," she said. The visiting VIP's great grandfather Ram Lakhan Mishra from this village had set out for the Caribbean islands in 1889 as Girmitia labourer. He had boarded Volga ship from the then Calcutta on October 21, 1889.

"Whatever I am today is because Bihar is in my DNA and whatever my ancestors taught me," she said as villagers from Bhelupur and surrounding villages cheered her lustily.

Earlier, she and her entourage reached here in two IAF choppers. She straightaway went to the house of her uncle Jagdish Mishra on foot and spent a good 40 minutes there meeting women and

children. The relatives presented her with a silk sari and ornaments besides serving local dishes and sweets. Her husband Gregory Bissessar and other relatives who came from Port of Spain, she was overwhelmed by the people's response. The narrow lane on which she walked was laid with bricks and covered with green carpet.

Referring to the background under which her forefathers migrated to a far-off place, she said they were not educated people but they had vision for better life. "When they went, they had no gold, no diamond, no traveller cheque and they had no facility of cell phone, Internet, Blackberry and Facebook. What they took with them was Ramayan, Gita and Koran and the lifestyle, tradition, values from this land," she said as audience clapped and cheered. Kamla had a message for the villagers. "Education is the only way to get rid of poverty. Get your daughters educated. For future generations, do what my ancestors did: give education to children."

The Trinidad & Tobago PM and her entourage stayed at the village for about 100 minutes. As she rounded off her visit and proceeded to the chopper, the crowd went out of control and broke all the barricades. On behalf of the state government, art and culture minister Sukhda Pandey, who is also local MLA, welcomed her.

N R I NEWSBIN

Rohit Jain takes a sneak peek on the NRIs engagement in various fields.



Vast Indian community behind flourishing Indo-Saudi relations

The Indian consulate general in Jeddah, Faiz Ahmad Kidwai, believes that the presence of over 2 million Indians in Saudi Arabia has given an important dimension to the Indo-Saudi relationship.

Addressing the Indian diaspora on the occasion of India's 63rd Republic Day, he said that the dedication, commitment and handwork shown by the Indian community are seen as instrumental in nourishing the Indo-Saudi relations. He also asked his people to continue on the same path providing more values to the hearty relations between the two nations. Kidwai said that King Abdullah's historic visit to India in 2006, and the reciprocal visit by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to Saudi in 2010, heralded a new era in the Indo-Saudi relations with strong co-operation in security, economy, defence and political areas.

Discovery of fundamental malaria led by Indian-origin scientists

A team led by Indian-origin scientists has made a fundamental discovery in understanding how malaria parasites cause the deadly disease.

The researchers led by Kasturi Haldar and Souvik Bhattacharjee of the University of Notre Dame's Center for Rare and Neglected Diseases revealed how parasites target proteins to the surface of the red blood cell that enables sticking to and blocking blood vessels.

Strategies that prevent this host-targeting process will block disease.

Malaria is a blood disease that kills nearly 1 million people each year. It is caused by a parasite that infects red cells in the blood. Once inside the cell, the parasite exports proteins beyond its own plasma membrane border into the blood cell.



The government of India has opened a new consulate to serve the Southeast



Georgia governor Nathan Deal and Consul General of India in Atlanta Ajit Kumar announced the consulate's opening last month.

In addition to Georgia, the office will serve the states of Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee, as well as the US Virgin Islands and the US commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Kumar previously served as the Indian consul general in Frankfurt, Germany, and Durban, South Africa, and as ambassador of India to the Republic of Zimbabwe. In Atlanta, he will lead a team of 20 full-time employees.

The consulate will serve the approximately 100,000 Indian Americans living in Georgia and roughly 290,000 across the Southeast with services such as visas, passports and other documents.

Out of 10 'heroes' in South Africa, two men are of Indian origin

Two Indian-origin men, including a journalist, are among South Africa's 10 heroes who contributed to the public life in 2011. Journalist Yusuf Abramjee and philanthropist Dr Imtiaz Sooliman joined the list, compiled by a newspaper, which was topped by South African Public Protector Thuli Madonsela.

Madonsela came in for praise after acting firmly against two ministers found guilty of corruption following investigation by her office. Published by the daily 'The Star', the heroes list cited Abramjee for not succumbing to temptation and going public about a multi-million rand bribe offered to him by an elderly church leader who was illegally claiming millions of rands from the state for school subsidies while his schools were inoperative.

Abramjee initiated the Lead SA campaign in which radio and print media jointly encourage members of the public to expose corruption and do things in the public interest, no matter how small. Sooliman, who gave up a medical career to start the relief aid organisation Gift of the Givers, has in the past decade received international fame for running a huge organisation which reacts to natural disasters and in war-torn countries more rapidly than international and governmental aid agencies.

Husain tribute at Art Dubai 2012, 4 Indian galleries

Four top Indian galleries will carry a select showcase of classic and cutting-edge contemporary art, including a tribute to artist M.F. Husain, to the Art Dubai 2012 March 21-24. The art fair will present a select roster of 74 galleries from 32 countries to exhibit works by over 500 artists, a statement by the Art Dubai said on Tuesday.

The Indian galleries include Chemould Prescott Road (Mumbai), Experimenter (Kolkata), Galerie Mirchandani + Steinruecke (Mumbai) and Seven Art Limited (New Delhi). The Grosvenor Vadehra gallery, a collaboration between the Vadehra Art Gallery here in the capital and the Grosvenor Gallery in London, will pay tribute to the modernist pioneer, the late Husain with a solo showcase.



NRIs eligible to vote in Indian elections

Satisfying a very old demand of its diaspora, India on Sunday said it would allow NRIs to vote and participate in the election process.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said that "Pursuant to the law that was endorsed to allow Non-resident Indians (NRIs) to vote in our national elections, the government has issued notifications for registration of overseas electors under the Representation of People Act, 1950". The prime minister said while speaking to the annual Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) diaspora meet in Jaipur that "This make up the first major step to allow Indian residents abroad to participate in our election process".

He said the diaspora plays a significant role in the growth and development of the country. The governments be familiar with it, and were keen to address their anxiety and accomplish their demands.



THE ASSOCIATION OF AFRO-ASIAN STATES SHARING INDIAN OCEAN (AASSIO)

Dr. Adityanjee discusses several ways and means to consolidate cooperation in areas of maritime security, combating piracy, natural disaster management, education, fisheries and marine resources management, trade and investment promotion, capacity building and tourism.

The 11TH meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Rim - Association for Regional Cooperation was held under India's chairmanship in Bengaluru. It unanimously agreed to select a new name for the association by next year. This trans-continental group comprises of 19 countries from 3 continents: India, Yemen, Australia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, the UAE and Seychelles.

Bengaluru Declaration

The Bengaluru declaration focused on the issue of maritime security keeping in view the challenges posed to international shipping & commerce by the ruthless Somalian pirates. The group discussed ways and means to consolidate cooperation in areas of maritime security, combating piracy, natural disaster management, education, fisheries and marine resources management, trade and investment promotion, capacity building and tourism.

Tourism, Travel & Hospitality Industry

The Indian Ocean Tourism Organization has observer status with the IOR-ARC. The Bengaluru declaration calls for exploring the intra-regional tourism potential by multilateral cooperation. Member countries need to promote conventions and conferences. This

group must develop facilities for visa on arrival and a regional passport scheme.

Sustainable Developmental Agenda

The Indian Ocean Rim is rich in strategic and precious minerals, metals and other natural resources, marine resources and energy, all of which can be sourced from Exclusive Economic Zones, continental shelves and the deep seabed. Conservation and sustainable harvesting are vital for the security of the marine food resources. Though technology and rising cost of natural resources makes harvest of new resources from the sea beds economically viable, sustainability of economic development in the ecologically challenged world requires efficient and harmonious management of the shared seas. The group should prioritize the management and sustainable harvesting of fish stocks and combating illegal fishing and damaging fishing techniques.

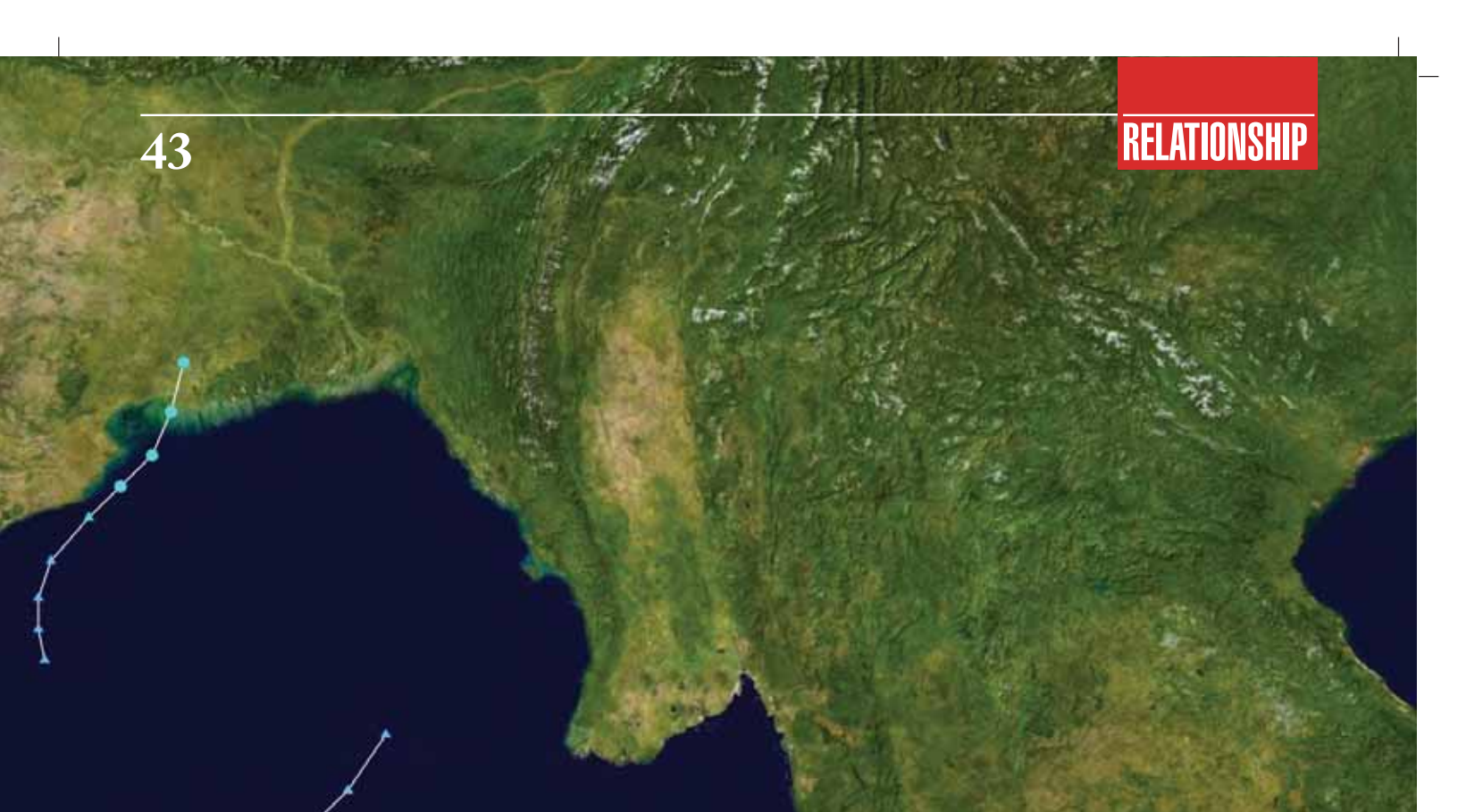
Economic & Trade issues

Ranked as the 3rd largest Ocean, the Indian Ocean carries half of the world's container ships, one third of the bulk cargo traffic, two-thirds of the world's oil shipments. The key east-west arteries of international trade, especially in commodities and energy sources sail through the Indian Ocean. The objectives of IOR-ARC are threefold; mainly to promote sustainable growth and balanced development of the region and Member States; to

focus on those areas of economic cooperation which provide maximum opportunities for development, shared interest and mutual benefits and to promote liberalization, remove impediments and lower barriers towards a freer and enhanced flow of goods, services, investment, and technology within the Indian Ocean rim. The group disseminates information on trade & investment regimes, with a view to helping the region's business community better understand and tackle the intra-regional impediments to trade & investment. There was concern on limited growth of intra-regional trade due to poor connectivity, market complexities and inadequate trade facilitation. It can be rectified by increasing intra-regional investment flows. Many of the member economies do attract substantial foreign direct investment from outside the region. Maritime trade infrastructure e.g. the ports, customs authorities, transport & hospitality infrastructure and connectivity need modernization in order to promote intra-regional trade.

Maritime Security

There was shared concern over the increasing level of piracy off the Horn of Africa. Piracy poses a threat to international and regional navigation, maritime commerce and the safety of sea farers. The menace has increased the cost of trade directly and higher insurance premia and human cost indirectly to the shipping industry. The declaration fully



supported the international efforts at the UN and the several initiatives at the regional level as well as the Contact Group on piracy of the coast off Somalia. It pledged to jointly combat the menace through sharing of information and technical assistance. The group needs to build upon existing national, regional and multilateral measures to enhance coordination to combat piracy. India advocated building functional relationships between navies and coast guards.

Diplomatic & Security Challenges

Stabilization of Somalia will contribute to dealing with piracy in the region. As members take practical steps consistent with international law to combat piracy, IOR-RIM could serve as an effective vehicle for sharing information, experience and best practices. This grouping should immediately recognize the Republic of Somaliland and promote the democratically elected government of Somaliland to combat piracy. Strengthening the democratic government of the Republic of Somaliland will promote regional peace in the horn of Africa, bring enormous trade, economic and developmental benefits and will discourage other tribes in the south and central Somalia from fratricidal warfare. British Prime Minister David Cameron, on the same day, announced an international conference to deal with piracy in Indian Ocean. The piracy problem in Indian Ocean should not be hijacked by super-powers and

former super-powers to fulfill their geo-political agenda. We suggest that IOR-ARC should take a regional piracy containment multi-lateral initiative in which the Republic of Somaliland is an equal partner along with the law-less Somalia. It is naïve, and indeed, myopic to continue to insist on territorial sovereignty of the failed state of Somalia that has already imploded more than twenty years ago.

Need for a New Name

The current name (IOR-ARC) of this regional grouping is very un-wieldy, impractical and without an easy acronym. Member nations in this trans-continental grouping are essentially Afro-Asian nations. We take the challenge and suggest a catchy new name for this block: The Association of Afro-Asian States Sharing Indian Ocean (AASSIO). The newly suggested name reflects the solidarity among the African and Asian countries that are willing to share the economic and natural resources of the Indian Ocean in a peaceful and harmonious manner without raising contentious hegemonic issues of total or absolute sovereignty or suzerainty unlike the multi-lateral disputes in the South China Sea.

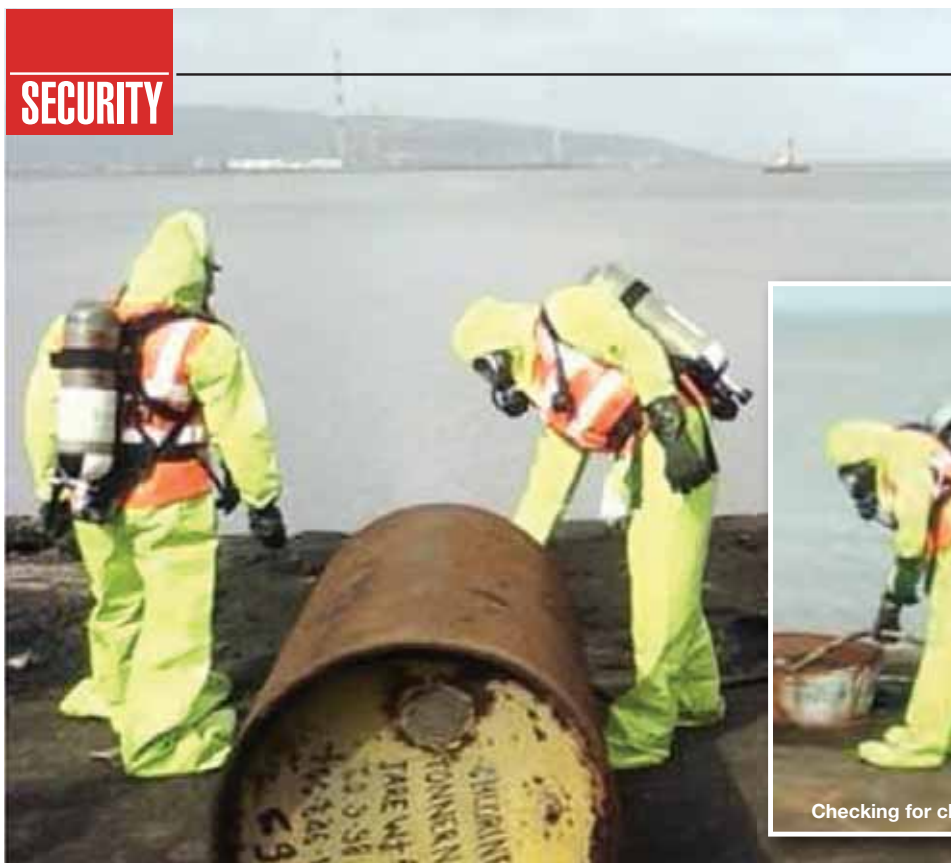
Future Challenges and Opportunities

We hope that with the newly proposed name and with a new spirit of economic dynamism, AASSIO will give run for money to other regional trade groups including the APEC,

ASEAN plus 3, EAS and the US led TPP. The AASSIO has potential to develop into a free trade area (FTA) or even into an economic community if the member states promote regional cooperation without bringing hegemonic ambitions. Since neither the US, nor China, are members of the AASSIO, the focus would not be on zero sum geo-political games with economic exploitation as the hidden agenda.

Perhaps, AASSIO will also work with the UN and the African Union (AU) countries to recognize the Republic of Somaliland, stabilize the remaining tribal war-torn portions of the southern and Central Somalia while ultimately eliminating the terrorist groups like Al Shabab and al Qaeda in the horn of Africa. Negotiating an extradition treaty among members and establishing a criminal court for expeditiously trying the pirates caught on high seas would be important steps for future. The group also must develop international legal protections & evolve common criteria for arming the civilian crew of merchant shipping firms. We hope that the AASSIO would invite the Republic of Somaliland to join as its 20th member state in its 12th meeting when the name change goes into effect de jure.

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Checking for chemical or radiological leaks

Saving Life Is Their Mission

Alok Avasthy, Commandant of NDRF, gives an overview of how this premier institution is working to protect India from the dangers of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear disasters.

India has been traditionally vulnerable to natural hazards on account of its unique geo-climatic and social conditions. Floods, droughts, cyclones, earthquakes and landslides have been recurrent phenomena, affecting 85% of its geographical area. About 60% of the land-mass is prone to earthquakes of various intensities; over 12% is prone to floods; about 8% of the total area is inclined to cyclones and 68% of the area is susceptible to drought. Disaster risks in India are further compounded by increasing vulnerabilities related to the steadily growing population, rapid urbanization, increasing industrialization, development within high risk zones, environmental degradation and climate change. Significantly, the recent years have witnessed a marked increase in frequency as also intensity of disasters such as the Orissa super cyclone (1999), Gujarat earthquake (2001), Tsunami (2004), Jammu & Kashmir earthquake (2005) and Bihar floods (2008).

These developments have rightly brought about a paradigm shift in approach of the government from hitherto mere relief and response-centric approach to a holistic method encompassing the entire gamut of prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, relief, re-

habilitation and reconstruction in dealing with disasters. In recognition of this, the government took a defining step on December 23, 2005, by enacting the Disaster management Act, which envisaged the creation of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), headed by the Prime Minister and State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs), headed by the respective Chief Ministers of the states, to spearhead and implement a holistic and integrated approach to disaster management in India.

Role Of NDRF

The DM Act, 2005, has made the statutory provisions for the constitution of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) for the purpose of specialized response to natural and man-made disasters.

NDRF is constituted of eight battalions, two each from the CRPF, BSF, CISF and ITBP. Each battalion will provide 18 self-contained specialist search-and-rescue teams of 45 personnel each, including engineers, technicians, electricians, dog squads and medical/paramedics. The total strength of each battalion is 1,149. Out of the eight battalions four battalions have the capacity to respond to CBRN emergencies in addition to natural disasters.

Deployment

These NDRF battalions are strategically located at 10 different locations in the country based on the vulnerability profile to cut down the response time for their deployment. NDRF units are deployed at Pune, Gandhinagar, Kolkata, Guwahati, Arakkonam, Mundali, Bhatinda, Noida, Patna and Vijaywada.

NDRF has proved its importance in achieving this vision by highly skilled rescue-and-relief operations, regular and intensive training and re-training, familiarization exercises, community awareness and capacity building within the area of responsibility, carrying out mock drills and joint exercises with the various stakeholders.

Disaster Response

After its constitution in 2005, the NDRF with its swift and highly-skilled rescue operations has emerged as most visible and vibrant force of the NDMA. NDRF personnel are invariably trained in courses like flood rescue, collapsed structure search and rescue, medical first responders, rope rescue, rescue from high-rise building, nuclear, biological and chemical emergencies, dignified disposal of bodies etc. NDRF personnel are trained in prestigious institutes like DRDO, BARC, CME, DRDE,

NISA, Army, Navy and Air Force as well in foreign countries like the USA, Singapore, China, Finland, Korea, Switzerland etc.

Earlier, the NDRF has proved its efficacy with its commendable performance during various disasters including the drowning cases, building collapses, landslides, and devastating floods and recently during Cyclone Aila in 2009.

During the Kosi breach in Bihar in August, 2008, which was declared as national calamity by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, NDRF personnel actively engaged themselves in rescue operations and relief duties on a war footing in Bihar's Supaul, Madhepura, Araria and Purnia districts. About 780 NDRF personnel trained in flood rescue operations along with 153 high capacity inflatable boats and other rescue equipments were deployed in the flood-hit areas. The swift and highly skilled operations of NDRF saved more than 100,000 people trapped in swirling waters of river Kosi.

Impressed with prompt and efficient response of NDRF, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar approached PM Singh for a NDRF battalion to be stationed in Bihar and offered 65 acres of land at Bihta. Similarly, the Andhra Pradesh government has also requested for a NDRF unit.

NDRF commendable rescue operations were no less appreciated during the 2008 floods in Orissa, Maharashtra, Kerala and Assam.

On May 25, 2009, Cyclone Aila hit West Bengal coast with a fury unprecedented in recent history. It claimed least 94 lives, seven of them in Kolkata, and affected over 40 lakh people. More than six lakh houses were destroyed completely or damaged partially. NDRF promptly responded to the devastating situation and 600 personnel of NDRF with 84 boats and other rescue equipments started rescue and relief operations at cyclone affected areas of district 24 Pargana North and South of West Bengal. During the operations NDRF personnel rescued around 2,000 trapped persons and distributed 50 truckloads of relief materials to the affected people.

Training

The DM Act, 2005, envisages a paradigm shift from the erstwhile response centric syndrome to a proactive, holistic and integrated management of disasters with emphasis on prevention, mitigation and preparedness. This national vision, inter alia, aims at inculcating a culture of preparedness among all stakeholders and training of different stakeholders. Training is the most important tool to achieve this end. In future, the key to efficient disaster response will depend primarily on effectiveness of training and re-training of Specialised Disaster Response Forces. With this vision, a detailed "Training Regime for Disaster Response" has been prepared by NDMA identifying the specific disaster response training courses and de-



vising a unified, structured and uniform course module as well as syllabus for these training courses.

While the NDRF is being trained, re-trained and equipped as a specialist force for level three disasters, it is equally important to ensure capacity building of state police personnel who will invariably be responding to any natural or man-made disasters. To ensure this, a two-pronged strategy is being suggested to the states: first, to train state police personnel in the basics of disaster management and secondly, to train at least one battalion equivalent out of their state armed police units as State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) on lines of the NDRF. In addition to police personnel, the SDRFs may be constituted from existing resources of the Fire Services.

NDRF also conducts regular mock exercises on various disasters like cyclone, flood, earthquake, NBC emergencies, mass causality management etc. Participation in such exercises on the one hand improve the professionalism of NDRF personnel to tackle the real emergency situations and on the other provides an opportunity to interact with various state government officials and to develop cordial relations with them that can be of great help during response to actual disasters.

Community awareness/capacity building and familiarisation programme 2011 is under way in a big way at the respective area of responsibility of each NDRF unit.

Capabilities of NDRF

The NDRF was constituted with eight battalions and within a short span of time this force has established its effectiveness and credibility among the countrymen and as a result the Central Government was pleased to sanction two more NDRF battalions. Today, with 144 spe-

cialized, fully equipped search and rescue teams, NDRF is the most visible, multi-skilled, multi-disciplinary and high tech Force, which certainly is a great achievement in five years. Out of 144 teams, 72 have additional capability of responding in chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) emergencies. These teams are equipped with Hazmat vehicles and state-of-the-art CBRN detectors. These 72 teams have unique distinction of having capabilities to respond to natural and CBRN emergencies.

Rescue Operation in Japan

An independent and self-contained team of NDRF was detailed for international disaster assistance operation. A 46-member team of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) reached Japan on March 28 to provide disaster relief-and- rescue assistance in the tsunami-struck town of Onagawa. The team, led by Alok Avasthy, commandant of NDRF, comprised four gazetted officers, including a medical officer, six subordinate officers and 36 other ranks. The NDRF team carried Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue (CSSR) equipment, CBRN equipment and relief material like portable shelters, tents, blankets, medicines, water bottles. Operating from their base at Rifu-cho, the team worked in sub-zero temperatures and retrieved several bodies. Besides, Japanese currency equivalent to Rs 3 crore was recovered, and handed over to the Miyagi Police. The operation concluded on April 6.

The team returned to the country after completion of a very successful mission on April 8, a mission that showcased our heartfelt sympathy and concern for the affected people and generated much goodwill among the public of Japan for our country. This was NDRF's first rescue mission abroad that highlighted our capabilities in any rescue mission and the team was able to prove its mettle in the face of extremely harsh condition on the ground. Operationally and Technically Indian team was found second to none because of International standard equipment and training.



Alok Avasthy
Commandant NDRF



The Saragarhi Valour

SARAGARHI CHALLENGE POLO CUP-2011

Ratnadeep Banerji narrates the martyrdom of 21 Sikh soldiers who fought against 10,000 soldiers. UNESCO recognises this battle amongst 8 most famous battles in history.

14 years ago in 1897, under the British flag, 21 Sikhs fought to death against 10,000 Afghans. Sikh military personnel and Sikh civilians commemorate this battle every year on 12th September as Saragarhi Day. Saragarhi Challenge Polo Cup has been instituted in 2010 by the Anglo Sikh Heritage Trail, a UK based charitable body to commemorate the desperado fighters when the match in its inaugural edition was played in London and the second edition happened in 2011 in New Delhi.

Saragarhi in present Pakistan is a small village on the Samana Range in the Khyber-Pakhtunwa of the Hindu Kush mountains. A general uprising by the Afghans began in 1897 between 27 August and 11 September. There were many vigorous efforts by Pashtuns to capture Fort Lockhart and Fort Gulistan, both the forts were constructed by Maharana Ranjit Singh. Saragarhi post on a rocky ridge consisted of a small block house with loop-holed ramparts and a signalling tower. It was created between the two forts as a heliographic communication post.

Afghan efforts were thwarted continually by the 36th Regiment of the Bengal Infantry, espe-

cially assigned to protect these forts. On 3rd and 9th September, Afridi tribes in connivance with the Afghans attacked Fort Gulistan. Both the attacks were repulsed. However, on 12th September, a swarming number of 10,000 Pashtuns inflicted the Tirah campaign upon the signalling post at Saragarhi so that the communication would be lost between the two forts. Details of the Battle of Saragarhi are fairly accurate, owing to Gurmukh Singh signalling events to Fort Lockhart as they occurred.

The leaders of the Afghan forces reportedly made promises to the soldiers to entice them to surrender. But to no avail. The 21 Sikhs put up a stiff resistance. Finally the Saragarhi post was destroyed by the Orakazi tribesmen. Gurmukh Singh, the signalling man was the last soldier to be killed, is believed to have killed 20 Afghans. But the Saragarhi battle delayed the subsequent attack on Fort Gulistan and by then British reinforcement had arrived and the fort was retained. Fort Lockhart had been breached but taken back. The Pashtuns later admitted that they had lost about 180 people, however 600 dead bodies were found. The total casualties in the entire campaign, including the Battle of Saragarhi, numbered around 4,800.

The British Army and Indian Polo team (comprising of its Sikh members the Sherdils) indulged in a great game of Polo. Recently, as an enthusiastic crowd watched the Indian team emerge winner 7-3. The annual Saragarhi Challenge Cup was held at the Jaipur polo grounds, New Delhi. Captain of the team, Col Sandhu, scored three goals for his team, while Angad Singh and Jai Shergill pitched in with two each to make it a comprehensive win for the Indian team against the touring British side. For the British Army, Captain of the side, Ben Vestey was the leading scorer with 2 goals. "The fact that we are playing this for a reason, for a celebration of one of the greatest acts of bravery, makes today's match even more special. But don't think we considered this a friendly... we took our polo very seriously, but the Indian emerged winner on the day.", said Capt Ben Vestey, member of the British army team. A wisp of memory holds out polo had a déjà vu with New Delhi going back to 1922 when winter polo was played on the occasion of Prince of Wales' visit to India. The final match was played in front of the Red Fort between Patiala and Jodhpur before a crowd of 100,000 people.



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JDA: Elevating Life

Jaipur Development Authority is working for the benefits of the city's investor and other States with planned implementation of development schemes.

Master Development Plan-2025

Jaipur is perhaps one of the first planned city of modern India, thanks to its beautiful architecture and cosmopolitan character. Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan, is at the centre of socio-economic and political life of the State. It has witnessed fast growth: both physical and demographic.

Census 2001 showed the city's population at 23.23 to grow to 64.95 lakh by 2025, with a 5.3% annual growth rate.

Strategically located, with the national Capital Delhi at 258 km and tourist hub Agra at 232 km, Jaipur completes the golden triangle.

It is also located on the golden quadrilateral of National Highway Authority of India (NHAI). The locational advantage of the city has boosted its growth over the years. No wonder, many new developments and projects are flocking here with unflinching regularity.

Apart from critical issues, such as land, physical infrastructure, transport, ecology and environment, housing, socio-cultural and other institutional facilities, the cornerstone for making Jaipur a world-class city is the planning process itself and relates to aspects of governance and management. For achieving the coveted goal, coordinated and integrated approach among several agencies involved with urban services and development along with a participatory planning process at local levels is being championed.

Growing at an unprecedented pace, Jaipur needs to imbibe and integrate its elegant past as well as modern developments into an organic whole - a purposeful transformation of socio-economic, natural and built environment. The city will be a prime mover and nerve centre of ideas and actions, the seat of State governance and a centre of business, culture, education, sports and host of other activities.

Jaipur needs a special attention on the planning front to make it a world class city. An inclusive and holistic planning, upgradation of physical infrastructure, provision of basic amenities various housing option and prevention of natural environs will help it to portray a world-class image in coming years.

Vision – MDP 2025 Jaipur Region

Vision-2025 is to position Jaipur as a global metropolis and a world class city, where the people would be engaged in productive work with a better quality of life, living in a sustainable environment. This necessitates planning and action to meet the challenges of:

- Population growth and in-migration to Jaipur;
- Provision for adequate housing, especially for weaker sections of the society;
- Addressing the problem of small enterprises particularly in the unorganized informal sector



dealing with the issue of slums;

- Upgradation of old and dilapidated areas of the cities;
- Provision of adequate infrastructure services;
- Conservation of natural environment;
- Conservation of Jaipur's heritage and blending it with new and complex modern patterns of development;

It has been drawn within a framework of sustainable development, public, private and community participation and spirit of ownership and sense of belonging among its citizens.

Master Development Plan 2025: The draft Master Development Plan, 2025, prepared under the JDA Act, envelopes 2940 square km consisting 725 villages, one municipal corporation and two municipal councils. The Master Development Plan has been prepared using state of the art technology. The base map has been prepared using satellite images, enabling a plan that is up to date. The Master Plan is based upon an in-depth study done at the district level, regional level and at the city level.

The document envisages five volumes.

- Volume 1: Existing profile
- Volume 2: Development plan
- Volume 3: Satellite towns and growth centres
- Volume 4: Development promotion and control regulations
- Volume 5: Map Book

The bold, innovative and flexible ingredients of the plan will usher in a new era. It aims to meet the requirements of all government agencies and public at large and will pave the way for easy implementation.

Jaipur's Urbanized Area

- Urban area (U1): Existing use zones such as residential, including satellite towns and committed projects.
- Urban area (U2): Immediate influence area of

U3 with a 3 km buffer following development trend.

- Transportation development area (U3): Influence area of NH, SH, Ring road. Bypass, industrial corridor etc.
- Ecological Zone
- Eco Sensitive area (G1): All the bio-diverse areas like hills, rivers, reserve forest, protected forest, wetlands, conservation area etc.
- Rural Area : Existing rural and agricultural belt

Development guidelines are formulated for permissible activities in U2 & U3 area and the places, where these are conflicting with eco-sensitive area are designated as low intensity with limited activities.

Satellite Towns/Growth Centre

In order to have balanced regional development, the Master Plan is prepared for 11 satellite towns and 4 growth centres within Jaipur. Development of these towns will help in reducing migration and urban infrastructural pressure to the mother city. Development of these towns will encourage economic development, creating job opportunities for the town and the villages in the vicinity.

Quality of Life

The Master Plan takes into account local living and work practices along with an analysis of the region's infrastructure. It also envisions an intense and close relationship between the urban and rural areas, while factoring in the green belt that will synergize nature.

The approach of Master Plan is to establish that economic and human intellectual resources which, normally gravitate to urban areas, can effectively be used to plan development more evenly and be create an equitable and economically sound society.



Slum free City

Affordable Housing Policy

Rajasthan Government has launched Affordable Housing Scheme in 2009 to reduce the shortage of affordable and quality housing for the poor in the State, especially in EWS/LIG categories. There are five models under the scheme. Government has set a target of 78,800 flats to be constructed by 2014 under various models. In JDA area, 5, 776 flats of LIG/MIG-A are under construction under model No. 2 in Phase I. Applications have been invited by AVL for Phase II under model No. 2 for construction of 6, 000 flats for EWS, LIG, MIG-A. Government has provided many incentives to the developers as far as floor area ration (FAR), external development, time-bound approval of building plans etc. Under ISHUP scheme there is a provision of interest subsidy of 5% in EMI up to loan of Rs1 lakh for the EWS/LIG categories. The scheme is very popular in JDA areas under the PPP model.

JDA: Where possibilities are endless

Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) has been committed to working for the benefits of the city's investor and other States with planned implementation of development schemes and is consistently striving to make progress. Development has always been central to Jaipur ideology. Be a part of the growth story of Jaipur, by investing in various new small and big properties and projects. The public-private partnership model is here to stay.

According to the requisites, JDA has been working towards a time-bound construction, creation and development of Jaipur based on major scientific and high-tech strategies. Jaipur has been beautified intensively to augment the tourist attraction and to raise the living standards of the local population.

Jaipur A City of Opportunities

Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) has been committed to working in the interest of the investor in Jaipur. Planned implementation of development schemes is consistently striving to take Jaipur at higher levels of progress. Jaipur is one of the most well-planned cities and development has always been central to its ideology. Be a part of JDA's development affairs by investing in various new small and big properties and projects.

Jaipur- A Rare Opportunity For Investment

JDA, the nodal agency for development of Jaipur auctions the land by an open auction method, on liberal terms & conditions. Loan Facility is also available if needed.

In view of the transparent auction policy, JDA invites investment in following sectors, which have observed an increasing trend & is bound to multiply:

- Commercial Complexes & Shopping Malls.
- Tourism – Resorts & Five Star Properties.
- Mini Township, Flats & Group Housing.
- Roads & Infrastructure. Institutional Projects.
- Multiplexes Specialty Hospitals.
- Entertainment & Food
- Hi-Tech Education

Available Properties For Auction

COMMERCIAL

S.No	Comm./Res.	Plot No.	Scheme/Area	Plot Area	Zone
1	C	Part-II	Shankar Marg, Lalkothi	490.27sqm	3
2	C	A-2 A-3 A-4	Airport Enclave	4592.51sqm 4072.43sqm 4137.66sqm	4
3	C		Steel Merchant (Lohamandi Macheda)	1700.00sqm 3500.00sqm 3700.00sqm	6
4	C	5	Swarn Vihar	3338.50sqm	8
5	C	C-2	Budhsingpura	4415.05sqm	9
6	C	S-3 S-4	Shinshakti Nagar Extension	944.68sqm 1083.34sqm	9
7	C	2 to 8 9	Nilay Kunj Yojana Gh	2400.00sqm 3289.50sqm	9
8	C	B/C-9 B/C-10	Central Spine Jagatpura	8916.99sqm 8491.06sqm	9
9	C	C4 C9	Rohini Nagar Phase-1	3600.00sqm 3000.00sqm	11
10	C		Swapna Lok	10451.50sqm 6304.00sqm 11614.00sqm 4795.00sqm	12

GROUP HOUSING

S.No	Comm./Res.	Plot No.	Scheme/Area	Plot Area	Zone
1	GH	8	Swarn Vihar	3939.33sqm	8
2	GH	2 3 4 5	Dahmikurd	11112.27sqm 14410.12sqm 18119.44sqm 18254.38sqm	11
3	GH	GH-1 GH-2 GH-3 GH-4 GH-5 GH-6 GH-7 GH-8 GH-9 GH-10 GH-11 GH-12	Hadhyanpura Ajmer Road	9219.45sqm 8545.57sqm 7669.06sqm 8654.96sqm 7436.92sqm 7271.69sqm 8216.55sqm 7985.26sqm 7822.08sqm 15541.01sqm 20108.13sqm 15970.41sqm	12
4	GH	GH-1 GH-3 GH-5 GH-7	Ratiya Diggli Road	8347.82sqm 594.86sqm 743.55sqm 8909.40sqm	14
5	GH	3 5	Achrawala	15705.00sqm 15292.80sqm	11
6	GH	4 6	Ratiya	6650.50sqm 7113.56sqm	14
7	GH	4 2	Dahmi khurd	16664.41sqm 20008.89sqm	11
8	GH	2 4	Hardhyan Pura	10251.30sqm 16992.13sqm	12
9	GH	1 2 3 4 5	Anantpura Group Housing Yojana	6669.47sqm 9697.35sqm 8984.75sqm 11592.40sqm 5468.24sqm	12
10	GH		Swapna Lok	7160.90sqm	12

RESORT

S.No	Comm./Res.	Scheme/Area	Plot Area	Zone
1	Resort	Ratiya	10796.35sqm	11

HOTEL RESTAURANT

S.No	Comm./Res.	Plot No.	Scheme/Area	Plot Area	Zone
1	Restaurant-2 Hotel-2		Loha Mandi Macheda Phase-I	737.50sqm each 737.50sqm each	6
2	Hotel	5/1 5/2	Laxmi Pure urf Kathawala	19516.72sqm 23507.83sqm	11
3	Hotel		Dahmi Khurd	38196.99sqm	11
4	Hotel	2	Gram-Achrol Amer Main Road	8836.93sqm	12

(Contact: +(91)0141-2563234, Extn: 1128,1119, 1107)
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How not to Mismanage Water

Payal Malani reports on a seminar recently conducted by the Bengal Centre for Development and Policy Studies in Kolkata, India.



A seminar on West Bengal and its water resources was conducted by the Bengal Centre for Development and Policy Studies, an undertaking of New Global Indian Foundation, January 4 at Rotary Sadan in Kolkata. The guest of honour for the event and the key speaker was Dr Asit K Biswas, an IIT Kharagpur-alumnus and 2006 Stockholm World Water Prize Laureate. Biswas is also the founder-president of Third World Centre of Water Management, and is now based in Mexico City. Professor K.J.Nath, chairman, science & technology, Sulabh International Social Service Organization; president of Institute of Public Health Engineers, India, chairman of Arsenic Task Force, West Bengal, member of National Ganga River Basin Authority, member, scientific advisory Board & SEA Regional Coordinator, International Forum on Home Hygiene, IFH, UK former director, All India Institute of Hygiene & Public Health; Professor Jayanta Badyopadhyay; ex-president of the Indian Society of Ecological Economics a former adviser to the Tuft University, Medford, USA, and a faculty of Indian Institute of Management Kolkata; Satadev Bhattacharya, chief engineer in the Public Health and Engineering Department, West Bengal.

The seminar was inaugurated with a welcome speech by Anam Aziz, introducing the chairman of the New Global Indian Foundation, Kanchan Banerjee of Boston. The first speaker Professor K J Nath spoke about water resource management in India. He pointed out that all south-east Asian nations are facing the problem of not only water resource management, but even quality. There are two major problems: anthropogenic and contamination. An anthropogenic problem means mismanagement of solid waste and contamination of mercury, lead and arsenic in water that is afflicting across India. The arsenic and contamination of water started since the 80's. Besides, there is an

acute crisis of diarrhoea and cholera. Proper management of the industrial waste material needs to be done, and since there is large number of ponds in India, and they could be used as water resource for any other purpose besides drinking.

Professor Jayanta Bandhyopadhyay discussed about the unscientific overuse of rivers, lakes and groundwater that has led to degradation of the water bodies, affecting our entire ecosystem.

Satadev Bhattacharya explained that availability of good quality of potable water is important for an overall growth of the country. Selection of appropriate technologies plays an important role and extends benefit at optimum level. A technology that is selected should be sustainable; cost effective, simple, immune from monopoly and easy to operate and maintain. Its operation and maintenance should be such that community can afford. West Bengal which has a population of more than 100 million with wide variation in topography, climate, rainfall, water resource, nature of ground water pollutions etc across the state. Ground water was considered as the cheapest source of potable water in West Bengal except coastal belts of North & South 24 Parganas, Purba and Paschim Medinipur till the findings of dreaded pollutants like arsenic and fluoride in ground water. Presently arsenic pollution has taken a shape of catastrophe apart from other pollution like fluorides, chloride, iron and pathogens.

Removal of arsenic, fluoride and chloride from ground water is a costly affair and should be used as a last alternative. Effort may be given on use of surface water from river, pond etc and conservation of rain water. In water sector lot of new technologies are coming in the market. An independent authority comprising experts from industry, research institute, engineering college/IIT and government departments may be formed to create technology bank, taking up R&D activities to develop cost effective technologies, suggest correc-

tion on existing technologies on a case to case basis.

Dr Biswas gave a brief speech regarding endemic mismanagement of water in India. For example, technically and economically, there is absolutely no reason as to why residents of Chennai, Delhi or Mumbai cannot have a reliable, clean water supply for 24x7. Sadly, even water management in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, is significantly better than in Delhi or Kolkata. Very few people realize that about 40% to 60% of water pumped from reservoir never reaches the targeted users. Even the quantities that reach the users are not being used efficiently. No wonder the country faces chronic water problems. Even Cherrapunjee now has a water problem for certain months of the year.

There are many reasons as to why water management should be different in developing countries. For instance, annual rainfalls in Delhi and London are somewhat similar: the difference is around 15%. However, in London, it rains all through the year, but, in Delhi, much of the rainfall occurs in about 90 hours during the monsoon.

Areas having regular rainfalls over the year need a completely different water management strategy compared to places like Delhi, where the main focus has to be how to collect, store and then use this vast amount of rainfall over a very short period in any year. The technical approaches for two such radically different climatic regimes have to be very different. Ironically, developed countries are in temperate regions and developing countries are in tropical and semi-tropical regions. Because the climatic regimes of developed and developing countries are different, their water management practices have to be different as well.

Singapore has one of best urban water management. The Indian government or the politicians should think "what should be doing well? What are we not doing?" The Kolkata Municipal Corporation can provide water at half the rate and apart. If the politicians want the best for the country then they even have to recruit the best people and pay them well also. The universities should have proper academic courses on water resource management. Economic, social, political, institutional and environmental conditions are different for every country. Thus, even among developing countries, what works in India may not work in Brazil and vice versa. There is simply no one single approach for water management for a very heterogeneous world.

Dr Biswas concluded his speech by thanking New Global Indian Foundation on working on such social and environmental issues that can bring profound changes in the country, provided the politicians focus on them and media puts them out.

A Global Forum for Rajasthan Formed

Global Entrepreneurs Association of Rajasthan (GEAR)



Manu Rajvanshi



Ramesh Gandhi



Manoj Misran



Dharmendra Pathak

The 10th Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas organized by Government of India at Jaipur, Rajasthan gave an opportunity to NRIs from different parts of the world to meet, interact, collaborate, complement and supplement each other in their businesses, social network and culture. The theme of this great congregation was “Global Indian-Inclusive Growth” and true to its spirit, the event was very successful in showcasing the glorious culture of the State of Rajasthan and India at large.

Although there were many events and seminars highlighting Govt Programs and schemes, many attendees felt the need for a platform for private entrepreneurs to present their projects and seek help from potential investors and experienced professionals.

In order to address this void, a few enthusiastic NRIs, ex-NRIs and India based widely travelled persons joined hands to form an ‘Association’ called ‘Global Entrepreneurs Association of Rajasthan (GEAR)’. Following are few of the Primary objectives of the association:

- To serve as a platform for connecting, promoting, and fostering entrepreneurs with any connections to Rajasthan.
- To bring investment in Rajasthan from global investors for socio-economic developments.
- To encourage import-export between Rajasthan and rest of the world.
- To create more business opportunities, value, and strength for the members of the association.

- To create global funds and to facilitate Venture Capital investments.

- To facilitate mentorship to young entrepreneurs and startups.

- To work as a Global Forum to express what help entrepreneurs need from other members and authorities to grow further.

- To raise collective voice on issues related to various business sectors by making representation at various platforms, conferences and events across the world.

- To work with Government, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), Corporates, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), Non Profit Organizations or any other type of entities to promote Business, Social-Entrepreneurship and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and CSR Initiatives in various sectors like Health, Education, Tourism arts & culture, e-governance etc. for socio, economic and cultural developments.

With a vision to expand, the association has already been registered by four founding trustees namely Mr. Manu Rajvanshi (USA), Mr. Ramesh Gandhi (India), Mr. Manoj Misran (Jaipur) and Mr. Dharmendra Pathak (UK). The ‘charter’ of the association is being developed along with a comprehensive website www.globalrajasthan.org. Soon it will be launched and more members will be invited to expand the association. Types of memberships and the joining application forms will be made available on the website.

The forum GEAR has already opened its Chapters in New Jersey (USA), London (UK), Amsterdam (The Netherlands) Jaipur and Delhi (India).

- Started with Chapters in New Jersey (USA), London (UK), Amsterdam (The Netherlands) Jaipur and Delhi (India).
- Enthusiastic NRIs, ex-NRIs and India based widely travelled persons joined hands.
- Prime Objectives include promoting entrepreneurs with any connections to Rajasthan anywhere in the World.
- Will also facilitate bringing Global Investments in the State for Socio-Economic development.

For any information, please contact:
info@globalrajasthan.org

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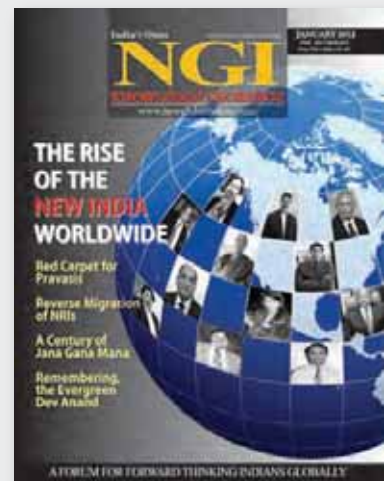
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A Silent Revolution at Jaipur



Jaipur, with a legacy of 280 years, is one of the best planned cities in India. Its strategic location and connectivity makes it a gateway between North & West India. It has elevated Jaipur from its position as a major tourist attraction to its current status as a key business centre of India. Jaipur is fast becoming a destination of choice for engineering companies, especially in the sectors of Wire & Cable (total market share of around 26% in India), Auto Component and hand tool companies. The proposed Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) will put the State for massive industrialization as 40 per cent of the DMIC will pass through Rajasthan.

Buoyed by above features, Mahindra Group decided to bring their second Mahindra World City to Jaipur after the success of Mahindra World City, Chennai – Corporate India's First Operational SEZ. Spread over 3000 acres Mahindra World City, Jaipur is a public-private-partnership between US \$14.4bn Mahindra Group and RIICO, Government of Rajasthan.

Strategically located off NH08 from Delhi to Mumbai, Mahindra World City, Jaipur has been masterplanned by Jurong Corporation, Singapore. It is being developed as a multi-product Special Economic Zone (SEZ) on the format of an 'Integrated Business City'. There are dedicated zones for IT/ITeS, Light Engineering (including Auto/Auto Components), Handicrafts, Gems & Jewellery, Apparels, Logistics & Warehousing including Social Infrastructure.

Mahindra World City, Jaipur is being developed to meet the highest benchmark of infrastructure development with a keen focus on 'Sustainability'. It has been identified as part

of a list of 16 projects globally and of those only 2 projects in India by the Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI), a foundation promoted by Former US President Bill Clinton for sustainable development.

36 companies have already signed-up with MWCJ in various zones viz. IT/ITeS, Light Engineering & Handicrafts, which include names like Infosys, Wipro, Tech Mahindra, Deutsche Bank, State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, EXL, Nucleus Software, Nagarro Software, Truworth, Girnar Soft, QH Talbros, Dynamic Cables, Poly Medicare, Gravita India, Knit Pro, Ratan Textiles etc.

At the full capacity occupancy & operations level it is expected to attract investment of over Rs.10,000 crores and would create direct employment for approximately 100,000 people and indirect employment for 150,000 people.

We invite organizations to partner with us in our vision of creating a world class business ecosystem.



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So Much to Discover Here

Deepankar Thakur digs out the four years of good governance, development and spectacular achievements of the state of Himachal Pradesh.

The present BJP Government in Himachal Pradesh headed by Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal, Chief Minister, completes four years in office on 30 December, 2011. Looking back at these four years, one finds that this period has been full of spectacular achievements, speedy and balanced development, good governance besides commitment of the Government to better the lot of the common man in the State. The Government has not only fulfilled all the promises made in its Election Manifesto but has also gone beyond that by implementing various ambitious programmes and schemes in the larger interest of the people and development of the State. 'Sarvajam Hitay; Sarvajam Sukhaya' has remained the guiding principal of governance of the Government. Per Capita Income of the State which was Rs. 42076 in 2007-08 has gone up to Rs. 58493 in 2010-11. Similarly, the State's Gross Domestic Product which was Rs. 33963 crore in 2007-08 has gone up to Rs. 52426 crore in 2010-11. Having been conferred 51 Awards in four years by prestigious national, international agencies and also by Government of India, speaks volume about good governance and development that has taken place.

All sections of the society have been benefited from the policies, programmes and schemes implemented in these four years in the State. Focus has remained that common man is benefited of these first. Farmers, fruit growers,

workers, employees, weaker sections, deprived women and youth have been given special attention in speedy upliftment and betterment as per Government's commitment. It has also succeeded in its objective to a great extent. Today, everyone in the State considers this Government as his own Government and has full faith in it.

'Sadak', 'Shiksha', 'Swasthya', 'Swarojgar', 'Swablamban' and 'Swabhiman', these six 'S' have remained priorities of the Government.

'Swarojgar', 'Swablamban' and 'Swabhiman' is ultimate objective of the Government. For this, exploitation of the natural resources within the State has been given special attention. Four CFL have been given free of cost under 'Atal Bijli Bachat Yojna' to all the domestic electricity consumers in the State by spending Rs. 65 crores. This has resulted in saving of 270 million annually there by saving Rs. 109 crores. 309 MW of electricity has been generated in last four years and work on various hydel projects in the Government, private and joint sectors have been expedited. The Government plans to generate 12000 MW of power by 2017. At present 7256 MW is being generated. Hydel projects upto 5 MW are being exploited through HIMURJA. Projects upto 2MW are being allotted to Himachalis and they are being given preference in the projects upto 5 MW.

Tourism development has been given big

boost by encouraging rural tourism. 'Har Ghar Kuch Kehta Hai' 'Har Gaon Ki Kahani' 'Home Stay' ambitious schemes have been implemented during this period. Rs. 428 crore is being spent on developing infrastructure for tourism in the State with the assistance of Asian Development Bank. Heritage Museum in Shimla, Pongdam complex and beautification of Masroor temple complex have been taken in hand under this project.

Industrial development has also been given big boost by encouraging environment friendly, employment and income generating industries in the State. Approval to set up 4300 industrial units involving investment of over 16,500 crores and employment to about 1,48,000 persons has been given in last four years. Information Technology Park at Wagnaghat in Solan district is being set up.

The State Government has zealously taken various issues of State's interest with Government of India. The Government by taking up the cases in the Supreme Court has succeeded in getting 7.19 percent share in BBMB project and other issues concerning the State are also being taken up with the Government of India time and again.

Four years of the present BJP Government in Himachal Pradesh are full of achievements, development, and public welfare besides fulfillment of promises. Himachal Pradesh is heading towards becoming a prosperous and an ideal State under the present regime.



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The REAL-ity stars of Odisha



Ananya Pattanaik flaunts the prodigies from Odisha who made it big on National Television.

“How was last night’s episode on India’s Got Talent?”

“Who got eliminated last week from Sa Re Ga Ma Pa?”

“Did you see the finale of Just Dance?”

Whenever a new season of any Indian reality show surfaces; from kitty parties to staffrooms, from school lunch hours to college addas, these are the FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions). Though people have begun to realize that there is hardly anything real in such shows, they have not stopped giving their time and energy to watch and discuss these shows, religiously at that. Emotions run high and moods swing with the performances and fate of the favourite participant. Whenever the favourite is in the danger zone, the fans are on tenterhooks, whenever he/she escapes elimination by a kitten’s whisker, there’s a sigh of relief, whenever he/she is appreciated, there’s elation. Such is the connect of Reality TV in India.

Alas! Everything is real other than the word “REAL” itself. The really real reality shows are accused of being scripted and the choice of winners is suspected to be lobbied. Even under such circumstances, viewers have given their utmost support to make such

shows reach the winning spot in the race of TRPs. In spite of watching some shows for years and not finding the most deserving participant to win, has not disheartened the audience. They still give it all to watch, praise, like and vote for their favourite contestant.

With the most gorgeous and extravagant finales, these shows capture the minds and hearts of all the family members. Right from kids to grandparents, everybody sits in front of the television to hear the announcement of the most unexpected winner. The public has lost its faith on real talent being acknowledged, especially if the contestant hails from a small town.

Television has witnessed the norms of reality shows being set. The spotlight is always given to contestants from various metro cities and specially the hub of such shows- Mumbai. The vote banks of contestants having their roots in Punjab or the eastern zone including Assam, Mizoram and Tripura have always flourished. With such norms existing in this industry, it is difficult for any other state to win on the basis of talent alone.

But these norms have changed. These paths have been broken. And that too from people who belong to the most backward state

of the nation - ODISHA. Yes, it was the Prince Dance Group who re-instilled the viewers’ faith in true talent. A group of 20 daily wage labourers from Berhampur led by T.Krishna took on dancing as a passion and created a new dance form. They would apply silver paint on their bodies as they did not have funds for costumes. They would enact mythological scenes from the epics and Vedas. They would captivate the audience with their formations and lifts. There was something magical, almost spiritual about their performance. And they emerged as winner in the second season of India’s Got Talent. This indigenous group of daily wage labourers from Odisha became a household name in the whole of India.

From being nobody to being the apple of everyone’s eye, the Prince Dance Group was overwhelmed by the announcement of the Odisha Government to gift them 4 acres of land to open a dance academy. It was a thought provoking and a misty moment realizing that the Prince Dance Group had no stage but the beaches of Gopalpur to practise, themselves.

When Prince Dance Group brought back the faith in true talent, some others from

Odisha proved that they actually deserved the title and were not favoured.

The memory of the much acclaimed SAND ARTISITES "Manas Sahoo and group" and the energetic LOCKING AND POPPING super master "Harihar Dash" must be very fresh in the minds of all the readers. Their contribution towards the success of India's Got Talent Khoj 2 is commendable. Their acts have not only been appreciated by the judges on the show but also liked and loved by the whole of India. Odisha was very proud to have two contestants reaching the finale of such a grand show on television.

The incredible creativity of Manas Sahoo and group left everybody in awe, judges, audience and counterparts alike. Their ability to exhibit sensitive issues like the Mumbai attacks, by just moving their hands in a layer of sand was their tipping/special point. In this era of modern technology, where the computer is needed to animate any inanimate object, they did it by merely spinning their fingers. As rightly said by one of the judges on the show, they showed life and its meaning in just one frame. They gave the audience a new way of seeing life with a handful of sand. They metamorphosed the fact that life is all but a handful of sand which keeps slipping away but if you wish, then you can mould it with your fingers. Their acts were filled with poetry and poignancy.

If Manas Sahoo and group showed that flexing the fingers can change the meaning of life, the other Odia, Harihar Dash, showed the

world what flexibility in dance actually is. Seeing him on the show, many must have wondered about the existence of the 206 bones in what seemed a boneless body. He reminded people of the flexi-dolls that they must have played with as children. The sparkling ability of Harihar Dash to raise the level of performance every time he stepped onto the stage kept one and all gaping. So powerful were his performances that it prompted one of the judges to say that Harihar Dash is not just a great ambassador for India's Got Talent, but would also serve as a great ambassador for the world stage too. The irony lied in the fact that he never stayed glued to a single part of the IGT sets but he made sure that with his performances, he kept the audience glued to their television sets. His moves were so superlative that Sajid Khan, one of the judges, challenged the rest of the locking & popping stars of the world to compete with him.

Harihar Dash might not have won the title but he has thrust Odisha onto the culture map of India. Perhaps even more than what the Prince Dance Group did. Sniti Mishra, a young singing talent from Bhubaneswar created ripples on the sets of Sa Re Ga Ma Pa this season. She made it to the top 10 and with her mellifluous voice, she captivated the minds and hearts of everyone. The efforts of Harihar will always be remembered and appreciated, but this path traverses back a bit. Let's take a stroll down the memory lanes!

Before these much talked about stars could take Odisha to the destination of fame and pride, there were some others who had initiated this journey. The search for the real dancing star of India began with the most awaited dancing show Dance India Dance. Mandakini Jena who hailed from the capital city of Odisha made her way to the top 18 dancers of India. Being a part of "Geeta ki Gang", she won the hearts of all the dance loving audiences. It was a sad moment when she was voted out but the grandmaster (Mithun Chakraborty) with his grand power of wild card had announced the re-entry of not just a single girl representing Odisha but two. Jayanti Biswas, who was

in the top 40, joined hands with Mandakini in the wild card entry round and made Odisha more proud. Though Jayanti did not make it through the tough competition in the wild card, her efforts and talent were appreciated by all. Mandakini made her way through with her newly found guru in Terence Lewis but was unfortunately eliminated on March 27, 2009.

Much before the dancing reality show Dance India Dance, some others had displayed their talent in the 11 year running show Boogie Woogie.

Amruta Patnaik, Jayanti Biswas, Prince Dance Group and the kid sensation Roja are a few of those names. Dance is a way to reach the hearts of the audience and so they did. Roja became a household name and served as the inspiration for all those innumerable aspirants.

There is also an unsung hero among the REAL-ity stars of Odisha. In the era where former cricketers have made cricket commentary their retirement plan, for a non-cricketer to enter the field of cricket commentary is virtually impossible. But when ESPN came up with Dream Job - Harsha Ki Khoj in the year 2004, several aspiring commentators found a ray of hope. One such case was that of Odisha's Nishant Majithia, who had already made an entry into the Limca Book of Records as the Youngest Cricket Commentator by then. Fighting several odds, Nishant entered the top 32 from 45000 aspirants in India. The next round was a round of dreams as the chosen

Harihar Dash speaks:

- "IGT helped me take a step closer to my dream."
- "I was not disappointed when the hosts announced that I was a runner up and not a winner. I feel that all the finalists were winners."
- "Talent as well as contacts is required to be a part of such shows."
- "In the department of culture and talent, ODISHA IS RULING OVER INDIA."
- "After IGT, life is very busy with different shows and other such contracts. I have recently shot an ad for Airtel as well."
- "I am also thinking of going international."
- "There are a lot of people who have talent and are trying to make it big but it happened to me. This makes me feel that I am lucky."
- "I just have to say one thing to the readers. Keep working hard and don't lose hope and your focus and one day you will reach where you want to."



Harihar Dash

32 were flown to Bangladesh by ESPN to share the box with 'a few good men' of ESPN for the India-Bangladesh Test Series, which would remain legendary as Tendulkar equaled Sunil Gavaskar's 34 hundred barrier. On the second day of the first test match, while Sachin was on his way to shake hands with Sunny, this 18 year old, the only Odia at that level, was waiting for his dream to come true. 2 overs inside the Commentary box alongside Wasim Akram, Allan Wilkins & Sunil Gavaskar were enough for him to prove his talent. While the experts were in awe with reactions like, "he is as good as anyone of us", for Nishant, it was just a case of doing something that he had been doing for years albeit at the Supreme level. His journey was cut-short in the next level but he finished in the top 16 in India, ending up as a quarter-finalist.

When you talk of reality shows and talk about the performance of Odias, you can never think of forgetting the incredibly talented Ira Mohanty. As they say, it takes one step forward to cover the distance of a thousand miles, Ira Mohanty's voice acted as that one big leap for Odisha. Her hunger to learn more amidst the Music Gurus, took her to the sets of the most watched Talent Hunt – Sa Re Ga Ma Pa. Not that she was not popular enough in her own state, she was already an established playback singer for all the leading ladies of Ollywood but her quest for more made everyone realize that she was a force to reckon with. Her heart rendering voice wooed the elite panel of jury and she became a rage by winning six episodes of the Musical Extravaganza, on the trot.

Much like a rocket requires maximum fuel just to take off, Odisha required an entire decade after the boost from Ira Mohanty, to start a full fledged journey towards stardom. The path that she enlightened was, is and will always be followed by all those who dream and aspire for success.

But Odisha was not always considered to be the rising state filled with innate talent. It was looked down upon by many on numerous occasions. After the very unfortunate Kalinga war, Odisha became handicapped. It lost all its values, culture and heritage. The harsh slashes from the sword of the Great Ashoka left deep wounds that were irrecoverable for a long time. The post independence period did not see much change for the state that once represented peace, progress and prosperity. Odisha was termed as the "backlogged state" as its economic development was low. It came into the limelight for all the wrong reasons. Even the very famous song "Mile sur mera tumhara", shows two poor fishermen families representing Odisha. This in itself is enough to show how much degradation Odisha has had to go through.

ODISHA- a state in the east, shares it bor-

The afterlife...!

Ira Mohanty: Her popularity rose to new heights. Her songs were enjoyed and her fan following grew in leaps and bounds. She right now is the creative head of Radio Chocolate 104 Fm, Odisha's leading radio channel.

Jayanti Biswas: After her marvellous performances in Boogie Woogie and DID, she has become a leading anchor in the Oriya entertainment channel Tarang. Her life is seeing a new journey and she is being well appreciated by her fans.

Nishant Majithia: For commentary, the Sports channels might be looking for former cricketers only; but his passion didn't let his dream die as he became an international commentator, though for a different medium – the World Wide Web. He is now a commentator in the leading website cricbuzz.com. He is also the creative head of P3. Team P3 is highly grateful and obliged having him as a part of the family. Prince Dance Group: After all the shows that they performed all over the world, they have come back to their homeland. T Krishna has opened a dance academy where he is fulfilling his dream of training the talented ones. They are performing in several national and international making their state proud.

Harihar Dash: His success might be very recent and his after life has just begun. Even then, Harihar Dash has created history by featuring in a national ad. Airtel's revamped ad campaign has Harihar as one of the protagonists in one of the ads. Do we have another success story in the making?



Ira Mohanty



Nishant Majithia



Amruta Patnaik



Mandakini-Jena

ders with West Bengal, it is where the recent Naxal attacks have been, it is a place where people are originally poor, it is where people reside on the roadsides. These are the normal ways people have been relating Odisha with for quite some time. But in recent times, Odisha has got what it deserved. It was respectfully placed back on the throne of culture.

From "Is it even a state?" to "Oh that's where the Prince Dance Group is from!" to "It's where Harihar and Sniti are from!", people have started to know Odisha through its new brand ambassadors. They have given back Odisha the pride it rightfully deserved.

“Both the government and the private bodies need to work in tandem towards a common goal so that we can deliver an efficient, vibrant and sustainable Bhubaneswar to our future generations.” — Er. Dipak Mohanty

NGI interviewed Er. Dipak Mohanty, CMD Appolo Infraprojects Ltd & Chairman of Redressal Committee of CREDAI (Odisha Chapter), to discuss about the real estate scenario in the capital city of Odisha. We got some real insights.

What fascinated you to enter into the business of Real Estate? How long have you been in this business?

I always wanted to cater to one of the basic needs of the people – need for owning land and possessing one's own home. Hence, I chose this field. We have been in business for the past 20 years and have been successful in building a reliable brand. We are here as long as our customers are with us.

Why should a prospective buyer prefer your projects?

Our projects are designed keeping in mind our valued customers' needs and wants for a comfortable living. And our commitments have stood the test of time so far since we have under-committed & over-delivered each time.

Tell us about your new projects?

In addition to our much talked about studio apartment project at Puri & massive residential townships near upcoming Info City - II & near OEC, we have recently introduced premium apartments & sprawling Triplex & Duplex in the name & style of Park Riviera.

People want to purchase luxurious flats at an affordable rate. Is it possible? What should be the average rate to buy a flat in Bhubaneswar inclusive of controlled luxury?

It is certainly possible to own luxury at affordable prices here in Bhubaneswar, but one has to look at peripheries since land prices at city centre are considerably high. Again the average price varies depending upon many factors, key ones being the location & amenities offered.

It is alleged that property rates are much higher in Bhubaneswar-Cuttack twin cities than other major cities of India. Is this a true fact or a myth? Is there any justifiable reason?

There is some truth in this fact. In the twin cities of Cuttack & Bhubaneswar in particular, very high percentage of land mass is under Govt-control, leaving very little clear private properties for the private developers to compete for. This short supply and sudden upsurge in population, that is higher demand, triggers this phenomenon.

The Govt. Agencies (Town Planning/BDA/BMC) never hesitate to blame the private builder community for disorganizing the township and destroying the beauty. What is your opinion?

Concerned Govt. agencies are definitely stressed due to the fast growing population and excessive immigration from other parts of the country. Both the government and the private bodies need to work in tandem towards a common goal so that we can deliver an efficient, vibrant and sustainable Bhubaneswar to our future generations.

People of Odisha, particularly Bhubaneswar, mostly rely on Govt. Agencies as opposed to private builders. Why? How would you plan to bring back the confidence of the people since you are the Chairman of Redressal Committee of CREDAI (Odisha Chapter) as well?

We have been making untiring efforts to change the public opinion and earn the trust of the people. We have succeeded to a great extent too. The umbrella organization,

CREDAI, is a conglomeration of all the reputed developers across the country. It has been able to win the confidence of prospective property buyers by unilaterally enforcing & practicing a strict ethical code of conduct for all its member developers.

What would you suggest to be the role of a people friendly Govt. for better urbanization?

Well planned & eco-friendly urbanism and certainly a healthy public private participation (PPP).

What advice/tips would you offer to people who want to invest in real estate property? WELCOME!

What will be your advice to someone who wants to start real estate business?

Come with a goal to serve people and live up to their expectations.

For further details log on to:
www.appoloinfraprojects.com



Er. Dipak Mohanty,
CMD, Appolo Infraprojects Ltd.

Jai Ho!

Showman Subhash Ghai is not merely a reputed film-maker, he surely has a way with songs too. Nearly all his films starting from Karz to Taal etc have catch-lines embedded in the lead songs that have made a tremendous impact both in India and the world-over. The latest being the world acclaimed Jai Ho! In a candid conversation with Manju Ramanan.



Subhash Ghai

How involved are you with the music and the lyrics of the film?

I think musically. Most of the time when I write the script, the song is part of the sequence of events along with the dialogues etc. I write the mukhda and then the lyricist takes over. For instance, taal se taal mila or aag lage lag jaaye, Om shanti om. The dialogues before the song and the song itself are linked to each other. They are part of the narrative and take the story forward. They songs are not there because we need a song in the movie. They are effortlessly woven into the script.

What is the story behind the Jai Ho song?

Har gaane ki taqdeer hoti hai (every song has its own fortune). I had written Jai Ho, the catch word and was recording it with AR Rehman for a film of mine starring Zayed Khan. The song was meant for the character in the film who is the wayward 3rd brother of the trio. Sukhwinder even sang a dummy for it. But when we put the two together, the song didn't fit in with the character and it was shelved. So we made another song called Shanno Shanno instead. This is a usual part of the film-making process. A few days after the film was made, A R Rehman called me that he is working with Danny Boyle and wanted to use the song for his film. I agreed and the song became a stupendous hit. It appealed to an international audience. If you observe closely, the song was dubbed in several foreign languages but the words Jai Ho was always retained!

On introducing new talent?

Yes, it is important that audiences get to watch new faces. Aishwarya Rai wasn't a star when I cast her in Taal. Her films hadn't really done well till then and a lot of people had told me to not cast her and that she is not an actress. I told them that I had studied her and she was the best person to perform the role of Mansi. I had an option of other actresses but I chose her because I was convinced and look what the film did to her.

What are the ingredients of a successful star?

An actor becomes a star because of good dialogues and songs. So it is essentially the script writer and the lyricist who are responsible for creating poetry on screen. Of course the writer and director take the film forward but the songs and dialogues create great recall value in the minds of the audiences and that usually leads to an actor becoming a star. Some examples being Rajesh Khanna, Shahrukh Khan, Dev Anand and Madhuri Dixit.

You have been part of the FTII and you now have your own school Whistling Woods? Why does India need a film school like yours?

Film making in India needs a balance between commerce and art. We want students who can combine the two and make it a lucrative profession. Whistling Woods offers that balance.

It is not just about teaching students to create art cinema only. Media is humungous today and creativity is needed in every sphere. Whistling Woods International is Asia's largest film, television and media arts institute, providing education in technical and creative aspects of filmmaking and television. Shahrukh and Dilipkumar officially launched the academy. It is also ranked amongst the World's Top 10 film schools by Hollywood Reporter.

The Mumbai, India, campus of 20 acres (81,000 m²) is located inside Mumbai's film and television production centre Dadasaheb Phalke Chitranagari (better known as 'Filmcity'), and offers courses that vary in duration from 6-months to 2½ years, both full-time and part time.

The full-time faculty of Whistling Woods International is a body of academics and industry professionals like Subhash Ghai, Rajen Kothari, Anjum Rajabali, Rakesh Ranjan, Rob Reece, Somnath Sen, Gokul Kesavan, with regular guest lectures by leading Indian and international filmmakers, actors and technicians like Rakeysh Om Prakash Mehra, Vishal Bharadwaj, Ashutosh Gowariker, Farhan Akhtar, Ashok Amritraj, Shyam Benegal, Farah Khan, Naseeruddin Shah, Pankaj Kapur, Ratna Pathak Shah, Danny Boyle, Rajkumar Hirani and Nagesh Kukunoor. Students also study co-curricular subjects like Film Appreciation, International Art Literature Culture, Production Design and Music.

Life's a Song!

She's young, super-talented and comes from a family well entrenched in the Indian classical music lineage. Manju Ramanan speaks to songstress Shweta Pandit in Dubai.

Shweta Pandit could easily pass off as one of the many good looking students who had assembled at the University of Wollongong Dubai to hear veteran director Subhash Ghai speak. The playback singer, song writer and live performer who had performed with AR Rehman in his concert in Dubai comes from the family of the maestro of Hindustani classical music, Pandit Jasraj.

Having interviewed Panditji a few years ago in Vadodara, it was sheer pleasure to interview his talented grand-daughter. Shweta started her career at the age of 5 singing for the legendary composer Ilayaraja in Mani Ratnam's *Anjali* which was re-recorded in Hindi from Tamil too. At the age of 12, she got her first big leading break with Yash Raj Films with Aditya Chopra's *Mohabbatein* in 2000 with 5 leading songs.

Shweta is the fourth generation of vocalists of the Mewati gharana. Her great grandfather was the Hindustani classical legend from Rajasthan and Haryana - Pandit Motiram and his younger brother Pandit Jyotiram, were the veterans of the Mewati Gharana. Her great-uncle is Padma Vibhushan - Sangeet Martand and legendary Hindustani classical vocalist, Pandit Jasraj (Born 1930) and she learnt music since the age of 8 from his elder brother, Sangeet Acharya - Pandit Pratap Narayan (1918-2002). Her Father, Vishwaraj Pandit is a classical tabla player and used to be a music director in the late 70's and early 80's with his younger brother Jatin.

"When I saw my elder sister perform and get accolades, I modeled myself after her," says Shweta self-effacingly. Her elder sister, Shraddha Pandit who has been a playback singer since 1997 with films such as *Khamoshi*, *Delhi 6*, *Sangharsh*, *Khoobsoorat*, *Band Bajaa Baraat*. As a child artiste, she has sung for films such as *Pardes*, *Raju Chacha*, *Dil Kya Kare*, *Saaz* (where she collaborated with tabla maestro Zakir Hussain as Music Composer) and many more.

Ask her about her association with AR Rehman and she gushes about the idol. "It is great to work with someone who is so grounded. After he won the Oscar, we thought he would change but he has been the same. It is inspiring to be associated with someone like him," she says. Shweta has also performed the track *Jai Ho* from "Slumdog Millionaire" with Rahman on 11 December 2010 at the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize concert in Oslo, Norway which was hosted by Hollywood superstars, Denzel Washington and Anne Hathaway and attended by the King of Norway.

And what does Pandit Jasraj himself think about her music? "Many of my songs are racy peppy numbers and initially I would be a little panicky whenever he would call me to talk about my songs. It is like the butterflies in the stomach feeling that you have before your exams etc, but, he has always been appreciative. However, because he is such a legend, everytime my heart skips a beat when I am summoned," she laughs!



Shweta Pandit

NGI Excellence Awards 2012

MOMENTS OF PRIDE



Varun Arya receiving NGI award from Tom Alter, K Sudhakar Murthy and Kanchan Banerjee (From right to left)



One of the award recipients, Dubai-based Subhra Das addressing the audience



One of the Chief Guests, Subhash Ghai during the award ceremony



Rajasthani Folk Dance during the event



NRI from South Africa, Rita Abraham receiving award from eminent guests.



US based Mitul Desai receiving award from Health Minister of Rajasthan, Sh. Aimaduddin Ahmad Khan



Anirban Banerjee

The achievements of our forefathers are pillars of inspiration that will motivate our future generation to strive and to excel in all that we do. Anirban R Banerjee says on leadership excellence

A True Leader Never Leaves His Fallen Men Behind

In this concluding part of my series on leadership excellence, I would like to touch upon an aspect my father felt critical to leadership. Leaders lead by examples; they embody ownership principle; and they are image of organization, institution and society at large. It is critical to assess what kind of value our leadership bequeaths to posterity. It is learning from such past achievement that will enable us to reclaim our rightful place in history. Our forefathers created a sustainable way of life for the society where we all can get an opportunity to contribute to the growth of the society. They laid emphasis upon health and learning. They taught us that with authority comes responsibility; and you can enjoy your rights as long as you perform your duty. The achievements of our forefathers are pillars of inspiration that will motivate our future generation to strive and to excel in all that we do. It's difficult for any society to grow and contribute to the world order if its people are not willing to take the pain to tread the difficult part to growth and be receptive to new ideas. This will involve hard work, disciplined and resilient nature and above all, their sense of history and culture. Our leadership has the responsibility to lead by example that they might be models for the future.

My father was a repository of knowledge about diverse people and places across the world. He could instantly connect with people of different age group, and from diverse geographic and cultural background. His understanding of our civilization and history gave him an instinctive sight into common areas of our way of life that enabled him to establish quicker rapport with a cross-section of people. His vast knowledge of unique places, history and culture also enabled him to understand people and establish a long-term value driven relation. He assigned great importance to transparency in building long-term association with them. Leadership involves knowing people, their history and culture as

these help them to connect with others. To work and lead people one must first know himself, his own people, his own culture and history to be proud of one's identity. It's important to stand up and be counted when it comes to defending the hard earned achievements of our forefathers.

I have observed that my father never gave up easily; he would always try to find a way out to reach to the goal without compromising on the means. He felt that determination and attitude to acquire skills are keys to overcoming any challenge.

The greatest achievement of mankind is the values it has created that may be transmitted down generation. No cost is too high for defending those values. My father followed another principle – unflinching loyalty to our country India. As an ex-Air Force man it was also institutionally ingrained in him. But he found the diversity of India no less a learning experience than its essential unity. The diversity of India represents convergence of various faculties, assets and achievement. These can be translated into multi-pronged leadership strength. This series was a modest endeavour to participate in building quality leadership in all walks of life. Every generation adds to the pool of knowledge and skill. A leader is one who adds more to this pool than his contemporaries and contributes more than he draws for himself. Rivulets join to make streams, steams join to make rivers, rivers lead to the sea, and sea to ocean.



Late R.N. Banerjee

By Sabbir Hussain



4 Years
of
**Development &
Good Governance**

Four years of **SPEEDY DEVELOPMENT** & Spectacular **ACHIEVEMENTS** & fulfilment of **PROMISES**



- ❖ All promises made on the eve of Vidhan Sabha Elections fulfilled. Many other works of development and public welfare done beyond promises welfare of interest of all sections safeguarded.
- ❖ 'Social Security Pension' enhanced from Rs. 200 to Rs. 330 per month. 79033 new eligible persons sanctioned Social Security Pension in last four years. No eligible person left out for Social Security Pension.
- ❖ Daily wagers of workers enhanced from Rs. 75 to Rs. 120. Every daily wage worker got benefit of Rs. 16740 annually Daily wagers completing 8 years regularised.
- ❖ State Government employees given financial benefits worth Rs. 5196 crores during last four years. Time bound promotion of employees ensured, Pension and family pension also enhanced.
- ❖ 'Taccavi' and Land Development loans of 43485 small and marginal farmers taken in between 1950 and 1960 waived off. Stamp duty and Registration fee upto Rs. 10 lacs on Agriculture Loans waived off. Subsidy component under Crop Insurance Scheme being given by the State Government enhanced from 10 percent to 50 percent.
- ❖ To empower women, 50 percent seats have been reserved for them in Panchayati Raj Institutions and Local Bodies. 'Beti Hai Anmol', 'Matri Sewa' and 'Mata Shabri Mahila Sashaktikaran' schemes started to benefit women.
- ❖ 50 percent posts of teachers, professional and technical nature are being filled on batch wise basis. 70 percent employment ensured to Himachalis in the Industrial Units being set up in the State. Over one lakh in the private sector and 50,000 in the Government sector got employment in last four years.
- ❖ Himachal tops in various development indicators in various nationwide surveys conducted by independent agencies. State conferred 51 Awards in 48 months.
- ❖ To ensure transparent, responsive and Corruption free administration to the people, Himachal Pradesh Public Services Guarantee Bill, 2011 and Himachal Pradesh Special Courts (Attachment and Confiscation of Property) Bill, 2011 passed. 'Prashashan Janta Ke Dwar' being organized to redress public grievances expeditiously.

Our priorities : Road, Education and Health

Our Motto : Self employment, Self dependence and Self respect



Prem Kumar Dhumal
Hon'ble Chief Minister, HP

NAWA JATAN

To add to mother's care...

So that tomorrow is free of today's guilt.

Malnutrition (kuposhan), the bane of the people of Chhattisgarh, is spurring us to innovate strategies to tackle it head-on. The state has developed a multi-pronged mandate NAWA JATAN - a result-oriented community-based approach towards breaking the cycle of malnutrition.

Malnutrition in Chhattisgarh has gone down from 62% to 52% in last decade, and we are now working towards bringing it down to 42% in next 3 years. We aim to provide all children a healthy future without any pangs of societal guilt.



Government of
Chhattisgarh

Women
and Child
Development
Department