

India's Onus

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BENGAL TODAY
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Women
and Child
Development
Department



Kanchan Banerjee

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Bengal needs to grow with a good balance of protection of environment, culture and values. Also the delicate relationship between the rural and urban economical development is respected and empowered.

Praying for a sustainable growth for Bengal

When Job Charnock made his way towards the unknown world, no one could predict that he would go native in the then Bengal. He started to eat, drink and make merry like a Bengali, and even smoked from a hokum pipe like a pucca Bengali. The villages which formed Kolkata of Charnock's times may not be there, but thousands of such hamlets can still be found throughout Bengal and India. Thanks to the East India Company, urbanization was initiated amid the lush green landscape dotted with rivers that ran like veins and arteries. Mango, berries, jackfruit along with flowers like shiuli, palash and lotus and fertile land around the Ganges saw the birth and bountiful growth and development of one of the most populated cities in the world, Kolkata.

However, in this day and age, the difference between the living standards between then and now would be an impossible task. If there is a comparison of the percentage of people who were below poverty level before, during and after the British left, one can say we are much more 'civilized' and 'developed' - but really?

Indians have taken over from the foreigners 65 years ago. Yes, the foreigners looted the land, caused famines, and tortured the *kala aadmi*. But what is the condition of masses today?

Governments came and went, including socialist and communist regimes. Decades passed by blaming the Centre for all evils. No other major city or urban center has been developed --- all pressure is on Kolkata and Howrah causing all the ill-effects of an over populated society, almost living in the middle ages.

Two parts of the old Bengal is beset with its own set of problems. For instance, the east is suffering from major problems like population growth and religious fundamentalism. And, the west lacks direction, vision and action on the ground. Hope was high during the removal of the Left Front government, a tremendous achievement by the present regime. But many

are saying hope is fading away gradually.

Tata's departure from Bengal was a big blow, even big scar on the state's image. Besides, not many Tatas have been wooed to Bengal either. Bengal has huge potential in many areas like small scale industry, agro-based industries and even technology. Big investment is necessary on various fronts like finance, know-how.

Bengal's water, air and soil is not as sacred or clean as Tagore would have loved to see, Bengal's industry is no more a leading force as it used to be, Bengal's education is not necessarily world-class anymore and health of the health industry is not that sound, especially for the poor.

Why is this pessimism? Well, we live on hopes. We must be realistic to see our face in the mirror. Only if we can accept the reality, we can plan to change.

And this opportunity lies today before the people around the world to see what they can do in Bengal, for Bengal and India and for themselves.

Let us hope that for a sustainable growth of West Bengal happens at a rapid clip. Bengal needs to grow with a good balance of protection of environment, culture and values. Also the delicate relationship between the rural and urban economical development is respected and empowered.

Many thought Bengal was waiting for a revolution to transform the lives of people in a significant way. Well, the silent revolutions are more impactful and long lasting. Are political, intellectual and thought leaders of Bengal today ready to lead that revolution? That depends on what each Bengali think of h/his state; irrespective of their place of stay.

The port through which the indentured labourers left India to settle in the Caribbean and other countries is almost like a temple today. Can the reverse happen? Indian origin people living across the globe definitely can come back there and do something significant to give a new glory to Bengal - and that would be a unique contribution of the Global Indians.

Inside...

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The Mamata Banerjee led TMC-Congress government of Bengal, after one year in power, finds itself caught between populist slogans and high expectations of the people on one hand, and the exigencies of business needing easy land availability and vested interests in health and education on the other.

Mamata govt is caught between devil & deep sea

Inheriting a huge debt, overdraft, many ailing PSUs and government initiatives, West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee has done quite a lot in a year in power.

A major challenge has been the ailing state healthcare system, though Banerjee has been trying her best to streamline them. After a spate of newborn deaths across the state, she has handpicked Sanjay Mitra, ex-joint secretary in the PMO, as principal secretary in the health department, and 21 sick newborn care units have been set up. Several task forces, comprising management gurus of IIM- Kolkata, socio-economists, senior physicians and paediatricians to streamline healthcare, have also established.

Besides the huge shortage of 1,100 doctors in primary and secondary healthcare, the situation in medical colleges and hospitals in the city and districts are in shambles, despite the CM's surprise visits to SSKM, Bangur Institute of Neurology, Baghajatin State General Hospital etc.

The state administration has taken a few good steps that investors were vociferously demanding during the Left regime, but threw away the advantage because of its land policy.

The government set a new benchmark in work culture by ensuring high employee presence in offices, and it is perceived that the average government employee has started working more. Paperwork required for investors has been largely done away with. For instance, earlier an investor had to fill 15 forms of around 100 pages, now s/he has to fill four forms of 15 pages.

Unfortunately, all the good work has come to a naught. The state land policy negates any role of the government in procuring land for industries. The government has been talking about big investments flowing into the state since the new regime took over. The government claimed to have attracted 16 mega investments worth Rs56,000 crore, but the details are yet to be disclosed. The singular blow to the image of the state has been the reluctance of the government to grant SEZ status to the software campus of Infosys. The same fate awaits Wipro's campus near the proposed Infosys site.

Though the state government has taken several steps in both higher and

school education sectors, most are at a planning stage. However, come 2013 and school may mean no homework, less books, no detention and learning through activity. While private tuition would be banned along with grading system, integrated learning would make its debut in state schools.

The government has taken a concrete step in school education. Two years after the law was implemented in rest of the country, Bengal has now framed rules for implementing the Right to Education Act. With this, the Trinamool government took up an important task kept unattended earlier.

The states initial plan of coming up with a book board and print all the school text books itself has met with opposition from local publishers who claim that the move would destroy the industry.

In higher education, too, various changes have come. The biggest boon this year would go out to Presidency University and St. Xavier's College. While Presidency became a varsity under the Trinamool government, Banerjee has announced her desire to give a similar status to St. Xavier's as well. Despite the promise of de-politicising higher education and coming up with the West Bengal University Laws (Amendment) Act, the colleges and universities are still not apolitical.

Finance is one department that the state government would wish to keep away from public glare. Be that as it may, state finance minister Amit Mitra setting in motion initiatives such as simplification of tax structure, assessment and audit along with large-scale introduction of e-governance.

While not much was spent in building schools, tube-wells and hospitals, government expenditure on salaries, pensions and debt repayment led to a ballooning of revenue deficit, a figure that broadly indicates the overspending of the government. All these led to the CM raising her pitch for a three-year moratorium on the interest payment. The total debt repayment obligation is so high that it eats up almost the entire state's tax revenue.

No wonder, the state government is hell-bent on a huge development package from Bengal and three-year moratorium on the interest payment, failing which, she has turned anti-Pranab Mukherjee in recent times.

'We are successful in fulfilling all the poll promises'

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee reflects on the first year of the maiden *Maa, Mati, Manush* government

The maiden Maa, Mati, Manush government has completed a year. Although a year is too short a time to correctly assess the performance of a government, I with all humility must say that we have been 100% successful in meeting all the promises made in our election manifesto. However, it is impossible to assess our performance correctly and objectively unless viewed in the right perspective of what we had inherited. When we first set foot in the Writers' Building a year ago, we had an insurmountable task at hand. We knew what the challenges were and how those looked like. For starters, we knew our coffers were empty. Every child born in this state has a huge debt hanging like the sword of Damocles on h/his head. For every rupee that the government earns, it has to spend 94 paise on salaries and interests on debts. Our task was to redeem a wrongdoing which was not ours. If one chooses to oversee this fact while judging our performance, it will definitely be a distortion of facts.

Throughout the last one year, we have tried to reason with the central government about our predicament. We have only one demand which we believe is just and fair and that is we are unable and unwilling to bear the brunt of the sin that is not ours. Every other state had accepted the recommendations of the Finance Commission and had implemented the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBM). West Bengal is the only exception. We merely stated that the central government cannot shirk its responsibility of allowing successive left front governments to go scot-free in financial wrongdoings and we demand that the entire structure of this huge debt trap needs to be re-laid. We should be allowed a moratorium of three years for the

interest that the state pays.

On top of this fiscal liability and rigid non-cooperation of the Centre, we have been subjected to relentless and baseless malice from those with vested interests and some influential media. Our detractors entirely ignore the facts and reality: how vulnerable we are and how we are making impossible things happen through sheer determination and hard work.

Everyday, we are pressurized to change our stand on many issues and threatened to do so from many quarters. A sustained campaign of lies and malice is carried out. But I am convinced that the people of Bengal do not believe in this collective slander, they know that we are a government for the weak and the forlorn. We are not against reforms and are entirely aware of the irreversible trends that globalization brings with it. But we are against any reform that brings joy to a few and gloom for many. In this short span, we have been able to keep all our promises made to the people and in the remaining years of our tenure we will surely fulfill all our pledges. We have never lost sight of our ultimate goal of bringing back those lost golden years in every sphere of life in this state, and we are confident that we shall achieve it. Even in the face of sustained non-cooperation and discriminatory treatment from many quarters, our government did not lose sight of its agenda and mission even for a single day.

On our first anniversary, we renew our pledge to serve our motherland notwithstanding the challenges and hardships that we face. We will do away with our inheritance of darkness and we will make the proverbial words come true again: "What Bengal thinks today, India thinks tomorrow."

Excerpted with permission from Mamata Banerjee's official brochure after one year of government



Bengal Needs a Water Policy, NOW!

Prof Asit K Biswas suggests a roadmap for water development in the eastern Indian state, and warns that a failure to implement it could lead to a crisis of monumental proportion in the next 10-15 years.

Water development in West Bengal, thanks to over half a century of neglect and poor policy measures, is on an unsustainable and undesirable path. If the current practices and trends continue, in about a decade the state will face a serious crisis — both in terms of water quality and quantity — the magnitudes and extents of which no other earlier generation ever had to face. Sadly all three levels of governments in West Bengal — central, state and municipal — have grossly neglected water management for decades. The citizens of the state are now already paying the price of this gross mismanagement, and if this persists, they will continue to pay increasingly higher social, economic and environmental costs in the future. Regrettably, the overall water management in India is not very different to that of West Bengal.

The impacts of these crises would be manifested through serious declines in human and ecosystems' health, reduction in employment

generation, increase in poverty, and reduced social, industrial and regional development. Besides, these would be further compounded by looming problems of food, energy and environmental securities since water is a common thread that links all these issues.

For a constantly expanding population, whose aspirations and expectations can only increase because of communication and information revolutions over time, this will be a catastrophe, though avoidable which is simply waiting to happen. It is not a question of if, but when.

Why water is important for Bengal

Overall water is important for West Bengal for many important reasons — agricultural activities, energy security, domestic use, industrial development and maintenance of good health and environment. Unfortunately, the state has never produced a viable long-term vision for water and formulated a strategy that could be

implemented to transform that vision into action. This should have been started at least three decades ago. Even now there is no sign that this situation is about to change. Based on the philosophy that it is better late than never, it is high time that the government should develop a long-term growth-oriented water vision. Properly planned, water can be an engine for economic development for the state and thus contribute to a higher quality of life.

To begin with, West Bengal needs to consider formulating a rational water management philosophy. Water management has to be seen as important means to an end, the end being how it can be efficiently used as an engine for regional development, job creation and poverty alleviation as well as improve the health of the people and ecosystems.

The largest water use in the state is by far the agriculture sector, which probably accounts for 80%-85% of all water use. Consider the following three facts. First, according to

the data of the Indian Meteorological Department, nearly 80% of annual rainfall occurs in only about 80-120 hours during the monsoon seasons, though not consecutively. Hence, the government policies should focus on how best to harness this tremendous quantity of water which falls within very short periods so that it can be used by the people over the entire year and also in between the years. The monsoon rainfall is very intensive, so much so that water does not have enough time to percolate into the ground. Most of it runs away to the rivers and ultimately to the sea, and thus is lost to the state for the future uses.

Second, with even such a skewed annual rainfall pattern, the state has at present around 225 to 275 m3 of storage capacity per person. Hence, only a very limited quantity of water can be stored at present in reservoirs which could be released in non-flood seasons for irrigation and other uses. In contrast, countries like the US or Australia have 10,000 m3 of storage per person, even though their annual rainfall patterns are significantly smoother than that of West Bengal.

Third, consider the current water quality situation in the state. Nearly 40%–50% of the area of the state is already suffering from poor water quality, especially due to arsenic, fluoride and salinity contaminations, again because of decades of neglect. Water quality monitoring in the state has been and continues to be very poor. For example, when the people were falling sick because of using arsenic-contaminated water, the cause was identified through epidemiological studies and not due to monitoring of water quality. It took nearly a decade and the costs of such studies were high. Had there been proper water quality monitoring, it would have been a fairly straightforward case to identify the cause.

Pollutants' menace

Currently, all water bodies in the state in and around urban centres are now heavily contaminated with known and unknown pollutants. This has created serious health and environmental problems which can only increase exponentially during the next 10-15 years due to expanding human and industrial activities, unless the government urgently considers proper counter-measures. Again, there is no sign that this is likely to happen in the near future in any sustained manner.

Besides, farmers are continuing to use age-old inefficient practices like flood irrigation. During my travel in the state, I have seldom come across large areas that are under sprinkler or drip irrigation, even though these practices are now widely used all over the world, and also in many parts of India for the last 40 years. The farmers have not received any education and training on how to reduce water use significantly without sacrificing crop yields. Even though there are good agricultural col-

leges within West Bengal (for example, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, has an excellent food and agricultural department), the state has not used their expertise in any meaningful way. Consequently, the state's agricultural water management is at least 50 years behind time. This simply cannot continue with increasing food requirements consistent with poor water management.

The incomes of small farmers cannot be increased until they receive good and timely advice on water, types of seeds available, appropriate use of pesticides and fertilizers, and overall management and marketing strategies. Now, all these ingredients are mostly missing. Consequently, West Bengal's record for agricultural production has been dismal compared to, say, that of Gujarat.

Bountiful water as a reliable source of energy

Let us consider some water-related developments. First, if West Bengal is to attract industry, it would have to ensure that it has adequate and reliable supplies of water and energy all throughout the year. I would estimate that West Bengal would have to increase its electricity generation capacity by at least 6%-8% a year for the next two decades to provide the enabling conditions which would attract new industry to locate in the state. However, no large scale electricity generation is possible without significant amount of cooling water. It is safe to forecast that water requirements for thermal power plants will increase rapidly during the next 30-40 years. Consequently, percentage of water available for agriculture will continue to decline steadily during this period. It may solve the energy problems but will accentuate the food problem. In the absence of a proper water vision for the state, the main sufferers from this sad state of affairs will be the small and marginal farmers who are already in poor financial shape.

Sadly, even though water and energy are intricately interconnected, there is not even a single state in India which has an energy policy that explicitly considers water and vice-versa. West Bengal should consider a vision for water that should specifically consider water requirements for a rapidly expanding energy sector in the future, as well as food, industrial and domestic water needs of an increasingly urbanized state. There is simply no other alternative.

Finally, urban water and wastewater management in West Bengal is again at least 40 years behind time. At present, the cost of poor water management in the state probably accounts for 4%-7% of its GDP, which is a very substantial figure. Regrettably, a city like Phnom Penh with much less technical and administrative expertise can now provide 24-hour water supply to all their citizens which can be drunk directly from the tap without any serious health impacts. Phnom Penh Water

Unfortunately, the state has never produced a viable long-term vision for water and formulated a strategy that could be implemented to transform that vision into action.

West Bengal has no more than about a decade to develop and implement a vision for water to 2025 and beyond.

Supply Authority is a public sector autonomous corporation which runs an efficient water supply system without any political interference, or financial support from the municipality. The poorest of the poor in Phnom Penh now receive clean water in their shanties. There is absolutely no reason as to why any city in West Bengal that has a population of more than 200,000 cannot have 24x7 clean water supply. The knowledge and technology is available, and so are the funds that must be properly and efficiently utilised.

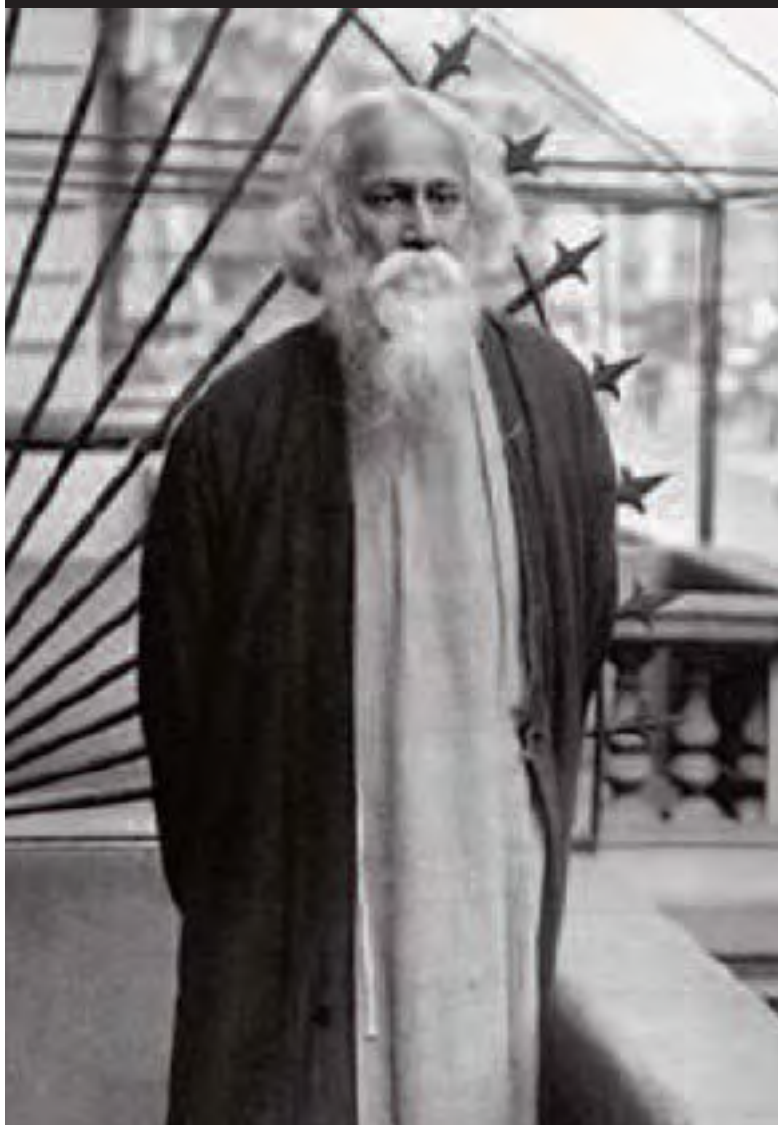
Based on all the data and information available there is no question that West Bengal has no more than about a decade to develop and implement a vision for water to 2025 and beyond. Such a vision must consider using water as an engine for economic development, regional growth, employment generation and poverty alleviation. The vision should be technically and economically feasible, socially and environmentally acceptable and politically attractive. It will not be easy, but doable. No other state in India has developed such a water-related development vision. In this sense, West Bengal could be a pioneer.

There is an old Chinese proverb, which says "Vision without action is a daydream. Action without vision is a nightmare". The ad-hoc water management practices and processes and consistent political neglect are taking West Bengal towards a nightmarish water scenario in the future. The current and next generations of people have every reason to expect that this situation is avoided. This can be done, should be done and must be done. There is simply no other alternative if a water crisis of monumental proportion is to be avoided in 10-15 years.

(Prof Asit K Biswas is the founder of Third World Centre for Water Management in Mexico and Distinguished Visiting Professor, at National University of Singapore)

Tagore as on Today

How relevant is Tagore in its present outreach? Indian Council for Cultural Relations, ICCR convened a seminar to redeem Gurudev's encompassing vision. **Ratnadeep Banerji** brings out the salient deliberations to uphold the jurisprudence of Tagorean apperception



'I am a poet of the world, I try to capture it's melody, wherever it rises', was Tagore's aspiration. Tagore's relevance today lies in his universal outreach. His views retain its pragmatic fervour in present world. He melded ideas, traditions, practices and cultures of places panning the globe and this resulted in the Tagorean exuberance for the posterity to reckon as contemporary everafter.

Dr Samuel Berthet, a historian of contemporary history feels the creation of Shantiniketan and Sriniketan has a long way to go. 'The poet gave altogether another dimension to this attempt for a social paradigm over four decades. Direct and daily access with its lively tenants in the rural areas and in collaboration with scholars and artists from all over India ...to rediscover heritage...by getting back to one's own roots and reviving in a lively manner the links between popular and elite culture, rural and urban culture, under the form of an international forum was and remain a pioneering one...The legacy of this pioneering venture led by the poet is multi pronged and has been carried both in the subcontinent and other parts of the world.'

Eiko Ohiro, an English professor from Japan finds Tagore's vision to unify people and aesthetics to forge harmony of the universe. She harps on purification of the aesthetic sense. Tagore praised Japanese people for having a 'vision of beauty in nature and the power of realizing it' in their lives. Tagore was fascinated by the story of a samurai who liked to view flowers arranged in vase before he left for a battlefield, for he thought that true heroism is aroused by the music of truth found in beauty. For Tagore that beauty could be found in life which revives again and again by enduring the atrocities of time. Tagore believed that the mainspring of Japanese civilization was 'the bond of human relationships' and the spiritual bond with the whole of nature. He urged Japan to share this with others as a universal message, allowing us to transcend the limits of modernism, individualism and material civilization. There was a negative change in a Japanese society in terms of human relationships during the six decades after the Second World War in the processes of industrialization and mass consump-

tion. Family ties and other human relationships were problematically weakened. 'However, this tsunami, I think, has given us a chance to discover the Japan that Tagore extolled almost a century ago. Tagore insisted that the mission of civilization is to unite people and bring peace and harmony,' says Prof Ohiro.

During the deliberations of the seminar, some speakers remained cynical of Tagore's nationalism which they felt declined with his growing ardour for universalism. Does nationalism impinge upon one's cosmopolitan stature? Prof Indra Nath Choudhuri cogently put it across that nationalism can snugly fit in the ambit of global camaraderie. Prof Chowdhuri cited Amaratya Sen who had caught the innate Tagorean appeal - 'The man point of cosmopolitanism, which is taken to be the world-citizenship claim, need not militate against valuing elements in one's own tradition....universal-ity...is dependent upon reason's articulation of the universal through an engagement with the local'.

Tagore in his essay on 'Nationalism in the west' says, 'Neither the colourless vagueness of cosmopolitanism, nor the fierce self-idolatry of nation-worship is the goal of human history. And India has been trying to accomplish her task through social regulation differences, on the one hand, and the spiritual recognition of unity, on the other'. But Tagore refrained from monolithic culture what may be termed as the 'melting pot' excluding alchemical unity of cultures. Instead by creating conduits between cultures, it leads to a stolid edifice of human unity without 'devaluing their local origins, culture and traditions' says Prof Indra Nath Chowdhuri. All political demarcations are good enough for a system but for another system these demarcations demur during another coalition. Thus segregation and coalition are relativistic stance. Baulking over the lines succumb to this hollowness. In Creative Unity, Tagore was outright, 'Perfection of unity is not in uniformity but in Harmony.' Prof Chowdhuri surmised to say - 'It is particular cultural traditions that can provide the bases for understanding and morally relating to others and ultimately for developing a vision of universality.'

Tagorean Effect across the Globe

Tagore play in Warsaw Ghetto

Umpteenth denizens on the planet have lived up to the vision of Tagore. **Ratnadeep Banerji** reckons one of such effort during Nazi regime and the other in the present Hispanic strands to exemplify Tagorean weltanschauung

Four days before the deportation of the Warsaw Ghetto, residents of the death camps, the orphanage inmates at the behest of Jansuz Korczak (his pen-name) staged Tagore's play, *The Post Office*. On July 18, 1942, a nondescript orphanage run by Korczak chose Tagore's play to end his days and those of his charges, the orphanage children. The performance of this surrealistic production happened on the face of death.

Why did Korczak choose a composition of Tagore? Dr Shlomi Doron, professor of anthropology and sociology from Israel is associate researcher with Korczak Israeli Institute. He had met a staff of the orphanage, Yona Botzian. She recounted, 'Tagore in Warsaw? There is nothing more natural than that! Tagore was most famous, part of the school system. We could not finish middle school or high school without studying at least a poem or a passage that he had written. He was almost treated like a god. It should be remembered that he was a very well-known personality in Warsaw...Korczak and Tagore...were educators, thinkers and resembled each other in their saintliness! The worse the situation was - and we knew that death was around the corner - Korczak and Tagore, the more our love and respect for them intensified...'

'The play, *The Post Office* served Korczak to draw complex relationships in the social and cultural context that developed in the Warsaw Ghetto', opines Dr Doron after all these years. The heart-rending analogy goes between the predicament of the ghetto and it's dying residents pitted against Amal in the play, dying on his deathbed. Korczak attached considerable importance to theatre and cinema and such events were a tradition in Poland and Warsaw in particular.

Dr Shlomi Doron says, 'Like Korczak, Tagore wrote about the child's development and how he must be helped. *The Post Office* presents the illness of a young boy, his suffering spirit and the importance of his encounters with people from other places as a framework for treating children...When the German

Censorship Department was established, Tagore and his plays were banned'.

At the face of death, Korczak employed minimal decor and austerity for staging the play unlike in the original Tagore's stagecraft. 'It had a Swastika insignia at the entrance of the house. But to Korczak and others, it symbolized Nazism and destruction, hunger and death.', says Dr Doron.

German soldiers came to collect 192 or 196 orphans to take them to the extermination camp. Korczak had been repeatedly offered sanctuary on the "Aryan side" but he turned it down repeatedly, saying that he could not abandon his children.

Eye witnesses say... A miracle occurred. Two hundred children did not cry out. Two hundred pure souls, condemned to death, did not weep. Not one of them ran away. None tried to hide. Like stricken swallows they clung to their teacher and mentor, to their father and brother, Janusz Korczak, so that he might protect and preserve them.

He told the orphans they were going out in to the country, so they ought to be cheerful. At last they would be able to exchange the horrible suffocating city walls for meadows of flowers, streams where they could bathe, woods full of berries and mushrooms. He told them to wear their best clothes, and each carried a blue knapsack and a favorite book or toy ... a little boy played a violin for them and Korczak was carrying two of the smallest infants, who were beaming too, and telling them some amusing story. I am sure that even in the gas chamber, as the Zyklon B gas was stifling childish throats and striking terror instead of hope into the orphans' hearts, the Old Doctor must have whispered with one last effort, 'it's all right, children, it will be all right'. So that at least he could spare his little charges the fear of passing from life to death."

WE SALUTE THE BRAVEHEARTS.

(Dr Shlomi Doron was recently in India to deliver a talk on Korczak and Tagore during a seminar conducted by ICCR)



Orphanage Home as it stands today in Warsaw, Poland



Janusz Korczak, pen name of Henryk Goldszmit (July 22, 1878 - Aug 1942)



The Stage where "Post Office" was enacted in Warsaw orphanage

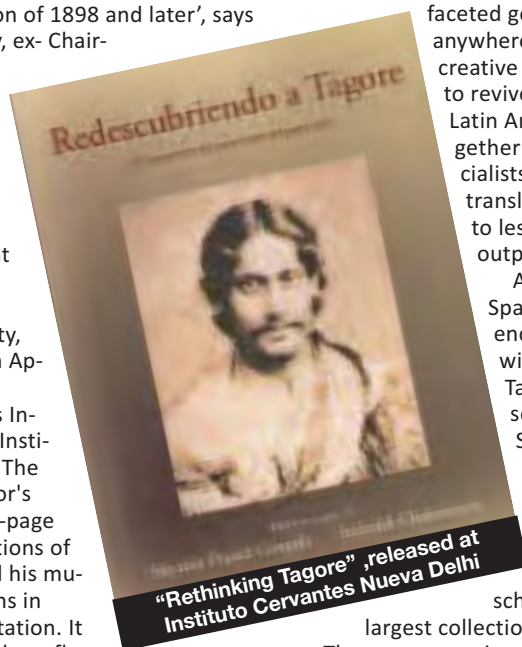
Rethinking Tagore in Spain

Tagore's visit to Spain never materialized. In a letter to his translator Zenobia Camprubi, Tagore wrote that 'the idea of Spain has such a deep attraction in my mind' that he wanted to 'come into an intimate touch with the heart of Spain'. For a long period of time in the 20th century, Spain had a torrid fling with the Indian bard but now it is getting effaced out of public memory. "Tagore en Espana" (Tagore in Spain) was held across three Spanish cities of Barcelona, Salamanca and Valladolid in a two-day event filled with discussions, paper presentations, poetry readings, music, dance and art highlighting the different facets of Tagore's genius, many of which is not much known in Spain.

Tagore in Spain targeted at the youth, aimed seeking to change the conventional stereotype of Tagore as an "Oriental mystic" to that of a true internationalist who was politically engaged, constantly in dialogue with other disciplines and one who speaks to us today not only through his poetry but also plays, novels, music and painting.

'In the years between the two wars, Tagore became an international celebrity and an indefatigable globe-trotter, his poetry impacting the lives of many writers and his "exotic" persona creating a spell wherever he went. However, his popularity in Europe and USA declined as dramatically as his meteoric rise soon after the First World War and his Nobel Prize in 1913. The sole exception was Spain where he continued to be extremely popular and exerted an immense influence on the Generation of 1898 and later', says Prof S.P. Ganguly, ex-Chairperson of Spanish Studies at JNU, New Delhi.

A book, "Redescubriendo a Tagore" (Rediscovering Tagore) has been brought out by Prof. S.P. Ganguly and Indranil Chakravarty, Professor of Film Appreciation at Whistling Woods International Film Institute in Mumbai. The book is a collector's item with 12 full-page colour reproductions of his paintings and his musical compositions in western staff notation. It brings together the reflections on Tagore by some of the finest minds in India, Spain and Latin America. It also shows the diverse aspects of his multi-



faceted genius, perhaps unrivalled anywhere in the world in terms of creative output. This book intends to revive Tagore in Spanish and Latin American life by putting together a book of essays by specialists. All the available translations in Spanish add up to less than 5% of his literary output.

A seminar (Tagore in Spain) titled 'Tagore's presence in Spain' was organised with local specialists on Tagore along with some scholars who are also Spanish experts such as Prof. S.P. Ganguly of JNU, William Radice (Tagore's foremost translator in English) and José Paz (the Spanish Tagore scholar who has the world's largest collection of Tagore publications). There were sessions of reading, recitation and music in Spanish, English and Bengali of a selection of Tagore's poetry, and plays. This turned out to be the first-ever contact be-

tween Spanish and Bengali through Tagore. One of its finest exponents of Rabindrasangeet, Swagatalakshmi Dasgupta demonstrated how Tagore had often drawn upon western melody and other musical genres and then transformed them in his own way. Cinema based on Tagore's novella's were also screened. Andalusian flamenco singers sang the 'deep' flamenco (cante jondo) based on Tagore's lyrics. There was exhibition of Tagore's books in Spanish by Prof. José Paz, the major collector of Tagore publications.

'From 1972, I have been dedicating an extensive chapter of the modules I teach at the Education Faculty of my city, Ourense to Tagore and is pedagogical work, in order to provide my students with an introduction to his educational model. In these lectures, we read his educational texts, poetry, excerpts of his work, his aphorisms and then we sit together and discuss them.' says Prof José Paz of University of Vigo. He has founded the Tagore Library of Ourense. Interestingly, Prof Paz spends a considerable part of his time every year at Shantiniketan and is conversant in Bengali over speaking, reading and even writing.

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BOOKS TRANSCEND TIME

Dr Lopamudra Maitra traces Kolkata's love for books by bridging new shopping malls with trendy bookstores with the older standalone shops that soldier on as sentinels, tried and tested by time

Famous throughout history for being the intellectual hub of the nation, Kolkata's famous book bazaar has grown over time to include a miscellaneous collection of the old and the new. As one makes a trip to West Bengal's hinterlands, a prominent symbol almost never escapes the eye across all villages — the smiling faces of a little girl and a boy in school dress, sitting atop a pencil and waving smilingly at any onlooker. The small, yet prominent cartoon is the symbol of the government of India's Sarva Siksha Abhiyan. In an attempt to universalise elementary education by providing useful and relevant elementary education to all children in the age group of 6-14 by 2010, the Indian government launched the campaign and successfully used the symbol of the two children. As one almost cannot ignore the presence of

the smiling faces from even the remote of villages in Bengal, which is attached to every primary school, it brings another significant aspect to the forefront: the love for books and everything related to them and the thirst for knowledge among the rural populace. Thus, far away from the glitz and glamour of any metropolitan city, the symbol has resulted in considerably increasing the number of young school children attending primary schooling.

Changing landscape of Kolkata

Far away, within the concrete jungles of mushrooming shopping malls and centres, Kolkata has witnessed a change in its landscape over the last few years. Closely following its rural counterparts, the city speaks of an ever-effervescent spirit for the love of

knowledge, which over the years has aided the formation of its economy as far as the love for books goes. With traditional shops of publishers and distributors still standing as sentinels over time, new glitzy shops in various parts of the city have also carved out a niche for themselves. All of this rendering a melee of the old and the new, as the traditional thrive with aplomb along with the neophytes and the beginners.

Walking down the busy College Street in north Kolkata at any given time of the day, one can never miss out on the rows of shops of publishers and distributors and hawkers. They sell with élan anything related to reading — from simple stationery items to dictionaries, almanacs and medical or legal books — almost anything that a heart can desire under the sun. These rows have wit-



As the new continue to survive with the old, Kolkata is playing host to the ethos that brings every sentiment under the same umbrella, *boipora* (book reading)

Though mainly catering towards books published in English, the new bookstores also seem to have found a niche among people who are really looking for a good read.

nessed avid buyers from all across the globe, with several of them coming back time and again in search of the books and stores of their formative years. World renowned anthropologist Dr. Shanti Pappu says, "I used to spend a lot of time with my father on the narrow lanes and bylanes of College Street as a child when we were staying in Kolkata, looking for books on history, old science

writings and literature." Pappu is the secretary for Sharma Centre for Heritage Education in Pune, and had grown up in Kolkata. She often makes a trip to the city to attend conferences and lectures and remains a Bengali 'by-heart' and an avid reader.

Times they are a changing

Times have changed and so have several of the shops on the busy streets of College Street. As the number of shops increased, for many book aficionados the changes in lanes and bylanes is a deviation from the memory that they have cherished for long. Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee, a consultant clinical immunologist and an ardent book reader, says, "More than 35-40 years ago, the two Bengali words — *boipora* (book reading) and *boipara* (locality of books) were synonymous. One always complemented the other and one could not survive without the other. Finding any good book meant going back to the lanes of College Street, including little magazines and text books. However, now several of the old shops seem to have been obliterated by text book shops and many of them cannot be located as well. The number of little magazines seems to have dwindled with years as well. In recent times, the focus is more on the glitzy book shops in various other parts of the city, which offer an ambience, along with good quality reading." For many an essence of nostalgia also seems to have been lost in the process of change as Pappu adds, "College Street is indeed a great place to be, but in recent times when I visited the place, I think I missed some of the old book stores. The focus has shifted towards text books almost completely. I miss the pattern of shops that I used to visit as a child."

New-age, plush bookstores

Kolkata welcomes a growing need of offering an ambience for reading and buying books.

To transform the *boipora* into a different experience and scattering pieces of *boipara* all over the city in small segregated quantities. The city plays willing host to the new-age, plush bookstores of the city.

At any given month of the year, numerous new bookstores in Kolkata witness several book readings and inaugurations — both in Bengali and English. "It is indeed a recent development and quite in-line of many bookstores abroad. One can read books along with experiencing a good time with friends and family. The young generation loves this. Be it for the ambience or the feel-good theme, it has also resulted in drawing many youngsters towards reading, which is a good signal for the future," feels Mukherjee. Though mainly catering towards books published in English, the new bookstores also

seem to have found their forte in people who are really looking for a good read. "Several people I know have read complete books by visiting these new bookstores every day. They let one sit and read in one corner of the shop. Sometimes one can also sip onto tea or coffee, but they let one read without interference. This is good for people especially when one cannot afford expensive books often," explains Nilanjana Roy Chowdhury, a book lover, who has an excellent collection of books of varied rare topics including the Holocaust as well as Bengali theatre. With the means of procuring a book increasing by leaps and bounds in this day and age of globalization and technology, the new avatar of bookstores is also an added boon for the market economy. "Today youngsters have more pocket money at hand, which they can easily spend on expensive books. This is important for the recent flourishing bookstores as, in the modern age of fast-paced Internet, one can get several foreign books easily through an online order from places like Amazon.com. With such growing means of procuring a book, at least the new bookstores encourage people to keep the habit of reading alive, especially in youngsters," explains Roy Chowdhury. As "cha bars" and coffee shops within various bookstore lure in many youngsters to revisit and pick up a copy of a best-seller, it is yet for many just a convenient method of purchasing a book when it might be difficult to opt for the main *boipara*.

Rukmini Ghosh, a book lover and programme coordinator, Sanjog, a technical resource organisation working in child protection), says, "The new-age bookstores are very much like any other store across India. They are convenient especially when one has to find a gift. One can find everything under one roof. Other than that, I have very fond memories of College Street from my college days. So, for myself, I often keep visiting the place to purchase a book of my own choice. It gives me immense pleasure just to walk down the lanes, though unfortunately, the trend is slowly dying down with younger generations in recent years preferring the new-age bookstores."

As Kolkata's *boipara* witnesses a gradual transformation in format with a changing economy, the new-age retailers find new buyers amid various other locales. With different people from across the globe still thronging the lanes of College Street for "that particular book", a lap of ambience and a touch of glamour slowly (re)invites many youngster back to the 'ardent habit of reading'. As the new continue to survive with the old, Kolkata is playing host to the ethos that brings every sentiment under the same umbrella — *boipora*.

GOLDEN ERA OF GROUP THEATRE MOVEMENT

Vidisha Jha charts a glorious theatrical journey in Bengal since 1972

The journey started on October 2, 1972. Celebrating the centenary of the Bengali stage, a band of theatre-loving youth sought to cultivate, learn, promote and to hold up the true spirit of the theatre formed a drama unit under the leadership of Sushanta Bandyopadhyay in the name of NAT-RANGA and became a part of the group theatre movement of the time. It was the golden era of the group theatre movement that boasted of stalwarts like Shambhu Mitra, Ajitesh Bandyopadhyay, Utpal Dutta, Manoj Mitra, Badal Sarkar, Bibhash Chakraborty and others. NAT-RANGA joined this movement with the directorial guidance of Sushanta Bandyopadhyay and marked their presence through three one-act plays like *MUKHOSH* by Prabodh Chandra Ghosh, *NISHIR DAAK* by Amar Gangopadhyay and *KABAYAH* by Banaphool. Within a short span of time, these productions started adding feathers to the cap of the organization as numerous awards came on its way from different national and state-level theatre competitions. Among those the awards for the Best Production, Best Direction and Best Acting for the play *KABAYAH* in *AKHIL BHARATIYA LAGHU NATAK PRATIYOGITA* organized in Allahabad by Allahabad Natya Sangha created a milestone in the history of the organization.

Then, a number of productions came which were highly appreciated and praised by the theatre lovers of the country. Productions like *BHITTI* by

Tulsi Lahiri, *KABI KAHINI* by Badal Sarkar, *BIDHI O BYATIKROM* by Soumitra Chattopadhyay, received overwhelming appreciation. With this solid theatre experience behind him, Sushanta Bandyopadhyay, a follower of Sishir Bhaduri's school of acting and an associate of Habib Tanvir, took up the challenge to stage two of the most acclaimed productions like *SADHABAR EKADOSHI* by Dinabandhu Mitra and *FAZAL ALI AASCHAY* by Shirshendu Mukhopadhyay (dramatized by Amar Gangopadhyay). These two productions rocked the Bengali stage for a span of more than five years and are still well talked about by the theatre critics of the country. Numerous awards and appreciations by the press thus made *NAT-RANGA* a distinct name in the Kolkata group theatre scenario.

Expectation level of theatre lovers reached its peak with those productions and subsequently experimental plays like *KHADDA* by Syed Mustafa Siraj (dramatized by Amar Gangopadhyay), *DIBANISHI* by Kallol Chakraborty were staged. Also other plays like *BEKAR BIDYALANKAR* by Manoj Mitra, *KEYAKUNJA* by Bibhuti Bhushan Mukhopadhyay, *RATIKANTO DAROGA* by Manoj Chattopadhyay, *GRAASH* by Shyamal Ghosh were staged in between. Then, a vital moment came in the history of the organization. It was a bold step in the world of Tagore's plays. In 1989, *NAT-RANGA* staged *MUKTADHARA* by Rabindranath Tagore. The colossal stagecraft with 70

Acting for the play *KABAYAH* in *AKHIL BHARATIYA LAGHU NATAK PRATIYOGITA* organized in Allahabad by Allahabad Natya Sangha created a milestone in the history of *NAT-RANGA*.



NAT-RANGA has also been associated with a lot of other theatre-related activities. Regular organization and participation in theatre workshops, exhibitions, publication of magazines on theatre, etc have been a common exercise both by the members individually and organizationally.

plus artistes and technicians performing hand in hand, lifted the spirit of the drama to great heights. Research oriented scheming, with usage of music and appropriate dialects, sound and light effects, highlighted the essence of the great literary work of Tagore. Praises from the audience and from the critics motivated the performance in each and every forthcoming show.

Meanwhile, the directorial aspects were taken over by Shyamal Ghosh, another member of the organization since the initial days and under his able guidance, productions like *DIBANISHI* by Kallol Chakraborty, *HADISH* by

Amit Maitra, *BHUT-ADBHUT* by Kallol Chakraborty, *KOLKATA 300* by the director himself were staged and were cordially welcomed by the audience.

NAT-RANGA's turning point came in 1997. A lot of new members joined the organization and with the directorial debut of Sohan Bandopadhyay, *BHUT-ADBHUT* was once again brought into the limelight with a lot of new experimentations. Use of strategic colours in experimental stagecraft, dress and make up and also the usage of Rabindrasangeet as background score gave it a distinct edge on the group theatre scene. The next production that

took shape was *GANOTANTRER NAAM JABONIKA*. Set on the current sociopolitical scenario, this drama with the language of satire won the heart of the theatre lovers and was able to set a combination of good feeling and social thoughts in the minds of the audience.

Besides regular staging of productions, NAT-RANGA has been associated with a lot of other theatre-related activities. Regular organization and participation in theatre workshops, exhibitions, publication of magazines on theatre, etc have been a common exercise both by the members individually and organizationally. Different noted theatre personalities like Bibhash Chakraborty, Soumitra Basu, Dwijen Bandyopadhyay, Bratyo Basu, Kaushik Sen, Soumitra Chattopadhyay contributed a lot to these developmental activities of the organization.

Members of NAT-RANGA had the proud privilege to enact scenes from the plays like *JAMIDAR DARPAN* and *NEEL DARPAN* and were used in the short-film *SWADHINOTA SANGRAMEY BANGLA* directed by Jyotirmoy Roy and produced by the West Bengal government.

NAT-RANGA had the honour to host the maiden web magazine on Bengali theatre, www.natukekolkata.com. It was launched on the millennium night. Later, e-magazine re-named as www.natokerkolkata.com. Currently, the publication has been discontinued and the members of the organization are working on it to give a new and contemporary look.

Last five years...

Last five years have been extremely productive for the organization. Four blockbuster full length plays, — *GANOTANTRER NAAM JABONIKA*, *DWIDHAKAAL*, *MEGAPODE* and *GULBAAJ*, *THE MAN OF THE MATCH* (all written and directed by Sohan Bandopadhyay) — have rocked the auditoriums across the country creating extreme turbulence in the mind of the audience.

Besides, they have been regularly staging two one-act plays — *KABAYAH* by Banaphool and *NISHIR DAAK* by Amar Gangopadhyay.

Earlier, 2007 and 2008 had created milestones in the history of the organization. Two of the most successful and well appreciated productions of recent time — *MEGAPODE* and *GULBAAJ*, *THE MAN OF THE MATCH* — were launched successively in the last two years.

Nat-Ranga feels honoured to state that *MEGAPODE* received the renowned *DIPENDRA SENGUPTA SMRITI PURASKAR* for being the best production for 2007 and Sohan Bandopadhyay received the renowned *SATYEN MITRA SMRITI PURASKAR* for the best Bengali original script for 2008 for the blockbuster production *GULBAAJ*, *THE MAN OF THE MATCH*.

'We're going to our support base'

He was the blue-eyed boy of the Left Front, before his rout by Trinamool Congress s Sudip Bandopadhyay. Despite the drubbing in the polls, Md Salim remains one of the flag bearers of the CPI (M). In a candid chat with **Dibyajyoti Chaudhuri**, he talks about how the Left Front is re-building itself and why he is disillusioned with the promises of Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee

How is the Left Front trying to win its support base back? How are you going to fight the increasing fervour that has led to the rise of the Trinamool in Bengal?

After the elections, we accepted our defeat and started an in-depth analysis of the reasons for our drubbing. We came up with various strategies to revive our standing in the state. First and foremost is to re-connect with the people. We had a traditional support base among the downtrodden and neglected social classes who had left us during the polls. We need to rectify our organizational shortcomings and win them back. We want to reframe our policies and mobilize our comrades at the grassroots level. We have started pinpointing the issues where we went wrong. Government policies, schemes, are being re-assessed and a cost benefit analysis is being carried on to spearhead our movement afresh. A faction of the comrades has greatly harmed the party with their behaviour, language and day-to-day affairs. We are weeding them out of the organization. We are going back to the support base we had among the workers.

Are you also concentrating on inducting fresh blood in the party?

Every decade there is a leadership renewal in our party. We choose future leaders from students and youth movements. There are various names like Ritobrata and Kaustav, who have risen through the ranks and are doing good work. Our students' wing, SFI, is doing well and we are creating a future pool of leaders who will take the party ahead.

Apparently the Left front government had not signed the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBM) which financially harmed the state. The Trinamool has always blamed the Left Front for taking the state to the doorstep of bankruptcy. What would you say to that?

Such allegations are simply ridiculous. Let's look at what the first thing that Mamata Banerjee did after taking over. She just asked for more loans from the centre. The government of India's loan is much higher right now than it was during our times. If we were always bankrupt, how did we manage for 34 years? We had lesser loans on our shoulders. Govern-



Our students' wing, SFI, is doing well and we are creating a future pool of leaders who will take the party ahead.

ments will functions on various loans. Has anyone questioned the huge amount of loan that stands on the central government? Does that mean our country is near bankruptcy? And it is also a distortion of truth that we didn't sign the FRBM. This government is always trying to misrepresent facts.

10,000 madrasas have been recognized by the Trinamool government. Government school teachers are being paid on the first of every month. Schools are being taken over by the state government from the panchayat. The educational reforms are something that the Left Front might have overlooked?

These are just populist moves of the government. Has anyone tried to find out whether there are really 10,000 madrasas in the state? There are only 87 madrasas, and these are just hollow claims. As to the educational reforms, only time will tell how effective they would be.

Land seems to be the root of all trouble. Land

acquisition vs. creating land banks. Was it the other land policy that became successful?

Look, creating a land bank should have certain policies. Even we had land banks. Any government always has some land, you can call it with one name or the other, and it doesn't really change facts. The government is lacking in a clear land policy. Necessary amendments have still not been done. The UPA too is not clear on the land policy it should follow at the national level.

On a parting note, haven't you seen anything positive in the new regime?

If you really want a clear and honest view, you will have to compare the functioning of the two governments. The first two years of the Left Front were in 1977-78. What did we see then? We saw expansion of the panchayat, de-centralization of power. This government is concentrating power. Bureaucratization is taking place. However, the beautification projects are good, other than that they are just floating fantastic ideas.



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“Education, the only Panacea”

Ela Gandhi, the septuagenarian Gandhian educationist of South Africa, the daughter of Mahatma Gandhi's son Manilal Gandhi, speaks to **Ujjwal K Chowdhury** about her vision of post-apartheid South Africa and its journey of eighteen years now

“All compromise is based on give and take, but there can be no give and take on fundamentals. Any compromise on mere fundamentals is surrender. For it is all give and no take,” says Mahatma Gandhi. “Progress only through peace, reconciliation, and development which is sustainable are such fundamentals”, adds Ela Gandhi, his granddaughter, living in Durban, and who was till recently the Chancellor of Durban University of Technology.

Ms Gandhi, in her 70s, is a picture of tranquillity, someone who is in complete harmony with her inner self. It was a moment I will live many times in my mind, when my colleague and I met her at her Durban residence and she lovingly prepared tea and snacks for us and patiently answered every question we asked.

POSITIVES GALORE IN SA TODAY:

Talking about South Africa today almost two decades after Apartheid, she finds many positives in the national life. “There is less racism today, less blatant discrimination promoted by legislation; dignity is restored to the working class through the recognition of trade unions whose power was considerably curbed during the days of apartheid; and people are more empowered now in many ways as for instance,

there is access to many blue and white collar and technological jobs for blacks and Indians which were previously beyond their reach by law and not because of lack of ability," she notes.

She finds Nelson Mandela's role quintessential in this change of scenario as he has emerged as the role-model with blacks feeling that they too can do what he could do in his life. She appreciates the policy of affirmative action, which led to some fast pace in emancipation of blacks in general and women in particular who now have equal rights and improved salaries under the law. Lack of access to libraries, educational and sports facilities to black people has been tackled to a large extent through the desegregation of these facilities which were previously accessible to whites only. But much still needs to be done in the provision of these facilities in the predominantly black areas.

LIMITATIONS TOO; POOR SUPPORT SYSTEMS: However, "family and societal backing is still poor for women in general and black women in particular. Even for women parliamentarians, not much support is provided in the domain of house work, care of children and skills transfer for them to be able to participate at optimum levels. In most cases their lack of prior administrative skills and experience or training are also affecting their public life as there is no support through provision of train-

ing and other personal support," notes Ms Gandhi.

"Then there is the rising issue of blatant capitalism. Greed is dictating resource exhaustion across the nation. Bapuji always told us that the world has enough for everyone's need but not enough for man's greed. A few millions, say around five, have benefitted immensely and often at the cost of the other 45 million in the 18 years of post-apartheid South African life. Though the rights to education, food security, housing and health care technically exist, but they are practiced more through doles to the poor, rather than making a definitive change in their lives," explains Ms Gandhi further.

Hence, "there is a movement from race discrimination to class discrimination happening fast with the rich reaping more advantages and usurping much of national wealth like the whites of the apartheid past."

She believes competition can have a positive effect, but it should be tempered competition, and not destructive competition. Stifling of competition can lead to monopolies thriving and resulting in the denial of access to resources to many through uncontrolled growth of prices of essential items. This is destructive. But if competition means a way to control price hikes and make products more accessible to the public, then it is positive competition. She strongly advocates sound education today as the most important invest-

ment in South Africa, particularly in the first formative five to ten years of lives of children, a period when self esteem, critical thinking, sound values and character are built. Self confidence, empathy, honesty, truth, nonviolence and compassion are important values that can become entrenched in one's life if introduced in the early years of the life of a child through good examples, role models and education.

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A round table conference on the day of nonviolence.

SOUTH AFRICA'S INDIANS:

"During apartheid, the Indians were in a better position than the Africans, and Indian families were more education oriented. Hence, there are a large number of highly skilled lawyers and teachers and doctors among the Indians here. Affirmative action has brought in some level of deprivation for the educated and well-to-do Indians. In fact, while South African whites have largely migrated to UK, Canada and USA, a good number of well placed Indian South Africans have moved to other countries as well as to Australia over the last two decades. Affirmative action has to some extent affected the Indian community negatively," she informs.

Commenting on the role of South Africa in the larger African context, she notes that though South Africa tried to provide energy and economic support to African countries, it cannot manage to maintain the pace. The defeat of the SA representatives in the African Union elections recently has been shocking. It indicates that something is amiss. She believes that SA should and can be a better role-model for impacting on the rest of Africa.

SOCIAL DICHOTOMY IN SA TODAY:

There is an interesting dichotomy in South African society today towards which Ms Gandhi draws our attention. "Print media is largely anti-government being white controlled, while television and radio channels are largely government controlled and have a different belief-base. Political power is with the blacks, while the skills and control of the economy are largely with the whites! Indians also score high on skills and education," she notes. The moral of the story, hence, is to quickly educate the blacks under 20 generation and empower them with critical thinking, production skills and technology. She rightly concludes, "Equitable distribution of justice and resources, and measures to ensure this happens, will be the single-most important challenge of South Africa in the ensuing five to ten years."

GLOBAL INDIANS:

For the global Indians, she has a firm suggestion, "Learn to understand the countries you have adopted, and assimilate better, with loyalty to that nation and understanding and respecting its history and people better." In this context, she also finds that India as a nation has a lot to offer globally, especially in nations where people of Indian origin are in good numbers, as in South Africa. "We have to consider ourselves as people and stop seeing each other in neat boxes defined by various divisions of race, colour, class, religions creed etc."

GANDHI DEVELOPMENT TRUST:

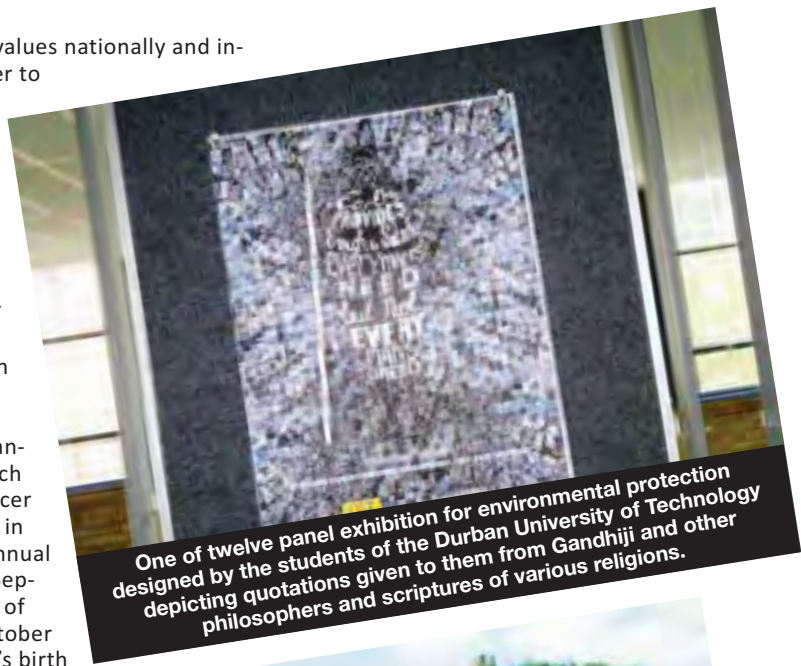
Ela Gandhi today actively runs the Gandhi Development Trust. The aim of the GDT is to

promote Gandhian values nationally and internationally in order to build a peaceful, nonviolent, contented world underpinned by basic human values and to work towards nation-building in South Africa. During 2010 and 2011, GDT organized a number of programs in South Africa, notable ones being Annual Salt March in April, the annual essay and speech contests in May, soccer world cup programs in June and July, the annual award functions in September and the Day of Non Violence on October 2, Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary, all leading towards is objective of building a culture of nonviolence and nation building.

The Mahatma Gandhi International Award for Reconciliation & Peace (MAGI Award) was presented to Dr Enuga Srinivasulu Reddy, in recognition of his devoted and strong contribution as Researcher and Principal Secretary of the Special Committee against Apartheid in the United Nations, and his help in establishing a strong international solidarity movement against apartheid.

The Mahatma Gandhi Satyagraha Award was presented to Inkosi (Chief) Albert Mvumbi John Luthuli posthumously in recognition of his mass mobilization of South Africans against apartheid and for leading a non-violent non-racist movement. The second such Award presented last year was to Dr Yusuf Dadoo posthumously in recognition of his tireless efforts at mobilizing the working class, forging a non-racial unity and building a formidable anti-apartheid movement in South Africa to accelerate the struggle against racism.

Similarly such awards have been given in recent times to Dr Gangathura Mohambry Naicker, Prof Fatima Meer, Sophie Williams



One of twelve panel exhibition for environmental protection designed by the students of the Durban University of Technology depicting quotations given to them from Gandhiji and other philosophers and scriptures of various religions.



Ela Gandhi was involved in a clean up of Mgeni River mouth known as the Blue Lagoon on Mandela Day

"We have to consider ourselves as people and stop seeing each other in neat boxes defined by various divisions of race, colour, class, religions creed etc."

Du Bruyn, Dr Ahmed Kathrada, Dr Ruth First, and Laloo Isu Chiba, all leaders and heroes of anti-Apartheid struggle. These awards help to record and bring to the fore our hidden history of the struggle against apartheid. They help to relate a story from the perspective of the opponents of apartheid which was muzzled during the years of apartheid.

With a life devoted to social work and education, guided by the Gandhian principles of frugal living, Ela Gandhi stands tall in a nation in transition.



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Managing Ideas – A core discipline of the 21st Century

Is there a case for instilling Idea Management as a core discipline?
RR Dasgupta divulges this and more

From Knowledge to Ideas

The discipline of Knowledge Management can perhaps be traced back to the epochal statement of Confucius – “I hear, I forget. I see, I remember. I do, I understand”. For most part of my life translating my learning into knowledge has taken that route.

My early tryst with Knowledge Management was way back in 1999 when I started working with IBM Consulting. Armed with the huge body of knowledge at IBM, I came to lead an opportunity with a Sports Utility major who engaged us to articulate a Transport Solutions strategy. We had one problem though – such an engagement had not been done before; no knowledge artifacts to fall back on. So the team huddled, went to the whiteboard, shared ideas, took responsibility to adapt available knowledge to the engagement at hand. Most of these were conversational in nature unstructured in content. Lots of coffee, late nights, doodles on note pads. Ultimately the “idea” of Transport Solutions was realized based on the ingenuity of ideas of my capable team mates. It remains as one of my most successful consulting engagements.

As knowledge workers serving a diverse set of customers, irrespective of industries we serve, we are being con-

stantly challenged to solve complex problems. Our “Aha” moments are numerous and discontinuous. They start out as incomplete parts that need inputs, sometimes from areas the originator is not familiar with. They must essentially go through several iterations. Realization of “revolutionary” ideas must essentially adopt an “evolutionary” trajectory.

The questions we need to ask ourselves are that are enough ideas happening within our companies? How are they being supported? Is there a case for instilling Idea Management as a core discipline?

Idea Management as a core discipline

The audacity of ideas is visible in products, technologies, social reforms and more. The sheer magnitude of ideas that are coming forth everyday often crisscrossing multiple channels needs curating and managing. The landscape of innovation is transforming fast and ideas are at the front-end of such initiatives. Enterprises and institutions are embracing new processes and tools to give customers, partners and members of their communities a voice in their innovation initiatives. There are few who are leveraging this Idea economy ... there are many more who need to.

Idea-Management is being talked about as the next discipline that enterprises and institutions must master. I believe that Idea-Management is in itself an idea whose time has come.

Zensar Technologies – Harnessing ideas to power its strategic vision

The genesis of this initiative dates back to 5 years, when its CEO- Ganesh Natarajan involved a handful of his reportees to engage in defining the Strategy for the company. A Vision Community was established which would work with the CEO to shape its strate-

Idea-Management is being talked about as the next discipline that enterprises and institutions must master. I believe that Idea-Management is in itself an idea whose time has come.

gic vision. Over the years, the numbers of members in this group grew to accommodate diversity of views across levels in the organization. As the organization grew from 2500 to over 5000 people the need to scale this initiative across levels and well as different global destinations became evident. Even so, the Ideation was limited to few months in a year.

The company is currently rolling out our platform to over 5000 associates globally with an objective of tapping and enabling ideas around strategic focus areas which will ultimately enhance its competitive positioning and customer intimacy.

In order to scale this initiative, socialize strategic themes to a larger audience and invite ideas that could be stage-gated by leveraging a common platform to tap ideas on a continuous basis was becoming critical. That is when the customer chose Aikon Labs as their Idea Management Platform Partner.

The company is currently planning to co-opt key customers and partners in the ideation process.

By socializing specific themes or strategic focus areas, the company is now able to democratize the process of ideation across functional silos or geographical boundaries. Familiar social tools are being used by everybody to contribute, shape and finally execute the ideas. Over a period of time the company expects a significant increase in its innovation potential; something they could not have done

by limiting the initiative to a “chosen few”.

The process that was adopted can be understood from the graphic appearing below:

The Leadership team communicates strategic themes around which employees post ideas. These ideas then go through a round of company community voting and rating. Based on scores, a few ideas are taken to the next stage of Teaming when they are required to expand those ideas into more detailed plans. Ideas from this stage are measured against company criteria and the winners are chosen to go into the next stage of Execution where they are encouraged to create a prototype. The Winners are then taken into a full execution stage and rewarded.

The key thing to note here is that no ideas are really rejected but kept in an Idea Store

database, to be recalled at an opportune time. The other point is that this happens on a continuous, year round basis- at Zensar every season is an idea season. This unique initiative and achievement now forms part of a Harvard Business School Case Study.

Zensar has weathered successive downturns and posted impressive year-on-year growth. It has now set its sight on becoming a One Billion Dollar enterprise. I am more than sure that new ideas will be propelling the new growth engine at Zensar

What now?

Ideas are everywhere. Yet our track record as a nation in innovation and patents is abysmally poor. We are standing at the confluence of an Idea Economy. Some of us will be watching

this train leave our stations. I am hoping that many of us will board the train of Ideas and take the journey towards a resurgent India – an India that is truly incredible.

(R R Dasgupta is a Director at Aikon Labs and Advisor at SoftTech Engineers. He can be reached at rrdasgupta@gmail.com)



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A Woman of Substance

Gifted singer, author and diplomat Sangeeta Bahadur, Director of the Nehru Centre and Minister for Culture in the UK, shares her plans for the next phase of development for London's flagship cultural hub with **Yasmin Chandra-Singh**

Seated in the historic surroundings of Mayfair's South Audley Street, Sangeeta Bahadur, the Director of the Nehru Centre and UK Minister for Culture, appears comfortably at home. Situated in the heart of the Capital for the last two decades, this ICCR flagship cultural centre is housed in an imposing building. The atmosphere is one of history and character, with a long association with the Indian High Commission, wholly appropriate for the premier institution engaged in India's cultural interface with UK.

Sangeeta's easy confidence is engaging and hints at why she's such an accomplished diplomat within the Indian Foreign Service. With postings in Spain, Bulgaria, Mexico and Belgium as well as her recent role as deputy director of ICCR, she's well qualified to lead in updating the mission's strategy and activities. Her enthusiasm for her recent tenure at the Nehru Centre is evident: *'I love London and am very familiar with the city, but of course living here is a very different experience.'*

Globally ICCR's 40 plus cultural centres work in a variety of ways, receiving funding from the Indian Ministry of Overseas Affairs. Centres variously offer classes and put on events, all aimed at sharing the richness of Indian Culture and enhancing bilateral cultural relations.

London is home to an active and well-established Indian diaspora. Here the Nehru Centre acts as a hub for Indian-inspired cultural events, many taking place at its premises: music, dance and theatre, exhibitions, lectures, illustrated talks, book launches, film screenings, workshops, seminars and round tables.

Following on from an initial revamping of the website and budgetary review, Sangeeta explains how she is now set to build on past

achievements and renew the existing vision. The aim: to regenerate the Nehru Centre as a modern, dynamic and sustainable brand and take India-UK cultural relations to the next level.

'The incoming traffic is always there, but now we are also seeking to approach people regarding new and interesting events and to shift more of our focus onto our outreach activity... things that meet with the image we're projecting.'

'In addition to our programme brochures and mailing lists we're keen to promote our activities via web-based advertising and by working with established organisations. This way we benefit from cross-publicity in the long-term while at the same time reaching out to a wider audience. I feel that it's time to change our profile and expand the audience we get.'

'We're not just here for the Indian community. A large part of our audience is currently 1st and 2nd generation Indians. The idea is to expand into the mainstream, reaching out to the many ethnic communities here including the indigenous British and to encourage cross-cultural collaborations.'

'... by attracting

the younger generation, and a more diverse ethnic mix we can build future relationships. Exhibitions frequently draw a cross-ethnic crowd, non-classical performances a younger audience and on the intellectual front lectures and book launches provide a lively forum.'

Key to the strategy is taking the Nehru Centre name beyond its London-centric bias and changing the way external activities are supported:

'London is rich in cultural activities so it's important to carve a new profile for yourself by talking to other cities, who want to attract troupes and artists that come from India. Previously we engaged primarily in offering financial support, for example with the Southbank Centre, V&A and various film festivals. This we want to continue but to restrict this collaboration to long term, solid, established programmes'

Sangeeta's convictions reflect her sound grasp of the task in hand; to market the Nehru Centre, contemporise and maintain sustained interest levels into the future.

'Outreach means we're taking things out to the provinces too. For example we are working with Indian performances organising country-wide tours covering 7-8 cities, and including some financial support where needed'

One recent success is the substantial, long-term cultural agreement forged with the Irish Arts Council. This ongoing interaction with Ireland will mean that artists and exhibitions can be given exposure and co-hosted by the Irish local government and ICCR.

'For the forthcoming Olympic Games we'll be utilising our well-established systems to present a very special fortnight when we'll be promoting a whole range of Indian cultural, artistic and trade activities.'

With her hectic day-to-day schedule overseeing event planning, programme scheduling, funding applications as well as the many proposals that come in from organisations and artists it's confounding how in the midst of all this, aside from being a gifted singer, Sangeeta has found time to pen her first novel: an epic trilogy entitled 'Kaal'.

Set in an imagined world reminiscent of India in the immediate post-Vedic Era it's an inspired work that reads as a story but at a deeper level is an exploration of the idea of Self – who am I, what am I, why am I? 'Jaal – The Web', the first part of the trilogy, was released in June.

'It's an inspiring story and yet was the complete antithesis of how I was feeling at the time.'

The book, an enormous challenge and written at a time of great personal difficulty for Sangeeta, took a lot of time and effort adding successful authorship to her growing list of accomplishments

Website addresses:

Nehru Centre:

<http://www.nehrucentre.org.uk/index.html>

Kaal the Trilogy: <http://jaal-theweb.net/>

Pic Courtesy : The Nehru Centre, London



Sangeeta Bahadur



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The Other Half

Haimanti Banerjee harks back on the glorious Vedic age to extol the virtues of women in Indian society, and how their role has degenerated in this day and age

India prides itself of having women Prime Minister, President, pilot, doctor and other professionals in all walks of life. The first woman MBBS was from India. A sneak peek into history bears out India's rich legacy of women role models like Rani Lakshmbai, Durgabati...spiritual leaders from Mirabai to Sarada devi...all the way to the Vedic age where Lopa, Ghosa, Kshana, Anusua and so many other women are considered as legends.

Vedic texts have honoured women to the highest position in the society. Equal rights were definitely a norm since even Ram could not do a yagna without Sita ---- the alternative was to make a golden Sita. No religious rights could be performed without the active participation of the wife. Women had full rights to learn and to worship.

A survey was recently conducted by the Thomson Reuters Foundation which studied various factors --- from women's education and healthcare to job opportunities and violence against the fairer sex from

some of the world's richest and developing countries. The findings suggest that India ranks the worst for women among all the countries covered in the survey and the nation is "fourth most dangerous country" in the world for women. -- It's, indeed, sad and shocking for India, whose legacy lies in tatters.

The news of India ranking next to Saudi Arabia among the developing nations is not just a shame for India, but also for rest of the world. What is development without the proper rights and respect for women?

Swami Vivekanda said: 'There is no chance of the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is not possible for a bird to fly on.'

And Jawaharlal Nehru said: You can tell the condition of a nation by looking at the status of its women.

One may question the way the survey is done and some may find it motivated as well. We all know that the condition of women is not as grim as the survey portrays, but there is some grain of truth in

If some of the facts found by the survey are already known by the Indian authorities, question abounds about the actions taken on them.

Just passing laws and announcing programmes for women would not solve the problems, there must be goal-oriented and measurable plan implemented at all levels. There are many NGOs who are working in this area.

One wonders, if there is any systematic study and data on the factors from past and present causing harm to the half of the population and some predictability of the future based on the condition and actions of the governments as well as NGOs. There is a need to do a massive survey by women and for women in all strata of society --- from villages to suburbs. Significantly, the data must be available on what work has been done so far by both government and NGOs, and if there have been learning from past mistakes.

One study shows that when the marriage age was dropped for women, the education was also curtailed and gradually child marriage became a pernicious practice. Part of the problem was also the invasions and kidnapping of girls by thugs. Practice of sati and dowry also came in. Though both are illegal, the social stigma for girls did not go away. Domestic violence is never ending.

Let's look at the real picture and numbers here. The ministry of education, Government of India's website, based on the latest census, reveals the following disturbing details:

Dowry

The number of Indian brides burnt to death for not bringing adequate dowry is on the rise. In 2010, 8,391 dowry death cases were reported across India, or a bride was burnt every 90 minutes, according to statistics recently released by the National Crime Records Bureau.

Hunger

A large segment of women suffer from hunger and poverty and at the same time, it is the fairer sex who bears the primary responsibility for actions needed to end hunger: education, nutrition, health and family income.

Malnutrition

India has exceptionally high rates of child malnutrition, because tradition requires that women eat last and least throughout their lives, even when pregnant and lactating. Malnourished women give birth to malnourished children, perpetuating the cycle. Nutritional deprivation has two major consequences for women; they never reach their full growth and suffer from chronic anemia.

Health

Females receive less healthcare than males. Many women die in childbirth of easily pre-

vented complications. Working conditions and environmental pollution further impairs women's health.

Education

Families are far less likely to educate girls than boys, and far more likely to pull them out of school, either to help out at home or from fear of violence. Many parents don't think educating girls since is important they get married and would belong to different families.

Overworked

Women work longer hours and their work is more arduous than men's, yet their work is unrecognized and payscale is far less in comparison to male workers. Technological progress in agriculture has had a negative impact on women.

Ill treatment

In recent years, there has been an alarming rise in atrocities against women in India, in terms of rapes, assaults and dowry-related murders. Fear of violence suppresses the aspirations of all women. Female infanticide and sex-selective abortions are additional forms of violence that reflect the devaluing of females in Indian society.

Powerlessness

While women are guaranteed equality under the constitution, legal protection has little effect in the face of prevailing patriarchal traditions. Women lack power to decide who they will marry, and are often married off as children. Legal loopholes are used to deny women inheritance rights. Unfortunately, it is the mindset that has been created over the time that in India, little boys are often told that they are stronger than girls. That sparks off a dominating attitude in them and stays with them throughout their entire lives.

India has a long history of activism for women's welfare and rights, which has increasingly focused on women's economic rights. A range of government programmes have been launched to increase economic opportunity for women, although there appear to be no existing programmes to address the cultural and traditional discrimination against women that leads to her abject conditions.

Vivekananda repeatedly told that India's downfall was largely due to her negligence of women. The great images of Brahmadinis like Maitreyi and Gargi of the Upanishad era, and women missionaries like Sanghamitra carrying Buddha's message to Syria and Macedonia, all were laying buried deep due to millennium of foreign domination.

Six decades have passed since Indians freed themselves from the clutch of foreign domination, but what has been done to improve the socio-cultural, socio-economic situation of

women at large.

Swami Vivekananda said, 'It is real difficult to understand why in this country [India] so much difference is made between men and women, whereas the Vedanta declares that one and the same conscious Self is present in all beings. You always criticize the women, but say what have you done for their uplift? Writing down Smritis etc., and binding them by hard rules, the men have turned the women into manufacturing machines! If you do not raise the women, who are living embodiment of the Divine Mother, don't think that you have any other way to rise.'

The leader and visionary of modern India emphatically said that the women must be educated, for he believed that it is the women who mould the next generation and hence the destiny of the country.



Swami Vivekananda, the leader and visionary of modern India emphatically said that the women must be educated, for he believed that it is the women who mould the next generation and hence the destiny of the country.

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NGI NEWSMAKERS

SURENDRA VARMA

Indian-American doctor appointed to key US medical board

A prominent Indian-American doctor has been appointed to a key body of medical professionals in Texas. Texas governor Rick Perry appointed Surendra Varma of Lubbock, Texas, and Robert Hootkins of Austin to the Texas Medical Board District Review Committees Three and Four. Committee members evaluate medical practice or professional competency and make recommendations on investigations conducted by the board. Varma is associate dean of Graduate Medical Education and Resident Affairs at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Centre (TTUHSC).

SRIKANTH SRINIVASAN

Indian-American Sri Srinivasan nominated by Obama to second highest court in US

US President Barack Obama nominated India-born legal luminary Srikanth Srinivasan to the Federal Court of Appeals, the highest ever judicial appointment of an Indian-American in the U.S and a powerful reminder of the extraordinary strides the community has made while deeply integrating into American society. "Sri" Srinivasan, as he is popularly known, was born in Chandigarh and grew up in Lawrence, Kansas, before receiving a BA, and later a JD and MBA from Stanford University. He clerked with Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and litigated with distinction before the US Supreme Court and the US courts of Appeals, both on behalf of the United States and in private practice, before President Obama appointed him U.S Principal Deputy Solicitor General (to replace another Indian-American Neal Katyal), a position he has held since August 2011.

**CHANNI SINGH**

Queen Elizabeth honours 'Bhangra godfather' Channi Singh

Channi Singh, who moved Punjab to England in 1975 and went on to be considered the "godfather of Bhangra" in the western world, has been honoured by Queen Elizabeth with an Order of the British Empire (OBE), one of the highest civilian awards. Channi Singh, whose full name is Harcharanjit Singh Rapal, was born in Salar village in Punjab, and studied in Malerkotla and Jalandhar. He is the founder, lead singer, producer, director of Alaap, a music group based in London. The Queen's Birthday Honours List 2012 released today says that he has been honoured for "services to Bhangra Music, Charity and to the community in Hounslow, West London".

**RENU KHATOR**

University of Houston President honoured for achievements

Indian American academic Renu Khator, the Chancellor and President of University of Houston, has won the Light of India Award that honours excellence and exemplary achievement of Indians living abroad. Khator, 56, was one of six global leaders nominated in the categories of excellence in education and academics. Eminent global leaders in their fields selected winners of the Jury awards, while the Popular Choice awards were determined by online vote totals. She was the only honorary to receive awards in both categories for which she was nominated the Jury Award and the Popular Choice Award among the 19 recipients honored.



Mritunjay Kumar profiles achievers from the NRI and PIO community

**BIKRAM MOHANTY**

Indian-American businessman Bikram Mohanty joins Georgia senate race

Indian-American entrepreneur Bikram Kumar Mohanty has been chosen as the candidate of President Barack Obama's Democratic Party for Georgia state's senate elections slated later this year. Migrating to the US in 1994 from Chandbali in Odisha, Mohanty, 45, is the founder and chief executive officer of Innovative Rehab Solutions - a health care company based in Georgia's Valdosta city. He has also served in Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce from 2002-2003 and as the licensure liaison to the Georgia State Board of Occupational Therapist. Mohanty set up the Mother Teresa Foundation, a non-profit organisation, to raise awareness about health care.





A tribute to Swami Vivekananda on his 150th birth Anniversary

GiBM 2012

GLOBAL INDIAN BUSINESS MEET

Impacting Business Worldwide

September 20-23, 2012, New York, USA

'As you have come into this world,
leave some mark behind'

The Global Indian Business Meet, 2012

An Initiative of the NGI Foundation

Date: September, 20-23, 2012,

Venue: Marriott Marquis,
Times Square, Manhattan, NYC

Theme: Doing Business in Challenging Times - the Indian Way.
Global Networking for Entrepreneurship and Inclusive Growth.

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS



A must attend business event for entrepreneurs, business leaders & investors to develop strategies in times of economic slowdown

What is GIBM

- The Global Indian Business Meet is the first ever global meet bringing together Indian origin CEOs and heads of businesses from around the world, leaders from various Indian, North American and other states & cities along with Entrepreneurs and Investors.
- Largest ever India-focused global business platform with participation of the Indian Diaspora from more than 25 countries in the centre of global business, New York City.
- A global platform for forward-thinking Indians living all over the globe, connecting them to generate resources, interactions, visibility, branding, networking, technology & knowledge share, business partnerships, new ideas and investment opportunities.

GIBM Mission

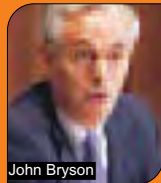
- Impacting global business, and thereby human development, by taking the best Indian run enterprises and the new resurgent India to the world, thus chartering new avenues for investment, partnership, entrepreneurship and building sustainable growth models.



Some of the dignitaries expected to grace the event



Pranab Mukherjee



John Bryson



Anand Sharma



Andrew Cuomo



Suruj Rambachan



Lord Meghnad Desai



Tarun Khanna



Vivek Wadhwa



Debashish Chatterjee



Rajiv Kumar



Ratan Tata



Narayan Murthy



Chanda Kochhar



Naveen Jindal



Muthu Raman



Gururaj Deshpande



Sam Pitroda



Ajit Manocha



Ajay Banga



Padmasree Warrior



Lakshmi Mittal



Ashok Rao



Gautam Thapar



Ashish Chauhan



Swadesh Chatterjee



GIBM 2012
GLOBAL INDIAN BUSINESS MEET
Impacting Business Worldwide
September 20-23, 2012, New York, USA



**10
REASONS
FOR YOU
TO BE A
PART OF
THIS
EVENT!**

- 1. Being part of a new vision.**

- 2. Sharing and being part of a global partnership platform.**

- 3. Networking with successful global Business & Technology Leaders, Politicians & Investors.**

- 4. Forming Strategic Alliances and Partnerships; Global Investment Opportunities - M&As /JVs etc.**

- 5. Platform to show-case products, services, new business and investment opportunities.**

- 6. Exploring new business ideas, models, strategies and ways to conduct business during an economic downturn.**

- 7. Understanding the best global practices in Trade, Research & Development and Consulting (applicable for SMEs).**

- 8. Exploring new opportunities in various Indian, North American, Caribbean countries, states and cities.**

- 9. Taking advantage of the phenomenal Indian Growth Story and the Opportunities ahead amid continuing global slowdown.**

- 10. Meeting peers from across the globe, present your leadership, share, learn and network.**



**A TRIBUTE
TO
SWAMI VIVEKANANDA
ON HIS 150th BIRTH
ANNIVERSARY.**

"Directly or indirectly he has powerfully influenced the India of today... builder of modern India."

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, First Prime Minister of India.

"..no better use can be made of asceticism, science and the good name of our common country; and I know not who could make a more fitting general of such a campaign than Vivekananda. Do you think you would care to apply yourself to the mission of galvanizing into life of our ancient traditions in this respect?"
Letter of Jamshedji N. Tata (Founder of Tata Group of Industries), 23rd November 1898.

Birth of Tata Industries and Indian Institute of Science followed after their meeting.

"Can Man control [the] grandest, most awe inspiring of all processes in nature?...If he could do this, he would have powers almost unlimited and supernatural... He could cause planes to collide and produce his suns and stars, his heat and light. He could originate and develop life in all its infinite forms...[Such powers] would place him beside his creator, make him fulfill his ultimate destiny."

A clarion call by scientist Nikola Tesla for the ultimate innovation to solve the challenges of humanity who was distinctly influenced by Vivekananda, whose countrymen gave the number system and much more to the world.

GIBM 2012 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Business Leaders' Summit

Entrepreneurs' Summit

Investors' Summit

India Business Summit

Partnership Summit

Thursday - September 20

- Private Dinner (by invitation only) with Dignitaries and Speakers.
- Entertainment: Indian Classical Music.

Friday - 21st September

Business Leaders' Summit

- Keynote Address by Indian Finance Minister, Shri. Pranab Mukherjee.
- Special Address by US Secretary of Commerce, Mr. John Bryson.
- Panels, discussions and interactions of top Business Leaders with the delegates.

India Business Summit Inauguration

- Panel of Chief Ministers/State Government Senior Representatives.
- Cocktails & Dinner followed by world class dance & entertainment!

Saturday - 22nd September

Entrepreneurs' Summit

- Inaugural Plenary Session:
Theme: Incubating a world of Entrepreneurship - A Summit on Entrepreneurial Excellence.
- Panels, Interactive Discussions and Hands-on learning sessions.
- Pitching Session: Entrepreneurs' presentation, highly rated business plans before Business leaders and Investors for support.
- Discussions with domain experts on practical subject matters among Entrepreneurs, Business Leaders, Bankers, Academics, Venture Capitalists & Financial Consultants.

Investors' Summit

- Investors' Summit Inaugural Plenary Session.
- Discussions/Panels.

India Business Summit

- Opportunities in various Indian states, regions and cities including select SEZs seeking investors.
- Partnership opportunities among various states and cities around the world.

Partnership Summit

Partnership opportunities among various states and cities around the world.

Networking Forums

- Business Tie-ups
- Financing Entrepreneurs
- Businesses and Business models of future
- Transfer of Technologies

Evening Program

- Cocktail & Dinner
- NGI Excellence Awards
- Entertainment: Bollywood/World Music Show

Sunday - 23rd September

- Entrepreneurs' Sessions
- State Sessions
- Networking Forums

Closing Session

- Entrepreneurship & Investment: Plenary Session

GLOBAL INDIAN BUSINESS MEET UNIQUENESS

Business Leaders' Summit

Fully dedicated day for the business leaders. First time for many global Indian origin business leaders to meet, discuss, support and network.

Entrepreneurs' Summit

For current and future Entrepreneurs - Inspiration, motivation, mentoring from successful leaders as well as supported by investors. Major networking opportunity.

Investors' Summit

Full one day exchange of notes and partnerships among Venture Capitalists, Angel investors and business leaders.

India Business Summit

First time in the US – multiple Indian state & private entities to interact with businesses, knowledge-experts and investors.

Partnership Summit

Another first time effort to connect with various state-city-region to state-city-region partnerships in all areas including business, technology and education.



VENUE & ACCOMODATION

Located in the heart of the Times Square and the Broadway theater district, Marriot Marquis at Manhattan, New York, is an ideal locale for weekend getaways and family and business events. Complete with well-appointed rooms and suites, high-speed elevators, famed Marriott service, creative catering and a variety of ballrooms, restaurants, and lounges, the one-stop address has several spin-offs: Fifth Avenue shopping, Radio City Music Hall, Rockefeller Center, NBC Studios and the Central Park. It is also close to other Big Apple touristy attractions like Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the UN and Madison Square Garden.

ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

New Global Indian Foundation
(NGIF - USA and India):

The NGI Foundation was established in 2010 to take up projects that impact societies by augmenting the empowerment of young minds. Center for Development and Policy Studies (CDPS) and NGI Entrepreneurship Development Project was launched in India in 2011 to identify, train, and support large number of potential young entrepreneurs. CDPS plans to work with various states in India in the areas of Environment, Water, Health, Education and many more. Similar projects are being planned by NGIF in other parts of the world.

GIBM 2012 is being organized by the New Global Indian Foundation in association with numerous Indian, American and other global organizations. Indian origin global business leaders, entrepreneurs, investors, and Indian governments (both the Centre and the states) along with many associations and groups are coming together for three days to offer the following:

- To Inspire and Strategize
- To Plan and Give Direction
- To Explore New Opportunities
- To Network and Support



ORGANISERS

CONVENERS:

Vijay Nahata, Chairman, Global Entrepreneur
Haimanti Banerjee, Chairperson, NGI Foundation, USA
Kanchan Banerjee, Chairman, New Global Indian, USA
Ujjwal K. Chowdhury, Managing Editor, NGI, India
K Sudhakar Murthy, Publisher, Middle East, NGI and Group CEO, Acore Group, UAE

GLOBAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

Deepak Choudhary, Project Head, India
Sai Ranganath, Media Advisor, Managing Director & CEO, Polestar Content and Media Pvt. Ltd.
Laurence Singer, Event manager and Legal Counsel, USA
Hema Mahase, Registration and Office manager, USA
Yasmin Chandra Singh, Coordinator, UK

RECEPTION COMMITTEE

Alkesh Patel, Chairman, Asian American Hotel Owners' Association (AAHOA)
Andy Shenoy, Indo-American Pro, NY
Ashook Ramsaran, Chairman, Global Organization for People of Indian Origin (GOPIO)
Lal Motwani, President, National Federation of Indian American Associations (NFIA)
Dr. Sunita Kanumury, President, American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI)
Susmita Shekhar, PHD Chamber Secretary General
Dr Dasarath Chetty, Executive Editor & Publishing Partner, South Africa

ADVISORS

Dr. Basant Tariyal, Former CTO and VP Operations, Lucent Technologies
Chandrakant Patel, Former Chairman, Asian American Hotel Owners' Association (AAHOA)
Debashish Chatterjee, IIM Kochi (Program)
Jitendra Kumar, Chair, FICCI-USA
Dr. Mahesh Mehta, Former Director R&D, Koch Membrane, MA
Narpat Bhandari, Global Indian International School
Pritwiraj Choudhary, Wharton (Program)



PARTNER ORGANISATIONS



FICCI - Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry is the largest and oldest apex business organisation in India established in 1927. Its history is closely interwoven with India's struggle for independence, its industrialization, and its emergence as one of the most rapidly growing global economies. FICCI has contributed to this historical process by encouraging debate, articulating the private sector's views and influencing policy.

A non-government, not-for-profit organisation, FICCI is the voice of India's business and industry. FICCI draws its membership from the corporate sector, both private and public, including SMEs and MNCs; FICCI enjoys an indirect membership of over 2,50,000 companies from various regional chambers of commerce.



The Asian American Hotel Owners Association "AAHOA" is THE voice of owners in the hospitality industry. Founded in 1989, AAHOA is now one of the fastest-growing organizations in the industry, with nearly 11,000 members owning more than 20,000 hotels that total \$128 billion in property value. AAHOA is dedicated to promoting and protecting the interests of its members by inspiring excellence through programs and initiatives in advocacy, industry leadership, professional development, member benefits, and community involvement.



AAPI (American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin) is a forum to facilitate and enable Indian American Physicians to excel in patient care, teaching and research and to pursue their aspirations in professional and community affairs.

Motto:

Unity of Purpose

Collegiality in Action

Commitment to Excellence and

Compassion towards Fellow-beings

Vision: Promote professional solidarity in the pursuit of excellence in patient care, teaching and research. Bring American medicine the distinctive contributions from India, and advance the American creed of one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.



The Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) welcomes you to GOPIO's international network of people of Indian origin (PIO). GOPIO was founded at the First Global Convention of People of Indian Origin in New York in 1989. The initial thrust of GOPIO was fighting human rights violation of people of Indian origin. Although this has been improved in the last one decade, human rights violations continue to be a major issue for PIOs living outside India. GOPIO has now set its priorities in pooling our resources, both financial and professional, for the benefit of PIOs, the countries they come from and India.





National Federation of Indian American Associations (NFIA), established in 1980, aims to unify the diverse Indian American community by coordinating and promoting the activities of its member associations. Highlight of its activities over the past many years. NFIA has been in the forefront of activities in US-India relations for over two decades, organizing Congressional lunches, White House briefings, lobbying on better US-India relationship and has prepared position papers on this relationship for US Congress and Senate. NFIA organized the first Conference on building economic bridges between US & India in New Delhi (2003) to bring about better relations between US-India.




PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, established in 1905, is a proactive and dynamic multi-State apex organisation working at the grass-root level and with strong national and international linkages. The Chamber acts as a catalyst in the promotion of industry, trade and entrepreneurship. PHD Chamber, through its research-based policy advocacy role, positively impacts the economic growth and development of the nation.


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 info@gibm2012.org
Website: www.gibm2012.org

 **Delhi :** First Floor, D1/4,
Aacharya Niketan, Mayur Vihar Phase - 1,
New Delhi 110091

 **Mumbai :** 1/68 Om Heera Panna Shopping
centre, Behind Oshiwara Police Station,
Off New Link Road, Oshiwara, Andheri West,
Mumbai, 400102.

 **USA:** 109, Gulliver Street,
Milton, MA 02186 USA

 **Middle East:** 307 B, Mina Building, Al Mina Road,
Bur Dubai, P.O Box 102604, Dubai, UAE.

A Forum For Foward Thinking Indians Globally

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India's Onus

NGI
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www.newglobalindian.com

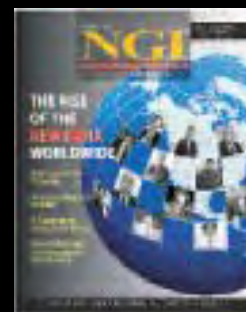
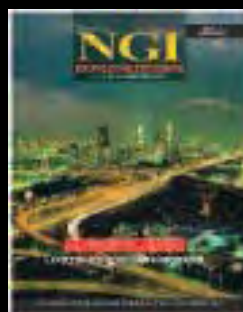


An Initiative of NGI Foundation
www.gibm2012.org

ngi foundation
www.ngifoundation.org



We invite you to be a part of this historic meet
and seek your support in the form of participation and sponsorships.





REGISTRATION FORM

Event Chart and Packages

	Sept 20 Dinner (Invitation Only)	Sept 21 Biz Leaders Summit (lunch included)	Sept 21 India Biz Summit Plenary	Sept 21 Reception & Dinner	Sept 21 Entertainment	Sept 22 Entrepreneurship Summit	Sept 22 Partnership Summit	Sept 22 Investment Summit	Sept 22 Lunch	Sept 22 NGI Awards & Entertainment	Sept 22 Reception & Dinner	Sept 23 All Sessions	Sept 23 Lunch
Platinum Package	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
Diamond Package		▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
Gold Package			▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
Silver Package						▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
Bronze						▪	▪	▪	▪			▪	▪
Business Leaders' Summit (CXO)		▪	▪	▪	▪								

Categories & Rates

1. India Regular ¹	Early	Regular	Late
Platinum Package	\$1,250	\$1,550	\$1,800
Diamond Package	\$900	\$1,000	\$1,200
Gold Package	\$500	\$650	\$600
Silver Package	\$350	\$450	\$750
Bronze	\$250	\$350	\$500
CXO	\$500	\$600	\$700
20 Sept Dinner only			
Single	\$400	\$550	\$750
Couple	\$600	\$825	\$1,125
2. Student / Young Entrepreneur ²			
Platinum Package	\$650	\$900	\$1,200
Diamond Package	\$500	\$650	\$800
Gold Package	\$400	\$500	\$650
Silver Package	\$300	\$400	\$550
Bronze	\$200	\$275	\$350
CXO	\$200	\$300	\$400
20 Sept Dinner only			
Single	\$150	\$250	\$400
Couple	\$225	\$375	\$600
3. Other Regular ³			
Platinum Package	\$1,500	\$1,700	\$2,000
Diamond Package	\$1,150	\$1,350	\$1,550
Gold Package	\$650	\$800	\$1,000
Silver Package	\$500	\$650	\$850
Bronze	\$400	\$500	\$600
CXO	\$700	\$900	\$1,100
20 Sept Dinner only			
Single	\$500	\$650	\$850
Couple	\$750	\$975	\$1,275
4. Other Student/ Young entrepreneur ⁴			
Platinum Package	\$900	\$1,200	\$1,500
Diamond Package	\$750	\$950	\$1,150
Gold Package	\$550	\$650	\$800
Silver Package	\$450	\$550	\$700
Bronze	\$300	\$375	\$450
CXO	\$250	\$350	\$450
20 Sept Dinner only			
Single	\$250	\$350	\$500
Couple	\$375	\$525	\$750

NOTE*

1. India Regular – Adult professionals from Indian Sub-Continent (India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka).

2. India Student or Young Entrepreneur – Anyone from the Indian subcontinent (India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka) who is a student or an entrepreneur under the age of 35. An official proof will be required during registration and entry at the event.

3. Other Regular – Adult professionals from outside the Indian subcontinent (India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka).

4. Other Student or Young Entrepreneur – Any fulltime student or entrepreneur from outside of Indian subcontinent under the age of 35. An official proof will be required during registration and entry at the event.

*Discount for Partner organization members is 25%. This is off of the price at the time of registration.

Marriot Marquis Hotel Room Rates (per night) if booked directly through NGI

Rates include all taxes	Early	Regular	Late
India Regular	\$350	\$450	\$550
India Students	\$300	\$350	\$450
Others Regular	\$400	\$600	\$800
Others Students	\$400	\$500	\$600

Registration Instruction:

The admission to the event is solely upon the discretion of the event organizers. Please read the rules and regulations on the event web-site (www.gibm2012.org).

If you are registering from India – you can send your registration in Indian Rupees.

Send your registration and payment to:

NAV GATIH INITIATIVES & MEDIA PVT LTD

A/c no-912020007844913 (Axis Bank)

Send completed form and payment to:

First Floor, D1/4, Next to Reliance Fresh, Aacharya Niketan, Mayur Vihar Phase - 1, New Delhi 110091

If you are registering from out-side of India payment has to be made in US Dollar (converted to the rate on the day of registration).

All payments will be made to New Global Indian Foundation and mailed to:

109 Gulliver Street

Milton, MA 02186

USA

Personal Registration Information:

All fields are required and if not filled registration may be rejected. (Please use capital letter only)

Name(First): _____ (Middle): _____

(Last): _____

Age : _____ Gender (M/F): _____

Profession: _____

Organization: _____

Designation: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (Country Code): _____ (Number): _____

Email: _____

Are you a member of a partner organisation? (Yes/No) _____ Name of the organisation: _____

Package Selection and Payment Details :

Package Number: _____ Cost: _____

Partner Organisation Member discount (25%): _____ (subtract)

Total Registration Cost: _____

Hotel: Number of Nights: _____ Cost: _____

Total Cost: _____

I agree statement

[] I've read the agreement and rules and regulations for attending this event on the web-site www.gibm2012.org and I fully agree with it.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Payment method: [] Bank Draft [] Personal Check [] Money Order [] Traveler's Check

Number: _____ Amount: _____

By: (Bank/Financial Institute): _____





OIFC

Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre



OIFC completes 5 years

- Over 9300 Overseas Indians received answer to their queries in the areas of returning to India, taxation, market entry, capital markets, real estate, FDI, FEMA etc
- Over 10,000 Overseas Indians & Indian companies have networked with each other through OIFC online business networking portal
- Registrations received from 170 countries
- Monthly e-Newsletter 'India Connect' has more than 28,000 subscribers
- About 6400 Overseas Indians engaged with India through OIFC activities
- 21 Diaspora Engagement Meets conducted in Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Europe, Middle East, North America and South East Asia

OIFC Facilitation Services



Query addressal of
Overseas Indians



End-to-end
facilitation services through
hand-holding investors



www.oifc.in



Diaspora Engagement
Meets and
Business Forums

For further details, please contact :

Ms. Debasmitta Roy Chakraborty

Overseas Indian facilitation Centre

C/o Confederation of Indian Industry

249 F, Sector 18, Udyog Vihar, Phase IV, Gurgaon -122 015, Haryana, INDIA

Tel: +91 124 4014060-67; Fax: +91 124 4309446; Email: debasmitta.chakraborty@cii.in

Website: www.oifc.in

The Light of India Awards- 2012 brings influential global Indians together



More than 300 selected people from cross section of communities like business, finance, and entertainment converged at the 2nd annual 'The Light of India Awards', an initiative conceptualised by Remit2India and presented by The Amrapali Group. The award ceremony, held on June 1 at the Taj Pierre Hotel, is a platform to honor the excellence and exemplary achievements of Indians living abroad. Winners were announced in the categories of business, corporate leadership, education, science & technology, arts & entertainment and literature.

"Remit2India The Light of India Awards is our humble initiative to acknowledge the contributions of the global Indian community in making India the emerging superpower," says Avijit Nanda, president of Times of Money. "These leading lights have lit the global skyline with their beams of brilliance."

Young artist receives the Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award

Ten-year-old Sana Nadkarni, of Andover, Massachusetts, has been chosen as Massachusetts' winner of the Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award from the National Association of Gifted Children. Nadkarni's artistic outlet of choice is painting.

Her paintings were featured last year as a solo exhibit at the Massachusetts State House in Boston.

She has had several other exhibitions at varied locations from town libraries to corporate buildings to colleges. Her paintings are also featured at a number of area hospitals, including a traveling exhibit at Children's Hospital in Boston. Her art has also been on display at libraries, hospitals and galleries.

Nadkarni has won a number of awards related to art including in the 2011



Massachusetts School Library Association Bookmark Contest, 2011 Junior Federal Duck Stamp Contest and PBS 2011 GO Writer's Contest and 2011 U.S. Arts Olympiad. The Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Awards is designed to recognize distinguished achievement in academics,

leadership, or the arts, in children. The National Association of Gifted Children believes that the Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Awards inspire children to achieve to their fullest potential, highlight high-ability students, and draw attention to the educational needs of our nation's gifted and talented students.

NRI

NEWSBIN

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

Tumhari Amrita - A Play On Emotions



Tumhari Amrita, an iconic play adapted by Javed Siddiqui from the AR Gurney play, Love Letters, and directed by acclaimed theatre director Feroz Abbas Khan, has been performed all over the world. 2012 sees the play mark its 20th anniversary and as a part of these celebrations, the original cast, Shabana Azmi and Farooque Shaikh performed this unique work at DUCTAC, Mall of the Emirates, Dubai.

The play adapts the original work for the Indian context. It tells the story of two friends, Amrita Nigam (Azmi) and Zulfikar Haider (Shaikh) in epistolary form. They exchange letters over a period of 35 years - displaying a bond that eventually turns into unrequited love. The actors have now become synonymous with their characters and were superb in the roles. The words explain why the two protagonists are not and cannot be together - their disparate personalities and upbringing playing a large part of the reason. It is an emotional story, and its eternal tale of love brings a sense of realism that draws audiences from all over the world. Tumhari Amrita played to packed audiences in Dubai and concluded with a standing ovation for those involved. So popular was the production that, organisers, Exquity Events, added a third show at the last minute.

British Indian civil servant chosen as president of European Bank for Reconstruction and Development



A British citizen of Indian origin Suma Chakrabarti was chosen out of a group of five candidates to become the new

president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

63 government shareholders of the bank chose Chakrabarti as the new head.

According to the Wall Street Journal, Chakrabarti is the top civil servant at the Ministry of Justice in UK and prior to that was a top official at the Department for International Development.

The outcome marked a rare setback for the French and German governments as they had backed Philippe de Fontaine Vive Curtaz, a French citizen who works at the European Investment Bank. The EBRD was established in 1991 to help countries emerging from Communism make the transition from centrally planned to market economies.

Gurinder Chadha to shoot next film on partition

Gurinder Chadha, who became the proud mother of twins in June 2007, has not only been busy tending to her babies but has also managed to throw in a weight loss of close to 25 kg. What's more, she is all set to begin shooting her next film on partition, in Delhi-Jodhpur in October this year.

The film revolves round Lord Mountbatten, and Colin Firth or Michael Fassbender are being considered for the role. The Bend it like Beckham director is keen on Saif Ali Khan as Jawaharlal Nehru, and has already spoken to Naseeruddin Shah, who is game to play Jinnah. The central character is Mountbatten. The movie is set in January 1947, when Mountbatten was asked to oversee India, and it ends in August 1947 so it's a brief time span. But it's a huge canvas requiring loads of research and scores of characters.

I've spoken to some people including Naseer and Saif. Nehru's role is a cameo.



Indian scientist re-elected to UN entity on ocean affairs

In a keenly contested election, eminent Indian scientist Sivaramakrishnan Rajan has been re-elected to an entity under the United Nations body focussed on oceans and law of the sea.

Rajan was India's candidate to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), which is tasked with facilitating implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

He will serve as member of the Commission for a five-year term from 2012-17. Rajan obtained 112 of the 161 valid votes cast in the first round at a meeting of the State Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

The election was keenly contested in the Asia-Pacific group with eight candidates in the fray for five seats. A member of the Commission

since June 2007, Rajan is presently working with Goa based National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research. He has extensive expertise in matters relating to marine geophysical surveys and has been deeply involved in the implementation of the programme on Delineation of Outer Limits of Continental Shelf.

A statement from India's mission to UN here said Rajan has taken keen interest in developing national and international collaborative programmes including in Polar Sciences and Integrated Ocean Drilling Programme (IODP).

He has to his credit several technical and professional papers which have been published in various journals, relating to marine geology, geophysics, geodynamics, geo-magnetics, oceanography and hydrography.

Creating green umbrella in Oman

The third edition of Oman Green Awards honoured outstanding environmental vision, endeavours and achievements of corporate and individuals. Oman Green Awards (OGA) 2012 has once again proved that creating a green economy is the need of the hour as environmental issues and economic development increasingly intersect and complement each other. Nineteen finalists, including two joint winners, won awards in nine different categories of OGA at a function held at Al Bustan Palace Ritz Carlton Hotel under the auspices of Mohammed Said Al Toobi, Minister of Environment and Climate Affairs.

NRI Sanjiv Mehta produces unique coins to honour Queen



An Indian-origin entrepreneur has produced for sale what is billed as the "most precious" creation to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth's reign, as Britons prepared to celebrate the milestone with unique events over the extended weekend.

Sanjiv Mehta, who acquired the iconic East India Company from 33 shareholders in 2005 and went on to re-launch the company as a luxury brand by investing 20 million pounds in 2010, has produced 60 limited edition gold and silver coins for sale at his store in Mayfair.

The 24-carat gold coin, weighing 1 kg, is priced at 1,25,000 pounds plus VAT (approx Rs 1.05 crore), while the silver coin, also weighing 1 kg, is priced at 25,000 pounds plus VAT (approx Rs 21.25 lakh).

The Diamond Jubilee marks 60 years of Queen Elizabeth's reign, and is billed as one of two major events of 2012 to showcase the best of Britain, the other being the Olympics.

PIOs Making a Difference In Rainbow Nation

Dasrath Chetty spells out the development challenge that confronts modern-day South Africa

Job creation is at the heart of the development challenge in South Africa. The official unemployment rate has hovered at around 25% for over a decade and the youth unemployment rate, for 15-25-year olds, is often quoted at 50%. There also seems to be a direct correlation between crime and unemployment rates when one considers the age groups of offenders. Heightened expectations post-1994 have pressurised the government to speed up the rate of delivery of services and to adopt a New Growth Path based largely on infrastructure development to foster economic growth capable of absorbing the unemployed into gainful employment. While democracy has spawned an outstanding Constitution, equality and dignity for all before the law, commitment to a human rights culture and the prospect of a bright future, without systematic redress of the poverty conundrum and corruption the country could become mired in civil strife as evident by sometimes violent community protests, xenophobic behaviour and a crisis of values

The challenges facing all South Africans relate to access to decent work, a good standard of education and training, ensuring personal safety and security and nation-building at large. This is true for Indian South Africans, who are an extremely diverse community in the country, as well. There are rich and poor, educated and uneducated, all religious persuasions, a sizeable middle class and allegiance to a variety of political parties among Indian South Africans. These challenges are exacerbated because the majority of the poor in South Africa are still African and live in rural areas, and in the government's sincere attempts to deal with this race and space dimension of poverty Indians increasingly believe that they are being marginalised. Equity producing policies, affirmative action appointments, quotas for university admission and insensitive statements by government spokesperson like Jimmy Manyi have contributed to a sense of marginalisation. So, how does the government ad-

dress varying levels of societal inequity without creating new forms of social exclusion?

In a number of ways and a number of spheres Indians are contributing to meeting the development challenges of the nation. When Rajen Pillay attempts to secure foreign investment in South Africa, when Paul Naidoo educates and trains artisans in rural communities, when Langa Dube and Siven Dorasamy strive to improve governance, when Malcolm Chetty tries to promote private sector involvement for greater efficiencies in the Port of Durban or when Ashok Sewnarain provides facilities for personal asset security they are all contributing to an essential development trajectory, which all find a pride of place in the first edition of NGI South Africa.

These brief profiles reflect on a new generation of businesspersons and social entrepreneurs who are geared up to make a contribution, are committed to South Africa, would call no other place home but at the same time are proud of their roots in the Indian sub-continent, are pleased to engage with India and Indians globally and in this era of global integration are boldly venturing across traditional borders and boundaries. So whilst Indianness is a source of pride, it was this same Indianness that under Apartheid became the excuse for separation and segregation making Indian South Africans less likely to embrace Indianness boldly. But in the era of multiple identities having national, ethnic, linguistic, geographic, cultural and ideological allegiances do not necessarily have to be contradictory.

South Africa is poised for growth and development. The terrain has been prepared through the Constitution, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Bill of Rights, the Human Rights Commission, the Gender Commission, the Land Claims Commission, the New Growth Path and the participation in BRICS amongst other institutional, policy and international initiatives. It is for all South Africans to take up the challenge.

The challenges facing all South Africans relate to access to decent work, a good standard of education and training, ensuring personal safety and security and nation-building generally. This is true for Indian South Africans as well.



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Madhya Pradesh

The Crowning Glory

Tushar Panchal enumerates the strengths of Madhya Pradesh and tells why corporate houses must invest in the state which is growing by leaps and bounds.

If you are looking to invest and grow your business in a place that offers unmatched business advantage, look no further than Madhya Pradesh. With Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 12%, Madhya Pradesh is the focus of immense growth and presents you with vast investment opportunities across all sectors. With its emphasis on all-round development, the state is the role model of inclusive growth in the country today.

Madhya Pradesh's strategic location has helped the state establish as a logistic hub of India that provides easy access to consumer markets across the length and breadth of the nation.

- Daily convenient flights to and from major cities such as New Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and Raipur
- Convenient access to all major ports such as JNPT, Kandala etc.
- 4,885 km of national highways and 10,249 of state highways connecting every major cities and tourist destinations
- 425 trains pass through MP daily with 220 trains passing through state capital Bhopal

With impressive agricultural growth of around 18% and industrial development record, proactive and transparent administration, Madhya Pradesh is truly the growth centre of India. The primary, secondary and tertiary sectors registered high growth rates of 8.75%, 11.11% and 10.08% respectively at current prices during the period 2007-12. Madhya Pradesh has created a new history by creating a white revolution in the state by purchasing milk from more than 2 lakh milk producers. The growth in the dairy segment is impressive 22.5% with more than 6000 milk cooperatives collecting milk in the year 2012.

Bhopal, the state capital, is an established engineering cluster with over 800 units the region is becoming a favorite destination for auto and engineering giants. With uninterrupted power supply to industries, dedicated water reservoirs for industrial use, availability of skilled man-

power and robust socio-economic infrastructure, Madhya Pradesh offers a complete package for versatile business growth.

MOUs worth Rs 7369 billion (US\$ 148 billion) were signed across various sectors during previous global investors' summit of which 158 projects with investments of Rs 3286 billion (US\$ 66 billion) are already under various stages of development in the state. Development of Delhi – Mumbai Industrial Corridor would accelerate the growth in coming years. Early bird projects coming up along the route of DMIC in the field of education, food, warehousing, cement, power, agriculture and logistics will help the state reach new peaks and horizons. The proactive state government has well established framework and business friendly policies that are attractive to investors.

Focus Sectors

- Engineering and Automobile
- Agribusiness and Food Processing
- Tourism
- Textiles and Apparels
- Pharmaceuticals and Biotechnology
- IT/ITeS
- Non Conventional/Renewable Energy
- Mines and Minerals
- Infrastructure Development
- Warehousing and Logistics

Financial capital of the state, Indore is hosting the global investors' summit from October 28-30, 2012 that will provide an ideal platform for investors, policy makers and other important stakeholders to converge about the future of industrialization in the state.

In the month of June, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan and Industry Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya led a delegation to Japan, Korea and Singapore to invite businessmen and other thought leaders to participate in the global summit. Two other high-level delegations would visit United States, United Kingdom and Middle Eastern countries in the month of July and August. A tentative schedule could be obtained from www.investmp.com.



Chief Minister Madhya Pradesh, Shivraj Chauhan

In the month of June, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan and Industry Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya led a delegation to Japan, Korea and Singapore to invite businessmen and other thought leaders to participate in the global summit. Two other high-level delegations would visit United States, United Kingdom and Middle Eastern countries in the month of July and August.

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Not Quite Third World

Ujjwal K Chowdhury reports on his South African sojourn; and how he comes back impressed from a country that used to hit the headlines for its gross racial overtones till the late 1980s

The flight lands at Johannesburg, immigration over and done with, and I find a car from The New Age waiting for me outside. As I drive past the city, I am impressed. It resembles any European city, thanks to its quality infrastructure, enough of greenery, spaced out construction, wide roads bereft of any potholes, and, noticeably, not too densely populated. It's quite a discernible change from the overcrowded Indian cities.

However, travelling past slum-areas of Alexandra and middle class congested areas of Soweto and Tembisia, the impressions do change a lot. And, the rich-poor divide is glaring. The crime rate, alcoholism, congestion and poor civic amenities in black-inhabited Alexandra put Dharavi to shame.

Yes, RDP housing scheme of cheap government houses for the working class has been a commendable effort with uniform looking single storey houses lined up on the outskirts of Johannesburg.

There are 11 languages in South Africa with different scripts. Whites speak English and Afrikaans, while the blacks speak Zulu mainly and Koza as well. English and Afrikaans are the medium of education and the man on the street is quite conversant in English.

The fifty-one million population of SA is less than that of Maharashtra, with a size more than half of India, and hence the population density is thankfully low. But not the tele-density of urban South Africa, which has four prominent telecom companies ruling the

roost there: Vodacom, MTN, Celsie and 8ta.

The wealthy Sandton region in Johannesburg, the smart air-conditioned local train Gautrain Railways, the pristine beauty on both sides of Johannesburg -Pretoria road and rail, the youth, cuisine and ambience of the central Nelson Mandela Square in Johannesburg: all give the image of an ambitious modern global city on the move.

"Our force, our pride," the motto of SA Army, which stands for distinct, respected, and aloof from politics, is quite akin to the Indian Army.

The Indian impact is quite evident (most in Durban though). With Mac Maharaj as a key adviser to the South African President Jacob Zuma, India-SA Cricket craze and Bollywood concerts, Sahara stadiums in Durban and Cape Town, large number of doctors and teachers of Indian origin across the nation: the less than 2 million Indians are making a mark larger than their size.

Driving around greater Durban is a treat to the eyes. The water of the sea is calm and blue, the port is bustling with activity but clean, town is busy yet organized, and the International Convention Centre can put the best Western centres to shame.

Further, the food in the home of friends like Anith Maharaj and his erudite wife seems to be from any North Indian vegetarian home, the warmth of philanthropic Indian industrialists like Ranjith Ramnarain is so ennobling, the sight of Ramkrishna Mission led by my childhood school Principal

Swami Vimokshananda is so majestic, Phoenix, where the Mahatma lived and worked as Mohandas Gandhi, the quest of ancestors of the last 150 years as seen in the Roonarain family, the community journalism experiment so successfully implemented by Vijay Maharaj, the office and hospitality of Rita Abraham, et al, make one see another face of global India, distant from homeland India, but integrated well into the SA society.

SA is in transition, no doubt. From an apartheid era to a multi-ethnic democracy. From feudal economy to a free market one. From restricted education-health-employment regime to an accessible amenities regime. The strengths of Apartheid era: good infra-structure (ports, roads, airports, and power) and good urban planning are now coming to the fore in post-apartheid times as well.

However, SA beyond Johannesburg -Pretoria, Cape Town and Durban, needs focus. The other and backward provinces need holistic growth plans focusing on civic amenities, infra-structure, human resources quality and social harmony in a big way. Urban South Africa is a model for most of Asia and Africa, but rural SA has a long way to go.

The dance-music-food loving South Africa trip has to end with the best of cuisine there. And, for me, it was khushkhush, Tunisian prawns, and Amarola: the African drink and the delicacy of the African elephants.



THE INCREDIBLE WILDLIFE OF ODISHA

The author, **Biswajit Mohanty**, is based in Cuttack and is a member of the National Board for Wildlife. He shares his adventurous wildlife moments of Odisha

Odisha is a paradise for wildlife! The Olive Ridley sea turtles who arrive every year to breed on the Odisha coast have put the state on the international wildlife map. Many of my wildlife friends envy me for belonging to Odisha which is the only state in the country and the second place in the world where this unique event occurs. Turtle lovers throughout the world eagerly await this wonderful natural event when thousands of turtles congregate in the Odisha coast from October onwards. The best known site is Gahirmatha marine Sanctuary. Devi river mouth and Rushikulya river mouth are the two other spots where mass nesting takes place. The sea turtles are Odisha's unique natural heritage and we are proud that nature has bestowed this privilege on us.

Mass nesting is one of nature's rare events and I have been lucky to see this many times. Words fail to describe the wonderful sight of thousands of turtles heaving themselves up on the silvery beach to dig pits in the soft sand to lay their eggs. Like some self-programmed toys, they follow one after the other and soon the entire beach is full of turtles without even space for putting your foot.

The next event is the hatching of the baby turtles which is a synchronized happening as thousands of nests hatch approximately during a period of 3- 4 days. Every evening, the little ones clamber outside the nest and race towards the sea. They have to go fast since hungry predators lurk to devour them if they expose themselves too much.

Ranjeet Pattnaik, an avid wildlife lover, who unfailingly visits the nesting beach every year says, "It is intriguing how they make a beeline

for their water world without mother turtle to lead them."

However, all is not well with the Ridelys of Odisha. Thousands die every year due to illegal fishing by trawlers in prohibited turtle congregation zones. The breeding adult population is dying and if this is not checked there will be a sudden population crash after 5-7 years. Olive Ridelys have an extremely poor survival rate since only 1 out of every 1,000 eggs laid hatches and grows up into an adult turtle and therefore protection of the breeding population is critical. Operation KACHHAPA, a turtle conservation program which is run by the author attempts to control this large scale mortality by a wide variety of measures which are now yielding results. But much more remains to be done before we can relax.

However, let us not forget that the state is also home to many other species of wildlife thanks to the wide diversity of natural habitats which the state possesses. To protect this invaluable wildlife wealth, the state government has declared several Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks.

The world famous Bhitarkanika mangroves forests are home to some of the world's largest crocodiles. The salt water crocodiles are found here in large numbers. Beware of the salties! During nesting they can be quite nasty. The cold season is the best time to sight them. Take a country boat and enter the narrow creeks of Bhitarkanika and you will find these lovable giants lounging on the mud banks basking in the winter sun. We have the record of largest crocodile in the world having lived in Bhitarkanika which was shot by the

king of Kanika.

Chilika lake is Asia's largest brackish water lake with a water spread of approximately 900 sq. kms. Bird watching is an unforgettable experience which no one should miss. Just hire a boat and sail to Nalabana, the bird paradise which will transport you to another world. The only sound reflected over the tranquil waters of the lake is the joyful twitter of waterfowl as they bask in the pale morning sun. You shall be bedazzled by their myriad colours as they dive and feed in the lake waters. Chilika hosts nearly a million migratory waterfowl every year. They belong to nearly 240 species.

However, the lake is also world famous for another rare creature, the Irrawady dolphins. Irrawady dolphins are small dolphins which are found in river mouth and near shore sea waters. These dolphins stay in small family groups and love to gambol in the lake waters. They are quite friendly and sometimes come close to the boats. It is a wonderful sight to see the watchful mother closely guarding her calf and teaching her how to catch the lake fish. Songkhla lake in Thailand is the only other place in the world which has a lake population of dolphins.

No wonder, many foreign cetacean researchers and lovers are attracted to this lake. However, the rampant growth of dolphin tourism, use of new types of fishing nets, proliferation of shrimp farms is now threatening this population.

As you travel inland in the forested hills and valleys you will encounter a wide variety of forest animals like elephants, tigers, leopards, sambhar, deer, etc.

The best place to see tigers is Satkosia. This sanctuary has been recently declared as a tiger reserve and the central government has stepped in to provide more funds for better protection of tigers. Satkosia has a good elephant population and is part of a bigger forest area stretching from Badamba- Narsinghpur to Rairakhol forests . This huge area of more than 5,000 sq.kms. enables the wildlife to migrate and spill over thereby providing them a big natural habitat for feeding and breeding.

The river Mahanadi courses through the deep Satkosia Gorge. Never miss a boat ride in the Mahanadi. It is a mind boggling experience floating down this 22 kms stretch of Mahandi from Binka to Kamaladiha! The steep hill slopes dip into the river on both sides and you are shadowed by the high hills as you sail down the tranquil waters of Mahandi. Both species of crocodiles i.e., the gharial and the mugger are sighted here. You can also sight river turtles basking on the rocks on the banks of the river.

Simlipal Tiger Reserve is spread over 2,750 sq.kms in the district of Mayurbhanj. It has wonderful rest houses dating from the Maharaja's time dotting the wide expanse of the park. Simlipal is a water rich area and you will be amazed by the huge number of streams which flow perennially in this area. There are wonderful waterfalls at Joranda and Barheipani. Simlipal is a treasure house of or-



chids and more than 90 varieties have been listed here. You will find a profusion of orchids flowering during spring and early summer. Their attractively coloured flowers look like precious jewels stuck high on the tree branches.

Dr. S.K. Dutta, Professor of Zoology at North Odisha University says, "There is the need for more field surveys in Simlipal since we have yet to completely document its rich reptile and amphibian fauna." Dr. Dutta is credited with the discovery of several new species of frogs in the state during his extensive surveys since the last two decades.

Elephants are in abundance in this park. You will find herds of chital and sambhar grazing in the meadows when you drive through the Park. The place is also a paradise for bird watchers since you find many forest species like crested tree swift, red spur fowl, black shouldered kite, crested serpent eagle, brown fish owl, hill myna. In fact, the place is famous for hill myna and once upon a time, the forest department used to run a thriving business, catching the chicks from the tall sal trees and rearing them at Jashipur. They used to be exported in large numbers to foreign countries where a huge demand existed since the hill myna is a talking bird and can closely mimic human voice.

I must warn would be visitors to Simlipal that do not expect the tiger to lurk around every corner you drive through. Though the Park is well known for its tigers, their numbers have fallen drastically during the last decade and latest census by the Govt. of India reveals a population of around 20. It is difficult to spot tigers unless you spend a considerable amount of time in the Park.

Another wonderful place to visit in Odisha is Barbara forests near Balugaon. This place is about 150 kms away from Bhubaneswar and is protected by the CRPF since there are valuable teak trees which are more than 70-80 years old. It has a wonderful population of bison and sambhar which you can see when you drive to Mahisagoth or Rajin. Birds like Indian pied hornbill, yellow billed blue magpie, fantail flycatchers are also found here.

The blue green waters of Mahanadi river are a wonderful habitat for fresh water turtles which have disappeared from most rivers in India due to large scale poaching. You can see Chitra Indica, Gangeticus, Hurum species in this river. Some of the fresh water turtles can grow upto 70 kgs. Due to efforts of local communities, poaching is now controlled to a large extent and in fact at some locations the turtle population have recovered leading to an unwanted consequence! Turtles have started damaging the fishing nets and fishermen are now clamouring for compensation!

Odisha's incredible wildlife wealth needs to be preserved for the future so that our children shall be true inheritors of this state's natural heritage. We should keep a careful and close watch on the state of our wildlife sanctuaries to ensure that its wildlife is safe and well protected.

Deepak N. Lalwani OBE, FCSI, FCCA: Director - India E: dl@lalcap.com

29 June 2012



Source: chart & following table: Bloomberg

		Pts Chg	% Chg	2012/13	5 Yr	5 Yr	5 Yr
CLOSE: 29 June 2012	Index	Day	YTD	PER	PER Hi	PER Lo	Avg
SENSEX 30	17,429	+439	+ 10.0%	14.0x	25.0x	8.1x	18.7x
NIFTY 50	5,279	+130	+ 11.4%	13.5x	N/A	N/A	17.2x

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INR ₹ /EUR Rs70.85

The SENSEX closed 2.6% higher as optimism in Europe (even if it may be short-lived there) boosted sentiment. Hope that Dr Singh will kick start reforms brought back buyers. The 3% rise in the Rupee aided sentiment as well. The mood has turned positive for now.

LONDON / NEW YORK

GDRs/ADRs closed higher across the board. Tata Motors is + 27% and L&T +23% YTD. The mood has turned more positive.

ECONOMIC NEWS

- ⇒ Mr Pranab Mukherjee stepped down on June 26 as Finance Minister to run in the Presidential elections. His appointment in mid-July is a virtual certainty. Mr Mukherjee, a veteran politician and loyal Congress supporter, also served as Finance Minister in 1982-85. He was then boss to the current Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh who was the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India at that time.
- ⇒ Dr Manmohan Singh, in addition to being Prime Minister now will also act as Finance Minister until about September. There is optimism that Dr Singh may take more practical steps to lead India out of a difficult economic situation. He is largely credited with ushering in the economic reforms of 1991 which set an upward economic path in India for the last 20 years. However, great challenges face him this time around. He will be 80 in September and has had a multiple coronary bypass operation in 2009. He heads a fragile Government with fractious Coalition partners that have stalled the economic reforms process. He takes charge of the economy when it has slid to its slowest pace in nine years, and the Rupee has touched an all time low against major currencies. The ballooned fiscal and current deficits and mis-steps on the tax front have hit foreign investor sentiment. The challenges for Dr Singh are great. But if he is able to take quick positive steps to boost investor (domestic and foreign) sentiment then optimism could fast replace the current pessimism and boost markets.
- ⇒ The Indian Rupee posted its biggest daily gain in three years of 3.1% on Friday after the Government confirmed it will not impose retroactive taxes on foreign investors. Also boosting sentiment was news from Europe of a single supervisory body being set up to move towards a Euro zone banking union. The rally in the Indian Rupee to Rs 55.50 vs the US\$ came as a great relief after the near 25% depreciation in the last year.
- ⇒ The first half of 2012 had a mixed bag of winning investments among different asset classes. The two quarters making up the half year have seen very different results. The first quarter's rally in risky assets was driven by massive bank liquidity injections by the ECB. However, increasing worries on Euro debt problems and a slowing global economy eroded gains in the second quarter of 2012.
- ⇒ In H1 2012 the big winner in Government bonds was Portugal which in Euro terms gained 30%, after being battered last year. High yield (junk) corporate bonds and USD emerging market corporate bonds gained about 7% each. Oil, commodities, Greek and Spanish bonds did badly. In emerging market equities Egypt stormed ahead with a gain of 30%. Stocks in Turkey and Philippines gained more than 20% in dollar terms. India managed a gain of 10% in local terms. Brazil, Russia, Indonesia and Morocco were all down.
- ⇒ Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) to March 2012 showed an increase of 88% at \$36.5 bn compared to \$ 19.4 bn last year. The fiscal year ends in March each year. FDI into India can be made under one of two routes. The automatic route (not needing Government clearance) or the approved route through the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) which provides Government clearance. Most sectors are now under the automatic route. FIPB clearance is required in some sectors - mainly of national security or in politically sensitive area - atomic energy, defence, media, aviation, trade, telecoms, trade and multi brand retail. What is interesting is that with many sectors opening up over the years the share of FIPB approvals to total FDI has steadily gone down. For example, in the latest period only 9% of total FDI required Government clearance. This is the lowest in 5 years and reflects the growing openness of sectors to foreigners. But their disappointment is at the speed and that key sectors like retail and financial sector are not fully open.
- ⇒ Page 2 of our report shows latest FDI statistics on top 10 foreign investors and top 10 sectors.
- ⇒ India's large consumer market continues to attract long term investors, despite current negative sentiment. Coca Cola is to invest another \$ 3bn, on top of \$ 2bn announced last November, over the next 8 years. Coca Cola returned to India in 1993 after pulling out in 1977 when a Government ruling would have forced it to share its secret formula. Swedish retailer IKEA, the world's largest furniture maker, is to invest 1.5 bn Euros to open 25 stores in India where it currently has none. It sourced \$450m worth of goods last year from India.

**EQUITY FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI) INTO INDIA : TOP 10 COUNTRIES**

source: DIPP, Govt. of India In US\$ million

Rank	Country	2009-10 (April-March)	2010-11 (April-March)	2011-12 (April - March)	CUMULATIVE INFLOWS (Apr 2000-Mar 2012)	%age to total inflows
1.	MAURITIUS	10,376	6,987	9,942	64,169	38 %
2.	SINGAPORE	2,379	1,705	5,257	17,153	10 %
3.	U.K.	657	755	9,257	15,896	9 %
4.	JAPAN	1,183	1,562	2,972	12,313	7%
5.	U.S.A.	1,943	1,170	1,115	10,564	6%
6.	NETHERLANDS	899	1,213	1,409	7,109	4 %
7.	CYPRUS	1,627	913	1,587	6,400	4 %
8.	GERMANY	626	200	1,622	4,621	3 %
9.	FRANCE	303	734	663	2,927	2 %
10.	U.A.E.	629	341	353	2,243	1 %
	TOTAL FDI INFLOWS	25,834	19,427	36,504	170,407	

- Mauritius leads by a wide margin because many countries route their investments via this island because of their favourable tax treaty with India;
- The top 10 countries above account for nearly 75% of FDI into India since 2000;
- After a slow start through the 1990s (up to \$5 bn per annum) FDI has accelerated in the last 5 years. The last 3 years account for about 50% of \$ 170 bn invested since 2000;
- The cumulative figure of \$ 170 bn since 2000 is still small compared to what China attracts - \$115 bn FDI in 2011 alone.

TOP 10 SECTORS ATTRACTING HIGHEST FDI EQUITY INFLOWS: US\$ in million

Rank	Sector	2009-10 (April-March)	2010-11 (April-March)	2011-12 (April-March)	Cumulative Inflows (April '00 - March 12)	% age to total Inflows (last decade)
1.	SERVICES SECTOR (financial & non-financial)	4,176	3,296	5,216	32,351	19 %
2.	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	2,539	1,665	1,997	12,552	7 %
3.	CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES (including roads & highways)	2,852	1,103	2,796	11,433	7 %
4.	COMPUTER HARDWARE & SOFTWARE	872	780	796	11,205	7 %
5.	HOUSING & REAL ESTATE	2,935	1,227	731	11,113	7 %
6.	CHEMICALS	366	398	7,252	9,844	6%
7.	DRUGS & PHARMACEUTICALS	213	209	3,232	9,195	5 %
8.	POWER	1,272	1,272	1,652	7,299	4 %
9.	AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRIES	1,236	1,299	923	6,758	4%
10.	METALLURGICAL INDUSTRIES	420	1,098	1,786	6,041	4%

source: DIPP, Govt. of India

Udi Baba Aami Bangali!

There are many traits of the Bengali Bhadrak. Many of these have stood the test of time. **Shreyanka Basu** attempts to explain the inter connectedness of some of these traits and their relevance in contemporary Bengali society

Interested not only in the world around me but also in matters around the world:

A naturally curious individual the Bhadrak is equally passionate and eloquent about a Mohan Bagan East Bengal match as he is of the Russian Presidential Election. This thirst for knowledge as an end in itself is unique to Bengalis in a world where knowledge is increasingly used as a vocational currency. It is this infinite interest in seemingly random things that contribute to create the 'hujuge' Bengali paradigm. The word hujuge is difficult to translate. A close approximation would be "willing to go on a wild goose chase voluntarily and finding a sense of adventure in the same". Bengali family discussions are often peppered with incidents about an uncle who travelled the entire length and breadth of the city on foot or of cousins who ate 30 rasagullas as proof of their hujuge inclinations.

Charchais a lifelong habit: Be it music, dance, drama, debate, carom, Trigonometry the idea of continuous practice or charcha is very important to the Bengali. Most parts of Bengali life is characterized by a habit nurtured with care over time. Learning is seen as a lifelong process and integrity of process has greater relevance than actual output in this culture. As a result Bengalis often embody apprenticeship as a way of life far more than they embody expertise even when they actually may know a lot more than other people around them. This leads to some dichotomies in the culture. On one hand it tells us about the importance of rigour in the Bengali culture but in the absence of clear output maps the efficacy of the rigour often does not get fully leveraged in this cultural milieu. That is why Bengalis are often seen as people who do not fully leverage all their talents or are not as successful in monetizing their talents.

An apprentice for life: The apprenticeship mindset over time becomes a natural empathy generator for the underdog. From being on Sourav's side on his chances of making it back to the IPL cricket team to Mamata Banerjee's chances of defeating the Left there is a natural affinity that binds the Bengali to the underdog in any situation. The underdog empathy wave often also envelops the need to champion causes of the marginal. And thus even an issue like the Maoists becomes a more complex issue of social affiliation in the Bengali context.

However once the underdog vacates the position the realignment of the relationship be-



The Bengal government welcomed IPL 5 winners, team KKR and their co-owners, Shahrukh Khan and Juhi Chawla.

comes tricky. So now that Mamata Banerjee is in power the Bengalis are grappling to find the right response to her government. She cannot be praised as she is no longer the underdog! Given that there is almost no other precedent in this case the Bengalis risk falling prey to 'parocharchaparoninda' trap and pulling down Mamata Banerjee from the very pedestal that they have created for her in the first place.

Mamata Banerjee herself is struggling to behave like a Head of Government given her grass root orientation and underdog mindset. A classic example of this was seen in the way she organized the ceremony to celebrate the Kolkata Knight Riders IPL victory. She ensured that the public had free entry to Eden Garden for the day and the entire State machinery was put into service to ensure a glitch free state funded celebration meant for all. While the intent of this was noble enough she went one step ahead and also became the hands on organizer on the field which was contrary to the public demeanor required of the Chair she holds.

Protest is my birthright and I shall do it: The Left too seized the situation and played their underdog card about wastage of public money for a commercial sports function. Not only will the Bhadrak's sympathies lie with the underdog but he will also hold on to his belief that the 'System' is always trying to fleece the underdog and hence there must be a continuous voice of protest. The continuous need to protest and reason with another viewpoint is what makes Bengalis naturally good at 'debating an issue'. However unlike other debates a Bengalis idea of debating maybe just about ex-

ploring the pros and cons and not reaching a conclusion. This can at times prove frustrating to bewildered Non Bengalis who debate to reach consensus and conclusion as opposed to expand worldviews.

The need to debate any issue at length is also indicative of a democratic and progressive mindset that may on one hand fiercely guard its own stances on issues but also allow others to do so. An adda session thus becomes an everyday window to do charcha on all the things I am interested in. Given that per se the Bhadrak is a rasil manush (one with a zest for life) the fodder for the charcha never dries up.

Old is gold: Be it music, literature, movies yesterday is always better than today - Nostalgia in the Bengali context is not just about reminiscence of the past but also about a deep sense of gratitude and rootedness to the idea of 'mati', land in its literal sense and the original form in its metaphorical sense. The reverence for old must also be seen in light of the veneration of processes as opposed to output. The general belief is that for anything to come into shape it takes a lot of thought, time and practice and hence to discard it would be an expression of frivolity. Thus often we find cues of continuous change in the Bengali culture. So a college fest begins with a Saraswati Vandana and ends with a rock night or in case of a typical Bengali marriage ceremony we find new additions such as the mehendi night but not at the cost of the old rituals which also continue to exist side by side with the new.

It is said that the more things change the more they remain the same. In case of Bengalis this is more than true!



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The state is all about colour and cultural exuberance and Bengali film industry getting it as grand as they can get. Dhurbajyoti Chowdhuri has all eyes for it

NEW-AGE FILMS

It has been a period of all time high for the Bengali film industry. From the popular norm that people have absolutely stopped going to the theatres to watch a film, houseful Bengali screenings have become order of the day, thanks to a bunch of fresh faces in direction. New directors, smart scripts, soul stirring music have added value to the Tollywood fraternity. For once, it seems that the good old days of Bengali cinema are back with a bang. When Srijit roped in a spectacled techie for the music of his *Autograph*, little did he realize that *Amake amar moto thake dao* will become a rage, and present us with an overwhelmingly welcome Anupam with his trippy numbers. If *Autograph* was a runaway hit, so was *22she Srabon*. The plots were urban, the audience lapped it up, and the music was just too good to be only on youtube. Says Srijit, believed to be largely responsible for the sea change in Bengali films, "We are riding a wave of optimism. There's a gang of young technicians and artists who have an independent voice. It's a group effort which has been largely successful. Luckily, lot of fresh talent has come together at the same time. We have created a demand for good movies and hammered it into the system." And the new thinking goes way behind the audience of the suburbs and villages and caters to the hip facebook crowd as well. "The lines between commercial and art house cinemas are being blurred right now. Its just good cinema that we are trying to make and because of fresh scripts, its working wonders," adds Srijit.

Director Shiboprosad feels that the audience is always up for good content. "All the films now are content driven. Its not about big starts anymore, the real star is the story. People can relate to the stories that we are telling. There was a temporary lull in the scenario and people had stopped going to the halls. Remakes and copies were the order of the day. My film *Ache*, was based on Susitna Bhattacharya's novel and it was the story of a Bengali middle class mother and son. This feel was important for the audience," he says. Shiboprosad is confident that this momentum will now stay. "People have become more courageous and more good work will be done. Producers were only interested in the casting, songs, fight sequences, but that has changed now. My film had opened to empty halls, then it ran for 25 weeks, so business is good as well. Such moments have come after a long time,"

he adds. Directors are being bold experimenting like never before. Take the example of Q. Would anyone have believed that a film will happen with a name like *Gandu*? Apart from bold scenes and a totally different take on society, Q proved to be different in more ways than one. He never released the film in the conventional way. It went viral on the net. And the rest? As they say history. Q has bagged numerous foreign awards for *Gandu* and won accolades for his directorial work.

PRODUCERSPEAK

Bengali films have developed in leaps and bounds feel the producers who are fuelling the new age filmmakers. There is good publicity, people are going back to the halls, distributors are happy and well, and that makes the producers happy too. "If you invest between 35 lakhs to 1 crore, rest assured that your money is going to come back. Some of the producers are starting a new venture within six months of finishing one project. They wouldn't

have done that unless profits were coming in. However, we must keep in mind that 100%

profit is not possible in any business," feels Joydeep, whose *Honey-moon* is now undergoing post production work. He feels new directors are helping a lot. "This young breed of directors is coming up with amazing stories. The audience is just loving it. Budgets options are there and new directors are getting work too. Under the new government the exposure of cinema has increased. Outdoor shooting has become much more hassle free," he adds. One producer, who didn't want to be named went as far as to say, "Intermittent trouble with the technicians are also thankfully over. The government had some role to play for sure. Some like Sailen De,



A still from *Autograph*

FILMS THAT MADE A DIFFERENCE

1. AUTOGRAPH
2. 22SHE SRABON
3. HEMLOCK SOCIETY
4. BEDROOM
5. RANJANA AMI ARE ASHBONA
6. BHOOTER BHOBISHYOT
7. GANDU



Poster of film *'Bedroom'*



Poster of film *'22she Srabon'*

feel that films like Bedroom will not do well in the villages. "These films are typically based on urban subjects. Such non narrative style will not work at the villages. You will still need your fair share of Paglu and Bickram Singha to stay in the business. The market is better now and small budget films are doing wonders. Only 30 % shoot is happening outdoors and more than 60 % happening indoors for these movies which is cutting the cost down. And let's not forget that this government is also very pro towards a cultural boost up. Who had thought that the chief minister will actually watch a film with Dev?" says Sainen. And he is right in more ways than one. From Shotru, Paglu to Bickram Singha, films by Dev, Jeet and ofcourse Prosenjit have held the industry together.

ON AIR

Radio has played an important role too. From strategic tie ups to film promotion, FM stations have gone all out to woo the crowd, towards the theatre. "We have tied up with various movies like Bedroom, Elar char adhyay, Jani dekha hobe etc. we have promoted the songs by putting them on high rotate, arranged meet and greet sessions with the stars for our listeners which have been hugely successful. New producers have come in the FM scenario with fresh ideas. They have cashed in on the fact that Fm is everywhere. Be it a car radio, or mobile phone we are reaching out to 40,000 people within a minute. So films are spending anything between 50,000 to 5 lakhs and spots are running in FM stations. This is one of the best periods of FM radio as well. With new shows and newer marketing strategies we are making the most of it," says Shaoni Chowdhury, a producer with a private radio channel.

MUSIC TO THE EARS

Adding up to the frenzy is a host of new singers, music directors, composers et al. Be it Anupam's Amake amar moto thakte dao, or Gabu's fresh new take on music the audience loving it all. Perhaps it will be safe to say that never before Ray was such frenzy seen over film music. While films like Ranjana ami are ashbona have even bagged national awards, music directors like Neel are basking in the glory. Says Gabu, "The coming of age of Bengali films has been a big factor. It has in turn given musicians and particularly composers a great platform to showcase their work. I am pretty confident about the future. It will only get better now." With the looks of it, he sure is on the mark. Who thought that a pretty young college professor will actually rock the scene in Bengali films? When somlata sang Jagorone jaye bibhabhari, little did she realize how much it will touch the souls of the audience.

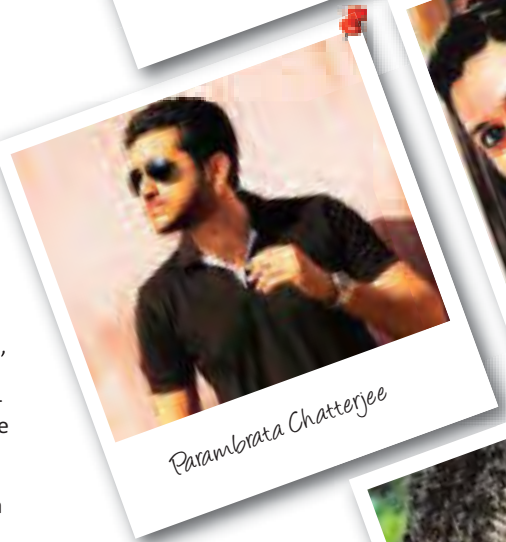
From Autograph to Bickram Singha and Anupam Roy to Gaurav Chatterjee, Bengali film is on an all time high. Heres to hoping for some more treats from the likes of Srijit and Shiboprosad.



Gaurav Chatterjee



Srijit Mukherji



Parambrata Chatterjee



Somlata Chowdhury



Anupam Roy

NEW AGE MUSICIANS

1. ANUPAM ROY (*amake amar moto thakte dao*)
2. SOMLATA (*jagorone jaye bibhabhari*)
3. GOURAV CHATTERJEE AKA GABU (*elar char adhyay*)
4. NEEL DUTTA (MUSIC DIRECTION)
5. SRIJATA (LYRICS)

FRESH DIRECTORS

1. SRIJIT
2. MAINAK
3. PARAMBRATA
4. BIRSA
5. Q
6. SHIBOPROSAD

Bengali Raj in Mayanagri

Bengalis are known to be creative, passionate and hence ruling in Hindi Film Industry for past several years. **Dibyajyoti Chaudhuri** brings the inside story of the Bengalis in *Bollywood*

The winds of change might have hit Bengal politics, but there's more to rejoice for the people of Bengal than that. Bollywood, it seems is now ruled by our very own creed. From directors, to themes and music, Bengal and the Bengali culture is there aplenty.

THE CLAPSTICKS

Bollywood is seeing a lot of Bong action and be it Prosenjit Chatterjee in *Shanghai* or Paoli Dam in *Hate story* they are simply rocking it. The veteran actor recently said, "The recent spate of hits has done a lot in swinging the focus back on the city. For the last two-three years, there has been a Bengali raj in Mumbai. From directors, cameramen to editors and musicians—a lot of talent from this part of the country is working in Bollywood."

Our very own bong bombshell, Paoli has simply taken the B town with a storm after her hare story. She says that Mumbai has really given her a lot of respect although she is not from there. Paoli's daring avatar has made all stand up and take note and meaty roles are sure to come her way.

"Almost every unit in Mumbai is filled with Bengalis. With the Ranis, Bipashas, Konkonas and Rahul Boses around, that's almost an understatement.

DIRECTOR'S CUT

Onir bagged a National Award for his *I Am*, Sujoy Ghosh won accolades for his *Kahaani* and *Vicky Donor* gave

Bollywood a fresh subject. Each film cutting-edge, each story unique and, most importantly, each director a Bengali.

Lets take the case of the runaway hit *Vicky Donor*. It was directed by the Barrackpore boy-turned-Bollywood filmmaker Shoojit Sarkar and he says that the appreciation has been more than overwhelming. While Kolkata is integral to the storyline, Shoojit went a step ahead and made his leading lady, Yami Gautam, a Bengali girl. So, Ashima is not just an erudite Bengali living in Delhi's CR Park, she's in a sari almost throughout the film.

Not far behind is director Anurag Basu's *Barfi*, which is already talk of the town.

Be it Anurag, Onir, Dibakar, Shoojit or Sujoy, this gang of Bengali directors has hung around for quite some time in Bollywood - through a string of good, bad and mediocre films - their fates bringing them close. And even if it's a coincidence that their films are releasing back to back most of them are doing quite well.

MUSIC TO THE EARS

If *Dirty Picture* was a superhit, so was Ooh lala, sang by none other than our very own Bappi Lahiri.

It was then Jeet Ganguli's turn to bag the music project of Bhatt camp's *Blood Money* and is next scoring for Sanjay

Leela Bhansali's *Shirin Farhad Ki Nikal Padi* starring Farah Khan and Boman Irani. And lets not forget the leading voices of hindi cinema, both quintessential bongs, Shreya Ghoshal and Shaan. And while the Iranian band Barobax claimed that the **Pungi** song of *Agent Vinod* was a lift from their composition, Pritam emerged victorious with the band apologizing later.



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EXPERTSPEAK

Trade pundit Taran Adarsh said to a national media, "Be it Hrishikesh Mukherjee, Basu Chatterjee, Sashadhar Mukherjee or Basu Bhattacharya - they had done their bit to shape Bollywood. And kudos to the younger breed. If Sujoy has emerged a fantastic storyteller, Shoojit has shown the courage to think out of the box. All the actors in *Kahaani* proved their mettle, especially Parambrata for such a brilliant performance. I've heard Jeet Gannguli's tunes in *Blood Money*. They are mindblowing. The other day, I was watching a local Bengali channel, where I spotted Jeet - such a good dancer he is! In the coming years, more such actors should join Bollywood. And I wouldn't be surprised to see more directors heading towards Bengal to borrow from its rich literature. If the national focus is on Bengal now, it's rightly so."

SOARING OVER THE BOLLYWOOD**Most Promising Bengali Musicians in Bollywood**

Shaan Mukherjee
Shreya Ghosal
Pritam Chakraborty
Shantanu Moitra
Madhushree

Most Promising Bengali Actors in Bollywood

Rani Mukerji
Bipasha Basu
Ronit Roy
Rahul Bose
Konkana Sen

Most Promising Bengali Filmmakers in Bollywood

Anurag Basu
Pradeep Sarkar
Sujoy Ghosh
Dibankar Banerjee
Ayan Mukherjee



BONG BEAUTIES: Konkana Sen, Rani Mukherjee, Shreya Ghosal, Bipasha Basu.

Putting the sporting foot forward

Dhrubajyoti Chaudhuri chronicles Bengal's emergence as a state replete with individual sporting glories

When Manoj Tiwari hit the winning runs during the last few balls of IPL V, he was making a statement. Bengal, which has long been written off for its lack of sporting prowess, finds suddenly in the limelight. A host of players from the state, are making their mark in various unconventional fields of sports, and winning laurels for the state.

LAXMI CAME TO THE PARTY

However, nothing can possibly beat the success of our homegrown cricketers, Laxmi Ratan Shukla and Manoj Tiwari. While after his successful stint at IPL IV, Manoj made it to the national side, Laxmi isn't far behind. His performance in IPL V has had even critics sit up and take notice. His 24 runs off 11 balls, which ensured a smooth sailing for Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) to the league finals, is a case in point. "I was in talks with Pune Warriors, but somehow things didn't work out for me and I am glad that I stayed on with KKR," says Laxmi. And he surely wished that the finals were at his home ground, Eden Gardens in Kolkata. "Eden is my personal favourite and I love to play there. It's my mother, father everything. And I will also want to thank all our fans for supporting us through the hard times for the last four years. But well, I can't really help it. So Chennai it was," he adds.

MANOJ ROCKED FOR KKR

Let's take the case of our very own Manoj. What was he thinking when he faced Dwayne Bravo in those nerve-racking moments? "While we were sitting on the bench, Shakib (Al Hasan) and I had a gut feeling that ultimately, the task of finishing the game will fall on our shoulders! So, we were mentally tuned into the situation. There was pressure, but I kept my cool. I surveyed the field set-up and made a mental note of the expected line and length of the ball. Luckily, I got it right and the rest, as they say is history," laughs Manoj.

BENGAL SHINES BEYOND CRICKET

But it's not just cricket, where Bengal is making waves. Shooter Pankaj Podder is scaling dizzy heights and is thankful to the political change that has come in the state. "Earlier meeting the sports minister was like getting a glimpse of god. I had to meet up so many people before I could finally fix up a meeting with the

minister for any financial or any other help. However, the scenario has changed a lot. I have met the present sports minister at least on three occasions. My target is the next commonwealth games and for that I need to import bullets from Germany. I needed around 4 lakh and the minister has shelled out Rs 1 lakh," says a grateful Pankaj. He is in dire need of cash to be at the testing range in Germany for the Lapua bullets he needs for his gun.

OF GIRL POWER AND CRUISE CONTROL

Girl power seems to be the order of the day with national pool champion Suniti Damani, who has a series of foreign trips lined up. And yes, she is a city girl too. For her first national championship in 2007, the girl loaned Rs 10,000 from a friend. Since then, she has been largely supporting herself. "My best friend, Swasti Shroff, has been a pillar of strength and so has been my brother, who stays in Australia," she says. "Since I'm among the national Top 5, I will also be participating in the national championships coming soon," she signs off.

City boy Amitrajit Ghosh is leading the pack in motor sports. Besides, his personal triumph at the circuit, he is also grooming others for the sport, carving out a niche for himself. "Our team won the INRC (Indian national rally championship) national championships last year in the 2000 N category. We are doing well this year, too. There are professional rallies happening, but some government support for the sport would surely help," he says.

With sights set on their fancy bows and arrows are champion brother and sister duo of Dola and Rahul Banerjee. As the siblings taste success with their archery skills, Bengal can expect more laurels from them in the coming days.



Rahul Banerjee

But it's not just cricket, where Bengal is making waves. Shooter Pankaj Podder is scaling dizzy heights and is thankful to the political change that has come in the state.



Suniti Damani



Manoj Tiwari



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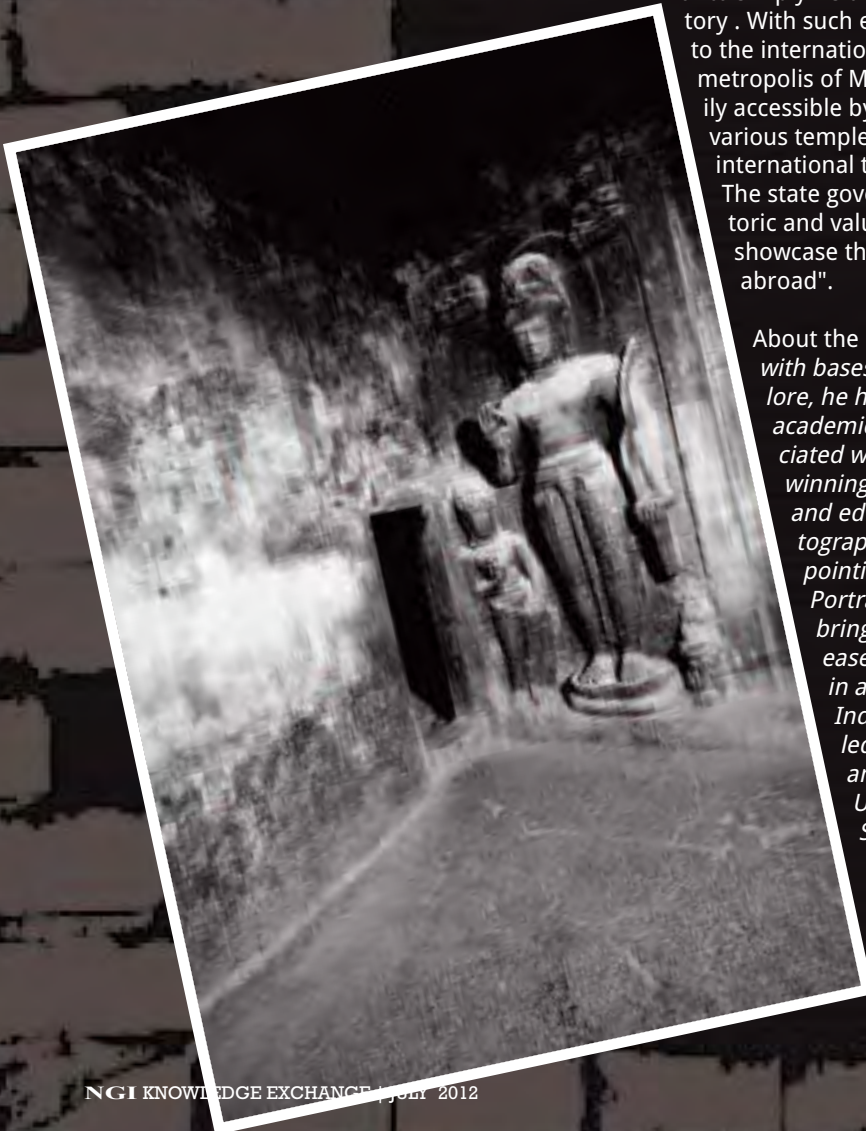
The Pandavleni Caves

" The Caves of Pandav Leni " is a series of black and white pictures shot by Award winning Indian Photographer Sumesh Senan. The series was one among 18 Honorable mentions won by the photographer at the International Photography Awards (IPA) 2011 which is widely regarded as the Oscars of Photography.

Pandav Leni in marathi means Pandav Caves. These caves are 2000 years old and has idols of Buddha and Jain Teerthankara Vrishabhdeo. It is a group of 24 buddhist caves which date back between 1st century BC and 2nd century AD. The caves are located about 8 kms from Nasik, Maharashtra. Although these caves are located near one of the holiest Hindu sites and have a name of Hindu deity, these rock-cut temples initially were started by Jains and later turned into rather significant centre of Buddhism. The caves were a popular meeting place for the disciples as well. The caves also feature a water management system chiseled out of solid rock and still contains water. Being a profound photographer, Sumesh wanted to highlight the presence of these caves to a wider audience. In 2010 he returned to spend a few days documenting the Pandavleni Caves.

According to him - "The Pandavleni Caves are a delight be it from a photographic perspective or to simply visit for anybody who respects and is fascinated by history . With such exquisite architecture i am surprised it is little known to the international audience. Only 200 kms away from a bustling metropolis of Mumbai lies these beautiful structures and is also easily accessible by roads. Apart from the Pandavleni Caves, Nasik has various temples strewn across in various places which could foster international tourism and improve the lives of the local people. The state government needs to do more in promoting these historic and valuable pieces of architecture. I intend to exhibit and showcase these set of images in various galleries in India and or abroad".

About the Photographer : *Sumesh Senan is a photographer with bases in India as well as the UAE. Originally from Bangalore, he has work interests in India and abroad. An MBA by academics, he has won numerous awards and has been associated with photography for the past many years. Apart from winning many international accolades, he is an avid traveller and educator. Although Conceptual and Architectural Photography is his primary interest, he never refrains from pointing the camera beyond these genres. Be it Fine Art or Portrait he loves making images as long as he is able to bring in a finer definition to the image. He is at equal ease and pleasure whether documenting Urban Portraits in a Corporate City or capturing images from Rural India. The quest of documenting such extremes have led him to travel extensively sometimes within India and sometimes abroad. So far he has travelled to The United states, Mexico, Hawaii, UK, France, Netherlands, Singapore, Hongkong, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam. He teaches and lectures on photography as and when time permits. He recently concluded a SOLO EXHIBIT in Dubai called " KALEIDOSCOPE ". Read and view more of his work @ www.sumeshsenanphotography.com*





RBI ANNOUNCES FURTHER LIBERALISATION MEASURES FOR CAPITAL ACCOUNT TRANSACTIONS

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has on 25 June 2012 introduced the following measures, with immediate effect: **ECB Norms Liberalized** Indian companies in the manufacturing and infrastructure sectors that have had consistent foreign exchange earnings for the last three financial years are now permitted to avail of external commercial borrowings (ECB) under the approval route for: (i) repayment of outstanding rupee loans towards capital expenditure incurred earlier and still outstanding in the books of the domestic banking system; and/or (ii) fresh rupee capital expenditure.

Ceiling The overall ceiling for such ECBs is set at USD 10 billion. The maximum permissible ECB that can be availed of by an individual company will be limited to 50% of the average annual export earnings realized by the company during the past three financial years.

Drawdown The entire facility must be drawn down within a month after obtaining a loan registration number from the RBI.

Repayment The liability arising out of the ECB shall be extinguished only out of the foreign exchange earnings of the borrower. All other conditions relating to ECBs remain unchanged and must be complied with.

Foreign Investment limits in G-Secs Enhanced Limits

The existing limit for investment by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)-registered foreign institutional investors (FIIs) in government securities (G-Secs) has been enhanced by a further amount of USD 5 billion, taking the overall limit for FII investment in G-Secs from USD 15 billion to USD 20 billion.

Eligible investors To widen the non-resident investor base for G-Secs, long term investors including sovereign wealth funds, multi-lateral agencies, endowment funds, insurance funds, pension funds and foreign central banks have now been permitted to register with SEBI, and to invest in G-Secs for the entire limit of USD 20 billion.

Residual maturity For a sub-limit of USD 10 billion, the residual

maturity of the instrument at the time of first purchase by FIIs and SEBI-registered eligible non-resident investors in infrastructure development funds (IDFs), and by foreign central banks, must be at least three years.

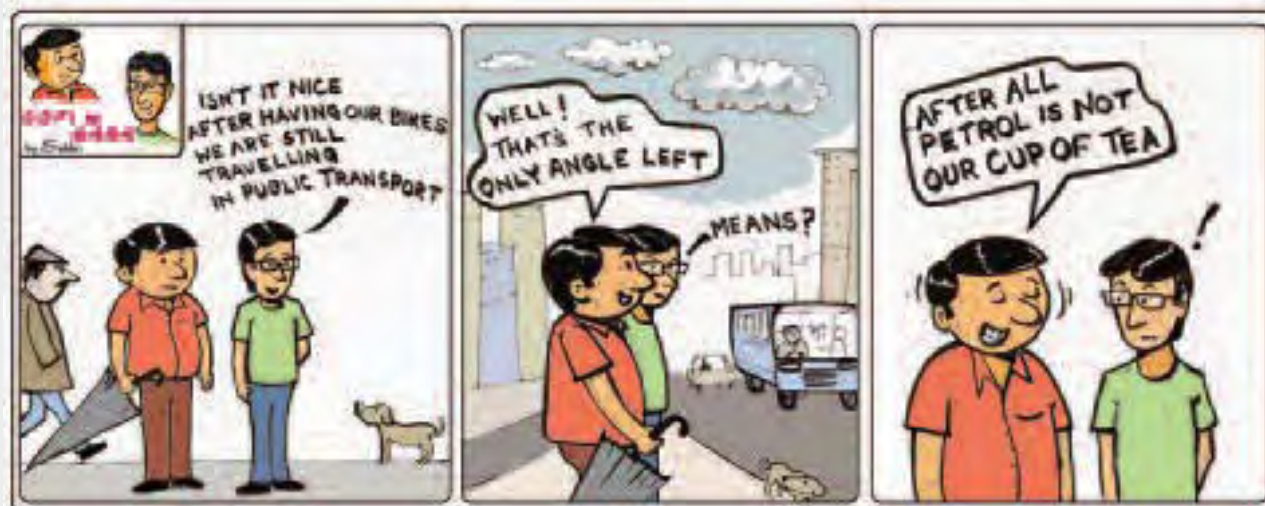
Rationalisation of Conditions for Foreign Investment in Infrastructure Debt and IDFs The terms and conditions for the scheme for FII investment in infrastructure debt, and the scheme for non-resident investment in IDFs have been further rationalised in terms of lock-in period and residual maturity.

Lock-in period The lock-in period for such investments, all of which are within the overall limit of USD 25 billion for investment in infrastructure corporate bonds, has been uniformly reduced to one year.

Residual maturity The residual maturity of the instrument at the time of first purchase by an FII or an eligible IDF investor would be at least fifteen months.

QFI Investment Permitted In Certain Mutual Fund Schemes Qualified Foreign Investors (QFIs) can now invest in mutual fund schemes that hold at least 25% of their assets (either in debt or in equity or both) in the infrastructure sector, under the current USD 3 billion sub-limit for investment in mutual funds related to infrastructure. If you require any further information about the material contained in this alert, please get in touch with your Trilegal relationship partner or send an email to alerts@trilegal.com <<mailto:alerts@trilegal.com>>. The contents of this alert are intended for informational purposes only and are not in the nature of a legal opinion. Readers are encouraged to seek legal counsel prior to acting upon any of the information provided herein. The text of this alert is the copyright of Trilegal and may not be circulated, reproduced or otherwise used without the prior permission of its originator. Allen & Overy owns the copyright in the template design and typographical arrangement. Trilegal maintains a database of business contact details in order to develop and improve its services to its clients.

By Sabbir Hussain





SAIL - A Maharatna Company



Steckel Mill control room of Hot Rolling Mill
(SAIL Salem Steel Plant)

Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL), owns and operates five integrated steel plants at Bhilai, Durgapur, Bokaro, Rourkela and Burnpur; three special steel plants at Salem, Durgapur and Bhadravati; and a ferro alloy plant at Chandrapur. SAIL also produces iron-ore. It has its own captive mines that fulfil its iron ore requirements. SAIL has recently been awarded the prestigious status of a *Maharatna* by the Government of India.

- All its production units are ISO 9001:2000 certified.
- Current annual production of crude steel is around 14 Million Tonnes (MT). Produced over 350 million tonnes of crude steel since its inception.
- SAIL's product basket comprises Flat products, Long products and Pipes, including branded products such as SAIL TMT, SAIL JYOTI GP/GC Sheets.
- Supplier to strategic sectors like defense, atomic energy, power, infrastructure, heavy machinery, oil & gas, railways, etc.
- Supplier of rails to the Indian Railways.
- Major production units are ISO:14001 certified.

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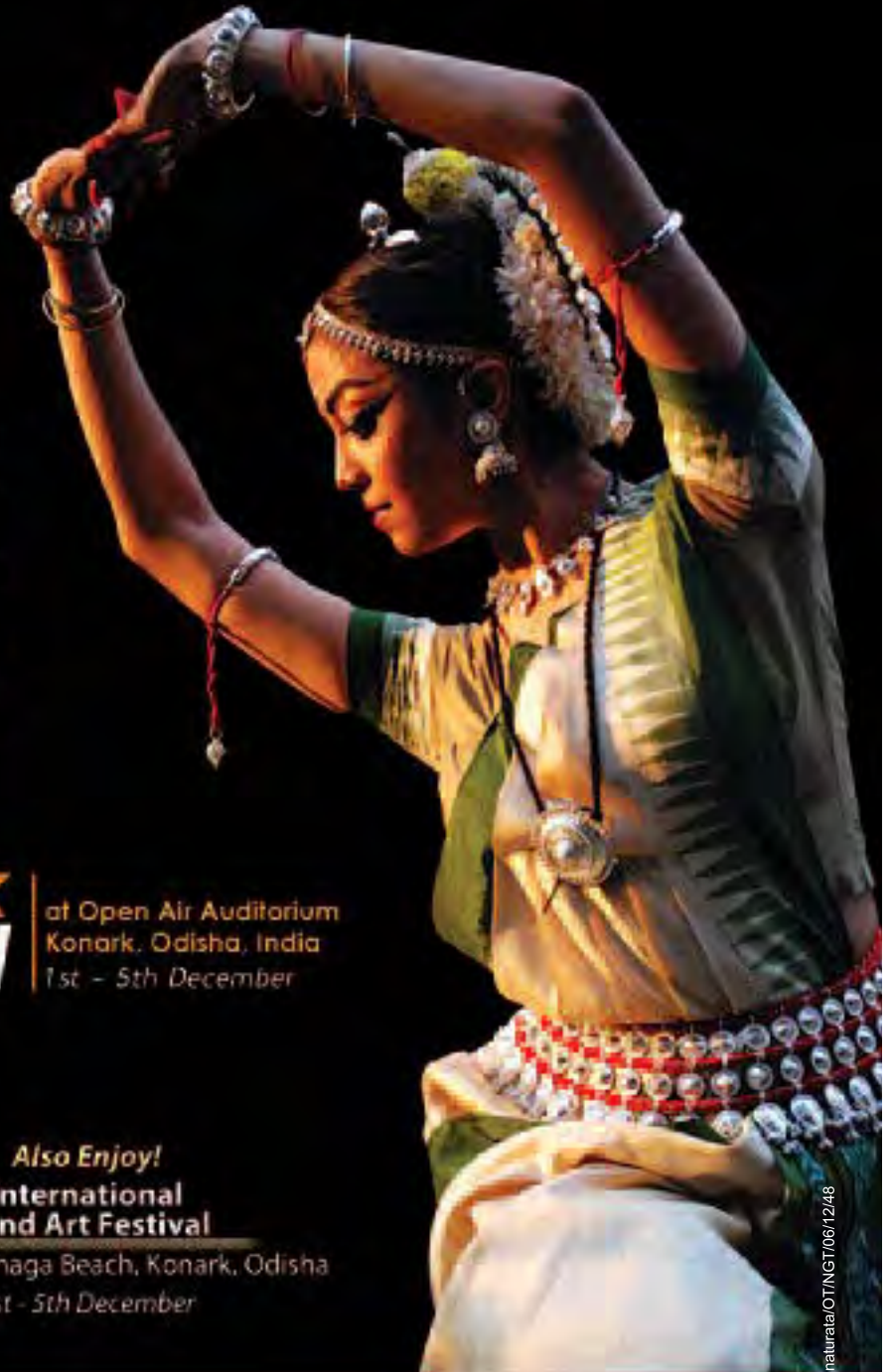
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festival**

at Open Air Auditorium
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