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President Pranab Mukherjee paying homage at the Amar Jawan Jyoti, India Gate, on the occasion of 67th Independence Day, in New Delhi on August 15.



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh inspecting the Guard of Honor at Red Fort, on the occasion of India's 67th Independence Day, in Delhi on August 15.

India celebrates 67th Independence Day

■ NATIONAL SECURITY
ADVISORS OF INDIA,
US REVIEW BILATERAL
PARTNERSHIP

■ DR. RAGHURAM RAJAN
TAKES OVER AS 23RD
GOVERNOR OF RESERVE
BANK OF INDIA

■ NOBEL LAUREATE
DR. NORMAN BORLAUG'S
FIRST INDIA VISIT
REMEMBERED IN U.S.



India honors – not dishonors – patent laws

The Patents Act of 1970, amended in 1999, 2002 and 2005, is considered a model in the developing world. Critics who say otherwise are simply wrong

India has experienced transformational economic growth over the past two decades. Thanks in large measure to reforms that opened India's markets to global commerce, its Gross Domestic Product has zoomed from \$189 billion in 1980 to \$1.84 trillion in 2012. Innovation and entrepreneurship have been fostered by vigorous enforcement of trade agreements and patent laws.

Intellectual property laws passed over forty years have extensively protected patents, designs and trademarks. The Patents Act of 1970, amended in 1999, 2002 and 2005, is considered a model in the developing world. Critics who say otherwise are simply wrong.

Indeed, the most prominently cited example of alleged patent "infringement" is actually a case study in patent protection. The Indian Supreme Court, in a landmark judgment in April, turned down a request by the pharmaceutical company Novartis to retain the patent on a cancer drug because it judged the drug to be an extension of existing medications, not a groundbreaking advancement. In other words, the court reinforced the premium that should rightly be placed on truly valid patents, strengthening, not weakening, their sanctity.

India makes a priority of complying with international treaties such as the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement of the World Trade Organization. In March, an Indian patent appeals court ruled that the so-called compulsory license law that helps make med-

icines affordable for the 300 million Indians who live below the poverty line, was strictly TRIPS-compliant.

India's rigorous patent laws and adherence to international trade treaties are helping its 1.2 billion people deal with many challenges. We understand that economic growth and job creation are irrevocably linked to the rule of law. India is proud to be a prodigious incubator of innovation and to have gained the confidence of foreign investors.

Direct equity investments from the U.S. to India have continued to flow, ranging between \$1 billion and \$2 billion a year over the last five years. These investments have been across multiple sectors, including pharmaceutical research. The Indian Patent Office treats the nationals of other countries the same way it treats Indian companies. From 2005 to 2011, more than 4,000 patents for pharmaceutical inventions were issued by the Patent Office. Of those granted, substantial numbers — 20-30 percent — were awarded to U.S.-based companies each year, and more than 85 percent were owned by foreign companies in India.

At the same time, India like many developing nations struggles with poverty, inequality and shortcomings in health care. We have worked hard to combat challenges to inclusive growth and development. International treaties permit countries to make affordable, life-saving drugs available to people most in need at affordable prices. India has done so in a way that is both legal and sensitive to the principle of patent protection.

We have also worked hard to balance the rights of patent holders with our civic imperative to protect public health. Compulsory licensing has been an integral part of the patent regime of many countries for years. Fifteen countries, both developed and developing countries alike, have issued more than 35 compulsory licenses.

In more than six decades, India has issued only one compulsory license on a compound pharmaceutical. This is hardly evidence of a climate hostile to either innovation or U.S.-based companies. The provisions for compulsory licensing are not meant to hamper the process of innovation, but to ensure a fair balance between the interests of innovators and the urgent need for improved health care.

India is proud to be the world's largest producer of generic drugs with a 25 percent global market share, which has earned the country the name of "the pharmacy of the world". India's production of high-quality antiretroviral therapies is estimated to have cut the cost of treatments for HIV/AIDS by 99 percent, from \$10,000-\$15,000 per patient per year to less than \$100 — a cost saving that has improved the lives of millions of people and provided them hope for their future.

In their Strategic Partnership, the U.S. and India cooperate on many fronts, with health care, disease control and prevention near the top of the list. India is dedicated to enhancing that partnership through its careful backing of patent law.

*Published in The Hill on
August 14*

India one of the fastest growing nations in the world: President

Reforms that have enabled the country to come this far have to be pursued at all levels of governance, says President Pranab Mukherjee

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President Pranab Mukherjee addressing the nation on the eve of India's 67th Independence Day, in New Delhi on August 14.

Addressing the nation on the eve of India's 67th Independence Day on August 14, President Pranab Mukherjee said that India lit the lamp of modernity and equitable economic growth at the dawn of its Independence and over the last decade, the country has emerged as one of the fastest growing nations in the world.

"During this period, our economy grew annually at an average rate of 7.9 percent. We are today self-sufficient in food grains production. We are the largest exporter of rice and second largest exporter of wheat in the world. The record production of

18.45 million ton of pulses this year augurs well for our march towards self-sufficiency in pulses. This was unthinkable just a few years ago. This momentum has to be sustained," he said.

He said that as India is a "people-driven nation", there is a direct relationship between its success as a democracy with the performance of the economy. "People serve their interests best when they participate in decision-making at the level of panchayat and other forms of local government. We have to rapidly empower the local bodies with functions, functionaries and finances to improve their performance," he said.

Drawing attention to the role of education in bringing about a re-ordering of the society, President Mukherjee said India needs to regain its "space" as an education power so that it becomes a "magnet for the finest minds".

Mukherjee said: "History records that we were the cynosure of the world once."

"Takshashila, Nalanda, Vikramashila, Valabhi, Somapura and Odantapuri comprised the ancient university system that dominated the world for eighteen hundred years beginning Sixth Century BC."

"They were a magnet for the finest minds and scholars in the world. We

must seek to regain that space,” he said.

“A university is the banyan tree whose roots lie in basic education, in a vast network of schools that build the intellectual prowess of our communities; we have to invest in every part of this knowledge tree, from seed, root and branch to the highest leaf,” he added.

Excerpts from the President’s address to the nation on the eve of India’s 67th Independence Day:

“On the eve of the 66th anniversary of our Independence, I extend warm greetings to you and to all Indians around the world.

My thoughts turn first towards the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, who shaped our liberation struggle and the martyrs who made supreme sacrifice for the freedom of our country and great patriots whose relentless struggle liberated our motherland from the colonial rule of nearly two hundred years. Our founding fathers created the first oasis in the desert of a colonized world nourished by democracy. Democracy is much more than the right to vote every five years; its essence is the aspirations of the masses; its spirit must influence the responsibilities of the leaders and duties of the citizens every day. Democracy breathes through a vibrant Parliament, an independent judiciary, a responsible media, a vigilant civil society, and a bureaucracy committed to integrity and hard work.

Mahatma Gandhi had advised us to avoid, and I quote, “politics without principles, wealth without work, pleasure without conscience, knowledge without character, commerce without morality, science without humanity, and worship without sacrifice”, (unquote). We have to pay heed to his advice as we work towards building a modern democracy.

Our Constitution provides a delicate balance of power between various institutions of the State. This balance has to be maintained.



President Pranab Mukherjee greets Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, during the ‘At Home’ function, organized on the occasion of 67th Independence Day, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on August 15.

There is a direct relationship between a successful democracy and a successful economy, for we are a people-driven nation. People serve their interests best when they participate in decision-making at the level of panchayat and other forms of local government.

The last decade has seen India emerge as one of the fastest growing nations in the world. During this period, our economy grew annually at an average rate of 7.9 percent.

Reforms that have enabled us to come this far have to be pursued at all levels of governance. Favorable demographic changes over the next two decades can pay us handsome dividends. It requires industrial transformation and rapid creation of employment opportunities. It also requires an orderly urbanization process. Several initiatives taken by the Government in the recent past including the New Manufacturing Policy, the renewal of urban infrastructure and the ambitious skill training programme will need close monitoring in the coming years.

We have given our citizens entitlements backed by legal guarantees in terms of right to employment, education, food and information. We now have to ensure that these entitlements lead to real empowerment for the people. We need robust delivery

mechanisms to make these legislations work. New benchmarks of efficient public service delivery and accountability have to be established. The Direct Benefits Transfer Scheme, launched earlier this year, will bring in greater transparency, enhance efficiency and eliminate wastage of precious resources.

We have seen in the recent past grave challenges to our security, internal as well as external. Our commitment to peace is unflinching but even our patience has limits. All steps necessary to ensure internal security and protect the territorial integrity of the nation will be taken.

Democracy has given us an opportunity to re-create another golden age. Let us not squander this extraordinary opportunity. The journey ahead calls for wisdom, courage and determination. We must work on across-the-board revival of our values and institutions. We must realize that rights go with responsibilities. We must re-discover the virtue of self-scrutiny and self-restraint.”

The full text of President Pranab Mukherjee’s address to the nation can be viewed at: <https://www.indianembassy.org/prdetail2199/president-shri-pranab-mukherjeeandrsquo%3Bs-address-to-the-nation-on-the-eve-of-the-67th-independence-day>



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh inspecting the Guard of Honor at Red Fort, on the occasion of India's 67th Independence Day, in Delhi on August 15.

PM assures India of better economy

India has taken several initiatives to ensure removal of bottlenecks for infrastructure development, speed up clearances for industry and attract foreign investment, says the Prime Minister

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh assured the nation on August 15 that the Indian economy would again witness rapid growth thanks to the steps taken in recent months for speedier industry clearances, building infrastructure and boosting inflow of overseas capital. He also promised a host of new infrastructure projects and assured removal of bottlenecks for big-ticket clearances.

He promised a new scheme soon, targeting some one million beneficiaries, under which trained youth will get some form of financial assistance.

"I believe this phase of slow growth in India will not last long. In the last nine years, our economy has grown at

an annual average rate of 7.9 percent. This pace of development is the highest in any decade so far," the Prime Minister said in his Independence Day address from the Red Fort in New Delhi.

"In the coming months, we will see visible results of these efforts to increase investment. Our growth will accelerate, new employment opportunities will be generated and there will be improvements in the infrastructure sector," he said.

The Prime Minister said a number of new infrastructure projects would start in the coming months. "This includes two new ports, eight new airports, new industrial corridors and rail projects."

Excerpts from the Prime Minister's address to the nation on the occasion of Independence Day:

"We achieved independence in 1947 under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. If we look at our subsequent journey, we would find that our country has seen major changes every ten years.

In the decade beginning 1950, India took its first steps as a democratic republic under the leadership of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. We established institutions like the Atomic Energy Commission, Planning Commission and Election Commission, which went on to make a major contribution to the processes of nation building in later years. The first general elections were

conducted and a beginning was made towards the formulation of the First Five Year Plan for socio-economic development of the country.

In the Sixties, Pandit Nehru set up new industries and factories, implemented new irrigation projects and opened new universities. By laying emphasis on the role of Science and Technology in nation building he started the work of transforming this ancient country into a modern nation.

In the Seventies, Indiraji boosted our confidence as a nation. During this period, we launched our first satellite in space. The Green Revolution enabled us to be self sufficient in food grains for the first time.

In the next decade, Rajiv Gandhiji set into motion the process of technological and economic modernization. The foundation for the progress we later made in the area of Information Technology was laid during this period. The importance of Panchayati Raj Institutions was emphasized and this later resulted in amendments to our Constitutions for strengthening and empowering these institutions.

“In no other decade has our economic development increased as much as in this decade. Democratic forces have been strengthened and many sections of our society have joined the mainstream of development for the first time”

— Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh

In the year 1991, under the leadership of Shri Narsimha Rao, we successfully negotiated a major economic crisis and embraced reforms for strengthening our economy. Since then, the reform process has continually moved forward.

I believe that the last decade has also been a decade of major changes in the history of our nation. In no other decade has our economic development increased as much as in this decade. Democratic forces have been strengthened and many sections of our society have joined the mainstream of development for the first time. The common man has been given new rights which have led to his social and economic empowerment.

We have recently issued an Ordinance towards a Food Security

law. The Food Security Bill is now before Parliament and we hope it will be passed shortly. This law will benefit 75 percent of our rural population and half of our urban population. Under the law, about 810 million Indians would be entitled to receive rice at ₹3 per kg, wheat at ₹2 per kg and coarse grains at ₹1 per kg. This is the largest effort of its kind in the whole world.

We have been able to implement this law only because of the hard work of our farmers. Our food-grain production reached a record level of 259 million ton in 2011-12.

The average annual rate of agricultural growth in the 11th Plan was 3.6, which is more than both the 9th and 10th Plan levels.

We now see clear indications of



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh addressing the nation on the occasion of 67th Independence Day from the ramparts of Red Fort, in Delhi on August 15.



A panoramic view from the Minarets of Red Fort as the Prime Minister addresses the nation on August 15.

US takes pride in 'indispensable partnership' with India

The United States greeted India on its Independence Day saying it takes pride in "our indispensable partnership" and looks forward to working together for peace, democracy, and prosperity in Asia and around the world.

In a press statement Secretary of State John Kerry recalled his recent visit to India for the fourth annual India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue, "allowing each side to build partnerships" on issues ranging from regional security to women's empowerment.

The U.S., he said, "also takes pride in our indispensable partnership with India, a friendship built on our shared democratic values, the entrepreneurial spirit of our people, and our rich people-to-people ties."

Secretary Kerry said he looked forward to continuing their "critical efforts to lay the foundations for peace, democracy, and prosperity in Asia and around the world."

The U.S. also joins Indians "in honoring Mahatma Gandhi and the heroes of India, who proved that great change can be achieved through nonviolent means," he said.



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry.

Here is the text of Secretary Kerry's statement:

"On behalf of President Obama and the people of the United States, I am delighted to send our best wishes to the people of the Republic of India as you celebrate your Independence Day on August 15.

During my recent visit to India, I was hon-

ored to witness firsthand the vibrancy of your culture, the energy of your youth, and the strength and resilience of your democratic institutions.

Together, our governments held their fourth annual US-India Strategic Dialogue, allowing each side to build partnerships on issues such as regional security and defense, science and technology, climate change, and women's empowerment.

As you mark the 66th anniversary of your independence, the United States joins you in honoring Mahatma Gandhi and the heroes of India, who proved that great change can be achieved through nonviolent means.

Today the United States also takes pride in our indispensable partnership with India, a friendship built on our shared democratic values, the entrepreneurial spirit of our people, and our rich people-to-people ties.

I look forward to continuing our critical efforts to lay the foundations for peace, democracy, and prosperity in Asia and around the world."

enhanced economic prosperity in our rural areas. In the period 2004 to 2011, rural per-capita consumption has increased four times faster than earlier.

Rural wages have also increased much faster in this period. MNREGA provides employment to crores of people in rural areas.

We have enacted the Right to Education Act to provide every child in the country the opportunity for education. Almost all our children are today being imparted education in Primary schools.

The number of young men and women going to college has more than doubled in the last 9 years.

We had launched the National Rural Health Mission in 2005. The Mission has started showing good results. Both Maternal Maternity and Infant Mortality rates have come down sharply.

No case of polio has been detected in the country in the last two years. We have been able to eradicate a disease which used to cause disability to lakhs of people.

We have implemented the Health Mission in urban areas also. This will

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— Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh

result in both expansion and improvement of health services in such areas.

For ensuring better safety and security for women, we have strengthened the law dealing with offenses against women.

There has been good progress in the last 9 years in the infrastructure sector also, covering areas such as roads, railways, power, civil aviation, ports and telecommunications. About 200,000 km of new roads have been constructed for connecting villages under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana. More than 37,000 km of new Highways have been built, facilitating travel and trade. More than 40 airports have been built or upgraded. In 2004, only 7 percent of the people had telephone connections. Today, 73 percent enjoy this facility.

In the last 9 years, our economy has grown at an annual average rate of 7.9

percent. This pace of development is the highest in any decade so far.

If in the future we can achieve the same kind of progress as in the last decade, the day is not far off when India will be rid of poverty, hunger, disease and ignorance. Our India will be equal partners in this prosperity, irrespective of their religion, caste, region or language.

We will also need to build an environment of political stability, social cohesion and security for this to happen.

Let us all re-dedicate ourselves to building such an India together.”

The full text of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's address to the nation can be viewed at:

<http://pmindia.nic.in/speech-details.php?nodeid=1336>



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh paying floral tributes at the Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi, at Rajghat on the occasion of India's 67th Independence Day, in Delhi on August 15.

National security advisors of India, US review bilateral partnership

The two exchanged ideas ranging from enhancing security cooperation, progress on civil nuclear and clean energy cooperation to greater collaboration on climate change

Indian National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon and U.S. National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice met in Washington and reviewed the India-U.S. strategic partnership ahead of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit to the U.S. in late September.

During the course of the meeting on August 20, the U.S. National Security Advisor reaffirmed her country's commitment to further expand and strengthen bilateral relations with India, including economic and commercial ties.

The two also exchanged ideas on enhancing security cooperation between the two countries, reviewed the progress on civil nuclear and clean energy cooperation and explored greater collaboration on climate change.

Rice and Menon also discussed India's continued support for a stable, secure, and prosperous Afghanistan, according to the White House statement.

Rice said U.S. President Barack Obama was looking forward to welcoming Prime Minister Singh to the White House on September 27.

Prime Minister Singh will be in the U.S. to attend the United Nations General Assembly meeting.

The meeting between the two leaders will highlight India's role in regional security and stability and provide an opportunity for the two to chart a course toward enhanced trade, investment, and development cooperation between India and U.S., the statement said.

The two leaders met earlier when Prime Minister Singh visited



U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel at a meeting with Indian National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon at the Pentagon on August 20 in preparation for Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit to Washington this September. Ambassador Nirupama Rao is also seen. (Photo: U.S. Department of Defense)

Washington in 2009 and President Obama visited India in 2010.

"When two leaders meet at that level, it has to be substantive because they both have actually taken this relationship forward in difficult times and good," he said of Prime Minister Singh's proposed meeting with President Obama.

The two leaders will have a very comprehensive agenda as they review the full spectrum of the relationship encompassing agriculture, industry and trade, science and technology, anti-terrorism, security aspects and a whole range of global issues.

"It has been one of our most important relationships which has been transformed over the last few years," Menon said noting the two countries had as many as 32 separate dialogues going on a broad range of relations.

The NSA said "quite a bit of progress" had also been made on an initiative to streamline defense acquisition procedures. "The basic idea behind this is that we move from a buyer seller situation to actually co-developing and co-producing various defense acquisitions and that could involve transfer and working together," he said.

Menon held meeting with U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel at the Pentagon on August 20. Secretary Hagel emphasized the commitment of the U.S. to continuing progress on defense cooperation including in the areas of trade and regional security.

He also met with Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, some members of the "intelligence community" besides an exchange of views at a couple of think tanks during the visit.

Dr. Raghuram Rajan takes over as 23rd Governor of Reserve Bank of India

Dr. Raghuram Govind Rajan took over as the 23rd Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on September 4. Dr. Rajan, who was Chief Economic Advisor in the Finance Ministry, took charge in Mumbai from Dr. Duvvuri Subbarao.

An alumnus of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), New Delhi, the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr. Rajan was the youngest Economic-Counselor and Chief Economist at the IMF from October 2003 to December 2006.

Excerpts from the statement by Dr. Rajan on taking office:

“I took charge this afternoon as the 23rd Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. These are not easy times, and the economy faces challenges. At the same time, India is a fundamentally sound economy with a bright future. Our task today is to build a bridge to the future, over the stormy waves produced by global financial markets. I have every confidence we will succeed in doing that. Today I want to articulate some first steps, concrete actions we will take, as well as some intentions to take actions based on plans we will formulate.

Before I turn to specifics, let me repeat what I said on the day I was appointed. The Reserve Bank is a great institution with a tradition of integrity, independence, and professionalism. I congratulate Dr. Subbarao on his leadership in guiding the Bank through very difficult times, and I look forward to working with the many dedicated employees of the RBI to further some of the important initiatives he started. I have been touched by the warmth with which the RBI staff have welcomed me.

To the existing traditions of the RBI, which will be the bedrock of our work, we will emphasize two other traditions



that become important in these times: transparency and predictability. At a time when financial markets are volatile, and there is some domestic political uncertainty because of impending elections, the Reserve Bank of India should be a beacon of stability as to its objectives. That is not to say we will never surprise markets with actions. A central bank should never say “Never”! But the public should have a clear framework as to where we are going, and understand how our policy actions fit into that framework. Key to all this is communication, and I want to underscore communication with this statement on my first day in office.

Monetary Policy

We will be making the first monetary policy statement of my term on September 20. I have postponed the originally set date a bit so that between now and then, I have enough time to consider all major developments in the required detail. I will leave a detailed explanation of our policy stance till then, but let me emphasize that the RBI takes its mandate from the RBI Act of 1934, which says the Reserve Bank for India was constituted “to regulate the issue of Bank notes and the keeping of reserves with a view to securing mone-

tary stability in India and generally to operate the currency and credit system of the country to its advantage.”

The primary role of the central bank, as the Act suggests, is monetary stability, that is, to sustain confidence in the value of the country’s money. Ultimately, this means low and stable expectations of inflation, whether that inflation stems from domestic sources or from changes in the value of the currency, from supply constraints or demand pressures. I have asked Deputy Governor Urjit Patel, together with a panel he will constitute of outside experts and RBI staff, to come up with suggestions in three months on what needs to be done to revise and strengthen our monetary policy framework. A number of past committees, including the FSLRC, have opined on this, and their views will also be considered carefully.

Inclusive Development

I talked about the primary role of the RBI as preserving the purchasing power of the rupee, but we have two other important mandates; inclusive growth and development, as well as financial stability.

As the central bank of a developing country, we have additional tools to generate growth — we can accelerate financial development and inclusion. Rural areas, especially our villages, as well as small and medium industries across the country, have been important engines of growth even as large company growth has slowed. But access to finance is still hard for the poor, and for rural and small and medium industries. We need faster, broad based, inclusive growth leading to a rapid fall in poverty.”

The full text of the RBI Governor’s statement can be read at:
http://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=29479

Commemorating 50th anniversary of Nobel Laureate Dr. Norman Borlaug's first India visit



Dr. Norman Borlaug, known as the “father of the green revolution”, was remembered for “his great contributions to the advancement of agriculture and food production in India” at a function in the Embassy.

“When you consider the achievements of Dr. Norman Borlaug, you realize that this is what legends are made of,” said India’s Ambassador to the U.S., Nirupama Rao at the event held on August 7 to mark the 50th anniversary of Borlaug’s first visit to India.

Although Borlaug who died on September 12, 2009 at the age of 95 “began his life’s work in Mexico, his “grandest theatre of operations”, as it has been termed, was India, Ambassador Rao said.

The “miracle seeds” of various wheat varieties that he brought “ushered the green revolution

placing India’s food security on a firm foundation”, the Indian envoy said.

The event was attended by members of the Borlaug family, the Indian-American Administrator of USAID, Rajiv Shah, Kenneth Quinn of the World Food Prize Program and Julie Borlaug, Associate Director, Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture.

In a message on the occasion, Indian Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar recalled how “Borlaug led the global crusade against hunger with a missionary zeal and over the years succeeded in saving billions of lives from starvation”.

“Borlaug left the world a heritage that includes billions of lives saved from the misery of starvation and inspired thousands of scientists worldwide who will continue to carry on his vision today and tomorrow,” he said.

Excerpts from Ambassador Nirupama Rao’s speech on the occasion:

“Dr. Borlaug, as it is said, was the father of the green revolution, and given his dedication and commitment, it was clear he took being a father very seriously. His favorite words were: there is no time to relax.

He had his first experience of what hunger and human misery meant as a young University of Minnesota freshman in the fall of 1933: “I saw... people out there on the streets in the cold, mostly grown men and whole families too, sleeping on newspapers, hands out, asking for a nickel, begging for food.” He knew then that there is no more essential commodity than food. In his words, “without food, people perish, social and political organizations disintegrate, and civilizations collapse”.





7 He became the man who saved a billion lives. Agriculture Secretary Vilsack who could not be with us today since he is travelling, spoke at a memorial function at Texas A&M University in 2009 on how Dr. Borlaug's experiences up to the age of 16 shaped his life — as a scientist, teacher, saver of lives.

He learnt about subsistence farming, its risks and its perils. He understood mortality and the urgency of providing help to those sick and in need. He saw the power of a helping hand, when he was helped by a caring cousin in a blizzard.

He was encouraged to seek knowledge by his grandfather — he learnt to advocate for the power of technology to save lives. Taught in a one room schoolhouse he learnt that every student is a teacher and a student at the same time, he watched his father using fertilizer and machinery — turning subsistence into surplus — and that as you advance in learning, you advance in life, and that good instruction is better than riches, and kindness is the noblest weapon — as written on a plaque given by his teacher.

Dr. Borlaug's lifelong motto was to reach for the stars, get a little of that stardust, and that we should all pursue our dreams against all odds. He demonstrated that so well in all that he did.

When Dr. Borlaug passed away in 2009, our Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh expressing his condolences spoke of how "Dr. Borlaug's impact on India's science and econo-

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1. Minister Govind Mohan welcoming the guests and introducing the event at a reception hosted by Ambassador Nirupama Rao to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Nobel Laureate Dr. Norman Ernest Borlaug's visit to India, at the Embassy on August 7.
2. Ambassador Rao addressing the gathering and reading out the message from Minister for Agriculture Sharad Pawar.
3. Dr. Rajiv Shah, Administrator, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), speaking on the occasion.
4. Suzanne Heinen, Career Minister, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, addressing the gathering.
5. Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn, President of the World Food Prize, speaking on the occasion.
6. Jeanie Borlaug Laube, daughter of Nobel Laureate Dr. Norman Ernest Borlaug, addressing the gathering.
7. Julie Borlaug, granddaughter of Nobel Laureate Dr. Norman Ernest Borlaug, addressing the gathering.
8. Guests in attendance.
9. Ambassador Rao with the Borlaugs.

my went much beyond the Green Revolution. A science-based approach to the problems of agriculture was a fundamental tenet of his thinking and the success of the Green Revolution spawned other successful interventions in areas such as animal husbandry, dairying and agriculture. Dr. Norman Borlaug's life and

achievements are testimony to the far reaching contribution that one man's towering intellect, persistence and scientific vision can make to human peace and progress."

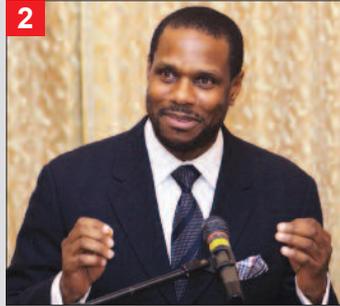
Later in 2010, on our Independence Day, our Prime Minister announced our intention to set up the Borlaug Institute of South Asia in India. That Institute has since been set up with centers in three Indian states — Punjab, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.

"Norm" as he was affectionately known, and as Judith Rodin, President of the Rockefeller Foundation which did so much to promote the pioneering work of scientists like Dr. Borlaug in India, once said, "was a whirlwind of creative energy and initiative. Yet, even after kings and presidents suspended prizes of peace and medals of freedom and scientific excellence around his slender neck, he somehow maintained humility and anonymity. The modesty Norm kept." His name has become part of our zeitgeist, because he was one of those among us, who made miracles. There are not many like that, and we treasure his memory and his invaluable contribution to India's development." 

The full text of Ambassador Rao's speech can be viewed at:

<https://www.indianembassy.org/prdetail2197/speech-by-ambassador-nirupama-rao-at-function-held-by-the-embassy-of-india,-washington,-dc-to-commemorate-the-50th-anniversary-of-dr.-norman-borlaugandrsquo%3Bs-first-visit-to-india>

An Evening of Readings and Musical Reflections



1. Ambassador Nirupama Rao welcoming and addressing the gathering at An Evening of Readings and Musical Reflections — A Prelude to ‘Reflections on Peace: From Gandhi to King’ featuring renowned pianist Soundarie David Rodrigo and Nolan Williams, Jr. and his choir “Voices of Inspiration”. Ambassador Rao also read

passages from the writings of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr.
2. Nolan Williams, Jr. addressing the gathering.
3. Soundarie David Rodrigo on the piano presenting a medley of Indian songs of peace and songs from the Civil Rights Movement.
4. Nolan Williams, Jr. on the piano.
5. Nolan Williams, Jr. & Voices of Inspiration

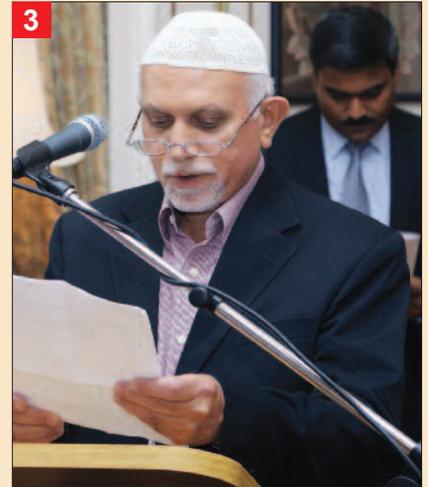
Gospel Choir presenting songs from the Civil Rights Movement “How I Got Over” and “I Shall Not be Moved”.
6. Ambassador Rao and Soundarie David Rodrigo with Nolan Williams, Jr. & Voices of Inspiration Gospel Choir.
7. Guests in attendance.

Ambassador Nirupama Rao hosted An Evening of Readings and Musical Reflections on Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King on August 9 at the Embassy Residence. The event featured renowned pianist Ms. Soundarie David Rodrigo and Mr. Nolan Williams, Jr. and his choir “Voices of Inspiration”. In her remarks, Ambassador Rao noted that on 20th August 1963, Martin Luther King addressed a gathering of 250 to 300 thousand people on the National

Mall in Washington and gave his “I Have a Dream” speech which turned the tide of history and led to the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act and other legislations. Martin Luther King drew his inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi through his teachers at Morehouse College Atlanta, President Benjamin Mays of Morehouse College, Howard Thurman and Bayard Rustin. Martin Luther King went to India in 1959 and spent a whole month. On his return, he spoke about the influence of Gandhiji’s

thoughts, including non-violence and Ahimsa. Ambassador Rao also read passages from the writings of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, highlighting the themes of non-violence, truth and faith. Soundarie David Rodrigo played on piano the compositions of Ludwig von Beethoven, Johannes Brahms, Sergei Rachmaninoff and Alberto Ginestera. The Voices of Inspiration choir conducted by Mr. Nolan Williams, Jr. performed songs and themes pertaining to Martin Luther King and Mahatma Gandhi. 

Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations at Embassy Residence

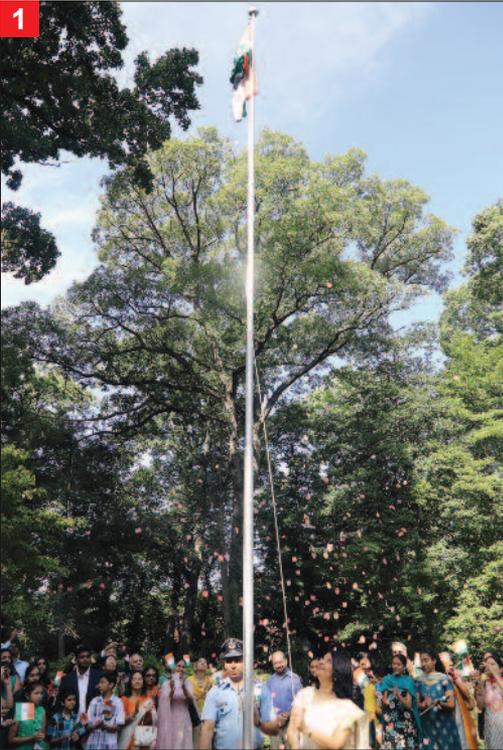


1. Ambassador Nirupama Rao welcoming and greeting the guests at the Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations hosted at the Embassy Residence on August 11.
2. Invocation (recitation from the Holy Quran) by Juzer Nomani, Dawoodi Bohra Community.

3. English translation of the verse by Hamed Osman Ziauddin, Hyderabad Association of Washington Area.
4. Ambassador Rashad Hussain, U.S. Special Envoy to OIC Countries, speaking on the significance of Eid-UI-Fitr.

5. Ghazal presentation by Vatsala Mehra, accompanied by Haroon Alam on tabla and Mohammed Bashir Khan on banjo.
6. Mohammad Gazi, Hyderabad Association of Baltimore, proposing the vote of thanks.
7. Guests in attendance.

Embassy celebrates Independence Day 2013



1. Ambassador Nirupama Rao unfurling the National Flag on the occasion of India's Independence Day on August 15.
2. Rendering of the National Anthem on the occasion.
3. Ambassador Nirupama Rao addressing the guests and reading out the President's Address to the Nation.
4. Presentation of patriotic songs by children from the Gandharva School of Music. Also seen is Center Director Nirmal Bajekal.
5. Ambassador Rao with children from the Gandharva School of Music.
6. Guests in attendance.



Vivekananda Memorial Program for Museum Excellence (VMPME) seminar

The Art Institute of Chicago held its 2013-14 Vivekananda Memorial Program for Museum Excellence (VMPME) seminar at the National Museum Institute in New Delhi between July 25-27. The seminar, which was inaugurated by Culture Secretary, Ravindra Singh, focused on Museum Collection Best Practices. More specifically, it highlighted the experiences and progress of the 2012-13 Fellows, provided an overview of the 2013-14 curriculum, and included an orientation for 2013-14 Fellows. David Thurm, Madhu Ghose, and Sam Quigley represented the Art Institute at the seminar.

Following the seminar, the 2013-14 Museum Excellence Fellows will visit the Art Institute of Chicago between October, 14-30, 2013. Several museum directors from participating institutions will also attend the introductory days of the program at the Art Institute.

The program at the Art Institute will consist of seminars, demonstrations, and hands-on workshops. Training will continue for the rest of the 2013-14 year with an intensive follow-up curriculum, including regular updates via video conference calls, assessments and assignments, installation of preventive care measures, and collection management implementation.

A significant achievement of the VMPME during the first year has been the selection of *Jatan*, an indigenously developed database management program, which with the Art Institute's assistance, will now be uniformly rolled out across ten major museums of India during 2013-14.

The 2013-14 Fellows selected for training are:

- Manash Bagchi, Curator, National Council for Science Museums
- Dr. Mita Chakrabarty, Deputy Keeper, Indian Museum
- Mr. K. Moorteshwari, Deputy Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India
- Dr. D.N. Sinha, Deputy Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India
- Ajay Srivastava, Deputy Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India
- Dr. J. Kedareswari, Keeper, Salar Jung Museum
- Santi Majee, Restoration Assistant, Victoria Memorial Hall
- Dr. B.K. Sahay, Assistant Curator, National Museum, India



1. From left: The AIC team represented by Sam Quigley, Vice President for Collections Management, Imaging, Information Technology; COO David Thurm; and curator Madhu Ghose; with officials from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, including Joint Secretary & Director General, National Museum, Dr. Venu Vasudevan; Secretary of Culture Ravindra Singh and Director Deepak Ashish Kaul; and Dr. G.S. Rautela, Director General, National Council of Science Museums, the nodal agency for the program at the inauguration of the 2013 VMPME Seminar at the National Museum Institute.
2. The 2013-14 VMPME Fellows with Art Institute of Chicago COO David Thurm; Vice President of Collections Management, Imaging, and Information Technology Sam Quigley; Alsdorf Associate Curator of Indian, Southeast Asian, Himalayan, and Islamic Art Dr. Madhu Ghose, and Ministry of Culture Director Deepak Ashish Kaul at the 2013-14 VMPME Seminar at the National Museum Institute.
3. Vivekananda Memorial Program for Museum Excellence Seminar attendees with Ravindra Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Culture.

67th Independence Day celebration at CGI New York



On the occasion of India's 67th Independence Day on August 15, Consul General of India in New York Ambassador Dnyaneshwar Mulay rang the closing bell at the NASDAQ Stock Exchange, New York.



The Consulate General of India, New York also hosted a reception in the evening at the Consulate. Around 250 guests, including prominent members of the Indian-American community and local dignitaries such as Ambassador Frank Wisner, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations Ambassador Asoke Mukerji, Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, and a number of community leaders attended the celebrations.

Warmly greeting and welcoming the guests, Ambassador Mulay underlined the important contribution of Indian diaspora worldwide toward growth and development of India.

He said that the vibrant Indian community in the U.S. had been contributing immensely to the friendship between India and the US. He also outlined the efforts that the Consulate has been taking toward improving its services, particularly streamlining various Consular procedures and expanding the outreach activities in various states under its jurisdiction.

Consul General Mulay, along with the other dignitaries cut a cake in celebration of this joyous occasion. 

Celebrating birth anniversary of Ustad Vilayat Khan



The Consulate General of India, New York celebrated the 85th birth anniversary of Late Ustad Vilayat Khan, the legendary sitar maestro, by organizing an Indian classical instrumental music (sitar) concert of Hidayat Khan, sitar maestro and son of Ustad



Vilayat Khan on August 30 at the Consulate Ballroom. The concert was organized in association with the Ustad Vilayat Khan Foundation, Inc.

Consul General Ambassador Dnyaneshwar Mulay addressed the gathering and underlined the invaluable contribution of Ustad Vilayat Khan to Indian classical music.

Late Ustad Vilayat Khan was a legendary sitar maestro well known for his versatility and innovations in the field of Indian classical music. He was an inventor, an architect of the modern sitar and very well-established *gayaki aang* (vocal style of sitar playing). He continues to inspire generations of musicians.

The style of presentation of Hidayat Khan is very lyrical and vocal inspired. During the concert, he performed raga Yaman Kalyan and raga Khammaj, based folk melodies from different parts of India. He was accompanied by Enayat Husain on Tabla.

The sitar maestro has been exposed to the music from across the world and his presentations carry the influence of world music. A large number of people from the New York City and Tri-State area attended the program. 

'Let's build bridge between communities in Ohio'

Consul General of India in New York Ambassador Dnyaneshwar Mulay has offered his services to build a bridge between the communities in Ohio, the government, local businesses and different working bodies of India. Consul General Mulay was the keynote speaker at the annual India Festival in Ohio organized by the Federation of Indian Associations of Central Ohio (FIA) on August 24. He also led the flag hoisting ceremony in the presence of several elected officials and community leaders. Over 12, 000 people attended the annual India festival. Ohio is one of the ten territories under the jurisdiction of the New York Consulate.



Arriving in Columbus on August 22, Consul General Mulay attended a dinner reception with the Presidents of FIA member organizations, FIA office bearers, sponsors, and other guests.

On August 23, the Consul General visited *The Columbus Dispatch* for an editorial board meeting. The Ohio State University invited him for a luncheon where he took stock of the various programs through which the university is engaged with India.

Consulate General of Houston

1. To commemorate India's 67th Independence Day, the Consulate General of India in Houston organized Flag Hoisting Open House for Indian nationals and friends of India at the residence of Consul General of India P. Harish on August 15. In photo, Consul General P. Harish unfurling the National Flag. Congressman Pete Olson, Representative (R-TX 22nd District) is also seen.
2. Consul General P. Harish with Congressmen Pete Olson and Steve Stockman on the occasion of India's Independence Day celebrations on August 15.



3. Consul General P. Harish (2nd from left) at the 4th Annual Eid Milan 2013 — Fostering Amity between Cultures, Communities and Religions organized by Indian Muslims Association of Greater Houston (IMAGH) on August 18. Also seen in the picture are Latafath Hussain (left), President, IMAGH; Charles Foster (2nd from right), Patron, IMAGH and Abeezer Tyebji (right), Chairman, Board of Advisors, IMAGH.



4. Consul General P. Harish and P. Nandita with Board Members of the 5th Annual Indian Film Festival of Houston (to be held in Houston from October 4-6, 2013) during the curtain raiser event that they hosted on August 22.
5. Consul General P. Harish in a meeting with United States Senator Ted Cruz, (Republican-Texas) on August 28.



India would remain an open economy: Prime Minister

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on August 30 said while the slide in the value of the rupee caused by external developments was a matter of concern, there was no question of capital controls and India would remain an open economy.

“The depreciation in the value of the rupee since end of May is a matter of concern,” the Prime Minister told the Lok Sabha. “What triggered the sharp depreciation in rupee was the market’s reaction to unexpected external developments,” he added.

“Clearly, we need to reduce our appetite for gold, economize the use of petroleum products and take steps to increase our exports,” he said. At the same time, the fall in rupee’s value is good to some extent as it makes exports competitive, he added.

The Prime Minister also assured that the country’s growth would pick up soon, and everything would be



done to contain the fiscal deficit at 4.8 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

“Last two decades have seen India grow as an open economy and benefited from it. There is no question of reversing these policies,” he said.

“I would like to assure the house and the world the government is not contemplating any measures on capital controls.”



India, US discuss commercial ties

Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma met with U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman in Bandar Seri Begawan, the capital of Brunei, and reviewed ongoing negotiations in the World Trade Organization in view of the coming Bali Ministerial Meet in December.

The two leaders also discussed the future roadmap for concluding the Doha Development Agreement negotiations and issues of trade facilitation and food security. The Commerce and Industry Minister called for participation of the U.S. in manufacturing and research and development (R&D) sectors of India’s economy. USTR Froman impressed upon putting in place a rule-based multilateral trade agreement which will be both balanced and ambitious.

India gets its third military transport heavy-lifter



The Indian Air Force (IAF) has received its third Boeing C-17 Globemaster III, a large, versatile military transport aircraft capable of carrying heavy, oversized loads long distances and landing on rough and unprepared surfaces.

The plane which departed for India on August 20 from Boeing’s Long Beach, California, facility joins the first and second India C-17 airlifters, which arrived in June and July, respectively. Boeing is on track to deliver two more C-17s to the IAF this year and five in 2014.

Indian Navy gets IAC ‘Vikrant’

India on August 12 launched its first indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC) ‘Vikrant’, joining the select group of three other nations having naval platforms of such complexity and size.

The warship was launched by Elizabeth Antony, wife of Defense Minister A.K. Antony in Kochi.

Speaking on the occasion, the Defense Minister described the launch of the aircraft carrier as a “momentous day” for the Navy and the country.

“It is indeed a proud moment for the country to witness our efforts at achieving self-reliance in the field of warship design and construction as very few countries possess the capability to design and develop aircraft carriers,” he said.

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral D.K. Joshi said the launch of the IAC was a



“historic moment not only for the Navy but the entire nation”.

Standing at about 25 meters above water with its construction completed till the flight deck, the IAC appears mammoth and muscular.

To be equipped with modern weapons systems including long range surface-to-air missiles and close-in weapons system, the IAC is expected to be the centerpiece of the Indian Navy’s strengths in coming years.

Indian American named for top US environmental award

An Indian American professor of biological and agricultural engineering has been recognized for lifetime achievement by a top U.S. environmental and water resources institute.

Vijay Singh, Professor and Caroline & William N. Lehrer Distinguished Chair in the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering at Texas A&M University, has been named as a recipient of the 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award by the American Society of Civil Engineers Environmental and Water Resources Institute (ASCE-EWRI).

Set up in 1999, the Environmental



Professor Vijay Singh.

and Water Resources Institute is a civil engineering specialty institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the country's oldest national engineering society.

Professor Singh was born in Agra, India, on July 15, 1946. He acquired his master of science degree from the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada, and then did his Ph.D from the Colorado State University.

A recipient of various distinguished awards and author of a voluminous number of publications, Singh served in the faculty of various universities in the U.S. before joining Texas A&M University on July 1, 2006. — IANS

Vince Girdhari Chhabria nominated to key judicial post

President Barack Obama has nominated yet another Indian American legal luminary, Vince Girdhari Chhabria, to a key judicial post in California.

Nominated to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of California, Chhabria is currently deputy city attorney for government litigation at the San Francisco city attorney's office, where he has worked since 2005.

Announcing Chhabria's nomination along with five other judicial posts, President Obama said: "These men and women have had distinguished legal careers and I am honored to ask them to continue their work as judges on the federal bench."

"They will serve the American people with integrity and an unwavering commitment to justice," he added.

On confirmation by the Senate, Chhabria would become the first South Asian judge in California and the fourth South Asian judge in the US. — IANS

A \$5mn boost for India studies in US

A \$5 million gift to the India studies center at a New York University is set to make it one of the pre-eminent resource centers for the study of Indian culture and civilization in the US.

The donations make the Centre for India Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences at Stony Brook University as the recipient of the largest gift ever made to a U.S. public university for India Studies.

The gift comprises a donation of \$1.25 million from Nirmal K. Mattoo, a leading nephrologist and chairman of Stony Brook's Centre for India Studies executive committee, and a \$1.25 million permanent endowment from members of the Indian American community Coupled with matching funds of \$2.5 million from the Simons Foundation Challenge Grant, the gift has a total impact of \$5 million.

Mattoo's gift will be used to establish the Nirmal and Augustina Mattoo Chair in Classical Indic Humanities. — IANS

Indian American kids are world geography champions

A team of three bright young Indian American students beat out teams from 17 other regions to win top honors at the 11th National Geographic World Championship in Russia's St. Petersburg city.

The U.S. team composed entirely of Indian American kids soared ahead of second place Canada, which was up against third-place India in a tense tiebreaker round in the July 31 final, California based ethnic weekly *India West* reported.

The team was made up of captain Gopi Ramanathan, 15, from Sartell, Minnesota; Asha Jain, 13, from Minocqua, Wisconsin; and Neelam Kaur Sandhu, 14, from Bedford,

New Hampshire. In the biennial competition, teams of students answered questions on physical, cultural and economic geography. The Indian-American trio won by correctly identifying a country whose flag has six small stars representing the mainland and its five offshore islands. The answer was Equatorial Guinea.

"I'm still trying to process it and what that means," Ramanathan was quoted as telling his local newspaper the *St. Cloud Times*.

Students around the world earned the chance to be part of the World Championship competition by winning or being a top finisher in the national competitions of their home regions. — IANS

GSAT-7 satellite launched successfully

GSAT-7 was successfully put into the geosynchronous transfer orbit on August 30 by the European Space Agency's (ESA) heavy rocket, authorities said.

It was launched in the early hours from its spaceport at Kourou in French Guiana off the Pacific coast.

"The advanced multi-band communication satellite was deployed in the transfer orbit, around 36,000 km from above the earth, by the Ariane-5 rocket of the ESA's Ariespace 34 minutes after its lift-off at 2 a.m. IST," the state-run Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) said.

The Indian space agency's Master Control Facility (MCF) at Hassan, about 180 km from Bangalore, acquired signals from the 2.5-ton dedicated spacecraft five minutes before it was separated from the rocket.



Built by ISRO, GSAT-7 is an advanced communication satellite meant for providing wide range of service spectrum from low bit rate voice to high bit rate data communication.

According to defense experts, the satellite will enable the navy to acquire Blue Water capabilities and it need not depend on foreign satellites like Inmarsat, which provides communication

services to its ships.

The spacecraft is equipped with transponders in Ku band, S band, C band and UHF (ultra high frequency) band to improve the maritime communications among the Indian Navy's warships.

India launches satellite for better weather forecast

India's advanced satellite Insat-3D, which was launched on July 26 onboard Ariane-5 rocket from Kourou in French Guiana off the Pacific coast, will improve weather and monsoon forecasting system.

"After a perfect lift-off at 01:24 a.m. from the European Ariespace spaceport at Kourou, the two-ton advanced weather satellite was placed in the geosynchronous transfer orbit (GTO) 32 minutes later, about 36,000 km above from earth," the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) said in a statement.

The sophisticated spacecraft is orbiting at perigee (closest to the earth) of 249.9 km and apogee (farthest from the earth) of 35,880 km in the orbit.

"The satellite's solar panel was automatically deployed soon after it was separated from the rocket's upper cryogenic stage and our master control facility at Hassan took over its control for further manoeuvres," the ISRO statement said. Hassan is about 200 km from Bangalore.

Indian astronomers help get peek into ancient cosmos

Stars born billions of years ago emit signals, and a specialized radio telescope can capture such signals. Indian astronomers have been part of an international team building such radio telescopes to increase our knowledge of the early universe.

Four astronomers of the Raman Research Institute (RRI) in Bangalore participated in building a new radio telescope in Australia to track and receive signals from distant stars and galaxies, which emerged at cosmic dawn, 13 billion years ago.

"We participated in building the Murchison Widefield Array (MWA) radio telescope in Western Australia outback to unfold the cosmic history that remained a mystery so far," RRI director Ravi Subrahmanyan said.

Unlike an optical telescope through

which planets, stars and galaxies are "viewed" and studied from the earth, a radio telescope uses antennas, which operate in the radio frequency of the electromagnetic spectrum to detect "signals" emitted by celestial bodies and objects in the outer space for studying their phenomena.

"The primary goal of the radio telescope is to 'view' the birth of the first stars and galaxies — the cosmic dawn — almost 13 billion years ago. The telescope entered the operational phase on July 9 to get a deep insight into cosmic phenomena," Subrahmanyan said.

Besides Subrahmanyan and three other astro-physicists — Uday Shankar, K.S. Dwaraknath and A.A. Deshpande — four top engineers from the institute also partnered with counterparts from Australia, New



One of the tiles making up the 32T, a prototype instrument for the Murchison Widefield Array.

Zealand and the U.S. in building the mammoth radio telescope.

"We have designed and built the digital receivers of the telescope at the institute, installed and commissioned them to also study the influence of the sun on interplanetary space weather close to the earth," Subrahmanyan said.

'Chennai Express success good sign for Indian films'

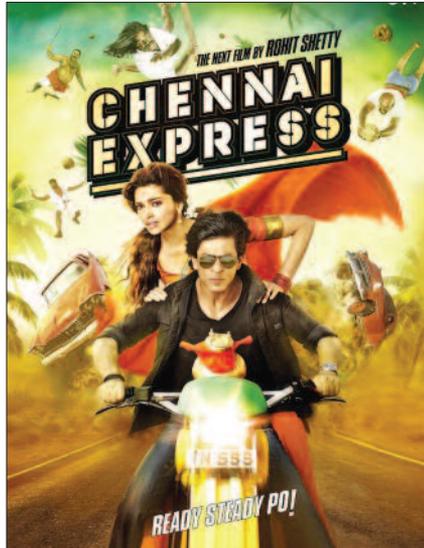
Chennai Express is doing brisk business not only in North India, but at the southern box office and in international markets as well. The romantic comedy's lead actor Shah Rukh Khan feels it's a good sign for the Indian film market.

"It's a good sign not only for us, but for the films that came and that will come in the next five-six months... the market of Indian films is so big," Shah Rukh told reporters on August 15 at the INOX theatre in Mumbai, where he came with the film's director Rohit Shetty and interacted with media and fans.

Also starring Deepika Padukone, the movie is a co-production by Shah Rukh's Red Chillies Entertainment and UTV Motion Pictures.

"This film is doing well down South, internationally also it is doing good. I think it's a great sign for Indian films," he added.

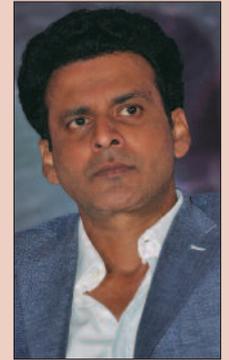
Released on Eid, the romantic comedy is said to have set new records —



it has got the highest paid preview collections, highest weekend collections, highest overseas collections for an opening weekend for a Bollywood film and also the fastest film to reach the ₹1-billion-mark. "Our market is growing extensively and very soon people will be comparing our market to international markets," said Shah Rukh.

Unique combo compelled Manoj to do Satyagraha

Manoj Bajpayee's character in *Satyagraha* has shades of gray and humor as well and he says that the presence of the two different elements convinced him to take up the role.



"When you get something challenging, you just go ahead and pick up the challenge. The two elements of hatred and laughter compelled me to do the film," Manoj said.

It was not easy for the actor to emote both the shades. "It's a unique combination, but it was a tough combination to crack. It was quite a lot of hard work as well as a lot fun on the set," he said and added: "It was very different from what I have done till now. This character is cunning and clever."

Manoj, who has been seen in films like *Gangs Of Wasseypur*, *Pinjar*, *Veer-Zaara*, and *Raajneeti*, has been applauded for his acting abilities over the years.

'Paresh Rawal is a world-class actor'

Anil Kapoor, who is working with Paresh Rawal again in *Welcome Back*, a sequel to the 2007 hit *Welcome*, regards him as a world-class actor.



Actor Paresh Rawal.

"I was working internationally and they were saying 'Anil you are doing very well and I like the way you work.' I said, 'I am nothing! There are great actors in India, like Paresh Rawal; they are world class actors,'" the 56-

Indians think from the heart: Ashton

Hollywood actor Ashton Kutcher, who shot parts of his latest movie *Jobs* in India, believes the country's people think from their hearts over their minds. This, he says, made his experience of shooting in India worthwhile.

Kutcher shot in India — in Old Delhi and the Jama Masjid area last year. The actor says it was important to incorporate Indian culture in the movie.

"We see the way people live and you start to feel that people are living based on their instincts. They kind of think more from their heart than their mind and I think that was an important capacity to get and incorporate in the film and it was beautiful,"



Ashton Kutcher as Steve Jobs in *Jobs*.

Kutcher said in a statement.

"We went all over the place. We went to Old Delhi and traveled around shooting sort of pieces here and there. So it was great," he added.

Kutcher plays the role of Apple co-founder Steve Jobs in the biopic.

FOR EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

Be it a brush with nature at the breathtakingly beautiful Pangong lake across the Chang La Pass, or a ride on the double humped camel at the famous cold desert of Nubra valley, a trip to Leh is a tribute to beauty



(Above) Zojila Pass on National Highway 1D;
(Bottom) A view of the ancient Leh Palace.

Leh in the Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir is a picturesque little town, cocooned amid the hills and drowned in calmness. You can savor every little moment and enjoy your holiday in the true sense of the word. Leh, you realize, is not just a destination; it's an experience.

Leh, at an altitude of more than 11,000 feet, is blessed with nature's bounty. Simple things like waking up to an azure blue sky and the sight of snow-capped mountains, or star-gazing at night and wishing upon the scores of shooting stars leaves you with happy memories.

Although it has an airport with direct flights from Delhi, Jammu, and

HOW TO GET THERE:

BY AIR: There are direct flights from Delhi, Srinagar and Jammu.

BY ROAD: Approximate distance from Chandigarh to Leh via Manali is 800 km. Approximate distance from Srinagar to Leh is 440 km. State transport buses also ply on the Srinagar-Leh route.

ACCOMMODATION: Leh, being a popular holiday destination, has innumerable hotels, guest houses, and even youth hostels. In the peak tourist season, you can expect the hotel room tariff to start anywhere from ₹1,500.

Srinagar, most people prefer taking a road trip to Leh. One, because the journey through the changing landscape, whether you go via Manali or through Srinagar, is in itself a lifetime experience. Plus, you get to drive past the 'magnetic hill' (from Kargil to Leh) when your car defies gravity to move a short distance of slight road elevation on its own! And second, as most travel experts would say, a road trip prepares you better in the acclimatization process.

From Leh, one has to cross the Chang La Pass to reach the breathtakingly beautiful Pangong lake, made more famous by the movie *3 Idiots*. The lake, 60 percent of which lies in Tibet, is striking amid the surrounding barren hills. One can count at least seven shades of blue in the water!

The Nubra valley, at a distance of 150 km from Leh, is again a must-visit. Famous for being a cold desert, when there, a ride on the double humped camel, also called the Bactrian camel, is worth experiencing.

Leh in itself has a lot for visitors to see. There is the magnificent Shanti Stupa, the 400-year-old Jama Masjid, and the ancient Leh Palace which is a humble multi-storeyed structure from whose balconies you get a bird's eye view of the entire town.



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