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(Above) Members of the Southern Baptist Church Choir rendering a series of traditional Christmas hymns; (Below) Members of the American Jewish Committee Young Leaders Group rendering traditional Hanukkah songs.

Embassy Celebrates Christmas and Hanukkah

■ **FOOD SECURITY
BILL TABLED
IN PARLIAMENT**

■ **USAID, FICCI INK
DEAL TO SUPPORT
INNOVATION**

■ **INDIA'S ROMANTIC
HERO DEV ANAND
PASSES AWAY**

'ASIA-PACIFIC REGION IS THE CENTER OF GRAVITY FOR GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES'

Speaking at the University of California, Berkeley, on 'India and the Asia-Pacific: Expanding engagement' on December 5, 2011, Ambassador Nirupama Rao observed that the Asia-Pacific region had emerged as the primary center for global opportunities.

She said that India's engagement with the Asia-Pacific region was not new. "It has been a continuous process that goes back over a millennium. From the fact that we are a vast nation, with a rich and diverse history, we have had very dynamic and extensive contacts with our eastern neighbors since the first century — contacts based on cultural exchange, trade and commerce and maritime interaction," Ambassador Rao said.

Excerpts from Ambassador Nirupama Rao's speech at the event:

"It is well accepted that the Asia-Pacific region today is the center of gravity for global opportunities with its continued economic growth. While the global economic situation is showing several signs of stress, the emerging market countries in Asia are growing well and have demonstrated their resilience.

The region can be expected to continue contributing to global growth, trade, prosperity and innovation. Today, Asia has by far the greatest share of rising middle classes and a young population; its economies are growing both quantitatively and qualitatively and integrating with the global economy. The sheer numbers alone, in terms of population or accelerating economic activity, ensures that the region will play a starring role in the 21st century. We do not deny, however, that there are still many challenges that the region faces and that need to be successfully tackled.

In this regard we also have an increasing convergence of interests



Ambassador Nirupama Rao

Ambassador Rao pointed out that the economic growth and prosperity of both India and the United States was linked in many ways to the Asia-Pacific region

with the United States, which has been an important player in Asia, and today is renewing its engagement with the region. The continuance of economic growth and prosperity in both our countries is in many ways linked to the Indo-Pacific region. It is necessary in this context that we work together to manage challenges such as those posed by terrorism and extremism, or other diverse threats to our peace and security.

These converging interests have opened up new opportunities for enhancing cooperation and our efforts would be to capitalize on these opportunities. It was in recognition of these mutual interests that Prime Minister Singh and President Obama spelled out the shared vision of both countries for peace, stability and prosperity in Asia, the Indian Ocean and Pacific regions during the visit of President Obama to India last year.

We will work together and with

other countries of the region, through forums such as East Asia Summit for evolution of an open, balanced and inclusive architecture in the region, so that all stakeholders can make their respective contributions to regional security. In multilateral forums such as the East Asia Summit, ASEAN Regional Forum or ADMM + 8 process, there is now a regular consultation between our two countries and we work together constructively.

We are supplementing such multilateral efforts by bilateral consultations on the Asia-Pacific. We instituted a regular dialogue on developments in the region last year and have held four rounds of meetings. This dialogue provides an opportunity for two sides to discuss and exchange our respective perspectives on a wide range of regional issues. We have agreed to further deepen these strategic consultations on developments in the Asia-Pacific.

As both our countries have a shared interest in maritime security in the region, cooperation in this area between India and the United States has deepened in the past several years. We both have affirmed the importance of maritime security, unimpeded commerce, and freedom of navigation, in accordance with relevant universally agreed principles of international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and peaceful settlement of maritime disputes.

As we move towards an Asia-Pacific century, India will continue to deepen its engagement with the region as well as contribute to its overall prosperity, stability and security."

The full text of the speech can be viewed at: <http://www.indianembassy.org/prdetail1833/address-by-ambassador-nirupama-rao-at-uc-berkeley-on-5-december-2011-----andlsquo%3BIndia-and-the-asia-pacific%3A-expanding-engagementandrsquo%3B>

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION AT EMBASSY RESIDENCE ON DECEMBER 8



PHOTO LEGENDS

1. Ambassador Nirupama Rao welcoming and greeting the guests.
2. Congressman Ed Royce speaking on the occasion.
3. Invocation prayer by Rev. Mathai Mannoovadakkethil VICAR Malankara.
4. Dr. Sajan Mathews, Professor of Theology, Moody Bible Institute addressing the guests.
5. Patrick Jacob, Seventh Day Adventist Church proposing the vote of thanks.
6. Community Choir Group led by Ayona Dutta rendering a medley of Christmas Carols in different Indian languages.
7. Christmas Carols rendered by a group from Mizoram.
8. Christmas Carols rendered by the Southern Baptist Church Choir.
9. Guests in attendance.



HANUKKAH CELEBRATION AT THE EMBASSY ON DECEMBER 22



PHOTO LEGENDS

1. Invocation Prayer by Benjamin Reuben (President, Magen Abraham Synagogue, India), Nissim Reuben (American Jewish Committee) & Rabbi Rachel Gartner (Georgetown University).
2. Ambassador Nirupama Rao greeting the guests through a video message.
3. Deputy Chief of Mission Arun K Singh welcoming the guests.
4. Dan Arbell, Minister & DCM, Embassy of Israel, Washington, DC, speaking on the occasion.

5. Jarrod Bernstein, Director of Jewish Outreach, Office of Public Engagement, The White House, addressing the gathering.
6. Jason F. Isaacson, Director, Office of Govt. & International Affairs, American Jewish Committee (AJC), addressing the guests.
7. Daniel S. Mariaschin, Executive Vice-President, B'nai B'rith International, speaking on the occasion.
8. Jewish Acapella songs by American Jewish Committee Young Leaders Group.

DR. BHUPEN HAZARIKA MEMORIAL SERVICE ON DECEMBER 3



Lighting of the Ceremonial Lamp by Deputy Chief of Mission Arun K. Singh and Aroona Borpujari.



Smita Barua reading Dr. Bhupen Hazarika's biography.



Chorus rendered by Arundhotee Goswami, Nipika Patgiri, Barnali Deka, Satyen Das, Anurag Barua and Rabin Goswami.



Deputy Chief of Mission Arun K. Singh delivering the Memorial Address.



Tej Hazarika, son of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika, speaking on the occasion.



Asad Rehman proposing the vote of thanks.



Guests in attendance.

EMBASSY CELEBRATES INDIAN ARMED FORCES FLAG DAY 2011



PHOTO LEGENDS

1. Defence & Military Attache, Brig. B.K. Jain welcoming the guests at the Embassy on December 5, 2011.
2. Deputy Chief of Mission Arun K. Singh addressing the guests.
3. A view of the audience gathered on the occasion.

Consulate EVENTS

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION AT CGI NEW YORK



Clockwise from above left: Consul-General Prabhu Dayal addressing the guests; a 30-member Chamber Choir of the Herricks High School rendering carols; a group of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints rendering carols

A 30-member Chamber Choir of the Herricks High School and a group of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints rendered various carols.

Various community leaders, including Prof. Blair Williams, President of the Anglo-Indian community, Dr. Thomas Abraham, Chairman of GOPIO and Suzy Abraham of the Indian Overseas National Congress thanked Ambassador Prabhu Dayal for reaching out to all the community members and keeping them together by way of holding such events and conveyed their Christmas greetings and best wishes to all the participants.

About 100 people, including eminent members of the Christian community from the Tri-State Area, members of the Indian-American community and their associations and media representatives participated and enjoyed the gaiety and festive ambiance of the celebrations.

The Consulate General of India, New York, hosted a Reception at the Consulate on December 14 to celebrate Christmas.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Prabhu Dayal, Consul-General of India in New York, extended his season's greetings and best wishes for Christmas to all the participants. He reflected on the secular traditions of India and the Consulate's special endeavors in celebrating various religious festivals and thanked the community members for their active and enthusiastic participation at all the events organized at the Consulate.



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh meets with President Barack Obama on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and East Asia Summits in Nusa Dua on Indonesia's resort island of Bali on November 18. AFP PHOTO / Saul Loeb

INDIA-U.S. RELATIONS 2011: A RETROSPECTIVE

India Review travels back through 2011 to take stock of how two of the world's most important nations, India and the United States, gave greater meaning and substance to what Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Barack Obama had termed as one of the "defining partnerships of the 21st century"

After President Barack Obama's historic visit to India in November 2010, India-US relations achieved a new momentum. While several leaders from India visited Washington, Secretary Hillary Clinton and several other leaders from the U.S. too visited India to widen the canvas of India-U.S. relations in 2011. Besides political level cooperation, the two of the world's largest democracies, that share the values of pluralism, tolerance, openness, and respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights, also strengthened their relations in different sectors such as

science, space, clean and renewable energy, information sharing, military exchanges, defense trade, counter-terrorism, education, health, agriculture, technology, innovation, manufacturing and services. As Ambassador Nirupama Rao, addressing the Chicago Council on Global Affairs on "India's Global Outlook and Foreign Policy" on September 20, said that India's bilateral relations with the U.S. had "matured into a strategic partnership of global dimensions". The role of the Indian diaspora in the U.S. has also been critical in strengthening the bilateral relations between the two countries.

MAY: HOMELAND SECURITY DIALOGUE

Affirming the strategic importance of cooperation for the security of India and the United States and their people, the two countries concluded the India-U.S. Homeland Security Dialogue in New Delhi on May 27, 2011. At the Dialogue, the Indian delegation was led by Home Minister P. Chidambaram and the U.S. side by Secretary, Homeland Security Department, Janet Napolitano.

It was as part of the growing global strategic partnership between India and the United States, that Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Barack Obama had launched



Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee and Secretary of Treasury Tim Geithner at the India-U.S. Financial and Economic Partnership meet in Washington, D.C. on June 28.



Home Minister P. Chidambaram meeting with U.S. Secretary for Homeland Security Janet Napolitano in New Delhi on May 27.

the India-U.S. Homeland Security Dialogue during President Obama's State Visit to India in November 2010.

During their talks, Home Minister Chidambaram and Secretary Napolitano hailed the growing cooperation between the two countries in their counter-terrorism efforts. Referring to the Mumbai terror attack of November 2008, they restated that the two governments were determined to bring to justice the perpetrators and the supporters of the carnage.

As regards institutional cooperation, the two leaders agreed to deep-en agency-to-agency engagement, sharing of intelligence and information, and access to data relating to terrorism.

JUNE: FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee arrived in the United States of America on June 27 to attend the second meeting of India-U.S. Financial and Economic Partnership in Washington, D.C. Speaking at the inauguration of the meeting, Finance Minister Mukherjee said that in the one year since the forum's launch, it had succeeded in giving an impetus to the rapidly expanding financial and economic engagement between India and the U.S.

Taking forward their ties, India and the United States have agreed to expand trade and investment links between the two economies, and to develop and strengthen their financial systems

During the meeting, billed as the "highest-level" economic engagement between the two countries, Mukherjee and the US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner interacted with top U.S. corporate leaders and policy makers to discuss ways to further strengthening economic cooperation between the two countries. The first meeting of the India-U.S. Financial and Economic Partnership was held in April, 2010, in India's capital New Delhi.

While Minister Mukherjee led the Indian delegation, Timothy Geithner, Secretary, U.S. Department of Treasury, led the U.S. delegation. The two-day meeting focussed on infrastructure development, capital markets reforms, and cooperation on

the Group of 20 (G20) efforts to reduce trade imbalances.

Minister Mukherjee assured the American investors that with the "major steps" that India had taken recently, its economy was back on its over 8.5 percent growth path.

During the course of his visit, the Indian Finance Minister also held a bilateral meeting with the U.S. Treasury Secretary and discussed issues of mutual interest and those related to the world economic situation.

Later, on June 28, Mukherjee participated in the Cabinet Level Meeting of the India-US Financial and Economic Partnership with Geithner. Asserting that India and the USA would work together to expand their trade and investment links and would further develop and strengthen their financial systems, the two leaders issued a joint statement at the end of the meeting.

According to the joint statement, the two countries also agreed to "work together in the G-20 on an effective mutual assessment process to bring about strong, sustained, and balanced global growth".

It further said that "leveraging their combined knowledge, experience, and shared interests, the two sides have agreed to a robust agenda for the coming year that includes



HRD Minister Kapil Sibal speaking at the First US-India Higher Education Summit at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. on October 13, 2011.



India's Minister for Commerce and Industry Anand Sharma meeting U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk, in Washington on June 22, 2011.

deeper engagement” in three key areas:

- Macroeconomic challenges, including growth, unemployment, inflation, global liquidity, commodity prices, international capital flows and fiscal consolidation.
- Financial sector reforms, including deepening of capital markets, financial inclusion, and ensuring the stability, transparency, and integrity of the financial system.
- Infrastructure finance, including innovative strategies to mobilize capital for infrastructure development, and sharing best practices and building capacity for design and successful execution of Public-Private Partnerships.

The United States, the joint statement said, was “committed to making investments in technology, skills, and infrastructure necessary to maintain and enhance U.S. competitiveness in the global economy.”

On its part, “India intends to take steps to marshal private and public savings to meet the infrastructure needs of a rapidly growing Indian economy,” the joint statement said.

According to the joint statement, the India-U.S. relationship offers enormous economic opportunities for Americans and Indians alike. Through stronger collaboration and coordination amongst their economic and financial policymakers, the two

countries have sought to deepen bilateral and multilateral engagements in order to fully capitalize on the wealth of economic opportunities between the two nations.

It said the India-U.S. economic relationship had made significant progress over the past decade and that trade and investment between the two countries had expanded across a variety of industries and sectors during this period. Between 2000 and 2010, Indian exports to the United States had grown by nearly 180 percent while U.S. exports to India had increased over four times the previous levels, the statement said.

Earlier, the combined bilateral India-U.S. foreign direct investment had grown by nearly 165 percent between 2005 and 2009, according to the statement. Despite this progress, and especially given the size of the two respective economies, the joint statement pointed out that there remained untapped potential and opportunities to expand trade and investment linkages to the benefit of the two countries.

The Indian Finance Minister also met with the Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of Indian and American companies during his three-day trip to the U.S. Later, Mukherjee had a bilateral meeting with the US National Security Advisor Thomas E. Donilon.

July: Bilateral Aviation Safety Agreement

In a significant development, India and the United States signed the Bilateral Aviation Safety Agreement (BASA) on July 18 in New Delhi. India representative Dr. Nasim Zaidi, Secretary, Civil Aviation and U.S. Representative J. Randolph Babbitt, Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) signed the agreement in the presence of senior officials from the Civil Aviation Ministry, Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Airports Authority of India from the Indian side and FAA and U.S. Trade and Development Agency from the U.S. side. The signing of the agreement coincided with the visit of U.S. Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, to India.

BASA will facilitate reciprocal airworthiness certification of civil aeronautical products imported or exported between the two signatory authorities and acceptance of Indian aeronautical products by the U.S.

The aircraft manufacturing industry in India is expected to benefit as a result of the new agreement. The agreement is also expected to spur trade between India and the U.S. BASA would also encourage the indigenous aircraft and aeronautical products industry and the U.S. acceptance of Indian products would help the industry to achieve global acceptance of its products.

The BASA is expected to lead to the signing of the Implementation Procedures for Airworthiness, which provides for technical cooperation between FAA and its counterpart civil aviation authorities.

JUNE: TRADE & COMMERCE TALKS

During his visit to the United States, Anand Sharma, India's Minister for Commerce and Industry held wide-ranging discussions with Ambassador Ron Kirk, the United States Trade Representative on June 22. Minister Sharma and Ambassador Kirk agreed to fast-track the technical negotiations for an early conclusion of the India-US Bilateral Investment Agreement. The two sides also agreed to re-invigorate the Trade Policy Forum (TPF) and make it more robust and effective in resolving bilateral commercial issues. During their discussions, the two leaders covered the entire range of issues related to bilateral trade and commercial engagement.



External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna with Secretary Hillary Clinton in New Delhi on July 19.

JULY: SECOND STRATEGIC DIALOGUE

India and the U.S. concluded the second round of their bilateral Strategic Dialogue in New Delhi on July 19, 2011, with a commitment to deepening the India-U.S. global strategic partnership. At the Dialogue, the U.S. delegation was led by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and the Indian side by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna.

During the meeting, both the sides recognized that their strategic consultations had expanded to cover all major issues and regions of the world. India and the U.S. have increased counter-terrorism cooperation, intelligence sharing, and law enforcement exchanges. The two countries have significantly expanded

their defense cooperation and partnership on export controls and non-proliferation. They have also witnessed an expansion of the already robust people-to-people ties; scientific, space, and technology collaboration; clean energy cooperation; and connections among entrepreneurs and social innovators.

Addressing a joint press conference after his meeting with Secretary Clinton, Minister Krishna said, "The Strategic Dialogue is the bedrock on which we are building our global strategic partnership that would be one of the defining relationships of the 21st century. This is the vision of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Obama."

He further said, "We reiterated our

commitment to taking forward civil nuclear energy cooperation on the basis of full implementation of mutual commitments. We were reassured that United States reaffirmed its commitment for full civil nuclear cooperation. I expressed appreciation for our ongoing engagement and full support of the U.S. for India's full membership of the four export control regimes and our expectation of progress in tandem on the four regimes. We discussed UNSC reforms and India's permanent membership of a reformed UN Security Council."

Describing the meeting very "productive", Secretary Clinton said, "We are building habits of cooperation and bonds of trust. And we are standing on a firm foundation. And

Highlights of the India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue

The second meeting of the India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue stressed on the issues of global stability and prosperity.

- Both India and the U.S. expressed their intention to expand strategic consultations to other regions, including Latin America and the Caribbean.
- The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to consultation, coordination, and cooperation in Afghanistan.
- As part of their global concerns, the two sides agreed to promote food security in Africa through a triangular cooperation program with Liberia, Malawi and Kenya.

- The two sides reiterated their commitment to working together to strengthen election management capacity in interested countries.
- Secretary Clinton recalled President Obama's statement that, in the years ahead, the United States looks forward to a reformed UN Security Council that includes India as a Permanent Member.
- Both sides also affirmed their desire to strengthen cooperation through technology transfer, and joint research, development and production of defense items.

- India and the U.S. affirmed the importance of maritime security, unimpeded commerce, and freedom of navigation, in accordance with international law, and the peaceful settlement of disputes.
- The two sides cited the signing of a Bilateral Aviation Safety Agreement as a big step forward.
- Minister Krishna and Secretary Clinton welcomed the continued commitment of the Indian and American governments to full implementation of the India-U.S. civil nuclear energy cooperation agreement.



From Left: John J. DeGioia, President, Georgetown University, Ambassador Nirupama Rao, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, HRD Minister Kapil Sibal and Robert O. Blake, Jr. Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs, at Georgetown University.

we believe that we can do even more work to ensure that this important dialogue leads to concrete and coordinated steps that will produce measurable progress for the well-being and betterment of the Indian and American people.”

OCTOBER: HIGHER EDUCATION SUMMIT

With a view to further strengthening higher education collaboration and exchange between institutions in India and the United States, the two countries hosted the first US-India Higher Education Summit at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. on October 13. India’s Minister for Human Resource Development and Communications and Information Technology Kapil Sibal and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton delivered the opening remarks at the inaugural session of the Summit.

Minister Sibal and Secretary Clinton reaffirmed the strategic partnership between India and the United States for meaningful dialogue, cooperation and engagement in the field of higher education, and launched a new phase in this partnership. The two leaders

acknowledged the immense possibilities for further collaboration between the two countries given the inherent dynamism, emerging challenges, and numerous exciting opportunities available for sharing and growing together.

Minister Sibal and Secretary Clinton emphasized that access to, and development of technology and skills were cross-cutting requirements to meet the challenges that their two countries faced. They acknowledged the fruitful collaboration between India and the United States in the areas of education, research and innovation and noted its contribution to the development of technologies, skills and knowledge-based societies in both countries. Both leaders emphasized the need to enhance this collaboration.

Expressing their commitment to that vision, Minister Sibal and Secretary Clinton launched the expanded US-India Higher Education Dialogue as an annual bilateral event to map out strategies for partnership in the field of education between the two countries.

The Dialogue should identify areas

for mutually beneficial exchanges and provide a platform for intense and meaningful collaboration among academia, the private sector, and government on both sides. The Dialogue is planned to be held alternately in the United States and India.

The two leaders reiterated their strong commitment to the Fulbright-Nehru Program and its contribution to leadership development and scholarly achievement. They also highlighted and encouraged the full array of direct collaborations between higher education communities, such as the India-U.S. Higher Education Leadership Program. Minister Sibal and Secretary Clinton underscored the need to enhance the scope of collaboration.

The two leaders also expressed their support for the Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum, which provides fresh impetus to academic collaboration in cutting-edge areas of scientific research and technology development. They lauded the continuing

January: Engineering Education Conclave

Indo-U.S. Engineering Education Conclave was held in January 2011 in New Delhi for strengthening higher educational institutions in the fields of engineering and technology and expressed the hope that more such opportunities for engagement would emerge in the future in other fields.

July: MoU between Computer Emergency Response Teams

The United States and India on July 19, 2011 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERT-IN and US-CERT) of both the countries to exchange information on cyber attacks and mutual response to cyber security incidents, to cooperate on cyber security technology, and to exchange information on cyber security policy and best practices and capacity building and exchange of experts.

September: Ambassador Nirupama Rao takes charge

Ms. Nirupama Rao assumed her responsibilities as the new Ambassador of India to the United States in September 2011. She served as the Foreign Secretary, the highest office in the Indian Foreign Service, for a two-year term till end-July 2011, before joining as the Ambassador of India to the United States.

Ms. Rao served previously in Washington in the capacity of Minister for Press and Cultural Affairs at the Indian Embassy from 1993 to 1995. She also served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the Indian Embassy in Moscow, in the late 1990s. Ms. Rao was also designated as Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs in 2001, the first woman Indian Foreign Service officer to hold this post.

From 2006 to 2009, She served as India's

first woman Ambassador to China. In her distinguished diplomatic career spanning over three decades, Ms. Rao's other ambassadorial assignments include Peru and Bolivia, and Sri Lanka (where also she was India's first woman High Commissioner).

An M.A. in English Literature, Ms. Rao joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1973.

Ambassador Rao was a Fellow at the Centre for International Affairs (now the Weatherhead Centre) at Harvard University in the early 1990s. She was also a Distinguished International Executive in Residence at the University of Maryland at College Park in 1999-2000.

Ambassador Rao is married to Sudhakar Rao, a distinguished civil servant and former member of the Indian Administrative Service



Ambassador Nirupama Rao presented her credentials to President Barack Obama on September 9, 2011 (Photo:- White House).

who retired as the Chief Secretary of the State Government of Karnataka. They have two sons, Nikhilesh and Kartikeya.

Highlights of the First US-India Higher Education Summit

The two sides endorsed the resolve of the stakeholders from academia, government, and industry to take forward the following areas of consensus arrived at during the Summit:

1. A continued expanded India-U.S. Higher Education Dialogue with representatives from government, academia, and business that would interact on a periodic basis to inform and underpin the Dialogue.
2. Support for the following goals:
 - Promoting strategic institutional partnerships for further strengthening and expansion of collaboration in the priority areas of higher education, including science and engineering, social sciences, and humanities, and addressing societal challenges in areas such as cyber security, energy, environment, health and agriculture;
 - Encouraging expansion and deepen collaboration in research and development in the above areas between academic institutions of the two countries through existing initiatives;
 - Fostering partnerships in the areas of vocational education and skills

enhancement to meet the needs of today's world;

- Exploration of models for 'educational institutions for the 21st Century' (such as 'meta' universities);
 - Further strengthening programs for student and faculty enrichment and exchange, and development of leadership in academia at all levels;
 - Welcoming the involvement of the private sector in the two countries to support and deepen collaboration with the higher education community, faculty exchanges, skills development, and institutional partnerships.
3. India announced its intention to set up an India-U.S. higher education platform as a means to pursue these goals.
 4. Strengthening educator enrichment and exchange programs (with the Government of India indicating its intention to sponsor initially up to 1,500 faculty and junior scholars to leading universities and research institutes in the United States) to promote development of human resources while also enhancing broader interaction between the two countries.

efforts by both sides to explore new avenues for collaboration such as the Indo-U.S. Engineering Education Conclave, held in January 2011 in New Delhi, for strengthening higher educational institutions in the fields of engineering and technology.

NOVEMBER: PRIME MINISTER DR. MANMOHAN SINGH MEETS PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh met with President Barack Obama at Bali in Indonesia on November 18 on the sidelines of the

ASEAN-India Summit and the East Asia Summit.

"Last year around this time, I embarked on what was an extraordinary trip to India, in which we continued to strengthen the bonds, both commercial, on the security side, and strategic between the world's two largest democracies," President Obama said.

"And since that time, we've continued to make progress on a wide range of issues. The bonds between our countries are not just at the leadership level, but they're, obviously, at the person-to-person level, given the extraordinary contributions of Indian-Americans to our culture, our politics and our economy," President Obama told Prime Minister Singh.

Prime Minister Singh remarked that there "were no irritants whatsoever" in the working relationship between India and the U.S. extending across "multiplicity of areas".

Recalling President Obama's visit to India, Prime Minister Singh said that "progress in every direction" had been made during the last year.

"And whether it is in humanitarian relief and disaster management, maritime security — all these are issues which unite us in a quest for a world free from the threat of war, want and exploitation." 

FOOD SECURITY BILL TABLED IN PARLIAMENT

The government on December 22 tabled in the Lok Sabha, the food security bill which seeks to provide subsidized food grain to over half of India's 1.2 billion population and ensure that people "live a life with dignity".

Food Minister K.V. Thomas introduced the National Food Security Bill, 2011, "to provide for food and nutritional security by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices".

It promises 75 percent of rural population and 50 percent of urban households the right to 7 kg food grain per person per month, at ₹3 (\$0.056) per kg for rice, ₹2 (\$ 0.037) per kg for wheat and ₹1 (\$0.018) per kg for coarse grains to the priority beneficiar-



ies. The general category will get not less than 3 kg grain per person per month at half the maximum selling price (MSP).

The federal government will identify the priority (BPL) and general category (APL) beneficiaries and will decide the distribution quota for the states.

The bill will also provide rations or cooked meals to children under 14 years of age, pregnant women and lactating mothers and persons on the margins of society.

Community kitchens are also provided for to give at least one meal a day to destitute persons.

These entitlements will increase the food subsidy from around \$11.8 billion at present to \$15 billion in 2011-12, which could go up later. It will also require the government to improve procurement from around 55 million tonnes to 61 metric tonnes.

In a first of its kind, the bill will treat the eldest woman, not less than 18 years of age, as the head of the family while issuing ration cards to the beneficiaries.

EXPORTS SURGE IN 2011

Despite the global downturn and major fluctuation in the value of the rupee, India's merchandise exports logged a robust rise during 2011 with experts attributing this to the government's focus on product and market diversification.

The year also saw Pakistan extend "most-favored nation" status to India, even as two comprehensive economic partnership agreements were signed with Malaysia and Japan.

Merchandise exports that account for 22 percent of the country's gross domestic product, rose by an impressive 33.2-percent to reach \$192.7 billion during the first eight months of this fiscal, exceeding the official target.

Now the government and industry hope that the fiscal year will end in March with the country logging at least 20 percent annual growth to

top \$300 billion, against \$246 billion in the previous year.

"The overall growth in our exports has been quite impressive given the global economic situation," said Ramu S. Deora, President, Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO).

Minister of State for Commerce Jyotiraditya Scindia said the government's strategy of product and market diversification would minimize the impact of uncertainties in Europe, the U.S. and Japan which traditionally accounted for over 60 percent of exports.

As part of the market diversification programme, the government promoted exports to some non-traditional markets like Africa and Latin America. On the other hand, petroleum and engineering goods led the exports growth in terms of products, along with jewelry.

FOLLOWING ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF INDIA'S FOREIGN TRADE IN 2011:

- Export target set at \$300 billion for 2011-12 against \$246 billion logged last fiscal.
- Target to boost exports to \$500 billion by 2013-14.
- April-November exports rose 33.2 percent to \$192.7 billion.
- Imports also surged to \$309.5 billion during April-November, 2011.
- Asia, Africa and Latin America named focus markets for exports.
- Focus products cover pharma, electronics, auto, engineering, electronics and aerospace industries.

Tough action against corporate fraud proposed

India will soon have a new regulation that would ensure stringent punishment for corporate fraud and make independent directors more accountable, Corporate Affairs Minister M. Veerappa Moily said on December 19.

"Based on the experience gained over the years, existing provisions regarding inspection, inquiry and investigation are proposed to be strengthened in the Companies Bill 2011, introduced in the current session of Parliament," Minister Moily said.



Corporate Affairs Minister M. Veerappa Moily

He said the proposed regulation would ensure "more effective action against companies and their officers who indulge in fraudulent actions of non compliance with law".

"The role of key managerial personnel, board committees, audit committee, remuneration committee and stakeholders relationship committee, independent director and auditors is being made more accountable in the management of company," the Minister said.

The definition of "officer in default" would also be revised to make it more relevant in the present corporate and economic environment, he said.

'Rate pause will help regain growth momentum'

The Reserve Bank of India's decision to keep key rates unchanged would help improve business sentiments and regain economic growth momentum, Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee said on December 16.

"I am hopeful today's announcement will help in regaining our growth momentum with improved macro economic parameters in the remaining period of fiscal 2011-12," Minister Mukherjee said while reacting on the RBI's mid-quarter review of monetary policy in which it kept key policy rates unchanged.

Welcoming the central bank's move, the Finance Minister said the RBI had chosen to address the concerns on slowing growth.

"The RBI has changed its policy stand from monetary tightening.



Finance Minister
Pranab Mukherjee

There is no change in any policy variables and that includes the repo rate... The Governor has chosen to reflect his concern on growth which has altered in the past few months," he said.

In its mid-quarter review of the monetary policy on December 16, the central bank kept key rates unchanged after 13 successive hikes since early 2010.

The review came against the backdrop of India's annual rate of inflation falling to 9.1 percent in November, while the food inflation fell to 4.35

percent for the week ended on December 3. The Indian economy grew by 8.5 percent in 2010-11 and the government had set a target of around 9 percent growth for the current financial year.

The Finance Minister said the recent moderation in inflation and growth had necessitated change in monetary tightening stance.

"There has been an appreciable decline in food inflation in the month of November but inflation in manufactured products is still high," he said.

"The need to improve the business sentiments and recover the growth momentum in the remaining months of the current fiscal necessitated a review of the current monetary policy stance," Minister Mukherjee said.

The Reserve Bank said it maintained its projection for annual inflation at 7 percent for end-March, while reserving its forecast on growth for the third quarter review, which is expected in January, 2012.

Indian ports to handle 3,130 mn tonnes by 2020

To cater to the growing cargo traffic demand, the Indian government on December 17 said it would increase capacity at the country's ports to 3,130 million tonnes from the current 870 million tonnes by 2020 through infrastructure development.

"The total traffic handled by Indian ports is expected to go up to around to 2,495 million tonnes by the year 2020. For the purpose of handling this volume of traffic, the capacity at the ports is expected to enhance to 3,130 million tonnes by 2020," Shipping Minister G.K. Vasan said in a statement.

According to Minister Vasan, an investment of \$0.52 billion would be made in the next 10 years to create further capacity.

Indian ports handled a total cargo traffic of around 870 million tonnes in 2010-11, out of which major ports handled 570 million tonnes, and non-major ports handled around 300 million tonnes.

Indian Navy to induct 24 long range maritime reconnaissance aircraft

The Indian Navy will acquire 12 more long-range maritime reconnaissance (LRMR) aircraft in addition to the 12 Boeing P-8I aircraft already ordered or being ordered to boost its eye in the sky over the country's territorial waters and exclusive economic zone, a top commander has said.

Indian Navy Chief Admiral Nirmal Verma said that the force was satisfied with the progress of the first eight Indian P-8Is being built by Boeing under a 2009 order and that a second order for four more aircraft was being processed to be placed within the current fiscal ending March 2012.

At a later date, the force also plans to acquire 12 more LRMR aircraft for offshore surveillance and protection of the Indian waters and interests, bringing the total to 24. The exact type of the 12 additional aircraft would be worked out later.

Admiral Verma said that the P-8I was the most advanced LRMR platform with a capability to observe even small boats and destroy hostile submarines.

India is the first export customer for this aircraft, and the advantage is that India will benefit from the hi-tech systems being developed for the U.S. Navy, which has ordered 117 aircraft.

Most of the specifications of the U.S. and the Indian navies are reportedly common but details are understandably being kept secret.

However, there would be some Indian components, thanks to the offsets and transfer of technology requirements. India's Bharat Electronics Ltd has already started supplying its Data Link II system to facilitate the P-8I's communications with Indian space, naval, and land based-assets.

The U.S. aircraft, designated the P-8A Poseidon multimission maritime aircraft (MMA), has the capability of broad-area surveillance and launching Harpoon anti-ship and land attack missiles, depth charges and torpedoes against submarines and underwater unmanned assets. The aircraft can also perform electronic intelligence (ELINT) missions with its highly sophisticated Raytheon APY-10 radar and Northrop Grumman electronic warfare (EW) systems.

10 INDIANS IN FORBES' BRIGHTEST STARS LIST

Ten Indians, including a 17-year-old, rub shoulders with the likes of Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg and pop stars Lady Gaga and Justin Bieber in a *Forbes* list of 'Tomorrow's Brightest Stars'.

Among the Indians on the list of people from 12 diverse fields, including energy, finance, media, law, entertainment, science, design and technology, who are "reinventing the world" is Kunal Shah, at 29, the youngest Managing Director at Goldman Sachs.

Also on the list is Param Jaggi, 17, an "award-winning high schooler" at Austin College, who created an algae-filled device that fits over a car's tailpipe and turns carbon dioxide into oxygen.

Vivek Nair, 23, Chief Executive of Damascus Fortune, is developing a technology that transforms industrial carbon emissions into carbon nan-



Param Jaggi

otubes. Vikas Mohindra, 25, financial advisor at the Bank of America Merrill Lynch gathered \$38 million in three years from scratch, while Manvir Nijhar, 28, Co-Head of European Equity Derivatives Sales at Citigroup, gave "Citi's derivatives business a jolt". Raj Krishnan, 29, Chief Executive of Biological Dynamics is developing blood tests that use electric fields to detect key signals that a patient has cancer.

Sidhant Gupta, 27, a graduate student at the University of Washington, is developing new sensors and software for the home that conserve electricity, heat and gas.

Nikhil Arora, 24, co-founded a business that sells 'grow-your-own-mushroom' kits using one million pounds of recycled coffee grounds and Maneet Ahuja, 27, a producer at CNBC and a hedge fund expert is also on the list. ■



Comptroller and Auditor General of India
Vinod Rai

CAG of India to head UN panel of external auditors

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, Vinod Rai, has been elected Chairman of the United Nations panel of external auditors.

Rai succeeds Norbert Hauser, Vice-President of Germany's Federal Court of Auditors, the CAG said in a statement on December 8.

As head of the panel, Rai will be responsible for overseeing the external audit works and periodical reports on accounts and management of the UN and its specialized agencies.

Jagbans Singh, Director-General in the office of the CAG, has also been elected Chairman of the Technical Group of the UN panel. ■

MARYLAND CLOSES DEALS WORTH \$60 MN WITH INDIA

A six-day trade mission to India netted a total of \$60 million in new business deals for Maryland and deals worth millions more are in the works, according to state Governor Martin O'Malley.

"This mission has opened new doors for Maryland to create jobs, bolster trade and investment, and strengthen existing business and cultural relationships," he said on December 12.

Two Indian companies plan investments in Maryland state, bordering



Governor Martin O'Malley

Washington, and eight Maryland businesses inked deals with Indian partners during the trip aimed at selling the state as the best place for Indian companies to get a foothold in the American market.

More than 100 business leaders, educators and state officials participated in the trip that included stops in Hyderabad, Mumbai and New Delhi.

"Together, with our entire delegation, we are sending a strong message to India's top business organizations and companies that Maryland is the gateway to doing

business in the US," O'Malley said.

Jasco Nutri Foods, an India-based manufacturer and exporter of organic food products, is planning to invest \$10 million in opening a facility in Bowie, he said.

Jubilant Life Sciences, which already has a drug manufacturing facility in Salisbury, also announced plans to spend \$20 million to triple its Eastern Shore warehouse space and add new jobs.

During the trip, Maryland signed an agreement with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry to create an India-Maryland Centre in Maryland to boost bilateral trade. The federation will lead a delegation to Maryland in April, 2012. ■

INDIA, US ALUMINUM ASSOCIATIONS SIGN MOU

The Aluminium Association of India and its U.S. counterpart, The Aluminum Association, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for technology and knowledge sharing on December 8.

The MoU signed on the last day of the sixth International Conference on Aluminium (INCAL 2011) in Hyderabad is expected to facilitate the growth of the aluminum sector in India. K.S.S. Murthy, Honorary General-Secretary, AAI and Charles D. Johnson, Jr. Vice-President (Environment, Health & Safety), The Aluminum Association (TAA) signed the MoU.

The MoU will facilitate exchanging of information on effective recycling programs in the transportation,

packaging and building and construction markets; and promote aluminum as a sustainable material.

The U.S. is the fourth largest producer of aluminum and second largest consumer in the world while India is the eighth largest producer and fifth largest consumer.

The gap, however, is very wide in terms of per person consumption of Aluminum. While per person consumption of aluminum in the U.S. is 22.3 kg, in India it is 1.8 kg.

Organizers said the three-day INCAL 2011 was a huge success with participants, especially those from top aluminum markets, such as the US, China and Japan, expressing satisfaction over the outcome of the deliberations on promoting aluminum.



**USAID, FICCI
INK DEAL TO
SUPPORT
INNOVATION**

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) on December 20 signed an agreement to set up an institution that would support innovation in India and elsewhere in the world.

The two organizations have pledged \$7.5 million each for setting up the 'Millennium Alliance: an India-US Innovation Partnership for Global Development', which will promote innovation in sectors such as health, food security, climate change, energy and education. "USAID and FICCI both will work to raise up to \$50 million within the next 12 months," Rajiv Shah, Administrator, USAID, said after signing of the agreement.

Shah said the new alliance would welcome "academics, entrepreneurs, non-government organizations and private sector players to discover scalable answers to some of the subcontinent's greatest challenges".

FICCI Secretary-General Rajiv Kumar said the alliance would raise money through donations and contributions from corporations, foundations and other governments.

"This is a path-breaking approach to fostering a new paradigm of partnership between the U.S. and India that promotes innovations for the benefit of the people in both India and other developing economies," said Kumar.

American firm wins deal for engines in C-17 plane for India

American aero-engine manufacturer Pratt and Whitney (P&W), a unit of the United Technologies, has won a deal for producing first four engines for the Boeing C-17 Globemaster heavylift plane for the Indian Air Force (IAF).

P&W will produce the four F117-PW-100 engines for delivery in the second quarter of 2012, according to a release from the aero-engine manufacturer on December 19.

Earlier this year, India's Defense Ministry had signed a Letter of Offer and Acceptance with the U.S.



government to acquire 10 C-17s. India will take delivery of its first C-17 in early 2013.

"We are delighted the Indian Air Force has selected the C-17 with Pratt & Whitney F117 engines to support its airlift mission," P&W's Military

Programs and Customer Support Vice-President Bev Deachin said.

"The F117 is suited for a wide range of operating environments and conditions and it has demonstrated superb performance and reliability

from the Antarctic to the deserts of the Middle East," he said.

Four F117s provide exclusive power for the C-17 Globemaster III heavy airlifter. The F117-PW-100 is the sister engine of Pratt and Whitney's PW2037 commercial engine.

IIT-KANPUR ENGINEERS A TINY DEVICE TO PREVENT DERAILMENT

After fabricating Jugnu, the country's tiniest satellite which was launched in October, Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur graduates have now come up with a matchbox-sized device to monitor the wear and tear of railway tracks and prevent derailment. The new device is aimed at replacing a bulky, box-like contraption that is currently used by Indian Railways.

For Railways, safety is important as thousands of trains use around 114,500 km tracks of its network — the world's fourth largest. With regular use, the tracks develop cracks and fissures, including problems linked to loose nuts and bolts at the joints. If the tracks are less firmly anchored on the soil, it could lead to derailment. All these faults can now be detected in real time and recorded automatically to prevent derailment, thanks to the oscillation monitoring system, a cutting-edge device weighing just 100 grams.

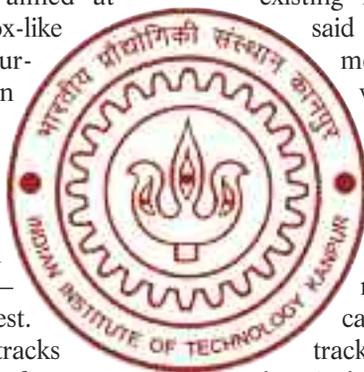
The device has been designed and developed by a team of IIT-Kanpur's mechanical engineering graduates,

under the guidance of N.S. Vyas, Professor and Head, Mechanical Engineering, and the Railways' Research Design and Standards Organization (RDSO), Lucknow.

"Our device is a supplementary system for monitoring track health, making it simpler to integrate with the existing railway infrastructure," said Kshitij Deo, M.Tech in mechanical engineering, who developed the device with three others from the vibration and dynamics lab of the IIT.

The device, based on micro-electro mechanical system, can monitor track health more comprehensively and enable efficient track maintenance.

"The extremely handy package locates and logs track faults accurately with the help of the GPS (global positioning system), eliminating human errors and making train journeys safer. It has a battery life of 10 hours and can be recharged by USB port on computers," said Deo. "We did manage to reduce the number of buttons to one as against 50 required on the keypad of the railway equipment," Deo said. ■



INFOSYS SCIENCE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES WINNERS

The Infosys Science Foundation of the IT bellwether on November 16 selected Sriram Ramaswamy, Professor of Physics at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore for the Infosys Prize 2011 in recognition of his outstanding contribution in Physical Sciences.

For similar prizes in five other categories of scientific research, the Foundation selected Kanpur Genetic Algorithms Laboratory Director Kalyanmoy Deb in Engineering and Computer Science, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology scientist Imran Siddiqi in Life Sciences, Stanford University Professor Kannan Soundararajan in Mathematical Sciences, University of Chicago Professor Raghuram G. Rajan in Social Sciences and Centre for Policy Research Chief Executive Pratap Bhanu Mehta in Political Science and International Relations.

In recognition of their contribution, each of the six distinguished winners received prize money of \$97,609, a 22-carat gold medallion and a citation certificate from former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam on January 9, 2012 in Bangalore.

Congratulating the winners, Infosys Chairman Emeritus N.R. Narayana Murthy said the prestigious prize for the third year was a commitment to encourage the distinguished scientists at a time when it could make a greater difference to their career and attract young minds to research. ■

INDIA-U.S. COLLABORATION ON DIABETES & STEM CELL RESEARCH

During his first official visit to India from December 1-6, 2011, Dr. Francis S. Collins, Director of the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), signed two letters of intents to launch new India-U.S. collaboration in the field of diabetes and stem cell research. The NIH would be collaborating with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for diabetes research and with the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) for stem cell research. For decades, NIH is involved in a robust collaboration with the Indian govern-

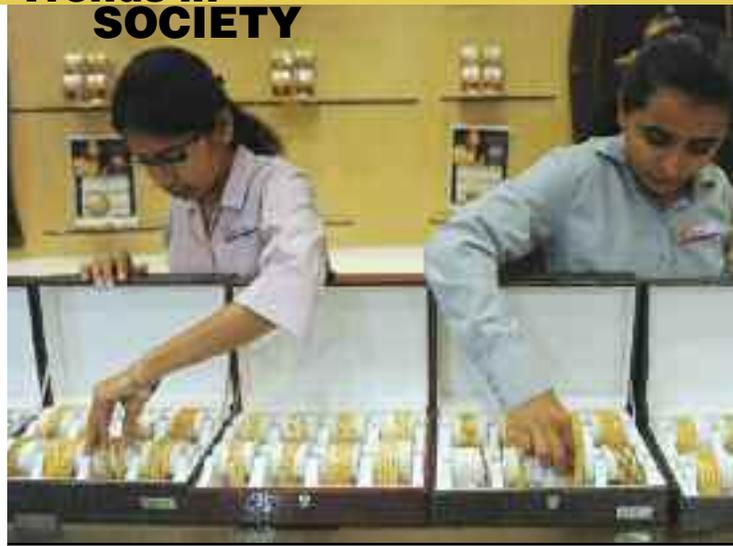


Dr. Francis S. Collins, Director, NIH (left) and Dr. V.M. Katoch, Director General, ICMR signing the Letter of Intent for Diabetes Research Collaboration.

ment and India's medical research community in the biomedical and behavioral health sciences, focused in several high-priority areas for both the

nations. High-value collaboration between the two countries includes research related to vaccine, HIV/AIDS, neuroscience, maternal and child health, infectious diseases, cardiovascular disease, cancer, eye disease, and low-cost medical devices.

Dr. Collins, globally known for his leadership in human genome project, visited several of India's best medical research institutions in Bangalore and New Delhi, met with senior Indian government officials from the Health Ministry and the Science & Technology Ministry. ■



FORTUNE IN GEMS AND JEWELRY

Although dominated mostly by the unorganized players, the \$16 billion gems and jewelry market in India, the largest gold jewelry market in the world, has witnessed the arrival of a number of global jewelry brands in the recent times

India possesses the world's most competitive gems and jewelry market owing to its low cost of production and availability of skilled labor. Gems and jewelry form an essential part of the Indian tradition. The components of jewelry include traditional gold, diamond and platinum, as well as a variety of other precious and semi-precious stones.

The Indian gems and jewelry sector is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of approximately 13 per cent during 2011–2013, on the back of increasing government efforts and incentives together with private sector initiatives, according to a report Indian Gems and Jewelry Market Forecast to 2013, by research firm RNCOS. As per the research report, with India's consumption pegged at nearly 24 per cent in 2008, the country remains the world's largest gold consumer and this share is expected to grow further. Moreover, India also forms the largest cut-

ting and polishing Industry for diamond in the world. The Government policies and the banking sector have provided a lot of assistance to this sector with around 50 banks providing nearly \$3 billion of credit to the Indian diamond industry.

India will soon overtake the U.S. to become the third-largest men's luxury jewelry market in the world, according to a study by Euromonitor International, a leading market research firm. The study estimated that the country's men's jewelry market stood at around \$194.4 million, in sales and it is projected to grow by 36.4 per cent in 2012.

"Although it's a niche market, it is grow-

ing. Nobody can ignore it now," as per GR Radhakrishnan, Managing Director, GRT Jewelers, one of India's leading jewelry store, that pegs the share of men's jewelry in its total sales at 20-25 per cent.

Indian sellers on eBay, a leading online marketplace, export an item internationally every 32 seconds, according to the company's Asian exporters' index. Forty four pieces of jewelry are sold every hour by Indian sellers on eBay.

Ratings agency CRISIL has launched a Gold Index to track the performance of gold prices in the Indian market. This is the first index

launched by CRISIL in the commodities space. The purpose of the CRISIL Gold index is to provide an independent, relevant and common benchmark for performance evaluation of investment products with gold as underlying investment, according to a release from CRISIL.

Swiss watchmaker Rado, a part of the world's largest





watch conglomerate The Swatch Group, recently unveiled its luxury jewelry collection at the Rado boutique in Banjara Hills in Hyderabad. This range features beautiful diamond studded watches. The Rado jewelry collection brings together an exquisite selection of the brand's most celebrated products. The Swiss watch brand has been a pioneer in the use of innovative materials such as hard metal, high-tech ceramic, lanthanum and ceramos. It also features convex, dome-shaped sapphire crystals, affording innovative watch designs and shapes. The jewelry range is priced from \$574.66 to \$76,626.75.

"In the last 3-4 years, a lot of Indians are investing in gold which is in the paper format. People should take a long-term perspective while investing in gold," as per Jiju Vidyadharan, Head, Funds and Fixed Income Research, CRISIL Research.

INDUSTRY STRUCTURE

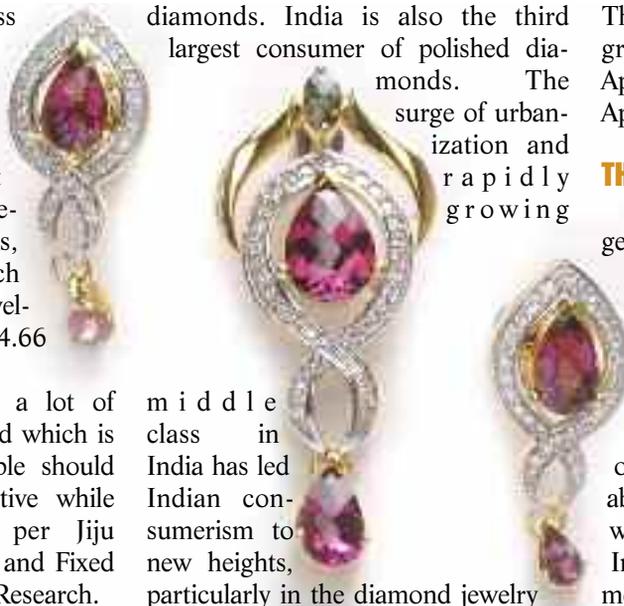
The gems and jewelry industry in India is greatly dominated by the unorganized players, but with the growing economy and increasing income levels, the organized segment and retailing of branded jewelry is fast catching up in the currently fragmented market which is worth \$16 billion and shows huge potential for growth in the future.

The center of trade in India's gems and jewelry industry is Mumbai. Most

imports of gold and rough diamond arrives in Mumbai. However, most of the processing of diamonds takes place in Gujarat.

KEY INDUSTRY COMPONENTS

DIAMONDS: Currently India is the major polishing and cutting hub for diamonds. India is also the third largest consumer of polished diamonds. The surge of urbanization and rapidly growing



middle class in India has led Indian consumerism to new heights, particularly in the diamond jewelry sector. Every 11 out of 12 diamonds sold around the world are processed in India regardless of the place they are mined.

GOLD: India is the leading gold consuming nation. In the third quarter of 2011, year-on-year gold demand in India is up 15 percent in tonnes and 46 percent in value (US\$), as reported by the World Gold Council in November 2011.

The other key markets include Japan, China, Turkey, Italy, the U.S.

and the UK. It is also estimated that about 600 tonnes of gold is used to make jewelry

COSTUME JEWELRY: The Indian costume jewelry market is also witnessing growth in the international market, as per the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts. The industry body further stated that the government was also working towards formulating an international compliance code for manufacturing costume jewelry. The current global costume jewelry and accessories market is estimated at \$16.3 billion, of which India only exports around \$53 million, thereby, providing a huge opportunity area for the Indian costume manufacturers.

EXPORTS

India is the largest market for gold jewelry in the world, representing an amazing 746 tonnes of gold in 2010. The net exports of gem and jewelry grew from \$22,616.35 in April-October 2010 to \$26,160.04 in April-October 2011.

THE ROAD AHEAD

The enormous growth of the Indian gems and jewelry industry has seen the arrival of many new branded jewelry shops in various metros of this country. Brands such as, Damas Jewelry, Reliance Retail, Swarovski, and Joy Alukkas are either opening or have already opened their new branches. The availability of cheap labor and presence of well skilled people in various states of India is helping in the growth of diamond polishing and gold jewelry markets. Experts feel that the growing demand for expensive jewelry in India is a result of the strengthening of the Indian economy. India will soon overtake the U.S. in terms of market size of gems and jewelry in the not so distant future, as per the Rapaport Group, an international network of companies that support the development of free, fair, efficient and competitive diamond and jewelry markets.

(Courtesy: India Brand Equity Foundation).

FAREWELL, MY LOVE

By Anil Chandra

The large clock at Wodehouse nursing home Calcutta read two fifty p.m. As she climbed the stairs, she wondered what she'd have to do in the next eight hours of her life. Would it be simply controlling a patient's pain with a little morphine, or would she be constantly running mental calculations to keep drugs balanced and respirators pumping smoothly?

She reached the last step and had to juggle her lunch-box and purse to open the door to the green waiting room. As she walked under the acute coronary care sign, she noticed a woman in a light yellow saree and white hair sitting on the couch and crying. Another elderly woman leaned over her, touching her shoulder, saying nothing.

She passed them and opened the door into the world of the critically ill — four rooms, each holding a single blue bed. Only one of the monitor banks was lighted and running. Bed Two.

She walked to the locker and took the white-cotton uniform from its hanger. Lacing her white shoes, she wondered about Bed Two. How old? Man or woman? How bad was it? The grieving white-haired woman in the waiting-room hinted at the answers.

"Both his electroencephalograms have been flat, and I haven't heard results of the head scan he had this morning," the on-duty nurse told her. "He is sinking fast. It is a question of time."

Briefed, the nurse coming on duty walked quietly into the coronary-care room. The respirator was on. She looked closely at him. A mist of sweat covered his balding head.

She walked back to the door and pulled the blue curtain all the way around the glass room. They were alone now. She began routine assessment, like analyzing a dysfunctional engine, piece by piece. Heart rate: 140. Blood pressure: 80. Skin: wet and mottled. Color: bluish gray. Drugs: dopamine, procainamide, and lidacaine. Neuro: pupils widely dilated, all reflexes absent.

He had been laughing and very active only a few hours before it happened she had been told. There had been a family dinner that day, and she could imagine the grandfather's joy at being there. After all her experience, it still amazed her how quickly it could happen.

Her initial assessment finished, she allowed the

family in to be with him, one at a time, according to policy. His sister walked in first. "Oh Ronu, Ronu, goodbye now," She said in a low voice. Her tears fell on her brother's arm, and she made no attempt to wipe them away. "I always called him Ronu," the sister explained. "It was his nickname." She started to say something else to her brother, her lips moving without the sounds. She put her hand to her mouth and backed out of the room.

Ten minutes later a thin young man in is late teens walked stiffly into the room. A grandchild. The youth reached out to touch his grandfather's face but caught himself halfway. Suddenly, the boy's shoulders began to shake. He turned away and quickly left. The nurse's hand moved to the patient's forehead and slowly wiped away the sweat.

She moved down to the end of the bed and massaged his white feet as they lay still and cold. She noticed the monitor: heart rate seventy, blood-pressure seventy four. He was slowing down.

Twenty minutes passed and the soft whooshing noise from the respirator lulled her into a kind of trance as she sat at the nurse's desk doing her charting and preparing the paper work. A deep voice startled her. She looked up and saw a very tall man with a pretty woman standing close to him.

"How is he?" The man asked, hope hanging on the words.

"Not good," she said.

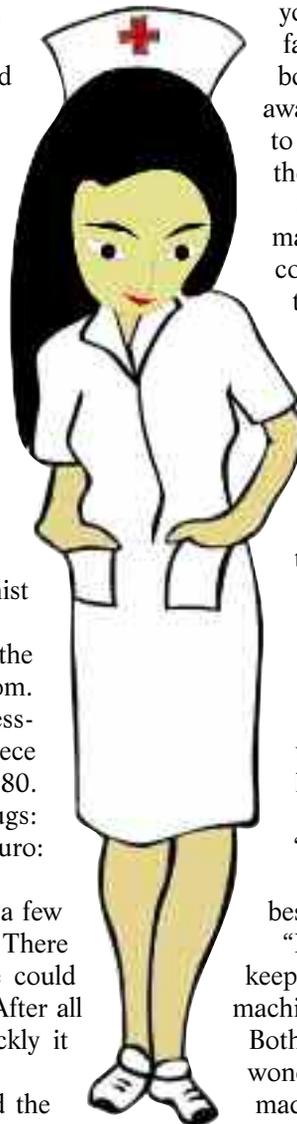
The woman moved towards the nurse, wringing her hands. "We're good friends. Is he going to pull out of it?"

The nurse stared directly at the woman. "He is dying now... as we talk."

"Look," the man said, "if we go and get the best doctors, would that help?"

"No," she said. "His brain is gone. We are keeping his heart beating with drugs, and a machine is breathing for him."

Both visitors looked away from her. "He was a wonderful man," the tall man said. "The best. He made everyone laugh. He helped people feel good



about themselves.” He paused, then he spoke more slowly: “Special, yes. He was special.”

The nurse said, “Yes, I’m sure he was.” Then they left, and she returned to her patient. The thermometer now read ninety-six degrees Fahrenheit. She walked to the outer door. Through the waiting-room window she could see the white haired woman still sitting on the couch. The nurse opened the door and asked her to come in.

The wife touched his face and kissed him. “Ranjan don’t go just yet. Not just now, Ranjan. Let me go first.”

The nurse pretended to rearrange the plastic tubes and gray monitor leads that were no longer of use.

“He woke up several times that night,” the white-haired woman said. “You know, the way we old people do. But the last time, when he walked back towards the bed, he called my name. He was scared and he wouldn’t answer me. I kept talking to him, but he never said anything.” The woman picked up his limp hand and put it to her cheek. She stood a long time holding it. “Farewell, my love”, she seemed to be saying. Then, putting his hands down, she walked out of the room without another word.

The nurse was turning him on to his side when she looked up and saw his doctor, who guided her to the monitor bank.

“The head scan showed massive cerebral hemorrhage. Go ahead and stop the drugs and discontinue the respirator. His other doctor and I have discussed it with his family... they want it this way.”

The nurse made no move towards the bed. She waited for the doctor to leave.

Carefully letting down the side rails, she put her hands gently under Ronu’s shoulder and spoke to him in a whisper. “You are very fortunate to have all this love. Did you feel it today? You can leave this behind you now.”

Her face touched his.

Blood-pressure forty, heart rate thirty two. She squeezed his hand and felt a lump rise in her throat. His face was blurred by her tears.

She reached towards the blue intravenous fluid that kept his blood-pressure up, and turned the valve switch to “off”. Then the yellow fluid, keeping his heart pumping. “Off”.

Again, the monitor flashed and buzzed as a straight line moved across the screen. No pulse, blood-pressure zero.



**“He was a wonderful man,” the tall man said.
“The best. He made everyone laugh. He
helped people feel good about themselves.”
He paused, then he spoke more slowly:
“Special, yes. He was special”**

“Farewell, Ronu uncle,” she murmured softly.

The respirator suddenly seemed loud and obnoxious, diminishing the dignity of death. With one swift movement she pulled the plug from the wall. Silence.

She removed the tubes and the tapes from his body and washed him with warm, soapy water reserved for the living. The she covered him with a soft blanket.

Just after midnight, she walked through the empty waiting-room. She felt drained. Yet, as she stepped out of the hospital, the nurse found that she carried something with her — the dignity of the mourning wife and family, and the love that had surrounded him. He had never spoken to her. There had been no gestures. But his spirit lingered.

INDIA'S ROMANTIC HERO BIDS ADIEU

Evergreen romantic star Dev Anand, who epitomized the debonair, urban gentleman on screen died after a cardiac arrest on December 3 in London. He was 88.

In his career as an actor and filmmaker spanning over six decades,

of his hairstyle, the puff à la Hollywood legend Gregory Peck.

He ruled the black & white era with movies like *Munimji*, *CID* and *Hum Dono* and then moved into the colored age with classics like *Jewel Thief* and *Johny Mera Naam*. He provided the launch pad for some of tinsel town's

(now in Pakistan) before moving to the city of dreams, Mumbai, where his elder brother, late filmmaker Chetan Anand, was already finding foothold, to fulfill his acting dreams.

He was offered a break as an actor by Prabhat Talkies to star in *Hum Ek Hain* (1946). It was while shooting



Dev Saab, as he was popularly addressed, gave classic hits like *Guide*. He acted, directed and produced till the end with his last film *Chargesheet* released this year when he was 88 and still raring to go, as ebullient and ageless as ever. Dev Saab romanced his way through generations of actresses — from Nalini Jaywant to Zeenat Aman.

And of course, his charming persona is incomplete without a mention

most remembered head-turners like Zeenat Aman and Tina Munim. He acted as the lead in more than 110 movies. The prolific star also released an autobiography, *Romancing with Life* in September 2007.

Born on September 26, 1923 as Dharam Dev Pishorimal Anand in Gurdaspur district of the then undivided Punjab to an advocate father, he graduated in English literature from the Government College, Lahore

for the film in Pune that Dev Anand met Guru Dutt — and was born a true friendship.

A genius in his own right, Dev Anand turned producer and launched his production house Navketan in 1949. As a prior commitment, he asked Guru Dutt to direct the banner's first outing — crime thriller, *Baazi* (1951) — which made Dev Anand an overnight star and he remained a star till his last breath. ■



SHAH RUKH ENJOYS PLAYING A VILLAIN

Shah Rukh Khan, who played an anti-hero in the beginning of his career, returned in a negative role in his latest release *Don 2: The King is Back*. The superstar says that portraying villainous characters gives a different high to an actor.

"I really enjoyed it. I will be really honest and I am not glorifying badness in real life and these are just films and stories, but as an actor it is one of the greatest highs to play a villain's role," said Shah Rukh. Directed by Farhan Akhtar, the film also stars Priyanka Chopra, Boman Irani, Lara Dutta, Om Puri and Kunal Kapoor.

The 46-year-old, who rose to fame by playing negative roles in superhit films *Baazigar* and *Darr*,

believes in the existence of one central character in films, who can be either good or bad.

"I started with theatre and there was nothing like a hero for me. There was a protagonist, a central character. I have been a bad guy on stage, I have been a good guy on stage," said SRK.

"I was thrilled that I got this opportunity and I did not think of the hero type roles. Now that I am getting a chance to play a negative role in *Don* after so many years, there is no justification to it," he added.

Besides *Don 2*, in 2011, Shah Rukh's mega-budget sci-fi film *Ra.One* was released and he also made cameo appearances in *Always Kabhi Kabhi* and *Love Breakups Zindagi*.



HIMACHAL'S OWN CHANDIGARH

This Chandigarh has not been designed by French architect Le Corbusier, nor does it nestle in the foothills of the Shivaliks. It snows here and people have even started growing apples. This Chandigarh is a remote village and, unlike its famous namesake, is not located in Punjab or Haryana. It lies at an altitude of over 10,000 feet in Himachal Pradesh, close to the Tibetan border in the picturesque Spiti Valley of Lahaul and Spiti district that remains cut off from the world for more than four months a year due to heavy snowfall. Some 320 km from state capital Shimla, it has some 15 houses, most of them made of mud-and-stone.

"After the 1962 India-China war, the villagers of Kaurik and Lepcha (close to the international border) were resettled in Chandigarh by the government of India. Since then we have been here," said Tsering Bodh, an octogenarian resident of the village.

The cold desert has been converted into green land. Bodh's son

Chhombel Singh said the villagers had started planting apples, peas and potatoes. "Earlier, the entire area was barren. Now people have started planting apples. It is not of much use, since during the winter, heavy snow damages the apple trees. But the sowing of peas and potatoes is quite successful here," he said.

Even the government has again greened some of the patches around the village by planting willow trees, employing villagers under the federal government's rural jobs guarantee scheme, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

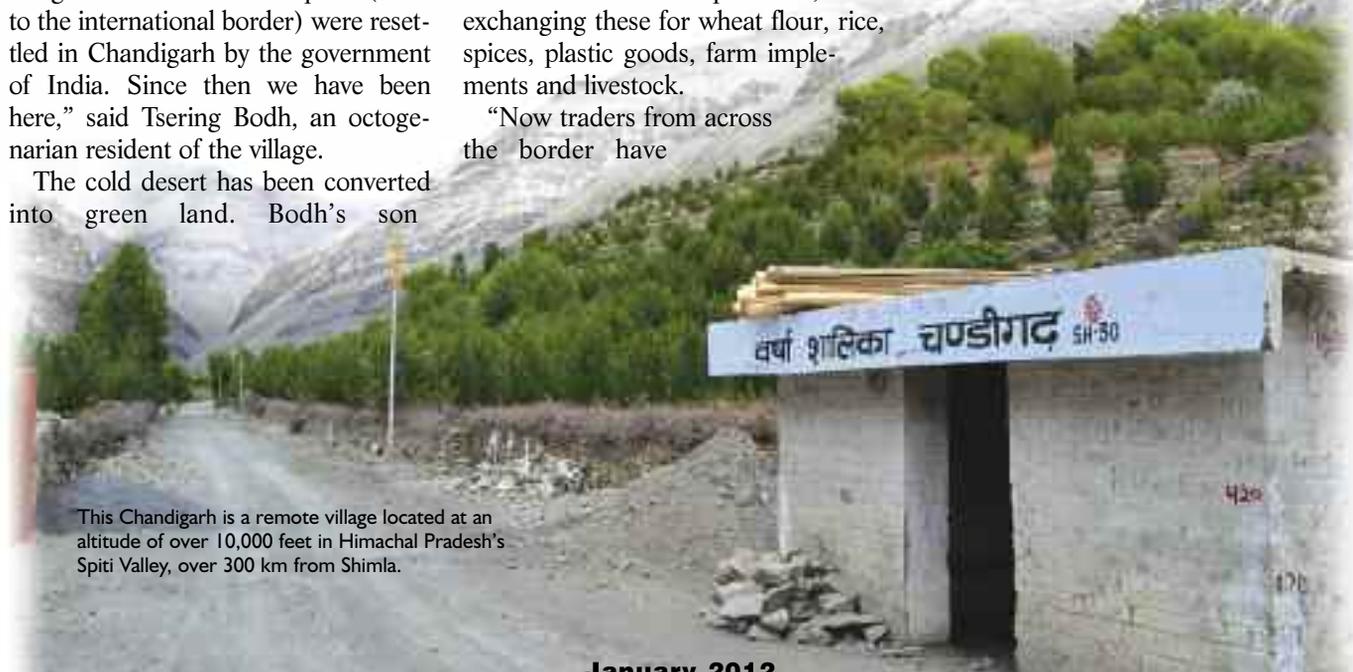
Bodh said Chandigarh was earlier a center of barter trade with Tibetans bringing blankets, flasks, raw wool, herbs and leather products, and exchanging these for wheat flour, rice, spices, plastic goods, farm implements and livestock.

"Now traders from across the border have

stopped coming and the villagers are no longer dependent mainly on traditional vocations for livelihood. They have started cultivating crops and rearing livestock," he added.

Chandigarh, lying on the highway connecting Sumdoh with Kaza, the headquarters of Spiti, is not isolated from the winds of change sweeping across the hills. Heating appliances, cable TV and mobiles are common modern gadgets here.

Hurling, the place known for its delicious apples, and Tabo, known for a more than 1,000-year-old Buddhist monastery, lie close to Chandigarh, located on the banks of the gurgling Spiti river. The climatic conditions of the area are harsh as mercury drops below minus 20 degrees Celsius during the winter.



This Chandigarh is a remote village located at an altitude of over 10,000 feet in Himachal Pradesh's Spiti Valley, over 300 km from Shimla.

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