



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with U.S. President Barack Obama during their summit meeting at the White House in Washington, D.C. on September 27.

Partners of first resort

■ **INDIA CALLS FOR
FOCUS ON POVERTY
ERADICATION**

■ **INDIA, US SIGN FIRST
COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT
UNDER N-DEAL**

■ **JOINT DECLARATION
ON DEFENSE
COOPERATION ISSUED**



The silent revolution

India and the U.S. share more than a partnership; they share a fellowship forged on the anvil of shared interests, values, and concerns. Following is an excerpt from Ambassador Nirupama Rao's write-up on the journey so far and the way forward, published at the *India Abroad Magazine* on September 27

When strategic partners and sister democracies like India and the United States of America meet, the world sits up and takes note. Therefore, the visit of India's Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh to Washington, D.C. and his upcoming meeting with President Barack Obama shines the light on a vital relationship of great importance not only because of its bilateral impact, but the difference it makes for peace and progress everywhere.

Contributors to this supplement have raised several important questions in the context of this relationship and its growth over the last decade. It is acknowledged that there has been a remarkable improvement in relations between the two countries over the last decade, and that for India, the range of engagement with the U.S. (over 30 dialogue mechanisms) far exceeds that with any other country. No longer are there hyphens attached to India in thinking circles in Washington; the civilian nuclear deal overcame difficult legacies of the past, and the U.S. has reset not only its vision of India, but also India's place in Asia and the world.

The defense of pluralism, of diversity, of democracy is a mutually shared perspective. There is also recognition of the pivotal role played by the Indian-American community.

But our learned contributors also speak of a need for work on both sides to re-launch the partnership, to dispel perception of a loss of momentum, to set long term goals in the bilateral relationship, to impress upon Americans that India is a place where they can do business. With the good sense pos-

sessed by democracies, it is also amply recognized that unidimensional approaches cannot dictate the manner in which the relationship is transacted.

This cannot detract however, from the fundamentally positive orientation of relations between India and the United States.

Speaking in Mumbai during his visit to India in July this year, the Vice President Joe Biden put it in his inimitable way, 'I am absolutely confident — absolutely confident in the future of this relationship. Not because I'm naïve. I've been around longer than most of you. I've been doing this kind of business my entire adult life. My confidence is based on the history of the journey of both our countries. But I am confident.'

And as Vice-President Biden also put it, there is no hyperbole in the definition of this relationship as a 'defining partnership.'

Congressman Joe Crowley, co-chair, House Caucus on India and the Indian Americans, writing in this supplement, says, "We have simply come too far together to turn back," adding that "the fruits of cooperation far outweigh the costs of discord."

There is a sense of maturity in the relationship today, as Robert Hathaway notes in these pages, which more than compensates for the sense of anticipation that coursed through the veins a few years ago. A "settled routine" prevails. A measured sense of mature realism underscored by basic goodwill and empathy is not to be lightly dismissed. It can be the lodestar for a durable relationship where the best is yet to be.

When I recce the landscape of our

bilateral relations, I direct the pointer towards our enhanced engagement in areas like defense and security, exchange of high-level visits, the regular meetings of the India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue since 2010, our burgeoning trade and economic partnership, and the sharper focus that has been brought to the "people-centric" dimension of our relationship, together with our cooperation in sectors such as education, energy, S&T, innovation, health and space science. Contacts between states in India and those in the United States have also been a feature of our exchanges. The U.S. Congress, and particularly members of the India Caucus, have time and again shown their focus and commitment to the cause of better U.S.-India relations. This is a silent revolution, not a blockbuster one, but epochal all the same.

In civil nuclear cooperation, negotiations between India's Nuclear Power Corporation and Westinghouse as also GE-Hitachi are under way. Progress even if slow, is steady, sustained by the political will of both governments to ensure that this cooperation achieves its goals. We look forward to continued U.S. support and cooperation in securing India's membership of the four multi-lateral export control regimes.

In defense, our cooperation has intensified with growing defense trade, joint exercises, personnel exchanges, cooperation in maritime security and counter piracy operations.

The full article can be viewed at:
http://im.rediff.com/news/2013/sep/26ia-magazine_2-3.pdf

India calls for focus on poverty eradication

Genuine international partnership between the developing and developed countries is the need of the hour, says Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh

Poverty continues to be a major political and economic challenge of the world and a collective effort is needed to eradicate this global scourge, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh said on September 28.

“...The problems of over a billion people living in abject poverty around the world need to be attacked more directly,” he said during the course of his speech at the annual debate of the UN General Assembly.

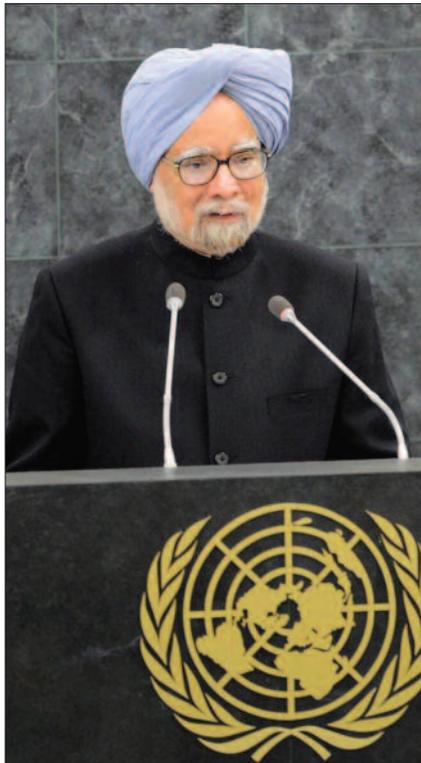
“Poverty remains a major political and economic challenge and its eradication requires special attention and a new collective thrust. This priority should anchor the post-2015 Development Agenda, which should be shaped by the member states so that it enjoys the broadest possible support and acceptance.”

The Prime Minister said that though the issues of peace, security, human rights and governance were important and needed to be addressed, “we will fall short of realizing an ambitious post-2015 development agenda if we focus merely on governance issues at the cost of robust economic growth”.

“This agenda should not be merely about reprioritizing domestic spending, but also about fostering genuine international partnership between the developing and developed countries to bring about change,” Prime Minister Singh said.

“All of us need the policy space necessary to set our own domestic priorities. No one knows the condition of developing countries better than the developing countries themselves.”

He urged the UN to set clear and concise goals and provide practical and well-defined means of implementation, “including adequate flow of resources and transfer of technology, taking the views of developing countries fully into account”.



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh addressing at the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, in New York on September 28.

The full text of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's statement in the General Debate of the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly:

“At a time when the world is facing multiple challenges, there is renewed attention on the role of the United Nations in advancing international peace, security and prosperity. However, never has scepticism about the UN's capacity to do so been higher, or the external environment less propitious for multilateralism.

Nearly seven decades of the work of the United Nations hold one simple lesson and that is this: we are most successful when we adhere to the letter and spirit of the United Nations Charter, basing our decisions on the widest possible consent and balancing equitably the needs

and responsibilities of nations at different stages of development.

In these seven decades, the world has changed in fundamental ways. Asia and Africa are independent and resurgent. Countries are now not only more interdependent, but also face new and increasingly complex challenges. For multilateralism to remain relevant and effective in the future, multilateral institutions need to be reformed urgently.

The place to begin is right here.

The UN Security Council must be reformed and restructured to reflect current political realities. More developing countries should be included as both permanent and non-permanent members.

Multilateral Financial Institutions should also enable an enhanced voice for developing countries in their decision making structures.

Multilateral efforts must guide our quest for peace and security, wherever they are threatened. And the centrality and contribution of the UN system to development must be restored.

These objectives require the building of a new international consensus, suited to our time and rooted in today's realities. It is only such a plan of action that will enable the UN to meet the twin tests of legitimacy and effectiveness and efficiency.

We commend your choice for the theme of this session. Setting the stage for the post-2015 Development Agenda is especially important as we deal with a lingering global economic slowdown and continuing volatility in financial markets. These have imposed disproportionately heavy costs on developing countries and vulnerable groups within them.

Growth and inclusive development are naturally important for all our countries. They require a supportive international economic environment,

G4 nations seek urgent UNSC reforms

India and other G4 countries, Brazil, Germany and Japan, all aspiring for permanent membership of the Security Council, have called for intensifying efforts for urgent UN Security Council reforms "to better reflect geopolitical realities of the 21st century".

In a joint statement issued after a meeting of the foreign ministers of the G4 nations on the margins of the UN General Assembly, they "underscored that, almost 70 years after the creation of the United Nations, reform of the Security Council is long overdue".

Besides Indian External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid, the meeting was attended by Brazil's Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado, Germany's Guido Westerwelle and Japan's Fumio Kishida.

They agreed that difficulties of the Security Council in dealing with international challenges, including current ones, have further highlighted the need for UN Security Council reform.

This would "better reflect geopolitical realities of the 21st century and make the Council more broadly representative, efficient and transparent and thus to further enhance its effectiveness and the legitimacy and implementation of its decisions," they said.

Recalling that almost 10 years ago, in the Outcome Document of the 2005 World Summit, international leaders committed themselves to an early reform of the Security Council, the



From left, India's External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Fumio Kishida, Foreign Minister of Germany Guido Westerwelle and Minister of External Relations of Brazil, Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado, in New York on September 26. Photo: Mohammed Jaffer-SnapsIndia

"ministers stressed the need to intensify efforts to translate, at the latest by 2015, the existing agreement into concrete outcomes".

The G4 countries reiterated their commitments as aspiring new permanent members of the UN Security Council, as well as their support for each other's candidatures.

They also reaffirmed their view of the importance of developing countries, in particular Africa, to be represented in both the per-

manent and non-permanent categories of an enlarged Council.

Underlining the need to achieve concrete progress in the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly, the ministers said they looked forward to working closely with John Ashe, UN General Assembly president and the Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiations "to bring about the urgently needed reform of the Security Council".

enhanced investment flows, including from multilateral development banks, transfer of technology, and an open multilateral trading regime.

But the problems of over a billion people living in abject poverty around the world need to be attacked more directly. Poverty remains a major political and economic challenge and its eradication requires special attention and a new collective thrust. This priority should anchor the post-2015 Development Agenda, which should be shaped by the member states so that it enjoys the broadest possible support and acceptance.

Issues of peace, security, human rights and governance are important and need to be addressed. But we will fall short of realizing an ambitious

post-2015 development agenda if we focus merely on governance issues at the cost of robust economic growth.

This agenda should not be merely about reprioritizing domestic spending, but also about fostering genuine international partnership between the developing and developed countries to bring about change. All of us need the policy space necessary to set our own domestic priorities. No one knows the condition of developing countries better than the developing countries themselves.

It is, therefore, important that the UN set clear and concise goals and provide practical and well-defined means of implementation, including adequate flow of resources and transfer of technology, taking the views of

developing countries fully into account.

A meaningful post-2015 agenda must place equally high priority on food and nutrition, health, education, infrastructure, water, sanitation, energy and discrimination against women. Especially critical is women's equal access to economic opportunities, and that they do not become victims of violence or targets of prejudice.

In India, we have sought to promote inclusive development in multiple ways. Legislation has broadened access to education and secured rural livelihoods. We are now building the world's largest programme for food security. Digital technology is being harnessed to improve the delivery of public services and benefits to the people.

WE MUST SUMMON THE NECESSARY POLITICAL WILL FOR CRAFTING A ROBUST GLOBAL RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE BASIS OF EQUITY AND THE PRINCIPLE OF COMMON BUT DIFFERENTIATED RESPONSIBILITIES

— PRIME MINISTER DR. MANMOHAN SINGH

India is proud of its partnerships with developing countries. Using modest resources, we have built strong ties with Africa and the Least Developed Countries. We are committed to building 100 institutions in Africa, have offered capacity building support including thousands of scholarships, and made available concessional assistance of over 9.5 billion US dollars. India and Africa are engaging through the India-Africa Forum Summit process. We also look forward to participating actively in the 3rd Conference on the Small Island Developing States in Samoa in 2014 and contributing to its outcome.

Climate change is one of the defining challenges of our times. We must summon the necessary political will for crafting a robust global response to climate change on the basis of equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

We are deeply concerned about the future of West Asia, a region with which India shares deep bonds of history, and one that is critical for our energy security as well as the livelihoods of nearly seven million Indians who work and live in the region.

The increasingly lethal conflict in Syria is not only a tragedy for the people of Syria, but also threatens stability and security in the region and beyond. It has been made worse by the use of chemical weapons. The use of chemical weapons, whosoever may have deployed them, must be condemned in the strongest terms. India supports strongly the elimination of chemical weapons material and equipment in Syria.

There is no military solution to this conflict. We must intensify efforts to end the conflict and seek a political settlement. It is essential that the Geneva-2 conference be convened at the earliest.

We are encouraged that direct talks have resumed between Israel and Palestine. India supports an early realization of a sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, living within secure and recognized borders side-by-side and at peace with Israel. We also remain committed to the Palestinian quest for full membership of the UN.

In our own region, Afghanistan prepares for a historic political, security and economic transition. The international community must support the people of Afghanistan through this transition and beyond in combating terrorism, preserving the progress of the past decade and creating a stable, united and prosperous Afghanistan.

Terrorism remains a grave threat to security and stability everywhere and extracts a heavy toll of innocent lives around the world. From Africa to Asia, we have seen several manifestations of this menace in the last few days alone. State-sponsored cross-border terrorism is of particular concern to India, also on account of the fact that the epicenter of terrorism in our region is located in our neighborhood in Pakistan.

Speaking from this podium yesterday, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan spoke of making a new beginning. I reciprocate his sentiments and am looking forward to meeting him tomorrow. India is committed sincerely to resolving all issues with Pakistan, including the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, through bilateral dialogue on the basis of the Shimla Agreement. However, for progress to be made, it is imperative that the territory of Pakistan and the areas under its control are not utilized for aiding and abetting terrorism directed against India. It is equally important that the terrorist machinery that draws its sustenance from

Pakistan be shut down. There must be a clear understanding of the fact Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and that there can never, ever, be a compromise with the unity and territorial integrity of India.

We need to renew our commitment, especially here at the UN, for concerted, cohesive and continuing global action against terrorism. There can be no tolerance for states sheltering, arming, training or financing terrorists. Nor can they absolve themselves of the responsibility to prevent their territories from being used to launch acts of terrorism.

The increasingly complex challenges to international peace and security require a new international consensus to be built, whether it is in cyber security, non proliferation or terrorism. This year, 25 years after Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi put forward a comprehensive Action Plan for a Nuclear Weapon-free and Non-violent World Order, we must strengthen efforts against nuclear proliferation and pursue time-bound, universal, non-discriminatory, phased and verifiable nuclear disarmament. We must also guard against terrorists and non-state actors gaining access to sensitive materials and technologies.

Two years from now, the United Nations will be seventy years old. Every new state that was born during this period took its place in this Assembly not just with pride but also with hope. 2015 will be a moment to celebrate our successes and to ensure that the UN is ready for this century by completing the much needed reforms of the United Nations and its Security Council, by developing an ambitious and balanced post-2015 Development Agenda and by demonstrating our capacity to cooperate effectively for durable peace and security in this world.”



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with U.S. President Barack Obama during their summit meeting at the White House in Washington, D.C. on September 27.
Photo: Photo Division

Partners of first resort

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Barack Obama vow to make the next decade of India-U.S. relations ‘equally as transformative’ as the last one, as security cooperation, bilateral trade and investment, energy and environment, higher education, and global architecture take center stage at their third bilateral summit in Washington, D.C.

India and the U.S. are working together to give their cooperation a new sense of commitment, widening and deepening it in diverse directions, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh said after his third bilateral summit with President Barack Obama in Washington, D.C. on September 27.

The two nations, united by common democratic values not only pledged to expand their cooperation in areas of trade, investment and technology, but also resolved to

strengthen their global strategic partnership by “exploring avenues of cooperation in new areas like energy cooperation, clean coal technologies, energy-efficient technologies, cooperation in the field of environment, cooperation in the field of defense and security-related, cooperation with regard to intelligence gathering and counter-terrorism”.

In a joint statement after the meeting, Prime Minister Singh and President Obama stated that India-U.S. relations have transformed so

much over the last one decade that “the partnership between the two democratic nations is stronger today than at any point in their 67-year history.” Succinctly embodying the progress made by the two countries in strengthening their relations, the joint statement further stated, “The two countries have crossed a threshold in their relations where both recognize that successes at home and abroad are further advanced by their cooperation.”

Affirming their deep concern over the continuing threat posed by terror-

PRIME MINISTER DR. MANMOHAN SINGH AND PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA ENDORSED A JOINT DECLARATION ON DEFENSE COOPERATION AS A MEANS OF ENHANCING THEIR PARTNERSHIP IN DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, JOINT RESEARCH, CO-DEVELOPMENT AND CO-PRODUCTION

ism, the joint statement not only “strongly condemned” the September 26 terrorist attack on India, but also called for Pakistan to work toward bringing the perpetrators of the November 2008 Mumbai attacks to justice.

The two leaders also stressed the need “for joint and concerted effort, including dismantling of terrorist safe havens, and disrupting all financial and tactical support for terrorism.”

They “decided to significantly expand information sharing and intelligence cooperation to address threats to their respective nations including strengthening the bilateral relationship to exchange information on known and suspected terrorists.”

The two leaders welcomed the signing of the first commercial agreement between NPCIL and Washington under their landmark civil nuclear agreement and pledged to expand defense relationship.

Both governments, the joint statement noted, “are committed to reduce impediments, ease commercial transactions, and pursue co-production and co-development opportunities to expand this relationship.”

Noting the transformation of India-U.S. relations during the last decade, the two leaders pledged to “make the next decade equally as transformative, challenging their governments to reach the full potential of this partnership.”

The two leaders called for expanding security cooperation between India and the U.S. to “address 21st century challenges in the areas of counter-terrorism, cyber, space, and global health security,” the joint statement said.

Noting that two-way trade has increased fivefold since 2001 to nearly \$100 billion, President Obama and Prime Minister Singh agreed that “there are no insurmountable impediments to bilateral trade increasing an additional fivefold.”

They also reaffirmed their commitment to concluding a high-standard Bilateral Investment Treaty.

Such a treaty will “foster openness to investment, transparency, and



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh being welcomed on his arrival at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland, in Washington. Ambassador Nirupama Rao is also seen.
Photo: Photo Division

predictability, and thereby support economic growth and job creation in both countries,” they said.

Both sides also agreed to consider establishing a Joint Committee on Investment in Manufacturing “to address all trade and investment policy issues of bilateral concern so as to remove obstacles and improve the business environment in both countries.”

The third bilateral summit between Prime Minister Singh and President Obama, the joint statement said, “demonstrates that the interests of the United States and India continue to converge, and this partnership will indeed be a defining one for the 21st Century.”

Following is the joint statement issued after Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh’s summit meeting with President Barack Obama in Washington D.C.:

“Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh and President of the United States of America Barack Obama met this morning followed by a working luncheon at the White House. Marking their third bilateral summit, the two leaders reflected proudly on the transformation of United States-India relations during the last decade, affirming that the partnership between the two democratic nations is stronger today than at any point in their 67-year history.

Rooted in common democratic values and strong people to people ties, the United States and India have developed a comprehensive global strategic partnership, both in name and in substance that has made their citizens safer and more prosperous.

President Obama and Prime Minister Singh pledged to make the next decade equally as transformative, challenging their governments to reach the full potential of this partnership, particularly in the areas of security cooperation, bilateral trade and investment, energy and environment, higher education, and global architecture.

The leaders called for expanding



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh signing the visitors book, during the luncheon meeting hosted by U.S. President Barack Obama at the White House in Washington, D.C. on September 27.

security cooperation between the United States and India to address 21st century challenges in the areas of counter-terrorism, cyber, space, and global health security.

Applauding bilateral defense cooperation, including trade and military exercises, President Obama and Prime Minister Singh expressed satisfaction with the progress achieved to date in defense relations. They emphasized the need for more intensive defense cooperation on both sides. The leaders reaffirmed their desire to further strengthen defense trade cooperation endorsing a Joint Declaration on Defense Cooperation as a means of enhancing their partnership in defense technology transfer, joint research, co-development and co-production. President Obama encouraged the further participation of U.S. firms in partnering India’s efforts to enhance its defense capacities. President Obama also welcomed India’s decision to participate in the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) naval exercise hosted by U.S. Pacific Command in 2014.

Affirming their deep concern over the continuing threat posed by terrorism, President Obama and Prime Minister Singh stressed the need for joint and concerted effort, including

dismantling of terrorist safe havens, and disrupting all financial and tactical support for terrorism. The leaders decided to significantly expand information sharing and intelligence cooperation to address threats to their respective nations including strengthening the bilateral relationship to exchange information on known and suspected terrorists. The leaders emphasized the importance of expanding homeland security cooperation to enhance exchanges on megacity policing strategies, securing the global supply chain and anti-counterfeiting efforts. India welcomed the U.S. offer of membership in the U.S. ‘Global Entry’ Trusted Traveler Network Program, to facilitate expedited entry of Indian travelers to the United States.

Noting that two-way trade has increased five-fold since 2001 to nearly \$100 billion, President Obama and Prime Minister Singh agreed that there are no insurmountable impediments to bilateral trade increasing an additional fivefold. President Obama expressed confidence that the ongoing Indian economic reforms and policy measures to liberalize India’s economy would accelerate economic growth, opening greater avenues for trade and creating jobs in both coun-



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh during the luncheon meeting hosted by U.S. President Barack Obama at the White House, in Washington, D.C. on September 27. Photo: Photo Division

tries. In this respect, the leaders recognized in particular the role and contribution of the Indian and U.S. Information Technology industry and the IT enabled service industry in strengthening India-U.S. trade and investment relations.

The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to concluding a high-standard Bilateral Investment Treaty that will foster openness to investment, transparency, and predictability, and thereby support economic growth and job creation in both countries. The leaders welcomed progress towards increased engagement by experts from both governments, underlining the need for expeditious progress to address all trade and investment policy issues of bilateral concern so as to remove obstacles and improve the business environment in both countries. In this respect, both sides agreed to consider establishing a Joint Committee on Investment in Manufacturing.

The leaders also committed their officials to work toward a successful outcome at the World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference in Bali.

The leaders welcomed the robust cooperation in cutting-edge scientific research and joint collaboration in science, innovation, and entrepreneurship, for the benefit of citizens in both countries. The United States welcomed the invitation by India for the United States to be Partner Country in India's Science and Technology Summit in 2014.

President Obama and Prime Minister Singh discussed ways to strengthen bilateral efforts to promote energy efficiency, clean energy, and address climate change.

In the civil nuclear power sector, President Obama and Prime Minister Singh noted that, with government-to-government procedures agreed, commercial negotiations between U.S. companies and the Nuclear

Power Corporation of India (NPCIL) are proceeding. They welcomed the announcement that NPCIL and U.S. nuclear company Westinghouse have concluded a Preliminary Contract to develop a nuclear power plant in Gujarat in India. Building on this, the leaders urged NPCIL and U.S. companies Westinghouse and General Electric-Hitachi to expedite the necessary work to establish nuclear power plants in Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to the full and timely implementation of the India-U.S. Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement.

The U.S.-India Partnership to Advance Clean Energy (PACE), launched by the two Leaders in 2009, is expected to pave the way for energy to millions of Indian households. To expand the availability of clean energy resources to more people, President Obama and Prime Minister Singh endorsed the proposal to launch Promoting Energy Access

BOTH SIDES RECOGNIZED THE ROLE AND CONTRIBUTION OF THE INDIAN AND U.S. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY AND THE IT ENABLED SERVICE INDUSTRY IN STRENGTHENING INDIA-U.S. TRADE AND INVESTMENT RELATIONS

Unanimous U.S. Senate Resolution Welcomes Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh

As Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh arrived in Washington on September 26 for his third summit with President Barack Obama, in a reflection of strong bipartisan support in the U.S. Congress for India-U.S. strategic partnership, the United States Senate passed a resolution welcoming Prime Minister Singh to the United States.

The resolution, which was passed by unanimous consent, was sponsored by the Co-chair of Senate India Caucus, Senator Mark Warner of Virginia and Co-sponsored by the other Co-chair of Senate India Caucus, Senator John Cornyn of Texas, Chairman of Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Robert Menendez of New Jersey and Senator Mark Kirk of Illinois.

Following is the text of the resolution "Welcoming the Prime Minister of India to the United States for meetings to advance the United States-India partnership":

Welcoming the Prime Minister of India to the United States for meetings to advance the United States-India partnership.

Whereas, on August 15, 1947, India became a sovereign, democratic nation;

Whereas India is the world's largest democracy, embracing fundamental liberties and freedoms, justice, and the rule of law;

Whereas India is a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, and multi-religious society that promotes tolerance, diversity, and equality;

Whereas a strong relationship with India, the world's largest democracy, is critically important to United States interests;

Whereas the 2014 parliamentary elections in India are a further opportunity to strengthen the democratic institutions of the world's largest democracy;

Whereas the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, has led his government in undertaking a series of reforms designed to strengthen the Indian economy and transform the bilateral economic relationship into a true strategic partnership;

Whereas India is one of the world's fastest growing and dynamic economies, and a strong, economically competitive India is ulti-

mately good for American business and American jobs;

Whereas the 100,000 Indians who are studying in the United States and the 2,700,000 Americans of Indian descent living in the United States, including Nobel Laureates, artists, business leaders, journalists, and public servants, have contributed enormously to the rich social, political, and economic fabric of the United States;

Whereas India serves as a pivotal and effective partner in ensuring international peace and security and is the third largest contributor of personnel to United Nations peacekeeping missions;

Whereas security and defense cooperation between the United States and India continues to grow, as India remains a steadfast partner in countering the rise of extremists and currently participates in more naval exercises with the United States than any other nation;

Whereas the Defense Trade Initiative is successfully realigning India and United States procurement processes and United States military sales to India have totaled almost \$9,000,000,000 in the last several years;

Whereas India is the largest regional contributor to reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan and will be an important partner in the transition of United States forces from Afghanistan in 2014;

Whereas the market economy in India has contributed to increased economic opportunities, reduced poverty, and accompanying stability;

Whereas foreign direct investment and a transparent and progressive investment climate can play a critical role in economic development in India and strengthening United States-India economic relations;

Whereas the foundation of a strong economic partnership between India and the United States requires a mutual respect for innovation and an investment environment that fosters continued research and development;

Whereas a Bilateral Investment Treaty would provide protections for investors and help unleash needed investment in India;

Whereas furthering the bilateral dialogue on trade and investment is key to broadening and deepening the economic relationship between the United States and India, which can provide both Indian and American companies increased opportunities for exports; and

Whereas a strong relationship between the people and Governments of the United States and India, based on mutual trust and respect, will enable the countries to more closely collaborate across a broad spectrum of interests, such as global peace and prosperity, counterterrorism, defense, nonproliferation, economic prosperity, energy and climate change, education, scientific research, outer space, public health, and agriculture: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate —

1. warmly welcomes the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, on his visit to the United States, which provides a timely opportunity to reinforce the United States-India relationship and make progress on a number of fronts;
2. believes that together, the Governments of India and the United States can bring immense benefits to their people and make enormous contributions to addressing the global challenges of the 21st century;
3. looks forward to making progress on a range of issues to deepen and broaden the strategic partnership between India and the United States;
4. welcomes continued progress towards a Bi-lateral Investment Treaty;
5. supports progress and implementation of the landmark United States-India civil nuclear agreement;
6. acknowledges that the progress made by the Government of India on economic reforms has opened new channels for foreign direct investment, and believes further liberalization can bring increased prosperity to both countries; and
7. recognizes there is strong potential to grow the bilateral relationship and increase cooperation between the United States and India, elevating the relationship to an even stronger strategic partnership.

‘India and the U.S. are indispensable partners’

Following is the transcript of statement to media by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh after his bilateral meeting with U.S. President Barack Obama in Washington, D.C.

“I have always believed that India and America are indispensable partners.

During the time that I have been Prime Minister and particularly during the time that President Obama and I have worked together, I think President Obama has made an outstanding contribution to strengthening, widening and deepening of our cooperation in diverse fields.

When I came to America in 2005, in addressing the United States’ Congress I said there are partnerships based on principles and partnerships based on pragmatism. I then said that in the case of Indo-American cooperation, both principles of our commitment to democratic values, rule of law and pragmatism, both combined to make us strong and durable partners. And I am very happy to say that during the last five years that I have worked together with President Obama, that process has got strengthened in every possible way.

India and America are working together to give our cooperation a new sense of commitment, widening and deepening it in diverse directions. We are cooperating in expanding the frontiers of trade, investment in technology. Our bilateral trade today is \$100 billion. American investments in India are \$80 billion and they are growing despite the slowdown



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.

in the global economy. Outside the area of trade, technology and investment, we are exploring avenues of cooperation in new areas like energy cooperation, clean coal technologies, energy-efficient technologies, cooperation in the field of environment, cooperation in the field of defense and security-related, cooperation with regard to intelligence gathering and counter-terrorism. In all these areas India needs the United States to be standing by our side. And I am very pleased to know that President Obama has imparted a powerful impetus to that process of our two countries being on the same page.

The President briefed me about his initiatives both with regard to Syria and with regard to Iran; and I complimented him for his vision, for his courage in giving diplomacy yet another chance. India fully supports these ini-

tiatives because six million Indians live in the West Asia and the Middle East. They earn their livelihood. Their ...(Inaudible)... an important role of sustaining our balance of payments. Therefore, anything that contributes to peace and stability in the Middle East, in Iran, in Syria, is something which is in the interest of the global economy. It is certainly in the interest of people in the region in which India is placed.

We have also discussed our relations and our approach to dealing with Afghanistan and Pakistan. I explained to President Obama the difficulties that we face given the fact that the epicenter of terror still remains focused in Pakistan. And I look forward to meeting with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif even though the expectations have to be toned down given the terror arm which is still active in our sub-continent.

Overall, I have come here to thank President Obama for all that he has done to strengthen, widen and deepen the cooperation between our two countries.

I explained to the President that India is a poor country. Our basic task is to improve the standard of living of our people, to get rid of mass poverty, ignorance and disease which still afflict millions and millions of our people, and in that struggle we want America to stand by our side. And in the President the United States has a leader who realizes and recognizes the contribution that resurgent India can make not only to fighting poverty but also to global peace and prosperity.”

through Clean Energy (PEACE), a PACE initiative, to rapidly deploy innovative renewable energy solutions to those who currently lack access to energy.

Recognizing that climate change is a defining challenge of our time and that there are mutual benefits to

intensifying cooperation, President Obama and Prime Minister Singh announced the establishment of an India-U.S. Climate Change Working Group to develop and advance action-oriented cooperation, as well as to begin an enhanced dialogue focusing on working closely in devel-

oping an ambitious climate change agreement for the post-2020 period, and on strengthening bilateral efforts in this regard.

The two leaders agreed to immediately convene the India-U.S. Task Force on hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) to discuss, inter alia, multi-

INDIA WELCOMED THE U.S. OFFER OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE U.S. ‘GLOBAL ENTRY’ TRUSTED TRAVELLER NETWORK PROGRAM, TO FACILITATE EXPEDITED ENTRY OF INDIAN TRAVELLERS TO THE UNITED STATES

lateral approaches that include using the expertise and the institutions of the Montreal Protocol to phase down the consumption and production of HFCs, based on economically-viable and technically feasible alternatives, and include HFCs within the scope of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol for accounting and reporting of emissions.

The leaders are committed to support the full implementation of the agreed outcomes under the UNFCCC with its ongoing negotiations. They strongly welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to mobilize political will through 2014 toward the successful adoption of a protocol, another legal instrument, or an agreed outcome with legal force under the convention applicable to all parties by 2015, during COP-21 that France stands ready to host. They also supported complementary initiatives, through multilateral approaches that include using the expertise and the institutions of the Montreal Protocol to phase down the production and the consumption of HFCs, based on the examination of economically viable and technically feasible alternatives. They will continue to include HFCs within the scope of

India, U.S. sign first commercial agreement under n-deal

The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) and the Westinghouse Electric Company have signed a preliminary commercial contract. The agreement on the first commercial deal was announced by President Barack Obama after his summit meeting on September 27 with Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the White House oval office.

"We've made enormous progress on the issue of civilian nuclear power, and in fact, have been able to achieve just in the last few days an agreement on the first commercial agreement between a U.S. company and India on civilian nuclear power," he said.

A fact sheet issued by the White House later said this agreement should facilitate progress toward licensing the AP-1000 nuclear reactor technology in India.

Noting that Indian government is planning to develop commercial nuclear power sites in Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh using U.S. nuclear technology, it said both governments also decided to complete discussions on the administrative arrangements at an early date. India plans to buy six of the Westinghouse-manufactured AP 1000 nuclear reactors in a deal worth about \$14 billion for its nuclear

power project at Chayya-Mithivirdi in Gujarat, one of the two sites set aside for American firms under the nuclear deal.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Indian Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) also intend to sign a memorandum of understanding for the exchange of technical information in nuclear safety matters, it was announced.

"This arrangement should solidify close cooperation between the regulators," the fact sheet said. Noting that the two countries work closely on global non-proliferation and arms control, it said the U.S. continues to support India's full membership in the four multilateral export control regimes — Nuclear Suppliers Group, Missile Technology Control Regime, Wassenaar Arrangement, and Australia Group, in a phased manner.

The U.S. also welcomed India's March 2013 update to its Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment, and Technology (SCOMET) list.

The United States and India also collaborate on nuclear security issues and look forward to working together in the lead up to the next Nuclear Security Summit to be held in The Hague in March 2014, the White House said.



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with U.S. President Barack Obama at their summit meeting, at the White House, in Washington, D.C. on September 27. Photo: Shahbaz Khan/PTI



U.S. First Lady Michelle Obama hosts a tea for Smt. Gursharan Kaur, wife of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, in the Yellow Oval Room of the White House, on September 27. (Official White House Photo by Amanda Lucidon)

UNFCCC and its Kyoto protocol for accounting and reporting of emissions.

President Obama and Prime Minister Singh emphasized the dangers that high oil prices can pose to the global economy and the need to increase oil market transparency and emergency response collaboration, through closer coordination and bilateral dialogue.

President Obama and Prime Minister Singh believe that the United States and India should look to each other as partners of first resort in addressing global challenges.

The leaders reflected on the important strategic partnerships the United States and India have formed with Afghanistan, reaffirming their com-

mitment to supporting a smooth security and political transition. The leaders recognized that violent extremists continue to pose challenges to Afghanistan's security and stability and, in this context, emphasized the need for coordinated international support to help build the capacity of Afghan National Defense and Security Forces.

They noted that both India and the United States will remain committed to contribute to peace, stability and development in Afghanistan during the critical transformation decade (2015-2024).

President Obama and Prime Minister Singh strongly condemned the September 26 terrorist attack in Samba in Jammu and Kashmir. They

reiterated their condemnation of terrorism in all its forms, and reaffirmed their commitment to eliminating terrorist safe havens and infrastructure, and disrupting terrorist networks including Al-Qa'ida and the Lashkar-e-Taiba. The Leaders called for Pakistan to work toward bringing the perpetrators of the November 2008 Mumbai attacks to justice.

In the spirit of their continuing non-proliferation cooperation, the leaders reviewed the close cooperation of the United States and India to realize India's intention of joining the multilateral export control regimes. The President reaffirmed the United States support for India's early membership in these groups. Looking ahead to the 2014 Nuclear Security Summit in The

PRESIDENT OBAMA AND PRIME MINISTER SINGH BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES AND INDIA SHOULD LOOK TO EACH OTHER AS PARTNERS OF FIRST RESORT IN ADDRESSING GLOBAL CHALLENGES

NOTING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF INDIAN PEACEKEEPERS TO GLOBAL PEACE AND STABILITY FOR SIXTY YEARS, THE LEADERS DECIDED TO EXPAND THEIR UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING COOPERATION, INCLUDING CAPACITY-BUILDING EFFORTS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The leaders reaffirmed their desire to further strengthen defense trade cooperation endorsing a Joint Declaration on Defense Cooperation as a means of enhancing their partnership in defense technology transfer, joint research, co-development and co-production.
- Prime Minister Singh and President Obama called for expanding security cooperation between the United States and India to address 21st century challenges in the areas of counter-terrorism, cyber, space, and global health security.
- Highlighting the increase in two-way trade by fivefold since 2001 to nearly \$100 billion, the leaders agreed that there are no insurmountable impediments to bilateral trade increasing an additional fivefold.
- The Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to concluding a high-standard Bilateral Investment Treaty that will foster openness to investment, transparency, and predictability, and thereby support economic growth and job creation in both countries.
- The two countries agreed to consider establishing a Joint Committee on Investment in Manufacturing to ensure good business environment in both countries.
- Prime Minister Singh and President Obama endorsed the proposal to launch Promoting Energy Access through Clean Energy (PEACE), an Advance Clean Energy (PACE) initiative, to rapidly deploy innovative renewable energy solutions to those who currently lack access to energy.

Hague, India and the United States also will deepen their cooperation, including through the 2010 Memorandum of Understanding with India's Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership, to strengthen global nuclear security.

The leaders stressed the need for diplomacy to resolve outstanding issues relating to Iran's nuclear program, and called on Iran to comply with its IAEA and UN Security Council obligations.

The two leaders also deplored the use of chemical weapons in Syria, stressing that the global norm against the use of chemical weapons by anyone and anywhere must be maintained.

Consistent with the U.S. rebalance to Asia and India's Look East policy, the leaders expressed a desire to partner more closely with other Asia-Pacific countries, including greater coordination with Japan, China and ASEAN, among others, including through the evolving institutional architecture of the region. The leaders share a commitment to support regional multilateral institutions as they continue to develop into effective bodies built on international rules

and norms that can address shared challenges.

Noting the contributions of Indian peacekeepers to global peace and stability for sixty years, the Leaders decided to expand their United Nations peacekeeping cooperation, including capacity-building efforts with third countries. Reaffirming that in the years ahead, the United States looks forward to a reformed UN Security Council with India as a permanent member, President Obama and Prime Minister Singh agreed that both their nations bear a responsibility to ensure that the Security Council continues to effectively play the role in maintaining international peace and security envisioned in the United Nations Charter.

Building on ongoing consultations between India and the United States on East Asia, Central Asia and West Asia, and the trilateral dialogue mechanisms with Afghanistan and Japan respectively, the leaders agreed to expand their consultations to include a dialogue on the Indian Ocean Region, to deepen coordination on cross-cutting issues including maritime security and conservation of natural resources.

The leaders resolved to work together to end extreme poverty, including through expanding efforts to end preventable child deaths through the Child Survival Call to Action. Fifty years after the launch of India's own agricultural "Green Revolution," the leaders applauded their countries' work together with African partners Kenya, Malawi, and Liberia, to provide capacity building and exchange best practices for food security.

Looking forward, President Obama and Prime Minister Singh recognized that increased cooperation in these areas will strengthen the United States-India strategic partnership, highlighting shared democratic values and the capabilities the United States and India have to work together across Asia and around the globe. The two countries have crossed a threshold in their relations where both recognize that successes at home and abroad are further advanced by their cooperation.

Today's meeting demonstrates that the interests of the United States and India continue to converge, and this partnership will indeed be a defining one for the 21st Century."

India, U.S. to identify joint defense projects

An India-U.S. Joint Declaration on Defense Cooperation issued after the summit meeting between Prime Minister Singh and President Obama noted that India and the U.S. ‘share common security interests and place each other at the same level as their closest partners’

15

Describing defense relationship as a major pillar of India-U.S. strategic partnership the two countries have agreed to identify specific cooperative and collaborative projects in advanced defense technologies and systems, within the next year. The intent to pursue such collaboration as part of efforts “to work toward achieving the full vision of expanded defense cooperation set forth in the 2005 New Framework Agreement,” was announced after the September 27 summit between Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Barack Obama.

“Such opportunities will be pursued by both sides in accordance with their national policies and procedures, in a manner that would reflect the full potential of the relationship,” said an India-U.S. Joint Declaration on Defense Cooperation issued after the summit. Noting that India-U.S. “defense cooperation and engagement has increased significantly over the past decade, in step with the overall deepening of India-U.S. relations,” the two leaders endorsed several general principles for fulfilling the 2005 vision.

Topping the list was the principle

that the U.S. and India “share common security interests and place each other at the same level as their closest partners.”

“This principle will apply with respect to defense technology transfer, trade, research, co-development and co-production for defense articles and services, including the most advanced and sophisticated technology,” the declaration said.

Even as the two countries are committed to protecting each other’s sensitive technology and information, “they will work to improve licensing processes, and, where applicable, follow expedited license approval processes to facilitate this cooperation.”

The U.S. “continues to fully support India’s full membership in the four international export control regimes, which would further facilitate technology sharing,” the declaration said. The two sides also agreed to “continue their efforts to strengthen mutual understanding of their respective procurement systems and approval processes, and to address process-related difficulties in defense trade, technology transfer, and collaboration.”

A separate fact sheet issued by the White House said “both governments are committed to reduce impediments, ease commercial transactions, and pursue co-production and co-development opportunities to expand this relationship.”

Since the launch of Commerce department’s High Technology Cooperation Group in 2002, U.S. strategic trade exports have increased significantly, exceeding \$5.8 billion in 2012, it said noting only 0.02 percent of U.S. exports to India require a license today, compared with 24 percent in 1999. India-U.S. defense trade has reached nearly \$9 billion and U.S.-sourced defense articles have enhanced the capabilities of the Indian armed forces, demonstrated by the use of C-130J and C-17 transport aircraft to support flood relief operations and Indian peacekeeping operations, the declaration said.

“U.S. companies look forward to concluding additional transactions to bring new capabilities to India’s services in the near future,” it said noting “India is also the first nation to deploy the P8-I Poseidon, a state of the art maritime surveillance aircraft.”

India and the United States also discussed joint principles for bilateral cooperation on training peacekeepers and plan to conclude a memorandum of understanding between the U.S. Army Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute and the Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping India.

INDIA-U.S. DEFENSE TRADE HAS REACHED NEARLY \$9 BILLION AND U.S.-SOURCED DEFENSE ARTICLES HAVE ENHANCED THE CAPABILITIES OF THE INDIAN ARMED FORCES, THE DECLARATION SAID



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh meeting with the U.S. CEOs, on the sidelines of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, in New York on September 27. Photo: Jay Mandal / On Assignment

Committed to investment-friendly economic environment: PM

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh draws attention of the U.S. business leaders to the long-term investment opportunities that India offers, especially in the infrastructure and defense sectors

India has an abiding commitment to fostering an economic environment that is open, predictable and transparent, and which is business and investment-friendly, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh said U.S. business leaders in New York on September 27. Dispelling “mistaken perceptions” about India’s growth prospects, macroeconomic stability and the economic policy environment, the Prime Minister said India was committed to getting back to a sustainable growth path of 8-9 percent.

“The fundamentals of the Indian economy remain strong. India’s overall public-debt to GDP ratio has been on a declining trend from 73.2 percent of GDP in 2006-07 to 66 percent in 2012-13. Similarly, India’s

external debt is only 21.2 percent of GDP and short-term debt stands at 5.2 percent of GDP,” he told the business leaders.

Commending the business communities of both the countries for their role in developing the India-U.S. strategic partnership, Prime Minister Singh reaffirmed India’s commitment to protecting intellectual property rights and he asserted that consistent with its WTO obligations India has strong IPR legislation. “We recognize that investment and innovation in a country requires such protection,” he said.

He drew attention of the business leaders to the long-term investment opportunities that India offers, especially in infrastructure and defense sectors.

Following is Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh’s opening statement to business leaders:

“I welcome you all to this meeting, which you have come to attend at such short notice on September 27.

In today’s world, a strong two way economic and business partnership is the bedrock of a strong bilateral relationship. The business communities in both our countries have played a very important role in the development of the India-U.S. strategic partnership. Our cooperation is now truly broad-based.

Apart from trade and investment, we are constructively engaged in energy security, education and research, defense, homeland security and cyber security.

President Obama and I had a very

WE ARE DETERMINED TO RESTORE THE HIGH MOMENTUM OF GROWTH OF THE PAST DECADE AND MAINTAIN MACROECONOMIC STABILITY. WE ALSO KNOW THAT ACHIEVING THIS MEANS MORE AND NOT LESS REFORMS

— PRIME MINISTER DR. MANMOHAN SINGH

productive meeting earlier today and I conveyed to him that, despite economic turbulence all around, our trade and investment relationship remained a high point of Indo-U.S. engagement.

I am aware that the business community in the United States has some concerns about India's growth prospects, macroeconomic stability and the economic policy environment. Doubts have been expressed about our sincerity in this regard. This is a mistaken perception. I would like to use this meeting to correct it if I can, and also to understand your points of view.

We have an abiding commitment to fostering an economic environment that is open, predictable and transparent, and which is business and

investment friendly. We are determined to restore the high momentum of growth of the past decade and maintain macroeconomic stability. We also know that achieving this means more and not less reforms.

The process of reforms that began in 1991 has benefited India both in terms of accelerated economic growth as well as rapid reduction in poverty. Virtually all political parties in India, national and regional, have been part of successive governments in India after 1991 and have supported the process of reforms. This gives us confidence about the future direction of our economic policies.

It is a fact that our growth rate has slowed down. We grew at an average of about 8 percent for a decade. Last year, our growth rate dipped to 5

percent. To some extent, this reflects the slowdown in the global economy and in all emerging markets.

We are committed to getting India back to a sustainable growth path of 8-9 percent. Indeed, the Indian people will not tolerate anything less. They have tasted the benefits of rapid inclusive economic growth and they want more, not less.

The fundamentals of the Indian economy remain strong. India's overall public-debt to GDP ratio has been on a declining trend from 73.2 percent of GDP in 2006-07 to 66 percent in 2012-13. Similarly, India's external debt is only 21.2 percent of GDP and short-term debt stands at 5.2 percent of GDP.

Our forex reserves stand at over \$270 billion, and are more than suf-



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh interacting with the U.S. CEOs, on the sidelines of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, in New York on September 27. Photo: Jay Mandal / On Assignment

ficient to meet India's external financing requirements.

In order to restore growth, our Government has implemented a series of reform measures over the last year. We have established a special mechanism to speed up implementation of large projects, especially in the infrastructure sectors. Several decisions have been taken to remove impediments in the way of important projects.

We have taken steps to make India more attractive for Foreign Direct Investment. FDI limits have been increased in several sectors, including retail and telecom, and restrictions in the banking sector have been eased. The policy regarding FDI in defense has been clarified to indicate that FDI beyond 26 percent can also be considered on merits.

The results of our efforts will be visible in the second half of the year. We expect stronger growth in 2013-14 than in 2012-13. The second half of the year should see a distinct turnaround, partly because of the good monsoon and partly because of the steps we have taken.

We will contain the fiscal deficit to 4.8 percent this year. We are also confident of achieving our medium term objective of reducing the Current Account Deficit to 2.5 percent of our GDP. At the same time, we will make every effort to maintain a macro-economic framework friendly to foreign capital inflows to enable orderly financing of the Current Account Deficit.

A number of tax related concerns of U.S. companies, with wholly owned subsidiaries in India, have been addressed. Some security related restrictions on electronic imports

FOCAL POINTS

- The fundamentals of the Indian economy remain strong. India's overall public-debt to GDP ratio has been on a declining trend from 73.2 percent of GDP in 2006-07 to 66 percent in 2012-13. Similarly, India's external debt is only 21.2 percent of GDP and short-term debt stands at 5.2 percent of GDP.
- India has established a special mechanism to speed up implementation of large projects, especially in the infrastructure sectors.
- The policy regarding FDI in defense has been clarified to indicate that FDI beyond 26 percent can also be considered on merits
- A number of tax related concerns of U.S. companies, with wholly owned subsidiaries in India, have been addressed.
- India is committed to the protection of intellectual property. It recognizes that investment and innovation in a country requires such protection. The IPR legislation in India is consistent with our WTO obligations.
- The process of reforms that began in 1991 has benefited India both in terms of accelerated economic growth as well as rapid reduction in poverty. Virtually all political parties in India, national and regional, have been part of successive governments in India after 1991 and have supported the process of reform.
- Many U.S. companies that have adapted to India, offering products and services that are competitive and innovative, have done very well.

were perceived as disguised protectionism.

We have put these restrictions in abeyance and will work to find more acceptable solutions that address our legitimate security needs.

I also wish to assure you that India is committed to the protection of intellectual property. We recognize that investment and innovation in a country requires such protection. We have strong IPR legislation in India, consistent with our WTO obligations. We are continually trying to strengthen the enforcement mechanisms. There has been one solitary instance so far of compulsory licensing for an anti-cancer drug and there has been one instance when the Supreme Court of India rejected a patent extension claim on a legitimate ground.

I would like to use this opportunity also to urge you to oppose efforts to create barriers for Indian IT companies through legislative or administrative measures. These companies are the most ardent champions of India-U.S. relations. The IT and related services sector contributes 8 percent of our GDP and 25 percent of our exports. It employs three million people directly.

The inability of IT companies to operate in the U.S. market would not only affect our economy, but also the climate of opinion in India about the economic partnership with the U.S.

Many U.S. companies that have adapted to India, offering products and services that are competitive and innovative, have done very well. I hope you recognize the longer term opportunities that lie ahead.

For example, we intend to invest more than a trillion dollars in the next five years in the infrastructure sector. The defense sector is another attractive area, because we will place priority on domestic procurement and encourage our private sector in this area.

I look forward to hearing from you on how we can further expand our economic relations.”

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT LIMITS HAVE BEEN INCREASED IN SEVERAL SECTORS, INCLUDING RETAIL AND TELECOM AND RESTRICTIONS IN THE BANKING SECTOR HAVE BEEN EASED — PRIME MINISTER DR. MANMOHAN SINGH

Ambassador Nirupama Rao calls on Washington Governor Jay Inslee

With a view to promoting exchanges between India and Washington and strengthening India-U.S. partnership in the process, Ambassador Nirupama Rao visited the state in the Pacific-Northwest of the United States from September 11-13.

On her arrival in Seattle on September 11, the 12th anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks, Ambassador Rao met with Governor J. Inslee in the state capital of Olympia. She noted that it was a day of remembrance, marked by solemn prayer. Governor Inslee noted that apart from the U.S., the attacks had affected the international community and had changed the world's perception of security.

Ambassador Rao elucidated on the strategic cooperation between India and the U.S. in various fields including counterterrorism, defense, education, trade & business, technology, energy, including civil nuclear cooperation.



Ambassador Nirupama Rao with Washington Governor Jay Inslee.

Governor Inslee expressed his admiration for India's democracy and conveyed his interest in furthering cooperation, especially in the high-tech sec-

tors while seeking to increase Washington's agricultural exports including the supply of apples to India.

Meeting with Congressman Jim McDermott

Ambassador Rao met with Representative Jim McDermott of the U.S. Congress on September 13. Rep. McDermott and the Ambassador discussed issues of bilateral and global importance including immigration reform and the situation in Syria.

Ambassador Rao attended a dinner hosted by the Indo-American Friendship Forum, a banquet hosted by Bellevue Mayor Conrad Lee at the City Hall and paid tribute at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at the Bellevue public library.

'India-U.S. partnership has its sights firmly set on future'

Speaking at a welcome gathering of local leaders and the Indian American community hosted by the former Mayor of Anaheim Harry Sidhu, Ambassador Nirupama Rao described the "great resurgence" in India-U.S. ties as a partnership in a "state of irreversible excellence" and "with its sights firmly set on the future".

Ambassador Rao visited Orange County in the vicinity of Los Angeles, California on September 14 at the invitation of Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Congressman Ed Royce, who represents that district in the United States Congress.

She commended Chairman Royce's personal contribution in this transformation, calling him "one of the great-



Ambassador Rao with Congressman Ed Royce and Marie Royce.

est champions and pioneers of the India-U.S. Strategic Partnership." She spoke of the "natural affinity" between the peoples of the two countries, who she said were at the heart of this partnership spanning from defense cooperation and counter-terrorism to trade, innovation, technology and education.

In his welcome remarks, Chairman

Royce appreciated Ambassador Rao's untiring efforts to promote India-U.S. cooperation in diverse fields. He reflected on the role of the India U.S. Caucus in the transformation of India-U.S. relations over the last two decades, which he described as "phenomenal" and "based on same interests and values". He commended the role of the Indian-American community in building closer India-U.S. partnership with their talent and determination.

The California State Senator Mimi Walters also joined the event to welcome Ambassador Rao.

The American Women for International Understanding (AWIU) hosted Ambassador Rao for a discussion on recent developments in India and India-U.S. relations.

Embassy hosts American India Foundation



1. Ambassador Nirupama Rao addressing the gathering at the reception hosted for members of the American Indian Foundation (AIF) at the Embassy Residence on September 17.
2. Lata Krishnan, American Indian Foundation Board Chair, addressing the gathering.
3. Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard speaking on the occasion.
4. Sudhakar Shenoy, Founder, Chairman and CEO of IMC, Inc., addressing the gathering.
5. Ravi Kumar, CEO of American Indian Foundation, addressing the gathering.
6. Guests in attendance.

Embassy hosts young Indian Americans



1. Ambassador Nirupama Rao welcoming the guests and addressing the gathering at a reception hosted for the Young Indian Americans, at the Embassy Residence on September 19.
2. Ronak Desai, Attorney, DC Area, addressing the gathering.
3. Tanvi Nagpal, Faculty, John Hopkins University, speaking on the occasion.
4. Bindhu Pamarthi, Miss District of Columbia 2013, addressing the gathering.
5. Interactive Q&A session.
6. Guests in attendance.
7. Ambassador Rao with Miss District of Columbia 2013 Bindhu Pamarthi.



Ambassador Nirupama Rao chairs Consular 'Adalat' for Indian community

The Embassy of India organized a Consular "Adalat", an outreach to the Indian community on Consular matters, at the Embassy premises on September 18. Over 75 Representatives from various Indian Associations attended the event chaired by Ambassador Nirupama Rao. In her opening remarks, Ambassador Rao explained the significance of the Consular outreach program to engage the community on matters relating to Passport, Visa, OCI/PIO and Miscellaneous services.

She outlined various measures taken to improve the consular services at the embassy and at the outsourcing agency locations. She narrated her personal visits to the consular reception area and discussions with applicants which led to giving a new look to the consular section. Facilities for emergency visa services are extended to cover all holidays.

While recognizing current challenges relating to the new outsourcing agency, Ambassador Rao listed out efforts being made by the embassy to bring in more professionalism in the services of the agency. Ambassador also made a mention of her efforts to take up with concerned Ministries in the Govt of India to further liberalize restrictions on extending consular services to those in asylum category. Suggestions made by the community members on further improving OCI cards have also been sent to concerned authorities and are in active consideration of the Government, Ambassador Rao added.

Community leaders sought clarifications on a number of issues relating to functioning of the outsourcing agency, BLS International, processing of renunciation certificate, liberalization of restrictions in services to Asylees, changes in rules relating to OCI cards, etc.



Ambassador Nirupama Rao addressing the Indian community, at the Embassy on September 18. Also seen are Deputy Chief of Mission Taranjit Singh Sandhu and Minister N.A. Prasad.



Representatives from various Indian Associations at the Embassy.

Consular officers clarified many of the doubts and explained the reasons for various procedures. It was also reiterated that there are no changes in OCI rules. The requirement of changing the OCI cards after attaining the age of 50 years and for the children completing 20 years of age are part of the existing rules and no new rules have been framed.

Ambassador appreciated some of the suggestions and instructed consular officers to make the instructions on the website more clear while giving a link to applicants to ask further clarifications, if any.

BLS Country Representative Rattan Whigg, who also attended the Adalat, assured that the feedback given by the community leaders

would be used to improve their services. Association leaders from cities like Philadelphia and Dallas also attended besides those from the Greater Washington area. Those who could not travel from other states sent in questions through their representatives.

DCM Taranjit Singh Sandhu also addressed the meeting.

Benoy Thomas, the community leader who coordinated the event, thanked Ambassador Rao for organizing the Consular Adalat which provided a platform to the community to air their questions/grievances and get on the spot clarifications. He requested the Embassy to organize such functions more frequently and in various locations.

Consul General explores India-New Hampshire business cooperation



Consul General also addressed a large gathering at the World Affairs Council of New Hampshire, Manchester, a think tank affiliated to Southern New Hampshire University. During his address, Ambassador Mulay talked on various aspects of India-U.S. relations including political, strategic, defense, economic & commercial, science & technology, education, culture and many other areas.

The Consul General met with the Indian community in New Hampshire on September 7. Ambassador Mulay informed the participants about various activities and initiatives of the Consulate and answered their queries. The function was organized by the Indian Association of New Hampshire, the largest Indian community organization in the State.

Consul General Ambassador Dnyaneshwar Mulay called on Robin Comstock, President & CEO of Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, the largest business chamber in New

Hampshire, to discuss areas of cooperation between the businesses of India and New Hampshire on September 6. Ambassador Mulay was on official visit to the state on September 6-7.

On the first day of his visit, the

Showcasing Indian apparel in New York

Consul General of India in New York Ambassador Dnyaneshwar Mulay inaugurated an apparel trade show organized by the Apparel Export Promotion Council of India (AEPC) at Penn Plaza Pavilion on September 18.

The inauguration was presided by Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman of the AEPC along with its Executive Committee Members and prominent media houses.

Thirty exporters exhibited their Spring/Summer 2014 collections of ladies, men and children apparel at the trade show that remained open till September 19. Over 150-200 buyers, including brand stores, participated in the two-day B-2-B event. This buyer-seller meet generated substantial spot business and helped cement long-term partnerships.



Indian classical vocal concert at CGI New York



The Consulate General of India in New York in association with Music Department of the Manhattanville College organized an Indian classical music concert by renowned vocalist Dr. Sugata Marjit on September 10 at the Consulate Ballroom. The program also featured screening of the documentary film *From River to River* by Prof. Alakananda Mukerji of the Manhattanville College.

Consul General Ambassador Dnyaneshwar Mulay extended his warm greetings and welcome to the guests. Aroon Shivdasani of the Indo-American Arts Council introduced Dr. Sugata Marjit, who is not only a well-known classical singer but also an eminent economist, and Dr. Alakananda Mukerji, who is Professor at Studio Art Department of the Manhattanville College.

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