

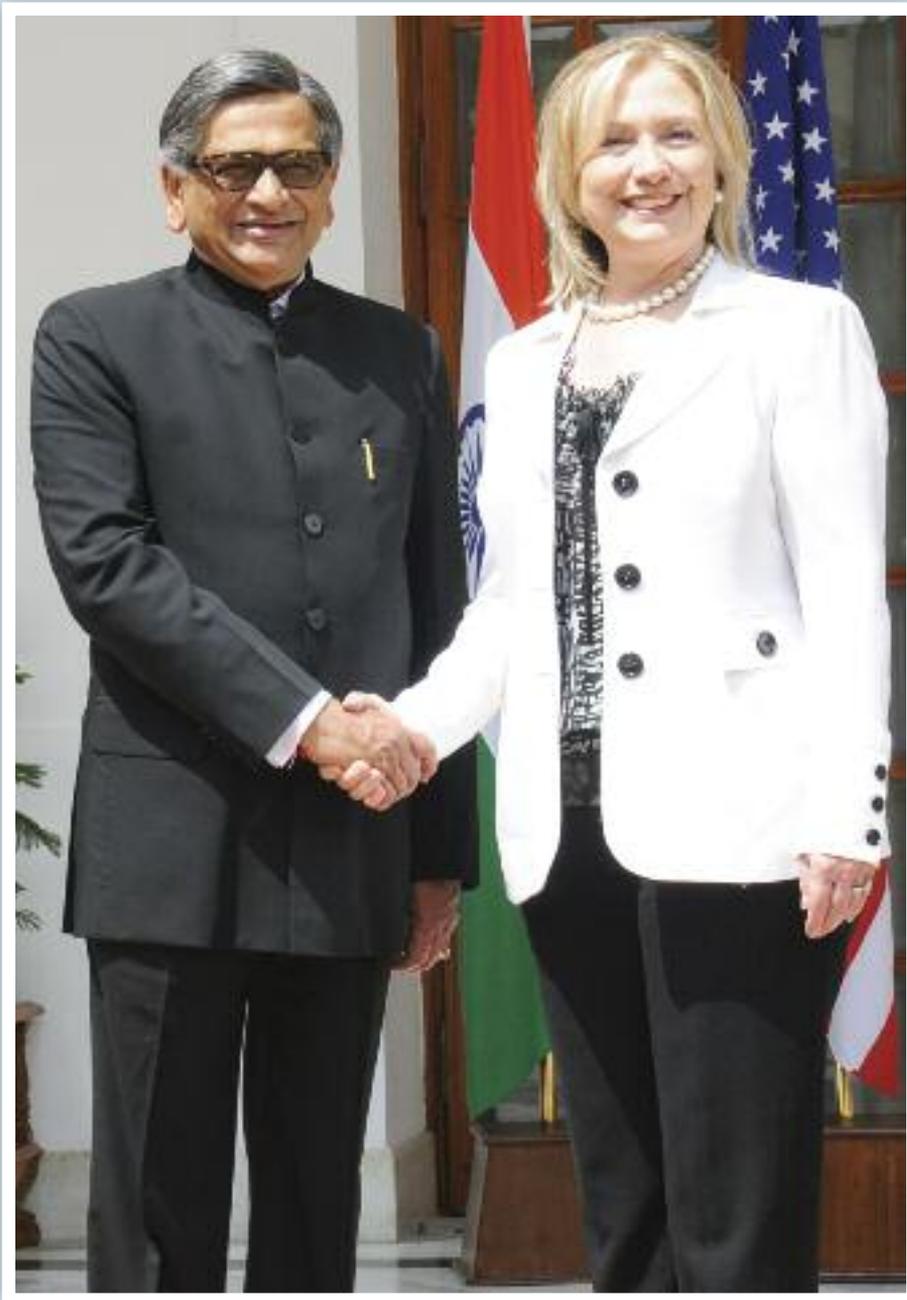
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AMBASSADOR MEERA SHANKAR BIDS FAREWELL

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

India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue Meet

■ STRATEGIC CONSULTATIONS TO EXPAND TO REGIONS INCLUDING LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

■ TO COOPERATE ON TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION OF DEFENSE ITEMS

■ AS PART OF THEIR GLOBAL CONCERNS, THE TWO SIDES AGREE TO PROMOTE FOOD SECURITY IN AFRICA



Secretary of State Hillary Clinton with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh during her recent visit to New Delhi.

SECOND INDIA-U.S. STRATEGIC DIALOGUE CONCLUDES

The Strategic Dialogue provides an opportunity to take stock of the progress in bilateral relationship, bilateral cooperation, as well as to consult on global and regional issues

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. Led by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the U.S. delegation included Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, the President's Advisor for Science and Technology Dr. John P. Holdren, Department of Energy Deputy Secretary Daniel Poneman, Department of Homeland Security Deputy Secretary Jane Holl Lute, and other senior U.S. government officials.

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. M. Krishna led the Indian delegation that included the Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission of India, Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Prime Minister's Public Information Infrastructure and Innovations Advisor Sam Pitroda, Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao, and other senior officials. Minister Krishna was also joined at the working lunch by Home Minister P. Chidambaram and Minister for Human Resource Development and Information Technology Kapil Sibal.

The India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue

provides an opportunity to take stock of the progress in bilateral relationship, cooperation, as well as to consult on global and regional issues of mutual interest, besides charting out a short to medium-term road map of cooperation in priority sectors by the two governments.

During the meeting, the two countries reviewed the progress made in bilateral relations since the inaugural Strategic Dialogue in June 2010 and the subsequent historic India visit of President Obama's in November 2010 in advancing the shared interests of both the countries.

Both the sides recognized that their strategic consultations have 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, EAM 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.”

Describing the meeting as very

Reviewing the progress made in their bilateral relations, the second annual meeting of the India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue, held in New Delhi, stressed on the issues of global stability and prosperity

“productive”, Secretary Clinton said: “We are building habits of cooperation and bonds of trust. And we are standing on a firm foundation. 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.”

Minister Krishna and Secretary

Clinton laid emphasis on the values that India and the U.S. share — pluralism, tolerance, openness, and respect for fundamental rights and human rights. They reiterated Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh’s and President Barack Obama’s pledge to harness the shared strengths and to expand the India-U.S. global partnership for the benefit of their countries; and, for peace, stability, and prosperity in Asia and the world.

GLOBAL STABILITY AND PROSPERITY

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, such as Latin America and the Caribbean, and hold the fourth round of the East Asia Dialogue in September 2011.

During the meeting, the two countries welcomed the launch of bilateral



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



EAM Krishna with Secretary Clinton.

dialogue on matters concerning the United Nations in New Delhi in March 2011. The two countries intend to continue this dialogue and meet next in Washington in early 2012, while continuing regular consultations.

India and the U.S. reaffirmed their commitment for consultation, coordination, and cooperation in Afghanistan, and to work jointly in areas of capacity building, agriculture and women's empowerment in Afghanistan, and expanding the work already under way. The two sides also acknowledged that increased trade, and commercial linkages across South and Central Asia would benefit Afghanistan and contribute toward the region's long-term peace, stability, and prosperity.

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.

As part of the India-U.S. Dialogue on Open Government launched in November 2010, the two countries had committed to jointly create an open source 'Data.gov' platform by the first quarter of 2012 to be taken to various countries globally. Leveraging the technological strengths and institutional expertise of both India and the United States, the open source platform is intended to provide citizens access to government information via a user-friendly website and a package of e-governance applications to

enhance public service delivery.

The two sides reiterated their commitment to work together to strengthen election management capacity in interested countries. They welcomed the technical collaboration between the Indian International Institute of Democracy and Election Management and the Washington DC based International Federation of Electoral Systems.

Secretary Clinton recalled President Obama's statement that, in the years ahead, the United States would look forward to a reformed UN Security Council that includes India as a Permanent Member.

ENHANCING THE INDIA-U.S. BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP

Defense, security and counter-terrorism

Both India and the U.S. reiterated their commitment to further strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation, through various measures, such as intelligence sharing, information exchange, operational cooperation, and access to advanced counter-terrorism technology and equipment.

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna said that success in Afghanistan and regional and global security required elimination of safe havens and infrastructure for terrorism and violent extremism in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Condemning terrorism in all its forms, both the countries reiterated their commitment to comprehensive sharing of information in the investigations and trials relating to the November 2008 Mumbai terror attack.

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

India and the United States welcomed progress in bilateral defense cooperation. The two sides noted that India's defense orders from the U.S. companies had reached a cumulative value of over \$8 billion in the last decade. Both sides also affirmed their desire to strengthen cooperation through technology transfer, and joint research, development and production of defense items.

Both the countries also took note of the progress made in defense bilateral exchanges, exercises, capacity building, information sharing, including in areas of counter narcotics, counter piracy, maritime safety and humanitarian assistance/disaster relief. The two sides affirmed the importance of maritime security, unimpeded commerce, and freedom of navigation, in accordance with international law, and peaceful settlement of disputes. India and the U.S. also agreed to exchange views on promoting regional security architecture that enhances maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region.

CIVIL NUCLEAR COOPERATION

Minister Krishna and Secretary Clinton welcomed the continued commitment of the two governments to full implementation of the India-U.S. civil nuclear energy cooperation agreement. They reiterated their commitment to building strong civil nuclear energy cooperation by encouraging the participation of nuclear energy firms from the U.S. in India on the basis of mutually acceptable technical and commercial terms and conditions that enable a viable tariff regime for the electricity generated.

The two leaders were gratified that the United States had ratified the Convention on Supplementary Compensation (CSC) and that India intended to ratify the CSC within this year.

They further noted that India was committed to ensuring a level-playing field for U.S. companies seeking to enter the Indian nuclear energy sector, consistent with India's national and international legal obligations.

Secretary Clinton calls on Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee



Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton during her visit to New Delhi called on Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee on July 19. During his meeting with Secretary Clinton, Finance Minister Mukherjee said that India gave high importance to the India-U.S. Strategic and Economic Partnership. He pointed out that India was carrying its reforms agenda further by introducing major changes in the tax sector.

Mukherjee said that in the field of direct taxes, efforts were on to make Direct Tax Code (DTC) effective from 1st April, 2012. In the field of indirect taxes, he said, efforts were also on to build a consensus among all stake-

holders, including state governments to make the Goods and Services Tax (GST) effective at the earliest.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary Clinton hoped that the relationship between India and the U.S. in the field of trade, infrastructure investment, business, defense and strategic matters would be further strengthened. She said that the U.S. and India had an excellent working relationship especially in the field of economic and financial partnership. She further added that India could play a major role in enhancing regional economic cooperation and optimizing the large potential available in this region.

PLAN FOR STRENGTHENING INDIA-U.S. NUCLEAR SECURITY

During the deliberations, two sides agreed that they looked forward to holding, later this year, the first meeting of the India-U.S. Joint Working Group to implement the memorandum of understanding signed between the two countries on Cooperation with India's Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnerships.

MEMBERSHIP OF EXPORT CONTROL REGIMES

Both India and the U.S. expressed satisfaction with the progress made toward India's full membership of the four multilateral export control regimes — the Nuclear Suppliers Group, Missile Technology Control Regime, Australia Group and the Wassenaar Arrangement — in a phased manner consistent with the

core principles of these regimes, as the Government of India takes steps toward the full adoption of the regimes' export control requirements.

EXPORT CONTROL COOPERATION

India welcomed the steps taken by the United States to remove Indian entities from the U.S. Department of Commerce's 'Entity List' and the realignment of India in the U.S. export control regulations. Both sides agreed to continue efforts to fulfill the objectives of strengthening export control cooperation envisaged in the Joint Statement of November 2010 as well as on the basis of discussions in the High Technology Cooperation Group held earlier this month.

SPACE

The US-India Joint Space Working Group on Civil Space Cooperation met in July 2011 in Bangalore. Building on the successful Chandrayan-I lunar mission, NASA and ISRO reviewed potential areas for future cooperation in earth observation, space exploration, space sciences and satellite navigation. Both sides agreed to an early finalization of three new implementing arrangements for sharing satellite data on oceans and global weather patterns. Recognizing the research opportunities available on the International Space Station, both sides agreed to explore the possibilities of joint experiments.

EDUCATION, INNOVATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The two countries expressed their intention to host a Higher Education Summit in Washington D.C. on October 13 to highlight and emphasize the avenues through which the higher education communities in India and the United States collaborate.

India the United States plan to expand the higher education dialogue,

to be co-chaired by the U.S. Secretary of State and Indian Minister for Human Resource Development, and to be convened annually. They also intend to incorporate the private/non-governmental sectors and higher education communities to inform government-to-government discussions.

The United States had created the "Passport to India" initiative to encourage an increase in the number of American students studying and interning in India. The leaders recognized the great bridge of mutual understanding resulting from the more than 100,000 Indian students studying and interning in the United States.

In the field of science and technology, the United States' Department of Energy and India's Department of Atomic Energy signed an Implementing Agreement on Discovery Science that provides the framework for cooperation in accelerator and particle detector research and development at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility, and Brookhaven National Laboratory. The India-U.S. Science &

Technology Endowment Board, established by Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna in 2009, plans to award nearly \$3 million annually to entrepreneurial projects that commercialize technologies to improve health and empower citizens.

As a follow-up to the successful India-U.S. Innovation Roundtable held in September 2010 in New Delhi, the two sides agreed to hold another Innovation Roundtable in early 2012.

India and the United States welcomed the 30 percent increase in bilateral trade in 2010 in comparison to the previous year and the balanced and positive growth in services trade. They also welcomed the increase in foreign direct investment

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SECOND 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.
- The United States and India signed a Memorandum of Understanding 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.
- 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 (BASA) on July 18, 2011 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.

India and the U.S. welcomed the 30 percent increase in bilateral trade in 2010 over the previous year and the positive growth in services trade

Hillary Clinton visits Chennai



Secretary of State Hillary Clinton delivering a speech at the Anna Centenary Library in Chennai on July 20, 2011.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodhan Clinton, who was in India to attend the second round of India-U.S. Strategic dialogue, visited Chennai, the capital of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, on July 20.

Addressing an audience of students, opinion makers and other citizens for nearly 45 minutes at the newly-built and the country's largest public library — the Anna Centenary Library — Secretary Clinton said her country was relying on India to open its trade for the prosperity of its own people and that of other nations in Asia.

"We are banking on India's future. Opening of India's market will result in prosperous India and South Asia. We are betting on the advances made in science and technology that will enrich the human lives. India's vibrant democracy will also produce good results," she said.

Referring to the relationship between India and the US, Secretary Clinton said: "I find there are those who raise questions about the relationship between the two countries. We two are different nations. But the common interest is stepping up the economic relationship."

Citing the Strategic Dialogue between the two countries, Secretary Clinton said she had met with a wide array of Indian officials and the work had produced good results.

She added that the Indian and American

governments were working on clean energy, climate change control, protecting cyber space and on increasing bilateral trade.

Stating that India's leadership role in the global space was growing, Secretary Clinton said the two countries could work together in promoting democratic values in the Middle East and other regions. She added that the role of the Election Commission of India in sharing its best practices in conducting polls with Egypt and others was valuable.

Secretary Clinton said India and the U.S. were working together at the G20 forum to promote clean energy, climate change and other areas. She also said the two countries were working on nuclear non-proliferation and called upon Iran to abide by international norms. According to her, democracy, economics, climate change, nuclear non-proliferation were the major areas where American and Indian interests converge.

Recalling the old Silk Route that connected Europe, Egypt, Arabia, Central Asia, India and ultimately China, she said a new Silk Route needed to be established.

During her visit, Secretary Clinton also called on Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J. Jayalalitha at the state secretariat. Both leaders had long discussions on trade, investments, and on social and political issues.

flows in both directions.

The two governments expressed their intent to resume technical-level negotiations on a bilateral investment treaty (BIT) in August in Washington D.C. A BIT would enhance transparency and predictability for investors, and support economic growth and job creation in both the countries.

The two sides reiterated their commitment to expanding trade ties. The India-U.S. Trade Policy Forum plans to meet in October 2011, while ongoing public-private discussions are to continue under the ambit of the Commercial Dialogue.

They hailed the signing of a Bilateral Aviation Safety Agreement (BASA) on July 18, 2011.

The two leaders welcomed the progress in the U.S. Trade Development Agency (USTDA) supported bilateral Energy Cooperation Program, announced in November 2010, which works with Indian and U.S. businesses on deployment of clean energy technology in India.

Secretary Clinton thanked Minister Krishna, the Government, and the people of India for the gracious hospitality, warm welcome, and India's hard work in making this year's Strategic Dialogue a success. Secretary Clinton thanked Minister Krishna for his strong support for the India-U.S. relationship.

Minister Krishna thanked the Secretary for her participation and engagement in this year's Strategic Dialogue and for the commitment and dedication she had given to the India-U.S. global partnership.

As part of Secretary Clinton's visit to India, she met with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, Chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance Sonia Gandhi, Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Sushma Swaraj, and National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon.

The next meeting of the India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue is planned for Washington D.C. in 2012.

India, U.S. sign 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.



Dr. Nasim Zaidi (left), Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, and Randolph Babbitt (center), FAA Administrator, signing the Bilateral Aviation Safety Agreement, in New Delhi on July 18.

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.

Climate change engagement set to deepen

India's Minister of state for Environment and Forests (Independent Charge) Jayanthi Natarajan on July 19 met with a high-level U.S. delegation led by Special Envoy for Climate Change Todd Stern in New Delhi. The two sides discussed scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries on issues relating to climate change. Natarajan brought out the Indian perspective about the Long-term Cooperative Action (LCA) and Kyoto Protocol under the Bali Road Map before the U.S. delegation.

The two sides exchanged views on bilateral issues and the ongoing climate change negotiations in the multilateral forum under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate



Jayanthi Natarajan (right) with Todd Stern in New Delhi

Change (UNFCCC). They also agreed that operationalization of the decision agreed upon at the Cancun Conference in a balanced manner should be the goal for the meeting of the Conference of Parties under UNFCCC at Durban, in December 2011.

Natarajan said it was important to

remain engaged on issues such as equity, accelerated transfer of technologies and trade measures at and beyond the Durban Conference and on the crucial role of India-U.S. programs regarding the science of climate change to further strengthen the bilateral engagement.

Stern conveyed his views on transparency arrangements, i.e. International Assessment and Review (IAR) for developed countries and International Consultations and Analysis (ICA) for developing countries, the principles and approaches for functioning of the Green Climate Fund, the Technology Mechanism, the Financial Mechanism and the legal form of the Agreed Outcome of the LCA process.

Science & Technology coordination to accelerate

India and the United States have agreed to step up Science & Technology coordination in areas relating to energy, agriculture, affordable health care, nutrition and monsoon forecasting. This was agreed upon during a meeting between Dr. John P. Holdren, Advisor to the U.S. President for Science & Technology and Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology and India's Minister of State for Planning, Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr. Ashwani Kumar, in New Delhi on July 18.



Ashwani Kumar (left) with Dr. John P. Holdren in New Delhi on July 18.

The meeting was held in the context of the India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue held in New Delhi. India and the U.S. have embarked upon a strategic relationship which specifically identifies science, technology and innovation as a major focus of future relationship in the 21st century.

In his address Dr. Kumar stated that there were major issues to be addressed in the areas of food, agriculture, nutrition, energy and water.

He said the need for further research on forecasting various natural hazards like cyclones and that usage of instrumental spectra aircraft was essential in this regard.

Dr. Holdren agreed to look into this matter. He also appreciated India for sharing data on issues relating to monsoon and flood and agreed to further strengthen the exchange of data. Dr. Kumar raised the issue of facilitating exchange of scientists from both the countries by removing bottle-

necks relating to visas for science and technology professionals. He urged for a liberal visa regime to ensure seamless issuance of visas for Indian scientists willing to work in the United States. He also expressed India's preparedness to substantially increase resource investment in promoting agricultural crops leading to affordable innovation in key sectors.

Dr. Holdren also responded favorably to addressing issues such as visa for science and technology professionals and the need for stepping

up resources for science and technology cooperation between the two countries.

There was general consensus on substantially increasing financial outlay by both the sides. For example, the India-U.S. Science and Technology Endowment Fund, which is currently pegged at \$50 million, could have its corpus increased and the current allocation of \$50 million for both the sides for next 5 years could be enhanced to \$100 million. ■

India, U.S. explore cooperation in renewable energy

India and the U.S. discussed a range of possibilities for cooperation in the field of renewable energy during a meeting between India's Minister for New & Renewable Energy Dr. Farooq Abdullah and U.S. Deputy Secretary, Department of Energy, Daniel B. Poneman, in New Delhi on July 19. The two leaders noted that solar energy, wind energy and bio-fuels are some of the areas where the two countries can cooperate under the India-U.S. Energy Dialogue.

India has called for enhancing cooperation with the USA in the field of



Dr. Farooq Abdullah with Daniel B. Poneman

renewable energy by extending it to new areas such as small hydro-power, technology transfer and storage of renewable energy. The Indian side also

suggested cooperation in the integration of solar and wind energy, small grid and policy framework for enhancing deployment of renewable energy in the energy mix.

Dr. Abdullah explained the initiatives and steps taken by India to enhance deployment of renewable energy in the country.

In this respect, he made a special mention of the Jawahar Lal Nehru National Solar Mission which aims at harnessing the vast potential of solar energy in India. ■

AMBASSADOR MEERA SHANKAR BIDS FAREWELL TO WASHINGTON

Ambassador Meera Shankar completed her assignment as Ambassador of India to the United States on July 31, 2011.

The U.S. Department of State hosted a reception to bid her farewell on July 26, 2011, which was attended by senior members of the U.S. Administration and other key Ambassadors. Ambassador Meera Shankar also called on the U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in her office. Secretary Clinton said, "On behalf of the American people and the Obama Administration, I extend my best wishes to you as your celebrated tenure as the Ambassador of India comes to an end. I thank you for your service and remain deeply grateful to you for helping to strengthen the important partnership between our two countries."

The Indian Community of the Greater Washington Area hosted a reception for the Ambassador on July 24, 2011 at which Ambassador Robert Blake, Jr., Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Bureau was the keynote speaker. Ambassador Blake highlighted the immense contribution made by his friend, Ambassador Shankar, in serving India's interests in Washington in an energetic and innovative manner. He and his colleagues in the State Department worked closely and cohesively with Ambassador Shankar and her team in advancing India-U.S. ties through this period of intense and broad-based engagement, which covered two state visits, two rounds of the Strategic Dialogue, and many other Ministerial visits and dialogues. He said he found Ambassador Shankar's outreach in Washington striking.

Ambassador Shankar hosted two receptions on July 25, 2011 and on July 28, 2011 for the Indian American community and her American interlocutors respectively. The Indian American community was represented by all the leading associations in the Greater Washington Area and from across the country. The Governors of Maryland and Alabama also sent special citations to Ambassador Shankar for promoting ties between India and their states.

The reception on July 28, 2011 was attended by over 200 guests including U.S. Deputy Secretary of Energy Daniel Poneman, Deputy Secretary of State for Political Affairs William Burns, Director of National Intelligence, James Clapper, Under Secretary of State for Economic, Energy and Agricultural Affairs Robert Hormats, Congressman John Larson, Administrator of USAID Rajiv Shah, and other senior representatives from the U.S. Government, U.S. Congress, business organizations, universities and think tanks.

Ambassador Shankar thanked the guests for all their support and cooperation in advancing the India-U.S. Strategic Partnership. She recalled the very successful visit of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to the U.S. in November 2009





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and President Obama's visit to India in November 2010 and outlined the growth of the relationship between the two countries, which at its present level, touches all aspects of human endeavor. She recalled various incidents during her tenure as Ambassador in Washington, which not only added strength to the relationship between India and the United States, but also gave flavor to her life as a diplomat. Recollecting the contributions of friends from all walks of life — political, diplomatic, cultural, literary, business, academic and others, Ambassador Shankar said that every step had added to the further strengthening of the India-U.S. relationship and expressed her gratitude for their encouragement and support.

In his remarks, Deputy Secretary of Energy Daniel Poneman spoke highly of Ambassador Shankar. He said that in his long experience of dealing with foreign dignitaries, he had found her to be one of the most effective and influential diplomats that he had come across. She was always well-prepared, eloquent and at the same time reasonable as she pursued her country's interests, Poneman said. He added that during Ambassador Shankar's tenure, India-U.S. relations underwent a historic transformation and her personal contribution to this was significant.

Under Secretary Hormats said that representing India in the United States was a challenging task and that Ambassador Shankar had been very successful in doing so not only with all branches of the government but also with the Congress and Senate, the business community, think tanks and the media. She traveled extensively across the United States and projected India even to those who had very little knowledge of the country and its achievements, in a very clear, positive and convincing manner. He said that he personally admired and wished her well for the future.

Ambassador Shankar was also presented with a flag of the United States of America, which was flown over the Capitol building specially for her in recognition of her achievements as Ambassador of India to the United States, along with a certificate confirming this by the Congress, sent by Congressman Ed Royce, the Co-Chair of the India Caucus in the House of Representatives.

PHOTO LEGENDS

1. Ambassador Meera Shankar met with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at the Department of State on July 27. Photo Credit: State Department Image.
2. Reception hosted by the Indian-American community to bid farewell to Ambassador Meera Shankar on July 24. Also seen is Ambassador Robert Blake, Jr., Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Bureau. Photo Credit: Mathew Karmel.
3. Ambassador Meera Shankar addressing the Indian American Community at her farewell reception at the Embassy Residence on July 25.
4. Guests in attendance.
5. Ambassador Meera Shankar addressing prominent members of the American Community at her farewell reception at the Embassy Residence on July 28.
6. Deputy Secretary of Energy Daniel Poneman speaking on the occasion.
7. Under Secretary of State for Economic, Energy and Agricultural Affairs Robert Hormats addressing the gathering.
8. Ambassador Meera Shankar being presented with a U.S. flag (which was flown over the Capitol building), sent by Congressman Ed Royce, the co-chair of the India Caucus in the House of Representatives.
9. A section of the guests.

PRAVASI BHARATIYA SAMMAN AWARD RECEPTION

Ambassador Meera Shankar hosted a reception at the Embassy Residence on July 7 to felicitate Dr. Rajiv Shah, Administrator, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), following the conferment of the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA) on him by the President of India.

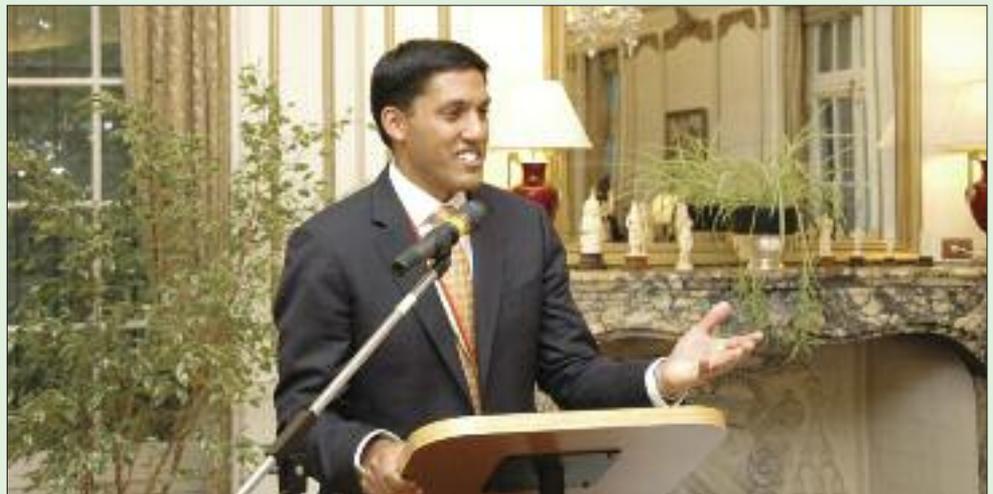
Dr. Rajiv Shah is an outstanding Indian-American and a true global citizen. He has gained rich experience in social work through his various activities as part of the World Health Organization, US Department of Agriculture, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and other Non-Profit Organizations. He now heads one of the world's largest aid organizations — USAID, and is well recognized internationally for his developmental and humanitarian activities.

Ambassador Meera Shankar said, “We rejoice in your success and achievements, and we wish you all the very best in your present and future responsibilities”.

She added that Dr. Shah had done India proud, he had done the Indian-American community proud and he had done America proud. The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman conferred upon him by the Government of India is a recognition of his outstanding work. ■■



Ambassador Meera Shankar welcoming the guests on the occasion.



USAID Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah addressing the gathering.



Guests in attendance.

FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR AMBASSADOR MEERA SHANKAR

The Embassy of India hosted a farewell reception for Ambassador Meera Shankar on July 29. The Ambassador thanked the Embassy staff for all their support and dedication and wished them and their families the very best for the future.



1. Ambassador Meera Shankar addressing the Embassy Staff.

2. Ambassador Meera Shankar being presented a book and music CD by Deputy Chief of Mission Arun K. Singh.

3. Ambassador Meera Shankar with the Embassy staff.

BRIEFING FOR INDIAN-AMERICAN PROFESSIONALS

Deputy Chief of Mission, Arun K. Singh, briefed a group of young professionals on India-U.S. relations with a focus on counter terrorism cooperation, at the Embassy of India on July 21.



A section of the audience gathered on the occasion.



Deputy Chief of Mission, Arun K. Singh addressing the gathering.

INDIA SOURCING FAIR, MIAMI

Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO), a leading industry associations at the national level, arranged the participation of 42 Indian companies in the first edition of 'India Sourcing Fair' in the USA, which was held at Miami Beach Convention Center in Miami from 11-13 July, 2011. The fair was organized by Global Sources, a NASDAQ listed company. FIEO had earlier participated in the 'India Sourcing Fair' events held in Dubai, Hong Kong,

Johannesburg and Singapore.

The fair was inaugurated by Dr. Mukul Sangma, Hon'ble Chief Minister of the State of Meghalaya and Sanjiv Arora, Consul-General of India in Houston, along with Ajay Sahai, Director General & CEO, FIEO and Mr. Tommy Wong, President, Global Sources, on 11 July.

The companies under FIEO's banner represented various important sectors such as gift & premiums, home products & décor, fashion accessories,

garments & textiles, and baby & children's products. The fair showcased India's world-class products and the huge potential for increasing trade and other business partnerships. The event attracted over 7,000 visitors, many of whom had substantive discussions with Indian companies. A series of meetings were also held on the sidelines of the fair.

The Consulate fully supported the initiative and worked closely with FIEO toward the success of the 'India Sourcing Fair'. ■■



Hon'ble Chief Minister of the State of Meghalaya, Dr. Mukul Sangma and Consul-General of India in Houston, Sanjiv Arora inaugurating 'India Sourcing Fair' at the Miami Beach Convention Center, Miami on 11 July, 2011. Also present are Ajai Sahai, DG, FIEO and Gideon Dalbot Shira, son of CM, Meghalaya, Dr. Piyush Agrawal, GOPIO's national coordinator for USA and Tommy Wong, President of Global Sources.

'ECONOMIC GROWTH PEGGED AT 8.2 PC'

Inflation would ease to around 6.5 percent by the end of this fiscal, the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council said on August 1, projecting the country's growth at 8.2 percent for 2011-12. Headed by former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor C. Rangarajan, the council said agriculture and industry would grow at a lower rate compared with the previous year, and services would expand faster in the current fiscal.

"The inflationary situation and investment slowdown have necessitated a downward revision. The projected growth rate of 8.2 percent, though lower than the previous year, must be treated as high and respectable, given the world situation," the council said in its economic outlook for 2011-12.

India's GDP had expanded by 8.5 percent in 2010-11 and 8 percent the year before. For agriculture, industry and services, the council projected a growth rate of 3, 7.1 and 10 percent for this fiscal respectively.

The panel said as overall inflation would continue to be high at 9 percent in the July-September quarter, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) would



C. Rangarajan

have to continue with monetary tightening measures.

"The RBI will have to continue to follow a tight monetary policy till inflation shows definite signs of a decline," it said, adding that inflation would start to taper only from November.

It also said that achieving the fiscal deficit target of 4.7 percent, as set out in the budget for 2011-12, would require the government to "redouble efforts to collect larger revenue, resolve cases to reduce tax arrears".

"The high subsidy outgo, especially on account of petroleum products, is placing a serious stress on the center's budgeted fiscal position," the panel said.

Highlights of Economic Advisory Council report

- Country's growth pegged at 8.2 percent for 2011-12
- Inflation to ease to 6.5 percent only by the end of this fiscal
- Important role for fiscal policy to contain demand pressure
- RBI will follow tight monetary policy till inflation shows definite signs of decline
- Agriculture to grow at 3 percent as monsoon to remain more-or-less normal
- Industry to expand by 7.1 percent, slower than the rate of 7.9 percent last year
- Services to grow at a faster rate of 10 percent
- Global economic and financial situation unlikely to improve
- Important to increase investments if economy is to grow at 9 percent
- Investment rate projected to rise to 36.7 percent in 2011-12
- Current account deficit projected at \$54 billion or 2.7 percent of GDP
- Merchandise trade deficit at \$154 billion or 7.7 percent of GDP
- Foreign direct investment set to rise to \$35 billion in current fiscal
- Foreign institutional investor inflows to slip to \$14 billion, less than half of last year

RBI hikes rates to tame inflation

India's central bank on July 26 sharply hiked key rates by 50 basis points in the 11th such exercise since January 2010 to tame inflation, setting the stage for commercial banks to raise their interest charged on personal and corporate loans.

The repurchase rate, the interest the central bank levies on short-term borrowings by commercial banks, has been hiked to 8 percent from 7.5 percent and reverse repurchase rate, or interest paid on short-term lending, raised to 7 percent from 6.5 percent. The rate hikes were effected by Reserve Bank of India (RBI)



Dr. D. Subbarao

Governor Dr. D. Subbarao during the first quarterly review of the apex bank's monetary policy for the current fiscal.

"Notwithstanding signs of moderation, inflationary pressures are clearly very strong," Subbarao said, addressing the chief

executives of commercial banks after the policy update. "Keeping in view the domestic demand-supply balance, the global trends in commodity prices and the likely demand scenario, the base-

line projection for wholesale inflation for March 2012 is revised upward from 6 percent with an upside bias."

The new projection on inflation is 100 basis points above, at 7 percent by the year-end. On growth, the RBI Governor said amidst a slowdown in the factory output growth, the robust export performance should augur well, but the performance of the monsoon so far could exert pressures on the yields of coarse grains, pulses, oilseeds and cotton.

In the policy update, the reserve ratios — which call for the quantum of money against deposits banks have to keep as liquid assets — stood unchanged at 6 percent in the case of cash reserve ratio and 24 percent in the case of statutory liquidity ratio.

NIKKI HALEY MEMOIR

South Carolina's Indian-American Governor Nikki Haley, just shy of her 40th birthday, is all set to publish her memoir.

Her book, *Can't is Not an Option*, is expected to hit shelves in January 2012 and will be published by Sentinel, a conservative imprint within Penguin Group.

Born Nimrata Nikki Randhawa to Sikh immigrant parents on January 20, 1972, Haley is America's youngest Governor.

In March, Haley, 39, said in a published interview that in her memoir she would cover everything from growing up in rural South Carolina to her contentious 2010 campaign, when she faced and denied allegations of infidelity.

Though the Republican Governor says she's not seeking higher office, her literary agent Robert Barnett's past clients include President Barack Obama, George W. Bush and Bill Clinton.

Haley's new book will give the first-term Republican a chance to reveal behind-the-

scenes details of her once unlikely election as South Carolina's Chief Executive, how she handled the state's rough-and-tumble politics and her life as a first-generation American, postandcourier.com said.

"A lot of people wanted to know what happened in the campaign," she was quoted as telling The Post and Courier in April.

During the primary season, Haley, a married mother of two, also shouldered accusations of marital infidelity.

Haley told the Post in April that people told her they wanted to know more about the impact those accusations had on her family.

"They just wanted to know how we won," she said then. "When things got really tough, how did I handle it?"

The book is also expected to cover Haley's vision for the country and the Republican Party, according to her publishing house.

Sentinel President and Publisher Adrian Zackheim called Haley an "all-American success story" and "a rising star in national politics".



GOPIO welcomes new passport surrender rules

The Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO International) has welcomed a relaxation of rules requiring former Indian citizens to produce a surrender certificate of their old passports when seeking Indian visas.

The relaxation incorporates two of the GOPIO demands: elimination of surrender certificate requirement from those who became naturalized citizens more than 10 years ago, and that an OCI (Overseas Citizenship of India) application need not be accompanied by an original US passport. The change "will not only stop the decline of goodwill in the Indian community for the government of India but can also reduce workload at the consulates", said Inder Singh, GOPIO International Chairman.

"Now that the work load will be less, Indian missions in western countries and Trivisva should finish off all the backlog soon and make the process of getting an OCI card and entry visa to India easier for the Indian community," said Thomas Abraham, former Chairman of GOPIO International.

"This is a welcome action that removes an undue burden on former citizens of India and improves goodwill towards India," said Ashook Ramsaran, Executive Vice-President of GOPIO International.

Goa University to have chair on Indian diaspora studies

The federal Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry has decided to set up a chair on Indian diaspora studies at the Goa University, Goa's Commissioner for Non-Resident Indian (NRI) affairs Eduardo Faleiro said on July 5.

Speaking to reporters, Faleiro said HRD Minister Kapil Sibal had agreed to establish a chair on the diaspora community at the state university in Goa.

"I have requested the Goa Governor, Dr. S.S. Sidhu, who is the Chancellor of the Goa University (GU), to advise the university in this regard so that we have a quality institution for study and research on the Indian diaspora in

general and on the Goan diaspora in particular," said Faleiro, a former Minister of State for external affairs.

The chair on diaspora studies will deal with the questions and issues regarding the Indian diaspora (Goan diaspora included) in academic depth and in a comparative context, he said.

It will also study migration in

other countries, he added.

He said a part payment has already been made by the University Grants Commission (UGC) to the GU towards the creation of the chair.

"The study on migration in all its diverse aspects is one of the most fascinating areas of research. A very large number of universities abroad have this facility," Faleiro said, adding that the GU is the first in India to establish a chair on the diaspora studies.

Incidentally, Goa is the second state in India after Kerala to conduct a survey on out-migration of its working population to other countries for employment, primarily in the Gulf region.



A view of the Examination Block, Goa University

Communication Satellite GSAT-12 launched successfully

An Indian rocket carrying the country's latest communication satellite GSAT-12 blasted off from the space port at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh on July 15.

Under a cloudy sky, at 4.48 p.m. the Indian Space Research Organization's (ISRO) ₹900 million (\$ 20.4 million) rocket — Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-C17 (PSLV-C17) — soared toward the heavens with a roar.

It ferried the \$18.1 million GSAT-12 which had 12 extended C-band transponders — automatic receivers and transmitters for communication and broadcast of signals.

"I am extremely happy to state that the PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle)-C17 GSAT-12 mission is successful. The satellite was launched in the intended orbit," Dr. K. Radhakrishnan, Chariman,



The PSLV-C17 rocket taking off from the Satish Dhawan Space Center, Sriharikota, on July 15.

Indian Space Research Organization said.

Around 20 minutes after the blast off, the rocket achieved its mission by placing the latest Indian communication satellite in the intended sub Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO). A geosynchronous orbit is one directly above the earth's equator. For an observer from the earth a satellite in geosynchronous orbit will

seem motionless, stationary at one point in the sky

The GSAT-12 carries around 851 kg of fuel on-board to fire the motors.

The rocket placed the satellite in sub GTO with a 284 km perigee (nearest point to earth) and 21,000 km apogee (farthest point from the earth). The satellite will be raised to 36,000 km apogee from 21,000 km. Immediately after satellite ejection, ISRO with its network of ground stations monitored its health.

Indians discover world's most heat-resistant fungi

In a significant discovery that can be a major breakthrough in biotechnology, Indian mycologists have discovered fungi spores, considered as being able to withstand a temperature of 100-115 degrees celsius.

Spores are reproductive cells capable of developing into a new individual without fusion with another reproductive cell. The team of fungi researchers found the heat-resistant spores in dead leaves.

"It took us around one and a half years to arrive at our conclusion. It is a preliminary, but significant finding. It is reported for the first time that fungi spores can survive even 115 degrees Celsius," T.S. Suryanarayanan, Director of the Vivekananda Institute of Tropical Mycology (VINSTROM), said.

The fungi are among the most heat-resistant eukaryotes (organisms with a membrane-bound nucleus) on record, he said. They have been named 'Agni's Fungi' after the Hindu god of fire.

The fungi were particularly found in leaf litter isolated from tropical semi-arid habitat in the Western Ghats in southern India. The spores may have adapted to the environment as the region is known to have forest fires, Suryanarayanan said. Along with bacteria, they degrade dead leaves by breaking down their molecular structure as opposed to other fungi that damage living trees and plants.

YOUNG ENGINEERS VISITATION PROGRAM

With the common goal of developing an ecosystem that encourages innovation and entrepreneurship, Indo-US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF) and Lockheed Martin Corporation has collaborated to launch Young Engineers Visitation Programme in 2011, which is envisaged to create sustainable, long-term network for mutual good. The objective of the joint program is to create, nurture and support techno-entrepreneurial ecosystems.

For the first year, 34 young engineers from six reputable institutions across India (Indian Institute of



Technology, Bombay; Indian Institute of Technology, Madras; Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad; Madras Institute of Technology, Anna University, Chennai; Thapar Institute of Technology, Patiala; and, Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur) were selected to participate in the one-week program during 12-17 June, 2011. The young engineers

gained insight to the process of commercialization as technology moves from the lab to the marketplace through a visitation program at the Lockheed Martin Center for Innovation, Suffolk, VA. The Center for Innovation is a powerful net-centric experimentation and analysis laboratory and serves as a focal point for resourceful thinking and revolutionary technology. In order to gain hands-on experience, the students were divided into small groups of 5 each and were given specific projects in two areas — Lego robotics and Virtual world. At the end of the week, their projects were judged and awarded.



The Indian Institute of Management-Kozhikode (seen above) and the Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur have signed an agreement with Yale University to develop training programs to create academic leadership in the country.

EDUCATION ON THE MOVE

The size of India's education & training sector is expected to reach \$15 billion by 2015, with ample room for private, public and overseas players to participate in it in a big way

The size of the education sector is expected to double to \$50 billion by 2015 with the phenomena of rising government expenditure and increasing incomes, according to an industry chamber study. The report says the size of the education sector is currently pegged at \$25 billion with higher education market estimated at \$15 billion. Additionally, the government is also planning to spend about five percent of the gross domestic product (GDP), in the next five years on education, as per the study.

The education sector in India — apart from the enormous economic potential it holds — is also witnessing growth in private equity investment, according to HDFC, a leading private sector bank. The bank plans to foray into the sector, which according to Keki Mistry, its Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, has touched \$190 million in 2010. The sector is also witnessing increase in hiring as per the employment indices of online job portals Naukri.com and Monster India. In the month of June 2010, the employment indices of Monster India

and Naukri.com in education sector went up by 9 and 10 percent, respectively.

India has also been ranked as number four on the list of the top 10 preferred destinations for B-school aspirants, according to the findings of a survey conducted by the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC). Further, according to a worldwide survey conducted by French consulting firm SMBG, the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore is ranked 24th, while IIM-Ahmedabad is ranked 55th. The survey, 'Universal Business Schools with major international influence,' took into consideration inputs from 1,000 deans of business schools worldwide.

Revamping Technical Education

Taking a step further, into the technical education space, the government has approved an investment of \$519 million to initiate the second phase of the Technical Education Quality Improvement Program (TEQIP). Of this expenditure, the World Bank will contribute \$298 million. The Federal

Government's contribution is \$106.8 million, while the states and private unaided institutions will invest \$110.7 million and \$3.42 million, respectively. The project would be open for competition and participation by all the engineering institutions approved by the AICTE. The TEQIP scheme, going on since 2003 with World Bank assistance, was envisaged as a long-term program of about 10-12 years. To be implemented in three phases the TEQIP scheme is intended for the transformation of the technical education system.

E-Learning — Starting Young

Kapil Sibal, Federal Minister for Human Resource Development, has also announced the government's plans to launch a scheme, which would bring in information, communication and technology (ICT), into the elementary education system to focus on the development of e-contents to be used by students at both the primary and upper-primary classes. The Minister had recently unveiled a \$35 low-cost computer, in an attempt to

revolutionize classroom education across the country. The device allows students to write and store text, browse the Internet and view videos, besides other regular features.

Opportunities in Training Space

The training industry in India is a sunrise industry with a lot of potential and there is considerable flux in it. For instance, IndiaCan Education Private Limited, plans to open 250 centers across India by the end of this financial year aiming to train over 500,000 persons annually. Tata Consultancy Services Ltd (TCS) is opening its first learning and development center, equipped to train 6,000 professionals annually and HCL Technologies Ltd has also announced a tie-up with the BPO training institute, Orion Edutech to customize their Diploma in BPO Management (DIBM) to suit its industry specific talent requirement.

Foreign Institutes in India

Many overseas business schools have also come to India seeking revenue boosts and to understand the concerns of a developing economy. To regulate the operations of foreign educational institutions in India, the government has introduced the Foreign Educational Institutions (Regulation of Entry and Operations) Bill, 2010, in Parliament on May 3, 2010. Amongst the several tie-ups made, or in the



pipeline with foreign educational institutes, are the following:

The Indian School of Business (ISB) has signed an MoU with The Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy, Tufts University, U.S., to support the setting up of the Bharti Institute of Public Policy at the upcoming ISB campus in Mohali, Punjab. INSEAD, the business school headquartered in Fontainebleau, Paris, plans to offer a dedicated, 12-month program in business management for middle to senior-level Indian executives, with about 10-15 years of work experience. Yale University has signed an agreement with two of India's leading institutions, the Indian Institute of Management-Kozhikode (IIM-K) and the Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur (IIT-K), to develop training programs to create academic leadership in the country. The government's Shipping Ministry has also joined the bandwagon by

allocating \$65.9 million to the Indian Maritime University, to create elaborate infrastructure facilities (academic complex, administrative building, library, hostels and residential accommodation) over the next five years.

Issues in Investments

According to a report released by Kaizen Management Advisors, the pre-school segment itself is worth an estimated \$500 million currently and expected to grow to \$1 billion by 2013, growing at a compounded annual rate (CAGR) of 30 percent. International university endowment funds have also stepped up their presence in the Indian stock markets to cash in on its high returns. The number of such funds investing in India has increased from six in 2008, to around 20 in 2010, as per SEBI (Security and Exchange Board of India) data.

The Road Ahead

Besides, the government has also introduced two bills in the Parliament – The National Accreditation Regulatory Authority for Higher Educational Institutions Bill, 2010, to ensure that all higher educational institutions and their programs have commensurate accreditation, and The Educational Tribunals Bill, 2010, to establish State and National Education Tribunals to address disputes with regulatory bodies.

In yet another foray into medical education, India has allowed private-sector healthcare companies like Fortis Healthcare, Max Healthcare and Apollo Hospitals to start medical colleges. India's cabinet has also approved a proposal allowing foreign universities to set up local campuses.

The National Development Council has also approved setting up of 14 world-class universities. The Government would also spend \$675.90 million to set up 13 new central universities and convert three existing State universities into central universities. Minister Sibal also plans to create a national vocational educational framework within a year.

IMPORTANT INVESTMENT PROPOSALS IN THE PIPELINE

- Edutor Technologies: Raising \$3 million to expand rural customer base with government schools.
- Hewlett-Packard: \$1 million Education Innovation Challenge Fund for India — For innovative initiatives in science, math & technology education.
- Equity firm Mayfield: Invested \$8.73 million in Bharti's Centum Learning.
- Chennai-based Everonn Business Education Limited — To open 500 Indigrow Institute of Professional Studies centers by 2015, \$216,679 investment in each center.
- Second campus of the Indian School of Business to come up in Mohali, Punjab. Opens in April, 2012.
- Four new Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMCs) from the next academic year in Kerala, Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra and Mizoram.
- Ninth Indian Institute of Management (IIM) at Ranchi inaugurated on July 6, 2010. To offer a two-year post-graduate program in management.
- IBM's global university relations program to focus on fostering innovations across around 100 engineering colleges.

PENALTY

By Munshi Premchand

Born on July 31, 1880 in the village Lamahi near Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, Dhanpat Rai, better known by his pen name Munshi Premchand, is recognized in India as the foremost Hindi-Urdu writer of the early twentieth century. He wrote about three hundred short stories and fourteen novels, as well as many essays and letters, plays and translations. Many of Premchand's stories have been translated into English and Russian. In India, he is known as "Upanyas Samrat", meaning a master novel writer. He died on October 8, 1936. The story "Penalty" originally appeared as Jurmana.



Munshi Khairat Ali Khan was the inspector of sanitation and hundreds of sweeper women depended on him. He was good-hearted and well thought of — not the sort who cut their pay, scolded them or fined them. But he went on regularly rebuking and punishing Alarakkhi. She was not a shirker, nor saucy or slovenly; she was also not at all bad-looking. During these chilly days she would be out with her broom before it was light and go on assiduously sweeping the road until nine. But all the same, she would be penalized. Huseni, her husband, would help her with the work too when he found the chance, but it was in Alarakkhi's fate that she was going to be fined. For others payday was an occasion to celebrate, for Alarakkhi it was a time to weep. On that day it was as though her heart

had broken. Who could tell how much would be deducted! Like students awaiting the results of their examinations, over and over again she would speculate on the amount of the deduction.

Whenever she got so tired that she'd sit down a moment to catch her breath, precisely then the Inspector would arrive riding in his *ekka*. No matter how much she'd say, 'Please, Excellency, I'll go back to work again,' he would jot her name down in his book without listening. A few days later the very same thing would happen again. If she bought a few cents worth of candy from the sweets-vendor and started to eat it, just at that moment the Inspector would drop on her from the devil knew where and once more write her name down in his book. Where could he have been hiding? The moment she began to rest a

little he was upon her like an evil spirit. If he wrote her name down on only two days, how much would the penalty be then! God knew. More than eight annas? If only it weren't a whole rupee! With her head bowed she'd go to collect her pay and find even more deducted than she'd estimated. Taking her money with trembling hands she'd go home, her eyes full of tears. There was no one to turn to, no one who'd listen.

Today was pay-day again. The past month her unweaned daughter had suffered from cough and fever. The weather had been exceptionally cold. Partly because of the cold, partly because of the little girl's crying, she was kept awake the whole night. Several times she'd come to work late. Khan Sahib had noted down her name, and this time she would be fined half her pay. It was impossible to say how

much might be deducted. Early in the morning she picked up the baby, took her broom and went to the street. But the naughty creature wouldn't let herself be put down. Time after time Alarakkhi would threaten her with the arrival of the Inspector. 'He's on his way and he'll beat me and as for you, he'll cut off your nose and ears! The child was willing to sacrifice her nose and ears but not to be put down. At last, when Alarakkhi had failed to get rid of her with threats and coaxing alike, she set her down and left her crying and wailing while she started to sweep. But the little wretch wouldn't sit in one place to cry her heart out; she crawled after her mother time and time again, caught her sari, clung to her legs, then wallowed around on the ground and a moment later sat up to start crying again.

'Shut up!' Alarakkhi said, brandishing the broom. 'If you don't, I'll hit you with the broom and that'll be the end of you. That bastard of an Inspector's going to show up at any moment.'

She had hardly got the words out of her mouth when Inspector Khairat Ali Khan dismounted from his bicycle directly in front of her. She turned pale, her heart began to thump. 'Oh God, may my head fall off if he heard me! Right in front of me and I didn't see him. Who could tell he'd come on his bicycle today? He's always come in his *ekka*.' The blood froze in her veins; she stood holding the broom as though paralyzed.

Angrily the Inspector said, 'Why do you drag the kid after you to work!

Why didn't you leave it at home!

'She's sick, Excellency' Alarakkhi said timidly. 'Who's at home to leave her with?'

'What's the matter with her?'

'She has a fever, Huzoor.'

'And you make her cry by leaving her? Don't you care if she lives?'

'How can I do my work if I carry her?'

'Why don't you ask for leave!'

'If my pay is cut, Huzoor, what will we have to live on?'

'Pick her up and take her home.

When Huseni comes back send him here to finish the sweeping.

She picked up the baby and was about to go when he asked, 'Why were you abusing me!'

Alarakkhi felt all her breath knocked out of her. If you'd cut her there wouldn't have been any blood. Trembling she said, 'No, Huzoor, may my head fall off if I was abusing you.'

And she burst into tears.

In the evening Huseni and Alarakkhi went to collect her pay. She was very downcast.

'Why so sad?' Huseni tried to console her. 'The pay is going to be cut, so let them cut it. I swear on your life from now on I won't touch another drop of booze or toddy.'

'I'm afraid I'm fired. Damn my

She had hardly got the words out of her mouth when Inspector Khairat Ali Khan dismounted from his bicycle directly in front of her

tongue! How could I...'

'If you're fired, then you're fired, but let Allah be merciful to him. Why go on crying about it?'

'You've made me come for nothing. Everyone of those women will laugh at me.

'If he's fired you, won't we ask on what grounds! And who heard you abuse him? Can there be so much injustice that he can fire anyone he pleases? If I'm not heard, I'll complain to the panchayat, I'll beat my head on the headman's gate...'

'If our people stuck together like that would Khan Sahib ever dare fine us so much!'

'No matter how serious the sickness there's a medicine for it, silly.'

But Alarakkhi was not set at rest. Dejection covered her face like a cloud. When the Inspector heard her abuse

him why didn't he even scold her? Why didn't he fire her on the spot! She wasn't able to work it out, he actually seemed kind. She couldn't manage to understand this mystery. She was afraid. He had decided to fire her — that must have been why he was so nice. She'd heard that a man about to be hanged is given a fine last meal, they have to give him anything he wants — so surely the Inspector was going to dismiss her. They reached the municipal office building. The pay began to be distributed. The sweeper women were first. Whoever's name was called would go running and taking her money call down undeserved blessings on the Inspector and go away. Alarakkhi's name was always called after Champa's. Today she was passed over. After Champa, Jahuran's name was called, and she always followed Alarakkhi.

In despair she looked at Huseni. The women were watching her and beginning to whisper.

One after another the names were called and Alarakkhi went on looking at the trees across the way.

Suddenly startled, she heard her name. Slowly she stood up and walked ahead with the slow tread of a new bride. The paymaster put the full amount of six rupees in her hand.

She was stupefied. Surely the paymaster was mistaken! In these three years she had never once got her full pay. And now to get even half would have been a windfall. She stood there for a second in case the paymaster should ask for the money back. When he asked her, 'Why are you standing here now, why don't you move along!' she said softly.

'But it's the full amount.'

Puzzled the paymaster looked at her and said, 'What else do you want--do you want to get less?'

'There's no penalty deducted?'

'No, today there aren't any deductions.

She came away but in her heart she was not content. She was full of remorse for having abused the Inspector.

SOUTHERN STARS TWINKLE IN BOLLYWOOD



Asin Thottumkal (top) and Rana Daggubati

The southerners are arriving in Bollywood. Be it Asin Thottumkal, Rana Daggubati, Kajal Aggarwal or Sundeep Kishan — many of India's young southern film stars are giving in to the lure of the "glamorous" Hindi film industry. Though they are yet to rise to the stature of Sridevi and Jaya Prada, many young actors from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala are beginning to take up Bollywood projects.

Daggubati, who entered Hindi films this year with Rohan Sippy's *Dum Maaro Dum*, feels Bollywood could give him a chance to experiment with his talent.

With *Shor In The City*, Chennai-reared Sundeep Kishan forayed into Hindi cinema from the Tamil-Telugu industry.

"The southern industry is healthy, but the craze that the Bollywood world has created is unbeatable. Who does not want to be part of it? Moreover, I feel Bollywood has set international standards and from the outside it looks like a 'glamorous' world," Kishan said.

"Experimentation with roles is what one looks forward to and I see that in the Hindi film industry. The satisfaction and the career prospects — all soar high after one makes a mark

here," he added.

However, as far as southern luminaries like Mammooty, Mohanlal and Kamal Haasan are concerned, they have done select Hindi films, and never really made a base in Mumbai.

Lately, however, Bollywood has welcomed a slew of actors from the south, including Kamal Haasan's daughter Shruti in *Luck*, Trisha Krishnan in the Akshay Kumar-starrer *Khatta Meetha* and Charmy Kaur in the Amitabh Bachchan-starrer *Bbuddah... Hoga Terra Baap*.

There are others who are awaiting release of their projects.

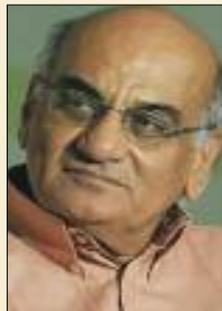
Ileana D'cruz will be seen in Anurag Basu's *Barfee* and Kannadiga actress Lakshmi Rai will feature in Satish Kaushik's *Tere Bina Jiya Nahin Jaye*. Kajal Aggarwal, with her full-fledged Hindi movie debut opposite Ajay Devgn in *Singham*, has already created a lot of buzz. Kajal, who did a cameo role in the 2004 Hindi film *Kyun...! Ho Gaya Na*, feels regional barriers are disappearing in filmdom.

"The reach of Hindi cinema is larger, but the south is equally professional. Both the industries have equally good artistes, good scripts and good professionals," said the actress, who has featured in 21 southern movies thus far.

NFDC to bring out home videos of Mani Kaul's films

The National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) has decided to launch home videos of the priceless works of director Mani Kaul, who passed away recently.

Kaul, who was a believer of "new and bold cinema", passed away in New Delhi on July 6 following a prolonged illness. He was 66.



Mani Kaul

"We are trying to bring out home videos of his films. We are also trying to showcase his movies at different film festivals," Nina Lath Gupta, Managing Director of NFDC, said.

NFDC also organized a meeting to pay tribute to the eminent filmmaker and it was attended by directors like Anurag Kashyap, Rajat Kapoor and Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra.

Gupta said Kaul started his career as a filmmaker with NFDC so they are trying to preserve his works. "Mani Kaul began his career with NFDC. He was also supposed to do his next film with us. He was an exceptional man. I think it's a big loss for the entire filmmaking community," he said.

"We are restoring his films. We have already restored *Duvidha* (1973) and *Uski Roti* (1970). We are working to preserve *Ashad Ka Ek Din* (1971) and *Nazar* (1989)," said Gupta.



HEAVENLY HOMESTAY AT COORG

If you find Ooty, Kodaikanal or Munnar a bit too touristy and crowded a destination in southern India, then go to Coorg. It is that perfect holiday spot in Karnataka that is sure to please toddlers, youth and the old alike. Just a three-hour drive from Mysore, 150 km away, Coorg district on its own has a lot to offer, beyond its coffee, cardamom, pepper and betel nut estates.

With some pristine trekking trails, picnic spots, waterfalls, wildlife, woods, forests, valleys and mouth-watering cuisines, there is much to see, admire and soak in at this hill station, which the locals call Kodagu, on the slopes of the Western Ghats.

Situated at a height of 1,525 meters above sea level, Madikeri or Mercara is the headquarters of Coorg. Here, the vibrant bazaar, and quaint houses with red-roofs and use of teak-wood for doors and furniture easily enthral the travelers.

It may come as a surprise to some that Coorg has one of the largest settlements of Tibetans in India; just about 30 km away from Madikeri, they have the Namdroling Monastery, built in 1963, which the locals call the Golden Temple. Once you enter the monastery, you are transported into another world, packed as it is with some 5,000 monks in bright yellow and red

robes, with some soothing Buddhist chants, smell of incense and breathtaking sight of pagodas.

After seeing those large golden statues of the Buddha and Tara, the intricate murals and Tangkha paintings, don't forget to taste some authentic Tibetan food here, especially the delectable momos and the subtle thugkpa, their noodle soup.

Where to stay is a question that is bound to crop up. While there are plenty of hotels and resorts, including the Orange County that can even set you back by as much as ₹25,000 (\$555) per day, it is best to opt for a homestay. There are some 35 of them in and around Medikeri in the range of ₹1,000 (\$22) to ₹5,000 (\$112) per day where one gets not just to retire, but to also taste authentic Coorgi food and take some refreshing strolls on their plantations that grow

coffee and other cash crops.

As far as the season goes, October to March are the best months. The weather is pleasant with that welcome nip in the air. But Coorg during monsoons can be equally mesmerizing and enchanting.

There are also plenty of places one can go to. There is Abbey Falls, where one has to make his or her way through some dense woods, dotted with coffee bushes, trees and creepers, to suddenly find a cascading gush of water. Then about 80 km away are the Iruppu Falls, right next to the Rajiv Gandhi National Park, also called Nagarhole, which is famous for its elephants and some 50 species of birds. Another must-see is Tadiyendamol, which is the tallest peak in Kodagu and gives a breathtaking view of the entire region of Coorg, besides the distant Arabian Sea.

There is also the Naalkunaadu Palace built by Kodagu king Dodda Raja Veerendra in 1792.

After exploring all these, a bungalow at the plantation is perhaps the best place to retire to. Toddlers can chase butterflies, and as for the adults, a hammock and freshly brewed coffee are sure to be at hand!



LOCATION: Around 150 km from Mysore and 260 km from Bangalore.
HOW TO REACH: By bus or car from Mysore. Closest airport is in Bangalore; the airport in Coimbatore in neighboring Tamil Nadu is another alternative.
COST: There are around 35-40 homestays at Coorg ranging from about ₹1,000 (\$22) to ₹5,000 (\$112) per day.

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■ Celebrating Monsoon



With the arrival of the monsoon, the Saputara hill station, in the western Indian state of Gujarat readies itself to celebrate the season with a month-long 'Saputara Monsoon Festival'. The festival, starting from July 30, is organized by Gujarat Tourism. AFP PHOTO / Sam Panthaky

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