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External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna addressing the 67th session of the UN General Assembly in New York on October 1. (Photo: AFP)

EAM Krishna calls on Secretary Clinton



External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna with the U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton before their bilateral meeting in New York on October 1. (Photo: Jay Mandal/On Assignment)

India calls for Security Council expansion

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Education and the global citizen: challenges and opportunities for India



I was invited recently by The Teacher Foundation, Bangalore, (www.teacherfoundation.org) to deliver one of the Ten Talks they are doing as part of their tenth anniversary. I spoke about global citizenship and the young Indian and engaged in a lively discussion thereafter with an invited audience of educationists, civil society, youth and media on education today. I thought I should share the text of my talk here:

THE THEME of my talk today is one that informs most debates and discussions on education today. Growing up in the sixties and early seventies, the subject of “global citizenship” was not a constant although we were not taught to be insular. In fact, my parents’ generation (which came of age in what was pre-Independence India) was already exposed to the winds of change and the river of ideas that came their way from a bilingual education in both Malayalam, their mother tongue, and English, a foreign tongue and, through both languages their connectivity with the wide world beyond the palm fringed sylvan landscapes of rural Kerala was built. It was a time when Gandhiji started a revolution that paved our road to freedom. I still remember an account written by a young Indian American entitled *How my grandmother learnt to ride a bicycle* — this being an account of how the freedom struggle had literally enticed young women to leave the shelter of their parental homes and break free of cultural barriers that had sequestered them for generations — in this case, the young woman’s grandmother had learned the hitherto unthinkable — how to ride a bicycle to deliver messages clandestinely to freedom fighters who were in hiding from the British.

That, then, was the generation of my parents. They grew up in times of momentous change for India and the world and their exposure to that change influenced their parenting of us, their children. Educate a woman,

they say, and she educates a family — and we, my mother’s three daughters were the beneficiaries — mother could speak in one breath about the story of Krishna and Sudama, and in the other of Orpheus and Eurydice. My father introduced me to the world of history and current affairs. I learnt about Gandhiji for the first time when I was six-years-old in 1957, when India was

Awakening the imagination of a child, taking his or her hand, and guiding them on that magical mystery tour, literally, of the world beyond the four corners of a family house, is what a vidya aarambam should really be about

commemorating the centenary of the First War of Independence of 1857.

My straying from the theme of my talk is intentional — because I wanted to illustrate that awakening the imagination of a child, taking his or her hand, and guiding them on that magical mystery tour, literally, of the world beyond the four corners of a family house, is what a *vidya aarambam* should really be about — as important as guiding that child’s finger to write the first letters on a plate of rice

on an auspicious festival morning.

So, ladies and gentlemen, how does education make the global citizen? How does, as Mark Twain famously said, a cabbage become a cauliflower — which was how he defined education? How do we bring the child to that point where he or she, becomes that Descartes who proudly announces “Cogito ergo sum” — “I think therefore I am” — isn’t it every teacher’s or parent’s dream for your ward to come to you and say “I am thinking” — thinking about ideas, places, events and people, beyond the narrow circumference of a text book-determined environment?

Now, I am no educationist — I have never been a teacher, but I am what my teachers made me. They are long gone now, but the imprint they made on my personality is indelible. They awakened in me an unquenchable curiosity, that I still possess, about the world around me — they spoke to me like Montaigne who said “Nothing human is foreign to me”.

When I look around me today, I am witness to the enormity of the challenges that confront us in preparing what is popularly called our “demographic dividend” — the 65 percent of our population under the age of 25 for the future that beckons.

The full text of my blog can be viewed at: <http://www.indianembassy.org/prdetail2026/education-and-the-global-citizen%3A-challenges-and-opportunities-for-india>

India calls for Security Council expansion

To convert today's challenges into opportunities, India said the architecture of global governance must be reformed to reflect contemporary realities



External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna addressing the 67th session of the UN General Assembly in New York on October 1. (Photo: Jay Mandal/On Assignment)

India sought a reform of institutions of global governance, including an expansion of the UN's top decision-making Security Council to reflect contemporary realities for converting today's challenges into opportunities.

The world today was "faced with multiple global challenges that transcend national boundaries," India's External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna said in his address to the 67th session of the UN General Assembly on October 1, outlining the problems ranging from tepid recovery from the downturn in the global economy to the scourge of terrorism.

"India will promote and lend her weight for enhancing the voice and participation of developing countries in decision making in global economic

and financial institutions," he said.

Calling terrorism as one of the most potent threats to international peace and security, EAM Krishna asked the world to show the necessary political will to agree on a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

Underling India's commitment to achieving a nuclear weapons-free world, the External Affairs Minister called upon the international community "to forge a renewed consensus on non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament".

"There is also need for meaningful dialogue among all states possessing nuclear weapons to build trust and confidence and for reducing the salience of nuclear weapons in international affairs and security doctrines," he added.

Excerpts from EAM Krishna's speech on the occasion:

"We are assembled in New York at a time when we are faced with multiple global challenges that transcend national boundaries.

Developing countries are still to recover from the downturn in the global economy. Their quest for poverty eradication and sustainable development remains an uphill task. Food and energy security as well as health and education for their population remain daunting challenges.

The West Asia and North Africa region is seeing unprecedented socio-political upheaval. The question of Palestine remains unresolved.

And, threats emanating from terrorism, maritime piracy, drug trafficking and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction continue to multiply.

These challenges demand that we act to work for solutions in a concerted and coordinated manner. This is the only path to success.

At the RIO+20 Summit, the international community renewed its commitment to sustainable development, recognizing poverty eradication to be the greatest global challenge.

And to act on this score, it unequivocally reaffirmed the sanctity of the RIO principles.

India remains committed to addressing Climate Change through a comprehensive, equitable and balanced outcome based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities.

We are hosting the 11th Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Hyderabad in less than two weeks from now. We seek the support of Parties to fashion an outcome that harmonizes a strong biodiversity action with our basic development objectives.

India is a multi-religious, multi-eth-

nic and multi-lingual society. Our civilizational ethos has been underpinned by peaceful coexistence and tolerance, values that Mahatma Gandhi placed at the core of India's national life. These principles are enshrined in our Constitution that provides the foundation for our secular, democratic and inclusive polity.

Mutual respect for deeply held religious sentiments is the bedrock of tolerance and coexistence. Unfortunate recent events have highlighted the need for enhanced dialogue among faiths and civilizations. Violence cannot lead to greater understanding. It is necessary to uphold norms of peaceful international discourse. In particular, the safety and security of diplomatic personnel should be fully respected.

Terrorism remains one of the most potent threats to international peace and security.

It is high time we demonstrated the necessary political will and agreed on a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism to strengthen

“Our civilizational ethos has been underpinned by peaceful coexistence and tolerance, values that Mahatma Gandhi placed at the core of India's national life”

— External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna

the normative framework against the increasingly sophisticated and globalized terrorist challenge.

India continues to be gravely concerned by the menace of piracy and armed robbery at sea. Apart from major economic and commercial consequences of this scourge, it has serious humanitarian implications for the large number of seafarers held hostage by the pirates.

The need of the hour is once again concerted international action, under the UN auspices, with special attention being paid to address the welfare of seafarers and their families.

The challenge before the international community today is to ensure that UN peacekeeping is adequately resourced and enabled to meet the realities of today, including in post-conflict and peacebuilding contexts.

India is committed to achieving a nuclear weapons-free world. The principles of the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan of 1988 for achieving nuclear disarmament in a time-bound, universal, non-discriminatory, phased and verifiable manner remain relevant even after more than two decades.

There is need to forge a renewed consensus on non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. There is also need for meaningful dialogue among all states possessing nuclear weapons to build trust and confidence and for reducing the salience of nuclear weapons in international affairs and security doctrines.

India desires constructive and friendly relations with all its neighbors. We have a vision of a peaceful, stable and prosperous region with enhanced cooperation and connectivity linking

INDIA, US DISCUSS REGIONAL AND GLOBAL ISSUES

External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna conveyed India's concerns to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton over the U.S. visa fee hike and discussed a host of regional and global issues, including ways of advancing bilateral cooperation for Afghanistan.

Minister Krishna held a 45-minute meeting with Secretary Clinton on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) session on October 1.

During the discussions, Secretary Clinton thanked India for its prompt condemnation of the attack on its Benghazi consulate that killed the U.S. Ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens. EAM Krishna thanked the U.S. government for its swift response in the wake of attack on a Sikh gurdwara in Wisconsin, US.

Against the backdrop of the phased withdrawal of international combat troops from Afghanistan in 2014, the two leaders also discussed prospects of closer collaboration between India and the U.S. to stabilize the



External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna with the U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton before their bilateral meeting in New York on October 1. (Photo: Jay Mandal/On Assignment)

violence-torn country and for joint development projects in that country.

India, the U.S. and Afghanistan held a

trilateral dialogue on the Afghan situation on the sidelines of the UNGA session in New York. The two leaders reviewed trilateral dialogue and discussed regional economic integration projects, including the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline.

The External Affairs Minister raised the possibility of the U.S. permitting the export of shale gas in liquefied form to India. Secretary Clinton said Washington would keep India's energy needs in mind as they decide on some domestic issues relating to export of shale gas, sources said.

The two leaders also discussed their joint efforts on energy, civil nuclear cooperation, visas, trade and bilateral investment, and expanding cooperation with India's neighbors and near-neighbors, the official said.

Besides Afghanistan, regional issues that came up during the discussions included regional cooperation in South Asia and support for India's Look East policy.

us with Central Asia, the Gulf and South-East Asia.

Within South Asia, we have sought to enhance bilateral relations individually with each of our neighbors and through the aegis of the SAARC.

We have embarked on a resumed dialogue process with Pakistan and advocate a step-by-step approach to normalizing our bilateral relations.

An unwarranted reference has been made to Jammu and Kashmir from this podium. Our principled position on the issue has been consistent and is well known. The people of Jammu and Kashmir have chosen and reaffirmed their destiny repeatedly through India's well established democratic processes. We wish to make it abundantly clear that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India.

India supports the Government and people of Afghanistan in their endeavour to build a peaceful, stable, democratic and prosperous country. We are ready to partner with the Afghan people as they rebuild their country in accordance with their own priorities and national circumstances.

The continuing existence of safe havens and sanctuaries for terrorists beyond Afghanistan's borders is the major impediment to the restoration of peace and security in Afghanistan.

India is committed to creating an enabling environment where the Afghan people can live in peace and security and decide their future themselves, without outside interference, coercion and intimidation.

The United Nations and the norms of international relations that it has fostered remain the most efficacious means for converting today's challenges into opportunities.

We need to, however, ensure that the architecture of global governance reflects contemporary realities. Sticking to structures designed at the end of the Second World War only constrains multilateralism from delivering on its promises.

The most important and decisive step toward remedying this situation pertains to the UN Security Council, which must be expanded in



India's Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai addressing the high-level meeting of the UN Security Council on 'Peace and Security in Middle East' in New York on September 26. (Photo: Jay Mandal/On Assignment)

'Gandhian way real option to end conflicts'

Stressing that Gandhian way was a real, live option for ending conflicts and inequalities around the world, India's External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna hoped Gandhian truth and action would be embraced by all.

Presiding over a special event hosted by the Permanent Mission of India to United Nations to commemorate the International Day of Non Violence on October 2, he also expressed hope that leading global multilateral fora, such as the United Nations, would continue to be among the torchbearers of Gandhian values.

Underling the importance of *Satyagraha* or 'truth force' that Gandhi applied in his fight against injustice, EAM Krishna noted, "The world has known innumerable greats who won celebrated military victories. However, there is only one person who won the world's greatest battles for emancipation and empowerment not by waging war but by waging peace."

Delivering the keynote address, Ambassador P A Nazareth, author of *Gandhi's Outstanding Leadership*, cited the transformation that inspired Mahatma Gandhi following his experiences in South Africa while taking on the British Empire, which he most successfully did, just by the sheer power of 'truth force'.

both permanent and non-permanent categories.

The reformed Council must include countries that are capable and willing to bear additional burdens relating to the maintenance of international peace and security and be able to sustain global campaigns against new and emerging global threats.

Let me also stress that we must address, sooner rather than later, the incongruity of the lack of permanent membership from Africa.

Equally, India will promote and lend her weight for enhancing the voice and participation of developing countries in decision making in global economic and financial institutions.

The IMF's quota reform process must be accelerated with altered quotas reflecting contemporary economic weight.

Let me conclude by assuring you Mr. President and the members of the General Assembly that India will continue to abide by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and strive to strengthen the United Nations." ■■■

The full text of EAM Krishna's speech can be viewed at:

<http://www.indianembassy.org/prdetail2035/statement-by-external-affairs-minister-at-the-general-debate-of-the-67th-session-of-the-united-nations-general-assembly>



Ties with US a great priority for India: EAM Krishna

External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna delivers a lecture on India's foreign policy at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, on September 28. (Photo: Jay Mandall/On Assignment)

Describing the U.S. as an important partner in its development efforts, External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna said for India, it would remain "a relationship of great priority and importance" in the 21st century.

"As we look at the priorities for India's foreign policy in the decades ahead, we see not only convergence of interests with the United States, but also a belief in the importance of a strong partnership between our two great democracies in achieving our shared goals," he said on September 28.

"It is this recognition that has led to an extraordinary political investment in the two countries in transforming India-U.S. relations and in establishing a durable and broad-based framework of a global strategic partnership," Minister Krishna said.

The External Affairs Minister was

speaking on 'India's Foreign Policy Priorities for the 21st Century' at the launch of the "Brown-India Initiative" at Brown University, an American private Ivy League research university in Providence, Rhode Island.

An interdisciplinary hub for the study of contemporary India, the initiative aims to produce first-rate academic research, and to contribute to public discourse on, and in India, through talks, events, and the convergence of figures from diverse walks.

The Minister said the success of India-U.S. partnership would not only contribute to the prosperity in the two countries, but, in a world of great flux and diversity, it would be a model of international partnership and a factor of global and regional peace, security and stability.

Another key priority for India, Minister Krishna said, would be to

"seek to further reform multilateral institutions such as the United Nations, including the Security Council, World Bank and IMF to reflect contemporary realities and to improve their ability to address new challenges".

Excerpts from EAM Krishna's speech on the occasion:

"Nations progress and societies prosper on the foundations laid in the institutions of learning and research. The great universities of this country have not only benefited the United States, but also drawn students and scholars from across the world, including more than a 100,000 students from India today.

Over the past decades, through the vicissitudes of relations between India and the U.S., our engagement in higher education, science and research was a strong bridge between our two coun-



(Left): External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna during a Q & A session after his lecture on India's Foreign Policy at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, on September 28. Also seen in the picture is Ambassador Nirupama Rao. (Right): EAM Krishna (right) greeted by Christina Hull Paxson, President of Brown University in Providence. (Photo: Jay Mandal/On Assignment)

tries. This has contributed in immeasurable terms to the close relationship that our two countries share today.

The ongoing India-U.S. Higher Education Dialogue is now a key pillar of the India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue. Our educational institutions, scholars and students are brought into closer partnership through this Dialogue. Our two governments place a strong emphasis in our relationship on the youth, which not only easily embraces the future, but will also have the responsibility in shaping it.

I want to congratulate Brown on launching an 'India Initiative'. I hope it will focus on India's heritage and its progress, its achievement and its challenges, its engagement with the world and, equally important, on the growing India-U.S. strategic partnership. I do hope the India Initiative will become an important part of Brown's story in this century.

I would now like to share my thoughts on India's foreign policy priorities in the 21st century.

India is in an exciting transition. A nation constituting one sixth of humanity is undergoing economic and social transformation on an extraordinary scale. It is taking place in a democratic and federal framework; in the midst of growing political pluralism and social diversity; and, in the context of continuing debate on equity, opportunity and sustainability.

Our policies are not only concerned about the growth of the aggregate, but

also by the welfare of the individual. It is a complex political and economic challenge. We need to continue with a high growth trajectory and also make it more inclusive. This calls for an innovative, dynamic and sustainable engagement with the world around us.

Today, the world is troubled not so much by the specter of a major war, but by conflicts within and between societies, cultures, religions, peoples and nations. Promoting the values of pluralism, mutual respect and understanding is a great challenge of our times, and one that is vital for global stability and security.

India has been guided since ancient times by the ideals of *Vasudhaiva Kuttambakam* — the world is one family — and *Sarva Dharma Sambhava* — all faiths are equal.

As a pluralist democracy that stands at the cultural cross-roads of Asia and many of its fault lines, India will serve as a bridge across the region's — and, indeed, the world's — great diversity.

India's commitment to internationalism, independence of judgment in the conduct of external relations, support to the democratization of world order, and contributions to the maintenance of international peace and security are enduring legacies of our national movement. This enjoys strong support across the political spectrum in India.

India's foreign policy in the 21st century will remain rooted in these core values, but it will continuously adapt to

the changing external circumstances and the shifting domestic needs.

The foremost priority of India's foreign policy will be to create a favorable external environment for the pursuit of collective prosperity and the individual welfare of all the Indian people. Our interests are firmly anchored in a stable global order and a peaceful neighborhood. We need an open and equitable international trading system; a stable financial system; reliable, affordable and secure energy supplies; and, food security.

We will need bilateral as well as international partnerships of technology and innovation to meet the extraordinary scale of our development challenges. In turn, India's own progress will, in its own modest way, affirm the values of democracy and pluralism; contribute to peace and stability; and provide one of the pillars of the global economy.

Our foreign policy will, therefore, be an instrument of our development, but also a vehicle to fulfill our global responsibilities.”

The full text of EAM Krishna's speech can be viewed at:

<http://www.indianembassy.org/prdetail2034/speech-by-external-affairs-minister-on-andquot%3BIndia-andrsquo%3Bs-foreign-policy-priorities-for-the-21st-centuryandquot%3B-at-launch-of-the-andquot%3BIndia-initiative-andquot%3B-by-the-brown-university>

'India will be a major factor of global peace'



External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna delivering his keynote speech at Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas, Texas, on October 3. (Photo: Jay Mandal/On Assignment)

Speaking on 'India Now' at the Carrington Endowed Lecture Series event, hosted by the Southern Methodist University in Dallas on October 3, External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna said driven by a population of over one billion people, India was poised to become a major factor of global peace, stability, development and prosperity in the 21st century. He said since its Independence in 1947, India transformed in diverse ways and diverse sectors. With rapid economic growth, India was fast emerging as a "stabilizing power in the new global strategic architecture", the Minister said.

"This is further amplified by the fact that a large number of countries, including the Permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, have entered into strategic partnerships in the last decade," he said.

Minister Krishna said India and the United States had built a strong global strategic partnership with an aim to bring global stability and prosperity in the 21st century. For India, he said, its partnership with the U.S. had been a strategic priority. "Our relationship has met the test of broad, bipartisan political support and public goodwill in both countries," EAM Krishna said.



External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna and Ambassador Nirupama Rao with John Attanasio, Dean of Student (left) and R. Gerald Turner, President of Southern Methodist University, in Dallas, Texas, on October 3. (Photo: Jay Mandal/On Assignment)

Excerpts from Minister Krishna's speech on the occasion:

"In the past decade or so, the global interest on India has increased by leaps and bounds. This new mindset globally is borne out of a realization rooted in rapid economic transformation of India and the emerging role of India as a stabilizing power in the new global strategic architecture.

In the last decade, India has been among the fastest growing economies of the world, next only to China. India's GDP grew roughly by 8 percent over the past decade and has more than doubled in this period.

The world saw India even more

admiringly when it staved off the disastrous effects of the worst recession after the Great Depression which shook the global economy in 2008. India's average annual GDP growth in 2008 to 2010 was close to 8 percent. After the 2008 global financial crises, most analysts had predicted that India would succumb to the deleterious effects of the global financial meltdown.

No doubt, there is an economic blow back but India has so far shown remarkable strength to stay afloat due to its domestic economy and its sheer diversity. But the embedded resilience of the domestic economy to deal with the blow back surprised foreigners and Indians alike.

It appears that Europe is in the throes of a recession. The Western world is watching India with even more interest as it is becoming clear that the developing economies led by China, India and others will have to become the engine of global economic growth over the next few decades.

Already the fast growing developing economies in Asia, Latin America and Africa account for over two thirds of the incremental global output. This relentless shift in the axis of economic power is also witnessing a fascinating transition in the global institutions of economic, security and political governance, of which India is a major part. The world, including the United States, wants to see India to play a substantive role in this seminal transition taking place in the institutions of global governance. India would be a focus of attention from this perspective also." ■

The full text of Minister Krishna's speech can be viewed at:

<http://www.indianembassy.org/prdetail2058/external-affairs-ministerandrsquo%3Bs-address-onandquot%3BIndia-nowandquot%3B-at-the-carrington-endowed-lecture-series-event%2C-hosted-by-the-southern-methodist-university%2C-dallas>

EAM meets families of gurdwara shooting victims

Accompanied by Ambassador Nirupama Rao, External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna met with the family members of victims of August 5 Oak Creek gurdwara shooting during his visit to the Oak Creek gurdwara in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on October 4. To meet with the family of Punjab Singh, who is still in coma after being critically injured in the shooting, Minister Krishna also paid a visit to the Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee. He later met with the families of those who were killed during the shoot-out.



1. External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna and Ambassador Nirupama Rao (left) meeting with the family members of Punjab Singh, who was injured in the Oak Creek gurdwara shoot-out, at Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on October 4. Singh's wife Kulwant Kaur and sons Jaspreet Singh and Raghuvinder Singh are seen in the picture.
2. EAM Krishna and Ambassador Rao (left) addressing media persons after their visit to the Oak Creek gurdwara.
3. Minister Krishna speaking at the Oak Creek gurdwara.
4. Minister Krishna and Ambassador Rao at a Satsang at the Oak Creek gurdwara during their visit.

(Photos: Jay Mandal/On Assignment)



India, US to boost energy cooperation

The two countries agreed to set up a group to discuss financing options for encouraging energy generation through renewable sources

With a view to exploring the possibilities of large-scale cooperation in generation and storage of power from renewable sources like solar and wind power, India and the U.S. agreed to set up a group to discuss financing options for encouraging energy generation through renewable sources and integration of various renewable energy sources with the grid and storage technologies.

The decision to set up the group was taken in Washington, D.C. on September 28 at the India-U.S. Energy Dialogue co-chaired by B.K. Chaturvedi, Member, Planning Commission of India, and U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu.

India's Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai, U.S. Deputy Energy Secretary Daniel Poneman and other senior officials from both sides were present during the Dialogue.

The two sides lauded the successful implementation of the decision by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Barack Obama in November 2010 in New Delhi to establish a "virtual" Joint Clean Energy Research and Development Center (JCERD) with a total joint committed funding of \$50 million from both governments.

The Dialogue also noted the enor-



From left, India's Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai, India's Planning Commission Member (Energy) B.K. Chaturvedi, U.S. Secretary of Energy Dr. Steven Chu and U.S. Under Secretary for Energy (Acting) David Sandalow at the India-U.S. Energy Dialogue in Washington, D.C. on September 28. (Photo: Bala Chandran)

mous trade and investment opportunities, which have been opened up with the discovery of U.S. shale gas as also the investments made in this sector by Indian companies. The U.S. had also granted permission to Gas Authority of India Ltd (GAIL) for export of LNG (liquefied natural gas) from Sabine Pass terminal in U.S. to India.

The two sides also agreed to the formation of a new Working Group on 'low carbon growth' for assessing the

Carbon dioxide emissions from different industries and for initiating steps to reduce such emissions.

The text of Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai's opening remarks at the India-U.S. Energy Dialogue can be viewed at: <http://www.indianembassy.org/prdetail2040/opening-remarks-by-foreign-secretary%2C-ranjan-mathai-at-the-u.s.-india-energy-dialogue-meeting>

India, US sign MOU on antitrust cooperation

To facilitate cooperation between the Indian and the U.S. competition authorities, the two countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding on antitrust cooperation on September 27. The agreement would help enhance cooperation for effective enforcement of competition laws through technical cooperation, sharing of information

related to competition policy, and enforcement developments directed at supporting efficient operation of markets and economic welfare of the citizens.

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Chairperson Jon Leibowitz and the Department of Justice Acting Assistant Attorney General Joseph Wayland from the U.S. side and Competition

Commission of India Chairman Ashok Chawla, and the Ambassador of India Nirupama Rao, for the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (Government of India), signed the MoU in Washington, DC. Senior officers from the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, U.S. Department of Justice and the Embassy of India were present on the occasion.

Proposal to make Hindi UN official language

A proposal was passed on the concluding day of the Ninth World Hindi Conference in Johannesburg on September 24 for initiating time-bound action to make Hindi one of the official languages of the UN. The three-day meet began on September 22 at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg and was attended by over 700 scholars and delegates from across the world.

Participants took oath to make coordinated efforts to achieve the goal of making Hindi, a language spoken by over half a billion people or every 10th person on the planet, an

official language of the UN. It was also decided that the World Hindi Conference would be organized with a maximum gap of three years so that the ambitious goal was achieved soon.

The first suggestion to make Hindi one of the official languages of the UN was passed at the World Hindi Conference organized in Nagpur city in India 37 years ago.

Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Preeti Kaur, who attended the conference, promised support to achieve this goal. The next conference would be held in India.

Mauritius-based World Hindi

Secretariat would prepare a database of global institutions involved in promotion and teaching Hindi. A database for Hindi scholars would also be made, the proposal said.

A standard courseware would be developed for Hindi training in various countries and the Mahatma Gandhi International University, based in Wardha city in Maharashtra, India, has been authorized to prepare this training course, the proposal said.

Twenty scholars from across the world were honored at the conference for being torchbearers of the language.

1. Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Preeti Kaur addressing the inaugural session of the 9th World Hindi Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa on September 22.
2. South Africa's Finance Minister Pravin J. Gordhan addressing the 9th World Hindi Conference.
3. Ela Gandhi, granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi, addressing the conference on September 22.
4. Academic Session on *Gyan Vigyan Aur Rojgar Ki Bhasha Ke Roop Mein Hindi* attended by Prof. Zabir Hussain (in the chair), Chitra Mudul and others during the conference on September 23.
5. Minister Kaur, flanked by Indian High Commissioner in South Africa Virendra Gupta, releasing a book before the concluding session of the conference on September 24.
6. Mauritius scholar Satyadev Tengur being honored by Minister Kaur during the closing ceremony of the conference on September 24.



'India a good investment destination'

Delivering the keynote address at the Institutional Investors Forum in New York on September 24, Ambassador Nirupama Rao said the fundamentals of the Indian economy were strong and that the country remained a good investment destination despite the global economic slowdown. Among many areas, the Ambassador said, international business could focus on India's infrastructure and manufacturing sectors for investment.

The Ambassador said a number of leading international companies, including some major U.S. businesses, were working to develop products, services and technologies in India for the local and global markets.

"It is in this context that one sees the growth in India-U.S. relations from a transactional to a strategic partnership," Ambassador Rao said.

Excerpts from Ambassador Rao's speech on the occasion

"The overarching scenario of rapid growth of the Indian economy in the last few years and excellent investment



Ambassador Nirupama Rao addressing the India Investment Forum in New York on September 24.

opportunities have attracted international businesses, including those from the United States, to the Indian market. Those already present are trying to expand their operations. As brought out in Ernst and Young's India Attractiveness Survey 2012, India remains the 4th destination globally in terms of FDI projects, and 3rd destination globally in terms of FDI value.

Global majors are committing resources for their Indian operations. There is stress on reverse innovation — developing products suited for the Indian market and which by exten-

sion will have applications in other emerging market economies. Indeed, some of them have been scaled up even for the developed economies. Already several leading international companies, including most of the well-known U.S. businesses, are working to develop products, services and technologies in India for the local and global markets.

It is in this context that one sees the growth in India-US relations from a transactional to a strategic partnership. Several fundamental aspects explain the manner in which our cooperation has prospered. Ours is a natural relationship that is underwritten by shared values of democracy; pluralism; openness; respect for fundamental freedoms; tolerance and a sense of enterprise." 

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

<http://www.indianembassy.org/prdetail2027/keynote-address-by-ambassador-nirupama-rao-at-the-institutional-investors-forum-in-new-york-on-24-september-2012---cementing-india-us-partnership>

'India offers opportunity in infrastructure investment'

Addressing a symposium on 'Indian Infrastructure: The One Trillion Dollar Opportunity' in Chicago on September 26, Ambassador Nirupama Rao said for companies operating in the domains of finance, construction, logistics, operation and maintenance of utilities, India was a suitable destination for investment.

Ambassador Rao said for foreign investors, the public-private-partnership route represented a commercially viable option for investment in India's infrastructure sector.

"India's investment requirements of more than a trillion US dollars in infrastructure development over the next

five years offers enormous opportunities for U.S. businesses to deepen our economic partnership," she said.

Excerpts from Ambassador Rao's speech on the occasion:

"The extent of foreign participation — both through debt and equity — in the financing of India's infrastructure has been of the order of around 10-12 percent in the recent past. I expect, going forward, a much greater degree of involvement of foreign investors in this sector.

The sustained economic growth in India and consequent demand for capital and technology, has led to a significant expansion of our bilateral trade

and economic ties with the U.S. The growth in bilateral trade and investment is broadly balanced. We are now working on a bilateral investment treaty that would enhance transparency and predictability for investors, and support economic growth and job creation in both countries." 

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

<http://www.indianembassy.org/prdetail2031/inaugural-address-by-ambassador-nirupama-rao-at-the-symposium-on-andquot%3Bindian-infrastructure%3A-the-one-trillion-dollar-opportunityandquot%3B-in-chicago-on-26-september%2C-2012>

‘Sufi’ism a shared heritage’

Addressing the Smithsonian Institution’s symposium on Sufi’ism at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC, on September 22, Deputy Chief of Mission Ambassador Arun K. Singh said that the appeal of Sufi’ism transcends national boundaries.

“Sufi’ism with its tenets of equality and mutual respect has the spiritual power that can nudge us into believing in the need and importance of living together in peace and harmony, regardless of our individual religions, faiths, beliefs and persuasions,” he said.

Commending the efforts of the Smithsonian Institution in organizing the two-day symposium themed ‘SUFiism at the Smithsonian: Searching for the Divine through the Arts’, DCM Singh said that such events underlined the appeal and relevance of Sufi’ism for the contemporary world.

The symposium was co-sponsored by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR).

Excerpts from DCM Singh’s speech on the occasion:

“Sufi saints admired India’s diversity and strove to find a unity among its heterogeneous elements by — as poet laureate Rabindranath Tagore said, “set(ting) at naught all differences of men, by the overflow of their consciousness of God”. One Indian scholar noted, “For them (the Sufis), God was not a logical abstraction of unity, but a living reality, to be approached through the service of mankind”.

This was a herculean mission, but one which they undertook with zeal. They worked to build a social order free from discord, conflict, and inequity. Their creed was to return hatred with love, violence with affection.

The relentless exchange between Hinduism, Islam and Sufi’ism led to



1. DCM Ambassador Arun K. Singh speaking at the inauguration of the Smithsonian Institution’s two-day (September 22-23) event ‘SUFiism at the Smithsonian: Searching for the Divine through the Arts’. The event was co-sponsored by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations. (Photo: Rishi Das)
2. Manjula Kumar, Project Director, Smithsonian Center for Education and Museum Studies, at the inauguration. (Photo: Rishi Das)
3. Renowned filmmaker and cultural historian Yousuf Saeed.
4. Noted Sufi and folk singer Dr. Madan Gopal Singh addressing the gathering. (Photo: Rishi Das)
5. A dance presentation by renowned Sufi-Kathak exponent Manjari Chaturvedi. (Photo: Rishi Das)
6. Noted Sufi singer Dhruv Sangari presenting songs at the event. (Photo: Rishi Das)

both “reformist movements” and a “devotional renaissance” where writers, poets and singers communicated in easy verses the essence of tolerance, inclusion, and spiritual unity of all faiths.

Indeed, Sufi music is a seminal contribution of Sufi’ism to the composite culture of the Indian subcontinent. Inspired by the elements of love, mutu-

al respect, universality and freedom of spirit, Sufi music attracted people by its simplicity and emotiveness.”

The full text of DCM Singh’s address can be viewed at:

<http://www.indianembassy.org/prde/tail2028/remarks-by-dcm-ambassador-arun-k.-singh-at-smithsonian-on-september-22%2C-2012.->

'India Tea' event at Embassy



1. Deputy Chief of Mission Ambassador Arun K. Singh welcoming and addressing the guests at the 'India Tea' event at the Embassy on September 18.
2. M.G.V.K. Bhanu, Chairman, India Tea Board, addressing the guests.
3. Joseph P. Simrany, President, Tea Association of the USA Inc., speaking on the occasion.
4. Guests in attendance.

Hindi Diwas celebrations

The Embassy of India in collaboration with International Hindi Association, Washington D.C. Chapter, organized Hindi Diwas celebrations at Durga Temple, Virginia, on September 22. Deputy Chief of Mission Ambassador Arun K. Singh was the Chief Guest

at the event themed 'Why Learn Hindi!'. Over 200 people attended the event that saw the participation of children of all ages in various activities organized on the occasion.

Speech recitations in Hindi, including those of India's freedom fighter Subhash Chandra Bose,

evoked much interest among the audience. Clara Savage, who has been studying Hindi for the last five years, addressing the audience on the occasion. A few plays staged by the participants brought the audience in terms with the rich Hindi literary tradition.



DCM Ambassador Arun K. Singh addressing the audience during the Hindi Diwas celebrations at Durga Temple, Virginia, on September 22.



Introductory remarks by Asha Chand, President of International Hindi Association (Washington DC Chapter).



Clara Savage, who has been studying Hindi for the last five years, addressing the audience on the occasion.

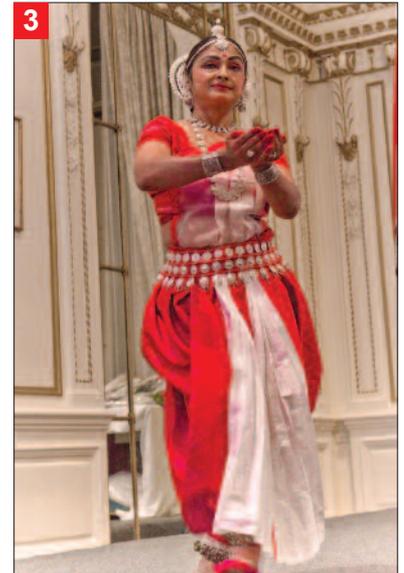
Embassy hosts 'SUFism at the Smithsonian'



1. Deputy Chief of Mission Ambassador Arun K. Singh addressing the guests at a reception hosted by the Embassy on September 21 in connection with the Smithsonian Institution's two-day (September 22-23) symposium 'SUFism at the Smithsonian: Searching for the Divine through the Arts'. The Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) was a collaborator of the symposium.
2. Manjula Kumar, Project Director at the Smithsonian Center of Educational and Museum Studies, introducing the artists, sponsored by ICCR, from India.

3. Yousuf Saeed, independent filmmaker and cultural historian, addressing the guests on the occasion.
4. Manjari Chaturvedi, dancer, choreographer and creator of the dance form Sufi-Kathak, speaking on the occasion.
5. Dr. Madan Gopal Singh, renowned folk and Sufi singer, at the event.
6. Dhruv Sangari, a noted Sufi singer, addressing the guests.
7. Sanam Marvi, a well-known folk and Sufi singer from Pakistan, speaking on the occasion.
8. Guests in attendance.

CGI New York hails Queens College initiative



1. Prabhu Dayal, Consul General of India, New York, addressing the audience.
2. James Muyskens, President, Queens College, speaking on the occasion.
3. Presentation of Odishi Dance performance by Bani Ray.
4. Sitar recital by artists of the Kalawant Center for Music and Dance.

In recognition of the 'Year of India' celebrations by Queens College of the City University of New York, the Consul General of India in New York hosted a reception on September 20 at New India House.

Commending the initiative put forth

by James Muyskens, President of Queens College, in organizing the 'Year of India' 2012-13, Consul General of India Prabhu Dayal highlighted the growth trajectory of India-U.S. relations over the last decade. He pointed out that education was included in the Strategic Dialogue process

between the two countries in October 2010 when first Higher Education Summit was held at Washington, D.C.

From the year 2010-11, Queens College introduced the 'Year of' program starting with 'Year of China'. The year 2012-13 has been dedicated to 'Year of India'.

CGI San Francisco

'A historic day'

Participating at the Peace and Unity rally organized by North American Punjabi Association (NAPA), Consul General of India in San Francisco N. Parthasarathi welcomed the signing of 'AB-1964: Workplace Religious Freedom Act of 2012 and SB-1540: Instructional materials: revised curriculum framework: history-social science' by California Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. on September 8.

Calling it 'a historic day', he said the initiative would go a long way in promoting goodwill and awareness about various communities, including the Sikh community. "These would pave the way for school children in California to learn about various religions, including the Sikh religion. The Bills augur well for hard working and industrious people of Indian origin," he said.

He also congratulated NAPA, led by its President Satnam Singh Chahal and Chairman Dalwinder Singh Dhoot, for organizing the Peace and Unity Rally.

CGI Houston

Consul General's engagements



1. From left, Nouruddin Yamani, President Dawoodi Bohra Community; Consul General P. Harish; Latafath Hussain, President, Indian Muslims Association of Greater Houston (IMAGH); Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee; Council Member Harish Jajoo and Sheriff Adrian Garcia at the 3rd Annual Eid Milan celebration at India House on September 1. Consul General Harish was the chief guest at the event.
2. Consul General P. Harish called on Dr. Alexios Mar Eusebius, Metropolitan, Malankara Orthodox Church, diocese of South West America, Southern region, at his residence on September 27.
3. From right, Sunil Kumar "Teng", Syed Perwaiz Jafri, Consul General P. Harish, Waseem Bareilvi and Shahida Hasan at Sir Syed International Mushaira 2012 organized on the occasion of Sir Syed Day by the Federation of Aligarh Alumni Associations on September 29. Consul General Harish was the chief guest at the event.



Lessons for the world



Ashutosh Agrawal

What started as a fun activity in 2006, when Ashutosh Agrawal started teaching Hindi at George Washington University, has now taken shape into the Hindi university project that involves thousands of learners from across the world. It all began when Ashutosh started uploading his recorded lectures on Youtube. In a conversation with India Review (IR), Ashutosh talks about his mission and future plans

IR: Please tell us about the Hindi university Project and how it was developed.

AA: I started teaching Hindi in 2006 for the Global Language Network at George Washington University as a fun activity after work. I realized that the same effort could potentially teach thousands. With a vague idea of what I wanted to do and minimal resources, I bought a white board and started recording my lectures with a regular camera to upload on *YouTube*. As it turned out, Hindi enthusiasts across the globe had been waiting for something like this that could immerse them in Hindi from the very beginning and didn't demand knowledge of the script or the alphabet to come along. (<http://www.youtube.com/hindiuniversity>)

IR: What motivated you to teach Hindi?

AA: Having grown up speaking Hindi, I had a longing to work for the language, even while in the US. The diversity of Washington, D.C. offered the opportunity and the platform for teaching the language. I am a full-time software engineer, but my passion drives me to squeeze in time for this project.

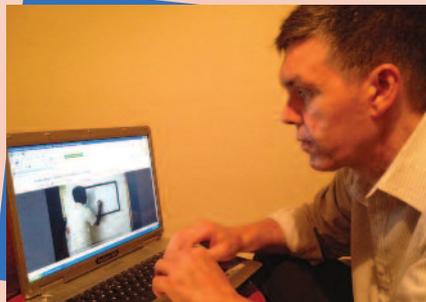
IR: You are a one-man team with no external support, what keeps you going?

AA: I feel rewarded when I get messages from unique places like Guam, Isle of Man, Martinique, Liechtenstein, etc. There are descendants of Indian immigrants who take learning Hindi very seriously, and are living in all parts of the world. A student in Bulgaria sent me a message:



Top: Ashutosh Agrawal with his students.

Left: Nigel, a U.K. student, learns Hindi through Ashutosh Agrawal's Hindi university YouTube channel.



'Learning Hindi has been my dream for quite a long time and now I can make it true.'

Such positive feedback adds more energy to my passion.

IR: How are you using *YouTube* and other digital media for your classes?

AA: The Hindi university project is solely dependent on social media. My courses are available on *Youtube*, *Facebook*, *Twitter* and *Udemy*. I also regularly hold free live online classes using video conferences. Collaboration with other universities as well as community efforts to promote Hindi is indeed important in the dynamic environment of online education.

IR: Who enrolls for your courses and why do they show interest in learning Hindi?

AA: People from all walks of life enroll for classes. These include travelers to India, young professionals working for the U.S. government and other non-profit organizations, students of Indian literature and culture, as well as the ones in love with a native speaker of Hindi.

IR: What is your message through this work and what are your future plans?

AA: To make India a developed nation, young leaders need to tend not only to their own interests but also to the interests of the community and the country.

I am working on organizing interesting seminars/webinars to provide in-depth understanding of Hindi in the context of Indian history and culture. I am also working on a Hindi book based on my teaching methods.

Government opens retail, aviation to FDI

The government announced its approval for 51 percent foreign investment in multi-brand retail and also opened up the aviation sector on September 14.

The government clarified that states which did not favor 51 percent FDI in multi-brand retail — which opens up India's estimated \$450 billion retail market to foreign supermarkets like Walmart and Carrefour — were free to not implement the policy.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh was the prime mover behind this significant policy decision.

The government also approved FDI in aviation and gave its nod for disinvestment in four Public Sector Units (PSUs).

Soon after the decisions were made known, the Prime Minister appealed to the people to support the government's steps that were "taken in national interest."

"I believe that these steps will help strengthen our growth process and generate employment in these difficult times," the Prime Minister was quoted as saying.

The cabinet also decided that overseas retailers setting up a single brand store in India must source at least 30 percent of their goods from Indian companies, preferably from micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh

FDI in broadcasting sector raised

The government on September 14 decided to raise the cap on foreign investment from 49 percent to 74 percent in broadcasting but has decided to retain the 26 percent cap in the TV news channels and FM radio.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave its nod to the proposal of the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion.

According to the proposal, FDI has been raised for broadcast service providers like teleports, direct to home (DTH) and cable networks (multi-system-operators that are undertaking upgrade of networks toward digitalization and addressability) as well as for Mobile TVs.

Up to 49 percent would be permitted under the automatic route and beyond that up to 74 percent would be permitted under the government route.

Key highlights of FDI decisions

FDI IN MULTI-BRAND RETAIL

- 51 percent FDI allowed in multi-brand retail
- States given discretionary powers of opting for it or not
- Government expects to generate funds, jobs and stimulus for economy
- Government also expects to tame inflation from the move
- Farmers expected to get healthy returns for produce
- Consumer to benefit with more choices and competitive prices

FDI IN SINGLE-BRAND RETAIL

- 100 percent single brand FDI allowed
- 30 percent local sourcing mandatory

FDI IN AVIATION

- Foreign carriers can now pick up 49 percent stake in India airlines
- Transactions will be governed by SEBI norms
- Key positions in the airline will be held by Indian citizens
- Foreign nationals and equipment under the stake sale will be scrutinized

FDI IN BROADCAST

- Government decides to raise FDI cap to 74 percent
- FDI not hiked in TV news channels and FM radio

Corporate America, media hail India's 'big bang' reforms

Corporate America and the U.S. media have hailed India's economic reforms as a welcome signal to investors and a dramatic move to reverse the nation's economic slowdown. New Delhi's "courageous resolve to move on these complex reforms", opening the door to foreign investment in retail, aviation, broadcast and power exchanges "serves as an assurance to investors that its economic liberalization agenda is back on track," said the U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC).

The reforms "are a welcome signal to investors everywhere," said Ajay Banga, Chairman of the trade body made up of about 400 top U.S. and a score of Indian companies interested in boosting trade with India.

"Government's bold actions (that) will help create a predictable investment and business climate," added Banga.

"These big bang reforms send a crystal clear signal that India is open for business," said Ronald Somers, President of USIBC.

"Bringing in big foreign brands, like Walmart which can now open stores in India in partnership with a local company, is expected to help," *The New York Times* said on India's "biggest economic reforms in two decades". *The Washington Post* said the changes opening the door to foreign investment in retail, aviation, broadcast and power exchanges "are the biggest and arguably toughest economic reforms since Prime Minister Manmohan Singh took over in 2004."

Indian space agency scores a perfect 100!

An Indian rocket successfully launched into orbit two foreign satellites on September 9, marking Indian space agency ISRO's 100th mission in the presence of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.

"As ISRO's 100th space mission, today's launch is a milestone in our nation's space capabilities," the Prime Minister said after the launch.

At 9.51 a.m., the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-C21 (PSLV-C21), standing around 44 meters tall and weighing around 230 ton, with a one-way ticket, hurtled itself toward the skies ferrying the two satellites — SPOT 6, a French earth observation satellite weighing 712 kg, and a 15 kg micro satellite Proiteres from Japan.



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh addressing the audience after the successful launch of the PSLV-C21 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, on September 9.

The PSLV blasted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, around 80 km from Tamil Nadu capital Chennai.

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has now com-

pleted its 100th mission since the launch of first satellite Aryabhata in 1975 by a Russian rocket.

At around 18 minutes into the flight, PSLV-C21 delivered SPOT 6 and a few seconds later Proiteres into a 655 km polar orbit inclined at an angle of 98.23 degree to the equator.

ISRO Chairman K. Radhakrishnan thanked the scientists and engineers after the launch.

SPOT 6 is the heaviest foreign satellite to be carried by a PSLV rocket since 1999 when ISRO started launching satellites owned by foreign agencies. Proiteres, the Japanese satellite, intends to study powered flight of a small satellite by an electric thruster and observe Japan's Kansai district with a high-resolution camera.

Sunita Williams takes over space station command

Indian-American astronaut Sunita Williams has taken over command of the International Space Station (ISS), yet another feather in her cap as she already holds three records for female space travelers.

Expedition 32 Commander Gennady Padalka ceremonially handed over control of the space station to Expedition 33 Commander Sunita Williams in the Destiny laboratory during the traditional Change-of-Command Ceremony on September 15, NASA reported. Astronaut Williams, Russian cosmonaut Yuri Malenchenko and Japan's Akihiko Hoshide remain on the ISS.

On September 6, Williams set the new record for total cumulative spacewalk time by a female astronaut with her sixth space walk to repair a faulty power distribution unit.

Williams surpassed Peggy Whitson's record during her excursion as she and her Japanese counterpart Akihiko Hoshide used a toothbrush and a wire



Astronaut Sunita Williams and Russian cosmonaut Yuri Malenchenko at an onboard training session in the International Space Station's Zvezda Service Module, NASA. (Photo: NASA)

brush fashioned out of a spare cable to restore power to the International Space Station.

The spacewalk lasted 6 hours 28 minutes. Williams has now worked outside the station for a total of 44 hours and 2 minutes, overtaking Whitson who worked outside for 39 hours and 46 minutes over the course of six spacewalks. She is the second woman of Indian origin to have been selected by NASA for a space mission after Kalpana Chawla.

Tripura to build science village

A science village is set to come up in Tripura to popularize scientific concepts in rural areas of the northeastern region.

The project at Nimbarak village, 10 km from the capital Agartala, will have a planetarium, a botanical garden, a bird sanctuary, heritage and theme parks, a laboratory, a museum and a library. Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar said 13 acres had been allotted for the project and work would start soon.

"Without spreading modern science, how can the new generation be familiar with the world?" he asked.

The project's nodal authority is the Tripura State Council for Science and Technology (TSCST), a part of the Science, Technology and Environment Department.

TSCST will manage the science village and turn it into a regional science hub. The National Council of Science Museums under the Ministry of Culture is supporting the project. The project will be completed over four years in two phases. "The project seeks to develop scientific awareness among the people," Science and Environment Minister Joy Gobinda Deb Roy said.

Wadhvani to be Trustee at the Kennedy Center

President Barack Obama has appointed Romesh Wadhvani, an Indian American founder of several software and IT companies, on board of trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Announcing his intent to appoint Wadhvani and nine other general trustees of the center, President Obama said, "These dedicated men and women bring a wealth of experience and talent to their new roles and I am proud to have them serve in this Administration."

"I look forward to working with them in the months and years to come," added President Obama, whose administration has more Indian-Americans serving in senior positions, more than any other previous administration.



Romesh Wadhvani

Set up in 1971 as a living memorial to former President John F. Kennedy, the center is the busiest performing arts facility in the United States and annually hosts approximately 2,000

performances for audiences totaling nearly two million.

According to a White House announcement, Wadhvani, who received a BA from the Indian Institute of Technology in Bombay and an MS and Ph.D. from Carnegie-Mellon University, is the founder, Chairman, and CEO of Symphony Technology Group.

He is actively involved in Kennedy Center initiatives, having served as Co-Chair of the Maximum India Festival in 2011 and as a supporter of the 2010 Honors Gala. He is the founder and Chairperson of the Wadhvani Foundation, and serves on the Board of Trustees of the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Wadhvani is the founder of several software and IT companies, including Aspect Development, Inc. 

Bollywood singer Ghosal charms AAPI audience

With a view to raising funds for its charitable activities, the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) along with the local AAPI chapters organized multi-city educational-cum-musical programs across the US. The chief attraction of the musical programs, renowned Bollywood singer Shreya Ghosal, toured nine cities from September 21 to October 7 and enthralled the audience with her string of melodies.

The programs organized with an aim to put together mini seminars in different major cities and to have 2-3 hour continuing medical education (CME)/Non CME sponsored lectures, exhibits/booths, sponsored dinner talks, etc. along with a gala musical event attracted the desired response to the satisfaction of the organizers.

The Bollywood singer entertained the audience at Orlando, Florida, on September 28; at University of Houston, Texas, on September 29 and at Atlanta, Georgia, on September 30.

Commending the hard work of all its members in making the AAPI events a success during the silver jubilee celebration of Georgia Association of Physicians of Indian heritage



Shreya Ghosal performing at the Orange County Convention Center Linda Chapin Theater, Orlando, Florida, on September 28.



Ajit Kumar, India's Consul General in Atlanta, recognizing concert title sponsor Price Holding Chairman Sebastian Joseph.

(GAPI) on September 30, AAPI President Dr. Narendra Kumar said the AAPI musical event proved helpful in bringing all the local associations closer.

The silver jubilee celebrations of GAPI started with educational CME program attended by over a hundred physicians. AAPI CME Chair



Dr. Freemu Varghese, Dr. Nik Nikam, and Dr. Kulwant Bajwa (organizers of the Houston Concert) along with Shreya Ghosal. AAPI President Dr. Narendra Kumar is also seen.

Dr. PK Natrajan gave the CME talk followed by Dr. Samir Kapadia from Cleveland Clinic, who spoke about recent advances in cardiology. Dr. Mahindra Shah deliberated on psychiatry.

During the GAPI board meeting, GAPI president Dr. Abhishek Gaur informed the board about the activities initiated by GAPI during the past few months.

The Shreya Ghosal concert began with India's Consul General in Atlanta Ajit Kumar recognizing the local team.

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

Fibers of progress

Driven by heavy investments in manufacturing plants, innovation and strategic market expansion, Indian man-made fibers are set to take center stage in the global arena

Indian textile industry plays a major role in the economy of the country. India earns about 27 per cent of its total foreign exchange through textile exports. Further, it contributes about 14 per cent to industrial production, 4 per cent to the gross domestic product (GDP), and 17 per cent to the country's export earnings. The sector is the second largest provider of employment after agriculture. It not only generates jobs in its own industry, but also opens up scopes for other ancillary sectors. The industry currently employs more than 35 million people.

The Indian textile industry can be divided into following segments:

- Cotton Textiles
- Silk Textiles
- Woolen Textiles
- Readymade Garments
- Hand-crafted Textiles
- Jute and Coir

The fiber and yarn produced in India is comparable to the best in the world. Indian fabrics are known for their excellent workmanship, colors and durability. Due to heavy investments in world-class manufacturing plants, continuous innovation, new product mix, and strategic market expansion, Indian man-made fibers (MMF) are all set to take center stage in the global arena.

Market Size

Exports of Indian MMF textiles scaled an all-time high of \$5,699 million in 2011-12, as compared to \$5,013 million in 2010-11, registering a year-on-year growth of 14 percent. In 2011-12, fabrics were the largest product category accounting for 41 percent of total exports. During 2011-12, the Middle

East was the largest market and accounted for nearly 25 percent of textile exports from India, while Asia accounted for 23 percent.

In June 2012, the production of MMF registered a growth of 18 percent, cotton yarn by 14 percent and total cloth production saw an increase of five percent.

Indian textile and apparel industry is expected to reach \$221 billion by 2021, according to Technopak's Textile and Apparel Compendium 2012.

Investments

The industry attracted foreign direct investments (FDI) worth \$11.02 million in the month of May 2012 as compared to \$4.44 million during the corresponding month in 2011.

The Indian textile industry saw three



mergers and acquisitions (M&A) deals worth \$55 million in the month of July 2012.

Government Initiatives

The Government of India has promoted a number of export promotion policies for the textile sector. This includes various incentives under Focus Market Scheme and Focus Product Scheme. It broad-based the coverage of Market Linked Focus Product Scheme for textile products and extension of Market Linked Focus Product Scheme, to increase the Indian shares in the global trade of textiles and clothing. It has also allowed 100 percent FDI in textiles under the automatic route.

The Road Ahead

The textiles industry complements the growth of several industries and institutions such as the defense forces, railways, and government hospitals, which are the key institutional buyers of technical textiles. The market is expected to grow to \$31 billion by 2020, at a CAGR of 10 percent. The industry includes production of flexible packaging material for industrial, agricultural and consumer goods. Among the other segments, protech, oekotech, spottech and geotech have significant growth potential. India's technical textile industry is an emerging area for investments with good growth opportunities.

(Courtesy: India Brand Equity Foundation)



Barfi! is India's choice for the Oscars

The magic of Anurag Basu's *Barfi!* has worked. The heartwarming movie about love between a deaf and mute boy and an autistic girl, has been chosen as India's official entry for the Academy Awards in the Best Foreign Language Film category.

The decision was taken at a Film Federation of India (FFI) meeting in Hyderabad on September 22. "*Barfi!* has indeed been chosen as the country's official entry this year," FFI Secretary-General Suparn Sen said.

The movie starring Ranbir Kapoor as Murphy aka Barfi and Priyanka Chopra as Jhilmil has been lauded in film circles for its simplistic and moving narrative that has managed to tug at the heartstrings of audiences who equally enjoy commercial potboilers.

Actor Priyanka Chopra is overwhelmed by the news and says the film was a labor of love and it was amazing to be a part of it.

"Congratulations Team Barfi! This is such amazing news. This film was a labor of love for all of us and to see it

receive such amazing success is so gratifying. This has been the toughest character of my life and to see everyone loving Jhilmil is such a dream come true. I am thrilled to be a part of such a wonderful team who made this happen," Priyanka said.

Ranbir Kapoor and Ileana D'Cruz in a still from *Barfi!*.



Priyanka plays an autistic girl named Jhilmil opposite Ranbir Kapoor in the film which was released on September 14.

Actor Ileana D'Cruz, who began her career in Bollywood with *Barfi!*, said she was proud to be part of the team and that it was an honor and privilege and a matter of pride to get an official entry to the Oscars.

FFI sends some critically acclaimed and highly appreciated films from the country to the jury of the Academy Awards. While many films including *Paan Singh Tomar*, *Kahaani* among others were short-listed, *Barfi!* was finally selected to represent India.

So far, only three Bollywood films — Mehboob Khan's *Mother India* (1957), Mira Nair's *Salaam Bombay* (1988) and Ashutosh Gowariker's *Lagaan* (2001) — have made it to the nomination stage.

Thilakan a constant in Kerala's living rooms

Malayalam cinema's much loved actor Thilakan may no longer be alive but he will forever remain a constant in Kerala's living rooms for not a day passes without one of his films being telecast on one of the numerous local TV channels.

Thilakan, 74, who passed away on September 24 after spending a month in hospital, was first a stage actor who started his career in the mid-1950s. He took the Malayalam film industry by storm with his first film, *Ulkadal* (1979). He has since acted in nearly 300 films in various south Indian languages.

His recent film *Ustad Hotel* has done well in the box office, and Thilakan stars with superstar Mammooty's son, Dulqar Salman, in it. Thilakan also appeared recently in *Indian*



Thilakan in a still from the movie *Nagaram*.

Rupiah and *Spirits*, both directed by Renjith.

Thilakan was born in Ayroor in Pathanamthitta district, Kerala. His father worked on an estate in Idukki district, and that is where he spent his early childhood.

Although much success had come Thilakan's way early as an actor, his personal life was

fraught with pain, and he would not divulge much about his home.

His two sons, Shammi and Shobhi, work as dubbing artistes in films. Shammi has also played the role of a villain in some films. Thilakan is also survived by his daughter, Sophia.

The state government had borne the hospital expenses of the actor since his hospitalisation nearly a month ago.

Besides the Padma Shri in 2009, Thilakan won national awards in 1988 for best supporting actor in the film *Hrithubhedam* and a special jury award in 2007 for his role in *Ekantham*. He was awarded by Kerala state film awards on numerous occasions, including for best actor in *Grammam* (1994) and *Premthachan* (1990).

In search of duality



(Clockwise from left) The Mahatma Gandhi Statue; Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the French War Memorial.

Puducherry is today a town with a dual personality: there is two of everything, one French and the other Indian. For every stately 17th or 18th century church or building built by the French in Puducherry, there is an equally ancient and spectacular temple.

As for the people, the friendly locals apart, the experimental township of Auroville (or the City of Dawn) is a place where you find people of practically every nationality living together in harmony. And roaming the well laid out avenues of the town, you will come upon a statue of Marquis Joseph Francois Dupleix, the governor of Puducherry from 1742 to 1754 — and it is matched, not too far away, by another: of Mahatma Gandhi.

Once you arrive at Pondi via the stunningly picturesque East Coast Road — if you are driving down from Chennai — and are in a mood for a quick heritage tour, a visit is recommended to the local municipal office. Yes, the headquarters of the Puducherry Municipality. It is housed on Goubert Avenue in a building facing the sea and painted a pristine

white, which seems to have been transported here from the Mediterranean seafloor. Nearby is the French War Memorial, where soldiers who died in World War I are honored in a ceremony on Bastille Day every year (July 14).

Other delights from Puducherry's French past are the Light House built in the early 19th century and the colonial structure that houses the French Consulate which, not surprisingly, is the only diplomatic mission in a 150 km radius. Incidentally, most of the Frenchmen and women who use the Consulate are residents of Auroville — mostly disciples and followers of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother — and are Hindus. The French diaspora here is majority Hindu.

There are, of course, churches — ranging from the serene to the grand — to visit, and other historical structures to gaze upon, but the way to really enjoy the town is to walk around the French Quarter, taking in names like Dumas Street, Romain Rolland Avenue and Suffren Street, and soaking in a distinctly European ambience.

Now, the food. There are some really nice vegetarian eating joints in Pondi. Locals strongly recommend

Surguru and Jayaram, both of which offer authentic South Indian fare. And if it is North Indian vegetarian you are looking for, the Punjabi Dhabha on Mission street has been recommended by visitors.

Continental cuisine is, however, why you really are in Pondi. The eatery at Auroville is a must-visit, not only for the serenity of its setting, but also for its authentic fare.

And scores of visitors to the town have vouched for the food at the Don Giovanni, with some even going so far as to contend that it is the best Italian restaurant in India. Other restaurants such as Rendezvous and Seagulls offer French, continental and seafood.

For a non-vegetarian foodie, though, the high point of the visit may well be eating at the Appachi, a not-so-fancy restaurant on Rangapillai street offering excellent Chettinad cuisine. And while the mutton and chicken preparations are not to be missed, please make sure you do not leave without having the shark mince. The only problem is that it may not be on the menu every day. If it is not, it's a good enough reason to extend your stay by a day, or two.

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■ In good faith...



Foreign tourists lighting candles at the illuminated Golden Temple in Amritsar, Punjab, on September 1 as Sikh devotees celebrate the 408th anniversary of the installation of the Guru Granth Sahib, the holy book of the Sikh religion. (Photo: AFP)

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