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President Pranab Mukherjee at the 'At Home' function, organized on the occasion of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh inspecting the Guard of Honor at the India's 66<sup>th</sup> Independence Day, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on August 15. Red Fort, on Independence Day, in New Delhi on August 15.

## India celebrates its 66<sup>th</sup> Independence Day

■ **AMBASSADOR MEETS FAMILIES OF GURDWARA SHOOTING VICTIMS**

■ **FINANCE MINISTER UNVEILS ROADMAP TO REVIVE GROWTH**

■ **VETERAN ACTOR A.K. HANGAL PASSES AWAY AT THE AGE OF 97**



*The failure of the Indian power grid on July 30 and 31 attracted international media attention. However, an isolated incident should not be perceived as the final word of terminal illness in the Indian power sector. Excerpts from Ambassador Nirupama Rao's blogs:*

## **India's power sector: what you also need to know**

**IT SEEMED** the entire world sat up and took note of disturbances in the Indian Power Grid on July 30 and 31, 2012, which affected major parts of Northern, Eastern and North Eastern India. While alarm bells rang, and the commentariat was rife with advice about what India should do to "fix" its power sector, it went hardly noticed that essential services in Railways, Metro Rail and Airports were restored, on both days, within a few hours.

By all accounts, the Grid is functioning normally since, and is being closely monitored by a phalanx of engineers and specialists. At the highest levels of Government there is the firm resolve that these instances should not happen in future. Steps are being taken to review trans-regional and other critical

links, strengthen and re-inforce the weaker elements, impose substantial congestion charges to curb over-drawal by States, and so on.

During the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan period, spanning 2007-2012, India added 55,000 MW of electric power generating capacity, which is almost the same as was added during the three preceding Plan periods. And, significantly, the capacity addition of 20,500 MW in the Financial Year (FY) 2011-12 is the highest ever capacity addition in any year. In fact, this capacity addition led to the deficit in power supply, in terms of peak availability and total energy availability, to decline during the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. While the energy deficit decreased from 9.6 per cent in the terminal year

of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan (2006-07) to 7.9 per cent during April-December 2011, the peak deficit declined from 13.8 per cent in 2006-7 to 10.6 per cent during the same period. .

Let's not make the power grid failure the signature tune for India's power sector. The achievements to augment our capacity in the last few years have been significant, and we must not fail to recognize them. For a country as large and as complex as ours, we've come a long way, in terms of progress, from where we were even a few years ago. 

**The full text of the Ambassador's blog can be viewed at:**

[http://www.indianembassy.org/news\\_files/News\\_File\\_2017.pdf](http://www.indianembassy.org/news_files/News_File_2017.pdf)

## **India's misunderstood electrical grid**

**THE INTERNATIONAL** media reacted with alarm last month when major parts of northern India suffered power outages. They shouldn't have. The failure of the electric grid on July 30 and 31 was an isolated incident. The government and private sectors are working hard to prevent a recurrence.

No one would claim that delivering reliable electricity to a country of more than 1.2 billion residents is easy. Certainly India, with its accelerating economic growth in the last few years, has had its challenges in this area. But occasional problems should not obscure the substantial progress that has been made.

The disruption of service had a limited duration because India has steadily improved its ability to produce,

transmit and distribute power over the last decade. In 2003, India passed the Electricity Act, which spurred open access to the grid and cleared the way for private participation in electricity generation. As a result, millions of Indians have benefited mightily from their new-found ability to receive electricity.

India added 55,000 megawatts of electrical capacity between 2007 and 2012. That was as much power as had been added in the previous 15 years. The 20,500 megawatts of capacity added in fiscal 2012 was the largest yearly boost in India's history and was a remarkable achievement given the fact that in 1947 — the year India declared its independence — the country had a total generation capacity of only 1,376 megawatts.

The federal government in India has taken a series of steps to work with states to bolster the financial health of utilities. In addition, almost all villages in the country have been electrified under a program launched in 2004. In his Independence Day address earlier this month, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said that his next goal was to provide electricity to every household in the nation in the next five years.

The temporary lapse in India's power grid last month was unfortunate but was also an aberration. 

**The full text of the Ambassador's article can be viewed at:**

<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/foreign-policy/246389-indias-misunderstood-electrical-grid>

# Peace must be our ideology: President

President Pranab Mukherjee urged the citizens to embrace non-violence and carry out their duties with unflinching loyalty to the values enshrined in the Constitution



President Pranab Mukherjee addressing the Nation on the eve of India's 66<sup>th</sup> Independence Day in New Delhi on August 14.

**S**tressing that democratic temper calls for dignity of behavior and tolerance of contrary views, President Pranab Mukherjee in his address to the Nation on the eve of India's 66<sup>th</sup> Independence Day on August 14 said that peace was essential for achieving progress. "We need peace for a new economic surge that eliminates the competitive causes of violence," he said.

President Mukherjee underlined the importance of Parliament in a democratic set-up, calling it the "soul of the people, the *atman* of India".

He said that the Indian economy was confident and resilient enough to withstand the adverse external environment. The President called for further strengthening the economy by

extending green revolution to the eastern parts of the country and fast tracking the creation of high-quality infrastructure. "Education and health services have to reach the last man at the earliest," he said.

### ***Excerpts from President Mukherjee's speech on the occasion:***

"We are all equal children before our mother; and India asks each one of us, in whatsoever role we play in the complex drama of nation-building, to do our duty with integrity, commitment and unflinching loyalty to the values enshrined in our Constitution.

It is important to remember, on Independence Day, that in the age of empires freedom was never given; it was taken. It was won by a generation of giants, led by a mighty man of des-

tiny, Mahatma Gandhi, who fought with selfless, unflinching conviction against the mightiest power in history, with a moral force that transformed political thought and whose reverberations echo in great events all around us today. If the rise of European colonization began in 18<sup>th</sup> century India, then the rallying cry of "Jai Hind!" also signalled its end in 1947. The final call to victory, "Jai Hind!" was given by Subhas Chandra Bose, fondly known to every Indian as "Netaji". Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Baba Saheb Ambedkar, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Sarojini Naidu and many others charted the roadmap of independent India. These extraordinary men and women sacrificed their todays for our tomorrows. That tomorrow has come, and there is

a question we must ask ourselves: have we honored the great vision of these stalwarts, as a nation and as a society?

Netaji and Nehruji believed that India could seize the future by an application of synthesis, *samyavada*, of what might seem on surface to be implacable opposites. They believed that free India would become, by example, an alternative model for a post-colonial world through economic equity and a social revolution inspired by harmony between communities that had been misled into hostility. Propelled by freedom of faith, gender equality and economic justice for all, India will become a modern nation. Minor blemishes cannot cloak the fact that India is becoming such a modern nation: no faith is in danger in our country, and the continuing commitment to gender equality is one of the great narratives of our times.

I am not a pessimist; for me, the glass is always half full, rather than half empty. I would go to the extent of saying that the glass of modern India is more than half full. Our productive working class; our inspiring farmers, who have lifted a famine-wrecked land to food-surplus status, our imaginative industrialist entrepreneurs, whether in the private or public sector; our intellectuals, our academics and our political class have knit together a modern nation that has leapt, within mere decades, across many centuries in economic growth and progressive social legislation.

If our economy has achieved critical mass, then it must become a launching pad for the next leap. We need a second freedom struggle; this time to ensure that India is free for ever from hunger, disease and poverty. As my pre-eminent predecessor Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, speaking from this platform on the 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of freedom, said, "Economic progress is one of the tests of democracy."

If progress falls behind rising aspirations, particularly of the young, rage will manifest itself. We are a nation that is becoming younger both in age and spirit; this is an opportunity as well as a challenge. The young thirst for



President Pranab Mukherjee paying homage at the Amar Jawan Jyoti, India Gate, on the occasion of India's 66<sup>th</sup> Independence Day, in New Delhi on August 15.

“Two decades of steady economic reforms have contributed to improvement in average income and consumption levels in both rural and urban areas”

— President Pranab Mukherjee

knowledge that will lift their skills; and for opportunity that will put India on the fast track to the first world. They have the character; they need the chance. Education is the seed; and economy is the fruit. Provide good education; disease, hunger and poverty will recede. As I said in my acceptance speech, our motto must be: All for knowledge and knowledge for all. Vision cannot be an open-ended vista; it must be focused on our youth.

Notwithstanding the tremendous pressure of an adverse external environment, our economy today is more resilient and confident. Two decades of steady economic reforms have contributed to improvement in average income and consumption levels in both rural and urban areas. There is new found dynamism in some of the most backward areas bringing them into national economic mainstream.

I do not believe that there is any inherent contradiction in protecting our environment and economic development. As long as we heed Gandhiji's great lesson: there is sufficient in the world for man's need but not for man's greed, we are safe. We must learn to live in harmony with nature. Nature cannot be consistent; we must be able

to conserve her bounty during the many seasons of plenty so that we are not bereft during the occasional bout of scarcity.

Institutions are the visible pillars of our Constitution, and if they crack, then the idealism of our Constitution cannot hold. They are the interface between principles and the people. Our institutions may have suffered from the weariness of time; the answer is not to destroy what has been built, but to re-engineer them so that they become stronger than before. Institutions are the guardians of our liberty.

I am proud of our brave armed forces and our valiant police forces, who have done so much, at such great personal risk, to curb the menace of terrorism. If we sleep in peace it is because they are awake and vigilant in the desolation of desert and mountain and forest; and in the vast loneliness of the seas.”

The full text of President Pranab Mukherjee's speech can be viewed at:

<http://www.indianembassy.org/prdetail2014/president-shri-pranab-mukherjeeandrsquo%3Bs-address-to-the-nation-on-the-eve-of-the-66th-independence-day>



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh addressing the Nation from the Red Fort on India's 66<sup>th</sup> Independence Day in New Delhi on August 15.

## 'We have achieved extraordinary success'

Calling for political consensus on matters of national security, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh said that no power in the world could stop India from achieving new heights of progress and development

**A**ddressing the Nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on India's 66<sup>th</sup> Independence Day on August 15, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh said that despite global economic slowdown, India had achieved extraordinary successes in many areas during the last eight years. "We now need to replicate these successes in newer areas," he said.

"I promise to you today that our Government will work hard for India's rapid economic growth and for shielding the country from the effects of the global economic slowdown. I promise that we will work hard for creation of new employment opportunities for our young men and women living in villages and cities," Prime Minister Singh said.

The Prime Minister promised every possible effort to secure the livelihood of the poor and encourage investment in the country. Pointing out the problems that have afflicted the world economy, he said, "We cannot do much about the conditions that prevail outside our country. But we must make every effort to resolve the problems inside our country so that our economic growth and the creation of employment opportunities in the country are again speeded up."

### *Excerpts from the Prime Minister's speech on the occasion:*

"The leaders of our freedom movement, under the stewardship of Mahatma Gandhi, had dreamt of an independent and prosperous India. On this day in 1947, Pandit Jawaharlal

Nehru took the first step toward the realization of that dream by hoisting the Tricolor at the Red Fort. The journey we began on August 15, 1947 is now 65 years old. We have achieved much in these 65 years.

Today is certainly a day to celebrate the success of our democracy. However, on this occasion we should also introspect about what remains to be done. We would achieve independence in the true sense only when we are able to banish poverty, illiteracy, hunger and backwardness from our country. This would be possible only when we learn from our failures and build on our successes.

I promise to you today that our Government will work hard for India's rapid economic growth and for shielding the country from the effects of the

global economic slowdown. I promise that we will work hard for creation of new employment opportunities for our young men and women living in villages and cities. We will make every possible effort to secure the livelihood of our poor brothers and sister, our workers and our farmers. We will leave no stone unturned to encourage investment in our country so that our entrepreneurs can make a substantial contribution to our economy.

It has been our endeavour in the last eight years to empower our citizens socially and economically so that they can contribute to the sacred task of nation building. Today, one out of every five households in the country has become eligible to benefit from the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Act through a job card. In only the last one year we have provided employment to more than 80 million people under this scheme.

When the UPA Government came to power in 2004, we had promised that we would provide electricity to all villages. To fulfill this promise, we launched the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme. More than 100,00 new villages have been provided with electricity connections under this scheme and now almost all the villages in the country have been electrified. Our next target is to provide electricity to each and every household in our country in the next



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, during his speech to the Nation on August 15, said the Government would take steps to increase investment for infrastructure development with the help of the private sector.

five years and to also improve the supply of electricity.

No praise is high enough for our hard working farmers. They have produced a record output of crops successively in the last two years. Because of our Government's efforts for development of agriculture and for protecting the interests of farmers, agriculture has grown at an average rate of 3.3 per cent in the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan which is substantially higher than the 2.4 per cent we achieved in the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan. In the last eight years, we have doubled the support prices of crops. We are providing loans at low interest rates to thousands of farmers.

Our children are the biggest strength of our country. If our children are pro-

vided with good education and are healthy, then our future would be bright. This is the reason why we have paid special attention to the needs of children in our policies and programmes. The education of children has been made mandatory by law.

In the last one and half years no new case of polio has come to light and now India does not figure in the list of countries affected by this disease.

Malnutrition in children is a big challenge for us. We have taken steps in many dimensions to deal with this problem. In the last eight years, the number of mothers and children benefiting from the ICDS has doubled. The process of making the ICDS more effective is in its last stages and

## INDIA A BEACON FOR THE WORLD: US

**G**reeting India on behalf of President Barack Obama and the American people on its 66<sup>th</sup> Independence Day, the U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called India "a beacon for the world of the power of non-violence and the promise of democracy".

"As you celebrate this special day with family, friends and loved ones, know that the United States stands with you as a partner and friend," Secretary Clinton said in her message of best wishes on the eve of India's Independence Day, on August 13.

"The United States stands side by side with



Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

India in a strategic, indispensable partnership built on our shared democratic values and fundamental belief in the entrepreneurial spirit," she assured.

The Indian and the U.S. governments and the people of the two countries, she said, "will continue to work together to tackle the challenges and seize the opportunities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century." She said through her many visits to India, she had "been impressed with the creativity of the Indian people, the richness of your culture, and the resilience and strength of your democratic institutions".

will be completed in the next one or two months.

We had launched the National Rural Health Mission in 2005 so that health services can be extended to each village in the country. Today this Mission is being implemented with the help of one million health personnel including 85,0000 Asha workers. After the success of the National Rural health Mission, we now want to expand the scope of health services in our towns also. The National Rural Health Mission will be converted into a National Health Mission which would cover all villages and towns in the country.

We want to create many new job opportunities for our youth in the coming years. To achieve this it is necessary that we train them in skills which our economy needs. It is our endeavour to put in place a system in which training facilities are available in many new skills. We also wish to provide short duration training courses of six weeks to six months for our young brothers and sisters. The National Skill Development Council has formulated a major scheme for skill development

in which 80 million people will be trained in the next five years.

Creation of new employment opportunities is possible only when we encourage industry and trade. For this we need to speedily improve our infrastructure. Recently we have taken new measures to accelerate infrastructure development. Ambitious targets have been fixed in roads, airports, railways, electricity generation and coal production. The Government will take steps to increase investment for infrastructure development with the help of the private sector. To attract foreign capital, we will have to create confidence at the international level that there are no barriers to investment in India.

Just 10 years back only three out of every 10 households in our villages were benefitting from banking services. Today more than half of the rural households get the benefit of bank accounts. It will be our endeavor to ensure that all households benefit from bank accounts in the next two years.

This year, we will present the Twelfth Five Year Plan for consideration of the National Development Council. The

Plan would determine the future course of action on all important matters relating to the country's development. It would lay down measures for increasing our present rate of economic growth from 6.5 to 9 percent in the last year of the Plan. The Plan would focus special attention on areas important from the point of view of reaching the fruits of development to each citizen of our country and specially to the weaker sections of our society.

We have achieved success in many areas of internal security. In Jammu and Kashmir, people participated in large numbers in the Panchayat elections. There has been a reduction in violence in the North Eastern States and we are engaged in dialogue with many groups there so that they can join the mainstream of development. We have initiated new schemes of development in areas affected by naxal violence to ensure that the grievances of the people residing there, especially our brothers and sisters belonging to Scheduled Tribes, can be removed and their lot can be improved. However, we need to be constantly vigilant as far as internal security is concerned. Communal harmony has to be maintained at all costs.

Our Government believes that the difficult problems which India faces can be resolved only with the cooperation of the common man. It will be our endeavour that in the coming time, still more people help us in tasks like removal of poverty, illiteracy and inequality.

I believe that no power in the world can stop our country from achieving new heights of progress and development. What is needed is that we work together as one people for the success of our country. Let us once more resolve that we will continue to work for a progressive, modern and prosperous India.”

**“ We will leave no stone unturned to encourage investment in our country so that our entrepreneurs can make a substantial contribution to our economy ”**

— Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh



Indian Border Security Force soldiers during a ceremony to celebrate India's Independence Day.

The full text of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's speech can be viewed at: <http://www.indianembassy.org/prdetail2015/prime-minister-dr.-manmohan-singhandrsquo%3Bs-independence-day-speech%2C-2012>

# Ambassador meets victims of gurdwara shooting

**A**mbassador Nirupama Rao offered her condolences to the family members and relatives of the victims of the August 5 shooting at a Sikh gurdwara in Wisconsin and assured them of all support by the Embassy of India and Consulate General in Chicago during her visit to Oak Creek, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on August 7. She praised the valiant act of the late Satwant Singh Kaleka, President of the gurdwara, in confronting and resisting the gunman, thus saving the lives of many devotees in the gurdwara.

Ambassador Rao also addressed a large gathering at National Night Out, where a vigil and a memorial service was conducted in memory of the victims of the gurdwara shootings. Terming the incident a senseless act of violence, the Ambassador urged everyone to unite against violence in an expression of common humanity and in a manner that transcends nationality. Governor of Wisconsin Scott Walker was also present at the vigil.

Oak Creek Mayor Steve Scaffidi



Ambassador Nirupama Rao in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, soon after the gurdwara attack. (Photo: India Abroad)

welcomed the Ambassador to Oak Creek and expressed regret over the tragic incident. He also informed Ambassador Rao of the measures that he would put in place for improving communication with the Sikh community and to upgrade the security at the gurdwara.

The Ambassador also spoke to

Police Chief John Edwards and FBI Special Agent in charge Teresa Carlson to take stock of the investigation of the shooting incident. She conveyed her appreciation for the prompt action by Oak Creek police and the heroic role of Lt. Brian Murphy who was shot several times by the assailant.

## ‘We should not fear for the future of our community’

**C**alling the August 5 Wisconsin gurdwara shooting an unfortunate and tragic incident, Ambassador Nirupama Rao in an interview to Suhasini Haidar of *CNN IBN* on August 8 said that there was no need to create a fear psychosis about what had happened. “Our community, the Indian Americans in this country, have prospered and they live secure lives and their children go to school, they are part of the work force, they travel around the country, they have made their lives here and that’s the example that should prove an inspiration to all future numbers of our people who come to this country, who come to work here, to live here and that’s the message I would like to convey,” she said.

Regarding the security of the Sikh community in the United States, the Ambassador said, the law enforcement agencies of the country were contemplating putting in place certain addition measures. Ambassador Rao said that the law enforcement officials spoke of instituting greater vigilance in the places of worships and establishing a channel of communication between the Sikh community and the law enforcement agencies so that they could share information about any suspicious event or any circumstances that they feel require investigation. She said that establishing such habits of cooperation between the citizenry would help prevent acts of violence.

She said that it was important for the

American people at large to know more about the Sikh community, about Sikhism as a religion, about the role that the Sikhs have played through history in terms of their valor and their compassion and their community spirit.

“That’s a process that we should take with a lot of seriousness for the future,” the Ambassador said.

**The full transcript of the interview can be read at:** <http://www.indianembassy.org/prdetail2012/transcript-of-ambassador-nirupama-raoandrsquo%3Bs-interview-on-august-8%2C-2012-with-suhasini-haidar-of-cnn-ibn-on-the-august-5-shooting-incident-at-a-gurdwara-in-oak-creek%2C-wisconsin-%28usa%29>

## 'We have to move forward'

**S**aying that the gurdwara shooting incident in Wisconsin on August 5 should not define India's relations with the larger American community, Ambassador Nirupama Rao, during an interview on *NPR*'s 'Tell me more' with Michel Martin on August 9, said it was time to move forward. Ambassador Rao said she was struck by the calm, composure and dignity of the families and relatives of the victims of the gurdwara shooting when she met with them.

"There's been a process of healing and a process of coming together once

again, and that is really the story of India. I think we have tremendous resilience and capacity to heal. And I think that is really what is called for again in the current situation. We have to move forward," she said.

Ambassador Rao said that the Indian-Americans, particularly the Sikhs, are eternal optimists. "That's the capacity to look ahead, to heal, to be tolerant, to be understanding and to be calm and composed in the face of terrible grief or tragedy."

Pointing out the futility of violence, Ambassador Rao said, "We need some soul searching. Why do acts of vio-



Ambassador Nirupama Rao with Michel Martin of *NPR*'s 'Tell Me More' after her interview at the *NPR* Studio on August 9. (Photo: *NPR*'s Amy Ta)

lence of this nature happen? We need a mature conversation on that." ■

**The full transcript of the interview can be read at:** <http://www.npr.org/2012/08/09/158494217/sikh-temple-shooting-felt-across-the-world>



## Ambassador Rao calls on Mayor Bloomberg

Ambassador Nirupama Rao with Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg at Gracie Mansion, New York, on July 31.

## NCAIA celebrates India's Independence Day



Ambassador Nirupama Rao at a Banquet hosted by the Indian American community organizations of the Greater Washington Metropolitan region and the National Council of Asian Indian Associations (NCAIA) on August 26 to mark India's Independence Day. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Blake and Dr. Rajan Natarajan, Deputy Secretary of State for Policy and External Affairs, Maryland Government, are also seen.



Ambassador Nirupama Rao addressing the gathering.

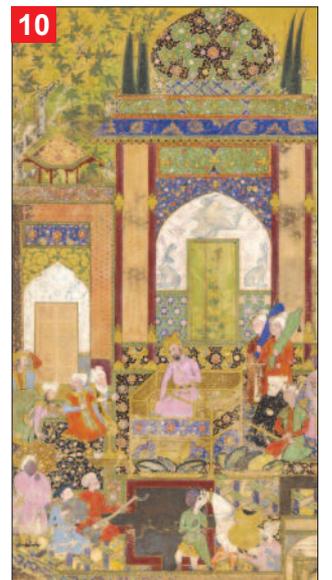
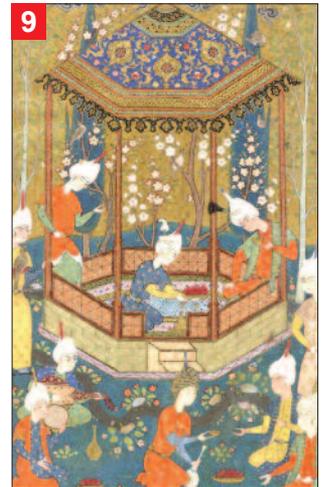
# Smithsonian celebrates Indian culture, art



7. Presentation of Indian flute music recital at the event.

8. Bollywood dance performance at the event.

9&10: Paintings from 'Worlds within Worlds: Imperial Paintings from India and Iran', displayed at the event. The paintings display the artistic legacy of the Mughal patrons who nurtured India's leading painters, calligraphers, and illuminators between 1556 and 1657.



1. Ambassador Nirupama Rao and Dr. Julian Raby, Director of the Freer & Sackler Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution inaugurating the event 'Inspired by India: A Family Celebration' on August 11. Sponsored by the State Bank of India, and with support from the Embassy of India, the event showcased Kathak and Bollywood dance performances, Indian flute music presentation, making of *rakhi* bracelets, Indian *rangoli* paintings, henna designs and offered Indian food. Also at the display was 'Worlds within Worlds: Imperial Paintings from India and Iran'.  
2. Ambassador Nirupama Rao lighting the lamp at the

3. Ambassador Nirupama Rao, Dr. Julian Raby and Dr. Debra Diamond, Curator at the Freer & Sackler Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution, at the event.  
4. Ambassador Nirupama Rao, Dr. Julian Raby and Dr. Debra Diamond viewing the exhibition of Arts of the Indian Subcontinent and the Himalayas.  
5. Creation of traditional Indian *rangoli* designs as part of the event.  
6. A presentation of classical Kathak dance performance at the inauguration of the event.

## Embassy celebrates Independence Day 2012



1. Ambassador Nirupama Rao laying the wreath at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi outside the Embassy on the occasion of India's Independence Day on August 15.
2. Ambassador Nirupama Rao unfurling the Indian National Flag on the occasion.
3. Ambassador Nirupama Rao addressing the guests and reading out the President's Address to the Nation.
4. A group of singers led by Rabin Goswami presenting Indian patriotic songs. Other members are Satyen Das, Anurag Barua, Nipika Bora, Arundhotee Goswami and Anjana Bordoloi.
5. Ambassador Nirupama Rao with the group of singers.
6. A section of the guests in attendance.



## Eid-UI-Fitr celebrations at Embassy Residence



1. Ambassador Nirupama Rao welcoming and greeting the guests at the Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations hosted at the Embassy Residence on August 24. In the course of the celebrations, Ambassador Rao tweeted, "Extremely happy to welcome our Muslim brethren to a celebration of Eid-ul-Fitr at my residence today. A magical evening, perfect weather".
2. Rashmi Sanan introducing the event to the guests.
3. Invocation (recitation from the Holy Quran) by Yusuf Hameed — Dawoodi Bohra Community.
4. English translation of the Invocation prayer by Ahsan Ali Khan, Hyderabad Association of Metropolitan Area.
5. Afeefa Syed, Senior Advisor at the U.S. Agency for International Development Middle East and Asia Bureaus, speaking on 'Significance of Eid-UI-Fitr: Our Renewed Commitment to Nurturing the Positive'.
6. A musical performance by community children.
7. Dr. Sajeev Anand presenting songs on the occasion.
8. Devapriya [Debu] Nayak presenting a Tabla recital.
9. Dr. Afshan Hashmi proposing the vote of thanks.
10. Guests in attendance.
11. Ambassador Nirupama Rao greeting and interacting with the guests at the Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations.

# 'India-US trade has more than doubled'



During the annual gala and awards banquet of the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston (IACCGH), Parvathaneni Harish, Consul General of India in Houston hosted a luncheon reception in honor of DCM Arun K. Singh on August 25. Congressmen Ted Poe and Pete Olsen, Lt. Governor of Texas David Dewhurst and Indian community leaders attended the event. DCM Singh was the chief guest at the annual event.



DCM Arun K. Singh addressing the gathering.

Addressing the annual gala and awards banquet of the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston (IACCGH) on August 25, Deputy Chief of Mission Arun K. Singh underscored the importance of private sector cooperation in strengthening India-U.S. commercial engagements. Commending the role of IACC in fostering bilateral commercial relationship between India and the US, the DCM underlined that two-way trade between the two countries had more than doubled over the last four years.

"It is broadly a balanced trade relationship. In addition, capital flows and investment efforts are also now taking

place in both directions. Over the last five years Indian companies have invested about \$30 billion in the U.S. economy. Indian IT sector has contributed \$15 billion as taxes here over the same period, and about \$3 billion as social security contributions," the DCM said.

He said that India's partnerships with the U.S. in areas of technology and innovation would provide new growth avenues for both the countries.

Pointing out the growing strategic partnership between India and the US, DCM Singh said the "existing frequency, breadth and intensity of our political engagement is reflective of the great transformation in the relation-

ship". He said that the two countries now exchange views "on almost all issues of bilateral, regional and global interest, without compromising on the strategic autonomy of our respective decision making on such matters."

He also commended the role of the Indian-Americans in strengthening the relationship between India and the U.S.

**The full text of DCM Singh's speech can be read at:**

<http://www.indianembassy.org/prdetail2023/remarks-by-dcm-ambassador-arun-k.-singh-at-indo-american-chamber-of-commerce-annual-gala%3A-25-august%2C-2012>



DCM Arun K. Singh presenting the IACCGH — International Educator of the Year award to Dr. Suresh Kahtor, Associate Dean of the university of Houston Cullen College of Engineering.



From left, Ajit Thakur, President, IACCGH; Congressman Al Green; DCM Arun K. Singh and Consul General Parvathaneni Harish at the event.

## Independence Day celebrations at CGI New York



(Left) Consul General Prabhu Dayal addressing the gathering during a reception he hosted to commemorate India's Independence Day on August 15; (right) a section of the audience at the event.

To mark the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of India's Independence, the Consulate General of India, New York, hosted a reception on August 15. Ambassador Prabhu Dayal, Consul General of India, read out excerpts from the President's message delivered on the eve of India's Independence Day. During his speech, Ambassador Dayal said that the Indian community in the U.S. had been contributing immensely to the growing friendship between India and the US. The vibrant community had also been organizing functions in various parts of the country to commemorate India's Independence Day, he added.

Around 250 guests, including

prominent members of the Indian-American community and local dignitaries also participated at the event.

Ambassador Frank G. Wisner, in his remarks said that he had the privilege of serving as the U.S. Ambassador to India from 1994-97 and since then, relations between the two countries had increased manifold in various fields, primarily political, economic, defense, science & technology, etc. Ambassador Manjeev Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative of Indian Permanent Mission to the UN, in his address said that during the last 18 months of India's UN Security Council membership, India and the U.S. had been working very closely in various fields.

## Consul General rings NASDAQ Opening Bell

To commemorate India's 66<sup>th</sup> Independence Day, NASDAQ invited Ambassador Prabhu Dayal, Consul General of India in New York, to ring the Opening Bell on August 15. The NASDAQ billboard flashed the Indian tricolor with accompanied words 'NASDAQ Celebrates India's Independence Day — August 15, 2012.'



The Consul General added that the Government of India was pursuing policies which encourage investment in infrastructure and expressed his confidence that NASDAQ would continue to focus the interest of investors on the opportunities provided by India and thus play a positive and helpful role in the growth of the Indian economy.



Opening of the University of Texas at Dallas Asia Center on August 10: from left, Yan Guohua, Consul and Director of Education in the Consulate General of China in Houston; Parvathaneni Harish, Consul General of India; David Daniel, UTD President; Steve Lyle, Director of Diversity and Workforce Development for Texas Instruments; Zhang Xiuqin, Director-General of the Department of International Cooperation and Exchanges; Monique Wedderburn, Director of the Center; and Dennis Kratz, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities at UTD.

## CGI's engagements



A Memorial Service for the victims of shooting at a gurdwara in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was held at India House, Houston, Texas, on August 12. Consul General Parvathaneni Harish (5<sup>th</sup> from right) and many elected representatives and religious leaders of different faiths also attended the event. Also seen is Congressman Al Green (6<sup>th</sup> from right).

## Beyond Bollywood and much more...



***In September 2013, the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program will open Beyond Bollywood: Indian Americans Shape the Nation, at the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) in Washington, DC. Beyond Bollywood will celebrate the history, art, and culture of Indian immigrants and Indian Americans, and showcase the vitality of the Indian diaspora.***

***Dr. Masum Momaya succeeded Dr. Pawan Dhingra as the new curator of the Indian American Heritage Project in June 2012. She was earlier a curator at the International Museum of Women and engaged in curatorial work for the Indo-American Heritage Museum. She is also a recipient of a National Science Foundation Research Fellowship. In a candid conversation with India Review (IR), Dr. Momaya talks about Beyond Bollywood and the future plans of the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program***

**IR:** What can people expect to see when they visit *Beyond Bollywood*?

**MM:** Something amazing, I hope. The exhibition will highlight the defining vibrancy of the Indian-American community: sights, colors, energy, tastes, and diversity. While much of the exhibition will feature iconic images, music, art and artifacts to tell stories about innovation and achievement, it will also recognize our struggles as a community and our many civic and political contributions to the United States; this is an aspect of American history that is not well known by the general public.

**IR:** Will the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program organize events around the exhibition?

**MM:** Absolutely. *Beyond Bollywood* is the starting point for a larger conversation about the

Indian-American experience. From 2013-2014, we are planning a wide variety of public programs — an *Inside the Actors Studio* conversation with an Indian-American actor, a film screening, dance and music performances, a book reading, a demonstration and tasting with an Indian-American chef, a hip hop/spoken word evening, a comedy night, and hopefully much more.

**IR:** Will *Beyond Bollywood* travel or do you have to come to Washington, DC?

**MM:** After a one-year tenure at the Smithsonian, *Beyond Bollywood* will travel to venues across the country for 3-5 years. The Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) will organize the tour of the traveling version of the exhibition. In addition to the more than 7 million visitors who will see the exhibition at the Smithsonian, we estimate

that an additional 100,000 people will be able to experience *Beyond Bollywood* when it tours across the nation. The exhibition will also have an interactive website.

**IR:** How can our readers be a part of this effort?

**MM:** We are still raising funds for the exhibition and looking for supporters. And we are looking for photographs! We are crowdsourcing the story of Indian-Americans and asking Indian-Americans across the country to share their story. We recently launched a campaign to collect family photos. I hope people will be willing to be part of this effort at collective storytelling and upload their photos to our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/home-spunproject](http://www.facebook.com/home-spunproject)) or send them to [indianamerican@si.edu](mailto:indianamerican@si.edu). Photos should include the submitter's name or family's name, the year that the photo was taken, and the occasion. ■

# PM cautions international rating agencies

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on August 11 asked the international rating agencies not to draw unwarranted conclusions on the economy's growth prospects and asserted that the fundamentals of the Indian economy were strong.

"The fundamentals of the economy are strong. We have the highest savings and investments rate in the world," said the Prime Minister.

"We shouldn't draw unwarranted conclusions. This year we will see better than 6.5 percent (GDP) growth of last year," Prime Minister Singh said on the sidelines of the swearing-in ceremony of Vice President Hamid Ansari at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi.

The Prime Minister was commenting on the global rating agencies which



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh

recently cut India's growth forecast for 2012-13, citing lack of policy reforms and slowdown in manufacturing and exports and a below average monsoon.

Moody's said in a latest note on August 8 that the slowdown had been sharper and more broad-based than anticipated and was now deeply entrenched across all sectors of the economy and cut the growth rate to 5.5 percent.

India's economic growth slumped to nine-year low of 5.3 percent in the quarter ended in March.

The government is aiming at around 7 percent growth, but the Reserve Bank of India recently lowered the growth outlook to 6.5 percent for 2012-13.

The newly appointed Finance Minister P. Chidambaram said that the government would take necessary steps and remove hurdles in critical sectors like power and transport that were impeding growth.

## Government considering amendments to boost SEZs

The government is considering steps to ensure that SEZs remain attractive destinations for investment, Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma has said.

Minister Sharma said he had written to the Finance Minister to reconsider withdrawing the Minimum Alternate Tax and the Dividend Distribution Tax.

"Access to cheap credit at interest rates comparable to those in competitive international markets has also engaged my attention especially in the wake of a slowdown in the economy," he said.

He said the government was working closely with the industry leaders to formulate a slew of measures to offer a fillip to the special economic zone exports.

He said the gems and jewelry sector, being the single largest merchandise item of export, earning valuable foreign exchange fetching approximately \$42 billion.

The minister pointed out that the government was encouraging global partnerships and collaborative ventures to adopt a diversified approach in the jewelry sector.

## FM unveils roadmap to revive growth

Finance Minister P. Chidambaram on August 6 assured the investors that the government would fine-tune policies to meet their expectations and revive growth.



Finance Minister P. Chidambaram

"The key to restart the growth engine is to attract more investment, both from domestic investors and foreign investors. Since investment is an act of faith, we must remove any apprehension or distrust in the minds

of investors," he said unveiling a roadmap to revive growth.

"We will improve communication of our policies to potential investors. The aim will be to remove the perceived difficulties in doing business in India, including fears about undue regulatory burden or regulatory over-reach," the Finance Minister said.

He said Indian companies, especially public sector enterprises which have large cash balances, would be encouraged to restart investment. "Proposals pending with the Foreign Investment Promotion Board will be processed and decisions taken expeditiously."

"Clarity in tax laws, a stable tax regime, a non-adversarial tax administration, a fair mechanism for dispute resolution, and an independent judiciary will provide great assurance to investors," he said. "Today the Indian economy is stronger and better prepared to face the challenges. Moderate growth in two out of eight years should not dent our confidence," said the Finance Minister.

# First Boeing C-17 to arrive in India by mid-2013

**A**erospace major Boeing has said the first of the 10 heavy-lift military aircraft, C-17 Globemaster III, for the Indian Air Force (IAF) will arrive in the country by June 2013.

Speaking on the sidelines of the “Major Join” ceremony for the first Indian C-17 aircraft that was conducted at the Long Beach (California) facility of the aerospace major, officials confirmed that the final assembly of the first of the 10 aircraft would be completed by December, 2012 and the first trial flight would take place by January 2013.

“The first aircraft is on its way for final assembly. We expect it to be ready by the end of this year. The first flight test after the induction of indigenous components manufactured by Indian companies will be conducted in January 2013,” said Robert P. Ciesla, Vice-President, Airlift and C-17 Programme Manager, Mobility, for Boeing Defense, Space and Security.

The “Major Join” ceremony entails riveting of the aircraft’s fuselage with other parts like wings and the cargo hull. The ceremony was attended by senior officials of the Indian embassy,



Consul General of India in San Francisco, Ambassador N. Parthasarthy, speaking at the “Major Join” event on July 31.



Consul General Parthasarthy riveting.



Air Attache Air Commodore Sanjay Nimesh riveting.

the Indian Air Force and U.S. leaders who drove the ceremonial rivets into the C-17.

In June 2011, the Indian Defense Ministry signed an agreement with the U.S. government to acquire 10 C-17

airlifters under the foreign military sales (FMS) provisions.

Other officials with Boeing Defense, Space and Security said the total of 10 aircraft would be delivered to India by the end of 2014.

# Tata-made Sikorsky S-92 helicopter airframe takes off

**T**he first Sikorsky S-92 — a large, twin-engine helicopter that can be used for both civil and military purposes — with a Made-in-India airframe is now flying in Brazil.

Air Vice Marshal (retired) Arvind Walia, Sikorsky’s Regional Executive for India and South Asia, told *India Strategic* defense magazine ([www.indiastategic.in](http://www.indiastategic.in)) that the Tatas had supplied 15 airframes to the U.S. company, which was fitting them with cockpits, engines, systems and rotors. The completed helicopters are now ready for supply to global customers.



The first Sikorsky S-92 helicopter with a Made-in-India cabin lands in Brazil. (Photo: India Strategic)

The flight tests on the first Tata-made S-92 cabin have progressed satisfactorily and the helicopter is now being customized for supply to Lider Aviacao of Brazil.

Sikorsky and the Tata group already have a 26:74 partnership joint venture, TARA, which manufactures and supplies about 4,300 components to the Tata Advanced Systems Ltd. (TASL) in Hyderabad. TASL, a Tata company, makes the cabins, fits them with these components and sends them to the Sikorsky facility at Coatsville in Pennsylvania, US.

Walia said TASL was turning out the airframes at the low rate initial production (LRIP) of two a month but should be moved to three a month in accordance with the demand by 2013.

# Nano-scale device to detect big explosives

**R**esearchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, (IIT-M) have developed a novel device that can visually detect even a single molecule of TNT (trinitrotoluene) used in the making of powerful explosives.

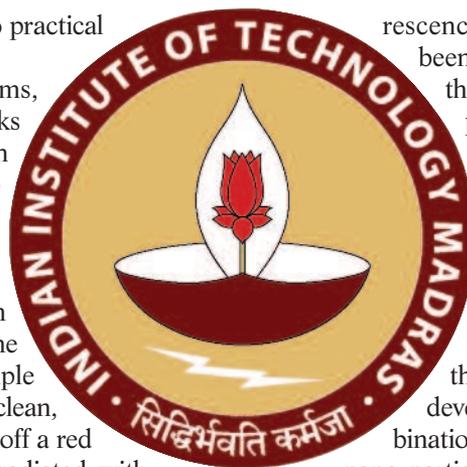
Apart from national security, this ultra-sensitive and highly selective detection method will have applications in early identification of diseases and in radiation prevention, the IIT researchers claim.

Chemistry Professor Thalappil Pradeep and his students Ammu Mathew and P.R. Sajanlal reported the principle behind this device in the online issue of the leading chemistry journal *Angewandte Chemie* on August 22. They are now building the device

that may be put to practical use soon.

In simple terms, the detector works somewhat like an alert traffic cop who spots a violator by simply looking at the traffic signal. In other words, if the suspected sample being tested is clean, the detector gives off a red glow on being irradiated with light of a particular wavelength.

But if the sample contains the explosive TNT, the signal changes to green. This dramatic change from red to green that can be observed with a fluo-



rescence microscope has been demonstrated by the IIT team to take place in the presence of even just one molecule of TNT — a lower limit that has not been achieved by any detector so far.

The TNT sensor that the IIT team has developed uses a combination of gold and silver nano-particles.

According to the scientists, their novel approach “can be considered a single-particle, single-molecule detection technique which is probably the ultimate in ultra-trace sensitivity”.

## Pioneering clot buster drug set for human clinical trial

**C**lot-specific Streptokinase (CSSK), a pioneering biotherapeutic clot buster drug from the Chandigarh-based Council of Scientific & Industrial Research's Institute of Microbial Technology (CSIR-IMTECH) was cleared by the office of the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) for Phase-One Human Clinical trials on August 16.

The drug, which was earlier licensed to a US-based firm, Nostrum Pharmaceuticals LLC, has recently been successfully found to be safe in test animals, including monkeys, after its design and process development and scale-up was achieved by a team led by Dr. Girish Sahni, Director, CSIR-IMTECH, Chandigarh.

CSSK is a first in India-Patented (non-Generics) biopharmaceutical therapeutic protein that will not only help to save the lives of patients of heart attacks, but is also expected to reduce side-effects, such as internal bleeding often associated with the use of clot busters. The successful development of bio-therapeutic drugs such as CSSK marks a major milestone for the Indian biotech science community.

## Nualgi – an Indian solution for cleaning polluted US lakes

**A** product developed by Nualgi Nano Biotech (NNB), a Bangalore-based biotech company, is helping Americans to clean up polluted lakes. A three-acre Duck Pond in Croton-On-Hudson in New York state has been restored to normal health thanks to Nualgi — an invention by NNB founder Thothathri Sampathkumar.

Prior to the application of Nualgi in August 2011, the Duck Pond “was in a highly impaired state with a variety of water quality issues” such as bad odor, poor clarity and infestation with duck weed and algae, said John Tucci, President of Lake Savers, a small company in Richland, Michigan.

Lake Savers, which has about 2,000 acres of lakes and ponds, including the Duck Pond, under its management, uses a combination of oxygenation systems, beneficial bacteria and enzyme formulations in its restoration projects. According to Tucci, this, however, did not work well in extremely impaired

water bodies like the Duck Pond and so the company wanted to assess whether the addition of Nualgi to its programme could speed up recovery of this water body. The U.S. company obtained 50 kg of Nualgi from Sampathkumar in August 2011 to try it out.

In an email to the Bangalore-based company, Tucci said that the water quality in the pond showed a “remarkable and sustained improvement” after application of a single dose of Nualgi.

Nualgi is a mix of micro nutrients in the form of nano particles including silica, iron and manganese, which triggers the rapid growth of a type of algae called diatoms, explained Mallimadugula Bhaskar, a collaborator of Sampathkumar. The oxygen released by diatoms through photosynthesis increases the dissolved oxygen level of water and thus keeps the pond clean and the diatoms converted into 'zooplanktons' provide food for the fish.

# ASEI annual convention to focus on green engineering

The 27<sup>th</sup> annual convention of the American Society of Engineers of Indian Origin (ASEI) on October 6 will focus on promoting and presenting innovative ideas related to green engineering and technology, the organizers said. The Michigan chapter of ASEI will host the event that will be held at Ford Community & Performing Arts Center in Dearborn, Michigan.

Over 300 professionals, including scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs, and corporate leaders from ASEI chapters across the US, are expected to participate in multiple interactive sessions featuring prominent business owners, technologists, media personalities, educators, policy makers, and investment bankers during the convention.

ASEI is a non-profit organization of engineers and technical professionals of Indian origin. Since its inception in 1983, ASEI has been engaged in instituting a channel of communication between technical organizations within the United States and abroad, providing assistance to engineering students



at the local and national levels, lending a helping hand to charitable organizations and organizing networking events.

## ASEI RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING ACHIEVERS IN THE FOLLOWING FOUR CATEGORIES:

1. ASEI Professional Excellence Award
  - a. ASEI Entrepreneur of the Year Award
  - b. ASEI Engineer of the Year Award
  - c. ASEI Student of the Year Award
2. ASEI Service Excellence Award
3. ASEI Lifetime Achievement Award
4. ASEI Corporate Excellence Recognition Program (CERP)
  - a. Corporate Engineering Excellence Award
  - b. Corporate Woman Engineer of the Year Award
  - c. Corporate Young Engineer of the year Award
  - d. Corporate Outstanding Achievement Award
  - e. Corporate Service Excellence Award

ASEI recognizes entrepreneurs engineers, and students during the national convention. It also awards numerous scholarships to students pursuing degree in any discipline of engineering, including one Kalpana Chawla scholarship to students studying space technology.

For more information and registration, please visit: <http://www.aseimi.org/GET2012>.

# Indian-American academic to head US institute

The New School, a leading university in New York, has named Indian-American academic Sanjay Reddy as one of the two directors of the India China Institute (ICI), a leading center of trans-regional study.

Reddy, Associate Professor of Economics, and Mark Frazier, Professor of Politics, will develop the ICI's exploration of the relationships between India, China and the U.S. by launching new research programmes and partnerships with other global institutions, the school announced.

"India and China represent rising



Sanjay Reddy

nations states and civilizational spaces which scholarship and teaching in the United States cannot afford to ignore," said Reddy. "They are jointly reshaping

the world economy, polity and society."

Founded by The New School in 2004, ICI supports research, teaching and discussion on the relationships between India and China and their interactions with the US.

Sanjay Reddy's research focuses on global political economy, development and poverty, with a particular focus on contemporary India. Professor Reddy earned his Ph.D. in economics from Harvard University. He has previously taught at Columbia University, and conducted research for various development agencies and international institutions. — IANS

# NOT JUST TOURISM

The Tourism Ministry has been making efforts to develop quality tourism infrastructure at various tourist destinations and impart employable skills among the youth



**T**ourism has been recognized as one of the major engines for inclusive growth and employment. It has been universally acknowledged that the travel and tourism sector contributes substantially to reducing poverty and empowering women, youth and migrant workers with new employment opportunities.

The Ministry of Tourism, is the nodal agency for the formulation of national policies and programs and for the co-ordination of activities of various Federal Government Agencies, State Governments/Union Territories and the private sector for the development and promotion of tourism in the country. The Ministry has focused on holistic development of tourism in the country with the objective of promoting employment and inclusive growth along with active participation and support of the private sector.

The importance of tourism as a growth engine has been underlined in the recent declaration of the G-20 Leaders of Nations Summit held in Mexico in June 2012, which reads:

“We recognize the role of travel and tourism as a vehicle for job creation, economic growth and development,

and, while recognizing the sovereign rights of States to control the entry of foreign nationals, we will work towards developing travel facilitation initiatives in support of job creation, quality work, poverty reduction and global growth.”

## Growth on the cards

The benchmark for the sector is the growth in the number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals and generating valuable foreign exchange. The Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTA) in India in 2011 were 6.29 million with a growth of 8.9 percent, as compared to the FTAs of 5.78 million with a growth of 11.8 percent during the year 2010. The growth rate of 8.9 percent in 2011 for India is better than UNWTO’s projected growth rate of 4 percent to 5 percent for the world in 2011 and 7 percent to 9 percent for Asia and the Pacific.

The number of domestic tourist visits increased from 740.21 million in 2010 as compared to 668.80 million in 2009 showing a growth of 10.7 percent. Thus, the domestic tourism witnessed impressive growth during this period. Foreign Exchange Earnings from tourism during 2011 were \$14



billion as compared to \$11.6 billion during the year 2010 over 2009.

The objective of the Ministry is to increase India’s share in world tourist arrivals to 1 percent from the present 0.6 percent by the end of the 12th Five Year Plan. This would result in achieving 11.37 million Foreign Tourist Arrivals by 2016. Also, the Ministry has targeted 1495.82 million domestic travelers by 2016.

## Infrastructure development

Infrastructure development holds the key to the sustained growth in India’s tourism sector. Therefore, the Ministry has been making efforts to develop quality tourism infrastructure

at tourist destinations and circuits. A scheme for development of nationally and internationally important destinations and circuits through mega projects has been initiated.

So far, 47 mega projects have been identified out of which 32 projects have already been sanctioned. The mega projects are a judicious mix of culture, heritage, spiritual and eco-tourism in order to give tourists a holistic perspective.

Tourism development depends on synergy and convergence between various sectors and the Ministry is continuing in its efforts to achieve such synergy. Due to its efforts, an Inter-ministerial Coordination Committee for the tourism sector has been set up under the chairmanship of the Principal Secretary to Prime Minister. The committee will facilitate resolution of inter-

ministerial issues involved in the development of tourism in the country, as well as issues raised by industry associations in the tourism sector.

### Preparing the youth

The Tourism Ministry has been working toward broad-basing the implementation of the Hunar Se Rozgar (HSR) programme that aims at imparting employable skills among the youth in the age group of 18 to 28 years. Hunar Se Rozgar (HSR) is an important means to achieve the goal of the 12th Plan – of promoting faster, sustainable and more inclusive economic growth. Under the HSR initiative, the youth can also get training in

programmes ranging from 6 to 8 weeks covering food and beverage service and food production, house-keeping utility and bakery and patisserie as well as acquiring driving skills.

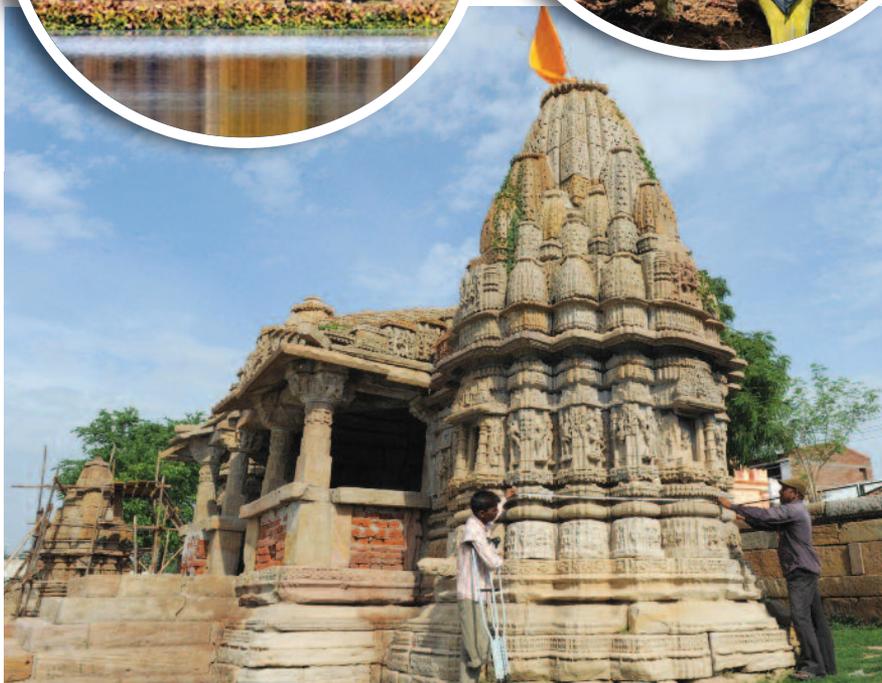
One of the innovative approaches of the Hunar Se Rozgar scheme is the tie up with the Indian Army entitled- 'Hunar Se Rozgar — Sena Ke Sahyog Se' in which Army units will provide training infrastructure free of cost and also administer the programs. The trainees will be expected to imbibe the spirit of military discipline and hardiness. The academic support will be provided by the Institutes of Hotel Management designated for the purpose. The first training program within this sub-initiative is already underway since June 14 at the Army Unit at Uri. The Institute of Hotel management at Srinagar is the partner Institute.

### Campaign Clean India

The Ministry of Tourism has taken the initiative to put in place a comprehensive strategy to effect cleanliness at tourist destinations under the 'Campaign Clean India'. The Campaign will employ a balance of persuasion, education, sensitization, training, demonstration and regulation for achieving its goal and will be implemented in collaboration with federal and state governments, ministries, the corporate sector, travel trade NGOs, educational institutions, media and other stakeholders. The Ministry would also sign Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with 14 ministries seeking their intervention for synergy of efforts.

The pilot project of the Campaign Clean India was launched in New Delhi on June 19. Thirty six monuments have been identified by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for the pilot project and ten of these have already been adopted by Institute of Hotel Management and Indian Institute of Tourism & Travel Management. They will critically analyze the solid waste management system and propose improvements.

*(Courtesy: Press Information Bureau)*



Skilled workers from the Archaeological Survey of India measure one of the two ancient temples at Mansar Tank reservoir at Viramgam town, some 60 kms from Ahmedabad in Gujarat. (Photo: AFP)

# Singers add a lot to an actor's career: Ranbir

**A**fter the success of *Rockstar*, playback singer Mohit Chauhan is being identified as Ranbir Kapoor's voice. The actor admits that singers play a big role in an artist's career.

Ranbir is happy that Mohit has sung for him

Ranbir Kapoor



in his forthcoming *Barfi* too. "*Barfi* is a very special film and it releases on September 14. Mohit babajee (Mohit Chauhan) has sung the title song 'Aala re Barfi' and I am very happy. A singer generally doesn't get the credit for the importance he brings to the career of an actor," the 29-year-old said.

"But if you look at late singers Mohammad Rafi, Mukeshji, Kishore Kumar, they used to add a lot to an actor's career," he added.

Recently, megastar Amitabh Bachchan too said that playback singers play an important role in building an actor's stature in Indian cinema.

When asked how tough was it to emote only with actions in *Barfi*, Ranbir said: "I am an actor and I should know how to act not just with my face but my body also," added the 29-year-old who plays a deaf-mute boy in the film.

Directed by Anurag Basu, *Barfi* also stars Priyanka Chopra and Ileana D'Cruz.

## 'Independent films can help tackle issues'

**F**ilmmaker Tigmanshu Dhulia, who is riding high on the success of *Paan Singh Tomar*, feels independent filmmaking can help tackle socially relevant issues in a big way.

"I think independent film-making is the only way out in this country.

There are so many issues that can be tackled through independent film-

making and not by studio films," Dhulia said at the launch of Delhi International Film Festival on August 21.

Part of the new wave of cinema, he is known for making films like *Charas*, *Saheb Biwi Aur Gangster* and *Paan Singh Tomar*.

"It is a good time for Indian film industry. Cinema is changing now. Though it showed changes in early 2000, but over the past 10-12 years cinema has matured," said Dhulia.



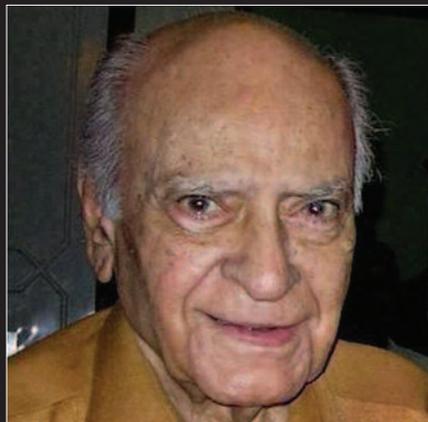
Tigmanshu Dhulia

## A.K.Hangal: Once an actor, always an actor

**H**e faced the cameras first when he was 50. At 96, he took to the fashion runway on a wheelchair. At 97, he gave voice-over for an animated film and did a TV show. Age was clearly never a bar for A. K. Hangal. He lived with an undying passion for his craft almost till his last breath, even when a financial crisis took a heavy toll.

Hangal, who epitomized the phrase 'once an actor always an actor', passed away in Mumbai on August 26 following a prolonged illness. He was 97.

"I believe there is no age limit to work," Singhal said in May when he gave a nod for a



cameo in a TV show *Madhubala*. He was ill by then but he wasn't willing to give up.

Born in Sialkot now in Pakistan, Hangal spent most of his childhood in Peshawar. He grew up to be a tailor but quenched his thirst for acting through theater.

Post partition, he is said to have moved to

Mumbai in 1949. He was with the Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA), which also attracted Balraj Sahni, Utpal Dutt, Kaifi Azmi and many others.

He stepped into the Hindi film industry in 1966-67. His initial films included *Teesri Kasam* and *Shagird*.

As an actor, who began his tryst with cinema at age 50, he had little options in terms of the variety in his roles. But he gladly and responsibly played an uncle, father and grandfather to heroes and heroines starting from the 1970s.

Known as a character artist, he is remembered for playing Rahim Chacha in *Sholay*. Some of his other memorable movies include *Namak Haraam*, *Bawarchi*, *Chupa Rustam*, *Abhimaan* and *Guddi*.

And who can forget his role in *Shaukeen*, where he played a retired old man who goes on a holiday with two of his friends to make the best of life.



# ADVANCING WELLNESS

**K**erala has now set its eyes on advancing tourism centered around ayurveda, the ancient Indian system of medicine and well-being, to the next level by promoting its curative and cosmetic properties.

“Beaches, backwaters, hills and ayurveda are the four pillars of tourism in Kerala. We realize there is still a large potential within ayurveda to attract people to our state,” says state Tourism Secretary Suman Billa.

“So far, when it came to ayurveda, we mainly focused on well-being. But there are also the curative and cosmetic sides, and these are what we now also intend to promote,” Billa said.

“What we will offer is the art and science of living, and living well.”

He said while ayurvedic massages were hugely popular, attracting tourists from India and abroad, the system also offered cures for ailments such as back pain, rheumatism and psoriasis that needed to be advertised better.

“Similarly, we have also promoted the integration of ayurveda with yoga so that when a tourist goes back after undergoing a treatment, he or she also maintains a healthy lifestyle on a daily basis,” Billa said.

“*Surva namaskar*, for example, is

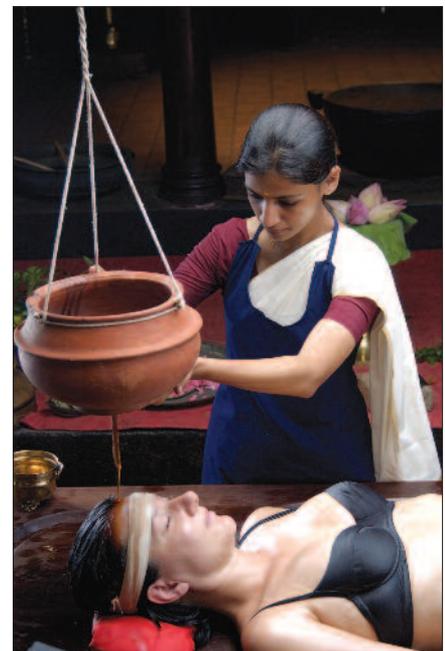
known to exercise as much as 97 percent of the muscles. So when a person undergoes an ayurvedic therapy, it seeks to restore a balance in your system, and yoga can help in maintaining it.”

Billa said a pilot project would also be started on a public-private partnership mode where all forms of medicine and well-being — allopathy, ayurveda, unani and siddha — will come under one roof to offer an integrated system.

Toward this, he said, 25 acres had already been acquired and that the project would be showcased prominently at the upcoming ‘Emerging Kerala’ conclave in Kochi in September to attract potential partners.

The location, he said, was at Nelliampathy in Palaghat district, which is also a popular hill station surrounded by tea and coffee plantations with some breathtaking views.

Billa said Ayurveda was endemic to the entire region but there was now some emerging competition from neighboring Sri Lanka. This was being countered by branding and maintaining the quality of service, he said. The Kerala government already extends its approval to treatment-centers and resorts, and rates them as green leaf or olive leaf — five-star and



three-star and above categories, respectively — based on the service quality and facilities.

Explaining how well the four pillars of tourism were intertwined in Kerala, Billa said visitors to the state generally sought to experience more than just one of these offerings by the state.

Kerala received 10 million tourists last year, of which 9.2 million were from within India and 800,000 were from overseas. Britain, France, Russia were the main overseas markets. ■

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## ■ Celebrating Eid



Devotees offering Namaz on the occasion of Id-ul-Fitr at Jama Masjid in New Delhi on August 20. (Photo: PIB)

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