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Minister for Human Resource Development and Communication & Information Technology Kapil Sibal with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. on October 13.

First US-India Higher Education Summit Concludes

■ DRAFT NATIONAL
TELECOM POLICY
2011 UNVEILED

■ INDIA LAUNCHES
CHEAPEST TABLET
COMPUTING DEVICE

■ MUSIC MAESTRO
JAGJIT SINGH
PASSES AWAY



PM GREETES THE NATION ON DIWALI

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh greeted the nation on the joyous occasion of Diwali on October 25.

In a message, the Prime Minister said the festival of lights, Diwali, was a harbinger of peace, joy, and prosperity. "It celebrates the victory of good over evil, and the spreading of the light of learning. It is a national festival in which all communities rejoice in amity and friendship and celebrate the solidarity of the nation," the statement from Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh said.

"May this Deepawali bring peace and prosperity to all the people of our nation and to the world at large," the Prime Minister added.



MESSAGE FROM U.S. PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

*October 26, 2011
The White House*

Today, here in America and around the world, Hindus, Jains, Sikhs and some Buddhists will celebrate the holiday of Diwali — the festival of lights. Many who observe this holiday do so by lighting the *Diya*, or lamp, which symbolizes the victory of light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance. I was proud to be the first President to mark Diwali and light the *Diya* at the White House, and last year Michelle and I were honored to join in Diwali celebrations during our visit to India.

Diwali is a time for gathering with family and friends and, as we experienced in India, celebrating with good food and dancing. It is also a time for contemplation and prayer that serves as a reminder of our obligations to our fellow human beings, especially the less fortunate. To all who are observing this sacred holiday here and around the world, Happy Diwali and Saal Mubarak.



Minister for Human Resource Development and Communications and Information Technology Kapil Sibal speaking at the US-India Higher Education Summit at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

FIRST US-INDIA HIGHER EDUCATION SUMMIT CONCLUDES

The Summit highlighted the importance of education as a pillar of the US-India Strategic Dialogue and set forth goals for deepening this aspect of bilateral relationship between the two countries

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

and India, as well as private sector leaders, the Summit featured a roundtable discussion on India-U.S. Higher Education Cooperation, co-chaired by senior officials from the U.S. and Indian governments.

Prominent higher education and thought leaders spoke at a plenary session and in breakout sessions on topics crucial to expanding and strengthening higher education collaboration between the two countries.

Indian Ambassador to the U.S. Nirupama Rao and former U.S. Ambassador to India and President Emeritus of Colorado College Richard

Celeste delivered luncheon remarks. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and Minister Sibal delivered the closing remarks.

US-India Joint Statement

Recalling the considerable progress achieved in bilateral educational relations following the visits by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the United States in 2009 and President Barack Obama to India in 2010, Minister Sibal and Secretary Clinton reaffirmed the strategic partnership between India and the United States for meaningful dialogue, cooperation

and engagement in the field of higher education, and launched a new phase in this partnership. The two leaders acknowledged the immense possibilities for further collaboration between the two countries given the inherent dynamism, emerging challenges, and numerous exciting opportunities available for sharing and growing together.

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

Expressing their commitment to that vision, Minister Sibal and Secretary Clinton launched the expanded US-India Higher Education Dialogue as an annual bilateral event to map out strategies for partnership in the field of education between the two countries. The Dialogue should identify areas for mutually beneficial exchanges and provide a platform for intense and meaningful collaboration among academia, the private sector, and government on both sides. The Dialogue is planned to be held alternately in the United States and India.

Minister Sibal and Secretary Clinton expressed satisfaction with the progress achieved in the Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative, launched in 2009, under which proposals had been invited by both sides by November 1, 2011, to be reviewed by a joint working group for academic awards in support of university partnerships. The two leaders reiterated their strong commitment to the Fulbright-Nehru Program and its contribution to leadership development and scholarly achievement. They also highlighted and encouraged the full array of direct collaborations between higher education communities, such as the India-U.S. Higher Education Leadership Program. Minister Sibal



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

and Secretary Clinton underscored the need to enhance the scope of collaboration and identify new ways to encourage linkages and exchange programs.

The two leaders also expressed their support for the Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum, which provides fresh impetus to academic collaboration in cutting-edge areas of scientific research and technology development. They lauded the continuing efforts by both sides to explore new avenues for collaboration such as the Indo-U.S. Engineering Education Conclave, held in January 2011 in New Delhi, for strengthening higher educational institutions in the fields of engineering and technology. They expressed hope that

more such opportunities for engagement would emerge in the future in other fields.

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

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

Minister Sibal and Secretary Clinton launched the expanded US-India Higher Education Dialogue as an annual bilateral event

- institutions of the two countries through existing initiatives;
- ❖ Fostering partnerships in the areas of vocational education and skills enhancement to meet the needs of today's world;
- ❖ Exploration of models for 'educational institutions for the 21st century' (such as 'meta' universities);
- ❖ Further strengthening programs for student and faculty enrichment and exchange, and development of leadership in academia at all levels;
- ❖ Welcoming the involvement of the private sector in the two countries to support and deepen collaboration with the higher education community, faculty

- exchanges, skills development and institutional partnerships.
 - 3. India announced its intention to set up an India-U.S. higher education platform as a means to pursue these goals.
 - 4. Strengthening educator enrichment and exchange programs (with the Government of India indicating its intention to sponsor initially up to 1,500 faculty and junior scholars to leading universities and research institutes in the United States) to promote development of human resources while also enhancing broader interaction between the two countries.
- Minister Sibal thanked Secretary

Clinton and her colleagues, as well as the academic, non-governmental, and business communities in the United States for their efforts in successfully organizing the India-U.S. Higher Education Summit, and expressed optimism about building on this successful Summit in the expanded India-U.S. Higher Education Dialogue to be held in 2012.

Minister Kapil Sibal's remarks at the US-India Higher Education Summit

Addressing the first-ever US-India Higher Education Summit, Minister Sibal said it was only through education that the world could hope to empower populations across the globe to confront the challenges of the 21st century. "Without doubt, the U.S. defined the milestones of the 20th century; while India, as you, Secretary Clinton, described recently, is a defining story-line of early 21st century," he said.

"This historic Summit will forge a new collaborative association in which our young can draw inspiration from your benchmarks of excellence in education and innovation and channelize their energies for public good. Today, we dedicate our partnership for a better tomorrow," he said.

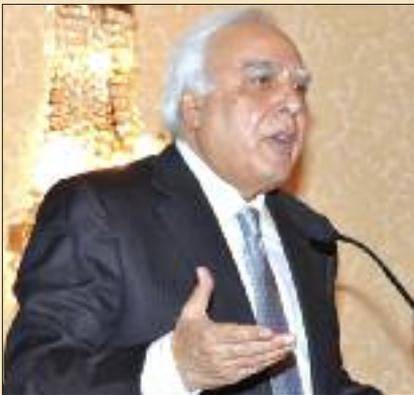
Text of Minister Sibal's address:

At the outset, I wish to thank Secretary Clinton for facilitating this first-ever Higher Education Summit between the two largest democracies in the world. I recall that it was eleven months ago that Secretary Clinton and I recognized that education was one of the primary pillars of the India-U.S. strategic partnership. This Higher Education Summit is a culmination of that recognition.

It is only through education that we hope to empower populations across the globe to confront the challenges of the 21st century. Without doubt, the U.S. defined the milestones of the 20th century; while India, as you, Secretary Clinton, described recently, is a defining story-line of early 21st century.

I also wish to welcome industry and

MINISTER SIBAL UNDERLINES THE IMPORTANCE OF INDIA-US PARTNERSHIP



Minister Kapil Sibal speaking on "Transforming India into an Education Hub" at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, in Washington, D.C. on October 11.

On October 12, Minister for Human Resource Development and Communications and Information Technology Kapil Sibal and Deputy Secretary of State William Burns addressed a reception held in honor of the Summit hosted by the US-India Business Council.

Addressing the US-India Business Council, Minister Sibal said the two countries could find solutions for tomorrow through partnership. He also pointed out that India was the land of opportunity, with its vast demographic advantage. He said that this asset could be harnessed in a manner so as to serve the world. He also spoke about the need in India of vastly scaling up college and university infrastructure to meet

the goals of a gross enrollment ratio of 30 percent in 10 years.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Secretary Burns stated that education was one of the pillars of the strategic partnership between India and the U.S. He said that they had high expectations of this relationship in the years ahead.

During the program the 'India Centre for Sustainable Growth and Talent Development', a joint initiative of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences and Rutgers University, was also inaugurated. This program will see collaboration between the two institutions in the areas of Women's Leadership and on Vocational Education Programs.

Delivering a talk on 'Transforming India into an Education Hub' at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) on October 11, Minister Sibal said India and the United States needed higher levels of collaboration, especially in education. "By structured and multi-level collaboration, we can work toward helping solve many of the world's problems," he said. The event was also addressed by Ambassador Nirupama Rao and Karl Inderfurth, Wadhvani Chair in India-U.S. Policy Studies, CSIS.

Minister Sibal said that India would emerge as the center for human resources for the world in the coming years as it reaps the benefits of its demographic dividend. He also expressed the view that there were many challenges that the globe faced and the solutions for these challenges would have to be found through research based in nations such as India that confronted these challenges.



Round table discussion: Strategic Vision and Achievable Steps at the US-India Higher Education Summit at Georgetown University on October 13.

academia to this Summit. Without them, the defining moments of tomorrow will be beyond our reach. The platforms that you create with our young will etch the contours of those defining moments.

The USA epitomizes excellence in education, innovation and research. Through fundamental research and visionary entrepreneurship, you have fostered the emergence of new ecosystems for public good. We, on the other hand, are a nascent democracy. Our young population, almost the size of Europe, is energetic, on the move and full of hope.

The young are our future. We have a responsibility to create an appropriate environment to help them plan their future. We must help them face the challenges of tomorrow to reshape the world. In a global, interconnected, mutually dependent world, the way forward is through building partnerships. This historic Summit will forge a new collaborative association in which our young can draw inspiration from your benchmarks of excellence in education and innovation and channelize their energies for public good. Today, we dedicate our partnership for a better tomorrow.

The challenges of the 21st century

are qualitatively different from those in the past. They do not recognize national boundaries. They are truly global. No nation on its own can hope to confront them. Nations are defined by boundaries, but in the 21st century nations will have to transcend them in thought and action for sustainable and affordable solutions. Food security, global warming and the environment, demands on energy, water, security in physical and virtual spaces, healthcare are all matters that we need to address together.

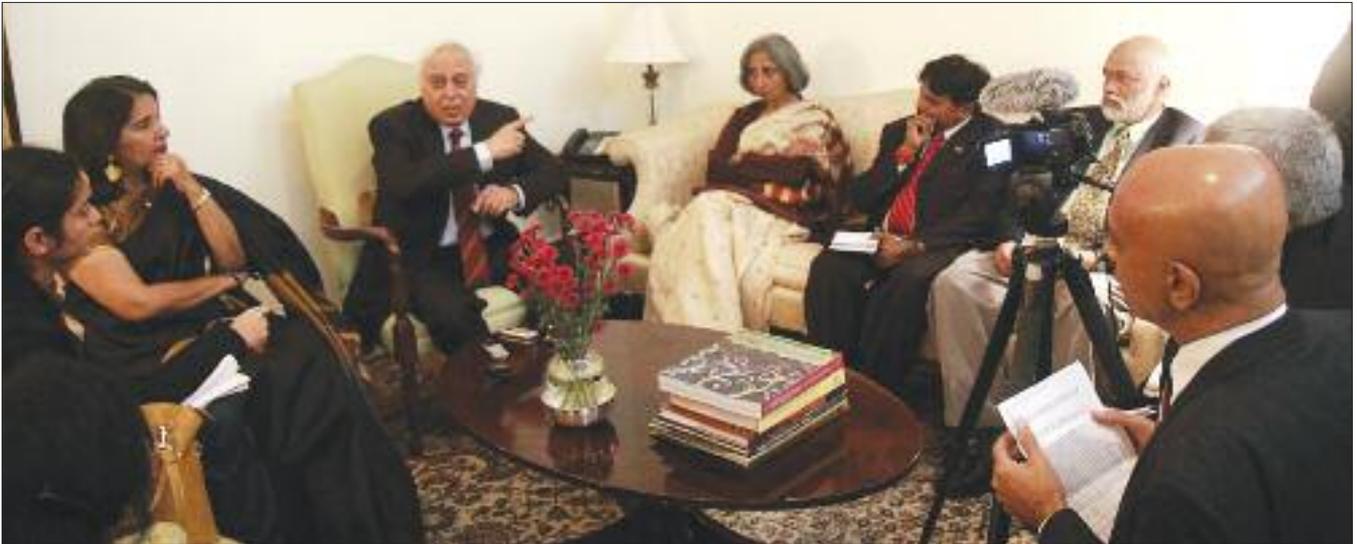
Business as usual is a sure recipe for global disaster. The global economy will not be defined by financial flows and trade but by global, collaborative, knowledge networks where ideas move seamlessly. The future of knowledge creation will emerge through partner-

ship for the common good. Social networks and resource sharing in cyber-space are precursors to the development of knowledge networks that will aim to address the problems of tomorrow. Technology has led to the “death of distance”. Partnerships would lead to the germination of knowledge.

Research and innovation will require collaboration of multiple knowledge partners — those who have the capacity to create, share, and apply new knowledge in cultures of mutual learning and continuous innovation. Creativity can flourish only in an environment where inquiry is encouraged and the status quo challenged. In this, India and the US, with their democratic traditions, openness of thought, spirit of tolerance, rule of law, respect for institutions and understanding of diversity are natural partners in our quest for lasting solutions.

Let me now outline very briefly the challenges that confronts us in India. More than 100 million youth — the combined labor forces of Britain, France, Italy and Spain — are projected to join the workforce by 2020. This will be a great potential resource only if they are empowered with education and skills to leverage available global

The challenges of the 21st century are qualitatively different from those in the past. They do not recognize national boundaries. They are truly global



Minister for Human Resource Development and Communications and Information Technology Kapil Sibal and Ambassador Nirupama Rao interacting with the press on October 13.

opportunities. If we fail to do this, our demographic advantage will be lost and our youth alienated. For us, it is a fundamental imperative that our young have access to affordable, quality education. We must embrace three principles: First, to provide for all our young access to educational opportunities; second, reduce financial barriers to ensure access; and third, ensure quality with accountability.

The Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in higher education in India is presently around mere 15 percent, about 10 percent below the world average. We shall endeavor to increase our GER to 30 percent by 2020. This would require us to provide for opportunities in higher education for an additional thirty million children by 2020. To do that, we will need to build an additional 1000 universities and 50,000 colleges. To serve these institutions, we will require quality faculty of over a million assisted by quality support structures. The “new” demand for higher education in India is emerging from three groups that traditionally did not have easy access to higher education: the disadvantaged and marginalized, women and a “rising” lower-middle class.

But this is only a part of the picture. We, in India, to sustain our own economic growth, require a skilled workforce of about 500 million by 2022. As the center of gravity of global economic activity shifts toward Asia, this work-

force can provide the basis for sustained economic growth. Besides, with declining demographics around the world, the global community will require a suitably skilled workforce to serve its needs. Our demographic advantage could, thereby, become an integral part of the global workforce.

For imparting skills to our young, we need to build a robust vocational education system that links education to the world of work. This requires the award of qualifications of international standards accepted by industry globally. This will enable mobility of students across vocational and higher education. Students endowed with skill-sets sought by industry globally will then serve its needs. We can draw from the experiences of community colleges in the U.S. as we proceed to develop the vocational education system in India.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I also believe that the nature of delivery of educational services is changing

For imparting skills to our young, we need to build a robust vocational education system that links education to the world of work

rapidly. Technology has facilitated collaborative learning through the democratizing influence of the web. It may be too early to write the epitaph for the classroom, but the classrooms of the 21st century will be different from those that served us in the past. The content of pedagogy too would be radically altered. The silos that fragmented knowledge have already started collapsing. Customized learning across cultures will be the dominant theme of higher education. We need to open up the university as a learning space, embrace collaborative knowledge production, and break down the walls between institutions. I foresee a day where an engineering student from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) can register for a liberal arts course offered by Yale while simultaneously enrolling for an economics course in Stanford. The university as a physical entity may no longer remain the unit of learning space.

We together need to lay the foundation for this change. Our enduring partnership will define the future of education. Our relationship is unique. We must strengthen and deepen it. For this, academia, industry and policy-makers must work together. Knowledge has no limits. Let our partnership dismantle the boundaries that limit us. That is our destiny. Let us embrace it.

Thank you.”

REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR NIRUPAMA RAO AT THE US-INDIA HIGHER EDUCATION SUMMIT

Addressing the US-India Higher Education Summit on October 13, Ambassador Nirupama Rao said as India and the U.S. worked toward becoming truly knowledge economies, there were immense opportunities for forging new links in the areas of education, research and innovation as also technology and skill development. She emphasized that interactions in the higher education field between the institutions of India and the U.S. had been a very important dimension of the overall India-U.S. partnership. She also pointed out that the U.S. had been a preferred destination for Indian students with over 60 percent of all Indian international students coming to the U.S. to pursue higher degrees.



Ambassador Nirupama Rao speaking at the US-India Higher Education Summit on October 13.

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

As both our countries work toward becoming truly knowledge economies, I believe there are immense opportunities for forging new links in the areas of education, research and innovation as also technology and skill development.

One of the key features of our bilateral relationship is that it is people-centric. People-to-people connections have been at the heart of this relationship. Links between our scientists, researchers and academics have always been an important component of such people-to-people ties, and interactions in the higher education field between the institutions of India and the U.S. are a very important dimension of the overall India-U.S. partnership.

You are all well aware of the fact that U.S. universities helped set up our IIT Kanpur and IIM Ahmedabad, institutions which are global brand names now. Some of our leading agricultural universities, that played a key role in our first Green Revolution, such as Pantnagar and the Agricultural University at Ludhiana, were established with assistance of some of the leading land-grant universities of the U.S. Such exchanges laid a very broad foundation of collaboration in research and teaching to meet the needs of the people.

The Fulbright Program, established in 1950, has provided opportunities for more than 16,000 scholars both from India and the U.S. to visit each other's countries and has enriched their lives. We heard how the number of scholars under the Fulbright-Nehru Program has tripled in the last three years.

Over the last few decades, graduates of Indian universities, especially the IITs and

other engineering schools, have been a major source of student talent for U.S. graduate schools and have played a significant role in innovation and business. Nearly 100,000 students from India, who are enrolled in U.S. universities, are benefitting from the higher education system of the U.S. In fact, the U.S. remains a preferred destination for our students with over 60 percent of all Indian international students coming here to pursue their advanced degrees.

One of the members of the audience at the panel discussion that just concluded spoke about, what he termed, as an imbalance in the numbers between Indian students studying here and American students going to India. As one of the panelists pointed out, you don't look at it as an imbalance, you look at this as a need, as a gap that needs to be addressed. It points to a certain information gap that exists between the two countries. It also points to the absence, if you look at the spectrum of what U.S. universities do, of a serious engagement with India. I think India has to be approached as a discipline, as a science — as Ralph Emerson once said — and I think you have to be able to attract the best minds here in America and the best young minds to study in India. And I believe that imbalance, that gap will be addressed as our partnership grows in strength and substance, as the economic engagement between India and United States is further fostered and grows in all its dimensions.

Indeed we seem to be turning a full circle. Major U.S. universities have established collaborative ventures with Indian institutions and launched India initiatives. There are Indian study centers/initiatives at University of Pennsylvania, Harvard, Yale, University of

Michigan and Duke University. A number of individual universities and technical institutions of India and the U.S. have collaboration for teacher-student exchange programs, curriculum design, etc.

Our bilateral cooperation in Science and Technology has deepened through the Joint S&T Sub-Commission and Science & Technology Initiative. With the setting up of the bilateral Science and Technology Endowment Fund of \$30 million, we are capitalizing on our respective scientific and technological strengths to encourage promising and innovative ideas and joint R&D, that could produce material benefits for both countries and support the vibrant entrepreneurial spirit of both our peoples.

A number of U.S. firms are capitalizing on the large pool of skilled engineers, scientists and researchers of India. A number of big U.S. companies have research centers in cities like Bangalore. The GE research center in Bangalore is I understand the largest such center that GE has outside of the United States. Together they are producing innovative and affordable solutions for diverse fields such as healthcare and energy. Indian firms too are expanding their global horizons and increasingly establishing a very visible presence in the US, across the length and breadth of this country. I believe they are already in 43 states.

In the last two years, we have taken several additional steps to expand the links between faculties and institutions of the two countries.

The full text of Ambassador Nirupama Rao's speech at the event can be viewed at: <http://www.indianembassy.org/page.php?id=1810>

SENATOR JOHN CORNYN MEETS WITH AMBASSADOR NIRUPAMA RAO

US Senator John Cornyn (R-Texas), Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the Senate India Caucus, met with Ambassador Nirupama Rao. Ambassador Rao and Senator Cornyn discussed the shared values of the American and Indian people and the importance of enhancing the strategic partnership between the two nations. ■■



‘India regards the US as the most important partner in its quest for social and economic development’

Speaking at the Yale University on ‘Future Direction in India-U.S. relations’ on October 2, Ambassador Nirupama Rao said India-U.S. partnership was multi-faceted and that India regarded the U.S. as the most important partner in its quest for social and economic development.

She said India was working toward expanding its relations with the U.S. to cover the entire spectrum of bilateral agenda, including areas such as trade and investment, science and technology, clean energy, health, higher education and agriculture.

Excerpts from Ambassador Nirupama Rao’s speech:

I am truly delighted to be here this evening at Yale University — one of the finest seats of learning and the imparting of knowledge. It is an honor for me to have this opportunity to address the Yale Community about India-U.S. relations. Yale has had a historical connection with India that goes back more than three centuries beginning with Elihu Yale and his days in Madras (now Chennai). Yale has been a pioneer among the U.S. universities when it comes to the study

of India — its languages, literature, religions, history, politics, economics and society. I understand Yale was the first U.S. University to start teaching Sanskrit. Many eminent Indians and Indian-Americans have passed through its portals. Yale is today not only continuing its tradition of engagement but has strengthened it and extensively broadened it through the Yale India Initiative that was launched in 2008.

I would like to thank Dr. Richard Levin, President of Yale University for his leadership and commitment for enhancing Yale’s connections with India.

As both India and the US work toward becoming a truly knowledge societies we believe there are immense opportunities for forging new links in the areas of education, research and innovation as also technology and skill development. Therefore, deepening of our cooperation in the field of education has been identified by both governments as a key priority as we chart the course ahead for our strategic partnership.

India-U.S. cooperation in the field of education is today poised for major expansion. We in India see education

as critical for achieving its goals to have inclusive growth and to realize the potential for taking the Indian economy to even higher growth trajectory.

This is just one of the facets of our multi-faceted partnership with the U.S. today. Ours is a partnership that seeks to meet common aspirations for mutual prosperity and for peace and security. President Obama’s landmark visit to India last November has indeed helped in taking our relationship to a new level.

In India, we regard the U.S. as our most important partner in our quest for social and economic development and we are working to expand our relations across the entire spectrum of our bilateral agenda, including in areas which I believe, are of importance to the United States as well — areas such as trade and investment, science and technology, clean energy, health, higher education and agriculture. ■■

The full text of Ambassador Nirupama Rao’s speech at the event can be viewed at: <http://www.indianembassy.org/prdetail1799/ambassadorandrsquo%3Bs-address-at-the-yale-university-on-andquot%3Bfuture-direction-in-india-us-relation-sandquot%3B>

'INDIA-US ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL PARTNERSHIP REQUIRES RENEWED FOCUS'

Speaking at an exclusive interactive session on 'US-India Economic and Commercial Partnership: Two-Way Job Creation' at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, organized by Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) on October 7, India's Ambassador to the United States Ambassador Nirupama Rao has urged for a renewed focus on value-creation in the India-U.S. economic and commercial partnership. She emphasized that it was important to look at the distance traveled by India and the U.S. in enhancing the bilateral relationship, especially given the unprecedented convergence of both the countries in common concerns in global issues.

Focusing on the significant mutual advantages of the economic engagement, Ambassador Rao pointed out that the U.S. businesses had leveraged India's strengths to produce globally competitive products, while Indian companies had invested \$21 billion in the U.S. Private participation in trade and investment had also created



From Left to right: Ben Erulkar, Senior Vice-President, Economic Development, Detroit Regional Chamber; Surya Kant, President, Major Markets (North America, UK and Europe), Tata Consultancy Services; Nirupama Rao, India's Ambassador to the United States and Joseph Abraham, Senior Vice-President, HCL America.

strong networks of value creation. Dispelling some myths about the purported imbalance in the trade relationship, Ambassador Rao highlighted that trade with India in sectors such as manufacturing, engineering and high-tech products was actually in favor of the US, while in the services sector too, trade and investment linkages had created jobs, rather than taken them away.

At the panel discussion that followed, Ben Erulkar, Senior Vice-President, Economic Development,

Detroit Regional Chamber highlighted the positive contributions made by Indian immigrants and businesses to the Michigan economy, which had suffered some of the worst impact of the economic downturn of 2008.

Joseph Abraham, Senior Vice-President, HCL America said that HCL had invested in the U.S. states of North Carolina, Washington and New Jersey, increasing the U.S. employee headcount by 175 percent over the last three years, and have hired 40 percent of the workers locally.

'India-US strategic partnership should be driven by a vibrant S&T eco-system'

Addressing the Pan IIT 2011 Global Conference on 'Creating Global Common Goods: Role of evolving India-US Science & Technology eco-system' in New York on October 2, Ambassador Nirupama Rao said that science and technology cooperation between India and the US had always been an upwardly moving curve. She said that through partnership in investment and innovation the two countries could address the priority needs of both the nations and generate global common goods.

Ambassador Rao added that India was poised to play a leading role in shaping the 21st century as an era of peace, prosperity, innovation, growth and development and hoped that the Indian Institutes of Technologies and their students and alumni would play a commensurate role in this endeavor as innovators, business leaders, entrepreneurs, engineers or teachers.

Excerpts from the Keynote Address by Ambassador Nirupama Rao at the event:

While establishing IITs, its founders were clear in their objectives. Their goal was not only to produce the country's best engineers and scientists but also to produce leaders and trend-setters who would contribute in building a modern India. IITs and IITians have lived up to the expectations of their founding fathers. Today, IITians are playing a pivotal role in the socio-economic transformation of India into a knowledge based economy. They are also making their mark on the global landscape. While introducing one of the IITs, Lesley Stahl, co-anchor on CBS 60 Minutes had observed and I quote, "Put Harvard, MIT and Princeton together, and you begin to get an idea of the status of this school in India."

Last week, President Obama named twelve eminent researchers and innovators as recipients of the National Medal of Science and

National Medal of Technology and Innovation - the highest honors bestowed by the United States government on scientists, engineers, and inventors. We feel proud that three of them are of Indian origin and out of them two are IITians. IIT as an institution has always played a vital role in evolving and strengthening the India-U.S. relationship.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I believe this co-development of the vibrant S&T eco-system as the new foundation of the expanding India-U.S. cooperation, which will create synergies between science and diplomacy to produce common global goods.

The full text of Ambassador Nirupama Rao's speech at the event can be viewed at: <http://www.indianembassy.org/prdetail1798/keynote-address-by-the-ambassador-at-the-pan-iit-2011-global-conference-on-creating-global-common-goods%96role-of-evolving-india-us-science-and-technology-eco-system>

EMBASSY WELCOMES MINISTER KAPIL SIBAL



PHOTO LEGENDS

1. Minister for Human Resource Development and Communications and Information Technology Kapil Sibal addressing the guests at the Embassy Residence on October 13.
2. Ambassador Nirupama Rao welcoming the guests.
3. U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan speaking on the occasion. Ambassador Nirupama Rao is also seen.
4. Guests in attendance.



EMBASSY HOSTS BHARATANATYAM DANCER LEELA SAMSON



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PHOTO LEGENDS

1. Ambassador Nirupama Rao addressing the guests at the Embassy on October 5.
2. Daniel Phoenix Singh, Director of 'Dakshina' dance company introducing Leela Samson.
3. Leela Samson, renowned Bharatanatyam

- dancer, Director of the Kalakshetra Foundation and Chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification, making her presentation on classical Indian arts and culture
4. Guests in attendance.

SHIJITH NAMBIAR PERFORMS AT THE EMBASSY



Noted Bharatanatyam exponent and former faculty member of Kalakshetra Shijith Nambiar giving a demonstration on Indian classical dance forms at the Embassy on October 25. The audience included Indian culture enthusiasts and teachers and students of Indian classical dances.

AAPI DELEGATION VISITS THE EMBASSY



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PHOTO LEGENDS

1. Ambassador Nirupama Rao addressing members of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) at the Embassy on October 24.
2. AAPI President Dr. Sunitha Kanumury speaking on the occasion.
3. AAPI Legislative Chair Dr. Vijayalaxmi Appareddy proposing the vote of thanks.
4. Guests in attendance.

LIGHTING OF LAMP ON GANDHI JAYANTI

Deputy Chief of Mission Ambassador Arun K. Singh attended the Gandhi Jayanti celebration at the Gandhi Memorial Centre at Bethesda, Maryland, on October 2. Speaking on the occasion, he said Gandhiji believed in the dignity of all human life. Ambassador Singh said that Gandhiji struggled to win independence for colonized people, but he did not sacrifice the search for equality and social justice in this pursuit. “Gandhiji led by example and it is due to his strong and personal commitment to secularism, truth, non-violence and social reform that modern India has stayed rooted to these values despite pressures and challenges. Whatever he taught, he first subjected to rigorous experimen-

tation on himself,” Ambassador Singh said. He said that Mahatma Gandhi’s life and teachings had inspired millions of people across the world.

Quoting Pandit Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, from a speech broadcast after the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, Ambassador Singh said, “... the light has gone out of our lives and there is darkness everywhere.... The light has gone out, and yet I was wrong. For the light that shone in this country was no ordinary light. The light that has illumined this country for these many years will illumine this country for many more years, and a thousand years later, that light will be seen in this country and the world will see it and it will give solace to innumerable

hearts. For that light represented something more than the immediate past, it represented the living, the eternal truths, reminding us of the right path, drawing us from error, taking this ancient country to freedom.”

“Gandhiji’s teachings and thoughts remain valid and relevant to all aspects of our national and individual lives. The power of peaceful means to seek justice; the effectiveness of non-violence in countering force; respect for diversity within and between societies; fighting social prejudices and promoting social reforms; conservation of nature; probity in public life; and, simplicity in personal life, are enduring ideas that can help us address many problems of the contemporary world,” he said. ■



PHOTO LEGENDS

These events were held as part of Gandhi Jayanti celebrations on October 2.

1. **Lighting of the lamp at Gandhi Jayanti:** Seen here are Anubhav Nath of Ojas Art, Srimati Kamala, President of Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Foundation, Carrie Trybulec, Director of Gandhi Memorial Center, and Deputy Chief of Mission, Amb. Arun K. Singh, with Supriya Dutt on tanpura.
2. Bell Choir ensemble presents Tagore song ‘Dhono Re’ — arrangement by Jeffrey Bauer, with vocalist Supriya Dutt, Bell Choir, cellist Taka Ariga, violinist Ron Dicus and violinist Cliff Kellogg.
3. Carrie Trybulec, Director of Gandhi Memorial Center speaking on the occasion.
4. Deputy Chief of Mission, Amb. Arun K. Singh, addressing the audience
5. Renu Jain presents a sitar recital with Debu Nayak on tabla.
6. Charu Narashimhan performs a Bharatanatyam dance.
7. Anubhav Nath of Ojas Art speaks with DCM, Amb. Arun K. Singh at the inauguration of the ICCR-sponsored exhibit: “Freedom to March: Rediscovering Gandhi through Dandi” at the Gandhi Memorial Center on October 2.
8. DCM, Amb. Arun K. Singh, at the inauguration of the ICCR-sponsored exhibit: ‘Freedom to March: Rediscovering Gandhi through Dandi’ at the Gandhi Memorial Center on October 2.

CGI NEW YORK CELEBRATES GANDHI JAYANTI

The Consulate General of India, New York, celebrated the 142nd Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at Union Square Park. Ambassador of India to the United States, Nirupama Rao graced the occasion. Other notable personalities included Ambassador Vijay Nambiar, Under Secretary-General to the United Nations; H. R. Shah, CEO, TV Asia; noted Gandhian, Dr. P. Jayaraman and Dr. Surinder Malhotra, President Indian National Overseas Congress. About 80 persons participated in the event.

The program began with floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi by the dignitaries and participants.

Consul-General Ambassador Prabhu Dayal in his opening remarks welcomed Ambassador Rao and other dignitaries and participants. He quoted Albert Einstein's tribute to Gandhiji which stated, "Generations to come will scarce believe that such a one as this ever in flesh and blood walked upon this earth". He recalled Gandhiji's influence on Nelson Mandela and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in shaping the non-violent movement for freedom and civil rights.

Ambassador Rao, recollecting the impact of Gandhism on mankind mentioned that this day reminded one to renew our allegiance and our pledge to follow the Gandhian ideals of peace and non-violence which had led us into freedom. "Gandhi Jayanti is not only a time to recall and recollect the life of the Mahatma but also to be inspired to address the challenges that we face and an occasion to draw inspiration in the present times of conflict and contradictions. It is an opportune time to think, reflect, introspect and follow the precepts of Gandhiji to "be the change you want to see in the world," she said.

Ambassador Nambiar, in his



Ambassador Nirupama Rao addressing the audience at Union Square Park on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti on October 2.



Consul-General Prabhu Dayal addressing the audience at Union Square Park on the occasion of 142nd Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on October 2.

remarks, mentioned the tradition of commemorating the celebration of Gandhi Jayanti each year at the Union Square Park. He further stated that the United Nations had declared October 2 as the International Day of Non-Violence. He mentioned that the Mahatma's

message resonated around the world and his ideals of non-violence were also showing relevance in the Arab world today.

The event concluded with the singing of Gandhiji's favorite bhajans by the music academy of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan.

CGI NEW YORK HOSTS GHAZAL ARTISTE TALAT AZIZ'S CONCERT

As a part of the 'Jewels of India' series, the Consulate General of India, New York, with the support of State Bank of India, Bank of India and Helena Kaushik Education Foundation organized a musical concert by renowned artiste Talat Aziz at the New India House on October 10.

Ambassador Prabhu Dayal, Consul-General of India in New York, warmly welcomed Talat Aziz and said that the artiste needed no introduction and was well known across India and abroad for his highly popular songs, which included ghazals, film songs and sufi songs. Ambassador Dayal particularly mentioned about Aziz's popularity gained through numerous performances in various *mehfils* and singing in films, including the very famous ghazal 'Zindagi jab bhi teri bazm main' from the Hindi film *Umrao Jaan*.

After his introductory



Top: Renowned *ghazal* artiste Talat Aziz performing at the New India House on October 10.

Bottom: A section of the audience.

CGI SANJIV ARORA MEETS WITH SENATOR JOHN CORNYN



Consul-General Sanjiv Arora greeting Senator John Cornyn at a reception held in the latter's honor on September 30. Senator Cornyn had delivered "State of the Senate" address at the event organized by the Greater Houston Partnership (GHP) in Houston.

remarks, Ambassador Dayal informed the gathering of the sad news of the passing away of India's renowned artiste Jagjit Singh a day before and requested them to join him in observing a one minute silence in the memory of the departed soul.

While commencing his program, Talat Aziz paid rich tributes to Jagjit Singh saying that he personally felt a deep sense of loss.

Aziz dedicated the evening to the late singer.

DIWALI CELEBRATIONS AT CGI NEW YORK

Ambassador Prabhu Dayal, Consul-General of India in New York hosted a function at the Consulate General of India on October 25 to celebrate Diwali with the Indian community. E. Ahamed, Minister of State (External Affairs) also attended the function.

Ambassador Dayal welcomed the community members and conveyed his hearty Diwali greetings to the assembled gathering and especially thanked the Minister for sparing his time in coming to the Consulate to celebrate Diwali and requested him to greet the community members.

Minister Ahamed expressed happiness at his being able to attend the function and to be amongst the community members. He conveyed his greetings to everyone, saying that the event signified the victory of good over evil.



Minister E. Ahamed addressing the guests at CGI New York on the occasion of Diwali. Consul-General Prabhu Dayal is also seen.

CGI NEW YORK HOSTS RECEPTION FOR MINISTER E. AHAMED

Ambassador Prabhu Dayal, Consul-General of India in New York, and Chandni Dayal hosted a reception in honor of E. Ahamed, Minister of State (External Affairs) at the Consulate General of India on October 27, 2011. Minister Ahamed was visiting New York to take part in the ongoing session of United Nations General Assembly.

Ambassador Prabhu Dayal welcomed the Minister for finding time for the Reception and to meet and interact with the community members. Minister Ahamed recalled his previous visits to the Consulate and said that there was considerable improvement in all spheres of work. The Minister also released the special issue of Hudson Valley Malayalee Association's magazine *Kerala Jyothi*. He thanked Ambassador Dayal and the community members for the honor given to him at the Consulate.



Minister E. Ahamed with Consul-general Prabhu Dayal (to his left) and other community members.

CGI ATLANTA PARTICIPATES IN GANDHI JAYANTI CELEBRATIONS

Gandhi Foundation of USA (GFUSA), King Centre, National Park Service and Sweet Auburn Fall Fest celebrated Mahatma Gandhi's 142nd birth anniversary in Atlanta on October 2. The function was held at the entrance of the King Centre.

After garlanding the statue, in a keynote address, Ajit Kumar, Consul-General of India, Atlanta, stressed on the relevance of Mahatma Gandhiji's message of peace, non-violence, tolerance and pluralism in today's world. He thanked the speakers and Indian associations for coming together to celebrate Gandhiji's birthday, which had been declared by the United Nations as the International Day of Non-Violence.



Consul-General Ajit Kumar paying tribute Mahatma Gandhi on his 142nd Birth Anniversary in Atlanta on October 2.

CGI CHICAGO HOSTS SYMPOSIUM ON AGRICULTURE

The Consulate General of India, Chicago, hosted a symposium on 'Opportunities for Innovation in Indian Agriculture Sector' on October 4 in Chicago. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Michigan State University and The Chicago Council on Global Affairs were partners in the event.

The conference brought together over 100 regional and international agriculture experts to share information and experiences in

Indian Agriculture and articulate the challenges and opportunities for innovation in the Indian Agriculture Sector. A fifteen-member business delegation from Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry also participated in the Symposium.



From left to right: Dr Robert Easter, Interim Vice-President, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Consul-General Mukta D Tomar; Sam Pitroda, Advisor to Prime Minister of India on Public Information Infrastructure & Innovations and P.K. Basu, Secretary (Agriculture) Government of India, at the Symposium.

ADMIRAL NIRMAL VERMA CALLS FOR UNITED ACTION AGAINST PIRACY

Addressing the 20th International Sea Power Symposium in New Port, Rhode Island, USA, on October 19, India's Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Nirmal Verma said the international efforts toward combating piracy would benefit if there were fewer disparate task forces and independent naval operations. "If piracy is to be deterred, the present 'risk versus reward quotient' must be inverted exponentially by the development of appropriate laws and Rules of Engagement. These require both national and international consensus which can be facilitated by an exchange of first-hand operational experience of navies presently involved in anti-piracy operations, beside ideas from legal and academic circles as well as the expertise and local knowledge of the regional players," he said.

The International Sea Power Symposium was held under the aegis of the U.S. Naval War College. The theme of the 20th edition of the symposium was 'Security and Prosperity through Maritime Partnerships'. More than 110 nations, with 75 heads of Navy and 22 heads of Coast Guard, attended the Symposium.

Excerpts from Admiral Nirmal Verma's speech at the Symposium:

At the outset, I would like to thank Admiral Jonathan Greenert and all the organizers of the International Sea Power Symposium for affording me the opportunity to speak to this august audience on a subject that has affected mariners since times immemorial and yet is very contemporary — maritime piracy.

The difference today is that piracy at sea which was previously primarily robbery has now morphed into an elaborate network of operations to extract enormous quantities of ransom. Ransom amounts have increased to an average of \$5.4 million per ship,



Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Nirmal Verma

from just \$150,000 five years ago. According to a recent study by 'One Earth Future' the economic cost of piracy maybe as high as \$12 billion a year. This translates into increased operating costs, environmental expenses in view of rerouting of ships and most importantly, tremendous human costs.

Despite multinational efforts, the number of incidents and net effects of piracy are on the increase with seasonal variations on account of the monsoons and geographic shifts dependent on the presence of naval units. The international efforts off the Gulf of Aden have resulted in piracy spreading to other areas of the Indian Ocean which had not experienced these attacks earlier.

It has become evident that pirates are changing their modus of operations as they have been observed to use hijacked merchant vessels as mother ships. This has given them an extended reach of over 1,000 nautical miles from the Somali coast. Given their changing tactics and operations, it is, as

Clausewitz would tell us imperative to strike at their center of gravity, 'the hub of all power and movement, on which all else depends'. To my mind, their Centre of Gravity is the elaborate network of financiers that fund operations and facilitate revenue collection. A recent UN report revealed that of the ransom paid in each incident of piracy only 20 percent reaches the pirates, while financiers and sponsors hive off 50 percent. The question that begs to be answered is that how do they manage to divert funds in so unfettered a manner? Therefore, there is a need to build a strategy beyond multinational maritime counter piracy operations to facilitate tracking of the fiscal trail.

It is important that our efforts be cultivated before what is at present a relatively benign problem of piracy, develops a nexus with radical terrorism which has a cancerous potential.

What is required is the collaborative engagement of both major maritime powers as well as the littoral states.

Finally, I would conclude with the reflection that the international efforts towards combating piracy would benefit if there were fewer disparate task forces and independent naval operations. India's relative autonomy of efforts towards combating piracy off Somalia can be traced to its preference for a UN mandated operations which we believe if adopted would holistically enhance the efficacy of operations. Our Prime Minister in his speech at the UN General Assembly last month called upon the comity of nations to evolve a comprehensive and effective response to the problem of piracy and has assured the world of India's readiness to work with other nations in this regard.

The full text of Admiral Nirmal Verma's speech can be viewed at: <http://www.indianembassy.org/prdetail1811/admiral-nirmal-verma-draws-attention-of-chiefs-of-navies-to-criticality-of-united-action-against-piracy>

'India to rank among top five aviation nations'

With a huge growth potential forecast over the next 10 years, the Indian aviation sector is set to be catapulted among the top five in the world, President Smt. Pratibha Patil said on October 17.

"The potential for growth of civil aviation in India is huge. Recent estimates suggest domestic air traffic will touch 160-180 million passengers per annum in the next 10 years and international traffic will exceed 80 million passengers," the President said while inaugurating the fourth International Civil Aviation Negotiation Conference (ICAN) in Mumbai.

The Indian aviation market currently ranks ninth in the world.

"Aviation plays an important role in the economic development process of countries. Flying is no longer the prerogative of a few privileged but an



President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil

option for an increasingly broader section of society," she said.

She pointed out that deregulation of the domestic sector and liberalization of bilateral traffic rights in the past decade had led to multiple options in carriers, timings and fares.

"Between 2005-2010, \$10 billion has been invested in airports development in the country, with public-

private partnership (PPP). In next five years, we plan to expand the airport network and provide connectivity to tier-II and tier-III cities."

"In metro cities, where the existing airport cannot accommodate future growth, a second airport is being planned... Navi Mumbai is a case in example. As a policy, we will continue to build and replicate the PPP model with other airports," the President added.

She also stressed on the importance of an economic regulator to create a level playing field, promote competition, protect consumer interests and ensure better service levels.

"One of the key achievements by India in the last decade has been to set up an independent regulator for economic regulation of airports by an act of parliament with appropriate provision of an appellate body," she said. ■

Government to set up aviation university

Civil Aviation Minister Vayalar Ravi said on October 17 that the government planned to set up an aviation university that would ensure minimum standards of aviation skills. "We are in the process of evolving a project report for this facility, which will ensure that the gap between demand and supply is bridged," he said.

Speaking at the fourth International Civil Aviation Negotiation Conference (ICAN 2011), Minister Ravi said the government planned to strengthen the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).

The conference, jointly organized by the government of India and the Montreal-based International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), was held in India for the first time with an aim to highlight the need of modernization of air service agreements (ASAs) by including certain safety clauses, code-sharing guidelines, security and tariff.

Ravi also said that an independent



Civil Aviation Minister Vayalar Ravi (R) with Secretary, Civil Aviation, Dr. Nasim Zaidi at the ICAN 2011 press conference in Mumbai on October 17.

civil aviation authority had been proposed for administration and regulation of civil aviation safety.

He added that the process of constituting an accident investigation committee on the lines of the National Transport Safety Board was underway.

In India, there has been a significant enhancement in national and international connectivity making it the ninth biggest civil aviation market in the world. India has bilateral air services agreement with 108 countries and presently 72 foreign airlines are operating to and from various destinations. ■

BUSINESS AVIATION PLAYERS FORM ASSOCIATION

Thirty-nine business aircraft operators, representing 65 percent of the country's fleet in this category, have formed an association to define standards for the sector and promote its growth, an official said on October 21.

"The Business Aircraft Operators' Association (BAOA) will be the industry's first recognized body and provide a platform to encourage close cooperation among the various stake holders in the aviation sector," said its first President Rohit Kapur.

Kapur said India would be the third largest aviation market in the world by 2020.

DECKS CLEARED FOR INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS TO AGRA

Tourism is set to boom this winter in the Taj city Agra, Uttar Pradesh, with the Defense and Civil Aviation Ministries giving the go-ahead for landing of direct international flights at the local Kheria airport, an important base of the Indian Air Force. "Though some challenges like terminal and parking facility remain, the major areas like night landing, emergency services have been taken care of by the Airport Authority of India. We hope that the upgrade will continue, making it a world-class tourist airport hub," an official added.

DRAFT NATIONAL TELECOM POLICY 2011 UNVEILED

The government unveiled a draft of its new telecom policy that focuses on free roaming, transparent allocation of airwaves, strategies to increase rural reach, higher broadband speeds and more funding options for operators in New Delhi on October 10.

The draft policy, which was uploaded on the official website by Minister for Human Resource Development and Communications and Information Technology Kapil Sibal, also promises a new law on spectrum allocation and usage.

The minister said the new policy sought to de-link allocation of licence to service providers from the award of radio waves — which means spectrum would have to be acquired through competitive bidding or by sharing it with existing firms.

He also said that the final policy would be unveiled by December after receiving inputs from stakeholders and people at large. The current policy was drafted in 1999 when India's telecom



Minister for Human Resource Development and Communications and Information Technology Kapil Sibal (C) launching the portal of National Telecom Policy-2011 in New Delhi on October 10.

subscriber base was barely two million.

“Telecom today has emerged as a key driver of economic and social development and in an increasingly knowledge-intensive global scenario, India needs to play a leadership role,” Minister Sibal said, outlining the broad contours of the proposed new policy.

“This policy is designed to ensure that India plays this role effectively and transforms the socio-economic scenario through accelerated, equitable and inclusive economic growth by laying emphasis on providing affordable, quality services in rural and remote areas,” he said. According to Minister Sibal the policy aims to encourage convergence of telecom, television and broadband services in the country, overcoming all existing norms that segregate issues such as licensing, registration and regulatory mechanisms.

“The main thrust of the policy is on the multiplier effect and transformational impact of such services in the overall economy. It recognizes the role of such services in furthering the national development agenda while enhancing equity and inclusiveness.”

He also made it clear that while pursuing the new policy, the focus would be clearly on the development agenda and not on the money that could accrue to the exchequer.”

INDIA BECOMES BETTER PLACE TO DO BUSINESS

With the second best performance after Sri Lanka in South Asia, India climbed seven places to be ranked 132nd best place to do business, according to a new global survey.

China, India, and the Russian Federation are among the 30 economies that improved the most over time as 163 economies made their regulatory environment more business-friendly over the past six years, noted the survey by International Finance Corporation (IFC) and World Bank.

“Recently implemented mandatory electronic filing and payment for value-added tax made paying taxes easier for Indian firms,” according to the “Doing Business 2012: Doing Business in a More Transparent World” report released on October 20.

The report assesses regulations affecting domestic firms in 183 economies and ranks the economies in 10 areas of business regulation, such as starting a business, resolving insolvency and trading across borders.

The global report shows that governments in 125 economies, out of 183 measured, implemented a total of 245 business regulatory reforms — 13 percent more reforms than in the previous year.

IAF TO ORDER SIX MORE C-130J AIRLIFTES

The Indian Air Force (IAF) will soon place a follow-on order for six more C-130J Super Hercules medium-lift transporters and these will be based in Charbatia in Orissa to operate in the country's eastern and northeastern sector, including the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The IAF Chief, Air Chief Marshal Norman Anil Kumar Browne, said on October 3 that the new lot of C-130Js would operate in the northeastern part of India and go right up to the Car Nicobar air base in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Discussions with the US Government and the American manufacturer Lockheed Martin for the new batch of aircraft were on, and the order is expected to be placed by January 2012, he said. The C-130J can land and take off from unpaved, grassy fields the size of a football ground and can be a big support during both peace and war.

HIGHLIGHTS OF DRAFT NATIONAL TELECOM POLICY

- To increase rural tele-density from 35 percent to 100 percent by 2020
- To ensure broadband on demand and aim at 600 million connections by 2020
- To grant one nation-wide licence and do away with roaming charges
- To aim at releasing 500 MhZ spectrum by 2020 to improve service quality
- Transparent allocation of spectrum through market-related process
- Enactment of a new spectrum act to address these issues
- Infrastructure status to telecom for better financial options
- A new company to help fund telecom projects
- Mobile number portability across the country, rather than just intra-circle
- Appropriate policy for firms wishing to exit telecom business
- New fund to promote domestic research, manufacturing

President Obama honors three Indian-Americans

Recognizing the work of three Indian-Americans, two inventors and a researcher, President Barack Obama has presented them and nine other scientists and innovators the nation's highest honors in their fields.

New York University's Srinivasa S.R.Varadhan was among seven researchers who received the National Medal of Science from Obama at a ceremony in the East Room of the White House on October 21. Two Indian Institute of Technology alumni, Purdue University's Rakesh Agarwal, and North Carolina State University's B. Jayant Baliga are among the five who were presented Technology and Innovation medals.

"We recognize them today," said Obama, "because America has always been a place where good ideas can



From left to right: Srinivasa S.R.Varadhan, Rakesh Agarwal and B. Jayant Baliga

thrive and dreams can become real."

"From China, Germany, India, Canada and England, they searched for the best universities and the most advanced labs, and they found them here, because America is the best place in the world to do the work that they do," President Obama said.

Varadhan, an alumnus of Presidency College, Chennai, and Indian Statistical Institute, won the medal for his work in probability theory,

especially his work on large deviations from expected random behavior "which has revolutionized this field of study during the second half of the 20th century, and become a cornerstone of both pure and applied probability".

Agrawal, an alumnus of IIT-Kanpur, won the National Medal of Technology and Innovation "for an extraordinary record of innovations in improving the energy efficiency and reducing the cost of gas liquefaction and separation".

Baliga, an alumnus of IIT-Chennai, also won the technology medal, "for development and commercialization of the insulated gate bipolar transistor and other power semiconductor devices that are extensively used in transportation, lighting, medicine, defense, and renewable energy generation systems".

3 YOUNG INDIAN-AMERICAN SCIENTISTS HONORED

Three Indian-Americans — Dr. Kartik A Srinivasan, Sumita Pennathur and Hari Shroff — were among the 94 scientists honored by President Barack Obama with Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers on October 3.

Texas-born Dr. Kartik A Srinivasan, 31, is the project leader of the research group on nano-fabrication at the Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology. He has published over 40 peer-reviewed papers in scientific journals.

Massachusetts-born Sumita Pennathur, 33, is an assistant professor of mechanical engineering at the University of California in Santa Barbara. Her research is focused on using fundamental fluidics knowledge at both microscale and nanoscale to create devices for practical applications.

Kerala-born Hari Shroff, 29, heads the lab at the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, a part of the National Institutes of Health under the Department of Health and Human Services.

US hails Indian diaspora's role in strengthening ties

With a growing Indian-American community which has increasing influence, the U.S. sees the Indian diaspora as an important partner for forging closer ties with India, according to a senior U.S. official.

The long-standing work of Indian community groups in organizing the community and having a dialog with policy leaders embodied the importance of proactive civic engagement, said Mitul Desai, Senior Advisor for outreach in the South Asia bureau of the State Department at a meeting with them on October 10.

"The India-U.S. relationship will be one of the defining partnerships of the 21st century; but we know governments alone cannot realize the full promise of this potential and that is why we need the Indian-American

community's ideas, energy and commitment," said Desai, a second-generation Indian-American.



Mitul Desai

"On a range of issues, from our passport to India internship project to exciting new initiatives aimed at enhancing philanthropy in India and further accelerating India-U.S. state-state and city-city linkages, the diaspora has a crucial role to play," he added.

Desai's job at the bureau is to build a dialogue and partnerships with private sector, NGOs and diaspora organizations.

Thomas Abraham, Founder President and Chairman Emeritus of the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO), said the Obama administration's initiative to reach out and motivate the diaspora group was a welcome move in the right direction to further solidifying India-U.S. relations.

CHEAPEST TABLET COMPUTING DEVICE LAUNCHED

Aiming to bridge the digital divide in the country, India on October 5 launched the world's cheapest tablet computing device Akash costing about \$46.

Around 100,000 students will be able to have better access to information through the product developed jointly by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Rajasthan at Jodhpur, and DataWind Ltd.

The tablet, christened 'Akash', will be made available to higher education students in India at \$25 per unit with the federal government bearing 50 percent of the cost.

The government wished to bring down the cost of the device to less than \$10, Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal said.

"Akash is a milestone in history. It will bring paradigm shift in education delivery," said Sibal, adding: "The device is not only for Indian students



Minister for Human Resource Development and Communications and Information Technology Kapil Sibal launching the "Aakash Low Cost Access Device (LCAD)" in New Delhi on October 5. Minister of State for Human Resource Development Dr. (Smt.) D. Purandeswari is also seen.

but for those of the world."

Officials said the low-cost device would allow students in the rural areas access technology that would define the 21st century. "People said it can't be done in India and by the Indians. We accepted the challenge," said DataWind Chief Executive Officer Suneet Singh Tuli.

IIT-Rajasthan Director Prem Kalra said the prototype of the low-cost device was developed by his students.

Akash has a seven-inch Android 2.2 touch screen, Wi-Fi and can be used as an Ebook reader for access to online streaming course material and web-based research, he said.

Minister Sibal said the challenge for IT

experts was now to generate world-class content. He appealed to the hardware industry to come forward and partner the government in manufacturing the low-cost device.

N.K. Sinha, Additional Secretary in the Human Resource and Development Ministry, said field trials would help improve Akash.

50 GLORIOUS YEARS OF SATELLITE LAUNCHES

India's most successful rocket, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), on October 12 exceeded a half century of satellite launches when it slung four satellites into orbit.

The PSLV-C18 rocket blasted off the first launch pad at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh at 11.01 a.m. carrying the 1,000 kg Indo-French Megha-Tropiques satellite to

study tropical weather. The rocket also carried three other small satellites together weighing 42.6 kg.

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) inducted the PSLV rocket in 1993. Since then the rocket had carried 49 satellites (23 Indian and 26 foreign). This figure has



PSLV-C18 taking off from Sriharikota on October 12.

now risen to 53.

A major revenue earner for ISRO, the PSLV is a four-stage rocket alternatively powered by solid and liquid propellants. The first and third stages are fired by a solid propellant and the second and fourth stages by a liquid propellant.

ISRO has developed three PSLV variants. The first is the standard variant weighing

around 290 tonnes with six strap-on motors measuring 11.3 meters with a fuel capacity of nine tonnes. The other two variants are the PSLV Core Alone without the six strap-on motors and PSLV-XL with longer strap-on motors measuring 13.5 meters having a fuel capacity of 12 tonnes of solid fuel.

INDIA MULLING SECOND ROCKET PORT: SPACE AGENCY CHIEF

To increase the frequency of satellite launches and to cash in on the international market for launching remote sensing satellites, the Indian space agency is mulling another space port and adding more facilities at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh, a top official said on October 12.

"A feasibility study on building second space port like the one in Sriharikota will be made during the 12th (Five Year) Plan (2012-17) period. The study will look at the need, economics, safety and other aspects," Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) Chairman K.Radhakrishnan said.

"We have launched 27 foreign satellites till date using PSLV as co-passengers. There are several requests for launching small remote sensing satellites," Radhakrishnan said. He said the outlay for a new spaceport would be not less than \$202 million.

JAGJIT SINGH SIGNS OFF

The soulful voice behind many a popular *ghazal* was stilled forever with the death of Jagjit Singh in Mumbai on October 10 following brain haemorrhage. He was 70. Some of his songs like 'Honthon se chhoo lo tum', 'Jhuki jhuki si nazar' and 'Tumko dekha toh yeh khayal aaya', continue to remain all-time favorites.

His death left not just his friends, family and colleagues teary-eyed, but also a huge void in the music industry, which he had enriched with his soul-stirring and lilting melodies. He is survived by his wife, Chitra Singh.

The film industry remembered the singer and many paid condolences through Twitter.

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan posted on the microblogging site: "The sonorous silk voice of Jagjit Singh silent now!! A great loss to the world of music and *Ghazal* ...Prayers and condolences."

Oscar-winning composer A.R. Rahman tweeted: "Rest in Peace Jagjitji...No one can replace your voice and the perfection you had toward your art."

Born to a Sikh couple in Rajasthan on February 8, 1941, Singh went on to pursue a post-graduate degree in history from the Kurukshetra University in Haryana. He came to the country's entertainment capital, Mumbai, in 1965 in search of work as a singer.

A Padma Bhushan award recipient, Singh has sung for many popular Hindi films. He had also sung in several languages, including Urdu,

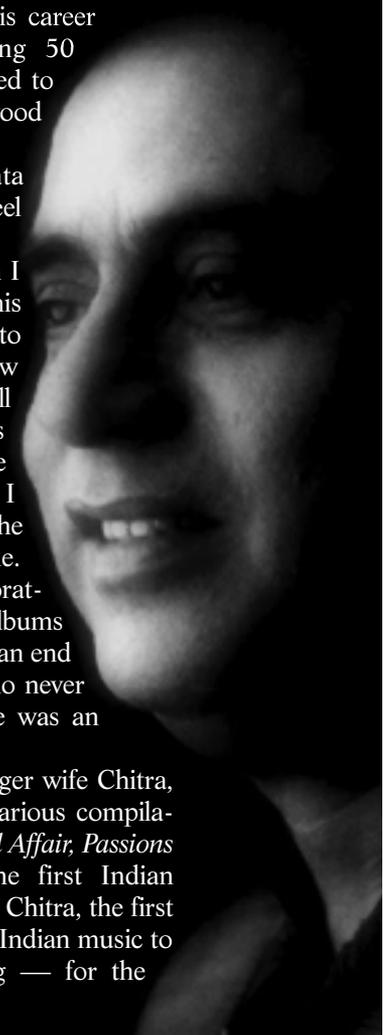
Punjabi, Gujarati and Nepali. His career boasted a repertoire comprising 50 albums, and he readily contributed to the *ghazal*, devotional and Bollywood market.

Music icons like Lata Mangeshkar and Asha Bhosle feel his music will live on.

"I can't imagine the days when I will no longer be able to hear his silken voice, no longer be able to talk to him or listen to his new songs. Now his old *ghazals* is all we have. His soothing voice, his warm hearted nature are all gone now. He was the pride of India. I also feel bad for his wife Chitra, she is all alone now," said Asha Bhosle.

Lata, with whom Singh collaborated for one of his best sold albums *Sajda*, said: "It is such a big loss, an end of an era. He was one artiste who never needed films to get popular. He was an instant hit."

Singh also worked with his singer wife Chitra, whom he married in 1967, on various compilations including *Ecstasies*, *A Sound Affair*, *Passions* and *Beyond Time*. He was the first Indian composer and, together with wife Chitra, the first recording artiste in the history of Indian music to use digital multi-track recording — for the album *Beyond Time* (1987).



JACKSON GUITARIST PLAYS FOR 'ROCKSTAR'

Composer A.R. Rahman roped in Orianthi Panagaris, the lead guitarist from the team of Michael Jackson, to play for the song 'Saadda Haq' in Imtiaz Ali's film *Rockstar*.



While Rahman and Imtiaz had short-listed several Indian and international musicians, they had Orianthi on top of their list given her incredible body of work and her huge international success," a source from the team said.

Rahman checked with his agent in Los Angeles and even met with Orianthi during one of his visits there. He made her listen to the track and Orianthi immediately agreed to be a part of the film.

CROSSOVER FLAVOR AT MUMBAI FILM FESTIVAL

The past few years have seen a lull in crossover films but the Mumbai Film Festival (MFF) has screened six such movies, including *Lucky* and *Delhi In A Day*, and each of them had a fresh perspective and engaging stories with a connection to India.

The six films — *Delhi In A Day*, *Love, wrinkle free*, *A Decent Arrangement*, *Chatrak*, *Lucky*, *Everywhere and Nowhere* — were screened in the India Worldwide section at the MFF on its concluding day on October 20, and they covered an interesting range of stories, traveling from Srinagar and Delhi to Durban and London. Most of the films

were directed by Indians living abroad.

If Paris-based Indian director Prashant Nair's *Delhi In A Day* takes a peek into the lives of rich living in sprawling country villas in India's capital, Philadelphia-based Sarovar Banka's *A Decent Arrangement*, which has Shabana Azmi, is about the arranged marriage of a non-resident Indian (NRI) man. Interestingly titled *Love, wrinkle free*, which is shot in Goa, deals with the effect a 46-year-old woman's pregnancy has on her 38-year-old husband and her adopted daughter. Director Sandeep Mohan said his film had an international flavor and was inspired by his personal experiences and observations.

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A Sikh devotee offers prayers at the illuminated Golden Temple in Amritsar, Punjab. AFP Photo.

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