

# India Review

February 1, 2014

सत्यमेव जयते

■ Vol. 10 Issue 2

■ [www.indianembassy.org](http://www.indianembassy.org)



Rajpath comes alive during the 65<sup>th</sup> Republic Day Parade-2014 in New Delhi on January 26.

## India celebrates 65<sup>th</sup> Republic Day

■ FIVE PEOPLE FROM US AMONG 127 PADMA AWARDEES

■ 12<sup>TH</sup> PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS CELEBRATED

■ US RETURNS THREE 'MOST WANTED' STOLEN ANTIQUITIES



## India celebrates 65th Republic Day

The feverish enthusiasm among the thousands of spectators, coupled with a feeling of national pride, made the 65<sup>th</sup> Republic Day celebrations on Rajpath in the Capital a zestful affair for the young and old alike

**P**omp, pageantry and patriotic fervor were in the air on January 26 as the 65<sup>th</sup> Republic Day was celebrated across the country with flag hoisting ceremonies, military parades, cultural extravaganzas and pledges to work for a better India.

In New Delhi, India's powerful military punch and rich cultural heritage were showcased at the main Republic Day parade, with chief guest and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe keenly watching the 90-minute event on Rajpath boulevard in the heart of the city.

At 9.9 degrees Celsius, it was the coldest Republic Day in a decade. But, the feverish enthusiasm among the thousands of spectators, coupled with a feeling of national pride, made the celebrations on Rajpath a zestful affair for the young and old alike.

Be it the army tanks, a scaled down naval submarine, the indigenous air force fighter jet, the marching contingents of the armed forces, the 162 riders of the Border Security Force performing a series of maneuvers on 30 motorcycles, the diverse tableaux and folk dances by enthusiastic students, the spectators were definitely spoiled for choice as the parade unfolded.

The celebrations began with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh paying homage to the unknown soldier.

After laying a wreath at the Amar Jawan Jyoti memorial at India Gate, a World War I monument, Prime Minister Singh headed back to the saluting base on the Rajpath boulevard for the colorful parade.

President Pranab Mukherjee, who took the salute, was accompanied by the Japanese Prime Minister.

The President's Bodyguard presented the national salute, the tricolor was unfurled and the national anthem was played.

There was color aplenty even in the military contingents — the blue and white tunics of the 61 Cavalry, perhaps the world's oldest horse-mounted regiment, contrasting with the purple berets of the Parachute Regiment, the orange turbans of the Sikh Light Infantry and the striped green headgear of the Maratha Light Infantry.

And, if the contingents of the armed forces and paramilitary forces matched each other step-for-step, so did the music: well-loved marches like 'Saare Jahan Se Achcha', 'Deshon Ka Sartaj Bharat', 'Kadam Kadam Badaye Ja', 'Jai Bharati' and 'Deshon Ki Hamne Shaan Badhaye' to name just a few, all vying for attention. 

# 2014 will be the year of resurgence: President

India has the intellectual prowess, the human resource and financial capital to shape a glorious future, says President Pranab Mukherjee

Addressing the nation on the eve of the 65<sup>th</sup> Republic Day, President Pranab Mukherjee said 2014 would be the year of resurgence and noted that India can become an example to the world.

“The last decade witnessed the emergence of India as one of the fastest growing economies in the world. The slowdown of our economy in the last two years can be some cause for concern but none for despair. The green shoots of revival are already visible,” President Mukherjee said in his address to the nation on January 25.

Referring to India’s robust democratic traditions, the President said, “I am being neither immodest, nor beating a false drum, when I claim that India can become an example to the world.”

He said India’s finest assets are human. “India has the intellectual prowess, the human resource and financial capital to shape a glorious future. We possess a dynamic civil society with an innovative mindset. Our people, whether in villages or cities, share a vibrant, unique consciousness and culture,” the President said.

President Mukherjee said that the youth can transform villages and cities to 21<sup>st</sup> century standards. “Give them a chance and you will marvel at the India they can create,” he added.



President Pranab Mukherjee addressing the nation on the eve of the 65<sup>th</sup> Republic Day, in New Delhi on January 25.

**Excerpts from President Pranab Mukherjee’s address to the nation on the eve of the 65<sup>th</sup> Republic Day:**

“The Republic Day commands the respect of every Indian. On this day, sixty four years ago, in a remarkable display of idealism and courage, we the people of India gave to ourselves a sovereign democratic republic to

**I AM BEING NEITHER  
IMMODEST, NOR BEATING A  
FALSE DRUM, WHEN I  
CLAIM THAT INDIA CAN  
BECOME AN EXAMPLE TO  
THE WORLD**

— President Mukherjee

secure all its citizens justice, liberty and equality. We undertook to promote among all citizens fraternity, the dignity of the individual and the unity of the nation.

These ideals became the lodestar of the modern Indian State. Democracy became our most precious guide towards peace and regeneration from the swamp of poverty created by centuries of colonial rule.

From within the spacious provisions of our Constitution, India has grown into a beautiful, vibrant, and sometimes noisy democracy. For us, democracy is not a gift, but the fundamental right of every citizen; for those in power democracy is a sacred trust.

The last decade witnessed the emergence of India as one of the fastest growing economies in the world. The slowdown of our econo-



(Left) Chief guest of Republic Day, Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe and his wife Akie Abe with President Pranab Mukherjee, Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, during the 'At Home' reception hosted by the President at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on January 26; (Right) Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh paying homage at the Amar Jawan Jyoti, India Gate, in New Delhi on January 26. (Opposite page) A bird's eye view of Rajpath.

## 'India, US committed to indispensable partnership'

**D**escribing India as a country on the move, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on January 25 said that the two countries remain committed to the indispensable India-U.S. partnership.

Extending congratulations to India for Republic Day on behalf of President Barack Obama and the people of the U.S., Secretary Kerry said, "The real magic of India lies as much in its promising future as it does in its rich heritage."

### **Text of Secretary Kerry's message on the occasion:**

"On behalf of President Obama and the people of the United States, I am delighted to send best wishes to the people of the Republic of India as you celebrate Republic Day on January 26.

The real magic of India lies as much in its promising future as it does in its rich heritage. I'll never forget my first visit to India nearly 20 years ago on a United States Senate Congressional trade delegation. The dynamism I saw then

continues today. India is a country on the move.

Beneath all the changes — and what really binds our nations and our peoples together — is our shared commitment to a strong and vibrant democratic heritage. India's transition to democratic independence and emergence on the world stage was one of the great success stories of the 20th century. Today, it is an inspiration for so many young democracies.

When I spoke with External Affairs Minister Khurshid in Montreaux this past week, we agreed that both our peoples benefit when the world's largest and oldest democracies work closely together. External Affairs Minister Khurshid and I affirmed that we are eager to move forward with our high-level dialogues and exchanges soon, and that our countries remain firmly committed to the indispensable U.S.-India partnership.

On this special day, I offer our congratulations to the Indian people and warmest wishes for continued prosperity and peace."

my in the last two years can be some cause for concern but none for despair. The green shoots of revival are already visible. The agricultural growth in the first half of this year has touched 3.6 percent and rural economy is buoyant.

2014 is a precipice moment in our history. We must re-discover that sense of national purpose and patriotism, which lifts the nation above and across the abyss; and back on to the road of prosperity. Give the young jobs and they will raise the villages and cities to 21st century standards. Give them a chance and you will marvel at the India they can create.

India is not just a geography: it is also a history of ideas, philosophy, intellect, industrial genius, craft, innovation, and experience.

India has the intellectual prowess, the human resource and financial capital to shape a glorious future. We possess a dynamic civil society with an innovative mindset. Our people, whether in villages or cities, share a vibrant, unique consciousness and culture. Our finest assets are human.

Education has been an inseparable part of the Indian experience. I am not talking only of the ancient institutions of excellence like Takshashila or Nalanda, but of an age as recent as the 17th and 18th centuries. Today,

our higher educational infrastructure consists of over 650 universities and 33,000 colleges.

The quality of education has to be the focus of our attention now. We can be world leaders in education, if only we discover the will and leadership to take us to that pinnacle.

I am being neither immodest, nor beating a false drum, when I claim that India can become an example to the world. Because, the human mind flourishes best when it is, as the great



sage Rabindranath Tagore said, free from fear; when it has the liberty to roam into spheres unknown; in search of wisdom; and when the people have the fundamental right to propose as well as oppose.

India's true strength lies in her Republic; in the courage of her commitment, the sagacity of her Constitution, and the patriotism of her people. 1950 saw the birth of our Republic. I am sure that 2014 will be the year of resurgence.

## Five people from US among 127 Padma awardees

Five people from the U.S. including three Indian-Americans were conferred the Padma awards on the eve of the 65<sup>th</sup> Republic Day on January 25. The three Indian Americans — Ashok Kumar Mago, Dr. Siddharth Mukherjee and Dr. Vamsi Mootha — are recipients of the Padma Shri awards this year.

Texas-based Mago has played a key role in improving the India-U.S. relationship in trade and business. He was also instrumental in setting up of the Senate-India Caucus and played a key role in the Congressional passage of the civil nuclear deal.

India-born American physician-scientist Mukherjee is best known for his book *The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer* that won a Pulitzer Prize in 2011.

Professor of systems biology and medicine at Harvard Medical School, Mootha's work has led to the development of generic, computational strategies that have now been applied successfully to other human diseases.

Two Americans who jointly won India's Padma Bhushan awards this year, the third highest civilian award in India, among others. Susanne Hoerber Rudolph, the William Benton Distinguished Service Professor Emerita at the University of Chicago; and Lloyd I. Rudolph, Professor



Noted scientist R.A. Mashelkar and yoga expert B.K.S. Iyengar were named for Padma Vibhushan.



Susanne and Lloyd Rudolph will get Padma Bhushan, India's third highest civilian honor.

Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Chicago, will each receive the Padma Bhushan.

Of the total 127 Padma Awardees, 27 are women and ten are foreigners, NRIs and PIOs.

The Indian awardees included noted scientist R.A. Mashelkar, yoga expert B.K.S. Iyengar, actors Kamal Haasan and Vidya Balan, tennis player Leander Paes, cricketer Yuvraj Singh, and former chief justice of India, the late J.S. Verma, among others.

While Mashelkar and Iyengar were the two named for Padma

Vibhushan, 24 eminent people including Verma, Justice Dalveer Bhandari, Haasan, writers Anita Desai and Ruskin Bond, badminton player P. Gopichand and Paes got the Padma Bhushan.

Of the total 101 conferred the Padma Shri include Vidya Balan and Paresch Rawal, cricketers Yuvraj and Anjum Chopra, Odisha sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik, and fashion designer Wendell Rodricks.

Padma Awards — the country's highest civilian awards, are conferred to eminent people for their contribution in the field of social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service.

Besides Verma and Bhandari, others who have been conferred Padma Bhushan include artist Gulam Mohammed Sheikh, classical singer Begum Parveen Sultana and *ghatam* (percussion) performer T.H. Vinayakram.

Padma Bhushan for literature and education has been conferred on Mrityunjay Athreya, Anita Desai, Dhirubhai Thakar, Vairamuthu Ramasamy Thevar and Ruskin Bond, Anisuzzaman (Bangladesh), Lloyd I. Rudolph and Susanne H. Rudolph (both US) jointly. While Neelam Kler got Padma Bhushan for medicine, Vijayendra Nath Kaul got the award in the civil service category.

# Prime Minister urges diaspora to stay engaged with changing India

The country is all set to assume the international role and responsibilities that the world at large expects from a rising India, says Prime Minister Singh

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on January 8 said India is changing in a significant way and asked over 22 million expatriate community, the world's second largest, to stay engaged in the future of the country with confidence and optimism.

"India is changing in a way that is significant but not always evident to those who do not see the big picture," he said, addressing the Indian diaspora at the Pravasi Bharatiya Day congregation in New Delhi.

The country, he added, is "prepared to assume the international role and responsibilities that the world at large expects from a rising India."

Prime Minister Singh said the economy would grow at 5 percent in 2013-14 and it was heading towards better days.

"I wish to assure you that there is no reason to despair about our present or worry about our future," the Prime Minister told the audience.

"Our economic fundamentals remain strong. Our savings and investment rates are still over 30 percent of our GDP and the entrepreneurial spirit in India is very much alive and kicking," he said.

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

"I am delighted to extend to all of you a very warm welcome on the occasion of the annual Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. I am glad that, once again, the New Year is beginning with a celebration of the emotional, spiritual, economic and family ties that bind the expatriate Indian community to the



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh lighting the lamp at the 12<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in New Delhi on January 8. Union Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs Vayalar Ravi and the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs & Sports Jitendra Singh are also seen.

motherland. This year, we welcome particularly the younger generation among the expatriates. Their presence in our midst gives a special resonance to this year's theme of connecting across generations.

It is not only the size of the Indian expatriate community as the world's second largest, but also your achievements that give you a very significant global profile. The Indian community's contribution to India has also been invaluable — from the workers who labor abroad to support their families and communities at home; the professionals who share the fruits of their skills for India's development;

the entrepreneurs who bring investments into and promote exports from India; and, the community leaders who interpret India for the world and advance its interests abroad.

We on our part will continue to support and assist you, and promote your links with India in every possible way. It was for this purpose that, when our Government came to power, we established the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs. We have also recently launched the Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana to provide social security to Indian workers abroad. The Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra in Delhi will be

## Education key to India's next golden age: President

Education is what will determine how fast India joins the ranks of leading nations of the world, President Pranab Mukherjee said in New Delhi on January 9. "I believe education is the alchemy that can bring India its next golden age," President Mukherjee said in his address at the valedictory session of the 12<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bharatiya Divas.

"The success we achieve in educating our people will determine how fast India joins the ranks of leading nations of the world," he said.

President Mukherjee said that if India has to attain a growth rate of nine percent per year, as has been envisaged during the 12th Five Year Plan period, "we must put in place enabling factors, most prominent of which is education".

"Time has now come for us to reclaim our leadership position in the world as far as higher education is concerned," the President said.

"Overseas Indians can play an



President Pranab Mukherjee delivering the valedictory address at the 12<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 'Engaging Diaspora Connecting Across Generation', in New Delhi on January 9.

extremely important role in helping the education institutions of India, most of which are their Alma Maters, rise to world class status. They can be catalysts in transforming our higher education institutions and instilling in them a culture of excellence as well as the spirit of innovation," he said

I call upon all of you to take up

this task in a single minded manner," the President added.

He said the Indian economy was more resilient than most other countries. "I am sure you have (the) confidence in the inherent resilience of our people and the dynamism of our economy which has the ability to overcome temporary downturns," he said.

completed this year. We also intend to start a scheme to assist state governments in establishing Pravasi Bharatiya Bhawans. I compliment the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and my colleague Shri Vayalar Ravi for these initiatives.

On this occasion, I would also like to record my appreciation for the work of the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, as also the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for successfully addressing the challenges that more than a million Indian workers faced following changes in Saudi Arabia's labor policies. As always, our objective is to support our emigrant communities and I hope this year's Pravasi Bharatiya Divas will again provide an opportunity to discuss

how we can forge a more productive partnership.

I know that many of you have questions about the future of the Indian economy and concerns about social challenges, the shape of our polity and the issues of governance in our country. There is a perception in some quarters outside India that the country is losing its momentum of

**I WISH TO ASSURE YOU  
THAT THERE IS NO REASON  
TO DESPAIR ABOUT OUR  
PRESENT OR WORRY ABOUT  
OUR FUTURE**

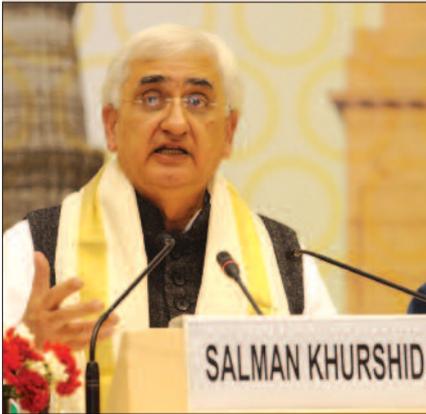
—Prime Minister Singh

the past decade. This is also amplified by the political contestations here in India, which are inevitably louder in the election season that is now on the horizon. I wish to assure you that there is no reason to despair about our present or worry about our future. Indeed, as I have said earlier, we are heading into better times ahead and I would urge you to remain engaged in the future of this country with confidence and optimism.

Let me make five broad points to bolster this argument.

First, regardless of the outcome of the next elections, they will once again demonstrate to the world the strength of our democracy and our institutions, and the enduring nature of these ideals that constitute the bedrock for our nation's progress

## 'Help build India's Brand Image'



Minister for External Affairs Salman Khurshid addressing at the Plenary Session — India's Soft Power, at the 12<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in New Delhi on January 8.

Minister for External Affairs Salman Khurshid has exhorted the overseas Indians to become India's best ambassadors to spread and popularize the country's values, beliefs, culture and heritage overseas.

Presiding over the session on 'India Soft Power' on the second day of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2014 in New Delhi, Minister Khurshid called upon all the delegates to be active in social networking to enable India to build its brand name and image so that deeper economic engagements are concluded with overseas economies, irrespective of their size.

Kapil Sibal, Minister of Communication & Information Technology and Law & Justice said that by 2020, 600 million Indians would have migrated to large cities, embracing latest technologies with the best of education at their command. This would create windows for them to unleash their potential and make India a hub to interact and interconnect with the rest of the world.

and our quest for a life of opportunity, justice and equity for all citizens of our diverse country.

Recent developments point to the greater enrichment of our democracy, which is becoming more participative and interactive, with people using both traditional methods and new digital tools to mobilize and communicate. It is especially encouraging to see our youth from all walks of life not only articulate their expectations and aspirations, but take actively to politics to shape their future. This is only to be welcomed. It is only thus that the extraordinary transformation that is taking place in our country on multiple levels can be distilled constructively into our democratic process, which has the vitality and responsiveness to reflect the new and emerging concerns and hopes and aspirations of our people. I am confident and so should you be that the future of our country as a pluralistic democracy is safe and secure.

Second, our economy has done well over the past decade. In the nine years since 2004, we averaged a healthy growth rate of 7.9 percent per annum. There has been no doubt a slow down in the recent past, and we will probably end this year at the

same level as last year with 5 percent growth. A number of international as well as domestic factors have contributed to this situation. Despite these challenges, our economic fundamentals remain strong. Our savings and investment rates are still over 30 percent of our GDP and the entrepreneurial spirit in India is very much alive and kicking.

Third, India is changing in a way that is significant but not always evident to those who do not see the big picture. Over the past ten years, our communication networks have expanded exponentially and much of rural India will be connected by broadband in the very near future. About a thousand institutions of higher education are today part of the high speed National Knowledge Network. Telephony is now within the reach of everyone.

The education sector has been radically reformed with Central Universities having gone from 17 to 44 and the IITs and IIMs doubling in number. At the primary level, nearly every child in India is going to school today. The National Skills Development Authority is working with other stakeholders, including those from the private sector, to train



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh releasing the book *Incredible Opportunities Back Home*, at the 12<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in New Delhi. Union Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs Vayalar Ravi and Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs & Sports Jitendra Singh are also seen.

# Two Indian-Americans among 10 diaspora members honored with PBD award

Ten prominent members of the Indian diaspora from various parts of the world, including two Indian-Americans, were honored with the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award on January 9.

Dr. Parthasarathy Chiramel Pillai and Renu Khator are the two Indian-Americans who were honored with the award. President Pranab Mukherjee conferred the award at the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the annual diaspora meet — Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) — in New Delhi.

While Dr. Pillai was recognized for his contribution to science and for fostering closer relations between India and the U.S., Khator was conferred the award for her contribution in the field of education and enhancing India's prestige abroad.

Mahatma Gandhi's granddaugh-



President Pranab Mukherjee with Dr. Parthasarathy Chiramel Pillai (far left), Renu Khator (far right) and the awardees of the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman, at the Valedictory Session of the 12<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in New Delhi. Union Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs Vayalar Ravi is also seen.

ter Ela Gandhi, who is based in South Africa, was honored for her contributions in the field of public services, enhancing India's image and promoting ties between India and South Africa. Other awardees included Bahrain-based business-

man Kurian Verghese, Canada-based entrepreneur and philanthropist Vasdev Chanchlani and France-based educationist Bikas Chandra Sanyal. The Ramakrishna Mission's Fiji unit was honored for its community service.

50 million people for the workforce during the next 5 years.

We have added over 17000 kilometers of highways and more than 200,000 kilometers of new roads in rural areas. Our power generation capacity is expanding rapidly, aided by initiatives in solar, wind and nuclear energy to give ourselves a more sustainable energy future.

Fourth, India's economic growth has not only accelerated, it has also become socially more inclusive and regionally more balanced.

This is the result of path-breaking legislation and schemes that have created unprecedented rights to work, food security and right to education. For our government, inclusive development is not merely a moral imperative or a political necessity, but an essential ingredient of sustainable long-term economic growth and social stability.

Finally, one of our key priorities has been to provide open, transparent,

accountable and clean government. The Right to Information, the Lokpal legislation, the Government Procurement Bill, changes in the systems for the allocation of natural resources and empowering our law enforcement and audit agencies are some of the steps we have taken in that direction.

India is changing rapidly from within at the same time as being called upon to adjust to a rapidly changing world. This is a formidable challenge for a country of our size and our diver-

**WE ON OUR PART WILL  
CONTINUE TO SUPPORT AND  
ASSIST YOU, AND PROMOTE  
YOUR LINKS WITH INDIA IN  
EVERY POSSIBLE WAY.**

—Prime Minister Singh

sity. But it is a challenge we are equal to. In particular, we draw strength from the energy and optimism of India's youth; from the freedoms that empower our people; from the debate that enriches our thinking; from the sense of unity that only becomes deeper when tested the most; and from the political consensus that underpins our economic policy.

I have no doubt that we are prepared to assume the international role and responsibilities that the world at large expects from a rising India. I am also confident that the association between India and its over twenty-two million roving ambassadors in the expatriate Indian community will continue to deepen and prosper in the years that lie ahead.

With these words, let me conclude by wishing you and your families a very happy and successful 2014 and I thank you once again for joining us for the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. May your path be blessed."

# Grand strategy underwriting India-US ties is fundamentally sound: Ambassador

Noting that economy is so central to India-US ties, Ambassador Jaishankar said that India's interests warrant supporting an early American recovery

Asserting that “the grand strategy underwriting our ties is fundamentally sound,” India's Ambassador to the U.S., Dr. S. Jaishankar said. “It needs maintenance and from time to time, an upgrade. That puts the emphasis on detailing and problem solving,” he said in his speech on India-U.S. relations at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace on January 29.

Echoing President Barack Obama, Ambassador Jaishankar described the U.S. as “the indispensable partner” to realize India's key priorities.

“To realize India's four key priorities — energizing the economy, raising our technology and management capabilities, securing the homeland, and ensuring a favorable balance of power — the U.S. is the indispensable partner.” Secondly, “these big Indian goals are not at odds with the interests of the US. In fact, these could even be complementary”. Noting that “economy is now so central to our ties,” Ambassador Jaishankar said: “I would also like to make it very clear that India's interests warrant supporting an early American recovery.”

“A fair dialogue should also take into account Indian priorities and concerns,” he said.

## *Excerpts from the Ambassador's speech on the occasion:*

Looking back at the growth of Indo-U.S. relations in the last decade and a half, it is as if we were fated to come together. Now, that has not always been our history. If we closely examine the three key drivers of our ties today, the reality is that each one has a specific context.



Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar delivering his address on India-U.S. relations at the Carnegie Endowment on January 29.

First & foremost is our geo-strategic and political convergence, something that could only manifest itself after the Cold War.

The second is our intersecting economic interests. These are the consequence of higher Indian economic growth rates as well as the broader rise of Asia.

The third is a mix of our shared values and societal contacts. These reflect the expanding Indian-American community and the growing middle class in India. Each one of these factors evolved over a period of time. But their

coming together created the basis for the current phase of our ties. It is not as if all of this happened on its own. On the contrary, the new level of our relationship was animated by strategic vision in both nations. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh only recently singled out the coming together of the two countries, in the form of the civilian nuclear agreement, as the best moment of his whole tenure. This vision became reality due to the commitment and diligence on the part of many — on both sides. I stress this to drive home the point that our ties can neither afford dilution of attention nor weakening of faith.

So, where are our relations today? Politically, there is no question that our comfort levels are higher than they have ever been before.

**OUR TIES (INDIA-U.S.) CAN  
NEITHER AFFORD DILUTION  
OF ATTENTION NOR  
WEAKENING OF FAITH**

— AMBASSADOR JAISHANKAR

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

[www.indianembassy.org/press\\_detail.php?nid=1998](http://www.indianembassy.org/press_detail.php?nid=1998)

## Ambassador discusses investment opportunities in India with US business leaders

Investment opportunities in India were the focus of discussions between the new Indian Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar and a group of 90 industry executives and businessmen from the US-India Business Council (USIBC).

The meeting in Washington on January 29 was followed by a welcome reception of over 200 member companies of the trade group comprising 350 top-tier U.S. and Indian companies advancing India-U.S. commercial ties, U.S. government officials, think tanks, and friends of India.

Ambassador Jaishankar engaged with USIBC on important topics that have dominated the bilateral commercial relationship in recent months — namely, tax treatment of investments in India and the protection of intellectual property (IP).

Industry captains also discussed the need for improvements to infra-



(Left) Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar with industry executives and businessmen from USIBC in Washington on January 29. (Right) Ambassador Jaishankar with Ron Somers, President, USIBC; Ajay Banga (center), USIBC Chairman and President & CEO, MasterCard.



structure and increased investment in defense and energy.

The group raised the need to work together towards a step-by-step immigration reform bill in the U.S. Congress that allows choice, promotes American competitive, and enhances free market opportunity. Commitments were restated by both sides to advance a unique trusted traveller programme known as Global Entry which would allow

approved travelers to breeze across the globe, using a “quick pass kiosks” at airports to avoid long lines at Customs and Immigration.

Thanking the envoy, USIBC Chairman Ajay Banga said: “The potential to reach \$500 billion in two-way trade by 2020 is an achievable goal if we work together in partnership in an environment that provides predictability, consistency, and transparency.”

### India-U.S. NEWS

## Under Myron Belkind, Indian ethos permeate National Press Club

At the inaugural gala to mark the beginning of National Press Club’s 107<sup>th</sup> presidency under Myron Belkind, former Associated Press (AP) bureau chief in New Delhi and currently a Professorial Lecturer and George Washington University (GWU), guests were invited with a *tilak* on their forehead. Charge d’ Affaires Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu attended the event that witnessed the participation of several diplomats from across the world.

During the event, Myron ordered that every member of the Press Club should say ‘Namaste’ with folded hands instead of Good Morning or



(Top) From Left, Gill Klein, former National Press Club President, Max Desfor and Myron Belkind. (Photo: Lalit Jha) (Above) Bhangra presentation. Photo: Narayan Lakshman; Source: The Hindu

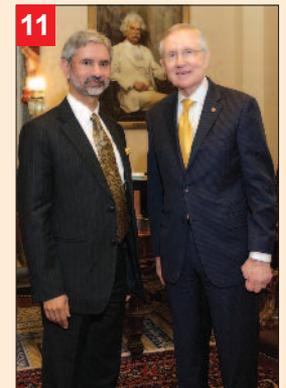
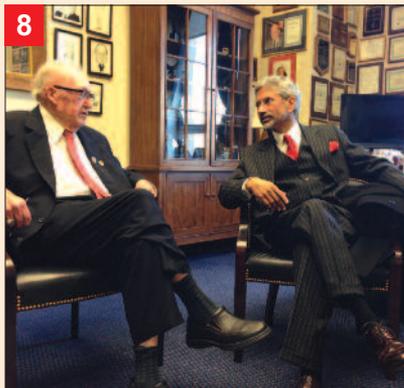
Good Evening for the next one year.

To honor Myron’s long association with India, a rare, iconic photograph of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru taken in 1946 in then Bombay by Max Desfor of the AP was released.

If delectable Indian cuisine tickled the taste buds of the guests, an Indian *bhangra* dance performance by GWU Bhangra Group enthralled the audience at the 3,100-member National Club functioning since 1908.

Belkind, who is married to Rachel, an Indian, spent 10 years in India for Associated Press as New Delhi Correspondent (1966-67) and New Delhi Bureau Chief (1968-1977). (Story source: The Hindu )

## Photo Album of Ambassador's Meetings





1. Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar with Congressman Eliot Engel, Ranking Democrat of House Foreign Affairs Committee on January 7.
2. Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar with Senator Tim Kaine, Chairman of Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Asia Pacific and South and Central Asia on January 8.
3. Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar with Senator Rob Portman of Ohio on January 8.
4. Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar with Congressman Jim McDermott of Washington on January 9.
5. Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar with Senator Mark Warner, Co-Chair of Senate India Caucus on January 9.
6. Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar with U.S. Deputy Secretary of Energy Daniel B. Poneman at the US Department of Energy on January 10.
7. Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar with Congressman Howard Coble of North Carolina on January 13.
8. Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar with Congressman George Holding of North Carolina on January 13.
9. Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar with Senator Roy

10. Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar with Senator Dianne Feinstein, Chair of Senate Select Committee on Intelligence on January 13.
11. Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid on January 14. (Photo: Senate Photography Studio)
12. Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar with Deputy Secretary of State William J. Burns at the U.S. State Department on January 14. (Photo: U.S. Department of State)
13. Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar with House Speaker John Boehner on January 14.
14. Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar with Senator Ted Cruz, Member of Senate Armed Services Committee on January 14.
15. Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar with Congressman Ami Bera, Member of House Foreign Affairs Committee, on January 15.
16. Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar with Congressman Joe Crowley, Co-Chair of House India Caucus, on January 15.
17. Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar with Congressman Steve Chabot, Chairman of House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia

- and the Pacific, on January 15.
18. Ambassador with Chairman of House Armed Services Committee, Congressman Howard P. 'Buck' McKeon on January 28.
19. Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar with Congressman Joe Barton, Chairman Emeritus of House Committee on Energy and Commerce, on January 15.
20. Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar with Chairman Michael McCaul of House Committee on Homeland Security on January 15.
21. Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar with Congressman Sam Johnson of House Ways and Means Committee on January 16.
22. Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar with Congressman Brad Sherman, Member of House Foreign Affairs Committee on January 16.
23. Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar with Senator John McCain on Jan. 27.
24. Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar with Congressman John Larson of Connecticut on January 28.
25. Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar with House Foreign Affairs Committee Member, Congressman Ted Poe of Texas on January 28.

## Republic Day Reception at Embassy Residence



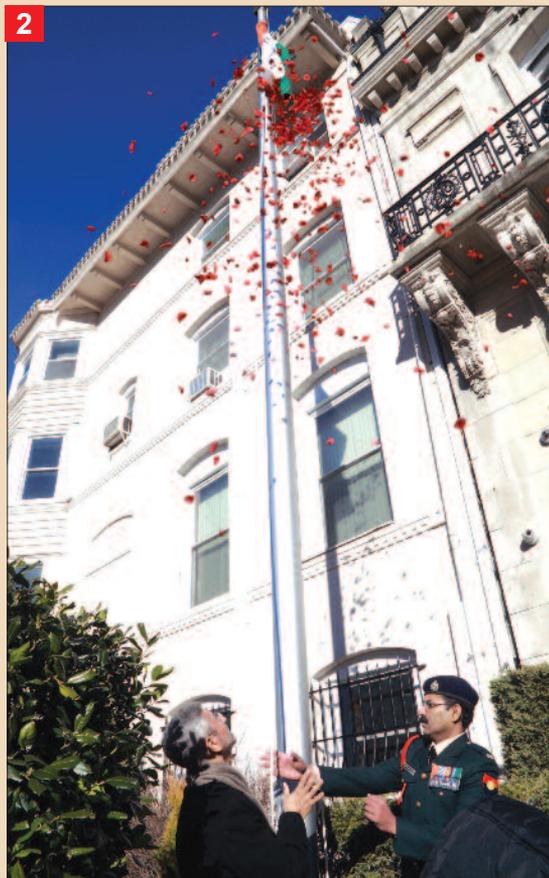
1. Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar addressing the gathering at the Republic Day Reception hosted at the Embassy Residence on January 23.
2. Deputy Secretary of State Heather Higginbottom speaking on the occasion.
3. Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar with Deputy Secretary of State Heather Higginbottom.
- 4-5. Guests in attendance.

## Embassy celebrates Republic Day 2014

The Embassy celebrated India's 65<sup>th</sup> Republic Day at its premises in Washington, D.C. on January 26. On the occasion, Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar paid floral tribute to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in front of the Embassy and unfurled the National Flag. Over 250 community members present

on the occasion then joined the Ambassador in singing the National Anthem. Ambassador Jaishankar addressed the guests and read out the President's Address to the Nation.

This was followed by presentation of Indian patriotic songs by a cultural performance team.



1. Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar paying floral tributes at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of India's 65th Republic Day on January 26.
2. Ambassador Jaishankar unfurling the National Flag.
3. Ambassador Jaishankar addressing the guests and reading out the President's message to the Nation.
4. Musical group 'Tarang' rendering patriotic songs in various Indian languages.
5. Ambassador Jaishankar and Mrs. Kyoko Jaishankar with the artists.
6. Guests in attendance.

## CGI New York celebrates 65<sup>th</sup> Republic Day of India

Consul General of India in New York Ambassador Dnyaneshwar M. Mulay hosted a reception to celebrate India's 65<sup>th</sup> Republic Day on January 26.

Consul General read out the excerpts from the address of the President of India Pranab Mukherjee on the eve of the Republic Day. In his remarks the Consul General commended the Indian-American community for its contribution to the India-U.S. relations.

He also addressed the issues faced by the community and appealed to them to work closely with the Consulate to sort out their difficulties. He informed the audience about the plans of the Consulate to hold two flagship programs, Media India 2014,



Consul General Dnyaneshwar M. Mulay speaking on the occasion; (Right) A cross-section of the audience.

and State-by-State India during 2014.

Over 200 people comprising representatives from the Indian American community, Consuls General and other dignitaries, including Senator Swati Dandekar from Iowa, Patty Judge, former Lt. Governor of Iowa, Assemblymen, Upendra Chivkula

and Raj Mukherjee from New Jersey and Assemblyman David Weprin from New York State, New York City Councilmen Daniel Dromm and Paul Vallone.

The programme concluded with poetry recital by Poet Laureate Ramya Ramana.

## US returns three 'most wanted' stolen antiquities to India

The United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) returned three recovered stolen sand stone sculptures, valued at more than \$1.5 million (USD), to the Government of India, during a repatriation ceremony held at the Consulate General of India, New York, on January 14.

Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Executive Associate Director James A. Dinkins presented the artifacts to Consul General of India Ambassador Dnyaneshwar M. Mulay. INTERPOL Washington Director Mr. Shawn Bray was also present on the occasion. Amb. Mulay appreciated the remarkable efforts made by ICE HSI in the recovery of the three priceless Indian assets and expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the U.S. authorities for having invested so much time, energy and resources in obtaining, securing and helping India repatriate these sculptures.



HSI Executive Associate Director James A. Dinkins presented the artifacts to Consul General Dnyaneshwar M. Mulay. INTERPOL Washington Director Shawn Bray is also seen.

"The excellent international cooperation between the United States and India led to the recovery and return of these priceless antiquities," said Dinkins. "The pilfering of a nation's cultural patrimony cannot and will not be tolerated."

"There is no better example of what can be accomplished through the collaboration between US and international law enforcement via INTERPOL than the astounding results of



The male deity black sandstone sculpture depicting a Bodhisattva.



(Left) 350-pound sandstone sculpture dates. (Right) The 600-pound sandstone sculpture was stolen from the Gadgach Temple in Atru, Rajasthan. The sculptures are believed to date back to 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> century.

this investigation, which have led to today's repatriation of these artifacts to their rightful place with the people of India," said Mr. Bray.

## Consulate General of India in Houston



1. Flag Hoisting and Open House for Indian nationals, Indian-Americans and friends of India at the residence of Consul General P. Harish in Houston. The Consul General reading out President of India's address.
2. A glimpse of the gathering that attended on the occasion.
3. Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar meeting Congressman Randy Weber at League City, Texas, on February 1.
4. (From L to R) Congressman Al Green, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar, P. Harish and Congressman Pete Olson at the dinner hosted by P. Harish at his residence in honor of Ambassador Jaishankar on February 1.
5. Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar felicitating Padma Shri winner Dr. Ashok Mago and Mrs. Mago as Consul General P. Harish looks on.
6. Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar felicitating Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awardee Dr. Renu



7. (From L to R) First Secretary Mohit Yadav, Consul General P. Harish, Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar, GAIL Global (USA) Inc. President Jayanta Sinha, Minister Pranay Verma and First Secretary Ajay Kumar at the Sabine Pass LNG Terminal of Cheniere Energy Inc. in Louisiana. on February 3.



8. (From L to R) Jagdip Ahluwalia, Executive Director, IACCGH, Sanjay Ramabhadran, president, IACCGH, Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar and Consul General P. Harish at the reception hosted by the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston (IACCGH) on February 3.

## Consulate General of India in Atlanta



1. Consul General Ajit Kumar hoisting the National Flag of India at the Consulate to commemorate India's Republic Day, on January 26.
2. Consul General Ajit Kumar with Congressman Rob Woodall at the Republic Day reception on January 26.
3. Consul General Ajit Kumar with Bollywood actor Anil Kapoor at IIFA Global Press Conference at Tampa, Florida, on January 13.

# India encouraging oil exploration: PM

India is encouraging domestic and global companies to explore potentially hydrocarbon-rich areas through stable and enabling policies towards achieving its goal of self-sufficiency in hydrocarbons by 2030, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh said on January 12. He was inaugurating the 11<sup>th</sup> International Oil and Gas Conference and Exhibition “Petrotech-2014” at the India Exposition Mart in Greater Noida, organized by state-run explorer Oil and Natural Gas Corp.

“We are encouraging domestic and global companies to explore potentially hydrocarbon-rich areas in the framework of a stable and enabling policy environment,” Prime Minister Singh said.

The Government will offer at least



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh lighting the lamp to inaugurate PETROTECH-2014, in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

56 oil and gas blocks in the 10th round of bidding under its New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). This is the largest offering of blocks since the start of NELP in 1999 in an effort to attract more investments into the exploration and production sector.

Partnerships among various stake-

holders were essential for meeting the emerging challenges of the oil and gas sector, he said.

“Such partnerships could result in outcomes like improved recovery from mature fields, exploitation of ultra-deep water energy reserves and progress in complex frontier areas. They could also help in exploitation of unconventional forms of energy, apart from addressing concerns about environmental degradation and climate change,” the Prime Minister said.

As a responsible member of the global community, India is committed to reducing its carbon footprint, he said.

“The challenge of achieving high economic growth and yet reducing emissions is a formidable one indeed, but we are determined to meet this challenge fully,” he said. — IANS

## ‘TCS an Indian success story’



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh unveiling the plaque to lay the foundation stone of TCS Global Learning Centre.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is a shining example of the success of Indian private enterprises, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh said on January 4. “It has carved a niche for itself in the global market for IT and IT-enabled services and has set benchmarks of excellence in the area of software development,” Prime Minister Singh said. He was addressing a gathering at the foundation laying ceremony of TCS Global Learning Centre at the Technopark campus at Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala.

“Today, TCS ranks among the top 10 IT services companies,” he said. — IANS

## Foreign secretary releases latest ‘India in Business’ edition

Foreign Secretary Sujatha Singh on January 10 released the latest edition of *India in Business*, a publication of the Ministry of External Affairs aimed at providing information about the country’s economic potential for those interested in doing business with India. The publication would be distributed to all the Indian missions and posts abroad for further dissemination among foreign investors and business.



Foreign Secretary Sujatha Singh (centre) releasing the latest edition of *India in Business*.

Speaking at the event, the Foreign Secretary said: “Countries recognize economic diplomacy as part of their statecraft, and India has never been an exception to this. “In this changing world of inter-connectivity and interdependency with various global players striving to influence the outcome of economic relationships, economic diplomacy continues to play a central role in how the External Affairs Ministry interacts with the world.” This year’s edition gives an overview of the Indian economy and provides information on 25 promising sectors of the Indian economy, including a ‘Useful Web Links’ section at the back of the booklet. — IANS

## Nobel laureate Harold Varmus visits Tata Memorial Hospital

**C**ancer is a disorder of our genes. Most of the genetic damage is caused by exposure to pollution,” said Nobel laureate Harold Varmus during his visit to the Tata Memorial Cancer Centre in Parel on Friday.

Dr Varmus won the Nobel Prize for medicine in 1989 for establishing the genetic link to cancers. He was in the city for a day en route to Jaipur, visiting the IIT Powai and the cancer centre to explore collaboration for research. He said there is, at present, no way to eliminate cancer.

“We can only reduce the chances,” he said, underlining the need for tobacco control and to promote vaccination against viruses that can trigger cancer.



Dr. Varmus and Dr. Badwe, Director of the Tata Memorial Center

Dr Varmus heads the National Cancer Institute (NCI), which has funded and supported several researches in India.

Dr Rajendra Badwe, Tata Memorial Hospital Director, said the institute is looking at collaboration with NCI in three areas.

### Padma awards: 22 people from science and engineering

OF THE 127 Padma Awards, the country's highest civilian awards, 22 people come from the fields of science and engineering.

They are:

#### Padma Vibhushan

1. Dr. Raghunath A. Mashelkar, Science and Engineering, Maharashtra

#### Padma Bhushan

2. Prof. Padmanabhan Balaram, Science and Engineering, Karnataka

3. Prof. Jyeshtharaj Joshi, Science and Engineering, Maharashtra

4. Dr. Madappa Mahadevappa, Science and Engineering, Karnataka

5. Dr. Thirumalachari Ramasami, Science and Engineering, Delhi

6. Dr. Vinod Prakash Sharma, Science and Engineering, Delhi

7. Dr. Radhakrishnan Koppilil, Science and Engineering, Karnataka

8. Late Dr. Anumolu Ramakrishna, Science and Engineering, Andhra Pradesh

#### Padma Shri

9. Sekhar Basu, Science and Engineering, Maharashtra

10. Madhavan Chandradathan, Science and Engineering, Kerala

11. Prof. Sushanta Kumar Dattagupta, Science and Engineering, West Bengal

12. Dr. Ravi Bhushan Grover, Science and Engineering, Maharashtra

13. Prof. Eluvathingal Devassy Jemmis, Science and Engineering, Karnataka

14. Ramkrishna V. Hosur, Science and Engineering, Maharashtra

15. Dr. Ajay Kumar Parida, Science and Engineering, Tamil Nadu

16. Dr. Malapaka Yajneswara and Satyanarayana Prasad, Science and Engineering, Andhra Pradesh

17. Kiran Kumar Alur Seelin, Science and Engineering, Gujarat

18. Dr. Brahma Singh, Science and Engineering, Delhi

19. Prof. Vinod Kumar Singh, Science and Engineering, Madhya Pradesh

20. Dr. Govindan Sundararajan, Science and Engineering, Andhra Pradesh

21. Ramaswamy R. Iyer, Science and Engineering, Delhi

22. Dr. Jayanta Kumar Ghosh, Science and Engineering, West Bengal

## Termites produce what semiconductor industry needs

**S**ome 1500 years ago Varaha Mihira an Indian astronomer, mathematician, and astrologer, in his treatise “Brihat Samhita” refers to termite mounds as indicators of underground water. Now researchers report that termites are also nature’s metallurgical engineers. They have found that the hills which they build are an excellent source of quartz (SiO<sub>2</sub>) — a raw material for the semiconductor industry.

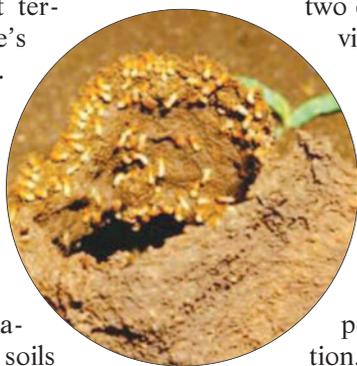
“These interesting features of termite hill soils motivated us to study their physical and chemical properties using various analytical techniques,” the researchers said. Although there are many reports about the beneficial qualities of termite hills, according to

the scientists,” only a few mention or discuss the elemental composition and microstructures of the termite hills.”

For their work, they collected termite mound soil samples from two different places: from a village near Dehradun in Uttarakhand and from a forest in Hauz Khas close to the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi.

They characterized the samples using powder X-ray diffraction, transmission electron microscope and field emission scanning electron microscopy. Quartz was found in both the samples. The Delhi sample also contained the rare ‘cristobalite’ phase of SiO<sub>2</sub>.

— K. S. Jayaraman



# Rakesh Khurana named Harvard College dean

A distinguished Indian-American scholar and teacher, Rakesh Khurana, the Marvin Bower Professor of Leadership Development at Harvard Business School (HBS), has been named dean of Harvard College, a prestigious Ivy League institution.

Khurana, who earned his PhD through a joint programme between HBS and Harvard's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences in 1998, is also professor of sociology in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS), and co-master of Cabot House

Announcing the appointment in an email to the FAS community, FAS Dean Michael D. Smith praised Khurana as a scholar and teacher with deep experience working with undergraduates and a strong commitment to the College.

"Rakesh is a distinguished scholar of organizational behavior and leadership, an award-winning teacher,



Rakesh Khurana

and a dynamic House master who has also deeply engaged with undergraduate issues on important committees," wrote Smith. "Rakesh's style of leadership is distinctly inclusive; he understands the importance of listening and looks forward to engaging with the faculty and the College."

Khurana succeeds Evelyn M. Hammonds, the Barbara Gutmann Rosenkrantz Professor of the History of Science and professor of African and African American Studies.

"I'm honored to have this opportunity to serve the College and work with the faculty, students, and staff to create a transformative educational experience for our students," said Khurana. — IANS

## Indian-American wins Great Teaching award

India-born Meera Chandrasekhar, Professor of Physics and Astronomy and Curator's Teaching Professor of Physics at the University of Missouri, has won Baylor University's 2014 Robert Foster Cherry Award for Great Teaching. Chandrasekhar will receive the \$250,000 award and an additional \$25,000 for the physics department at the University of Missouri. She is expected to teach in residence at Baylor, a top Texas Christian University, during the spring 2015 semester.



Meera Chandrasekhar

"Dr. Chandrasekhar is an internationally known teacher/scholar who combines an impressive academic record with a stellar reputation for the extraordinary impact she has had on undergraduate and graduate students," said Elizabeth Davis, Executive Vice President and Provost at Baylor.

"I am deeply honored to learn that I will receive the 2014 Robert Foster Cherry Award," Chandrasekhar said. — IANS

## Chennai native to run NY public hospital system

New York City's new Mayor Bill de Blasio has named Ramanathan Raju, a respected Indian-American doctor, as Commissioner of Health and Hospitals Corporation, the nation's largest public hospital system.



Ramanathan Raju

The mayor announced Chennai native Raju's appointment on January 21 along with Maria Torres-Springer, as Commissioner of the Department of Small Business Services, with a pledge to deepen each agency's connections to neighborhoods across the city's five boroughs. — IANS

## President Obama nominates Indian-American Shamina Singh to key post

US President Barack Obama has nominated Indian-American businesswoman Shamina Singh to the board of directors of a federal agency charged with strengthening communities and fostering civic engagement through service and volunteering. Singh's appointment to the board of directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service which engages more than five million Americans in service through its core programmes - Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and the Social Innovation Fund - was announced on January 16.

"I am honored that these talented individuals have decided to join this administration and serve our country. I look forward to working with them in the months and years



Shamina Singh

to come," President Obama said announcing Singh's appointment with several other key posts. A founding board member for Indian American Leadership Incubator (IALI), Singh is currently Executive Director of the MasterCard Centre for Inclusive Growth, a position she has held since December 2013.

Singh is also the Global Director of Government Social Programmes, MasterCard's Public Private Partnerships group, a position she has held since February 2013. From 2011 to 2013, she was Senior Advisor to MSLGROUP. — IANS

# Kashmiri recipes to beat the cold

Be it *Shabdeg* with steaming rice, mutton cooked with dried brinjal and tomatoes, or dried fish or 'Hukhe Gad' and smoked fish or 'Farry Gad', the winter cuisine is Kashmir is essentially home-based and doesn't need a trained chef to cook

**T**raditionally, Kashmiris have used high-calorie foods to get the extra energy needed to brave the bone chilling cold of the winter months and if such energies come with relish and gusto in the form of mouth watering food, who can resist the temptation?

The *shabdeg* (duck and turnip cooked in a sealed earthen vessel over a simmering fire) is so named because it is prepared during the *shab*, which means night in Urdu and Kashmiri.

A fat duck is selected and feathered carefully so that its skin remains intact. The duck is fried in mustard oil and then cooked for hours with home-grown turnips and a lavish doze of red chillies, turmeric, cardamom, fennel seeds and salt. The family gathers around the hearth as the grandmother or the mother carefully selects the right amount of spices that must go into the dish.

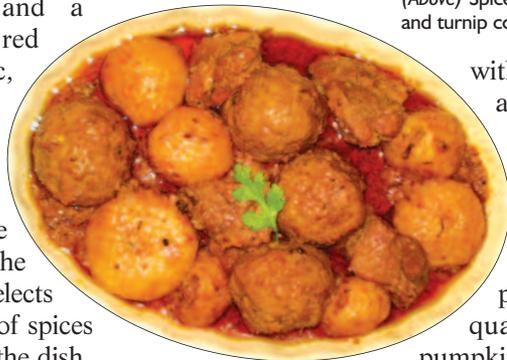
The next day, the serving of the *Shabdeg* with steaming rice is something of a ritual Kashmiri oldtimers still remember with nostalgia.

"It used to be an event children would always look forward to. With the dexterity of an artist, my mother's hands would move as if by instinct to add spices, charge the hearth with firewood, seal the earthen vessel with dough and ensure that the fire was just right to generate the flavor and the taste," Abdul Rehman, 82 of north Kashmir's Saloora village, told IANS.

Another winter delicacy the locals have long relished is mutton cooked



(Above) Spices and other ingredients that go into Kashmiri recipes. (Left) *Shabdeg*, duck and turnip cooked in a sealed earthen vessel over a simmering fire.



with dried brinjal and tomatoes. "During the summer months, the ladies of the family would pick the best quality brinjal, pumpkins, turnips and tomatoes and dry them up carefully in sunlight to be stored for winter.

"Lean chops of lamb would be cooked with dried brinjal and tomatoes which would be served at dinner. The dish would be hot and spicy because of chillies, turmeric, fennel, salt and mustard oil," said Ghulam Nabi, president of the local chefs' (known as Wazas) association.

Another dish relished in winter used to be a home-grown rooster cooked with dried pumpkins. Red chillies were generally avoided in this dish or used very sparingly.

The bird's feathers were carefully removed to avoid damaging the fat-

rich skin. The rooster was then singed over a mild fire and fried lightly in mustard oil before cooking it with dried pumpkins and other spices.

The other winter dishes are dried fish or *Hukhe Gad* and smoked fish or *Farry Gad*.

Kashmiris traditionally stocked dried fish which were caught during the summer months in the local rivers and lakes in which they abound.

Some of these fish were smoked after clearing their abdomens and then stored to be cooked during the winter months.

Since the locals have stopped the practice of doing it themselves, both dried and smoked fish are now available in markets during the winter months for those who still believe old is gold.

There is a common saying in the Valley that even the worst bad cold would be cured with a hot dish of *Hokhe Gad* fried in mustard oil and cooked with red chillies and turmeric and served with a thick gravy.

## OBITUARY

## Akkineni Nageswara Rao: Titan of Telugu cinema

From a poor farmer's son to one of the most loved and respected actors of Indian cinema, Akkineni Nageswara Rao's journey, which lasted over seven decades, could very well make an interesting story of a film. Nageswara Rao, who as a youngster walked bare foot in Gudivada in Krishna district of coastal Andhra, rose to the dizzy heights of stardom and became a symbol of the Telugu film industry.

ANR, as fans fondly called him, died of cancer in Hyderabad on January 22, plunging the industry into gloom. He was 89 and is survived by three daughters and two sons, including popular actor Nagarjuna.

Rao made his cinematic debut in 1941 Telugu film *Dharmapatni* with a brief role, and in 1944 he was picked up from the platform of Bezawada (now Vijayawada) railway station and signed on to play the lead role in Telugu drama *Sitarama Jananam*.

Rao never hesitated to play a variety



Akkineni Nageswara Rao acted in about 235 Telugu films, besides 20 Tamil and one Hindi.

of roles, such as a villager, an urban educated protagonist, a tragic hero and even a comedian, to sustain his popularity over the years.

While Rao will be remembered for many wonderful films such as

*Devadasu*, *Mayabazar*, *Dr. Chakravarthy* and *Muga Manasulu*, *Sudigundaalu*, *Antastulu* and *Meghasandesam*, Rao's best work was in *Batasari* and *Devadasu*.

"I still consider *Batasari* as one of my finest performances in my career," he had told *IANS* in an interview.

Despite strong criticism, Rao acted in *Devadasu*, only to be catapulted to the status of Telugu cinema's first romantic hero.

In his 74-year long illustrious career, he starred in about 235 Telugu films, besides 20 Tamil and one Hindi.

Rao bagged three Filmfare awards for the best actor for his role in *Marapurani Manishi* (1973), *Seetharamaiah Gari Manavaralu* (1991) and *Bangaru Kutumbam* (1994). He was a recipient of Padma Vibushan, the second highest civilian award of the country, and the Dada Saheb Phalke Award, the highest individual lifetime achievement award for films.

## Suchitra Sen: The quintessential enigma

Bengali celluloid queen Suchitra Sen captivated generations with her beauty, elegance and portrayal of myriad characters, yet remained an enigma despite over three decades of self-imposed reclusion that prompted constant parallels with Hollywood icon Greta Garbo.

In a 26-year career with 59 films, the *Mahanayika* (greatest heroine) worked with Bengal's biggest matinee idol Uttam Kumar to usher in the golden era of Bengali cinema. She also came up with memorable performances in a number of Hindi movies like *Devdas*, *Mamta*, *Musafir*, *Bombai Ka Babu* and *Aandhi*.

Sen, 82, who had bewitched generations of film buffs with her grace and beauty, died at a

Kolkata nursing home on January 17 following a massive cardiac arrest.

Sen gave strong but restrained performances in most of the 52 Bengali and seven Hindi films she featured in, and was the second Indian actress to get an international award after Nargis' win at Karlovy Vary for *Mother India*. Her excellent depiction of the trauma of a woman unable to hold on to her marriage in *Saat Pake Bandha* won her the Silver Prize for best actress at the 1963 Moscow International Film Festival.

Born Rama Dasgupta on April 6, 1931, she was a trendsetter in many respects — one instance being her entry into films five years after her marriage to Dibanath Sen in 1947.



Visiting Andhra Pradesh is a delight with the stunning Eastern Ghats near Visakhapatnam, the holy maze at Tirumala, the temple architecture at Warangal and the cultural mix at Vijayawada

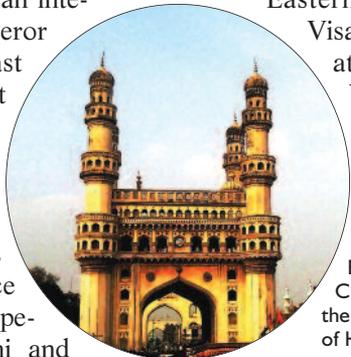
# MYRIADS OF MARVELS

Andhra Pradesh offers a variety of surreal experiences — subtle charms, quiet traditions, spiritual scholarship and religious harmony, evident in the form of the large number of temples, mosques and churches that dot the state.

Andhra Pradesh has a rich historical past. The state was an integral part of Emperor Ashoka's vast Kingdom and not surprisingly an important Buddhist center as well. Today ruins of stupas and monasteries defy impermanence around the state, especially at Amaravathi and Nagarjunakonda.

It was then ruled by several dynasties and prominent among these were the Pallavas, the Chalukyas, the Kakatiyas and the Mughals. All these dynasties have played a significant role in contributing to the rich cultural heritage of the state and their presence is still felt in the monuments that still survive after the passage of so many years.

Andhra Pradesh's rich Islamic history announces itself in Hyderabad's huge, lavish mosques, its opulent palaces and the stately Qutb Shahi tombs — but also, more softly, in a tiny spiral staircase in the Charminar and in the sounds of Urdu floating through the air. Traveling within Andhra is a delight with the stunning Eastern Ghats near Visakhapatnam, the holy maze at Tirumala, the beaches at Visakhapatnam, the temple architecture at Warangal and the cultural mix at Vijayawada.



(Top) A hilltop view of the Bheemunipatnam town; (left) the Charminar in Hyderabad; (bottom) the 1000-Pillared Temple on the slopes of Hanamkonda in Warangal.



## Must Visit

### CHOWMAHALLA PALACE, HYDERABAD & SECUNDERABAD

Technically, four (*char*) palaces (*mahalla*). Begun in 1750, it was expanded over the next 100 years, absorbing Persian, Indo-Saracenic, Rajasthani and European styles.

### MUSEUM OF HABITAT, ARAKU VALLEY

Araku Valley, 120km north of Vizag, is home to isolated tribal communities, and the tiny Museum of Habitat has fascinating exhibits of indigenous life.

### 1000-PILLARED TEMPLE, WARANGAL

Built in 1163, the 1000-Pillared Temple on the slopes of Hanamkonda Hill is a fine example of Chalukyan architecture in a peaceful, leafy setting.

### UNDAVALLI CAVE TEMPLES, VIJAYAWADA

Four kilometers south-west of Vijayawada, the stunning Undavalli cave temples cut a fine silhouette against the palm trees and rice paddies.

### NAGARJUNAKONDA MUSEUM, NAGARJUNAKONDA

The thoughtfully laid-out Nagarjunakonda Museum has Stone Age tools on exhibit, but more exciting are its Buddha statues and carved stone slabs that once adorned the stupas.

# EMBASSY OF INDIA

2107 Massachusetts Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20008  
Tel: 202-939-7000  
Fax: 202-462-7276

**PRE-SORT FIRST CLASS**

Pre-sort First Class  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Silver Spring, MD  
Permit No.  
3966

## Dear Readers:

For receiving information on Embassy of India's programs, events and announcements by email, please send an email to **info2@indiagov.org** giving your full contact details (Name, Affiliation and optionally, phone number). Any additional information you deem necessary may be included.

## Embassy of India

### EMBASSY OF INDIA

2107 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20008

Tel: 202-939-7000; Fax: 202-462-7276

E-mail: [indembwash@indiagov.org](mailto:indembwash@indiagov.org)

Website: [www.indianembassy.org](http://www.indianembassy.org)



[www.facebook.com/Indembassyusa](http://www.facebook.com/Indembassyusa)



[www.twitter.com/IndianEmbassyUS](http://www.twitter.com/IndianEmbassyUS)

### CONSULATES

Consulate General of India  
3 East, 64th Street  
New York  
N.Y. 10065

Tel: 212-774-0600

Fax: 212-861-3788

E-mail:

[cg@indiacgny.org](mailto:cg@indiacgny.org)

Website:

[www.indiacgny.org](http://www.indiacgny.org)

Consulate General of India  
540 Arguello Boulevard  
San Francisco  
CA 94118

Tel: 415-668-0662

Fax: 415-668-2073

E-mail:

[info@cgisf.org](mailto:info@cgisf.org)

Website:

[www.cgisf.org](http://www.cgisf.org)

Consulate General of India  
455 North Cityfront Plaza Drive  
(NBC Tower Building)  
Suite #850 Chicago, IL 60611

Tel. 312-595-0405 to 0410

Fax. 312-595-0416

E-mail:

[cg@indianconsulate.com](mailto:cg@indianconsulate.com)

Website:

[www.chicago.indianconsulate.com](http://www.chicago.indianconsulate.com)

Consulate General of India  
4300 Scotland Street  
Houston  
Texas 77007

Tel. 713-626-2148/49

Fax. 713-626-2450

E-mail:

[cgj-hou@swbell.net](mailto:cgj-hou@swbell.net)

Website:

[www.cgihouston.org](http://www.cgihouston.org)

Consulate General of India  
5549 Glenridge Drive NE,  
Atlanta,  
GA 30342

Tel: +1-404-963-5902

Fax: +1-678-949-9657

Email:

[cg.atlanta@mea.gov.in](mailto:cg.atlanta@mea.gov.in)